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Volume 25 Issue 40 TUESDAY 1/13/26 smdp.com

Former charity CEO charged with embezzling millions

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The former CEO of The Painted Turtle, a nonprofit camp for children with serious medical conditions, has been charged with embezzling $5.2 million from the organization over a seven-year period.

Christopher L. Butler, 48, of Porter Ranch faces 15 felony counts including nine counts of grand theft, five counts of forgery and one count of fraudulent use of a computer, according to charges filed Dec. 29 in Los Angeles County Superior Court. Butler served as CEO of the Santa Monica-based organization from 2018 to 2025.

He is being held on $835,000 bail and is scheduled for arraignment Jan. 15. If convicted, Butler faces more than 18 years in state prison.

"Abusing a position of power to steal funds from a camp dedicated to helping children with serious medical conditions is an affront to both the law and our deepest values," Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan J. Hochman said. "My message is crystal clear: If you steal from the most vulnerable members of our community or the organizations that serve them, this office will use every tool the law allows to hold you fully accountable."

The Painted Turtle's board has said it brought in independent auditors and cooperated fully with law enforcement once financial irregularities came to light following Butler's departure in 2025.

Founded in 1999 by actor Paul Newman and philanthropists Page and Lou Adler as part of Newman's SeriousFun Children's Network, The Painted Turtle opened its doors in 2004 at a 173-acre campus in Lake Hughes. The camp has since served tens of thousands of children and their families, all at no charge.

The organization's mission is to provide a year-round, life-changing camp experience for children with chronic and life-threatening illnesses, supporting their medical needs while inspiring them to reach beyond their conditions.

Week-long summer sessions are organized by diagnosis, allowing children with illnesses ranging from kidney disease and hemophilia to muscular dystrophy and rare genetic disorders to meet peers with similar conditions. Professional medical staff supervise all activities, enabling campers ages 7 to 16 to safely participate in horseback riding, swimming, archery, ropes courses and boating.

The nonprofit also runs Family Weekend camps during spring, fall and winter where entire families can experience camp together. Additionally, The Painted Turtle operates an Outpost in-hospital program, bringing camp activities into hospital playrooms for children too ill to travel.

All programs are funded entirely through donations and partnerships, ensuring families pay nothing to attend.

The organization faced significant challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, suspending in-person sessions in 2020 and 2021. Staff adapted by launching Virtual Camp, an online platform sharing crafts, games and activities, and introduced Camp on the Move in 2021 — drive-through parking lot parties across California that let campers safely enjoy music and games from their cars.

The Painted Turtle resumed on-site programs in summer 2022 with new health protocols and added accessibility upgrades including improved paths during the facility's closure.

editor@smdp.com

JSX opens for business at SMO



Ross Furukawa

OPEN: Air Carrier JSX held a formal ribbon cutting for it's Santa Monica service on Monday while announcing an expansion of its Santa Monica Airport service on January 22 with daily Scottsdale flights and increased Las Vegas frequencies (twice daily, then three times daily from February 5). The carrier uses 30-seat ATR turbo-props with 20-minute check-in, complimentary cocktails, and upcoming Starlink Wi-Fi. Tickets are now available for sale at www.jsx.com or in the air carrier's mobile application. Fares start at $215 one-way including tax.

Safer bus lanes and cannabis equity are part of packed City Council agenda

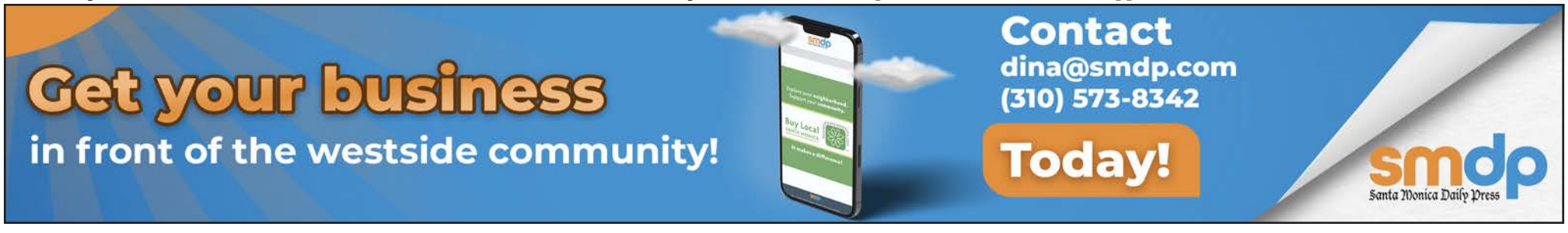
MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

Tuesday's City Council meeting is a packed start to the year and while other controversial items like digital signs, housing votes and changes to boards dominate the meeting, the night will also include a pair of items covering the city's Cannabis Equity Program and more than $1.6 million in contract modifications to expand automated enforcement of bike lanes and extend real-time bus arrival predictions.

The cannabis equity proposal comes as the city prepares to accept cannabis business applications later this month, with staff recommending changes to align local regulations with state standards and ensure eligibility for future grant funding.

Under the proposed updates, applicants would need to meet two of three eligibility criteria instead

SEE **COUNCIL** PAGE 7



COMMUNITY NEWS

LOS ANGELES

Here's how to register for a chance to buy tickets to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics

With the 2028 Olympics Games in Los Angeles on the horizon, fans will get their first opportunity to get in line for tickets on Wednesday.

Registration will open Jan. 14 to be entered into the ticket draw for a randomly assigned time slot to purchase tickets.

Here's what to know:

When do the games start?

The schedule for the games, which will take place July 14 to July 30, 2028, has already been released. Some events, like baseball, basketball, hockey and water polo, will begin July 12.

The 2028 Olympics will be the largest games in history, with more than 11,000 athletes across 51 sports.

Who can get in line for tickets?

Anyone can register.

But people who live in the Los Angeles and Oklahoma City areas will have a chance to get the first time slots reserved for locals. Oklahoma City will host the canoe slalom and softball events. You must have a zip code matching a credit card's billing address in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, or Ventura counties for the California events, and in Oklahoma, Canadian or Cleveland counties for the Oklahoma events.

Locals will be eligible for a chance to access tickets early, from April 2 to April 6 of this year, if they register for the ticket draw by March 18.

And if they don't get a coveted early time slot, they'll be entered along with everyone else into the lottery for a time in the ticket queue.

How many will be sold?

LA28 has said it will release 14 million tickets for the Olympics and Paralympics, which would set a record, surpassing the 12 million sold for the Paris Olympics.

What do they cost?

Single tickets for both the Olympics and Paralympics will start at $28.

LA28, the planning committee, also launched a fundraising effort in November 2025 to be able to give away free tickets to people who live near the venues.

"The 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games are for everyone. This program is about making sure that the people who live, work and contribute to the spirit of Los Angeles can access the Games taking place in their hometown," LA28 chairperson and president, Casey Wasserman, said in a press release.

What the organizers haven't said

The LA28 committee says full ticket sales will open later in 2026 but have not given a firm date.

The committee also hasn't released other details about purchasing rules — such as how many seats, for how many events, these early ticket buyers might be able to secure.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK

Paramount's next target in hostile takeover bid of Warner Bros. is a board of its own making

Paramount Skydance is taking another step in its hostile takeover bid of Warner Bros. Discovery, saying Monday that it will name its own slate of directors before the next shareholder meeting of the Hollywood studio.

Paramount also filed a suit in Delaware Chancery Court seeking to compel Warner Bros. to disclose to shareholders how it values its bid and the competing offer from Netflix.

Warner Bros. is in the middle of a bidding war between Paramount and Netflix. Warner's leadership has repeatedly rebuffed overtures from Skydance-owned Paramount — and urged shareholders to back the sale of its streaming and studio business to Netflix for $72 billion. Paramount, meanwhile, has made efforts to sweeten its $77.9 billion hostile offer for the entire company.

Last week, Warner Bros. Discovery said its board determined Paramount's offer is not in the best interests of the company or its shareholders. It again recommended shareholders support the Netflix deal.

David Ellison, the chairman and CEO of Paramount Skydance, said Monday that it's committed to seeing through its tender offer. "We do not undertake any of these actions lightly," he said in a letter to shareholders of Warner Bros.

Warner Bros. has yet to schedule its annual meeting or a special meeting to consider the Netflix offer, and Paramount did not name any potential candidates for the board.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Protesters try to attack driver after truck speeds through Iran demonstration in Los Angeles

Los Angeles police responded Sunday after somebody drove a U-Haul box truck down a street crowded with marchers demonstrating in support of the Iranian people, causing protesters to scramble out of the way and then run after the speeding vehicle to try to attack the driver.

The U-Haul truck, with a window and side mirrors shattered, was stopped several blocks away and surrounded by police cars. ABC7 news helicopter footage showed officers keeping the crowd at bay as demonstrators swarmed the truck, throwing punches at the driver and thrusting flagpoles through the driver's side window.

The driver, a man who was not identified, was detained "pending further investigation," police said in a statement Sunday evening.

The police statement said one person was hit by the truck but nobody was seriously hurt. Two people

SEE BRIEFS PAGE 4

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Rams showed their vulnerabilities, but also their resilience in closer-than-expected playoff opener

In the euphoria of the Rams' dramatic comeback to beat the Carolina Panthers in their playoff opener, it was easy to overlook the fact that the first step on Los Angeles' postseason journey wasn't supposed to be nearly this difficult.

The Rams (13-5) stamped themselves as a Super Bowl contender while rolling to an 11-3 start to the regular season, and they were double-digit favorites over the sub-.500 Panthers.

Los Angeles then jumped out to a 14-0 lead in Charlotte — but the Rams got outscored 31-13 through the next two-plus quarters, and they needed another vintage fourth-quarter comeback orchestrated by Matthew Stafford to survive.

"What I was proud of is that we found a way to finish," coach Sean McVay said Monday. "There's been some instances (when) we established leads and we weren't able to sustain that momentum and make those critical plays to be the difference. I thought that was the positive takeaway from (Carolina), even though I think that we can play a lot better, and I expect us to play a lot better. In spite of all those things, we still found a way to overcome, and that's what this is about at this point in the season."

Before the Rams visit Chicago (12-6) on Sunday for a spot in the NFC championship game, McVay is determined to address his team's proliferating flaws, from overall defensive shortcomings and more specific offensive mistakes to dismal special teams play.

He realizes the league hasn't forgotten Los Angeles was in position for the NFC's overall No. 1 seed when it had a 16-point lead in the fourth quarter at Seattle just a month ago, only to end up possibly spending the entire postseason on the road.

McVay also isn't losing track of the fact that winning is what matters, not the Rams' less-than-dominant performances against every opponent other than woebegone Arizona down the stretch.

McVay knows there's plenty to fix for a team that just isn't executing as crisply as it did from September through November. That's unusual for McVay's teams, which typically improve and surge as the season goes on.

The Rams' struggles are exemplified in their nine penalties for 83 yards in Carolina — a whopping number of flags for the NFL's least-penalized team during the regular season.

The NFL's best offense in the regular season has continued to produce points at a high clip, but the defense hasn't been great lately.

After a 16-game stretch over the past two seasons in which the Rams held eight opponents to 10 points or fewer, they've allowed at least 27 points by every opponent other than the Cardinals since Thanksgiving.

"I think there's some things we can look at," McVay said. "We've played some good teams and they made some good plays, but I know the standards for what we can do defensively. ... I think we can play better."

WHAT'S WORKING

Despite some isolated errors, the offensive line had another solid game in Charlotte. Stafford was sacked only once and hit six times, while the rushing game put up 116 yards on 27 designed runs. Stafford had enough time and space to lead the winning drive. The line could get much better if RG Kevin Dotson returns from injury this week.

WHAT NEEDS HELP

The season-long special teams woes that prompted McVay's first in-season firing of an assistant haven't gone away. Late in the fourth quarter, longtime practice squad member Tanner Ingle didn't hold his block on Carolina's Isaiah Simmons, who blocked Ethan Evans' punt and created the short field for the Panthers' go-ahead touchdown with 2:39 to play.

"This is a player that I believe in, and he made a mistake," McVay said. "We learn from it and we grow."

STOCK UP

Safety Quentin Lake returned from a two-month injury absence and played every snap, finishing with six tackles and two passes defensed. He wasn't perfect, but the Rams have no choice but to lean heavily on their versatile captain.

STOCK DOWN

The Rams' secondary didn't make a play much bigger than Cobie Durant's first-quarter interception while Bryce Young passed for 264 yards. With Ahkello Witherspoon now out for the season, the group faces a much tougher test from the Bears attack cooked up by coach Ben Johnson and Caleb Williams.

INJURIES

Stafford isn't expected to wear a splint on his sprained index finger. ... Dotson has "a good chance" to return from his three-game absence with a sprained ankle, McVay said.

KEY NUMBER

11 — The number of reported interview requests — as of Monday morning — for Rams assistant coaches for open NFL head coaching jobs. McVay isn't worried about the focus of coordinators Chris Shula and Mike LaFleur and pass game coordinator Nate Scheelhaase, since early interviews typically are just getting-to-know-you chats: "It's a tremendous credit to those guys. They're well-deserving. We've got a bunch of capable, great leaders on our coaching staff."

NEXT STEPS

The weather will be a second formidable opponent in Chicago, with an arctic front predicted to drop temperatures to zero with possible snow. A year ago, the Rams barely lost to eventual Super Bowl champion Philadelphia in the divisional round amid sub-freezing conditions and snow.

By GREG BEACHAM AP Sports Writer



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **64.4**

TUESDAY — ***POOR*** | **SURF:** 1-2ft Knee to thigh

Modest round of WNW swell hangs in through the day. Many spots best as AM high tide drops out. Rideable round of longer period WNW swell holds steady through the day. The early morning is slowed by a high tide, then look for many breaks to improve on the lower tide in the afternoon. At this point the call is for light offshore winds in the morning, followed by a light onshore sea breeze in the afternoon.

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

Overlapping run of WNW swell continues - plan around the big tide swings. Mid period WNW leftovers linger from the early week swell, new round of long period WNW swell moves in through the second half of the day. Expect the morning high/dropping tide to be slow but occasionally fun on the right gear. WNW swell energy nudges up a bit later in the day as the tide turns around. Wind currently looks favorable - light offshore flow early, weak onshore W wind developing through the afternoon.

Weather

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 78. North northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Tuesday Night: Clear, with a low around 56. North wind 5 to 10 mph.
Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 78. North northeast wind around 5 mph.
Wednesday Night: Clear, with a low around 56.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2026/01/13	Tue	05:18 AM	5.03	H
2026/01/13	Tue	1:07 PM	0.13	L
2026/01/13	Tue	8:06 PM	3.09	H
2026/01/13	Tue	11:25 PM	2.72	L
2026/01/14	Wed	06:01 AM	5.26	H
2026/01/14	Wed	1:42 PM	-0.25	L
2026/01/14	Wed	8:32 PM	3.27	H
2026/01/15	Thu	12:15 AM	2.67	L
2026/01/15	Thu	06:41 AM	5.52	H
2026/01/15	Thu	2:13 PM	-0.55	L
2026/01/15	Thu	8:55 PM	3.39	H
2026/01/16	Fri	12:56 AM	2.53	L
2026/01/16	Fri	07:17 AM	5.76	H

Daily Lottery

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

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 1/10
5 19 21 28 64
Power#: 14
Jackpot: 137 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/9
12 30 36 42 47
Mega#: 16
Jackpot: 215 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 1/10
1 4 14 17 32
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 19 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/11
7 16 17 19 35

Daily 3
Draw Date: 1/11
EVENING: 9 7 3
Draw Date: 1/11
MIDDAY: 6 4 2

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 1/11
1st: 01 - Gold Rush
2nd: 06 - Whirl Win
3rd: 03 - Hot Shot
Race Time: 1:45.81

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2025282547. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: JKGI, 2800 NEILSON WAY #703, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): DANIEL LEE COOK, 2800 NEILSON WAY #703, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000)). /s/ DANIEL LEE COOK, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/22/2025. NOTICE: This Fictitious 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 before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name 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 Publish: 12/30/2025, 01/06/2026, 01/13/2026, 01/20/2026

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Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 25NWCP00510. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 12720 Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk Ca 90650. Petition of Victoria Lynn Aziz for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Victoria Lynn Aziz filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Victoria Lynn Aziz to Victoria Lynn Perez. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter 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: 02/23/2026, Time: 8:30, Dept: L, Room: n/a. The address of the court is same as noted above. 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. Date: NOV 03 2025. LEE W. TSAO, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 01/13/2026, 01/20/2026, 01/27/2026, 02/03/2026

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LIONS ROAR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A year of service and resilience: Santa Monica Pacific Palisades Lions Club

The past year was one that the Santa Monica Pacific Palisades Lions Club demonstrated resilience in action.

Our highest priority was supporting the Pacific Palisades community following the devastating January 7 fire. Working with the Salvation Army, our members volunteered at the emergency shelter in Westwood and distributed gift cards to those in need. In coordination with Lions District 4-L3, we also provided blankets, food, toiletries, and other essential items to those in need at a Westwood church.

Helping the Palisades retain their sense of community and honor a long-established tradition of celebrating the Fourth of July, we provided funding for the festival held at Paul Revere Junior High and hosted a children's activity booth. In November, we contributed $36,200—raised through the California Lions Foundation—to the Palisades Forestry Committee to replant street trees lost in the fire.

Under the leadership of Community Service Chair Brian Ransom, our partnership with the Salvation Army continued throughout the year, including holiday gift adoptions for families and bell ringing during the season. Lions members also participated in community walks benefiting the Foundation Fighting Blindness, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and the Westside Food Bank. These efforts reflect the Lions' guiding belief: Where there is a need, there is a Lion.

This month we renewed our food collection for the Westside Food Bank, recognizing that need often increases after the holidays. Given its impact, this has become a service we plan to repeat at least twice annually.

At our January meeting, after passing the president's gavel from Pam Andrews to Derrick Beerensteyn, we welcomed Matthew Takahashi from the Santa Monica YMCA, who shared information about programs supporting healthy, active lifestyles—particularly for older adults. Offerings include fitness classes, book clubs, social activities, workshops, and new technology classes, including an introduction to AI. More information is available at ymcasm.org.

On February 4, the club will host the 89th Annual Student Speaker Contest, offering up to $21,500 in scholarship funding. This year's topic, Youth Mental Health: Overcoming Barriers to Well-Being, invites local high school students to share their perspectives. Interested students may contact Gail Litvack at smpplionsclub@gmail.com or visit md4lions.org/studentspeakers.

If you're interested in becoming more involved in your community, we invite you to join us as a guest at our next Lions Club dinner meeting on Wednesday, March 4, at 6:00 p.m. at Elks Lodge, 1040 Pico Boulevard. RSVP to Kingsley Fife at 310-367-2679 or smpplionsclub@gmail.com.

BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 2

were evaluated by paramedics and both declined treatment, the Los Angeles Fire Department said.

A banner attached on the truck said "No Shah. No Regime. USA: Don't Repeat 1953. No Mullah," an apparent reference to a U.S.-backed coup that year that toppled then Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh.

The August 1953 coup stemmed from U.S. fears over the Soviet Union increasingly wanting a piece of Iran as Communists agitated within the country. The ground had been laid partially by the British, who wanted to wrest back access to the Iranian oil industry, which had been nationalized earlier by Mossadegh.

The coup toppled Mossadegh and cemented the power of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. It also lit the fuse for the 1979 Islamic Revolution, which saw the fatally ill shah flee Iran and Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini usher in the theocracy that still governs the country.

A huge crowd of demonstrators, some waving the flag of Iran before the Islamic Revolution, had gathered Sunday afternoon along Veteran Avenue in LA's Westwood neighborhood to protest against the Iranian theocracy. Police eventually issued a dispersal order, and by 5 p.m. only about a hundred protesters were still in the area, ABC7 reported.

Activists say a crackdown on nationwide protests in Iran has killed more than 530 people. Protesters flooded the streets in Iran's capital of Tehran and its second-largest city again Sunday.

Los Angeles is home to the largest Iranian community outside of Iran.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Former U.S. surgeon general: your best shot at a healthy flu season

Winter is upon us, and for many Americans, that means company parties, get-togethers with friends and of course, gathering with extended family.

These festivities are joyous. But they also inherently expose us to infectious seasonal illnesses like influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and COVID-19.

As vaccination rates decline nationally, that risk is greater this year than any in recent memory. That's why, now more than ever, Americans must make informed choices to keep themselves and their families healthy.

For decades, annual vaccines have been our first and best line of defense. They are stunningly effective. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that during the 2023-2024 flu season, vaccines prevented nearly 5 million medical visits and almost 10 million cases of illness. And even though vaccinated people sometimes still contract the disease, flu vaccines lessen the risk of severe illness and potentially life-threatening complications.

Seasonal vaccination rates in the U.S. are already troublingly low - and trending downward. Last flu season was the most severe in years, yet fewer than half of children were estimated to have received an updated flu vaccine, down from 53.4 percent the year prior. About 47 percent of adults were estimated to have received the vaccine.

The U.S. also endured its highest flu-related hospitalization rates in almost 15 years last flu season, with unvaccinated people comprising two-thirds of those hospitalizations. Those who skip seasonal vaccines this year will face increased risks of serious illness, hospitalization and spreading the disease to their loved ones.

Some of the decline in vaccination is due to a lack of trust in public health guidance that stems from the COVID-19 pandemic. Though COVID-19 vaccines decreased the risk of contracting COVID-19 by about 95 percent for the initial strain of the virus and by at least 40 percent for more recent variants - shifting recommendations damaged public health officials' credibility across the country.

Despite the fact that vaccines decreased the risk of contracting COVID-19 by about 95 percent for the initial strain of the virus - and by at least 40 percent for more recent variants - COVID-era public health officials damaged their credibility by repeatedly shifting their recommendations.

It's completely reasonable for Americans to have questions about vaccines. But it's also important to seek answers from the right people. Concerns and decisions about vaccination are best discussed with physicians, pediatricians, or local pharmacists who can provide informed and personal guidance.

Many Americans have already received their updated seasonal vaccinations this year. And for those who haven't, there's still time.

Choosing vaccination cannot guarantee complete immunity to the flu, COVID-19, or RSV. No medical intervention can. But reducing the risk of illness can help families celebrate the season with more ease, comfort and togetherness.

Dr. Jerome Adams served as the 20th U.S. Surgeon General during the first Trump administration (2017-2021) and is a practicing anesthesiologist. A version of this piece originally ran in Newsweek.com.

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City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit electronic bids for the:

Annenberg Community Beach House (ACBH) Pool Tile Replacement Phase 2 Project SP2687

Bids will only be accepted through the CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL, OpenGov Procurement or https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca. They must be received by the specified date and time. Late bids will not be accepted. Please allow sufficient time for uploading of documents. The bid opening will be electronic, all submitted bids will be viewable by the public via OpenGov Procurement immediately after bid close time.

MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK:
Tuesday, February 3, 2026, 9:00am
415 Pacific Coast Highway, Santa Monica, CA 90402
Paid Parking on the Premises (parking validation will not be provided)

PROJECT ESTIMATE: $330,000.00 (including a $30,000 allowance)
CONTRACT DAYS: 365 Calendar Days
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $1,000 Per Calendar Day

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca. The Contractor is required to have a **B-General Contractor and/or C-54 Ceramic and Mosaic Tile Contractor** license at the time of bid submission. Contractors with historical restoration experience are encouraged to apply and additional points may be awarded during evaluation. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.

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What to know about the state gerrymandering battle kick-started by Trump

After a frenetic few months of congressional redistricting efforts, President Donald Trump's plan to reshape voting districts for partisan advantage ahead of this year's midterm elections stands at an important juncture.

Will Republican- and Democratic-led states ramp up their remapping of U.S. House districts as new legislative sessions get underway? Or will the mid-decade redistricting frenzy fade away following Indiana's resounding rejection of Trump's pressure-packaged campaign?

"We're at a crossroads to see if the mid-decade redistricting movement gains more speed or was simply an attempt by Donald Trump to impact elections that in many states fizzled," said Jeffrey Wice, director of the Elections, Census and Redistricting Institute at New York Law School.

Virginia and Florida are two key states to watch. Democrats who lead Virginia and Republicans who lead Florida could try to swing multiple seats in their party's favor by an aggressive redistricting. Virginia's legislative session begins Wednesday. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis plans to call a special session in April on congressional redistricting.

What happens next in Democratic-led Illinois and Maryland and in Kansas' Republican-led Legislature also could affect the GOP's ability to maintain a narrow House majority in the face of political headwinds that typically favor the party out of power in midterm elections. Key lawmakers in all three of those states remain opposed to redistricting.

> We're at a crossroads to see if the mid-decade redistricting movement gains more speed or was simply an attempt by Donald Trump to impact elections that in many states fizzled
>
> - Jeffrey Wice, director of the Elections, Census and Redistricting Institute at New York Law School

A GERRYMANDERING WAVE HITS A WALL

Trump kick-started an unusual redistricting plan in July by calling on Texas Republicans to redraw their congressional map to create more favorable districts for the party — even though there was no new census data to base it upon. That triggered a mid-decade redistricting battle the likes of which has not been common since the late 1800s.

Texas, Missouri and North Carolina all approved new Republican-friendly House districts. Ohio, which had to redistrict because of its state constitution, used the opportunity to enact a more favorable House map for Republicans.

But Ohio's action on Oct. 31 marked a turning point. That same day, Virginia's Democratic-led legislature took a first step toward redistricting. Then in November, California voters approved new House districts helping Democrats, Kansas Republicans dropped plans for a special session on redistricting, and a Utah judge adopted a new House map that benefits Democrats.

Trump suffered a stunning setback Dec. 11, when Indiana's Republican-led Senate defeated a redistricting plan that could have helped the GOP win all nine of the state's U.S. House seats, up from their current seven.

The net result from the 2025 jockeying could be three additional seats for Republicans. But even that is in question, because legal challenges remain in some states, and there is no guarantee that parties will win the districts they redrew.

VIRGINIA MAY BE NEXT UP ON REDISTRICTING

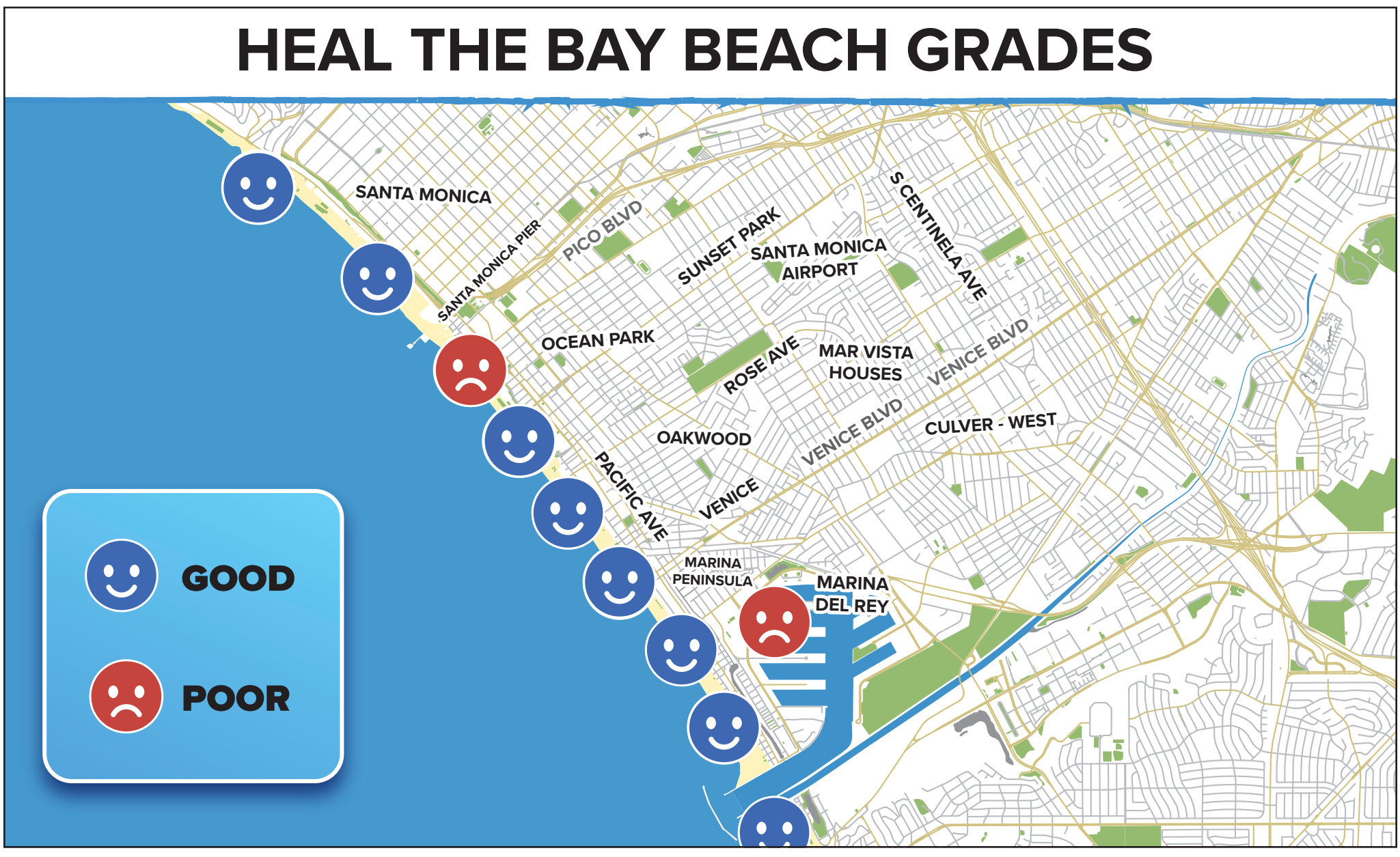
When the Virginia General Assembly begins its annual session, the agenda will include a proposed constitutional amendment allowing mid-decade redistricting in response to other states.

The amendment, which received first-round approval in the fall, would also need to pass a statewide vote before the new districts could be implemented. Quick action would be necessary to get all that accomplished in time for candidates to run in redrawn districts later this year.

Democrats, who currently hold six of the state's 11 U.S. House seats, have not unveiled what those new districts would look like. But some have talked of trying to gain as many as four additional seats.

Virginia Gov.-elect Abigail Spanberger has embraced the redistricting effort but has not committed to a particular plan.

SEE **REDISTRICT** PAGE 8



COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

of all three, providing more flexibility for potential equity applicants while addressing recent legal concerns about residency requirements raised in challenges to cannabis equity programs in other jurisdictions, including Los Angeles County.

The three criteria categories are cannabis conviction or arrest history, household income levels, and neighborhood criteria.

For conviction history, the updated program would require that qualifying arrests or convictions for cannabis offenses occurred before Nov. 8, 2016, aligning with state standards. The income threshold would be lowered from 80 percent of Area Median Income to 60 percent of AMI, matching the state requirement for low-income status.

The most substantial changes affect what the city previously called "Community Ties," now renamed "Neighborhood Criteria" to match state terminology. The updated criteria would require at least five years of residency in a qualifying county between 1980 and 2016, plus either residence in a qualifying census tract or an immediate family member with a pre-2016 cannabis arrest or conviction.

For business applicants, the updates would establish that equity individuals must own 50 percent or more of the business to qualify as an equity business.

Two program benefits will be eliminated because they became obsolete after the council's decision last September to remove the 300-foot minimum distance requirement between cannabis businesses. The removed benefits are exemptions from minimum distance requirements and provisional license approval before securing a business location.



SMDP Photo

BIKE LANE: The City is expanding a contract to enforce bike lanes.

The modifications come after staff received guidance from the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development following the council's initial adoption of the equity program in September 2025. Adopting the updates before program implementation will ensure all eligible applicants can qualify for direct assistance and grants under future state cannabis equity funding, according to the staff report prepared by Associate Planner Ana Fernandez.

The city plans to begin accepting cannabis retailer and equity permit applications at the end of January 2026.

The council will also consider two separate but related transportation proposals, both involving modifications to existing software contracts rather than new physical infrastructure.

The first would add $944,000 to the city's contract with Hayden AI to launch automated bike lane enforcement on up to seven Santa Monica Police Department parking enforcement vehicles. The second would extend the city's agreement with Swiftly Ltd. by $718,751 to maintain real-time bus arrival data through fiscal year 2027-28.

The bike lane enforcement initiative comes after a six-week pilot program in spring 2024 revealed widespread violations in the city's bicycle network. From May 6 through June 19, two SMPD vehicles equipped with cameras recorded 1,679 violations, with most occurring along north-south streets in Downtown Santa Monica. The vendor identified 263 of those as "egregious" violations that posed the greatest risk to cyclists by significantly blocking bike lanes.

"Staff concluded, based on the pilot data, that vehicles stopping and parking in the City's bike lanes were a recurring issue of concern that warranted further exploration and mitigation measures to improve safety on our streets for all users," according to a staff report from Anuj Gupta, director of transportation.

The program is authorized under California Assembly Bill 361, passed in October 2023, which allows local jurisdictions to use camera-based enforcement for bike lane violations. The program will be funded by Measure K, with $200,000 allocated for the first year and $186,000 for subsequent years.

The transit tracking proposal addresses keeping Big Blue Bus riders informed about when their buses will arrive. The city's 195 transit buses serve an average of 820,000 riders monthly across 69 square miles of greater Los Angeles, with most riders depending on real-time bus arrival predictions available through smartphone apps including Transit and Google Maps.

Swiftly provides the cloud-hosted software that generates accurate real-time bus location and arrival information. The city originally planned to complete a competitive procurement process for a new real-time analytics system, but staffing constraints and the need to integrate with a recently installed Computer-Aided Dispatch Automated Vehicle Locator system have delayed that timeline.

Both items are part of the meetings consent calendar and may be voted on with little or no comment unless specifically pulled from the agenda for discussion. The City Council meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at City Hall, 1685 Main St.

maaz@smdp.com



REDISTRICT

FROM PAGE 6

"I will look at any map that is kind of reasonable and keeping communities compact and together," Spanberger, a Democrat, told The Associated Press. "But ultimately, it's up to the people of Virginia to choose whether or not to move forward with the referendum."

FLORIDA PLANS AN APRIL REDISTRICTING DEBATE

Republicans currently hold 20 of Florida's 28 U.S. House seats. That advantage could grow if districts are reshaped during a special session.

Although Florida's regular legislative session starts Tuesday, DeSantis said he is waiting until April to call a special redistricting session to allow time for a possible U.S. Supreme Court ruling on a key provision of the federal Voting Rights Act. If the court rules in a Louisiana case that race cannot be the predominant factor in creating voting districts, it could open the way for several Republican-led states to redraw districts represented by Black or Hispanic lawmakers who are Democrats.

DeSantis said the high court's ruling could affect "at least one or two" Florida districts.

But any redistricting that aids Republicans could face a court challenge. A voter-approved Florida constitutional provision prohibits drawing district boundaries to favor or disfavor a political party or incumbent.

RESISTANCE REMAINS IN SEVERAL TARGETED STATES

Some Democrats seeking to counter Trump have urged lawmakers in Illinois and Maryland to redraw their already heavily Democratic districts to try to gain one additional seat in each state. But the plans appear to lack traction as legislative sessions begin this week in both states.

Illinois House Speaker Pro Tem Kam Buckner said "there is no active push" for congressional redistricting.

"There is no appetite to reopen something that will consume enormous time, energy and, frankly, political capital without a compelling justification," Buckner, a Democrat, told the AP.

Democratic Maryland Gov. Wes Moore has created a special commission to recommend a new congressional map. But Democratic Senate President Bill Ferguson remains opposed and insists that a majority of residents also do not want new districts.

In Kansas, some Republicans want to redraw U.S. House districts to try to gain an additional seat. But House Republicans have failed to gain the two-thirds support needed to override a likely veto by Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly.

House Speaker Dan Hawkins told reporters that he has no plans to hold a vote on congressional redistricting during the annual legislative session that starts Monday.

"I do not have the votes," Hawkins said.

By DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press. Associated Press reporters Olivia Diaz, John Hanna, Mike Schneider and Brian Witte contributed to this story.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Topanga

Extended Start Time for Overnight Closures on Topanga Canyon Boulevard between PCH and Grand View Drive

Starting Tuesday, Jan. 13, Caltrans will close Topanga Canyon Boulevard/State Route 27 (SR-27) nightly between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m. from Pacific Coast Highway to Grand View Drive while crews prepare to install an 84-inch reinforced concrete pipe beneath the highway.

The 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. overnight closures on SR-27 from PCH to Grand View Drive will be in effect Tuesday through at least 5 a.m. Friday, Jan. 16. North of the closure, SR-27 from Grand View Drive to U.S. 101 will remain open, including access to the unincorporated community of Topanga and area businesses.

Crews extended the nightly closure due to unexpected field conditions after encountering large boulders during excavation. The difficulty of breaking through the rock requires more time and equipment, and the extended hours allow crews to prepare, work and clean up the work zone so it is safe for the public and workers each morning. It also keeps crews on track in preparation for the extended weekend closure of this stretch of highway from 12:01 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, to 7 a.m. Monday, Jan. 19.

The extended nightly closure hours could continue into the week of Jan. 19 if there are more unexpected conditions. Caltrans will provide updates after the extended weekend closure.

The 84-inch reinforced concrete pipe is part of emergency repair work on SR-27 that will restore and protect the highway from future storm damage. SR-27 from PCH to Grand View Drive remains an active work zone due to these emergency repairs. It is typically closed to the public from midnight to 5 a.m. daily.

Closures are subject to change due to weather or other operational reasons. Check current traffic conditions on the Caltrans Quickmap. Caltrans District 7 also posts updates to its social media pages.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

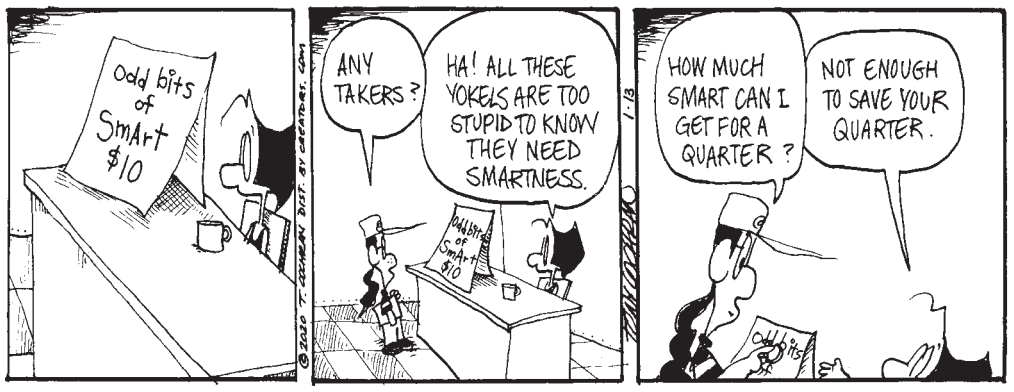
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Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



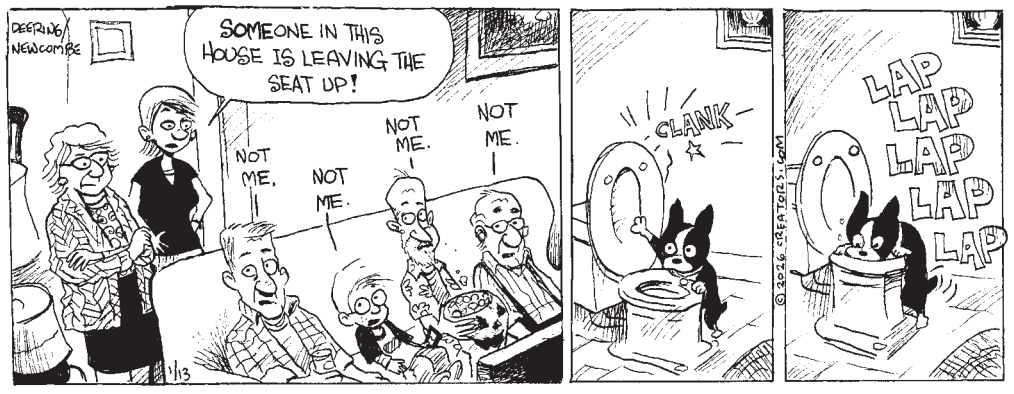
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

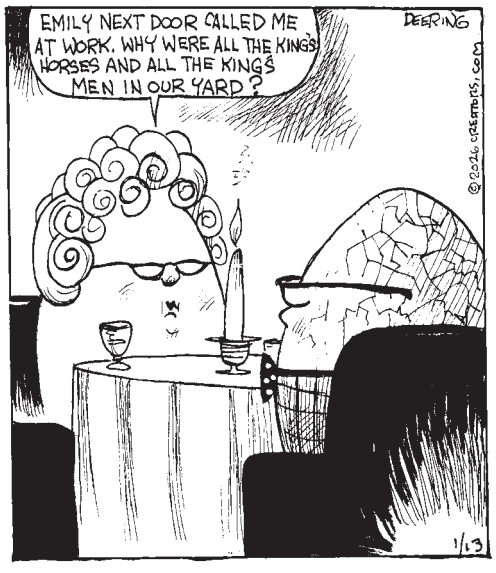
By PETER GALLAGHER



"HER NAME IS CAPOCOLLO, BUT SHE'S KNOWN AS 'THE HOT HAM.'"

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 23 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6819

Flood risk

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

Alarm	Helicopter	Response
Animals	Homes	Rise
Banks	Lagoon	Rivers
Cattle	Lakes	Ruin
Causeway	Lull	Ruts
City	Measure	Silt
Clean up	Muddy	Sludge
Coastal	One hundred	Stranded
Contamination	year	Swim
Creek	Rain	Tide
Dams	Rare	Weather
Development	Remote	Wet carpet

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Feeling the heat

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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 13)

This is your Year of Cosmic Connections, in which the right people find you at the right moments. Conversations open doors. Introductions ripple outward. You're reminded that chemistry isn't accidental, but, boy, is it fortuitous. More highlights: Travel invites you somewhere thrilling. Love grows easier, warmer and wonderfully mutual. A financial upgrade is tied to your reputation. Taurus and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 41, 4, 44, 3 and 13.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're in charge of the crew today. The less you say, the more likely they are to listen and obey. And if you can get away with saying nothing except that which can be said with action, even better!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Remember when you didn't want to express your thoughts and opinions because you honestly weren't having any? Some subjects just fail to capture your imagination, and that's good to know. There are hotter topics out there for you, so keep moving.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Everyone wants love, attention and credit for what they do. Some want the whole circus - passion, applause and bragging rights - whether they earned it or not. So, sprinkle your effort where it bounces back. Stop tossing it into black holes.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You made a few habits without realizing what you were doing, and now every time you enact a certain behavior, a string of other (possibly unwanted) behaviors follows. The easiest way to break this pattern is to change environments entirely.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You know it's love by what you're willing to pay for it. In addition to time, thought and energy, inconvenience and discomfort may be part of the price. And if that seems expensive and not quite worth it, that's good information, too.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's a classic scenario: the subject falls in love with the biographer, the patient projects romance onto the therapist, the model adores the photographer. You may notice a similar dynamic today. Few things are more seductive than genuine interest.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There's something you enjoy simply for the sake of it, and it's calling you back. What would it take to get absorbed in this again? A change of venue? A guard against interruption? Do it. Pure enjoyment restores you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). However much attention you need, that's the amount of attention you need. It is, arguably, out of your control. So, there's no benefit from feeling ashamed or proud of the amount. But there's a lot of benefit to finding a way to fulfill the order.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Perhaps the way you look has little bearing on the outcome today, but the way you feel about the way you look has a definite impact. Taking time to put a little extra thought into presentation will make a big difference in your attitude.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your work is developing in a remarkably layered, generous and meaningful way. Each step forward reveals new insights that enrich the whole and make the journey a pleasure in itself. It hasn't always gone like this, so you cherish the moment.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Emotions are the fire that forges relationships. Too much heat and things can bend in ways you don't quite understand until it has all cooled off. You may return to a relationship as an armored person with wisdom in your arsenal.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). While having fewer possessions means more freedom, fewer relationships can be confining. Every friendship is a world. Your experience will be limited to the worlds open to you. Making new friends doesn't take a lot of time now, though it does take initiative.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

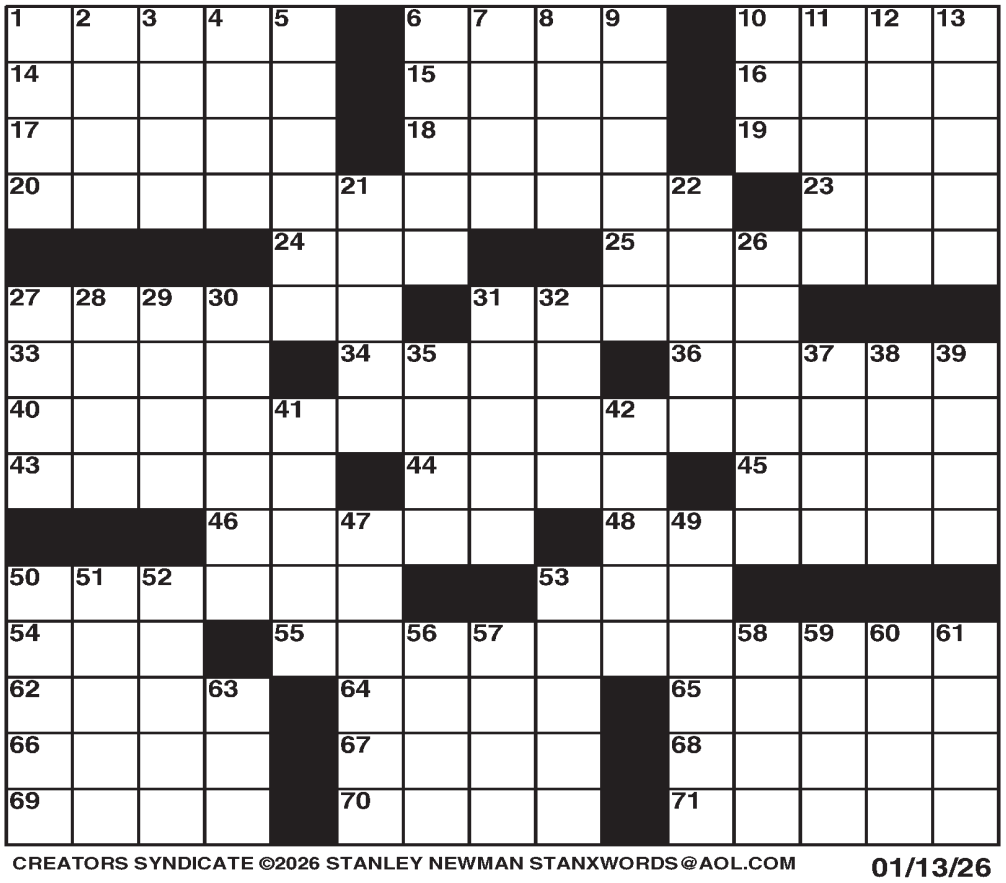
"CHOCOLATY" TWOSOMES by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 President John or John Quincy __
6 Sleep in a tent
10 "Gee!"
14 Traditional Native American dwelling
15 Two-tone cookie
16 Initial poker bet
17 Last Greek letter
18 Intend (to)
19 Hollywood headliner
20 Versatile, as a wardrobe
23 "A long time __..."
24 US espionage org.
25 Occur
27 Nail-hitting tool
31 Go bad, as food
33 India's continent
34 Three-person band
36 Add impurities to
40 Disney's rodent couple
43 Hard to climb
44 Deceptive ploy
45 A single time
46 Oahu and Maui
48 Glasses in monocles
50 "Same here"
53 Junior, to Senior
54 Hoopsters' org.
55 At a steadily increasing rate
62 Hungry feeling
64 Lock openers
65 Allied (with)
66 Beef inspection org.
67 "Beware the __ of March"
68 Alter, as legislation
69 Fill-in worker, for short
70 Prone to snooping
71 Irritable

DOWN

1 Electron's home
2 Actress Moore
3 Peak's acme
4 "Huge" prefix for bucks
5 Seer's session around a table
6 Part of a semicolon
7 Vicinity
8 Pork or beef
9 Pullover rainwear
10 Car fuel
11 Served from a keg
12 Theater platform
13 Blue marsh bird
21 Needing a good scrubbing
22 French-speaking Caribbean country
26 Get ready for
27 Performers who overact
28 "Be that __ may..."
29 What 40-Across are
30 Achieve success
31 Decongestant target
32 Pea holders
35 Extremely scarce
37 Rustic hotels
38 "Good job!"
39 Golf pegs
41 __ salts (bath additive)
42 Cantaloupe or honeydew
47 Pay a brief visit to, with "on"
49 Continues until
50 Enter for a spreadsheet
51 Belittle
52 "Chocolaty" theme of the puzzle
53 Smart-mouthed
56 Change the decor of
57 A sight for sore __
58 Silent performer
59 Poetic tributes
60 Payment to a landlord
61 Swirling seawater
63 Space, as between teeth



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01/13/26

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



TUESDAY | JANUARY 13

WALKING MEDITATION
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Beach lot 5 South 2600 Bernard Way Los Angeles. Walking meditation is and has always been a significant alternative to sitting meditation, especially for those starting a new practice. The goal of meditation is to be able to practice in all positions, conditions and activities whether sitting, standing, walking, lying down, or whenever awake. We'll meet Tuesday's and Thursdays at 8 am at lifeguard tower 28 (paid parking available in the Santa Monica Beach lot 5 South) After some basic instructions we'll walk silently together for approximately 50 minutes on the shoreline at a natural leisurely pace from tower 28 towards the Santa Monica Pier and back. Everyone is always welcomed to join whether new to meditation or with many years of experience. Looking forward to meeting and meditating with you all. Please feel free to reach out with any concerns or questions and please arrive 5 minutes early. Don't forget to check schedule for any changes or cancellations. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/walking-meditation/16206460/2026-01-13T08

COFFEE CONNECTION
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. The Shore Hotel 1515 Ocean Ave. Santa Monica. Coffee Connection networking event. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/coffee-connection/17476327/2026-01-13T09

MEMORIES & MOVEMENT SENIOR CLUB
10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Come, learn, and have fun every 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM in The Patio room at Virginia Avenue Park. Each week there will be something new: Exercise, Talking with Friends, Learning, Guest Presenters, Health & Wellness! For more information call (310) 458-8688. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/memories-movement-senior-club/14853634/2026-01-13T10

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
5:30 p.m. Santa Monica City Hall 1685 Main St. Santa Monica. The City Council is made up of seven members elected at-large for staggered four-year terms. Every two years, after each election, the City Council selects one of its members to serve as Mayor and another to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore. The City Council also sits as the following bodies for the City of Santa Monica. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/city-council-meeting/13799967/2026-01-13T17

TUESDAY OPEN MIC
10:00 p.m. Westside Comedy Theater 1323-A 3rd St Santa Monica. The best open mic in Los Angeles! The Tuesday Open Mic is a weekly open mic. Hop onstage and perform your best 3 minutes! Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/tuesday-open-mic/16004734/2026-01-13T22

WEDNESDAY | JANUARY 14

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET - WEDNESDAY MARKET
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Downtown Santa Monica Arizona Avenue (Between 4th & Ocean) Santa Monica. One of the largest grower-only Certified Farmers Market in Southern California and a favorite for local chefs! Enjoy one of Santa Monica's farmers markets, widely considered to be among the best on the west coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheeses, and more. Downtown Farmers Market Locations: Wednesdays at Arizona Ave & 2nd St and Saturdays at Arizona & 3rd St. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/downtown-farmers-market-wednesday-market/12382446/2026-01-14T08

STAR STORIES WITH PAM
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. West Los Angeles Regional Library 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles. STAR Stories With Pam Children are invited to share the joy of storytelling and reading with our special STAR volunteer, Pam. Come three times and take home a free book. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/star-stories-with-pam/15607289/2026-01-14T12

FRIENDS OF VENICE LIBRARY: YOGA FOR EVERYONE!
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Venice Branch Library 501 S Venice Blvd. Venice. Through body awareness, movement, and breath, you will be guided on how to bring your body, mind, and spirit back into balance for overall well-being. All levels are welcome. Generously funded by Friends of Venice Library. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/friends-of-venice-library-yoga-for-everyone-/17751141/2026-01-14T12

SCOT NERY'S BOOBIETRAP
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Santa Monica Pier 200 Santa Monica Pier, Ste A Santa Monica. WORLD-CLASS AND INGENIOUSLY STUPID. "The #1 show in Los Angeles." - TripAdvisor Since launching in 2015, Scot Nery's Boobietrap has destroyed audiences at hundreds of sold-out performances in Los Angeles and around the West Coast. An underground entertainment phenomenon, Boobietrap shines as a proof of concept for just how incredible live performance can be. The exquisitely-curated experience serves up one life-changing moment after another, blowing minds and rebuilding them in real time. "The best variety show in the world." Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/scot-nery-s-boobietrap/17758957/2026-01-14T18

THURSDAY | JANUARY 15

WALKING MEDITATION
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Beach lot 5 South 2600 Bernard Way Los Angeles. Walking meditation is and has always been a significant alternative to sitting meditation, especially for those starting a new practice. The goal of meditation is to be able to practice in all positions, conditions and activities whether sitting, standing, walking, lying down, or whenever awake. We'll meet Tuesday's and Thursdays at 8 am at lifeguard tower 28 (paid parking available in the Santa Monica Beach lot 5 South) After some basic instructions we'll walk silently together for approximately 50 minutes on the shoreline at a natural leisurely pace from tower 28 towards the Santa Monica Pier and back. Everyone is always welcomed to join whether new to meditation or with many years of experience. Looking forward to meeting and meditating with you all. Please feel free to reach out with any concerns or questions and please arrive 5 minutes early. Don't forget to check schedule for any changes or cancellations. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/walking-meditation/16206460/2026-01-15T08

CLUB LATINO PARA ADULTOS MAYORES
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Venga, aprenda, y diviertase cada jueves de 11 AM a 1 PM el el salón 3 del parque Virginia. Cada semana será algo nuevo: Ejercicio, Hablando con amigos, Aprendizaje, Presentadores Invitados, Salud y Bienestar. Hay comida para los adultos mayores que participan durante las dos horas. Para más información llame al (310) 458-8688. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/club-latino-para-adultos-mayores/13943928/2026-01-08T11

REBUILD COMMITTEE - SANTA MONICA & PALIBU CHAMBER
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Zoom link to be sent before the meeting Santa Monica, CA. Rebuild Committee - Santa Monica & PaliBu Chamber Must be a Member to attend - either a member of Santa Monica Chamber or PaliBu Chamber. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/rebuild-committee-santa-monica-palibu-chamber/15499169/2026-01-15T15

FOOTBALL SHOWINGS AT THE WHALER!
101 Broadway CA 90401 Contact Info (424) 330-0166 info@venicewhaler.com Does not apply on holidays Santa Monica. Enjoy food & drink specials during every football game! The Whaler shows every college and nfl game on all tvs every week all season! (Sound is only on if that is the only game playing). Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/football-showings-at-the-whaler-/17408731/2026-01-08T00

FRIDAY | JANUARY 16

DRUNK THEATRE: THE WILDEST IMPROV COMEDY SHOW!
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse 1211 4th St, Santa Monica. A comedian takes five shots of whiskey in a row and tries to perform an improvised play with five sober comedians. What could go wrong?! Drunk Theatre is the entirely improvised, unpredictable, and crazy comedy show that'll kick your weekend into overdrive. Reserve your spot now as limited seating and space is available. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/drunk-theatre-the-wildest-improv-comedy-show-/15793351/2026-01-09T08

APRÈS CHALET
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Regent Santa Monica Beach 1700 Ocean Ave Santa Monica. Après Chalet is a pop-up that transforms seaside cabanas into LA's chicest winter retreat. Each private cabana holds its own holiday ritual: a curated s'mores kit, a warm welcome cocktail, and the crackle of fire from a glowing firepit reserved exclusively for your group. Winter-white decor and twinkling lights frame the scene, as live music drifts through the salt air and a dedicated fireside mixologist creates enchanting, seasonal cocktails. $55.00 to $125.00. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/apr-s-chalet/17758170/2026-01-09T16

SATURDAY | JANUARY 17

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET - SATURDAY MARKET
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Santa Monica Farmers Market - Arizona Ave and 3rd Street Arizona Ave and 3rd Street Santa Monica. Santa Monica Farmers Markets create thriving, vibrant communities that are inclusive, connected, and diverse by promoting the prosperity of California farmers and small food businesses, preservation of the agricultural arts and sustainable food systems. The Saturday Downtown Farmers Market is open from 8:00am to 1:00pm, year-round and operates rain or shine. May be closed for selected holidays. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/downtown-farmers-market-saturday-market/13357377/2026-01-17T08

SANTA MONICA FARMERS MARKET - VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK/PICO BOULEVARD
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave Santa Monica. The family market in the heart of the Pico neighborhood's Virginia Avenue Park! Enjoy one of Santa Monica's farmers markets, widely considered to be among the best on the west coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheeses, delicious foods, live music and more. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/santa-monica-farmers-market-virginia-avenue-park-pico-boulevard/12382447/2026-01-17T08

DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Hosteling Intl. 1436 2nd Street Santa Monica. Join the Santa Monica Conservancy's Downtown Walking Tour. Discover downtown Santa Monica's architectural gems, history, and culture. From Art Deco to Victorian and Romanesque Revival, you'll explore the various styles that fill the streets of Santa Monica. Explore downtown's diverse architectural heritage, including Bay Cities Guaranty Building, El Miro Theater, Georgian Hotel, Gussie Moran House, Keller Block and more! The Downtown Walking Tour is FREE for Conservancy members, FREE for guests staying at Hostelling International, and $10 for the general public. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/downtown-walking-tour/15830816/2026-01-17T10

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