2 **Needle exchange**
Split vote on opposition.

3 **Fast Fashion**
Shein comes to the mall.

4 **Prop 1 passes**
Changes to local funding.

8&9 **Real Estate Map**
What's for sale?

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 90 THE WEEKENDER 3/22-3/24 smdp.com

Santa Monica's household payment pie goes beyond housing

$3598 per month

The avg. household in Santa Monica, California pays $3,598 per month, or $43,176 per year on bills.

#103 in California

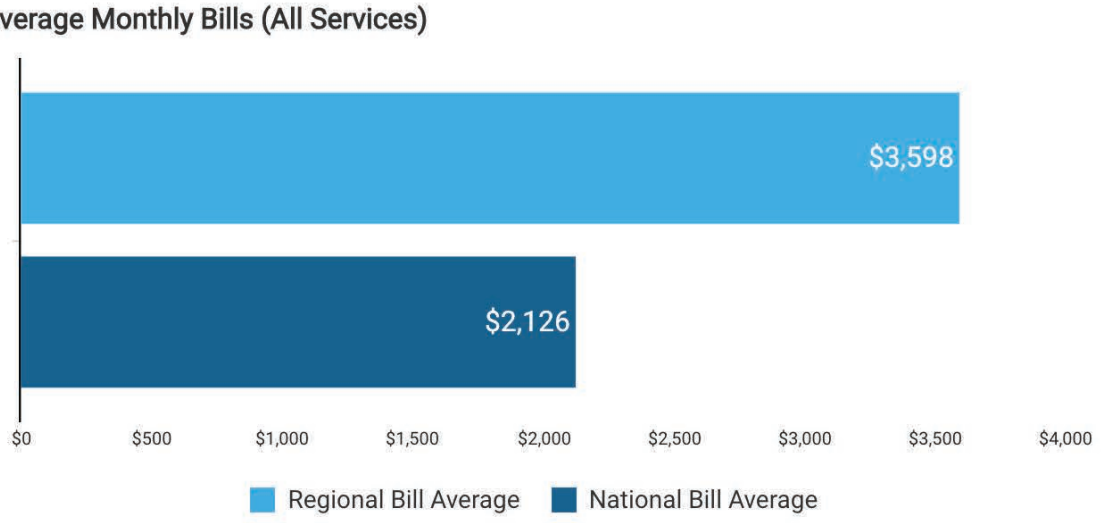
Santa Monica, California is the #103 most expensive City in California for household expenses.

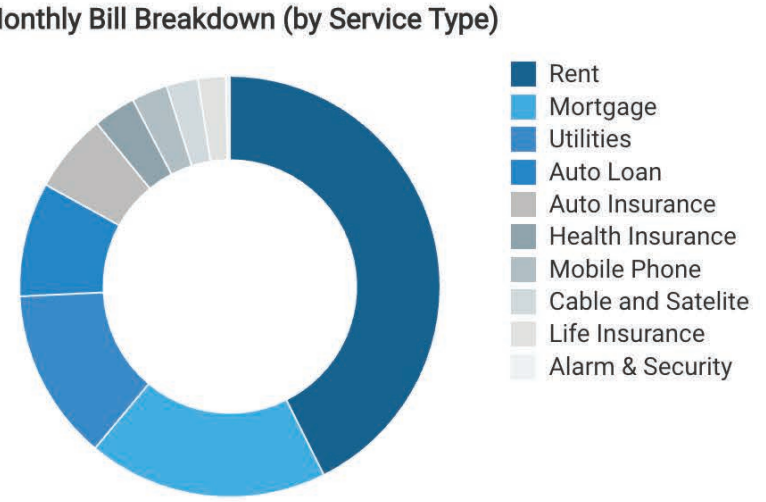
69.2% higher

Household expenses in Santa Monica, California are 69.2% more than the US average.

39% of income

Household bills account for 39% of annual household income of $88,521 in Santa Monica, California.





Courtesy image

BILLS: Santa Monicans pay more than the statewide average for household bills including housing, utilities, insurance and phone/internet.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica's position within the Los Angeles metro area leaves residents susceptible to higher rents and mortgages, but these expenses are just part of a bigger payment picture.

Locals paying more to live in their abodes extends to other household bills, with new analysis stating that household expenses in Santa Monica are much higher than the average United States home. According to the data by Doxo Insights, average household expenses in the city equate to $3,598 per month, a gap of 69.2% higher than the U.S. average of $2,126. Along with rent or mortgage payments, "household expenses" encompass categories like auto loans, utilities, health insurance, auto insurance, cable and internet, mobile phone plans, alarms and security, as well as life insurance.

Of course, rent and mortgage is still the largest piece of the pie, as the Doxo report states the average Santa Monica rent bill of $2,223 is nearly $1,000 more than the national average of $1,300 per month. The mortgage bill gap is even larger, with Santa Monica's payments averaging $3,491 per month compared to the national average of $1,402.

In the other categories researched by Doxo, the most egregious gaps between Santa Monica payments and national payments lies in utilities and life insurance. Average utility bills in the city equate to $601 per month, more than $200 over the national average. Santa Monicans pay more overall for insurance and citizens of Santa Monica are older on average than the nation which also drives up life insurance costs.

Insurance in general has been an issue for several locals, including Ocean Park resident

SEE **BILLS** PAGE 12



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Split council votes to condemn County's "Harm Reduction Services" program

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

In a predictable 4-3 split along party lines, City Council voted to prepare and return for Council approval within 30 days a resolution expressing the City's disapproval of Los Angeles County's implementation of the "Harm Reduction Services" program, or "needle exchange program," in Santa Monica.

The essence of the discussion revolved around a program whereby every week in the centrally located Christine Emerson Reed Park, a transit van from the Venice Family Clinic distributes clean syringes, Narcan and fentanyl testing kits to anyone suffering from drug addiction.

According to City Manager David White, the program is "contracted to operate up to three hours per week in the city, but right now they're operating one hour per week in the city" and "particularly in Reed Park."

A significant cause of concern is that St. Monica's school is directly opposite Reed Park, which incorporates publicly accessible basketball and tennis courts. However, the Los Angeles Times recently published a story on this contentious issue that included a photograph of the program also operating in Tongva Park.

Critics claim the program enables the continued use of drugs, draws more homeless to the city and makes parks unsafe, but researchers have linked syringe programs with a roughly 50% reduction in HIV and hepatitis C. Los Angeles County originally initiated the program — without any input whatsoever from the City of Santa Monica — in a number of parks during the pandemic, including Palisades Park, Reed Park and Tongva Park.

Following an overdose death of a homeless person found in Palisades Park in July, 2022, then Mayor Sue Himmelrich called for a halt to the program and "immediately [move] this program to a service rich environment (preferably indoors) where individuals in need of substance abuse, mental health, and other services can coordinate and work directly with service providers" in a unanimous open letter sent to Los Angeles County officials in September of that year.

However, the program has remained in operation. Local officials have not been consulted on nor do they have authority over the program prompting a lawsuit from Downtown property owner John Alle's over the legality of the program.

Councilmember Christine Parra opened the discussion, however, much like

SEE **NEEDLE EXCHANGE** PAGE 12

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Shein hopes to shine at Santa Monica Place pop-up

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Global fashion giant Shein can probably produce an entire garment in less time than it takes you to read this story and while fans of the fast-fashion company have traditionally only been able to see the latest designs online, a limited time pop-up at Santa Monica Place will allow customers to get their hands on the clothing in real time.

The Shein pop-up will be open from Friday through Sunday on the ground floor of the East Galleria and is the first US pop-up for the company this year.

"We launched the SHEIN pop-up concept in 2018 and have found that our customers really enjoy interacting with the brand in person, giving them a chance to touch and feel the products and explore new category offerings like items from our GLOWMODE or SHEGLAM brands," said Shein Media Relations Manager Alyssa Lyles. "Last year we hosted eight pop-ups across the country and dozens around the world. At each pop-up, we welcomed thousands of SHEIN fans, with some lining up as early as 5 a.m. While the exact offerings at each location varies, pop-up visitors can expect to find a variety of the season's hottest trends and fan favorites."

The Chinese-Singaporean company is a true powerhouse of modern fashion. The brand rose to popularity among young shoppers and while it was initially focused on shipping rather than designing, it has evolved into a fully integrated retailer. Its prowess in the supply chain business is said to rival that of Amazon and the company was valued at about $100 billion in 2022.

While the clothes are immensely popular among Gen Z influencers and their young fans, the company has been criticized for a variety of issues including its environmental impact, trademark disputes, labor laws and product safety concerns.

Local officials said the store is a boon for the local economy.

"We are thrilled to be hosting the globally recognized brand SHEIN at Santa Monica Place for a short-term weekend pop-up. These temporary activations allow us to diversify our offering and provide the consumer with something they haven't seen before, complementing our collection of premier retail, shops and entertainment," said Stephanie Eglin, Santa Monica Place General Manager.

Temporary stores have become an important part of the retail mix downtown as have short-term "experiences" that combine museum/retail/social media concepts. Recent successful examples include a wildly popular Barbie experience, a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles movie tie-in and a Star Wars exhibit.

"Pop-ups fill vacancies and serve as additional destinations Downtown while generating income and revenue for our commercial property owners and the City of Santa Monica in the form of business license taxes and sales taxes," said Downtown Santa Monica CEO Andrew Thomas. "Pop-ups also bring us unique and innovative uses like World of Barbie, the Dr. Seuss Experience, The Immersive BTS Exhibition, and The Fans Strike Back. Pop-up retail businesses have a history of doing well in Santa Monica, and we are excited to welcome Shein to our community."

> We launched the SHEIN pop-up concept in 2018 and have found that our customers really enjoy interacting with the brand in person, giving them a chance to touch and feel the products and explore new category offerings like items from our GLOWMODE or SHEGLAM brands
> - Alyssa Lyles, Shein Media Relations Manager

Lyles the local area contains one of the largest group of Shein shoppers in the country and the Santa Monica store will focus on their new seasonal collection.

"As California officially transitions into Spring, we wanted to provide shoppers with access to the latest spring styles that are perfect for upcoming destination getaways and outdoor adventures. These transitional styles are perfect for the changing LA weather as customers prepare for Spring and Summer," she said.

For more information on the pop-up, visit https://us.shein.com/campaigns/santa_monica_pop.

editor@smdp.com

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



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **60.4**

FRIDAY — ***FAIR***
SURF: 2-3ft+ Thigh to stomach
Another deep high tide to slog through in the morning. WNW swell could get a little refresh, blending with lingering SW/SSW swell. On the smaller side but some cruisy lines for the points and peaks for combo spots out west.

SATURDAY — ***FAIR***
SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist
WNW swell continues, mixing with easing SW/SSW swell. Conditions look dicey at this point, potential for onshore westerly wind out of the gates, then steadily rising in the afternoon.

Weather

Friday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 64. East southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
Friday Night: A 20 percent chance of rain after 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 53. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Saturday: Rain likely. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 62. Breezy, with a south southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 49. Breezy.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)	High/Low
2024/03/22	Fri	02:38 AM	1.37		L
2024/03/22	Fri	08:34 AM	5.04		H
2024/03/22	Fri	3:12 PM	-0.28		L
2024/03/22	Fri	9:28 PM	4.34		H
2024/03/23	Sat	03:07 AM	1.02		L
2024/03/23	Sat	09:05 AM	4.99		H
2024/03/23	Sat	3:32 PM	-0.10		L
2024/03/23	Sat	9:44 PM	4.54		H
2024/03/24	Sun	03:36 AM	0.72		L
2024/03/24	Sun	09:35 AM	4.82		H
2024/03/24	Sun	3:50 PM	0.15		L
2024/03/24	Sun	10:01 PM	4.74		H
2024/03/25	Mon	04:06 AM	0.47		L
2024/03/25	Mon	10:06 AM	4.56		H
2024/03/25	Mon	4:08 PM	0.44		L
2024/03/25	Mon	10:20 PM	4.90		H
2024/03/26	Tue	04:39 AM	0.29		L
2024/03/26	Tue	10:38 AM	4.21		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: 10/11
22 24 40 52 64
Power#: 10
Jackpot: 20 M

MEGA MILLIONS — Draw Date: 10/10
3 8 17 46 63
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: 48 M

SuperLotto Plus — Draw Date: 10/11
17 30 36 38 39
Mega#: 2
Jackpot: 17 M

Fantasy 5 — Draw Date: 10/11
20 23 26 31 33

Daily 3 — Draw Date: 10/12
MIDDAY: 4 9 2
Draw Date: 10/11
EVENING: 3 1 3

Daily Derby — Draw Date: 10/11
1st: 05 - California Classic
2nd: 08 - Gorgeous George
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:40.30

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Santa Monica Daily Press

With Prop. 1 passage, Gavin Newsom again changes how Californians with mental illness get help

JOCELYN WIENER
Special to the Daily Press

After days of uncertainty, the results are finally in: Californians, by a slim majority, have voted to throw their support behind Gov. Gavin Newsom's latest effort to overhaul how the state cares for people with serious mental illness.

The Associated Press on Wednesday declared that Proposition 1 passed by the narrowest of margins, 50.2% to 49.8%.

The passage of the two-pronged ballot measure will give Newsom funds to fulfill promises he has made while rolling out a series of other mental health policies in recent years – more housing, more treatment beds and a concerted focus on unhoused people with serious mental illnesses.

But it leaves the governor's critics — including disability rights advocates and individuals living with mental illness — worried about cuts to other mental health programs and fearful it will result in the state placing more people in involuntary treatment.

The governor championed Prop. 1, which he has said "will help California make good on promises made decades ago."

The initiative includes a $6.4 billion bond to pay for treatment beds and permanent supportive housing. It also requires that counties spend more of the mental health funds they receive from a special tax on income over $1 million on services for people who are chronically homeless.

While the ballot measure initially seemed a shoo-in, public support wavered in recent months. In part, that's because the state's ballooning deficit came into stark focus — with the Legislative Analyst's Office projecting last month that it might be as big as $73 billion. Opponents of the ballot measure had also raised concerns that it could siphon money from community mental health organizations, possibly causing some to close.

Public concern about homelessness and a multi-million dollar advertising campaign eventually carried the measure to victory —but just barely.

"It's still not a huge vote of confidence," said Thad Kousser, a UC San Diego professor of political science. He says Newsom failed to convince voters of just how effective other billion-dollar investments in helping unhoused people have been.

"To me, given the strong message, the money behind the message, the lack of organized opposition, I would have guessed at the beginning of this campaign it was headed for a 60-40 win," Kousser said.

Nevertheless, it did squeak by. And under the just-approved ballot measure, counties are now required to invest 30% of the money they receive from the state's "millionaire's tax" into housing programs, including rental subsidies and navigation services. Half of that will be used to target individuals who are chronically unhoused or living in encampments. Up to a quarter of the money could be used to build or purchase housing units.

The second part of the measure, the bond, is divided into two parts. About $4.4 billion will go toward inpatient and residential treatment beds. The rest is earmarked for permanent supportive housing, half of which would be set aside for veterans.

Darrell Steinberg, the mayor of Sacramento who co-authored the 2004 law that created the millionaire's tax, said that, back then, he could "only dream that there would someday be a governor that would make mental illness and fixing the broken system a cornerstone of his governorship."

> To me, given the strong message, the money behind the message, the lack of organized opposition, I would have guessed at the beginning of this campaign it was headed for a 60-40 win
>
> - Thad Kousser, a UC San Diego professor of political science

"Gavin Newsom has done that," he said.

GAVIN NEWSOM'S MENTAL HEALTH PLANS

Mental health has been one of Newsom's priorities since before he took office. He campaigned for the governorship with big ideas about how California's mental health system might be fixed and, specifically, about how funds from the "millionaire's tax" for mental health could be better used.

In a 2018 post on Medium months before he was elected, Newsom decried the state's lack of commitment to improving mental health care.

"We fall short because we lack the bold leadership and strategic vision necessary to bring the most advanced forms of care to scale across the state," he wrote. "We lack the political will necessary to elevate brain illness as a top-tier priority. We lack the unity and fervor needed to rally the medical and research communities around an unyielding search for ever-better diagnosis and treatment. We're all living with the fallout."

The need for mental health treatment continued to skyrocket since he took office. The COVID-19 pandemic dramatically worsened the problem. The public experienced escalating trauma and anxiety, while mental health providers became increasingly burnt out.

Meanwhile, the number of unhoused people in the state continued to explode– growing 40% since 2018, the year Newsom was elected, to a current estimate of 181,000.

In response, Newsom has championed a stream of major mental health initiatives. These include:

A $4.7 billion package of programs for children and youth mental health.

The creation of new court systems to address the needs of people with serious mental illness. They're called Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Courts.

A new law that makes it easier to force certain people with serious mental illnesses into involuntary treatment. It amended the definition of "grave disability" originally laid out in the landmark 1967 Lanterman-Petris-Short Act, which limited involuntary confinement in the interest of protecting the civil rights of people with mental illnesses.

In addition, his administration is also overseeing the implementation of a statewide effort that promises to expand and streamline access to mental health care for people insured by Medi-Cal, the public insurance program for low-income Californians. It's called California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM).



Photo by José Luis Villegas for CalMatters

PROP 1: Kimberlee Booth, center, of San Luis Obispo marches with other supporters following speeches at a rally in support of Prop. 1 at the state Capitol on Jan. 31, 2024. The proposition aims to reform mental healthcare in the state.

EXPECTING BETTER OUTCOMES

Sen. Susan Talamantes Eggman, a Stockton Democrat who has carried legislation to enact Newsom's mental health programs, said the stream of recent policy changes will eventually lead to changing outcomes – but not yet.

"Policywise, the landscape is shifting dramatically," she said. "It will take a few years for practice to catch up."

She emphasizes that Prop. 1 has a lot of transparency and accountability measures attached, to ensure that the measure leads to concrete change.

But Newsom's critics worry that many of his big initiatives – including Prop. 1, CARE Court and the broadened definition of grave disability – reflect an effort to move the state toward more forced treatment.

"It's all in preparation of hiding the homeless instead of helping them," said Paul Simmons, executive director of Californians Against Prop. 1. "It will still be a bridge to nowhere, pushing people into a system that can't even handle what we have now."

QUESTIONS ABOUT PROP. 1

Alex Barnard, a New York University

SEE **PROP 1** PAGE 10

French bulldogs remain the most popular US breed in new rankings. Many fans aren't happy

JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press

French bulldogs. U.S. dog owners. C'est l'amour.

Frenchies remained the United States' most commonly registered purebred dogs last year, according to American Kennel Club rankings released Wednesday. The club calls the Frenchie the most popular breed, though other canine constituencies may beg to differ.

Is it a coup to be celebrated? Au contraire, say longtime fans who rue what popularity is doing to the breed. Nevertheless, after lapping Labrador retrievers to take the top spot in 2022, the bat-eared, scaled-down bulldogs held on in the new standings, which reflect puppies and other dogs that were added last year to the United States' oldest dog registry.

Meanwhile, dachshunds are at a nearly two-decade peak, the cane corso is making moves, and there's a new breed in the mix.

Of course, purebreds are only part of the canine population in the U.S., where animal shelters faced an influx of all sorts of dogs last year. Here's a snapshot:

TOP 10

After Frenchies, the most common breeds registered were Labs, golden retrievers, German shepherds and poodles. Then came dachshunds, bulldogs, beagles, Rottweilers and German shorthaired pointers.

All were also in the top 10 in 2022. A decade ago, Yorkshire terriers and boxers were in the group. Go back a half-century, and the third most popular breed was the Irish setter — now 76th.

Pooch preferences shift for reasons ranging from media exposure (social and otherwise) to changing lifestyles as more Americans have moved to cities.

The statistics have limits. Registration is voluntary, the AKC releases few raw numbers, and the popularity rankings measure only the club's roughly 200 recognized breeds. They don't include doodles, other deliberate hybrids or everyday mixed-breed dogs, though those can be registered as "all-American dogs" for such sports as agility and obedience.

THE FRENCHIE MALAISE

Nearly 98,500 French bulldogs joined the AKC pack last year, after a whopping 108,000 in 2022.

The small, solidly built, push-faced dogs have a penchant for comically pensive expressions and often take city living in stride. "They're interesting little beings," says Naneice Bucci, who has owned and shown them for decades.

The breed also is now a lightning rod for canine controversy and cultural critique.

There are the foreshortened snouts that can result in labored breathing, gagging, difficulty with exercise and other ills — concerns that prompted the Netherlands to ban breeding certain individual dogs with muzzles deemed too short. There are pet-store heists and violent robberies, at least one of them deadly. There's a proliferation of Frenchies with unusual coat colors and textures, which have Frenchie folk squabbling over longtime standards.

And there's concern among long-timers that the hot market for puppies is incentivizing people who are in it for greed, not the breed.

To Bucci, "it's a very scary time."

As a "preservation breeder" who follows AKC standards and conducts a battery of internationally recommended health tests before her dogs reproduce, she dreads that breeders who don't do likewise may lead to crackdowns on everyone. And as a founder of Nevada French Bulldog Rescue, she also sees "all of the underbelly of the people who breed indiscriminately."

"Every time we take in a Frenchie that's in terrible condition, yes, I get angry," says Bucci, who lives near Reno. "But at the same time, I don't want to be punished for trying to do it right."

DACHSHUND REDUX

Among other breeds, the unmistakable, low-slung dachshund is riding high at No. 6, its highest ranking since 2004. The dogs ranked as high as third at times in the 1950s-70s.

Their combination of sprightly cuteness, small size and determination — they were originally bred to roust badgers — endear them to many. They also have a full-sized bark and a tendency toward stubbornness.

"Even though they're small, people have to remember: They are hounds," says Carole Krivanich of Milton, Delaware, whose nearly 15-year-old dachshund Mo is an agility and show champion. A longtime Rottweiler owner, she's found dachshunds to be "very versatile" and good companions.

ON A COURSE FOR PUP-ULARITY

The cane corso (pronounced CAH'-neh COOR'-soh) is now 16th in the rankings, remarkable for a breed the AKC first started counting as recently as 2010. (Perhaps it helped that owners have included such figures as NBA great LeBron James and Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes.)

The dogs are praised as protective, trainable and attached to their people. But the strong breed is "not for somebody that doesn't know how to control a dog," AKC spokesperson Brandi Hunter Munden says.

WHO'S NEW?

The bracco Italiano debuts in the standings at 152nd most popular. But the large, long-eared bird-hunters aren't exactly obscure. Country music power couple Tim McGraw and Faith Hill have shared the antics of their bracchi Italiani (that's the proper plural) on social media. A bracco co-owned by McGraw

SEE **BULLDOG** PAGE 12



City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS TO THE

TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE
&
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

UNSCHEDULED VACANCIES

Transient Occupancy Tax Advisory Committee:
One seat available for a term ending June 30, 2025.
Applicant must be a member or representative of a local hospitality business.

Commission on Sustainability, Environmental Justice, and the Environment:
One seat available for a term ending June 30, 2024.
Applicant must have significant expertise in one or more areas of environmental policy and must reside or work in Santa Monica.

Applications are due by noon, Tuesday, May 7th, 2024.
Appointments to be made by City Council, Tuesday, May 14th, 2024.

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

The State Political Reform Act requires certain officeholders to disclose their interest and income which may be materially affected by their official action. The applicants appointed to serve in these positions will be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) upon assuming office, and annually thereafter. In addition, this position will be required to complete two hours of Ethics Training (AB1234) biennially, as well as attend other city sponsored trainings deemed necessary by the city.

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

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

City of Santa Monica

SUBJECT: **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF PROPOSED 2024-25 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN ALLOCATING FEDERAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) & HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP ACT PROGRAM (HOME) FUNDS**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides annual CDBG and HOME entitlement funds to the City of Santa Monica. As a recipient of these federal funds, HUD requires the City to develop a five-year Consolidated Plan along with Annual Action Plans for housing and community development which identify high priority needs and the associated goals, strategies, and resources anticipated over a five-year period.

Notice is hereby given that the City of Santa Monica has developed the Proposed 2024-25 Annual Action Plan, which identifies the City's specific projects and activities for one-year use of CDBG and HOME funds to address the high-priority needs specified in the 2020-24 Consolidated Plan.

The Proposed 2024-25 Annual Action Plan is now available to the public for a 30-day review period beginning March 22, 2024. Both the Proposed 2024-25 Annual Action Plan and the HUD-approved 2020-24 Consolidated Plan can be viewed at www.santamonica.gov/community-development-block-grant-and-home-investment-partnership-programs .

Hard copies are available upon request through the Housing and Human Services Department by telephone at (310) 458-8701 or by email at humanservices@santamonica.gov. Written comments may be submitted by April 22, 2024 to humanservices@santamonica.gov or by mail to: Housing and Human Services Department, 1685 Main Street, MS22, Santa Monica, CA 90401. All comments received will be incorporated into the final draft of the 2024-25 Annual Action Plan, currently due to HUD by May 15, 2024. The City Council is scheduled to consider approval of the proposed plan on April 23, 2024.

ESPAÑOL Esto es un aviso público para invitar a cualquier parte interesada a participar en el repaso del Plan Preliminar de Acción Anual del Año Fiscal 2024-25. Si necesita más información, por favor llame a Ivy Chang en la División de Servicios Humanos al número (310) 458-8701.

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Reddit, the self-anointed 'front page of the internet,' soars in Wall Street debut

MICHAEL LIEDTKE AND WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS
AP Business Writers

Reddit's stock soared in its Wall Street debut as investors pushed the value of the company close to $9 billion seconds after it began trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

Reddit, which priced its IPO at $34 a share, debuted Thursday afternoon at $47 a share. At the close of trading, it was up 48% at $50.44, backing off a peak of $57.80.

> This volatility is not surprising because there has been a lot of buzz around Reddit
>
> - Reena Aggarwal, director of Georgetown University's Psaros Center for Financial Markets and Policy

"This volatility is not surprising because there has been a lot of buzz around Reddit," Reena Aggarwal, director of Georgetown University's Psaros Center for Financial Markets and Policy, noted.

When Reddit's price initially jumped, she explained, some investors who got an allocation may have sold their shares to cash in on the gains, bringing it back down. She noted that this could to continue in the stock's early days.

Reddit's IPO will test the quirky company's ability to overcome a nearly 20-year history colored by uninterrupted losses, management turmoil and user backlashes to build a sustainable business.

The interest surrounding Reddit stems largely from a large audience that religiously visits the service to discuss a potpourri of subjects that range from silly memes to existential worries, as well as get recommendations from like-minded people.

About 76 million users checked into one of Reddit's roughly 100,000 communities in December, according to the regulatory disclosures required before the San Francisco company goes public. Reddit set aside up to 1.76 million of 15.3 million shares being offered in the IPO for users of its service.

Per the usual IPO custom, the remaining shares are expected to be bought primarily by mutual funds and other institutional investors betting Reddit is ready for prime time in finance.

Reddit's moneymaking potential also has attracted some prominent supporters, including OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, who accumulated a stake as an early investor that has made him one of the company's biggest shareholders. Altman owns 12.2 million shares of Reddit stock, according to the company's IPO disclosures.

By the tech industry's standards, Reddit remains extraordinarily small for a company that has been around as long as it has. Thursday's opening debut valuation of $9 billion, for example, is still far below the $1.2 trillion market value boasted by Meta Platforms — whose biggest social media service Facebook was started just 18 months earlier than Reddit.

Reddit has never profited from its broad reach while piling up cumulative losses of $717 million. That number has swollen from cumulative losses of $467 million in December 2021 when the company first filed papers to go public before aborting that attempt.

In the recent documents filed for its revived IPO, Reddit attributed the losses to a fairly recent focus on finding new ways to boost revenue.

Not long after it was born, Reddit was sold to magazine publisher Conde Nast for $10 million in deal that meant the company didn't need to run as a standalone business. Even after Conde Nast parent Advance Magazine Publishers spun off Reddit in 2011, the company said in its IPO filing that it didn't begin to focus on generating revenue until 2018.

Those efforts, mostly centered around selling ads, have helped the social platform increase its annual revenue from $229 million in 2020 to $804 million last year. But the San Francisco-based company also posted combined losses of $436 million from 2020 through 2023.

Reddit outlined a strategy in its filing calling for even more ad sales on a service that it believes companies will be a powerful marketing magnet because so many people search for product recommendations there.

The company also is hoping to bring in more money by licensing access to its content in deals similar to the $60 million that Google recently struck to help train its artificial intelligence models. That ambition, though, faced an almost immediate challenge when the U.S. Federal Trade Commission opened an inquiry into the arrangement.

Since Thursday just marks Reddit's first day on the public market, Aggarwal stressed that the first key measure of success will boil down to the company's next earnings call.

"As a public company now they have to report a lot more ... in the next earnings release," she said. "I'm sure the market will watch that carefully."

Reddit also experienced tumultuous bouts of instability in leadership that may scare off prospective investors. Company co-founders Steve Huffman and Alexis Ohanian — also the husband of tennis superstar Serena Williams — both left Reddit in 2009 while Conde Nast was still in control, only to return years later.

SEE **REDDIT** PAGE 12

HOA HOMEFRONT

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Wrong Statements About "Toxic Mold" Panicking Residents [Part 1]

KELLY G. RICHARDSON, ESQ. CCAL

In 2000, a new panic swept the country- "toxic mold." Twenty-four years of lawsuits and untold billions of dollars later, major mold myths continue to frighten residents and cause exaggerated repairs and unnecessary conflict. On one side of the debate is the mold industry- testers, consultants, and mold clean-up contractors. On the other side are the federal and state governmental health agencies. The mold industry has a major reason to fund advertising, while the government has little funding to distribute its information. This column and the next address some of the misstatements misleading homeowners, HOA boards, and managers, because overreaction is expensive.

Mold is new. Mold, one of the earliest and simplest life forms, has existed for more than tens of thousands of years. Mold is ever-present, like dust or pollen, and only became a cause of fear in 2000.

Mainstream scientific research confirms mold's many serious dangers. In 2004, the National Institute of Medicine published its comprehensive study on indoor mold exposure, in a book called "Damp Indoor Spaces and Health." The study's central finding was: "Scientific evidence links mold ... to asthma symptoms in some people with the chronic disorder, as well as to coughing, wheezing, and upper respiratory tract symptoms in otherwise healthy people... However, the available evidence does not support an association between ... mold and the wide range of other health complaints that have been ascribed." That sounds like mold is no more dangerous to most people than dust or pollen. The book received little media attention – stories of frightened people living in tents are more interesting.

One must know what kind of mold it is. The mold industry typically describes some molds as worse than others. Their star is Stachybotrys Chartarum, a black mold reported to produce infinitesimal quantities of a toxin similar to botulism. However, the scientific community long ago debunked the myth that mold was poisonous to breathe. For example, read the National Institute of Health Fact Sheet on Mold, https://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/topics/agents/mold, the EPA site www.epa.gov/mold, or the CDC site https://www.cdc.gov/mold/faqs.htm. The mold industry ignores all this and continues to call mold "toxic."

California's Toxic Mold Protection Act of 2001 created mold exposure standards. In 2001, a new Health and Safety Code 26100 instructed the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to develop "Permissible Exposure Limits" regarding the various mold strains. However, in 2005 and 2008, the CDPH reported to the legislature that the task could not be completed with the scientific information available. According to the CDPH, "To date, no federal or state policies set safe exposure limits or quantify the health risks from dampness and mold in buildings." (CDPH Statement on Building Dampness, Mold, and Health, 2016 update).

Mold tests are important. The EPA and California DPH recommend against mold testing. The reason is simple- Per the CDPH, there is no standard as to how much of a given airborne mold is "unhealthy," and indoor air sampling tests are extremely vulnerable to recent events in the home such as a recent shower, window opening, or carpet cleaning. Mold tests mainly serve to unnecessarily frighten the home's occupants with disembodied meaningless spore counts. There is rarely a legitimate reason to spend money on a mold test.

[Part 2 will address more mold myths]

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

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Did Eric Uller drive your child home Santa Monica Police Activities League (PAL) between the late 1980s and early 2000s?



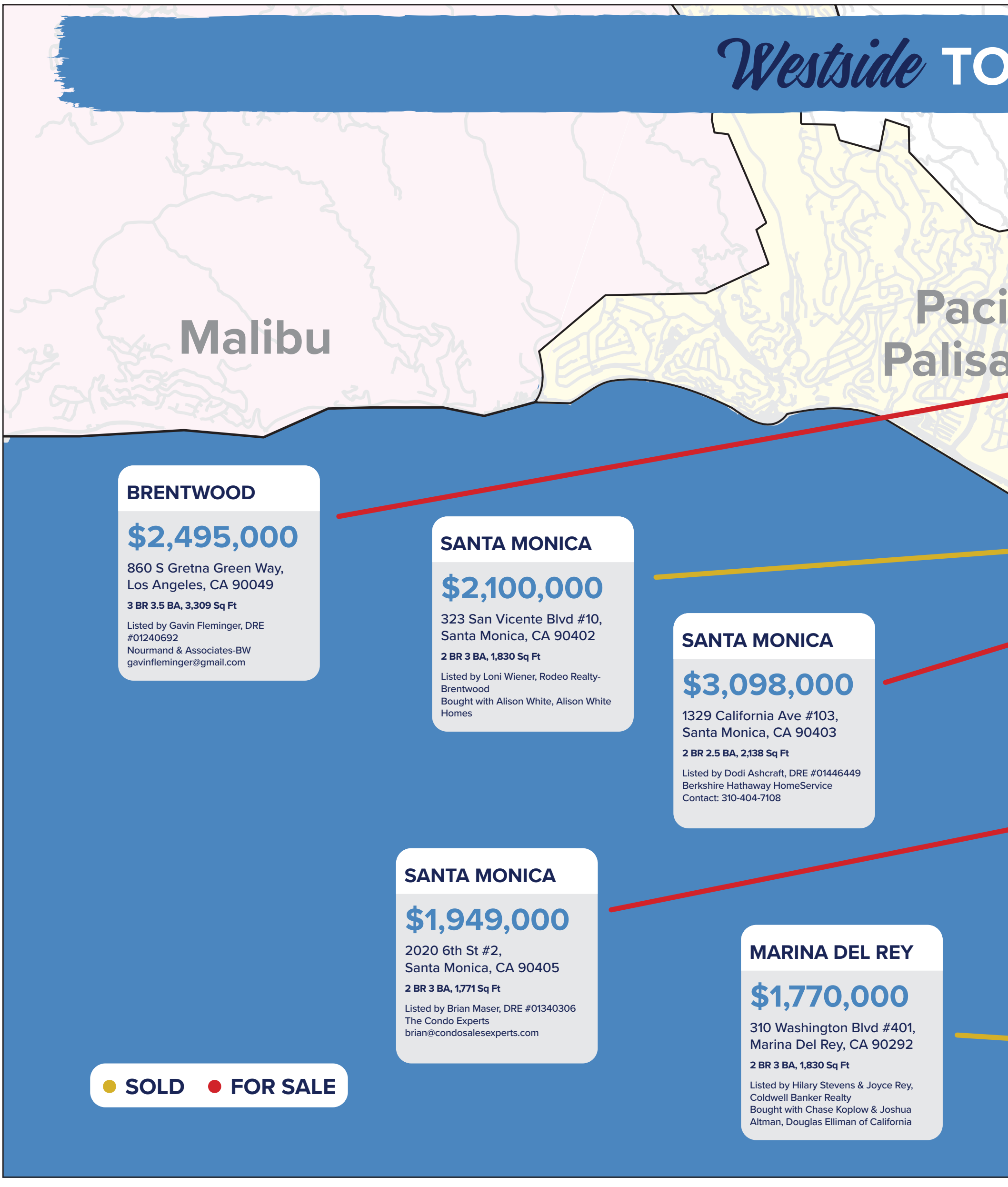
While masquerading as a police officer, Uller sexually abused hundreds of children. It often occurred while giving them a ride home.

Most victims kept it a secret from their loved ones, even to this day.

Your loved one could be eligible for compensation. There may still be time to file a claim.

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Listed by Gavin Fleminger, DRE #01240692
Nourmand & Associates-BW
gavinfleminger@gmail.com

SANTA MONICA

$2,100,000

323 San Vicente Blvd #10,
Santa Monica, CA 90402

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Listed by Loni Wiener, Rodeo Realty-Brentwood
Bought with Alison White, Alison White Homes

SANTA MONICA

$3,098,000

1329 California Ave #103,
Santa Monica, CA 90403

2 BR 2.5 BA, 2,138 Sq Ft

Listed by Dodi Ashcraft, DRE #01446449
Berkshire Hathaway HomeService
Contact: 310-404-7108

SANTA MONICA

$1,949,000

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Santa Monica, CA 90405

2 BR 3 BA, 1,771 Sq Ft

Listed by Brian Maser, DRE #01340306
The Condo Experts
brian@condosalesexperts.com

MARINA DEL REY

$1,770,000

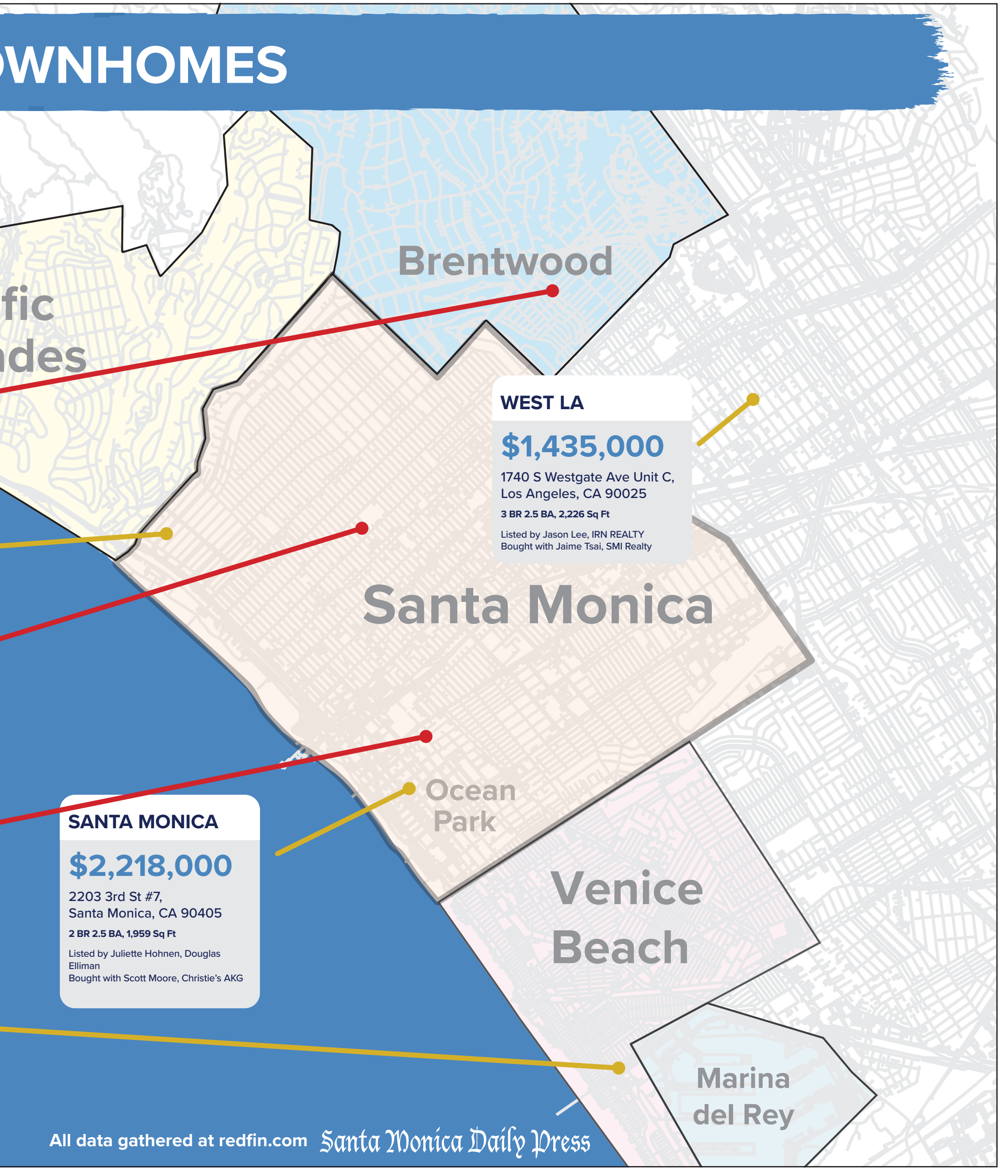
310 Washington Blvd #401,
Marina Del Rey, CA 90292

2 BR 3 BA, 1,830 Sq Ft

Listed by Hilary Stevens & Joyce Rey, Coldwell Banker Realty
Bought with Chase Koplow & Joshua Altman, Douglas Elliman of California

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WEST LA

$1,435,000

1740 S Westgate Ave Unit C,
Los Angeles, CA 90025

3 BR 2.5 BA, 2,226 Sq Ft

Listed by Jason Lee, IRN REALTY
Bought with Jaime Tsai, SMI Realty

SANTA MONICA

$2,218,000

2203 3rd St #7,
Santa Monica, CA 90405

2 BR 2.5 BA, 1,959 Sq Ft

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All data gathered at redfin.com Santa Monica Daily Press

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PROP 1

FROM PAGE 4

professor who has written extensively about California's mental health system, called fears of returning to mass reinstitutionalization "a little bit overstated." But, he said the state is indeed moving toward a more paternalistic and institutional approach toward treating the most seriously mentally ill.

The passage of Prop. 1 will help the administration to fully implement both CARE Court and the recent law expanding the definition of grave disability. But it also raises some thorny issues, he said.

One of these: What type of treatment beds will the state purchase with the bond money and where?

Another: How will county systems deal with the money they stand to lose for mental health services?

A state facing a massive deficit is not coming to the rescue, he said.

And then, there's the question of just how transformative this latest influx of money will prove to be for actual Californians.

"The status quo has been remarkably enduring even in the face of a lot of attempts at reform," he said. "The system has had an incredible amount of inertia."

CalMatters reporter Jeanne Kuang contributed to this story. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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FRIDAY | MARCH 22

STARBIRD GRAND OPENING
In honor of Starbird's entrance into Marina del Rey, the premium fast food concept will be offering free meals to the first 500 guests during its grand opening beginning at 10:30 a.m. Starbird will also include a Starbird Golden Ticket in two orders which will be valid for free Starbird for a year. This includes 52 meals, valued at a maximum of $15, redeemable digitally once per week. Starbird is located at 13161 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey. For more, contact amazzola@fish-consulting.com.

MUCH ADO ABOUT DYING PREMIERE
The Los Angeles premiere of Simon Chambers' IDFA award-winning documentary "Much Ado About Dying" will take place at Laemmle's Monica Film Center, 1332 2nd St., at 1:30 p.m. In the film, Chambers both cares for and documents his eccentric uncle David, showcasing his uncle's performative exuberance, anarchic charisma and physical and mental challenges. Film score by the award-winning composer Irene Buckley. Tickets $13, second showing at 7:30 p.m. For more, visit: https://www.laemmle.com/film/much-ado-about-dying#get-tickets.

THE IRL SHOW
The Crow at 2525 Michigan Ave will host The IRL Show beginning at 7 p.m. Anyone 13 and up can enjoy a night of pro-level comedy with comics from HBO, Comedy Central and NBC. Featuring Jordan Conley, Sam Salem, Reem Edan, Olivia Hill, Kristin Chirico, Chris Martin and Sean Grant. An open mic at 7 p.m. gives teenagers space to try stand-up. Tickets $10 with student ID, $20 without. To purchase tickets, visit: https://jetbook.co/e/irlhqtu.

SATURDAY | MARCH 23

POPPY DAY
Come join Waldorf Early Childhood Center, 1439 15th St., between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. for springtime fun and joyful play. Poppy Day is an event for families with children ages 0-6 that brings people together to celebrate the earth and the renewal of the spring season. From outdoor play to seed planting to crafting to puppet shows to shopping, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Adult tickets $10, children aged 1-6 tickets $12, infants 0-1 free admission. To purchase tickets, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/poppy-day-tickets-836869859277.

COMMUNITY DOG TRAINING CLASSES
Love At First Sit, a pet care and dog behavior and training company in Santa Monica, hosts Community Dog Training Classes Saturdays at 12 p.m. at Virginia Ave Park in Santa Monica. Class fee is $5, then pay what you can after that. Class proceeds are donated to various charities for people and animals, animal shelters, and animal rescues. Class topics explore basic obedience, manners, enrichment and more.

SHERWOOD: THE ADVENTURES OF ROBIN HOOD
Packed with thrills, romance, laughter and immortal characters like Little John, Friar Tuck and Maid Marian, Ken Ludwig's "Sherwood: The Adventures of Robin Hood" tells the enduring story of a hero of the people who take on the ruthless powers that be. The show will take place at the Santa Monica College Main Campus Main Stage, 1900 Pico Blvd, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tickets $20 general admission, $18 senior (62+), $15 SMC students, faculty and staff. Buy tickets at smc.edu/tickets or by calling 310-434-3005.

SUNDAY | MARCH 24

ANIMAL THERAPY + YAPPY HOUR AT THE PIERSIDE HOTEL
Calling all dog lovers! Stop by The Pierside Hotel's expansive outdoor patio on Sunday, March 24th for an exciting wellness collaboration with Bubbles Dog Rescue and Club Rewire. From 2:00 to 4:00 pm, de-stress and enjoy the company of Bubbles' rescue pups in a serene beachside setting. Tickets are available for $25 per person and guests will be asked to purchase a 2-item minimum at the event. Don't forget to bring your furry friends along as well: signature restaurant The Surfing Fox will feature a "Yappy Hour" with $1 off of the restaurant's canine menu items including a "Barkuterie Board" with fresh fruits and veggies, Protein Bowls with lean meats, veggies and white rice, dog cookies and a "Pawsicle" with yogurt and fresh berries. 120 Colorado Ave

ANIMAL FEEDING DEMONSTRATIONS
Swim by and visit the Aquarium every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday to observe local marine animals, and watch live feeding demonstrations by Aquarium staff. Join them for Mealtime at 1:00pm & 3:00pm every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday! Heal the Bay Aquarium, 1600 Ocean Front Walk. Aquarium entry fee is required. https://healthebay.org/event/animal-feeding-demonstrations-2/2024-03-24/

MAIN STREET FARMERS MARKET
The Sunday Main Street Farmers Market features some of California's freshest produce plus prepared foods from local Main Street restaurants as well as artisanal foods prepared with ingredients sourced from California farmers - you can't get more local than that! Also, enjoy musical entertainment from a variety of featured weekly bands, face painting, balloon designs, and bi-weekly cooking demonstrations featuring local produce. Main Street, 2640 Main Street

SMC JAZZ ENSEMBLE
Frederick Keith Fiddmont, Conductor. Enjoy jazz ensemble arrangements from the masters, as well as contemporary works from aspiring composers and arrangers. 1310 11th St. $10. https://www.smc.edu/calendar/index.php#event-details/beb470d7-49e3-4325-b1ef-864f5bc1ca45

SHAKESPEARE'S ROMEO AND JULIET WITH A TWIST OF DANCE
Experience the timeless tale of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet at the intimate Westside Ballet Black Box Theatre - a must-see event. Westside Ballet Black Box Theatre, 1709 Stewart Street, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. $25 - $35. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/shakespeares-romeo-and-juliet-with-a-twist-of-dance-tickets-820406617277

MONDAY | MARCH 25

AIRPORT COMMISSION
The Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the City Council in matters pertaining to the administration of Santa Monica Municipal Airport and other aviation matters affecting the City. The Airport Commission meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, except in August and December when the Commission is in recess. City Hall, 1685 Main Street.

TUESDAY | MARCH 26

TUESDAY TALES: A TRAVELING STORYTIME
This engaging & fun weekly series of stories, songs and rhymes travels to different library locations. Limited space; free tickets available at 10:15 a.m. For ages 2. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd.

TEENS LEADING CHANGE EVENT: ROCK PAINTING
Join organizers for a Teens Leading Change event: Rock Painting for Native Plant Garden. This program is for kids of all ages. Come for snacks, rock paintings, and a fun time! For ADA accommodations, call (213) 228-7430 at least 72 hours prior to the event. 1 - 3 p.m. Palisades Branch Library, 861 Alma Real Drive, Pacific Palisades.

STOP SENIOR SCAMS ACTING PROGRAM
The Stop Senior Scams Acting Program is back with a new presentation to raise awareness about senior fraud for older adults and the community. Ann Stahl, (Ret.) Senior Investigator with the Federal Trade Commission, answers your questions about scam prevention and what to do if you've been scammed. Santa Monica Public Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 2 - 3 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
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. 1685 Main Street, 5:30 p.m.

BELOW MARKET HOUSING - ENGLISH INFORMATION SESSION
Please join organizers for an opportunity to learn more about the City of Santa Monica's Below Market Housing (BMH) Waitlist and Program. There will be an opportunity to talk to City Staff after the presentation. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave.

WEDNESDAY | MARCH 27

COMPUTER CLASS: INTRO TO ZOOM
Get acquainted with the Zoom video chat service. Santa Monica Public Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

VITA: VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE
In partnership with Virginia Avenue Park, volunteers from Haven Neighborhood Services provide free tax preparation assistance. Registration required. Contact VAP staff (310) 458-8688 or vap@santamonica.gov to request a call back (include your name and phone number in the email). Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. 12 - 6 p.m.

SPRING BREAK READING PARTY: FEMALE HEROES & AUTHORS AT MAIN
Bring your book or discover a new one while we read together in the same room, with a different theme for each day. Refreshments provided. For grades K-5. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 2 - 3 p.m.

FLIGHTS OF FANTASY STORY THEATRE
Join the fun when the incomparable duo, Lorrie Oshatz and Theresa Amy, bring their fresh spin on folk tales, fables, and poetry in an interactive and entertaining vaudeville-style show for children of all ages. They celebrate the humor and wisdom inherent in the human experience, drawing upon the wealth of multicultural literature. Be on time for this fast-paced, storytelling theatrical delight! This program was made possible with the generous support of the Library Foundation of Los Angeles. For ADA accommodations, call (213) 228-7430 at least 72 hours prior to the event. 3:30 - 4 p.m. Palisades Branch Library, 861 Alma Real Drive, Pacific Palisades

SPRING BREAK READING PARTY: MYSTERIES & ADVENTURES AT MONTANA
Bring your book or discover a new one while we read together in the same room, with a different theme for each day. Refreshments provided. For grades K-5. Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Avenue, 2 - 3 p.m.

Submit your events online at smdp.com/events

REDDIT

FROM PAGE 6

Huffman, 40, is now CEO. Although his founder's letter leading up to this IPO didn't mention it, Huffman touched upon the company's past turmoil in another missive included in a December 2021 filing attempt that was subsequently canceled.

"We lived these challenges publicly and have the scars, learnings, and policy updates to prove it," Huffman then wrote. "Our history influences our future. There will undoubtedly be more challenges to come."

Liedtke reported from San Francisco.

Classifieds

Petition to Admin Estate

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: Nicolas Mehran Vodjdani AKA Nick Vodjdani CASE NUMBER: 24STPB02727 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of Nicolas Mehran Vodjdani AKA Nick Vodjdani. A Petition for Probate has been filed by Linda Ann Vodjdani in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles-Stanley Mosk Courthouse. The Petition for Probate requests Linda Ann Vodjdani be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: Date: Apr 10 2024 Time: 8:30 a.m Dept. 9 Room - Address of Court: I Stanley Mosk Courthouse 111 N. Hill St Los Angeles, CA 90012 If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney or Party without Attorney: Linda Ann Vodjdani 825 Wyntuck Dr. NW Kennesaw Georgia Tel No. 404-276-8341 03/15/24, 03/22/24, 03/29/24

Help Wanted

UI Designer sought by Snap Inc. (Santa Monica, CA) *Hybrid work permitted - Snap practices a "default together" approach & expects team members to work in Santa Monica ofc at least 80% of time (avg 4 days/wk). Dsgn tech UI for Lens Studio, Snap's 3D authoring AR environment. Base salary: $175,000-$250,000/yr. Eligible for discretionary performance-based bonus award. Eligible for equity in form of RSUs. Our Benefits: https://careers.snap.com/benefits. Email Resume: apply2snap@snap.com. Ref. Job Code #UID-SM-0224-IP. EOE.

Help Wanted

Sr. Business Recruiter - Tech sought by Snap Inc. (Santa Monica, CA) *Hybrid work permitted - Snap practices a "default together" approach & expects team members to work in Santa Monica ofc at least 80% of time (avg 4 days/wk). Source, eval, ntwrk & hire top tier talent in tech mrkt. Base salary: $126,000-$189,000/yr. Eligible for discretionary performance-based bonus award. Eligible for equity in form of RSUs. Our Benefits: https://careers.snap.com/benefits. Email Resume: apply2snap@snap.com. Ref. Job Code #SBR-SM-0224-DS. EOE

Help Wanted

Data Engineer II sought by GoodRx, Inc. Santa Monica, CA and various unanticipated worksites in US: Architect cloud- based data infrastructure solutions. Telecom. allowed. Salary: $113,630 - $ 171,000 /yr. Resumes to jobs@goodrx.com. Job Code: CA1223KR.

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BILLS

FROM PAGE 1

Jan Ludwinski.

"The most significant cost increases over the last couple of years have been in insurance," Ludwinski said. "In (about) three years, my wife's health insurance premium increased by 28%, her drug plan went up 88%, our car insurance went up 58% without a claim, fire insurance on our rented house went up 20% (without a claim), our homeowners insurance went up 22% (without a claim), and our earthquake insurance increased by 31%." Ludwinski added that insurance brokers indicated that reasons for the increases include rise in costs of construction materials, labor inflation and environmental regulations; as well as increased risk from wildfires, mudslides and flooding.

There are several categories, however, where the national average actually exceeds Santa Monica's monthly bills. Per the Doxo report, these categories are average monthly auto loan bills ($380 for the city, $496 national), mobile phone bills ($100 for Santa Monica, $121 national) and cable-internet bills ($104 in the city, $122 national).

Overall, throughout all categories, household bills account for 39% of the city's average annual household income of $88,521. Bills continue to trend upward in Santa Monica higher than the national uptick as well, as the common household bills are up 6.7% year over year, compared to a 4% average increase at the national level.

While Santa Monica is the 103rd most expensive city in California for household expenses, its southern neighbor ranks in the state's top five. Marina del Rey's average household bills is $4,443 per month, fifth in the entire state, trailing only Porter Ranch, Danville, Hermosa Beach and Ladera Ranch. This includes a staggering average mortgage payment of $3,632 and average rent bill of $3,437. Santa Monica's other neighbor, Venice, ranked 66th in the state, with households paying $3,760 per month in expenses.

thomas@smdp.com

NEEDLE EXCHANGE

FROM PAGE 2

Councilmember Oscar de la Torre, Vice Mayor Lana Negrete and Mayor Phil Brock, their arguments were all anecdotal. Only Councilmember Gleam Davis, who is in support of the program, bought hard evidence to support her case and while the statistics she presented were impressive, it lacked any mention regarding the methodology that might have made it specifically relevant to Santa Monica prompting the program critics to dismiss its relevance.

Mayor Brock said he also had data on the topic, but chose not to present any.

"I'm happy to read a lot of data for you from the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration] Office of Recovery, but I don't think we really have the time to keep going through this," he said.

De la Torre expressed his skepticism over the data Davis presented. "It's pretty amazing to hear all that great report [sic] and I just want to say that I don't really trust some of it. You think about some of the reports that the federal government brought crack cocaine into many of our urban cities, a lot of people died from that … And I remember when crack cocaine hit our streets and what it did to make people end up addicted, it destroyed lives," he said, later adding, "For me it's [like] we had an epidemic of people shooting themselves in the head, I think it's not a good idea for the government to be passing out handguns."

Speaking in support of the program, Councilman Zwick said the program was a symptom, not a cause of, the problem.

"People don't come to Reed Park for the one hour per week in which needles are distributed," he said. "Reduction comes to the park because that's where the people who need harm reduction are. If we put it somewhere where no one was, no one would get help."

The tension in chambers was clear and the behavior between some members of Council was somewhere between amusing and adolescent as members chose to ignore or lecture each other.

The final motion by De la Torre and seconded by Brock included additional language expressing support for a program in other settings provided they were not near parks or schools.

Councilmembers Caroline Torosis, Davis and Zwick voted not to condemn the County's program while Parra, Brock, De la Torre and Negrete voted to prepare and return a resolution expressing the City's disapproval of the County's implementation of the program within 30 days.

According to the agenda, the resolution "should reflect the City's opposition to the program in Santa Monica, as it's misguided and does not achieve the goal of reducing harm. The program encourages continued use of illegal and dangerous drugs, and people are dying as a result. Residents should not have to see people shooting up in our neighborhood parks, nor the behavior that results from illegal drug use. Drug use and needles simply do not belong in our parks and other public spaces."

scott.snowden@smdp.com

BULLDOG

FROM PAGE 5

notched a first-round "best of breed" win at the prestigious Westminster Kennel Club dog show last year.

WHO'S FEW?

The sloughi was rarest among last year's registrations. Sometimes called Arabian greyhounds, the fleet, somewhat shy dogs joined the AKC pack in 2016.

GIMME SHELTER

While dogs from affenpinschers to Xoloitzcuintlis were bred last year, U.S. animal shelters were already brimming with dogs and cats. Shelters and rescue groups took in about 3.2 million dogs, while 2.2 million dogs were adopted, according to Shelter Animals Count, a nonprofit that gathers shelter data.

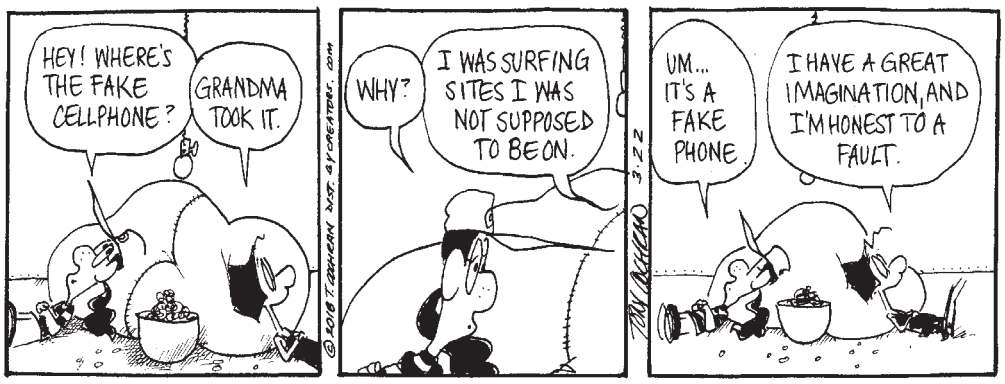
There's "a need for a renewed effort to make adoption a priority for the community," says the group's executive director, Stephanie Filer. Shelters have a wide variety of dogs to offer, including specific breeds, she notes.

Hunter Munden, the AKC's spokesperson, has two rescue dogs and a purebred herself.

"Rescue is wonderful," she said. "However, we do understand that people want specific characteristics to fit their lifestyle, when it comes to dog ownership, and that's where purebred dogs come in."

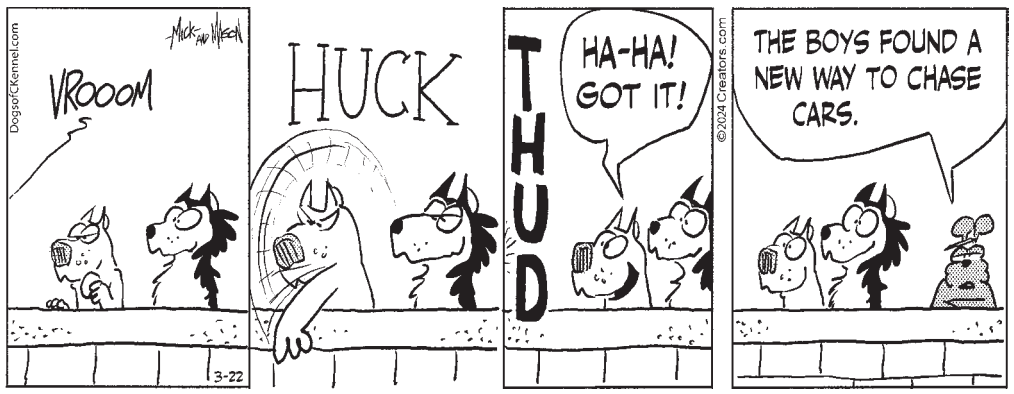
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



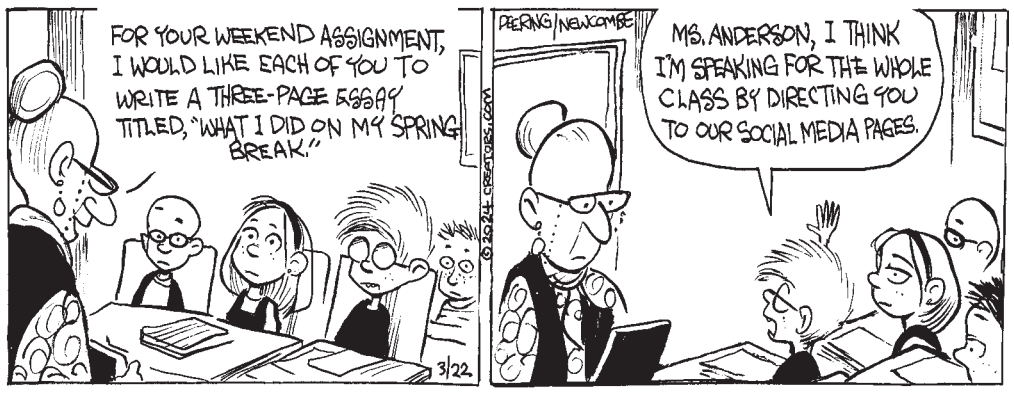
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



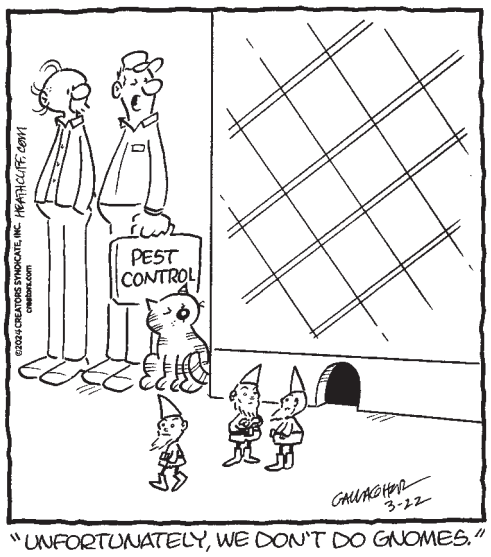
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

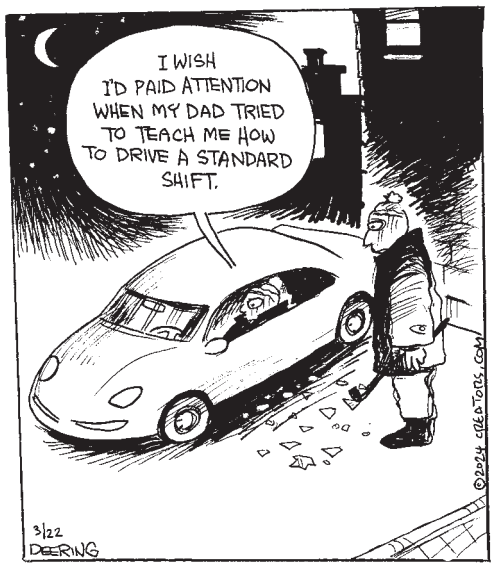
By PETER GALLAGHER



"UNFORTUNATELY, WE DON'T DO GNOMES."

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 24 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6157

Emergency services

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

Access	Burns	Flee	Ribs	Team
Aerial	Cars	Fuel	Room	Tinder
Aged	Corrosive	Heat	Ropes	Toil
Alert	Crews	Help	Sense	Tools
Algae	Crush	Hose	Sever	Travel
Area	Cuts	Knee	Shark	Trees
Army	Damp	Lift	Slip	Twist
Back	Died	Mine	Smash	Unit
Bends	Doze	Muscle	Snake	View
Bite	Ease	Noisy	Stumble	Work
Blast	Exceed	Nurse	Support	
Bruise	Fire	Rain	Task	

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 22)

A multitude of meaningful encounters and enriching connections are in store. You'll step into the limelight and state your purpose, and a cosmic beacon does the rest to align you with your dream team. More highlights: a secret mission, an abundance of something valuable and rare opportunities to transcend the limits of past relationships. Taurus and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 10, 13, 6 and 16.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You bring a realness to your interactions that puts people at ease. You quickly achieve a level of honesty and intimacy. Your kindness and thoughtfulness will create a strong foundation for new and lasting relationships.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll be the first person they tell, the first in line or catching the first wave of a trend. As wonderful as the cutting edge may be, it also comes with a responsibility and a decision — to share or not?

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Trust your instincts and intuition. If something feels off or doesn't sit right with you, don't ignore it. Pay attention to red flags and heed them by putting distance between you and the person waving them.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You feel obligated to perform your duty without hesitation or mention. But is this true? A few honest words will connect you to the reality of a situation and save you from feeling like you're trapped inside the conventions of it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When people give easily, it implies they have a lot to give, which is attractive. The link between generosity and charisma is further fortified by mystery. There's something so intriguing about an unknown limit.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Know when to say "good enough." Don't let perfectionism waste your time. Tonight brings wonderful, heartfelt conversation. You'll extend support and understanding, and later you'll get it back just when you need it most.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Adventure sneaks up on you while you're executing your very practical plans. You'll be pleased by the surprising results you get, born out of the desire to turn the ordinary into the extraordinary.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The lake that appears calm from the dock is teeming with activity under the surface. There is always more to know for those who care to go deeper. The question becomes — should you? Do you really want to know?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Since you've known love to cloud judgment, you stay grounded in reality and assess the situation objectively to ensure it aligns with your values and long-term goals. Your balanced perspective keeps you from idealizing a situation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Stories seem to want to stretch and turn in fanciful ways. You may be amused by your own impulse to embellish. You're responding to others and feeling a strong pull to entertain and delight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Laziness isn't always a fault. Sometimes it's a skill or an instinct. Consider your options carefully. Not everything will be worthy of your involvement. You'll feel a strong tug when the opportunity is right for you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Everything feels better when you're getting along well with your key people. Resolve any tension before you take on the rest of the world. And if there's nothing to resolve, this is your chance for proactive thoughtfulness.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

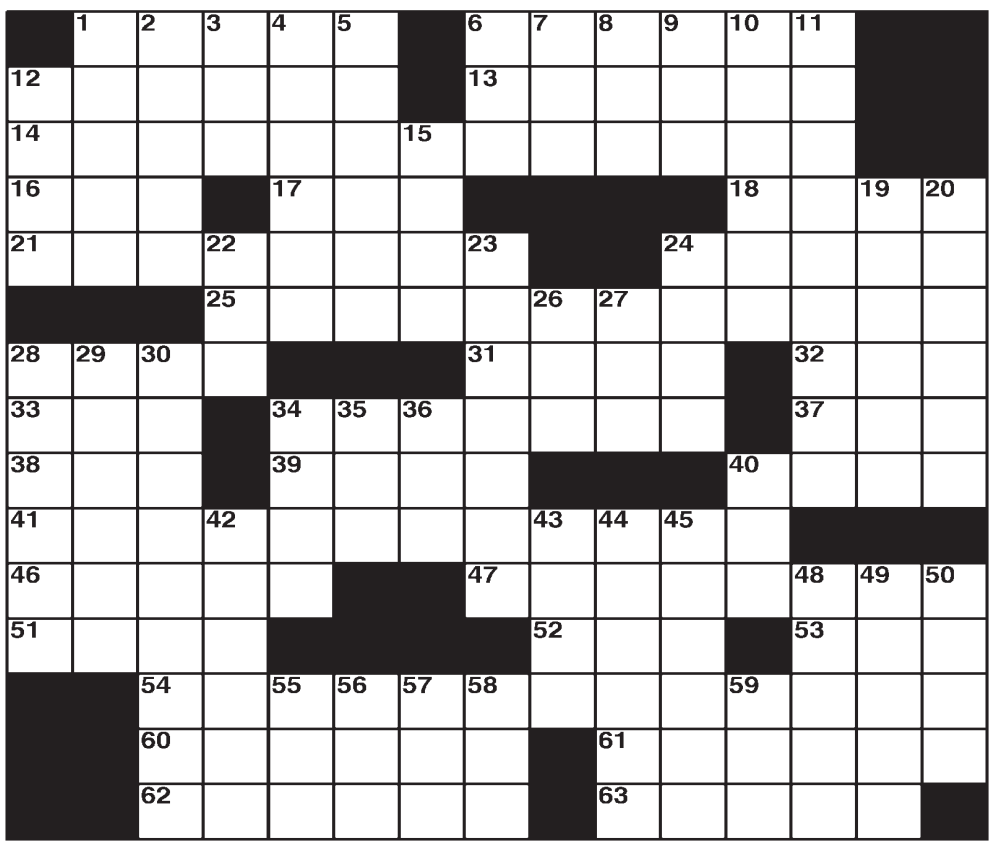
NONSTOP by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 "Reptilian" footwear
6 Digital image format
12 Nurturing metaphor
13 Introspective query
14 Robert Caro Pulitzer subject
16 "Spider sense" adder in '23
17 Consult with
18 *Coup* target
21 Watches over
24 Former honorary USO chairman
25 SUV ancestor
28 She's not talking
31 Elation
32 Runner in the house
33 Exercise advocate
34 Alternate puzzle title
37 "Sorry, that's ___"
38 EPA stat
39 Gives a name to
40 IRS upper-income assessments
41 The country's first urban park
46 Early American plutocrat
47 It may count for finals
51 Tesla, by birth
52 Montreal article
53 2007's Super Bowl
54 Spacecraft thruster
60 Chop-O-Matic infomercial guy
61 VIP groups
62 Fidelity rival
63 Opposite of "eager"

DOWN

1 Colonial news source
2 Arbitrary stranger, these days
3 Unexpected
4 Storage unit
5 Iroquois League member
6 Book jacket prose
7 More or less, these days
8 Most of Academy Awards
9 Canada's St. Elias range
10 Simple life
11 Certain star shape
12 Hoof sound
15 "Queen of Rock 'n' Roll" punkster
19 Be equal (to)
20 Dances with dips
22 "Prufrock" initials
23 Volunteers
24 Actor Wilson
26 Long-established
27 26 Down antonym, at first
28 African snakes
29 Make obligatory
30 Credit card code holder
34 What hydrogen hasn't
35 Sister or mother
36 Elementary trio
40 Lee of the Shakers
42 Moreover
43 Pick-___
44 User's reference
45 Opera with Iago
48 Live and breathe
49 One of a septet of 50 Down
50 Bad behaviors
55 US audio syndicator
56 Stir-fry morsel
57 Divested (of)
58 Fiesta exclamation
59 Native New Mexican



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St. Paul's Lutheran Church
All are welcome at God's table.

Holy Week and Easter

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24
Procession of Palms, **10:30 a.m.**

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29
Stations of the Cross, **Noon**
St. John's Passion and
Adoration of the Cross, **7 p.m.**

MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 28
Lord's Supper with Footwashing and
Stripping the Altar, **7 p.m.**

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31
Service and Festival Holy Communion, **10:30 a.m.**
followed by an Easter Egg Hunt

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City of Santa Monica

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- Economic Development
- Housing
- Public Safety
- Cultural Celebrations and Inclusivity
- Education
- Healing Historical Harms
- Transportation
- Homelessness
- Mental and Physical Health





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