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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

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District officials and unions back students' right to protest as Federal government targets diversity efforts



Photo by Thomas Leffler

SAMOHI: The student walkout organized by Samohi and Malibu High attendees was commended by Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District officials.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District officials heard students loud and clear this month, giving their full support towards their act of peaceful defiance.

After the Feb. 6 walkout by both Samohi and Malibu High School students to protest the orders of the Donald Trump administration, SMMUSD staff had a chance to applaud the group for speaking out in favor of the LGBTQ+ community and immigrants.

"I want to acknowledge and commend these students for exercising their right to protest ... I hear you, the board hears you, and (our staff) hears you ... you put your civic lessons into action and we respect and support your right to do so," SMMUSD Superintendent Dr. Antonio Shelton said at a recent Board of Education meeting.

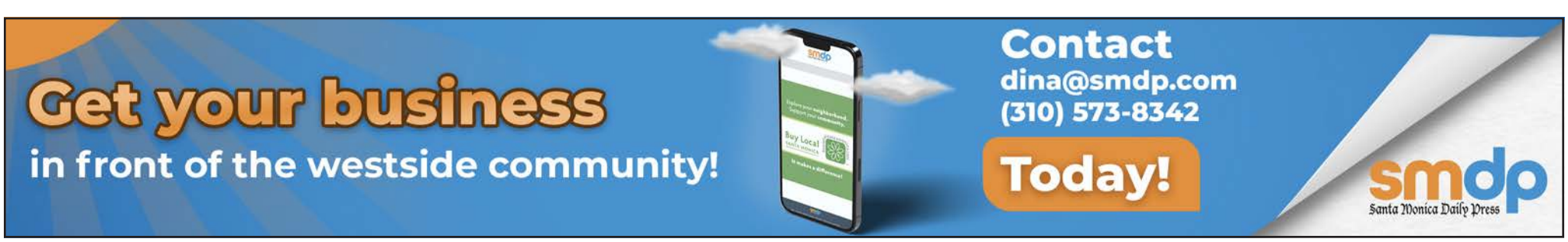
Shelton, a former social studies teacher, added that students should be encouraged to take next steps like registering to vote and continuing to make their voices heard. Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association President Claudia Bautista-Nicholas, who was at the City Hall protest, was likewise proud of what she saw from the students' pursuit of a fair education.

"(Students) demand a commitment for diversity, equity and inclusion," she said. "They insist on their right to learn critical thinking skills, to engage with accurate and comprehensive historical narratives, and to be part of a school system that values their identities and experiences. I was humbled to hear their calls for action."

With the Trump administration giving American schools just over a week to eliminate diversity initiatives, or risk having federal money taken, Bautista-Nicholas promised students that teachers will "continue to teach truth in history" and strive to create inclusive classroom environments.

"We will not falter in the face of adversity," she added. "We will listen to our students, our union will support our teachers and we will advocate for the necessary changes that will allow our schools to be places of safety,

SEE **PROTEST** PAGE 3



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.

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Past, present, future of forestry examined by local museum



Photo by Thomas Leffler

EXHIBIT: The tools used in the construction of Palisades Park are on display as part of the Santa Monica History Museum's latest exhibit.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

We typically look at history from a human perspective, but what about the historical nature of nature itself?

This is the question the Santa Monica History Museum has attempted to answer this year, celebrating the 150th year of Santa Monica with the new exhibit "Roots & Branches: A Tree's View of Santa Monica." Curated by Anne Wallentine, the exhibition tells the story of the city's key architectural and environmental events, from the native Tongva up to last month's Palisades Fire.

"Delving into the intricate connections between trees, urban development, and the cultural and environmental history of Santa Monica; the exhibition serves as a thoughtful exploration of how nature and humanity have coexisted - and often clashed - over centuries," the museum said of the exhibit.

Indeed, the first Tongva natives of Santa Monica believed that nature, including trees, should be "respected and revered as unique, equal beings," working as providers of habitats, shade, nourishment and medicine for the natural habitat. Native plants that populated the area 150 years ago included the Wilt Coast Live Oak, the Sheveer Western Sycamore and the Toyon, an evergreen shrub that was later named the city plant of Los Angeles in 2012.

Settlers in the late 19th century not only changed the city, but the ecosystem as well, introducing non-native trees into the area to serve purposes like providing timber and blocking wind. One of the cultural and ecological shifts was a craze for eucalyptus trees, leading to the establishment of the Santa Monica experimental forestry station in 1887, the first of its kind in the United States. There, more than 75 varieties of eucalyptus were planted.

The exhibit also points out more recent changes, such as Santa Monica's status within the greater Los Angeles area. Some parts of Santa Monica benefit from being a wealthier enclave, allowing some to plant a dense urban canopy. However, the museum calls for less wealthy areas to have the same benefits.

"Even within Santa Monica, neighborhoods that were economically disadvantaged through 20th century policies such as redlining continue to suffer from a less dense tree canopy," the exhibit states. "These areas, disproportionately encompassing communities of color and lower incomes, tend to experience higher levels of air pollution and extreme heat. With rising global temperatures, access to the shade trees provide is increasingly important."

The future of forestry in Santa Monica is also discussed in the exhibit, with the city's Urban Forest plan centered on replacing public trees at the end of their life cycle with species that require less water, such as the Camphor tree. The exhibit also holds a public tree map, allowing locals to see what species of trees exist outside their front door.

For more information on "Roots & Branches," visit the Santa Monica History Museum from 2 - 5 p.m. Thursdays, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, or call 310-395-2290.

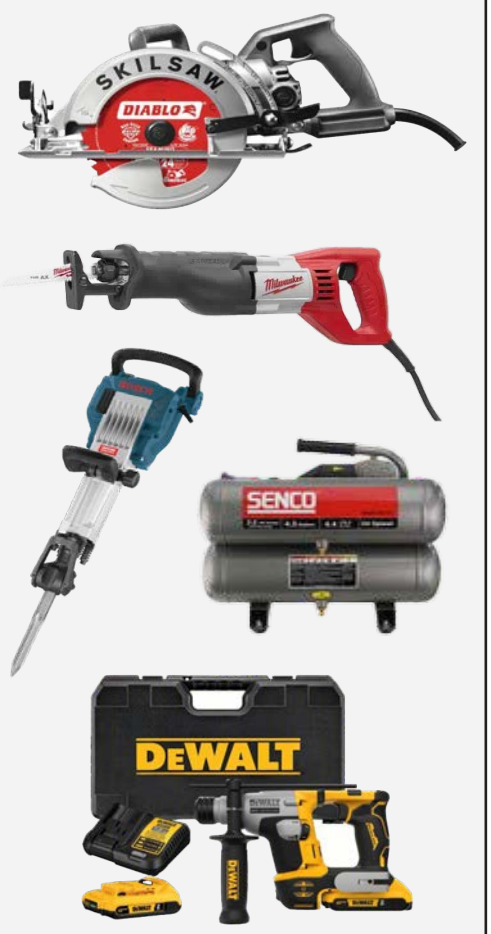
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OPINION **UNMUTED**

Devan Sipher

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

When they go low…

It seems like it was a lifetime ago that Michelle Obama urged us to rise to the level of our better angels. I don't know if she still subscribes to the premise, but she hasn't disavowed it,

Heading in a different direction, US Rep. and former Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia recently exhorted Democrats to match Marjorie Taylor Greene's behavior. I understand his frustration with his shameless colleague (as well as his eagerness to go viral for a news cycle). But if Garcia were to succeed in setting the bar at Greene's level, I'm fairly confident she's capable of lowering it.

The impulse to fight fire with fire is seductive, as is the desire to beat MAGA leaders at their own game. But any such action would inevitably result in a race to the bottom. And I do mean the bottom.

For fifteen hundred years, Christianity has defined immorality through seven deadly sins: lust, gluttony, greed, sloth, wrath, envy and pride. Whether one ascribes to the Christian faith, or any organized religion, one can recognize these traits as representing human weakness.

What's extraordinary is that the current President of the United States blithely embodies all seven sins, and in a stunningly short time, he has redefined them as virtues. Worse, children across this country are being encouraged to emulate him—and them.

Citizens in a functioning democracy can disagree about political goals and methods, but not about decency. There's no political or economic rationalization sufficient to justify abandoning principles that have survived millennia. When "they" go low, we cannot go lower, because there is nowhere lower to go.

So the only way is up.

It may sound corny or naive, but the antidote to cruelty and greed is kindness and generosity. If our goal is to salvage civil society, then it's our obligation to sustain it. If we want our children to grow up in a world that values integrity and humility, we must all participate in a firewall of civic virtue. Not only because it's the right thing to do, but because the alternative is the obliteration of our humanity and our nation.

John F. Kennedy famously said "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." We are witnessing that precept being turned on its head. Instead of using our municipal and financial resources to protect those least fortunate, we are being encouraged to solely gratify self-interest. In this new world order, compassion is for losers and those who toady to the biggest bully will receive the greatest reward.

If that isn't the world we want to live in, if it isn't what we want to teach our children, then it is up to each of us to set an alternative example every day. It's not just who we donate money to or what causes we champion. It's what we say and do at the grocery store and the soccer field. It's the respect we show our neighbors and the patience we give customer service representatives.

I'm not suggesting that this will solve our problems. I know that many of us want to march in the streets, but many others want to hide under the covers. What I'm saying is that this is something everyone can do. We will still need people defending the Constitution in our courts and people defending the truth in our news outlets. But every one of us can contribute to protecting our community. We can all be the heroes that we're seeking. We just need to aim high.

Devan Sipher can be reached at Unmuted.SMDP@gmail.com.

PROTEST

FROM PAGE 1

knowledge and empowerment."

One of the students' top concerns has been shared by families and SMMUSD officials, that being the Trump move to overturn a "sensitive locations" policy. The revision would allow immigration enforcement to take place in locations like schools, a decision Shelton said he was "deeply disappointed" in.

"Our schools are mandated to ensure that no student is denied enrollment … or faced with barriers to their educational opportunities based on their or their family's immigration status," Shelton said.

The Superintendent added that SMMUSD is "extremely protective" of data, and does not collect any documentation about citizenship or social security numbers from families.

SMMUSD staff has been in communication with principals, giving them talking points on how to communicate with families during this time, as well as guidelines for "responding to potential immigration enforcement situations" using the California Department of Justice as a model. Communication is also available via a new Immigration Resources & Support page on the district website, providing families with key resources.

Santa Monica is not the only school system fighting back about the sensitive locations policy overturn, as on Feb. 12, Denver Public Schools filed suit in the U.S. District Court on the matter against the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Denver Superintendent Alex Marrero told Chalkbeat Colorado that the feeling of potential immigration enforcement in their schools "is just going to really cripple the way we function."

thomas@smdp.com



Surf report WATER TEMP: **57.6**

TUESDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: Knee to thigh 1-2FT

Modest to locally fun-zone surf sticks around, a little more jumbled than the past couple of days. Timing on the new round of longer-period WNW-NW swell has pushed back, but it looks like we'll have some extra shorter-period NW energy to go with old WNW leftovers and easing SW swell. Expect more jumbled surf that isn't far off in size from Monday. The deep early morning high tide is the biggest red flag for now, winds look like they'll stay light long enough for it to drop to favorable levels through the middle of the morning.

WEDNESDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: Knee to thigh 1-2FT

Shaping up to be a decent day with mid-sized surf on tap. AM winds look nice. Confidence increases in a round of mid-sized WNW-NW swell in the water, similar in size to the pulse we had early last week. That swell took a little longer than expect to get to Hawaii (hence the pushed back timing) but has absolutely pumped, bolstering expectations for sizing around here. The pattern looks favorable for local winds at this point - clean morning and manageable afternoon.

Weather

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 73. North northwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west in the afternoon.
Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 54. Northeast wind around 5 mph.
Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 82. North northeast wind around 5 mph becoming west southwest in the afternoon.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 10pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 56.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2025/02/25	Tue	8:32 PM	3.96	H
2025/02/26	Wed	01:31 AM	1.55	L
2025/02/26	Wed	07:41 AM	6.14	H
2025/02/26	Wed	2:39 PM	-1.26	L
2025/02/26	Wed	8:55 PM	4.32	H
2025/02/27	Thu	02:13 AM	1.06	L
2025/02/27	Thu	08:21 AM	6.18	H
2025/02/27	Thu	3:08 PM	-1.18	L
2025/02/27	Thu	9:21 PM	4.70	H

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POWERBALL
Draw Date: 2/22
7 18 22 50 65
Power#: 15
Jackpot: 230 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 2/21
1 13 28 37 46
Mega#: 10
Jackpot: 181 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 2/22
2 22 33 42 44
Mega#: 5
Jackpot: 28 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/23
2 9 20 22 38

Daily 3
Draw Date: 2/23
EVENING: 7 5 1
Draw Date: 2/23
MIDDAY: 5 0 9

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 2/23
1st: 05 - California Classic
2nd: 03 - Hot Shot
3rd: 10 - Solid Gold
Race Time: 1:48.57

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OPINION | BECOMING SANTA MONICA

Miles Warner

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Becoming Santa Monica: Bound by our Comfort

Santa Monica may be the most comfortable place to live in the entire world. We have excellent year around weather, access to world class amenities and enough affluence as a city to cover more than our hierarchy of needs. And that is the problem...

There is no doubt that our country's fundamental ideals, its very Constitution are under grave attack. Other countries look at the US right now and wonder why we are sitting in our homes, seemingly business as usual as the President of the US rends apart our institutions—while a private citizen, who effectively bought our federal government for roughly $250 million is gaining access to the gears that we function on.

Why aren't we taking to the streets? Can you imagine if this was happening in France? Look at South Korea where months ago an estimated half-a-million people took to the streets after their president tried to enact martial law and suspend the government.

As a Xennial; half Gen X, half Millennial, we watched as protests did nothing to limit the Iraq wars or a 20-year adventure in Afghanistan, which cost thousands of lives and billions of dollars. Antifa, Occupy Wall Street and Pro-Palestinian protests were arguably successfully rebranded as outlier anarchist movements. Not to mention that our parents came of age during the Vietnam war, wherein their brothers came home without arms or in body bags. They protested and tried to turn the entire society around and yet the war went on and on—the protests seemingly did nothing.

All the while the rich have gotten richer, the middle smaller and the bottom larger. It is almost a paradox that many of us are struggling more than ever AND at the same time, we are too comfortable to make substantive changes as a country.

Enter the populist! Eat up his promises that everything can be returned to another magical time if only we can cast away the evil immigrants and stop this DEI transformation of our otherwise brilliant white country!

Yes, this is complicated. Yes, the media, tied first to profit and somewhere far down the list to shining a light into the darkness, has contributed immeasurably to the blaming of marginalized groups for the inequality instead of themselves and wealthy classes who own them.

But it is our relative success materially that has made us soft. And in this dire moment where we watch in shock, doing nothing, as a group of oligarchs, using the tough guy facade of a reality TV star, devour our country.

What can we do? More than half the country voted for him! He is the president. And that's just it—in our hearts we all know what we could do. But there is so much to lose in doing it. Our comfort. Our certainty. Our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor..?

And the youth, who we might expect in this moment to rise and up fight for their future, are soothed by TikTok videos and the promises of consumption. The youth are also comfortable.

The "Founding Fathers" bled for the constitution that is now trampled upon. Yes, their sins, those of slavery and righteousness follow us into these moments. There is blame there. But there was immense courage as well.

Maybe I am overreacting? Maybe this is a moment—a swing of the political pendulum. Maybe it swings back in two or four or eight years, and the wild fire that is burning through the institutions of our country, makes space for things like universal healthcare and the passing of the Equal Rights Amendment?

Maybe this is the Boomer's adolescent extinction burst—who after failing to stop the Vietnam war, or create a fairer society, find themselves cynical and entitled—that the rest of us must endear before we can get down to the business of building a future in the new technologically different world that lies ahead of us?

Maybe? That is what I tell myself so I don't feel so terrible about trying to put one foot in front of the other and do my business. To justify my comfort?

I am worried that my daughter will not have access to healthcare. I am worried that my son will be sent off to die in another war for profit.

I have the fear that we are lobsters warming to a boil. A warm comfortable bath that slowly kills us. My great hope is that we wake up in time to leap out of the pot and rebuild our society into one that is truly just. I still have faith in the people of America to see through the social media fog and do what must be done. But losing the comfort of our lives will be painful, and likely necessary.

What if we all went on strike-stopped working, business as usual. We're not that comfortable, are we?

I remain hopeful that we will overcome this moment. But I acknowledge my own fear of losing what is comfortable—as for Santa Monica, I hope we get to keep the weather.

Miles Warner is a Santa Monica parent and resident. His column will explore the emerging and changing identity of our city and stir the pot...a bit. Send comments to editor@smdp.com or reach Miles directly at @mileswarnerSM

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The truth about Santa Monica Airport's role during the wildfires

It is no surprise that after the recent Palisades fire someone came up with the idea to dust-off the tired old "you need the airport for disasters" meme from the 2014 Measure LC/D campaign, but switch from earthquakes to wildfires. What is both a surprise and a disappointment, is that the SMDP simply broadcast this new aviation lobby "Disaster-2.0" meme without attempt at balanced reporting. As a result, Scott Snowden's Feb 19th piece "The role SMO played during the wildfires" is highly misleading.

Back in the LC campaign days, the 1.0 meme was all about earthquakes, but it suffered from the embarrassing counter-factual that the airport has not played such a role, and indeed was shut entirely for 3 days following the 1994 Northridge quake. The Disaster-2.0 wildfire meme also suffers from counter-factuals, none of which are mentioned in the piece.

In his article Mr Snowden selectively quotes CalFire Unit Chief Shane Littlefield who spoke at a recent NOMA meeting (youtube video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FvfWLfM7bOU from 36:50 to 45:55).

Before we examine what Chief Littlefield said in detail, you will recall that the Palisades fire consisted of essentially two events each triggered by a Santa Ana wind event. The first and by far the most destructive Santa Ana event started on Tuesday January 7th. The winds began to die down late the following day, however, the fire continued to grow, and by Friday the 10th reached around 21,000 acres. The second Santa Ana event began late that evening, and as a result on the 11th the fire expanded quickly towards Mandeville Canyon growing to around 23,000 acres at the peak of firefighting efforts on the 19th, when around 5,600 firefighters were deployed.

Given all that, we can now parse what Chief Littlefield said when asked by the moderator about the role of Santa Monica Airport (SMO) in fighting the Palisades fire. He starts out by saying that during the first wind event Camarillo airport was the optimal place for Cal Fire to run operations out of. However on Saturday when the second wind event came in and changed direction, the 30 or so aircraft and helicopters using Camarillo had to be moved elsewhere for fear the wind speed might render them unable to take off. On that day they first "reached out" to Santa Monica Airport, and 5 helicopters out of 30 were parked there, 8 more followed the next day.

Let's just pause here and recognize what the Chief said. He said that during the 4 days of the first event while 21,000 acres were burned, SMO, which was just 3 miles from the fire front, did not play a significant role in fighting the fires. The nearby fire fighting activity took place from Van Nuys and Camarillo. They only reached out to SMO on Saturday's second Santa Ana event, and then only to find a place to park a fraction of their helicopters to avoid them being grounded at Camarillo. SMO plays no major role in fighting wildfires.

If you do a google search for videos of Van Nuys or Camarillo airport roles in fighting the Palisades fire you are spoiled for choice. If you do the same for "Santa Monica", there are no hits. This despite SMO having one of the most active plane spotter communities around. There is a good reason for this.

First with its 3,500 ft runway SMO cannot host any of the water dropping fixed-wing aircraft (the CL-415 and C-130H need 4 and 5 thousand feet respectively). Secondly, the SMO runway takeoff trajectory intersects with that of LAX out to sea, so large or fast aircraft must be de-conflicted with LAX in order to take off. Obviously you don't conduct the organized chaos of fighting fires by queuing up waiting for nearby LAX flights to leave. Lastly, the truth is SMO lacks the space and facilities needed for fighting wildfires. This is why all the local fire-fighting activity took place out of Van Nuys (12 miles from the front, 2 runways one 8,000ft) where Fire Station 114 is the headquarters of LAFD air operations, and Camarillo (34 miles from the front, 2 runways one 6,000ft). We can forget any idea of fixed wing aircraft playing a serious firefighting role at SMO, we're just talking helicopters here.

The Chief then mentions that during the 9 day fight against the December 2024 Malibu Canyon Franklin Fire, SMO was used for small reconnaissance helicopters for 2 days. He also mentions similar small aircraft uses during the 2018 Malibu Woolsey fire. So SMO is just one of a number of smaller nearby airports conveniently located to launch spotter aircraft.

Next the Chief details how SMO was used after that Saturday. In summary it was as a transport hub for people going to meetings and to review damage nearby in the Palisades and Malibu. This actually makes perfect sense. SMO has a long history of use by people avoiding traffic. The Chief states that he used it for that purpose four times during the incident. But this use, while important, is hardly a rallying cry for "keep the airport" which is the singular and true purpose all aviation memes, regardless of their 'cover' story.

To operate helicopters and help in fighting wildfires, or any other emergency, all you need is a flat fenced off area with no obstructions and a fuel truck. You don't need an airport!

To their credit the Business Park next

SEE **AIRPORT** PAGE 11

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

"Save the Civic" or Save the City?

Most Santa Monicans likely can't identify the large crumbling building that has sat empty on the corner of Main Street and Pico Boulevard for over a decade. To others, the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium is a historic icon worth preserving at any cost. Yet as our City Council once again debates what to do with the long-mothballed building, it's important to acknowledge something: in a city with many deep and pressing needs, some costs are simply too high to bear.

Preserving the Civic Auditorium in its current form would require a public subsidy that short changes our community's basic needs around public safety and economic development. Reimagining the site, on the other hand, could solve many of our city's immediate financial problems while setting us on a stronger economic footing for decades to come. It would also go a long way to right the most egregious wrong perpetuated by the city in its 150-year history. Let me explain...

Although it's been well catalogued, many are still surprised to learn that a thriving African American neighborhood by the sea was forcibly seized in the early 1950s by the city, which burned down the buildings and used the land to build a Civic Center. The Belmar neighborhood, as it was known, was central to Black life in Santa Monica for nearly half a century, home to many residents as well as boarding and bathhouses for Black tourists and travelers who sought to visit the beach but were denied access to whites-only facilities—and a jazz club our city council hated so much it passed a special zoning ordinance to shut it down.

After seizing the land on which the neighborhood stood and displacing its residents, the city commissioned a Civic Auditorium in its stead, which went on to enjoy an incredibly successful run, playing host to the Oscars and a lineup of concerts in the 60s and 70s that defined the era. In recent decades, however, the Civic has been a money loser and an eyesore. In fact, the first time the city acknowledged the building was an albatross and recommended it be redeveloped was 39 years ago, in 1986—the year I was born.

After operating the Civic for years at an annual deficit of as much as $2 million, the city was forced to shutter the building in 2013—and it has sat hulking and empty ever since. Due to its age, its unsuitability as a modern venue, and the seismic damage it has sustained, multiple attempts to revive the Civic with private partners in the intervening years have all failed.

Now a new consortium has put forward yet another proposal to "Save the Civic." While the land it sits on is likely worth close to a hundred million dollars, the many issues with the current building virtually ensure that any effort to revive it would require the city to hand over the entirety of that public wealth to a private consortium—led by the virulently anti-union Live Nation—for the grand total of $1 a year.

And that's the best-case scenario. The more likely outcome is that the cost estimates of restoring, retrofitting, and maintaining the building ultimately outweigh the projected revenues, the project stalls out like each of the others before it, and the building sits empty for another decade.

Alternatively, if we chose to delist the building and sell or long-term lease the land, the public would be enriched. The city could stabilize its budget and restore vital city services that benefit the entire community, from investing in public safety to paying back our housing trust fund, restoring library hours, and maintaining our financial commitments to our public schools. We could even endow a permanent Reparations Fund, which would support in perpetuity our efforts to repair past harms perpetrated by the city and uplift historically marginalized groups in whatever manner they best see fit.

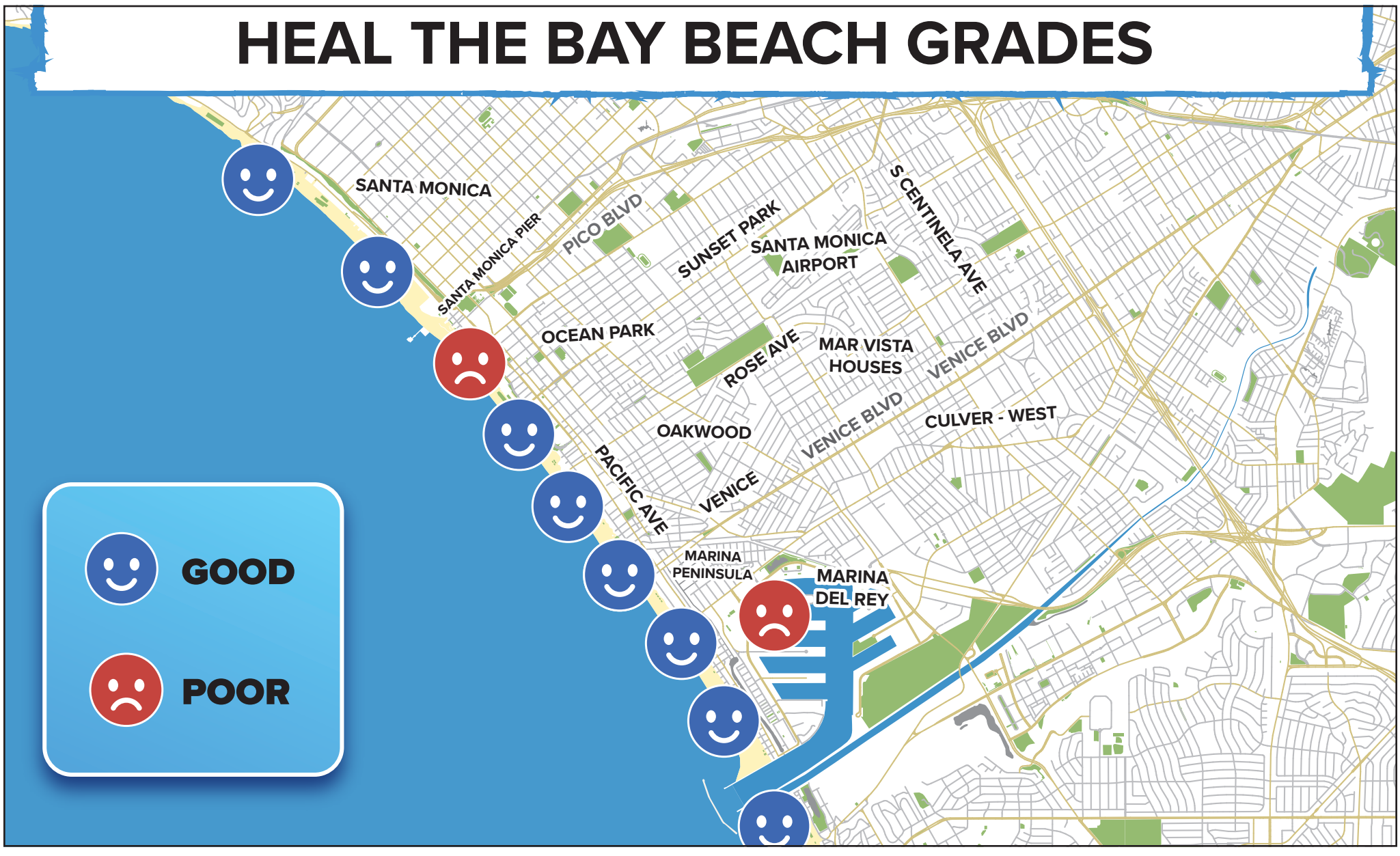
What's more, we could sell or lease the land to an entity seeking to build a modern Civic—including a hotel and the kind of world-class conference center and performance venue our city desperately needs, bringing with it fresh revenues in the form of Transient Occupancy Taxes and second-order economic benefits from business travel and tourism for decades to come.

A small but vocal contingent will read this and surely be aghast at any proposal that doesn't preserve the Civic in its current form. But it's worth asking, whose future are we serving when we contemplate such a large giveaway of public resources to save a building to which no one under 50 has the faintest attachment? And how can city leaders in good conscience countenance giving away for free the asset best poised to dig our city out of its current financial hole?

The history of this contested site began long before 1958. Claims otherwise are a form of selective memory calculated to minimize the past harms perpetrated there—and preclude a future vision that better meets our city's current needs. The answer, for the good of our city, is obvious. The question is whether we're clear-eyed enough to see it.

by Councilmember Jesse Zwick

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Politicians rise or fall on disaster response. The LA fires are Gavin Newsom's big test

Gov. Gavin Newsom has become a familiar sight around Los Angeles since the firestorm that swept through the region last month, leveling neighborhoods in Pacific Palisades and Altadena.

In the first days of the disaster, he was spotted touring the wreckage. In the weeks after, he launched a recovery initiative with celebrity friends and greeted President Donald Trump on the tarmac at LAX.

Even local officials have taken notice.

"I want to thank our governor, who has been here from day one. I've seen you more in the last month than I think...well, I won't even go there," Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger said last week at a press conference in Altadena, as Newsom chuckled and nodded behind her.

Facing what is expected to be one of the costliest natural disasters in the country's history — the type of crisis that not only tests a politician, but can redefine one — Newsom has leaned all the way in, effectively becoming the governor of Los Angeles.

He lived and worked from the city almost nonstop for the first three weeks after the fires broke out in early January, while executive orders and announcements managing the response have continued daily since he returned to Sacramento. Even his podcast "Politickin'," co-hosted by football star Marshawn Lynch, has featured two fire-related episodes, including a "town hall" where Newsom answered questions from survivors of the disaster.



Photo by Damian Dovarganes, AP Photo

CRISIS: Gov. Gavin Newsom speaks during a visit to an area affected by the Eaton Fire in Altadena on Feb. 11, 2025.

And the governor, who was once poised to lead the renewed Democratic resistance to Trump, has essentially disengaged from the outrage over the chaotic start of the president's second term as he lobbies for federal disaster aid for Los Angeles. Aside from standard notifications about appointments and proclamations and a few statements on major events, Newsom's office has barely issued a press release unrelated to the Los Angeles fires for more than a month — a level of singular focus unmatched in his governorship, with the exception of the early COVID pandemic.

At the press conference in Altadena, organized to tout a new phase of debris removal, Newsom called it "an extended period of engagement" with Los Angeles to facilitate its recovery "in unprecedented, record-breaking speed."

"We're not dictating the design. We're not dictating the rebuild. But we want to make it easier," he said.

Newsom's deep involvement is sensible, and perhaps necessary, for a situation as complex, expensive and politically fraught as this one; the damage sprawls across communities that fall under different local governments, and whether California receives federal assistance, and under what conditions, remains unclear.

But the fervor with which he has taken ownership over the response to a regional disaster also suggests a politician aware of how the Los Angeles fires is a crucial moment in his gubernatorial legacy — and his next step. This may be the biggest spotlight left for Newsom, who has been floated as a leading contender for the 2028

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NEWSOM

FROM PAGE 7

Democratic presidential primary despite a steadily declining job approval rating among Californians, before he terms out of office in less than two years.

"People do turn to leadership, state or federal, when all hell is breaking loose," said Jim Newton, a longtime journalist who wrote a biography of former Gov. Jerry Brown and now teaches at UCLA. "It's a time when you can really seal the affections of people by seeming to be there for them."

Newsom's office turned down requests to speak with the governor about his approach. But Bob Salladay, his senior advisor for communications, insisted that Newsom and his staff are not contemplating his legacy as they navigate the response to the fires.

"That's for other people. I guarantee he doesn't think about that," Salladay said. "He's doing his job."

ALL EYES ON LOS ANGELES

The job took a turn on Jan. 7, when hurricane-force winds ignited a series of fires around Los Angeles, killing at least 29 people and destroying more than 16,000 structures.

Already in Southern California for an event with then-President Joe Biden that was ultimately scrapped, Newsom made it to the fire zone within hours, Salladay said, "and when it became very quickly clear that this was one of the worst disasters in California history, we stayed."

"Just being down there and seeing the level of devastation, it was clear that this was something that was going to take all of his time," he said.

Newsom remained in Los Angeles for 15 of the next 25 days, according to Salladay, living out of a hotel and working from a satellite governor's office at the Ronald Reagan State Building downtown. Morning briefing calls about the fires brought together every agency in his administration, and nearly two dozen cabinet secretaries and high-level staff joined Newsom in Los Angeles at various points, including a rapid response team focused on combating, in the media and online, what Salladay called "the flood of misinformation" about the fires.

That allowed the governor's team to work faster as it developed the state's response to the crisis. Salladay said conversations with residents, firefighters, FEMA officials and others on the ground brought in more information that directly shaped policy, such as an executive order on predatory real estate speculators that came from concerns raised by leaders in Altadena.

"There was a lot of anxiety that you pick up that you wouldn't pick up if you were in Sacramento," he said. "It's adding a whole new layer of speed and efficiency."

Republican state legislators have criticized Newsom's response for not prioritizing vegetation management and they have tried to connect the fires to his forestry policies that they have long characterized as inadequate. But the governor so far appears to be shouldering little blame for the disaster, especially as local officials embrace his presence.

Barger, a Republican whose nonpartisan supervisorial district includes Altadena, praised Newsom for being highly involved and available from day one. She told CalMatters in an interview that she appreciated how he has given just as much attention to Altadena as the much-wealthier Pacific Palisades, including by meeting with employees of the nearby NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory who lost their homes, and by signing one of his executive orders at a local church.

"Those types of visits mean a lot to the community," she said. "I don't like lazy, and this governor has shown that he's not lazy."

Barger — who said she began using her hands more when she spoke after spending so much time with Newsom — was most complimentary of the governor for setting aside partisan politics to work with Trump on securing disaster aid.

"He showed that he's truly a statesman," she said.

Newsom has kept his public focus almost exclusively on the Los Angeles fires: He has signed 19 executive orders since the start of the disaster, including extending tax filing deadlines, creating tenant protections for survivors, allowing students to attend school outside of their districts and suspending permitting requirements for homeowners trying to rebuild. He is also sponsoring legislation, something he only rarely does, that would provide the accrued interest on insurance payments for lost or damaged property to homeowners rather than their lenders. His cabinet secretary, Ann Patterson, is slated to transition in the coming months to a senior counselor role overseeing recovery efforts.

The governor is still returning regularly to Los Angeles, including to sign a $2.5 billion aid package into law and to launch LA Rises, a partnership with the private sector to support rebuilding.

Because of early threats by Trump to withhold or condition federal assistance for Los Angeles, advocating for disaster aid has become another primary endeavor. When the White House excluded Newsom from the president's brief visit to the fire zone last month, he showed up to the airport for Trump's arrival to secure an audience anyway. Newsom then traveled to Washington, D.C., in early February, where he reportedly became the first Democrat to meet with Trump in the Oval Office in his second term.

And it's all being collected on his official website, on a continuously updated page headlined: "Here are all the actions Governor Newsom has taken in response to the Los Angeles fires."

The message is not subtle — Newsom is in charge of this crisis and he's got it under control — but it may be what Californians are looking for at this tender moment.

Leslie Goodman, who was then-Gov. Pete Wilson's deputy chief of staff for communications during the 1994 Northridge earthquake, said it's important for politicians to go to a disaster to demonstrate both compassion and leadership — "to say, 'I'm here, I care, I see you, I understand the amount of damage that's been done and I'm doing something about it.'"

"It's a delicate balance, between wanting to both show that you care and share the pain of those that are suffering, and then also being able to demonstrate urgency in being to fix the problem and not overstepping in your promises," she said.

WHEN DISASTERS DEFINE POLITICAL LEGACIES

Disasters can be metamorphic moments for politicians, transforming their public perception and raising or sinking their fortunes.

Rudy Giuliani earned the moniker "America's mayor" as he led New York through the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attack. Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, a Republican, came to be seen as a bipartisan powerhouse for working with then-President Barack Obama, a Democrat, on the response to Superstorm Sandy in 2012. But the goodwill ultimately proved fleeting for both Giuliani and Christie, who were spectacularly unsuccessful in later campaigns for the Republican presidential nomination built on their handling of those crises. (At the time, then Sen. Joe Biden quipped that every sentence out of Giuliani's mouth contained "a noun, a verb and 9/11.")

Bungled responses seem to have a more lasting impact on a legacy. Democratic Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco did not run for re-election in 2007, as she faced harsh criticism for the difficult recovery from Hurricane Katrina.

Even a politicians' absence from a crisis can have fallout. When the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles erupted in riots in 1965, then-Gov. Pat Brown was on vacation in Greece; the chaos is often regarded as a significant factor in his loss the following year as he sought a third term. Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass now faces a similar blowback, because she had to rush home from Ghana, where she was attending the new president's inauguration on behalf of the Biden administration, to deal with the recent fires.

Former San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos initially received plaudits for his firm handling of the massive destruction from the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, but voters eventually grew frustrated with many of his decisions about rebuilding the city and unexpectedly ousted him from office two years later. Nothing damaged Agnos more than his indulgence of a sprawling homeless encampment across from City Hall, sarcastically dubbed "Camp Agnos," which grew after the earthquake destroyed many of the city's residential hotels, and which the mayor refused to dismantle until the residents had somewhere else to go.

"I knew it was hurting me badly, but frankly, I did not want to promote myself or take care of myself politically at the expense of poor people. So I paid the price," Agnos said in an interview. Voters "focused on the negativity of the human damage rather than the improvements and the other things that were so appealing to them in the immediate aftermath."

Agnos — who recalled getting booed when he showed up late to a public meeting with residents of the heavily-damaged Marina neighborhood because a briefing with then-Gov. George Deukmejian ran long — said people want to feel that their own needs are being taken care of after a disaster. That poses the most serious challenge for Newsom in owning the recovery from the Los Angeles fires.

"People are impatient to get back in their homes and restore normalcy in their lives," Agnos said. "If he doesn't do it in the next year, he's toast."

Newsom himself already knows the dynamics well. His aggressive response to the COVID pandemic in early 2020 made him a national hero to many Democrats frustrated about Trump's blithe dismissal of the virus. And that sentiment carried him through a subsequent recall election, which was fueled in part by his attendance at a birthday dinner for a lobbyist friend in violation of his own pandemic guidelines.

But this is a different flavor of crisis than COVID, said the journalist Newton. While his lockdown orders and other public health measures may have inspired an intellectual and political allegiance to Newsom among many Californians, it did not seem to create a more profound connection. "There's a polish about him that resists it," Newton said.

The Los Angeles fires, by contrast, have a "roll-up-your-sleeves, get-to-the-victims feeling" that was not present in the pandemic, Newton said, which gives the governor an opportunity for a response that "grips people in the heart."

"Whatever he does next, or whatever his obituary looks like, I think I'd want to be seen as having a real connection to the people of California," Newton said. "People only care about beginnings and endings, and you can get away with anything in the middle."

PETE WILSON'S PLAYBOOK: THE 'SUBTLE WIN'

The most direct comparison may be to Wilson in the wake of the 6.7-magnitude Northridge earthquake, which rocked Los Angeles in January 1994. The then-governor spent more than a month in the badly-damaged city, former aides recall, surveying the wreckage, giving daily briefings to the public and overseeing recovery efforts, including a repair and reopening of freeways that was lauded for its speed.

Goodman, who had recently started as Wilson's communications chief, was already in Los Angeles preparing for a crime summit and remembers being thrown out of bed in the middle of the night by the shaking. The hotel where she was staying was later condemned.

For the next 10 days, she said, the governor's office operated out of a local Marriott. Wilson flew to Los Angeles after securing a federal emergency declaration and he was joined by his cabinet secretaries, who began working from Los Angeles so that they could coordinate more closely with their local counterparts, without downed communications or bureaucracy getting in the way.

"Each crisis has its own texture because of the nature of the damage," Goodman said. "It was really important that everybody in the room was collaborating and, if not, that (the governor) was there to sort it out."

Getting dozens of debilitated hospitals fully operational again became a major undertaking, and state health and human services agency officials traveled to medical centers around the region for weeks to assess their damage, deliver paperwork and handle other emergency requests. Tyler Mason, who was an assistant secretary of health and human services, said he once had to take cover from an aftershock while visiting Olive View hospital in Sylmar.

"There was just this prone instinct to getting close to the services that people need in a crisis," Mason said. "It's those genes, those innate genes, in those guys."

Wilson emerged from Northridge the sparkling image of a decisive leader, helping to turn around his weak job approval rating and launching him to a comeback re-election victory that November.

Yet 30 years later, the earthquake is notably rarely mentioned in reflections on Wilson's career. He is now far more associated with championing the controversial Proposition 187, a ballot measure to withhold public services from immigrants living in California illegally.

"Legacies can be seen differently in different time frames," Goodman said. "The social issues always supersede managerial excellence."

Mason noted that, while Wilson may not be remembered for rebuilding highways and reopening hospitals, he is at least not known for screwing up the Northridge recovery:

"That may be the subtle win."

By Alexei Koseff CalMatters

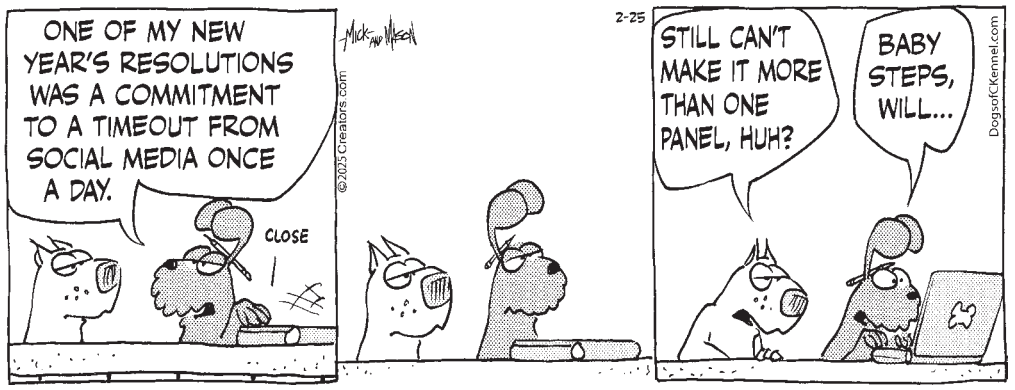
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



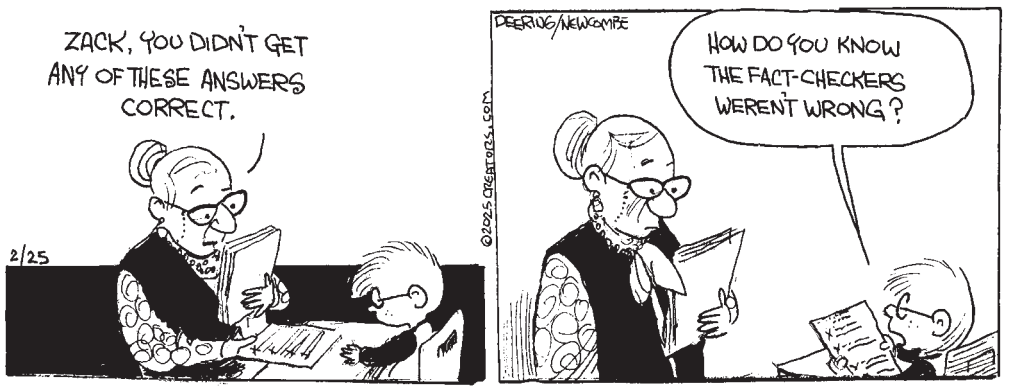
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"THAT COLOR IS CALLED 'SALMON.'"

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 19 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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Watching the doubles

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

Aims	Hats	Open	Social
Angle	Hoad	Racquet	Spin
Chop	Hurt	Ranks	Stosur
Clay	Injury	Return	Swat
Cups	Lawn	Rinky	Sweat
Deuce	Lines	Hijikata	Talk
Dokic	Lobs	Round	Team
Fast	Lose	Score	Tired
Fight	Love	Seeds	Trophy
Friends	Match	Serve	White City
Game	Mini	Sets	Winning
Glory	Mistakes	Slam	
Grass	Muscle	Smash	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 25)

You'll be cherished and you'll be happy you made certain life choices, especially regarding the people in prime spots in your life, who will be the source of much joy and uplift. More highlights: Success will spring from taking excellent care of yourself. An amazing discovery has to do with family origin. You'll fund education and make new friends. Libra and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 3, 33, 49 and 18.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Emotional triggers work like light switches - small actions or words can ignite intense reactions, depending on how they're wired within you. Understanding this helps you regain control. You can rewire certain responses to reclaim your emotional space.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). When you understand what people want, you have power. It's often not what they say or even what they think they want. Sense the feelings, read the vibes in the room, and keep asking yourself: What am I not seeing? What might be lacking?

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You used to dream big by thinking of your own wish. Now you dream big by figuring out what change will lift the entire group. You are focused on what might be in the best interest of the highest number of people.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When everything feels impossible, breaking it down can make it feel more manageable. Take it one step at a time - just focus on the first thing, the smallest piece of the puzzle. A little bit at a time is still progress.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The pressure on you is coming from you and all the rules you make for yourself. These guidelines could be omitted or changed; all you have to do is decide.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You've put yourself out there and hoped for a bit of connection or acknowledgment that you didn't get to the degree you wanted. People are busy, and not everyone will recognize your worth, but that doesn't diminish the value you bring.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Good communication is not a "set it and forget it" situation. The lines need to be maintained and kept open. It requires ongoing effort and attention to ensure that both sides feel heard and understood. Without this continuous care, misunderstandings can easily arise, stifling progress.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Sometimes you have to remind yourself about what you like. It's not always top of mind. Do you remember the moment a passion ignited? You could rekindle a flame. The color of the fire may have changed, but it still burns just as hot.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your instincts come from a mysterious place beyond the realm of logic. Things don't have to make sense to be right. No matter how illogical a notion may seem, give some credence to what feels right.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Today highlights the diverse needs, expectations and preferences of those around you. You'll adapt to each person's unique style, while still honoring the core principle of equality, ensuring everyone feels valued and respected in their own way.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Maybe it's better that you have no idea where a relationship is going. This is what makes it so exciting. The less you want and need out of the tie, the more lighthearted and playful you feel.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your mind is a beautiful vehicle you will use to visit different realities and go back and forth in time. You can rehearse experiences you'd like to have, and what you create in your imagination will influence the real world.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

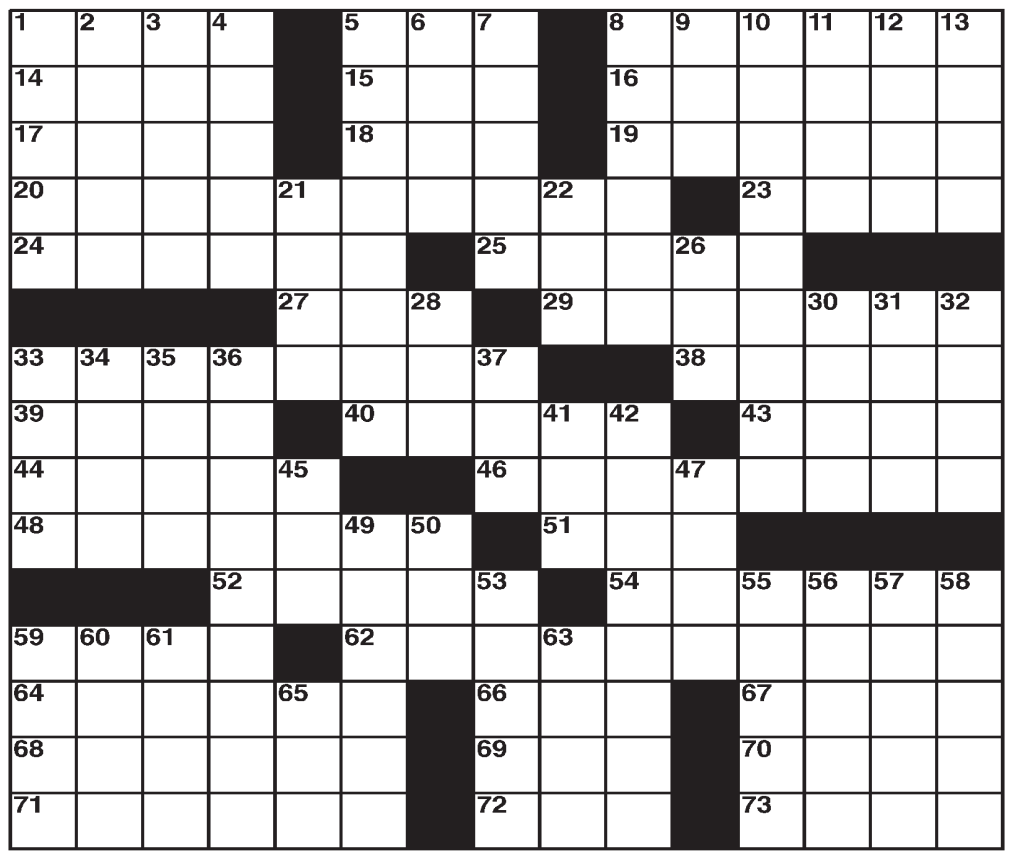
OFF-WHITE by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 ID no. on a bank statement
5 Fraction of a min.
8 Bonus song at a concert
14 Create, as a cartoon
15 Your and my
16 Typical
17 Colt's mother
18 Moving to and __
19 11- and 12-year-olds
20 Hideaway for the impractical
23 Initial poker stake
24 Musical speeds
25 Have fond hopes
27 Football official, for short
29 Look up to
33 Noisemakers worn in dairy herds
38 Less diluted
39 Three-layer cookie
40 Telling fibs
43 Generic dog name
44 Tubular pasta
46 Hiker's woe, perhaps
48 Looks up to
51 Use a shovel
52 "Santa __ Is Coming to Town"
54 Bismarck, North __
59 Ancient legend
62 Person finding gems in the sea
64 TV antenna of old
66 Sound heard in a dairy herd
67 Shakespearean king
68 Swoop down (on)
69 English TV network
70 Approximately
71 Gym clothes, informally
72 Seek answers
73 Beef-and-potatoes meal

DOWN

1 Allow inside
2 Have a yen for
3 Billiards bounce
4 Pipsqueak
5 Low-pressure persuasion
6 Coin in Spain and Italy
7 Throng
8 Main dinner course
9 At this moment
10 Custard-filled pastry
11 Sign of things to come
12 Angry tirade
13 "So what __ is new?"
21 Olden times
22 Make a mistake
26 Egyptian snake
28 Go by plane
30 Great Lake bordering Ohio
31 Relinquish legally
32 Jogger's pace
33 Deal with difficulties
34 Rocks that are mined
35 Left the premises
36 Fine dinnerware
37 Bro's sibling
41 Head-moving approval
42 Severe traffic jam
45 Snakelike fish
47 Old-fashioned "Oh, my!"
49 Tree sources of syrup
50 Take to court
53 Brazilian dance
55 Metric weights, for short
56 Out in the open
57 Make fun of
58 Archer's missile
59 Atlas pages
60 Comics cry of pain
61 Factual
63 Steals from
65 Part of a play



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02/25/25

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

AIRPORT

FROM PAGE 5

to the airport provided much needed sleeping quarters for firefighters coming in from out of town during the Palisades fire. Throughout the entire event there were fire engines from far and wide parked in their lots. If asked they might well have allowed a parking lot to be fenced off for helicopter use.

Mr Snowden devotes much of his article to claiming the Disaster-2.0 meme is somehow relevant to the City's on-going visioning process for a Great Park when the airport closes at the end of 2028. Therefore we should ask what, if any, impact should the disaster-2.0 meme have on the planning process?

The answer is simple: in the event the Business park won't provide a fenced-off helicopter area for the next disaster, one of the park design options in the surveys was a "great lawn", so we should make sure such a lawn has no trees and can be easily fenced-off. That's it!

John Fairweather, Chair Measure LC Campaign

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA LANDMARKS COMMISSION

SUBJECT: 24ENT-0238 Landmark Designation Nomination
226 Palisades Avenue
APPLICANT: John LoCascio, Historic Resources Group
PROPERTY OWNER: Erik Hodge and Heather Warburton

A public hearing will be held by the Landmarks Commission to consider the following request:

Consideration of designation applications 24ENT-0238 for the property located at 226 Palisades Avenue to determine whether the residential structure in whole or in part, should be designated as a City Landmark and, if designated a Landmark, whether an associated Landmark Parcel should be defined and described in order to preserve, maintain, protect, or safeguard the Landmark. The Landmarks Commission will consider the application based on whether the application, research and public testimony presented demonstrates that the building meets one or more of the required criteria for Landmark designation pursuant to SMMC Section 9.56.100(A). Consideration of compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), including an exemption under CEQA Guideline 15061(b)(3) (Common Sense Exemption).

DATE/TIME: **MONDAY MARCH 10, 2025 AT 7:00 PM**

LOCATION: City Council Chamber, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Members of the public unable to attend a meeting but wishing to comment on an item(s) listed on the agenda may submit written comments prior to the public hearing via email to planningcomment@santamonica.gov or via mail to the address listed below. Comments received prior to 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Landmarks Commission prior to the meeting and posted online. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

You may also comment in-person at the Landmarks Commission hearing. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment.

Address your comments to: **Gina Szilak, Senior Planner**
Re: 24ENT-0238, 226 Palisades Avenue
Landmark Designation Nomination
VIA E-MAIL: planningcomment@santamonica.gov
VIA MAIL: City Planning Division
1685 Main Street, Mail Stop 28
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Regina Szilak at (310) 458-2200 extension 5216 or by e-mail to: Regina.Szilak@santamonica.gov. The Zoning Ordinance is available on the City's web site at www.santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (866) 311-7266 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate languages provided the request is received 72 hours prior to the meeting. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL: Este es un aviso de una audiencia publica sobre una solicitud para remodilar un edifecio que tiene valor historico importante. Para más información: planning@santamonica.gov

ESPAÑOL : Esto es una noticia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si desea más información, favor de llamar a Ana Fernandez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-2201 ext. 2431 o envíe un correo electrónico a ana.fernandez@santamonica.gov



TUESDAY | FEBRUARY 25

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
5:30 p.m. City Council Chambers, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. The City Council is made up of seven members elected at-large for staggered four-year terms. Every two years, after each election, the City Council selects one of its members to serve as Mayor and another to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore. The City Council also sits as the following bodies for the City of Santa Monica: Housing Authority, Parking Authority, Public Financing, Redevelopment Successor Agency, Audit Subcommittee.

COMMUNITY GAME NIGHT
7 - 11 p.m. Two Bit Circus, 1220 3rd Street Promenade. Join MindshareLA for a fun-filled evening of dozens of free games and laughter at Two Bit Circus. This will be a great way to unwind and connect with each other in a fun, relaxed setting and full bar. Tickets from $17.85, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mindsharelas-community-game-night-at-two-bit-circus-tickets-1232179444889.

WEDNESDAY | FEBRUARY 26

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS CLUB
4:30 - 6 p.m. Multipurpose Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Join the adventure for one-shot sessions with characters you have created or pick-up a readymade character for the day's journey. All materials provided. For ages 9-14.

THURSDAY | FEBRUARY 27

LA LAW LIBRARY OFFICE HOURS
2 - 6 p.m. Lobby, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. A LA Law Library legal research specialist helps patrons find answers to legal questions, learn about the law, or prepare to go to court. Legal research specialists are not attorneys and cannot provide legal advice, help fill out forms, or interpret the law.

CANNABIS EQUITY WORKSHOP
6 - 8 p.m. Annex Room, Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. Participate in the second community workshop on cannabis equity to hear a brief recap of the preliminary findings of the equity assessment and to hear a range of program development options designed to address inequities and foster inclusivity within the cannabis industry.

UPLIFTING BLACK LEGACY
7 - 10 p.m. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Hwy. Join for an evening of performance and discussion celebrating the lineage of Black storytelling and labor. Los Angeles-based choreographer Marjani Forté-Saunders performs a rare work-in-progress rendition of "'Chicken Soup,"' a solo choreographed by Blondell Cummings in 1981 and designated an "'American Masterpiece"' by the National Endowment for the Arts in 2006. The performance will be followed by a conversation with Forté-Saunders and other panelists on what it means to inherit the blueprint of a work and more widely what it means to build upon the deep legacies of Black radical experimentation. To RSVP, visit: https://www.santamonica.gov/events/4s4sx1gxngxzyww0wrfr-4rx6c5/202502271900.

FRIDAY | FEBRUARY 28

GRILLED CHEESE & BEER NIGHT
7:30 - 10 p.m. Andrew's Cheese Shop, 728 Montana Ave. A dinner featuring a curated menu of decadent open face grilled cheese sandwiches expertly paired with artisanal beers from around the world. It starts with a starter salad, followed by four courses of sandwiches paired with four beers, and a dessert course of an imperial stout or sour beer float with French vanilla ice cream. Tickets $75, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/andrews-february-grilled-cheese-beer-night-tickets-1222918113999.

SATURDAY | MARCH 1

COMPOST GIVEAWAY
9 a.m. - 2 p.m. City Yards, 2500 Michigan Ave. Join for Resource Recovery and Recycling's quarterly compost giveaway. Please bring gloves and containers if you're picking up compost - a limited supply of bags are available. This is a self-service event so please be prepared to load your own compost. Also giving away free food scrap pails, one per household while supplies last. This event is open to all Santa Monica residents with proof of residency.

STORYPALOOZA TAKE & MAKE KIT AND BOOK GIVEAWAY
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave. Join for a celebration of the imaginative world of children's literature. Cardboard Rocket Ship Take & Make Kit and book giveaway, while supplies last. Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Santa Monica. For families.

AUTHOR EVENT WITH PATRICK RENNA
10 - 11 a.m. 1113 Montana Ave. Zibby's Bookshop is excited to welcome comedian, actor, producer and author Patrick Renna to celebrate his new book "'A Little Slugger's Guide to The Unwritten Rules of Baseball and Life!"' Ticket plus a signed copy of the book $19, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/author-event-with-patrick-renna-tickets-1225448091229.

SATURDAY SOUL
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. MUD\WTR, 2515 Main St. Live music, performances, connection and surprises every time. A modern-day variety show with a dose of gospel and a lot of fun. All tickets are donation-based, $25 is suggested. To RSVP, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/saturday-soul-your-feel-good-weekend-reset-tickets-1225232145329.

PICTURE BOOK READING
10:30 - 11 a.m. Youth Activity Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. "'Not-a-Box City"' picture book reading with author Antoinette Portis. Attendees receive free books, while supplies last. Space is limited; first come, first served. For families.

HOW TO LIVE LIKE A MILLIONAIRE WHEN YOU'RE A MILLION SHORT
2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St. In her breezy, humorous style, comedienne and bestselling author Marilyn Anderson provides tons of money-saving tips on how to save thousands of dollars on entertainment, shopping, restaurants, health, beauty, home décor and more. Includes post-show reception with Ms. Anderson. To RSVP, visit: https://www.showclix.com/event/how-to-live-like-a-millionaire-a-bff-24-in-25-free-event.

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