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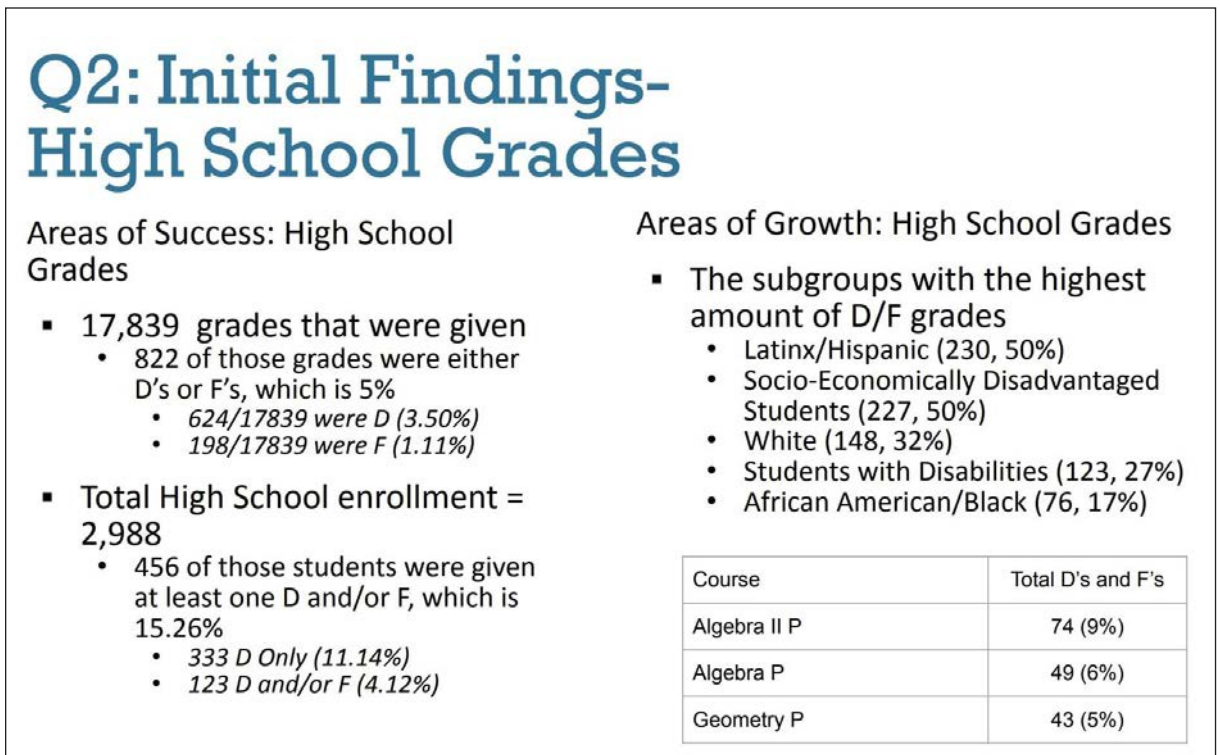
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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 54 TUESDAY 2/4/25 smdp.com

School board stumped by low grades and high test scores



Courtesy Graphic

GRADES: The amount of Ds and Fs given out in secondary school math classes piqued the interest of the SMMUSD Board of Education.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District officials expressed concern last week over high numbers of failing math grades, with more than 800 secondary students receiving D or F marks in the fall semester, despite improved standardized test performance.

SMMUSD Director of Assessment, Research and Evaluation Patrick Miller presented the board with the Quarter 2 Lead Metrics Report on Jan. 23, which encapsulates assessment scores, English Learner reclassification, secondary school grades and attendance/disciplinary statistics. A major takeaway from secondary school grades was the amount of D and F grades given out in math courses, a difference from scores in Star and CAASPP assessments.

Both student participation and scoring on the 2024 Star Math Fall Diagnostic Assessment were up from the prior year, with 96% participation for students eligible for the exam (up from 85% in 2023) and 79% of students reaching at or above benchmark scores.

The assessment score was up 4% from the prior year, though this is something Miller said was to be anticipated because the Star is a "norm reference test" that adjusts scores based on 5-year national data. Similarly, Star Reading benchmarks went up from 68% in 2023 to 81% in 2024 based on the sliding scale.

Even with the caveat, math achievement scores increased, which made some of the board confused when secondary school grades were reported. Out of the 822 D or F grades given to high school students over the fall semester, 166 were in Algebra, Algebra II and Geometry courses. For the 434 D or F grades handed to middle schoolers, 52 of which came from the 8th Grade Math Core course.

Assistant Superintendent of

SEE **GRADES** PAGE 7

Trump administration rollout leaves school officials disappointed

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Not even a month into Donald Trump's presidency, local educators have already been disheartened by the administration's potential actions.

On Jan. 27, The White House initially announced a pause of federal grants and loans, including grants toward education programs. While the potential pause was temporarily blocked by a federal judge before it took effect, the motion still sparked unrest for Santa Monica College officials.

In a message to the SMC community, Superintendent/ President Kathryn Jeffery said the college is "waiting on guidance from federal granting agencies" on how, if enacted, the Trump administration action would impact federal grants issued to SMC.

"A federal judge temporarily halted the Trump administration's executive action ruling that courts need more time to consider the far-reaching ramifications," Jeffery said. "Santa Monica College continues to collaborate closely with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and other partners to assess the impact of this and other executive orders on our college community."

Jeffrey made sure to note that federal financial aid SMC students are eligible for is still active, and that the U.S. Department of Education confirmed that federal Pell grants and student loans will not be impacted.

"This college stands firm in its commitment to maintaining a safe, dynamic and inclusive environment, where each individual matters - irrespective of immigration status, race, ethnicity, national origin, sexuality, gender, religion, ability, age, or socio-economic status," Jeffrey said.

Though student loans aren't in the crosshairs of the administration yet, the American Federation of Teachers warned that this might change during a Trump term.

During a December webinar, AFT Higher Education Assistant Director Nicole Hochsprung said that student loan relief may become "more elusive." She pointed

SEE **EDUCATION** PAGE 8

Pacific Coast Highway reopens a month after Palisades Fire forced its closure

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

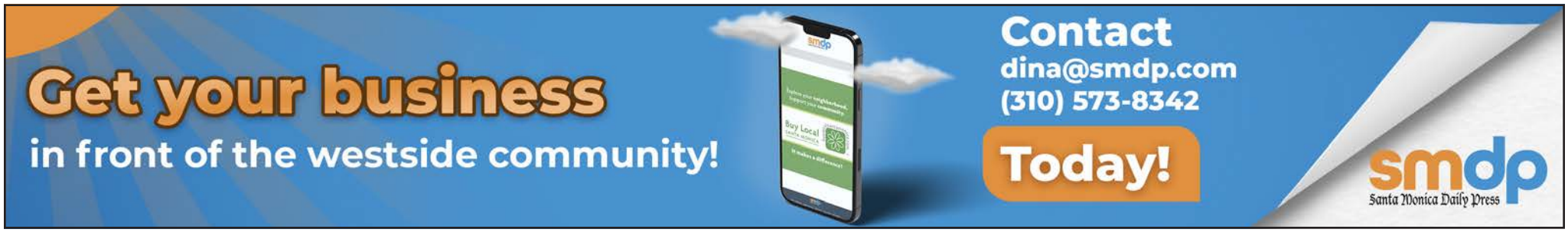
After a weekend of confusing statements and partial openings, the Pacific Coast Highway has reopened.

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) announced the reopening of State Route 1/Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) through the cities of Los Angeles, Santa Monica and Malibu to all motorists this week.

Caltrans said it was implementing traffic controls for the safety of motorists, repair crews and first responders. Motorists were told to expect major delays on PCH and Caltrans strongly advised people to allow extra time for their commutes or to avoid the area if possible.

Reopening was first announced on Friday with a target date of

SEE **PCH** PAGE 6



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OPINION | BECOMING SANTA MONICA

Miles Warner
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Surviving this difficult moment

I don't know about you, but I am feeling unmoored. After the wildfires and subsequent evacuations, then the disturbing new Federal administration's actions, which are clearly meant to wreak havoc, the ever-solid footing underneath, feels like it could give at any moment.

Maybe it has already given way and we are just treading water hoping to stay awake long enough to not drown?

The only action I know of in this powerless moment, is to prioritize love. To nurture the communities, we each share in. To reach out to your friends and loved ones and make time to see them. It will get worse before it gets better, and community is what makes the unendurable somehow endurable.

But even the idea of community has changed so much in recent years. How many of us rely on internet-based communities, further isolating our 'real' selves? Traditional third places, like churches or clubs are somewhat in decline, so the standard places we might share in community are not so clear. This I'm sure adds to the feelings of disconnection.

I have like so many toyed with checking out of the national news, and instead focusing on local issues and the people closest to me. I hide from the New York Times and have permanently switched NPR off. In this, I know that I'm not alone.

The combination of events: the new administration's intended chaos AND the monumental loss of our neighborhoods to the north; have put us in Santa Monica in an exceptionally destabilizing moment. Institutions we have grown accustomed to ignoring and taking for granted are now seemingly under threat. A whole neighborhood or swath of neighborhoods is simply gone.

Even the safety of the air we breathe feels uncertain.

"It will all be fine. Only the poor will suffer." I am told. How does one even respond to such an awful sentiment, and yet I'm sure many of us have had the thought, that somehow, we, in our fancy little progressive 'bubble' city will be safe. Heck even my last column purported as much.

I'll just look away and wait until it's all over.

Ahh but we (and you know who I mean by "we") elected a mentally ill reality TV star to run the show. And what a show it promises to be: High highs and low lows. Conflict and drama abounding. We know television here; we make it every day. There must be stakes and there must be suspense. Successful television makes a spectacle that one can't look away from.

He has already affirmed his pattern of behavior will continue, wherein he distracts from some real evil or stupid act by creating an outrageous crisis then he magically "solves the problem" by removing the crisis he'd created and claims success.

It's so exhausting.

With so much of the suffering that is coming, we have been able to look away. Like the recent airplane/helicopter crash at DCA, we can ignore it and it will not affect us.

But we can't look away completely in good conscience: The I.C.E. raids that we are already seeing in other parts of the country, are promised to arrive soon. The gutting of our foreign service and inspector generals' offices. The installation of loyalists in the military and in important federal posts throughout... Just to name a few recent actions.

I don't want to give him my attention, because I know more than anything that is what he wants. But if I insist on ignoring these outrageous and illegal actions, I risk being complacent to them—allowing them to happen.

I am sorry to say that I have no sure-fire wisdom regarding whether to watch the system slowly implode or ignore it so that you yourself don't self-destruct. I am certain however that it will take community building and reasonability to survive this moment and rebuild from it.

We need to foster the constructive qualities that directly oppose everything we are seeing at the top. We need to be moored in the knowledge that Santa Monicans will continue to look out for each other and do what's right.

I don't know what our future will look like on the other end of the current madness, but we will need to make real changes to our society—that is clear. Technology is about to change how almost everything works and resources will become quite different. The one thing that will certainly remain stable is our love for one another.

The work, as I see it, is to continue to foster a mature and cohesive community. So please connect with your neighbors (in-person if possible). Check in on the old lady next door and see how she is doing. Have coffee with someone you love. Make time to see your friends. It is the only way I see us moving forward positively. It is how we counteract the hate and fear, with love.

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR
Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California's carbon crusade faces resistance due to its real world impact



Photo by Camille Cohen for CalMatters

CARBON: An Electrify America charging station in Oakland on Feb. 27, 2024.

For the past two decades three California governors have committed the state to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions to battle climate change.

The official goal is to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045 via legislation, regulation, education, disruption and appropriation, so we're roughly at the halfway mark.

Conceptually, scrubbing carbon from the state's economy, particularly transportation and utility sectors, has enjoyed broad popular support. But as the self-imposed deadline looms, specific strategies to reduce emissions are encountering resistance as Californians feel their real world impacts.

The once-brisk sales of battery-powered cars, for instance, have hit a plateau. They still account for about 20% of all new car purchases, but to meet Gov. Gavin Newsom's decree of eliminating sales of gas-powered cars by 2035 they would need to increase exponentially.

The slowdown in EV sales is attributed to their cost, the lack of handy charging stations and the phaseout of federal subsidies even before Donald Trump became president again with a vow to bolster hydrocarbon production.

Conversion of the state's electric power system to renewable sources such as wind and solar is doubly tricky. Not only must the state phase out natural gas-fired generation while still meeting current needs, but it must expand output to cover demand from many millions of electric cars it assumes will be purchased and install enough battery backup capacity to cover demand when the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine.

Two simultaneous events this month frame the issue.

A new study, published in the Renewable Energy journal, found that in 2024, from late winter to early summer, renewable energy sources with battery backup supplied 100% of the state's demand for up to 10 hours on 98 of 116 days, a record.

The study was hailed by clean power advocates as proof that a 100% renewable grid is possible.

But as it was being celebrated, a huge battery facility at Moss Landing, near Monterey, was destroyed by a fire so intense that firefighters had to let it burn out.

Moreover, after the fire died, researchers at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories found high concentrations of toxic heavy metals in the nearby mudflats and marshes.

The toxic pollution is drawing critical attention in the scenic Monterey Bay region. County supervisors voted unanimously that another battery bank be shut down pending an investigation of the fire's causes and effects.

Vistra, owner of the destroyed Moss Landing plant, wants to build another plant at Morro Bay, another scenic coastal

SEE **CARBON** PAGE 8



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **56.8**

TUESDAY
FAIR

SURF: Thigh to waist
2-3FT

Small WNW pulse may nudge up. Another morning of clean conditions possible. Potential for modest WNW swell mix to continue, up a peg from Monday. Local wind still looks light so any swell that does make it to the region should be clean/rideable.

WEDNESDAY
FAIR

SURF: Knee to thigh
1-2FT

Another day of light wind and modest surf from the WNW. Modest/playful WNW swell mix to continue, the refresh from Tuesday holding steady. There continues to be better agreement on the reputable weather models on the storm sending the swell, so confidence is gradually increasing.

Weather

Tuesday: A chance of rain, mainly after 10am. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 60.
Tuesday Night: Rain likely. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 52.
Wednesday: Rain likely. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 58.
Wednesday Night: A chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 49.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2025/02/04	Tue	01:15 AM	5.08	H
2025/02/04	Tue	08:22 AM	0.99	L
2025/02/04	Tue	2:09 PM	2.78	H
2025/02/04	Tue	6:58 PM	1.68	L
2025/02/05	Wed	02:15 AM	5.17	H
2025/02/05	Wed	10:12 AM	0.55	L
2025/02/05	Wed	4:46 PM	2.54	H
2025/02/05	Wed	7:55 PM	2.30	L
2025/02/06	Thu	03:27 AM	5.27	H
2025/02/06	Thu	11:37 AM	-0.07	L
2025/02/06	Thu	6:54 PM	2.90	H
2025/02/06	Thu	9:53 PM	2.66	L
2025/02/07	Fri	04:40 AM	5.47	H
2025/02/07	Fri	12:38 PM	-0.64	L
2025/02/07	Fri	7:41 PM	3.31	H
2025/02/07	Fri	11:26 PM	2.62	L
2025/02/08	Sat	05:46 AM	5.73	H
2025/02/08	Sat	1:25 PM	-1.04	L

Daily Lottery

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

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 2/1
23 29 32 49 61
Power#: 8
Jackpot: 100 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/31
9 28 48 56 63
Mega#: 2
Jackpot: 77 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 2/1
3 12 16 22 43
Mega#: 2
Jackpot: 22 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/2
16 18 36 38 39

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

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 2/2
1st: 12 - Lucky Charms
2nd: 09 - Winning Spirit
3rd: 04 - Big Ben
Race Time: 1:47.11

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Santa Monica Daily Press

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed proposals for

- **RFP # 435 JOINT CREST ENRICHMENT, COMUNITY CLASSES & CAMPS, AQUATICS AND BEACH RECREATION**
- **Submission Deadline Is February, 27, 2025 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is OpenGov (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for the RFP package.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be opened and posted for:

BID #4499 PARKING STRUCTURE 5 STAIR RESURFACING

Non-Mandatory Job Walk will be held on 2/4/25 at 11:00 AM at 1440 4th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401

Submission Deadline is February 19, 2025 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: OpenGov (https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed proposals for

RFP: # 430 Enterprise Search Platform

- **Submission Deadline is March 4, 2025 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is OpenGov (https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca) There is no charge for the RFP package.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Proposals for:

Permeable Surface Alley Master Plan
Project No. SP2740

The City of Santa Monica is inviting proposals from firms interested in providing design, fabricate and installation services for the, Replica of the Historic Pier Sign Project.

The purpose of the RFP is to select the most qualified consultant to design and fabricate and install of the subject project.

RFP questions to be submitted to via OpenGov, no later than **3:00pm on February 13th, 2024.**

Proposers shall upload RFP via OpenGov, no later than **3:00pm on February 28th, 2024.**

RFP Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca.

California blesses political donors' strategy to multiply their influence



Photo by Jungho Kim for CalMatters

POLITICS: Assemblymember Gail Pellerin, engages in discussion during a panel titled "AI, Ethics, and Elections" at an event marking the 50th anniversary of the Political Reform Act at the McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento on Sept. 11, 2024.

After more than two years, California's political ethics watchdog has closed its investigation into a controversial campaign donor network, concluding that the group followed legal advice from the state and therefore did not violate contribution limits.

The decision clears the way for a bold new approach to raising and spending money in California elections. Political committees now have state regulators' blessing to create an unlimited number of affiliated committees with different leaders, and then closely coordinate fundraising and candidate donations among them. That could exponentially increase their influence on campaigns.

Govern For California — a 16-chapter nonprofit that aims to counter the influence of organized labor at the state Capitol and which aggressively backed the rise of Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas — declared "vindication" to its supporters.

But the extent of the Fair Political Practice Commission's probe over the past two years remains unclear. In a one-paragraph "no action closure letter" dated Monday, assistant enforcement chief Angela Brereton cited a 2020 advice letter to clear Govern For California of any wrongdoing.

"After our investigation and review of the evidence, the Enforcement Division has found that Govern For California has followed the advice given to it by the Commission," Brereton wrote. "Therefore, we are closing this matter without further action because the allegations have been disproven."

Brereton did not return a message seeking clarification. Shery Yang, a spokesperson for the commission, said in an email that the enforcement team "obtained and reviewed voluminous evidence to make its conclusion," but did not answer follow-up questions about what the evidence entailed. She also declined to provide a copy of the investigative report.

Govern for California founder David Crane, a Stanford University lecturer and former economic adviser to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, also did not respond to an interview request.

"We're happy the matter is closed, though not that we were dragged through the mud and had to spend time, energy and money defending against a politically-inspired action," he wrote in a message to his group's mailing list. "But we are aware that this is the sort of thing that happens to people who challenge the status quo in Sacramento."

A CalMatters report in 2022 explored Govern For California's growing prominence in state politics as Rivas, a Salinas Democrat, made his move to take control of Assembly leadership. That election cycle, the organization donated millions of dollars to dozens of legislative candidates; most of the money came from a small group of Bay Area venture capitalists, tech executives and philanthropists who maxed out to each chapter in its statewide network.

Several campaign finance experts told CalMatters that the structure of the chapters — which consult with Crane, receive a majority of their funding funneled through a central committee and regularly make identically

SEE **DONOR** PAGE 11

COMMUNITY NEWS

Citywide

SMC Planetarium Announces Free Virtual Shows In February

Santa Monica College's John Drescher Planetarium will host three free, live virtual shows in February 2025, exploring space, galaxies and the moon via Zoom.

The shows, set for Feb. 7, 21, and 28 at 8 p.m., will feature lecturer Sarah Vincent. Topics include the Karman Line and space definitions, galaxy types, and a lunar tour. Each presentation follows a 7 p.m. Night Sky Show digest.

Viewers must download Zoom at zoom.com. More information is available at smc.edu/planetarium or by calling 310-434-3005.

SUBMITTED BY SMC

Los Angeles

ASPCA Assists Over 900 Animals In Southern California Wildfire Response

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has assisted more than 900 animals in wildfire relief efforts since Jan. 9, responding to the Eaton and Palisades Fires.

Working with local and national partners, the ASPCA responded to 520 service calls involving lost pets, emergency veterinary care and supply needs. The organization launched a $5 million California Wildfire Response & Preparedness Fund to support animal welfare organizations.

"Providing vulnerable animals, pet owners, and shelters with lifesaving assistance has been a collaborative effort," said ASPCA President Matt Bershadker.

Heartwarming reunifications included rescuing three cats and a 29-fish koi pond. Celebrity ambassadors, including Nathan Lane and Eric McCormack, volunteered at Pasadena Humane to help displaced animals.

More information: aspca.org/lawildfireresponse.

SUBMITTED BY ASPCA

Los Angeles

spcaLA Pet Adoption Center Reopens for Adoptionsspca

LA has reopened its Pet Adoption Center after using the facility to house pets of fire evacuees since January 8th.

The center now offers adoptions Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., with pets also viewable online at spcaLA.com/adopt.

"Pet restrictions should be lifted or reexamined during this time," said spcaLA President Madeline Bernstein. "While we fight price-gouging, this is a good opportunity to encourage pet-friendly housing and address bad pet policies, like breed restrictions."

Pets remaining in spcaLA's care have been relocated to a different facility. Some animals, including a pet named Nova, were relinquished after their families lost homes in the Eaton Fire.

The independent, nonprofit organization, serving Southern California since 1877, encourages donations through spcaLA.com/donate and pet adoptions.

For more information, contact Ana Bustilloz at 323-707-1271 or abustilloz@spcaLA.com.

SUBMITTED BY SPCALA

Venice

Venice Chamber of Commerce Welcomes Karin Wallerstein as its New CEO

The Venice Chamber of Commerce has announced Karin Wallerstein's appointment as its new CEO.

Wallerstein is a long-time resident and active community member who brings experience, dedication, and passion to her new role. Having lived in Venice for 14 years, Wallerstein has been deeply involved in the local community. She has served on the Venice Chamber of Commerce Board for three years, most recently as Membership Director. Wallerstein is also the current Vice President of the Santa Monica Rotary Club, where she has led philanthropic initiatives and worked tirelessly to support the community.

"I am honored and excited to lead the Venice Chamber of Commerce into its next chapter," said Wallerstein. "With the blend of the unique Venice character and the Chamber as a catalyst for economic growth, we can see a thriving Venice for all to enjoy!"

Wallerstein earned her Master's Degree in Criminal Justice and Research from John Jay College in New York City and has devoted her time and leadership skills to various community efforts. In addition to her work with the Chamber and Rotary Club, she is a Notary Public. She believes in teamwork and collaboration and is eager to foster strong relationships within the Venice community to drive growth and opportunity.

Wallerstein steps into the role as the Chamber bids farewell to Donna Lasman, who is moving on and exploring new possibilities after 14 years of dedicated service. Lasman has been a cornerstone of the Venice Chamber, overseeing numerous initiatives and fostering community engagement.

"I am grateful and honored to have served the Venice community and blessed to have worked with so many gifted and dedicated people who have generously volunteered their time and talents to support the Chamber and Venice," said Lasman. "I am confident that Karin's leadership, abilities, energy, and passion are perfect for the new and exciting direction for the Chamber!"

SUBMITTED BY THE VENICE CHAMBER

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PCH

FROM PAGE 1

Sunday. However, on Saturday night, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said reopenings would be delayed while the Los Angeles Police Department worked to transition security operations to the California Highway Patrol in an effort to maintain security of the burned out zones. Los Angeles Supervisor Lindsay Horvath responded by saying the County would reopen it's sections of the PCH over the weekend with the LA Sheriff handling security.

While the dueling statements caused confusion over the weekend, everyone was on the same page come Monday when traffic resumed on the PCH.

According to Caltrans, the following modifications and safety measures are in place:

PCH is reduced to one lane each direction with a 25 mile per hour speed limit between Temescal Canyon Road in Pacific Palisades and Carbon Beach Terrace in Malibu.

There is one lane through the McClure Tunnel from westbound I-10 to northbound PCH, and one lane entering northbound PCH from the California Incline. These two lanes merge into one lane, potentially causing delays.

All signalized intersections are on flashing red. Please remember to treat these as a four-way stop, even if the intersection is dark due to a power outage.

There is no parking, no stopping and no pedestrians allowed in the work zone. Please remember there may be slow vehicles moving in and out of the lanes. Law enforcement will be citing motorists.

On PCH in both directions, the right lane is closed to allow safe access for utility workers to repair gas, electric and water service; debris haulers to remove hazardous and other household materials and waste; and contractors to continue their work on slope restoration and property repairs that allows for safe rebuilding.

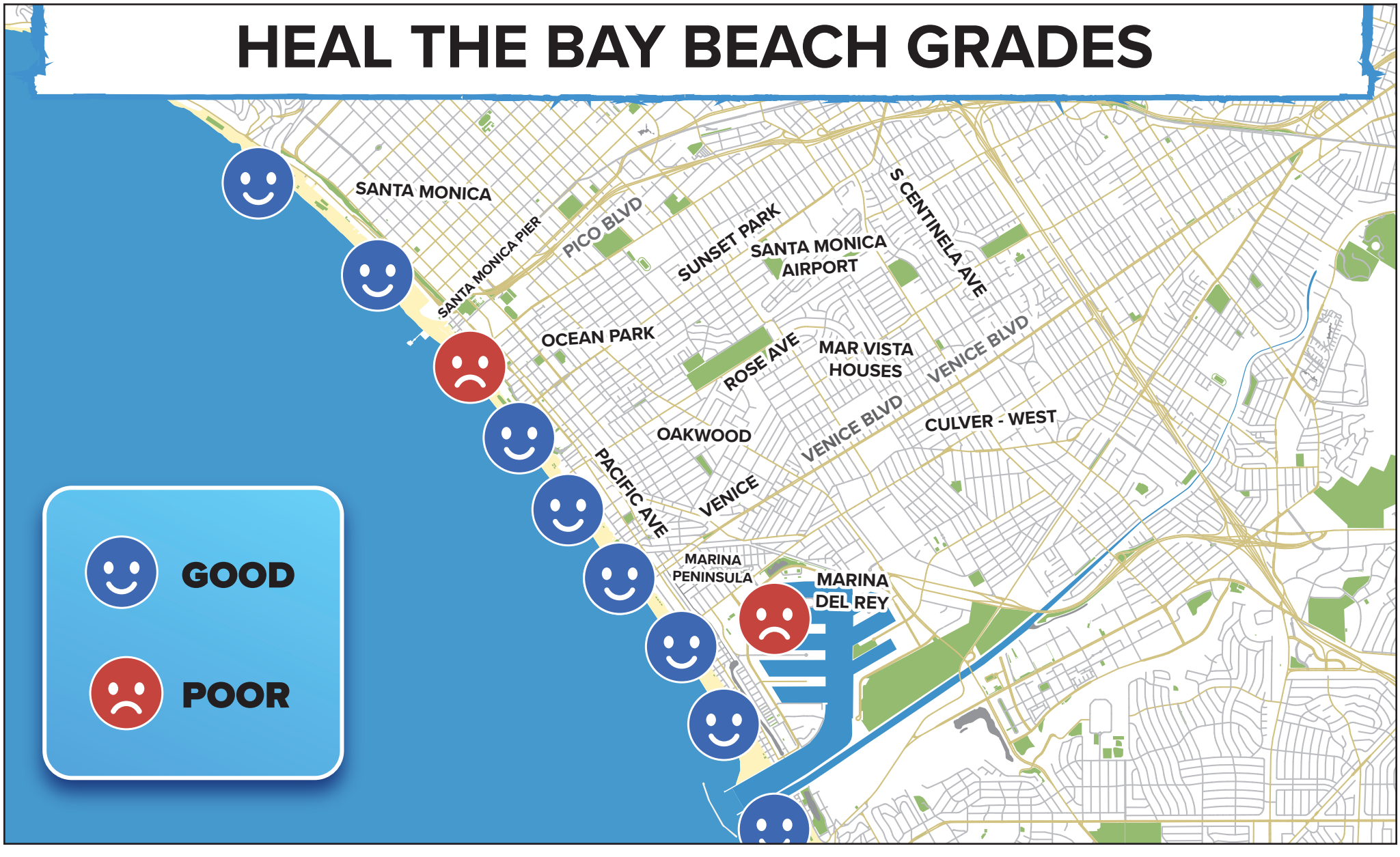
Caltrans reminds motorists that traffic fines can be doubled in an active work zone. Motorists should use caution driving through the area and should slow down for workers.

editor@smdp.com



Courtesy image

OPEN: The PCH is finally open after the Palisades Fire.



Mixed results for local high school basketball teams

DARRYL HARVEY
SMDP Intern

While all eyes may be on the NBA, local high school basketball has been in full swing over the past week

ST. MONICA MARINERS STRUGGLE TO HOLD OFF THE SAINTS OF ST. ANTHONY

Jan. 30 was senior night for the St. Monica Lady Mariners girls basketball team, with the Lady Mariners falling to St. Anthony 65-61.

The Lady Mariners started the game with purpose, utilizing sharp ball movement and three-point shooting from the jump. Early on, the squad capitalized on solid ball movement, leading to multiple three-point makes and causing St. Anthony coach Ray Bennet to call out his players in the first quarter.

St. Anthony cut into the deficit thanks to the effort of do-it-all Jordyn Washington, who found her confidence in the second quarter and led the Saints to a 23-18 halftime lead over the Lady Mariners. Washington finished the contest with 20 points, aided by Saints teammate Kadence Lloyd's 21-point effort.

The second half turned intense, with multiple players from both teams committing hard fouls in the third quarter. The Lady Mariners stayed in the game in the third, only trailing 41-38 at the end of the quarter thanks to the two-way efforts of Kim Macias. Macias finished with 26 points and the guard was able to initiate the St. Monica offense.

In the fourth, the Lady Mariners' Sydney Ghobrial helped out Macias by showing her toughness and making timely three-point shots. Despite Ghobrial playing a key factor down the stretch, Lloyd was key to the Saints breaking away for the four-point victory, fighting through the St. Monica press and earning the game's MVP honors.

St. Monica fell to 18-6 overall after the contest, and went 1-1 over the next two with a double overtime loss to San Dimas and a win over St. Mary's Academy. The Lady Mariners' final regular season game took place Tuesday against La Salle.

CROSSROADS HOLDS OFF WINDWARD SCHOOL IN BACK AND FORTH CONTEST

Crossroads High School edged out Windward School 58-55 in a thrilling basketball contest Saturday, rallying from an early deficit to secure a critical road victory.

Lucas Bozé led Crossroads with 21 points, while Louis Bond scored 18 for Windward in the back-and-forth game.

Windward jumped to an early lead, up 19-12 at the end of the first quarter. The Wildcats maintained their advantage through most of the game, holding a one-point lead at halftime.

The tide turned in the third quarter, with Crossroads taking a narrow 44-43 lead heading into the final period.

The game's dramatic conclusion came in the closing seconds. Bond hit a 3-pointer to give Windward a 55-54 lead with 34 seconds remaining. But E.J. Vernon answered with a go-ahead layup with just 11.4 seconds left, sealing the victory for Crossroads.

Freshman Van Moczydlowsky played a key role off the bench, providing crucial plays and helping to spark the Crossroads comeback.

The win improves Crossroads' record to 12-13 as they approach the season's end on February 5 against Viewpoint.

GRADES

FROM PAGE 1

Educational Services Dr. Stacy Williamson said that math has always been an area of need in the district, with board member Jon Kean adding that looking at the secondary grades doesn't provide him with any potential solution.

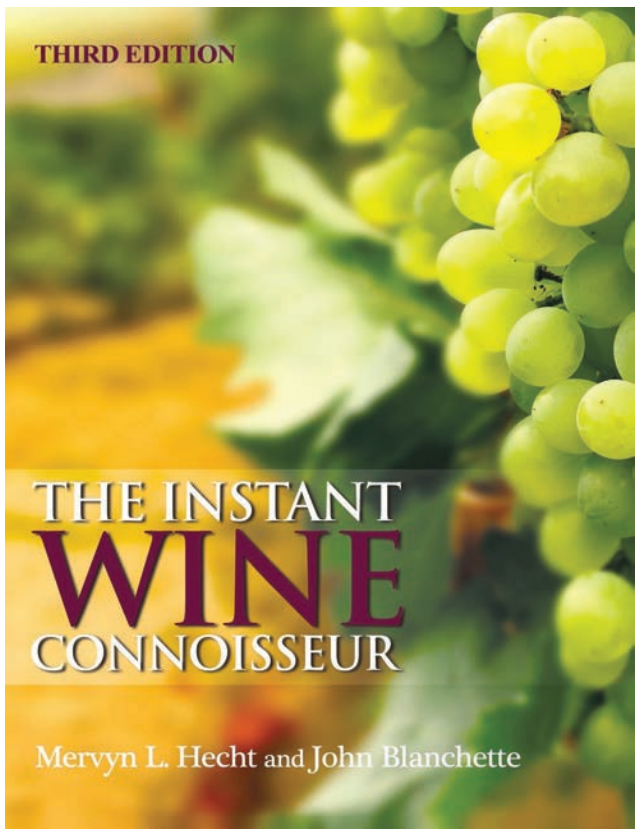
"I think we have a problem with math, and I don't know the answer ... that was my takeaway from this (report), we have a math problem," Kean said.

One conversation was around looking at grading policy with math, seeking a districtwide balanced practice on how grades are given out. Board member Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein added that this has to do with the "equity of grading" as well as an inconsistent amount of assignments put before students from class to class and school to school.

"I do not believe there's a consistent expectation across all sites around grading practices, number of assignments in the grade book, types of assignments, how marks are assessed ... other than adherence to the existing grade policy," Miler said.

thomas@smdp.com

★★★★★ A light-hearted fun read.
★★★★★ Well written, particularly useful, instantly accessible.
★★★★★ ...Hecht has a joyful eye and fabulous taste



Daily Press Food &Wine Columnist Merv Hecht takes you on an delightful tour of the world of wine. A fun way to increase your appreciation and knowledge of wine.

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EDUCATION

FROM PAGE 1

to reasons such as the potential limiting or elimination of Public Service Loan Forgiveness and income-based repayment programs; as well as the end of the College Cost Reduction Act.

"Higher ed experts expect (the) administration to follow some form of the Project 2025 playlist," AFT stated. "That means banning public employee labor unions; eliminating the Department of Education; eliminating student loan forgiveness; imposing federal regulations on the accreditation process ... eliminating anything diversity, equity or inclusion-related; halting Title IX investigations; and requiring research to serve the national interest and be aligned with conservative principles."

Another move made by the Trump administration in its opening weeks led to a message from Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District last week. A move to throw out sensitive location policies, leaving schools subject to immigration law enforcement, left SMMUSD Superintendent Dr. Antonio Shelton "deeply disappointed."

"Our schools are mandated to ensure that no student is denied enrollment or faced with barriers to their educational opportunities based on their or their family's immigration status," Shelton said. "Our schools serve as safe havens for our students and families and will continue to do so."

Shelton and the SMMUSD Board of Education reaffirmed that campuses will continue to be safe zones for educational opportunity, and will commit to a new resolution regarding this during a Feb. 6 board meeting.

"We continue to provide access and opportunity to an excellent education and social emotional supports to all students," Shelton added. "SMMUSD will continue to be the welcoming school district to all students in the neighborhoods we serve."

On Jan. 29, another Trump executive order aimed squarely at education. The order would prohibit federal funds from reaching K-12 public schools that teach either critical race theory or gender issues.

> Our schools are mandated to ensure that no student is denied enrollment or faced with barriers to their educational opportunities based on their or their family's immigration status
>
> - Dr. Antonio Shelton, SMMUSD Superintendent

A second executive order signed that day looks to prioritize federal funding for expanded school choice programs, which some experts have warned will defund and destabilize the public school system.

thomas@smdp.com

CARBON

FROM PAGE 3

community in San Luis Obispo County. Local voters passed a ballot measure last year to block its construction, but the firm has said it would bypass that opposition by seeking a direct state permit.

The state's blueprint for meeting its carbon emission goal assumes that offshore windmill farms will supply oodles of clean power, but that approach is also facing some headwinds.

As CalMatters reported, Morro Bay is also the epicenter of growing opposition among coastal residents, who see it as a form of industrialization that would change the look and character of their communities. Offshore windmills would require extensive on-shore support facilities, plus new high-voltage power lines to carry the juice to urban areas.

Finally, there's another potential conflict that's developing below the political radar — whether solar farms should replace crops on San Joaquin Valley farms as farmers face declining water supplies. Much like coastal opposition to battery banks and offshore windmills, rural communities are wary about a solar panel conversion that would alter their economies and lifestyles.

There's no question that eliminating California's carbon footprint is technologically possible, given enough financial investment. But is it politically possible?

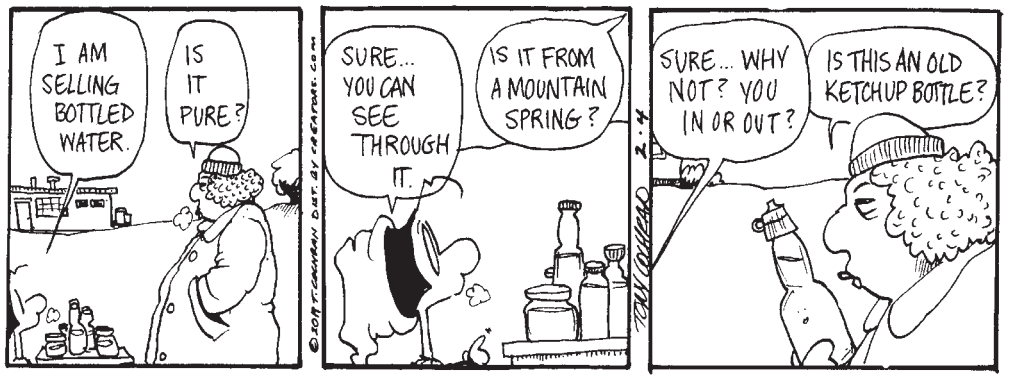
By Dan Walters. This article was originally published by CalMatters.



GET IT DAILY...

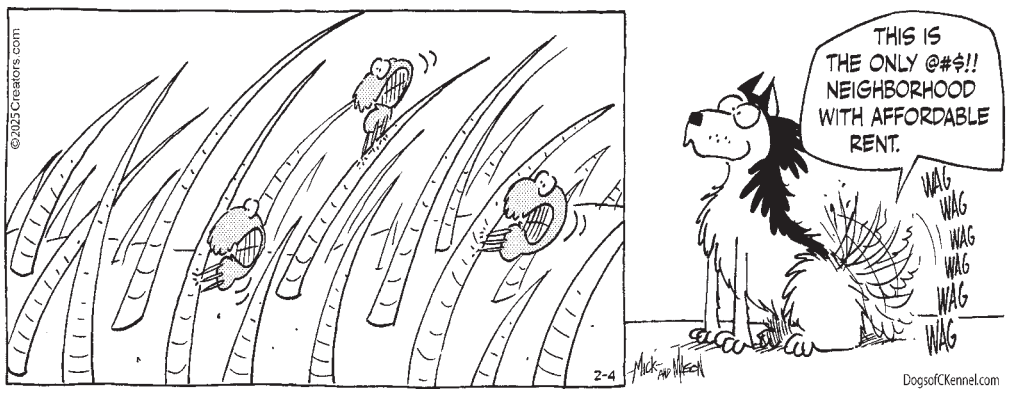
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



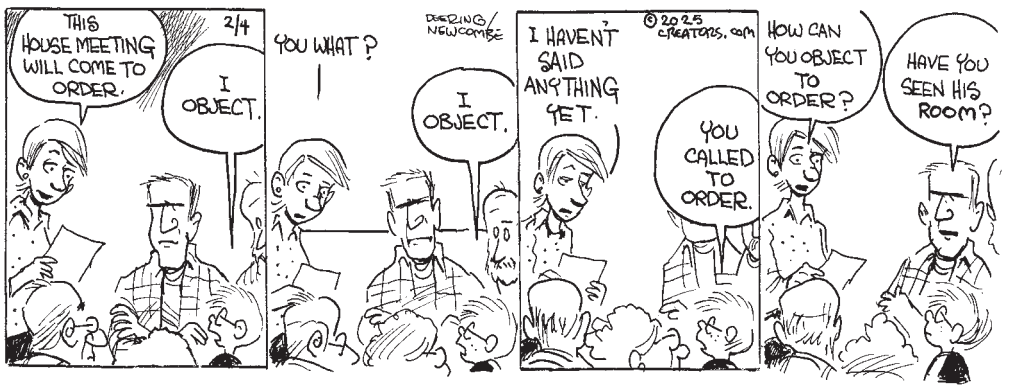
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



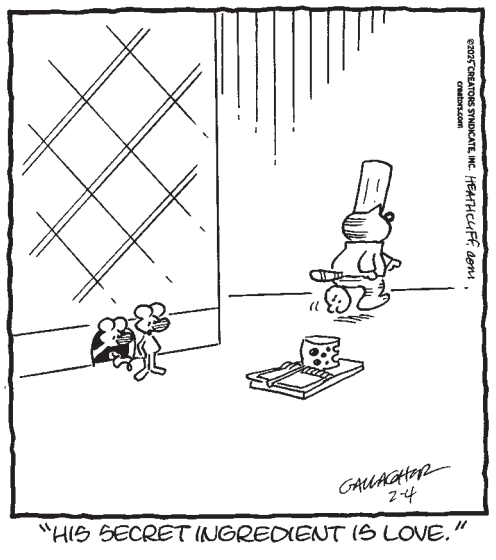
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6476

Trash or treasure?

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

Aisles	Conversation	Furniture	Radios
Arts	Craft	Glass	Scarf
Axes	Credit	Griller	Sheets
Bags	Cups	Hats	Shoes
Basics	Donate	Junk	Skis
Bike	Doors	Ladder	Spend
Busy	DVDs	Magazines	Suits
Cage	Employees	Menswear	Teapot
Cash	Fishing	Novels	Toys
Chair	tackle	Pans	Tyres
Clothes	Freezer	Plaza	Vases

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 4)

Your problem-solving abilities are nothing short of astounding and will have far-reaching positive effects. Much will depend on where you focus this. Avoid being overly serious about it. Do what's fun for you in this year filled with friends and novel adventures. More highlights: You'll be heralded for your attitude, celebrated for your heart and hired for your financial savvy. Gemini and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 10, 35, 31 and 16.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Meetings carry a strange sense of inevitability. Fleeting connections - a glance, a laugh, a few words - will plant a seed. Over time, it reshapes your story, weaving new threads and opening doors to places you were always meant to find.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll make a move that feels right to you, even if you can't put your finger on why you're doing it. Intuition guides you illogically or perhaps absolutely. Even if you take your hands off the wheel, you won't steer wrong.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Consider all possible paths, conventional and unconventional alike. Even though you want a pretty big change, the most direct route to the transformation may be as small as tweaking one habit.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Clear up misunderstandings while they are small. A little directness and a lot of tact will go a long way toward preventing hurt feelings. You might not agree about an issue, but you'll keep it from getting worse.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Having specific preferences makes you unique, but it also limits your options. You'll decide whether to add more conditions and narrow your choices, or loosen the constraints and open yourself up to new possibilities.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Wherever you go, you want it to be better because you were there. To you, it's not a goal but a responsibility. You recognize your influence, and with it comes a chance to promote the values you hold dear.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Loosen your views. Let it go fuzzy. What if reality isn't what you think it is? Fanciful play, possibility and hope are necessary to the resilient soul. "Don't part with your illusions. When they are gone you may still exist, but you have ceased to live." - Mark Twain

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's one of those rare days when good intentions really are enough because they have an energy that will pull you through, improving all as you go. Don't overthink it. Just move. Your purpose will be the plan.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Enthusiasm is the quality that gets you hired, promoted and befriended. People are drawn to your energy and passion, which inspire trust and excitement. Keep showing up with that spark, and doors you didn't even know existed swing open.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Get back to basics. Tend to foundations. It's amazing what vitality is released when you simply commit to hydration, nourishment and sleep. Physical vitality enables the creativity and emotional depth you cherish.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You prioritize people above all else - before the agenda, the results or the financial end. Your "people first" mindset means you take a little more time to get things done, but you have a lot more fun along the way.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). If you find yourself pretty deep into a task before you realize it is not worth your time or attention, give yourself credit for figuring that out at all. You'll fulfill your obligation and then plan to avoid similar low-yield endeavors in the future.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

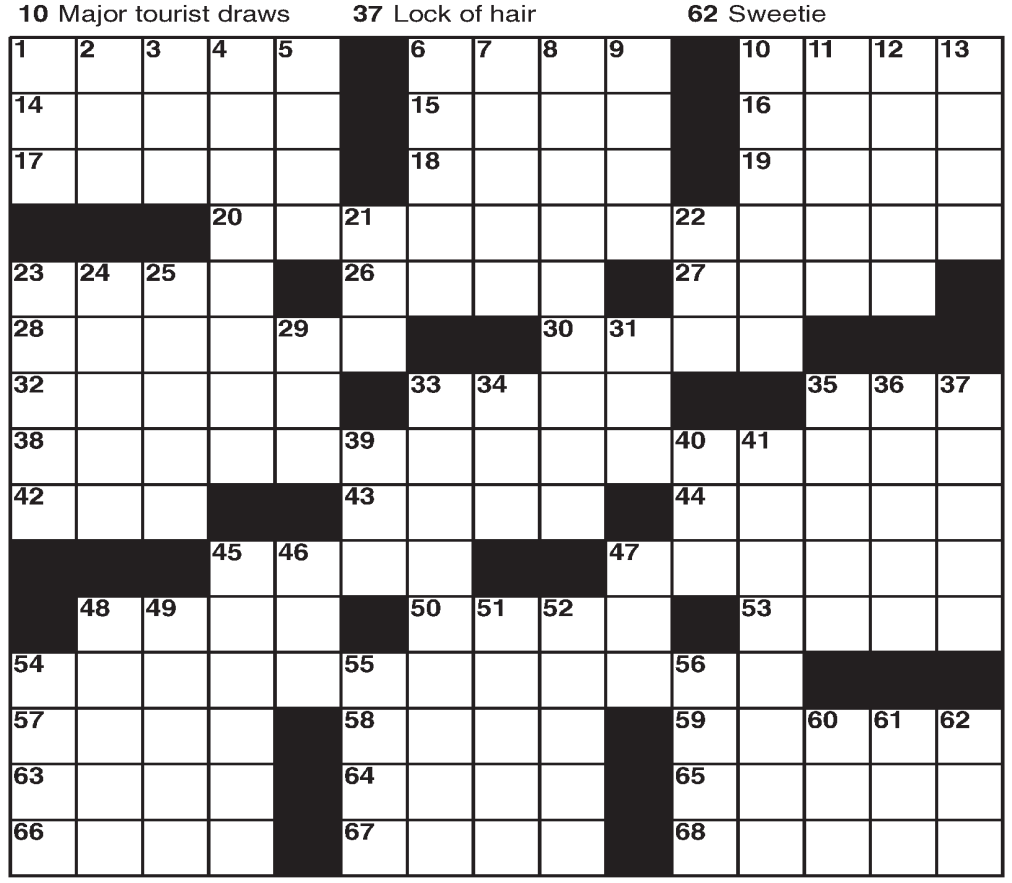
WINTER WEATHER by Gail Grabowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Stock up on
6 Admiral or corporal
10 Rolling stone's supposed lack
14 Big brawl
15 Soother in skin cream
16 A Great Lake
17 Water vapor
18 Evening, in ads
19 Give up, as rights
20 Very low-temperature
23 Additionally
26 Top-rated
27 Make less difficult
28 Take back, as a statement
30 __ and crafts
32 All possible
33 Boot bottom
35 Three-stripe soldier: Abbr.
38 It makes winter temperatures seem lower
42 Superlative suffix
43 Whirlpool
44 __ in (introduce gradually)
45 Sheet of glass
47 Steak selections
48 Lasting mark
50 Wild hog
53 Poems of praise
54 Slight winter precipitation
57 Trash containers
58 Soprano's solo
59 Show the ropes to
63 Region
64 Snooty person
65 Response to "Are not!"
66 Where a robin lays eggs
67 Nine-digit IRS IDs
68 Yellow citrus fruit

DOWN

1 Mornings: Abbr.
2 Was introduced to
3 Pub beverage
4 Coastal region
5 "Half" prefix for final
6 Moved quickly toward
7 Extraterrestrial
8 "Just kidding"
9 On an even __ (steady)
10 Major tourist draws
11 Black-and-white cookies
12 Move laterally
13 Bird feeder food
21 Body art, for short
22 Up to now
23 "__ having fun now?"
24 Big name in blue jeans
25 Aroma
29 The Big Apple: Abbr.
31 Touchdown caller, for short
33 Whiskers near the ears
34 Ancient
35 Leave your chair
36 Pay a visit to
37 Lock of hair
39 Barnyard bird
40 Police alert: Abbr.
41 Eager volunteer's shout
45 Plays with, like a kitten might
46 Barking sound
47 Prefix for angle or cycle
48 Catch in a trap
49 Ice cream holders
51 Hunter constellation
52 Typical Saudis
54 Read electronically
55 Young lady
56 List-shortening abbr.
60 24-hr. bank device
61 Pigeon sound
62 Sweetie



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02/04/25

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

DONOR

FROM PAGE 4

sized donations to the same candidates on the same days, using the same treasurer and law firm — pushes the boundaries of state law by potentially enabling donors to circumvent contribution limits.

Crane denied that characterization and compared his organization to unions and their local affiliates. But unions differ from Govern From California in some critical ways, including their broad membership of workers, who contribute small amounts to campaign spending through their dues, and their non-political functions such as collective bargaining.

Following the publication of the story, a former labor union leader filed a complaint against Govern For California with the Fair Political Practices Commission. The commission's enforcement division quickly rejected that complaint, citing its 2020 letter that advised: "Provided the GFC Statewide Committee and all local chapters are controlled by different individuals, who independently direct and control the entities' respective contributions, the contributions from GFC Statewide Committee and each local chapter do not share contribution limits."

Yet Richard Miadich, then-chairperson of the commission, told CalMatters at the time that he would seek to develop new regulations more clearly defining coordination among affiliated campaign committees. He said he had questions about the independence of Govern For California's chapters, which he said were "playing very close to the line." The enforcement division subsequently reversed course and opened an inquiry because "further review of the relationship between the GFC and its chapters is warranted."

Miadich has since left the Fair Political Practices Commission. He was replaced last year by Adam Silver, the former chief counsel for the Assembly's legislative ethics committee. Miadich did not respond to several messages seeking to discuss the conclusion of the Govern For California investigation, and Silver declined to answer questions.

"In lockstep with former FPPC Chairs, I have directed our Enforcement Division to focus its resources on investigating and prosecuting, where appropriate, the most serious violations of the law, including campaign money laundering, which was alleged in the Govern for California matter," Silver said in a statement. "I have full confidence that the Enforcement Division conducted a thorough investigation and arrived at the correct resolution."

Dave Low, the former union leader who filed the complaint, criticized the commission's conclusion as "weak." He told CalMatters that the enforcement division appeared to have decided that, because of its previous advice letter, Govern For California's actions were permissible, without digging deeper into whether the group was actually following that advice.

Low said evidence he presented to the commission included an audio recording of Crane, who is president of Govern For California and also co-chair of its statewide chapter, discussing the governance structure of his organization at an event. Excerpts from that recording — where Crane told the crowd that "we raise their money for them" and if the chapters supported a particular candidate that Govern For California's leadership did not, "we're not going to raise money for them next year" — circulated online in 2022.

"The chapters know everything we're doing…" Crane said on the recording, in response to a question about how Govern for California chooses its top priorities, "and if you don't like that, you can start your own organization."

Low said he believed the Fair Political Practices Commission had no interest in reconsidering its analysis because it would have made them look bad. "If they would have looked into the evidence we sent them, they would have come to a different conclusion," he said.

'Namby-pamby, without any deep explanation'

Yang would not confirm whether the commission had authenticated or reviewed the audio recording as part of its investigation.

Campaign finance experts told CalMatters that the stamp of approval from state regulators could open the door for other donor networks with a similar structure to emerge.

"I can imagine other groups being interested in this group's innovation," said Justin Levitt, a professor at Loyola Law School, though he added that the degree of coordination and independence would likely be closely scrutinized in future iterations. "I don't think this amounts to a blank check for other committees to set up affiliated groups to evade contribution limits within existing campaign finance laws."

Ann Ravel, a former head of the Fair Political Practices Commission and its federal counterpart, the Federal Elections Commission, told CalMatters in 2022 that she considered Govern For California's structure "undemocratic" and "contrary to the spirit" of contribution limits, but not illegal. She said this week that she believed the commission had come to the correct conclusion.

But she also called the decision letter "kind of namby-pamby, without any deep explanation" and said it lacked the clarity that should have been provided by an investigation, especially one that took more than two years.

"I don't understand why it took so long, and I do think it's a detriment to the public," said Ravel, who received $25,700 from the Govern For California network when she ran for state Senate in 2020. "It's hard for people to be accused of things and for there not to be an outcome" for such a long time.

By Alexei Koseff. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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TUESDAY | FEBRUARY 4

FALL PREVENTION FOR SENIORS AND CAREGIVERS
1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Multipurpose Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Senior care advocates from Wise & Healthy Aging discuss risks and how to prevent falls. Attendees will receive a free nightlight upon completion, while supplies last.

PUBLIC SAFETY REFORM AND OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING
6 - 9:30 p.m. City Council Chambers, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. On January 26, 2021, the City Council adopted an Ordinance to create a new Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission to promote, in partnership with the Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD), the best practices in community-oriented policing for the fair treatment, safety, and wellbeing of all.

WEDNESDAY | FEBRUARY 5

YOGA FOR EVERYONE
12:30 - 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. Funded by the Friends of Venice Library.

HAPPY HOUR MIXER
5 - 7 p.m. The KINN Venice, 150 Horizon Ave., Venice. Get ready for an evening of networking with the Venice Chamber of Commerce while enjoying complimentary bites from Pizza Girl and beverages by VALA. Enter the raffle for a special day-pass to the KINN for two people. Venice Chamber members $15, prospective members $20, to register visit: https://business.venicechamber.net/events/details/vcc-happy-hour-mixer-with-the-kinn-57153.

THURSDAY | FEBRUARY 6

HOUSING COMMISSION
6:15 p.m. City Council Chambers, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. The Santa Monica Housing Commission is a city advisory body whose mission is to protect and improve the quality of life of all Santa Monicans by listening to input from city residents and staff, publicly deliberating, and providing recommendations to both the Santa Monica City Council and Santa Monica Housing Authority Board on issues related to housing in Santa Monica..

FRIDAY | FEBRUARY 7

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. The Annex, Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. Haven Neighborhood Services, in partnership with Virginia Avenue Park and Santa Monica Public Library, presents Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program assistance. The VITA Grant program is an IRS initiative that supports free tax preparation services for the underserved. Please bring the following documents: Physical photo ID, original SSN/ITIN card, 2024 W-2 or 1099 forms, bank routing and account numbers for direct deposit. To schedule an appointment, call 310-458-8688 or email vap@santamonica.gov.

POLITICS & LUNCH
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Shutters on the Beach, 1 Pico Blvd. A politics and lunch event featuring Mayor Lana Negrete and "'A Vision for the City.'" Presented by the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. $50 for Chamber members, $100 for non-members, for more information contact Judy.kruger@smchamber.com.

SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 8

RUMMAGE SALE
8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Santa Monica Elks Lodge, 1040 Pico Blvd. Multi-family sale, don't miss out on great items. Selling a selection of used, but not abused, items including home decor, books, clothing, household appliances, dishes, electronics, pet supplies and more. Indoor sale with plenty of free parking and hot coffee. For more information, contact Gloria Steck at 310-452-3557 or Gloriakiddsteck@yahoo.com.

WOMEN'S HEART SYMPOSIUM
8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Hotel Casa Del Mar, 1910 Ocean Way. Join to learn more about women's heart disease, risk prevention, healthy lifestyle habits, medical advances and more. The day will include speakers, presentations, gifts, delicious food and fun. Tickets $75, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/12th-annual-womens-heart-symposium-in-person-tickets-1115586050909.

GROWING HERBS SUCCESSFULLY
9 - 11 a.m. Main Street Community Garden, 2318 Main St. Join for a special workshop by Stephen Reid, UC Master Gardener and certified herbalist on growing herbs successfully. He will focus on tips and techniques to grow herbs, how to grow herbs in small spaces and containers, and how to start from seeds vs. small plants. He will also discuss using herbs for general wellness and their unique medicinal properties focusing on Nettles, Calendula and Rosemary. Limited seating, please bring a chair or blanket.

MINI VALENTINE'S DAY EVENT
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. Join Virginia Avenue Park for an unforgettable Valentine's celebration. Families are invited to unleash their creativity at the Valentine's Day craft booth, snap fun and festive photos at the Photo Booth, and browse unique, hand-crafted treasures at the SMC Valentine's Glass sale.

PROJECT SAVE OUR SURF BEACH CLEAN UP
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Santa Monica Beach Tower 26, 2559 Ocean Front Walk. Join Project Save Our Surf for a fun afternoon of music and refreshments cleaning the beach. Buckets and gloves will also be provided for the cleanup. Connect with others in Los Angeles working to support our environment. To RSVP, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/project-save-our-surf-beach-clean-up-tickets-1146542662969.

WRITERS BLOC PRESENTS RICK STEVES
4 p.m. John Adams Middle School Performing Arts Center, 1630 Pearl St. Rick Steves will discuss his book "'On The Hippie Trail'" and discuss the concept of travel as a political act, about the need to get out of our comfort zones and talk to people who live where we travel. Tickets $25, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/writers-bloc-presents-rick-steves-tickets-1077700082959.

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