2 **Noteworthy**
Best in local concerts.

3 **Around Town**
Black History Month event.

5 **Data Centers**
Coming into question.

6 **Events Map**
Plan out your weekend.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 66 THURSDAY 2/20/25 smdp.com

Fred Fitness, the futuristic gym that offers 'AI-powered' personalized workouts, officially opens on 4th Street

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

The brand new, hi-tech fitness center on 4th Street, between Arizona Ave and Santa Monica Blvd, held its official hard opening on Saturday, adding to the ever-increasing number of athletic-related outlets already there and due to arrive, including Road Runner Sports, SportsFest, Anytime Fitness and the pickleball courts that may, or may not, come to fruition.

Called Fred Fitness, its unique selling point is that the technology being employed is so advanced, that the company is claiming it utilizes artificial intelligence. The idea was conceptualized by Alfred Enzensberger, founder of Clever Fit, with the support of EGYM CEO Philipp Roesch-Schlanderer.

The 11,500-square-foot space at 1344 4th Street that was formerly the home of Patagonia has been radically transformed and the interior is now a stylish bare brick and natural wood affair, offering a very classic aesthetic. Andre Enzensberger CEO of Fred Fitness and Alfred's brother, says that everything inside was painted white and every single surface was sand blasted for six weeks to create the more timeless bare brick vibe.



Photo by Scott Snowden

FITNESS: The city's latest gym, Fred Fitness, had its opening celebrated by the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

Joining Andre on Saturday morning was Mayor Lana Negrete, Judy Kruger, President of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, Andrew Thomas, CEO of DTSM, Inc., Jeremy Ferguson, Operations & Placemaking Director for DTSM, Inc and many others, all keen to get their sweat on.

"We are really excited about the support that we received from everyone, including DTSM who has been periodically checking in on us to make sure that everything is going smoothly, but also gave us great insight and knowledge about anything and everything we needed to know," Andre said.

The original date of the official opening was back in the second week of January, but Andre said it simply wasn't appropriate to be celebrating as the wildfire tragedy was still unfolding.

"Our hearts here always go out to everyone that lost a home. They affected us too, because, of course, we created a momentum in marketing that was geared towards our January 11 opening, but the fires, of course, made us have to stop all of our efforts and just open our doors for the community to help where we can," he said, adding, "We still wanted to open our doors, but mostly just so we can welcome people from our community and support them with Wi-Fi, with water, with showers, with just the love from our staff, we

SEE **FITNESS** PAGE 11

Fire impacts have locals pondering relocation from area, California

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Not only did the Palisades Fire wreak havoc on local structures, damaging or destroying nearly 7,000 in all, the fire gave residents across the area pause as to whether they should remain in Southern California.

A new study from iMoving recently analyzed the Google search habits of California users, seeing how many residents searched the key word "moving to" plus a location between December and January. The data set shows a stark change from the pre and post-fire months in how many residents are looking to relocate.

Using Google Keyword Planner search data, the study showed that searches about moving increased by a minimum of 21%, all the way up to a 142% increase in searches inquiring about moving to Washington and North Carolina. In both cases, 70 California users searched for the keyword in December, jumping up to 170 in January.

SEE **RELOCATION** PAGE 11

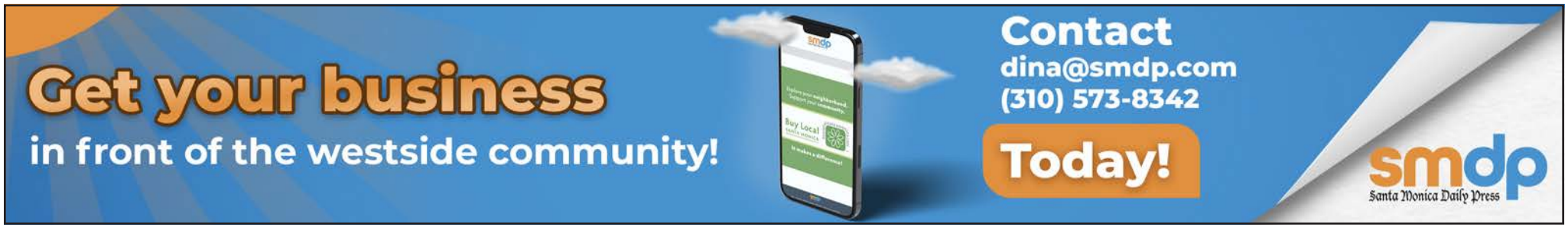
School board looks at Dashboard findings, preps for busy meeting

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

After its release late last year, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) Board of Education recently took a detailed look at findings on the 2024 California School Dashboard.

At its Feb. 6 meeting, SMMUSD Director of Assessment, Research and Evaluation Patrick Miller walked the board through Dashboard findings, annual indicators of student success across areas like testing scores, English learner progress and graduation rates. Miller stated that the Dashboard had "very positive indicators," including an increase or maintaining of performance in most areas.

SEE **ACHIEVEMENT** PAGE 11



FINDING A NEW DENTIST IS TOUGH!!!
(BUT WE MAKE IT EASY!!!)

YOUR CHOICE

If you don't like what we have to say we will give you a copy of your x-rays at no charge

DENTAL CARE WITHOUT JUDGEMENT!

WE OFFER UNIQUE SERVICES
*Nitrous Oxide available
*No interest payment plans
*Emergencies can be seen today
*Our dentists and staff members are easy to talk to

TRY OUR NO OBLIGATION
$20 EXAM INCLUDES FULL XRAYS
*Offer to non insured patients

OR

TRY OUR NO OBLIGATION
$99 EXAM AND CLEANING
For New Patients
INCLUDES FULL XRAYS
*Offer to non insured patients

AND OF COURSE WE DO
• Invisalign • Periodontist on Staff • Oral Surgeon on Staff
• Cosmetics and Implants • Zoom bleaching • and more

SANTA MONICA FAMILY DENTISTRY
DR. ALAN RUBENSTEIN
1260 15th ST. SUITE #703
(310) 736-2589



WWW.ALANRUBENSTEINDDS.COM





OPINION **NOTEWORTHY**

Charles Andrews | Send comments to editor@smdp.com

MAHLER!

NATIONAL STRIKE, FEB. 28 - Silence is consent. Europeans have a tradition of taking to the streets if they strongly disapprove of what their government is doing in their name. Even just raising the retirement age by two years. There has never been a more important time in our history to make your feelings known. Each of us. Not just the other guy.

On Feb. 28 the general strike is asking that all Americans speak out by boycotting all money transactions, except with local mom and pop businesses. Don't buy gas, don't take a doctor's appointment (if possible), don't eat out. If you think our democracy and rights are being destroyed by the insanely greedy, speak their language.

"GRAMMYS" - Shame on the important music organization, which does a lot of great work, for trying to rehabilitate Will Smith. What strings were pulled, what favors given, who was threatened? (No, I have no proof of those things, but if the Grammys just meekly decided on their own, sure, great idea, then all the worse.) After Smith's despicable physical attack on Oscars MC Chris Rock in 2022 during the live broadcast to the world, over a joke about Smith's wife, actress Jada Pinkett Smith,, a much more mild joke than more than half the zingers that night, he accepted a 10-year ban from the Academy, but now he is back at an awards show three years later, given a prominent role leading the tribute to the late great Quincy Jones, a loved and respected figure for seven decades. How many other huge names would have been more fitting for that task? More than just anger issues and an absence of a sense of humor and proportion, it set such an embarrassing standard for the global audience, that: in America, we settle our differences with violence; that might rules (Smith is much bigger physically than Rock); that helpless women must be "defended" by their strong



Courtesy LA Phil

MAHLER: The LA Philharmonic's Month of Mahler is underway.

men; that decades of awards show hosts being chosen FOR their ability to pointedly skewer the celebs present is endured with good humor and humility... except by Will Smith, who then continued to loudly curse Rock when he returned to his seat.

Smith "apologized" to Rock by Instagram, and then made a short video, but he needed to apologize to all of us, for smearing the reputations of all actors, musicians, all Americans. He needed to apologize to parents trying to raise their kids right. He needed to apologize to the world, and he never did, and now the Grammys think it's alright to give this turd the spotlight again? Now the Grammys need to apologize.

On a lesser note, Coldplay's Chris Martin, whom I have never liked, for a variety of reasons, acted in character when, at the end of his musical backing to the somber, sad memorial part of the program, flashed a huge smile and took a deep bow to the applause at the end, as though it was HIIS featured number on the Grammys, No, Chris, you should have been honored to have been chosen for that somber role and just...finished. They were applauding for

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 11

City of Santa Monica
WOODLAWN
Cemetery
Mausoleum
Mortuary
FD #2101

Helping families honor, remember, and celebrate life.



• Traditional Burial • Green/Natural Burial • Cremation
• Funeral Planning & Mortuary Services
ALL IN ONE LOCATION

1847 14th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404 ▪ (310) 458-8717 (on-call - 24/7)
woodlawn.cemetery@santamonica.gov ▪ www.woodlawnsm.com

AROUND TOWN

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Art Week & Black History Month Events

SMDP's Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town includes Black History Month Celebrations, multiple art events, H&H Bagels Grand Opening, and much more!

SaMo Pier Locals Night: Offhand Wine Bar is taking over Locals' Night this month in celebration of Black History Month with Wine, Music & a Drone Show. Thursday, Feb. 20, starting at 3:30p.m. https://www.santamonicapier.org/localsnight

Post-Fair: This alternative three-day art fair focuses on low cost to the galleries and the visitor to simplify the art fair experience by focusing on solo presentations in an iconic venue with a relatively low impact, open plan format. Feb. 20 - 22, Former SaMo Main Post Office, 1248 5th St. https://post-fair.com

10th Annual Black History Greens Festival at Virginia Avenue Park: See cooking demonstrations showcasing Greens as the main ingredient, and enjoy a vibrant mix of live entertainment, vendors, wellness booths and book giveaways. Saturday, Feb. 22, 11a.m. - 3p.m., 2200 Virginia Ave. https://www.santamonica.gov/events/402s8hb8na7b6ramc6zq2ms7df/202502221100



Courtesy Graphic

HISTORY: The Third Street Promenade's Black History Month Celebration takes place on Sunday.

Third Street Promenade Black History Month Celebration: Expect artisans, performances, children's activities and games, plus local retail and eateries on the 1300 block. Sunday, Feb. 23, 11a.m. - 4p.m. https://www.instagram.com/p/DF9HBydvN4L

Frieze LA Art Fair: Attendees can explore exhibits from over 100 leading galleries from around the world, ambitious installations, and collaborations with nonprofit organizations—all while experiencing a glimpse of Santa Monica's unique arts and culture scene. Feb. 20 – 23, Santa Monica Airport https://www.frieze.com/fairs/frieze-los-angeles/tickets

Binge Fringe Festival (FREE): Santa Monica's version of Fringe Festival offers a month of free performances workshops, readings, music and poetry at the Santa Monica Playhouse. All shows are free, but tickets must be reserved in advance. Feb. 25 through March 30. https://www.santamonicaplayhouse.com/the-bff-calendar-of-events.html

ONGOING: "Two Bit Circus" Pop-Up; LiteBrite Experience

WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

Crudo e Nudo Sushi + Aged Sake Night: This will be the one and only time Chef Brian will be making a nigiri menu at Crudo to pair with the aged sake from Sake High. Friday, Feb. 21, 2724 Main St. https://resy.com/cities/santa-monica-ca/venues/crudo-e-nudo?date=2025-02-21&seats=2

CaliMex BBQ Night at Maple Block Meat Co.: Guided by Pit Master Rudy Suazo, the Maple Block team is diving deep into their pit crew's family recipes, bringing a menu that's as soulful as it is delicious. Guests can expect a fusion of slow-smoked barbecue and bold Mexican flavors, all crafted with reverence for tradition and a love for the pit. Friday, Feb. 21, 3973 Sepulveda Blvd. https://mapleblockmeat.com/

Kavahana's One Year Anniversary Tasting Event: Sample Kavahana's 8 most popular specialty Kava Nectar drinks, with unique flavors like rose apple, ube beach, and paradise, enjoy Thai Street Food from @8e8thaistreetfood, get a peek into your future with a tarot card reader and more. $25 for an 8 drink tasting flight. Friday, Feb. 21, 7p.m. - 1a.m., 306 Pico Blvd. https://partiful.com/e/qwL1Ryc88BgRI1qt5xWX

H&H Bagels Grand Opening: The New York City bagel brand is opening its first West Coast location in Santa Monica on Wednesday, Feb. 26 at 710 Montana Ave. First 200 opening day customers get a free tote bag with H&H gift cards, ranging from $5-$100. https://www.hhbagels.com

Pasta Making & Wine Tasting at AJA Vineyards: Uncork your creativity and savor the

SEE **AROUND TOWN** PAGE 6



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **57.4**

THURSDAY
POOR TO FAIR

SURF: Knee to thigh 1-2FT

Jumbled, shorter period NW swell comes back up from Wednesday. AM offshore winds look likely. A new pulse of shorter period NW swell mix fills the void between the longer period NW swell from early week and another round due Friday into the weekend. Surf is rideable but you're trading slightly better consistency for a little less power. Choose a craft accordingly.

FRIDAY
POOR TO FAIR

SURF: Knee to thigh 1-2FT

Overlapping WNW swells and possible AM offshore flow. Watching for overlapping run of WNW swells to bump back up a peg heading into the weekend. Slight nudge up in size from Thursday with light AM wind currently on the cards. The tide will be a little more full for the dawn patrol but shouldn't impact quality too much.

Weather

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 68. Northwest wind around 10 mph.
Thursday Night: Clear, with a low around 51.
Friday: Sunny, with a high near 69.
Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 52.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2025/02/20	Thu	01:25 AM	4.24	H
2025/02/20	Thu	10:43 AM	1.09	L
2025/02/21	Fri	02:55 AM	4.25	H
2025/02/21	Fri	11:53 AM	0.56	L
2025/02/22	Sat	04:24 AM	4.50	H
2025/02/22	Sat	12:35 PM	0.03	L
2025/02/22	Sat	8:02 PM	3.17	H
2025/02/22	Sat	11:09 PM	2.88	L
2025/02/23	Sun	05:28 AM	4.94	H
2025/02/23	Sun	1:09 PM	-0.46	L
2025/02/23	Sun	8:01 PM	3.39	H
2025/02/24	Mon	12:06 AM	2.51	L
2025/02/24	Mon	06:18 AM	5.43	H
2025/02/24	Mon	1:40 PM	-0.86	L
2025/02/24	Mon	8:14 PM	3.65	H
2025/02/25	Tue	12:50 AM	2.04	L
2025/02/25	Tue	07:01 AM	5.86	H
2025/02/25	Tue	2:09 PM	-1.15	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: 2/17
4 44 47 52 57
Power#: 9
Jackpot: 195 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 2/14
11 19 31 49 56
Mega#: 16
Jackpot: 145 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 2/15
1 9 26 29 47
Mega#: 20
Jackpot: 26 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/17
3 4 31 32 39

Daily 3
Draw Date: 2/17
EVENING: 4 4 3
Draw Date: 2/17
MIDDAY: 5 5 6

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 2/17
1st: 06 - Whirl Win
2nd: 05 - California Classic
3rd: 11 - Money Bags
Race Time: 1:45.82

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

Crackdown on power-guzzling data centers may soon come online in California

KHARI JOHNSON
CalMatters

California residents now pay the highest price for electricity in the continental U.S., state analysts reported last month. Costs have been driven in part by levies to prevent and insure against wildfires, but the analysts anticipate a less conspicuous source of pressure on power bills going forward: growing electricity demand from data centers.

Tucked away in nondescript buildings, data centers store and transmit the contents of the internet. At least one is involved every time you watch a TikTok video or shop on Amazon. But in recent years, artificial intelligence, and especially new general purpose systems like ChatGPT, has caused server farms to multiply.

That means more power plants to build and more transmission lines to run, leaving state regulators increasingly concerned that the general public will be on the hook for Big Tech's electricity binge.

In response, California lawmakers have in recent weeks proposed bills to ensure that electricity customers don't pay for the infrastructure that utility companies build to serve data centers — and to encourage more energy efficiency or use of clean energy on the part of the tech companies, entrepreneurs, and IT departments that utilize the centers.

One measure, from Democratic Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan of San Ramon, would require data centers and the developers of large AI models to publicly share how much energy they use. It would also make state energy regulators adopt efficiency standards for data centers.

Another, from Democratic State Sen. Steve Padilla of Chula Vista, would require utility regulators to draw up an electricity rate structure specifically for data centers. A different bill from the senator would give data center operators a tax cut if they create at least 20 jobs and draw 70% of their energy from zero emission sources.

The California legislators join lawmakers from tech hubs across the country in proposing data center power regulations.

In Virginia, the busiest place in the world for data center internet traffic, a state legislator earlier this year proposed prohibiting utilities from passing construction and energy infrastructure costs on to customers. Another has reintroduced a bill to require data center projects meet certain energy efficiency standards in order to receive tax credits. Lawmakers in the state are also considering examining whether ratepayers are subsidizing the data center industry.

In Texas, legislators are drafting a bill backed by the nonprofit Environment Texas to tie a sales tax break for data centers to energy efficiency standards.

Elsewhere, the Ohio Public Utilities Commission is considering requiring data centers to pay more of the upfront costs associated with long-term energy contracts. In Oregon, lawmakers are considering a bill that would prevent utility companies from passing costs on to ratepayers and another that would require all data centers to use renewable energy by 2040.

Taken together, the state-level regulations could, if approved, have a global impact. Most data centers in the world are in the U.S., with the greatest number of those in California, Texas, and Virginia. The laws would also represent something of a legislative vibe shift: More than half of U.S. states court data centers — and the revenue they bring — by offering them tax breaks.

AS DATA CENTERS SPREAD, SO DO COSTS

Though coming to the fore now, data center power demands have been a concern for years. The U.S. Department of Energy launched an initiative in 2008 to help get the issue under control. But the spread of general purpose artificial intelligence made by companies like Google and OpenAI, whose development relies on power-hungry graphical processors, is making the problem worse. The data centers that trained a recent version of the AI model behind ChatGPT use as much electricity as 30 Walmart stores, researchers recently told the Wall Street Journal.

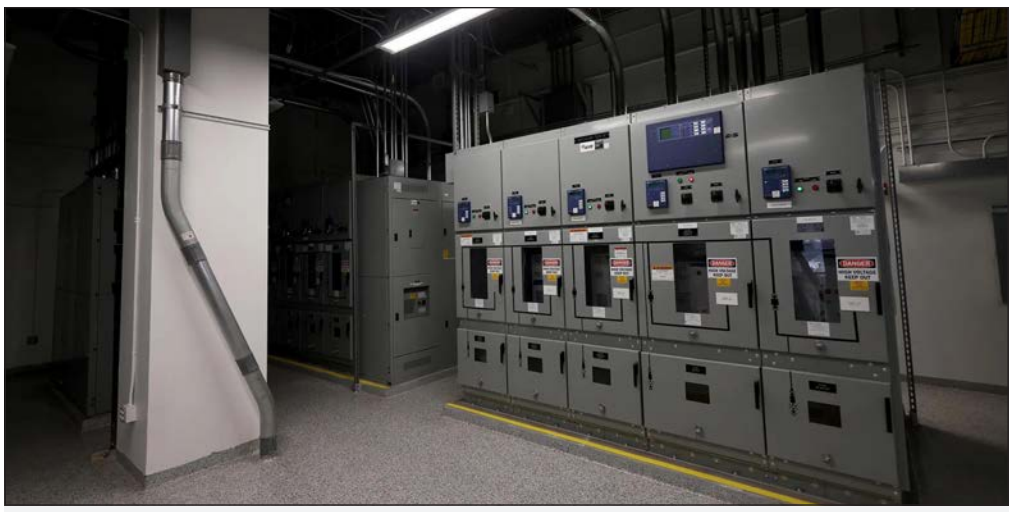


Photo by Genaro Molina, Los Angeles Times via Getty Images

DATA: Transfer switches take up space at One Wilshire, a high-rise office building almost entirely converted into a server farm or data center in downtown Los Angeles on Sept. 10, 2024. Some California lawmakers worry utility customers may end up paying higher rates due to the proliferation of data centers.

A Chinese company, DeepSeek, offered some hope for efficiency in recent weeks when its app reached #1 on Apple and Google stores. The chat tool is powered by an AI model developed with a fraction of the resources required by major American models, its creators claim. U.S. companies are also under pressure from tech researchers pushing them to abandon their quest for AI to accomplish virtually any task and instead make models for specific tasks. Doing so would greatly reduce energy and water demands.

But, so far, data center expansion shows no signs of slowing in California, said Sylvie Ashford, an energy and policy analyst at The Utility Reform Network. Ashford said the need to run transmission lines to data centers could hike prices for California ratepayers, one in five of whom are already behind on paying their electricity bill.

"Regulators need to shield residential and small business customers from shouldering the brunt of these new data center costs," Ashford said. "California needs to be proactive and develop equitable solutions for cost recovery and electric rate design, so that data centers are paying their fair share for system improvements."

In the southeastern United States, "ratepayers are subsidizing the cost of electrical infrastructure being built to serve data centers," including gas power plants and pipelines, according to a report published last month by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis. Data centers are referred to as a root cause for a rise in energy costs this year in the mid-Atlantic region of the U.S., according to energy industry analysts who spoke with the Washington Post.

The California lawmakers trying to regulate data centers were unable to point to a particular example of when utilities pass data center costs on to consumers. But Padilla said that similar data center regulations are under consideration in multiple states because "People realize the very real ratcheting up of costs and what that does to people's ability to thrive and live and invest. We should be very clear eyed about what are the impacts and how do we get ahead of that."

Bauer-Kahan said her measure aims to address problems that could surface in the future.

"If you put these huge data centers on the grid, soak up some of that energy, and the demand continues to rise, we need to make sure those costs are not being borne by the ratepayers in order to enrich these private companies," she said.

There is evidence, albeit inconclusive, that California data centers could already be fueling higher costs and plans to incur them.

Recent presentations to investors by Pacific Gas & Electric and Southern California Edison detail an influx of large projects and costly infrastructure investments. Pacific Gas & Electric received dozens of data center proposals last year, according to the Los Angeles Times.

Last month the municipal utility company in Santa Clara announced a 5% increase in rates for all customers due to "critical infrastructure projects." Santa Clara is the busiest city in California for data center activity, with more than 50 server farms gobbling up 60% of energy from the utility. The increase was for projects that benefit everyone, an executive with the utility, Manueal Pineda of Silicon Valley Power, told CalMatters.

Just as increased traffic on roads leads to congestion and delays, the addition of large data center loads to the power grid can, in theory, drive up overall electricity demand and exacerbate transmission congestion, said UC Riverside professor Shaolei Ren, who studies the environmental impact of data centers. But he said the connection between data centers and higher utility rates for residential customers isn't always straightforward. While utility rates have risen steadily, these increases are the result of a complex mix of factors including inflation.

"That said, precautionary legislation and regulations are still valuable," Ren added. "These can help protect residential customers from potential rate spikes as more data centers come online, ensuring that households aren't suddenly burdened by sharp increases in electricity costs."

HOW DATA CENTERS IMPACT THE ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH, AND HOUSING

Costs to electricity ratepayers are just one potential consequence from high energy consumption by data centers.

By 2030, data centers could contribute to 1,300 premature deaths in California, carry $20 billion in health care costs, and rival greenhouse gas emissions of every car in California as a cause of health costs, according to an evaluation published last month by the California Institute of Technology and UC Riverside researchers including Ren.

A Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory report compiled for the Department of Energy estimates that data center energy use has tripled over the past decade and is projected to double or triple by 2028. A Morgan Stanley report released last fall found that within five years, the global data center industry could produce 40% of annual U.S. emissions.

Analysis of power company activity in the United States shows the rapid growth of data centers is getting in the way of initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, according to a forthcoming report from the Center for Biological Diversity, a nonprofit conservation group that filed the lawsuit to block the construction of a data center in California in December 2024.

Lauren Bridges, an assistant professor at the University of Virginia who studies the societal impact of data centers, is concerned they could drive up housing costs in the U.S. Research she conducted found their consumption of energy resources near London contributed to the local housing crisis. Noise pollution is also a common concern, and backup generators in California burning diesel fuel and methane gas in Tennessee harming air quality for nearby communities. Bridges is also alarmed by rising interest by companies like Microsoft in reopening nuclear power plants to feed power to data centers.

Data centers are often attractive to local politicians because they pay sales and use tax on assets within data centers, but costs associated with building them are often passed on to consumers, she said, and that particularly hurts lower-income people, who pay a larger percentage of their income for electricity than those with higher incomes.

Efforts by state and local lawmakers to regulate data centers come at the same time that the White House and companies like Oracle, OpenAI, and SoftBank launched Stargate Project, a $500 billion joint venture for the creation of data centers and associated infrastructure. Support for data center construction is a bipartisan issue: In his final days in office, President Joe Biden signed an executive order that permits building data centers on federal land.

Bridges believes Stargate Project may place pressure on lawmakers to extend tax breaks to data centers and oppose regulations on them but they still have to engage with long-term planning of water and energy needs and confront problems the centers create for their constituents..

"It would not be wise for state and local policymakers to take a stance of unbridled growth without considering how it's going to impact all of the issues that come with having data centers," she said. "I think there's a disconnect between the federal government priorities and the reality that this development is going to happen in local areas."

MOST LOVED 2024 Santa Monica

Vote for us for your "Most Loved" Dentist in Santa Monica!

WE CARE ABOUT YOUR SMILE

Dental Care is most focused in helping you discover your most beautiful smile as quickly as possible. Get your best looking smile now!



Santa Monica Tooth Doctor

Santamonicatoothdr.com

(310) 829-2224

2222 Santa Monica Blvd #400, Santa Monica, CA 90404

Dr. Ali Mogharei



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 al 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.

FRIDAY | FEBRUARY 21

WHIPLASH

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Propeller Gallery, 3026 Airport Ave. Santa Monica Cultural Affairs, in collaboration with Art at the Airport, is proud to announce the opening of "WHIPLASH: Art In The Ever-Changing Now," a groundbreaking exhibition that explores the profound and dynamic shifts shaping our world today. Curated by Rebecca Youssef, Alexandra Dillon and April Banks.

AROUND TOWN

FROM PAGE 3

perfect pairing of wine and culinary artistry! Join us for an unforgettable evening featuring a private pasta-making class with the talented Chef Joanna Barajas, paired with five exquisite wines from our collection. $125/person. Sunday, Feb. 23, 5:00p.m., 1417 2nd St. .https://www.opentable.com/booking/experiences-availability?rid=1406542&restref=1406542&experienceId=405706

Not No Bar Opens on Main St. The Infatuation reviews the new spot at 2424 Main St. in the old Isla space. "Not No Bar is proof that when you mix good cocktails, good pizza, and good music, people will show up in droves. It's loud, a little messy, and a lot of fun. The place is arguably a bar first, but almost every table is eating bubbly-crusted Neopolitan-ish pizzas, too. Get the spicy, soppressata-topped Bang Bang and pair it with a tropical-leaning cocktail like the Curry Killer, made with rum, coconut, and fragrant green curry." https://www.theinfatuation.com/los-angeles/reviews/not-no-bar

Macallan Whiskey Flight at Hotel Casa del Mar: Terrazza & The Lobby Lounge at Hotel Casa del Mar is now offering The Macallan Whiskey Flight for $60 on Fridays from 3 - 9p.m. Enjoy a half ounce of each single malt whiskey while taking in the picturesque Pacific coast views. Selections include The Macallan Sherry Oak 12YR paired with Raclette & Rye Toast, The Macallan Sherry Oak 18YR paired with a Savory Date Tartlet, and The Macallan Time Space Mastery paired with Compartes Chocolate Truffle.

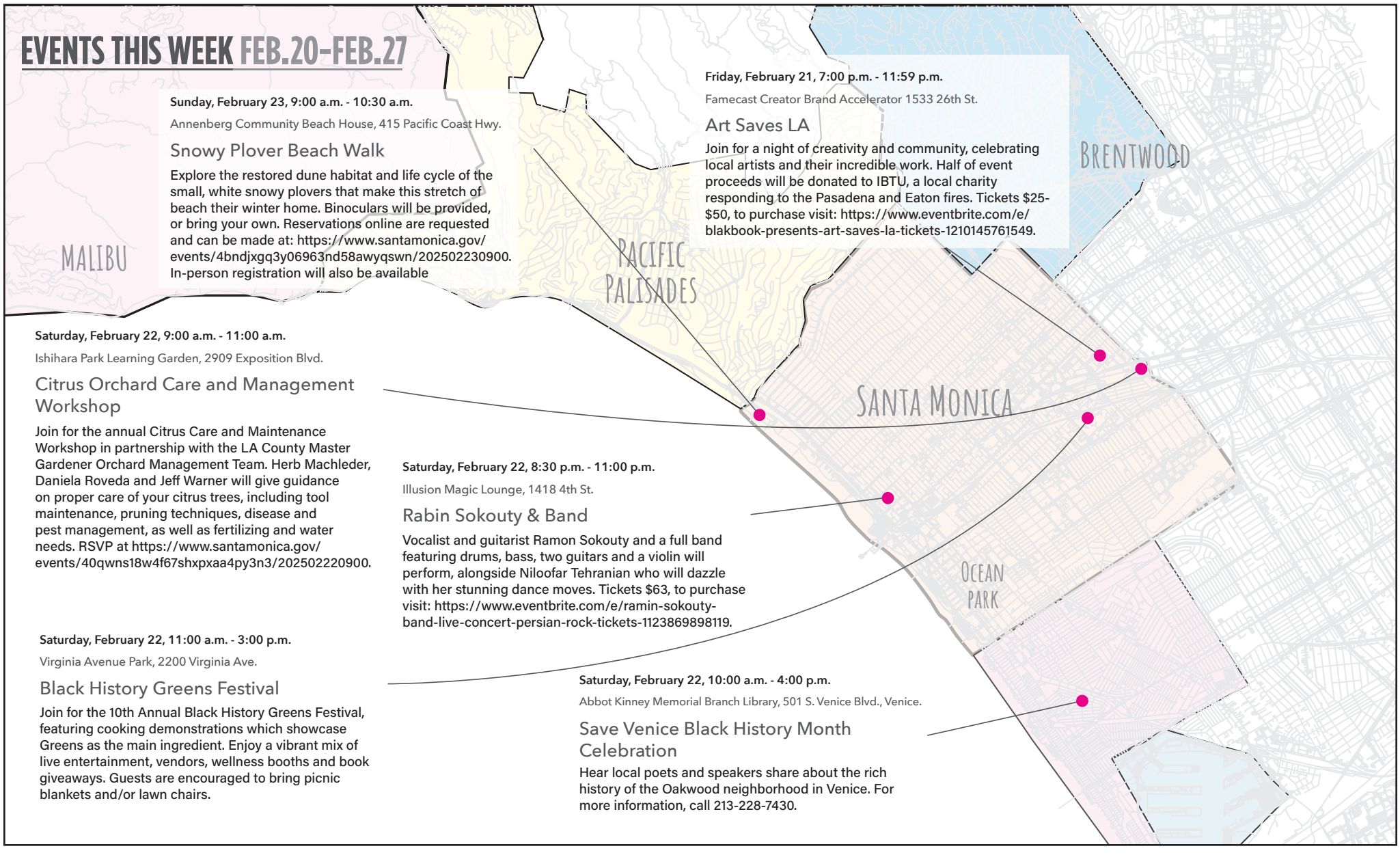
Din Tai Fung Soft Open: The Santa Monica location officially opens on Feb. 28, but from Feb. 20-27, guests will have the exclusive opportunity to experience the restaurant during its soft opening. It is donating 100% of profits from its soft opening and grand opening weeks to local independent restaurants impacted by the fires to help them rebuild. 395 Santa Monica Place. Reserve here: https://www.yelp.com/reservations/din-tai-fung-santa-monica-coming-soon-santa-monica

Further Afield: LA Art Show: "The Most Comprehensive International Contemporary Art Show in America" is back with more than 180,000 square feet of exhibition space, including domestic and international galleries. Wednesday - Sunday, Feb. 19 - 23, Downtown LA Convention Center www.laartshow.com

Looking Ahead: Din Tai Fung SaMo Grand Opening (2/28); Montana Ave. Spring Fling (3/1)

If there's something you think is worth highlighting, you can reach out directly to me at sean@smdp.com. Here are my past columns and let me know if you have any feedback on Around Town: Art Week & Black History Month Events

EVENTS THIS WEEK FEB.20-FEB.27



Sunday, February 23, 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Hwy.

Snowy Plover Beach Walk

Explore the restored dune habitat and life cycle of the small, white snowy plovers that make this stretch of beach their winter home. Binoculars will be provided, or bring your own. Reservations online are requested and can be made at: https://www.santamonica.gov/events/4bndjxgq3y06963nd58awyqswn/202502230900. In-person registration will also be available

Friday, February 21, 7:00 p.m. - 11:59 p.m.

Famecast Creator Brand Accelerator 1533 26th St.

Art Saves LA

Join for a night of creativity and community, celebrating local artists and their incredible work. Half of event proceeds will be donated to IBTU, a local charity responding to the Pasadena and Eaton fires. Tickets $25-$50, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/blakbook-presents-art-saves-la-tickets-1210145761549.

Saturday, February 22, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Ishihara Park Learning Garden, 2909 Exposition Blvd.

Citrus Orchard Care and Management Workshop

Join for the annual Citrus Care and Maintenance Workshop in partnership with the LA County Master Gardener Orchard Management Team. Herb Machleder, Daniela Roveda and Jeff Warner will give guidance on proper care of your citrus trees, including tool maintenance, pruning techniques, disease and pest management, as well as fertilizing and water needs. RSVP at https://www.santamonica.gov/events/40qwns18w4f67shxpxaa4py3n3/202502220900.

Saturday, February 22, 8:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Illusion Magic Lounge, 1418 4th St.

Rabin Sokouty & Band

Vocalist and guitarist Ramon Sokouty and a full band featuring drums, bass, two guitars and a violin will perform, alongside Niloofar Tehranian who will dazzle with her stunning dance moves. Tickets $63, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ramin-sokouty-band-live-concert-persian-rock-tickets-1123869898119.

Saturday, February 22, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave.

Black History Greens Festival

Join for the 10th Annual Black History Greens Festival, featuring cooking demonstrations which showcase Greens as the main ingredient. Enjoy a vibrant mix of live entertainment, vendors, wellness booths and book giveaways. Guests are encouraged to bring picnic blankets and/or lawn chairs.

Saturday, February 22, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd., Venice.

Save Venice Black History Month Celebration

Hear local poets and speakers share about the rich history of the Oakwood neighborhood in Venice. For more information, call 213-228-7430.



STUDIO ROYALE
Assisted Living

LIFE ON *Your* TERMS

OFFERING ASSISTED LIVING

FREE MEAL WITH TOUR!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
(424) 672-4373

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

3975 OVERLAND AVE,
CULVER CITY, CA 90232

License #198601566

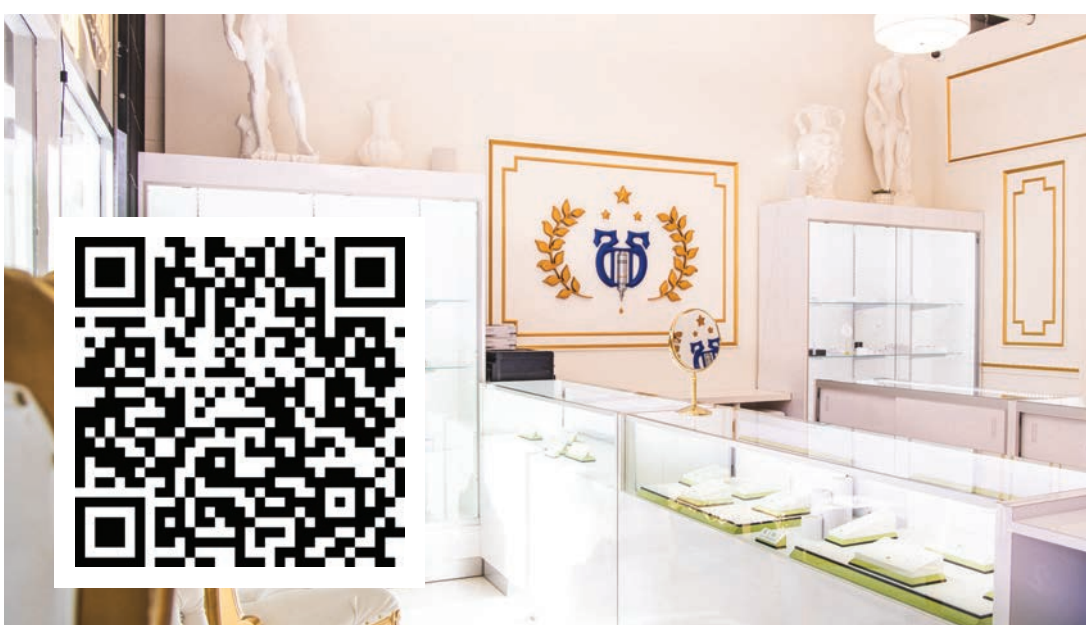
Offer valid through 3/31/25.
Some exclusions may apply.
Contact community for more details.

STUDIOROYALECULVERCITY.COM

Vote for **The Apollo Tattoo & Piercing Studio** as Santa Monica's Most Loved Tattoo/Piercing Shop in Santa Monica!





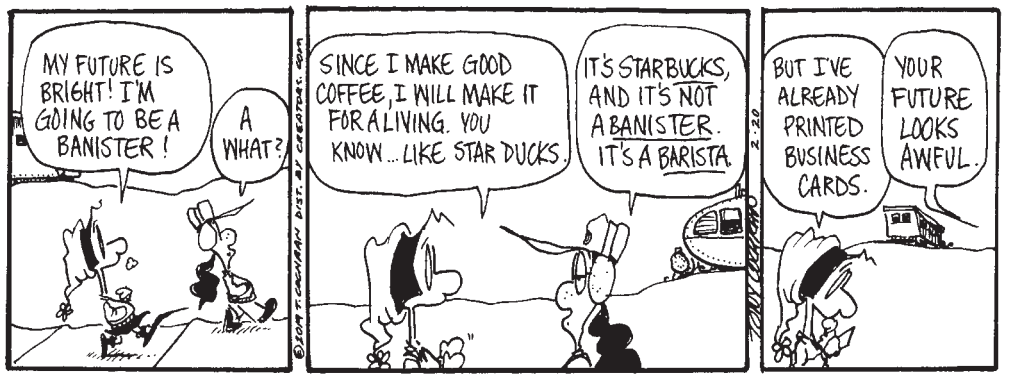




2625 Main St, Santa Monica, CA 90405 | 310.331.0605

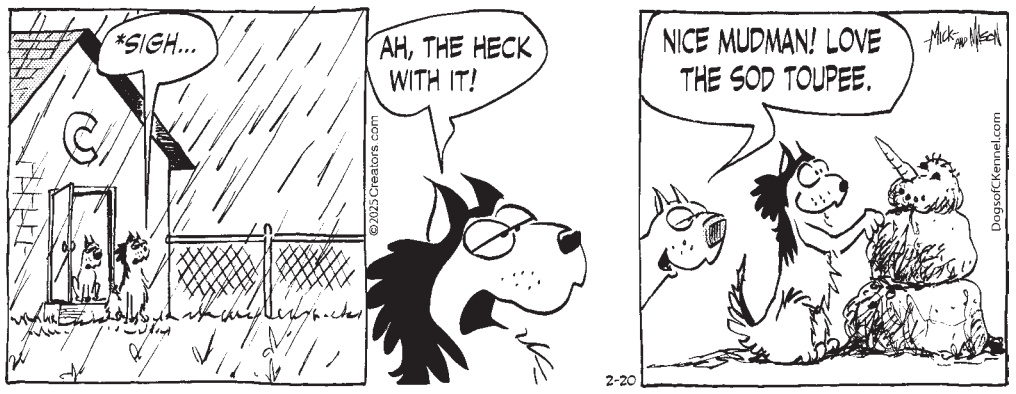
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



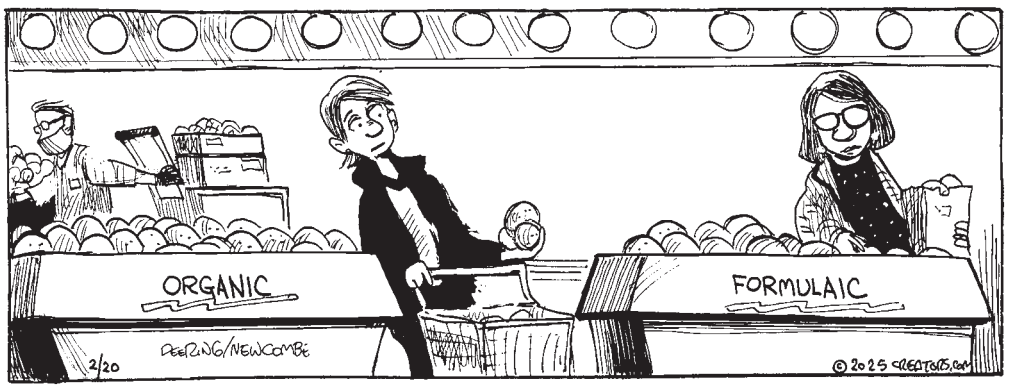
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



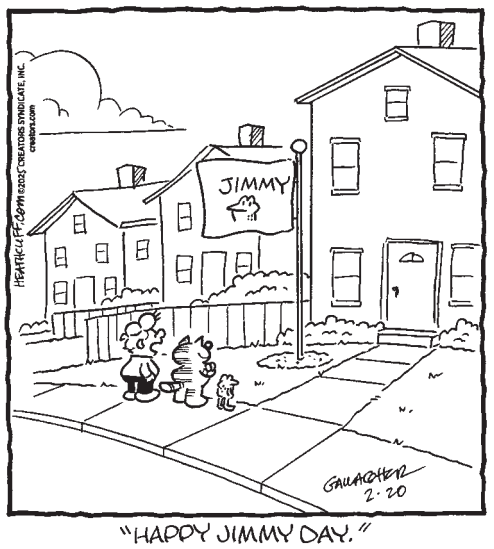
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"HAPPY JIMMY DAY."

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6492

Sweet treats

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

Aero	Coconut kisses	Layer
Angelfood cake	Custard	Liquorice
Anzac biscuits	Dirt	Packet
Bars	Fete	Party
Belgian waffle	Freckle	Raspberry
Bites	Frog	Soft
Busy	Garments	Sweet
Caramel	Gob stoppers	Syrup
Chips	Humbugs	Treat
Cinnamon roll	Indulge	TV mix
Cloying	Jams	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Not just Smith and Jones

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. 20)

Welcome to your most playful year when lighthearted antics enhance many experiences and areas of your life. As fun comes to you, or you create it, bonds will be woven, group knowledge and identity will begin to take shape. More highlights: Family brings something you've always wanted. Prosperity allows for travel and following an interest. A long conflict is resolved. Pisces and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 1, 4, 2 and 3.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Today's project will not be without its glitches, but that's OK. You will grow past the setbacks. Mistakes do not define you; they refine you. Keep pushing through. Eventually, you'll have the feeling that you're not just doing it; you're owning it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're letting go of the weight of needing things to be perfect or reciprocated in a certain way. This acceptance is freeing. You admire and care for people, even when they can't meet you where you need them. It shows maturity and your capacity for grace.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You have this light that shines in how you live, how you love and how you carry yourself. You're hard on yourself, but there is so much good in you, even when you feel like you're not measuring up. All of this is (SET ITAL)who you are(END ITAL) -- a force.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You don't need a clinical label to know that a friend's behavior undermines your peace. You've experienced enough to see that certain ways of interacting don't align with what feels good or nourishing to you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Like a fallen tree in the road after a storm, you'll come upon blocks that you didn't cause, but you can certainly help with the clearing anyway, finding strength in your ability to transform obstacles into opportunities for growth.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll act as a bridge between people, easing the divide created by cultural and generational differences. What makes you uniquely suited for this role is your deep understanding of both worlds, allowing you to connect them in a meaningful way.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're processing so much with strength and clarity. You're listening to your body and letting yourself heal. That self-care is so important, especially as you move forward with everything on your plate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It is fortifying to experience friendship that is without hidden motives. Steady support is important. It is good to turn toward those sources of comfort and reliability before you need them to know their nature and parameters.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Friends aren't perfect, and if they disappoint you, you'll cut them some slack, knowing that you're ultimately better off letting them be themselves instead of making them feel they have to perform or walk on eggshells around you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your inner fire surges with a desire to prevail, to push through, to win. Hold onto that. Use it as fuel to keep going. Every step you take away from a toxic dynamic is a step toward the dynamic you want and deserve.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The way you show up for someone -- strong, steady and endlessly supportive -- is truly remarkable. You've created something so beautiful in giving this person a kind of stability and encouragement that is rare in this world.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's a bucket-list item just waiting for your attention. Transitioning into the mode of doing this thing is exciting and daunting all at once, but you're so right; this is the time for it, as everything is aligning to support the version of you that will get this one done.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

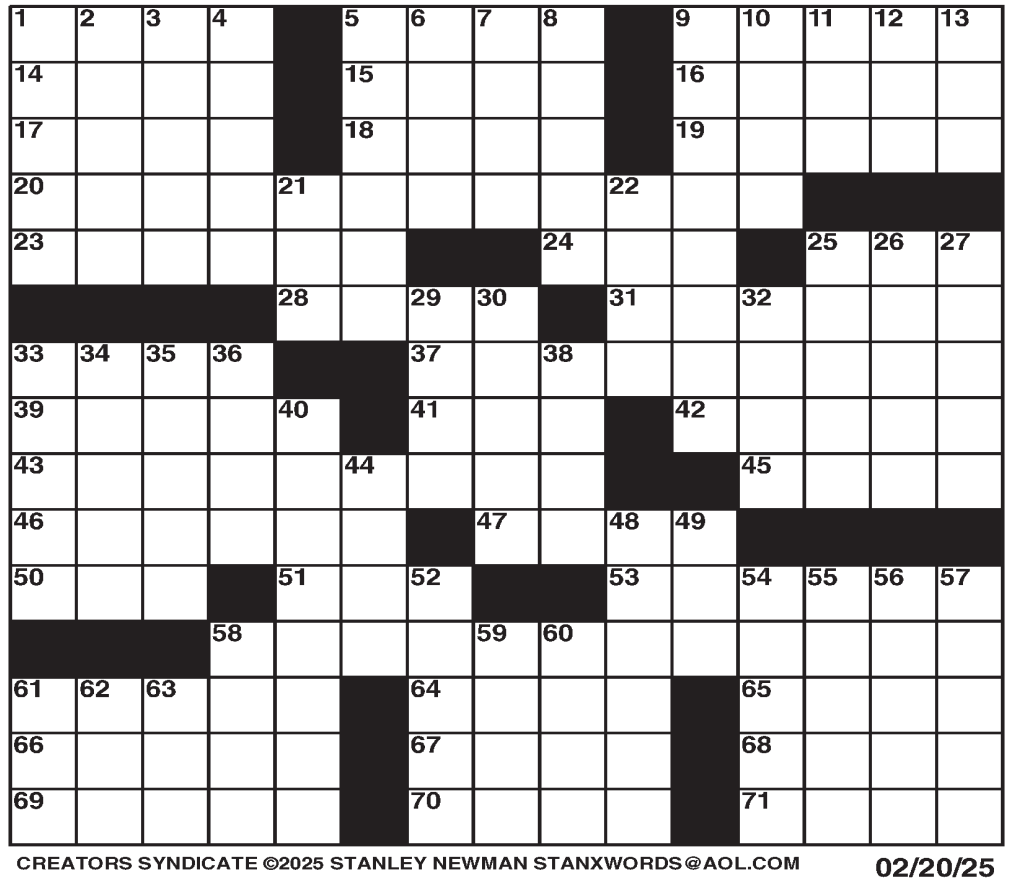
KINDLY QUARTET by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Trails
5 PR people
9 Ground
14 Indian tourist mecca
15 Rushed off
16 London line
17 Breeze (through)
18 Color named for a duck
19 Subordinate to
20 Kindly, in Cannes
23 Checked out for a while
24 Tend to tykes
25 Lapidary's specimen
28 Nautical spine
31 North Pole's latitude
33 Maggie's sister
37 Kindly, in Cologne
39 Full-grown
41 Old college cry
42 Mexican title
43 Kindly, in Calabria
45 *Walk the Line* subject
46 Exotic vacation
47 Fragment
50 South African golf pro
51 Sewing job
53 Overly ornate
58 Kindly, in Kansas
61 Instructive tale
64 Go the distance
65 Bucket in a boat
66 Ryder rival
67 Sandwich establishment
68 Downfall
69 Proceeds violently
70 Schedule opening
71 Eliciting an "Ugh!"

DOWN

1 Roundup requirement
2 Another time
3 Diner fixture
4 Barrage
5 Bring into accord
6 Takes off
7 Sandy hazard
8 Wins over
9 Shares of stocks
10 Family member
11 Symbol for stopping
12 Datebook abbr.
13 Unnamed woman
21 Winery wood
22 Nonstandard negative
25 Susan's *Thelma & Louise* costar
26 Moral climate
27 New Testament gift
29 Iberian river
30 Yarn spinners
32 Tiny amt. of time
33 Backslide
34 Without a flaw
35 Browses the Web
36 __ Romeo (imported auto)
38 Subsequently
40 North Carolinians
44 Struggles (for)
48 "Now it's clear"
49 Enhance dishonestly
52 Chocolatier's gear
54 Religious leader
55 Author __ Bashevis Singer
56 Public outcry
57 Unable to hold water
58 Spectrum shade
59 Certain Celt
60 Nobel Institute city
61 Collie's coat
62 "Now it's clear"
63 Capture



CREATORS SYNDICATE ©2025 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM

02/20/25

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

NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 2

all those great artists we lost, not for your incredible singing (sarcasm). What an ego, what a lack of self awareness.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

Tonight - DUDAMEL Conducts MAHLER's Journey, LA PHIL – Fasten your emotional seatbelts, we're off on a month of Mahler, from perhaps his most passionate and skilled fundi today, our own Gustavo. You may as well camp out at Disney Hall until March because he is leaving us with a curated cornucopia of bits and pieces, lieder and symphonies, that all flow together into a remarkable tribute to both Gs. Tonight he bookends Mahler's career with selections from his first and his final symphonies, then comes back with lieder from important German poets. Thurs, Fri, Sat 8 p.m., Sun 2 p.m., Walt Disney Concert Hall, LA, $20-20.

HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES – You can go to the Cinema Bar any Monday night, 9-11:30, for more than a decade now, and hear these hot players run through Django Reinhart-style '30s jazz. This amazing ensemble is a treasure. Mon 9 p.m., Cinema Bar, Culver City, free.

RECOMMENDED:

EDMAR CASTANEDA – Jazz harp? Is that even a thing? We had for many years Lori Andrews (no relation), who made the rounds playing jazz harp with a small combo, and she was quite good (even though Jeff Jarow couldn't stand her), but Castañeda performs here sans other instruments, but with special guest Andrea Tierra, a Columbian folk-jazz vocalist. NPR's "Fresh Air" touts, "...his technique is the real astonishment. Castañeda juggles lead, rhythm and bass lines, using a variety of hard and soft string attacks to keep those voices distinct, all without giving up the groove." Where does Jazz Bakery maven Ruth Price find these people? We are so lucky to have her. Don't ever retire, Ruth. Sat 8 p.m., Moss Theater, Santa Monica, $45.

TOLEDO DIAMOND – His decades-long Sunday night residency at Santa Monica's Harvelle's, the oldest blues bar in LA (almost a century!), is a treasure that you shouldn't assume will always be there. Toledo choreographs (literally) a truly unique show, a blend of '50s hipster jazz and his dancing dames and a most modern smokin' hot band that gets better all the time. Every Sunday 9:30 p.m., Harvelle's, Santa Monica, $12

COMING ATTRACTIONS (also recommended): DUDAMEL Conducts MAHLER's Journey, LA PHIL, Disney Hall, 2/20, 21, 22, 23; TOLEDO DIAMOND, Harvelle's, 2/23; HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES, Cinema Bar, 2/24; DUDAMEL, LA PHIL, MAHLER Symphony No. 7, Disney Hall, 2/27, 28, 3/1; MAHLERTHON I, Santa Monica High School Chamber Orchestra+ Symphony Orchestra, Youth Orchestra LA, Inner City Youth Orchestra of LA, Disney Hall, 3/2; MAHLERTHON II, UCLA Philharmonia, USC Thornton Symphony, Colburn Orchestra, LA Master Chorale, Disney Hall, 3/2; DAMN WELL PLEASE ORGAN TRIO, Harvelle's, 3.4; GUSTAV + ANNA with DUDAMEL, Disney Hall, 3/6, 7, 8, 9.

DOWN THE ROAD (also recommended): TOLEDO DIAMOND, Harvelle's, 3/2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 4/6, 13, 20, 27; HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES, Cinema Bar, 3/3, 10, 17, 24, 31; MOZART'S "COSI FAN TUTTI," LA OPERA, Dorothy Chandler, 3/8, 16, 19, 22, 27, 30; LIBRARY GIRL, Ruskin Theatre, 3/9, 4/13, 5/11, 6/8, 7/13, 8/10, 9/14, 10/12, 11/9, 12/14; LA FOLK FESTIVAL/EMMYLOU HARRIS, Bellwether, 3/22; REVEREND SHAWN AMOS, Broad Plaza, 3/22; FRANZ FERDINAND, Wiltern, 3/29; TONY GILKYSON & RICK SHEA, CINDY LEE BERRYHILL, McCabe's, 4/6; POPAGANZA, Pacific Opera Project, Ebell Theatre, 4/7; PUSSY RIOT, Lodge Room, 4/20; LUCKY STARS, Broadstage, 4/26; PATRICE RUSHEN, Disney Hall, 5/2; BEETHOVEN with ESA-PEKKA, Disney Hall, 5/2, 3, 4; JACK WHITE, Hollywood Palladium, 5/12, 13; DIANA KRALL, The Soraya, 5/14; JOHN BATISTE, Disney Hall, 5/19; GERSHWIN, "Also Sprach Z," LA PHIL, Disney Hall, 5/23, 24; ALISON KRAUS, UNION STATION, Greek Theatre, 7/13; TEDESCHI TRUCKS BAND, Greek, 8/13; NINE INCH NAILS, Kia Forum, 9/18, 19.

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 3,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 39 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Not even Kauai. Send love and/or hate mail to: therealmrmusic@gmail.com

RELOCATION

FROM PAGE 1

Other states and cities that received the most Google traffic included Nevada (120% increase), Minnesota (80%), Austin, Texas (57%) and Arizona (54%). The Lone Star State's capitol city had 40 more such searches in January, while the state itself jumped from 170 to 260 search inquiries. The locations with the highest volume of January searches were Hawaii and Portland (320), followed by Texas and New York (260).

Google was not the only indicator of relocation desires, as local realtor Ryan Serhant told Fox Business last month that his SERHANT firm received calls from agents in and around Los Angeles saying their clients are interested in relocating to the East Coast. Serhant added that his Los Angeles connections have been moving to Connecticut, New Jersey, New York City and across Florida.

Even before the fires, a report from moving companies U-Haul, Atlas Van Lines and United Van Lines showed that more of their customers moved away from California than moved in throughout 2024. U-Haul ranked the state last among "growth states" for the fifth consecutive year, while Atlas reported a 60/40 split of outbound to inbound shipments.

While it is difficult to point to how many residents interested in moving are doing so due to the wildfire impacts, University of Michigan data science professor Derek Van Berkel told BBC that weather events becoming more unpredictable could definitely be a factor in leaving California.

"There could be this new wave of new folks saying 'you know what, California is just not going to work out for me because this is the third time in five years that I've had to close my doors because of the extreme soot and smoke," Van Berkel told BBC. "We have to start preparing for those eventualities, because they're going to become more frequent and more extreme."

thomas@smdp.com

FITNESS

FROM PAGE 1

just wanted to be part of the community and not just shut our doors and save operating costs and open a month later as if nothing's happening."

Negrete remarked on how it never hurts to have yet more compelling reasons in our lives to stay fit and healthy. "I think it's amazing that we don't have just any gym here. I haven't seen anything like this and to be the first – in the world I think – the innovation, technology, health, wellness, fitness, I'm super happy that they're here and they chose Fourth Street to help activate our downtown area."

scott.snowden@smdp.com

ACHIEVEMENT

FROM PAGE 1

The one area that dropped from a "green" score (indicating high performance) to a "yellow" score (indicating medium performance) was in English Learner Progress, with a decline of 6.9% of current EL students making progress toward English proficiency or maintaining the highest level.

Although the level dropped in the EL metric, the district is still ahead of the state, with the SMMUSD's EL students at a 56.6% progression rate compared to the state average of 45.7% students making progress. Miller added that there were no declines in current EL students in English Language Arts or Math test scores, which was a cause for celebration.

Another small success was in Chronic Absenteeism, which declined 3.7% from Kindergarten through 8th Grade. Chronic Absenteeism, defined as students who miss 10% or more of the school year, is now at 13.4% from K-8, the best score the district has ever received on the Dashboard. Miller said there is still "lots of work to do" in the area to get to the "green" level, which would be anywhere below 10%.

The board will meet again on Thursday with a wide range of agenda items, including two regarding Measure QS funding. Measure QS, also known as the Santa Monica Schools Repair/Improvement Bond Measure, is $495 million in general obligation bonds that was approved by local voters this past November.

On Thursday, the board will adopt a resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of Measure QS bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed $200 million. A separate item will see the awarding of a contract for the Samohi Student Services Building project, an endeavor poised to use Measure QS funding.

Moving from Samohi to middle school campuses, the board will look to approve a new district position Thursday, that being the Middle School Sports Coordinator. SMMUSD staff recommends one coordinator for the Santa Monica middle school sports program, now in its third year, and one for the Malibu program which is in its second.

Middle school students have been participating in sports like flag football and basketball, and district staff desire a transition from the current contracted services model of operation to a more permanent position.

"As parent and student interest continues to grow, so do expectations for expanded access, program quality, and overall student experience … there is a need for a broader vision that fosters community partnerships, aligns program outcomes with student needs, and ensures equitable access to sports opportunities for middle school students in both Santa Monica and Malibu," SMMUSD staff wrote.

Another burgeoning sports program will be recognized by the board via a Memorandum or Understanding with the Santa Monica Boys & Girls Club Healthy Lifestyles Sports Program. The Boys & Girls Club program, now in its third year, will provide "high quality sports with robust social-emotional growth coaching practices" for at least one school year.

thomas@smdp.com

Classifieds

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 12/30/24 2024262334The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Vileo Investments 4144 Sagus Ave Sherman Oaks, CA 91403. Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Vidal Hernandez 4144 Sagus Ave Sherman Oaks, CA 91403 . Leonor Hernandez 4144 Sagus Ave Sherman Oaks, CA 91403. If corporation or LLC- Print State of CA This is Business is Conducted: A Married Couple . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 02/1983. Registrant / Corp/LLC Name Vidal Hernandez Title: Husband Vidal Hernandez . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 02/30/2024NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE County CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code).

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

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

Grow Your Impact on the World!

Classes start February 18
On-campus and online
smc.edu/spring

ONLY
$46
PER UNIT



SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr. Nancy Greenstein, *Chair*;
Dr. Sion Roy, *Vice Chair*; Anastasia Foster;
Dr. Margaret Quiñones-Perez; Dr. Tom Peters;
Rob Rader; Daniel Martinez Garcia, *Student Trustee*;
Kathryn E. Jeffery, Ph.D., *Superintendent/President*

Santa Monica College
1900 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 90405
smc.edu