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Why are they increasing?

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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

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Malibu lawyer adds CVRA litigation threat to ongoing district voting battle

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Proponents of district based voting are threatening to open a second front in their legal fight with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) focused on compliance with the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA).

SMMUSD is already embroiled in a districting argument under a different legal process and while the new threat is currently just a threat, supporters of district based voting say they may file the new paperwork if they are unsuccessful in their current attempt.

Malibu lawyer Kevin Shenkman is behind both proposals.

On Dec. 25, 2023, Shenkman wrote a letter to the district on behalf of clients Maria Loya, Jennifer deNicola, Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, Pico Neighborhood Association and their respective members residing in the district, alleging that SMMUSD's at-large system for electing school board members violates the CVRA due to voting being "racially polarized" and "resulting in minority vote dilution."

"Given the racially polarized voting and corresponding vote dilution in SMMUSD, we urge the District to voluntarily change its at-large system of electing governing board members," Shenkman wrote. "Otherwise, on behalf of residents within the jurisdiction, we will be forced to seek judicial relief."

Shenkman told the Daily Press that the letter was necessary if he were to pursue CVRA litigation in the future, a decision highly reliant on a pending ruling by the Los Angeles County Office of Education

SEE **CVRA** PAGE 11

Thriving city 'shines once again' while leaders focus on top issues

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

The spirit of Santa Monica was buzzing around the campus of John Adams Middle School, as local leaders gathered for the 2024 State of the City event Feb. 29 to touch on city successes and the challenges to come.

After a meet-and-greet in the John Adams courtyard, featuring performances from student musicians and a host of informational booths from city and regional organizations, the community packed into the school's performing arts center to hear speeches from Mayor Phil Brock and City Manager David White. Brock was introduced after opening remarks from Vice Mayor Lana Negrete and a national anthem performance by Samohi Choir member Valentina Manco.



Photo by Thomas Leffler

STATE OF THE CITY: Santa Monica Mayor Phil Brock gave a passionate speech about the place he calls home during the 2024 State of the City event.

In his first State of the City event as mayor, Brock stated that he viewed the Leap Day of Feb. 29 as a chance to reflect on city accomplishments and future goals, with an eye toward Santa Monica's 150th birthday in 2025. The mayor took time to thank everyone in his purview, from bus drivers and custodians to the bevy of city staff members in attendance.

"They work tirelessly every day to serve each of you, our community members," Brock said. "They're diverse in background and ideas, they're intelligent and innovative, and above all, they truly care about this place we call home."

With a background in the parks and recreation sector of the city, the mayor called "natural resource(s)

SEE **CITY** PAGE 5

John Adams Middle School recognized for exceptional student performance

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica's John Adams Middle School (JAMS) was recognized as being "exceptional" for both closing the achievement gap and demonstrating student performance last week when California Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond announced that 293 middle schools and high schools had been selected across the state.

John Adams was the only school in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD), which is composed of 17 in total, to be recognized in the prestigious 2024 California Distinguished Schools Program.

Schools are recognized for exceptional student performance based on achieving exemplary performance in English Language Arts (ELA) and math, reducing suspensions, and demonstrating high graduation rates (high schools only).



File Photo

JAMS: John Adams Middle School was recently recognized as part of the 2024 California Distinguished Schools Program.

Schools recognized for closing the achievement gap enroll at least 40% of their students from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds and, in addition to demonstrating exemplary overall performance in ELA and math, achieve accelerated academic growth for one or more historically underserved student groups.

"The work that we do is centered on equity, it's centered on doing and meeting the needs of all kids and removing as many barriers to access to quality education," Martha Diaz Chacon, Principal at John Adams Middle School, told the Daily Press, adding, "And so this is a result of that. That is the result of all of the decisions that we make rooted in diversity, equity and inclusion."

She said the work at JAMS went beyond just academics to provide a broad range of support

SEE **JOHN ADAMS** PAGE 5



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CRIME WATCH

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ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24 AT APPROXIMATELY 11:06 P.M.

Santa Monica PD officers overheard what sounded like an argument on the 2900 block of Main Street, while stopped at a red light. The Officers observed an individual pick up a steel stool and throw it at a couple sitting at a nearby table. The two officers quickly approached the subject, who had now lifted his skateboard and began walking toward the victims, and quickly brought him down to the ground and handcuffed him. The suspect showed visible signs of intoxication. Issac Ignacio Perez-Caseres was arrested for Assault with a Deadly Weapon and Public Intoxication.

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

Newsom hits the road for mental health measure as poll shows declining enthusiasm for Prop. 1

KRISTEN HWANG AND NIGEL DUARA
Special to the Daily Press

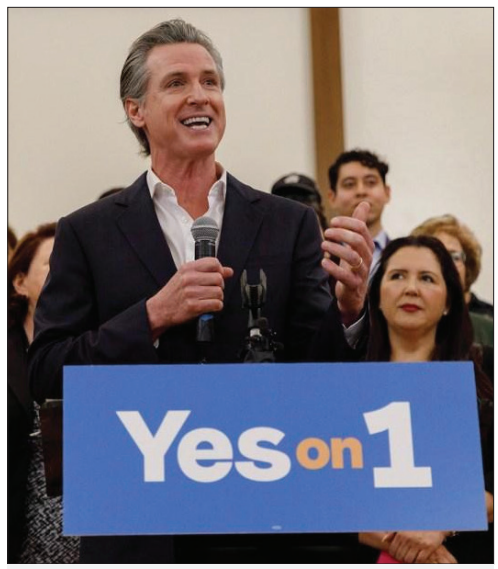


Photo by Kristian Carreon for CalMatters
PROP 1: Gov. Gavin Newsom speaks in support of Prop. 1 during a press conference at the United Domestic Workers of America building in San Diego on Feb. 29, 2024.

Two months ago polls suggested Gov. Gavin Newsom wouldn't have to do much to persuade voters to pass his marquee mental health measure. His plan, a $6.4 billion bond that would pay for the construction of new treatment beds and housing, had support from about two-thirds of voters.

But now, with voters casting ballots and a more recent poll showing declining enthusiasm for his proposal, Newsom is barnstorming the state to talk up Proposition 1.

"Polling on this has been overwhelmingly positive, but polls don't vote, people vote," Newsom said Thursday during a get-out-the-vote rally in San Diego. "We're here to get people to the polls."

The rally with the union United Domestic Workers, Attorney General Rob Bonta and other elected Democrats was the first of four planned campaign events by Newsom leading up to Election Day on March 5. Other stops include Palm Springs, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Statewide, about 10% of all ballots have been returned by mail just four days ahead of the election. Analysts say the trend indicates Tuesday will see the lowest voter turnout for a presidential primary election in recent state history.

Support for Prop. 1 dropped from 68% to 59% between December and February among likely voters, a nine-point difference, according to two polls published by the Public Policy Institute of California. Democrats and Independent voters were overwhelmingly supportive of the measure while most Republican voters indicated they would vote against it.

The measure needs 51% of the vote to pass.

Prop. 1 is a two-part ballot initiative to restructure California's mental health and substance abuse treatment system. It includes the bond to build treatment facilities and permanent supportive housing for people with mental health and addiction challenges. It also would change a special wealth tax known as the Mental Health Services Act by requiring counties to spend 30% of that revenue on housing instead of on other services.

GOV. GAVIN NEWSOM'S MENTAL HEALTH POLICIES

Newsom has pitched Prop. 1 to voters as a way to address the state's entrenched homelessness crisis and vastly increase capacity for acute mental health and drug treatment. His Yes on Prop. 1 campaign amassed a war chest of $14.4 million, gaining support from law enforcement unions, large health care organizations, big city mayors and the mental health advocacy organization NAMI California.

California has failed for decades to make good on its promise of expanding community-based mental health treatment after closing nearly all state psychiatric hospitals in the 1960s. Prop. 1 is an opportunity for voters to rectify that failure, Newsom said.

Newsom has signed several laws during his tenure meant to address the mental health crisis playing out on California streets, including one last year loosening restrictions on involuntary treatment.

"People get it, and they want to get something done," Newsom said to a gathering of about 100 union workers and first responders. "They don't want to talk about this problem anymore. They want to see progress."

The Yes on Prop. 1 campaign estimates that 6,800 treatment slots and 4,350 housing units could be constructed with the money raised by the bond.

PROP. 1 OPPONENTS POINT TO DEFICIT

Opponents represent smaller mental health groups, disability advocates and current users of county mental health programs who fear budget cuts if the measure passes. They attribute the proposition's decreased support in part to concerns over the state's soaring deficit.

The nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office projected in early February that the state deficit would grow to $73 billion, $15 billion higher than last month's projection.

A bond allows the state to borrow money and repay it over time. The Legislative Analyst's Office estimates that Prop. 1 would cost the state $310 million annually over the next three decades, totalling $9.4 billion.

"Informed voters know that means now is a terrible time for Prop. 1," Paul Simmons, executive director of Californians Against Prop. 1, said in a recent campaign statement.

Newsom has previously disputed how severe the state's deficit will be come June, when lawmakers are legally required to pass a budget. During Thursday's rally, Newsom hinted his updated budget proposal would draw from the state's reserves. In January, his administration estimated the state held about $38 billion in reserves.

"We've never had more reserves in our state's history, so that issue will be resolved in a matter of months," Newsom said.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Gavin Newsom is unpopular, but a second recall drive is doomed for failure

DAN WALTERS

On one level, it's completely understandable that many Californians believe they and their state would be better off without Gavin Newsom as governor.

California has some seemingly intractable issues that have worsened during the five years of his governorship – homelessness being the most obvious – and Newsom's penchant for braggadocio and grandstanding can be grating.

Although California is politically a deeply blue state, a recent poll by the Public Policy Institute of California found that fewer than half of adult Californians and likely voters believe the state is headed in the right direction and approve of how Newsom has governed.

Although Newsom still enjoys strong support among his fellow Democrats and Republicans are, as one would expect, just as strongly critical, his loss of approval by independent voters is the chief reason for his overall negative image, PPIC's poll discovered.

Newsom's recent fixation on touring the country as a surrogate campaigner for President Joe Biden – and to build his own political standing – probably contributes to his poor image at home. To many, it implies that the state and its problems, including a whopping budget deficit, now play second fiddle to Newsom's political ambitions, whatever they may be, and surely a factor in a renewed campaign this week seeking to recall the governor.

Orrin Heatlie, a retired Yolo County sheriff's deputy who headed the 2021 recall effort and is back as chairman of the group Rebuild California, insists that "this time is different."

"People are suffering in California now more than ever," he said as the recall effort was launched. "Gas prices and people's grocery bills are higher than ever before. Crime is out of control, stores statewide are closing their doors, and this governor is giving free handouts and health insurance to thousands of people who are here illegally while we are facing a $70 billion dollar deficit, not to mention our taxes are the highest in the nation."

"This man has aspirations to become the next president," Heatlie added. "Although we want him to leave California government, we don't want him to move to Washington. The country can't afford that."

All of that said, a second campaign to recall Newsom is a waste of time and energy. He easily defeated the first recall in 2021 with nearly 62% of the vote. A year later, he won a second term with a similar margin and almost certainly would prevail again if recall proponents can collect enough signatures to put it on the ballot.



Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters

RECALL: Gov. Gavin Newsom marches with a group of ticketed supporters towards the state Capitol on Jan. 6, 2023. The governor's campaign touted the event as a "March for Democracy", as it's being held on the two-year anniversary of when supporters of former President Donald Trump stormed the U.S. Capitol.

Even if they could force a recall election – and even if they muster an impressive list of Newsom's failures – recall advocates would need a viable replacement to have even a faint chance of success. In California, a recall is a two-step process. Voters simultaneously decide whether they want to oust the incumbent and choose among the declared replacement candidates.

That was demonstrated in 2003 during the first and only successful recall of a California governor. Then-Gov. Gray Davis would almost certainly have survived the recall if actor Arnold Schwarzenegger had not offered himself as a replacement.

Three years ago, the leading candidate to succeed Newsom was right-wing radio talk show host Larry Elder, who obviously saw it as an opportunity for self-aggrandizement rather than a serious interest in governance. He was an easy target for the Newsom campaign.

Given the very thin bench of Republican politicians in California these days, it's difficult to imagine anyone who could, by running as a replacement for Newsom, make a difference – nor could they raise the millions of dollars that a campaign would require. The only alternative would be a wealthy celebrity who could self-finance a campaign, like Schwarzenegger, but who that might that be, if anyone?

This article was originally published by CalMatters.



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **60.6**

MONDAY
FAIR
SURF: 3-4ft
Waist to chest

Day to target. Fading NW swell mix expected, SSW swell holds. Morning winds look light.

TUESDAY
FAIR
SURF: 2-3ft+
Thigh to stomach

Smaller combo waves off leftover NW swell and easing SSW swell for the early morning. Possible rise in WNW swell through the end of the day. Light winds due in the AM.

Weather

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 61.
Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 47.
Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 62.
Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 49.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2024/03/04	Mon	03:02 AM	4.52	H
2024/03/04	Mon	11:41 AM	0.09	L
2024/03/05	Tue	04:31 AM	4.90	H
2024/03/05	Tue	12:28 PM	-0.51	L
2024/03/05	Tue	7:31 PM	3.33	H
2024/03/05	Tue	11:24 PM	2.60	L
2024/03/06	Wed	05:38 AM	5.42	H
2024/03/06	Wed	1:06 PM	-1.00	L
2024/03/06	Wed	7:45 PM	3.69	H
2024/03/07	Thu	12:22 AM	2.04	L
2024/03/07	Thu	06:32 AM	5.91	H
2024/03/07	Thu	1:42 PM	-1.33	L
2024/03/07	Thu	8:07 PM	4.09	H
2024/03/08	Fri	01:11 AM	1.41	L
2024/03/08	Fri	07:21 AM	6.24	H
2024/03/08	Fri	2:16 PM	-1.45	L
2024/03/08	Fri	8:33 PM	4.54	H
2024/03/09	Sat	01:58 AM	0.79	L
2024/03/09	Sat	08:07 AM	6.30	H
2024/03/09	Sat	2:49 PM	-1.33	L
2024/03/09	Sat	9:02 PM	4.97	H
2024/03/10	Sun	03:45 AM	0.27	L
2024/03/10	Sun	09:52 AM	6.05	H

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: 2/28
16 26 29 38 50
Power#: 6
Jackpot: 443 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 2/27
6 18 26 27 49
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 607 M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 2/28
13 20 35 38 39
Mega#: 10
Jackpot: 14 M

FANTASY 5
Draw Date: 2/29
9 10 20 32 35

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 2/29
EVENING: 2 3 2
Draw Date: 2/29
MIDDAY: 1 8 7

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 2/29
1st: 02 - Lucky Star
2nd: 07 - Eureka
3rd: 06 - Whirl Win
Race Time: 1:49.17

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Santa Monica Daily Press

SMMUSD
SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SMMUSD NEEDS TO PROCURE 1800 CHROMEBOOKS FOR SMMUSD SCHOOLS, GRADES TK-12 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCOPE OF SERVICE SPECIFIED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District invites electronic proposals for: RFP #24.23 CHROMEBOOKS. Proposals must be electronically submitted via Secure Bids https://colbisecurebids.com/o/smmusd/RFP2423 on or before: March 19, 2024 at 2:00 PM. RFP forms and specifications may be obtained in the link provided within this notice.

City of Santa Monica

**CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS**

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

**Safe Routes to School: Pedestrian Improvement at Six Schools
SP2649**

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

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

**PROJECT ESTIMATE: $2,380,000
CONTRACT DAYS: 600 Calendar Days
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $5,200 Per Calendar Day**

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

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

City of Santa Monica

**CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS**

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

**Lincoln Neighborhood Corridor Streetscape Project (Streetlight Upgrades)
SP2331**

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

MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK: N/A

**PROJECT ESTIMATE: $3,500,000 (Base Bid)
$1,400,000 (Alternate Bid)
CONTRACT DAYS: 455 Calendar Days
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $1,250 Per Calendar Day**

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca. The Contractor is required to have a **Class A and C-10 license** at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

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

It's now significantly more deadly to be homeless. Why are so many people dying?

MARISA KENDALL
Special to the Daily Press



Photo by Larry Valenzuela for CalMatters.
DANGER: A man starts a fire in his make-shift tent along a barbed wire fence near Highway 99 in southwest Fresno on Feb. 11, 2022. The fence blocks out a grass area that used to be a homeless encampment.

For many people, living on the streets of California is a death sentence.

That's according to a recent study that took the first deep look into mortality rates in homeless communities throughout the country. It found the death rate more than tripled between 2011 and 2020. The findings make it clear that at the same time the number of homeless Californians is soaring, it's also becoming more dangerous to be homeless. And it means the stakes are sky-high when it comes to state and local efforts to combat the crisis: People's lives are on the line.

The study's co-author, Matthew Fowle of the University of Pennsylvania, said the 238% increase was "astonishing."

"It's unlike any other mortality trend that we really see in demography," he said. "It's comparable to something like a natural disaster or war."

Overdoses played a major role in the deaths studied. But people also are dying at increased rates of things that might be avoided if they had a home or regular access to preventative medical care, such as heat and cold exposure, traffic injuries, cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

"It's just so hard to do that when you're living on the streets or living in a shelter," Fowle said. "Your main concern is, 'Can I stay warm and dry for the night? Can I get enough food to eat?' You can't think about these other longer-term things that might be affecting your health until, in many cases, it's too late."

Some of the increase in the mortality rate may be attributable to county death records keeping better track of who is homeless, Fowle said. Other than that, he and his team aren't sure what else is behind the rising death rates — more research is needed, he said.

"Clearly something is occurring across the country," Fowle said.

The study, published this month in health policy research journal Health Affairs, appears to be the first to look at death rates and causes of death in homeless communities nationwide. Data on this subject is spotty, as the feds and most states (including California) don't require medical examiners to list someone's housing status in their death records. Fowle's study looked at 22,143 deaths of homeless residents in 22 localities across 10 states and Washington, D.C. — including eight California counties. The death rate across all 22 localities increased from 814 per 100,000 homeless residents in 2011, to 2,752 per 100,000 homeless residents in 2020.

Among the general population, the nationwide mortality rate was much lower: 1,027 deaths per 100,000 people in 2020, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In California, the study looked at Alameda, Los Angeles, Orange, Sacramento, San Diego, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Solano counties. In those counties, the mortality rate more than doubled between 2015 and 2020. Some of those counties didn't start collecting data until 2015.

Like most information on unhoused populations, the data has limitations. For example, it uses mortality rates based on the federally mandated point-in-time population counts, which are inexact estimates of the country's homeless communities.

Nationwide, drug and alcohol overdoses were the leading cause of fatalities, accounting for nearly a third of all deaths. Overdoses caused 986 deaths per 100,000 unhoused people in 2020, a 488% increase from 2011.

The opioid crisis and the increased prevalence of fentanyl played a huge role in those numbers, said Fowle, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania's Housing Initiative at Penn. But deaths also may be driven by new efforts throughout California and beyond to crack down on people sleeping in public places, he said. When people use drugs in a homeless encampment surrounded by people they know and trust, or even alone on a busy downtown street, there's a greater chance someone will see them and intervene if they overdose. If law enforcement breaks up their camp and pushes them out of downtown, they often go to isolated areas such as creek beds, where they're harder to help in an emergency.

When someone is displaced from their camp, they also become less able to access a safe supply of drugs — putting them at greater risk for consuming something laced with fentanyl, said Dr. Margot Kushel, director of the UCSF Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative.

Another reason being homeless has become more deadly? The homeless population is getting older, Kushel said.

The number of Californians 55 and older who sought homelessness services soared 84% between 2017 and 2021, according to the state's Homeless Data Integration System. That's compared to a 43% increase across all age groups. People become homeless for the first time after age 50 with more frequency now.

"As the homeless population continues to age, you're just going to see death rates keep going up and up and up," Kushel said. "You expect that, and it's horrendous."

The average age of death in the University of Pennsylvania study was 51 — more than 27 years younger than the average U.S. life expectancy during that time period.

Deaths attributed to cardiovascular disease, the second-leading cause of death, increased 172% between 2011 and 2020. Other causes that saw major increases include diabetes, infection, cancer, homicide and exposure.

SEE **HOMELESS** PAGE 11

CITY

FROM PAGE 1

and beautiful open space" the spirit of the city, expressing the surge of community events in local parks that brought residents together, such as the Americana in the Park series and the Endless Summer CAMP (Community, Art, Music, Picnic) at Tongva Park. Brock made a special announcement regarding the future of parks by proclaiming he will move forward legislation to rename Virginia Avenue Park to Lloyd Allen Park, named after the 102-year-old local activist who fought for the park throughout his life. Allen, the 2021 recipient of the city's Black Excellence Award, was on-hand to receive the news.

Brock then turned his attention to other environmental causes, such as the need to plant more trees in the city, something he said he needed "everyone's help on."

"It is our community struggle against climate change," Brock said. "We need to plant trees, we need to make sure we don't have heat islands, and we need to make sure that those apartments and houses that never had air conditioning in Santa Monica because they never needed it, still won't need it, because they have trees."

Brock also called for developers working in Santa Monica to plant "copious amounts of trees" as part of their projects to make the best of a situation where he bemoaned that the state government has "walked all over" zoning and design standards.

"If we're not allowed to alter your height and density, please give us trees and open space at every one of these new buildings," he added.

The mayor continued to passionately ask for residents to petition California legislature and Gov. Gavin Newsom to "give us our city back" when it comes to local control over zoning, stating that while Santa Monica wishes to still welcome residents of diverse incomes into the city, local control over the future of housing is still paramount.

"We welcome new residents, but when we're having height and density that we can't control in our neighborhoods and on our streets, we need to make sure that our city and all cities in California have a chance to control our own destinies," Brock said. "And that needs to not be a wish, it needs to be a demand of your legislators and it needs to be a demand of our governor. We need to be able to control how our city looks."

After touching on other subjects like arts and entertainment advances, his "vow" to keep residents as safe as possible and the recovery of local business, Brock let the city manager take the stage for a detailed look at city priorities.

On addressing housing and homelessness, White called creating and sustaining affordable housing "the most critical means for addressing homelessness," lauding a total of 150 apartment units recently added to the city's affordable housing supply along with 221 units currently under construction, including 57 city-funded permanent supportive housing units at The Laurel.

White also touched on housing advancements like updated affordable housing requirements, allowing new housing in previously non-residential zones, and the encouragement of moderate income housing development. He noted that the city's efforts are "being recognized" by the state, with Gov. Newsom recently designating Santa Monica as a "Prohousing community," joining 37 other jurisdictions across the state that have "demonstrated success in breaking down barriers to housing production."

"This is a huge honor and achievement … as we move forward in addressing homelessness and addressing the housing crisis, the city is in the process of putting together a strategic plan to guide our work in this key priority over the next five years," White said.

The city manager transitioned into the priority of a clean and safe community, specifically discussing transportation successes like a 14% year-to-year increase in Big Blue Bus ridership and the 120 lane miles of bikeways "that encourage green commuters," including the "welcome addition" of lanes on 17th Street from Pico Blvd. to Wilshire Blvd.

"As an avid biker myself, I'm all-in, and I so very much appreciate it," White added.

White also spoke on justice, equity and diversity becoming a new priority for City Council in the past year, as well as a more active nightlife and business growth on the Third Street Promenade and beyond. He said that the bolstered economic recovery and other accomplishments have left him "extremely optimistic" for the future of the city.

"We've shown that we can weather the most difficult storms and still remain true to our city's values and ethos," he noted. "Santa Monica continues to be a place that people feel lucky to be a part of."

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JOHN ADAMS

FROM PAGE 1

for students who may have been struggling post-pandemic.

"So we have really dug in deep to really examine our teaching practices, examine our approach to how we address behavior and disciplinary issues, how we provide social emotional learning, and we're actually deepening the work that we do," she said. "We actually found out about this as we were working as a site leadership team talking about how we're going to continue to improve the work that we are doing right now. So I am confident that with the support of the teachers, with the support of the community and the district, what they have laid out to support us, we will continue to improve."

Specifically, schools were selected by analyzing data reported through the 2023 California School Dashboard and System of Support, with a focus on demonstrating excellence and growth in academic achievement and ensuring a positive school climate. Often referred to as just the "Dashboard," it's an online tool designed to help communities across the state access easy-to-read reports that display performance information for K–12 schools and districts across the state.

Academic year-on-year analysis shows that in 2023, John Adams Middle School demonstrated a "high" level in ELA, remaining 30.6 points above standard and maintaining a 0.8 point score compared to 2022. Equally, it showed a "high" level, despite being 15.2 points below standard in mathematics, due to a 6.9 point increase over the previous year. However, the school earned a "very high" rating in English Learner Progress, with 72.9% "making progress" towards English language proficiency, an increase of 18% over 2022.

"It is my pleasure to honor and recognize these 293 secondary schools for their efforts to provide exemplary public education to all students. Excellent middle schools and high schools play a critical role in the life outcomes of our young people," Thurmond said in a statement.

"This year's California Distinguished Schools celebration provides us with an opportunity to recognize the hard work of our secondary educators and school staff who help our young adults discover passions and access college- and career-ready experiences that will propel them through life."

Diaz Chacon said the award is a recognition for years of work by many people at the school.

"This award has been a long time coming and this is really about the commitment of our educators, our administrators, our community partners, our counselors to really center on the needs of students, all students, but really focusing on our most marginalized students."

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Citywide

More Than 750 Residents Sign Open Letter to Gelson's Developer to Reduce Its Huge, Unpopular Project

Residents have mounted a campaign in an open letter that presses Cypress Equity Investments to reduce the height and massing of its project at Lincoln and Ocean Park Blvds, the current Gelson's site, at an intersection the City has already identified as "failing." (www.smclc.net/gelsons)

This is one of the biggest projects of its type ever proposed for Santa Monica. It is poorly conceived, out of scale with the neighborhood, and disregards how it will affect traffic, water usage, lack of open space, and City infrastructure.

"The immediate, broad response to supporting this Open Letter shows how strongly Santa Monica residents dislike this project and care about the future of our community," said Diana Gordon, Co-Chair of the Santa Monica Coalition for a Livable City ("SMCLC") which organized this Open Letter in collaboration with Santa Monica neighborhood associations.

"Residents are rightfully angry at being shut out of the planning process and having their concerns ignored. Cypress needs to step up and be a responsible corporate citizen, one that acts on residents' concerns instead of steamrolling the process."

Cypress Equity, with offices in multiple cities, has more than a dozen projects it hopes to build in Santa Monica utilizing recent state law density bonuses.

SUBMITTED BY DIANA GORDON

Santa Monica Arrests

For the week of Feb 23th to 29th

Crime	Arrests
Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol	5
Shoplifting	5
Aggressive Solicitation	4
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	3
Warrant	3
Assault & Battery	2
Burglary	2
Corporal Injury To Spouse	2
Drunk in Public	2
Probation Violation	2
Appropriation of Lost Property	1
Assault on a Peace Officer	1
Assault with a Deadly Weapon	1
Battery on a Peace Officer	1
Carrying A Concealed Dirk Or Dagger	1
Disturbing the Peace - Fighting in Public	1
Drinking in Public Park or Beach	1
DUI > 0.08% BAC causing bodily injury	1
Embezzlement	1
Indecent Exposure	1
Jaywalking	1
Parole Violation	1
Possession of Methamphetamines	1
Receiving Stolen Property	1
Resisting an Executive Officer	1
Resisting Arrest	1
Robbery	1
Trespassing	1
Unrestrained Dog on Public Property	1
Vandalism	1
TOTAL	**50**

Projects get better when developers listen to the community.



Red lines represent mass of "Gelson's" project at Lincoln/Ocean Park Blvds.

To: Cypress Equity, Michael Sorochinsky (CEO), Alla Sorochinsky (CFO), Bruce Fairty (COO), Jason Bohle (Senior VP Development)

From: The Santa Monica Community

Dear Cypress Equity Management Team,

Your proposed project at Lincoln and Ocean Park Blvds. (Gelson's site) is an example of what happens when a city and its residents are locked out of the planning process: a poorly conceived, out-of-scale design that has created ill will in the community.

Your plan for this already gridlocked intersection is over one-and-a-quarter times the square footage of the Santa Monica Place Mall, on a site less than half its size. Yet no consideration has been given to massing, impacts on traffic, water, or infrastructure, and so far, community concerns have been largely ignored.

We're not against growth. We're against badly planned, catastrophic growth which overwhelms a neighborhood and harms the people who live there.

You have over a dozen more projects you hope to develop in our city. While recent state law has severely limited local input on development decisions, that shouldn't stop you from being responsible corporate citizens. We urge you to listen to residents and do the following:

Reduce your project's "density bonus" from 50% to 25% (130 fewer units)
OR reduce all building heights to no more than four stories.

This would help the community by lessening traffic impacts and massing, and help you by lowering construction costs and reducing future vacancy rates.

A win for everyone.

Sincerely,
Your Neighbors
(See facing page.)

Letter Signatories

Chuck Abbott
Joy Abbott
Ken Abbott
Marc Abraham
Abby Adams
Aiden Adams
Cooper Adams
Holly Adams
Kellogg Adams
Riley Adams
Angeli Agatep
Renee Ainsworth
Gloria Albert
Kathleen Alegria
Fred Alexander
Barney Alfs
Susan Alinsangan
Branda Rosas Almadi
M. Alpern
Alan Alter
Peter Altschuler
Janice Anderson
Brenda Anderson
Dian Andrews
Nina Andro
Rhommel Apostol
Andrew Apter
Ed Arias
Mark Armour
Emily Arms
Carol Arreola
Larry Arreola
Kelsey Attiq
Micheline Auger
Janine Autolitano
Juliet Avina
Danilo Bach
Jan Bailey
Josephine Bakis
Raquel Baldelomar
Andra Bard
Tom Barnes
Maureen K. Barrie
David B Barrie
Linas Baskauskas
Jeff Bates
Wayne Bauer
Jo Baxter
Nathan Bayne
Thomas Beaulieu
Kenyaka Beckley
Russ Belinsky
Tod Bender
Maia Berens
Rick Berger
Mady Bergman
Sasha Berman
Susan Bernheimer
Jim Bernstein
Sara Goes Beth
Diana Bianchini
Beverly Bienstock
George Birrell
Michelle Bitting
Asim Black
Jason Black
Sas Blackoff
Cécile Blanchard
Shanna Blaney
Tim Blaney
Corey Blechman
Karen Blechman
Caron Block
Jennifer Blum
Renee Blume
Eleanor Blumenberg
Denise Bohannon
Emily Bohannon
Pauline Bohannon
Mike Bone
Ted Bonnitt
Kelly Boston
Lois Bostwick
Ann Bowman
Julie Brackenbury
Jennifer Bradley
Susan Brandler
Kate Bransfield
David Brantley
David Braun
Ellen Braun
Christina Brawner
Elizabeth Brix
Phil Brock
(Mayor, Santa Monica)
Lee Brooks
Lori Brown
Robert Brown

Santiago Brown
Martin Burke
Ron Burkhardt
Duncan Burns
Rodger Caldwell
Ester Cameron
Lorne Cameron
Scott Cameron
Tricia Cameron
Demetra Canning
James Cano
Frédérique Carme
Ovaldo Carrero
Brett Carstens
Janet Carter
Kerry Carven
Cinnamon Chaney
Joy Chantarasonpoth
Joan Charles
Danielle Charney
Jennifer Chartoff
Phyllis Chavez
Laura Check
Jan Cherubin
Michael Choe
Tom Chou
Popi Christiansen
Jennifer Chu
Mario Cimino
Diane Citron
David Clayberg
Jill Clingan
Alston Cobb
Dan Cobbett
Max Coburn-Roth
Kathy Cody
Kisha Cohen
Nancy Coleman
Karen Comegys-Wortz
Tracy Condon
Donna Conrad
Loretta Contreras
Gayle Cooper
Susan Cope
Helen Corrigan
Kathy Corvo
David Corwin
Dawn Cotter
Cynthia Cotton
Eldon Cotton
Tina Cox
Karen Croner
Chelsea Cropper
Diane Crystal
Marion Curson
Renee Curtis
Linda Dacy
Stacy Dalgleish
Michael Dalling
Michael Damerell
James Davis
Nelson Davis
Michael Deal
Ronny DeJesus
Alex De La Torre
Oscar de la Torre
(Santa Monica City Council)
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Marco Del Villar
Wendy Dembo
Jane Dempsey
Alexis Denisof
Robin Derby
Naren Desai
Zanne Devine
Kay Devonshire
Anna Diaz
Carmen Diaz
Inseam Diaz
Carol Dickinson
Kat Dillon
Simon Dobson
Candra Docherty
MaryAnn Dolcemascolo
Peter Donald
Tate Donovan
Filipino D'Orsogna
Maria D'Orsogna
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Katharine Dreyfuss
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Harold Dunnigan
Holly Dunnigan
Mary Duprey
Chrissi Durbin
Nancy Duresky

Karrie Dvorchak
Steven Dye
Susan Ebey
Jeanne Eisenman
Marilyn Elias
Thomas Elias
Cory Entsminger
Kenneth Erickson
Cheryl Erickson
Nick Everhart
Tery Fain
Wendy Fairbanks
Anita Famili
Michael Fanselow
Ellen Farbstein
Joe Faris
Elizabeth Farny
Megan Farrell
Marta Faustino
Russell Fear
Jonathan Feldman
Jacob Feldman
George Ferrell
Jennifer Field
Marcus Filipovich
Carla Finnerman
Jacalyn Fisher
Megan FitzGerald
Kate Flather
Maria Flores
Mario Fonda-Bonardi
Peggy Fontenot
Mark Ford
William Fordes
Taryn Fordes
Shepherd Frankel
Michael Fredrickson
Diane Fresco
Victor Fresco
Lauren de la Fuente
Aaron Furlong
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Hilary Galanoy
Laurel Gallucci
Alicia Garey
Faustino Garza
April Gaye
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Susan Ginsberg
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Patty Godon-Tann
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Elaine Golden-Gealer
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Burton Goldstein
Florentina Golick
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Monica Gutierrez
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Suzanne Verge
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Dominic Vindiola
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Linda Visser
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Traci Wallace
Richard Waltzer
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Kay Ward
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Sandra Weisman
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Tim Whitcome
Andrew White
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Spencer Winn
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Jasmine Wyne
Darlene Wynn
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Lila Yomtoob
Mary Young
Joe Yule
Barbara Zacky
Denny Zane
(Former Mayor, Santa Monica)
Bob Zaugh
Gerald Zelinger
Leesa Zelken
Robert Zelken
Bryan Zipser

SMCLC is a nonprofit, all volunteer group of Santa Monica residents concerned about unsustainable development in our city, the effects it has on traffic and our quality of life, and the influence developer money has on our local elections. **Join us at smclc.net.**

SMCLC.net
Santa Monica Coalition for a Livable City

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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

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Psychic
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Tutoring

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2024025531 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 02/05/24The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Elite Travel Club 1015 2nd St #110 Santa Monica, CA 90403Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON 202252011215The full name of the registrant(s) is/are ETClub LLC 1015 2nd St #110 Santa Monica, CA 90403If corporation or LLC- Print State of Incorporation/ Organization: CAThis Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 01/2024Registrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: ETClub LLC Title: CEO Stacy Hope Small This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 02/05/2024NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS02/12/24, 02/19/24, 02/26/24, 3/04/24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2024012577 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 01/19/24The following person(s) is (are) doing business as SunsetPark Plaza Liquor and Jr Market 2602 Pico Blvd Santa Monica, CA 90405Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON The full name of the registrant(s) is/are SunsetPark Liquor 2602 Pico Blvd Santa Monica, CA 90405If corporation or LLC- Print State of Corporation The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 06/2012Registrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: SunsetPark Liquor Title: President Mohamas Taherian This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 01/19/2024NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS02/12/24, 02/19/24, 02/26/24, 3/04/24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2024021812 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 01/31/24The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Pacific Surgery Center of Santa Monica 2021 Santa Monica Blvd Suite 724E Santa Monica, Ca 90405. Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON 2408698The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Pacific Palisades Surgery Center and Medical Group, Inc 2021 Santa Monica Blvd Suite 724E Santa Monica, Ca 90405. If corporation or LLC- Print State of CAThis is Business is Conducted: A Corporation The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/ ARegistrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: Pacific Palisades Surgery Center and Medical Group, Inc Title: President Christian Sanfilippo This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 01/31/2024NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS02/12/24, 02/19/24, 02/26/24, 3/04/24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2024028989 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 02/08/24The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Lou's Fine Spirits and Crafts 3009 Lincoln Blvd Santa Monica,CA 90405 Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON The full name of the registrant(s) is/are OC Smoke Inc 7982 Sunset Blvd Los Angeles, CA 90046If corporation or LLC- Print State of CAThis is Business is Conducted: A Corporation The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/ ARegistrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: OC Smoke Inc Title: President Luai Adamo This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 02/08/2024NOTICE: 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 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS02/12/24, 02/19/24, 02/26/24, 3/04/24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER 2024026354 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 02/05/24 . The following person(s) is (are) doing business as The Seinsei Club at Porcupine Creek 2800 Olympic Blvd Santa Monica California 90404 The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Sensei Wellness Holdings, Inc 2800 Olympic Blvd Santa Monica CA 90404. This Business is conducted by: A Corporation The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date) N/A Registrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: Sensei Wellness Holdings,Inc Title:Vice President This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 02/05/24 NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish, 02/26/24, 03/04/24, 03/11/24, 03/18/24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER 2024039179 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 02/21/24 . The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Beyond Integrative PT 1238 7th Street Suite B Santa Monica CA 90401 The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Dr Carr Integrative Physical Therapy Inc.1238 7th Street Suite B Santa Monica CA 90401 This Business is conducted by: A Corporation The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date) 02/2013 Registrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: Dr Carr Integrative Physical Therapy Inc. Title:President This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 02/21/24 NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish, 02/26/24, 03/04/24, 03/11/24, 03/18/24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2024012492 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 01/19/24The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Venice Arcade 1007/1009 Ocean Front Walk Venice, CA 90291Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Teqball USA, LLC 10811 Washington Blvd STE 400 Culver City, CA 90232If corporation or LLC- Print State of CAThis is Business is Conducted: An Limited Liability Company The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 01/24Registrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: Teqball USA, LLC Title: CEO Daniel Szabo This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 01/19/24NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS02/12/24 02/19/24, 02/26/24, 3/04/24,

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAMECase No. 24SMCP00073VECP00032 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of David Harrison Cleaner for Change of NameTO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:Petitioner or Attorney: David Harrison Cleaner a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: David Harrison Cleaner to David Harrison Kleiner The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 04/05/2024 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: - The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Santa Monica Courthouse 1725 Main St Santa Monica, CA 90401A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.

Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



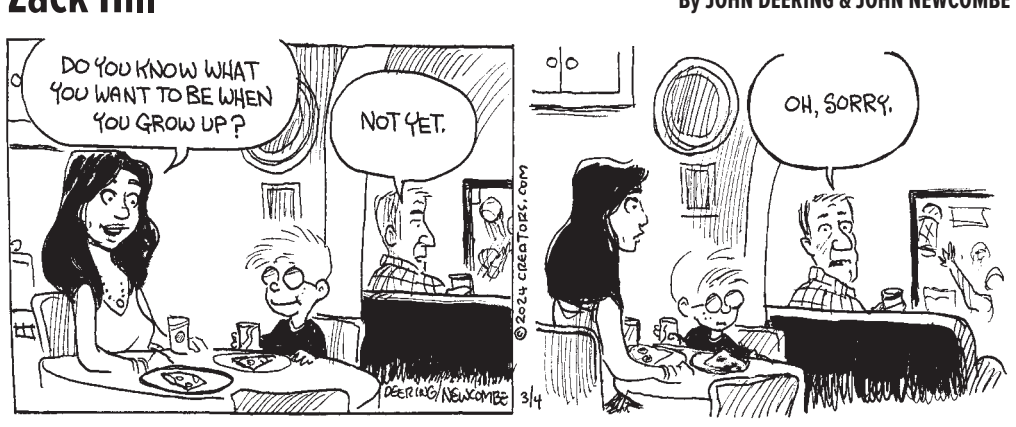
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

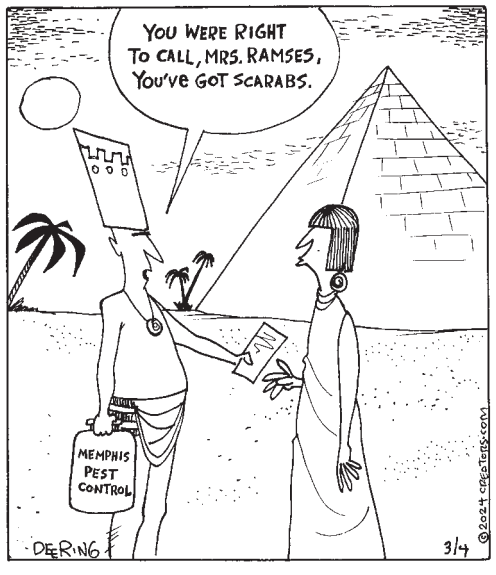
By PETER GALLAGHER



"CHAUNCEY CARES HARD."

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

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It's dinner time

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

Apple	Eggs	Mushrooms	Skewers
Apron	Fatty	Offal	Soup
Bacon	Fold	Pans	Stew
Basil	Fork	Peas	Stir
Beef	Freeze	Peel	Stove
Boil	Grind	Pickle	Supper
Braise	Heat	Popular	Tart
Cakes	Ice-cream	Prepare	T-bone
Cook	Ingredients	Quiche	Truss
Corn	Jams	Satay	Veal
Cube	Knead	Sausage roll	Venison
Cure	Lean		Whip
Cuts	Mince	Sear	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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To advertise, email cindy@smdp.com or call 310.458.7737
smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 4)

You understand your priorities more clearly than ever and you make decisions to reflect those priorities, thus finding deep fulfillment and effervescing fun that's right in line with your essence. More highlights: You'll finally reach a long-term goal. A pursuit of the mind brings self-discovery. Your social sphere echoes with the laughter of connection. Leo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 4, 44, 20 and 16.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Because your priorities are in a transitional phase, steer clear of contracts, promises and the like. Stay free and flexible. New people and endeavors will enter your realm, so leave room for them.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A closed mind is a prison that cannot be detected by the prisoner. You want to live brave and free. You'll hurl yourself at the edges of what you know. If you find bars there, you'll look for keys to unlock them.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). As a player in the drama, you can only see a small part of it. The audience gets the whole story. To really understand what you're dealing with, leave the action and get a perspective from the balcony seats.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The quiet moments will be the contrast you need to process the rush and blur of life. Schedule time to stop. If you don't plan it, you won't experience it. The pauses are what give purpose to the rest.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll be an effective advocate who brings about justice for another. You'll love how things change when you get involved, and it will feel good to know that your attention and investment make a difference.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll devote yourself to giving your all to the work at hand. Even so, try not to be overly concerned about getting a particular result. By simply doing your best, something entirely different and better could come of this.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your energy is like a rechargeable battery. It will deplete if you use it, and it will deplete if you don't — so use it, then recharge. Even seemingly silly pursuits will turn out to be worthy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The mind doesn't stop to test or theorize. Once a thing is believed, the perceived world automatically organizes around that belief, which becomes like sheet music that the world plays its song to.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll benefit from a less literal approach to life. Suggestions aren't meant to be followed to the letter. Use them as guidelines to get you to the general area where you can make your own determinations about how to complete the mission.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When you buy tickets to the circus, you expect that you will, at some point, be interacting with clowns. They don't always seem like they are trying to make you laugh, but finding humor makes everything seem better.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Waste no focus on those who don't treat you right or can't figure out what to do with your contributions. Plenty of people need exactly what you can give. You'll find them when you stop tending to people who are not them.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). After you've said and done what you needed to say and do, you'll do more, and this is what matters. "More" moves the needle. "More" evokes feeling, attracts attention, has people pulling out phones, wallets and invitations.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

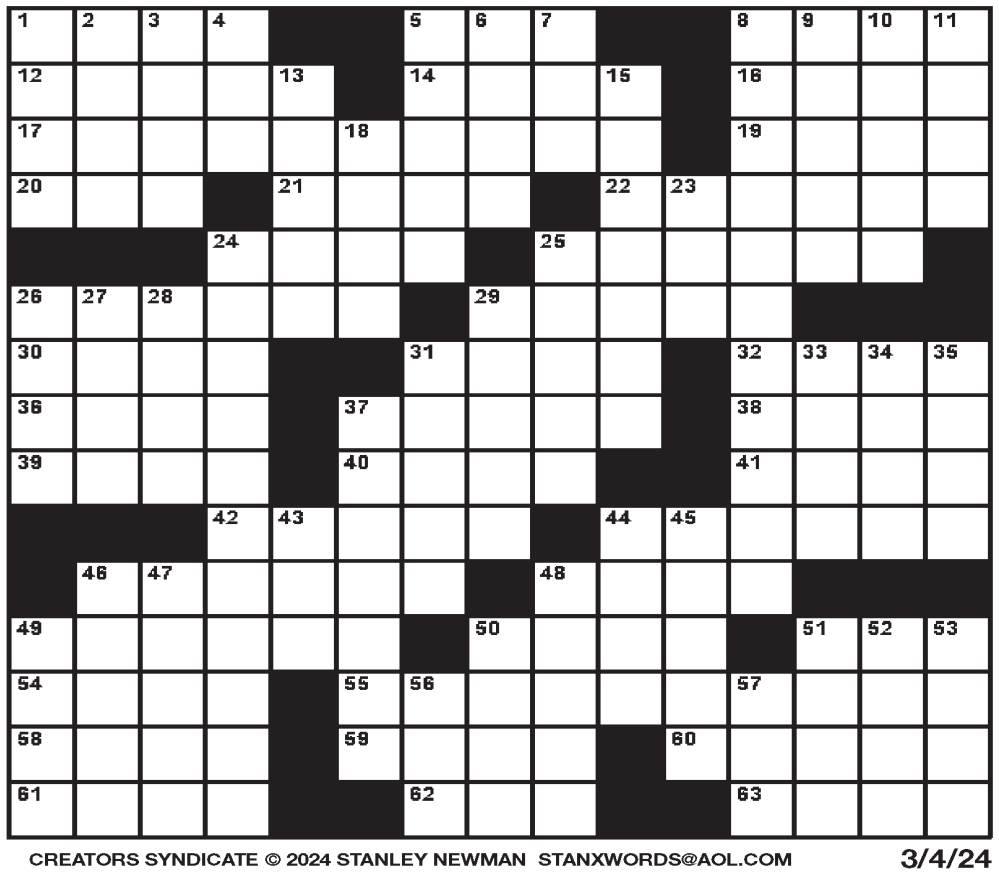
ALBUM COLLECTIONS by Doug Peterson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Rolling stone's supposed lack
5 National crime-fighting agency: Abbr.
8 Places for baths
12 Ram of the zodiac
14 Sign on the dotted __
16 "That's clear now"
17 Small folders with ignitable sticks
19 Informal discussion
20 Ginger __ (soft drink)
21 "I'm so clumsy!"
22 __ of appreciation (symbolic gifts)
24 Propels with oars
25 Storm drains
26 Emphasize
29 Single piece of paper
30 Guitarist Clapton
31 Crop-growing business
32 Did laps in a pool
36 German car
37 Bats' underground homes
38 Ceramic floor piece
39 Ooze slowly
40 Scored 100% on
41 Sci-fi saucers, for short
42 Made a blunder
44 Infants
46 Noisy insect
48 Not as much
49 Developed into
50 Separate into piles
51 Find a purpose for
54 Happily __ after
55 Celebrity signatures
58 Be in first place
59 Difficult journey
60 In first place
61 __ cap (camera protector)
62 Music CD predecessors
63 Small city

DOWN

1 Infant's female parent
2 Word-of-mouth
3 Building's location
4 Fraction of a minute, for short
5 Unsuccessful films
6 Life stories, for short
7 Pen liquid
8 Theatergoer's torn-off souvenirs
9 Theater worker
10 Limas and garbanzos
11 Full collections
13 Chases away
15 Thinks highly of
18 Archers' launchers
23 Have debts
24 Small papers with cooking instructions
25 Rip to pieces
26 Large bodies of water
27 Factual
28 Take a bus or cab
29 Kept for the future
31 Gemstone surface
33 Internet hotspot service
34 Plant-based lotion additive
35 Untidy area
37 Infant's spot on an auto trip
43 Pirate's liquor
44 Floating ice mass
45 Houston baseballer
46 Flood-control barrier
47 The Pacific or Atlantic
48 Takes a peek
49 Boxing round signal
50 Rung of a ladder
51 __-date (modern)
52 Demonstrate
53 Sports cable channel
56 Web address: Abbr.
57 Hill-building insect



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2024 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 3/4/24

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

CVRA

FROM PAGE 1

Committee on School District Organization on his petition submitted in 2022.

The 2022 petition was filed under a different state law that allows County officials to implement district based voting without a public vote, court case or consent of the schools. The CVRA can also force district based voting on a municipal entity through court action but is an entirely separate process.

He noted that the county committee may have a decision, or at minimum a "strong indication" of what a decision may be, as early as this week.

He added that he will "continue to evaluate what the appropriate course of action is," and that if the committee does not move forward with his district-based voting map, he then has the option of "simply taking the matter to the Superior Court" rather than "messing around with the (committee) further."

"I can't say that if that process drags on for another six months, a year, two years or whatever that we would … continue waiting, but at least for now, we're gonna wait," Shenkman said.

Attorneys representing SMMUSD agreed with that stance on their end, saying that "given the considerable resources" required to defend against the petition, "it would be far more efficient to allow that process to finish" since success in implementing the petition would "moot the need for any litigation under the CVRA."

However, the District also disputed the allegations related to racially polarized voting.

The district legal representatives responded in full with a letter on Feb. 22, stating that the initial letter was "absent (of) any specific evidence of violations of the CVRA" and that the letter "does not present a compelling basis to replace SMMUSD's proven at-large system."

Shenkman alleges that the CVRA disfavors the use of at-large voting due to the impairment of minority groups' ability to elect preferred candidate or influence the outcome of elections, and that SMMUSD's at-large system specifically dilutes the ability of Latinos to elect candidates of their choice or otherwise influence the outcomes of district board elections. He pointed to the 2004 SMMUSD board candidacy of Ana Jara as an example, who he stated lost "despite receiving essentially unanimous support from the District's Latino voters." SMMUSD attorneys Dale Larson, Frederic Woocher and Carolina Chiappetti responded to this claim by saying Jara, the last Latino candidate to lose a SMMUSD board election, lost to two other Latino candidates in 2004.

The Malibu-based attorney also brought up Maria Loya's losses in runs for Santa Monica City Council and the Santa Monica College governing board, saying she lost despite "near-unanimous support" from Latino voters and that this demonstrates that the dilution "holds true with the electorate of SMMUSD," the same electorate of the Santa Monica Community College District. Loya is also at the center of another CVRA case, Pico Neighborhood Association et al. v. City of Santa Monica, with Shenkman representing the plaintiff claiming that the City's at-large voting system discriminates against Latino voters. In August 2023, the California Supreme Court returned that case to the Court of Appeal for consideration and that court pushed the decision back to the trial court for a future hearing.

In response to Shenkman's claims, SMMUSD attorneys stated that the district "cares deeply about the voting rights of all of its constituents and takes very seriously any allegations that the District is not doing everything it can to promote and protect those rights, particularly those of its protected class constituents." Along with providing context to the Jara election, they noted that from 2006 to 2022, 11 Latino candidates appeared on the school board ballot, winning each of their respective elections.

"Given SMMUSD's commitment to empowering its protected class constituents, the District is reluctant to abandon an at-large system with a consistent and proven track record of success in electing Latino candidates for a trustee-area system full of unknowns that, at best, seems designed to provide an opportunity to elect a Latino candidate to only one of the seven seats, once every four years," the response letter stated.

The response letter also states that even if the district was agreeable to a voluntary change, it lacks the authority to unilaterally move to trustee area elections under the Santa Monica City Charter. Moreover, potential CVRA litigation would be "unlikely" to impact SMMUSD elections before a unification (or splitting) of Santa Monica and Malibu schools would be complete, as the school district "as presently configured" would cease to exist. As of the February letter, the attorneys stated that the creation of a new, independent Malibu Unified School District would "largely be completed" by the summer of 2026.

thomas@smdp.com

HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 4

Being homeless is incredibly bad for your health, Kushel said. As soon as someone loses their housing, everything else starts to fall apart. Drug use tends to get worse, people lose the medication that treats their chronic illnesses, and they don't go to the doctor for preventative care because they're too busy worrying about where they'll sleep or what they'll eat. That means something like a small infection can turn life-threatening quickly.

And once someone is diagnosed with a serious illness, treatment is much harder on the street. A recent study of veterans with cancer, co-authored by Kushel, found that those without housing were 10% to 20% more likely to die than those with housing. Even for veterans who started out homeless during the study, once they found housing, their risk of dying plummeted.

"There is increasing evidence that you can prevent a lot of these deaths just by getting people housed," Kushel said.

Clinicians who treat people on the street are watching in real time as conditions for their patients become more deadly. Whenever outreach workers call Dr. Susan Partovi, medical director of Homeless Health Care Los Angeles and author of the memoir Renegade MD, the first thing she asks is "Who died?"

All too often, it's someone she knew.

"It's really heartbreaking," she said, "when you know someone, and you know their humor, and you know their dreams, and you know their past history, and you know their ups and downs in life…And you're kind of in the trenches with them and their struggles. And then they die. It's just so disheartening. It's just so sad."

This article was originally published by CalMatters.



MONDAY | MARCH 4

DISABILITIES COMMISSION

The Disabilities Commission helps improve the quality of life for people with disabilities in Santa Monica by prioritizing issues of concern and advising the City Council and City Staff on those issues. The Commission recommends ways to maximize participation of people with disabilities in all facets of City life and increase awareness of the abilities, rights and issues of people with disabilities throughout the community. Civic Center Parking Structure, 333 Civic Center Dr. 6:30 p.m. https://www.smgov.net/departments/clerk/boards.aspx?id=53687092550

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

The Architectural Review Board established in 1974, acts "to preserve existing areas of natural beauty, cultural importance and assure that buildings, structures, signs or other developments are in good taste, good design, harmonious with surrounding developments, and in general contribute to the preservation of Santa Monica's reputation as a place of beauty, spaciousness and quality." 7 p.m. City Hall, 1685 Main Street. https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Architectural-Review-Board/

TUESDAY | MARCH 5

FICTION BOOK CLUB

This lively group of avid readers meets on the first Tuesday of each month to discuss a work of fiction. Books selected for discussion can be new or old and come from a wide array of genres, styles, and authors. Upcoming selections include:
March 5: Christine Falls by Benjamin Black. Donald Bruce Kaufman - Brentwood Branch Library 11820 San Vicente Boulevard, Los Angeles, 1 p.m. https://www.lapl.org/whats-on/events/fiction-book-club-0

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS CLUB

Learn how to play Dungeons & Dragons, from crafting the perfect character to participating in an ongoing campaign. Materials provided. For ages 10-18. Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Avenue, 4:30 - 6 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY REFORM AND OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING

Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission Agenda https://www.santamonica.gov/public-safety-reform-and-oversight-commission

LA MADE PRESENTS: MEDITATION TO REDUCE STRESS AND INCREASE JOY

This is a workshop/presentation on meditation/mindfulness. She will go over the history of meditation, the benefits of meditation (including neuroscience) in plain language, frequently asked questions regarding how to overcome barriers and intimidation factors, and how to know you are doing it "right." The class will practice 3 very different meditation types so participants can have the experience. This LA Made program was made possible with the generous support of the National Endowment for the Humanities. For ADA accommodations, call (213) 228-7430 at least 72 hours prior to the event. Venice - Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library, 501 S. Venice Boulevard. 1 p.m.

SOCIAL SERVICE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY PROVIDENCE ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM

Help with family nutrition and health care access is resuming at Virginia Avenue Park thanks to Providence St. John's Community Health Program. Trained community health workers will be available to meet in person with community members at the Park Center Building in Virginia Avenue Park. The first Tuesday of the month 11:30 am to 7 pm and 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Tuesdays from 9:30 am to 5 pm. The trained Providence St. John's staff can assist with enrollment in CalFresh, the state of California's food subsidy program created to improve the nutrition of families through access to healthy foods. Staff can also help navigate enrollment or questions for MediCal and Medicare. If you have questions about whether you qualify for benefits or if you need help completing enrollment forms, you can make an appointment by calling 310.458.8688. Drop-ins are also welcome. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave.

WEDNESDAY | MARCH 6

PLANNING COMMISSION

Established in 1946, the Planning Commission envisions Santa Monica as a city of wellbeing, sustainability, and equity, and seeks to balance the many needs and priorities within our community in accordance with the City's General Plan and Specific Plans. The Commission acts through open and civil discourse that is informed by public input, impartial analysis, and best practices in land use and planning. 6 p.m. Council Chambers, 1685 Main Street. https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Planning-Commission/

COME SING WITH THE BAND - LIVE BAND KARAOKE!!

Doors open at 8 PM. Show starts at 9:30PM. Online ticket sales end at 7 PM, tics available at the door after 8 PM. 2 drink minimum. New Band!! New Experience!! Come in Sign up SING! Harvelle's Santa Monica, 1432 4th St, $5 https://santamonica.harvelles.com/shows/249292

THURSDAY | MARCH 7

TECH & TASKS

Volunteer tutors provide help with reading documents or written tasks, using mobile devices, navigating government websites, filling out forms, using email, writing resumes, and more. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 2 - 4 p.m.

COMMUNITY INFO TABLE: JOB HUNTING WITH CHRYSALIS

Chrysalis reps provide free job resources and assistance. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 2 - 4 p.m.

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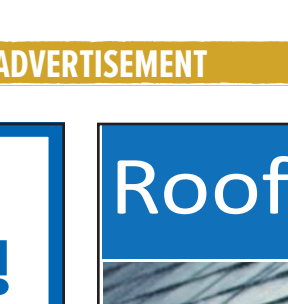


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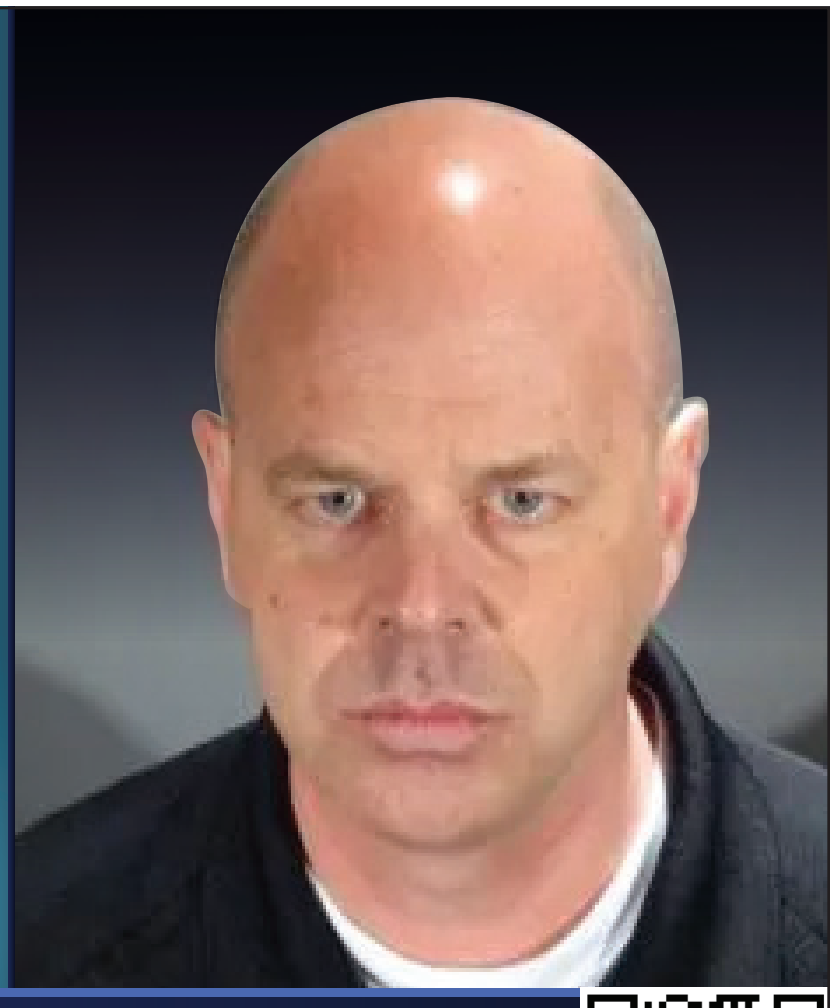
SEEKING ERIC ULLER TIPSTERS



Do you have information that can shed light on how Eric Uller of Santa Monica's Police Activities League (PAL) was able to sexually abuse hundreds of children in the late 1980s to early 2000s?

- **Why were reports that Uller was sexually abusing children ignored?**
- **Who at PAL or the Santa Monica Police Department had information?**
- **How was he able to masquerade as a police officer?**

Please contact our firm. Your identity will remain confidential. Help fill in the missing pieces of this puzzle so that we can understand how this happened - for almost 30 years.



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