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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 110 THE WEEKENDER 4/19-4/21 smdp.com

Safer Communities Coalition announce 900,000 signatures collected to amend Prop 47



Photo by Scott Snowden

PROP 47: A group of local leaders and elected officials spoke in Culver City on Thursday to provide an update on a state ballot measure aimed at fighting retail theft.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Small business owners, community leaders and elected officials gathered in front of the Culver City Music Center Washington Blvd on Thursday morning, to announce that over 900,000 signatures had been gathered for the Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act (Initiative 23-0017A1) to qualify for the November General Election ballot.

Culver City Music Center was chosen as it's the location of Vice Mayor Lana Negrete's sister store to her Santa Monica Music Center on Santa Monica Blvd and tragically, both stores have been victim to multiple break ins and organized burglaries over the course of the past few years.

Joining Santa Monica Mayor Phil Brock was Tricia La Belle, President of the Greater LA Hospitality Association, Rev. Jonathan Mosely, Western Region Director of the National Action Network, Matt Capelouto, President of Drug-Induced Homicide, Faith Bautista, President, National Diversity Coalition, former Santa Monica City councilmember Greg Morena and Gloria Romero, boardmember of United Latinos Action and former California State Senator.

Sadly, Negrete wasn't able to attend as she's undergoing treatment for her cancer. "This issue is so important to her and her family-owned business because they've been

SEE **PROP 47** PAGE 12



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Monument continues service as site of vigilance, reflection

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

A 9-foot-tall dark granite obelisk on the corner of Venice Blvd. and Lincoln Blvd. raises similarities to one of America's darkest hours, forever etching that time into the area's history.

That object, the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument (VJAMM), marks the spot where more than a thousand people of Japanese ancestry were transported directly to the American concentration camp at Manzanar in eastern California, with many remaining incarcerated for over three years. As the monument's committee hosted the seventh annual commemoration of the structure, the gathered crowd of VJAMM participants and representatives from throughout Los Angeles sought to make sure the future does not repeat the twisted past.

In opening remarks, Los Angeles City Councilmember Traci Park thanked the committee for contributing to the monument, while expressing how members of the Venice, Santa Monica and Malibu communities were subject to "one of our country's most shameful chapters."

"(This is) a silent, but meaningful reminder of a past that we should strive to never repeat, but we would do well to never forget," Park said.

Those taken to Manzanar were ripped from their homes without any regard for due process, violating their rights as United States citizens under the Constitution. Once they arrived, they were subjected to blistering summers, freezing winters and constant sweeps of dust carried by high winds. Indoor conditions were no better, given little in the way of resources, leading to rampant sickness. Park stated she recently visited Manzanar as a reminder of the oppressive scenario.

> Walking through the footprints of that time, I can still hear voices on that desert wind (of) those who suffered there not too many years ago
> - Traci Park, Los Angeles City Councilmember

"Walking through the footprints of that time, I can still hear voices on that desert wind (of) those who suffered there not too

SEE **MONUMENT** PAGE 10



Photo by Thomas Leffler

VJAMM: Los Angeles City Councilmember Traci Park spoke on Thursday at the seventh annual Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument Commemoration.

Eric Uller sexually abused hundreds of children over almost 30 years while masquerading as a police officer at Santa Monica PAL.





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Once a Loyola Marymount class project, now Nosotros Tequila is top shelf



Courtesy Photo

TEQUILA: Carlos Soto and Mike Arbanas have made waves with Nosotros Tequila & Mezcal.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Tequila is a complicated spirit and with its growing popularity comes a bevy of opinions about just what the drink can do and should be. For Carlos Soto, founder of Nosotros Tequila & Mezcal, Tequila is a calling that should ignite passion in those fortunate enough to taste it.

Soto's brand has been available on Southern California shelves since its formation in 2017. According to the company, its balanced and vibrant taste ignites that passion but Soto's own inspiration for the brand happened in a more sedate environment: the classroom.

Born through the development of a college project, where then-Loyola Marymount Professor Matt Richter-Sand challenged students in his Managing New Ventures course to pitch a business that had nothing to do with technology.

"I literally remember our professor grabbing his phone and just throwing it on the table like 'Forget about your phone. Look around and see what's happening," said Soto.

Soto took his words to heart, and while out with friends at a local bar that same night, he noticed the growing popularity of tequila.

"It was way before every celebrity and their mother had a tequila brand," joked Soto. Soto experienced this trend personally, as tequila had been his preferred drink since he first tried it after moving to Los Angeles from Costa Rica in 2014. Inspired by his old roots and new taste, Soto formed the beginnings of Nosotros for his class pitch, focusing on the sustainability that was central to both his Costa Rican culture and Los Angeles lifestyle.

> After the trip to Mexico I was in love with [tequila] like the plants, the land, soil, the market, people. They're so passionate about it and it's very contagious
>
> - Carlos Soto

However strong the pitch was, Soto ended up making an ergonomic knife as his project instead. "I'm so happy it happened that way because I feel like if I, if I would have worked on this in class, I probably wouldn't have done it," said Soto. Although he continued his tequila venture

SEE **TEQUILA** PAGE 15



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **58.6**

FRIDAY
FAIR TO GOOD

SURF: 4-5ft
Chest to head

SSW swell down to fun-zone leftovers. Conditions looking decent for the morning window at this point, just mind the deep high tide to start the day. SSW onshores for bumpier afternoon conditions.

SATURDAY
FAIR

SURF: 3-4ft+
Waist to shoulder

Morning winds looking light. Southerly winds due by the afternoon. Old SSW swell joined by some SSW reinforcements, keeping waves fun-zone.

Weather

Friday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny, with a high near 64.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 54. West southwest wind 5 to 15 mph.
Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 66. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southwest in the afternoon.
Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 55.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2024/04/19	Fri	01:50 AM	1.49	L
2024/04/19	Fri	07:34 AM	4.29	H
2024/04/19	Fri	1:59 PM	0.25	L
2024/04/19	Fri	8:23 PM	4.50	H
2024/04/20	Sat	02:22 AM	1.02	L
2024/04/20	Sat	08:13 AM	4.29	H
2024/04/20	Sat	2:21 PM	0.44	L
2024/04/20	Sat	8:40 PM	4.76	H
2024/04/21	Sun	02:52 AM	0.58	L
2024/04/21	Sun	08:48 AM	4.21	H
2024/04/21	Sun	2:41 PM	0.67	L
2024/04/21	Sun	8:57 PM	5.03	H
2024/04/22	Mon	03:22 AM	0.19	L
2024/04/22	Mon	09:23 AM	4.08	H
2024/04/22	Mon	3:01 PM	0.93	L
2024/04/22	Mon	9:15 PM	5.26	H
2024/04/23	Tue	03:54 AM	-0.12	L
2024/04/23	Tue	09:58 AM	3.89	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: 4/17
24 29 44 47 54
Power#: 2
Jackpot: 98 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 4/16
21 26 36 44 59
Mega#: 2
Jackpot: 178 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 4/17
8 28 31 33 46
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 28 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 4/17
11 20 27 30 32

Daily 3
Draw Date: 4/17
EVENING: 7 4 6
Draw Date: 4/17
MIDDAY: 5 1 5

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 4/17
1st: 03 - Hot Shot
2nd: 01 - Gold Rush
3rd: 11 - Money Bags
Race Time: 1:44.92

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AWARD WINNER

Sustainable Quality Awards
WINNER

The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 8,200 on weekdays and 8,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

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Santa Monica Daily Press



City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Proposals for:

Memorial Park Redevelopment and Expansion Project
Project No. SP2509

The City of Santa Monica is inviting proposals from firms interested in providing professional landscape architectural, civil engineering, structural engineering, arboricultural, limited surveying, cost estimating and construction administration services for the Memorial Park Redevelopment and Expansion Project.

The purpose of the RFP is to select the most qualified consultant to provide all final design information, construction plans and specification, all required permits and utility company agreements, bid documents, cost estimates, and construction support services necessary to complete construction of the subject project.

RFP questions to be submitted to **via OpenGov**, no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 3, 2024.

Proposers shall upload RFP via OpenGov, no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 17, 2024. **Size of the electronic proposal shall not exceed 10 MB.**

RFP Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca.

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.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

McDonald's ice cream machines are so unreliable they're a meme. They might also be a climate solution

Editor's Note: More than 70 high school students across California submitted opinion pieces to CalMatters' second annual Earth Day contest. The 2024 contest theme was "What solution should Californians running for office support to help address climate change?"

REID HEAVNER

McDonald's might just be a new frontier in our fight against the climate crisis.

Yes, that McDonald's. Specifically, their infamous ice cream machines.

Over the last few years, these machines have become a public laughingstock due to their tendency to break down and the inability of individual restaurants to fix them. The constant mishaps and slow repairs have annoyed customers and spawned thousands of memes.

They've also built support for the next iteration of the right to repair movement.

"Right to repair" refers to the ability of consumers to independently repair products without going back to the manufacturer. This doesn't just apply to ice cream machines: advocates have been pushing for repair rights for everything from dishwashers to cars to phones.

In this election year, the right to repair deserves attention from voters and candidates alike.

Unfortunately, the goal of repair rights runs counter to the interests of large corporations. When a company sells so much of its product that their market becomes saturated, their sales decline. Recently, corporations have been trying to maintain profits by making their products impossible to repair without product-unique tools, instructional resources or special software.

Another common strategy is "parts pairing," in which a company remotely disables features of their product after detecting a repair by anyone other than themselves. This forces consumers into one of two options: paying the company to perform costly repairs or paying the company for a replacement product.

When asked about these issues, Nathan Proctor, Public Interest Research Group's senior director of the right to repair campaign, said companies "are making these things, assuming that as soon as it has a maintenance issue, it's being thrown away. That has to stop."

That's because companies' single-use mentality has massive environmental repercussions.

Californians generate 1.5 tons of e-waste every minute, according to PIRG. Globally, e-waste emissions are growing steadily, reaching over 600 million tons of climate pollution in 2020.

The problem is fixable. If Americans waited just one extra year before buying a replacement, Proctor said it would be similar to taking over 630,000 cars off of the roads and would save roughly $382 per household, or $50 billion nationally.

Luckily, the California Legislature last year passed the nation's strongest bill protecting repair rights. California now requires manufacturers to provide parts, guides and software to fix all electronics and appliances for up to seven years after a purchase.

However, gaps remain. The law only applies to a narrow set of consumer products, and even creates some big exceptions within those categories such as video game consoles. Plus, while seven years may sound like a long time, it's insignificant compared to the longevity you might expect from an appliance.

Ultimately, the bill doesn't address the fundamental problem at hand. Corporations still are able to practice parts pairing, or can just design their product to make repairs more difficult.

California's new regulations are a step in the right direction, but the state's leaders must close these gaps and loopholes. Our federal representatives need to support a national right to repair, and the election year is a perfect opportunity for candidates to endorse this principle.

At the end of the day, we just want quality products that work. We don't want to pay absurd amounts of money just to have functional items, and we don't want to spend hours fighting with intentionally poor product designs.

With improved legislation, we can create a world where our products work for us. Whether that's as simple as being able to get ice cream at McDonald's or as complicated as fixing an old computer, repair rights create a world we could all benefit from.

Reid Heavner is a freshman at Santa Rosa High School. He is a staff writer for The Santa Rosan, the school's student-run newspaper, and aspires to be an editor or podcast manager. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

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

SMDP STAFF REPORT

NEW EXHIBIT SALUTES CHICANO CULTURE, COMMUNITY:

The Chicano art movement has represented both the struggle and success of Mexican-American artists since the 1960s, and the Mecca of Chicano art now has a home at the California Heritage Museum with the "Arte Chicano Hecho En Los Angeles" exhibit. Put together by guest curator Pablo De La Rosa, the exhibit is a tribute to both the well-known and burgeoning artists representing Santa Monica and beyond. Artwork highlights popular Chicano culture like luchadors and classic cars, as well as the resourcefulness of Chicano artists ranging from the legendary "Los Four" to those who are now part of a major exhibit for the first time.

MAN ARRESTED IN SAN DIEGO FOR ASSAULTING TWO WOMEN IN VENICE:

The Los Angeles Police Department has arrested a suspect in connection with two violent assaults in the Venice Canal community. LAPD confirmed the arrest of 29-year-old Anthony Francisco Jones in relation to the recent assaults, with Jones apprehended on April 11 in San Diego and facing charges pertaining to the violent incidents that occurred on April 6. According to LAPD, officers responded to the 2700 block of Strongs Drive to a report regarding a woman being approached from behind and struck with a blunt force object, leaving the woman unconscious. The suspect similarly attacked another woman about an hour later as she was walking near the Sherman Canal before fleeing the scene. Police said both victims sustained significant injuries. Jones is being charged with two counts of forcible rape, one count of sexual penetration by use of force, one count of mayhem, one count of torture, one count of attempted murder and one count of sodomy. In an April 15 press conference, Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón announced the charges, stating that Jones faces a maximum of life in prison.

SPECIAL GUEST PANEL ON HOMELESSNESS REVEALS HOW OTHER CITIES ARE HANDLING THE CRISIS:

On April 12, a group of officials gathered at the 1212 restaurant on the Third Street Promenade to focus on successful strategies to achieve a reduction in homelessness. The panel, moderated by Daily Press Editor in Chief Matthew Hall, included Santa Monica Mayor Phil Brock, Malibu Public Safety Director Susan Dueñas, former Santa Ana council member Michelle Martinez and District 51 assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur. Dueñas said that Malibu's approach includes using legislative measures to enforce private property rights, encouraging individuals in the community to step up, and using its resources to make multiple contacts with homeless individuals in the city.

A PAIR OF LOCAL CYCLIST REVOLUTIONARIES SUCCESSFULLY SWIM WITH THE 'SHARKS':

On the April 12 episode of ABC's "Shark Tank," locals Bryan Visintin and Ani Armstrong presented their noseless and bumpless bike seat product, the VSEAT, securing $200,000 in funding from the combination of Kevin O'Leary and Robert Herjavec in exchange for 25% equity in their business. The duo created the VSEAT in 2017, grinding out years of design work before finally breaking meaningful ground in sales during 2013. The product promotes a healthy and comfortable cycling experience by doing away with the pressures of a traditional saddle, with the v-shaped design distributing rider weight to the more supportive "sit bones" rather than pressure on genital areas.



Photo by Scott Snowden

PROTEST: Members of the community and City Council gathered at Reed Park to call for the removal of the needle exchange program.

REED PARK PROTEST HIGHLIGHTS OPPOSITION TO ONGOING NEEDLE DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM:

A crowd of approximately 100 people gathered at Christine Emerson Reed Park on April 16 to protest against the free needle distribution program in Downtown Santa Monica. Organized by the Santa Monica Coalition, the crowd assembled after a notice was distributed and posted online about a week before the event. The essence of the discussion revolves around a program whereby every week in the centrally located Reed Park, a transit van from the Venice Family Clinic distributes clean syringes, Narcan and fentanyl testing kits to anyone suffering from drug addiction. The program operates in a number oof parks in Santa Monica, but a significant cause of concern among critics is that St. Monica Preparatory School is directly opposite Reed Park, which incorporates publicly accessible basketball and tennis courts.

MARINA TOURISM CONTINUES REBOUND DESPITE INFLATION CHALLENGE:

This month, the Marina del Rey Tourism Board released the 2023 Economic Impact of Tourism Study for the waterfront locale, which plays a pivotal role in Los Angeles tourism as a whole. The study showed that tourism in the Marina generated an estimated impact of $638 million in 2023, with overnight visitors surpassing 2019 numbers before the COVID-19 pandemic. During the year, Marina del Rey hosted 551,726 overnight visitors, beating the 2019 total by 14 percent and gaining 3,014 visitors over the 2022 total. Direct visitor spending numbers, however, were skewed by inflation costs, with local officials stating that businesses have been "absorbing the cost" of inflation, particularly hotels and restaurants having to deal with increased food and lodging costs.

PATAGONIA, OTHER BUSINESSES HONORED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP:

On April 8, the City of Santa Monica announced the winners of the 28th annual Sustainable Quality Awards, a partnership between the city and environmental education nonprofit Sustainable Works that recognizes sustainable economic development, social responsibility and stewardship of the environment. Patagonia Santa Monica on the Third Street Promenade was the grand prize winner, while other local businesses received recognition in separate categories (Angeles Investment Advisors, Avocado Green Mattress, Physical Therapyworks and Yoga-urt). The Santa Monica location of Patagonia has supported climate initiatives like Stand Together Against Neighborhood Drilling Los Angeles (STAND-L.A.) and Friends of Ballona Wetlands.

REMODELED AND REBRANDED REGENT HOTEL OFFERS FIRST LOOK:

The remodeled and rebranded Regent Hotel that occupies the site formerly known as Loews beachfront hotel has released the first details of what the new venue is going to look like. The site is being remodeled as a "resort" rather than just a hotel experience and was originally scheduled to open in late 2023, with the date pushed back to mid-2024. According to the hotel, the resort will offer a total of 34 different suites, including a 2,180 sq-ft, two-story atrium suite offering ocean-facing views. A total of 143 guest rooms will also be available starting at 720 sq-ft with bathrooms that feature bathtubs, rainfall showers, bidets in the water closet and double vanities.

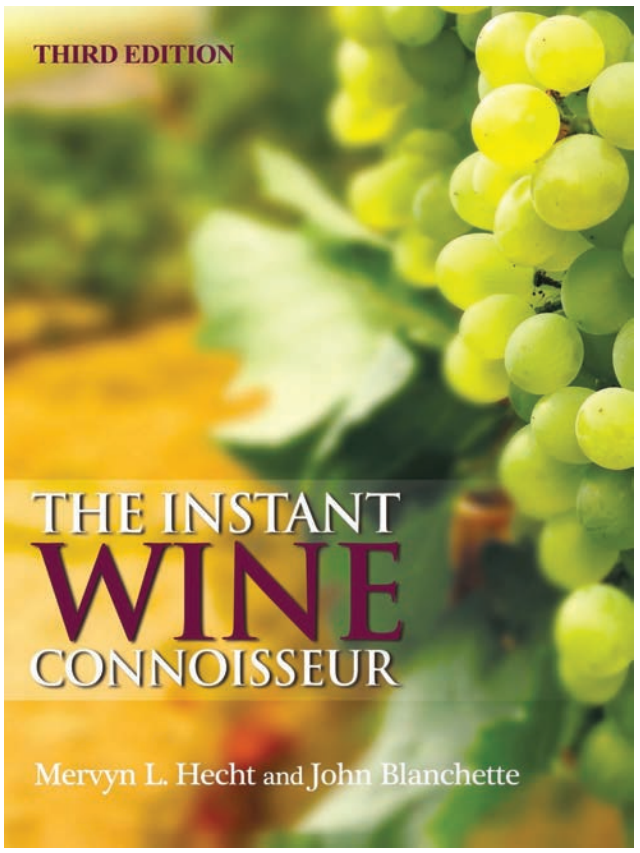
CELLISTA SOARS IN UPCOMING AERIAL CELLO EXPERIENCE:

Performance artist Cellista will be combining two top-notch entertainment forms on April 28 at the Highways Performance Space, performing the Aerial Cello piece "Élégie." The phrase is exactly what it means, as Cellista will be hoisted in the air in a static trapeze setting, all while playing her own cello composition. A classically-trained cello performer, she began to soar with trapeze classes during the COVID-19 pandemic, enjoying the aerial art's ability to be a "very malleable object" when it came to storytelling. She noted that physical training for the show has been "pretty intense," putting in between 15-20 hours a week of workouts and trapeze practice, including at least 100 push-ups each days to build strength.

SEE NEWS PAGE 15



★★★★★ A light-hearted fun read.
★★★★★ Well written, particularly useful, instantly accessible.
★★★★★ ...Hecht has a joyful eye and fabulous taste



Daily Press Food &Wine Columnist Merv Hecht takes you on an delightful tour of the world of wine. A fun way to increase your appreciation and knowledge of wine.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

MEASURE GS – 1 YEAR LATER

ROBERT MASCHIO

In the General Election of 2022 voters passed Measure GS, which created a 3rd tier tax rate of $56 per every $1000 in value for any residential & commercial real estate sales on 8 million and above., This was an approximate 833% tax increase, making the Santa Monica real estate transfer tax on sales between 8 -25 million the highest tax rate of any city in California. Now when a property sells for 10 million dollars, the Seller pays the City of Santa Monica a real estate transfer tax of $560,000. Prior to the passage of Measure GS, a 10 million dollar sale would have resulted in the Seller paying a Real Estate transfer tax rate of $6 per every $1000 or $60,000.

The stated goal of Measure GS was to generate an estimated 50 million dollars annually to fund public schools & homelessness prevention – the first 10 million would go to public schools, the next 40 million to the homelessness prevention. The money would be used to subsidize rent burdened, low-income households; the City would also acquire & rehabilitate existing rental properties as deed restricted affordable housing for extremely low-income households etc.

On the face of it, who would be against that?

It's been 1 year since Measure GS was enacted, so what happened?

I did my own search on the MLS, and I also consulted with (2) Title Companies, in order to get an approximate idea of the total residential, multifamily & commercials sales since the implementation of Measure GS. The total transactions vary slightly depending on the source, but here are my approximate results:

Real Estate Transactions at 8 million dollars & above:

March 1, 2022 – March 1, 2023

The count for all of Santa Monica Residential sales is 32

The count for all of Santa Monica Commercial sales is 18

Real Estate Transactions at 8 million dollars & above:

March 1, 2023 – March 1, 2024

The count for all of Santa Monica Residential sales is (15)

The count for all of Santa Monica Commercial sales is (5)

There are a variety of factors that make a market, one the one hand we experienced rising interest rates this past year, on the other hand, the stock market is within 1% of it's all-time highs (the wealth effect is a real factor) & the economy just posted its 27 straight month of sub 4% unemployment.

Nevertheless, it appears that Measure GS contributed to a 53% reduction in residential real estate sales & 72% reduction in commercial sales since the implementation of Measure GS. Meanwhile, sales in the sub-8 million dollar price point during these same time frames were only down 19%.

The unintended consequences of this tax increase are enormous: Contractors, electricians, plumbers, roofers, painters, realtors, loan officers, escrow officers, title reps, appraisers, designers, stagers, photographers -EVERY PERSON who makes a living in the real estate industry, just saw a 60% reduction in business opportunities at this price point. That's real, working-class people, who live, work & pay taxes in Santa Monica.

The public was led to believe that Measure GS would generate $50 million dollars annually – that figure was not even close. I look forward to the City of Santa Monica stating exactly how much revenue Measure GS generated this past year and how it was distributed between the 2 programs it was meant to fund. It would also be fair to weigh that revenue against the millions of dollars in lost wages for working class people in this industry - there are a lot of people who lost out on a lot of wages & work because of Measure GS.

You-ll recall Measure SM, passed in 2020, doubled the Real Estate Transfer taxes on homes valued at 5 million dollars from $3,00 per $1000 of home valuation to $6 per $1000 in home valuation. That new tax was earmarked for homelessness, parks and beaches maintenance, public safety, emergency response, senior and tenant protections, libraries, small businesses, food for the hungry and youth programs. Have you noticed an improvement with regards to homelessness, crime or management of affordable housing since then?

Santa Monica is (one) of the most heavily taxed cities in CA, with seemingly the least amount of return to show for it, meanwhile new tax schemes in the name of addressing homelessness destroy businesses & end up costing working class people real wages. Taxing "the rich" to help "the poor" is a popular rally cry, but in this case, it clearly hurt the overlooked middle class. Perhaps this explains the frustration that vast majorities of people have with the governing class, whether it be on the federal, state or in this case, the local level.

GET IT DAILY...

California governor pledges state oversight for cities, counties lagging on solving homelessness

JANIE HAR
Associated Press

Nearly $200 million in grant money will go to California cities and counties to move homeless people from encampments into housing, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced Thursday while also pledging increased oversight of efforts by local governments to reduce homelessness.

> I'm not interested in funding failure any longer
> - Gov. Gavin Newsom

The Democratic governor said he will move 22 state personnel from a housing enforcement unit to help cities and counties deliver on projects to reduce homelessness — and to crack down if they do not. He also said local governments will have to plan to build new housing for homeless residents or face potential legal action from the attorney general's office.

"I'm not interested in funding failure any longer," he said at a virtual news conference. "Encampments, what's happening on the streets, has to be a top priority. People have to see and feel the progress and the change. And if they're not, or counties are turning their back ... I'm not interested in continuing the status quo."

A scathing state audit released last week found that despite allocating $24 billion to tackle homelessness over the past five years, California has done little to track whether all that spending actually improved the situation. Newsom said the cities and counties that receive the money have to produce more data.

An estimated 171,000 people are homeless in California, a number that has grown despite massive investment by the state. Newsom, a former mayor of San Francisco who was elected governor in 2018, has made homelessness and housing twin priorities of his administration, including a novel plan to purchase and convert motels into housing for homeless people.

Under his watch, California has cracked down on local governments that refuse to plan for and build more housing as required by state law. Details were thin Thursday, but Newsom said a housing accountability unit within the California Department of Housing and Community Development will now tackle homelessness spending.

> At one time, we had over 650 people living on our embankments, and if it were not for these funds, we would not have had the success that we've had
> - Gov. Gavin Newsom

Newsom has repeatedly hammered a message of accountability, telling local officials to think bigger about ways to attack the crisis.

In 2022, he paused $1 billion of state spending for local governments, saying their plans to reduce homelessness were "simply unacceptable."

On Thursday, his office announced about $192 million in state grants to 17 cities and counties for targeted encampment clean-up efforts expected to provide services and housing for nearly 3,600 people. It's the latest round of an estimated $750 million set aside to resolve encampments.

The city of Fresno, for example, will receive nearly $11 million to house 200 people, provide services for hundreds more and add up to 100 permanent housing beds. Wealthy Marin County, on the northern end of the Golden Gate Bridge, will receive $18 million, including $8 million to move 60 people, largely Latino farm workers and their families, to temporary RV housing.

Several mayors and other local leaders at the news conference said the data doesn't always capture the very real successes they've had in coaxing people out of tents and into stable housing.

Fresno Mayor Jerry Dyer said state support has allowed the city to expand its mental health services, shelter outreach programs and housing units.

"At one time, we had over 650 people living on our embankments, and if it were not for these funds, we would not have had the success that we've had," he said.

FINDING A NEW DENTIST IS TOUGH!

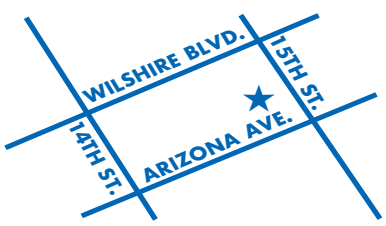
(BUT WE MAKE IT EASY!!!)

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

DENTAL CARE WITHOUT JUDGEMENT!

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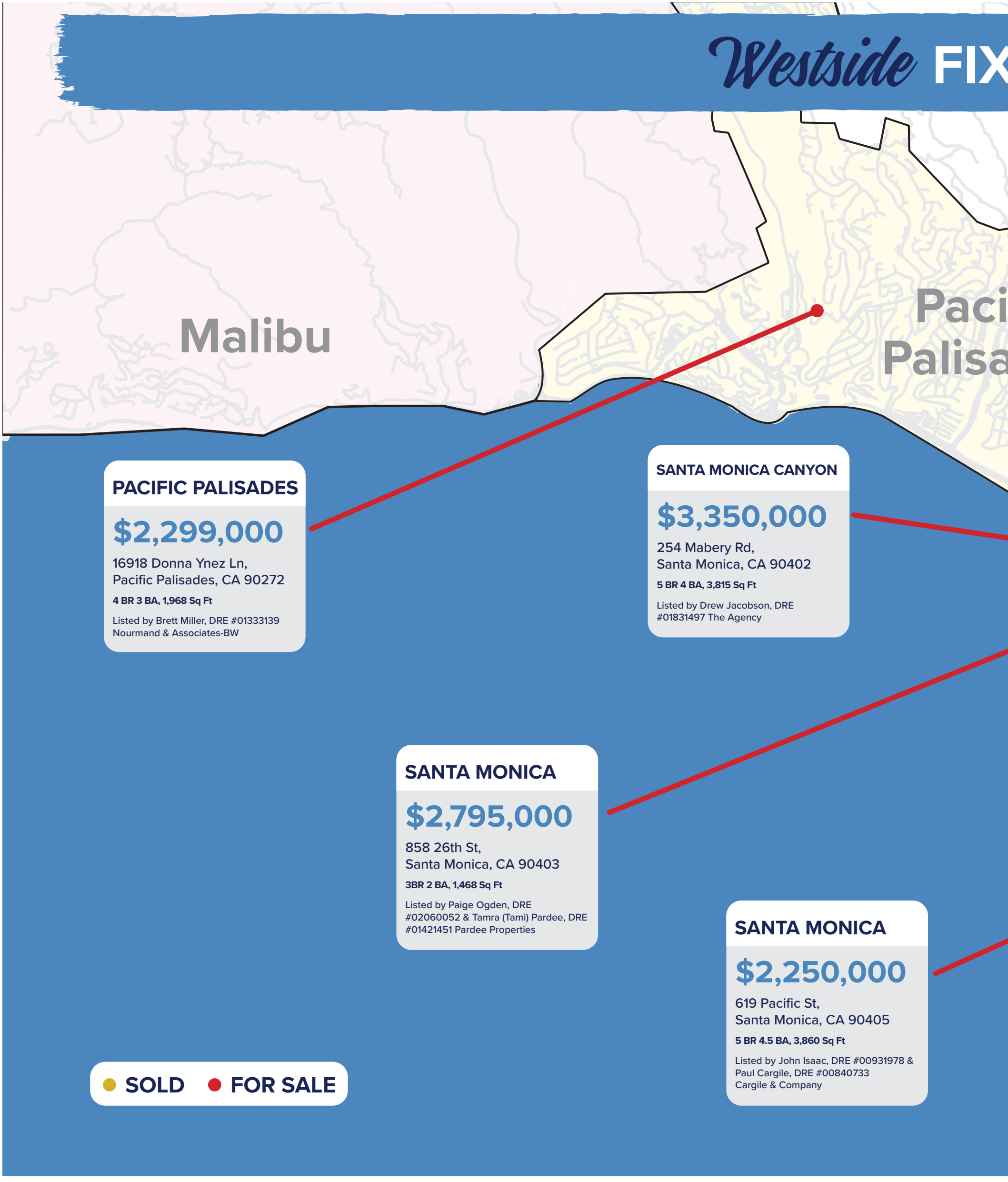
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$20 EXAM
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WWW.ALANRUBENSTEINDDS.COM

Westside FIX



PACIFIC PALISADES

$2,299,000

16918 Donna Ynez Ln,
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

4 BR 3 BA, 1,968 Sq Ft

Listed by Brett Miller, DRE #01333139
Nourmand & Associates-BW

SANTA MONICA CANYON

$3,350,000

254 Mabery Rd,
Santa Monica, CA 90402

5 BR 4 BA, 3,815 Sq Ft

Listed by Drew Jacobson, DRE
#01831497 The Agency

SANTA MONICA

$2,795,000

858 26th St,
Santa Monica, CA 90403

3BR 2 BA, 1,468 Sq Ft

Listed by Paige Ogden, DRE
#02060052 & Tamra (Tami) Pardee, DRE
#01421451 Pardee Properties

SANTA MONICA

$2,250,000

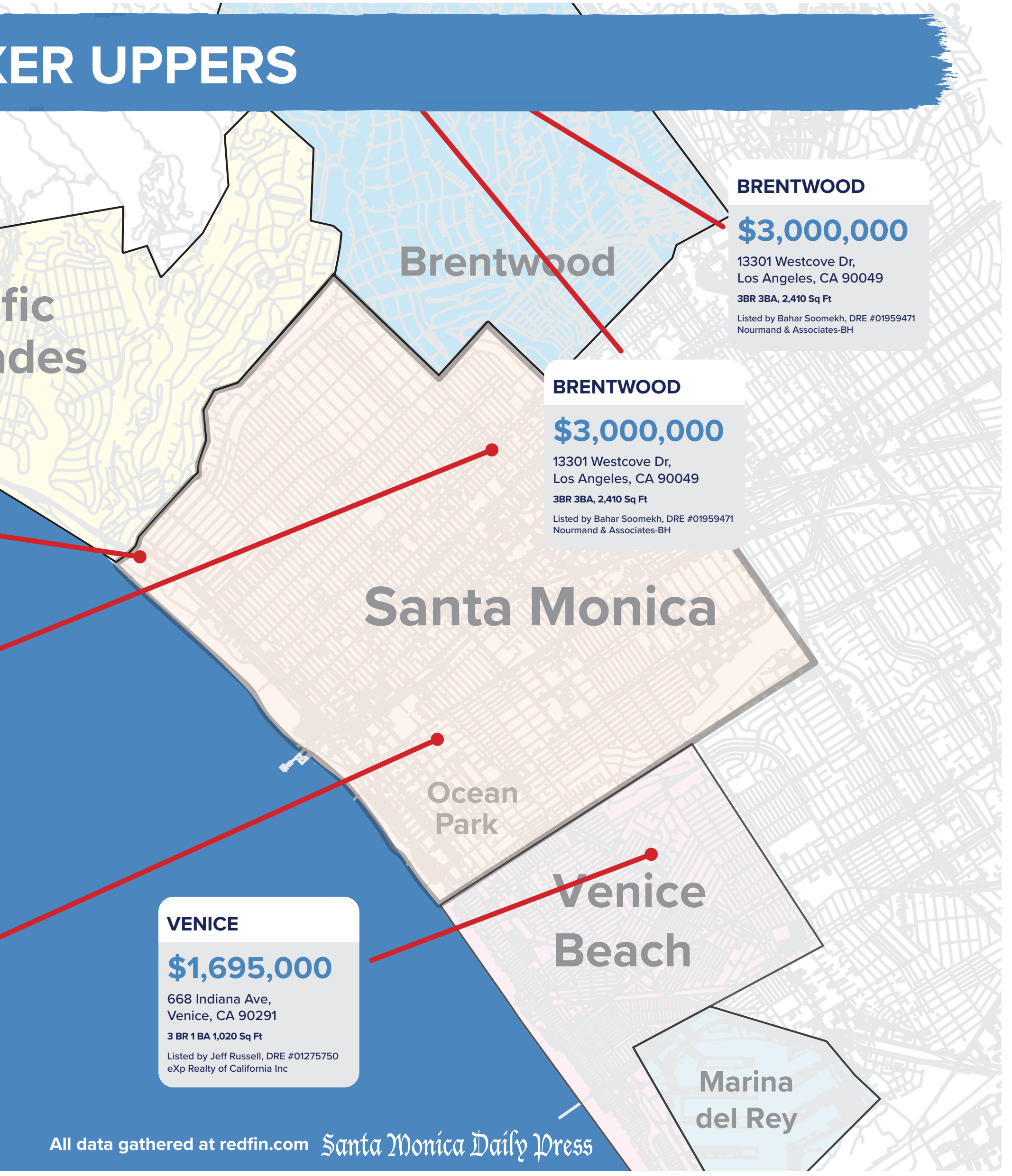
619 Pacific St,
Santa Monica, CA 90405

5 BR 4.5 BA, 3,860 Sq Ft

Listed by John Isaac, DRE #00931978 &
Paul Cargile, DRE #00840733
Cargile & Company

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KER UPPERS



BRENTWOOD

$3,000,000

13301 Westcove Dr,
Los Angeles, CA 90049

3BR 3BA, 2,410 Sq Ft

Listed by Bahar Soomekh, DRE #01959471
Nourmand & Associates-BH

BRENTWOOD

$3,000,000

13301 Westcove Dr,
Los Angeles, CA 90049

3BR 3BA, 2,410 Sq Ft

Listed by Bahar Soomekh, DRE #01959471
Nourmand & Associates-BH

VENICE

$1,695,000

668 Indiana Ave,
Venice, CA 90291

3 BR 1 BA 1,020 Sq Ft

Listed by Jeff Russell, DRE #01275750
eXp Realty of California Inc

All data gathered at redfin.com Santa Monica Daily Press





MONUMENT

FROM PAGE 2

many years ago," Park said. "As time goes on, sadly, we hear less and less frequently from those actual voices, but we won't ever forget them. This monument and the community that sought its place here have ensured that."

After presenting a certificate to the committee on behalf of her District 11 and the City of Los Angeles, Park's speech transitioned into remarks from VJAMM committee member Alice Shek, who explained the committee's thought process behind the structure. Shek noted that the committee was worried that post-9/11 patriotic fanaticism could lead to a similar scenario to Japanese concentration, and that the monument's relevance remains strong in today's social and political climate.

"Reminding our community that this could happen again was a good idea, we thought … this would encourage communities to remain vigilant, to speak out and to organize against injustice and help prevent future violations of civil rights," Shek said.

The commemoration ceremony also included the reading of quotes on one side of the monument from those imprisoned at Manzanar. Family members of those quoted spoke on their ancestors' various struggles, and VJAMM committee member Brian Tadashi Maeda talked about his documentary "We Said No! No!" about those imprisoned at the Tule Lake camp in Siskiyou County, California. The documentary will be playing at the Santa Monica Main Library at 2 p.m. on May 11, followed by a panel discussion with the cast and crew.

Representatives from the offices of Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, California State Senator Ben Allen and U.S. Congressman Ted Lieu spoke on Thursday, as well as local voices such as the committee and Venice Art Council's Emily Winters, Venice Community Housing Co-Directors Becky Dennison and Erika Lee, and the committee and Venice High School Alumni Association's Nikki Gilbert.

In the hours following the commemoration, VJAMM members hosted their 12th annual fundraising event at Hama Sushi Restaurant in Venice. During the dinner period, 10 percent of all sales was donated to VJAMM for ongoing maintenance, educational outreach and the annual Arnold Maeda Manzanar Pilgrimage Grant. The grant encourages college students to research the activism and legacy of Maeda, who became a charter member of the monument committee in 2010.

For more information on the monument and the committee, visit venicejamm.org.

thomas@smdp.com



Photo by Thomas Leffler

VJAMM: The Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument was commemorated on Thursday with speeches by local and area representatives.



FRIDAY | APRIL 19

VENICE COMMUNITY CLEANUP

Join the Venice Chamber of Commerce, Venice Community Cleanups, Alcott Center and Fat Sal's in cleaning up the Washington Area of Venice in celebration of Earth Day. Begins at 9 a.m. at Fat Sal's, 37 Washington Blvd., Marina del Rey. There will be a post clean-up demo on how to create Earth Day-themed art. To RSVP, visit: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/6jrumcj.

MARINA DEL REY BEAD & DESIGN

A bustling atmosphere of creativity, inspiration and great showing at Bead & Design takes place from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Marriott Marina del Rey, 4100 Admiralty Way. With over 150 artisans and tradespeople showcasing artisan supplies, jewelry, one-of-a-kind art wear and antiquities, this is a beautiful and interactive shopping experience. Tickets $8 online, $10 at the door. For more information, visit beadanddesign.com.

PROJECT FEAR

Organized by the Santa Monica College Theatre Arts Department, "Project Fear (And all the Feels)" will take place at the Theatre Arts Complex Studio Stage at SMC at 7:30 p.m. The show tells the stories of middle school and high school kids about the fears and challenges they face during this time in history, presented in a doc-play that reflects the results of interviews with more than 50 teens from a range of cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. These teens, prompted to tell stories that were meaningful to them, covered a wide range of topics and concerns. Their words will be delivered onstage by student actors. Talkback with the playwright will take place after the performance. General admission tickets $20, Senior 62+ $18, SMC students/faculty/staff $15. Tickets can be purchased at smc.edu/tickets or by calling 310-434-3005.

SATURDAY | APRIL 20

EVERY DAY IS EARTH DAY

Ishihara Park Learning Garden, 2909 Exposition Blvd., celebrates Earth Month with a gaggle of activities at the monthly Pancakes in the Park Program. Investigate a Worm Bin, play a round of Garden Bingo, dig into an Owl Pellet or create some Leaf Art. Or just grab a cup of coffee and enjoy the company of our cadre of volunteers who have made this garden an example of bio intensive sustainable agriculture in our beautiful city. Open to the public and free for everyone starting at 9 a.m. Bring your own plates, cups and utensils.

NOTHIN' BUT SAND BEACH CLEANUP

Celebrate Earth Month with Heal the Bay at the Nothin' But Sand Beach Cleanup at Santa Monica Beach, starting at 10 a.m. Heal the Bay provides the supplies, all you need to do is register, sign a waiver and show up. Cleanup supplies guaranteed for the first 300 who register. Be prepared to be outside for 2-3 hours. Dressing in layers recommended. Water is available at all cleanups. For any questions or concerns, email sgebhardtrath@healthebay.org.

BIG BLUE BUS PUBLIC HEARING

Big Blue Bus invites community input at its in-person public hearing about proposed service changes in the Thelma Terry Building at Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave., from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Community members are encouraged to provide feedback on enhancements aimed to make transportation more accessible, convenient and efficient. Written comments may also be submitted by mail to Big Blue Bus, 1660 7th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401, Attn: Alfredo Torales, Transit Planning and Performance. Email comments can be submitted to brighterblue@santamonica.gov. To attend the public hearing, register at brighterbluebbb.com. Those unable to attend may provide input via an online survey at https://sur-vey.typeform.com/to/N9oGdT41?typeform.

LOOK WHAT FELL OUT DE MANGO TREE

Debra Ehrhardt is back with a new play co-starring Christopher Grossett, directed by Grammy Award-winning songwriter Paul Williams. "Look What Fell Out De Mango Tree" is a true story about the importance of forgiveness and the power of vulnerability, because running away from something is not free. Starts at 3 p.m. at Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St. General admission tickets $30, Students/Teachers/Seniors/Military $20. Admission includes a wine and dessert reception and post-show Q&A with the artists. To purchase tickets, visit: https://www.showclix.com/event/look-what-fell-out-da-mango-treeyqn1mnnuoaeevrvvjcrqf.

MAT PILATES CLASS & AFTER PARTY

Get ready to break a sweat and toast to good health in this dynamic Mat Pilates class with a twist. Led by expert instructor and Good Body Pilates Studio owner Jackie Hinton, this class will blend the core-strengthening and flexibility-enhancing benefits of Pilates with the social atmosphere of a fun, wine down after party (cocktails and other beverages available as well). Whether you're a seasoned Pilates pro or a beginner looking to try something new, this class is designed for all levels. Starts at 4 p.m. at Good Body Pilates Studio, 3229 Pico Blvd. Bring workout clothes you can move in, yoga mat, towel and water. Hangout afterwards at Weary Livers, 2819 Pico Blvd. Tickets $25. For more information, visit goodbodypilates.com.

ALEICHEM SHOLOM

Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St., hosts "Aleichem Sholom!: The Wit and Wisdom of Sholom Aleichem," a musical starring Chris DeCarlo and Evelyn Rudie. Part of the Jewish Heritage Series, this joyous and poignant musical follows the life of the beloved Yiddish story-teller as he spins tales of his loves and losses, his fame and failures, his travels, travails and the tremendous optimism that kept him going against all odds. Starts at 7 p.m. Tickets $35. Discounts for students, teachers, seniors and military. For tickets, visit: https://www.showclix.com/event/aleichem-sholom-01.

DEL REY YACHT CLUB OPEN HOUSE

Join the club for a Spring Open House and get a personalized tour of all the club has to offer. The dining room and bar will be open to spend some time and learn why Del Rey Yacht Club has been recognized as Southern California Yachting Association's "Yacht Club of the Year". RSVP is required to attend. Please select a time for a tour and register at DRYC.org/openhouse. Occurs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 13900 Palawan Way.

SUNDAY | APRIL 21

CICLAVIA

Come experience car-free open streets at CicLAvia's 51st event between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Venice Blvd. between National Blvd. and Venice Beach. The public is invited to enjoy this unique pop-up park for the day with walking, jogging, biking, roller skating or simply spectating. Connects Palms, Mar Vista and Venice Beach in a 5.75-mile temporary park. Includes four hubs filled with plenty of activities and programs along the route, offering restrooms, free water refilling stations, free basic bike repair, bike parking and first aid. For more information, contact info@ciclavia.org or call 213-355-8500.

THE ARTIST FAIR

Santa Monica Beach Park #1, behind Lifeguard Tower 25, hosts an Artist Fair where artists and handmakers get to meet the community, show and sell their pieces. Everything is handmade and one of a kind. Includes painters, sculptors, photographers, fashion designers, woodworkers, jewelry and metal workers. Runs from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information, contact tatiana_jj@hotmail.com.

THIRD STREET PROMENADE CHESS TOURNAMENT

Join the Santa Monica Bay Chess Club for a Chess Tournament on Third Street Promenade (between Arizona Ave. and Wilshire Blvd.) from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Players of all levels and ages are welcome to come out and meet new players, test your skills and compete for a grand prize. Entry fee $10. Chess sets will be provided, but you're also welcome to bring your own. Tournament will start promptly at 11 a.m., being there a few minutes early recommended. All participants must register in advance at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/chess-tournament-on-third-street-promenade-registration-867983842037.

POETRY READING AND BOOK SIGNING

Santa Monica poet and actress Hélène Cardona reads from "The Abduction" at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books at 3:20 p.m. at the Poetry Stage on the campus of USC. The event is free and followed by a book signing at Small World Books, area 2, next to the Poetry Stage. The recipient of over 20 awards and honors, Cardona has authored 8 books, including "Life in Suspension," "Dreaming My Animal Selves," and the translations "The Abduction" (Maram Al-Masri) and "Birnam Wood" (José Manuel Cardona). Her books expose consciousness, the power of place and ancestral roots.

JENNA, MERLE & FRIENDS

Join television and Broadway stars Merle Dandridge ("The Last of Us," "Station 19") and Jenna Ushkowitz ("Glee," "Waitress") for a night of pop and Broadway performances alongside friends Jesse Tyler Ferguson, Cheyenne Jackson, Katie Lowes, Kevin McHale, Austin Mackenzie, Adam Shapiro, Tracie Thoms and more. Musical direction by Seth Rudetsky. Event proceeds benefit Harvest Home LA, a Los Angeles-based nonprofit providing housing, support and programs that equip and empower unhoused pregnant women for motherhood. Tickets $75-$200. To purchase, visit harvesthomela.org/benefitconcert.

MONDAY | APRIL 22

BABY TIME: SESSON 1

Introduce your child to storytime with interactive books, bounces, and more! Free tickets available at 10:15 and 11:15 a.m. For ages 0-17 months 10:30-10:50 a.m. Santa Monica Public Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

SENIOR WRITING GROUP

1 - 2:30 p.m. No RSVP is required. For questions, you can email Kathy at kathleenkatims@gmail.com or call 310-569-3492. Kathy Katims, founder of Saved by a Story, will be leading an ongoing writing group for seniors. New members are welcome to all sessions. Write to prompts, share (if you want), connect with fellow seniors in the neighborhood, hone your writing skills, and find your story. RSVP is recommended but not required. If you RSVP Kathy will send you a welcome packet, guidelines, and a reminder the day before the meeting. More information and to RSVP, email Kathy at kathleenkatims@gmail.com or call 310-569-3492. Palisades Branch Library, 861 Alma Real Drive, Pacific Palisades.

AIRPORT COMMISSION

Santa Monica City Hall 1685 Main Street. 7 p.m. 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.

PIZZA PARTY! A COMEDY SHOW

7:30 - 9 p.m. The Crow, 2525 Michigan Ave Unit F4, $15. What do you get when you have LA's sauciest comedians and three boxes of hot pizza? A Pizza party! Join organizers the fourth Monday of every month for a comedy show with the funniest pepperonies in town... when it when it comes to comedy they deliver! https://jetbook.co/e/pizza-party-a-comedy-showxg7o

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2024078691 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 04/11/24The following person(s) is (are) doing business as For the Birds Trapped in the Airports 2012 Stoner Ave Unit B Los Angeles, CA 90025Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Candor Arts LLC 2012 Stoner Ave Unit B Los Angeles, CA 90025If corporation or LLC- Print State of IL This is Business is Conducted: A limited Liability Company The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 01/24Registrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: Candor Arts LLC Title: CEO Matthew Austin This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 04/11/24.NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS.04/15/24,04/22/24,04/29/24, 04/06/2024

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER 2024076323 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 04/09/2024 . The following person(s) is (are) doing business as International Digital Facial ID Systems I.D.F.I.D.S.LLC 1725 Ocean Front Walk Apt 321 Santa Monica CA 90401 The full name of the registrant(s) is/are International Digital Facial

DBA

ID Systems I.D.F.I.D.S.LLC 1725 Ocean Front Walk Apt 321 Santa Monica CA 90401 This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date) 04/2024 Registrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: International Digital Facial ID Systems I.D.F.I.D.S.LLC Title:CEO This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 04/09/24 NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish, 042/22/24, 04/29/24, 05/06/24, 05/13/24

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAMECase No. 24SMCP00191 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of John Maceo Wilkes II for Change of NameTO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:Petitioner or Attorney: John Maceo Wilkes II a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: John Maceo Wilkes II to J. Maceo Spencer The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 06/07/2024 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: - The address of the court is SUPERIOR

Name Change

COURT OF CALIFORNIA - COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Santa Monica Courthouse 1725 Main St Santa Monica, CA 90401A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.

Help Wanted

ZipRecruiter, Inc. seeks Data Scientist II in Santa Monica, CA to dzn ranking models to power the srch engine that allows recruiters to reach out to candidates. Reqs. Master's degree or foreign equiv in Comp. Sci., Comp Engineering, or rel. field & 2 yrs of post-bacc. exp. as NLP Scientist, Tech Associate or rel. role. Exp. must incl. Python, PySpark, SQL, Hugging Face, PyTorch, Pandas, Numpy, Scikit Learn, ggplot & plotly. Pos'n will be HQ'd in Santa Monica, CA, & allows for telecommut'g from various unanticipated worksites t/o U.S. Salary fr. $162,500 to $200K/yr. Email resume: apply@ziprecruiter.com.

ZipRecruiter, Inc. seeks Product Manager - Marketplace Optimization in Santa Monica, CA to collect & interpret large bodies of qualitative /quantitative data on custmr usage patterns to uncovr new prod insights. Reqs. Bachelor's degree or foreign equiv in Stats, Data Sci or rel. field & 3 yrs of post-bacc. exp. as Data Scientist, Data Analytics Analyst or rel. role. Exp. must incl. SQL, R, Python, statistical & causal inference & data visualization. Pos'n Hdqtred in Santa Monica, CA. Telecomm permitted from var. unanticipated worksites throughout U.S. Salary fr. $145,000 to $165,000/yr. Email resume: apply@ziprecruiter.com.

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

PROP 47

FROM PAGE 1

hit hard, really hard by retail theft again and again," Morena said, adding, "I'm here representing Lorna and her family because I know how many of us small business owners do not feel like enough is being done to stop the theft."

Passed in 2014, Prop 47 reclassified some of the lowest-level, nonviolent crimes as misdemeanors, reduced the amount of time people convicted of such crimes would spend behind bars and reinvested the hundreds of millions of dollars in savings by setting up Trauma Recovery Centers and other services. However, critics say it has led to unintended consequences over the past 10 years, including repeat and often organized retail theft, inner-city store closings, and difficulty convincing people to seek drug and mental health treatment.

"As someone who supported prop 47 a decade ago, I believe it's time to amend and make changes," said Morena. "We must hold repeat offenders accountable. We must amend prop 47 so habitual drug addicts of fentanyl and meth are compelled into drug treatment programs and incentivized to complete those programs. So, I'm here to share the good news that the campaign in support of the Homelessness, Drug Addiction and Theft Reduction Act will be turning in signatures to place this act on the ballot in November."

La Belle didn't mince words, saying, "I've had it with what's going on with the homelessness and the outright rampant out of control crime that's going on ... This measure is focused on improving safety in every community and neighborhood, improving the quality of life [as] we all work and pay some of the highest property taxes in the country ... This common sense approach is what California voters asked for. The homeless drug addiction and theft reduction act not only aims at establishing accountability, but also pays pathways for genuine recovery and rehabilitation."

Santa Monica City Mayor Phil Brock said, "In Santa Monica, we feel the urgency to amend Prop 47. Each and every day, as the Mayor of the City of Santa Monica, I've seen first hand the heartbreak of retail theft consequences and the impact on community safety.

"The Third Street Promenade has long been a jewel in Santa Monica's crown, a symbol of our community's vitality and a hub of economic activity throughout our region. However, in recent years, rapid retail theft has forced our business owners into a corner," Brock said.

Romero remarked on how she refuses to visit the Third Street Promenade shopping area now. "My daughter and I would always go to the Santa Monica Promenade, as the mayor said, it's a jewel of the west side, everybody knows about it. I think it's an international icon. But increasingly, over the last year, in particular, I will not go there anymore," she told the Daily Press.

"I fear for my personal safety, my daughter is two and [she] will no longer go. And if we

> The Third Street Promenade has long been a jewel in Santa Monica's crown, a symbol of our community's vitality and a hub of economic activity throughout our region. However, in recent years, rapid retail theft has forced our business owners into a corner
> - Phil Brock, Santa Monica City Mayor

do, it's maybe like, 'Okay, let's go during the day, very quickly, let's get home.' But after dark we won't. And that affects businesses, it affects us. We love the promenade we'd like to return. But we've got to look at ourselves and our safety. And that's really the main reason is that, especially as women, we have a real fear of being assaulted, or mugged or attacked in some fashion."

The proposed ballot measure:

Allows felony charges for possessing certain drugs, including fentanyl, and for thefts under $950—both currently chargeable only as misdemeanors—with two prior drug or two prior theft convictions, as applicable. Defendants who plead guilty to felony drug possession and complete treatment can have charges dismissed.

Increases sentences for other specified drug and theft crimes.

Increased prison sentences may reduce savings that currently fund mental health and drug treatment programs, K-12 schools, and crime victims; any remaining savings may be used for new felony treatment program

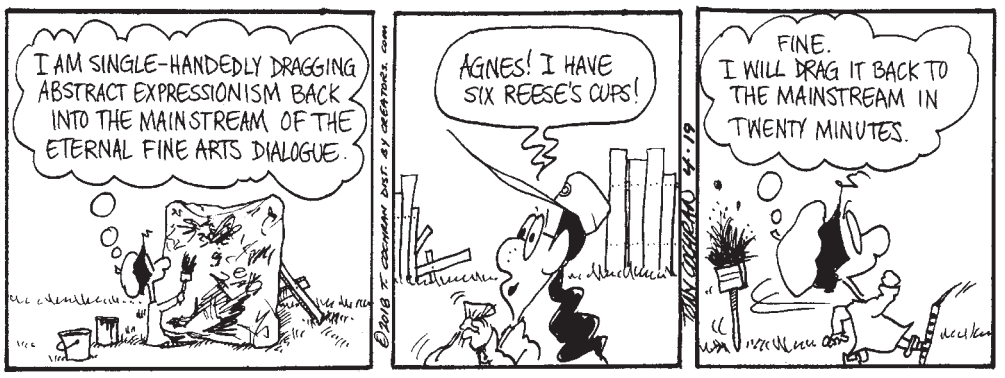
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Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



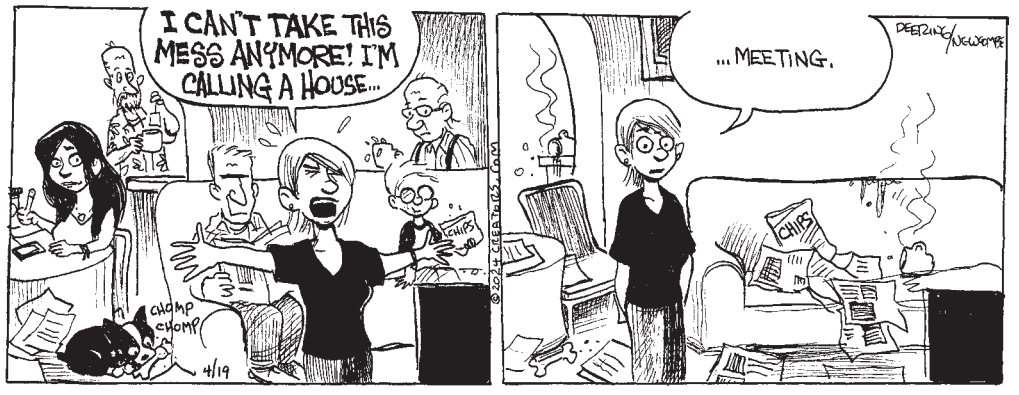
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"LOOKS LIKE AN IDOL MADE OF CHEESE."

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 6185

Mad hatter

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

Akubra	Felt	Peci
Balaclava	Flat	Ribbon
Beanie	Floppy	Silk
Brim	Golf	Topi
Busby	Hair	Toquilla straw
Caps	Hood	Toyo
Comb	Ivy league	Trilby
Coronet	Kepi	Turban
Crown	Knotted hankie	Veil
Curl	Liner	Visor
Deerstalker	Lock	Wigs
Derby	Mortarboard	Wool
Fascinator	Panama	Wreath

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 19)

A powerful perspective shift marks your solar return. Birds in flight have nothing on you — you soar ever-higher on freedom feelings. Reality bends to accommodate your vision. More highlights: A special relationship unfolds quietly with a powerful magic that grows and holds. You'll drop a bad habit for good. You'll move a room with your words. Scorpio and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 1, 13, 12 and 15.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You may explore unnamed emotions, though they won't go nameless for long. As soon as you give them a word, they become contained by it, wearing it like a container you can grab hold of and examine from different angles.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're gifted with the guts to test drive ideas. Some things are worth the risk, even if the odds are dicey. Focus solely on what you want. Dwelling on what you don't want just weakens your power.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Watching others relish something can spark desire. Maybe it's a form of envy, but it's as natural as nature itself and humans aren't the only ones who want what the others are having. You'll leverage the principle today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Somehow experience seems heightened, like what happens matters more than usual. Your thoughts wander poetic lanes; everything dons a metaphorical guise. The essence doesn't have to be deep or somber to give life a lyrical quality.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Self-mastery isn't a straightforward affair. Sometimes you feel like doing as your inner boss directs, and then there are days like today when compliance is akin to corralling a troop of cats into formation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's no such thing as a fresh start without a challenge. If you encounter such an offer, take heed and back away slowly. An element of work, risk and trepidation will be part of any good deal.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When your defenses spring to life, it's actually a gift. It teaches you what you care about and shows you how much. Defensiveness points the way to new strategies for protection, strength or letting go, as the case may be.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). What matters to you about your work will be different than what matters to someone else. There are aspects of the project you are willing to put yourself on the line for and that passion points to the value you find meaningful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Learning thrives in diversity. Body, voice, ear, pen — all instruments in the symphony of understanding. Restricting to one mode stunts your growth, which will be radiant.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). They say those who refuse to learn are lost causes, but it's not entirely true. Some are befuddled and just need a different approach or some more careful explaining. Others are dozing off and will wake when startled.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Primitive instincts prick up your ear and widen your eyes. You'll be alert to flattery, opportunity, lies, love and any number of other clues as to the inner workings of a situation. You'll capture nuances others miss.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). In the pursuit of progress, action outweighs words, intentions and even education. Get moving and the action itself will be your teacher and companion, your mirror and your story.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

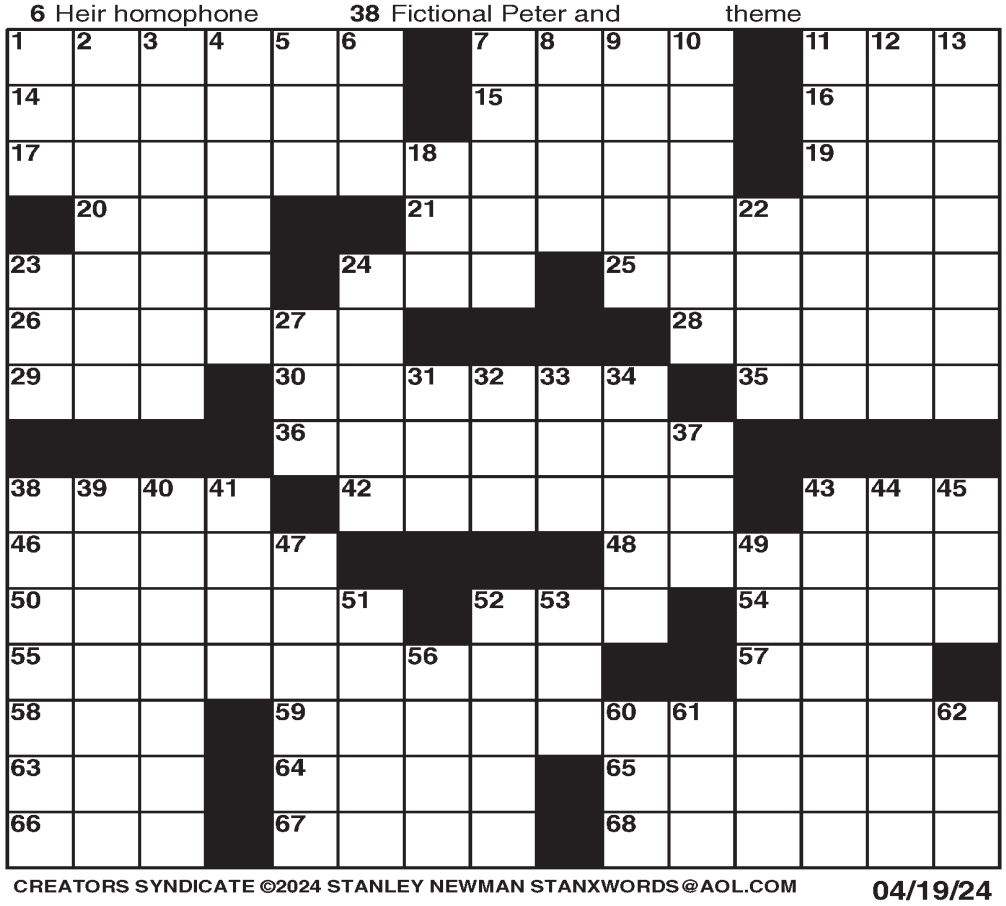
BEFORE AND AFTER by Winston Emmons
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Rival of Mars
7 Footwear from Down Under
11 RN setups
14 Weaken
15 Meg's *Sleepless* director
16 Government loan company, informally
17 School sports supporters
19 Space Camp's st.
20 Young creeper
21 Unintelligible jargon
23 Self-powered vehicle
24 Have an inclination
25 Catty
26 Not inclined
28 Inasmuch as
29 Zin, for instance
30 Embedded
35 Keeps a date with
36 Den mother's concern
38 Paid whistle blowers
42 Midwestern capital
43 Sox city
46 Sharply stinging
48 Dutch illusional artist
50 Word on the South American capitals list
52 Comprises
54 Are missing
55 Well-executed work
57 MD specialty
58 Fluorine compound suffix
59 Mormon sacred text
63 Pig thief of rhyme
64 Gravity-powered vehicle
65 Idolize
66 Texted regret
67 Site for craft sellers
68 Port founded by Catherine the Great

DOWN

1 Penpoint
2 Showing much feeling
3 Made uneasy
4 Tea company employee
5 Luminous
6 Heir homophone
7 Twist open
8 Tour sport
9 Surly
10 Ferret cousins
11 Envision
12 Window treatment
13 Naval construction battalion
18 Driving-home reward
22 Ivy Leaguers
23 Exclude
24 Moral precept
27 Close relative
31 South Asian
32 Klee contemporary
33 Water cooler
34 High nobles
37 UCLA awards
38 Fictional Peter and Roger
39 Galápagos owner
40 Not the perfect pal
41 Do numbers
43 Probability
44 Plays the bully
45 Irritate
47 What might earn an 18-Down
49 Split open
51 Oilcan accessory
52 Obviously contrived
53 Blood-typing system
56 Easy runs
60 Back towards "to"
61 *West Wing* prez
62 Homophone of the "before and after" theme



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04/19/24

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

CRIME WATCH

Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ON THURSDAY, APRIL 18

The City of Santa Monica cleared about a dozen homeless squatters from a piece of city owned property on the 1600 block of 5th Street.

SMPD officers first responded to the building last week and found ten people living in what used to be an office building. The property has been vacant for more than a decade and is considered surplus land by the City.

After removing the first group, city contractors returned to the property on April 18 to begin cleanup and another two homeless individuals were found in the property.

NEWS

FROM PAGE 5

LATINO ICON WITH LOCAL TIES IMMORTALIZED IN MUSIC HISTORY:

On April 16, the Library of Congress announced its selections for the National Recording Registry, a preservation of recordings with "cultural, historic, or aesthetic significance to life in the United States." One of the selections, nominated by Congressman Joaquin Castro (D-TX), is Juan Gabriel's song "Amor Eterno," part of Castro's push to include recognition of Latino musicians in the registry. Gabriel, a mainstay in the Latino arts community during his distinguished career, passed away in Santa Monica in August 2016 at the age of 66.

TEQUILA

FROM PAGE 3

beyond class, LMU was important to Soto's development of the company. "There are certain classes I think [that] really impacted the way I think about business and of how Nosotros started, but ultimately it's also the people that you're around," said Soto.

Outside of class, tequila's popularity continued to grow, pushing Soto to take initiative and travel to Jalisco, Mexico for a hands-on tequila production experience.

"After the trip to Mexico I was in love with [tequila] like the plants, the land, soil, the market, people. They're so passionate about it and it's very contagious," said Soto. He shadowed a local woman-owned and family-run distillery that has been producing tequila for over 80 years, and Nostros still proudly works with them today to create their distinct floral and earthy flavors.

"I had saved a little bit of money, but it was enough to make the first few samples front and back," said Soto. Those first samples were then savored by a select group of friends and LMU professors at an intimate tasting. "There was one formula that everyone loved. And that's actually what Nosotros Blanco is today, which hasn't really changed since," said Soto. After graduating a few months later, Soto made his first batch of Blanco and asked fellow LMU alumni Michael Arbanas to join the company as CFO.

"I'm a very type D personality, first of all, but more on the creative side or more operational. He's very type A: very finance driven ...We complement each other very well," said Soto.

Nostros became committed to the craft of tequila, the people who make and enjoy it, and sustainability. The name itself, which means "we" or "us" in Spanish, celebrates the community they aim to form around their tequila.

Both their tequila and mezcal are produced from two small distilleries in Mexico that in total employ over 50 women and their families, and they use traditional techniques to produce the unique blend of agaves that give Nosotros their harmonious flavors. These techniques produce not only a higher quality taste, but a lower aldehyde content, which basically means less toxins and less hangovers. Their bottles are made out of 100% recycled bottles, and their labels are even made from leftover agave fibers.

"[We] want to be about good memories and friends [and] keep that at the core of our brand. That's why we do certain things in the distillation process that make it a cleaner experience," said Soto.

Nosotros sold their first bottle of Nosotros Blanco in 2018 to local bar Bacari, and had their big break after winning Best Tequila and a double Gold Medal at the San Francisco International Wine and Spirits Competition. Now, Nosotros has expanded to produce Mezcal, and can be found in almost all 50 states, Mexico, and Costa Rica, and has plans to expand to Spain and beyond.

"I think there's still a lot of room to tell our story. I think a lot of people have gotten to know the brand without knowing much about it. I honestly hope that we can become a more viable option for most people," said Soto.

For more information about the brand, check out their website at https://nosotrostequila.com/

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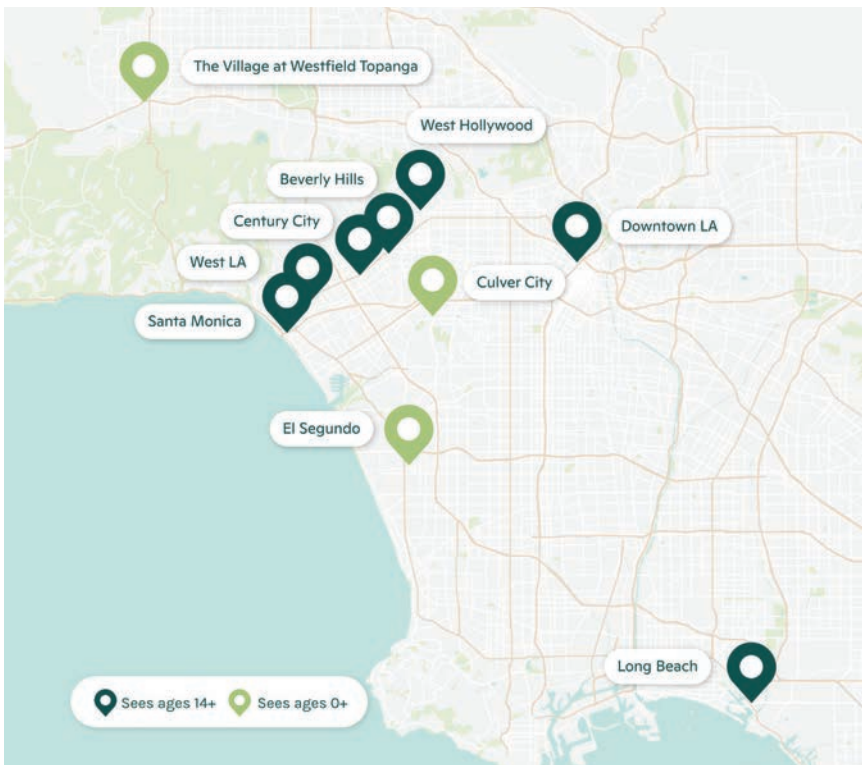
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