2 **Din Tai Fung**
Announces opening date.

3 **David White**
Given council sendoff.

4 **Debris Flows**
Endangering communities.

8 & 9 **Real Estate Map**
Latest in local listings.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 62 THE WEEKENDER 2/14-2/16 smdp.com

Home of city's first Black physician now historical landmark



Courtesy Photo

LANDMARK: The Tucker House was named a Santa Monica historical landmark this week.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

A monumental location in Santa Monica's Black history is now forever immortalized.

On Monday, the Santa Monica Landmarks Commission confirmed the Tucker House at 1958 20th St. as a Santa Monica Landmark after recommendation from City staff and its historic resource consultant. Nominated by the Santa Monica Conservancy and Quinn Research Center, the Tucker House is named after the city's first Black physician, Dr. Marcus O. Tucker.

Tucker initially moved to Santa Monica in 1931 alongside his wife, Essie, opening a practice in the Murrell building at 402-404 Pico Blvd. before building his own medical office at 424 Pico Blvd. The doctor served on staff of Santa Monica, Culver City and St. John's hospitals, treating patients until his death in 1944, and also aided the community in various civic projects.

The Tucker House itself, home to the doctor and his family, meets three designations under the Landmarks Commission criteria, with the commission noted as being "enthusiastic in their support" by city staff.

According to the criteria, the building "exemplifies, symbolizes, or manifests elements of the cultural, social, economic, political or architectural history of the city." It also "is identified with historic personages or with important events in local, state or

SEE **LANDMARK** PAGE 15







PUBLIC NOTICE

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.
- Victims were often too scared or ashamed to tell their parents.
- Many victims have moved away and don't know they have a right to make a claim.
- Share this notice. There may still be time to file a claim.



McGEE | LERER & ASSOCIATES Personal Injury Attorneys + Sexual Abuse

www.mcgeelerer.com | (310) 231-9717 | Free confidential consultation

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

Din Tai Fung opening this month

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The much anticipated opening of Din Tai Fung at Santa Monica Place is scheduled for the end of the month according to the restaurant's website.

Din Tai Fung, the acclaimed Chinese restaurant chain known for its soup dumplings, plans to open a 10,615-square-foot location at Santa Monica Place. The Taiwan-based company operates seven Southern California restaurants among its roughly 175 locations worldwide. In announcing the location two years ago, Vice President Aaron Yang said the ocean view space marks a long-sought expansion into Santa Monica.

In a statement, the company said that in support of the greater Los Angeles community following the recent wildfires, Din Tai Fung will donate 100% of profits from both its soft opening and grand opening weeks to help local, independent restaurants affected by the fires rebuild.

The restaurant earned international recognition for its xiao long bao, delicate dumplings filled with meat and hot soup. Its first U.S. location opened in Arcadia, California, in 2000, drawing hours-long waits that persist at most locations. The Michelin Guide has awarded stars to Din Tai Fung's Hong Kong locations. Beyond its signature dumplings, the chain serves steamed buns, hand-pulled noodles and an expanded menu of vegan options. The new Santa Monica restaurant, set to open across from the planned Arte Museum, will feature indoor and outdoor seating on the mall's third level with views of the Pacific Ocean.

The company has locations in 13 countries, including outposts in Las Vegas and Washington state. Founder Yang Bingyi started Din Tai Fung in Taiwan in 1972 as a cooking oil retail shop before transforming it into a dumpling house that would grow into a global brand.

The website offers early birds an opportunity to make a reservation for a soft opening between Feb. 20-27 (https://www.yelp.com/reservations/din-tai-fung-santa-monica-coming-soon-santa-monica)

The opening is a rare bright spot for the mall that has seen it's value and occupancy rates drop recently.

The mall's value has plunged 59% since 2017 according to reports from Morningstar and Trepp last year and many of the malls' once signature tenants have left.

Owner Macerich Co. defaulted on its $300 million mortgage and has struggled to make consistent payments. The Frank Gehry-designed mall, which underwent a $265 million renovation in 2010, has struggled despite its prime downtown location.

However, local officials have long pointed at Din Tai Fung's opening as a sign of faith in the location.

The restaurant is located at 395 Santa Monica Place – Suite FC01. Visit https://dtf.com/en/locations/santa-monica for more information.

editor@smdp.com

the SANTA BARBARA ANTIQUE Decorative Arts & Vintage Show & Sale

At the Earl Warren Showgrounds with FREE PARKING
3400 Calle Real, Santa Barbara, California

FEB 21, 22, & 23, 2025

FRI 11-6, SAT 11-6, SUN 11-4

From 17th Century to Mid-Century....

Over 60 Quality Dealers from around the country offer a wide array of furniture, paintings, jewelry, silver, china, textiles, Asian, & much more!



$8 Adults w/ this ad • $7 Senior (62+) • Child (Under 12 Free)
Cash Only at the Door | Admission is good for all 3 days

For Dealer Inquiries, Contact Gae Ann McHale at 619-925-2346

SBAntiqueShow.com

Classifieds

Summons

STATEMENT OF DAMAGES(Personal Injury or Wrongful Death) Civ 050Case No: 24PSCV00443Attorney for Miao YangATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY(Name and Address):Michael E. Israel, Esq. [SBN 263946] Tel Phone 626-317-0033Demidchik Law Firm, P.C.17800 Castleton Street, Suite 605CIty of Industry, CA 91748SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OFSTREET ADDRESS:MAILING ADDRESS: 400 Civic Center PlazaCITY AND ZIP CODE: Pomona, 91766BRANCH NAME: Pomona Courthouse SouthPLAINTIFF: Miao YangDEFENDANT: Lin MA and Sheng GuoSTATEMENT OF DAMAGES(Personal Injury or Wrongful Death)To (name of one defendant only): Sheng GuoPlaintiff (name of one plaintiff only):Miao Yangseeks damages in the above-entitled action, as follows:1. General damages AMOUNT a. Pain, suffering, and inconvenience..$ 1,000,000.00 b. Emotional distress.. $ 500,000.00 c. Loss of consortium... $ d. Loss of society andcompanionship (wrongful death actions only) .. $ e. Other (specify) $f. Other (specify) $g. Continued on Attachment 1.g.2. Special damagesa. Medical expenses (todate)..$b.Futuremedical expenses (present value) ...$ c. Loss of earnings (todate) ... $ 200,000.00 d. Loss of future earningcapacity (present value) .... $ 1,000,000.00 e. Property damage.... $ f. Funeral expenses (wrongfuldeath actions only) .... $ g. Future contributions (present value)(wrongful death actions only) ..... $ h. Value of personal service, advice, or training(wrongful death actions only) .... $ i. Other (specify) $j. Other (specify) $k. Continued on Attachment 2.k.3. Punitive damages: Plaintiff reserves the right to seek punitive damages in the amount of (specify).. $ 1,000,000.00when pursuing a judgment in the suit filed against you.Date: 11/5/2024(TYPE OR PRINT NAME) MICHAEL E ISRAEL(SIGNATURE OF PLAINTIFF OR ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF) MICHAEL E ISRAELPROOF OF SERVICE(After having the other party served as described below, with any of the documents identified in item 1, have theperson who servedThe documents complete this Proof of Service. Plaintiff cannot serve these papers.)1. I served thea. Statement of Damagesc. by servingOTHER SERVED BY PUBLICATION2. Manner of service (check proper box):f. Other (specify code section):SERVED BY PUBLICATION

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm
LOCATION 1640 5th Street, Suite 218, Santa Monica, CA 90401

City Manager David White given traditional Santa Monica City send off



Courtesy photo

WHITE'S WAY: City Manager David White is presented with the traditional Santa Monica City road sign a she bids farewell to our fair city.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Bookending the beginning and the end of Tuesday's City Council meeting was first a commendation from members of council and City staff to David White and then the appointment of a temporary ad hoc Council committee for the process of finding a full-time replacement.

White will step down at the end of February after three-plus years serving as Santa Monica's City Manager, a role that began in October 2021 after serving as City Manager of Fairfield for five years, as well as two years as Deputy City Manager of Berkeley. He is set to return to that position once again in Berkeley.

Mayor Lana Negrete read the commendation in chambers. "The City Council, City team and community are profoundly grateful for the leadership of City Manager David White during extraordinary, challenging times ... White demonstrated a deep commitment to local government and accountability. He brought an incisive mind, depth of knowledge, the ability to balance competing interests, a strong worth act, work ethic and unwavering integrity," she said.

The office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath also sent a commendation.

White himself became visibly emotional as he gave a brief speech. "I want to thank this community, all of its residents, all of the businesses, for welcoming me, welcoming my wife, Virginia, to this amazing city ... I want to thank our amazing workforce and our employees, they're doing tremendous work every single day ... I want to thank all of you, the city council. I really appreciate your partnership. I appreciate the advice, I appreciate your leadership. The city is moving in such a wonderful direction because of the vision that you have. And I just want to say thank you for everything that you do. I know it's a tremendous sacrifice to your families and to your lives, but what you do is incredibly impressive, and I appreciate all of you very much."

Former Santa Monica Mayor Gleam Davis made a thoughtful appearance as a public commentator to also wish White the very best.

"I just wanted to come here and publicly thank David White for his service to this city. When David arrived, we were in the middle of the COVID crisis. The city was facing unprecedented financial challenges, and frankly, we had a dysfunctional Council, and he stepped in, in a very difficult situation, and acted, as you noted, with integrity and with good spirits ... and I think most importantly, really made an effort to try and be fair to everybody in the community," Davis said.

"I do want to apologize to him, because not everybody in the community was fair to him. There were council members and members of this community who treated him abominably. And although I don't think that's why he's leaving, I think he's owed an apology from all of us for that ... It's a thankless job. It's 24/7 and he becomes the lightning rod for everything that everyone disagrees with. He has to be the liaison between Council dreams and staff reality sometimes ... I want to wish him Virginia and [his daughter] Valencia all the best," Davis said.

Finally, after seven and a half hours, as the clock neared 12:30am, the very last agenda

SEE **COUNCIL** PAGE 15



Surf report — WATER TEMP: **57.0**

FRIDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: Thigh to waist 2-3FT

Confidence is increasing we'll see fairly solid WNW swell build, although with onshore wind. Mid to long period and fairly solid surf looks increasingly likely. Could be chest-head for many breaks, potentially overhead at top spots. Unfortunately, it also looks like we'll have all day onshore wind out of the W/WNW. Miserable for spots west of Dume. Not a terrible direction for the points, but it looks strong enough to be a problem. More rain due too.

SATURDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: Thigh to waist 2-3FT

Potential for a clean up day with plenty of swell leftover. Run of WNW swell that moves in on Friday still has plenty of legs if the current forecast holds. Models are in pretty good agreement on the storm setting up the swell and the likely return of favorable local conditions to start the weekend. Stay tuned - we'll see if the storm can live up to the forecast over the next day or so.

Weather

Friday: Showers likely, mainly before 10am. Partly sunny, with a high near 60. West southwest wind 5 to 15 mph.
Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers before 10pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 46.
Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 62. North northeast wind around 5 mph becoming west in the afternoon.
Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 48.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2025/02/14	Fri	03:52 AM	1.24	L
2025/02/14	Fri	09:49 AM	5.21	H
2025/02/14	Fri	4:27 PM	-0.18	L
2025/02/14	Fri	10:47 PM	4.42	H
2025/02/15	Sat	04:30 AM	1.22	L
2025/02/15	Sat	10:23 AM	4.66	H
2025/02/15	Sat	4:48 PM	0.30	L
2025/02/15	Sat	11:11 PM	4.45	H
2025/02/16	Sun	05:11 AM	1.24	L
2025/02/16	Sun	10:57 AM	4.03	H
2025/02/16	Sun	5:06 PM	0.81	L
2025/02/16	Sun	11:36 PM	4.45	H
2025/02/17	Mon	05:56 AM	1.32	L
2025/02/17	Mon	11:36 AM	3.36	H
2025/02/17	Mon	5:19 PM	1.32	L

Daily Lottery

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

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 2/12
21 32 36 45 49
Power#: 18
Jackpot: 172 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 2/11
7 30 39 41 70
Mega#: 13
Jackpot: 129 M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 2/12
13 20 22 27 35
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 25 M

FANTASY 5
Draw Date: 2/12
4 7 13 16 20

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 2/12
EVENING: 7 1 7
Draw Date: 2/12
MIDDAY: 9 4 5

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 2/12
1st: 12 - Lucky Charms
2nd: 01 - Gold Rush
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:41.39

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Jack Neworth,
David Pisarra.

CIRCULATION
Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com

Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Scott Snowden
scott.snowden@smdp.com

Thomas Leffler
thomas@smdp.com

DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

MARKETING MANAGER
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

1640 5th Street, Suite 218
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

AWARD WINNER

Sustainable Quality Awards
WINNER

The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 8,200 on weekdays and 8,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

PUBLISHED BY NEWLON ROUGE, LLC
© 2023 Newlon Rouge, LLC, all rights reserved.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Crushed by boulders, drowned in mud: How debris flows endanger LA's fire-ravaged communities



Photo by Jules Hotz for CalMatters

DEBRIS: Gas utility repairs are underway in an Altadena neighborhood that was burned in the Eaton Fire.

Sterling Klippel is awed by the beauty of nature but spends his working days resisting its power.

Casting worried glances at a gray sky above the Sierra Madre Dam in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, Klippel, a beefy and upbeat man, was patiently describing the complexities of Los Angeles County's flood protection system.

As a principal engineer for the county's Public Works Department, Klippel's job is to try to stop catastrophic flows of mud, debris and boulders that could rush into fire-stricken neighborhoods in Altadena and surrounding communities. Klippel and his stormwater crews must ensure that the county's network of dams, debris basins, channels and storm drains are up to the task.

Emergency teams from multiple agencies have cleared out flood basins beneath the Eaton Fire's 14,000-acre burn scar, rushed to distribute sandbags and placed long concrete barriers to redirect potential flows.

But the work to hold back fire-scarred mountains that no longer have vegetation to stabilize them can be futile and humbling.

While the Eaton Fire is contained, the danger to foothill communities is not.

Nearly 170,000 people live in Altadena, Pasadena and Sierra Madre at the foot of the San Gabriel Mountains, and many are potentially in the path of debris flows.

Heavy rainfall expected on Thursday and Friday has triggered warnings about fire-scarred hillsides unleashing torrents of mud, boulders and debris from the torched slopes. The National Weather Service issued a flash flood watch for late Thursday, with the greatest risks in areas burned by the Eaton, Palisades, Franklin, and Bridge fires. In Santa Barbara, people in the Lake Fire's burn areas were told to prepare to evacuate as a storm approaches today.

Neither flood nor landslide, debris flows are creatures all their own. Often holding more sediment and rock than water, they usually begin with torrential rain on dry, impervious and unstable earth — conditions often created by wildfires.

The droplets kick up sand and gravel, and the water accumulates much faster than it can sink into the ground. Within minutes, the runoff can snowball into an ashy-gray torrent of tumbling rocks and boulders that blow through bridges, macerate structures and carry away houses and vehicles.

The highest danger of a debris flow can persist for years after a fire, and right now, the southern flank of the steep, crumbly San Gabriels is considered especially vulnerable.

Throughout Southern California, the bases of mountain ranges are strewn with the effluent of past debris flows — called alluvial fans — and cities in the sprawling Los Angeles basin have been built on top of them.

The Eaton Fire damage assessment report, released by the National Forest Service on Tuesday, warns that "the probabilities of hyper-concentrated flows and/or debris flows are high to very high in most channels in the Eaton Fire burn area." The report projects potentially massive debris flows spilling into Altadena from Eaton Canyon and several other watersheds scarred by the fire.

A disastrous debris flow in 1969 killed 100 people after a 20-foot wave of mud rushed through Azusa in the foothills of the San Gabriels. In 1994 a man and his 9-year-old son were killed during a flash flood in a park in Sierra Madre, where a canyon had burned a year before. And to the east, in San Bernardino County, 16 people died in debris flows after 2003's Old and Grand Prix fires.

The most recent devastation was in 2018, when a debris flow in Montecito after the Thomas Fire killed 23 people, many of them drowned in waves of mud or crushed by debris.

In the areas scarred by the Eaton Fire, just a fifth of an inch of rain could trigger a disaster if it falls within15 minutes, said Jeremy Lancaster, the state geologist who heads the California Geological Survey. The federal report pegged a higher threshold — with 1.57 inches of rain per hour or less than half an inch in the critical 15-minute span — very likely to initiate debris flows in the burned canyons.

"We're worried about short-duration, high-intensity rainfall, like thunderstorms," Lancaster said.

This week's storm will test the capacity of the county's system to handle the force of what might be unleashed later this week.

Klippel knows the race is on.

"We work with the weather service and look at modeling 48 hours ahead of a storm," he said. "Things start to come into focus. We want all of our flood control facilities to be ready. We've got to get everything cleared out."

Hundreds of feet below the spot where Klippel was standing, bulldozers and other heavy equipment scraped and pushed the canyon's sediment and rock and loaded heavy piles into dump trucks lined up to haul it away,

This site, built in 1928, no longer operates as a dam, but its solid concrete sweep is designed to stop the advance of mud and debris and allow only water to pass through culverts to open areas where the water percolates back into the aquifer.

These and dozens other structures are critical safety barriers — the roof of a home is visible through trees behind the dam and many cherished neighborhoods are tucked away downstream in wooded ravines.

Of particular concern is the secluded enclave known as Pasadena Glen, a quirky mix of ultra-modern designer homes and rustic cabins. Running through the community is a deep, rocky cleft that carries water coming from higher elevations past the live oaks and sycamores into collection basins below.

In an unburned landscape, roots and other flammable organic material help hold sand, gravel and rock together, explained Benjamin Hatchett, a Colorado State University fire meteorologist based in Northern California who has assessed landscapes after wildfires. The overhead canopy, he said, also absorbs the shock of raindrops before they land.

But after a severe fire, much of the ground is burned down to nothing but bare mineral earth, ready to come unzipped at the first torrent of water.

That's where things stand in the charred footprint of the Eaton Fire.

The state response team that handles watershed emergencies reported that "the Eaton Fire has a high likelihood of generating large magnitude post-fire flood and debris flow events," adding that "the risk is very high" because of the "critical values exposed."

In other words: This is an emergency — and people's lives and the places they care about are in danger.

MOUNTAINS CAN FALL APART

If you wanted to purposefully design a mountain range to come apart and sluff off its rocky flanks, you could do no better than the San Gabriels. Their steep slopes efficiently funnel storm runoff through narrow cuts from peaks that widen at the bottom.

This extreme architecture enhances fire: deep, narrow clefts transport flames like chimneys. And those broad alluvial fans are expert at what geologists call entrainment — water, mud, sediment and boulders coalesce and gain speed and mass as they race downhill, hitting the bottom and spreading debris flows across a wide area.

The speed of the flows can reach 30 to 40 miles an hour and are urged along by the slopes' steepness and lack of vegetation. Severely burned soils coated with ash become hydrophobic, meaning rather than soaking into the hillsides, the water rolls easily off the surface.

For example, water dumped from the local peak, Mt. Wilson, at 5,700 feet, will come down the mountain seven times faster after a severe fire, said Sean Norman, a Cal Fire team leader on the Eaton Fire.

That acceleration is unwelcome news for communities nestled in the foothills. In the same way that trees are fuel for wildfires, steep hillsides clogged with boulders become fuel for debris flows.

Most debris flows dissipate in minutes

SEE **MUD** PAGE 12

How photos lost in American disasters find their way home, with a little help from people who care

Hollowed-out homes. Cars entombed by mud. Unpeopled roads. Belongings reduced to dirt and debris.

It all took a toll on Taylor Schenker.

After Hurricane Helene last September, Schenker was upset by the deluge of images of Asheville, North Carolina. "This storm has taken so much," she said, "and it's so jarring to see the photos of the horrible devastation." So less than a week after the storm, she set out to do something about the wide-scale loss.

While helping a friend search for belongings cast downriver, she stumbled on a handful of photos of strangers — mud-caked, curled up in tree branches and stuck under river rocks. The images captured family reunions, newborn babies, weddings, birthday parties, beloved pets and school portraits.

"These tiny photos had been through so much and miraculously had washed up and were in decent enough condition that you could see what they were," said Schenker, 27. "It stuck with me."

To reclaim the search phrase "photos from Helene," she created an Instagram for "something positive, which is reuniting people with their memories." She set up a post-office box, linked up with a volunteer search and rescue crew, and ultimately uncovered more than 500 photos — or what she calls "little needles in a haystack."

When Schenker made her first match, she got chills.

Then, sitting in her car, she cried.

Something fragile, re-emerging from the muck

We hold onto photos to keep memories alive — of people, places and moments that might otherwise fade. Or sometimes are ripped away abruptly.

Schenker has since returned more than 70 such images. A stack of them were hand-delivered to Mary Moss, whose car was destroyed by an uprooted tree as she and her husband evacuated the Asheville home where they had lived for almost 40 years.

"It was really kind of overwhelming at first when she handed me those pictures. I just couldn't even speak," Moss said. "You don't expect something as fragile as photos to be retrieved."

Months later, they've received some FEMA assistance and found a temporary home, which they're gradually furnishing with church donations. But some things are irreplaceable.

"This is not really about losing the home and all the material stuff in there. But what's been devastating is that that was everything we had of Tommy," she said, of their son who died at age 12 from a genetic disorder. "It's those memories and the little things, the photos, that you can't replace."

As Schenker later understood it, "When they lost their home, they lost virtually all proof that this child existed."

"It is such a privilege to look into the intimate moments of people's lives," she said. "They've literally lost everything and they can't ever recreate those childhood photos."

In photos Schenker found nearly 3 miles (5 km) from the Moss' family home, Tommy is seen as a 2-year-old, dressed like an angel for a Christmas pageant. In another, he is wearing a toddler-sized suit; in yet another, he's playing at daycare alongside his younger brother Dallas.

"It is just breathtaking," Moss said. "This is one thing that the river didn't get to take — or didn't get to keep."

LOST IMAGES EMERGED FROM THE CALIFORNIA FIRES, TOO

More than 2,000 miles (3,200 km) away, in the Altadena foothills of Los Angeles, Claire Schwartz, 31, began to collect photos with a similar idea: Find images, post them online, try to unite them with their owners.

After the Eaton fire, but before the first rain, she panicked. When rain and ash mix, it makes lye, which destroys photos. "Someone has to do this ASAP," she remembers thinking to herself. "And I realized it had to be me — because nobody else was doing it."

Luca Ackerman, a New York-based photo conservator, cautions that mold can start to develop 48 hours after water exposure. To slow the deterioration process, he freezes such prints — and advised to not wipe off any surfaces, which can drag toxic oils across the print, "driving particles deeper into the material." Some photos are so brittle, too, that when touched they may disintegrate.

In the wake of disasters, conservators like Ackerman are deployed in volunteer rotations with the National Heritage Responders. Rapidly, he trains art handlers and museum staff how to treat sensitive materials, whether they are damaged by smoke, water, ash or soot.

Wearing a respirator, nitrile gloves and booties, Schwartz swiftly set out to salvage photos — finding them alongside pages from yearbooks, sheet music, and children's art in nearby parks, neighbors' front yards and a golf course.

"The wind has scattered everything, everywhere. And trash is mixed in with precious mementos, everywhere you look," she said. "It's just absolutely bizarre how stuff clumps together and travels as a unit."

FINDING THE PEOPLE BEHIND WAYWARD PHOTOGRAPHS

Normally, a local library would take in found items, but the Altadena Public Library, along with more than 9,000 homes, burned to the ground. Librarians are redirecting residents who have found photos to Schwartz.

She adopted parts of her process from what she learned as an archival intern at the Corita Art Center — protecting photos in acid-free, glassine envelopes and storing them in a waterproof box in a temperature-controlled room with good air circulation.

Last week, she made her first match: disposable camera photos of teenagers, smiling, in prom dresses and glittering tiaras. The image is flecked with damage, but all four corners are intact.

"It's funny — you formulate these ideas of who the person is," Schwartz said. "She was kind of exactly what I pictured, just really friendly and bubbly and lovely — you could tell that just from her photos."

Schwartz's house survived because her neighbors stayed behind to fight the fire themselves, but the landscape around it — full of burned-out lots, ghostly palm trees and blackened telephone poles — is otherworldly and changed. "It looks like the moon. It looks like another planet. It doesn't look like home."

Nearby is Joshua Simpson, a photographer who lost his Altadena home and studio, along with decades of film negatives, silver gelatin prints and camera equipment. But something meaningful survived.

"The very first thing we found was this beautiful vintage print of my mother-in-law holding my wife when she was a newborn baby." The black-and-white photo carries an extra layer of poignancy, as his mother-in-law died just few months ago. "We were both pretty overjoyed in that moment. It felt a little magical finding that one."

Above all else, Ackerman said, personal safety comes first. "When you're picking up people's heirlooms or family photographs, that can be traumatic — even if they're not yours," he said.

When people survive catastrophic events such as wildfires or hurricanes, and then are left to cope with loss, they may express a wide range of emotions — from overwhelmed to outraged to numb, sometimes all at once. Tragedies, though, can also strengthen the ties in communities, and people like Schenker and Schwartz are Exhibits A and B.

"Disasters like this really bring out the best in people," Moss said. "You know, I can laugh or I can cry about it — and I choose to laugh about it. Fortunately, we didn't lose the most important thing. That's lives."

By ANNA FURMAN Associated Press

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS TO THE
NEW
MEASURE GS RESIDENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
VACANCIES

Measure GS Resident Oversight Committee:
Five seats available for a term ending June 30, 2026.
Six seats available for a term ending June 30, 2028.

The Resident Oversight Committee shall consist of eleven members as follows:

- Four members shall be members of lower income households, at least one of whom is a participant in a locally funded rent subsidy program, at least one of whom is a senior, at least one of whom has minor children, at least one of whom faces mental or physical challenges, and at least one of whom is formerly homeless. At least two of these individuals must live in units that are not deed-restricted and at least one must live in a unit that is deed restricted.
- Seven members of any income level, including at least one member with expertise in affordable housing financing, at least one member with expertise in affordable housing development, at least one member with expertise in the legal field, at least one member with accounting expertise, and at least one member with expertise in homelessness prevention. If, after the City Council undertakes its best efforts, there is no candidate with expertise in one of the required fields, the Council may, at its discretion, appoint a resident with a different expertise.
- All applicants, regardless of income level or category above, shall be residents of Santa Monica.
- Registered lobbyists and persons working for organizations seeking funding from the Homelessness Prevention and Affordable Housing Fund are ineligible to serve as members.

More information on the Committee can be found on the link and QR Code below.

Applications are due by noon, Tuesday, March, 18th, 2025.
Appointment to be made by City Council, **Tuesday, March, 25th, 2025.**

No Santa Monica City Employee may serve as a member of any Board or Commission.
The State Political Reform Act requires certain officeholders to disclose their interest and income which may be materially affected by their official action. The applicants appointed to serve in these positions will be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) upon assuming office, and annually thereafter. In addition, this position will be required to complete two hours of Ethics Training (AB1234) biennially, as well as attend other city sponsored trainings deemed necessary by the city.

Applications are available on-line at: www.smgov.net/boards
All current applications on file will be considered.

Disability related assistance and alternate formats of this document are available upon request by calling (310) 458-8211.

Santa Monica Daily Press
Classifieds

FOR QUOTES PLEASE CALL 310-573-8074
or email **cindy@smdp.com**

Summons

Summons (Citación Judicial) SUM 100Case No: 24SMCV02567NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO ALDEMANDADO): PATRICK MCCANEY, an individual;JENNIFER MCCANEY, an individual; B.M., a minor;and Does1 to 20, Inclusive,YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁDEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):SAVANAH KOUSNETZ, an individual,NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decideagainst you without your being heard unless yourespond within 30 days. Read the information below.You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summonsand legal papers are served on you to file a writtenresponse at this court and have a copy served on thecross-complaint. A letter or phone call will not protectyou. Your written response must be in proper legalform if you want the court to hear your case. Theremay be a court form that you can use for yourresponse. You can find these court forms and moreinformation at the California Courts Online Self-HelpCenter (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your countylaw library, or the courthouse nearest you. If youcannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a feewaiver form. If you do not file your response on time,you may lose the case by default, and your wages,money, and property may be taken without furtherwarning from the court.There are other legal requirements. You may want tocall an attorney right away. If you do not know anattorney, you may want to call an attorney referralservice. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may beeligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legalservices program. You can locate these nonprofitgroups at the California Legal Services Website(www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California CourtsOnline Self-Help Center(www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting yourlocal court or county bar association. NOTE: Thecourt has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs onany settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 ormore in a civil case. The court's lien must be paidbefore the court will dismiss the case.¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentrode 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sinescuchar su versión. Lea la información acontinuación.Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que leentreguen esta citación y papeles legales parapresentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte yhacer que se entregue una copia alcontrademandante. Una carta o una llamadatelefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escritotiene que estar en el formato legal correcto si deseaque procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible quehaya un formulario que usted pueda usar para surespuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de lacorte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de lasCortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en labiblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que lequede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota depresentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le déun formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si nopresenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el casopor incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar susueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable quellame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce aun abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión aabogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, esposible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtenerservicios legales gratuitos de un programa deservicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrarestos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web deCalifornia Legal Services,(www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayudade las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) oponiéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio deabogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tienederecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentospor imponer un gravamen sobre cualquierrecuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibidamediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje enun caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar elgravamen de la corte antes de que la corte puedadesechar el caso.The name and address of the court is (El Nombre ydirección de la Corte es): Superior Court of California,County of Los Angeles, Santa Monica Courthouse1725 Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90401The name, address, and telephone number ofcross-complaint attorney, or cross-complaint withoutan attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el número deteléfono del abogado del demandante, o deldemandante que no tiene abogado, es):Shawn Gleizer , Impact Attorneys, P.C., 15303Ventura Blvd., Suite 1650 Sherman Oaks, CA 91403.Tel: 818-350-2349. Date (fecha) 05/30/2024 David WSlayton executive officer Clerk, by (Secretario), J.Hernandez Deputy (adjunto)

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm
LOCATION 1640 5th Street, Suite 218, Santa Monica, CA 90401

MOVIEPOSTERPRINTER.COM
MOVIE POSTER PRINTER WE PRINT MOVIE POSTERS

California homeowners to face new fees to keep fallback insurance plan solvent



Photo by Jules Hotz for CalMatters

HOMES: The remains of a smoldering home in an Altadena neighborhood affected by the Eaton Fire on Jan. 8, 2025.

After saying it would run out of funds by March, California's last-resort fire insurance provider will impose a special charge of $1 billion on homeowners and insurance companies, the first such move in more than three decades.

The state Insurance Department today approved a request from the provider, the FAIR Plan, to impose the charge and ensure it stays solvent as it covers claims from victims of the Los Angeles County fires, the department said in an order by Commissioner Ricardo Lara.

The plan's more than 400,000 customers will likely see temporary fees added to their insurance bills as part of the charge, known as an assessment — marking the first time an assessment has been imposed directly on customers rather than just insurance companies.

The FAIR Plan is a pool of insurers required by law to provide fire insurance to property owners who can't find insurance elsewhere. Its customer base has grown dramatically in the past several years as insurance companies have increasingly refused to write or renew policies in the state, citing increased risk of wildfires.

Many LA fire victims have insurance through the FAIR Plan. Residents of the Pacific Palisades, where thousands of structures burned last month, held 85% more FAIR Plan policies in September than they had a year prior.

The FAIR Plan assessment is the latest insurance fallout from the LA fires. State Farm, California's largest property insurance provider, recently asked for permission to temporarily raise its premiums an average of 22% because of the claims it is facing from the fires. The insurance department is still considering that request.

The FAIR Plan's president had been warning about its ability to pay claims in case of catastrophe, telling a state Assembly committee last year that the plan "one event

> This is essential to prevent even greater strain on California's already unbalanced insurance market and avoiding widespread policy cancellations that would jeopardize coverage for millions of Californians
> - Mark Sektnan, vice president for state government relations for the American Property Casualty Insurance Association

away from a large assessment." A spokesperson for the plan has not responded to a request for comment.

As of Feb. 9, the plan had paid more than $900 million in claims, the commissioner's order said.

It is unclear how long FAIR Plan customers will have to pay the temporary fees, or on what percentage of their premiums the fees will be based.

Under new regulations that took effect this year as part of Lara's effort to address

SEE **INSURANCE** PAGE 15

HOA HOMEFRONT

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Court Holds HOAs Can Stay Out of Neighbor vs Neighbor Dispute

BY KELLY G. RICHARDSON, ESQ. CCAL

One of the more difficult situations for HOA boards, managers, and attorneys to handle is the neighbor vs. neighbor dispute. What are HOAs supposed to do when a resident claims another resident is harassing them?

HOA residents often wish to have the HOA leave them alone… except when a neighbor is bothering them. When that occurs, HOA managers and boards are often asked to act against the allegedly offending neighbor, but all too often the other resident also has their own story to tell.

A very recent appellate ruling issued in December 2024, Woolard vs. Regent Real Estate Services provides guidance for HOAs on this issue. Defendants Woolard and Hall were tenants in one unit and Plaintiffs Smith and Thorne were tenants in another unit in the Greenhouse Community Association, a 77-unit condominium association in the City of Orange managed by Regent Real Estate Services. An altercation occurred between the four residents, resulting in significant alleged injuries to one or more of them. After being sued by Smith and Thorne, Woolard and Hall countersued and also named the HOA and Regent as cross-defendants. In their cross-complaint, Woolard and Hall alleged that they had been extensively harassed and that the HOA and management had not met their duties of care toward them. The trial court in 2023 granted a motion for summary judgment in favor of the HOA and Regent, dismissing them from the case, and Woolard and Hall appealed.

The appeals panel ruled that the HOA and its manager did not have a duty to do "'something' to prevent what turned into an allegedly violent dispute," which "place an untenable burden" on HOAs. So, the court found that the HOA and management were properly dismissed from the case.

One responsibility that was mentioned was that HOA should investigate the harassment allegations. This is important because only one kind of harassment is the HOA's concern – harassment due to membership in one of California's protected classifications under Fair Housing laws. California's Fair Housing regulations require the HOA to investigate and then do what it can (within the powers it has) to respond to harassment against a resident due to that resident's membership in a protected class.

The Woolard case helps reassure HOAs and their managers that they are not responsible to prevent or resolve every neighbor-to-neighbor dispute.

However, this does not mean that HOAs should ignore resident complaints of harassment. First, the HOA should investigate the claim to ascertain what is going on. Does the nuisance or harassment behavior affect multiple residents? If so, it might merit HOA involvement to protect the association community. Second, is the alleged harassment based upon someone's membership in a protected class? If so, the HOA is required to do what it can to stop the discriminatory conduct. However, if the harassment or dispute is simply two neighbors being un-neighborly towards each other, the HOA's best response may be to offer a volunteer board member to meet with the disputants to try to host a discussion between them.

As the Woolard court opinion stated, HOAs have enough responsibilities already without having to resolve neighbor-to-neighbor disputes.

Remind warring neighbors that they should reconcile - life is too short - and it isn't the HOA's job to resolve every dispute.

Kelly G. Richardson, Esq. is a Fellow of the College of Community Association Lawyers and Partner of Richardson Ober LLP, a California law firm known for community association advice. Submit questions to Kelly@roattorneys.com. Past columns at www.HOAHomefront.com. All rights reserved®.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Downtown

Santa Monica Place Invites Local Nonprofits to Utilize Free Community Room

Santa Monica Place supports community development opportunities for positive engagement by inviting Los Angeles-based nonprofit organizations to utilize the Santa Monica Place Community Room, free of charge. Located on Level 3, this 2,400-square-foot space can accommodate up to 60 guests and is ideal for team meetings, committee discussions, tutoring, mentoring, planning activities and educational exchanges.

The Santa Monica Place Community Room accepts reservations with three business days, and up to 45 days in advance notice. All reservation requests are subject to availability. Please visit santamonicaplace.com/communityroom for more information and to make a reservation.

Open Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. - 7 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Santa Monica Place reserves the right to manage availability.

Santa Monica Place is located at 395 Santa Monica Place, Santa Monica, at Broadway and Third Street Promenade. The Santa Monica Place Community Room is on Level 3, east of the Food Court and adjacent to the public restrooms. The nearest available parking is in Structure 8, Level 5, accessible from 2nd Street and Colorado Avenue.

SUBMITTED BY GABRIELLA SILVA

BRIGGS & RILEY



Los Angeles Wildfire Relief

A CASE FOR GIVING

11TH ANNUAL LUGGAGE TRADE-IN PROGRAM

Our hearts go out to all affected by the Los Angeles wildfires. We understand that many residents are in transition, and we would like to help.

We are accepting gently used wheeled luggage donations through our A Case For Giving Event at the below locations, and donors will receive up to $100 OFF A NEW BRIGGS & RILEY BAG. If you have a wheeled bag to donate or need a bag, please call the store for more information.

BRIGGS & RILEY
395 Santa Monica Place, Suite 242, Santa Monica
310-394-7040

LAZAR'S LUGGAGE
14528 Ventura Blvd, Sherman Oaks
818-784-1355

H SAVINAR LUGGAGE
10730 Washington Blvd, Culver City
323-938-2501

Westside FOR SALE

Malibu

Paci
Palisa

SANTA MONICA

$8,995,000

428 10th St,
Santa Monica, CA 90402

7 BR 6.5 BA - Sq Ft

Listed by Veronica Klein •DRE #01218557 • Compass •310-704-3554 (agent) •veronica@veronicaklein.com (agent)

SANTA MONICA

$4,995,000

267 Entrada Dr,
Santa Monica, CA 90402

4 BR 3 BA 2,200 Sq Ft

Listed by Frank Langen •DRE #01108147 • Compass •310-963-3891 (agent) •frank.langen@compass.com (agent)
Listed by Diana Braun •DRE #01362342 • Compass

SANTA MONICA

$3,200,000

1314 Hill St,
Santa Monica, CA 90405

3 BR 2 BA 2,229 Sq Ft

Listed by Brenda Catalano •DRE #00828758 • Coldwell Banker Realty •310-614-6659 (agent) •brenda@brendacatalano.com (agent)

SANTA MONICA

$1,899,000

701 Pine St,
Santa Monica, CA 90405

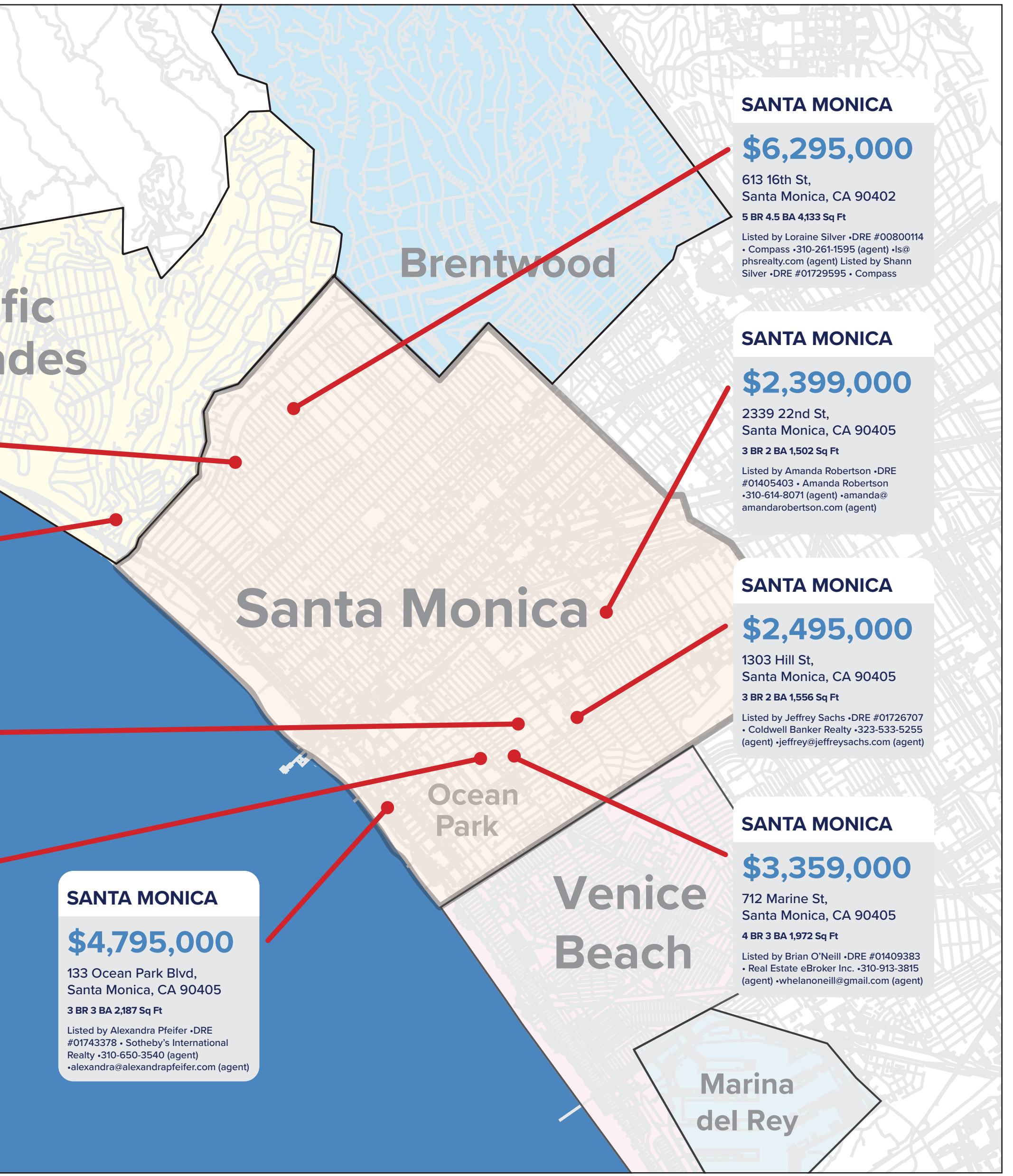
3 BR 1.5 BA 1,760 Sq Ft

Listed by Megan Whalen •DRE #01374178 • Compass •310-613-1102 (agent) •megan@meganwhalen.com (agent)

● FOR SALE

All data gathered at redfin.com

Santa Monica Daily Press



SANTA MONICA

$6,295,000

613 16th St,
Santa Monica, CA 90402

5 BR 4.5 BA 4,133 Sq Ft

Listed by Loraine Silver •DRE #00800114 • Compass •310-261-1595 (agent) •ls@phsrealty.com (agent) Listed by Shann Silver •DRE #01729595 • Compass

SANTA MONICA

$2,399,000

2339 22nd St,
Santa Monica, CA 90405

3 BR 2 BA 1,502 Sq Ft

Listed by Amanda Robertson •DRE #01405403 • Amanda Robertson •310-614-8071 (agent) •amanda@amandarobertson.com (agent)

SANTA MONICA

$2,495,000

1303 Hill St,
Santa Monica, CA 90405

3 BR 2 BA 1,556 Sq Ft

Listed by Jeffrey Sachs •DRE #01726707 • Coldwell Banker Realty •323-533-5255 (agent) •jeffrey@jeffreysachs.com (agent)

SANTA MONICA

$3,359,000

712 Marine St,
Santa Monica, CA 90405

4 BR 3 BA 1,972 Sq Ft

Listed by Brian O'Neill •DRE #01409383 • Real Estate eBroker Inc. •310-913-3815 (agent) •whelanoneill@gmail.com (agent)

SANTA MONICA

$4,795,000

133 Ocean Park Blvd,
Santa Monica, CA 90405

3 BR 3 BA 2,187 Sq Ft

Listed by Alexandra Pfeifer •DRE #01743378 • Sotheby's International Realty •310-650-3540 (agent) •alexandra@alexandrapfeifer.com (agent)



A joke petition asks for signers to help Denmark buy California as Trump eyes Greenland

Is California for sale? A lighthearted petition to buy the state of California for Denmark prompted more than 200,000 signatures by Wednesday in response to President Donald Trump's talk about taking control of Greenland, a vast and mineral-rich Arctic island.

"Have you ever looked at a map and thought, 'You know what Denmark needs? More sunshine, palm trees, and roller skates,'" the petition asks. "Well, we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make that dream a reality.

"It is in the national interest to promote the extraordinary heritage of our Nation, so California will become New Denmark. Los Angeles? More like Løs Ångeles," it says.

Xavier Dutoit, the petition's organizer, got the idea last month while vacationing in the Philippines. He overheard an American tourist loudly discussing Trump's Greenland pitch.

"That American didn't seem to grasp how unhinged and absurd it was for any country's President — especially in a stable democracy that the USA claims to be — to offer or threaten to take over another sovereign country's territory," Dutoit wrote in an email to The Associated Press.

While Dutoit is not Danish — he is Swiss-French — he consulted a multi-national group of friends who are helping him, including Kenneth Haar, who is Danish and lives in Copenhagen.

"The Trump-Greenland issue is, by far, the biggest political issue in this country at the moment," Haar told AP in a Zoom interview. "It is considered a very depressing and a very dangerous situation."

While Løs Ångeles is a joke, there is another city in Southern California with a very real connection to the land of Vikings, Lego and Hans Christian Andersen. Known as "the Danish capital of America," Solvang was founded by three immigrants from Denmark in 1911.

The city is popular with tourists, who come in droves for its aebleskiver pastries (similar to fritters), Scandinavian windmills, a main street called " Copenhagen Drive " and, of course, a Hans Christian Andersen Museum to honor the famous Danish fairy tale author. Danish royals have visited several times over the decades.

In 2019, Trump scrapped a trip to Denmark, blaming Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen for making a "nasty" statement when she rejected his first-term idea of buying Greenland as an absurdity. Greenland is a semi-autonomous territory of Denmark, a U.S. ally and fellow member of NATO.

Before taking office again last month, Trump said he would not rule out the use of military force to seize control of Greenland, calling it vital to U.S. national security, and last month his son visited the island.

Múte B. Egede, Greenland's prime minister, shot back: "Greenland is for the Greenlandic people. We do not want to be Danish, we do not want to be American. We want to be Greenlandic."

Haar said California's appeal to Danes is obvious, from its towering mountains to its sunny beaches.

"We have none of that here," he said. "Denmark is a pretty flat country with a pretty boring climate."

The petition organizers even have their own plans for Disneyland in Southern California: "We'll rename it Hans Christian Andersenland. Mickey Mouse in a Viking helmet? Yes, please."

The petition notes that Trump isn't a fan of the Golden State. Last year, he called it "Paradise Lost" and he regularly derides Gov. Gavin Newsom with the nickname "Newscum."

But of course, every petition needs some fine print, way down at the bottom:

"Disclaimer: This campaign is 100% real ... in our dreams."

By STEFANIE DAZIO Associated Press

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS TO THE

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION &
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

UNSCHEDULED VACANCY

Human Services Commission:
One seat available for a term ending: **June 30th, 2025.**
Applicant must be a Santa Monica resident.

Architectural Review Board:
One seat available for a term ending: **June 30th, 2027.**

Application**s due by noon, March 18th, 2025.**
Appointments to be made by City Council, **March 25th, 2025.**

No Santa Monica City Employee may serve as a member of any Board or Commission.

The State Political Reform Act requires certain officeholders to disclose their interest and income which may be materially affected by their official action. The applicants appointed to serve in these positions will be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) upon assuming office, and annually thereafter.

Applications are available on-line at: www.smgov.net/boards
All current applications on file will be considered.

Disability related assistance and alternate formats of this document are available upon request by calling (310) 458-8211.

INSIDE
THE DAILY PRESS
PODCAST
smdp.com/pod
ALSO AVAILABLE ON



FRIDAY | FEBRUARY 14

VALENTINE'S DAY MOVIE
2 - 4 p.m. Community Room, Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. Be our Valentine this year with a screening of "Book Club: The Next Chapter," sponsored by the Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library.

SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 15

WHAT THYME IS IT?
9 - 11 a.m. Ishihara Park Learning Garden, 2909 Exposition Blvd. Learn how to infuse oils with herbs and make a sage bundle. Stop by for pancakes hot from the griddle, small bags of compost from the garden, and veggie seeds for your home garden.

UC MASTER GARDENERS
10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. Visit with the UC Master Gardeners at the Saturday Pico Farmers Market. The booth is filled with free advice on how to care for plants, how to troubleshoot a gardening problem, and much more. Free seeds and seedlings are available on a limited basis.

NOTABLE FICTION BOOK GROUP
11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Virtual. This community-led, monthly book discussion group meets virtually to discuss prize-winning fiction titles. To register, email library@santamonica.gov. This month's title is "Song of Solomon" by Toni Morrison.

MAIN LIBRARY BOOK GROUP
7 - 8:30 p.m. Virtual. This community-led book group meets virtually to discuss a wide range of books chosen by the members. To register, email library@santamonica.gov. This month's title is "Thinking, Fast and Slow" by Daniel Kahnerman.

SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 16

BLACK HEALING MATTERS
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Location TBD. Join in a collective love and community support in honor of Black History Month and in support of those affected by the LA fires. Activities include yoga flow and sound bath meditation led by Divinity Gaines, live music from Jamar Brown and community time with Black-owned businesses. Tickets $25, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/black-healing-matters-move-meditate-shop-black-owned-businesses-tickets-1229566178539.

WESTSIDE YOUTH MARIACHI FESTIVAL
1 - 7 p.m. Moss Theatre, 3131 Olympic Blvd. Enjoy mariachi and folklorico performances by LA-area youth groups and a special grand finale by Mariachi Sol de Mexico. All proceeds from ticket sales support Sounds Like LA's tuition-free mariachi program. To purchase tickets, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/3rd-annual-westside-youth-mariachi-festival-tickets-1143077709199.

END OF TIMES THERAPY
4 - 5:15 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St. Santa Monica Playhouse is excited to present the world premiere of Solange Castro's powerful and poignant play to support the Save the Main Stage Campaign. Tickets $20-$35, discounts for students, teachers, seniors, military and groups. To purchase, visit santamonicaplayhouse.com.

VENICE ELECTRIC LIGHT PARADE
5:40 p.m. Windward Plaza, 1501 Ocean Front Walk, Venice. Join the Magic of the Venice Electric Light Parade, a family-friendly event celebrating community, creativity and safe cycling. Bring your LED-lit bicycle and join for an unforgettable ride along the iconic Venice Beach.

ACTIVE MINDS BENEFIT SHOW
7:30 p.m. The Venice West, 1717 Lincoln Blvd., Venice. Powered by Active Minds, this event raising funds for those affected by the recent fires will feature a star-studded lineup with members of Los Pinguos, Los Silverbacks and Ozomatli. Tickets $24, to purchase visit: https://www.ticketweb.com/event/active-minds-benefit-show-ft-the-venice-west-tickets/14155303.

MONDAY | FEBRUARY 17

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
7 p.m. City Council Chambers, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. The Architectural Review Board established in 1974, acts "to preserve existing areas of natural beauty, cultural importance and assure that buildings, structures, signs or other developments are in good taste, good design, harmonious with surrounding developments, and in general contribute to the preservation of Santa Monica's reputation as a place of beauty, spaciousness and quality."

TUESDAY | FEBRUARY 18

SOCIAL SERVICE ASSISTANCE
9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. Trained community health workers with Providence St. John's Community Health Program can assist with enrollment in CalFresh, the state of California's food subsidy program created to improve the nutrition of families through access to healthy foods. Staff can also help navigate enrollment or questions for MediCal or Medicare. You can make an appointment by calling 310-458-8688, drop-ins are also welcome.

TUESDAY TALES
10:30 - 11 a.m. The Annex, Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. This fun and engaging weekly series features stories, songs and rhymes, traveling to a different library location each week. Free tickets are available at 10:15 a.m. For ages 2-5.

COMMUNITY GARDEN VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION
3:30 - 5 p.m. Civic Center Parking Structure, 333 Civic Center Dr. Come join volunteer efforts with the Santa Monica Community Garden Program. From navigating the online registration and other requirements, to identifying opportunities and accessing your account to track your service, to figuring out when and where you would like to best serve. For questions. Contact Isabel Filson at Isabel.Filson@santamonica.gov.

ART & THE FEMININE GAZE
6:30 - 9:30 p.m. NeueHouse Venice Beach, 73 Market St., Venice. Pioneering feminist surrealist Penny Slinger will explore her revolutionary artistic vision, and an intergenerational panel of women artists will discuss the feminine perspective in contemporary art, followed by a cocktail reception and raga performance by Liberate Elemental Forces. Free for Frieze Pass Holders and NeueHouse Members. For more information, email lailani@pr-dept.com.

MYSTERY & THRILLER BOOK GROUP
7 - 8 p.m. Virtual. This community-led, monthly book discussion group meets virtually to discuss domestic and international titles in the mystery and thriller genres. To register, email library@santamonica.gov. This month's selection is "Harlem Shuffle" by Colson Whitehead.

AN EVENING WITH KRISTIN HANNAH
8 - 9:15 p.m. John Adams Middle School Performing Arts Center, 1630 Pearl St. Kristin Hannah will discuss her writing life and the occasion of the 10th anniversary of her novel "The Nightingale." Ticket plus signed copy of the book $55. To purchase, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kristin-hannah-with-brooke-baldwin-tickets-1012431890037.

WEDNESDAY | FEBRUARY 19

BOBA WITH BADGES
4 - 6 p.m. Dr. T House, 1709 Pico Blvd. Join SMPD at Dr. T House for bubble tea with the police. No agenda or speeches, just an informal opportunity to ask questions, discuss public safety concerns and get to know the officers and neighbors in your community.

FREE WALK-IN LEGAL CLINIC
4:30 - 7 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica residents can meet one on one with a lawyer from Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles for help with housing issues. Immediate assistance is available by calling LAFLA directly at 800-399-4529 or visit lafla.org/gethelp.

PLANNING COMMISSION
6 p.m. City Council Chambers, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. Established in 1946, the Planning Commission envisions Santa Monica as a city of wellbeing, sustainability, and equity, and seeks to balance the many needs and priorities within our community in accordance with the City's General Plan and Specific Plans. The Commission acts through open and civil discourse that is informed by public input, impartial analysis, and best practices in land use and planning.

THURSDAY | FEBRUARY 20

POST-FAIR 2025
11 a.m. - 8 p.m. 1248 5th St. Post-Fair is the pilot edition of an alternative three-day art fair. The fair will feature 29 local, national and international galleries and project spaces. Also takes place Feb. 21 and 22 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tickets $10, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/post-fair-2025-tickets-1127982970429.

LEGO CLUB
4 - 5 p.m. Youth Activity Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Join in the popular LEGO club, explore the limits of your building imagination or try out one of the suggested builds. All materials provided. For ages 18 months - 11 years old.

LIBRARY LOVERS' MONTH
4 - 5 p.m. Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Stop by one of these pop-ups and write a love letter to the library and receive a special Library Lovers' Month token of appreciation, while supplies last.

RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
6 - 8 p.m. City Council Chambers, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. The Commission shall act in an advisory capacity to the City Council and Director of Community Services in all matters pertaining to public recreation including playgrounds, music and entertainment. The Commission will consider the budget of the Community and Cultural Services Department and make recommendations to the City Manager and the City Council.

MONTANA BRANCH BOOK GROUP
6 - 7:30 p.m. Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave. This community-led monthly discussion group meets in person at the Montana Branch to discuss a mix of fiction and nonfiction titles, often on topics chosen from current events. To register, email library@santamonica.gov. This month's title is "Master Slave Husband Wife" by Ilyon Woo.

AUSTIN NASSO'S COMEDY METAVERSE
8 - 9:30 p.m. Illusion Magic Lounge, 1418 4th St. Austin Nasso, a former Microsoft software engineer turned full-time comedian and impressionist, bringing a fresh perspective to the comedy world with his tech-savvy humor and impeccable impressions. Tickets $34, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/austin-nassos-comedy-metaverse-tickets-1226944346569.

MUD

FROM PAGE 4

or less, often when a leveling of the land diffuses the energy and brings the torrent of rubble to a standstill. This often happens where a canyon opens onto a wide plain or river valley, creating an alluvial fan — one of the most visually compelling and dynamic features of geology.

In the case of the San Gabriel Mountains, debris flows are a scenario that's been explored many times, none so closely as in John McPhee's 1989 book, "The Control of Nature," in which he vividly details a devastating debris flow from the San Gabriels that plowed through homes, washed away automobiles and carried off disinterred coffins.

The book's title is more a wry oxymoron than a confident statement of humankind's ability to impose its will on natural systems. "In Los Angeles versus the San Gabriel Mountains, it is not always clear which side is losing," McPhee wrote.

In geological reckoning, the San Gabriel Mountains are immature, unruly teenagers. Sitting at the intersection of the Pacific and North American plates meeting at the San Andreas Fault, the mountains are still fitfully growing — the western end of the range lifted several feet during the 1971 Sylmar earthquake.

The average slope gradient in the San Gabriel Mountains is over 65%.

Their steepness defines their "angle of repose," a geologic concept critical to catastrophic debris flows. It's the steepest angle at which material starts to fall — the point at which too many shovels of sand collapse the whole pile.

The San Gabriels are unique in California. They are part of the Transverse Ranges with a West-East orientation, not the North-South run of California's Sierra Nevada and other mountain spans. North-facing slopes of the San Gabriels offer a glimpse of the Sierra-like ponderosa pines, rugged hillsides and wild country. The south-facing slopes overlook a teeming metropolis and offer a spare Mediterranean array of gnarled shrubs and hard-scrabble plants.

"You feel like you could extend one arm in one direction and one arm in another and touch completely different things. It's amazing," said Jason Collier, acting manager of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. "There are extremes in temperatures and elevation. Here in the L.A. basin we go from sea level to Mt. Baldy at 10,000 feet. And you can do it in an hour on Hwy 2."

Collier sees a rich geologic history and others see recreational opportunities.

Ben White, 79, is in his 35th year as a member of the San Gabriel Mountains Trailblazers, a hardy group of volunteers that trek through the range, repairing fences and Forest Service trails.

The group goes out three Saturdays a month. Before the fire, White had missed only three outings.

"Hiking up there takes your mind off your problems," he said. The fire has damaged a place he loves. "If I look at it as a loss, I would be depressed, permanently."

NOT ALL RAIN IS CREATED EQUAL

The flash flood watch for late this week is nothing to take lightly. Forecasters only issue such alerts when they are more than 50% confident that the incoming rain will reach critical rates, said Jayme Laber, a senior hydrologist with the National Weather Service's weather forecast office in Oxnard.

For residents living in or near a fresh burn area, the flood watch means it's time to prepare for a possible evacuation.

"That's their heads-up to make preparations," Laber said. "That's the time to start thinking about making an evacuation call, not when it's already raining."

When a fast flood watch turns into a warning, there's little time for preparation. In most cases, it's too late.

When weather forecasters see live rainfall levels reach or exceed critical thresholds in or near a high-hazard zone, then they issue a flash flood "warning."

When a watch turns into a warning, there's little time for preparation. In most cases, it's too late.

Warnings "can have from zero lead time up to maybe an hour's worth of lead time, depending how confident we are in what we're seeing in our radar," Laber said.

The neighborhoods within sight of the burn scar are teeming with workers fixed on preparing for the deluge: The state has stockpiled 271,000 burlap sandbags, 777 sheeting rolls and 17,790 wood stakes, among other items. Others from the California Conservation Corps have placed fencing, straw wattles and other means to filter contaminants contained in the runoff. The National Guard sent an engineering crew with heavy equipment to move debris.

There is a feeling of urgency with all of the preparations. Many people recall what happened in similar circumstances in Montecito seven years ago.

THE NIGHT THE HILLS CAME DOWN IN MONTECITO

By the time the rains came, everyone had pretty much had it with emergencies. In early January of 2018 residents of Santa Barbara and neighboring Montecito were back in their homes, exhausted after extended evacuations from the Thomas Fire, a monstrosity that blazed for five and a half weeks and was at the time the largest fire in California history.

"We had a month of evacuations and fear. Firefighters saved Montecito. We were so grateful and happy to be home," said Abe Powell, who was the director of the Montecito Fire Protection District at the time.

But emergency officials were huddling, poring over worrying reports. Meteorologists predicted a significant rain event — soon. And the teams dispatched to assess the stability of the hillsides denuded by fire warned Montecito officials in plain language: "Between friends, if rain comes through, you will be f*cked," Powell said, using the team's salty language.

Powell, whose family had been evacuated for a month, worked with emergency authorities to craft an urgent message: Be prepared to leave your homes again, there could be massive mud flows off the Santa Ynez Mountains.

Crews cleared debris basins, moved in heavy concrete barriers and stacked sandbags. All emergency personnel were called back to work. Residents watched the feverish preparations but also took note of the scant rainfall forecast and appeared to collectively shrug.

Emergency officials began to consider the likelihood that "evacuation fatigue" had set in and that residents might not heed warnings to get out. Powell said door-knocking was not going well, with some homeowners insisting they would ride it out.

"A number of people I argued with at the sandbag pile lost their homes, and not all of them survived," he said.

Powell estimated that only about 20% of those living in the mandatory evacuation zone actually left their homes.

Authorities pre-positioned search and rescue teams on high ground and deployed swiftwater rescue squads. Then they hunkered down and waited.

Aaron Briner, then a fire engine captain, went to sleep just before midnight at Station 2 in Montecito on Jan. 8. It was sprinkling. A call came into the station at 3:30 a.m. reporting a building was on fire. Briner looked out and heavy rain was falling.

"We prepared for the potential, but I don't know that we could truly grasp the scope of what happened," said Briner, now the city's fire marshall.

Briner's engines tried multiple routes to get to the fire but were cut off by roads subsumed by mudflows and boulders the size of the fire engines themselves.

"We came across people who were trying to pull themselves out of chest-deep mud," he said. "We had no idea of the scope.

"It was dark, there was no power, most of the cell service was gone. There were no landmarks, no trees, we almost got lost a few times. Some of our guys ended up in swimming pools. I saw a mudline on trees up to 20 feet."

Elsewhere in Montecito, Powell also woke up to the roar of heavy rain. And another peculiar sound: Boulders the size of SUV's were careening down the mountain, their collisions sounding like massive billiard balls smashing into each other.

He rushed to a window and saw an explosion and bright lights in the sky. He briefly thought it looked like an alien invasion. It turned out to be a fire.

The burst of torrential rain caused the watershed behind the San Yisidro Creek Bridge to give way. The debris flow rushed toward town going 40-miles-an-hour and carrying with it anything in its path. Including the bridge.

The boulder-filled mudslide hit the bridge and took it out, smashing a gas line that erupted in flames. That wall of mud and rocks, now ablaze, crashed into a house containing a sleeping couple.

With mud and flames quickly rising, their pajamas on fire, the pair rushed to the home's second story. They had a choice: stay above the flood in a burning house or jump from the fire into the darkness and onto a fast-moving, roiling river of mud.

They leapt from the upper floor onto the debris flow, clothes burned off, and badly injured. A firefighter heard their screams and waded into the moving mud to pull them to safety. A helicopter took them to a hospital. They survived. Twenty-three others in Montecito did not.

Suzanne Hyde, a live-in private chef, said her first reaction to evacuating the home she shared next to Montecito Creek was "I'm not leaving," she said, having just returned home and unpacked from the fire evacuation. She wanted to do her laundry, and it wasn't even raining.

But her client convinced her, saying, "We really need to leave, we can't control water."

Hyde reluctantly left with her two cats and pet rabbit. "Then, obviously, all hell broke loose." A boulder "the size of a VW bug" crashed through Hyde's bedroom, apparently rolling over her bed on its way through the wall.

"I would have been killed, probably while still in bed," she said. "It still blows my mind to think of the power of water."

AFTERMATH OF THE MONTECITO DISASTER

Scores of daring rescues played out in the early morning, with ruptured gas lines hissing loudly. As the sun came up the light revealed a changed landscape. The painstaking search for survivors went on for nearly two weeks, through layers of muck and boulders so large that it took dynamite to clear them.

Until that night, Briner hadn't given much thought to the full implications of debris flows. Once geologists began to look around the region, they found evidence of historic landslides of such volume that rocks were dragged all the way to the Pacific. Present-day ocean reefs were formed with boulders from the surrounding mountains, he said.

There's no reason to believe that the risk will ever go away.

"We mitigate risk, we don't prevent risk," Briner said. "It will always be here. We choose to be in these areas, we have to recognize risk comes with that."

Kelly Hubbard, director of the Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management, said most of the remediation began immediately: Federal funding enabled authorities to buy out willing property sellers to expand debris basins.

And the difficult public conversation about rethinking living in harm's way began. "We talked about maybe not rebuilding in the same location, maybe rebuilding better," Hubbard said. "We had a homeowner who literally survived by riding in his home down the mudslide. He became an advocate in the community."

This year's annual vigil to remember the lives lost in the Montecito debris flow was held, as usual, on Jan. 9, two days after the fires in Los Angeles ignited. Community members said prayers, lit candles and expressed support for those in the path of the Eaton Fire.

"We know all too well what can happen," Powell said.

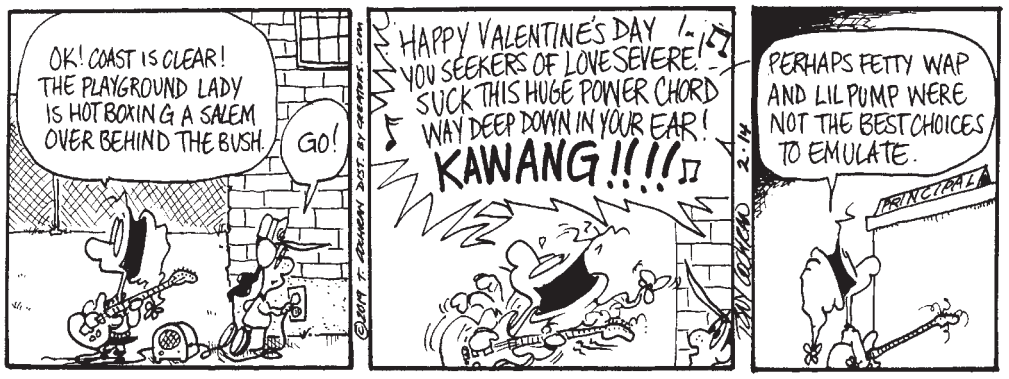
By Julie Cart and Alastair Bland. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

ADVERTISE WITH US TODAY!
Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

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

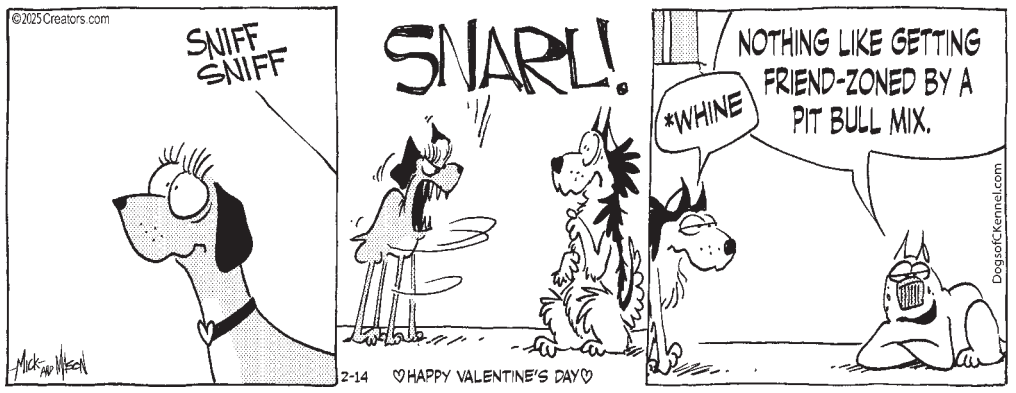
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



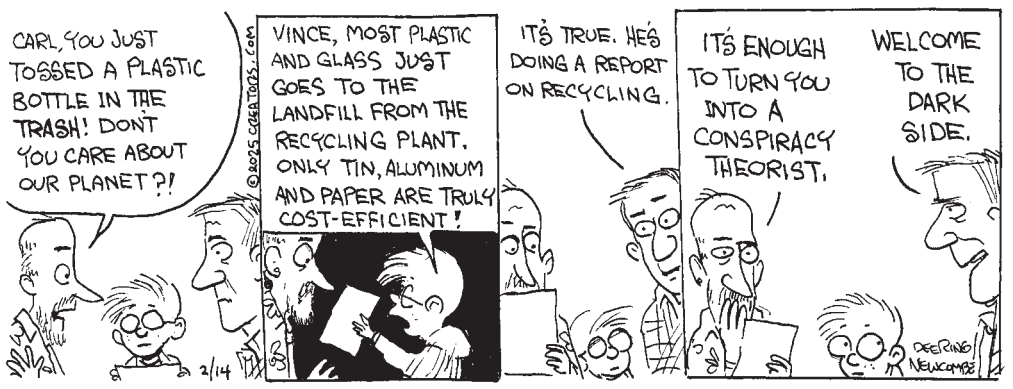
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



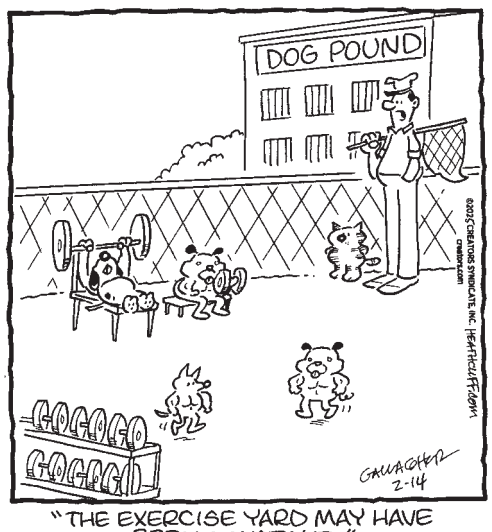
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"THE EXERCISE YARD MAY HAVE BEEN A MISTAKE."

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.

© australianwordgames.com.au 6486

Exploring South Australia

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

Abalone	Cleve	Leader	Robe
Ache	Coast	Nadda	Rocks
Agile	Cool	Oats	Sandy
Avon	Crawl	Ocean	Simpson
Base	Davenport	Olary	Desert
Bays	Creek	Orroroo	Skye
Beef	Driving	Oysterfest	Surf
Berri	Echunga	Picnic	Tent
Blue Lake	Glenelg	Pyap	Trip
Burra	Gorge	Rain	Tunarama
Bute	High	Rare	Valley
Cabins	Keith	Reward	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Support for our national team

Covering the city by the bay since 2001.
To advertise, email cindy@smdp.com or call 310.458.7737
smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 14)

You step into a new chapter with great creativity, determination and openness to the support coming to you. There will be no fluffing egos, performing on command or twisting yourself to fit in. Relationships are aligned with your values: kindness, creativity, depth, work ethic and that elusive X-factor that just clicks. More highlights: healthy boosts, convenient luxuries, free education. Sagittarius and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 21, 2, 29 and 15.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your charisma comes from the way you take moments of pure joy and relax into them like a bubble bath, soaking in all there is to love about being alive. You'll draw others into your magnetic orbit and they'll share in the fun.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're fantasizing about fresh fun and the connections you want to cultivate going forward. Needing more out of life isn't frivolity. It's about the deep and beautiful ways you connect with others and how alive that makes you feel.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll soon connect with people who will give you the same level of thoughtfulness and curiosity that you bring to the table. If the timing is not quite as expedient as you wish, just know that you're building a foundation for deeper fulfillment.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Cherish those relationships that honor you in all your complexity, not just in the ways you can perform. You'll revel and thrive with those who let you know that you are far more than enough, just as you are.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Love stirs strong feelings that feel like the finger of fate, nudging you toward your next move. How much of these passions, impulses and longings are love's truth and how much is your mind shaping a story to fit what your ego craves?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's something crucial waiting on the back burner, but go forward anyway, in celebration of the opportunities you've already seized and the progress you've made. You'll soon have all the time and space to dive into the passions that set your heart aflutter.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The day brings a raw honesty into your inner dialogue, which will lead to a sparkling clarity of heart. This newfound transparency allows you to connect with desire that's unfiltered by outside expectations.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Rushing love or connection before it's fully formed is like taking the cake out of the oven too soon; half-baked efforts won't satisfy. Whether it's a romantic gesture or a heartfelt conversation, patience will make all the difference.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You will know the allure of something special to chase; desire sparks, curiosity unfolds and the thrill of pursuit takes root. A sense of purpose and excitement grows as you near your subject.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You will weave a story around what you love, imagining its history, its secrets and its future. Just remember that the story is your creation, which might be a world away from reality. If so, it's a lovely world, making for a fanciful commute to reality.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your honesty and vulnerability are gifts to others who might not yet have the courage to sit with their own truths. You face the future with a smile, and in your smile, people will see a reflection of their own true, raw and beautiful humanity.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You don't always feel the presence of love's guiding force, but it's still there, shaping your responses. In a moment of connection, you'll act from a deeper place, embodying the lessons love has taught you, even if you aren't consciously aware of them.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

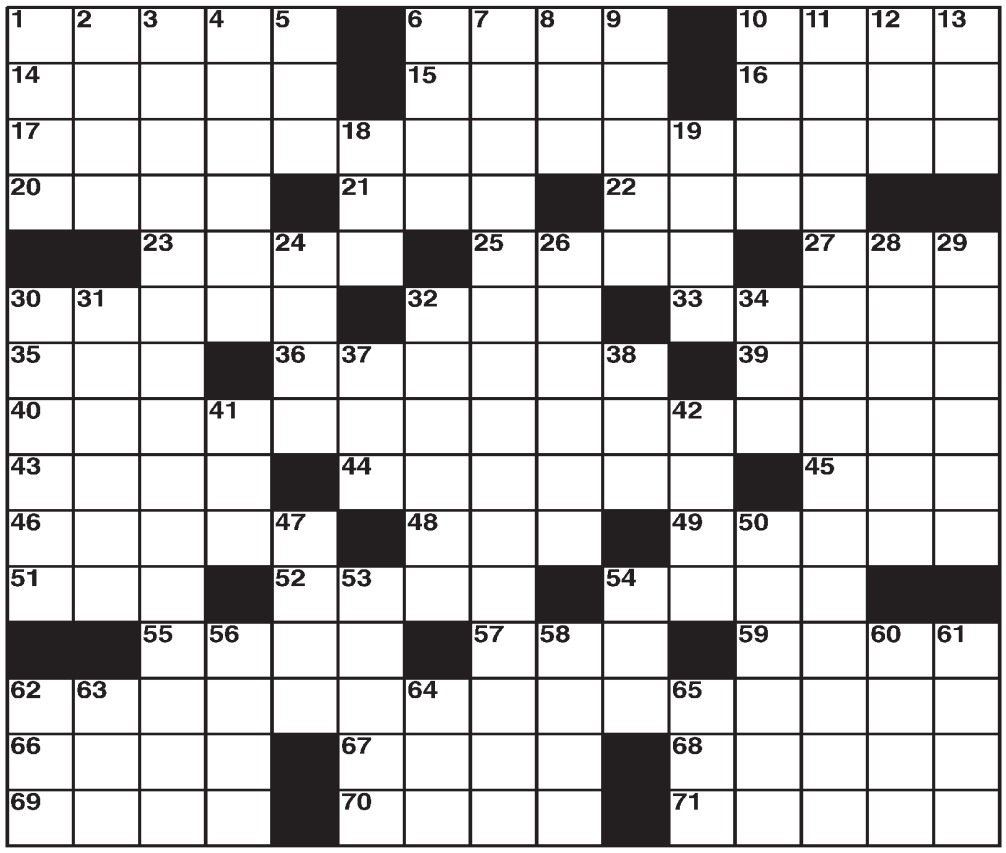
TRIPLE DOUBLE by S.N. Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Gloat about
6 It's east of Thailand
10 "Beg your pardon"
14 All together
15 Impertinent glance
16 Vegan Starter Kit provider
17 TRIPLE DOUBLE
20 Gradually became
21 Hiding place
22 Curt denial
23 Orange edibles
25 Be profuse
27 95, or three consecutive keyboard letters
30 Arab League member
32 "...__ reasonable facsimile"
33 Troops' chaplain
35 Italian endearment
36 City near Yosemite
39 Slips in some pots
40 TRIPLE DOUBLE
43 Flaw in logic
44 Aetna alternative
45 Sushi spread
46 Justice appointed after Sonia
48 Tweet of gratitude
49 Paragon
51 E. Germany, to natives
52 "The Prince of Soul"
54 *Downton Abbey* countess
55 Miffed, with "off"
57 Sighing sound
59 All of the files
62 TRIPLE DOUBLE
66 Hosted
67 Orange inedible
68 Proscriptions
69 Won't shut up
70 Whitehall whitewall
71 Shop jargon

DOWN

1 Clanged
2 Person downloading apps
3 TRIPLE DOUBLE
4 Sort of
5 Circus safety device
6 Benatar's battlefield
7 TRIPLE DOUBLE
8 Outdated
9 Water near the Sorbonne
10 PDA entry
11 TRIPLE DOUBLE
12 Letter resembling H
13 National Barbecue Month
18 Proofs of age, e.g.
19 Splendor
24 Adj. for *bueno* and *bandeau*
26 Canal clogger
28 Ultimate inspiration for *Survivor*
29 Sloop or skillet
30 __ out at (reproved)
31 Rumormonger's intro
32 Working the desk, say
34 Word before marshal or mattress
37 "I finally get it!"
38 Lee of the Shakers
41 Bout count conclusion
42 Hunting garb, for short
47 Kept for years in a cask
50 Loud speaker
53 Make fit
54 Narrator of *Evita*
56 Stamps out
58 Proficient
60 Melville novel
61 Liveliness
62 Easily scared
63 Wonderland serving
64 Felipe VI, in Spain
65 Something shared by identical twins



CREATORS SYNDICATE ©2025 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM

02/14/25

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

COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 3

item, 16J, was to establish and appoint a temporary ad hoc Council committee for the City Manager recruitment process.

Councilmember Barry Snell nominated Councilmember Dan Hall, Mayor Pro Tem Caroline Torosis and himself. Negrete nominated herself Torosis and Snell, however, there was no second. Consequently, a vote was taken on Snell's motion that passed unanimously 7-0.

Until a permanent replacement is found, Elaine Polachek will serve as interim city manager. She previously served the city of Santa Monica in various roles for nearly two decades, most recently as Assistant City Manager from 2010-2017.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

INSURANCE

FROM PAGE 6

the growing difficulty of finding property insurance in California, customers of the FAIR Plan will now have to shoulder 50% of any assessment through a temporary fee added to their premiums. Before the new rules went into effect, the plan would have gotten the additional funds directly from its member companies, which would have then tried to recoup that money by raising premiums.

The insurance industry supports the change. "This is essential to prevent even greater strain on California's already unbalanced insurance market and avoiding widespread policy cancellations that would jeopardize coverage for millions of Californians," said Mark Sektnan, vice president for state government relations for the American Property Casualty Insurance Association, in a written statement.

But Consumer Watchdog, a consumer advocacy group, is considering suing over the fact that consumers are now on the hook for the additional funding for the FAIR Plan.

"We'll be exploring every legal option to protect (consumers) from those surcharges," Carmen Balber, executive director of the group, told CalMatters.

Balber added that some insurers, such as Mercury General Corp., said shortly after the L.A. fires began in early January that they expected to have adequate reinsurance to cover any possible increased contributions they would have to make to the FAIR Plan. In that case, "are they going to let insurers double dip and charge consumers (anyway)?" Balber asked.

The insurance department said the last time the state approved additional funds for the FAIR Plan was in 1993, after the Kinneloa Fire in Altadena and the Old Topanga Fire in Malibu and Topanga. Some of those areas were also affected by the fires this year. The additional funds approved then are equivalent to $563 million today, the department said.

In a statement, Lara characterized the new regulation as a "necessary consumer protection action." The commissioner added: "The fact that we are once again facing this issue 30 years after wildfires devastated these same communities highlights the need for change."

By Levi Sumagaysay. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

LANDMARK

FROM PAGE 1

national history," and "is a significant or a representative example of the work or product of a notable builder, designer or architect."

The last point comes from the designer of the home, Paul Revere Williams, who was a distinguished architect and the first Black member of the American Institute of Architects. Williams' work on the abode, Santa Monica Conservancy noted, is "architecturally notable as a distinguished example of American Colonial Revival style" applied to a single-family residence.

Not only was the doctor a notable part of Santa Monica history, his wife was as well, as Essie became a very successful realtor in the area. Along with developing two apartment buildings at 20th St. and Virginia Ave., she also owned the Shore Hotel from 1956 to 1986, and was able to work toward housing visiting African students at UCLA. The latter piece of business earned her an invitation to 1960's Nigeria independence celebrations.

The family legacy carried to the next generation as well, as son Marcus Jr. was the first Black deputy city attorney of Santa Monica, serving from 1963 to 1965. His wife, Indira, was instrumental in establishing the Marcus O. Tucker Jr. Collection at the Santa Monica Main Library.

In a city typically divided about housing matters, this is one item that received unanimous support, including from locals that have seen the Tucker family pass through their lives.

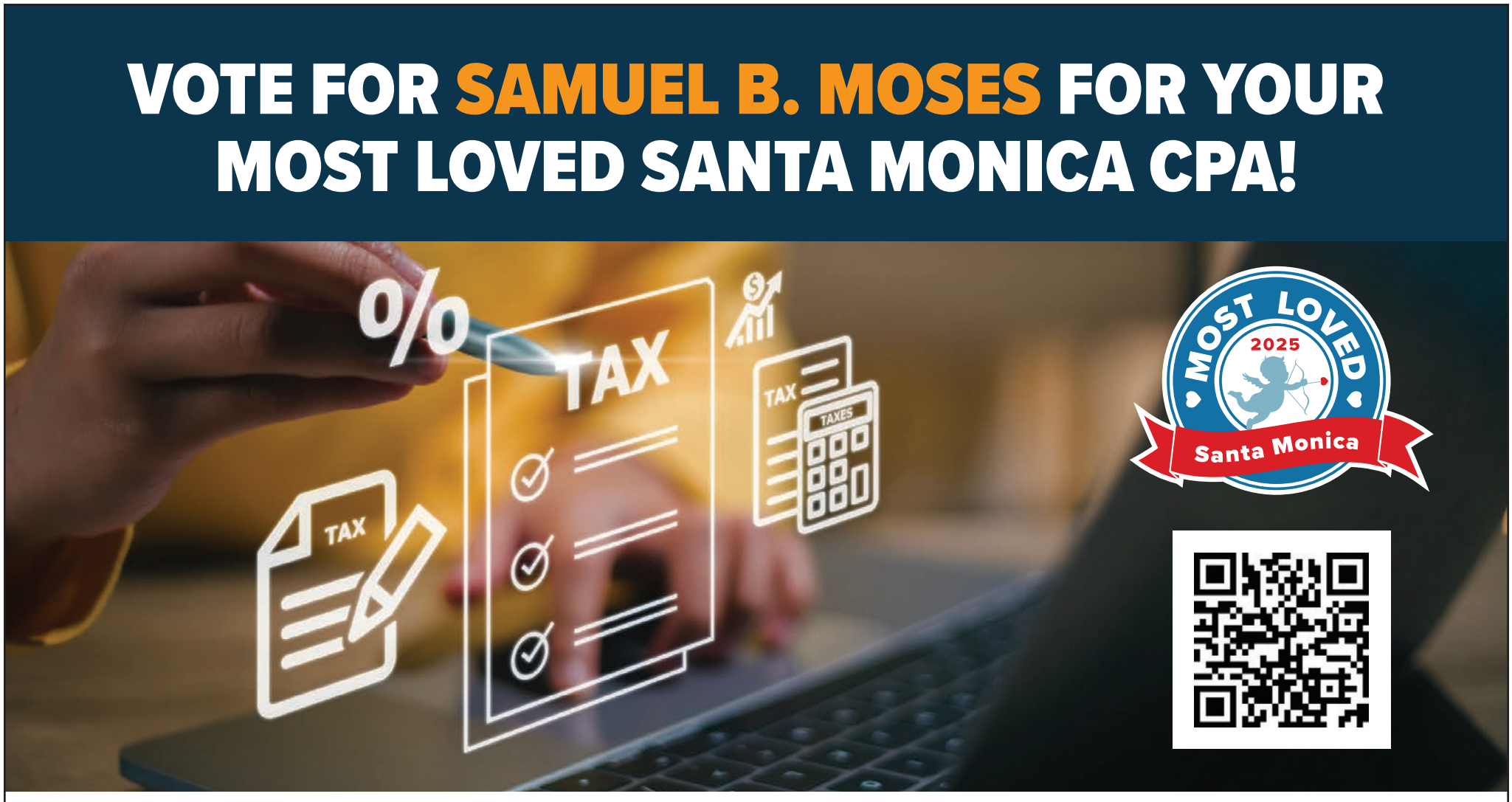
"As a longtime Santa Monica resident and personal friend of the Tuckers since my husband and I moved our family here in 1966, I am in favor of landmarking their family home both as a cultural landmark due to the significance of the contributions of the senior and junior generations of Tuckers … I look forward to the assurance that this home and its (surroundings) can be maintained in a fitting manner," local Sheila Banani wrote to the Landmarks Commission.

Other public correspondence referred to the social and historical context of not only the home, but the area it impacted, as other middle-class Black residents followed in the Tuckers' footsteps in purchasing lots around Virginia Avenue and 20th St.

"The Tucker House deserves landmark designation based on its historical, architectural and cultural significance and as an important affirmation of the contributions of Santa Monica's African-American community," Committee for Racial Justice's Joanne Berlin stated.

thomas@smdp.com

GET IT DAILY...




santa monica
orto
Vote for Orto as your Most Loved Italian Santa Monica Restaurant!
MOST LOVED
2025
Santa Monica
502 Santa Monica Blvd, Santa Monica, CA 90401 (424) 433-8100