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Reschedule hearing.

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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 57 MONDAY 2/5/24 smdp.com

# Petitioners, school district clash on proposed voting map

**THOMAS LEFFLER**
SMDP Staff Writer

Supporters and critics of district based voting, along with heaps of public commenters, gave the Los Angeles County Office of Education Committee on School District Organization plenty to digest last week.

Held on the Malibu campus of Santa Monica College on Jan. 31, the committee held a public hearing to receive input on the legality of the voting map submitted as part of a petition aiming to establish district based voting in SMMUSD elections. The petition, initially submitted in 2022 by Malibu attorney Kevin Shenkman on behalf of Malibu residents, claims that the district's at-large voting system is unfair to minority voters, and proposes a division of the district into seven geographic "trustee areas."

Presentations focused on the impacts of Assembly Bill 764 that went into effect in January. The bill requires any map approved by the committee comply with several criteria, including that trustee areas must be geographically contiguous to the "maximum extent practicable."

An initial map by the petitioners would make non-contiguous districts merging parts of Malibu and Santa Monica, one combining the eastern half of Malibu with Santa Monica's Sunset Park neighborhood, and the other fusing the western half of Malibu with Santa Monica's NOMA and Wilmont neighborhoods.

In his presentation, Shenkman argued that the word "practicable" in trustee area creation is defined as what is "advisable," rather than what is "possible." Demographer David Ely further argued that while it's "possible" for SMMUSD to draw a legal seven trustee area map with one area encompassing all of Malibu, it would not be "advisable" because representation would not be accurately split between the communities.

The petitioners also provided two alternative maps to the committee, previously unseen in prior discussions. One would take the same eastern half of Malibu and combine it with a hypothetical district covering Santa Monica's Pico neighborhood, while the

SEE **VOTING** PAGE 6

# School officials broach ways to support struggling students

**THOMAS LEFFLER**
SMDP Staff Writer

The Feb. 1 meeting of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) Board of Education honed in on support systems for lagging students, gathering feedback from school site principals on the best practices moving forward.

During the meeting, SMMUSD Director of Assessment, Research and Evaluation Dr. Stacy Williamson updated the board on Q2 Lead Metrics, part of the district's cycle of inquiry based on Local Control and Accountability (LCAP) goals.

SEE **SMMUSD** PAGE 11

# Brew Works partners with Bludso's to release a roasted malt smoked lager




Santa Monica Brew Works

**BEER:** "Ole Hickory" Helles lager is available at both the Santa Monica Brew Works and Bludso's BBQ.

**SCOTT SNOWDEN**
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica based Brew Works has teamed up with Bludso's BBQ for a limited release smoked malt lager, which is available on draft right now at both Bludso's and the Santa Monica Brew Works at 1920 Colorado Ave.

"We've been wanting to do a smoked beer for a long time," said Dominic Larubina, lead brewer at the Brew Works, adding, "With legendary Bludso's BBQ moving in around the corner, it finally provided the perfect opportunity."

Arguably Southern California's most celebrated local pitmaster, Kevin Bludso, expanded his scope of operations by opening an outlet on Santa Monica Blvd in May of last year, marking the first time that the celebrated chef from Compton has opened a new, full-scale restaurant in a decade.

"You could say that barbecue and craft beer share a common ethos. Each process takes intense effort and patience," said Bludso's General Manager, Toshi Yamamoto. "It's a delicious reminder that good things take time and both beer and barbecue are better when shared with family and friends."

According to Yamamoto, select grains were roasted "low and slow" in Bludso's iconic "Ole Hickory" smoker and pecan wood was chosen for its delicate and slightly nutty flavor characteristics. After spending an afternoon in the smoker, the malt acquires the desired charred and toasted notes. Brew Works then used it to brew a Helles lager, a style defined by a brilliant golden hue and smooth, clean finish.

"Despite its smoky character, this beer is not dark, it's light and easy-drinking. The German word 'helles' means 'pale' in color," Yamamoto said.

Smoked beer, or Rauchbier, has its origins in the ancient brewing traditions of Germany. Historically, malt used in brewing was dried over open flames, leading to a smoky flavor in the beer. Over time, this practice evolved into a distinct style known as Rauchbier. Today, some adventurous craft breweries continue this centuries-old tradition.

After smoking the malt at Bludso's, the smoked malt is mixed with hot water in a process called mashing, where enzymes break down the starches into sugars, creating a sweet liquid called wort. The wort is then boiled, and hops are added during the boil to impart bitterness, flavor,

SEE **BREW WORKS** PAGE 6



City of Santa Monica

SANTA MONICA RENT CONTROL BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
Thursday, February 8, 2024

Public hearing on the following topic will be conducted during the Santa Monica Rent Control Board meeting on Thursday, February 8, 2024 at City Hall, Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m.:

Consideration of proposed amendments to Regulations 4200 and 4400, to update the valuation guidelines for determining rent decrease amounts for the removal of housing services.

The agenda and staff report are available on the Board's website at:

www.santamonica.gov/rentcontrol.

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# News Binge: All of last week's stories in one place

SMDP STAFF REPORT

**SMFD STARTS THE YEAR WITH NEW PLAN AND A NEW CHIEF:**

The first Santa Monica City Council meeting of 2024 had a jam-packed agenda, including a presentation by the Santa Monica Fire Department (SMFD) of their five year strategic plan. Interim SMFD Chief Wolfgang Knabe presented a summary of the strategy to Council, a five year plan that is very much standard in the industry, including a plan to replace two stations (Fire Stations 3 and 7). Knabe explained they are not currently budgeted for, but that the five year plan "is sort of a vision of what we want."

**DETAILS OF THE SECURITY GUARD PROGRAM FOR BIG BLUE BUS REVEALED WITH UNANIMOUS COUNCIL APPROVAL:**

Big Blue Bus is set to follow in the footsteps of Metro in the hiring of transit security officers, with Big Blue Bus Transit Safety and Training Manager Listen Guizar telling City Council that the goal "is to get as much coverage throughout the system as possible based on the security incident data that we receive from our operators." Guizar said that on weekdays, guards will be starting early in the morning when buses have the majority of incidents.

**CAMPUS PLANS IN MOTION AT DISTRICT ELEMENTARY SITES:**

While construction at one Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) elementary campus site began in December, another elementary site's new conceptual plan was given a go-ahead to move forward by the district's Board of Education recently. On December 8, 2023, a groundbreaking ceremony was held at Will Rogers Learning Community, beginning Phase 1 of its campus plan. A little over a month later, a Board of Education meeting on Jan. 18 supported an updated "Master Plan" at Franklin Elementary School. Both projects aim to support students at the Transitional Kindergarten (TK) and Kindergarten levels, as well as improve outdoor learning spaces.

**OFFICIALS SAY LACK OF SMALERT DURING SHOOTING WAS AN OVERSIGHT BUT SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATED PROVIDED TIMELY INFORMATION:**

SMAlerts is the City of Santa Monica's mass notification platform, designed to provide residents, businesses and visitors notifications about incidents that pose imminent, unmitigated threats to public safety that require the public to take an immediate action or are a severe burden on the surrounding area. However, there was no alert for the shooting death of William Edwards III on the platform. In response, SMPD Lieutenant Erika Aklufi from the Office of the Chief of Police said that as the incident was still unfolding, SMPD prioritized social media as a means of getting verified information to the community, but said not initiating an SM Alert was "an oversight" that the office regrets. Aklufi added that the oversight was addressed the same day.

**DENSITY BONUS RULES ALLOW DEVELOPERS TO DOUBLE THE SIZE OF SOME PROJECTS:**

A nomination of new laws coming out of Sacramento have significantly increased the possible density of new development while simultaneously undermining the ability of local agencies to oppose those projects according to a recent report presented to the Santa Monica Planning Commission. The Commission received its annual update on new legislation in January with significant attention to a new law, Assembly Bill 1287, that allows developers to potentially double the density of their projects.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARION:**

The Santa Monica Conservancy and Annenberg Community Beach House hosted a free, all ages event to celebrate the silent film star and philanthropist Marion Davies on Jan. 27. The actress, having become famous during the golden age of Hollywood, was known for her bubbly personality as well as the parties she and paramour William Randolph Hearst hosted at the oceanfront estate where the Annenberg Community Beach House now sits.

**PUBLIC HEARING TAKES PLACE FOR DISTRICT-BASED SCHOOL BOARD VOTING ISSUE:**

The Los Angeles County Office of Education Committee on School District Organization held a public hearing Jan. 31 on the Malibu Campus of Santa Monica College, receiving public input on the legality of the voting map submitted as part of the Trustee Area Voting Petition, which aims to establish district based voting in SMMUSD. No decisions were made at the meeting regarding the petition, with the hearing focusing solely on the legality of the proposed electoral map.

McKinley showcases world of cultures:

On Jan. 26, McKinley Elementary School played host to a Multicultural Day Celebration, featuring activities, cuisine and performances representative of various countries and cultures. Representatives of Thailand, Germany, Japan, Ukraine, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Vietnam, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Switzerland, Russia, Colombia and Serbia participated, as well as regions and cities such as New Orleans, Palestine and Hong Kong, In addition, the day featured the cultures of the African-American, LGBTQIA, ASL and Autism communities.

**CHAMBER SUMMIT BRINGS NEW TRENDS TO LOCAL BUSINESSES:**

The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce held its second annual Business Summit at Santa Monica Bee Works Jan. 25, featuring several panels on hot industry topics as well as the awarding of the Outstanding Business Leader Award to Providence St. John's CEO Michael Ricks. A gathering of business and other local stakeholders listened in as experts relayed information relating to workforce development, business procurement and marketing using artificial intelligence (AI). In accepting his award, Ricks recognized everyone from the Chamber, his team at Providence St. John's, his family for "tolerating" the time he spends away at work, and his colleagues in healthcare.

**SUNSET PARK MURDER SUSPECT ENTERS A PLEA OF 'NOT GUILTY':**

SEE **NEWS** PAGE 7

## BECOMING SANTA MONICA

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# *We need districting, even if it threatens those in power, because it's more democratic!*

**MILES WARNER**

One universal truth in politics is that those in power want to stay in power. From the President right down to your local HOA board, folks in power will construe the facts to support why they should remain in power. And that is what we are seeing in Santa Monica; folks who claim to be progressive, opposing by-district voting and the California Voters Right Act (CVRA) because it threatens their continuance of power.

Currently the SM city and SMMUSD charters call for at-large elections. This means that every election we as a city vote for three or four at-large seats.

The 2001 CVRA is meant to give minorities and the marginalized representation, specifically if they have a majority within a geographic segment, but are a minority in the overall municipality. A good example of this is the city of Escondido, which is roughly 49% Latino and yet had only had two Latino city council members in 125 years.

But we have minorities on our city council and school board, so we don't need districting, right? That is the counter argument that proponents of the current system make.

It's a spurious argument, and I honestly think the proponents know it. Because we would not have to lose minority representation to have a more democratic city. Let's start with the long list of organizations and associations in favor of by-district elections:

California Teachers' Association, LA democratic party, ACLU, NAACP, Service Employees International Union, California State Council State Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO United Farm Workers, Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Southern California, Latino Issues Forum, California state democratic party, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Dolores Huerta Foundation, FairVote, Khmer Girls in Action, Asian Pacific Environmental Network, Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Asian Law Alliance, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, League of United Latin American Citizens, California Latino School Boards Association, Black, Latino and Asian Caucus - New York City Council, Latino Caucus of California Counties, California Teamsters Public Affairs Council and Pomona Valley Democratic Club.

That's a pretty heavy list. It also includes the Los Angeles County Democratic party, the California Democratic party and Senator Alex Padilla.

All politics are local, right? Well not in Santa Monica. If every city council member is responsible to every corner of the city and no specific council/school board member is responsible to any specific area, then there is no direct accountability or responsibility. Who do I go to with my neighborhood's issues? Take your pick of council/school board members and hope it works out. It's nonsense and they know it.

Do you think John Muir would have been allowed to rot and deteriorate due to water intrusion for 20+ years until children were breathing mold and it was ultimately shut down if there had a been a member of the school board who was specifically and directly responsible to the parents of that school? No way!

Would decades of planes crashing and noise pollution have been ignored had one city council member been tasked by their direct constituents to find solutions to the problems faced by the airport and Sunset Park residents? No! Did it cost SM an airport? Maybe.

One of our former mayors was famously asked in a deposition in the CVRA suit brought against the city "Would you want a hazardous waste storage facility in your neighborhood?" Answer: "I wouldn't mind." Come on! That's rubbish.

There's a Foucauldian web of folks who have for decades controlled the groups that elect our city officials. They don't want there to be district-based elections because they will lose their grip on our city—and they know it.

So, they spend millions of our tax dollars in attorney's fees fighting something that they know is more democratic with honestly no real argument against it, other than, 'everything is fine here'. Well look around. Is the Promenade fine? Our big golden workhorse that used to pay for all kinds of things with tourist and retail taxes—it's not fine.

Homelessness is growing and our humanitarian instincts are overwhelmed by a problem that seems to just get worse. Our city budget is ruinous because a despicable pedophilic city employee abused our kids for years at the Police Activities League and the city is responsible for paying the massive settlement. Our schools are widely disproportionate in their class sizes, test scores and states of maintenance.

There are real challenges to be faced, so let's do it democratically, through representation.

The California Voting Rights Act is about enfranchising voters—giving them voice. Where is our voice in this city? Who represents you? Let's look at the schools... Do we choose which

SEE **BECOMING** PAGE 6



## Surf report

WATER TEMP: **59.9**

MONDAY
***FAIR***

**SURF:** 6-8ft
Overhead to well overhead

Potential for a sloppy start as a potent storm pushes in with SE/S wind. Jumbled W/NW swell mix and a possible healthy shot of S/SW windswell. Wind could improve through the day with select breaks turning on — stay tuned.

TUESDAY
***FAIR***

**SURF:** 4-5ft
Chest to head

Smaller surf off fading old swell mix. Onshore winds due through the day.

## Weather

**Monday:** Rain and possibly a thunderstorm. High near 61. Breezy. Chance of precipitation is 80%.
**Monday Night:** Rain and possibly a thunderstorm. Cloudy, with a low around 52.
**Tuesday:** Rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 60.
**Tuesday Night:** Rain likely. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 48.

| Date | Day | Time (LST/LDT) | Predicted | (ft)High/Low |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2024/02/05 | Mon | 04:59 AM | 5.17 | H |
| 2024/02/05 | Mon | 12:56 PM | -0.38 | L |
| 2024/02/05 | Mon | 7:57 PM | 3.16 | H |
| 2024/02/05 | Mon | 11:22 PM | 2.67 | L |
| 2024/02/06 | Tue | 05:55 AM | 5.68 | H |
| 2024/02/06 | Tue | 1:34 PM | -0.97 | L |
| 2024/02/06 | Tue | 8:17 PM | 3.44 | H |
| 2024/02/07 | Wed | 12:23 AM | 2.37 | L |
| 2024/02/07 | Wed | 06:45 AM | 6.20 | H |
| 2024/02/07 | Wed | 2:11 PM | -1.44 | L |
| 2024/02/07 | Wed | 8:42 PM | 3.71 | H |
| 2024/02/08 | Thu | 01:13 AM | 1.98 | L |
| 2024/02/08 | Thu | 07:32 AM | 6.61 | H |
| 2024/02/08 | Thu | 2:47 PM | -1.72 | L |
| 2024/02/08 | Thu | 9:11 PM | 4.00 | H |
| 2024/02/09 | Fri | 02:01 AM | 1.57 | L |
| 2024/02/09 | Fri | 08:16 AM | 6.80 | H |
| 2024/02/09 | Fri | 3:23 PM | -1.77 | L |
| 2024/02/09 | Fri | 9:42 PM | 4.29 | H |
| 2024/02/10 | Sat | 02:49 AM | 1.21 | 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: 1/31
15 18 19 41 43
Power#: 14
Jackpot: 206 M

**MEGA MILLIONS**
Draw Date: 1/30
3 5 16 58 59
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 333 M

**SUPER LOTTO PLUS**
Draw Date: 1/31
33 35 36 38 40
Mega#: 27
Jackpot: 20 M

**FANTASY 5**
Draw Date: 2/1
4 7 9 11 29

**DAILY 3**
Draw Date: 2/1
EVENING: 6 3 9
Draw Date: 2/1
MIDDAY: 7 2 6

**DAILY DERBY**
Draw Date: 2/1
1st: 05 - California Classic
2nd: 07 - Eureka
3rd: 01 - Gold Rush
Race Time: 1:45.14

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Santa Monica Daily Press

# Classifieds

## Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAMECase No. 24SVECP00019 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Rachel Marie Litchmen for Change of NameTO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:Petitioner or Attorney: Rachel Marie Litchmen a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Rachel Marie Litchmen to Rachel Marie-Litchmen Willingham The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 03/01/2024 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: w Room: 610 The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA - COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Van Nuys CourtHouse 6230 Sylmar Ave Van Nuys, CA 91401A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.

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ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAMECase No. 24VECP00032 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Steffanie Moyers Jensen for Change of NameTO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:Petitioner or Attorney: Steffanie Moyers Jensen a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Steffanie Moyers Jensen to Steffanie Leo Bradley The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 02/23/2024 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: w Room: 610 The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA - COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Van Nuys Courthouse 6239 Sylmar Ave Van Nuys, CA 91401A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.

## Name Change

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ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAMECase No. 24SMCP00033 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Martha Lidia Ferrufino De Escalante for Change of NameTO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:Petitioner or Attorney: Martha Lidia Ferrufino De Escalante a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Martha Lidia Ferrufino De Escalante to Martha Lidia Escalante The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 05/17/2024 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: - The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA - COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Glendale CourtHouse 1725 Main Street Santa Monica, CA 90401 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.

## DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2024015736 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 01/23/24The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Jen Bloom Creative Therapy 1833 12th st B Santa Monica, CA 90404Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Jen Bloom 1833 12th st B Santa Monica, CA 90404If corporation or LLC- Print State of Incorporation/Organization: This Business is conducted by: An Individual The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 01/2024Registrant/ Corp/ LLC Name /s/: Jen Bloom Title: owner Jen Bloom This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 01/23/2024NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS01/29/24, 02/05/24, 02/13/24, 2/20/24

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# Public input on Gelson's project to mount once more




Photo by Thomas Leffler

**DEVELOPMENT:** A large-scale housing project proposed for the Lincoln Center site at 2601 Lincoln Blvd., which would remove the Gelson's grocery store at the location, will be discussed at a March meeting of the Architectural Review Board.

**THOMAS LEFFLER**
SMDP Staff Writer

While public comment has stayed dormant for some time, discussions will soon ramp up once again on a divisive large-scale housing project.

On March 4, the City Council Chambers at City Hall will hold a public hearing by the Architectural Review Board to review a proposed housing project at 2601 Lincoln Blvd., which would replace the Gelson's grocery store and accompanying retail center with 521 apartments in twelve 5-story buildings. The hearing will cover project design, colors, materials, landscaping, lighting and signage; and serves as a chance for public input on the long-discussed Lincoln Center Project endeavor. It was initially scheduled for late January before being pushed into February, and later postponed until March 4.

The project was submitted for City review on March 11, 2022, and has since received administrative approval from City Planning staff. In a May 2023 administrative approval presentation by Koning Eizenberg Architecture the presentation notes that the mixed-use housing project is proposed to include 521 multi-family residential units, including 53 very low income units. The plan also calls for 34,800 square feet of grocery, retail and restaurant space at street level, 2,400 square feet of outdoor dining and display, and 79,100 square feet of personal storage. Parking tabulations state that 825 parking spots will be provided in the project.

The amount of very low income residential units permits developers to exceed city mandated density limits under a state density bonus, which could be further exploited via a new law. Assembly Bill 1287 expands state density bonuses for developers that hit affordable and moderate income goals, and combines with Senate Bill 713 (which prohibits a local government from applying development standards if the standards preclude construction of development permitted by density bonus law) to put developers in more control of the project. Property owners SanMon Inc., a subsidiary of Balboa Retail Partners, are working with Koning Eizenberg and Cypress Equity Investments on the project.

Not without its detractors, the Lincoln Center Project was subject to scrutiny during a February 2022 community Zoom meeting, where various concerns were raised by residents. Public input included skepticism on the scale of the project, its impact on traffic and water supply, the number of affordable units and the smaller retail component. Later in the year, resident group Santa Monica Coalition for a Livable City created a petition to oppose the project, which received over 2,000 backers with similar complaints.

A recent post about the March 4 meeting on community social media site NextDoor also had plenty of negative sentiment, with many pointing out the negative traffic impacts associated with a project adjacent to the already hectic Lincoln Blvd. Some residents have also voiced support for the development in the past, stating that it was important to address the local housing crisis and help Santa Monica meet a state-mandated requirement to facilitate almost 9,000 new units by 2029.

Along with Gelson's, businesses at the 2601 Lincoln retail center include Fantastic Sam's Cut & Color hair salon, Non Stop Sushi & Sake Bar, McCarthy Pharmacy and Dry Clean X-Press.

thomas@smdp.com

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# How will California overcome high living costs, high poverty and high debt?

**DAN WALTERS**

As most Californians know from personal experience, their state has an especially high cost of living, particularly for housing.

Forbes magazine rates California as having the nation's third-highest living costs behind Hawaii and Massachusetts, with $53,171 a year in average household spending for housing, health care, taxes, food and transportation.

California also has the nation's fourth-highest level of income disparity, which explains why it also has the nation's highest level of poverty in the Census Bureau's supplemental calculation, which factors in the cost of living.

The Public Policy Institute of California, using a similar methodology, found that nearly a third of Californians are living in poverty or near-poverty. PPIC also says that without state and federal safety net programs, many of which were enacted in recent years by Gov. Gavin Newsom and a Democratic Legislature, the state's poverty rate would climb by more than eight percentage points.

These data are the grist for perpetual debate in California's political, media and academic circles over causes, effects and remedies, and the conversations will be heating up this year. The state faces multibillion-dollar budget deficits well into the future due to what appears to be a semi-permanent plateau in revenues that cannot cope with sharp increases in spending during Newsom's governorship.

Advocates for the poor and their legislative allies are pushing Newsom and legislators to protect the safety net programs from cuts as they confront the deficit, but they will be competing with other spending categories that enjoy heavyweight political support, such as K-12 and higher education and prisons.

There's another aspect to California's high living costs and high poverty rates – high levels of debt that have gotten scant media and political attention.



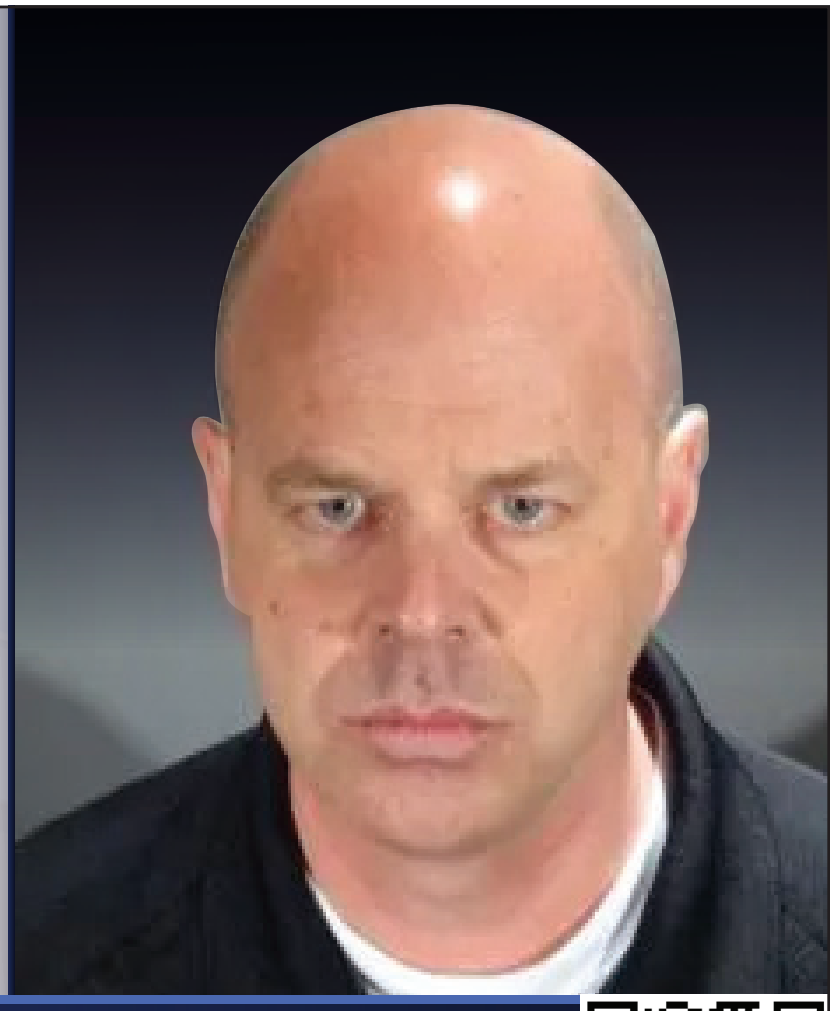

Photo by Rich Pedroncelli, AP Photo

**HOUSING:** A "for sale" sign is posted in front of a home in Sacramento on March 3, 2022.

Americans have amassed $17.3 trillion in home mortgages, auto loans, student loans, credit cards and other forms of personal debt, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Californians owe at least $2.5 trillion of that and perhaps as much as $3 trillion, thanks largely to its high housing costs and the large mortgages needed to handle those costs.

SEE **GUEST COMMENTARY** PAGE 11

I was going to take it to the grave.
They don't talk about the abused girls.
I don't want my family to know.
I'm terrified they'll claim I'm lying.
**Sexually abused by Eric Uller of PAL?**
We understand why you've stayed silent.
I felt guilty for "allowing" it.
I felt shame.
I thought I was the only one.
I didn't want to be perceived as gay.



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Ad. No guarantee of outcome. Each case is different.

## BREW WORKS

FROM PAGE 1

and aroma to the beer. Hops also act as a natural preservative.

After boiling, the wort is cooled and yeast is added for fermentation. The beer then undergoes a lagering phase, where it is stored at cold temperatures for a period of up to six weeks. This extended cold conditioning contributes to the crisp, characteristic taste. The beer clocks in at 4.9% ABV.

"This beer pairs perfectly with food, it'll go great with barbecue, pizza, and even salad. The depth of flavor is really wonderful," said Johnny Wardell, Marketing Director of the Brew Works.

"I love the subtle extra layer of complexity the smoked malt brings," said Larubina. "The smoke flavor is soft, not overwhelming. You can compare it to the seasoning on a chef's dish. The goal is to enhance the base flavors of the brew rather than mask them."

The "Ole Hickory" smoked Helles lager is available for a limited time only at both the Santa Monica Brew Works at 1920 Colorado Ave and Bludso's BBQ at 1329 Santa Monica Blvd.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

## Santa Monica Arrests

### For the week of Jan 26th to Feb 1st

| Crime | Arrests |
|---|---|
| Warrant | 6 |
| Robbery | 4 |
| Violation of Stay-away Order | 4 |
| Corporal Injury To Spouse | 3 |
| Drunk in Public | 3 |
| Carrying A Concealed Dirk Or Dagger | 2 |
| Joyriding | 2 |
| Resisting an Executive Officer | 2 |
| Resisting Arrest | 2 |
| Aggravated Kidnapping | 1 |
| Arson: Causing a fire of a structure or forest | 1 |
| Arson: Causing a fire that burns an inhabited structure | 1 |
| Assault | 1 |
| Assault & Battery | 1 |
| Burglary | 1 |
| Carrying a Loaded Firearm that was Stolen | 1 |
| Criminal Threat | 1 |
| Drinking upon Public Property | 1 |
| DUI of Alcohol And Drugs Causing Bodily Injury | 1 |
| Elder Abuse | 1 |
| False Identification to a Police Officer | 1 |
| Illegal Possession of Tear Gas | 1 |
| Murder | 1 |
| Parole Violation | 1 |
| Possession of Drug Paraphernalia | 1 |
| Possession of Methamphetamines | 1 |
| Shoplifting | 1 |
| Vandalism | 1 |
| **TOTAL** | **47** |

City of Santa Monica

**CITY OF SANTA MONICA**
**NOTICE INVITING BIDS**

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

**Olympic Boulevard & 26th Street Project**
**SP2662**

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

**MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK:**
**N/A**

**PROJECT ESTIMATE: $1,150,000**
**CONTRACT DAYS: 180 Calendar Days**
**LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $4200 Per Calendar Day**

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca. The Contractor is required to have an **A General Engineering License** at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

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

## VOTING

FROM PAGE 1

western half would merge with the Ocean Park area of the city. Another alternative would have about 90% of Malibu within its own district, with an eastern sliver of the city combined with the Pico neighborhood trustee area. Ely said the Pico neighborhood was a focus in alternative map creation because of its "unique needs" and feedback from local residents in that neighborhood.

In opposition to the petitioners' usage of the word "practicable," attorney representing SMMUSD Frederic D. Woocher noted that the committee's own lawyers have previously advised that the word is more in line with the word "possible" than "advisable," and that the map also violates the new Election Code subsection by going against the mandate that trustee areas must preserve the "geographic integrity of neighborhoods and communities of interest."

On the notion that one trustee area entirely housed in Malibu would cause "substantial" over representation, Woocher said that a hypothetical split of trustee areas that give one to Malibu would still satisfy population requirements. The United States Constitution requires that election districts "shall be substantially equal in population," but the courts allow for a 10% difference between the most populous and least populous district. In a hypothetical splitting of the SMMUSD population (110,031 people), the population comprising Malibu and surrounding unincorporated areas equals 16,740, which would exceed the ideal seven-way split by 1,021 persons, or 6.49%, still within the 10% threshold.

SMMUSD Board of Education members echoed Woocher's claim that two trustee areas with a majority Malibu population would fall under gerrymandering, including Maria Leon-Vasquez, who felt that the map deliberately targeted her Sunset Park neighborhood and would be "diluting racial diversity" on the board.

"The purported reason, really, for this map ... (is) to create two districts for Malibu to remedy Malibu's supposed historical lack of representation on our school board," Leon-Vasquez said. "This assertion is not accurate and worse, it equates being a citizen of Malibu with being a member of a protected class under the (California Voting Rights Act). As a member of (a) protected class myself, I personally find this very insulting."

SMMUSD Board of Education Vice-President Jon Kean also said the lack of representation premise was "false," and that with a "few exceptions," Malibu has had elected representation in proportion to its population. Former board member Craig Foster pushed back on that claim earlier in the hearing, stating that there was no Malibu member of the board from 2008 to 2014, when he "had to raise and spend more than twice the nearest competitor" to win a seat that year.

Kean also addressed the "elephant in the room," that being Malibu's desire for local control over its schools which can be done via unification, the legal term for splitting Malibu into its own district. Although the trustee area voting petition and unification efforts are separate actions, proponents of splitting Malibu and Santa Monica into its own districts said that the trustee area issue would be moot if Malibu established its own district.

"Had it not been for this hearing ... we would be sharing the results of years of collaborative work by the unification subcommittees of the City of Malibu and SMMUSD, a long-sought after solution was ready to be presented to residents of both communities ... this open and collective process is now delayed for at least one legislative year by these hearings over maps that ... do absolutely nothing to help the Malibu community in their desire for local control," Kean said.

After both petitioners and SMMUSD representatives presented, the committee heard public comment that was mostly taken up by Malibu residents wishing for increased representation on district matters. One of the proponents of trustee area voting was SMMUSD Board of Education member Stacy Rouse, a Malibu resident who desired to see both Santa Monica and Malibu "well served" by the switch, believing that trustee area voting made for better communication and representation.

Other commenters pointed to Malibu's voice being "stifled" by the "disproportionate impact" of the Santa Monica political scene, that trustee area voting "lower(s) the barriers to entry" for candidates, and that other cities like Burbank had recently adopted similar trustee voting processes.

Several comments opposed the map, broadly agreeing with the District's comments.

There will be a second hearing on the matter on Feb. 10 at 9:30 a.m. at the SMMUSD District office.

thomas@smdp.com

## BECOMING

FROM PAGE 3

school to send our kids to? You could, it's an option (once). But no, we go to our neighborhood school site. We do that because it's about community and connection and the school represents our neighborhood. So why wouldn't our local school board member be tied and associated to specific schools, when we already operate that way with regard to admissions?

The first of the three proposed maps provided for the SMMUSD districting is of course absurd. It is meant as a rebuke to the school district and LACOE's insistence that Malibu is contiguous with Santa Monica. The opponents of the map know this an absurd map, because it's meant to be! But they have yet to provide an alternate map.

So, let's stop messing around. Let's stop playing games and put together some districts that represent our city. We can use the school neighborhood boundaries as a starting place, since we all seem to be relatively fine with those. And then we can adjust to do our best to ensure that minorities and neighborhoods are represented.

Let's do what the California Democratic party, the LA county Democratic party and the California Supreme court have all said is the right thing to do. Let's enact districting, even if it hurts those in power, because it is the right thing to do for our democracy.

Miles Warner is a Santa Monica parent and resident. His column will explore the emerging and changing identity of our city and stir the pot...a bit

# NEWS

FROM PAGE 2

Kayla Delise Mackie, 27 years old, was arrested and taken into custody on Jan. 26. According to SMPD, Mackie is homeless and was found in West Los Angeles. According to SMPD, William Edwards III, a 46-year-old resident of Los Angeles was shot at about 10:25 a.m. on the 2600 block of 29th street, just off Ocean Park Blvd. Officers found Edwards still seated in his vehicle and while he was transported to a local hospital, he did not survive. On Jan. 30, Mackie had her arraignment at the Los Angeles County Court, with the District Attorney's Office filing a murder charge for the Santa Monica homicide along with additional charges related to other Los Angeles incidents. Public Defender E. John Myers entered into the record a plea of not guilty with bail set at two million and fifty thousand dollars and a court date was set of March 21, 2024, in department 31 in the Airport Courthouse.

**DISPROPORTIONALITY DISCUSSIONS BACK ON FOR SCHOOL BOARD:**

A host of Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education policies and administrative regulations may soon reflect the board's plan to address disproportionality in district Special Education programs. During a Feb. 1 meeting, the board discussed proposed updates to board policies to address the problem including clarification of who should be eligible for special education programs.

**INDEPENDENT VOICES AND DIVERSE SUBJECT MATTER ANCHOR THE SANTA MONICA FILM FESTIVAL:**

On Feb. 3, the AMC Broadway 4 theater on the Third Street Promenade hosted the 18th annual Santa Monica International Film Festival, a full day of films that explore a myriad of themes. Behind the festival operation is a local voice, David Katz, who grew up and went to school in both Malibu and Santa Monica and wanted to open a new avenue for independent filmmakers like himself. Representing Santa Monica in the 2024 festival was Brendan Beachman, who directed the short film "A Wedding Day" about the tribulations of two newlyweds.

**SANTA MONICA EMBRACES BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH COUNCIL PROCLAMATION:**

Santa Monica City Council proudly embraced Black history with a recent proclamation declaring that February will officially be Black History Month in the city. To honor Black history, there will be a series of events throughout the month, including food trucks and dancing gatherings and the Santa Monica Greens Festival at Virginia Avenue Park.

**BABY BOOMERS DOMINATE HOME OWNERSHIP, LEAVING LITTLE FOR GEN Z:**

Recent reports have shown that buying a home has grown increasingly difficult for Generation Z, those aged 25 and younger, due to negative economic factors like inflation and high mortgage rates. According to Point 2 Homes, recent Census data shows that the percentage of Generation Z householders that actually own their own home is less than 17%, despite making up 21% of the United States population. Meanwhile, more and more home inventory is being taken up by the Baby Boomer generation (those born from 1946-1964), with a report by Construction Coverage showing that the generation accounts for 39% of homeowners in the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim metro area, despite making up 18.9% of the metro's population.

**LOS ANGELES DA ANNOUNCES 200 ORGANIZED RETAIL THEFT CASES WERE FILED IN 2023:**

On Feb. 1, Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón announced that "approximately 200" organized retail theft cases involving adult and juvenile defendants were filed by the office in 2023. The cases were filed through the efforts of organized retail task forces, which are composed of regional law enforcement agencies and the District Attorney's Office partnering together to prosecute these crimes.

**GOVERNOR ADDS SANTA MONICA TO "PROHOUSING" LIST:**

Santa Monica has been added to a list of communities designated as "Prohousing" by the State. On Jan. 31, Governor Gavin Newsom announced seven communities, including Santa Monica, received the designation bringing the total to 37 statewide. In the announcement, the California Department of Housing and Community Development said the state needs to plan for 2.5 million new homes over the next eight years, with at least one million serving the needs of lower-income Californians.

**BROADWAY STANDOUT POLITICAL COMEDY COMES TO GEFFEN:**

The Geffen Playhouse's first show of 2024 is the Los Angeles premiere of "POTUS: Or, Behind Every Great Dumbass are Seven Women Trying to Keep Him Alive," featuring a star-laden cast directed by Jennifer Chambers. "POTUS" tells the tale of seven women behind the scenes at the White House attempting to clean up a public relations disaster, echoing multiple situations from past presidencies. The play took playwright Selina Dillinger 18 months to pen, and eventually ended up on Broadway after receiving placement on the prestigious Kilroys' List of highly recommended plays by female authors.

**STORMY WEATHER SET FOR ROUND TWO AFTER DRENCHING AREA:**

Residents woke up to a drenched Santa Monica on Feb. 1, with the National Weather Service's observation station at the Santa Monica Municipal Airport reporting that 1.45 inches of rain fell between 10 p.m. on Jan. 31 and 10 a.m. on Feb. 1. The area was preparing for round two of the storm in the following days, with the National Weather Service calling the Feb. 4-7 event the "largest storm of the season" for Los Angeles.

**SMASH SITE TREATED FOR TERMITES:**

Buildings on the campus of Santa Monica Alternative School House (SMASH) and John Muir Elementary School were recently tented due to pest management at the site. Through Tuesday, all buildings on the campus (with the exception of six bungalows) are being treated for termites, with both drywood and subterranean termite treatment done. The treatments are part of the John Muir/SMASH Water Intrusion Project, which encompasses a "complete overhaul" of roofing systems, stucco, windows, doors and interior finishes "as well as significant structural upgrades to meet current building code requirements."



Santa Monica Daily Press

# Classifieds

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Psychic
Obituaries
Tutoring


## DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 202377943 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 12/29/23 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Hi De Ho Comics 1803 Lincoln Blvd Santa Monica, CA 90404 Mailing Address 3636 Dunn Dr. #2 Los Angeles, CA 90034 Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Georffrey Wood Patterson II 3636 Dunn Dr. #2 Los Angeles, CA 90034 If corporation or LLC- Print State of Incorporation/ Organization: This Business is conducted by: An Individual The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 10/2014 Registrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: Georffrey Wood Patterson IITitle: Owner Anthony A. Liberatore. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/29/2023. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS 01/15/24, 01/22/24, 01/29/24, 02/05/24

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2024004204 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 01/08/24 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as therockrokers productions 6046 Cadillac Ave Apt 8 Los Angeles, CA 90034Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Sara Alessandrini 6046 Cadillac Ave Apt 8 Los Angeles, CA 90034If corporation or LLC- Print State of Incorporation/ Organization: This Business is conducted by: An Individual Company The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/ ARegistrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: Sara Alessandrini Title: Owner Sara Alessandrini This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 01/08/2024. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS01/15/24, 01/22/24, 01/29/24, 02/05/24

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2023272944 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 12/21/23 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Con Palo Con Palo Cafe Con Palo Yerba Mate 3525 Sawtelle Blvd Apt 220 Los Angeles, CA 90066Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Con Palo LLC 3525 Sawtelle Blvd Apt 220 Los Angeles, CA 90066If corporation or LLC- Print State of Incorporation/ Organization: This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/ ARegistrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: Con Palo LLC Title: CEO Juan Carrasco This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/21/2023. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS01/15/24, 01/22/24, 01/29/24, 02/05/24

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2023272855 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 12/21/23. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Lindsey Miller Interiors 1223 Wilshire Blvd #721 Santa Monica, CA 90403.Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON The full name of the registrant(s) is/are LSM Home Design LLC 1223 Wilshire Blvd #721 Santa Monica, CA 90403.If corporation or LLC- Print State of Incorporation/ Organization: This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/ ARegistrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: JLSM Home Design LLC Title: Manager Lindsey Miller. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/21/2023.NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS01/15/24, 01/22/24, 01/29/24, 02/05/24

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2024005723 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 01/09/24 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as The Liberatore Law Firm 100 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 700 Santa Monica, CA 9040. Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON The full name of the registrant(s) is/ are Law Offices of Anthony A. Liberatore. A Professional Corporation 100 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 700 Santa Monica, CA 9040. If corporation or LLC- Print State of Incorporation/Organization: This Business is conducted by: A Corporation The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/ ARegistrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: Anthony A. Liberatore Title: President Anthony A. Liberatore This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 01/09/2024. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS01/22/24, 01/29/24, 02/05/24, 02/13/24

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 20240092922 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 01/17/24The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Aqua Blue Lagoons 17090 Palisades Circle Pacific Palisades, CA 90272 Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON The full name of the registrant(s) is/ are Darin Marten Construction Company 17090 Palisades Circle Pacific Palisades, CA 90272 If corporation or LLC- Print State of Incorporation/Organization: This Business is conducted by: A Corporation The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 09/2000Registrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: William McComrick Title: owner William McCormick This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 01/17/2024NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS01/22/24, 01/29/24, 02/05/24, 02/13/24

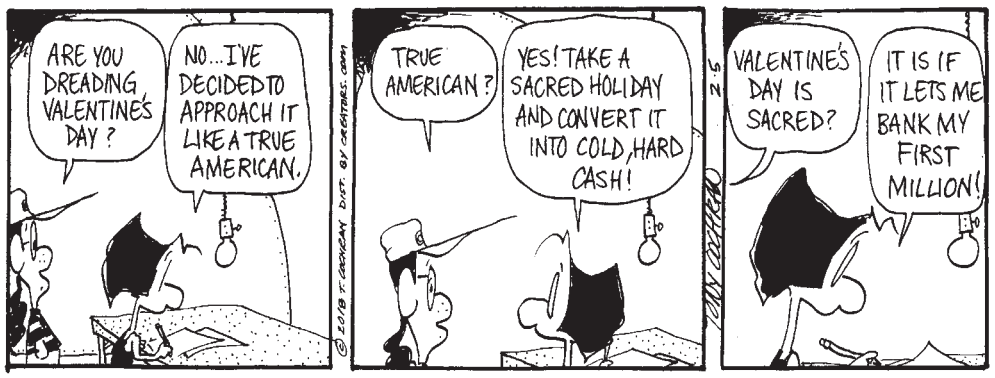
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2024013619 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 01/22/24The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Daisychained Jewelry Design 2624 Kansas Ave #8 Santa Monica, CA 90404Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Megan Kandell 2624 Kansas Ave #8 Santa Monica, CA 90404If corporation or LLC- Print State of Incorporation/ Organization: This Business is conducted by: An Individual The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/ARegistrant/ Corp/ LLC Name /s/: Megan Kandell Title: owner Megan Kandell This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 01/22/2024NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS01/29/24, 02/05/24, 02/13/24, 2/20/24

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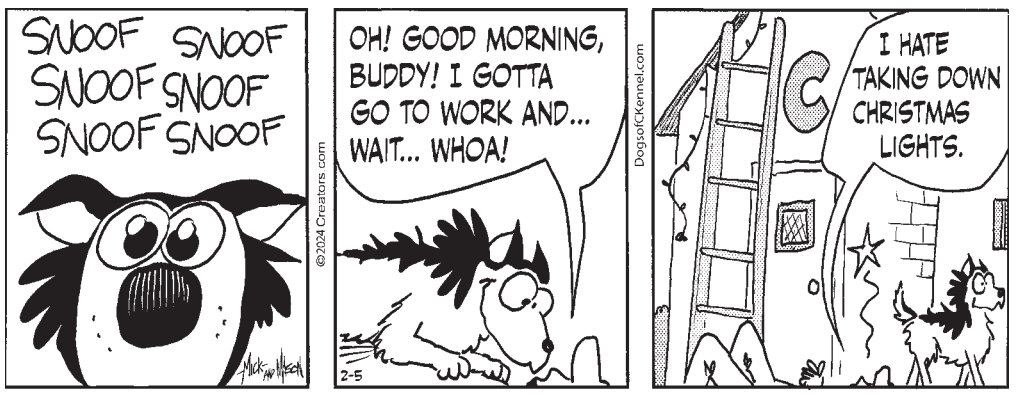
## Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



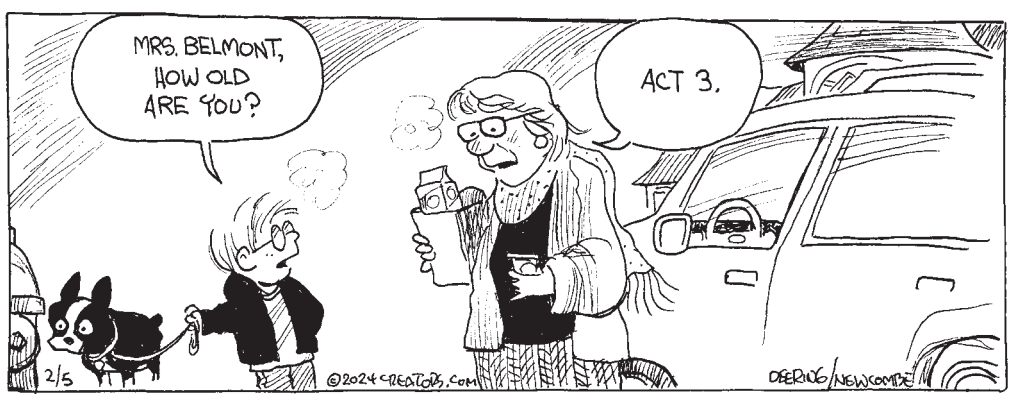

## Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART




## Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE




## Heathcliff

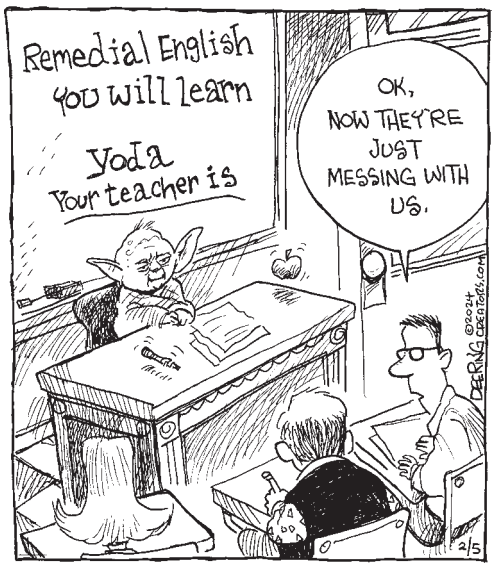
By PETER GALLAGHER




"WE KNOW HE'S WORKING WITH THE BEAR."

## 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 19 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.**

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## Relaxing in the sun

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | G | I | R | L | S | H | O | R | T | S | E | T | L | T |
| C | A | N | S | E | I | S | R | O | I | N | E | S | L | I |
| G | O | L | F | C | V | A | S | H | A | D | E | U | E | D |
| S | N | O | O | Z | E | O | H | F | N | N | S | R | H | R |
| B | D | A | L | A | S | C | C | I | I | W | R | F | S | A |
| A | S | M | F | O | T | G | A | L | I | I | P | L | E | O |
| T | R | S | U | L | F | D | E | M | S | I | L | S | N | B |
| H | E | H | H | S | I | F | O | K | E | U | A | K | O | E |
| E | E | C | T | V | I | E | D | R | G | R | Y | N | L | I |
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| I | B | E | E | R | N | V | L | N | I | O | M | R | C | I |
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| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Abalone shell | Cover | Golf | Rope |
| Bask | Crab | Hail | Salad |
| Bathe | Danger | Hats | Sand |
| Bays | Dive | Heatwave | Seagulls |
| Beach | Drinks | Lifeline | Seniors |
| Beer | Enjoy | Music | Shade |
| Boogie board | Eski | Ocean | Shorts |
| Camera | Excite | Park | Snooze |
| Cans | Film | Picnic | Surf |
| Coast | Fish | Pier | Swim |
| Cool off | Flags | Play | Tide |
| | Flies | Reef | Vest |
| | Girls | Risk | Zinc |

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

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## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 5)

You will arrive at a level of wisdom that changes how you choose people and projects. And though there is an internal mellowing with this felicitous development, your exterior world becomes increasingly colorful and lit up. More highlights: A relationship will heal. Aesthetics will be elevated. Professional gains lead to living where you want. Gemini and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 4, 10, 19 and 32.

## HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). For the most part, being on the outside or the inside is less of a location and more of a perception — a perception that can change. Rise above the situation and figure out the game. Also, recognize that such games are unnecessary in truly loving situations.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're selfless and supportive. You celebrate the success of others as enthusiastically as you do your own. Your humility in success and grace in fixing things make you not just a leader but a role model.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll have moments of complete acceptance where you're able to embrace every part of yourself — the good, the bad and everything in between. Your authenticity creates a refreshing atmosphere where people feel comfortable being themselves.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Time management and money management can happen in one fell swoop today. When you think of your hours as valuable and billable, does it change what you want to do with them today?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's like your mood defaults to settings established long ago that no longer feel good to you. You're ready to lift the energy. Think of yourself as having plenty of time and freedom, and experiment your way to greater heights.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You are a pillar of support for those who need it, and many will need it. What you give isn't typical. You have a sense about what's helpful that goes beyond the help people would think to ask for.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Inspiration is all around you today, and you'll know when a thing is exactly for you. You'll find it fun to make updates to the way you present yourself and your work. Your fresh style will bring social and professional opportunity.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Checklists help you stay on track, and much more than that, they can save the day. Because when things go to plan and follow the system, accidents are avoided and safety is king.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The truth doesn't typically present itself with a good font and a filter. The truth is more likely to be uncomfortably blurted out or held just under the surface of a tight smile, inviting only the keenly observant to know it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Everyone is different in one way or another. Knowing what makes you different, and highlighting these unique qualities in the best light, will help you stand out in a good way when it's your turn.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll experience an invigorating solitude where the tranquility of being self-reliant becomes a source of inner strength. Know that your essence is a treasure in itself, and let this fortify an unwavering belief in your unique path.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When more emotion bubbles to the surface than seems fitting for the circumstance, it's usually an indicator of some historic bit of pain that was not processed and resolved. Here's a chance to resolve it. Ancient business plays out in new ways.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

## Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

## Newsday Crossword

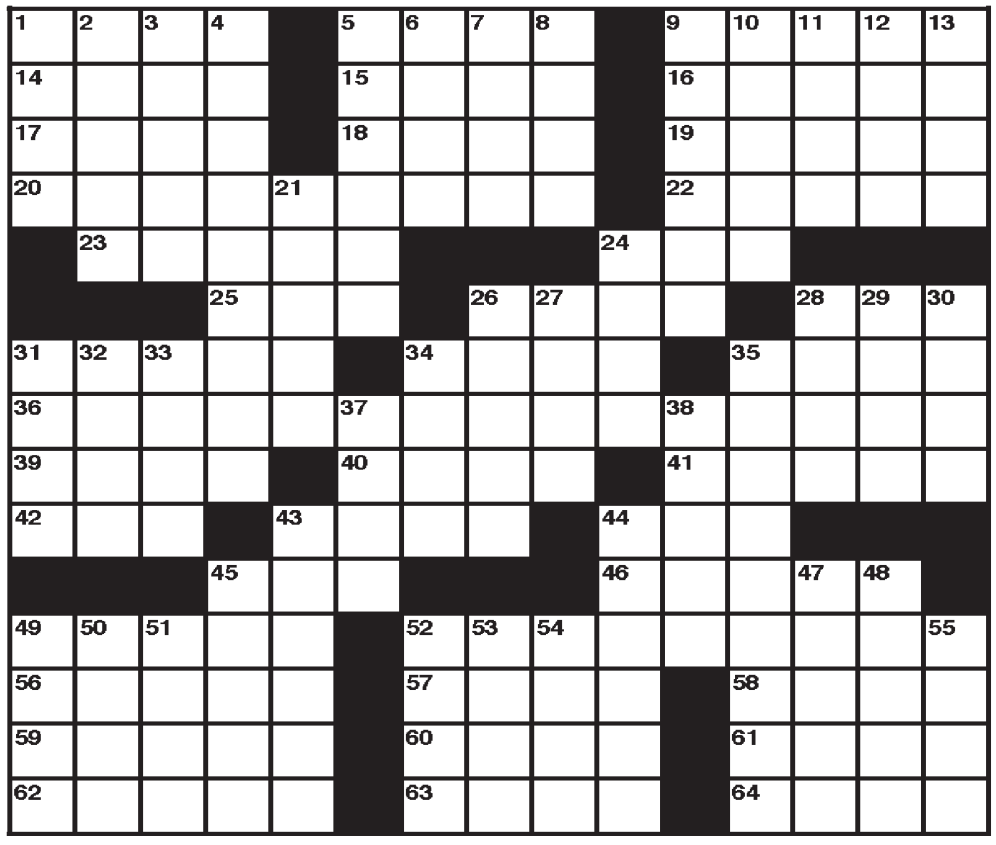
**RETRO KIDS' GAMES** by Stella Zawistowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**

**1** Crush, as potatoes
**5** Make a trade
**9** Kings, jacks and aces
**14** Bounce back, as a sound
**15** Crunchy Mexican food
**16** Drama with singers
**17** Numerical fact, for short
**18** Disposes (of)
**19** "Dear Sir or __ . . ."
**20** Sidewalk game with squares to jump on
**22** Explore deeply
**23** Ward off
**24** Crunchy sandwich, for short
**25** Letter after kay
**26** On vacation
**28** Mustache neighbor
**31** In any fashion
**34** Trash barge
**35** Secret message
**36** Game of mimicking who's first in line
**39** Impresses very much
**40** Shades of color
**41** __ Dane (large dog)
**42** MDs' coworkers: Abbr.
**43** Zeus and Apollo
**44** Self-esteem
**45** Edge of a cup
**46** __ for (attest to)
**49** Springtime songbird
**52** Game of imitating oral instructions
**56** In a group of
**57** Run __ (go wild)
**58** Eve and Adam's home
**59** Stop doing
**60** Leafy salad green
**61** Jay once of *The Tonight Show*
**62** Go inside
**63** A sight for sore __
**64** Wild guess

**DOWN**

**1** Netlike fabric
**2** Film performer
**3** Mold, as clay
**4** High-temperature periods
**5** Leisurely walk
**6** Be patient
**7** Dual-power, as appliances
**8** Luxurious
**9** Obey instructions
**10** Take __ (disassemble)
**11** Start over with
**12** Dull in color
**13** Identical
**21** Viola's larger cousin
**24** Cry loudly
**26** Has sore muscles
**27** Misfortunes
**28** Hit the mother __ (strike it rich)
**29** Notion
**30** Smart-alecky
**31** Off in the distance
**32** Small city
**33** British brews
**34** Small earring
**35** Merry-go-rounds
**37** "To __ it may concern . . ."
**38** Incite to do
**43** __ snap cookie
**44** Brings to mind
**45** Wash suds from
**47** Military school student
**48** "Laughing" African beast
**49** Contest of speed
**50** Prophetic sign
**51** Canoe or kayak
**52** "For goodness __!"
**53** "It's a possibility for me"
**54** Burrowing rodent
**55** Snooty person



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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**

## SMMUSD

FROM PAGE 1

The report focused on fall diagnostic and interim assessments, including STAR Reading and Math evaluations, as well as other factors like fall semester secondary grades, English Learner reclassification, attendance and discipline.

In STAR assessments, areas of successes included 68% of grades 2-12 students at or above a Level 4 benchmark in the Reading assessment, as well as 57% of TK-1st grade students at or above benchmarks in the STAR Early Literacy test. For Math assessments, 31% of grades 2-12 students were at or above Level 4 benchmark, and 77% and 71% of 1st and 2nd grade students, respectively, exceeded or met standards on the respective grade assessments.

The presentation noted that the student subgroup with the highest percentage of needing "urgent intervention" was Socioeconomic Disadvantaged students, with 384 of the subgroup defined as needing intervention in English Language Arts (ELA), and 230 in Math. Other subgroups with cause for concern were Students with Disabilities (307 in ELA, 218 in Math), Latinx students (296 in ELA, 133 in Math) and African American/Black students (85 for ELA, 43 for Math).

"This data is helpful to our school sites because it allows them an opportunity to identify which students are in the most need of supports, and the data allows them to identify some target areas to focus on with the students," Williamson said of the STAR assessments.

Turning to grades given within the school curriculum for middle and high school students, similar subgroups were defined under areas of growth. At SMMUSD middle school sites, 446 of 12,213 grades given were either D's or F's (4% of grades given), and 255 of 2,028 middle school students enrolled were given these grades (13% of students). A total of 168 failing grades were given to socioeconomically disadvantaged students, while 120 were given to Latinx/Hispanic students. The courses responsible for the most D's and F's were 8th grade social studies, 7th grade math core and 8th grade math core.

For high school students, 994 of 18,265 grades given during the fall semester were D's or F's (5% of grades), and out of the total high school enrollment of 3,006, 519 students were given at least one D or F (17% of students). Socioeconomically disadvantaged and Latinx/Hispanic students again were the highest subgroups with failing grades, and the courses most responsible for failing grades were Algebra II P, Algebra P and Geometry P.

The presentation and following discussion focused on "promising practices" for districtwide support on lagging students, as well as middle and high school supports in place for students with failing grades. Williamson noted that several of the "promising practices" include maintaining integration on social justice standards in curriculum guides, the implementation of restorative justice and social-emotional learning, as well as working on parent outreach with student wraparound services.

Supports currently in place for middle schools include principal and assistant principal meetings with key teachers regarding disproportionate grading, subject intervention during advisory periods as well as lunch and after school homework support. Based on feedback from school sites, next steps for middle schoolers focus on school wide social-emotional and mental wellness, along with the continual assessment made by students with interventions added as needed.

At the high school level, supports include after school tutoring, teachers meeting with students "on a regular basis" to assist with work production and quality, and targeted support during school flex time. New endeavors for high school students focus on peer tutoring, beginning soon in after school library sessions.

"We have to figure out which ones of those (practices) really help these failing students or kids in the subgroups that are getting the lower scores … if those are the kids we're really focused on, we have to have a strategy and we have to be taking apart what's working and what isn't … it's hard to do, it isn't magic," SMMUSD Board member Laurie Lieberman said during support system discussion.

Discussion also hinged on attendance data, including chronic absenteeism for subgroups like African American/Black students. Williamson said that at a recent training, assessment and evaluation staff began looking at how to better connect students and build relationships, wanting to identify why some students are missing an inordinate amount of school time. The process looks to include equity surveys and one-on-one conversations with chronically absent students.

"They're really excited about the work because they want to talk to the students and hear from them (on) what is your barrier and how can we address that relationship and repair anything if it needs to be repaired," Williamson added. Board member Maria Leon-Vasquez agreed with the sentiment of talking to individual students, including lending her support to elementary student intervention in terms of grades and attendance.

thomas@smdp.com

## GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 5

In fact, according to a newly released study by CreditDonkey, a personal finance website, Californians are carrying the most debt of any state, driven by an average mortgage of $422,909 for homeowner families.

Californians debts for student loans, auto loans and credit card balances are also fairly high, although not terribly so vis-à-vis other states. It's mortgage debt, at least $2 trillion, that truly sets California apart from other states, although a third of the state's homeowners don't have mortgages.

That said, Californians seem to be handling their high debts fairly well. The state's personal bankruptcy rate is well below the national average and a fraction of those in states, mostly in the South, with sky-high rates. However, the PPIC, using census data, found that a million of California's 9 million renters are behind on their rent.

California's unique combination of high living costs, high poverty and high debt makes the state something of a personal finance experiment. The test will be how people fare during the next recession.

During the Great Recession, California had one of the nation's highest levels of mortgage defaults and repossessions, and it took years for the housing industry to climb out of the cellar.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.




## MONDAY | FEBRUARY 5

### TAKE & MAKE KIT: LUNAR NEW YEAR

Lunar new year is February 2nd and it's the year of the Dragon! Continue the celebration with our Take & Make Kit! Kits are available for pick up starting Monday, February 5 and includes supplies to create a paper lantern and dragon stick puppet. Available at Main Library Youth Services desk and at all branch locations, while supplies last. For ages 4 and up. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

### DISABILITIES COMMISSION

Civic Center Parking Structure, 333 Civic Center Dr, 6:30 - 8 p.m. https://www.smgov.net/departments/clerk/boards.aspx?id=53687092550

### FEBRUARY ZINE CLUB WITH ALICE WYNNE

Alice Wynne started selling zines at age 14 for 50 cents at Skylight Books. Since then, she has not stopped writing and illustrating perzines, photo zines, comix, poetry zines, and more. 4 p.m. Palisades Branch Library, 861 Alma Real Drive, Pacific Palisades https://www.lapl.org/whats-on/events/january-zine-club-alice-wynne

## TUESDAY | FEBRUARY 6

### HISTORY MUSEUM EXHIBIT

From the Tongva people to the contemporary beach town metropolis, UN|HOUSED delves into the heart of Santa Monica's housing legacy by providing perspectives on policy and development. It moves to poignant narratives of migration, affordability, redlining, restrictive covenants, and the ever-relevant topic of rent control. Addressing contemporary housing challenges faced by Santa Monica and the region, the exhibition further explores affordable housing, support systems for those experiencing homelessness, equity and inclusion, and the importance of historic preservation in maintaining the city?s cultural identity. Ongoing exhibit at Santa Monica History Museum, 1350 7th St., Santa Monica.

## WEDNESDAY | FEBRUARY 7

### DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

The largest grower-only Certified Farmers Market in Southern California and a favorite for local chefs! Enjoy one of Santa Monica's farmers markets, widely considered to be among the best on the west coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheeses, delicious foods, live music and more. Downtown Farmers Market is located at Arizona Ave & 2nd St.

## THURSDAY | FEBRUARY 8

### RENT CONTROL BOARD MEETING

The Rent Control Board meets to conduct business associated with the Rent Control Charter Amendment and Regulations. Held at 7 p.m. at Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street.

### BOOK DISCUSSION

Michèle Lamont with Viet Thanh Nguyen will discuss her book, "Seeing Others: How Recognition Works - and How It Can Heal a Divided World," beginning at 8 p.m. at The Ann and Jerry Moss Theater - New Roads School, 3131 Olympic Blvd., Santa Monica. General admission $20, GA ticket plus a signed book copy $45, GA ticket plus a signed book copy and a signed book copy of "A Man of Two Faces" by Nguyen $70. Can be bought at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/michele-lamont-with-viet-thanh-nguyen-tickets-764846716117.

### COMEDY ON MAIN

Featuring comedians from Netflix, BET, Amazon Prime and more. Doors at Tavern on Main, 2907 Main St., open at 8 p.m. and show begins at 8:30 p.m. Tickets $10 online, $15 at the door, use code MAIN for half off tickets while they last. Can be bought at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/comedy-on-main-sm-tickets-694553286577. For more, contact Reid at 301-213-5129 or reid.clark35@gmail.com.

## FRIDAY | FEBRUARY 9

### KING TIDES CELEBRATION

Experience one of the wonders of nature, the highest tides of the year with Climate Action Santa Monica. When the planets and sun are at their closest, and the orbits of the earth and sun are just right, the King Tides, the highest tides of the year, will occur. These high tides give us a glimpse into the future of sea level rise and how these changes will affect our beach, coastal infrastructure, and our community. Begins at 7:30 a.m. at Heal the Bay Aquarium, 1600 Ocean Front Walk, Santa Monica. Tickets are free, reserve a spot at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/3rd-annual-santa-monica-king-tides-celebration-tickets-759363796557.

### DANCE THEATRE

Join Invertigo Dance Theatre in an evening of collective cupid creativity and fun at MidiCi Pizza in Marina Del Rey. Starts at 5 p.m. at MidiCi the Neapolitan Pizza Company, 13488 Maxella Avenue Unit 100, Marina del Rey. Meet and greet Valentine's reception from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., dinner consisting of appetizer, one cocktail, salad, pizza or pasta entree and dessert. Tickets $50, Tickets with VIP Seating for extra $50 donation. Tickets can be purchased at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fall-in-love-with-invertigo-dance-theatre-tickets-796183605597.

### DANCE AT THE ODYSSEY

Odyssey Theatre Ensemble returns with its annual six-week celebration of contemporary dance that has established the company's unique "Dance at the Odyssey" festival as the go-to place to view new work by cutting edge companies and choreographers. Begins at 8 p.m. with a performance of "How I Became Kinder, and Kinder," by choreographer Azuki Umeda. Tickets $25. Odyssey Theatre is located at 2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd. For more, go to odysseytheatre.com.

### DRUNK THEATRE

A comedian takes five shots of whiskey in a row and tries to perform an improvised play with five sober comedians. What could go wrong?! Starts at 9 p.m. at Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St., Santa Monica. Tickets $20, limited pre-sale discount $18, early bird group discount $15 for groups of 4 or more, VIP seating $35. Tickets can be purchased at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/drunk-theatre-la-the-wildest-improv-comedy-show-tickets-792142769347.

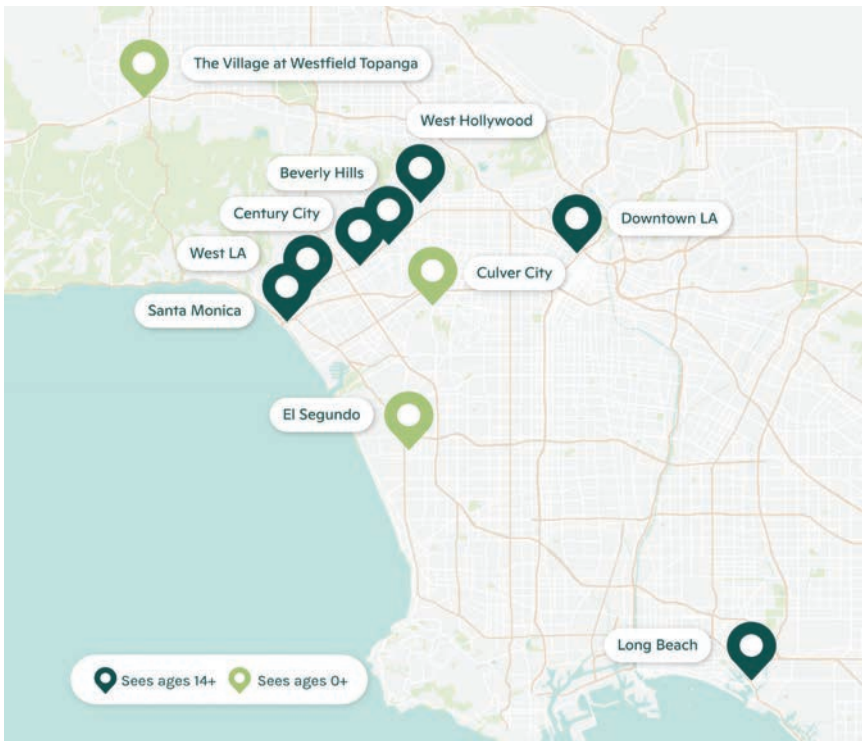
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