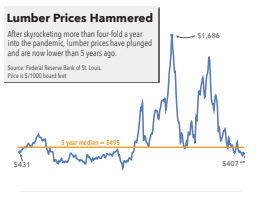


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THURSDAY
12.15.22

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 22 Issue 25

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City Hall braces for the Builder's Remedy development boom

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The wave front of an incoming development Tsunami caused by the City's failure to adopt a compliant housing element has reached local shores thanks to a flurry of administrative activity.

Developers have begun filing permits to build large housing projects throughout the city that far exceed local zoning restrictions and while those permits are subject to cursory review, the City lacks any clear path to head off construction of more than 4,500 new units.

The housing element is a state mandated component of a City's overall planning documents.

State regulators said Santa Monica should demonstrate the capacity to build about 9,000 new housing units with about 2,000 of those low-income, in its housing plans. A compliant housing element doesn't require those units get built but it should provide evidence that City rules can facilitate that much development if it were called for.

However, the Santa Monica City Council adopted a housing element that state regulators rejected for being too restrictive and upon rejection, developers gained access to the "Builder's Remedy."

The law has been part of the process for years but was greatly strengthened in 2019 and any housing project that meets affordability levels is automatically approved unless it presents a clear public health threat.

Santa Monica received 16 such applications and if built, the

SEE **DEVELOPMENT** PAGE 7

Ballona Creek Interceptor collects 49,845lbs of trash during recent rains

GRACE INEZ ADAMS
SMDP Staff Writer

The futuristic-looking trash removal feature introduced to Ballona Creek several months ago was put to the test recently with the first major rain events since its installation sending thousands of pounds of trash down the waterway.

The Ballona Creek Trash Inceptor 007 is a floating, automated, solar-powered boat-like device located in the middle of the creek near where it feeds out into the Santa Monica Bay. Two booms extend outwards from the interceptor on either side all the way to the banks of the creek, creating a funnel shape that directs trash to the interceptor which sucks it in via a conveyor belt and disperses it into bins to await collection.

LA County Department of Public Works Public Information Officer Steven Frasher said the Interceptor performed well during the recent storms, collecting 49,845 pounds of trash this past weekend alone that otherwise would have ended up in the bay and on the beaches.



Grace Inez Adams

OCEAN: The Trash Interceptor has been busy in recent days with trash created by wet weather.

"This is a byproduct that comes from the flushing effect of a rain storm on discarded litter and trash and other pollutants that gets tossed around in the upper watershed - that's about 120 square miles of Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, West

SEE **INTERCEPTOR** PAGE 5





Grace Inez Adams

ANNIVERSARY: Mel's Drive-in celebrated its 75th anniversary yesterday with decorations and a special 75% off deal on select menu items. The restaurant chain opened its Santa Monica location in the iconic building at the end of Route 66 in 2018 and has become a fixture for locals looking for classic diner food and tourists interested in some Americana.

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Happy Hours on Main Street

Main Street is the perfect place to celebrate this season with a hot dining scene that is the envy of the region, the coolest new retail options and a bevy of perpetual neighborhood favorites. You can pick up gifts for the entire family and indulge your own desires without having to leave town.

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select appetizers

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310.452.1934
5-7pm Daily
$7 well drinks / $7 house wine / $5 beer calamari, tacos + more

LITTLE PRINCE
2424 Main Street
310.356.0725
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cocktails & house wine
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select appetizers

JAMESON'S IRISH PUB
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424.330.0069
3-7pm Daily & 10:30-12:30pm
Sun-Thurs- All drinks 2-for-1
Jameson Brew Pints for $3.89 daily
Bottomless Weekends:
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bottomless bloody marys
/ mimosas

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3-6pm Mon-Fri
$6 well drinks / wine / beer
hamburger, wings + more

SMDP Image

HOLIDAY: The Santa Monica Daily Press published its annual 'Tis The Season guide last month and while readers can find the magazine online, SMDP will publish excerpts from the magazine in the days leading up to Christmas. View the entire publication online at https://smdp.com/2022/11/26/tis-the-season-2022.

Fed raises key rate by half-point and signals more to come

CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

The Federal Reserve reinforced its inflation fight Wednesday by raising its key interest rate for the seventh time this year and signaling more hikes to come. But it announced a smaller hike than it had in its past four meetings at a time when inflation is showing signs of easing.

The Fed made clear, in a statement and a news conference by Chair Jerome Powell, that it thinks sharply higher rates are still needed to fully tame the worst inflation bout to strike the economy in four decades.

The central bank boosted its benchmark rate a half-point to a range of 4.25% to 4.5%, its highest level in 15 years. Though lower than its previous three-quarter-point hikes, the latest move will further increase the costs of many consumer and business loans and the risk of a recession.

> “The inflation data in October and November show a welcome reduction - Chair Jerome Powell

More surprisingly, the policymakers forecast that their key short-term rate will reach a range of 5% to 5.25% by the end of 2023. That suggests that the Fed is poised to raise its rate by an additional three-quarters of a point and leave it there through next year. Some economists had expected that the Fed would project only an additional half-point increase.

The latest rate hike was announced one day after an encouraging report showed that inflation in the United States slowed in November for a fifth straight month. The year-over-year increase of 7.1%, though still high, was sharply below a recent peak of 9.1% in June.

“The inflation data in October and November show a welcome reduction,” Powell said at his news conference. “But it will take substantially more evidence to give confidence that inflation is on a sustained downward path.”

In its updated forecasts, the Fed’s policymakers predicted slower growth and higher unemployment for next year and 2024. The unemployment rate is envisioned to jump to 4.6% by the end of 2023, from 3.7% today. That would mark a significant increase in joblessness that typically would reflect a recession.

Consistent with a sharp slowdown, the officials also projected that the economy will barely grow next year, expanding just 0.5%, less than half the forecast it had made in September.

“The Fed is not done — it sees a prolonged slowdown and a rise in unemployment as the only way to fully derail inflation,” Diane Swonk, chief economist at KPMG, said in a research note.

Though Powell said he thought the economy could still avoid a recession, the Fed’s economic forecasts show the policymakers expect job losses to result from its higher rates.

“They really need the unemployment rate to go higher and wages to start coming down,” said Subadra Rajappa, an investment strategist at Societe Generale. Powell has said that slower wage growth would reduce inflation pressures.

Powell said Wednesday, “I just don’t think anyone knows whether we’re going to have a recession or not. ... I wish there were a completely painless way to restore price stability. There isn’t.”

In recent weeks, Fed officials have indicated that they see some evidence of progress in their drive to bring inflation back down to their 2% annual target. The national average for a gallon of regular gas, for example, has tumbled from $5 in June to $3.21.

Many supply chains are no longer clogged, thereby helping reduce goods prices. The better-than-expected November inflation data showed that the prices of used cars, furniture and toys all declined last month.

So did the costs of services from hotels to airfares to car rentals. Rental and home prices are falling, too, though those declines have yet to feed into the government’s data.

And one measure the Fed tracks closely — “core” prices, which exclude volatile food and energy costs for a clearer snapshot of underlying inflation — rose only slightly for a second straight month.

Inflation has also eased slightly in Europe and the United Kingdom, leading analysts to expect the European Central Bank and the Bank of England to slow their pace of rate hikes at their meetings Thursday. Both are expected to raise rates by half a point to target still painfully high prices spikes after big three-quarter-point increases.

Inflation in the 19 countries using the euro currency fell to 10% from 10.6% in October, the first decline since June 2021. The rate is so far above the bank’s 2% goal that rate hikes are expected to continue into next year. Britain’s inflation also eased from a 41-year record of 11.1% in October to a still-high 10.7% in November.

Many economists think the Fed will further downshift to a quarter-point rate hike when it next meets early next year. Asked about that Wednesday, Powell said he has yet to decide how large he thinks the next hike should be. But having raised rates so fast, he said, “we think the appropriate thing to do now is to move at a slower pace. That will allow us to feel our way.”

Powell downplayed any notion that the Fed might decide to reverse course next year and start cutting rates to support growth, as

SEE **INFLATION** PAGE 6

COMMUNITY NEWS

LOS ANGELES

Former Mail Carrier Pleads Guilty to Bank Fraud Charge for Stealing Jobless Benefit Debit Cards from Her Mail Delivery Route

A former United States Postal Service mail carrier pleaded guilty to federal criminal charges for stealing debit cards containing unemployment insurance benefits while on duty and giving them to an accomplice in exchange for cash payments and gifts.

Toya Toshell Hunter, 45, of South Los Angeles, pleaded guilty to one count of bank fraud.

According to her plea agreement, from January 2019 to May 2020, Hunter stole mail – including letters sent by the California Employment Development Department (EDD), which administers the state’s unemployment insurance program – and then gave the stolen EDD debit cards as well as other credit cards and financial instruments to her co-schemer. The co-schemer then activated and fraudulently used the cards to commit bank fraud, the plea agreement states.

For example, in March 2020, Hunter stole mail from her assigned route, including an EDD debit card belonging to a victim. Hunter also stole correspondence in the mail that contained the victim’s name and the last four digits of the victim’s Social Security number, which she later gave to her accomplice in exchange for cash and gifts, knowing the accomplice intended to activate and fraudulently use the victim’s debit card.

Hunter’s co-schemer used the debit card and the last four digits of the victim’s Social Security number to fraudulently activate the card and create a personal identification number (PIN) to access funds from the victim’s account, which was held at Bank of America, the plea agreement states. The co-schemer then used the victim’s stolen EDD card to withdraw cash from a Bank of America ATM located in Corona.

During the scheme Hunter aided and abetted her accomplice in making fraudulent and unauthorized cash withdrawals from 68 separate victims’ accounts and stole approximately $145,191 from Bank of America.

In July 2021, Hunter stole from the mail and fraudulently activated a stolen debit card containing COVID-19 pandemic unemployment relief money belonging to another victim. Hunter used the card to make fraudulent purchases and cash withdrawals, thereby stealing approximately $1,400 from Fiserv Bank.

United States District Judge John F. Walter scheduled a March 6, 2023 sentencing hearing, at which time Hunter will face a statutory maximum sentence of 30 years in federal prison.

Hunter’s co-defendant in this case, Michalea Latise Barksdale, a.k.a. “Miichii Bee,” 34, of Corona, has pleaded not guilty to the 17 felony charges against her, which include bank fraud, aggravated identity theft, and possession of unauthorized access devices and stolen mail. Barksdale has a March 28, 2023 trial date scheduled in this case.

An indictment contains allegations that a defendant has committed a crime. Every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

The United States Postal Inspection Service; United States Postal Service – Office of Inspector General; and the United States Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration are investigating this matter.

Special Assistant United States Attorney Kyle W. Kahan of the General Crimes Section is prosecuting this case.

SUBMITTED BY THOM MROZEK, DIRECTOR OF MEDIA RELATIONS U.S. ATTORNEY’S OFFICE

GET IT DAILY...

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Help Wanted

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Notice is given that Los Angeles County Public Works is requesting proposals from qualified firms to provide On-Call Surveying, Right of Way Engineering, and Related Services for Federal and Non-Federal Funded Projects (BRC0000384), will be received by Public Works, on January 10, 2023, by 4:00 p.m. The RFP may be obtained by accessing the link at http://dpw.lacounty.gov/general/contracts/opportunities/ or will be emailed to you upon request by calling (626) 300-2346. 12/15/22
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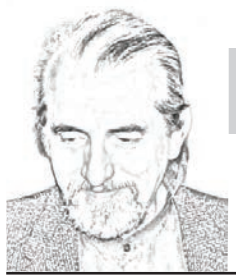
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OPINION **NOTEWORTHY**

Charles Andrews | Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Stevie Wonder plays Santa

BOO CHRIS MARTIN!
Never liked your lame band Coldplay or some of your celebrity antics, but now you've demolished your star architect John Lautner-designed Malibu home, to build a bigger one, with an amphitheater. (Bet your neighbors will love that, but so what, right?) When he bought it, the listing called it a "true architectural gem." He won't be homeless during the construction, though – he has other properties in Point Dume, some walking distance from the razed Lautner.

What is it with these English pop stars and their mansions in Malibu? Remember a few years back, the controversy over U2's David Evans (The Edge) wanting to build his nine-figure sprawling "compound" on a cliff top overlooking the Pacific? Sierra Club lawyer Dean Wallraff called it "a terrible project which would have caused devastating damage." After 14 years the CA Supreme Court denied The Edge, and that may be the end of it.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! - DUDAMEL, LA PHIL THE TRISTAN PROJECT: I, II, III" – What a "project"! Returns to LA after 15 years, first time for Dudamel. The music and singing for Wagner's game changing opera "Tristan und Isolde" in multi-media performance, directed by Peter Sellars, visual director Bill Viola, exploring the ancient tale of star-crossed lovers in all its nuance, starting with that first note. An all star cast of singers. Seems the LA Phil may have saved the best for last this year. No intermission, late arrival will not be seated! Thurs, Fri, Sat, 8 p.m., Walt Disney Concert Hall, LA, $64-216.

SOUTHSIDE SLIM – Do you like the blues? Do you like music? Great gruff vocals, tremendous guitar work? Then hallelujah, the treasure that is Southside returns to downtown Santa Monica, and you should jump on the opportunity. You won't have to drive (or walk) far, a parking structure is next door, the cover charge is ridiculously low for this much talent and the drinks are reasonable and strong. Ask Damian for a Jameson and coke, and one for me. Yes, Happy Holidays to us. Fri 9:30 p.m., Harvelle's, Santa Monica, $10.

X, LOS STRAIGHTJACKETS, THE AVENGERS – Having caught them fairly recently, I think I'm on safe ground to say that, amazingly, X is still a powerful, iconic and relevant LA band, 42 years in. Original lineup! Billy Zoom may be having some health problems because he now perches on a tall stool instead of planting his legs spread wide Chuck Berry-style, but his guitar playing is still spot on. I have not seen my favorite surf band, the best surf band ever, Los Straightjackets, for quite a while. They of the Mexican wrestling masks, have gone through some personnel changes, but who can tell with those masks? And I'm betting they are still the all-instrumental bomb. The Avengers are a legendary San Francisco punk band that called it quits in '77 after only two years, but they did open The Sex Pistols' final show and had some songs produced by Pistol Steve Jones. 20 years later they reformed briefly and now play intermittently. Quite a lineup. Fri 7:30 p.m., Orpheum Theater, LA, $29-280.

THE HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES – Don't get lazy. It's just outside Santa Monica, street parking is easy, it's a friendly little neighborhood bar where you can see and hear everywhere in the tiny room, the sound is great, the stage is maybe a foot high and right next to the patrons, drinks are reasonable and there is no cover. THCOLA plays breakneck, virtuoso 1930s Django-style swing music. You will find it hard to stop smiling all night. Mon 9 p.m., Cinema Bar, Culver City, no cover.

RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! - BILLIE EILISH – I was a little late to the game with Highland Park's Billie Eilish Pirate Baird O'Connell, not at first considering her singing voice to be remarkable, or even having much range, musically or emotionally. My bad. Once I paid a little more attention I discovered exceptional, honest lyrics and a voice full of authenticity. She is in fact exceptional in this area, writing so very honestly about life and love with no sugar coating or excuses. She does things her own non-conformist way and you can either come along or find the door. Her first hit song was written when she was 13 (by her brother Finneas: they are a remarkable team). She's not yet 21 but has headlined six world tours and won at least six Grammys (two more pending), a Golden Globe and an Oscar. Her story is fascinating but all you really need to know is what your ears and heart tell you when she performs. She calls this show "Happier Than Ever, The Hometown Encore." Thurs, Fri 7:30 p.m. Kia Forum, Inglewood, $80-150.

STEVIE WONDER House Full of Toys – One of the best concerts I ever saw was Wonder performing his incomparable catalog of great songs. This is the 24th time he's done this toys benefit (bring an unwrapped toy, please), he usually has some great drop-in guests and it usually sells out. Sat 8 p.m., Microsoft Theater, LA, $59-160.

DUDAMEL, LA PHIL, **Tchaikovsky**'s and **Ellington**'s **"NUTCRACKER"** – A Bah! Humbug! recommendation. Holiday spirit is great, people act better around this season than the other 11-½ months and whatever their motivation, I'll take it. If holiday songs get them in that spirit,

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 7

INTERCEPTOR

FROM PAGE 1

Hollywood. Culver City, right on down to Playa Del Rey, and this materialist gets caught up in the creek," Frasher said.

He said the LA County Board of Supervisors decided something needed to be done urgently to address the issue in 2019. Around the same time, he said the County was approached by non-profit organization The Ocean Cleanup who were looking for a US site to pilot their trash interceptor technology. Ballona Creek arose as the perfect candidate.

"The Los Angeles River, for example, is too big and flows too strong for the interceptor to stay in place," Frasher said. "Because the Ballona Creek is a manageable size, but does have that urban watershed it made it the ideal test location for the pilot."

The interceptor became operational in October 2022, and, while Fraser said the interceptor has largely lived up to its mission, there have been some hiccups, including an issue charging the solar panels this last weekend that is still in the process of being resolved.

"Because it is a pilot, it's a constant learning process," he said. Adding that the issue did not affect the interceptors ability to successfully collect trash.

The Ballona interceptor is the first of its kind in North America - several are in place in Southeast Asia and the Caribbean - making it of high interest to other municipalities.

"There's both Los Angeles County and jurisdictions throughout the country watching what our experience is and we're documenting our experience so that we can all learn how a trash interceptor as a concept can work in this urban watershed environment," Frasher said.

In the meantime, he said he hopes the Ballona Interceptor draws attention to the issues of trash and pollution and actions people can take to address them and help keep the bay cleaner.

"So much of our trash is the result of people's behavior upstream," he said. "We hope that awareness helps eliminate some of that trash and pollution at the source, not only in the Ballona Creek watershed, but just in practice wherever you live."

For more information about the Interceptor 007 visit: https://ballonainterceptor.lacounty.gov/

grace@smdp.com





Grace Inez Adams

TRASH: The floating trash collection system is being tested in Marina del Rey with hopes it can be replicated for widespread use in other waterways.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Please take notice that at its regular meeting of December 8, 2022, the Santa Monica Rent Control Board amended regulation 3035 to allow certain changes to the Adjusted General Adjustment to ensure no more than a 3% average General Adjustment ($70 maximum) for the period from September 2022 – August 2023 as prescribed by Ballot Measure RC, which was passed by the voters on November 8, 2022.

These changes will become effective by promulgation the day after publication in the newspaper.

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US deaths fell this year, but not to pre-COVID levels

MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

The number of U.S. deaths dropped this year, but there are still more than there were before the coronavirus hit.

Preliminary data — through the first 11 months of the year — indicates 2022 will see fewer deaths than the previous two COVID-19 pandemic years. Current reports suggest deaths may be down about 3% from 2020 and about 7% vs. 2021.

U.S. deaths usually rise year-to-year, in part because the nation's population has been growing. The pandemic accelerated that trend, making last year the deadliest in U.S. history, with more than 3.4 million dying. If current trends continue, this year will mark the first annual decline in deaths since 2009.

> We're (still) definitely worse off than we were before the pandemic - Amira Roess

It will be months before health officials have a full tally. The October and November numbers are not yet complete and a late-December surge could change the final picture, said Farida Ahmad, who leads mortality surveillance at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

If the decline does hold, it will still be a far cry from where the nation was before the coronavirus appeared. This year's count is likely to end up at least 13% higher than what it was in 2019.

"We're (still) definitely worse off than we were before the pandemic," said Amira Roess, a George Mason University professor of epidemiology and global health.

Once again, most of the annual change is due to the ebb and flow of COVID-19, which has killed more than 1,080,000 Americans since it first was recognized in the U.S. in early 2020.

This year started off horribly, with about 73,000 COVID deaths in January alone — the third deadliest month from COVID-19 since the pandemic began. For 2022, "the bulk of mortality was concentrated during that omicron wave at the beginning of the year," said Iliya Gutin, a University of Texas researcher tracking COVID-19 mortality.

Monthly COVID-19 deaths dropped below 4,000 in April and averaged about 16,000 per month through November. The monthly average for 2021 was more than double that.

COVID-19 will nevertheless end up as the nation's third leading cause of death this year, just as it was in 2020 and 2021 — behind the perennial leader, heart disease, and cancer.

Heart disease deaths, which have tended to surge in tandem with COVID-19 deaths, are on track to be down from 2021, Ahmad said. And it's not clear whether the number of cancer deaths will change, based on preliminary data.

There may be some relatively good news regarding drug overdose deaths, which hit an all-time high last year. Provisional overdose death data posted by the CDC on Wednesday — through the first seven months of this year — suggests overdose deaths stopped climbing early this year, around last winter's end.

Also Wednesday, the CDC released its first report on deaths involving long COVID — long-term symptoms after a person has recovered from coronavirus infection. The CDC estimates that about 3,500 deaths from January 2020 through June 2022 involved long COVID. That's about 1% of deaths in which COVID was deemed the underlying or contributing cause.

Experts believe pharmaceutical weapons against the coronavirus have been making a difference. The Commonwealth Fund this week released a modeling study that concluded the U.S. COVID-19 vaccination program prevented more than 3.2 million deaths.

"We all really would expect that the number of deaths — and the number of severe cases — would decrease, due to a combination of immunity from natural infection and vaccination ... and treatment," Roess said.

The AP receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Science and Educational Media Group. The AP is responsible for all content.

INFLATION

FROM PAGE 3

Wall Street investors are expecting.

"I wouldn't see the committee cutting rates until we're confident that inflation is moving down in a sustained way," he said.

Cumulatively, the Fed's hikes have led to much costlier borrowing rates for consumers as well as companies, ranging from mortgages to auto and business loans. They have sent home sales plummeting and are starting to weigh down rents on new apartments, a leading source of high inflation.

Fed officials have said they want rates to reach "restrictive" levels that slow growth and hiring and bring inflation down to their target range. Worries have grown that the Fed is raising rates so much in its drive to curb inflation that it will trigger a recession next year.

Powell's biggest focus has been on services prices, which he has said are likely to stay persistently high. In part, that's because sharp increases in wages are becoming a key contributor to inflation. Services companies, like hotels and restaurants, are particularly labor-intensive. And with average wages growing at

With many service-sector employers still desperate for workers, Powell said pay growth may remain above what's consistent with the Fed's 2% inflation target.

"We have a long way to go," the Fed chair said, "to get to price stability."

AP Business Writer David McHugh contributed to this report from Frankfurt, Germany.

DEVELOPMENT

FROM PAGE 1

proposed 4,500 units would be double the total built in the last 20 years. While there's no established way for the City to stop those projects, the private developers who hold the entitlements must still fulfill the requirements of the process and those steps began in recent weeks.

The initial applications were drafts but three projects have moved onto final applications. WS Communities has filed two formal applications in recent weeks for property at 1420-22 20th Street and 1238 7th Street.

The 20th Street project proposes 50 housing units, including 10 affordable units in six stories. The lot is currently home to 10 units in a single level.

The 7th Street project proposes 75 housing units including 15 affordable units in 10 stories. The 7,500 square feet lot is currently home to a single level office building.

A third has been filed by a different company for a 100 percent affordable housing project at 1215 19th Street.

Pending payment of application fees, those applications will be routed for review by staff to determine if they can be deemed complete in accordance with processing timelines. Developers have about four months left to finish the process.

WS Communities has also requested demolition permits for 1433-1437 Euclid and 1007 Lincoln Blvd. to facilitate a Builder's Remedy projects.

At the Dec. 13 Council meeting, City Manager David White said the demolition permit process had additional requirements before approval was possible.

"No demolition permit has been issued on this property," he said. "Because the building is subject to rent control the demolition permit will be routed to the Rent Control Board and the demolition permit cannot be issued until the owner has withdrawn the property from the rental market using either the Ellis act or has received a removal permit from the Rent Control Board."

WS Communities is an offshoot of Neil Shekhter's NMS company and filed for 14 of the 16 total Builder's Remedy projects. While WS Communities has opted to sell three of the projects as investments, they have expressed a desire to develop the other 11.

editor@smdp.com



Courtesy image

CONSTRUCTION: Some of the proposed developments have been put up for sale.

NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 4

bravo. But pretty much your kid's grade school concert, rarely on key and without fidgeting, has the same uplifting effect as Streisand or the LA Phil. But this is one I might actually be caught dead at. Let me quote the LA Times and their excellent critic Mark Swed from 2013: "The music was 'irresistible'... 're-invigorated.' It was a rare treat to experience Tchaikovsky's score treated as the main attraction with nuance and flow." This time Dudamel conducts the holiday favorite with a twist, when he leads both Tchaikovsky's original as well as Billy Strayhorn and Duke Ellington's swinging reimagination of the many colors and drama of the original." Sat 11 a.m. (sold out), Sun 2 p.m. (almost sold out), Walt Disney Concert Hall, LA, $214.

MAVERICKS, JD MCPHERSON – The Mavericks won't knock you out but you will leave their show a fan with a big, lasting smile. Singer Raul Malo is a big reason; few who hear him don't become instant fans. I checked out a few performance videos of McPherson and I like him, I like him and he's a good fit as an opener. Sat 8 p.m., Theatre at Ace Hotel, LA, $39-75.

TOLEDO DIAMOND – Unique, riveting, first class act. Just trot your procrastinating carcass down this Sunday night and see what you've been missing. Sun 9:30 p.m., Harvelle's, Santa Monica, $12.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: TOLEDO DIAMOND, Harvelle's, 12/ 25; HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES, Cinema Bar, 12/26; ENGLISH BEAT, Bourbon Room, 12/30; NYE: LA PHIL with The ROOTS.

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 36 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 15)

You're the kind of friend who thinks ahead about what others might need from you. You consider the expectations of others and strive to exceed them. In this spirit, you'll be effective in relationships of all kinds, and you'll be paid and celebrated accordingly. More highlights: a transportation upgrade, surprising weekends and entry into a club. Libra and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 12, 18, 45 and 29.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Not everyone needs to know everything at once. The reason flash photography is forbidden in zoos and museums is that some illumination can be harmful. Consider what would be helpful to know; start there and go slow.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The plan you're pursuing has a flaw that, though it might be glaring to some, is difficult to see from the inside. Run your ideas by friends and mentors, or at least say them out loud to hear what they sound like in the open air.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Though you tend to your loved ones, customers and community with great care, you sometimes forget to apply the same attentiveness to your own needs. Your relationship with yourself is the most important one you'll nurture.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your greatest triumphs have come after picking yourself up from a fall. So, you're not afraid to slip up, and in fact you stretch yourself, knowing that if you make a mistake, it will be an opportunity for resilience and learning.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Of course you're not solely responsible for the way the world is now, or even the way things are in your community, work or family. But to whatever extent you can influence the scene, you'll certainly try to make things better.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Adventure involves an element of danger, not necessarily physical danger, but there's a sense you're risking something and that's where the thrill comes from. You're up for exploring and you'll have the adventure you seek.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll be involved in a group effort. Though there may be some competition inside the group, a rival from the outside will have you working as teammates in no time. Develop a strategy that will allow everyone to win together.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You think about the details and herein lies your advantage. You consider what kind of impression you want to make and do most of the work beforehand so as not to risk seeming like you're trying too hard in the moment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The disharmony resolves. What a relief! You can return to normal life, or more likely a new normal, with a better sense of how precious a smooth, uneventful experience really is.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Frustration is caused by the belief that you need to do something in a particular timeframe for the experience to be acceptable. Pretend that you have all the time in the world, though, and the frustration vanishes.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You accept that your choices have led you to this point, but it's still not where you intended to be. Don't bother retracing your steps; just decide on a new destination and go forward.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Buried pain has a way of staying buried until someone acts as a kind of personal pain detector, alerting you to the problem under the surface. Such a person is invaluable. You're ready to dig this out and resolve it.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

H	A	R	M		A	L	S	O		U	T	T	E	R
O	D	O	R		S	O	L	E		P	R	I	D	E
M	O	V	I	E	S	T	A	R		R	A	N	G	E
E	R	E		M	U	S	T		D	O	U	S	E	D
R	E	D	E	E	M			S	I	A	M			
			C	R	E	E	P	Y	C	R	A	W	L	Y
S	T	O	R	Y		J	A	M	E	S		H	U	E
P	E	R	U		D	E	R	B	Y		S	E	L	L
E	R	A		G	E	C	K	O		S	P	E	L	L
W	A	L	K	I	E	T	A	L	K	I	E			
			E	R	R	S			E	L	D	E	R	S
I	M	P	E	D	E		D	I	R	T		P	I	C
M	A	I	N	E		R	U	N	N	Y	N	O	S	E
A	L	T	E	R		O	N	C	E		O	X	E	N
Y	E	A	R	S		D	E	A	L		N	Y	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	8	9	7	2	4	1	6
1	9	7	6	4	5	8	3	2
2	4	6	8	3	1	9	7	5
4	1	9	2	5	3	7	6	8
7	6	5	4	8	9	3	2	1
3	8	2	7	1	6	5	4	9
9	5	1	3	2	4	6	8	7
6	7	4	1	9	8	2	5	3
8	2	3	5	6	7	1	9	4

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

Newsday Crossword

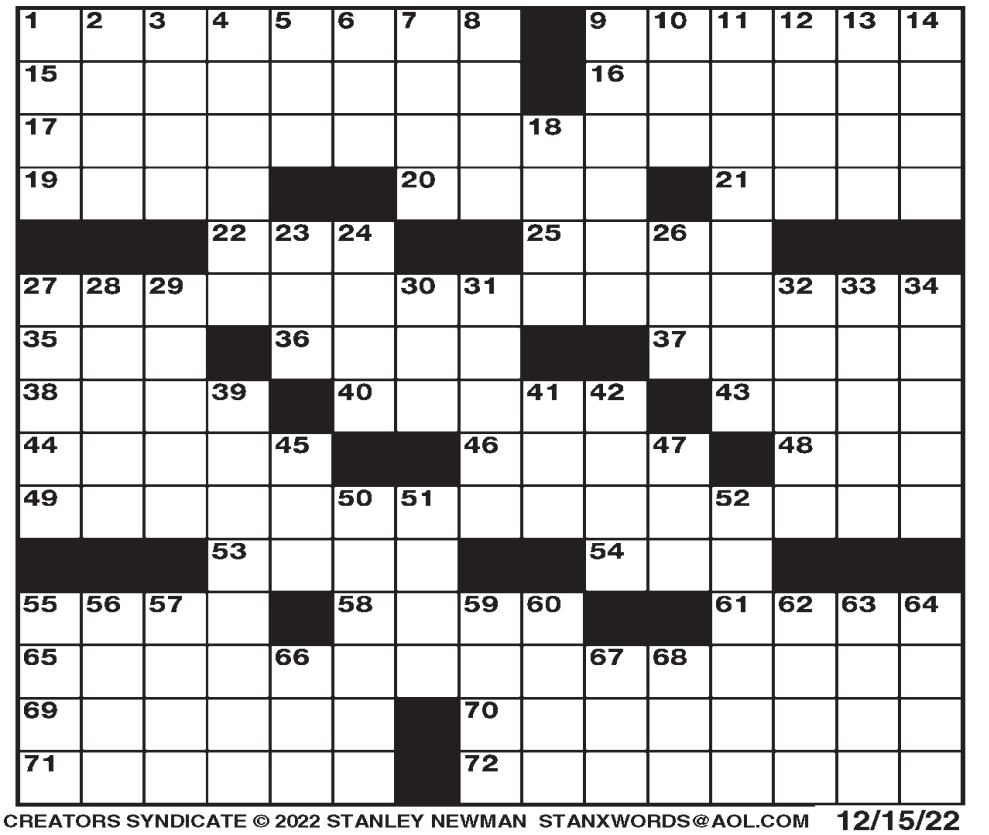
4-5-6 by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Spend one's summer
9 Stun
15 Made a fist
16 First stage
17 Surpasses considerably
19 Pakistani language
20 Theater reservation
21 Funny stuff
22 GPS displays
25 Frantic waver's cry
27 Photographic accessories
35 "By what technique?"
36 Luau locale
37 First stage
38 A grand
40 Air race marker
43 Immunization products
44 Prada's headquarters
46 Quaker captain of fiction
48 Account exec
49 It's north of Miami-Dade
53 Vane point
54 What you can't stand to have
55 "Without delay" directive
58 HS supporters
61 Deride, so to speak
65 Chocolatey treat
69 Labels for lapels
70 Tracts on military maps
71 Journey's beginning
72 Surfers' mecca

DOWN

1 Color close to almond
2 Utter unclearly
3 Wait on
4 Make certain
5 Retired player from the '70s
6 Sushi tuna
7 Not-so-small bills
8 Surface boundary
9 Waterfront lodging
10 Slip up
11 Greek philosopher/searcher
12 Rain in Spain
13 Great relish
14 What hoops don't have
18 Unvarying
23 Lake former
24 Lose one's cool
26 Storage unit, for short
27 Defeat decisively
28 Part of modern-day Turkey
29 Harp (on)
30 Dude
31 Air freshener scent
32 Stringent
33 Pelican cousin
34 Needing rinsing
39 Mapped-out strategy
41 Delayed reaction of recognition
42 How scientists spell "salt"
45 Hoops group
47 Feathery neckwear
50 Certain Mexican mate
51 Westernmost Aleutian island
52 Ado
55 "Take __ from me . . ."
56 "__ I" ("Ditto")
57 Choral contingent
59 Sparkling wine region
60 Met with
62 Antonym of "contrary"
63 Fan mag
64 Great relish
66 Sports card stat.
67 Monitor that came with the Apple II
68 Common Great Lakes cargo

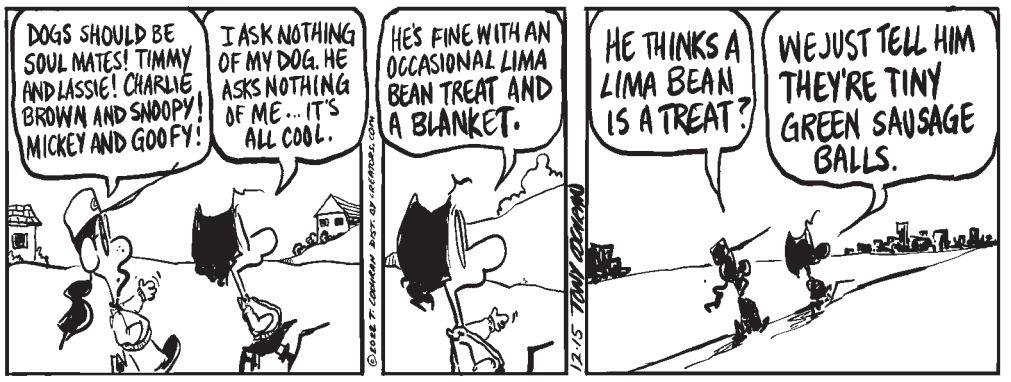


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MORE OF STAN'S CROSSWORDS! Play FREE from Stan's archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords

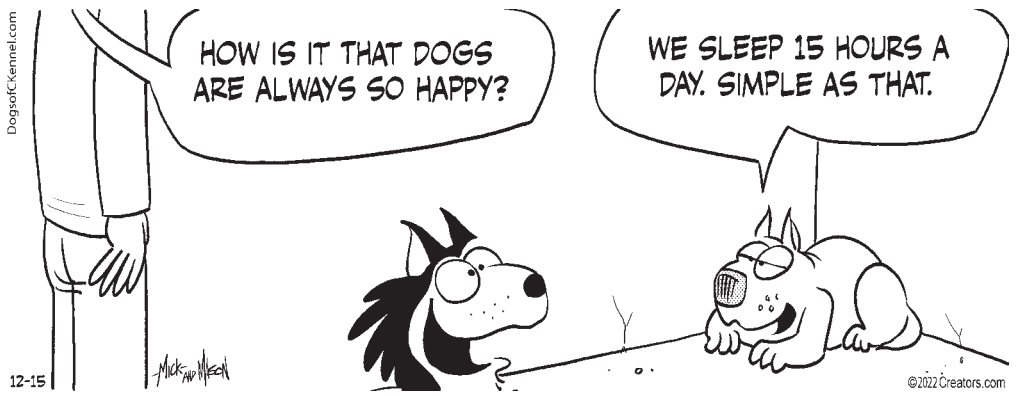
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



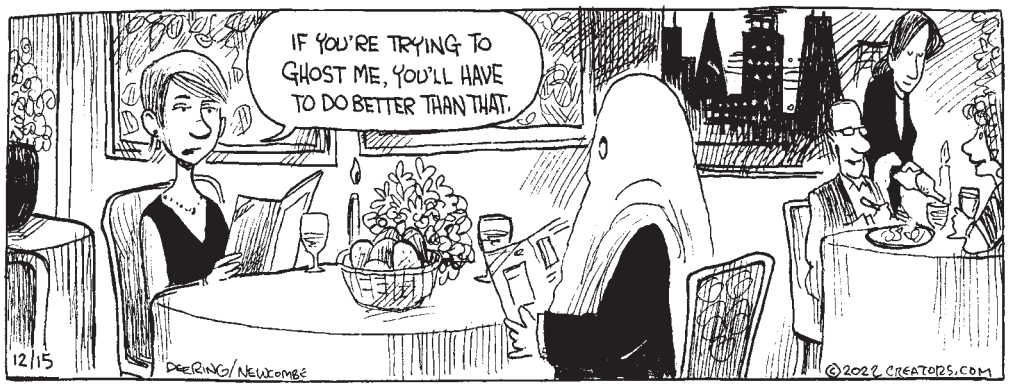
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"DRIVERLESS CARS."

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 5694

Multiculturalism

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

Accents
Adopted
Alphabet
Art and culture
Asian
Class
Debate
Dialogue
Diversity
Easy
English
Errors
Friendly
Geography
Greek
Invitations
Jutes
Mixed
Mosaic
Music
Nepalese
Notebook
Prejudice
Race
Ritual
Salad bowl
Stress
Thai
Theory
Tone
Trust
Unique
Values
Working

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Visual form of maths

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Let Us Help You Address Early Memory Loss
A Program of WISE & Healthy Aging
WISE Minds
A Veterans Benefit!

What's Up Westside

out and about in Santa Monica

THURSDAY | DECEMBER 15

MONTANA AVENUE BRANCH BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION
Join a community-led monthly book club, centered in the Montana neighborhood. The group currently meets on the Montana Branch Patio. This month's book is "Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine and the Murder of a President" by Candice Millard. Montana Avenue Branch Library. 6 - 7 p.m.

'APPY HOUR' DEVICE WORKSHOP
Bring your smartphone or tablet and receive small group help to get you started with using your device. Main Library. 2nd Floor Tutoring Center, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

WALK-IN TUTORING
Location is Main Library, 2nd floor Tutoring Center. Friendly volunteer tutors provide help with basic reading and writing skills, using the Internet, filling out online forms, using email, resume writing, and job searches. Main Library, 1 - 3 p.m.

BABY WINTER BALL
Bounce, crawl and dance until naptime! Little ones are invited to dress up and have a ball (and play with some, too). For ages 0-2. Main Library, Children's Activity Room, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

CREATIVE ROUNDTABLE WITH ERIKA ANDERSON
Join Erika Anderson, ED at Sarah Myerscough Gallery, London, for a virtual friendly meet and greet. Established in 1998, Sarah Myerscough Gallery represents a distinguished group of contemporary craft and design artists, specializing in material-led processes with a focus on wood and natural materials. The gallery works in both public and private collections, maintains a full program of exhibitions and participates in leading art fairs around the world, including PAD London, Masterpiece London, Design Miami/Basel, Design Miami, SALON Art + Design New York, and FOG Design + Art San Francisco. Virtual, 12 - 1 p.m. https://18thstreet.org/event/creative-roundtable-erika-anderson/

LOCALS NIGHT AT SANTA MONICA PIER
Join us at the Santa Monica Pier once a month for a curated series for locals. On December 15, enjoy special holiday fun with seasonal storytelling, crafts, live music, interactive performances, a car show, caroling, photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus and so much more! Gather your friends and family and head down to the Pier for this special experience. You really won't want to miss out on this incredible and unique outdoor setting to unwind with friends and loved ones all while celebrating Santa Monica's holiday cheer. The Pier, 3 - 10 p.m. https://www.santamonicapier.org/localsnight

RIBBON CUTTING AT TAVERN ON MAIN
It's time to celebrate! Tavern on Main is honored to host the Santa Monica Chamber and its Young Professionals as they recognize coming on five months of being open. The Ribbon Cutting is open to all and will take place at 5 p.m. Young Professionals mixer 7 p.m. Tavern on Main, 2907 Main St. https://www.tavernonmainsm.com/

FRIDAY | DECEMBER 16

SANTA MONICA BEACH BELLES AT SANTA MONICA PLACE
Come watch the Santa Monica Beach Belles perform high-flying kicks that will "wow" the whole family at Center Plaza, December 16-18 and Christmas Eve. This classic Santa Monica holiday event is one you won't want to miss. 3 - 7 p.m. Santa Monica Place, 395 Santa Monica Place. https://www.santamonicaplace.com/Events/Details/571847.

HOLIDAY POINTSETTIA WORKSHOP
Artist Carmela Morales will provide a workshop on Friday, December 16 from 6-7:30pm at 18th Street Arts Center, Olympic Campus. These workshops will teach you how to make your own paper Poinsettia flower. 18th Street Art Center, 1639 18th St. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/make-your-own-paper-poinsettia-for-the-holidays-tickets-465960559577

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 17

HOLIDAY CHEER IN THE GARDENS
9 - 11 a.m. Ishihara Park Learning Garden, 2909 Exposition Blvd, Santa Monica. City of Santa Monica's Community Garden Program invites you to "Pancakes at Ishihara Park Learning Garden Event" - Holiday Cheer in the Gardens! Celebrate with friends and neighbors, kid's activities, garden tours, compost demonstrations, coffee and pancakes with garden fixings' for those looking for some energy! Learn about the Westside Seed Exchange! Sponsored by City of Santa Monica Community Gardens Program with the support of Santa Monica Roots. Contact: santamonicaroots@gmail.com.

NOTABLE FICTION BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION
Join an online community conversation about prize-winning current and classic literature. Email library@santamonica.gov for the link. Library: Virtual. 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 18

ANNUAL POLAR BEAR SWIM
We know you are tough enough. Whether your toes get wet, you round the 150 yard buoy, or just come for the warm pool swim or hot chocolate, this event will get your blood pumping and skin tingling. Check-in is at 10 a.m. The first swim for the youngest Polar Bears starts at 10:15 a.m. Annenberg Community Beach House

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



SURF REPORT

WATER TEMP: **58.3**

WEDNESDAY *POOR*	**SURF:** 0-1ft Shin to knee	Modest new NW swell fills in through the day, showing best west of Pt. Dume. Small SSW swell. Conditions look favorable all day, with offshore flow possible in the morning.
THURSDAY *POOR TO FAIR*	**SURF:** 1-2ft Knee to thigh	Small blend of easing NW and decent little off-season SSW swell with offshore flow in the morning. Swell nothing to write home about but the bigger boards could be fun on the points.

WEATHER

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 60. East northeast wind around 5 mph.
Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 43. West northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 65. North northeast wind around 10 mph.
Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 43.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2022/12/15	Thu	03:44 AM	3.81	H
2022/12/15	Thu	08:35 AM	3.10	L
2022/12/15	Thu	1:21 PM	3.78	H
2022/12/15	Thu	8:50 PM	0.90	L
2022/12/16	Fri	04:16 AM	4.15	H
2022/12/16	Fri	10:16 AM	2.59	L
2022/12/16	Fri	2:59 PM	3.41	H
2022/12/16	Fri	9:37 PM	1.13	L
2022/12/17	Sat	04:43 AM	4.55	H
2022/12/17	Sat	11:17 AM	1.87	L
2022/12/17	Sat	4:30 PM	3.27	H
2022/12/17	Sat	10:19 PM	1.35	L
2022/12/18	Sun	05:11 AM	5.03	H
2022/12/18	Sun	12:05 PM	1.07	L
2022/12/18	Sun	5:47 PM	3.30	H
2022/12/18	Sun	10:59 PM	1.56	L
2022/12/19	Mon	05:42 AM	5.54	H
2022/12/19	Mon	12:47 PM	0.26	L

DAILY LOTTERY

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

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 12/12
16 31 50 55 61
Power#: 9
Jackpot: 134 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/13
14 22 48 58 68
Mega#: 6
Jackpot: 429 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 12/10
13 18 19 22 38
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 15 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/13
6 15 21 29 38

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/13
EVENING: 7 3 1
Draw Date: 12/13
MIDDAY: 0 2 1

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/13
1st: 11 - Money Bags
2nd: 08 - Gorgeous George
3rd: 03 - Hot Shot
Race Time: 1:47.26

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- Dr. Walter Butler
Director, SMC Library and Information Services

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