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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

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Two hearings set to evaluate multi-city voting districts for School Board

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

While the City of Santa Monica awaits a court ruling on the future of municipal elections, a much delayed proposal to force the local school district into districted voting will get a pair of public hearings in the coming weeks.

At 6 p.m. on January 31, the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization (LACCSDO), part of the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), will host the first meeting at Santa Monica College's Malibu campus multipurpose room. The second hearing will be held on Feb. 10 at 9:30 a.m. at SMMUSD District Offices, 1717 4th St. Both will focus on a proposal to establish trustee voting areas but no decisions will be made at either meeting.

Malibu attorney Kevin Shenkman submitted the petition on behalf of two residents to establish district based voting for SMMUSD in 2022 saying the at-large system is unfair to minority voters. SMMUSD has strongly opposed the plan to implement districts saying the maps are not legal and that there's no evidence the current system disenfranchises minority voters.

County officials tabled discussion of the concept after a tentative agreement was reached to split Malibu from Santa Monica creating two entirely distinct school organizations.

Though the district petition and the petition to form a Malibu Unified School District are different actions, County officials and proponents of splitting the district said any effort to establish districts

SEE **SMMUSD** PAGE 8

California State University faculty launch weeklong strike across 23 campuses

OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ
Associated Press

Nearly 30,000 professors, librarians, coaches, and other workers at California State University, the largest public university system in the U.S., walked off the job Monday in a weeklong strike to demand higher wages.

The stoppage across Cal State's 23 campuses comes two weeks after CSU officials ended contract negotiations with a unilateral offer starting with a 5% pay raise this year, effective Jan. 31, far below the 12% hike that the union is seeking.

With the new semester beginning Monday, classes for many of the system's 450,000 students could be canceled, unless faculty individually decide to cross picket lines.

Victoria Wilson, a part-time political science lecturer who picketed in the rain at Cal State Northridge in Los Angeles, said she's striking for higher pay. She said her salary fluctuates from semester to semester, which impedes her long-

SEE **CSU** PAGE 3

Japanese delegation continues Sister Cities relationship with first post-pandemic visit

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

A celebration of culture and community typically half a world away from Santa Monica residents took place this past week.

In its first visit since 2018, before the COVID-19 pandemic, a delegation from Fujinomiya, Japan, came to Santa Monica as part of the ongoing Sister City relationship between the two locations. The Santa Monica Sister City Association acts as a liaison between the city and its international partners, such as Fujinomiya as well as the cities of Kizugawa, Japan, Mazatlan, Mexico and Hamm, Germany.

Greeted at the Santa Monica Airport with signage celebrating their arrival, the 25-member delegation traversed Santa Monica and the Los Angeles area during its stay, including a trip to Universal Studios despite the less-than-favorable weather conditions at the time. Within Santa Monica, the delegation (including Fujinomiya Mayor Hidetada Sudō) visited the Soka Gakkai International-USA World Peace Ikeda Auditorium, the Le Méridien Delfina hotel and Santa Monica City Hall.



Photo by Thomas Leffler

SISTER CITY: Fujinomiya, Japan Mayor Hidetada Sudō and other Fujinomiya delegates presented an art gift to Santa Monica Sister City Association President Jeffrey Jarow and Santa Monica Mayor Pro Tem Lana Negrete at Santa Monica City Hall Jan. 18.

During the City Hall visit, the delegation and various Santa Monica officials took part in a traditional exchanging of gifts, with Santa Monica Sister City Association President Jeffrey Jarow complimenting the Fujinomiya gift presentation by saying the wrapping looked like it was "done by machine." City officials received gifts such as artwork and a copy of Akira Isonisi's book "Fuji from the Sky," while the Japanese delegation received tidings from the City's Travel and Tourism Department and the Santa Monica Police Department. One of the gifts from the City was a neon version of the famous Santa Monica Yacht Harbor signage.

Jarow was elated by the visit, showing his respect to Sudō and his delegation's long-term commitment to the Sister City program.

"Every time we see each other, it's nice, because he respects me for being a head of this," Jarow said of

SEE **SISTER CITY** PAGE 11

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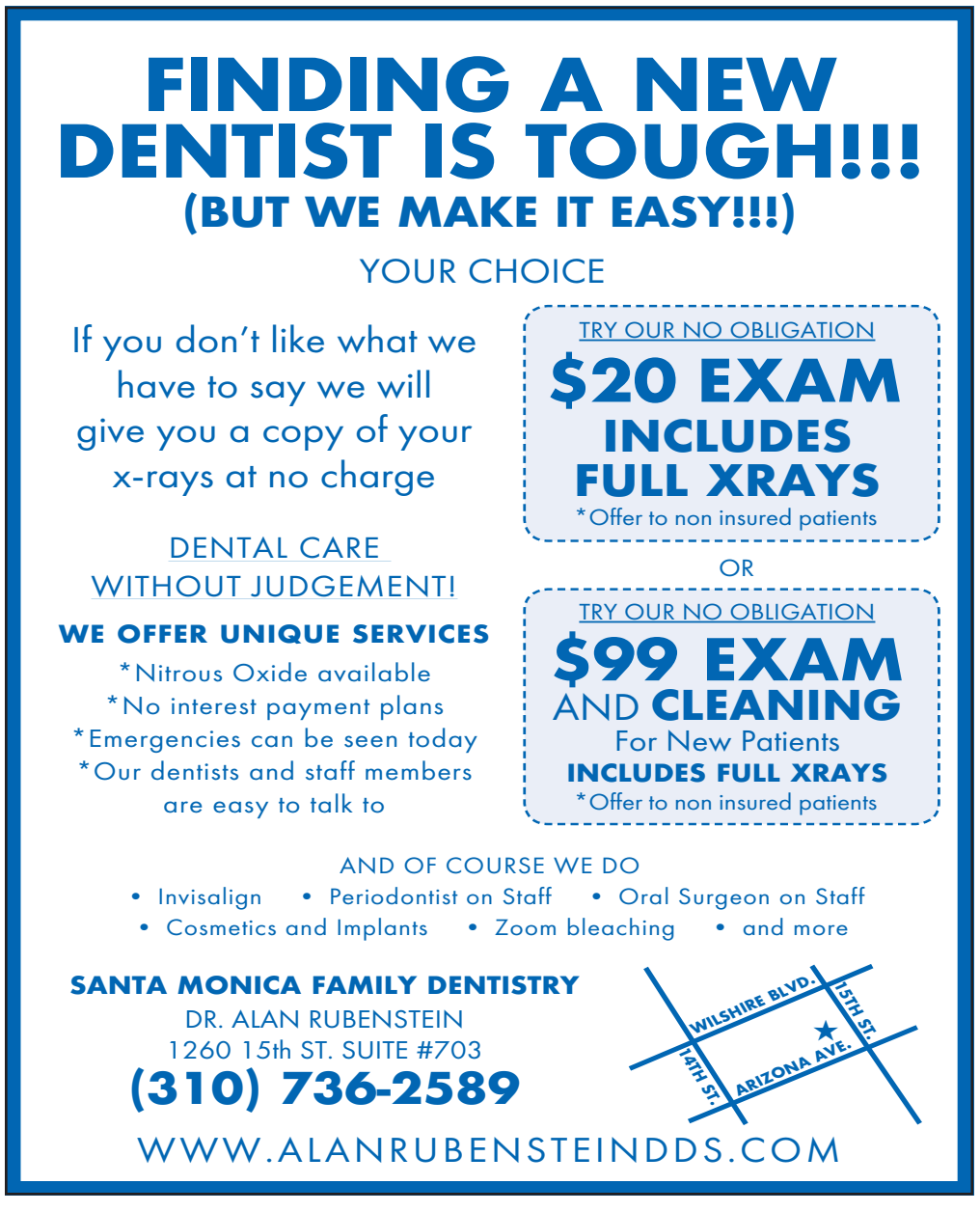
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Mariners soccer remains undefeated, other teams in action



Photo by Thomas Leffler

SPORTS: Brianna Bautista (#9) and the Santa Monica Girls Soccer squad split two contests last week.

SMDP STAFF REPORT

SANTA MONICA BOYS BASKETBALL:
Tuesday, January 16:
Vikings vs Culver City
Culver City win 57-55
Friday, January 19:
Vikings at Peninsula
Vikings win 47-43
Saturday, January 20:
Vikings vs Muir
Vikings win 47-34
Vikings Record: 14-10 (2-4 Bay League)
Next Game: Tuesday vs Palos Verdes, 7 p.m.

SANTA MONICA GIRLS BASKETBALL:
Tuesday, January 16:
Lady Vikings vs Culver City
Culver City win 57-22
Friday, January 19:
Lady Vikings at Peninsula
Peninsula win 68-25
Lady Vikings Record: 4-17 (0-6 Bay League)
Next Game: Tuesday at Palos Verdes, 5:30 p.m.

SANTA MONICA BOYS SOCCER:
Tuesday, January 16:
Vikings vs Culver City
Vikings win 3-1
Dylan Galperin (#25, Senior): 2 goals
Manu Castagna (#10, Senior): 1 goal, 1 assist
Felipe Martini (#17, Junior): 2 assists
Jesse Howard (#19, Senior): 1 assist
William Komlos (#13, Sophomore): 1 assist
Friday, January 19:
Vikings at Peninsula
Vikings win 3-1
Dylan Galperin (#25, Senior): 1 goal, 1 assist
Deacon Miller (#5, Sophomore): 1 goal, 1 assist
Atreyu Lucas (#9, Senior): 1 goal
Diego Johnson (#2, Senior): 1 assist
Eyuel Tesfaye (#24, Senior): 1 assist
William Komlos (#13, Sophomore): 1 assist
Mateo Castagna (#20, Sophomore): 1 assist
Vikings Record: 8-7-1 (3-3 Bay League)
Next Game: Tuesday vs Palos Verdes, 6 p.m.

SANTA MONICA GIRLS SOCCER:
Tuesday, January 16:
Lady Vikings at Culver City
Culver City win 2-1 (2OT)
Friday, January 19:
Lady Vikings vs Peninsula
Lady Vikings win 4-3
Lady Vikings Record: 9-5-1 (2-4 Bay League)
Next Game: Tuesday at Palos Verdes, 3:15 p.m.

SANTA MONICA GIRLS WATER POLO:
Monday, January 15:
Lady Vikings vs Royal
Royal win 10-8
Tuesday, January 16:
Lady Vikings vs Redondo Union
Redondo Union win 13-6
Thursday, January 18:
Lady Vikings vs Peninsula
Peninsula win 11-10
Lady Vikings Record: 9-13

SEE **SPORTS** PAGE 11

CSU

FROM PAGE 1

term financial goals.

"We're just hoping for a better contract to ensure better pay and also the working conditions here on campus," Wilson said.

The California Faculty Association represents roughly 29,000 workers. Another 1,100 CSU plumbers, electricians and other skilled trades workers represented by the Teamsters Local 2010 were set to join the strike but reached an agreement with the university late Friday.

Some students on Monday joined the picket lines to show their support.

Cal State Long Beach student Gabriela Alvarez said she joined the demonstration outside the university to support her professors and to reject tuition hikes that will start this fall.

"It's important for our professors to be treated right, we need more student resources here, we're trying to lower tuition prices," Alvarez said.

"I'm not going to be able to afford next semester if they go through with the tuition spikes," she added.

Cal State Chancellor Mildred Garcia said Friday in a video call with journalists that the university system had sought to avoid a strike but the union's salary demands are simply not viable.

"We must work within our financial reality," she said.

In December, CFA members staged one-day walkouts on four campuses in Los Angeles, Pomona, Sacramento and San Francisco to press for higher pay, more manageable workloads and increased parental leave.

The union says the university has money in its "flush reserve accounts" and could afford the salary increases with funds from operating cash surpluses and the $766 million CSU has in emergency reserves.

Leora Freedman, CSU's vice chancellor for human resources, said Friday those reserve funds cannot be tapped for wage hikes because they are meant for times of economic uncertainty or emergencies, including wildfires or earthquakes.

"We've made several offers with movement, and most recently a 15% increase that would be paid over three years, providing faculty a 5% increase each year. But the faculty union has never moved off its 12% demand for one year only," she said.

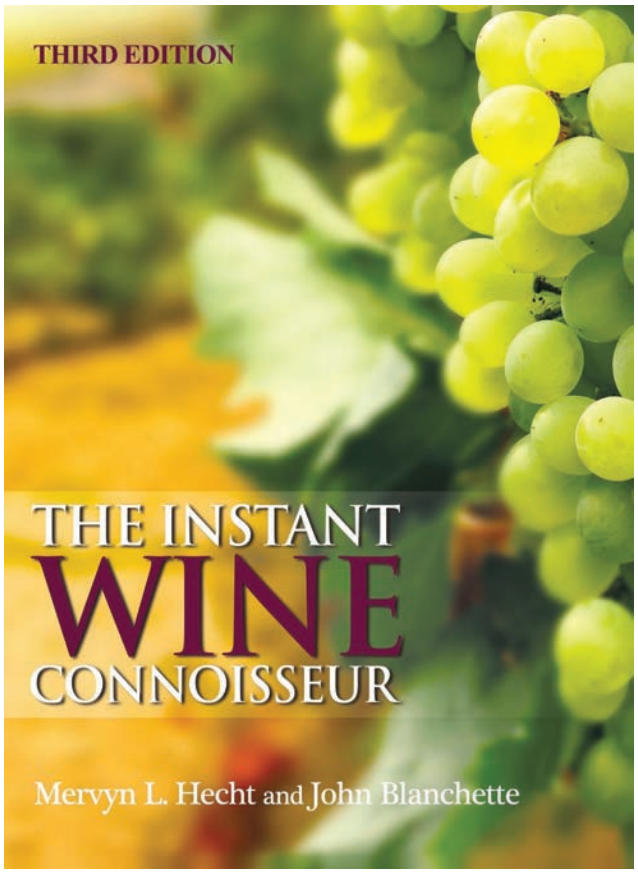
The increase the union is seeking would cost the system $380 million in new recurring spending, which the university can't afford, Freedman said.

Cal State Los Angeles student Katerina Navarro said she supports the strike. Monday was the first day of classes in her nursing program, and she was surprised her classes were not canceled.

"Some more money needs to be invested in salaries and educational resources because people in education are severely underpaid for the work they do," said Navarro, who noted she was underpaid when she worked as a teacher abroad. Both her mother and sister are teachers.

The past year has seen lots of labor activity in the country as health care professionals, Hollywood actors and writers and auto workers picketed for better pay and working conditions.

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Surf report

WATER TEMP: **58.6**

TUESDAY — ***FAIR***
SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist

W/WNW swell due to continue, maintaining fun size waves. Morning winds look light, but best to let the 6' dawn patrol high tide ebb out some. A new, longer period WNW swell looks to build late in the day.

WEDNESDAY — ***FAIR***
SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist

Fresh, longer period WNW swell tops out. The early morning high tide will slow most of the region, shape improving as the tide drops. Wind looks best in the morning right now before WNW wind builds.

Weather

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 65. North northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 50. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
Wednesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 62. Northeast wind around 5 mph becoming south southwest in the afternoon.
Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 52.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2024/01/23	Tue	01:06 AM	2.41	L
2024/01/23	Tue	07:18 AM	6.02	H
2024/01/23	Tue	2:44 PM	-1.09	L
2024/01/23	Tue	9:20 PM	3.69	H
2024/01/24	Wed	01:47 AM	2.27	L
2024/01/24	Wed	07:56 AM	6.07	H
2024/01/24	Wed	3:16 PM	-1.06	L
2024/01/24	Wed	9:48 PM	3.74	H
2024/01/25	Thu	02:23 AM	2.12	L
2024/01/25	Thu	08:31 AM	6.03	H
2024/01/25	Thu	3:46 PM	-0.95	L
2024/01/25	Thu	10:14 PM	3.78	H
2024/01/26	Fri	02:57 AM	2.00	L
2024/01/26	Fri	09:03 AM	5.88	H
2024/01/26	Fri	4:13 PM	-0.76	L
2024/01/26	Fri	10:41 PM	3.82	H
2024/01/27	Sat	03:31 AM	1.93	L
2024/01/27	Sat	09:34 AM	5.62	H
2024/01/27	Sat	4:39 PM	-0.50	L
2024/01/27	Sat	11:07 PM	3.88	H
2024/01/28	Sun	04:07 AM	1.89	L

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16 31 34 47 65
Power#: 10
Jackpot: 133 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/19
1 9 16 17 30
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 262 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 1/20
8 11 16 30 40
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 17 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/21
5 6 20 21 29

Daily 3
Draw Date: 1/21
EVENING: 5 8 9
Draw Date: 1/21
MIDDAY: 2 3 8

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 1/21
1st: 07 - Eureka
2nd: 06 - Whirl Win
3rd: 08 - Gorgeous George
Race Time: 1:49.31

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Santa Monica Daily Press

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Lawmakers must ensure that preserving California journalism doesn't enable clickbait

MIKE RISPOLI

News publishers in California are divided over proposed legislation that would require tech giants to set aside money for newsrooms, which are essential to their platforms. Below, a digital media advocate says Assembly Bill 886 would favor larger outlets and incentivize clickbait. The opposing view: A journalism expert says the policy would give news outlets unprecedented leverage.

Nearly two decades of newsroom closures and layoffs has left California's local news landscape devastated.

Just last week, we saw the latest of this troubling trend when the Los Angeles Times announced impending mass layoffs sparking an unprecedented newsroom walkout. This is a moment of crisis for the journalism industry, and the impact on California residents is even greater.

The connection between a robust local news system and civic health is undeniable, and the rate of the collapse is overwhelming the good work of many journalists, civically-minded philanthropists and innovative entrepreneurs who are trying to fill the ever-growing gaps.

That's why state lawmakers are beginning to take action. The legislature took a historic step last year when it created the California Local News Fellowship program at UC Berkeley, an initiative designed to place journalists in communities most in need of local reporting. The program has already been a shining example of how bold, keenly targeted policies can support local news and community needs.

But on the heels of this legislative victory, lawmakers have advanced a bill aimed to support local news that may do the opposite. The California Journalism Preservation Act, or CJPA, which passed the Assembly last year and now sits in a Senate committee, would require online platforms of a certain size – effectively just Alphabet, Meta and Microsoft – to pay news outlets for hosting links to their webpages.

This approach has a troubling history: In Australia in 2021, Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. propelled a law forward that forced platforms to negotiate with media outlets if they wanted to share links to their stories. The law's passing turned into a windfall for the Murdoch family and other large media conglomerates, since these giants were best positioned to benefit from a policy that rewards traffic instead of impact.

Similar results can be expected if Assembly Bill 886 passes in California. According to new research from Free Press Action, giant corporations would receive nearly all the payments coming from Alphabet and Meta, with the bulk of money going to outlets that do not produce California-focused news. Meanwhile, community-focused independent, nonprofit and ethnic media outlets would receive pennies on the dollar compared to the likes of Sinclair Broadcast Group, Fox Corporation and other conglomerate-owned outlets – including those that share the blame for widespread newsroom layoffs in California.

These findings mirror what the U.S. Government Accountability Office concluded last January, when it stated that such approaches may have "potential unintended consequences for small publishers and consumers," and that lawmakers should examine the effectiveness of such an intervention in promoting public-interest journalism.

It's not hard to see what this would mean for Californians. Bills like the CJPA incentivize clickbait and sensationalist content, creating a more toxic news environment while funneling more money to corporate behemoths. As we've seen in Canada, platforms will downrank or outright stop hosting news content, disproportionately harming smaller publishers who rely on these sites to reach their audience.



Photo by Robbie Short, CalMatters

CLICKBAIT: CalMatters reporter Ben Christopher and others interview California Governor Gavin Newsom in 2018.

That's the bad news.

The good news is that lawmakers want to get this right. After pausing the CJPA over the summer, the Senate Judiciary Committee held an informational hearing on local news in December. Over the course of four hours, committee members heard from a number of expert witnesses from across the state's media and tech sectors. Despite a chorus of corporate media voices clamoring for the CJPA, a diverse array of community journalism practitioners and advocates were able to break through the noise and argue for direct investments that could support the kind of public-service journalism Californians need.

Legislators at the hearing echoed this sentiment. While the mechanics behind AB 886 are flawed, the intentions of its authors – to support local news and better inform communities – are sincere. Lawmakers in Sacramento have the opportunity to pivot to a better solution.

So, what could that look like? One compelling option is to impose a small tax on the enormous advertising revenues tech platforms generate. The resulting funds could be channeled towards any number of targeted solutions, including creating an independent body to invest in public-interest local journalism, directing government funds to ethnic media outlets, expanding existing programs like Berkeley's fellowship, or by other means.

We need solutions that support journalists and the needs of the community. We can stand in solidarity with newsroom workers standing up to their owners, and advocate for policies that don't disproportionately benefit those same owners at the expense of California residents.

No matter the alternative, one thing is certain: The CJPA is not what Californians need. There are better, more equitable paths forward, and lawmakers should pursue them.

Mike Rispoli is a senior director at Free Press and a former journalist. He serves on the advisory board of the California Local News Fellowship program at UC Berkeley.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
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GUEST COMMENTARY

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Journalism preservation bill gives California newsrooms much-needed leverage over Big Tech



Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters

TECH: Gov. Gavin Newsom speaks to the media after announcing the state's plan to address homelessness across the state at Cal Expo in Sacramento, on March 16, 2023.

COURTNEY C. RADSCH

News publishers in California are divided over proposed legislation that would require tech giants to set aside money for newsrooms, which are essential to their platforms. Below, a journalism expert says Assembly Bill 886 would finally give news outlets leverage and force Big Tech to negotiate. The opposing view: A digital media advocate says the proposal would favor larger outlets and incentivize clickbait.

Journalism is the lifeblood of democratic engagement, yet we have allowed the decimation of local news to continue at a furious pace.

For more than a decade, tech giants built the world's most valuable companies off the backs of journalists while siphoning off revenue from news publishers by creating digital advertising monopolies.

Google and Meta, in particular, now play an "integral and inescapable" role throughout the entire news value chain. Yet despite the fact that these monopolies provide critical infrastructure to news outlets, our laws and regulations have not caught up with this reality.

Historically, we have used government policies to structure competition in media markets and orient them in the public interest. California's efforts to do just this is a step in the right direction.

The California Journalism Preservation Act is an opening salvo in the battle to rein in the power of Big Tech and establish a more equitable negotiation process with a fairer distribution of profits. The CJPA, formally known as Assembly Bill 886, makes a valiant effort to create new funds for hiring journalists and supporting media outlets that serve California's citizens.

If Australia's experience with similar legislation is any guide, we should expect hundreds of new journalism jobs to be created.

Google and Meta fiercely oppose this type of legislation, and have pursued heavy-handed tactics to derail similar laws, even prompting officials in Brazil and Canada to launch investigations to uncover the magnitude of interference in the legislative process.

These companies have also tried to buy off news outlets with grants, fellowships and participation in special news products. They also scare smaller publishers with the idea that they'll lose out or be cut out of their products entirely, assuming they make good on their threats to censor news in California.

The paltry sums Big Tech has so far coughed up not only undervalue news but also leave news outlets with no leverage, while making them beholden to the "benevolence" of the tech platforms they must cover.

This is why the CJPA is so important. Collective bargaining and a regulatory framework that requires negotiation increases the power of local and smaller news outlets. An important yet often overlooked feature of the CJPA is that it

SEE **JOURNALISM** PAGE 11

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HEAL THE BAY

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Heal the Bay Current Affairs

A big wave from Heal the Bay! Santa Monica roots run deep at Heal the Bay – we started here in 1985, operate the Aquarium below the Pier, and have contributed to numerous policy and water quality improvement projects in the City. Today, nearing our 40th anniversary, we continue to have close ties to Santa Monica but our impact extends throughout LA County as well as the State. We are extremely grateful to the Santa Monica Daily Press for encouraging this new biweekly Heal the Bay Current column. Our goal is to provide news and updates from across our organization about events and issues in line with our dedication to protecting the coastal watersheds and inland waterways of greater Los Angeles.

Perhaps you are a visitor to the Heal the Bay Aquarium, located under the historic and iconic Santa Monica Pier. Or maybe you've joined us to help remove trash, plastic, and cigarette butts at one of our Beach (or inland River) cleanup events. Hopefully, you check our Beach & River Report Card before heading out to your favorite water recreation area. Our goal is to keep you updated on science, public health, and policy issues while providing a wealth of opportunities to get involved and have some fun along the way.

Our staff and volunteers are also surfers, scuba drivers, beach-goers, and swimmers just like you! Our passion is interlinked with our dedication to making the coastal waters and watersheds of Greater Los Angeles safe, healthy, and clean and thus, our motto, "Protect What You Love."

Heal the Bay's scientists, educators, environmental advocates, and community outreach teams are focused on the impacts of pollution and climate change, safeguarding the biodiversity of our local aquatic habitats, and protecting public health. A good example of this is that we regularly provide water quality information to the public and highlight when water quality suffers and the public should take extra precaution, such as after a rain.

AVOID SWIMMING AFTER IT RAINS

This past weekend brought some rain and that means our storm drain system flushed the runoff water to the ocean, picking up any and all trash, chemicals, and toxins on our streets, sending it completely untreated into the ocean. Post-rain polluted waters tend to have poor water quality due to an increase in bacterial pollution. People who come in contact with recreational waters identified with poor water quality are at greater risk of contracting illnesses such as stomach flu, ear infections, upper respiratory infections, and rashes. That's why, Heal the Bay and public health officials recommend waiting to recreate in the ocean for at least 72 hours after it rains. Swimmers choosing to ignore these warnings should, at least (and always), avoid entering waters within 100 yards on either side of the nearest storm drain outlet because no one should get sick from a day at the beach. And rain or shine, it is always a good idea to visit beachreportcard.com to check the water quality of your swimming spot before you go (note that after a significant rain, our Beach Report Card will show a rain advisory for 72 hours). During the summer months, you can also check out water quality grades for LA's county's freshwater recreation spots at healtthebay.org/riverreportcard.

HUGE THANKS TO SATURDAY'S CLEAN UP VOLUNTEERS AT ZUMA

Thank you to the more than 160 volunteers who showed up on Saturday for our monthly "Nothin' But Sand" cleanup and removed 182 pounds of trash from Zuma Beach. It is interesting to note that most of the litter removed from our beaches was most likely not from careless beach goers but rather flowed in from miles away through our storm drains. So, removing trash during, or right after, a rain is of particular importance. Cleanups are the last line of defense to keep the worst kinds of pollutants out of our waterways. Heal the Bay's "Nothin But Sand" cleanups occur on the third Saturday of every month. Learn more at healthebay.org/events

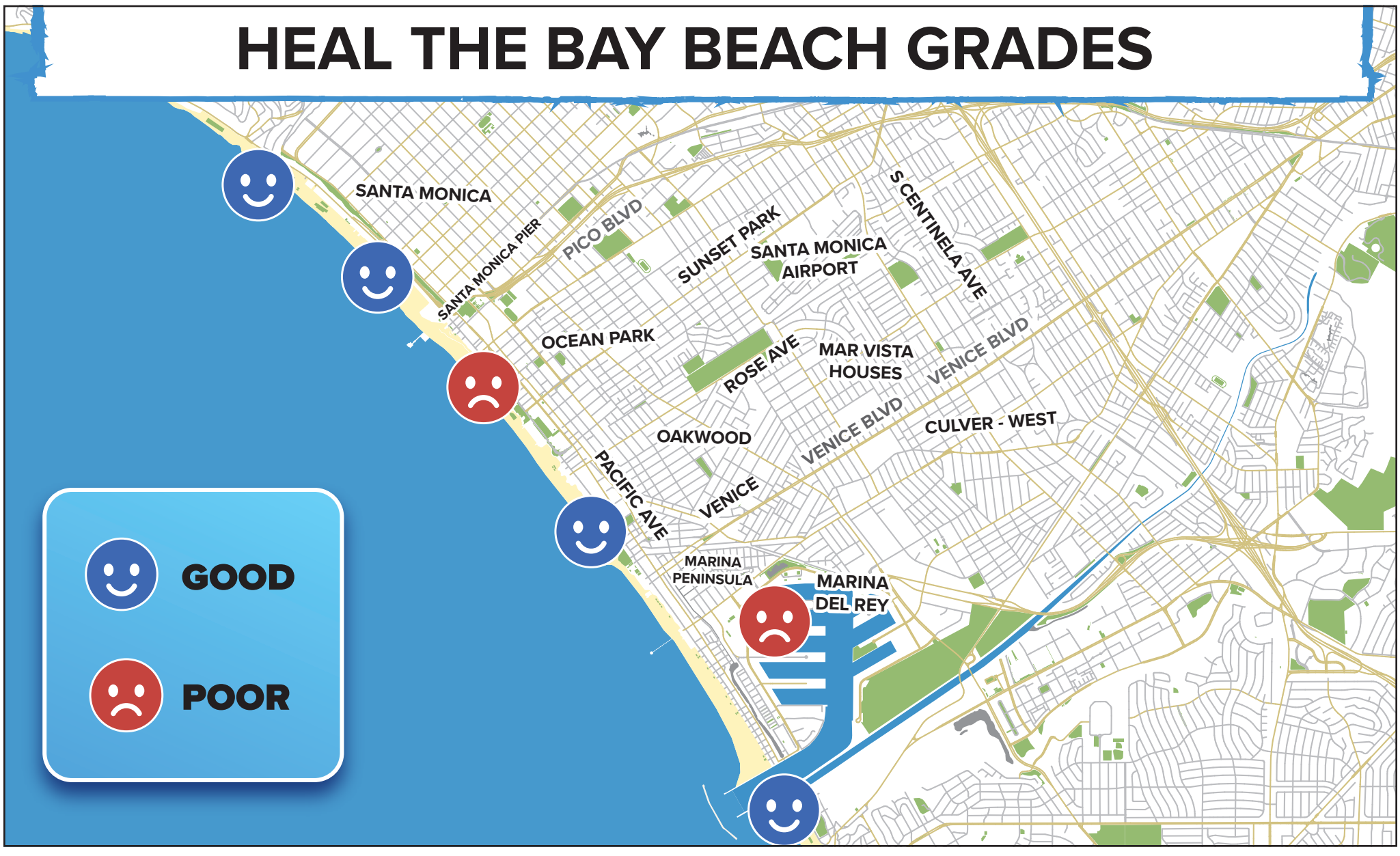
DDT – A LEGACY OF CONTAMINATION OFF OUR COAST

An ongoing concern to ocean health is DDT, a legacy pesticide, that is known to have devastating and long-lasting impacts on wildlife, ecosystems, and human health. DDT was the first of the modern synthetic insecticides used in the 1940s and after it was found to contaminate entire ecosystems beyond its intended target, its use was banned in 1972. But contamination from DDT persists and the coast off of Southern California is home to some of the largest known sites of DDT contamination. Heal the Bay scientists and partner researchers have been working for years to obtain funding and knowledge about the deleterious effects of DDT on our water, our marine life and what, if anything, can be done about it.

CALIFORNIA DEEP OCEAN DDT COMMUNITY ZOOM MEETING JAN 24, 4-6PM

While the impacts of near-shore DDT on the Palos Verdes Shelf have been well-studied, little is known about the status and impacts of DDT dumped in Southern California deep-ocean. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the California State Water Resources Control Board are funding over $15M of research to provide a greater understanding of the human health and ecological risks due to deep-ocean DDT deposits in Southern California. Please join us online at a community meeting to meet DDT scientists and discuss their latest findings on deep-ocean DDT: where is it, and how is it affecting humans and wildlife?

Register for the Zoom meeting at bit.ly/DDTupdate



Breaks turn youth into burgeoning ecosystem stewards

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Young students on break from classes are able to turn their learning from the textbook to the trenches of the ocean, all under the informative and watchful eyes of a local institution.

During winter, spring and summer class reprieves, children from ages 5 to 13 have many extracurriculars to choose from, one being science camps hosted by Heal the Bay Aquarium under the Santa Monica Pier. The nonprofit, dedicated to making coastal waters and watersheds throughout Santa Monica and Greater Los Angeles safe, has a strong education arm led by Education Manager Robert Ramos. Ramos noted that the winter 2023 "extreme" themed science camp had the highest attendance of any camp since before the COVID-19 pandemic.

In his over 5 years of service with Heal the Bay, Ramos said times like the pandemic were "challenging" but that he feels very rewarded talking to students and reminding himself about the "things that matter."

"I try to speak to them in a way that inspires them, that makes them want to care about the environment," Ramos said. "Maybe you (also) learn something, but really it's about caring about the place we exist in and inspire them to want to take care of it."

That engagement is cultivated during the camps, which include activities, experiments and camps for everyone in the 5-13 age range. For the winter camp, Ramos took inspiration from events like the X Games, creating a "rad" vibe focusing on defining and describing animal adaptations, and how these adaptations help with survivability.

The structure of the camps is meant to "build upon itself," with the first of the four camp days acting as "Tactical Tuesday" where Ramos defined the camp's theme along with providing examples of defensive adaptations for sea creatures like shells, spikes and venom. The next day was "Wacky Wednesday," lessons based on how adaptations can both be physical and behavioral, focused on sea creature camouflage tactics.

Before finishing with "Flashback Friday," talking about the evolutionary process and why some animal adaptations are no longer beneficial, Ramos led the group in "Thoughtful Thursday," honing in on adapted animal intelligence. The Thursday session included a "Whale Song" game to explain how whales can speak to one another.

"Intelligence is really hard to quantify, (it's) more of a higher level concept to pitch to kids," Ramos said. "It can aid in our survivability because we can talk, we can communicate, we can coordinate."

Along with crafts and games, youth are able to interact with the vast animal gallery, touching various species and having a chance to visualize what they're learning about.

"Having this physical interaction with animals really helps you empathize ... it inspires emotions within (kids) ... I can be there to help guide those questions and those observations," Ramos added.

Other important aspects of the camps include the chance to traverse Santa Monica beaches, spending time practicing mindfulness while being alive within the city's ecosystem. Students are also given nature journals to reflect on what they've seen during camp, giving the young climate stewards a "variety of ways" to conceptualize more complicated topics.

A truncated version of a camp visit is also done via school class field trips to the aquarium, a two-hour session which begins with gallery exploration before splitting the class group into two sections. One group takes to the beach for exploration, while the other visits the "Green Room" class setting to learn about a topic chosen by a teacher, ranging from food webs and habitats to coastal cleanup education and human impacts on ecosystems. After around 40 minutes, the groups switch stations, providing a comprehensive experience under the "Five E" model of learning (engage, explore, explain, elaborate, evaluate).

> A lot of what learning has been up until now, especially in science themes, has been about recall, memorization, spit it back out ... and that's not how it works ... without that deeper level of thinking and engagement, they're not really learning anything
>
> - Robert Ramos, Education Manager

In March, Heal the Bay's camp returns for a spring session under the theme of "Marine Myths and Legends," which is something that has always engaged Ramos. The education manager plans to walk students through topics like weather and climate myths, a chance to battle misinformation and what he calls a "repeating of facts" style of education.

"A lot of what learning has been up until now, especially in science themes, has been about recall, memorization, spit it back out ... and that's not how it works ... without that deeper level of thinking and engagement, they're not really learning anything," Ramos said. "The learning they're doing is more superficial, it's not deep. Understanding the why behind something can help you form new, informed opinions when you are given additional information."

Sign-up links for the March "Marine Myths and Legends" camp will appear on the Heal the Bay website soon, and is also where visitors can learn more about the nonprofit.

thomas@smdp.com







Photo by Thomas Leffler

AQUATIC EDUCATION: Children at Heal the Bay Aquarium science camps can reach into the touch tank to pet a variety of sharks.

SMMUSD

FROM PAGE 1

would be moot if Malibu were to separate and in addition, a letter from Dale Larson, an attorney representing SMMUSD in the trustee area petition, stated that SMMUSD could not pursue work needed to achieve unification (the legal term for splitting Malibu into its own district) if it also had to attend to the trustee area petition, and that the trustee area petition should be delayed in order for SMMUSD to "undertake significant public outreach" on unification.



Courtesy Photo

MAPS: There will be two hearings to talk about proposed districts for SMMUSD.

Legal counsel representing SMMUSD and City of Malibu both echoed that statement in recent months, with SMMUSD legal counsel David Soldani saying public hearings on the trustee area petition would delay special legislation in the unification process by a year. Soldani added that "it does not make sense" to review the trustee area petition "on the cusp" of a unification petition, since that would "necessarily address trustee areas" by making Malibu its own district. Legal counsel Christine Wood representing the City of Malibu said the City "would not be happy" if the process to get special legislation started for unification was delayed, and that the City "want(s) to move forward" with unification.

Framework for the divorce settlement between Malibu and SMMUSD has been in the works for years. In the fall of 2022, both Malibu City Council and the SMMUSD Board of Education approved a "term sheet" for a school district split, with negotiations between the parties based around a tax revenue sharing agreement, an operational agreement and a joint powers agreement. On September 6, 2023, Wood stated that the parties agreed to a formula to monetize the term sheet, and during a November 1, 2023 meeting, Wood added that parties have made "substantive" progress on revenue sharing, and that a joint powers agreement "shouldn't be difficult" for the sides to achieve.

According to LACCSDO, Shenkman expressed doubts that proposed special legislation to branch Malibu into its own district would take place in 2024 and continued to make the case that the petition should be thoroughly examined regardless of progress in splitting the district. At a December 6, 2023 committee meeting, Shenkman declared that the trustee area voting petition was not linked to the unification petition and should not be delayed.

The upcoming hearings will focus on the impact a recently passed law, AB764, has on the proposal. The new law puts restrictions on redistricting and the creation of district maps.

According to a letter sent to the participants, the hearings will not delve into matters beyond the legality of the proposed maps.



"The purpose of this letter is to respond to your request for clarity on the subject of these hearings," said the Jan. 3 notification. "As we stated previously, during these two hearings the Committee will focus only on whether the map provided in the SMMUSD TAV Petition conforms to statutory requirements given the recent passage of Assembly Bill 764. These hearings will not focus on matters outside that scope, such as whether there is evidence of racially polarized voting and vote dilution, and whether the SMMUSD TAV Petition furthers the purposes of the California Voting Rights Act ("CVRA") or whether the SMMUSD TAV Petition map is an appropriate remedy for vote dilution."

The maps attached to the districting proposal split SMMUSD into seven districts. Part of Malibu is merged with Santa Monica's Sunset Park neighborhood to create District 1 and the other half of Malibu is combined with a swath of Santa Monica's NOMA/Wilmont neighborhoods to create District 2.

Shenkman also currently represents plaintiffs in the case of Pico Neighborhood Association et al. v. City of Santa Monica, which alleges that the city's at-large voting system unfairly discriminates against Latino voters and violates the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA). The case is under further review after the California Supreme Court overturned an appeals ruling favoring the City, with Justices stating the case should be reheard and re-evaluated under different criteria.

thomas@smdp.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Protecting the Integrity of SMMUSD Elections

DEAR EDITOR,

At the end of this month and in early February, the LA County Committee on School District Organization (LACOE) will hold public hearings and accept testimony from interested parties on a very important issue that many in our community may not be aware of: how the voters elect our Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) Board Members.

In January 2022, a petition was filed against SMMUSD seeking to force the school district's voting system to change, without consent of the voters, from an open, at-large system to separate districts using a gerrymandered district map.

While the petition has been working its way through the system, the California legislature passed a new law, the FAIR Maps Act of 2023, which went into effect on January 1, 2024. At a high level, the Act requires governing bodies which are elected by-district to conform with uniform requirements. It specifies that:

"Districts shall be geographically contiguous" (meaning a district cannot be split).

"The geographic integrity of any city, local neighborhood, or local community of interest shall be respected in a manner that minimizes its division."

"The place of residence of any incumbent or political candidate shall not be considered in the creation of a map. Districts shall not be drawn for purposes of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, political candidate, or political party."

"Election district boundaries should be easily identifiable and understandable by residents."

The proposed district map for SMMUSD offers a textbook case of gerrymandering, a manipulation of electoral district boundaries with the intent to create an undue advantage (or disadvantage) to a particular group. The map submitted in the petition regarding SMMUSD violates the FAIR Maps Act of 2023 in the following ways:

The map splits Malibu, an independent and incorporated city, into two parts, violating its integrity. It arbitrarily combines western Malibu with the southern portion of Sunset Park (forming proposed district #1) and eastern Malibu with the center portion of North of Montana (forming proposed district #3). Malibu is not contiguous with the North of Montana neighborhood and certainly not with the Sunset Park neighborhood.

The Ocean Park neighborhood and the narrow strip of Sunset Park between Ocean Park and Pearl are combined into proposed district #4. This district is neither easily identifiable nor understandable, and violates Sunset Park's neighborhood integrity.

The proposed district that contains the Pico neighborhood, which has been home to many residents (and voters) who have historically been part of marginalized communities oddly includes the portion of Sunset Park between Pico and Pearl, which primarily consists of single-family homes (forming proposed district #7) combining two different communities of interest

The lines appear to be drawn so as to place certain current SMMUSD Board members into the same district intentionally to force at least one of them out in each of those proposed districts. The FAIR Maps Act of 2023 explicitly prohibits the consideration of an incumbent's place of residence in drawing maps and prohibits drawing district lines for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent (or a political candidate or political party).

We urge LACOE to reject the proposed map, which is in violation of the FAIR Maps Act of 2023, and to further reject the petition to change SMMUSD to by-district elections as it would negatively impact the ability of voters to elect representatives of their choice to serve our community. The proposed map clearly violates the law and the petition it accompanies is based on falsehoods and misrepresentations about SMMUSD elections. At-large elections have served our community well; School Board members from diverse backgrounds who are concerned about all students have been elected for many years. We believe that having seven votes for School Board provides for better representation as being able to vote for only one candidate who lives in one's district would do a great disservice to our communities and to the students who attend our schools.

The proposed map and the petition seeking to force the SMMUSD Board to by-district elections would actually disenfranchise eligible voters by 85%! SMMUSD's integrity requires at large elections. For all students to receive a quality education there needs to be a community of voters and stakeholders who can exercise full enfranchisement and voting rights to have the freedom to elect a school board genuinely representing the whole of the school district.

Sincerely,

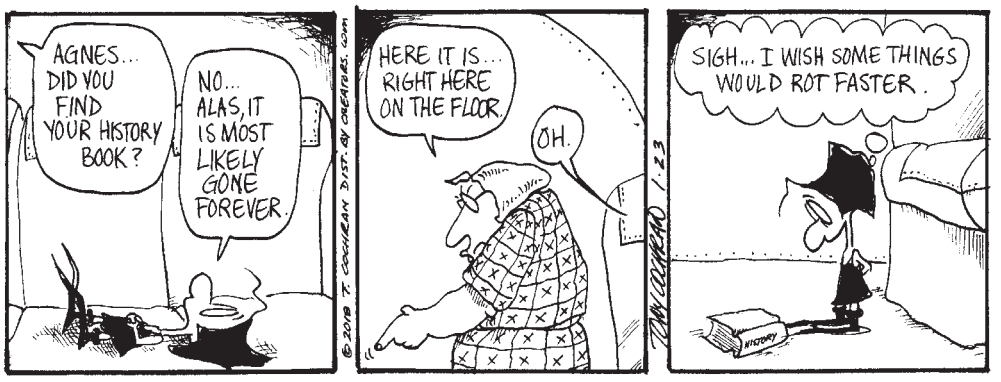
Sam Cozolino, SaMoSSA Youth Leadership Collective
Brad Ewing, Co-Chair, Santa Monica Forward
Nicole Faries, Santa Monica Resident
Cris Gutierrez, Teacher-Scholar/Retired Educator
Dan Hall, Santa Monica Resident
Carl Hansen, Co-Chair, Santa Monica Forward
Jon Katz, President, Santa Monica Democratic Club
Maria Leon-Vazquez, SMMUSD Board Member
Ellis Raskin, Santa Monica Resident
Cynthia Rose, Co-Chair SaMo Safe Streets Alliance
Willa Ross, SaMoSSA Youth Leadership Collective
Julie Rusk, Santa Monica Resident
Maya Williams, SaMoSSA Youth Leadership Collective
Ted Winterer, Santa Monica Resident
Natalya Zernitskaya, Santa Monica Resident
Emery Cunningham, SaMoSSA Youth Leadership Collective

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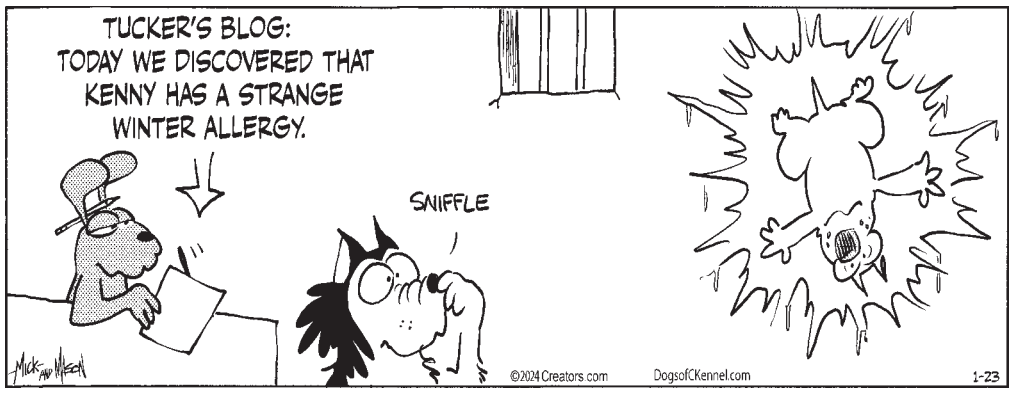
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



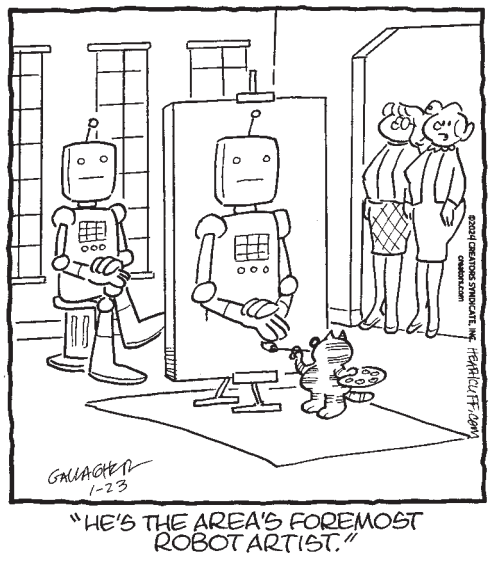
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE'S THE AREA'S FOREMOST ROBOT ARTIST."

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6098

Look to the heavens

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

Anxious	Earth	Mass	Saturn
Array	Europa	Mercury	Scans
Atom	Haumea	Moon	Science
Beam	Heavenly	NASA	Shuttle
Centaur	Ice giant	Neptune	Solar
Ceres	Inner	Outer	Star
Comet	Lens	Phase	Suns
Constellation	Lift off	Poles	Time
Crash	Lunar	Retrograde	Uranus
Data	Maps	orbit	Walk
Dust	Mars	Risks	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 23)

When you don't feel confident, you hold on to courage and move forward anyway, only to become an oft-rewarded favorite of the fates who delight you, sending amazements from the realm of relationships, nature, technology, sports and art. The more awe you feel, the more awesome experiences you attract. You'll funnel more and more resources to the people and purposes you care about. Gemini and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 14, 3, 37, 28 and 11

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Inspiration is nice, but plenty can be accomplished without it. And if you're unmotivated, don't worry about that either; most things get done by people who just act. Action begets momentum, motivation's close and capable cousin.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your head is filled with ideas and adventures. This happens whether or not you happen to be entranced with someone, but romantic fascinations definitely have a way of amping your powers of imagination.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Whatever is stopping you from doing what you want to do, there's a way to clear the obstacle, and it's probably not going to be by bulldozing over it. Think your way over, under and around it first.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You've trained, learned and practiced to execute the moves masterfully, and yet you almost feel like when you're working at top capacity, you're not even the one doing it. It's a state of flow you'll know more and more often.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're coming from the right place — pure intention to create the highest good for all. Because of this, when you make your move, you won't lose. Your reward may not be forthcoming, and that's the point. Pure intentions are their own reward.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The visionaries in your life are priceless. You possess this gift, too, but it can be hard to use it on yourself. That's why those who can see your talents and project a certain kind of future for you are so essential to your progress.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll pull from many places and organize your resources, aligning them into intricate systems and rows like a giant dominoes design. When this goes off, it will be beautiful synchronicity.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You've a talent for productivity. You're so efficient and will see the way people can work together, better utilize resources, cut out unnecessary processes and get the right things done.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You make relationships a top priority, and as a result, they thrive. Listening well is an act of love and not always one that's easy to execute. Lead with your curiosity. Quality conversations start with quality questions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Overthinking is the enemy of production. Get into the doing of things as soon as possible. Make quick work of your task. You're inventive. You'll create quickly and deliver before you have time to second-guess — sweet success!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A prize is sweeter if you have to work for it. You'll be undaunted by false starts, delays, missed connections, wrong answers or detours. You'll welcome challenges, and because of this, they skip you and your way becomes easy.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It may be unclear the best way to assess a new situation. The nerves go away when you take a breath and push your feelings into the situation instead of trying to use your intellect. Start with the people involved. What's their mood?

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

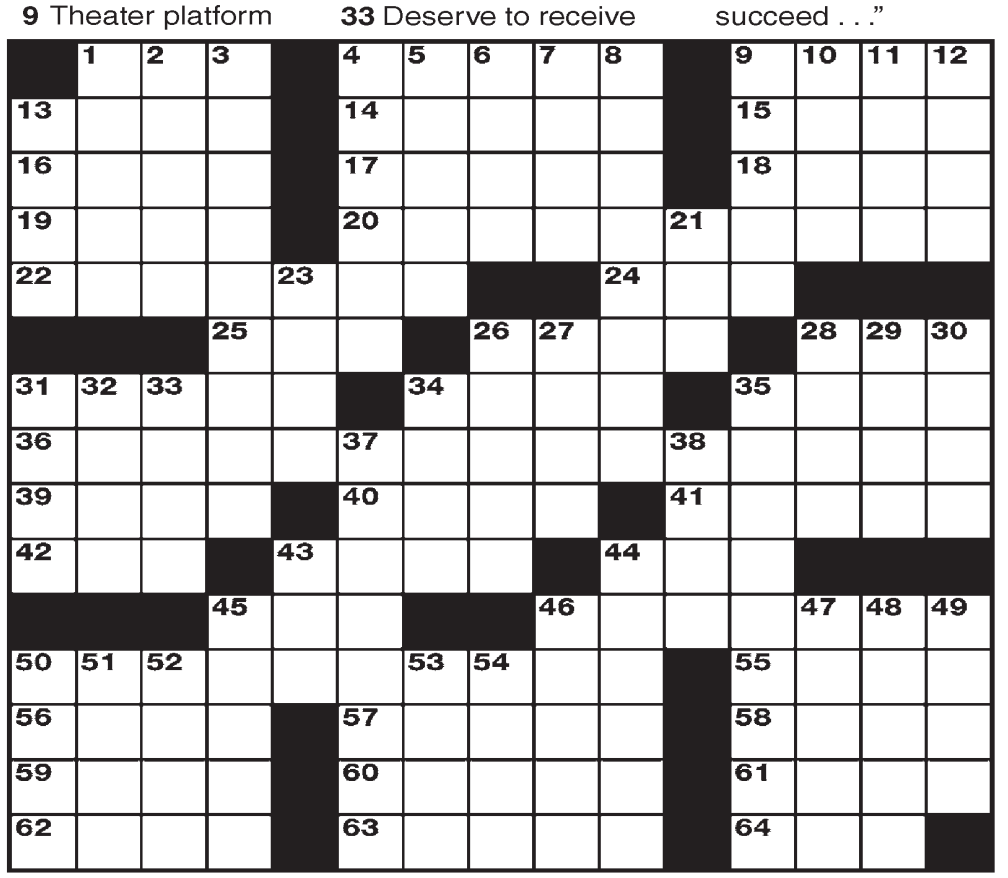
TRANSACTIONS by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 __ Moines, IA
4 Steep rocky ledge
9 Food for a parakeet
13 Eyelid hair
14 In a few hours
15 Ballet skirt
16 Prefix for freeze
17 Central Florida city
18 __ and crafts
19 Stairway part
20 Betraying one's principles
22 Gets furious
24 Barely passing grade
25 Beret or fedora
26 Transmitted
28 "Big Blue" tech company
31 Squad of best players
34 Farm storage tower
35 Oak or elm
36 Reminiscing with old friends
39 Grow weary
40 Horse's hair
41 Macaroni or ravioli
42 Rustic hotel
43 Letter carriers' org.
44 Family room
45 Athlete on a salary
46 "It must be my way"
50 Stalling
55 Turn __ (become)
56 Word-of-mouth
57 Lite, on food labels
58 Make revisions to
59 Folklore monster
60 Old maxim
61 __-to-five worker
62 Patch up, as pants
63 Lavished affection (on)
64 Label on luggage

DOWN

1 *Inferno* author
2 Lauder of cosmetics
3 In good order
4 Space to hang clothes
5 Tied, as sneakers
6 Slanted typeface: Abbr.
7 Took a tumble
8 "Nope"
9 Theater platform
10 Coin of Spain
11 Julius Caesar's rebuke
12 Wipe clean, as furniture
13 Young girl
21 Tennis court divider
23 Highway exit
26 Gives an autograph
27 "So what __ is new?"
28 Part of the eye
29 Borscht vegetable
30 Southwestern tableland
31 __ spumante wine
32 Narrow bed size
33 Deserve to receive
34 Break sharply
35 Short-term visitor
37 "That's great news!"
38 Unlock
43 Large coffee maker
44 Tried to slim down
45 In a heap
46 Mirror reflection
47 Taj Mahal's country
48 Bee's attack
49 Carryall bag
50 Explosion sound
51 Strongly recommend
52 Knitter's material
53 Phrase atop a chore list
54 "__ first you don't succeed . . ."



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

SPORTS

FROM PAGE 2

Next Game: Tuesday at Mira Costa, 3:30 p.m.

SAINT MONICA BOYS BASKETBALL:
Wednesday, January 17:
Mariners at Cathedral
Mariners win 75-45
Friday, January 19:
Mariners at Salesian
Mariners win 47-22
Mariners Record: 14-10 (3-2 Camino Real League)
Next Game: Wednesday at Paraclete, 7 p.m.

SAINT MONICA GIRLS BASKETBALL:
Monday, January 15:
Mariners vs Millikan
Mariners win 50-31
Tuesday, January 16:
Mariners vs Bishop Conaty-Loretto
Mariners win 59-33
Thursday, January 18:
Mariners at Serra
Mariners win 46-24
Mariners Record: 15-9 (7-2 Camino Real League)
Next Game: Tuesday at Saint Joseph, 6 p.m.

SAINT MONICA BOYS SOCCER:
Wednesday, January 17:
Mariners vs Verbum Dei Jesuit
Mariners win 1-0
Friday, January 19:
Mariners vs Serra
Mariners win 4-0
Mariners Record: 6-5-1 (6-0 Santa Fe League)
Next Game: Wednesday at Bosco Tech, 3:30 p.m.

SAINT MONICA GIRLS SOCCER:
Tuesday, January 16:
Mariners vs St. Bernard
Mariners win 5-0
Thursday, January 18:
Mariners vs San Gabriel Mission
Mariners win 13-0
Mariners Record: 14-0 (10-0 Santa Fe League)
Next Game: Tuesday at Beverly Hills, 5:30 p.m.

SISTER CITY

FROM PAGE 1

the mayor.

Other Santa Monica dignitaries at the City Hall visit included Santa Monica City Manager David White, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Antonio Shelton and Santa Monica Mayor Pro Tem Lana Negrete, who added that she is "grateful" for the visit and the enduring sharing of culture between the cities.

The sharing of culture goes both ways, as local residents have visited Fujinomiya, including for a 2015 girls' soccer tournament. During that visit, the Santa Monica delegation was taken to several tourist attractions, including Mount Fuji. The two cities have also continued to partner through student exchange programs, another endeavor that meets the statement of the Sister Cities International network created in the 1950s.

"The statement is peace in the world, one person at a time, one community at a time, and it works because people love the exchange," Jarow added.

Another sister city visit is on the horizon, with a delegation from Hamm in the weeks before the summer homestay exchange program gets underway.

thomas@smdp.com

JOURNALISM

FROM PAGE 5

creates a forum for negotiations to take place, in which California publishers can negotiate how these companies use their content to improve their services – as well as strip their content for the large language models underpinning the AI revolution.

Critics argue that the CJPA would primarily benefit large media outlets, but the fact that large news organizations benefit is not necessarily a bad thing: they employ thousands of people, create jobs, conduct expensive investigations and lobby on behalf of journalism. They also generate and receive the most traffic from tech platforms.

The multibillion-dollar behemoths Google and Meta have successfully exploited this divide between large and small publishers by narrowing the discussion to focus on clickthrough rates and traffic, all while haggling over the equivalent of pennies. Unfortunately, news publishers have bought into this narrow conception of value, which equates value with pageviews and disregards the ways that journalism improves their platforms, even if users aren't looking for news or don't click through on a headline.

A recent study found that the integration of journalistic content in Google search results positively affects user satisfaction and success rates, translating into millions of dollars in revenue. Researchers have found that the value of news is far higher than policymakers or publishers think it is, with another study estimating that Google and Meta should owe at least $13 billion a year to U.S. publishers.

Furthermore, the narrow lens for value ignores the public interest served by journalism and the tax that is imposed on the public when local businesses can't survive, civic life is reduced to engagement metrics, and local corruption proliferates because there is no on-the-ground watchdog holding those in power accountable.

The CJPA is not just legislation for the media industry; it is a crucial step toward preserving the public interest in California. It recognizes the foundational role of journalism in sustaining democracy, promoting accountability and maintaining civic life. It deserves the full support of lawmakers and press freedom advocates.

Dr. Courtney C. Radsch is the director of the Center for Journalism and Liberty at the Open Markets Institute. This article was originally published by CalMatters.



TUESDAY | JANUARY 23

TUESDAY TALES: A TRAVELING STORYTIME
10:30 - 11 a.m. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. This engaging & fun weekly series of stories, songs and rhymes travels to different library locations. Limited space; free tickets available at 10:15 a.m. For ages 2-5.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
5:30 PM until concluded, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. 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. https://www.smgov.net/departments/clerk/agendas.aspx

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS CLUB
4:30 - 6 p.m. Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Avenue. Learn how to play Dungeons & Dragons at the Library, from crafting the perfect character to participating in a short campaign. Materials provided. No registration necessary. For ages 10-18.

WEDNESDAY | JANUARY 24

COMMON APPLICATION WORKSHOP
1 - 2:30 p.m. Virtual. The Common Application is a web based application that is used by over 600 local and out of state colleges and universities (e.g. USC, Pepperdine, and LMU to name a few). An SMC counselor will explain how to complete the Common Application.
https://www.smc.edu/calendar/index.php#event-details/7cf28761-b400-4d1b-9e3a-d55fd54fb9d0

E-MEDIA Q&A
7 p.m. - 8 p.m. West Los Angeles Regional Branch Library, 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard. Want to learn how to get e-books, audiobooks, movies, and the NY Times, WSJ, Washington Post for free? Access Consumer Reports? Would you like to go to the zoo, CA state parks, Grammy, or Natural History Museum for Zilch? Stream 20M songs? Come learn how it's all free with your library card! Bring any questions you have about our e-media resources or the library in general, and we'll assist or just come in to listen and learn. Very casual, small group.

THURSDAY | JANUARY 25

TK-K ROUNDUP
Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District TK and Kindergarten Roundup will take place at neighborhood schools throughout the day, and is an opportunity for Santa Monica and Malibu parents of children entering TK or Kindergarten for the upcoming year to meet the principal and teachers of their neighborhood school, learn about before and after school care, and begin the registration process for the school year. Franklin Elementary begins at 8 a.m., McKinley Elementary, Will Rogers Learning Community and Grant Elementary begin at 9 a.m. Webster Elementary School begins at 1:45 p.m., and Malibu Elementary School begins at 2 p.m. For Edison Language Academy and Santa Monica Alternative School House (SMASH), check with school.

POWER OF BUSINESS
The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce will host its second annual business summit, "Power of Business," from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Santa Monica Brew Works, 1920 Colorado Ave Suite C. Topics covered include workforce, markets and procurement. Includes Emmy Squared best "Detroit-style" pizza and unique craft beer. Tickets $75 for members, $95 for non-members. For sponsorship opportunities contact judy.kruger@smchamber.com. For vendor tables contact leann.oliver@smchamber.com. Registration can be done at: https://santamonicachamber.chambermaster.com/eventregistration/register/22035.

CAROUSEL OF FOOLS
Rogue Artists Ensemble presents a one-night-only immerse carnival party, Carousel of Fools, at the Santa Monica Pier in the historic Looff Hippodrome from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Features new original interactive performances and visits from colorful characters of Rogue past. The night will include a special taste of Rogues' work in development, "Schlitzie: Alive and Inside the Decaying Sideshow." General admission tickets $40, Carnival VIP $240. Tickets can be purchased at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/carousel-of-fools-tickets-742611841007.

MARINA HOTEL DINNER
An Evening with Buckhorn Vineyards at The Marina del Rey Hotel, 13534 Bali Way, begins at 7 p.m. with the esteemed Buckhorn Portfolio. Savor a seated dinner complemented by exquisite wine pairings from Duckhorn Vineyards, Decoy, Canvasback and more. General admission ticket, $95 per person, comes with a welcome glass of Decoy Brut Cuvée Sparkling Wine and a three-course dinner. Tickets can be purchased at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-evening-with-duckhorn-vineyards-at-the-marina-del-rey-hotel-tickets-768652920577.

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

ONLINE BANKING: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW
4- 5 p.m. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.
Certified financial coaches from Haven Neighborhood Services share tips for navigating online banking apps, shopping securely online, avoiding scams, and understanding monthly online statements. A Q&A follows the presentation.

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

Submit your event at smdp.com/events

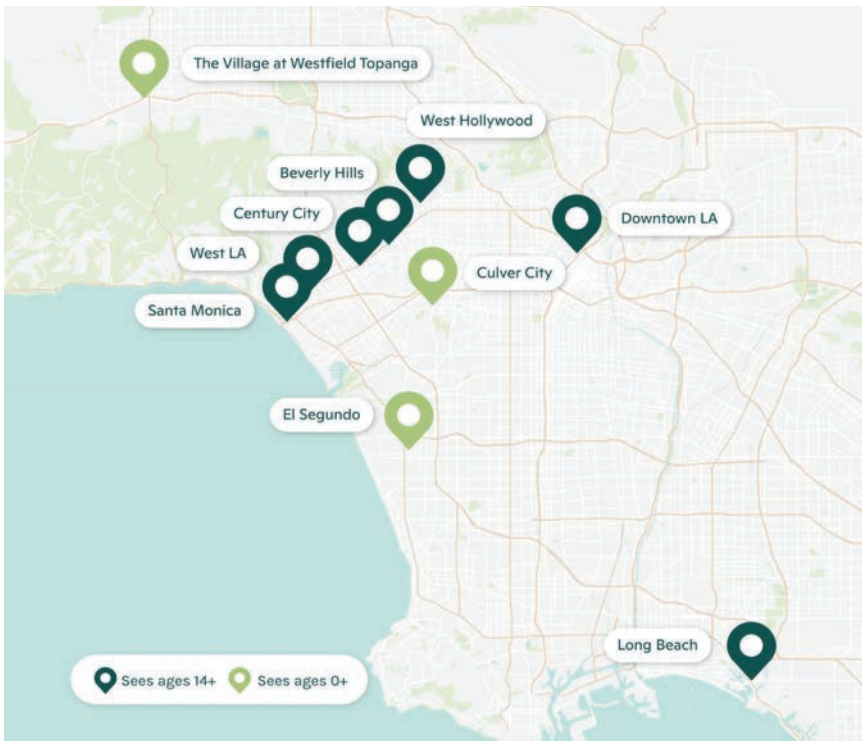
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