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Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 55 WEDNESDAY 2/5/25 smdp.com

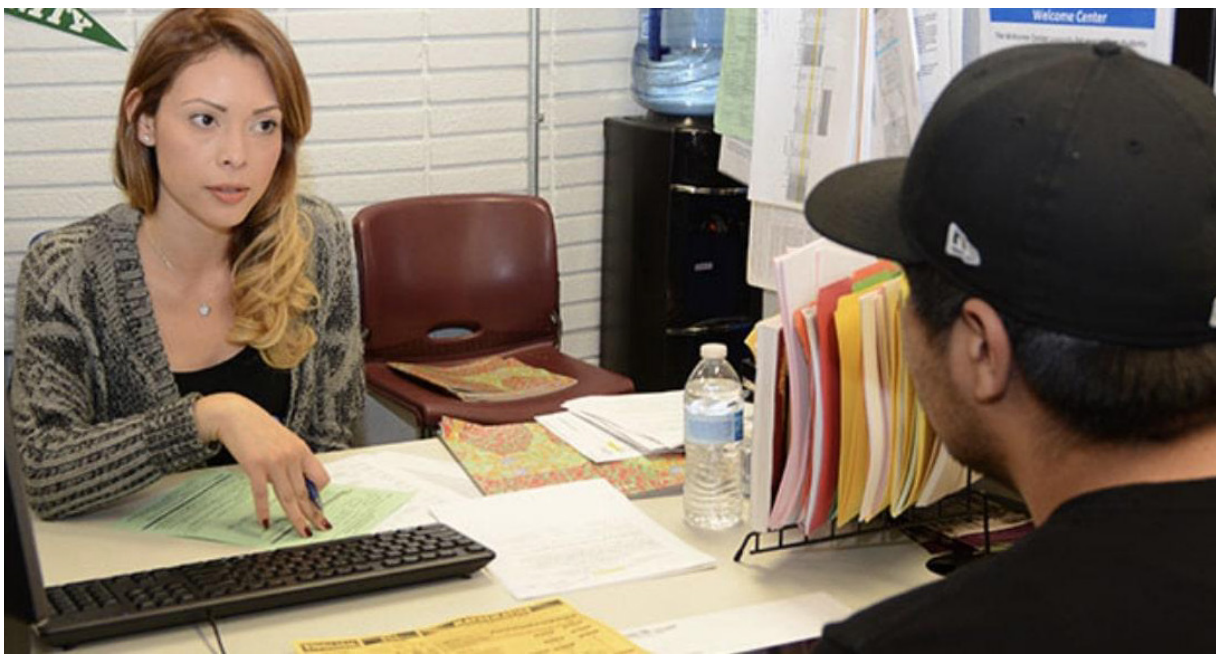
Olympic dual enrollment stays strong at SMC

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

The students of Olympic High School are setting a precedent for their peers in Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, letting them know that they can take on the challenge of college courses.

At the Jan. 23 meeting of the SMMUSD Board of Education, Olympic Principal Cynthia McGregory gave updates on the campus' progress, including another successful semester of dual enrollment classes at Santa Monica College. Olympic students have been taking SMC courses for four semesters now, gradually expanding the variety of dual enrollment classes to include subjects like counseling, business, photography, art and communications.

Gregory noted that she has been working on dual enrollment along with SMMUSD Education Services Coordinator of Learning & Innovation Dr. Devon Smith, adding that students have been alleviating parents' concerns that they may not be able to handle dual enrollment.



Courtesy Photo

SMC: Counseling courses are just one of the options Olympic High School students have as part of dual enrollment at Santa Monica College.

This past semester, eight of Olympic's 36 students took part in SMC's Business 47 course, also known as Understanding Money for Lifelong Success. The class, according to the SMC course catalog, covers topics like money management and "the decision processes and behaviors underlying spending, saving and borrowing." All eight students passed the class with either an A or B grade.

Another continuing dual enrollment course is Counseling 12, which was passed by 28 students during the 2023 fall semester, 19

SEE **OLYMPIC** PAGE 11

Celebrated Italian eatery, Earth, Wind & Flour set to close in just a few weeks

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Despite having survived the pandemic, social unrest, earthquakes and economic downturns, arguably Santa Monica's favorite Italian inspired restaurant, Earth, Wind & Flour is set to close at the end of this month.

Nestled snugly inbetween O'Brien's Irish pub and New York Bagel & Deli and opposite Whole Foods on Wilshire Blvd, the one-of-a-kind eatery has been a mainstay of Santa Monica's restaurant scene for over 43 years.

Owner Dennis Klempner explained that this has nothing to do with declining numbers in the way that has tragically affected many other restaurants recently, but simply that the new owners of the building have chosen to sell it.

"The landlord I had for many years grew old and passed away. They handed everything over to their kids and they wanted to sell

SEE **EARTH, WIND & FLOUR** PAGE 7

PCH closed just days after reopening as County prepares for rain

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The recently reopened Pacific Coast Highway has closed again between Los Angeles and Malibu due to imminent storm risks, causing significant disruptions for local schools and residents trying to return to fire-damaged coastal communities.

CalTrans and Los Angeles County Public Works announced the highway closure will remain in effect through Friday, citing potential mudslides and debris flows from approaching rainstorms known as "atmospheric

SEE **CLOSE** PAGE 6

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If your child attended Santa Monica Police Activities League (PAL) or went to Memorial Park or Virginia Park during the late 1980s to early 2000s, your child may have come in contact with and been sexually abused by Eric Uller, who masqueraded as a police officer.

- Over almost 30 years, he sexually abused hundreds of boys and girls.
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Fresh lawsuit hits Oregon city at the heart of Supreme Court ruling on homeless encampments

The small Oregon city at the heart of a major U.S. Supreme Court ruling last year that allowed cities across the country to enforce homeless camping bans is facing a fresh lawsuit over its camping rules, as advocates find new ways to challenge them in a legal landscape shifted by the high court's decision.

Disability Rights Oregon sued Grants Pass on Thursday, accusing it of violating a state law requiring cities' camping regulations to be "objectively reasonable."

"I don't think that the bad decision from the Supreme Court is the end of homeless advocacy," Tom Stenson, the group's deputy legal director, told The Associated Press. "I think we're going to see that it continues, because the problem isn't going away. The need for housing is not going away."

Mike Zacchino, the information coordinator for Grants Pass, said in an email that the city had no comment.

Last June's Supreme Court ruling made the southern Oregon mountain town of 40,000 the unlikely face of the nation's homelessness crisis. It ushered in a new era of homeless policy by allowing cities across the U.S. to ban sleeping outside and fine people for doing so, even when there aren't enough shelter beds.

In Grants Pass — where officials have struggled for years to address a homelessness crisis that has divided residents — the decision paved the way for the new mayor and City Council members elected in November to crack down on camping upon taking office.

The high court decision overturned a ruling from a California-based appeals court that found camping bans when shelter space is lacking amounted to cruel and unusual punishment under the U.S. Constitution's Eighth Amendment. It enabled Grants Pass to enforce local ordinances barring camping on city property such as parks and sidewalks.

Grants Pass has just one overnight shelter for adults — the Gospel Rescue Mission — and its rules requiring attendance at religious services and barring pets, alcohol, drugs and smoking mean many won't stay there.

After the ruling was issued, the City Council designated two city-owned properties as the areas where the town's hundreds of homeless people would be allowed to stay.

But last week, the new council closed the larger of the two campsites — which housed roughly 120 tents, the complaint says — and made the remaining smaller one only open from 5 p.m. to 7 a.m., forcing people to pack up their belongings every morning and carry them throughout the day with no place where they can legally set down their things.

"It wants to make being homeless in Grants Pass so unpleasant that people go elsewhere," Disability Rights Oregon said of the city in its complaint. "Despite the presence of numerous elderly, ill, and disabled people on site, the city increased its draconian restrictions in the dead of winter leaving hundreds of people with no legal option for their continued survival."

Five homeless people with disabilities who live in Grants Pass are named as plaintiffs in the lawsuit. They include people who use wheelchairs and canes, as well as people suffering from the aftermath of a stroke or missing part of their limbs, according to the complaint.

Among them is Janine Harris, who has lived in Grants Pass for over two decades and became homeless four years ago. The 57-year-old, who says she struggles with post-traumatic stress disorder and depression, lived at the larger city-sanctioned campsite that closed last week. She often has to use a cane to get around due to physical conditions including arthritis, according to the complaint.

"A lot of us do not have any idea where to go," she told the AP on Thursday. "I really am hurting, physically and mentally."

Harris said she joined the lawsuit as a plaintiff because she wants city officials to recognize that homeless people are human beings. "Just because we don't live in a house doesn't mean that we're not," she said.

The complaint says the camping restrictions discriminate against people with disabilities and violate state law, which states that cities' rules regarding when, where and how homeless people can sleep or keep warm and dry outdoors must be "objectively reasonable."

"The City has discriminated against people with disabilities by imposing standards for participation in its camping program that require people to move themselves and their own belongings frequently and for no good purpose," the complaint says. "People with physical disabilities affecting their movement or chronic illnesses that make frequent lifting, carrying, and walking distances difficult or impossible have been and will be cited and prosecuted for violating city ordinances regarding camping."

Disability Rights Oregon is asking the court to block the city from enforcing its camping rules.

Homelessness continues to be a nationwide crisis. Last year, it increased 18% in a dramatic rise driven mostly by a lack of affordable housing as well as devastating natural disasters and an increase in migrants in several parts of the country.

By CLAIRE RUSH Associated Press

IT'S DECKING SEASON!

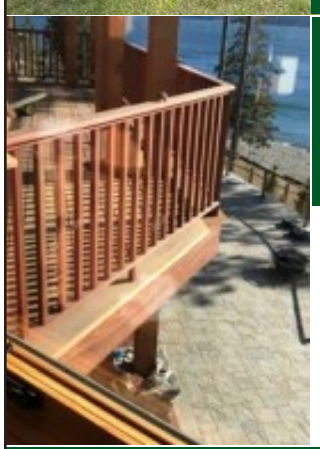


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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Los Angeles Can't Recover from Tragic Fires Without a Leader — Karen Bass is no such thing

In the aftermath of the devastating fires that have scorched communities across Los Angeles, one thing is abundantly clear: our city is in desperate need of leadership. As we struggle to pick up the pieces, there's a haunting truth that we must confront: the leadership we currently have — Mayor Karen Bass — is part of the problem, not the solution.

The recent fires are not just another disaster. They are a wake-up call for a city already crippled by homelessness, housing shortages, rising crime, and infrastructure decay. They are a wake up call that identity politics and misplaced progressive agendas actually kill people and destroy lives. The devastation of these fires has touched lives in unimaginable ways, and recovery is not just about rebuilding homes and businesses. It's about restoring a sense of security, hope, and trust in the leadership of this city.

Let's be straight forward about it: When Karen Bass was elected mayor she was not qualified at all but she fit the mold that democratic leadership wanted. Rick Caruso was running as a qualified candidate but someone outside the democratic establishment. As the race grew close the Democratic party, fueled on their mission of identity politics, sent Biden, Kamala, Newsom and finally Obama to LA to endorse her for fear that someone actually qualified for the job would upset their hold on CA politics. They pledged that she would be the one to steer Los Angeles out of its current state of disarray. Yet in her first year, the city has faced crisis after crisis, with little evidence of a cohesive plan or strategy to tackle the deeply entrenched problems we face. In the case of the fires, it's clear that there was less than no preparation for this inevitable catastrophic event. We needed a mayor who could rally the city's resources, coordinate an effective response, and inspire the public to endure the tough months ahead. Most importantly we needed someone who was not pushing forward a progressive agenda at the cost of human life. Up until this catastrophe the progressive left said that any opposition to their misguided policies was racist and political. Now we see that in fact it's life and death and led to the greatest natural disaster in American History.

In times of tragedy, the people of Los Angeles need a leader who can move with speed, precision, common sense and resolve. They need someone who can take emergency actions quickly, unite the public, get agencies and resources mobilized, and ensure that those affected are supported through every phase of recovery. This requires a proactive, hands-on approach — a level of urgency that, quite frankly, has been completely absent from Bass's administration.

How could the people affected by these tragedies ever unite behind a mayor who cut funding for firefighting. How could they unite behind a mayor who hired her friend, the head of PGE that was responsible for burning down Paradise and the tragedies in Napa and Sonoma to run DWP. (the department that left the palisades reservoir dry for a year) How could they unite behind a mayor that never prepared a plan for an inevitable disaster! How can a city unite behind a mayor putting unqualified people in critical positions: Example: Randall Winston - Infrastructure, Let's not forget that Los Angeles has faced firestorms before. We know the destruction, the displacement, and the long-term rebuilding required. Yes the winds were strong, but they were expected and Bass telling us that it was all unavoidable is ignorant, insulting and frankly disgusting. I have a business in Napa Valley and am extremely educated on fire having lived through 2017, 2020 and being a founding member of the Pritchard Hill FireWise Association. Bass and Newsom telling anyone that this was all unavoidable is a bold faced lie.

Unfortunately, Bass has proven to be unqualified, inept, incompetent and negligent. Her record to date has been marked by delays, indecision, woke and identity politics prioritized over common sense. She is tone deaf to it all, sipping drinks at a cocktail party across the world as her city burned. Smiling through press conferences about devastation and human tragedy. Fumbling through meetings with Trump and other officials and contradicting herself (or lying) to the very people she serves. The job is simply well-beyond her capabilities on any level. When fires ravaged Malibu in 2018, the city worked quickly to mobilize support. In 2020, during the California wildfires, we saw a similar level of collaboration. But now, with Bass at the helm, the response is abhorrent. fumbled, and infuriating.

This isn't just about political ideology. It's about capability. Leadership is not just about policy proposals and speeches — it's about executing those plans with clarity and confidence when the people are counting on you the most. And right now, there's a void. I should also point out that I have a Winery in Napa and lived through the 2017 and 2020 Fires there, so I am extremely educated on fire prevention, mitigation, hardening and preparation to combat them. With this knowledge there is no other way to describe what happened in the Pacific Palisades other than it was an abject failure

SEE **LETTER** PAGE 4



Weather

Wednesday: Rain. High near 60. South wind around 10 mph, with gusts as high as 15 mph.
Wednesday Night: Rain likely. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 53. Southeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm.
Thursday: Rain likely, mainly after 4pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 59. Light south wind becoming south southwest 5 to 10 mph.
Thursday Night: Rain. Low around 53. Chance of precipitation is 80%.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2025/02/08	Sat	8:12 PM	3.61	H
2025/02/09	Sun	12:31 AM	2.35	L
2025/02/09	Sun	06:41 AM	5.98	H
2025/02/09	Sun	2:04 PM	-1.25	L

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POWERBALL
Draw Date: 2/3
12 37 47 54 60
Power#: 17
Jackpot: 113 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: 2/3
2 12 17 21 38

Daily 3
Draw Date: 2/3
EVENING: 2 2 2
Draw Date: 2/3
MIDDAY: 2 9 5

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 2/3
1st: 11 - Money Bags
2nd: 12 - Lucky Charms
3rd: 01 - Gold Rush
Race Time: 1:48.74

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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
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 Proposals for:

On-Call Surveying Services
Project No. SP2539

The City of Santa Monica is inviting proposals from firms interested in providing surveying services for future Public Works projects of the City of Santa Monica.

The purpose of the RFP is to select the most qualified consultant(s) to provide on-call surveying services for Public Works projects.

RFP questions to be submitted to via **OpenGov,** no later than **3:00 p.m. on February 17, 2025.**

Proposers shall upload RFP via **OpenGov,** no later than **3:00 p.m. on March 3, 2025.**

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

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 services for the study of its alleys as part of the BMP Alley Master Plan.

The purpose of the Request for Proposal is to solicit proposals from qualified consulting firms to conduct a comprehensive study of the City's alleys as part of the BMP Alley Master Plan.

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.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Thanking Roosevelt

Editor:

January 30th marked the birthday of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, a man who profoundly shaped my family's life.

My father was given an early death sentence due to poliomyelitis and other childhood diseases being told at the age of 16 that he would not live past his 19th birthday. For my father, and for so many others, FDR was more than just a leader; he was a symbol of hope, resilience, and unwavering determination. I grew up hearing stories about how the Warm Springs Foundation changed everything for polio patients when the world had all but given up.

Many young people today don't know why FDR's face is on the dime. They don't realize that long before the March of Dimes, he poured his heart, soul, and even his own financial security (mortgaging his home in Hyde Park, NY) into a small hospital in Warm Springs, Georgia, so that polio patients—children like my father who believed that their futures had been stolen by illness—might have a chance at a better life.

When my father was lucky enough to meet Roosevelt in 1944 his words left an indelible mark: "You must make friends with the pain . . . set a goal for the future and go after it." That advice didn't just help him survive—it shaped the life he built, the values he passed on to me and my siblings . Strength. Perseverance. The ability to move forward, even when the odds seem impossible.

So on his birthday, I say a quiet thank-you to the man who not only led a nation but gave my father, and by extension, me, a future. His legacy is not just in history books—it's in the lives he saved, the hope he restored, and the strength he inspired.

D.K. Leslie, Santa Monica

SMC Construction

Editor:

It's shocking to hear that Santa Monica College is planning to demolish its Business Building as part of its updated Master Plan.

The Business Building is an excellent late-modern design by renowned architect Anthony Lumsden of DMJM . Its design excellence was recognized at the time, and it was awarded a Los Angeles American Institute of Architects Design Award Citation in 1982.

The combination of poured concrete, metal siding, and mirrored glass results in a composition that remains fresh and interesting to this day. Whatever modernization is needed can be accommodated within the existing building. (Note that the June 2024 Facilities Condition Assessment does not identify any significant deficiencies with the building, even though it recommends demolition!)

Santa Monica College should be commended for pursuing high quality designs for its recent buildings. At the same time it should recognize the jewel in its hands.

While the old Art Center complex is not architecturally distinguished, instructional space with natural daylighting is valuable, interior courtyards are nice gathering spaces for students, and so modernizing the existing complex may be superior (and less costly) to demolition.

Best wishes,

Ed Salisbury, Santa Monica

LETTER

FROM PAGE 3

across the board.

Without bold, decisive leadership, the recovery from this latest disaster will be almost impossible and unnecessarily painful for many Angelenos. What we need is a mayor who will take immediate action to ensure that resources are allocated efficiently, that people get the help they need, and property taxes waived. permitting roadblocks eliminated, aid distributed and that every neighborhood receives the attention and care it deserves. It's not just about containing the fires; it's about containing the emotional and psychological devastation they leave behind.

The people of Los Angeles deserve more! They deserve leadership that is capable, unwavering in its resolve, and visionary in its approach to recovery. The city needs a leader who can stand tall in the face of disaster, not one who stumbles and embarrasses herself clinging to her job.

If Los Angeles is ever to truly recover from the fires — and from the many crises it faces — we need a REAL LEADER

IF SHE TRULY CARED ABOUT THE PEOPLE SHE WAS ELECTED TO SERVE SHE WOULD RESIGN AND GET OUT OF THE WAY OF THE TRAGEDY OF HER MAKING.

Stephen McPherson, Pacific Palisades

Students plan walkout over Presidential actions



Courtesy Image

STUDENTS: A protest is being planned for Thursday at various high schools as students oppose various actions taken by the Trump administration.

DEVYN HAMILTON
SMDP Intern

Students at several local high schools are planning a walk out on Thursday during flex time to protest actions taken by the Trump administration.

The times of day for the walkout vary from school to school–for Samohi, the walkout would coincide with the designated "study period" known as Flextime. There is no specific plan for the walkout for Samohi, the instruction is to leave campus instead of going to their Flextime class.

The walkouts are being organized on social media and locally via an anonymous Instagram account titled, "Walkout Samohi" (@samohi_walkout_against_trump25).

Similar accounts based in other schools (Malibu High, Venice High, University High, Culver City High) have popped up. According to the accounts, they've joined together for a planned multi-school walkout on Thursday, Feb. 6 against President Trump and his policies. The accounts have matching profile pictures with the slogan, "antifascist action."

More than a dozen students spoke to The Daily Press about the protest saying they were generally supportive of the idea but questioned its overall effectiveness and were hesitant to participate without the support of their peers.

"I think it's a great idea, but it needs to be bigger and more planned out if they want to make an impact," says Angelina Cons-Santiago, a sophomore at Samohi.

Sophomore Jefferson Tinus was also supportive.

"The walkout shows the drive that younger people, such as ourselves, have to enact change in society," he said.

However, other students were less enthusiastic.

"I genuinely don't see the point. It's a

SEE **PROTEST** PAGE 11

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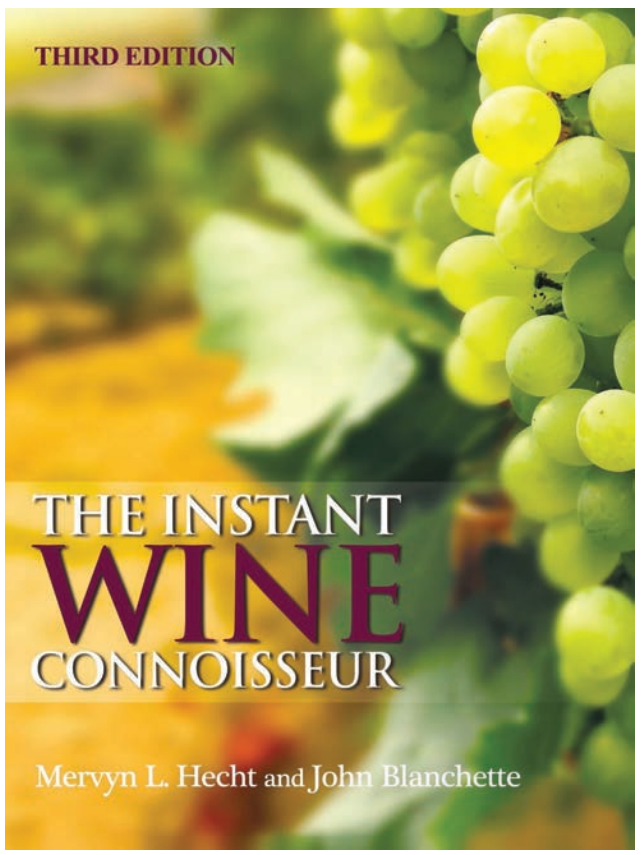
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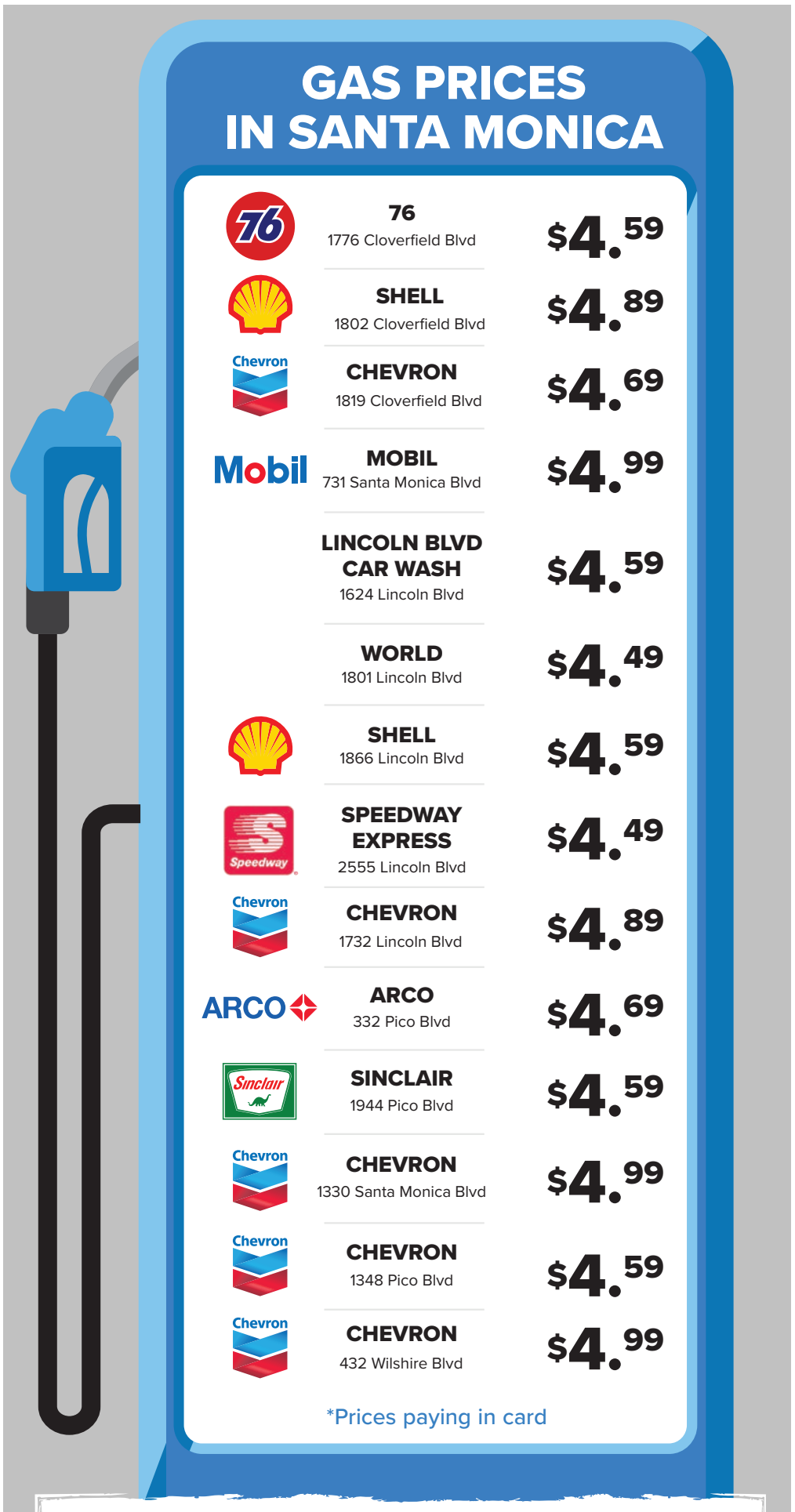


★★★★★ A light-hearted fun read.
★★★★★ Well written, particularly useful, instantly accessible.
★★★★★ ...Hecht has a joyful eye and fabulous taste



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.

available at amazon



Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have risen 1.9 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $4.44/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 4.3 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 21.7 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has decreased 2.4 cents in the last week and stands at $3.626 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at $3.79/g while the most expensive was $5.29/g, a difference of $1.50/g. The lowest price in the state was $3.55/g while the highest was $6.79/g, a difference of $3.24/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 3.5 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $3.04/g today. The national average is down 1.4 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 10.3 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Santa Monica Daily Press

CLOSE

FROM PAGE 1

rivers." The closure will dramatically impact transportation for Malibu schools, forcing administrators to create alternative routing for buses and staff vehicles.

SMMUSD Superintendent Dr. Antonio Shelton said four Malibu campuses were open Tuesday, but transportation was a critical challenge as they could access Malibu via the PCH in the morning, but were not able to do so in the afternoon. Buses and staff vans were rerouted through the 101, 405, and 10 freeways to return to Santa Monica, adding significant travel time and complexity to daily operations.

> "The unpredictability of this situation is causing delays for our bus riders"
>
> - Dr. Antonio Shelton, SMMUSD Superintendent

"The unpredictability of this situation is causing delays for our bus riders," said Shelton in an email to the community. He said the transportation team is navigating an uncertain landscape, with delays likely and potential school closures if access becomes further limited.

The highway closure compounds existing transportation difficulties in an area already stressed by recent wildfires. Topanga Canyon remains closed except to residents, further restricting movement in the region. School officials said they are in frequent communication with the Malibu Emergency Operations Center to monitor the evolving situation.

Two distinct storm systems are expected to impact Los Angeles County, with the first arriving Tuesday night and lasting through Wednesday midday. A second, potentially more intense storm is forecast for Thursday and Friday, bringing potential wind gusts of 10-20 mph in coastal areas and 20-40 mph in mountain regions.

The storms pose significant risks to recently fire-damaged landscapes, with potential mudslides and road erosion threatening Pacific Coast Highway and sensitive canyon roads including Topanga, Malibu, and Kanan Dume.

While the storm may be disruptive to everyone along the fire zones, SMMUSD said it is committed to maintaining in-person education while prioritizing student and staff safety. Principals are preparing remote learning resources in case school closures become necessary.

The highway closure will also impact the district's upcoming Feb. 6 Board of Education meeting, which was moved to Malibu to discuss fire response but has now been relocated from Malibu to Santa Monica and will be livestreamed on the district's YouTube channel.

Los Angeles County has been preparing for the forecasted rain for several days and is taking extensive precautions. Public Works crews have cleared over 400 cubic yards of mud and debris from storm drains and basins, particularly in burn-affected areas.

The county has deployed 679 feet of k-rail and more than 1,500 sandbags in key locations to slow runoff and prevent dangerous debris flows. Residents are urged to prepare by clearing drainage paths, installing sandbags, and avoiding travel in burn and mountain areas during heavy rainfall.

Free sandbags and flood risk assessments are available at designated locations, including the La Costa Post Office. Residents can sign up for emergency alerts at ready.lacounty.gov and report storm-related issues by calling the 24-hour Public Works Dispatch Center.

editor@smdp.com



Caltrans

CLOSES: The PCH will close due to fears of mudslides in the coming days.

EARTH, WIND & FLOUR

FROM PAGE 1

the building," said Klempner. "This has been going on for a little while … but evidently they didn't want to rent [so] it's not going to be a restaurant and we think it will probably be developed."

The Italian-Californian-fusion themed restaurant is well known for its pizza and pasta and offers a wide variety of flavors and toppings to suit all tastes, with every sauce and salad painstakingly crafted by the talented team of cooks, many of whom have worked here for decades. While offering an undeniable hint of a sports bar, with more television screens adoring the walls, it's a restaurant first and a bar second, with the focus, first and foremost being on quality food.

According to Klempner, the origins of the name of the restaurant are indeed loosely linked to the Chicago R&B, soul, funk and disco band of the 70s, Earth, Wind and Fire.

"At the beginning, there were a few of us involved and wanted to create something memorable. We're all in the office, sitting there with books open everywhere, listening to music and trying to find inspiration.

"A long time ago, long before we got here, I was in love with a girl and the song "Fantasy" by Earth, Wind and Fire reminds me of when she broke my heart," Klempner laughed. "For some reason, I was thinking about this and so, I suddenly came out with 'Earth, Wind and Flour' and that's how it started. As you go through life, you look back more and more and you remember crazy things. That phone over there, two times I remember answering that to hear on the other end that my wife was giving birth."

Klempner, 84, was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York and has worked in the restaurant business – in one way or another – for 69 years. He moved to the San Fernando Valley in 1952 and entered the industry working as a dishwasher in an Italian restaurant in Encino. From there he worked his way up to becoming the restaurant's executive chef, helping to open up an additional seven locations along the way. In 1981 he dreamed up what the website describes as, "a laid back, neighborhood oriented location that would serve fresh and delicious California Italian cuisine that the whole family could enjoy."

"It's been a great run. You know, I mean the restaurant businesses. I think everybody should go into the restaurant business before they do anything else," Klempner said, smiling. "It's a chance to meet new people and understand how things work in the world.

"I've been here 43 years and it's been great. The community has supported me all through the years. Lucy [his chef] has been with me for 35 years. And so it's like a double edged sword for me, because I'm 84 and I should have retired, but that's not my makeup. So I keep going and going and going. My wife pushes. She's much younger than me, so she keeps up, but she's been wanting me to retire for years.

"Sometimes people work for more reasons than money. You know, it's doing things I love. I love getting up and being relevant. And you meet people, I see friends every day, the staff are all my friends and we have coffee every morning, I love it," Klempner said.

The last day was actually originally supposed to be January 31, but Klempner was able to push for a four-week extension. Consequently, the last day is Friday, February 28. Earth, Wind and Flour is at 2222 Wilshire Blvd and open every day from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Check out earthwindflour.com for more details.

scott.snowden@smdp.com





Scott Snowden/Courtesy Image

HOUSE SPECIAL: The quality of food at Earth, Wind & Fire was exceptional.



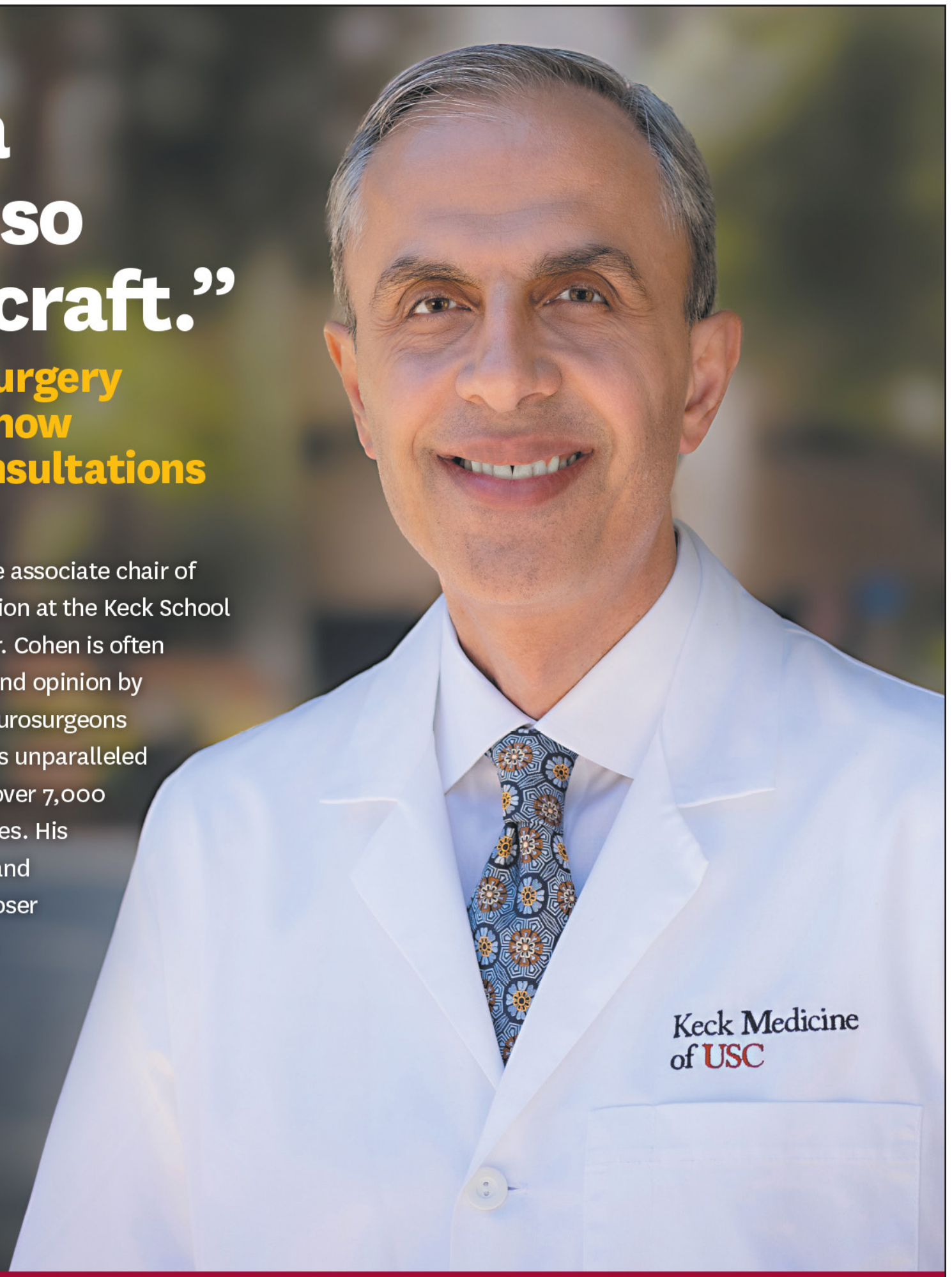


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Our neurosurgery virtuoso is now offering consultations in West LA.

As a professor and the associate chair of neurosurgical innovation at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, Dr. Cohen is often consulted for his second opinion by patients and other neurosurgeons alike. His experience is unparalleled as he has performed over 7,000 complex brain surgeries. His pioneering expertise and compassion is now closer than ever, in West LA.

Aaron Cohen-Gadol
MD, MSc, MBA



Keck Medicine of USC

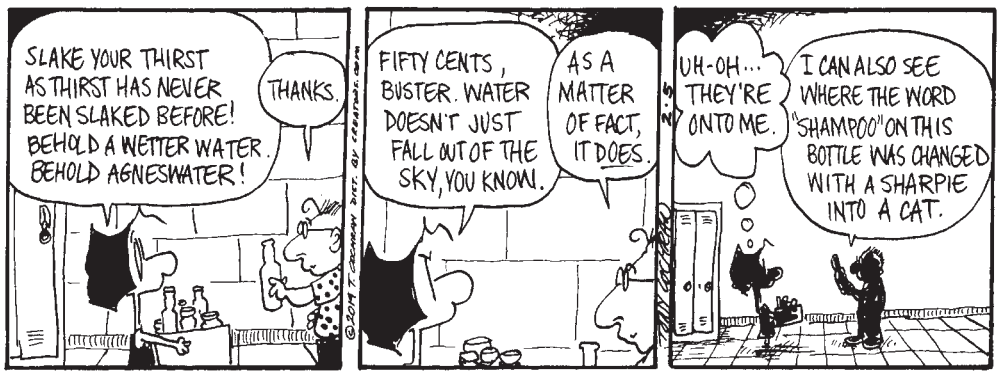
USC Neurosurgery

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For an appointment, call (213) 668-7553
KeckMedicine.org/drcohen
9033 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 300
Beverly Hills, CA 90211

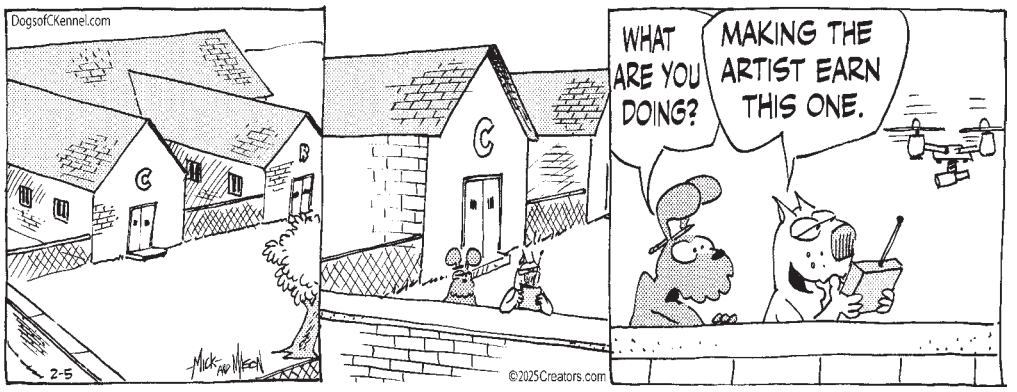
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



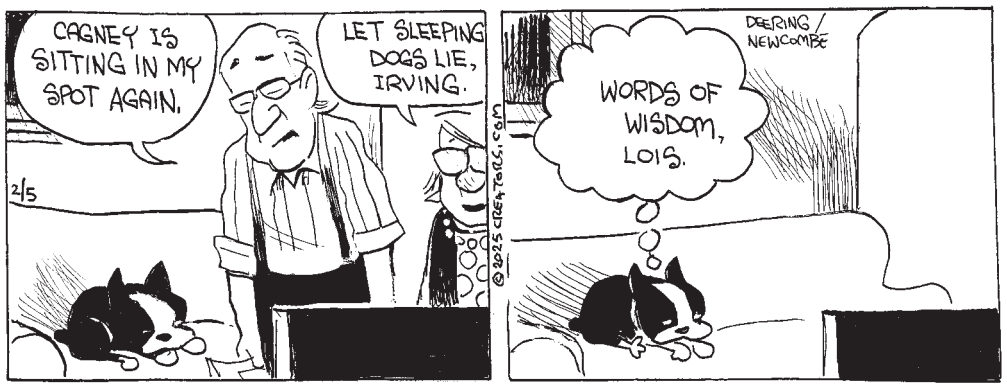
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



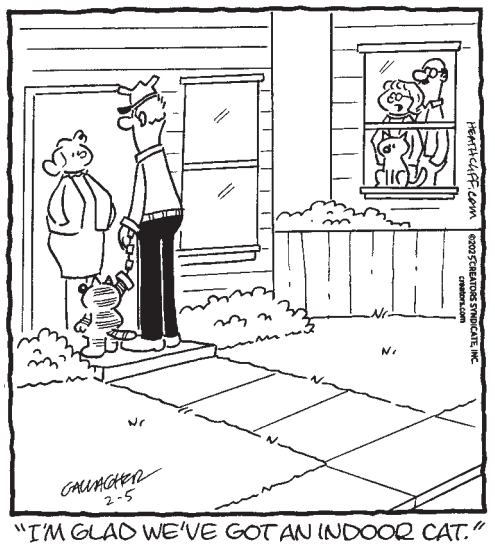
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



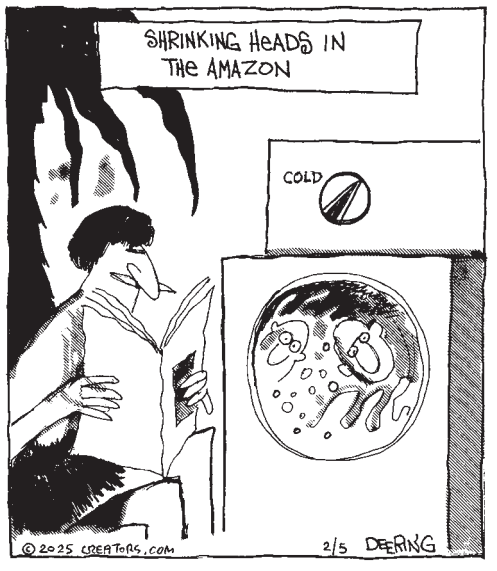
Heathcliff

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6477

A material world

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

Applause	Edges	Lawn	Poodle	Suede
Belt	Fabric	Leno	Poplin	Tack
Bias	Fishnet	Lizard	Qiviut	Tartan
Coat	Flax	Loden	Rare	Toile
Coutel	Fold	Loom	Sateen	Tops
Crepe	Gannex	Lurex	Saye	Tulle
Cuts	Gauze	Neat	Seam	Twill
Dazzle	Iron	Nylon	Serge	Wait
Doberman	Knit	Omran	Sides	Walk
Duck	Lace	Pins	Silk	Yarn
Dye	Lame	Pique	Stripes	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

All Gramps' nick-nacks

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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 5)

Powers of imagination are mighty this year. You'll run much through the theater of your mind and then live it, proving time and time again that you're the director, producer and actor of this experience. More highlights: a spontaneous risk, a bag of money and the expansion of your family tree. You will be extravagant with your joy. Sagittarius and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 4, 33, 13 and 35.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). People need you today. Consider that the ones who vie for your attention aren't necessarily who it should go to. And as long as you're mindfully prioritizing, be sure to cater to your own needs first. You can't pour from an empty cup.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). To deny that the cooperation of others and their opinions affect you would be counterintuitive to human existence. But if we're too concerned with what others think, little gets done, certainly nothing original. You'll find the brilliant balance today.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A plan that goes off without a hitch could be taken as a sign of mastery, or an indication of playing it too safe. When you have a good plan but life throws a wrench in it anyway, this is the cosmic twist that inspires your artfulness.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Connections deepen when it feels safe enough to share the truth. If there's a looming punishment, all bets are off. The threat of disapproval can be enough of a deterrent. The move toward honesty can be small, and it will still count.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're making your dream tangible - one step at a time. It's OK to feel overwhelmed; it means you care deeply. When guilt or doubt creeps in, remember that you're worthy of this pursuit. Keep building on momentum.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Don't judge yourself, and neither should you accept anyone else's assessment. The commentary, whether it's coming from within or without, won't be helpful. Instead of judging life, just live it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Conversations can confuse. Even the written word of contracts and constitutions can have multiple interpretations. Luckily, conflict and miscommunication can be avoided by cultivating respect in all interactions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll make someone laugh today, which feels smart, even if you're playing the fool to accomplish it. Make no mistake, to reach people in humor is to perform a very nuanced and sophisticated task.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Confidence sells ideas only so far as it can be believed. "Fake it till you make it" will work best when the fake is so convincing that the faker believes it, too. Go forward in bravado.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Today brings a barrage of creativity and the urge to share it. Though it might not be everyone's cup of tea, it's not inherently a problem. People who welcome your thoughts and feelings are the best fit for closeness.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). For you, experiencing life's richness is always tied to learning. There's so much you have access to now. Follow your curiosity. Your presence adds vigor to the proceedings. You'll make an impression.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You built your itinerary to be a steady stream of activity and joy, but now the schedule feels crammed and hectic. Just remember, you're still in charge. Cut it back by half. Take it easy.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

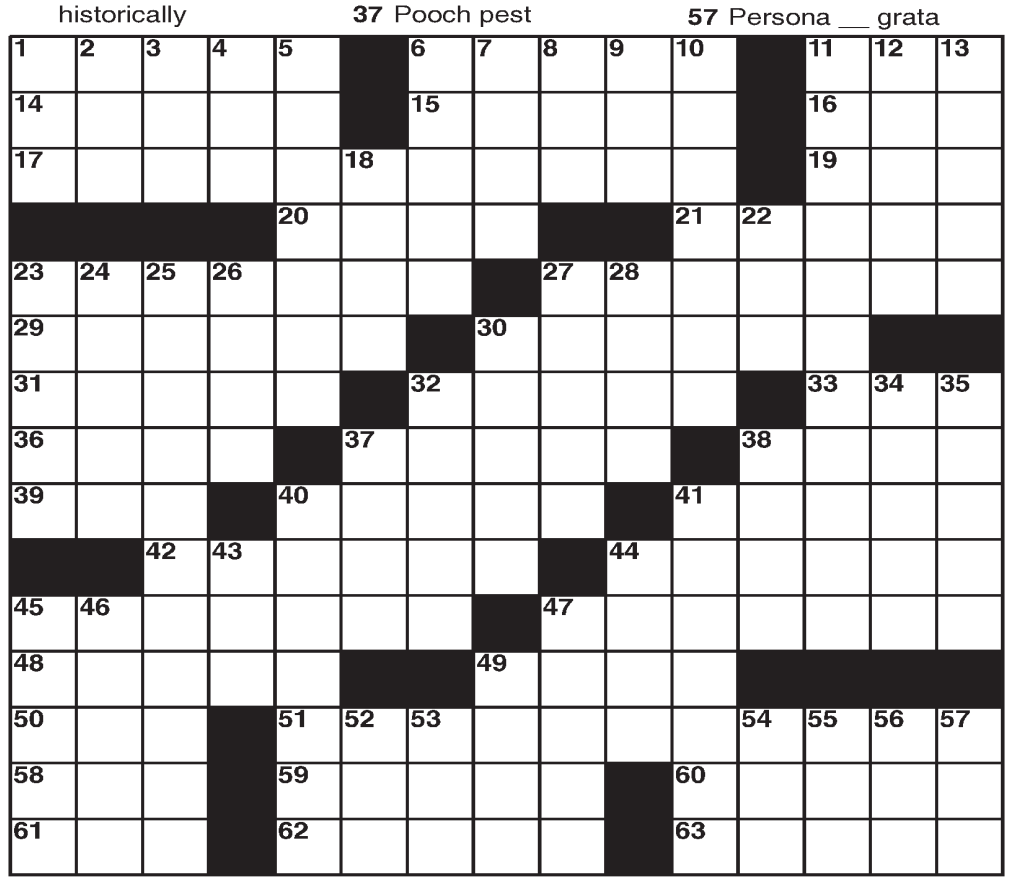
FOWL MOOD by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Harpoon or javelin
6 Wipe clean
11 Fl. oz. fraction
14 Fictional Scarlett
15 Medicinal amounts
16 Part of APB
17 Vulnerable one
19 Summer zodiac sign
20 Goes out with
21 Annoyed
23 Forced open
27 Linen fabrics
29 In the vicinity
30 Teflon company
31 Clever and funny
32 Gets set, for short
33 Put to work
36 Arthur __ Stadium (pro tennis venue)
37 Impressive deeds
38 Big smile
39 Definite article
40 San Antonio landmark
41 Wasn't serious
42 Indy 500 drivers
44 Go back on a deal
45 Bewitching
47 Shuffled along
48 Be very fond of
49 Bonnets and beanies
50 AFL merger partner
51 Engage in a pointless show of bravery
58 "May I help you?"
59 Musical speed
60 Capital of Egypt
61 Novelist Grafton
62 Determined to do
63 Jordan's capital

DOWN

1 Plea at sea
2 __ Beta Kappa
3 Erode
4 Curator's concern
5 Filled with dried grapes
6 Barely defeated
7 Fishing poles
8 Tempe sch.
9 Wall St. regulator
10 Native Alaskans, historically
11 Gets down to business
12 Aerodynamically designed
13 Walks wearily
18 Anything essential
22 Sped away on foot
23 Chide
24 From Dublin
25 Nursery rhyme byline
26 TV remote button
27 On account of
28 Smartphone software
30 Vial measures
32 Gem from the sea
34 Extended battle
35 Completed
37 Pooch pest
38 Departed
40 Takes to be true
41 Actress Alba
43 Basketball's contents
44 IRA variety
45 Thanksgiving parade sponsor
46 French farewell
47 Georgia city
49 Syringe, for short
52 Director Spike
53 Qty.
54 Web-video gear
55 Common Korean surname
56 Historical age
57 Persona __ grata



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02/05/25

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

OLYMPIC

FROM PAGE 1

earning an A or a B. The class, titled Exploring Careers and College Majors, is designed for students who are either undecided about educational or career goals, or seeking transition into a new career.

Beginning this past month, Olympic students enrolled in the SMC courses Counseling 19 (Orientation Seminar), Photo 1 (Introduction to Photography), Art 20 (Introduction to Drawing) and Communications 35 (Interpersonal Communication).

At the Olympic site, McGregory said that the school's focus has been to use academic language to clearly communicate through writing tasks, such as using evidence when constructing responses. Outside of academics, she added that the social-emotional well-being of students is "always top priority."

"We all know today may look vastly different than yesterday for most of our students," McGregory said. "We truly focus on the whole child."

Looking forward, this will be another busy week at SMMUSD, specifically when it comes to the relationship between the district and its Malibu contingent.

First, Wednesday morning will see the return of the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) County Committee on School District Organization discussion on a potential Santa Monica-Malibu separation. The LACOE committee will hear an update on the original 2017 petition to form a Malibu Unified School District, after the January meeting was cancelled due to the Palisades Fire.

The next day, the SMMUSD Board of Education will hold its regularly-scheduled meeting at district offices, originally scheduled to be held in the Arlene and Dick Van Dyke Theater at Malibu High School. The board previously discussed holding a meeting in Malibu post-Palisades Fire due to the fire's impacts on Malibu campuses this past month, but could not make it feasible due to the planned closure of Pacific Coast Highway.

Along with continued discussion about Palisades Fire recovery efforts, the board will receive a summary of the 2024 California School Dashboard, a report of district performance and progress in 13 different areas ranging from academic indicators to graduation and suspension rates.

thomas@smdp.com

PROTEST

FROM PAGE 5

walkout during Flextime? Flex is for us. The teachers won't care–it's not doing anything at all," says SaMo High junior Frances Aguilar.

President Donald Trump has announced a flurry of executive orders and policy changes since taking office that have angered critics while catering to his supporters.

> "I think it's a great idea, but it needs to be bigger and more planned out if they want to make an impact
>
> - Angelina Cons-Santiago

The accounts organizing the action called out efforts around reproductive freedom, LGBTQ rights, environmental protections, intellectual freedoms, migrant rights and democracy.

California officials are also concerned.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta issued a statement this week on President Trump's executive order targeting transgender, nonbinary, intersex, and gender nonconforming students.

"California will continue to create a welcoming environment for all students, including transgender and gender nonconforming students," said Bonta. "The federal government sets a floor, not a ceiling when it comes to civil rights protections — and California law has always provided additional protections beyond those that exist at the federal level. Those protections remain firmly in place."

Bonta has also issued guidance to schools over fears that immigration officials will target undocumented students on campus.

His office has provided practical guidance to school officials on how to respond if an immigration officer comes to campus and model policies for K-12 public schools to assist them in complying with state law. The final document provides immigrant students and their families with information on their educational rights and protections under the law.

"All children have a constitutional right to access a public education, regardless of their immigration status," said Attorney General Bonta. "Schools are meant to be a safe place for children to learn and grow. Unfortunately, the President's recent orders have created fear and uncertainty in our immigrant communities. My office is committed to ensuring our educators have the tools and knowledge they need to respond appropriately if immigration officers come to their campus – and that immigrant students and families understand their rights and protections under the law. I encourage schools to keep our office apprised of immigration enforcement occurring on their campuses by emailing immigration@doj.ca.gov. We're continuing to monitor this issue closely, and we will not hesitate to act if we believe this enforcement goes beyond federal authority under the law."

The Trump administration has made efforts to enforce its policies via funding cuts, an action that has been met with lawsuits from opponents. A Federal court has temporarily blocked those efforts.

"As I visit schools across our state, I am always impressed by the programs that our local educational agencies have designed to put state and federal dollars to work for kids," said California Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond. "Please continue to stay the course with local programs that are producing results. Now is the time when our students need consistency, support, and community more than ever."

SMDP Editor Matthew Hall contributed to this report.



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

THE NORTH OF MONTANA AVENUE ASSOCIATION (NOMA)

meeting this Thursday, Feb. 6, at 7pm will be turned over to wide-ranging and intensive discussion of the recent fires that impacted our community and the need for emergency preparedness. Members of City Staff and our police and fire departments will be present, including SMPD CHIEF RAMON BATISTA and NOMA Resource Officer DAVID WANG, CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER and DIRECTOR of EMERGENCY OPERATIONS LINDSAY CALL and SMFD FIRE PREVENTION COORDINATOR CATHY TAYLOR. All in the neighborhood and city are invited to the Zoom meeting, accessible at smnoma.gov

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.

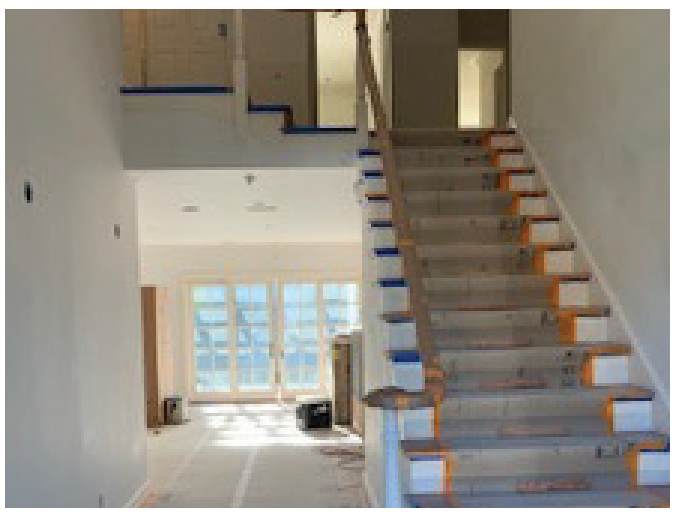
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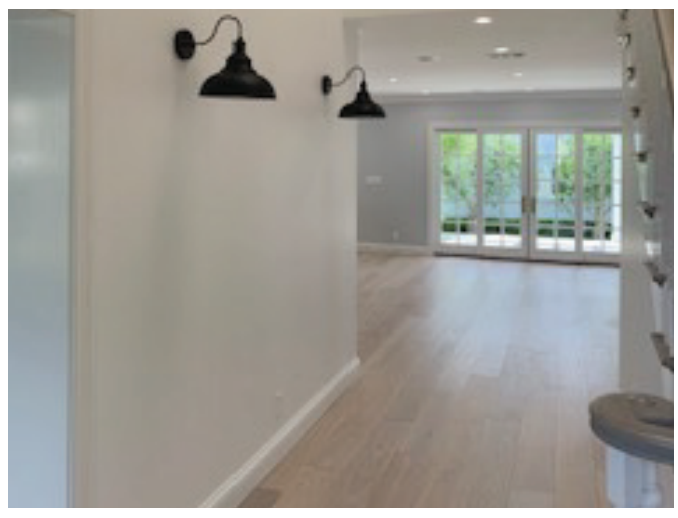
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