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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

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Matthew Hallock sworn in as Santa Monica's new Fire Chief



SMFD

CHIEF: SMFD Fire Chief Matthew Hallock, seen standing next to his wife Cheryl, is sworn in by City Clerk Nikima Newsome

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

An all-star line-up of Santa Monica dignitaries gathered at Fire Station 1 on 7th Street on Wednesday morning to watch the swearing-in ceremony of the City's new Fire Chief, Matthew Hallock.

This is the fourth Fire Chief Santa Monica has had in less than the same amount of years. Hallock's appointment was first announced by City Manager David White in January of this year and before that, Wolfgang Knabe had been acting as interim Fire Chief since September of 2023. That in turn followed the departure of Danny Alvarez, who left in August of last year after less than two years in the position to return to his former station in Burbank.

Hallock comes to Santa Monica from the city of Monterey Park, where he has served as fire chief since 2020. He brings 24 years of experience having begun his fire service career as a reserve firefighter in 1994, then returning as a firefighter in 2002 and rising through the ranks.

Attendees included members of Santa Monica's Fire Department (SMFD), including the most recent class of new recruits, Mayor Phil Brock, Councilmember Christine Parra, City Manager David White, Assistant City Manager Susan Cline, Interim City Clerk Nikima Newsome and Police Chief Ramon Batista, along with Hallock's wife, Cherly and members of his family.

Proceedings began with retired Santa Monica Fire Chief Ettore Berandinelli giving an impassioned speech based on his own experiences having spent a lifetime in the service before Hallock took to the podium.

"Chief Hallock I wish the very best for you, for the members of the Santa Monica Fire Department and

SEE **FIRE CHIEF** PAGE 7

Last chance to vote for Most Loved!

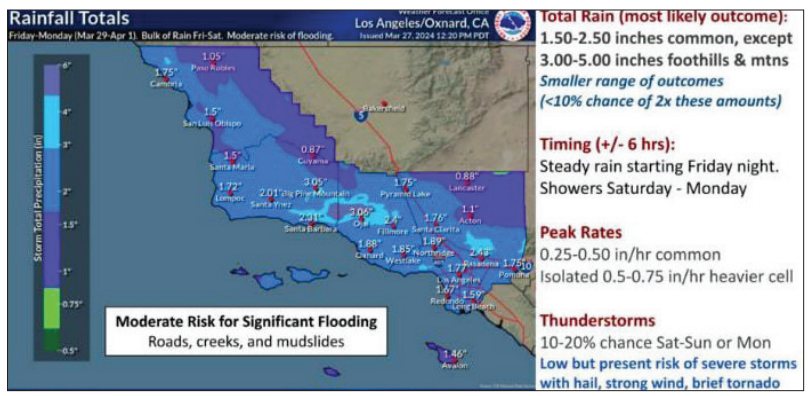
MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

As the month draws to a close, so does your chance to vote for your Most Loved Businesses as the annual contest to determine the best of Santa Monica will end on Sunday, March 31

The Most Loved Contest, akin to the People's Choice Awards, was initiated a decade ago to strengthen ties among residents, visitors, and local businesses, showcasing Santa Monica's dynamic commercial landscape. Originally established in 2010 with support from the Buy Local Santa Monica Committee, the Santa Monica Daily Press, the City of Santa Monica, business improvement districts, and other partners, the competition has evolved to encompass diverse categories such as Food & Drink, Automotive & Transport, Fitness, Shopping, Neighborhood Favorites,

SEE **MOST LOVED** PAGE 12

Wet season far from winding down with Easter weekend storm



Graphic Courtesy National Weather Service

STORM: Rainfall will be part of Easter weekend in Santa Monica, with a storm developing on Friday night looking to drop up to 3 inches of precipitation on the city.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica has been no stranger to storms throughout the Southern California wet season, with this weekend bringing yet another deluge to the city.

According to the National Weather Service forecast discussion, a strong and colder storm system will move into the region beginning later in the day Friday, with rain developing during that period through at least Saturday evening. The NWS report states that storm total rainfall amounts can vary between 1.5 and 3 inches across the

SEE **STORM** PAGE 12



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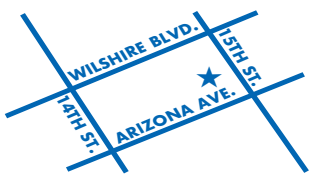
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News Binge: All of last week's stories in one place



Photo by Scott Snowden

HOTEL WORKERS: A new union contract was recently ratified with 34 local hotels, including wage increases, benefits and rights for workers.

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SMDP STAFF REPORT

STUDENTS TAKE ON THE WORLD, ONE ISSUE AT A TIME:

At the Marymount Model United Nations competition on March 3, the Samohi Model United Nations club came home with several honors in individual diplomacy. Under the direction of Samohi AP World History teacher and club advisor Heather Knight, the next generation of leaders took part in the Marymount event, with club president Bibi Peterson and club vice president Sienna Shah taking home Best Delegate and Outstanding Delegate, respectively. Club member Kara Best also earned a commendation from the event's judges. Peterson, who Best credited for helping the club navigate conference proceedings coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, represented the country of India in a post-World War III hypothetical scenario laid out at Marymount's general assembly.

CITY BEGINS POLLING ON PROPOSAL TO DOUBLE PARKING TAX:

City Hall has begun polling likely voters over their support for a potential ballot measure in November that would raise fees in private parking lots to pay for a variety of road-related services. The City Council, prompted by concerns over traffic safety following a recent cyclist's death, broached the idea of financing various road safety initiatives via a tax increase in December of last year. Council's vote (on an item agonized by Councilmember Zwick, Councilmember Davis, and Councilmember Torosis) was to evaluate the impact of the tax increase, engage with the California Coastal Commission, and gather community input.

COUNCIL VOTES TO BUILD AFFORDABLE HOUSING ON THREE CITY-OWNED SITES:

During a recent Santa Monica City Council meeting, the council voted 6-0 to enter into an agreement with the Hollywood Community Housing Corporation (HCHC) to build affordable housing on City-owned sites adjacent to Wilshire Blvd. The proposed projects, which ultimately will come back for final approval by the council, include approximately 130 units on three city-owned properties at 1217 Euclid St., 1211-1217 14th St. and 1146 16th St., in line with the city's 2021-2029 Housing Element. Once built, the projects would serve individuals and families making anywhere from 30 to 80% of the area median income, as well as people experiencing homelessness. The next step is a community engagement process to allow for input on the design and development plan.

SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES MAJOR CONSTRUCTION AMENDMENTS AT SAMOHI, SMASH:

In its final meeting before the district's spring break, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education approved several major construction items, with much of the discussion centered around the future layout of Santa Monica High School. During the meeting, the board approved of a plan to demolish Samohi's South Gym this summer, along with related post-demolition work within the Measure SMS-funded Exploration and Gold Gym project. Other board approvals were assigning CY Architects to provide architectural and engineering design services for Samohi's interim repairs and upgrades project, as

SEE **NEWS** PAGE 10

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California's liberal government has a long history caving to special interests



Photo by Rahul Lal for CalMatters

GOVERNMENT: Advocates and lobbyists view the state Senate session, during the final day of the legislature at the state Capitol in Sacramento on Sept. 14, 2023.

DAN WALTERS

A good, albeit brief, definition of liberal government is one that employs its powers of taxation, appropriation and regulation to improve the lives of its constituents.

By that definition, California is one of the nation's most liberal states. Annually, its governors and legislators enact hundreds of measures that purport to generate more prosperity and equity for its nearly 39 million residents.

Whether those efforts have had an overall positive effect – which is debatable – they unquestionably have a darker side. Each tax, each appropriation and each regulatory action has a financial impact, thus motivating those affected to seek favorable treatment.

A classic example is the California Coastal Commission, created by voters more than a half-century ago with the stated goal of maintaining public access to beaches and other coastal property by regulating development. The commission holds immense authority within a 1.6 million-acre "coastal zone" that runs from Oregon to Mexico, superseding the land use powers of local governments.

From the onset, the commission has been besieged by lobbyists for and against specific projects, and its actions have often been tinged by scandal. Three decades ago commission member Mark Nathanson, a Beverly Hills real estate broker, pleaded guilty to soliciting almost $1 million from Hollywood entertainment barons seeking building permits.

During the early years of its existence, meanwhile, the Legislature saw numerous attempts to revise the coastal zone's dimensions because land outside its borders became more valuable. One state senator even carried a bill removing his own family's business from the zone.

Another hoary example is California's "tied house law" that supposedly battles monopolies in the liquor business by making it illegal for someone in the production, distribution or retail levels to engage in more than one.

The law has long outlived whatever rationale it once had and should have been repealed, but it remains on the books and thus generates a brisk trade in legislation to carve out exemptions for particular businesses.

Still another: If a Californian buys some off-the-shelf computer software – such as the TurboTax, for example – sales tax is added. But three-plus decades ago, the Legislature bowed to pressure from Silicon Valley and exempted custom software, which can cost millions of dollars, from taxation.

One more: Every year, the state allocates millions of dollars to the Southern California film industry for production inside the state. Why should California taxpayers subsidize them and not other businesses? Film executives, actors and their unions bedazzle politicians.

The California Environmental Quality Act is blatantly misused to block much-needed housing development and cries out for reform. The Legislature has taken some baby steps but routinely helps big

SEE **LIBERAL** PAGE 12



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **57.4**

FRIDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Looks like wind issues, with west flow in the AM shifting SW through the afternoon/evening as area of low pressure offshore nears the region. WNW/NW swell mix continues.

SATURDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 2-3ft+
Thigh to stomach

Continued blend of WNW swell mix and peaking S swell. Wind and conditions will depend on track of coastal low — strong overnight wind could trend more variable through the day. Rain. Worth keeping an eye on it behind the frontal boundary.

Weather

Friday: Partly sunny, with a high near 59. South southwest wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
Friday Night: Rain, mainly after 11pm. Low around 51. Breezy, with a south southeast wind 15 to 20 mph.
Saturday: Rain, with thunderstorms also possible after 11am. High near 57. South wind 10 to 15 mph.
Saturday Night: Rain likely and possibly a thunderstorm before 11pm, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 11pm.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2024/03/29	Fri	06:37 AM	0.28	L
2024/03/29	Fri	12:47 PM	2.85	H
2024/03/29	Fri	5:11 PM	1.90	L
2024/03/29	Fri	11:53 PM	4.93	H
2024/03/30	Sat	07:35 AM	0.41	L
2024/03/30	Sat	2:11 PM	2.44	H
2024/03/30	Sat	5:12 PM	2.23	L
2024/03/31	Sun	12:32 AM	4.76	H
2024/03/31	Sun	09:01 AM	0.48	L
2024/04/01	Mon	01:36 AM	4.55	H
2024/04/01	Mon	10:46 AM	0.28	L
2024/04/02	Tue	03:23 AM	4.46	H
2024/04/02	Tue	11:56 AM	-0.12	L
2024/04/02	Tue	7:38 PM	3.27	H
2024/04/02	Tue	11:05 PM	2.94	L
2024/04/03	Wed	05:04 AM	4.68	H
2024/04/03	Wed	12:46 PM	-0.50	L
2024/04/03	Wed	7:42 PM	3.66	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: 3/27
37 46 57 60 66
Power#: 8
Jackpot: 935 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 3/26
7 11 22 29 38
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 20 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 3/27
6 8 14 26 42
Mega#: 22
Jackpot: 22 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 3/27
3 7 9 12 34

Daily 3
Draw Date: 3/27
EVENING: 1 1 7
Draw Date: 3/27
MIDDAY: 9 6 0

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 3/27
1st: 07 - Eureka
2nd: 06 - Whirl Win
3rd: 01 - Gold Rush
Race Time: 1:48.99

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Santa Monica Daily Press

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Californians are divided on LGBTQ issues at schools, but there's a path to parental support

MORGAN POLIKOFF

The so-called parents' rights movement in education took off in 2021 with the election of Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin, putting identity-related issues in the school curriculum front and center. The bogeyman of critical race theory was weaponized by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis who called it "state-sanctioned racism" and made it the first target in the "anti-woke" campaign.

But the political right has fixed its gaze on LGBTQ issues in schools. The reason for this shift is obvious: Anti-LGBTQ animus is still socially acceptable. Following this shift, there has been a sharp uptick in anti-LGBTQ legislation nationwide.

Even in deep blue California, school boards have recently passed parental notification policies that require school district staff to inform parents if their children are transgender. And a proposed ballot initiative would restrict the rights of transgender youth by prohibiting gender-affirming care and requiring gender-segregated facilities to be restricted based on a person's sex assigned at birth.

The reality is that LGBTQ issues in schools are a thorny problem, and Californians are intensely divided on what to do about them. To gauge the depth of the current division and pinpoint the key contentious issues, the University of Southern California conducted an in-depth national survey. While the main report focused on national trends, the results had some important nuances in California.

At the elementary level, California Republicans overwhelmingly oppose LGBTQ inclusion, with most scenarios having just 10%-20% Republican support in elementary schools. In contrast, majorities of Democrats are comfortable with some LGBTQ scenarios like talking about different kinds of families, a book about a same-sex penguin couple, or even an openly trans teacher, but not others.

None of these issues had majority support overall, however.

There is also a split on what's appropriate in high school. Only three scenarios had majority support among Republicans for older children: talking about equal marriage rights, a teacher having a picture of a same-sex spouse on their desk, and talking about the difference between biological sex and gender identity.

California Democrats, meanwhile, expressed majority support for every single LGBTQ-related scenario researchers asked about. Most scenarios had majority overall support, but trans-related issues like pronoun use and trans athletes were often underwater.

Every California school and district is going to have parents who are Democrats and others who are Republicans. School boards and district leaders therefore need help resolving these differences.

LGBTQ children exist. That's a given, and teachers aren't about to adopt practices they believe will harm these students. Teachers overwhelmingly want to create classrooms where children feel included and welcomed. Behind closed doors, that's exactly what they'll do.

But these findings indicate real debates about what topics to include in the curriculum and in what grades. The survey's results point the way toward a productive conversation about what kinds of LGBTQ-related content Californians view as appropriate for children, which is necessary given the FAIR Education Act requires age-appropriate LGBTQ inclusion.



Photo by Anjali Sharif-Paul, The Sun/SCNG

SCHOOLS: Parents, students, and staff of Chino Valley Unified School District hold up signs in favor of protecting LGBTQ+ policies at Don Antonio Lugo High School on June 15, 2023.

It seems in the elementary grades that most Californians are not comfortable with LGBTQ issues in schools, though issues related to families are the least objected to. Schools will have to tread lightly to implement responsive curricula that do not provoke backlash.

At the high school level, there is more broad-based support for LGBTQ inclusion, though trans issues are still a sore spot.

California is a trailblazer when it comes to inclusion in the curriculum, which is admirable. LGBTQ children deserve to have their identities represented in schools. But while tremendous progress has been made on Californians' attitudes, many are still uncomfortable with schools being a site for debating LGBTQ issues.

While red states ban these conversations, California education leaders can help the nation see what a careful, responsive strategy looks like to include these issues in ways that may push the envelope but parents can ultimately support.

Morgan Polikoff is an education professor at the USC Rossier School of Education and the co-faculty director of the USC EdPolicy Hub. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

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Wall Street is betting big on AI. California consumers must be protected



AP Photo/Eduardo Munoz Alvarez

AI: People walk around the New York Stock Exchange in New York, Tuesday, March 19, 2024.

JUSTIN KLOCZKO

Artificial intelligence may soon replace financial advisors, and that's just the start. While one algorithm predicts stock price, another decides what to disclose to regulators. Chat GPT-style language models could soon hallucinate your mortgage application or life savings, and you won't even know it.

I spent several months combing through the U.S Patent and Trademark Office to see how the world's most powerful investment banks are incorporating artificial intelligence, and it's a scary glimpse into the future.

JPMorgan has applied for a trademark called "Index GPT" that would give financial advice, and one that would match companies with investors. Goldman Sachs is seeking to patent AI that will combine all the data a trader would need to predict stock prices, and another to predict a hedging portfolio. Already, ING Group is screening for potential defaulters.

There is even AI to translate "Fedspeak" so banks can tell if statements by regulators are "dovish" or "hawkish."

Banks are pouring billions of dollars into AI research, patents and financing without adequate safeguards. A lot of attention is devoted to tech companies developing artificial intelligence, but Wall Street banks are just as interested. Financial services spending on AI is larger than any other industry, exceeding even the tech industry.

There is still little we know about generative AI. Even engineers and coders don't understand how AI works. Unlike previous models, OpenAI decided not to disclose the training data of GPT-4. ChatGPT has scraped the Internet for over 300 billion words, and there are concerns that it has sucked up personal information along the way. In addition, OpenAI says its language model has a "high risk of economic harm" due to a "tendency to hallucinate," and should come with "a disclaimer."

Despite these concerns, JPMorgan said that data and AI will be "critical" to the company's future success. It currently has more than 300 use cases for AI in production.

But the lack of transparency surrounding AI and its potential for bias means mysterious AI could push risky investments and loans, or hallucinate bad advice on managing debt without a consumer even knowing it was AI.

Without sound regulation, the next financial crisis could be caused by AI, igniting in the mortgage or equity market due to a handful of banks relying on the same algorithms. Don't just take it from me. Much smarter people like Gary Gensler, chair of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, predicted that within 10 years AI will be responsible for some sort of financial crisis.

The major concerns are algorithmic complexity, a lack of transparency and biased or false information. For example, Goldman's AI could be used to create and price out a new type of derivative. These complicated financial instruments enabled Wall Street to gamble with billions of dollars on the housing market. As a result, 6 million Americans lost their homes during the Great Recession.

How else can AI impact our lives financially? AI can also start to "drift," meaning it can deviate from its intended use and perpetuate bias. An AI could start thinking a certain race or address equals bad credit and deny loans based on that. This has already happened.

Thankfully, California is trying to rein in AI. Right now the California Privacy Protection Agency is drafting automated decision-making rules under the California Consumer Privacy Act, which would safeguard against AI's risks and biases regarding personal data. For example, a business would have to tell consumers that it uses automated decision-making, details about the algorithm's logic and give a chance to opt out of the decision, especially if it involves finances.

And for the first time, there are rules dedicated to generative AI and training data. Businesses using language models will have to disclose if those models use personal information to train AI, and consumers will be able to opt out.

America is falling behind on AI regulation. It cannot be slow to act like it was regarding social media when both sound regulation and innovation are possible.

Justin Kloczko is a tech and privacy advocate for Consumer Watchdog.



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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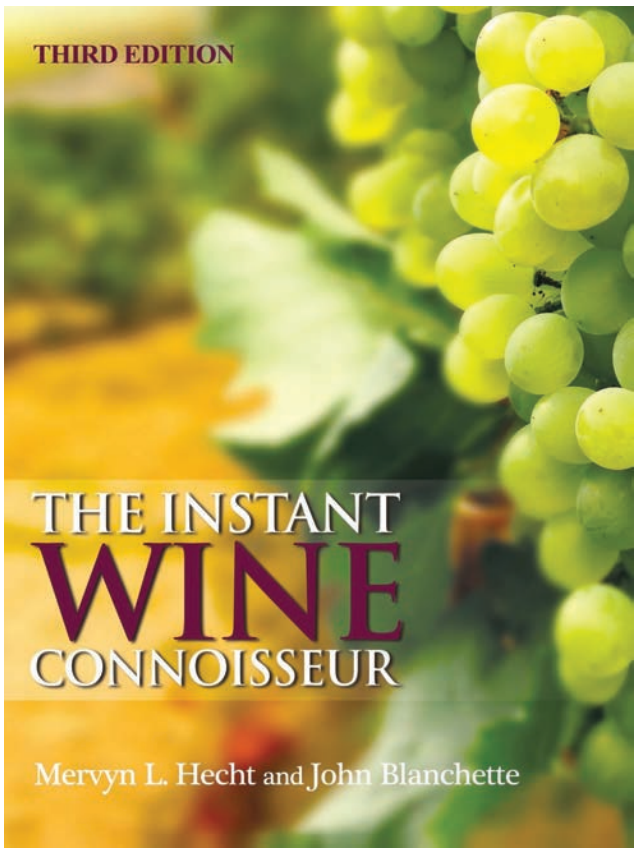
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Citywide

Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collector Reminds Property Owners of Upcoming Second Installment Delinquency Date

Keith Knox, Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collector, reminds property owners that the second installment of the 2023-24 Annual Secured Property Taxes becomes delinquent if not received by 5 p.m. Pacific Time or United States Postal Service (USPS) postmarked on or before Wednesday, April 10, 2024. “To avoid late penalties, property owners should not wait until the last day to make payment; please pay early” says Treasurer and Tax Collector Knox.

Knox advised, “Property owners may find it difficult to reach us on the telephone. They may obtain answers to the great majority of their questions in addition to viewing their 2023-24 Annual Secured Property Tax Bill, making online electronic check (eCheck) payments, or obtaining tax payment history for the past three fiscal tax years on the Los Angeles County Property Tax Portal at propertytax.lacounty.gov. Property owners may also submit their inquiries at ttc.lacounty.gov/public-inquiries or call the toll-free Property Tax Information Line at 1(888) 807-2111, where automated information is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. A new eCheck video, with closed captions in English, Armenian, Chinese, Korean, or Spanish, is available at ttc.lacounty.gov/pay-your property-taxes.”

PAY ONLINE – To make payments online, go to propertytax.lacounty.gov and select “Pay Property Taxes Online.” You can make online payments 24 hours a day, 7 days a week up until 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time on the delinquency date. Please note that you cannot make online payments for installment plans (Four-Pay and Five-Pay Plans).

PAY BY CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD OVER THE TELEPHONE – They accept major credit and debit card payments over the telephone for current year taxes only. To pay by telephone, call toll-free 1(888) 473-0835. The Annual Secured Property Tax Bill contains your Assessor’s Identification Number (AIN), Year, and Sequence, which you will need to complete the transaction. Each credit/debit card transaction is limited to $99,999.99, including a cost, currently 2.22 percent of the transaction amount (minimum $1.49 per transaction). Please note that you cannot make payments for defaulted taxes or installment plans (Four-Pay and Five-Pay Plans) over the telephone.

PAY BY MAIL – Please use the envelope enclosed with your Annual Secured Property Tax Bill and include the second installment payment stub from the tax bill. Do not mail cash or attach staples, clips, tape, or correspondence. You must mail property tax payments to the Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collector, Post Office Box 54018, Los Angeles, CA 90054-0018. Do not mail your payments to any other address. Property tax payments must be received or USPS postmarked by the delinquency date to avoid penalties. To assist taxpayers in understanding how to avoid penalties that could result from postmark issues, we have compiled important information on how to “Avoid Penalties by Understanding Postmarks.” Visit our website at ttc.lacounty.gov/avoid-penalties-by-understanding postmarks.

PAY IN PERSON – They accept cash, check, money order, cashier’s check, and major credit cards and debit cards at 225 North Hill Street, First Floor Lobby, Los Angeles, CA 90012, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time, Monday through Friday, excluding Los Angeles County holidays. Each in-person credit/debit card transaction is limited to $75,000.00, including a cost, currently 2.22 percent of the transaction amount (minimum $1.49 per transaction).

SUBMITTED BY KNOX’S OFFICE

Citywide

Santa Monica Celebrates International Transgender Day of Visibility

The Church In Ocean Park’s LGBTQIA+ community honors this year’s Transgender Day of Visibility on Saturday, March 30, 9 – 11 a.m. at the Virginia Avenue Park/ Pico Boulevard Farmers Market, 2200 Pico Blvd.

Organizers said the tragic death of nonbinary youth Nex Benedict (he/they) is the direct result of anti-trans bigotry and violence, and reminds us all of the urgent need for our community to unite in solidarity to uplift and celebrate our transgender friends, neighbors, co-workers and family, their achievements and to raise awareness of the discrimination facing transgender people around the world.

Each March 31, the world celebrates Transgender Day of Visibility and organizers said that Santa Monica is devoted to increasing transgender individuals’ visibility, safety and prosperity every day.

Given nearly half of the 400+ anti-LGBTQ bills nationally negatively target transgender people – and youth specifically – we are grateful to Michigan’s Rachel Crandall for creating this day of celebration in 2010 and choose to celebrate the day by bringing attention to and working to overcome the political opportunism of anti-trans and anti-LGBTQ bigots.

As a community they pledge to affirm and improve transgender people’s quality of life and urge locals help make these goals a reality, each day going forward, together.

Locally they are organizing free monthly community events where they discuss topics as global as cleaning up the environment to as personal as which bathrooms can you safely use without fear.

Join their upcoming film screenings, LGBTQ author talks, book clubs, the annual Queer Prom and other opportunities to unite our community.

For a more detailed description of anti-LGBTQ legislation nationally, visit https://www.aclu.org/legislative-attacks-on-lgbtq-rights-2024, and to donate to their fundraiser for Trans Equity Scholarships to assist those seeking to officially change their name and gender marker with the State, a cost that runs over $600 in total (compared with as little as $15 for those changing their name at marriage), please visit https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZARN/home.

Please reach out with any questions or to get involved to improve of the lives of transgender people in our City.

SUBMITTED BY JOSEPH DELAPLAINE

FIRE CHIEF

FROM PAGE 1

the citizens that you will continue to protect. Becoming a firefighter was a dream come true for me and leading this department was a tremendous honor," Berandinelli said.

Hallock himself predominantly spoke of family and community, talking not just of his own, but also the firefighting family and the community of Santa Monica.

"I made a promise to these firefighters when I first got here. In my first few days, I met with every shift to introduce myself and I made a promise to them ... that I'll be the last outside Fire Chief in Santa Monica. I truly believe that the talent is out there to lead this department in the future," he said, adding, "And it's my job and my promise that I'll bring every resource in to make that possible ... There's no reason why the next leader of this fire service is not right here in this department. So that's my promise to you."

Talking to the Daily Press, a visibly delighted Hallock said, "I'm excited, honored, I'm blessed. I mean, every adjective in the book just describes how I feel about being selected for this role."

Regarding Alvarez's departure after less than one year and four months in the role to return to his former department in Burbank as their new Fire Chief, Hallock said, "Danny is a great friend of mine and I've known him for a number of years ... He and I talked quite a bit leading up to this opportunity. So I was able to rely on him for a lot of background in the department. Danny has been a tremendous asset and is a tremendous friend."

When asked if he plans to stick around for longer than a year and four months, Hallock responded, "I plan to, yes. This is my final destination in this journey ... When this opportunity opened up, I knew this was a department I always wanted to be a part of. The last time that it opened up, when Chief Alvarez was selected, it wasn't the right time for me. I'd only been a chief for a little while in Monterey Park.

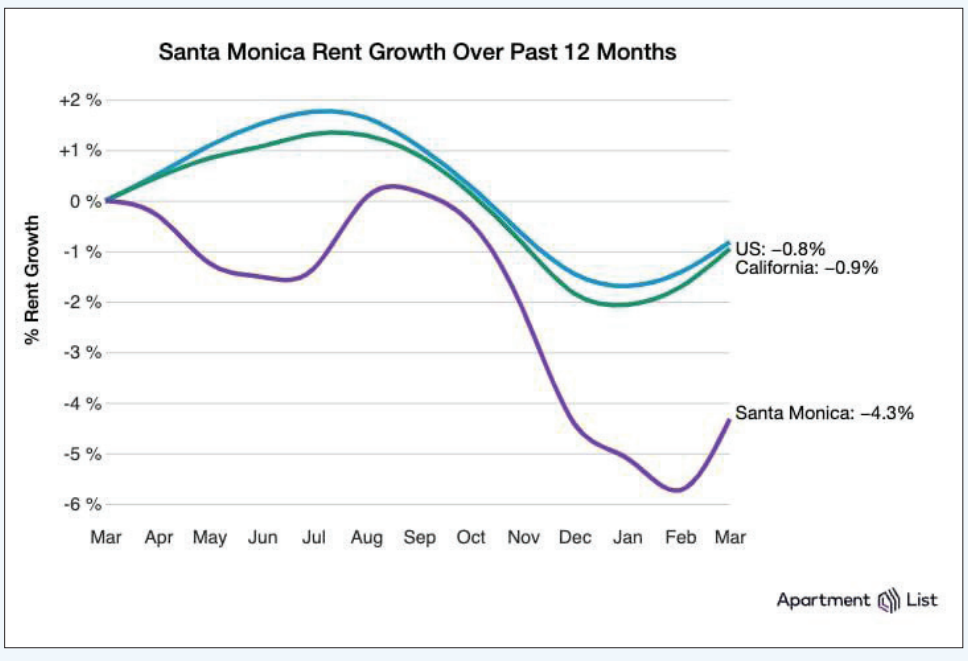
"I believe all things happen for a reason and that brought me here, so I intend to finish my career here in Santa Monica."

Hallock is a long-time Southern California resident and currently resides in Long Beach having grown up in Orange County. He has a master's degree from California State University, Long Beach and is a graduate of the Executive Fire Officer program through the US Fire Administration's National Fire Academy. His salary upon joining the SMFD is $303,588.

The SMFD receives approximately 19,000 calls annually and for the first time in a number of years, it is fully staffed, being budgeted for 122 sworn and 15 non-sworn employees with a daily staffing of 35 firefighters. Its resources include five fire stations, seven paramedic engine companies, one tiller operated ladder truck company in combination with one air/light rescue company, and one battalion chief vehicle, working 48 hour shifts.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

Rent prices rise coming out of winter season



Apartment List

RENT PRICES: The national rental market has begun to climb out of the winter season, with Santa Monica rent prices not immune to the increase. According to a recent rent analysis from Apartment List, Santa Monica rent prices went up by 1.5% in March, with the median one-bedroom apartment rental costing $2,358 and the median two-bed up to $2,827. The city's uptick outpaced the national average, which increased by 0.6% in the month. Compared to this time in 2023, however, rent prices are down 4.3% in the city, per the Apartment List data.

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Malibu

Paci
Palisa

PACIFIC PALISADES

$6,195,000

617 Frontera Dr,
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

6 BR 6 BA 5,198 Sq Ft

Listed by Anthony Marguleas, DRE #01173073
Amalfi Estates, anthony@amalfiestates.com

SANTA MONICA

$3,195,000

701 Ocean Ave #209,
Santa Monica, CA 90402

2 BR 2 BA, 1,498 Sq F

Listed by Anne Loveland, DRE #01467820
Sue Carr, DRE #00888374
Coldwell Banker Realty
anne.loveland@camoves.com

SANTA MONICA

$1,119,000

1014 4th St #4,
Santa Monica, CA 90403

2 BR 2 BA, 1,144 Sq Ft

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

SANTA MONICA

$2,395,000

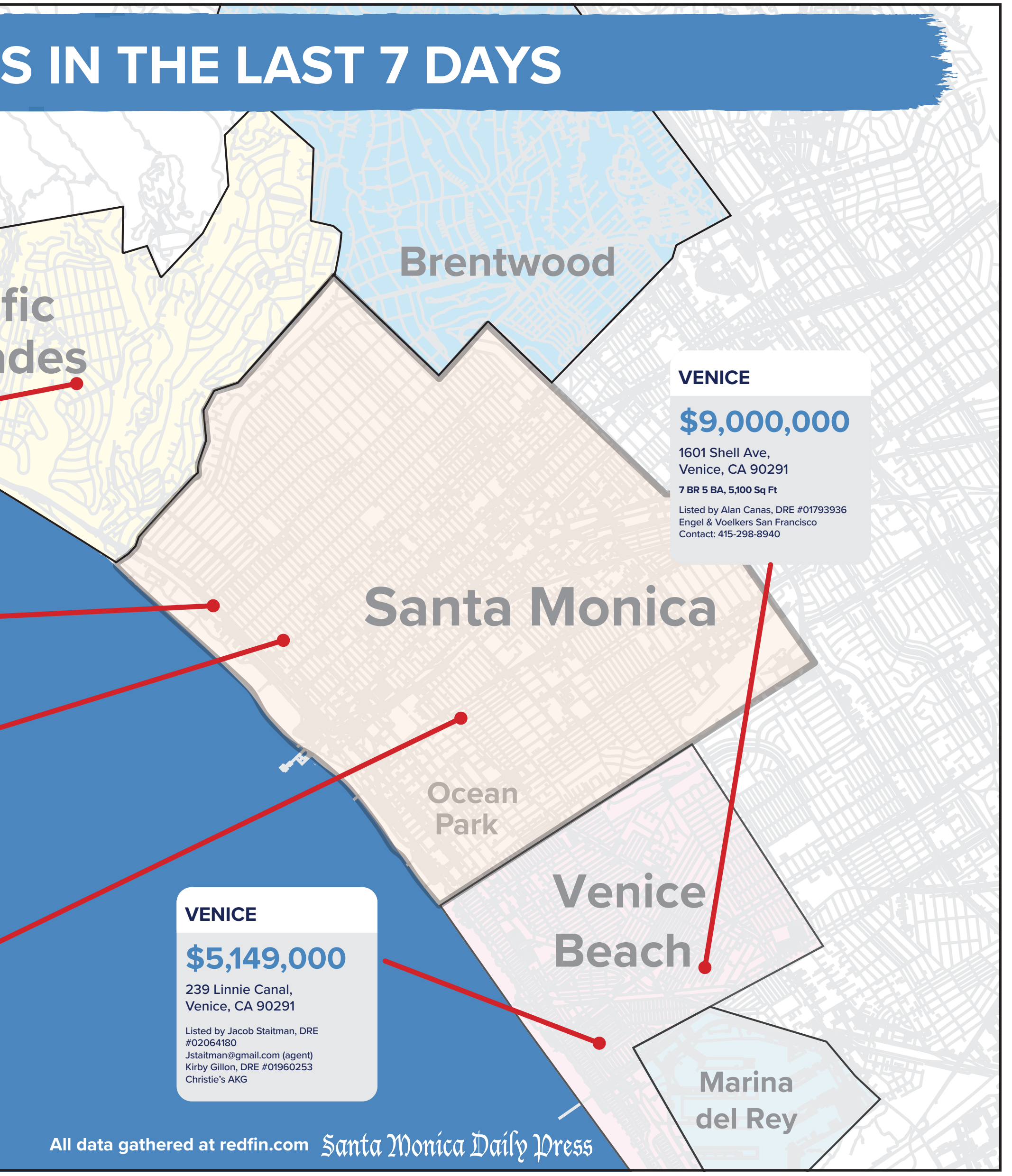
713 Bay St,
Santa Monica, CA 90405

3 BR 3.5 BA, 1,865 Sq Ft

Listed by David Kaptain, DRE #01332709
dave@kaptainkaptain.com
Jeff Kaptain, DRE #01454865

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S IN THE LAST 7 DAYS



VENICE

$9,000,000

1601 Shell Ave,
Venice, CA 90291

7 BR 5 BA, 5,100 Sq Ft

Listed by Alan Canas, DRE #01793936
Engel & Voelkers San Francisco
Contact: 415-298-8940

VENICE

$5,149,000

239 Linnie Canal,
Venice, CA 90291

Listed by Jacob Staitman, DRE #02064180
Jstaitman@gmail.com (agent)
Kirby Gillon, DRE #01960253
Christie's AKG

All data gathered at redfin.com Santa Monica Daily Press

NEWS

FROM PAGE 2

well as approving a contract amendment with Blach Construction Company for the water intrusion repair project at the campus of Santa Monica Alternative School House (SMASH) and John Muir Elementary School.

PROACTIVE PARENTAL FIGURES CRUCIAL IN FIGHTING ONLINE EXPLOITATION:

To better prepare parents to keep children out of the traps of online predators, Dr. Charlene Doak-Gebauer screened her documentary "Vulnerable Innocence" to a set of concerned citizens at the Laemmle Monica Film Center on March 20, followed by a panel discussion with Doak-Gebauer and several others who have made online safety their life's work. In the documentary, various stakeholders in the online safety realm spoke on how children can be duped into taking part in sexually-explicit situations, both in the United States and abroad.

UNANIMOUS COUNCIL ADVANCES RESEARCH TO RETURN LAND OR COMPENSATE WHITE FAMILY:

The City of Santa Monica has formally begun the process to return land once owned by a Black entrepreneur, or at least compensate the family for the loss of their property. Dueling discussion items were on the agenda to study the situation around the land where the Viceroy Hotel now sits and after some brief discussion on the details of the two proposals, Council eventually combined both measures into a single directive to understand what happened years ago when the city took the land from Silas White and what can be done about it today.

MARINERS MARCH INTO CONVERSATION FOR BEST NATIONAL GOLF PROGRAM:

On March 18, the Saint Monica Mariners boys golf team shot a personal best 192 against Salesian, a mark unmatched by most programs in the nation. The score is the culmination of an accelerated rise for the program under the leadership of PGA certified professional Charles Womack, who took over at Saint Monica during the COVID-19 pandemic. Womack stated that it was "a little overwhelming" taking over during the pandemic period, having to simultaneously coach the boys and girls' golf units. When Womack first arrived on campus, only three boys tried out for the team, with both the roster's size and skill blossoming quickly.

SMC, CHAMBER TAKE PLUNGE INTO OCEAN ECONOMY:

Taking a major step in pushing Santa Monica's business community to the next level, the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce hosted an event on the future of the "blue economy workforce" at Heal the Bay Aquarium March 22, with several speakers detailing how to get further involved in ocean-related professions. The event was part of the newly-launched Chamber Talent Connect program, a collaboration between the Chamber and Santa Monica College (SMC), forging partnerships for SMC students and Santa Monica businesses. SMC's aquaculture program is centered around two classes, "Aqua 1" which is an introduction to aquaculture and "Aqua 2" which is applications in aquaculture.

HOTEL WORKERS SECURE NEW CONTRACT WORTH $100K A YEAR TO SOME POSITIONS:

Hotel workers, after leading what they described as the largest hotel strike in modern U.S. history, have ratified a new union contract at 34 hotels with overwhelming support. The contract includes wage increases, benefits, and rights for workers. By the end of the contract, workers will earn an average of 40%-50% more in wages and the union representing workers said the increase will guarantee workers can afford housing in their communities where rents are rising. According o a statement provided by the union representing workers, Room Attendants at most hotels will earn $35.00 per hour, or $73,000 per year, by July 1, 2027.

FLAG TAKEOVER LEADS TO NATIONAL HONOR FOR SAMOHI STUDENT:

The National Football Foundation's first group of female flag football players earning Scholar Athlete Awards includes Samohi senior Isabella Sanchez, who co-captained the school's inaugural flag unit to an undefeated Ocean League championship campaign. Sanchez, a wide receiver and defensive back for the 16-3 Lady Vikings, said it was "truly an honor" to receive the scholarship as well as a nomination for the LaDainian Tomlinson National Player of the Year award in the sport.

COMEDIANS TO TAKE WISE CRACK AT SUPERSTARDOM AT LOCAL FESTIVAL:

Starting on Monday, The Crow at the Bergamot Station Arts Center hosts the Bergamot Comedy Festival, featuring performer showcases and free educational panels fronted by leaders in the comedy and entertainment industries. The week-long festival was a partnership between local, regional and national groups; including City of Santa Monica Cultural Affairs, Santa Monica Travel and Tourism, the Los Angeles Times and MasterClass. Industry veterans taking part in the festival range from showrunners and writers to late-night television experts and executive producers, such as "Friends" executive producer Andrew Reich.

HEATH ADDS EMOTIONAL LAYER TO ALL-TIME PHYSIQUE WITH NEW DOCUMENTARY:

Not many know more about being on top, and about stress on the physical form, than seven-time Mr. Olympia champion bodybuilder Phil Heath. Faced with a crossroads in his athletic career after an end to his time on the basketball court, Heath was inspired by all-time great like Arnold Schwarzenegger and Jay Cutler to become a beast in the gym and the competitive ranks, but not without struggle. For a long time, his hulking frame hid a layer of vulnerability, one Heath finally was ready to share with the world in the new documentary "Breaking Olympia." Produced by Seven Bucks Productions and distributed by Universal Pictures, the newly-released film chronicles the bodybuilder's rise to superstardom and the surrounding ramifications of fame.

CULTURE CLASH COMES TO SMC:

Writer, performer, and founding member of Culture Clash Herbert Sigüenza shared his brilliance with students from the Santa Monica College Theatre Department in a workshop on Wednesday, March 13. The following weekend, March 15-16, Sigüenza took the stage at BroadStage Santa Monica in his one-man show, "A Weekend with Pablo Picasso."

City of Santa Monica

Have a Vision for Santa Monica's Future?

The City of Santa Monica is awarding $500 grants to empower residents to lead community solution-building sessions focused on at least one priority identified by the community:

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





Apply by April 7, 2024 at
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FRIDAY | MARCH 29

LIBBY AND ONLINE CATALOG WORKSHOP

Space is limited. Please RSVP to reserve your space by registering in person at the branch Reference Desk or calling 323-459-2754. Join organizers for a workshop to learn how to use their emedia app, Libby, and how to search the library's online catalog - taught by their new Cybernaut. The workshop will cover, among other topics:
Downloading the app to your device and connecting your library card.
Borrowing and placing holds on items.
How to use the Libby icons including "Shelf."
Accessing your personal account on the library website.
Searching and requesting a physical book online through the library's catalog.
Paying fees online.
You can see a complete list of workshops and services at lapl.org/cybernauts.
1 p.m. Palisades Branch Library, 861 Alma Real Drive, Pacific Palisades.

SPRING BREAK READING PARTY: FANTASTIC FICTION AT PICO

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. 2 - 3 p.m. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd.

BOLLYWOOD NIGHT

This event is 21 and over. Any ticket holder unable to present valid identification indicating that they are at least 21 years of age will not be admitted to this event, and will not be eligible for a refund. The Venice West 1717 Lincoln Blvd,
Venice, $17, https://www.ticketweb.com/event/bollywood-night-the-venice-west-tickets/13576903

SPRING BREAK READING PARTY

The Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd., will be hosting a Spring Break Reading Party titled "Fantastic Fiction at Pico," starting at 2 p.m. Bring your own book or discover a new one while families read together in the same room. Refreshments provided. For grades K-5.

20 QUESTIONS TRIVIA

Trip Santa Monica, 2101 Lincoln Blvd., hosts 20 Questions Trivia beginning at 7 p.m. The evening is like no other trivia show, because you're part of the show. Wrong answers count for partial credit if they're funny. Every week the show has a theme, and all the questions and/or answers revolve around that theme. That makes it possible to figure out the answer even if you don't know it. Every question is followed by a song, which is usually an additional clue to the correct answer.

KIRTAN TRAINING

You are invited to join Govind Das at RA MA Los Angeles, 1729 21st St., for in-person Kirtan Training Weekend Immersion from March 29-31. Whether you are new to harmonium, or looking to take your skills to the next level, this training is for you. In addition to learning the mantras, other Bhaki practices will be trained, including Aarti (offering light), Java meditation, inspirational readings, prayer and stories of the Gods & Goddesses. All newcomers will be given a 45-minute intro video to go over the basics before the training. Starts at 6 p.m. each day. Email bhaktiyogashala@gmail.com to register, or visit: https://www.universe.com/events/kirtan-training-with-govind-das-tickets-NDQ4GW.

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.

TECH ROAST SHOW

The Eli and Edythe Broad Stage, 1310 11th St., hosts Tech Roast Show 2042 beginning at 8 p.m. Tech Roast Show visits every major tech hub across the United States and India, inviting volunteers from the audience to get speed-roasted on stage. Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets $42-$51, tickets for groups of five or more $39. For more, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tech-roast-show-2042-tickets-794373511557.

SATURDAY | MARCH 30

TODDLERS, BABIES, DADS!

Join organizers on Saturday mornings. Where kids play freely, learn and grow, while dads relax, meet other dads, get tips and tricks! Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. 8:30 - 11:15 a.m.

PICO SANTA MONICA FARMER'S MARKET

This neighborhood market was established in 1992 and features produce from approximately 35 certified California farms, as well as live entertainment, activities and prepared and prepackaged food. It is a popular site with the local community and draws its customer base from the local Santa Monica and Westside communities. The market is open at 2233 Pico Blvd. from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine. Market accepts Cal Fresh EBT and WIC-Farmers Market Nutrition Program checks. The market also provides a Market Match program for Cal Fresh EBT customers. Market Match is California's healthy food incentive program that matches customers' CalFresh nutrition assistance benefits at farmers markets. The Pico Market Match Program (in partnership with Hunger Action Los Angeles) matches up to $20 for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables.

16TH STREET COMMUNITY TEACHING GARDEN

Come join the 16th Street Teaching Community Garden for an inaugural work party, beginning at 10 a.m. at 16th Street and Michigan Avenue. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just looking to lend a hand, all are welcome. Kick off the garden season with a day of mulching, learning, eating and community bonding. Don't forget to bring your favorite gardening gloves and sun protection. Donations welcome.

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.

SHOTGUN HOUSE TOUR

Join the Santa Monica Preservation Resource Center from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. for a free tour of the last intact shotgun house in Santa Monica which now serves as the Resource Center for the community at 2520 2nd St. Discover the journey of the house which was saved from demolition and moved - on wheels - three times before becoming a model for adaptive reuse. Tours available on a walk-up basis. For more information, contact 310-496-3146.

GET READY FOR KINDERGARTEN!

Help your little one prepare to start school with Get Ready for Kindergarten storytime! This storytime includes books and music and will be followed by a craft. In March, they will focus on Math and Science, including ways to include early number concepts in your day-to-day life. In April, they will focus on Talk and Play and how playtime helps little ones learn the social skills that will be vital in their interactions with peers and teachers in school. This special Get Ready for Kindergarten storytime is best suited for children ages 3-5 years old and their caregivers. 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Donald Bruce Kaufman - Brentwood Branch Library, 11820 San Vicente Boulevard, Los Angeles

UCLA GLUCK REED TRIO

The UCLA Gluck Reed Trio will be bringing their wonderful music to the library. Don't miss this musical morning. For ADA accommodations, call (213) 228-7430 at least 72 hours prior to the event. 11 a.m. Palisades Branch Library, 861 Alma Real Drive, Pacific Palisades.

NOIR FILM FESTIVAL

Join them to experience noir films - they are often based in Los Angeles. In a Lonely Place (1950) directed by Nicholas Ray, chronicles a gifted but washed-up screenwriter with a hair-trigger temper—Humphrey Bogart, who becomes the prime suspect in a brutal Tinseltown murder. The only person who can supply an alibi for him is a seductive neighbor (Gloria Grahame) with her own troubled past. 2 p.m. Palisades Branch Library, 861 Alma Real Drive, Pacific Palisades.

2024 ARTS MONTH RECEPTION

Join us for a reception to celebrate the launch of Arts, Creativity and Culture Month in Santa Monica. Stop by and check out the "Our Pico" portrait exhibition in the Beach House gallery and meet photographer Sam Comen - this Pico Neighborhood worker portrait exhibit has recently been acquired for the city's Art Bank collection. Mingle with local artists and enjoy light noshes while showing your support for arts advocacy, culture and creativity! 2 - 4 p.m. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Highway

SUNDAY | MARCH 31

MAIN STREET FARMERS MARKET

The Sunday Main Street Farmers market, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at 2640 Main Street, 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.

MONDAY | APRIL 1

Author Event:
Zibby's Bookshop at 1113 Montana Ave. is thrilled to host author Sheila Yasmin Marikar as she celebrates the launch of "Friends in Napa." Marikar will be joined in conversation by Aishwarya Iyer, founder of Brightland olive oil. Sipwell will be providing their award-winning wines for the evening. Starts at 6 p.m. General admission free, copy of "Friends in Napa" plus a gift for $17. For more, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/author-event-sheila-yasmin-marikar-with-aishwarya-iyer-tickets-862542266137.

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. Starts at 6:30 p.m. at the SMi Room in the Civic Center Parking Structure, 333 Civic Center Dr.

BERGAMOT COMEDY FESTIVAL

The Bergamot Comedy Festival is a week-long stand-up comedy celebration spotlighting the country's newest and most distinct rising talent. Along with comedy shows each night through April 6, there will be free educational programming for the local community. Monday's schedule includes a "Tomorrow's Ladies of Late Night" panel from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., a "Tomorrow's Ladies of Late Night" showcase from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., and a festival opening party from 10 p.m. to 12 p.m. Nightly showcase tickets $20, VIP tickets (including a one-year subscription to MasterClass) $45. For more, visit bergamotcomedyfest.com.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

FOR QUOTES PLEASE CALL 310-573-8074

or email cindy@smdp.com

CLASSIFICATIONS					
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Furniture	Travel	Commercial Lease	Services	Health and Beauty	Obituaries
	Vacation Rentals	Real Estate	Computer Services	Fitness	Tutoring

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

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm
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MOST LOVED

FROM PAGE 1

Personal Care, and Service. With time, the contest has seen an uptick in participants and has adopted a two-phase voting system. Free and open to all, voting is accessible to residents, businesses, and visitors alike.

The contest is as much about supporting the community as it is about recognizing the businesses because it turns out doing the latter is key to the former.

Supporting local businesses isn't merely a matter of convenience; it is an investment in the well-being of our community. Studies have consistently shown that when consumers choose to patronize local establishments, a significant portion of their expenditure circulates back into the local economy. Unlike chain stores, which often funnel profits to distant shareholders, small businesses reinvest their earnings locally, supporting other businesses, creating jobs, and fueling economic growth.

Moreover, local businesses are essential custodians of our community's identity. They infuse our neighborhoods with character and vitality, offering unique products and personalized services that simply cannot be replicated by corporate giants. From the artisanal craftsmanship of handmade goods to the familiar faces behind the counter who know us by name, these establishments are the cornerstone of Santa Monica's cultural heritage.

To have your vote count, visit https://smdp.com/mostloved2024

editor@smdp.com

STORM

FROM PAGE 1

coastal areas of Los Angeles County, including Santa Monica, with a low-to-moderate chance that a Flash Flood Watch could be issued during the period.

The storm has unfortunate timing for those looking to have outdoor activities for the Easter holiday weekend. According to AccuWeather Senior Meteorologist Heather Zehr, rainfall will cause water to create ponds on roadways, forging potential for flooding on streets, highways and poor-drainage areas. Other delays for motorists could come in the form of significant runoff on hillsides, which can lead to debris like rocks and mud.

While the thunderstorm risk diminishes for Easter Sunday itself, the AccuWeather report notes that incidents of small hail may be in store for Southern California during the date. The area will also be susceptible to temperature drops and gusty southerly winds, with a High Wind Watch already added for San Luis Obispo County and wind advisories scheduled as soon as Friday.

Outside of traditional weekend activities and Easter events, the storm also coincides with the beginning of the 2024 Major League Baseball season, with rain delays possible for the Los Angeles Dodgers' home opening series against the St. Louis Cardinals. As of Thursday, first pitch times of 7:10 p.m. Friday, 6:10 p.m. Saturday and 4:10 p.m. Sunday are still on schedule.

After a dry January in Santa Monica, February came in with a historical storm, as rainfall from Feb. 4-6 dropped 6.71 inches on the city, per historical weather database Weather Underground.

The total was so astronomical that within 48 hours, the city received more rain than all of April 2023 through January (6.29 inches). March was more quiet but still brought some rainfall, totaling 2.36 inches according to Weather Underground.

The dramatic February storm has kept California wet, as per the California Data Exchange Center, the majority of the state's reservoirs are well above historical average capacity, including major sites like Oroville and Shasta in the northern part of the state. The United States Drought Monitor brings even more good news, since as of March 26, no part of the state is under any drought conditions, even the baseline moderate drought level.

thomas@smdp.com

LIBERAL

FROM PAGE 3

projects such as sports arenas minimize CEQA's effect.

A few years ago, the Legislature passed Assembly Bill 5, which requires millions of Californians who do contract work to be converted into payroll employees, but only after exempting certain categories chosen by legislative leaders.

Something of that nature happened again this week when Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 610, which exempts certain restaurant employees from the state's new $20 minimum wage for fast food workers. They include workers in hotels, theme parks, concessions on public property and gambling casinos.

Earlier, there had been a flap over an exemption for workers in restaurants that bake and sell bread. It appeared to benefit Panera Bread, one of whose franchise holders had been a major political contributor to Newsom. The controversy died down when Panera agreed to abide by the law.

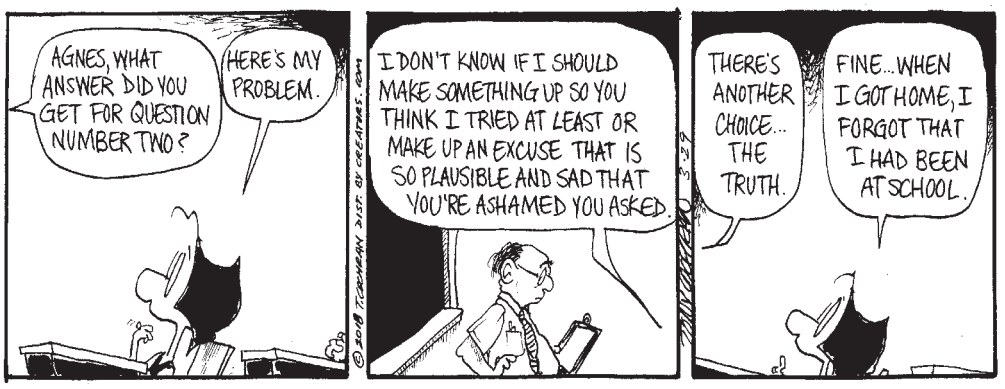
AB 610 arbitrarily improves the bottom line for some restaurants while others will soon see their labor costs escalate. Politicians once again choose winners and losers.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

GET IT DAILY...

Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



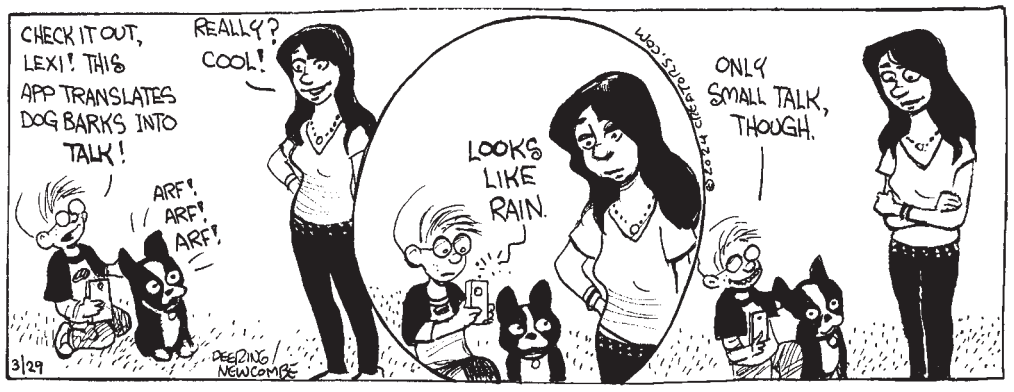
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6164

Food, glorious food

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

Ales	Carrot	Hamburger	Sauces
Apple	Chew	Indulgence	Slice
Apricot	Chocolate	Jams	Souffle
Bagel	Coriander	Lasagne	Stew
Bars	Curry	Layers	Sugar
Basil	Cut	Lollies	Syrup
Beans	Entree	Mint	Taco
Beef	Flavour	Mixed	Tarts
Bites	Fondant	Pork	Toffees
Buns	Fritter	Rissole	
Cake	Grease	Roast	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 29)

Because you have the courage to explore who you are outside of defining roles and relationships, the year features a dazzling expansion of these definitions. You'll recognize potentials and bank on opportunities others miss, adding zeros to a bottom line. You will effervesce with acceptance and love. Your talent will be appreciated, your love returned. Sagittarius and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 1, 16, 2 and 38.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your attractive qualities include an innocent excitement in simply being alive. Bonus: when you're having fun, you won't feel shy about showing it, which makes the people around you want to find their joy, too.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Something that baffles the others will be, to you, a piece of cake. Even so, it may be your instinct to hesitate for effect so as not to best anyone too quickly. It's not a bad idea to protect people's feelings.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll fix a problem, or at least stop it from getting worse. You will be very much in line with partners on matters of finance, specifically the level of risk you're willing to take.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Kindness is your aim, though the complex world takes plenty of energy to navigate; being the least bit tired, distracted or irritated can trigger other responses. Keep correcting toward spiritual generosity and you'll be good.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your empathic heart is a sanctuary for those seeking solace in uncertainty. Let them find you. Don't go out of your way because they will come at the perfect moment when their needs will intersect the gifts you'll bestow in abundance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You want an excellent experience for as many people as possible. Don't jump to conclusions about what others need. Your keen powers of observation will show you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). While you don't lack conviction, you wouldn't dream of imposing your own code. On the road to peace, extremes of good and evil, or law and chaos can be unhelpful prejudices. A respectful neutrality will serve you well.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You have an excellent sense of humor, though you still take your responsibilities very seriously — much more seriously than you take yourself. This is how you stay happy, healthy and wise.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your reality is a progression of assumptions you make at various levels of consciousness. Those assumptions can and will be steered. The question is, who is at the wheel?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're keenly aware that what is true today might not be true tomorrow. Because of this you savor or ignore certain circumstances. You dance with or opt out of various arrangements. You choose your company carefully.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You don't mind getting grubby for the right reasons — in fact the dirt will be a source of pride. "Never wear your best trousers when you go off to fight for freedom and truth." — Henrik Ibsen

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Even when you accomplish a feat in your own home with no one else around, you can almost hear cheers of encouragement, as though you'd made a wave in some form of collective perception. Yes, the world is proud of you, they just don't know it yet.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

T	O	M	B	■	A	L	T	O	■	T	R	O	O	P
A	R	E	A	■	M	A	I	D	■	Y	O	W	Z	A
L	E	N	T	■	I	N	F	O	■	P	A	N	S	Y
C	O	T	T	A	G	E	F	R	I	E	S	■	■	■
■	S	A	L	S	A	■	■	■	R	A	T	R	O	D
■	■	L	E	I	■	S	O	L	I	■	S	O	R	E
P	A	N	D	A	■	C	R	O	S	S	■	M	A	T
A	G	O	■	G	N	O	C	C	H	I	■	A	T	E
V	A	T	■	O	O	R	A	H	■	L	I	N	E	R
E	V	E	R	■	F	E	S	S	■	O	W	E	■	■
D	E	S	I	R	E	■	■	■	B	E	A	M	S	■
■	■	■	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	P	I	E
I	R	A	Q	I	■	L	O	C	O	■	H	I	N	T
R	E	R	U	N	■	U	P	O	N	■	A	R	E	S
E	M	C	E	E	■	G	E	N	X	■	D	E	W	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	5	8	9	7	2	1	6	4
4	2	7	8	6	1	9	3	5
1	9	6	3	4	5	8	7	2
7	8	2	1	3	6	4	5	9
6	4	5	2	9	7	3	1	8
9	3	1	5	8	4	6	2	7
5	6	4	7	1	9	2	8	3
8	7	9	6	2	3	5	4	1
2	1	3	4	5	8	7	9	6

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

Newsday Crossword

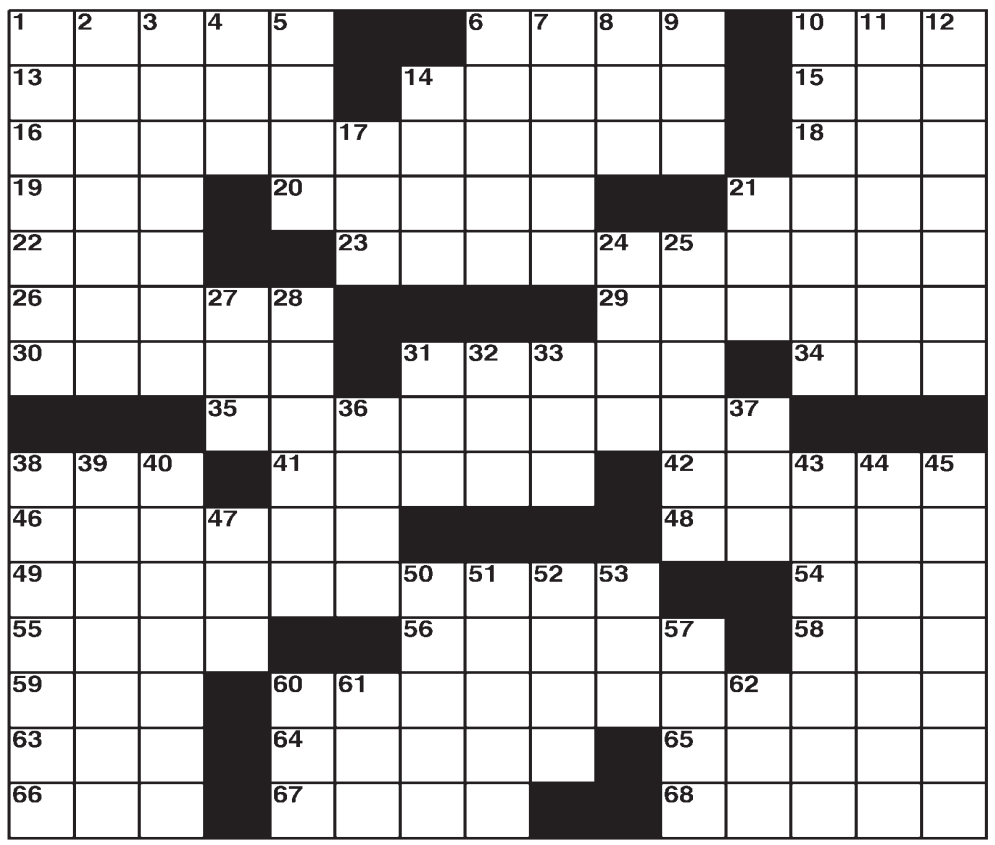
SHIP SHAPE by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 British grocery chain
6 Organ valve
10 Close relative
13 Period in old Rome
14 Battery post
15 Top spot
16 Sneeze-inducing substance
18 Juilliard deg.
19 Mexican mme.
20 State starter
21 Very soft mineral
22 Cry of mock fear
23 Quite a stir
26 Acclaims
29 Vague feeling
30 Late winter VIP
31 It's southeast of Palermo
34 Sitcom breaks
35 Builder of elaborate nests
38 USPS driver's designation
41 What you've inherited
42 Begins to develop
46 World's largest peninsula
48 Dark-skinned wine grape
49 Planning ace
54 Texter's disclaimer
55 Botched
56 Without a letup
58 Organic sealant
59 Small minor
60 Picasso or Rembrandt
63 __ blue (Ivy League hue)
64 Radar readout
65 Italian Alp
66 Cleared out
67 "__ keep"
68 Spurred (on)

DOWN

1 Features of fezzes
2 Request in earnest
3 Approach slyly
4 Scoundrel
5 Semi- doubled
6 Exhibit anger
7 Final tally
8 Dash letters
9 As told by
10 Horn of Africa land
11 Overflowing its banks
12 Symbols of hope
14 Alaskan island
17 Granite State sch.
21 Certain self-adornment
24 Start to lock
25 Gets on
27 Small amount
28 Hardly a Havana
31 Hes
32 Don't just seem
33 Letters on a big bread bag
36 Have on
37 Time of light
38 Gadabout
39 Nonsense lyrics
40 Started gradually
43 SAT's __ and Language section
44 Yoga class greeting
45 Didn't pay enough to
47 Digression starter
50 Gourmet fungus
51 Secret stuff
52 Brilliant loner
53 What you've inherited
57 Not much change
60 Sorority letter
61 Decline, with "out"
62 Dress up, with "out"



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

COMMUNITY NEWS

Malibu

Community Members Invited to Attend Second Workshop to Address Sea-Level Rise as Part of the City of Malibu's Coastal Vulnerability Assessment

The City of Malibu invites community members to participate in an upcoming workshop focused on the Coastal Vulnerability Assessment, offered in-person April 18 and virtually April 30. This workshop provides a valuable opportunity for the community to share feedback and engage in discussions regarding the next steps in addressing the projected impacts of sea-level rise in Malibu.

"We live in a seaside community that is highly vulnerable to sea-level rise, so it is crucial to get everyone in Malibu informed and involved in the efforts to address it," said Mayor Steve Uhring. "If we collaborate and share ideas, then we can be better able to shape the future of our coastline, and make sure Malibu stays strong and resilient for future generations."

The in-person workshop takes place on Thursday, April 18, 5:00 PM at City Hall (23825 Stuart Ranch Road). The virtual workshop will be held on Tuesday, April 30, 3:00 PM. Zoom link for the virtual workshop is posted at https://tinyurl.com/MalibuCVA. RSVPs are not required for these events.

The City previously presented technical results of projected sea-level rise impacts in the mid-century and late-century at in-person and virtual workshops in November, 2023. The recording of the virtual workshop is available to watch at https://youtu.be/qf51xGSahRs. The draft Coastal Vulnerability Assessment report and interactive GIS map is available to review at https://malibucity.org/coastal.

The community's input, gathered through the upcoming workshop, will play a pivotal role in shaping the final stages of the Coastal Vulnerability Assessment as the project approaches completion. The community's active participation is vital in shaping the resilience of Malibu's coastal community.

For more information, visit https://malibucity.org/coastal, call 310-456-2489, ext. 390, or email mbuilding@malibucity.org.

SUBMITTED BY SOLISHIA ANDICO, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ANALYST

Citywide

Foster families needed for local children

Children's Bureau is seeking foster families and now offers two virtual ways for individuals and/or couples to learn how to help children in foster care while reunifying with birth families or how to provide legal permanency by adoption.

If you or someone you know may be interested in learning more about foster care and adoption, a live English Zoom Orientation is scheduled for April 18th from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. hosted by a Children's Bureau team member and a foster parent. For those who want to learn at their own pace about becoming a foster and/or foster-adopt parent, a PowerPoint orientation is also available. To R.S.V.P. for the live orientation or to request the PowerPoint orientation, please email Rfrecruitment@all4kids.org, call 800-730-3933, or visit https://www.all4kids.org/foster-care-and-adoption-inquiry-form/ to complete a quick inquiry form. A link to the meeting will be emailed to you.

A Spanish PowerPoint can be emailed to you upon request. Call 800-730-3933 or email RFrecruitment@all4kids.org and a Spanish PowerPoint will be emailed to you. A Bi-lingual staff member will assist you throughout the process.

Children's Bureau partners with over 200 foster-adoptive families annually to help at-risk youth by giving them a home that is nearby and inclusive to their foster siblings. Lisa and Michael began their foster-adoptive journey by providing a stable home to a sibling set of three, two girls and a boy. They worked to keep the family together and have experienced a bond like no other. "If adoption is in your future, there is no need to look any further than our surrounding county. So many local children need a family. If you are wanting to "make a difference" with your life, consider adopting from foster care. You could be saving generations," said Lisa.

In the 1940's, Children's Bureau opened adoption services and found homes for refugee children orphans from World War II. The agency continues to meet the needs by offering a wide array of programs in areas related to adoption such as foster care, prevention, and mental health. Children's Bureau has multiple locations operating throughout Southern California.

"Right now, children who have experienced trauma and have been separated from their birth family need our help," says Leslie Oropeza, Children's Bureau Director of Foster Care and Adoption. "We are looking for families who can open their homes and hearts to these children. Families who have extra space and the willingness to keep them together. Statistics show siblings kept together in foster care and adoption do better later in life. They heal quicker from their trauma, have better attachments, and develop healthy self-images," she adds.

Children's Bureau welcomes all individuals regardless of race, age, religion, disability, marital status, ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression to become a resource for children. Qualifying families receive training and support throughout their journey. Foster Care and Adoption Programs are available in Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, and Ventura counties.

For information about Children's Bureau and the other critical services the agency provides, visit www.all4kids.org. To stay connected with Family Foster Care and Adoption services, visit www.all4kids.org/foster.

SUBMITTED BY THE CHILDREN'S BUREAU

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
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Holy Week and Easter

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