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Scholar stipend bolsters burgeoning program

Courtesy Photo

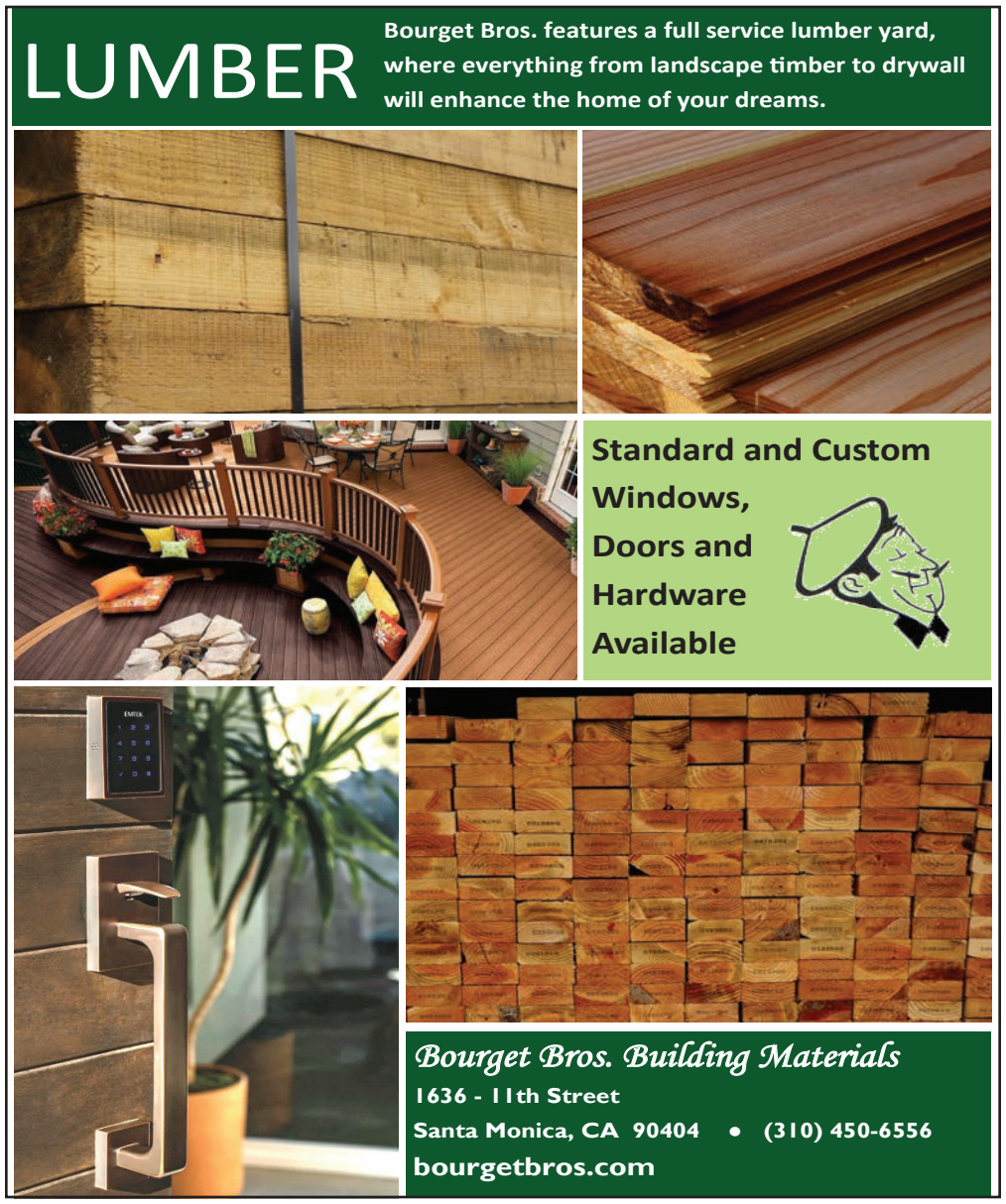
IMPACT SCHOLARS: Ready To Succeed (RTS) scholars recently celebrated the completion of 8-10 week internships through the McCabe Impact Fellowship program.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

After four growing years of the Ready To Succeed (RTS) program, a nonprofit focused on propelling foster youth through the rigors of college and postgraduate job searches, the RTS staff hit the same snag as the rest of the world, coming to a standstill due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Scholars in the RTS program faced pulled internships in 2020, as employers were worried about their own employees, leaving a hole in potential paths for RTS youth.

Tasked with finding a solution, RTS came up with a novel solution. Putting its funding to work, the group kickstarted the McCabe Impact Fellowship, named after RTS co-founder Patrick McCabe. The program selects scholars to participate in paid project-based fellowships, where students are matched up with innovative partners in the nonprofit sector, and are given a stipend through the 8-10 week process. Beginning with eight scholars in 2020, the fellowship has now served 53 total youth,

SEE **RTS** PAGE 6



New McKinley principal 'thrilled' by opportunity

Courtesy Photo

MCKINLEY LEADER: Daniela Weiner (center) was selected as the new principal of McKinley Elementary School after serving as the school's assistant principal.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Setting the stage for the remainder of the 2023-24 school year, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education made several staffing decisions during its final meeting of 2023.

At the Dec. 14 meeting, the board unanimously approved the promotion of McKinley Elementary School assistant principal Daniela Weiner to the school's principal role, taking over for Dr. Ashley Benjamin. Benjamin was recently appointed as the district's Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and had been working in both that role and as McKinley principal during the transitional period.

Weiner has served in education for over 20 years, beginning her career as a member of the Peace Corps in Honduras, working as a volunteer in rural schools. Her international experience also included a role in the U.S. Agency for International Development in international education policy initiatives throughout Latin America and Africa. On the homefront, she previously worked in the New York City Department of Education as a dual-immersion teacher and instructional coach.

With SMMUSD, Weiner began her career as an instructional coach, working for seven years in the role throughout several elementary schools, including McKinley as well as Franklin Elementary School and Edison Learning Academy. A familiar face in the district, she also served as assistant principal for both McKinley and Grant Elementary School.

After the board vote, Weiner thanked her constituents for their support, saying she is "absolutely thrilled and humbled" to have been chosen.

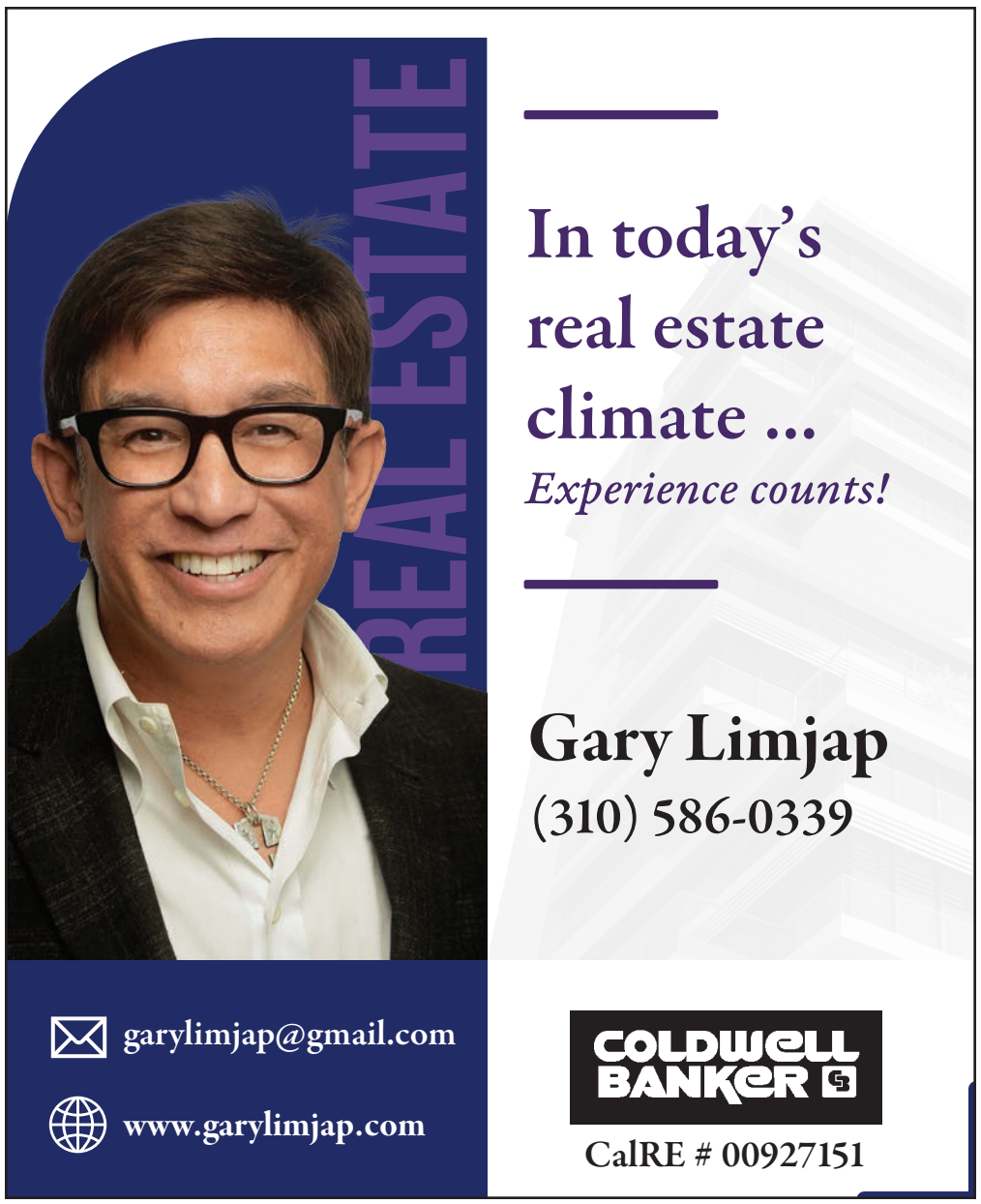
"It's not merely a position, it's a profound privilege to lead a community I know and I love," Weiner said. "McKinley's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion resonates deeply with my own values, and I'm excited to champion these principles as we continue to work together to create an environment that fosters curiosity, belonging and empowerment for every student … this is an absolute thrill for me."

The board itself made several changes during the meeting, including the election of Jennifer Smith and Jon Kean as Board President and Board Vice-President, respectively, for 2024. Smith and Kean were nominated by their fellow board members, and will be replacing Maria Leon-Vasquez and Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein in the respective roles.

> "I think you know how hard I will work at it, and I appreciate (this nomination)
> - Jennifer Smith"

"I think you know how hard I will work at it, and I appreciate (this nomination),"

SEE **SMMUSD** PAGE 9



Top TV of 2023: AP's selections include 'Succession,' 'Jury Duty,' 'Shrinking,' 'Swarm'

ALICIA RANCILIO
Associated Press

With so many shows on TV and streaming services, it's impossible not to miss a gem or two. This year's top television offerings as selected by The Associated Press include a mix of dramas and comedies that will draw you in.

Some are new, some have already ended their runs and some have new episodes on the horizon. There's no time like December to add a title to your growing TBW (to be watched) list or settle in for a marathon during that time warp between Christmas and New Year's when no one knows what day it is.

Here are 10 shows from 2023 that simply shouldn't be missed.

"THE BEAR," FX ON HULU

Let's start off with a public service announcement to watch "The Bear" if you haven't already. The FX show about an award-winning, fine dining chef named Carmy (played by Jeremy Allen White), who returns home to Chicago to run his late brother's dive quietly debuted on Hulu in 2022 and was a word of mouth and critical hit. Season two did not experience a sophomore slump. In fact, it excelled. Any given episode can make you laugh, cry, feel anxious and excited by its genius casting of guest stars.

Episode six, called "Fishes," is a masterpiece.

"THE BIG DOOR PRIZE," APPLE TV+

"Schitt's Creek" ended its run in 2020 and left a void for a show about acceptance and unlikely friendships. It was humanity at its best and yet still funny, quotable and meme-worthy. Fans missing that vibe should watch "The Big Door Prize," which follows the residents of a small town whose lives are turned upside down when a new game called Morpho appears in the general store that promises to tell each user what their life's potential is. Some of Morpho's answers prompt people to make major changes, while others feel dejected, insecure or second guess the results. Each episode follows a different character's reaction to their Morpho reveal. The show's charming cast is led by Chris O'Dowd with the story based on a novel by M.O. Walsh. And yes, it has a "Schitt's Creek" connection — its showrunner is David West Read, a "Schitt's Creek executive producer and writer.

Good news for fans: season two is coming.

"THE GOLDEN BACHELOR," ABC AND HULU

After 27 seasons of "The Bachelor," the franchise managed to lure in viewers with a senior-centric version of the show called "The Golden Bachelor." Instead of hate-watching, people tuned in as a 70-something widower named Gerry Turner set out to find a new partner. The streaming numbers set a record on Hulu. Turner told The Associated Press he believed people could feel the authenticity of the cast. "I never once questioned anyone's motives about being on the show. At the age of 70, you're only there for the right reason."

Even better: Turner's wedding will air live on ABC Jan. 4.

"SWARM," PRIME VIDEO

Dominique Fishback was already a rising Hollywood star when she landed the lead in "Swarm," but now she's an Emmy nominee for this seven-episode satirical slasher. Co-created by Donald Glover, Fishback plays Dre, an obsessed fan of a Beyoncé-like R&B singer named Ni'Jah whose fan base is dubbed the swarm. Dre's devotion to Ni'Jah is unhinged and deadly. A commentary on celebrity worship, "Swarm" features Chloe Bailey in a recurring role and Damson Idris, Paris Jackson, Halsey and Billy Eilish are among guest stars.

"THE OTHER TWO," MAX

For a lighter offering that takes on celebrity, particularly the internet famous, there's the "The Other Two." Created by two former "Saturday Night Live" writers, the show followed Cary and Brooke, the older brother and sister of a teen pop idol, Chase — who goes by Chase Dreams. Canceled by Max after three seasons, the show is still worth a watch for how it pokes fun at internet culture, millennials, celebrities and sibling rivalry.

Drew Tarver and Heléne Yorke play the older siblings, Molly Shannon is their mother and momager to a clueless Chase, played by Case Walker.

"BEEF," NETFLIX

For a dark comedy about an unhealthy fixation, look no further than the limited series "Beef."

Ali Wong and Steven Yeun play two people almost get into a car accident in a parking lot and the incident escalates to road rage on 'roids. Instead of eventually calming down and moving on, the two become obsessed with ruining the other by infiltrating each other's lives and wreaking havoc. At some point you may start to wonder, do these two actually like each other?

Wong told AP earlier this year: "At first you think it's about these two people who are enemies, but they keep involving each other in each other's lives and they keep coming back to each other. And there's a reason for that. It's because they are letting those walls down. They're seeing each other at their ugliest and the worst but somehow it's very connecting and they still want to be around each other."

"JURY DUTY," AMAZON FREEVEE

In "Jury Duty," everyman Ronald Gladden is led to believe he was picked for and then sequestered on a jury trial being filmed for a documentary. Everyone surrounding Gladden is an actor, including James Marsden, who plays a hilarious, heightened version of himself. The situations that occur from "witness" testimony to interactions among the other jury members is so absurd, it's amazing Gladden never caught on. The best part is his

SEE **TV** PAGE 12

Surf report

WATER TEMP: **64.4**

FRIDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 2-3ft
Thigh to waist

Currently looking like WNW swell from Wed-Thu will back down through the day as some S windswell mixes in. Surf is peaky and mixed up off the combo of swells. Conditions look ok but aren't perfect -- expect some jumble early.

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

Smaller WNW/NW swell energy on tap but conditions look favorable.

Weather

Friday: Showers and possibly a thunderstorm before 4pm, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 4pm.
Friday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers before 10pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 53.
Saturday: A 20 percent chance of showers after 10am. Mostly sunny, with a high near 64.
Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 52.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2023/12/22	Fri	05:27 AM	5.83	H
2023/12/22	Fri	12:40 PM	0.04	L
2023/12/22	Fri	6:48 PM	3.44	H
2023/12/22	Fri	11:35 PM	1.75	L
2023/12/23	Sat	06:07 AM	6.17	H
2023/12/23	Sat	1:27 PM	-0.58	L
2023/12/23	Sat	7:50 PM	3.54	H
2023/12/24	Sun	12:20 AM	2.03	L
2023/12/24	Sun	06:46 AM	6.38	H
2023/12/24	Sun	2:10 PM	-0.98	L
2023/12/24	Sun	8:40 PM	3.62	H
2023/12/25	Mon	01:02 AM	2.22	L
2023/12/25	Mon	07:24 AM	6.47	H
2023/12/25	Mon	2:50 PM	-1.17	L
2023/12/25	Mon	9:25 PM	3.66	H
2023/12/26	Tue	01:42 AM	2.34	L
2023/12/26	Tue	08:01 AM	6.44	H
2023/12/26	Tue	3:28 PM	-1.19	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: 12/20
27 35 41 56 60
Power#: 16
Jackpot: 620 M

Fantasy5
Draw Date: 12/20
15 18 21 27 28

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/19
17 26 50 58 61
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 57 M

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/20
EVENING: 5 0 4
Draw Date: 12/20
MIDDAY: 1 5 0

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 12/20
6 7 10 40 44
Mega#: 6
Jackpot: 8 M

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/20
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 08 - Gorgeous George
3rd: 05 - California Classic
Race Time: 1:45.06

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Santa Monica Daily Press

AP's top albums of 2023: Music from Olivia Rodrigo, Peso Pluma, the Rolling Stones and more

MARIA SHERMAN
AP Music Writer

Ten of the top albums of the year, as chosen by Associated Press Music Writer Maria Sherman.

It was a blockbuster year across genres, but only a few could make AP's list. (SZA's "SOS" released in December 2022, Ice Spice's "Like...?" isn't a full-length release, and the 11 Grammy nominations for "Barbie the Album" is recognition enough.)

Instead of embracing the antiquated practice of ranking very different albums against one another, we're celebrating the best next to the best. Enjoy.

"GÉNESIS," PESO PLUMA

The year belongs to regional Mexican artists, who brought their banda, norteño, mariachi, sierreño and more to geographies well beyond Mexico and the southwest U.S. As Carín León told The Associated Press earlier this year, it is no longer "regional," but "global" music. Leading the charge is Peso Pluma, whose third studio album, "Génesis," became the highest-charting regional Mexican album of all time. Across 14 tracks, Pluma marries contemporary swagger with traditional corridos tumbados, bringing the colorful and once-maligned music to the masses — and making it all his own in the same breath.

"GUTS," OLIVIA RODRIGO

In the two years since her tear-jerking ballad "drivers license" came in like a wrecking ball, Olivia Rodrigo experienced a lot of life in a short period of time, resulting in "GUTS," her sophomore album. Across 12 tracks of big feelings balladry and riot grrrl-informed power pop-punk, Rodrigo expertly soundtracks the throes of fame — and the experience of entering your 20s. From the bloodsucking piano ballad "vampire" to the cheeky backslide anthem "bad idea right?" to the Joan Didion-referencing clean screams of "all-american bitch," Rodrigo makes hard lemonade out of life's lemons — a sonic treatise on a young woman's dissatisfaction.

"LUCKY," MEGAN MORONEY

Let's cut straight to the chase: Country music dominated this year. Morgan Wallen's "Last Night" and Luke Combs' cover of Tracy Chapman's "Fast Car" held onto the top of the Billboard charts for the majority of 2023. But beyond those impressive metrics should be recognition of Megan Moroney, whose stellar debut album "Lucky" emerged fully formed and fully without the male bravado that punctuates much of mainstream country. Her swooning single "Tennessee Orange" was ubiquitous on country radio this year, but it's the whole of "Lucky" — and Moroney's position as a Gen Z songwriter with Taylor Swift-level acuity — that makes her one to watch.

"HACKNEY DIAMONDS," THE ROLLING STONES

Prior to "Hackney Diamonds," the Rolling Stones hadn't released an album of original material in 18 years. (That was 2005's "A Bigger Bang," and a bigger bang it wasn't.) No one saw this album coming, as raw and rocking as ever: a collection of 12 crackling songs, their first since the 2021 death of drummer Charlie Watts, produced by Andrew Watt (known for his work with Post Malone and Justin Bieber), featuring Lady Gaga, and a rapturous addition to their already legendary discography. But that's the Stones for you — it's as if they invented new ways to approach longevity. AP's Jocelyn Noveck put it best: This album is their best new work in decades — tight, focused, full of heart and swagger.

"RAVEN," KELELA

On her sophomore album, "Raven," the fluid R&B singer Kelela offers a masterclass in sensual breakbeats and experiences in queer Black motherhood. (She sends potential collaborators a reading list featuring bell hooks and Decolonizing Love in a World Rigged for Black Women's Loneliness" by Shaadi Devereaux.) If pulling from U.K. garage, '90s house and electronica has become a trend in 2023, Kelela does it with a restrained intensity — soulful vocals atop dance rhythms, hazy sunset music set in a vintage club, like on the single "Contact." "Loneliness, I see in your eyes / It might just render you blind," she sings. "Baby, let's dance it away."

"MAÑANA SERÁ BONITO," KAROL G

It took decades for reggaetón to be recognized in the mainstream arena and outside of the diverse Latin communities that created it — music comprising Jamaican dancehall riddims, Puerto Rican el underground, Panamanian reggae en español, New York hip-hop and beyond. But even now, when reggaetón enjoys worldwide success, men dominate the conversation: Bad Bunny, Daddy Yankee, J Balvin, and Rauw Alejandro, to name a few. On "Mañana Será Bonito," the greatest album in Karol G's discography, the Colombian superstar proves there's been some serious gender oversight. This album should be considered part of a modern canon for the explosive dem bow of "Ojos Ferrari," the dance-y "Ciaro," the breathy "TQG," featuring Shakira, the Afrobeats of "Carolina."

"NEW BLUE SUN," ANDRÉ 3000

It's not a rap record, but the opening track is titled "I Swear, I Really Wanted to Make a 'Rap' Album but This Is Literally the Way the Wind Blew Me This Time." That one features California alt-jazz experimentalist Carlos Niño and sets the tone for the most daring release of 2023. For the first time in 17 years, André 3000 — half of the best-selling hip-hop duo of all time, Outkast — has released a new album of original material. Across 87 minutes, the musical innovator plays upward

SEE **ALBUM** PAGE 9

AP's top songs of 2023: 'On My Mama,' 'Flowers,' 'Monaco' and more

MARIA SHERMAN
AP Music Writer

Ten of the best songs of the year, as determined by Associated Press Music Writer Maria Sherman, in no particular order. Dive in.

"ON MY MAMA," VICTORIA MONÉT

Buckle up for some positive affirmations! The 10-time Grammy-nominated Victoria Monét, once best known as a hit-maker for Ariana Grande, Fifth Harmony and Chloe x Halle, is getting her flowers these days as a soloist — and passing them right along to the mothers listening. Her blockbuster single "On My Mama" is a loving tribute to her mom and her daughter, with Monét's buttery voice and bright brass production carrying throughout. It may very well be the best R&B track of the year — with one of the best samples, utilizing Chalie Boy's 2009 banger "I Look Good." It takes a real talent to borrow from such a recognizable sound. Monét doesn't just manage to do that — she makes it her own.

"MONACO," BAD BUNNY

Bad Bunny's 2023 album, "Nadie Sabe Lo Que Va a Pasar Mañana," is a reclamation of his past sound, the hard-hitting rap that preceded his mainstream superstardom. Perhaps it's an exercise in getting back to the basics while unraveling the complications of fame, the source material for most of the album's lyrics. At any rate, the combination makes for a more restrained, pointed listen: a true success on the stellar "Monaco," a Latin trap song with a need for speed that wouldn't feel too far removed on his debut album, 2018's "X 100PRE." Benito's smooth, somber baritone carries the track, as does the rush sound of a Formula One car that bleeds into baroque production.

"FLOWERS," MILEY CYRUS

There's a thin line between courageous and corny when it comes to uplifting pop records. Far too often, an empowering song with an ascendant chorus loses all tension and hits the ear like a too-sweet dessert. But on Miley Cyrus' Grammy-nominated "Flowers," her first No. 1 hit in a decade, the pop superstar makes magic happen. It's a summery, retro-pop single teeming with optimism born out of divorce. "No remorse, no regret / I forgive every word you said," she sings — the musical equivalent of someone saying, "I'm bored with this conversation" — before launching into a self-help mantra. Then, she finds an emotional solution and musical resolve in her chorus: "I can love me better than you can."

"BOY'S A LIAR PT. 2," PINKPANTHERESS AND ICE SPICE

It is the song of the summer — heck, the year — and it came out in January. The dream team of Bronx rapper Ice Spice and hyperpop-punk hero PinkPantheress made "Boy's a Liar Pt. 2" an examination of modern dating with an undeniable hook. It is so space-y as to take flight; a lackadaisical remix for the current moment. Plus, the pronunciation of "Liar" like "Leo" in the song's chorus is "It's Gonna Be May"-level creativity. What's not to love?

"I REMEMBER EVERYTHING," ZACH BRYAN AND KACEY MUSGRAVES

Country artist Zach Bryan knows a thing or two about writing the loneliness of heartbreak into song with cutting specificity. It is one of the reasons his 2022 major label debut "American Heartbreak" was named one of AP's top albums of last year. And it is part of the reason why his 2023 single and first No. 1 track, "I Remember Everything," is one of our favorites of this year. It's confessional, rich, balladic songwriting amplified by his full-hearted voice — those open, resonating notes — and the sweetness of Musgraves' tone.

"CRAVE," PARAMORE

Long gone are the burnt orange pop-punk days of Paramore's youth. The Tennessee rock band flirts with animated post-punk these days, experimenting with asymmetrical synth production that mirrors internal anxieties and the external forces that augment them. "Crave" is the latter reflecting on the former: a propulsive, matured band dancing around a prickly guitar riff. But at its core, like in all great Paramore tracks, is frontwoman Hayley Williams stretching her vast vocal range, belting out frustrations and excising misguided desires.

"RUSH," TROYE SIVAN

The opening track and lead single from Australian pop powerhouse Troye Sivan's third full-length album, "Something to Give Each Other," is all falsetto, locker room chants, and utopic homoeroticism: "I feel the rush / Addicted to your touch," a group of men harmonize on the perfect pop of his lead single, "Rush." Bravado is instituted only to drive home a sort of sweaty sexuality, all fun and light atop house and EDM beats. Sivan offered AP a kind of mantra for the song in an interview earlier this year: "Things are good. Life is fun. Sex is great."

"DUMBEST GIRL ALIVE," 100 GECS

What came first: the chicken or the egg, 100 gecs or the Internet genre of hyperpop? It doesn't matter. The duo of Laura Les and Dylan Brady are not in the market for sense; rather, their musical art is fueled by pixelated chaos. In the case of "Dumbest Girl Alive," a choice cut from their sophomore LP "10,000 gecs," the only thing that matters is the nu-metal bass lick and distorted vocals that deliver unintelligible lines like "Put emojis on my grave / I'm the dumbest girl alive." It's 2023's best song that sounds like getting sucked into a computer simulation, fun and dumb in equal measure.

"OMG," NEWJEANS

In 2023, girl groups dominated the K-pop conversation. At the fore is NewJeans, with their Y2K-nostalgic sound that pulls from the turn of the millennium's R&B and pop music. "OMG" was the catalyst for their fame, with its addictive trap rhythm, propelled by U.K.

SEE **SONG** PAGE 12

Year in review: California descends into budget deficit

MIKHAIL ZINSHTEYN
Special to the Daily Press

Two seemingly diametrically opposed things were both true about California's budget in 2023.

The state had to pare down its spending as it confronted a nearly $32 billion deficit for 2023-24. Nonetheless, the final spending plan for the general fund was still the second largest on record — $308 billion in total. As recently as 2019, the budget was less than $200 billion.

How did the state pull it off despite the colossal revenue dip?

Not by raiding its reserves, which this year grew to a record level of $37.8 billion. That money will be useful in the event state tax revenues fall below projections during the current fiscal year, sparing Sacramento from having to make "drastic reductions to core programs that marked the state's past efforts to close significant deficits," the governor's office wrote after he and lawmakers finalized the spending plan.

The fiscal imprecision stems from a quirk in tax deadlines. Because of natural disasters that ransacked most of the state, the Internal Revenue Service extended the deadline almost all Californians had to file from April to October and then to November. The state Franchise Tax Board followed suit. That means the money the state typically collects is reaching its coffers later than usual.

In early December, the fallout from that delayed accounting became clear: The state is on pace to have a budget deficit of $68 billion in 2024-25, the Legislative Analyst's Office reported. About $26 billion of that is from the deficit that is emerging on the books for the 2022-23 year. Basically, because the state didn't have all its tax revenue tallied by the time lawmakers passed the 2023-24 budget in June, they didn't know that 2022-23 would have a massive budget hole. Now the state has to fill that fiscal chasm from last year as another collapse in revenues relative to spending plans materializes in the current fiscal year.

Cuts to one-time spending, raiding reserves and delaying other programs were actions the LAO said the state could pursue to finalize the 2024-25 state budget in June. It remains to be seen if ongoing programs will also have to hit the chopping block.

This has worsened what was already a worrying picture. Analysts for both the Legislature and governor's office earlier in the year predicted stagnant revenue growth for the next few years and annual deficits ranging from $14 billion to $20 billion. Costs will rise after the Newsom administration negotiated, and legislators approved, a series of generous contracts with state worker unions. And things could get a lot worse if a recession emerges.

The shaky budget outlook is one reason Newsom this year vetoed 156 bills, some with large price tags. Instead, he urged lawmakers to propose costly funding plans through the annual budget process — where they can be negotiated, or die quietly.

His stock veto message went something like this: The budget deal avoided "deep program cuts" to education, health care, climate, public safety, and social service programs. "This year, however, the Legislature sent me bills outside of this budget process that, if all enacted, would add nearly $19 billion of unaccounted costs in the budget, of which $11 billion would be ongoing."

Even with that frugality, critics have questioned the state government's narrative of fiscal prudence. The final budget deal reduced actual spending by only $8 billion. The rest of the savings came from borrowing money — or asking another agency to borrow the money — and other fiscal maneuvers. For example, rather than giving colleges and universities $2.2 billion upfront to build affordable student housing, the state told the campuses to borrow the money instead and the state will cover the debt payments. Doing that counts as budget savings, but it also grows the cost of the housing program by 1.4 times because of the years of interest payments. Also built into the budget plan is an escape hatch: Basically, if revenues aren't there, the governor can delay spending on various one-time programs by March of next year.

Major issues for 2024: Billions of dollars in planned spending could be delayed or gutted as the deficit picture worsens. Pressure will be on legislators to find the money elsewhere when the next budget is due in late June. That could be through taxes, such as the corporate rate increases the Senate sought in 2023 but that Newsom shot down, spending cuts for one-time programs or dipping into the state's enormous reserves. Regardless, lawmakers' progressive vision may run into fiscal reality, setting up a battle over which marquee programs to fund or shelve.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters

BUDGET: Gov. Gavin Newsom unveils his budget proposal for the 2023-24 fiscal year during a press briefing at the California Natural Resources Agency in Sacramento on Jan. 10, 2023.

Year in review: California tackles mental health, fentanyl

ANA B. IBARRA
Special to the Daily Press

When it comes to health and wellness, perhaps few things weigh heavier on the minds of Californians than the mental health crisis and the fentanyl epidemic.

California is undertaking ambitious — and at times controversial — efforts to provide some relief to those in mental health distress. For example, this year, Newsom proposed and lawmakers agreed to back a measure for the March 2024 ballot that would allow additional funds to be used toward housing for people with behavioral health issues.

Specifically, the proposal would authorize a $6.4 billion bond to fund housing for people with mental health illnesses and substance use disorders. The measure also asks voters to allow counties to use 30% of the funds collected from the Mental Health Services Act for housing purposes. This 20-year-old law funds mental health programs through a 1% tax on personal income over $1 million.

Opponents of this proposal have argued that redirecting funds from the millionaire's tax toward housing will result in cuts to current mental health programs and treatment options. In March, voters will have the final say.

Another public health crisis, fentanyl overdoses, drove impassioned discussions in this year's legislative session as lawmakers tried to address this latest phase of the opioid epidemic. Last year, 6,959 people died from an opioid overdose — a 115% jump from 2019, according to the California Department of Public Health. Much of the growth has been linked to fentanyl, which is known to be 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine.

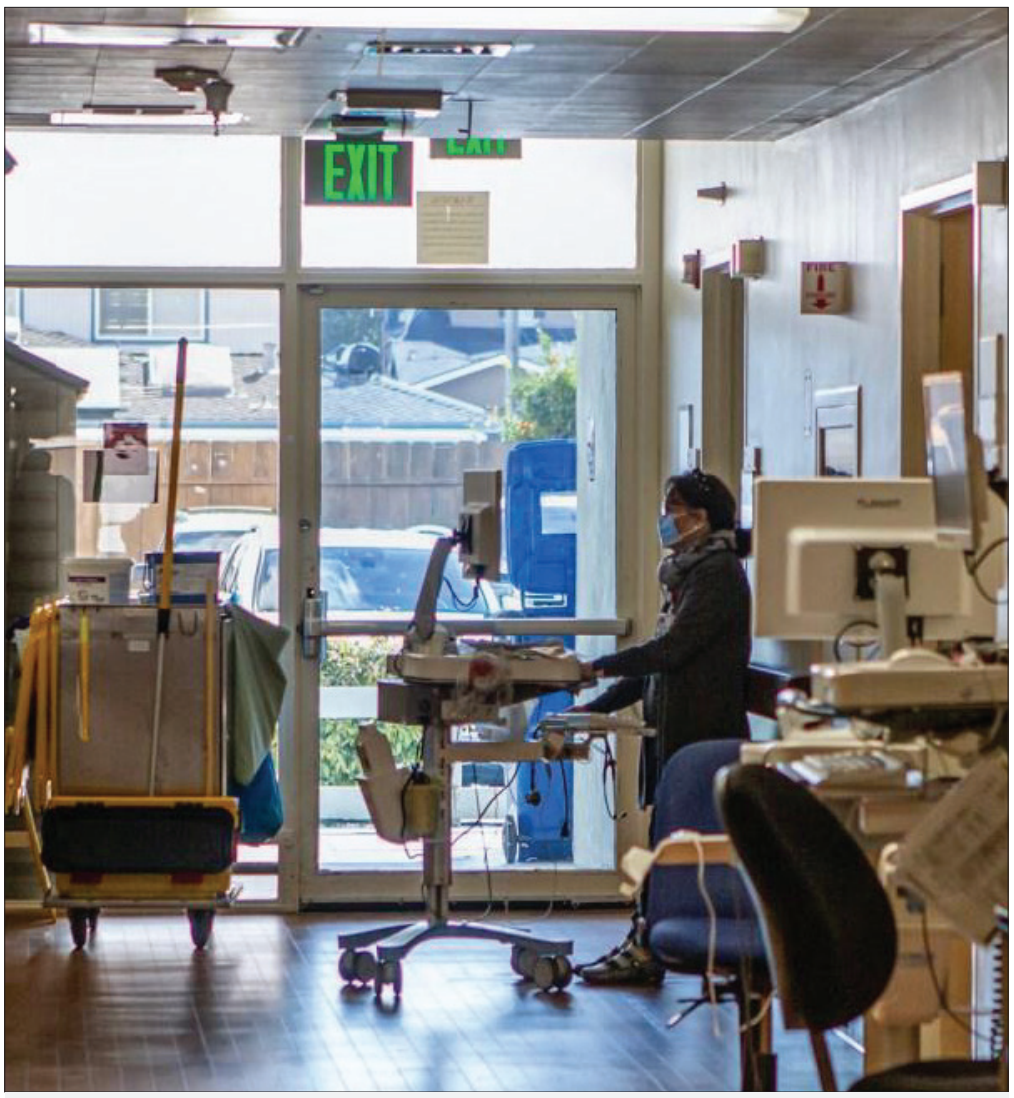

Photo by Larry Valenzuela, CalMatters/CatchLight Local

HEALTH: A medical personnel working on her computer in the corridor of Hazel Hawkins Memorial Hospital in Hollister on March 30, 2023.

Lawmakers introduced a slew of fentanyl-related bills. Republicans, some Democrats and law enforcement leaders pushed for harsher penalties for fentanyl possession and dealing, but many of those bills were watered down or killed in the legislative process. Among those set to become law is one that requires community colleges and California State University campuses to provide fentanyl test strips to students. Another requires amusement parks and concert venues to have overdose antidote naloxone on hand. In the spring, Newsom announced that the state would manufacture its own naloxone as part of its CalRx initiative.

Two other key decisions for lawmakers this year came down to money, with one centering on distressed hospitals and the other lifting up low-paid health care workers.

Following the closure of Madera County's only general hospital at the start of 2023, administrators at a handful of community hospitals began to sound the alarm, noting that they, too, were in financial distress. At least two other hospitals filed for bankruptcy; several cut services, including maternity wards, directly impacting patient care. Legislators responded by approving close to $300 million in loans that were divided among 17 hospitals. Madera, however, hasn't been able to use its loan yet.

And, in the last week of the legislative session, labor unions ironed a deal with hospitals and other providers to raise pay for health care workers to at least $25 an hour through a series of pay increases beginning in 2024. But as the plan's cost becomes clearer, and with the looming state budget deficit, Gov. Gavin Newsom is suggesting that revisions are needed.

Major issues for 2024: We'll continue to watch for how many people lose their Medi-Cal coverage as part of the renewal process that California and other states restarted this year for the first time since the pandemic. This process runs through next June and lapse of coverage for potentially millions is expected. The negotiations on the health care wage plan will play out during the legislative session as well. Meanwhile, voters will decide whether to restructure the Mental Health Services Act. And lawmakers are likely to revisit efforts to combat fentanyl. An attempt to authorize psychedelics for therapy will also be back.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

RTS

FROM PAGE 1

something RTS Director of Opportunities and Volunteers Lucy Cherkasets called a "remarkable success."

"We're going to match (scholars with nonprofits) and this experience is going to come with a RTS partnership," Cherkasets explained. "So you're not just going to be a number, you're not just going to be an intern, you're gonna have some TLC in this process. From the host (to) the supervisor, RTS is involved, so it's a really nice holistic experience and you're gonna give back to a social impact company."

Throughout the fellowship, RTS provides one-on-one coaching, monthly check-ins, further career exploration, resume reviews, mock interviews and more. Looking for hosts that "prioritize the time to invest in young people," RTS matches hosts with scholars, based on scholar subject interest, for about 200 hours of education either on-site or through virtual hybrid learning. The incentive provided by the program is a $4,000 stipend, which Cherkasets says helps with the "mental, physical and financial cost" of guiding students through college and beyond.

"We're (providing scholars with) the financial stability in a livable stipend, we're going to provide (scholars) with the opportunity and access to it … and we're going to be with (scholars) all the way," Cherkasets added.

Recently, RTS expanded from serving exclusively foster youth to also include low-income first generation college students, bringing further diversity to the program's setting. One such first generation student is UCLA senior Kimberly Garcia, the oldest of three children who grew up in East Los Angeles after her family immigrated from El Salvador. Heading into college "fully on her own," Garcia took the leap into RTS due to a lack of professional internship experience. Cherkasets and the RTS staff immediately grew fond of Garcia, giving her the opportunity to interview with nonprofits until she found a role with educational nonprofit Portal Schools (now known as Portal Learning).

"(RTS) knew I had all these skills that were transferable to the professional role, and they basically helped me market myself to all these different companies," Garcia said.

Rejected from prior internships before RTS, the program aided her in learning to "leverage" her skillset, turning her interest in marketing and human resources into a chance to create a social media campaign for Portal. Managing the nonprofit's LinkedIn, Instagram and Twitter pages, Garcia also created company templates and graphics for the social sites, and was able to present her findings to a host of nonprofits for her final project.

Through her 10-week role, Garcia noted that the stipend "really helped" gain her confidence, saying she now knows "that you're able to do what you want and get paid for it." After her time at Portal, Garcia has gone on to work in human resources for media giants like Warner Bros. and DreamWorks, and now has her mind set on a full-time HR career after graduation.

"I attribute all of that to the (fellowship) because if it wasn't for that first-ever professional experience that I gained … I would have never had the confidence to know that I had the skills that were possible for working for these bigger-name companies," she added.

With 14 host companies taking part in the fellowship program thus far, Cherkasets and the RTS team are looking to expand and "diversify" host companies, matching the diversity of the scholars such as Garcia.

"Businesses are more successful, more innovative (with diversity), they can (better) solve problems," Cherkasets said. "They can engage their teams if you bring in diverse backgrounds, experiences, perspectives, and our students bring that … maybe they don't have the perfect skill set going into this fellowship, but that's the point. They are bringing lived experience."

RTS co-founder McCabe will match every donated dollar to the fellowship program, and more information about the program can be found on the RTS website, readytosucceedla.org.

Courtesy Photo

IMPACT SCHOLARS: Ready To Succeed (RTS) scholar Kimberly Garcia had a successful 10-week venture into the nonprofit world with the McCabe Impact Fellowship.

thomas@smdp.com

Choral performance packs in Barnum Hall

Photos by Thomas Leffler

SAMOHI CHOIR: The Santa Monica High School Choirs ended a busy week for Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District musical performances by bringing its 18th winter concert, entitled "Motus Perpetuus," to Barnum Hall. Samohi students dressed in their finest attires for the show, which featured showcases from the tenor-bass chorus, the combined ensembles, the Samohi chorale along with the madrigal ensemble and the combined middle school ensembles, the chamber singers and the treble chorus. While the audience was taking their seats, special opening performances were heard from Samohi student-led groups the Barbershop, Beautyshop, Valkyries and T-Tones. Following the final combined ensembles selection, "Does the World Say?" by Kyle Pederson, all Santa Monica Choral Program Alumni were invited to join the combined ensembles on stage for a traditional singing of the Hallelujah Chorus and the Samohi Hymn of Praise. Samohi choir students already have a busy schedule lined up for 2024, including the "Café Samo" performance in January, a "Cathedral Classics" show in April and the Spring Celebration Concert in May. The Samohi winter concert took place after a variety of winter performances throughout the district, including from the Samohi orchestras, the John Adams Middle School choir, the Lincoln Middle School band and the Malibu choirs.

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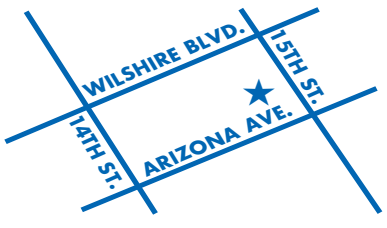

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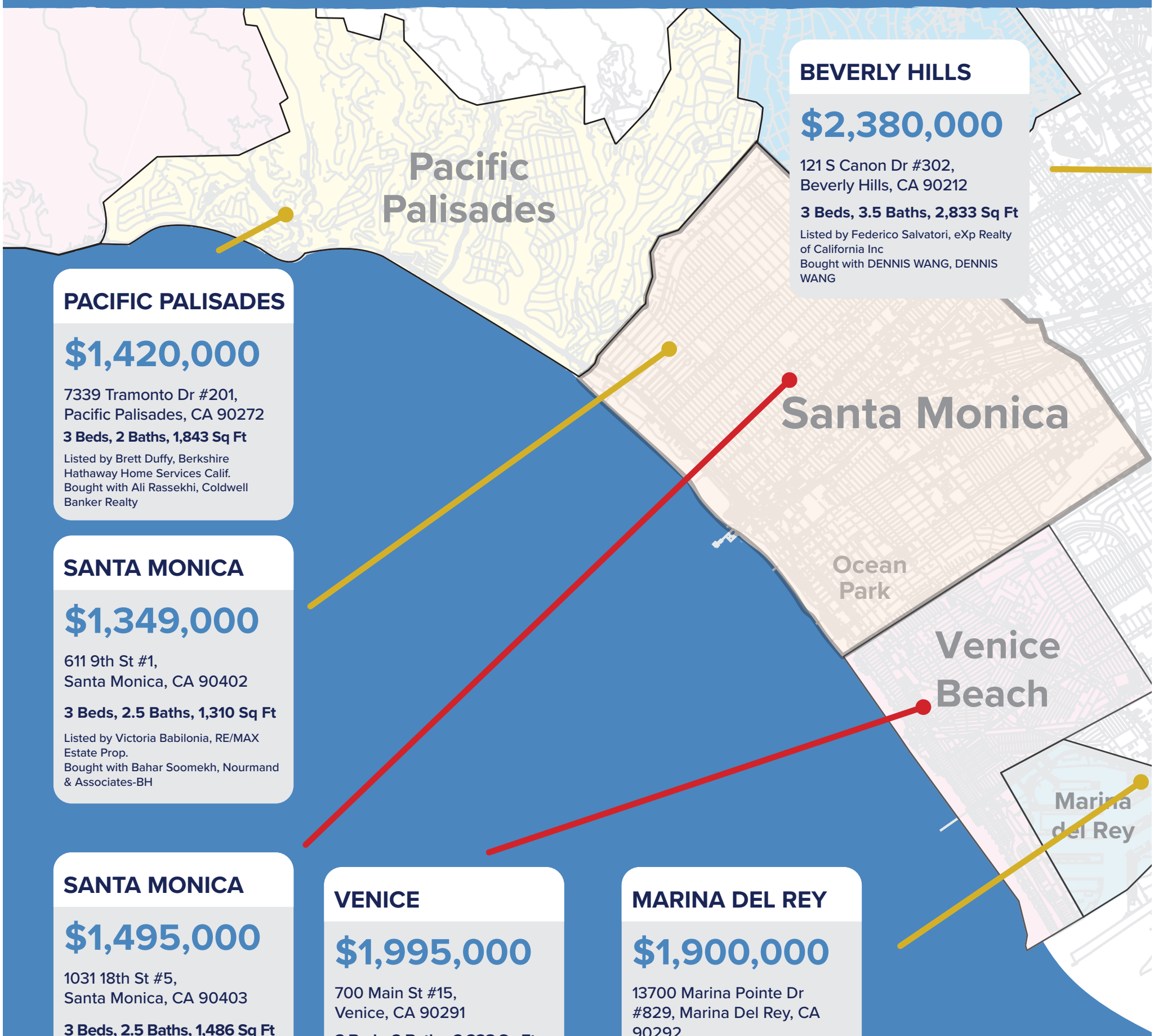

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$2,380,000

121 S Canon Dr #302,
Beverly Hills, CA 90212

3 Beds, 3.5 Baths, 2,833 Sq Ft

Listed by Federico Salvatori, eXp Realty of California Inc
Bought with DENNIS WANG, DENNIS WANG

PACIFIC PALISADES

$1,420,000

7339 Tramonto Dr #201,
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

3 Beds, 2 Baths, 1,843 Sq Ft

Listed by Brett Duffy, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Calif.
Bought with Ali Rassekhi, Coldwell Banker Realty

SANTA MONICA

$1,349,000

611 9th St #1,
Santa Monica, CA 90402

3 Beds, 2.5 Baths, 1,310 Sq Ft

Listed by Victoria Babilonia, RE/MAX Estate Prop.
Bought with Bahar Soomekh, Nourmand & Associates-BH

SANTA MONICA

$1,495,000

1031 18th St #5,
Santa Monica, CA 90403

3 Beds, 2.5 Baths, 1,486 Sq Ft

Listed by Isabelle Mizrahi, DRE #01209059
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Calif.
•isabelle@inthecanyon.com (agent)

VENICE

$1,995,000

700 Main St #15,
Venice, CA 90291

3 Beds, 2 Baths, 2,228 Sq Ft,

Listed by Tamra (Tami) Pardee, DRE #01421451
Listed by Paige Ogden, DRE #02060052
Pardee Properties
listingagents@pardeeproperties.com (agent)

MARINA DEL REY

$1,900,000

13700 Marina Pointe Dr #829, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292

3 Beds, 3.5 Baths, 2,099 Sq Ft

Listed by Jesse Weinberg & Blake Taylor, Jesse Weinberg & Assoc.
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All data gathered at redfin.com Santa Monica Daily Press

ALBUM

FROM PAGE 4

of 40 different types of flutes from around the world on this ambient jazz LP. It is a minimal, meditative listening experience — in some ways, ancient and, in others, an extension of the Afrofuturism that André 3000 has always worked to bring to the forefront. In 2014, he told the AP he wondered if he would always be the "Hey Ya!" guy. He can wonder no longer.

"SUNDIAL," NONAME

In a little over half-an-hour, Noname's "Sundial" jolts the Chicago rapper-poet's audience. The album is a contentious and confrontational continuation of the spirit felt on 2018's "Room 25," centering Black art and simultaneously unraveling the ways in which it is exploited. The highlight, if just one, is "Namesake," a track where Noname targets Rihanna, Beyoncé and Kendrick Lamar's ties to the NFL. "War machine gets glamorized / We play the game to pass the time," she raps, before flipping the lens on herself and her own shakable politics. Ideological quandaries — speaking truth to power and then highlighting the instances where that fails — abound, delivered in smooth packages.

"RAT SAW GOD," WEDNESDAY

The most exciting band in contemporary indie rock is informed by Drive-By Truckers, delivering an alt-country rock sensibility where narrative storytelling — pulling the listener into the quiet parts of a Carolinas hometown — is as much a part of the sonic fabric as lap steel or guitar fuzz or a poetic line sung out of key. At the heart of "Rat Saw God," Wednesday's fifth album, is a tension that plays out like a sonic embrace. It is an album about the complications of Southern identity, the pride and grit and shame and particularities of American geography that come out in songs about machine guns, race car drivers, crickets, trucks, Dollywood, sedans and Narcan. Evocative, to say the least.

"MY SOFT MACHINE," ARLO PARKS

It hasn't been too long since Arlo Parks truly made a name for herself in 2021, when her unique brand of introspective R&B earned her a Mercury Award and two Grammy nominations for her debut album "Collapsed in Sunbeams." Parks' acute understanding of writing early-20s ennui has only sharpened. On "My Soft Machine," she expertly navigates an incredible diversity of sound: the reverbed guitars and breathy vocals of "Purple Phase," the '00s pop-rock-meets-soul of "Devotion," the blurry retro "Room (red wings)," and the sweet love song "Impurities." She manages to weave sounds together that shouldn't quite fit together, finding congruency in her downy melodies and romantic lyricism.

This story has been updated to correct the title of a song on Megan Moroney's "Lucky." It is "Tennessee Orange," not "Tennessee Whiskey."

SMMUSD

FROM PAGE 2

Smith said to her colleagues. "I hope that I've shown you my commitment to this and I can't wait to work with all of you in a slightly different capacity."

Both Leon-Vasquez and Tahvildaran-Jesswein will remain on the board, with their current respective terms ending in December 2024 and December 2026. SMMUSD Superintendent Dr. Antonio Shelton, who was selected as the board's secretary for 2024, stated that he appreciated the duo's dedication to the SMMUSD community and serving students.

"We have our own individual perspectives … but you can come to a consensus about an idea or a problem for the good of our students," Shelton said Leon-Vasquez and Tahvildaran-Jesswein's tenures. "I appreciate the two of you being able to lead through and execute things … you've been able to waver with me (through) the storms and the things that have come to pass, and we've made it, and we're going to continue to make strides for our students in a way that (the community) can only applaud and encourage us to continue."

In their final statements in their roles, both were appreciative of their time served, with Leon-Vasquez noting that her inclusion on the board as an immigrant mirrored the district's commitment to diversity.

"Throughout the (times), things happen, things change, but the bulk of it lies in the makeup of the board and our superintendent and how we're going to lead this district … (Tahvildaran-Jesswein and I) worked very well together because we understood the concept that we needed to have full representation in this board, and I was very grateful for that," Leon-Vasquez said.

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FRIDAY | DECEMBER 22

THE PHARCYDE

This event is 21 and over. Any ticket holder unable to present valid identification indicating that they are at least 21 years of age will not be admitted to this event, and will not be eligible for a refund. The Venice West, 1717 Lincoln Blvd, 8 p.m., $45, https://www.ticketweb.com/event/the-pharcyde-the-venice-west-tickets/13556808

THE NO CHASERS HOLIDAY SHOW

Doors open at 8 PM. Show starts at 9:30PM. Online ticket sales end at 7 PM, tics available at the door after 8 PM. 2 drink minimum. The No Chasers" are hailed as one of the greatest cover groups around SoCal. Harvelle's Santa Monica, 1432 4th St, $10, https://santamonica.harvelles.com/shows/244678

POP UP: WEAVING CREATIVITY

These exhibition-based workshops encourage creative inspiration for different activities, so make sure to check out the corresponding galleries. No prior art-making experience is necessary; our friendly staff will happily work with you on your creation. All ages are welcome! Please note, these in-gallery workshops are free with general admission. Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 5905 Wilshire Blvd, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

COCOA & CAROLS

Join organizers at RUNWAY Wonderland for a vibrant evening of Cocoa and Carols! RUNWAY Wonderland will be extra Merry on Friday Nights in December. Come by and get a cup of gourmet hot cocoa with a variety of toppings and sweet extras, as you enjoy the sounds of acapella carolers. Find them on The Turf on Town Center Dr. Epic Mega Cookie Co. will be popping up for a special treat. First come, first serve. RUNWAY Playa Vista, 12746 West Jefferson Boulevard, 6 - 8 p.m.

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 23

ALLIGATOR BEACH

Doors open at 8 PM. Show starts at 9:30PM. Online ticket sales end at 7 PM, tics available at the door after 8 PM. 2 drink minimum. Funk roots run deep - all the way to Hermosa Beach, California - where some of the most sought-after backup musicians in the biz are creating a stir in a New Orleans-flavored funk band called Alligator Beach. Alligator Beach: New Orleans meets Los Angeles. They are going to grab something from The Meters, The Neville Brothers, Maceo Parker and Aretha. They are going to round up all the party people and head down to the beach to have a funky good time and shake everything we got. Harvelle's Santa Monica, 1432 4th St. $10.

THE NUTCRACKER AND THE FOUR REALMS

Accommodative Screening E. T. A. Hoffmann's short story "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King" and the subsequent ballet by composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and choreographer Marius Petipa inspired this lavish and visually inventive fantasy. The Academy, 8949 Wilshire Boulevard, 11 a.m. - 12:45 p.m., $5, https://www.discoverlosangeles.com/event/2023/12/23/the-nutcracker-and-the-four-realms

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 24

MARINA DEL REY SUNDAY CONCERTS

Enjoy free live music on the plaza at Fisherman's Village. Sundays year-round, weather depending. Free admission. Get two hours of free parking with validation from a shop or restaurant in the village. 1 - 4 pm
4640 Admiralty Way,

A VERY WICKED XMAS VOL. 2

This event is 21 and over. Any ticket holder unable to present valid identification indicating that they are at least 21 years of age will not be admitted to this event, and will not be eligible for a refund. PLEASE NOTE: A valid and physical form of identification indicating that they are at least 21 years old must be presented. The Academy, 8949 Wilshire Boulevard. 10 p.m., $10 - $75.

MONDAY | DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS IN VENICE 2023- COME HELP FEED THE HOMELESS

Join as a volunteer by purchasing a $10 ticket in the category of the item you'd like to donate on the day of the event. Your $10 contribution helps cover essential costs like permits for street closures, tables, barricades, insurance, and supplies, ensuring a successful and impactful event. Rose Ave- In between Hampton Dr and Main St. 6:30 - 10 a.m. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christmas-in-venice-2023-come-help-feed-the-homeless-tickets-769370506897

TUESDAY | DECEMBER 26

SOCIAL SERVICE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY PROVIDENCE ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM

Help with family nutrition and health care access is resuming at Virginia Avenue Park thanks to Providence St. John's Community Health Program. Trained community health workers will be available to meet in person with community members at the Park Center Building in Virginia Avenue Park. The first Tuesday of the month 11:30 am to 7 pm and 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Tuesdays from 9:30 am to 5 pm. The trained Providence St. John's staff can assist with enrollment in CalFresh, the state of California's food subsidy program created to improve the nutrition of families through access to healthy foods. Staff can also help navigate enrollment or questions for MediCal and Medicare. If you have questions about whether you qualify for benefits or if you need help completing enrollment forms, you can make an appointment by calling 310.458.8688. Drop-ins are also welcome. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave.

SMARTY PANTS STORYTIME - IN-PERSON PROGRAM

Let's get ready for school! Enjoy books, songs, rhymes, and movement while learning school readiness skills and having fun. For ages 2 - 5 with their parent. 11:00am - 11:30am. Lloyd Taber-Marina del Rey Library - Meeting Room

READ TO A DOG - IN-PERSON PROGRAM

Practice your reading skills by reading aloud to a trained therapy dog and volunteer handler from the BARK Reading Dogs group! 2 - 3 p.m. Lloyd Taber-Marina del Rey Library - Meeting Room.

A year of war: 2023 sees worst-ever Israel-Hamas combat as Russian attacks on Ukraine grind on

JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press

A boy, his face coated in fresh blood, screams as rescuers try to pull him out of the rubble of a destroyed building following an Israeli airstrike in Gaza. A bruised, elderly Israeli hostage is taken away by Hamas in a golf cart as a man clutching a machine gun sits behind her, smiling. A 10-year-old girl cries next to the body of her brother as he is buried near Kyiv, Ukraine.

This year as in years past, The Associated Press was there up close to document the world's conflicts and their toll on civilians.

From the Israel-Hamas war to Russia's grinding battles against Ukraine, 2023 has shown the dangers of armed conflicts breaking out into region-wide combat. But behind their long shadows, the world faces strife in countries stretching both the globe and the alphabet from Afghanistan all the way to Yemen.

Coups and violence across Africa upended life in nations there. Myanmar in Southeast Asia faces what some experts describe as a slow-burning civil war. Drug-trade-fueled violence continues in Central and South America.

Nuclear-armed India and Pakistan remain suspicious of each other. North Korea's atomic arsenal continues to grow. And Iran now enriches uranium closer than ever to weapons-grade levels.

> Conflicts have become more complex, deadly and harder to resolve. ... Concerns about the possibility of nuclear war have re-emerged. New potential domains of conflict and weapons of war are creating new ways in which humanity can annihilate itself
> - Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General

"Conflicts have become more complex, deadly and harder to resolve. ... Concerns about the possibility of nuclear war have re-emerged. New potential domains of conflict and weapons of war are creating new ways in which humanity can annihilate itself," United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in July.

Here's a look at where some of the world's major wars stand now.

THE DEADLIEST-EVER ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

The bloodiest war between Israel and Hamas began Oct. 7, when militants broke through the walls surrounding the seaside enclave of the Gaza Strip. Its fighters killed some 1,200 people in Israel and took more than 200 others hostages, spiriting them back into the territory. The attack, described as the worst one-day mass killing of Jews since the Holocaust, stunned an Israel that had believed its border wall, technologically advanced military and intelligence services broadly protected them from all but harassing militant rocket fire.

Israel's embattled Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, already reeling from months of protests over his hard-right government's attempts to overhaul the country's judiciary and corruption allegations, launched a massive campaign of retaliatory airstrikes.

Israeli troops also entered the Gaza Strip for the first time in years, moving into Gaza City and fighting intense street-to-street combat. The offensive killed over 18,700 people in the Gaza Strip, home to more than 2 million residents also facing an Israeli siege largely blocking food, fuel, water and medicine shipments.

Meanwhile, the mass killing of Israelis and Palestinians sparked protests across the world, many sympathetic to the Palestinians after years of deadlock over them obtaining their own state.

Iranian-backed militias, including Lebanon's Hezbollah, fired on Israel. The U.S. sent in two aircraft carriers, troops and other weaponry to the region to try and deter a wider regional war from breaking out. But Israel's repeated stated goal — the destruction of Hamas — guaranteed a long military campaign ahead, raising risks.

RUSSIA AND UKRAINE REMAIN LOCKED IN COMBAT

The fast pace of the Israel-Hamas war overshadowed Russia's war on Ukraine in late 2023. But in the months prior, little had changed on the battlefield for either side.

Ukraine received tanks, weapons and Western training before launching a renewed counteroffensive believed to be aimed at reaching the Sea of Azov and splitting the Russian lines in the country's south. But Ukrainian forces faced dug-in Russian troops, multiple defense lines, minefields and other

SEE **WAR** PAGE 12

Year in review: California homelessness worsens even as housing bills pass

BEN CHRISTOPHER
Special to the Daily Press

If there was ever any doubt, 2023 made two things very clear. First, California lawmakers are now fully committed to the idea that the state needs to build many more homes to tackle the state's long term housing crisis. Second, that crisis isn't going away anytime soon.

California's steady rise in home prices and rents is the primary reason behind the state's homelessness crisis, which grew even more dire in many parts of the state this year. Housing costs are also the culprit behind California's sky-high poverty rate and its steady decline in population, as middle- and working-class residents seek cheaper places to live.

For years, many lawmakers in Sacramento preferred to leave questions of what gets built, where and under what terms to local governments. No longer.

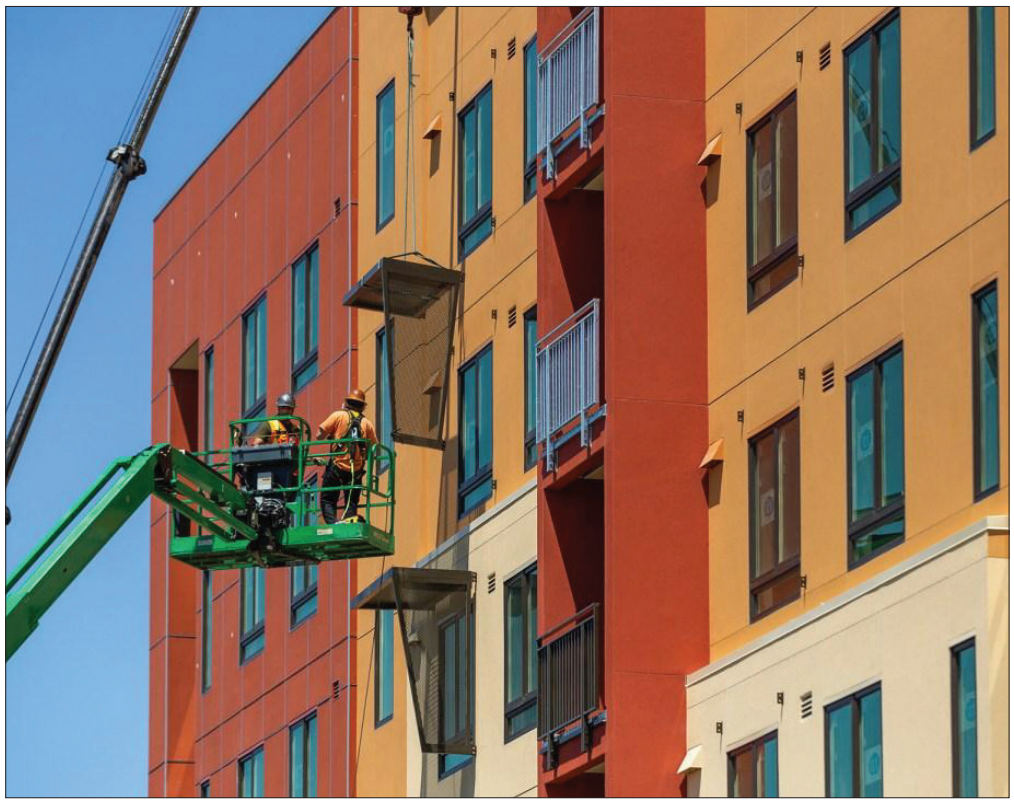
A throng of state legislation passed in 2023 designed to clear aside local restrictions on construction and to diminish the threat of anti-development lawsuits, all with the goal of supercharging development. Affordable housing set aside for lower income Californians was a particular beneficiary.

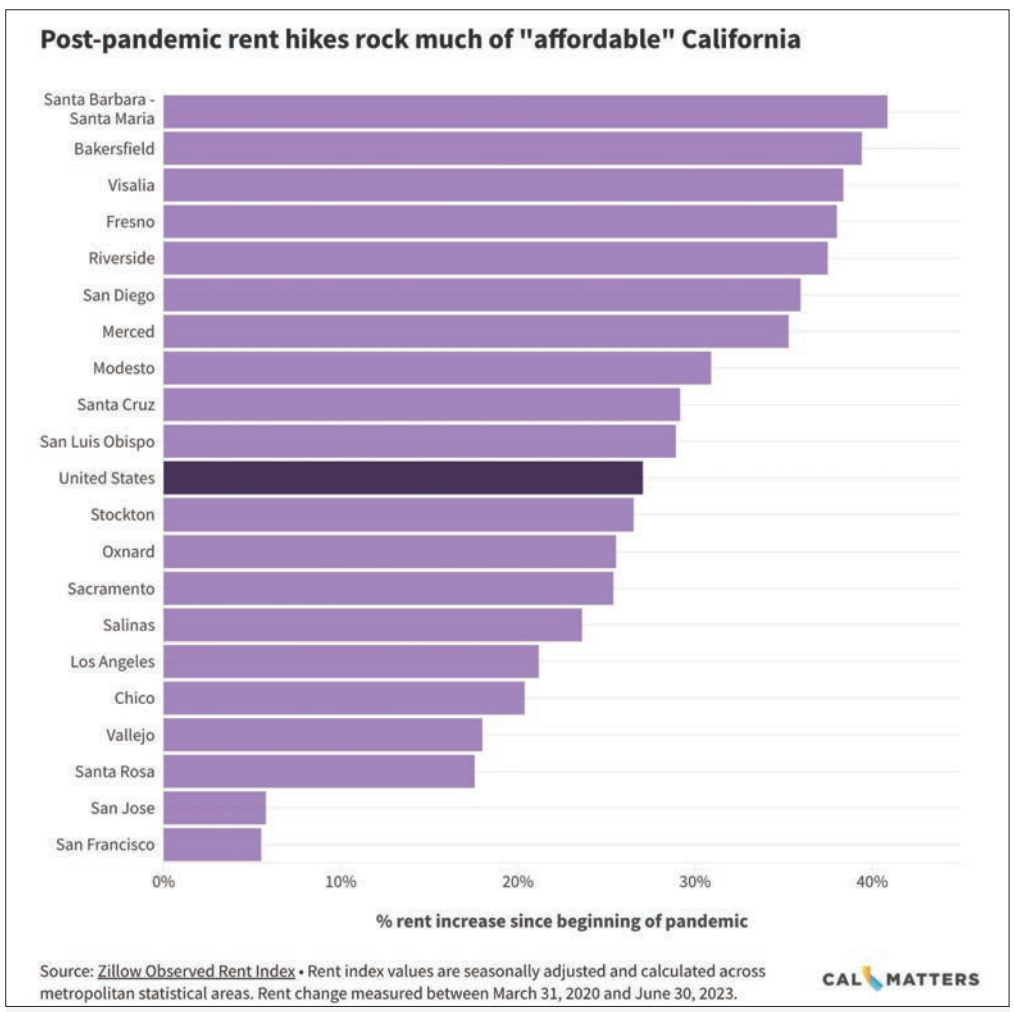
The pro-housing shift in the Legislature is largely thanks to the severity of the crisis, but it's also the product of a new pro-development coalition in Sacramento that includes developers, "Yes in my backyard" activists and, perhaps most crucially, the state's unionized carpenters.

The state's executive branch wants to spur production too. The governor's Department of Housing and Community Development spent much of the past year pressuring local governments to plan for enough housing to meet statewide production goals.

In some cases, enforcement has meant promoting an old, but never-before-used state law — the so-called Builder's Remedy — that allows developers to ignore zoning restrictions in cities that don't pass their housing plans on time. In other cases it's meant auditing local approval processes and taking reluctant cities to court, something Attorney General Rob Bonta has done or threatened to do on numerous occasions.

Though 2023 was a (relative) roaring success for pro-building advocates, those concerned about renter protections saw more muted gains. The Legislature passed laws that make it harder for landlords to evict tenants and that limit the size of security deposits — relatively modest changes won over the fierce opposition of the state's powerful landlord lobby. Now that pandemic-era eviction bans enacted by state and local governments during the pandemic have largely lifted, the number of renters being tossed from their homes has shot up, driven by eviction spikes in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area. Even so, tens of thousands of tenants who turned to the state for rental assistance during the pandemic are still awaiting that help.





CalMatters

HOUSING: Affordable housing continues to be a problem.

The politics around homelessness also took a turn. Growing impatient with the slow pace of progress, Newsom and many progressive lawmakers began embracing policies like clearing encampments and penalizing local governments for inaction, while promoting "tiny homes" as a scalable solution.

The governor has also sunk significant political capital into two of his favored proposals that target the state's overlapping crises of homelessness and mental illness.

The first is the state's new CARE Court, a parallel judicial system that can mandate treatment for those experiencing severe untreated mental illness, while also demanding services and shelter from counties. On the county-by-county roll out schedule, Los Angeles County was listed first up in December.

Newsom's second big push will go before the voters in March: A bond to fund treatment and shelter for homeless Californians with mental health problems. But that's likely to be just one of a slate of housing-related measures California voters can expect to consider in 2024. A series of state and local affordable housing bonds along with a statewide constitutional amendment designed to make it easier for locals to pass them are likely to be on the ballot, as is a third recent attempt to repeal statewide restrictions on local rent control ordinances.

Despite all the new pro-construction legislation, a boom probably isn't in the cards for 2024. High interest rates have put a damper on new construction and those in the business of building affordable housing say insufficient public funding remains an obstacle. Even so, the Legislature isn't likely to let up on the cause of trying to make it easier to build apartments, duplexes and ADUs.

Major issues for 2024: Housing will be on the ballot in 2024. In March, voters will weigh in on Gov. Newsom's bond to fund treatment and shelter for homeless Californians with mental health problems. The November ballot will be more crowded with a series of state and local affordable housing bonds, a statewide constitutional amendment aimed at making it easier to pass those bonds, and a third attempt to repeal statewide restrictions on rent control ordinances. In the Legislature, lawmakers aren't likely to let up on the cause of trying to make it easier to build apartments, duplexes and ADUs and the state's housing department will have its hands full making sure that cities are sticking to their housing plans.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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Classifieds

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2023256992 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 11/30/23. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as FCC License Exams 13900 Panay DS12 Marina Del Rey, CA 90292 Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Charles P Pascal 13900 Panay DS12 Marina Del Rey, CA 90292 If corporation or LLC- Print State of Incorporation/Organization: This Business is conducted by: An Individual The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/ARegistrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: Charles P Pascal Title: Owner Charles P Pascal This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/30/2023NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS 12/04/23,12/11/23, 12/18/23, 12/27

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Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 23GDCP00240 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles Petition of Richard Jackson Jacinto for Change of Name TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Richard Jackson Jacinto a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Richard Jackson Jacinto to Jax Jackson Jacinto. The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 02/22/2024 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: E Room: 279 The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA - COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Glendale Court House 600 E Broadway A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.

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City of Santa Monica

City of Santa Monica
Ordinance Number 2771 (CCS)
(City Council Series)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA AMENDING SANTA MONICA MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 4.85.020 RELATED TO LOBBYIST REGISTRATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2771 (CCS) prepared by the Office of the City Attorney:

Ordinance Number 2771 (CCS) ("the Ordinance") amends Section 4.85.020, Registration and Reporting Requirements, relating to lobbyists. Section 4.85.020 requires lobbyists to register and provide certain information to the City Clerk on designated forms. As amended, the law requires lobbyists to use an electronic registration system provided by the City rather than designated forms.

The full text of the above Ordinance is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica. Phone: (310) 458-8211.

TV

FROM PAGE 3

reaction to the truth in the final episode.

The series was created by Lee Eisenberg and Gene Stupnitsky, the duo who wrote the "Dinner Party" episode of "The Office," which was uncomfortable humor at its finest.

"PERRY MASON," HBO

Something happened between season one and season two of HBO's "Perry Mason" starring Mathew Rhys. It got good.

The first season had an impressive cast but it was an origin story of Mason the attorney, and the guy was dark: broke, divorced, angry and a drunk. The story was also hard to follow. Season two, however, did a 180. The central mystery was gripping, its supporting characters served the story, there were some light moments, and Mason showed his investigative skills that helped him to be a successful lawyer. And then... it was also canceled, but you can still watch on Max.

"SHRINKING," APPLE TV+

Therapy and grief don't sound like a recipe for a feel-good comedy, but "Shrinking" pulls it off. Jason Segel stars as Jimmy, barely coping with the recent death of his wife and making bad choices all around, as his teenage daughter resentfully watches from the sidelines and is essentially being raised by a neighbor (Christa Miller.) The irony? Jimmy is a therapist whose colleagues are played by Harrison Ford and Jessica Williams — each with their own set of issues playing out in their lives.

Segel created the series with Bill Lawrence ("Scrubs," "Cougar Town") and Emmy winner Brett Goldstein, who played Roy Kent on "Ted Lasso." Their creation is a show where each character is delightful, and the writing is smart and quick and honest.

"SUCCESSION," HBO AND MAX

Yes, most people know of "Succession." The drama aired its series finale on HBO in the spring after four seasons but for those who haven't watched it, now is the time to discover what the hype is about. The show about the Roy family — one-percenters who own a large media conglomerate — was nominated for 27 Emmy Awards and 14 of those are in acting categories. At its center is patriarch Logan Roy (Brian Cox), who has four adult children and three want to be his successor.

The battle over who is the rightful heir to his business empire came to a head in the stellar final season, and it was a rollercoaster.

SONG

FROM PAGE 4

garage-inspired production, tasteful cowbells (you read that correctly) and a sticky staccato synth that lays a strong foundation, brought to the next level by the quintet's ebullient harmonies. Oh my, oh my god, indeed.

"TANTOR," DANNY BROWN

Danny Brown's absurdist approach to contemporary rap has made him one to watch for years, and "Tantor," the teetering lead single from his long-awaited sixth studio album "Quaranta," is proof. The Alchemist-produced track is, in moments, prog-rock avant-rap, a retro-futuristic hip-hop filtered through, like, "Robocop." If cyborgs aren't your thing, look away — but then you'd be missing one of the most welcomingly clangorous and charming tracks of 2023.

In a story published Dec. 4, 2023, about the top songs of the year, The Associated Press erroneously reported lyrics from Miley Cyrus' "Flowers." The lyrics are "No remorse, no regret / I forgive every word you said," not "No remorse, no regret / I forget every word you said."

WAR

FROM PAGE 10

hazards, making gains either slowly or not at all. And while Western nations remained publicly unified behind Ukraine, polls including the U.S. presidential election next year could affect just how much aid Kyiv will get in the future.

Russia faced difficulties as well, including a march on Moscow by the leader of the private military firm Wagner, Yevgeny Prigozhin, that represented the greatest challenge yet to President Vladimir Putin's yearslong rule. Prigozhin backed off the march, only to die weeks later in a mysterious, fiery plane crash.

AFRICAN UNREST

Sudan, a big East African nation that had been teetering since the overthrow of longtime ruler Omar al-Bashir, collapsed into civil war in April. The war pits the country's military against a powerful paramilitary force known as the Rapid Support Forces, long linked to atrocities in Darfur. The fighting saw crossfire set airplanes ablaze at Khartoum's international airport and nations rush to try to evacuate their nationals by land, sea and air. The fighting has killed some 9,000 people so far.

Meanwhile, a wave of military coups roiling Africa in recent years continued. In Niger, a former French colony that's a key uranium exporter, soldiers toppled the country's democratically elected president in July. A month later, troops similarly staged a coup in Gabon overthrowing its long-term ruling president.

LATIN AMERICA'S DRUG WARS

Drug cartel violence raged across portions of Mexico as they fight over territory and supply routes into the United States. But the conflict isn't limited to there. Violence has surged in other Central American nations, like Honduras and even in once-peaceful Costa Rica, now believed to be a major warehousing and transshipment point for drugs heading onto Europe. Colombia meanwhile has reached an all-time high for its production of coca, the leaf from which cocaine is made.

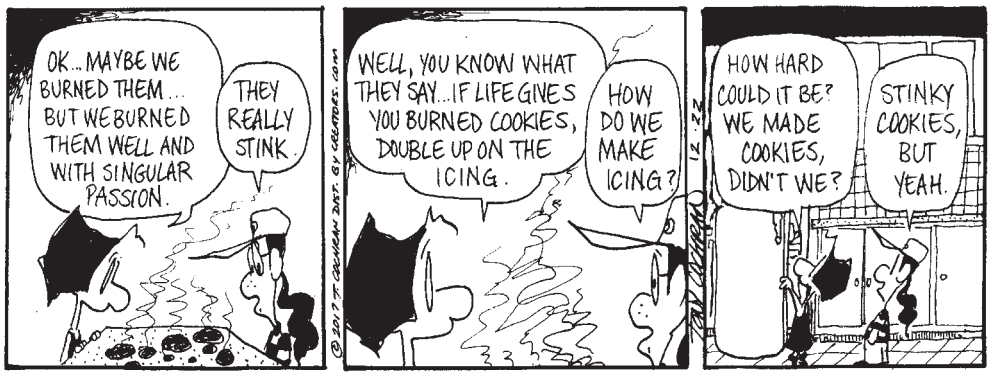
STALEMATES AND MILITANCY ELSEWHERE

In the Southeast Asian nation of Myanmar, some U.N. experts say a civil war is underway between rebels and the army since a coup overthrew the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. Afghanistan, two years after the Taliban topped Kabul's Western-backed government, faces militant attacks from an offshoot of the Islamic State group as girls remain barred from secondary education.

And in Yemen, that country's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels and a Saudi-led coalition battling them have yet to reach a permanent peace deal, which has seen the militants begin to again step up their attacks in recent weeks.

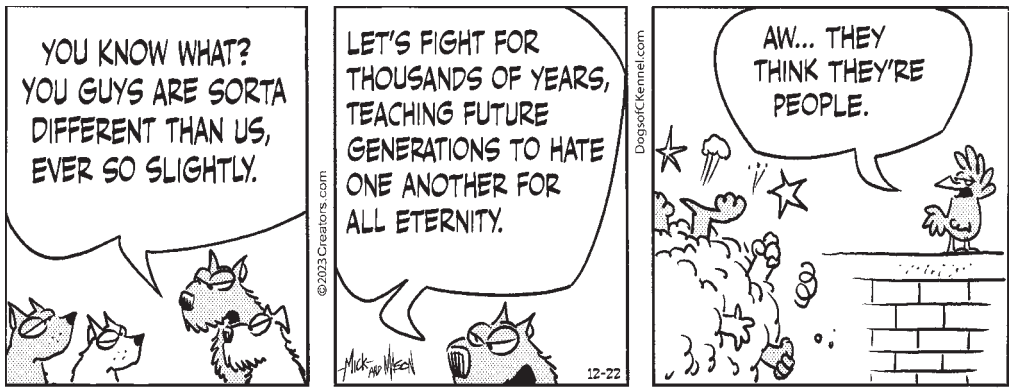
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



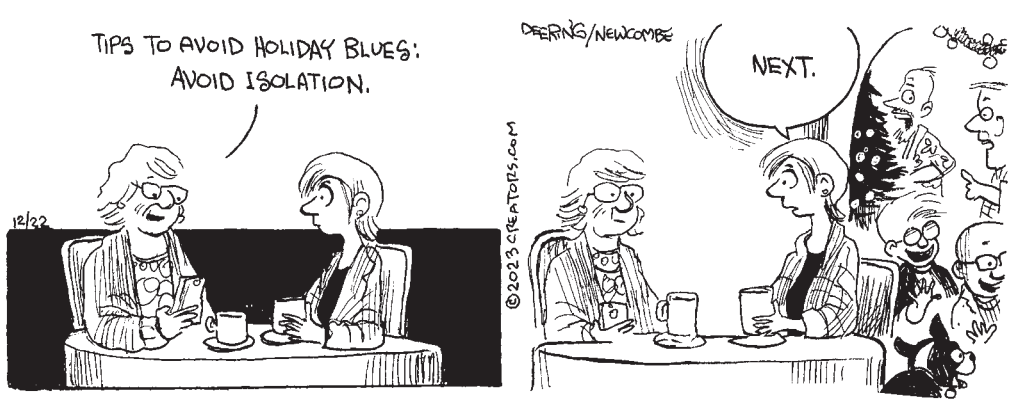
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER

"HE'S CATCHING SNOWFLAKES WITH THE MAN-EATING GIANT."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING

FIND THE WORDS

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6066

Working the beat

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

Argument	Educate	Radio	Station
Armed	Enforce	Raid	Supervise
Assist	Fine	Rescues	Teach
Boats	Guns	Ride	Tend
Caps	Helpful	Riot	Test
Care	Laws	Roads	Thief
Chase	Local	Safety	Trace
Court	Obey	Schools	Trial
Crime	Orders	Search	Vice
Dogs	Patrol	Settle	Warn
Driver	Plain	Siren	
Drugs	clothes	Speed	

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 22)

Your cosmic gift is love beyond what you expected or have known — what is established grows richer and there's also something new. More highlights: You'll follow the whimsical movement of this year's plot and land in unexpected places, which makes for excellent stories. There will be a comeuppance, a winning ticket and the growth of what you planted. Libra and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 14, 2, 22 and 19.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll mingle and mix. You'll find out quickly who will be a help to you in the weeks to come. Because you're so aware of how you feel around people, social life is a kind of lab to learn more about yourself and the world.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There's no reason you should settle for being the sole responsible person in your group. Let everyone contribute. And if they are not forthcoming with a plan, request what you think is fair. This will apply to cleaning, feeding and financing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). How much should you let your emotions guide decisions? It depends on the decision. If it's an issue that will affect what you experience daily, it's only wise to push your feelings into it and get a sense of what you're in for.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're agreeable, empathetic and quick to forgive. You are apt to take note of the mental state of others and try to accommodate. Your patience is a small but meaningful contribution to world peace.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). No single eye is the end-all-be-all point of reference. Since you're aware that one point of view is not enough on many situations, you'll assemble a team. Fellow fire signs (Aries and Sagittarius) definitely have a place on it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). People come in a host of flavors, and you'll get a sense of what would pair nicely, complement or clash. You will not regret your time spent in observation. You'll try to know people. In doing so, you set up your next right move.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Rebellion is not a mood you experience often, but the current changes have stirred something in you. A strict system of living will prompt you to act out, if only to prove that you can.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). As long as you're making improvements, why not make drastic ones? Think big and beautiful, wild and fantastic... because these unreal ideas may be just as easily applied as the reasonable ones.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Do what it takes to explore your ideas in your own way because your instincts are dead-on. Even though well-intentioned teachers are around, you would be wise to listen to their advice today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Open your arms and receive. There are all kinds of luck. Dumb luck is rare, fun and ultimately not as satisfying as the kind that requires your effort to drum up. The harder you work, the luckier you get.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Some relationships grow naturally on their own, and others require constant care. High-maintenance connections will be worth their effort now, as they will be highly rewarding in the future.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Each achievement is a culmination of numerous smaller successes. It's normal to feel uncertain about the details involved; it's the type of challenge that you gradually navigate and understand as you progress.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

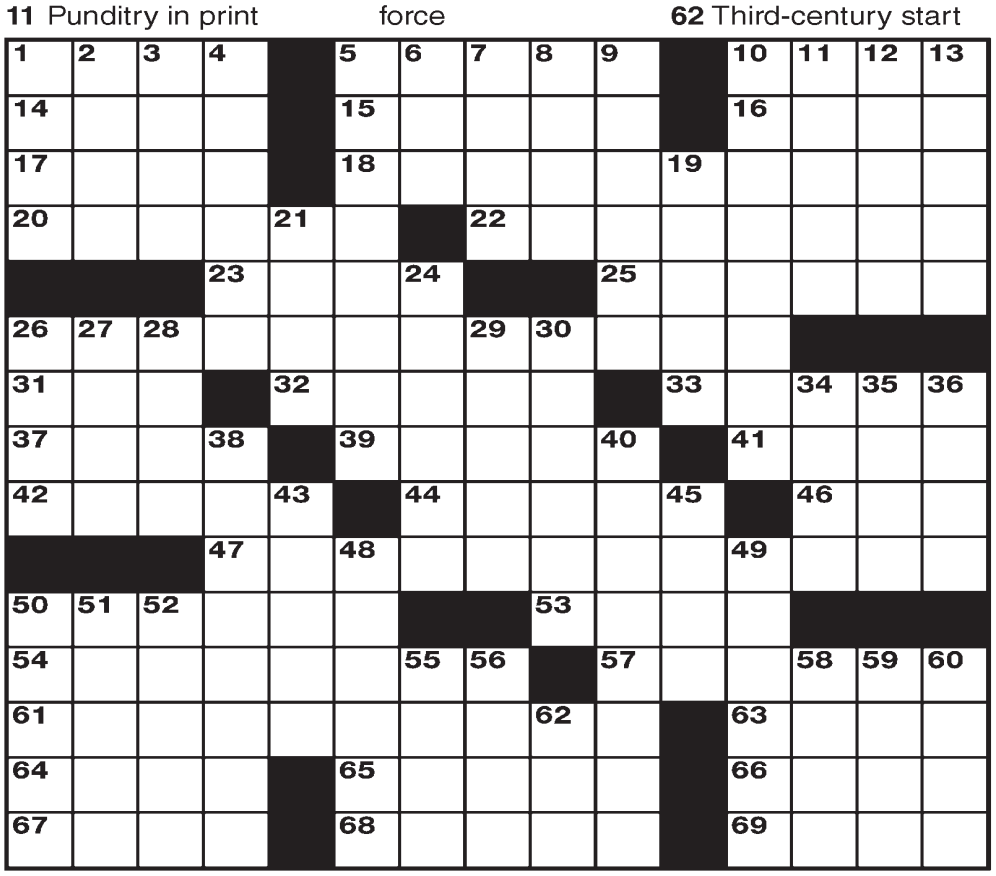
INSIDE STORY by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 New Testament trio
5 Personal preference
10 It's bought in bars
14 Syrian Desert sharer
15 Menotti opera title role
16 Tim Cook's company, per Nasdaq
17 Pond swimmer
18 Information Age
20 Adopt
22 Meteorologically housebound
23 Leave off
25 Go at it, so to speak
26 Brainwork
31 Self-styled stinger
32 Starter like soli-
33 Occurs to, with "on"
37 Towering
39 Hydroacoustic device
41 Inside look
42 Retirement plan?
44 Subdues
46 Writer Rand
47 Infrequent overhead alignment
50 Accolades
53 Dire destiny
54 Servings with soup
57 Make beholden
61 Wiseacre
63 Swear to
64 HomePod voice
65 Wedding photo subject
66 Hidden theme of the puzzle
67 Fill-in
68 Not so hot
69 What hoops haven't

DOWN

1 Major money maker
2 Survey datum
3 Be a goggler
4 Where 100 is just average
5 Amphibian infants
6 *Confrère*
7 Gives some
8 Flimsy
9 *Signo del zodiaco*
10 State capital
11 Punditry in print
12 National Humor Month
13 Shaver of a sort
19 Bestowal
21 Home of five national parks
24 Jai alai missile
26 Welcome sights
27 Fleet with tailfin stars
28 Bluish green
29 Conclusive
30 Was frothy
34 Spa treatment
35 Oral dissent
36 Ago, in Aberdeen
38 Happened with full force
40 Boiled over, say
43 Put forward
45 Woeful one
48 Lodger
49 Cry heard by Alice
50 Covert call
51 Plant-based plastic fiber
52 Distressing suspense
55 Fashion designer Saab
56 Escape slowly
58 Slavic Johann
59 Most malleable metal
60 Ricotta sources
62 Third-century start



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City of Santa Monica

City of Santa Monica
Ordinance Number 2770 (CCS)
(City Council Series)

AN INTERIM ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA EXTENDING INTERIM ZONING ORDINANCE NO. 2764 AND AMENDING THE TEXT OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE TO: (1) REPLACE THE TERM "MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARY" WITH "MEDICINAL CANNABIS RETAILER"; (2) REMOVE CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICINAL CANNABIS RETAILERS FOR CONSISTENCY WITH STATE LAW; AND (3) PERMIT MEDICINAL CANNABIS RETAILERS TO SELL ADULT-USE CANNABIS OR ADULT-USE CANNABIS PRODUCTS TO PERSONS 21 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2770 (CCS) prepared by the Office of the City Attorney:

Interim Zoning Ordinance ("IZO") No. 2764 amended the text of Santa Monica Municipal Code Sections 9.31.185 and 9.51.030 to replace the term "Medical Marijuana Dispensary" with "Medicinal Cannabis Retailer", to remove certain requirements for Medicinal Cannabis Retailers for consistency with State law, and to permit Medicinal Cannabis Retailers to deliver, cultivate, and sell adult-use cannabis or adult-use cannabis products to persons 21 Years of Age and Over. It also made other minor updates to ensure consistency with other code provisions of the Santa Monica Municipal Code.

IZO No. 2770 extends IZO No. 2764 for two years in accordance with SMMC 9.46.090(C), with a new expiration date of February 12, 2026, to allow adequate time for staff to further evaluate the results of the land use changes included in the IZO and to develop a permanent adult-use cannabis program.

The Ordinance will take effect thirty days after its adoption.

The full text of the above Ordinance is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica. Phone: (310) 458-8211.

City of Santa Monica

City of Santa Monica
Ordinance Number 2772 (CCS)
(City Council Series)

AN EMERGENCY INTERIM ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT, BY RESOLUTION, OF OBJECTIVE DESIGN STANDARDS FOR QUALIFYING HOUSING PROJECTS THAT ELECT TO USE THE STREAMLINED, MINISTERIAL APPROVAL PROCESS ESTABLISHED BY SENATE BILL 35

TThe following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2772 (CCS) prepared by the Office of the City Attorney:

Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.31.195 establishes requirements for Multi-Unit Dwelling Projects. This Ordinance amends SMMC Section 9.31.195 to authorize the City Council to adopt, by resolution, objective design review standards for qualifying multi-unit dwelling projects that elect to use the streamlined, ministerial approval process established by Senate Bill 35, as set forth in Government Code Section 65913.4.

The Ordinance will take effect immediately after its adoption.

The full text of the above Ordinance is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica. Phone: (310) 458-8211.

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