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Baseball playoff run.

3 **Budget cuts**
Target homeless services.

5 **Homeless Housing**
Should it require sobriety?

6 **Beach Grades**
From Heal The Bay.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 127 TUESDAY 5/14/24 smdp.com

Testing, budget, social justice talks on tap for school board

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Snapshots of Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) student testing scores, the district's budget and the district's commitment to social justice will all be broached at Thursday's Board of Education meeting.

The penultimate meeting of the board during the 2023-24 school year session will feature a presentation on student achievement lead data for Quarter 4, which focuses on diagnostic assessments taken in the spring along with 2024 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) summative assessments.

The presentation, to be given by SMMUSD Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Dr. Stacy Williamson, found that 71 percent of students were at or above benchmarks on Star Early Literacy/Reading assessments taken in the spring, while 76 percent of test takers scored at or above benchmarks on Star Math tests. The presentation will also touch on CAASPP percentile ranks as well as middle and high school grades for marking periods 4 and 5.

Another discussion will be held for the 2023-24 school year budget's third revision period, to be presented to the board by SMMUSD Assistant Superintendent of Business and Fiscal Services Melody Canady. The revised budget shows the district's financial position as of April 30, and also includes an analysis on multi-year projections for the district's general fund over the next two fiscal years.

The district's current net ending fund balance reserve, shown as a percentage of total general fund

SEE **SMMUSD** PAGE 7

Families fired up for Fire Service Day activities



Photos by Thomas Leffler

FIRE SERVICE: The Santa Monica Fire Department (SMFD) opened up Fire Station 1 on Saturday to locals excited to learn more about its vital role in the community. During the open house for Fire Service Day, firefighters and other SMFD staff let children and families explore fire engines and take a fire station tour to gain insight on day-to-day operations. Other local and regional partners were present as well, with the American Red Cross providing hands-only CPR and emergency preparedness information, along with other information booths hosted by UCLA's Stop the Bleed emergency response initiative and the California Army National Guard. SMFD's Fire Station 1 at 1337 7th St. is the city's most active station, receiving 7,430 calls for service in 2023.

Real estate tax fight escalates into threats of lawsuits

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Former mayor Pam O'Connor is threatening to sue the City of Santa Monica over her petition to revise taxes on high-end property sales saying the City is imposing an unfair and inappropriate threshold for the number of signatures required to put the proposal before voters.

The threats center on Measure GS, a voter approved initiative that passed in 2022 after being proposed by then Mayor Sue Himmelrich. While Himmelrich was a member of the Council at the time, GS was proposed and funded by Himmelrich as a private citizen, not a representative of the local government.

GS imposes a $56 per $1,000 charge on real property sales or transfers exceeding $8 million to support homelessness prevention, housing projects and schools. It was projected to raise about $50 million per year but according to the City it only brought in about $28 million over its first year.

The measure survived a previous lawsuit that argued it violated the "single-subject" rule in the California Constitution. The City prevailed in that case with a judge ruling the tax is consistent with the law but O'Connor mounted an effort this year to exempt apartment buildings from the law claiming the higher rate is an impediment to housing construction.

O'Connor's proposal would amend the law via another voter approved initiative and in a press release sent out early in May, she said she had gathered 4,156 signatures. However, City Hall claims she actually needs 6,784

SEE **LAWSUIT** PAGE 7

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Vikings secure semifinals on home turf as playoffs march on

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

After dropping four of its final five regular season contests, the Samohi Vikings baseball squad became hot at just the right time and will be rewarding local fans with a second home playoff game Tuesday.

The Vikings have gone on a three-game tear through the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Southern Section Division V bracket, dispatching Nogales on the road and Ganesha at home before traveling once more to defeat Adelanto 5-2 on Friday. The win over Adelanto clinched a Division V semifinals matchup on friendly turf, as the Vikings will face off with Pacifica at 3:15 p.m. with a bracket finals berth on the line.

Dominant pitching and timely hits have taken the Vikings this far, beginning with the continued exploits of a legendary 2024 season by senior pitcher Jackson Klein. Klein threw his third no-hitter of the season against Nogales, striking out eight of 21 batters faced en route to the Vikings 5-0 shutout victory. The senior ace gained run support from his fellow upperclassmen, as the team's five runs were brought in by senior Bobby Munoz, senior Sage Douglass, junior Isaac Liberman and junior Brady Satinover.

The home contest against Ganesha was a closer affair, a 3-2 win decided in the sixth inning when junior Manny Lares knocked in fellow junior Jackson Myrow to break a 2-2 tie. More upperclassmen contributions came on the mound when senior Tony Ponce took over for Eddie Jennings in the fifth inning, as Ponce struck out eight of 11 batters faced, giving up just one hit in the crucial late stages.

After the 5-2 win over Adelanto, the Vikings headed back home to prepare for Tuesday's contest against Pacifica. The Tritons (18-11-1) have outscored the team's three playoff opponents 15-3, including a 9-1 win over Riverside Prep, and are led at the plate by first baseman Devon Wilkes. The junior slugger has hit for a .305 average in 2024 with 29 hits, 14 runs batted in, 12 doubles and two home runs.

The other Santa Monica diamond stars, representing New Roads, saw the 2024 campaign come to an end on Friday with a 12-0 defeat at the hands of Pacifica Christian/Orange County. The Jaguars extended a CIF-SS Division VIII playoff run in the second round via a 12-9 comeback win over San Jacinto Valley Academy this past Tuesday before the quarterfinal loss. The team's playoff run was the deepest the Jaguars have gone since 2016, and finish the 2024 season with a 13-8 record, cementing a program turnaround that began last year.

SANTA MONICA BASEBALL:

Tuesday, May 7:

Vikings vs Ganesha, 2024 CIF Southern Section Baseball Championships Division V

Vikings win 3-2

Batting:

Sage Douglass (Senior): 0-2, SH/B, 2

SEE **VIKINGS** PAGE 6



Photo Courtesy David E. Hunzicker Photography

VIKINGS: Samohi's Tony Ponce (#21) pitched the final crucial innings in a Vikings playoff win over Ganesha.

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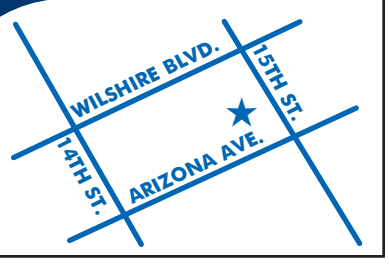
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Amid deficit, Newsom proposes California spend less to solve homelessness and create affordable housing



Photo by Adriana Heldiz, CalMatters

HOUSING: Volunteers Aleta Barthell surveys Vickie Traylor, a resident experiencing homelessness, for the annual point-in-time count in San Diego on Jan. 25, 2024. The voluntary survey is a federally mandated requirement to gather data on the region's homeless population.

MARISA KENDALL AND BEN CHRISTOPHER
Special to the Daily Press

After Gov. Gavin Newsom rolled out a deficit-bridging budget plan in January, advocates pushing for more affordable housing and shelters hoped he might reconsider his intent to make deep cuts — or scrounge up some more money.

On Friday, Newsom released a revised proposal showing that he had indeed had a change of heart — though perhaps not exactly the one that advocates were hoping for.

On the one hand, the governor asked the Legislature to restore half a billion in funding to the state's Low Income Housing Tax Credit program, a signature funding source for affordable housing developers. But on the other, he proposed yet more cuts to an array of state initiatives for low-income renters, first-time homeowners and unhoused residents.

The reinstatement of the tax credits for affordable housing are the "positive news" in a budget that, overall, is "pretty dire" when it comes to housing and homelessness, said Sharon Rapport, director of California state policy for The Corporation for Supportive Housing.

With tax collections coming in weaker than expected, the gap between projected state spending and revenue yawned another $7 billion wider since January, when the projected deficit was still $38 billion. The administration said it was able to cut that shortfall by more than 40% with a series of early cuts, delays and financial rejiggers. But that still leaves a $27.6 billion budget problem that Newsom and Legislature will need to resolve by June 15.

Newsom's solution, in part: Wipe out the $75 million remaining in the state's Multifamily Housing Program, California's workhorse affordable housing funder. That on top of a proposed $250 million cut from January.

He also now wants to drain all remaining funding for a half-billion dollar program to keep existing affordable housing affordable, cut $152 million from a state program for first-time homebuyers and trim $260 million from the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention program. That's the state's main source of general homeless funding, and it had dodged cuts in January.

Newsom's proposed cuts to the Multifamily Housing Program and the grant funding for local homelessness policy are especially dispiriting because those programs focus on helping the lowest income Californians, said Nevada Merriman, vice president of policy at MidPen Housing, a nonprofit affordable housing developer.

"These are the funding sources that the most vulnerable Californians rely upon," she said.

NEWSOM PROPOSED FRESH CUTS ON HOMELESSNESS

On Friday, the governor framed spending less to solve homelessness as a deliberate policy choice meant to exact better results.

SEE **BUDGET** PAGE 8



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **59.7**

TUESDAY
FAIR
SURF: 2-3ft
Thigh to waist

SW swell continues but a touch less compared to Monday. Minimal NW swell mixing in. AM conditions may have an east devil wind on the points. Mid to late morning low tide.

WEDNESDAY
FAIR
SURF: 2-3ft
Thigh to waist

Run of SW swell lingers and NW swell mix could build a touch. Not a major combo but could be enough energy to track down a few peaks through the AM as the predawn high tide comes down a bit. Smaller but rideable summer points.

Weather

Tuesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 66. East southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
Tuesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 56. South wind 5 to 10 mph.
Wednesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy, with a high near 64. South wind 5 to 10 mph.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 56.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2024/05/14	Tue	02:01 AM	4.31	H
2024/05/14	Tue	10:07 AM	0.18	L
2024/05/14	Tue	5:46 PM	3.64	H
2024/05/14	Tue	10:26 PM	2.99	L
2024/05/15	Wed	03:28 AM	3.90	H
2024/05/15	Wed	11:05 AM	0.39	L
2024/05/15	Wed	6:21 PM	3.91	H
2024/05/15	Wed	11:51 PM	2.52	L
2024/05/16	Thu	04:54 AM	3.69	H
2024/05/16	Thu	11:50 AM	0.58	L
2024/05/16	Thu	6:47 PM	4.20	H
2024/05/17	Fri	12:45 AM	1.97	L
2024/05/17	Fri	06:03 AM	3.60	H
2024/05/17	Fri	12:26 PM	0.79	L
2024/05/17	Fri	7:09 PM	4.50	H
2024/05/18	Sat	01:27 AM	1.40	L
2024/05/18	Sat	07:02 AM	3.57	H
2024/05/18	Sat	12:55 PM	1.03	L

Daily Lottery

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POWERBALL
Draw Date: 5/11
3 6 39 49 67
Power#: 21
Jackpot: 47 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 5/10
13 22 26 32 65
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 363 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 5/11
2 10 23 30 34
Mega#: 5
Jackpot: 35 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 5/12
7 13 15 34 38

Daily 3
Draw Date: 5/12
EVENING: 7 0 5
Draw Date: 5/12
MIDDAY: 5 4 9

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 5/12
1st: 11 - Money Bags
2nd: 05 - California Classic
3rd: 08 - Gorgeous George
Race Time: 1:44.64

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Santa Monica Daily Press

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Newsom finally aligns with Legislature's gloomier budget outlook, blaming 'massive volatility'

DAN WALTERS

When Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed a 2024-25 state budget in January, he declared that the state faced a $38 billion deficit and chided journalists for citing wider projections in the gap between income and outgo from the Legislature's budget analyst.

Nevertheless, state legislative analyst Gabe Petek stuck by his guns and a month later increased his deficit estimate during a three-year "budget window" to $73 billion, citing a $24 billion shortfall in revenue estimates over the period.

On Friday, Newsom unveiled his revised budget, covering the current fiscal year, the 2024-25 year and 2025-26, and tabbed the deficit at $44.9 billion through 2024-25. He estimated an additional $28.4 billion in 2025-26, totaling $73.3 billion or almost exactly what Petek had said it would be.

Newsom, indirectly agreeing with Petek's gloomy revenue picture, blamed "massive volatility" in the state's revenue system, particularly difficulty in projecting income taxes on capital gains, for the wide fluctuations in revenue estimates and reality. Over four years, he noted, revenues have fallen $165 billion short of estimates.

It's not a new phenomenon. Over several decades, the state has become overwhelmingly dependent on personal income taxes to finance its budget, particularly taxes on high-income taxpayers and their investment earnings.

As that dependency increased, the state would experience massive windfalls during some years and deep revenue declines in others. When the state treasury was flush, governors and legislators would increase spending, and when revenues declined, they would face multibillion-dollar deficits.

The peaks have increased. Just two years ago, Newsom boasted of a $97.5 billion budget surplus. "No other state in

> "I prefer not to make these cuts
> - Gov. Gavin Newsom

American history has ever experienced a surplus as large as this," he said as he unveiled a $300-plus billion budget that the Legislature eagerly adopted with a few tweaks.

Likewise, the valleys have deepened, with this year's massive deficit a prime example – and the revenue cycles bear only passing relationship to the overall economy.

Newsom, like his predecessors, says that volatility could be tamed were the state to overhaul its revenue system and reduce its dependence on taxing the rich. But he, like the others, is obviously unwilling to do the heavy lifting that a tax reform would require.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and the Legislature appointed a blue-ribbon commission to study revenue volatility and recommend systemic changes. The commission was sharply divided but issued a report proposing fundamental changes, but it was quickly filed away and ignored.

Having acknowledged the much larger deficit, Newsom proposes two changes in the budgetary process to cope with the volatility factor: including future budgets in the annual calculations and not spending erratic revenue sources, such as capital gains, until they are realized.

Newsom said that were the Legislature to adopt his revised budget and the current revenue estimates proved accurate, the state could get its budget balanced by 2026 – which would coincide with the last year of his governorship.



CalMatters

NEWSOM: The Governor has adapted his budget to the new reality.

The budget closes the gap with a melange of spending cuts, deferrals, tapping into emergency reserves, some increased taxes and some accounting gimmicks. Over two years, the state would use about $13 billion in emergency reserves, plus another $8 billion for schools from a separate reserve.

The initial version made few true spending reductions. But with a wider deficit, the revised budget contains some real cuts, including the partial closure of some prisons, and shrinkage in some of the appropriations made when it appeared the state had a big surplus.

"I prefer not to make these cuts," Newsom told reporters, adding, "You've got to do it."

Whether the Legislature can resist pressure from advocates for the programs Newsom would cut remains to be seen.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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Should California be able to require sobriety in homeless housing?



Photo by David Swanson, Reuters

SHELTER: The Fullerton Navigation Center, a homeless shelter in Fullerton.

MARISA KENDALL
Special to the Daily Press

Desperate for a way to help the tens of thousands of people living in tents, cars and RVs on California's streets, lawmakers are attempting to upend a key tenet of the state's homelessness policy.

Two new bills would allow state funding to support sober housing — a significant departure from current law, which requires providers to accept people regardless of their drug and alcohol use.

> If people want to get off of drugs and away from drugs, we should give them that option
>
> - Matt Haney, Assemblymember

"If people want to get off of drugs and away from drugs, we should give them that option," said Assemblymember Matt Haney, a Democrat from San Francisco who wrote Assembly Bill 2479. "They shouldn't be forced to live next to people who are using drugs."

There are at least 12,000 sober living beds in the state, but more than twice that many Californians who would qualify for those services, according to data from the California Research Bureau quoted in the Assembly Health Committee's analysis of the second bill, AB 2893.

As state law prohibits spending housing funding on sobriety-focused programs, many are funded by private donations.

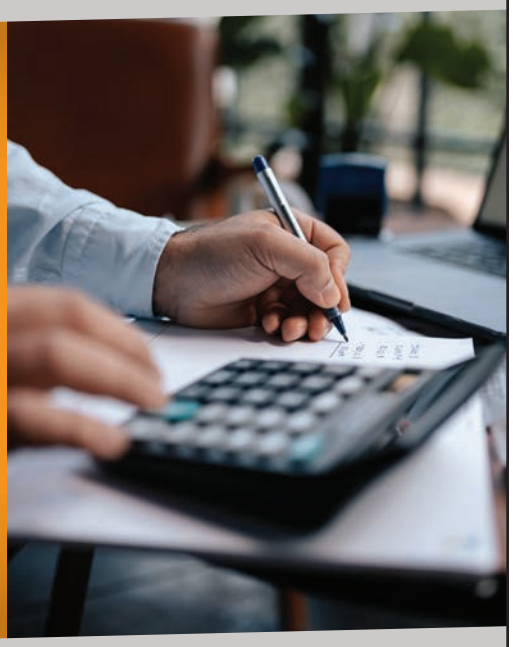
The lawmakers behind the two bills say they aren't trying to alter the key idea that everyone deserves immediate housing, even people struggling with addictions. Instead, they're attempting to give more choices to people who want to be sober. But some experts worry that, because California has a shortage of homeless housing, people who relapse in sober housing or who don't want to stay sober would have nowhere to go but back to the street.

The bills come as California's homelessness population is skyrocketing, having increased from about 118,000 in 2016 to more than 181,000 last year. Some critics blame and want to overturn the state's inclusive housing policy. At the same time, as public fears about crime soar, voters in some liberal cities are putting limits on who can receive public assistance.

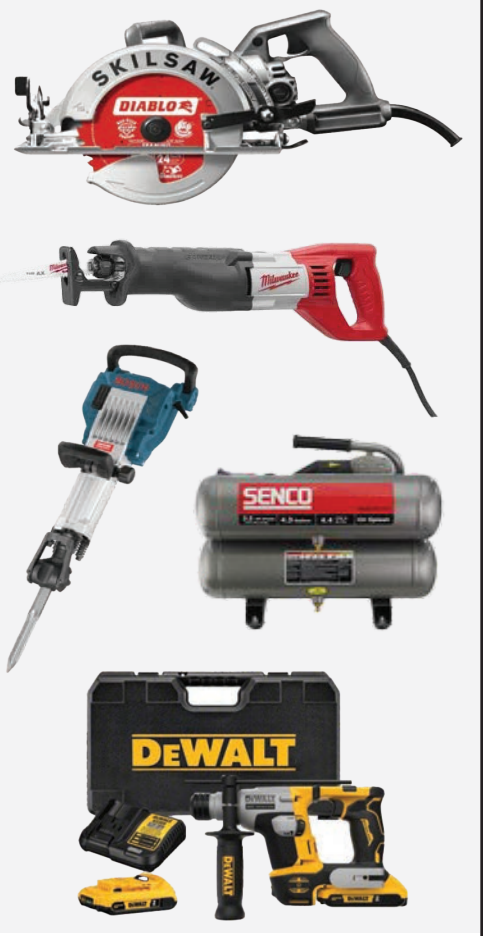
San Francisco voters this year passed an initiative mandating drug screenings for welfare recipients. In San Diego County, Vista Mayor John Franklin recently introduced a measure pledging not to support "any program that enables continued drug use" and criticizing housing first for precluding sober housing.

"I think we are seeing a cultural shift," said Christopher Calton, a research fellow who studies housing and homelessness for libertarian think-tank the Independent Institute. "People are starting to say these

SEE **HOUSING** PAGE 11

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VIKINGS

FROM PAGE 2

K. Bobby Munoz (Senior): 1-2, R, BB, K. Spencer Levin (Senior): 2-3, 3B. Blue Hunter (Junior): 1-3. Isaac Liberman (Junior): 1-3, R, K. Jackson Myrow (Junior): 0-2, R, BB, FC. Theo Smith (Senior): 1-3. Brady Satinover (Junior): 0-3, K. Manny Lares (Junior): 1-3, RBI, K

Pitching:

Eddie Jennings (Junior): 4.0 IP, 3 H, 2 R, 1 ER, 4 BB, 5 K, 1.75 ERA. Tony Ponce (Senior): 3.0 IP, W, 1 H, 8 K, 0.00 ERA

Friday, May 10:

Vikings vs Adelanto, 2024 CIF Southern Section Baseball Championships Division V

Vikings win 5-2

Vikings Record: 20-7 (6-4 Bay League)

Next Game: Tuesday vs Pacifica, 2024 CIF Southern Section Baseball Championships Division V, 3:15 p.m.

SANTA MONICA SOFTBALL:

Tuesday, May 7:

Lady Vikings vs La Quinta, 2024 CIF Southern Section Softball Championships Division IV

La Quinta win 2-1

Lady Vikings Final 2024 Record: 16-12-1 (6-5 Bay League)

SANTA MONICA BOYS AND GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD:

Saturday, May 11:

CIF Southern Section Finals at Moorpark HS

Men's Triple Jump Division IV Finals:

3- Braylon Taylor (Junior), 43-0

Women's 1,600 Meter Division I Finals:

6- Phoebe Benun (Junior), 4:56.69



SMMUSD

VIKINGS: The Samohi Vikings are one step closer to a CIF Southern Section Division V championship after defeating Adelanto on Friday.

Women's Shot Put Division I Finals:

2- Reign Snowden (Senior): 39-7

SAINT MONICA BOYS AND GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD:

Saturday, May 11:

CIF Southern Section Finals at Moorpark HS

Men's 100 Meters Division IV Finals:

8- Joshua Barnes (Senior), 11.05 seconds

NEW ROADS BASEBALL:

Tuesday, May 7:

Jaguars vs San Jacinto Valley Academy, 2024 CIF Southern Section Baseball Championships Division VIII

Jaguars win 12-9

Batting/Baserunning:

Hayden Farrell-Katseanes (Sophomore): 0-3, R, HBP. Donovan Eastwood (Freshman): 1-4, FC. Bishop Banks (Sophomore): 0-2. Asamino Spong (Sophomore): 2-3, 3 R, BB, FC. Fox Raggio (Junior): 1-3, 4 R, 2 BB, FC. Elio LaPorta (Sophomore): 3-3, 2 2B, 2 R, 3 RBI. Santiago Jimenez (Freshman): 2-4, 2 RBI. Tristan Nash (Senior): 4-5, 3B, 4 RBI, K, 2 SB. Xavier Walker (Sophomore): 1-3, R, BB. Sebastian Berumen (Freshman): 1-5, R, 2 RBI

Pitching:

Elio LaPorta (Sophomore): 2.0 IP, 4 H, 3 R, 2 ER, 2 BB, 2 K, 7.00 ERA

Santiago Jimenez (Freshman): 1.0 IP, 3 H, 4 R, 4 ER, 3 BB, 28.00 ERA

Xavier Walker: 4.0 IP, 4 H, 2 R, 1 BB, 2 K, 0.00 ERA

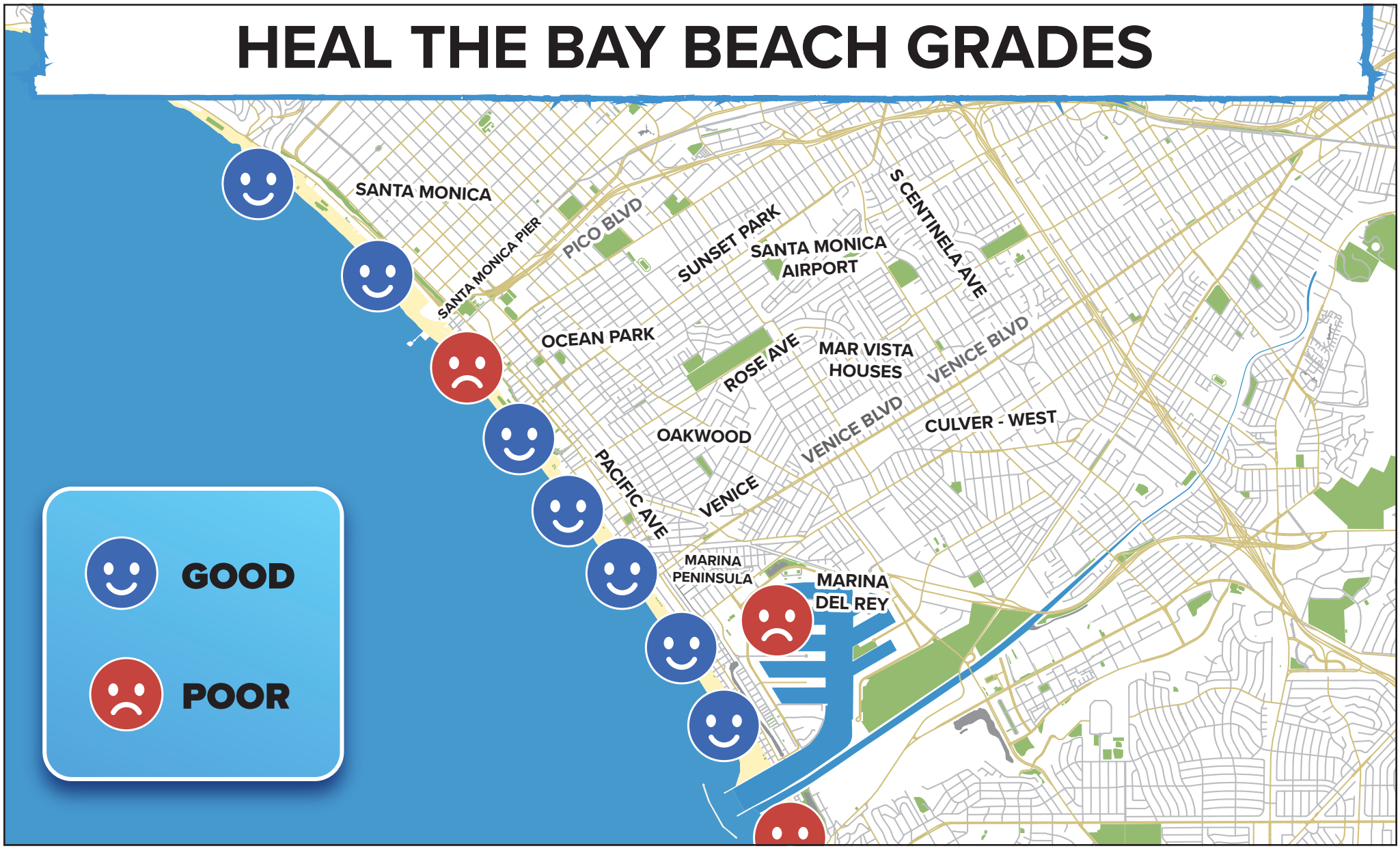
Friday, May 10:

Jaguars vs Pacifica Christian/Orange County, 2024 CIF Southern Section Baseball Championships Division VIII

Pacifica Christian/Orange County win 12-0

Jaguars Final 2024 Record: 13-8 (7-1 Coastal League)

thomas@smdp.com



SMMUSD

FROM PAGE 1

expenditures, transfers and other uses, saw an increase of 3.43 percent from the 2023-24 second interim report. The reserve is now at 14.62 percent, leaving an approximately $26.8 million reserve for up to two months of general fund expenditures. The reserve is also up 2.89 percent compared to the 2022-23 third interim report.

In the pursuit of the district's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) goal of making sure "all graduates are socially just and ready for college and careers," the district implemented Social Justice Standards and gave students opportunities to engage in American Cultures and Ethnic Studies (ACES) courses that the district states "are rigorous and culturally relevant." The 2024 annual update on social justice within the district will be given by American Cultures and Ethnic Studies teacher Erin Hill, highlighting the actions and initiatives taken this year when it comes to ACES courses, curriculum guides and staff professional development related to social justice.

SMMUSD ACES courses take place at Santa Monica High School, Malibu High School, Olympic High School and the Samohi Project Based Learning pathway. Courses include Samohi senior English courses in African-American Literature and Chicanx/Latinx American Literature, as well as classes focusing on Feminist Literature and graphic novels. In addition, Samohi's Freshman Seminar has been updated to include themes of "Identity & Community" and "Facing History and Ourselves: Exploring Hard History, Race and Membership in American Society."

Students weren't the only ones gaining social justice education this year, as both elementary and secondary teachers in the district received professional development in social studies, focused on things like history-social science framework and culturally responsive teaching. Part of the development training was putting teachers into groups, reviewing and discussing items like Pico Boulevard's street murals and media pieces such as "The Great Indian Migration Los Angeles 1772-1840."

thomas@smdp.com

LAWSUIT

FROM PAGE 1

signatures, or 10% of registered voters, to qualify for the ballot.

O'Connor claims the lower threshold is allowed under state law.

"According to the California Constitution, a ballot measure seeking to reduce a local tax need only submit valid signatures equal to 5% of the number of voters who voted in the last Gubernatorial election. In Santa Monica, this means that this amendment to amend Measure GS only requires 1,978 valid signatures from Santa Monica voters to qualify for the November 2024 ballot," said her press release.

However, the city contends the section cited by O'Connor governs a tax imposed by a local government and that as Measure GS was not a government-sponsored (but rather imposed by the voters upon themselves), the state threshold does not apply and local election code prevails.

In a letter sent to the City on May 8, attorney Matthew Alvarez, representing O'Connor, said they will pursue legal action to force the city to accept the signatures unless City Hall voluntarily complies by May 15.

"We were distressed to learn that the City persists in its refusal to accept that Ms. O'Connor has secured a sufficient number of signatures, and thus has refused to forward the signatures to the County's Registrar of Voters for verification. It is apparent that the City is doubling-down on its intent to deprive Ms. O'Connor—and the four thousand other Santa Monica voters who join her—of the right to have the initiative placed on the November 2024 ballot," said the letter. "Accordingly, please understand this letter as constituting formal notice of anticipated litigation against the City by Ms. O'Connor and an offer to settle such litigation. We once again demand that the City reverse course and honor its constitutional duties by forwarding the signatures gathered by Ms. O'Connor to the County's Registrar of Voters, as they are of sufficient quantity per California's constitutional requirements."

Santa Monica's City Attorney's office has defended the decision to seek the 10% threshold saying the language is clear.

"Taking into account relevant case law interpreting the ordinary meaning of 'local government,' as well as related provisions of Proposition 218, the term 'local government' does not include voter initiatives," said the City in a statement. "Because Measure GS was adopted by voter initiative, it is not a 'local tax' 'imposed by a local government' for purposes of Proposition 218. Thus, the proposed measure is not reducing or repealing a 'local tax,' and the appropriate signature threshold is 10% of registered voters, per Election Code 9215."

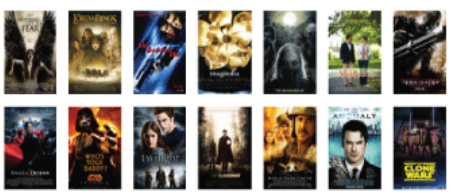
The threat says the lawsuit will be filed on the morning of May 16 and will include a demand for legal fees.

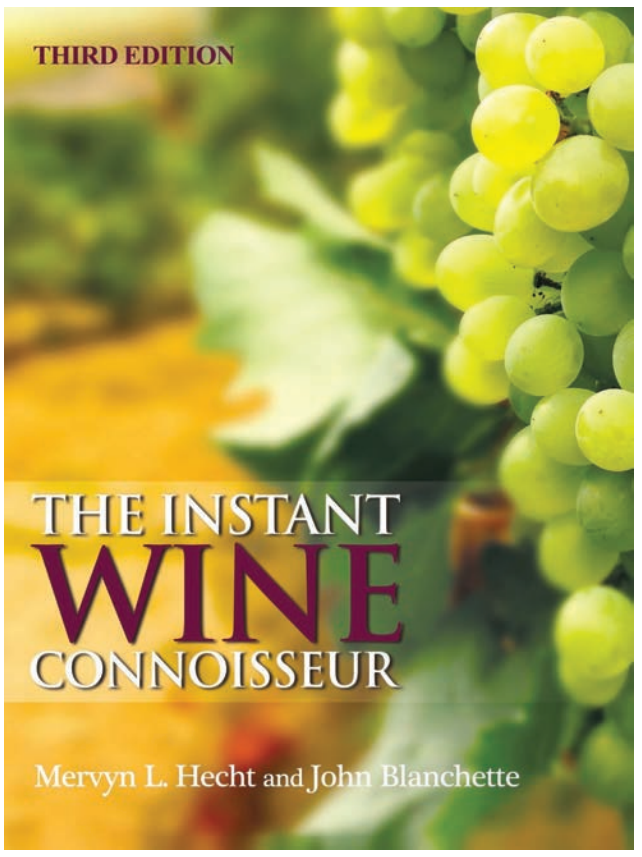
Council will take up the issue on May 14 during the closed session of the special 4:30 p.m. meeting.

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Santa Monica Daily Press
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Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAMECase No. 24SMCP00234Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Samira Dabirian and Hamidreza Hoveida for Change of NameTO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:Petitioner or Attorney: Samira Dabirian and Hamidreza Hoveida a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Ilya Hoveida to Daniyar Hoveida 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 07/05/2024 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: - The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA - COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Santa Monica Courthouse 1725 Main St Santa Monica, CA 90401A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.

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BUDGET

FROM PAGE 3

"I know that may not sit well with some," he said, "but we're struggling with seeing the performance I want to see on the streets."

For the past few years, Newsom has been sending a message that he expects better results from cities and counties. In 2022, he briefly withheld their funding because, he said, their plans to reduce homelessness weren't aggressive enough. And after a scathing audit last month found the state isn't adequately tracking its spending on or the outcomes of its homelessness programs, lawmakers and advocates have called for more transparency and accountability.

So Newsom now wants to cut $260 million in bonuses that were supposed to be paid out to cities and counties this year and next year. To qualify, recipients had to have two plans approved by the state: one to reduce their homeless populations, and another to plan enough housing for their residents.

His revised budget also lacks any additional money for the state's main pot of homelessness funding. For the past three years in a row, Newsom has poured $1 billion into the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention program. Those working in and studying homelessness services worry that without that funding, providers will struggle to continue paying for programs that help people living on the street. Mayors from the state's 13 largest cities went to Sacramento last month to urge Newsom and the Legislature to provide a permanent, ongoing source of funding for homelessness.

"There's some shelters that will close as a result of no additional funding in this year's budget," Rapport said.

Newsom also wants to cut $132.5 million in this coming fiscal year and $207.5 million the following year from the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program – housing for homeless people who have serious mental illness and/or substance use disorder. The program, which began in 2022, was supposed to be a main source of housing for people receiving mandated mental health treatment through Newsom's new CARE Court.

Newsom acknowledged that "these are tough days," as he laid out his proposed cuts.

HOUSING CUTS CHANGE PICTURE FOR BOND MEASURES

The affordable housing cuts put additional pressure on an ongoing campaign to put a multibillion dollar bond on the November ballot. Last year, Oakland Democratic Assemblymember Buffy Wicks proposed the state borrow $10 billion to replenish its soon-to-be depleted pools of affordable housing funding. If the Legislature goes along with Newsom's plan, those programs will run dry even sooner.

But Wicks' bond is competing for space on the November ballot with other borrowing plans to shore up spending on school building upkeep and climate and flood protection.

Separately, regional planners for the nine counties of the San Francisco Bay Area are promoting their own affordable housing bond that could top out at $20 billion — which would be the largest affordable housing bond at any level of government in state history. Supporters say today's cuts also make that campaign all the more urgent.

Last month, the housing nonprofit Enterprise Community Partners estimated that 46,605 affordable homes across California are ready to be built but remain on hold for lack of public funding.

> "If people want to get off of drugs and away from drugs, we should give them that option"
>
> - Nevada Merriman, vice president of policy at MidPen Housing

Newsom's proposed budget "really puts into focus how important the November ballot will be, given California's volatile budget," said Merriman.

At his budget presentation on Friday, Newsom was asked if he was receptive to any of the proposed statewide bonds. He didn't answer the question.

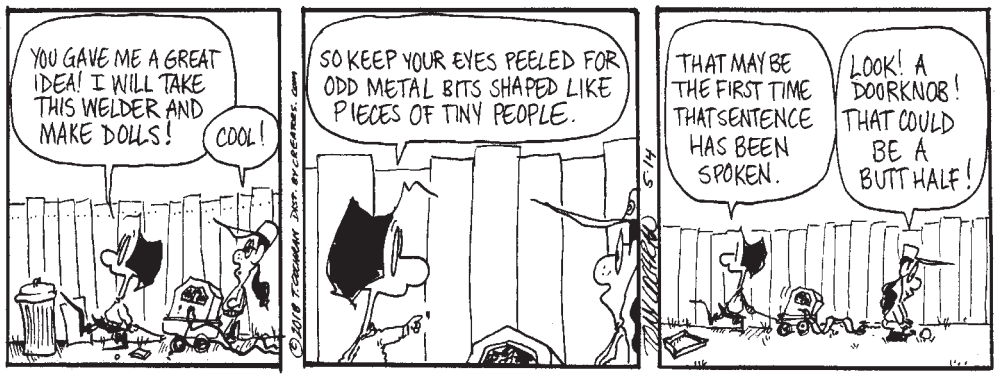
"We're maintaining a posture of engagement," he said. "We'll make a determination."

This article was originally published by CalMatters.



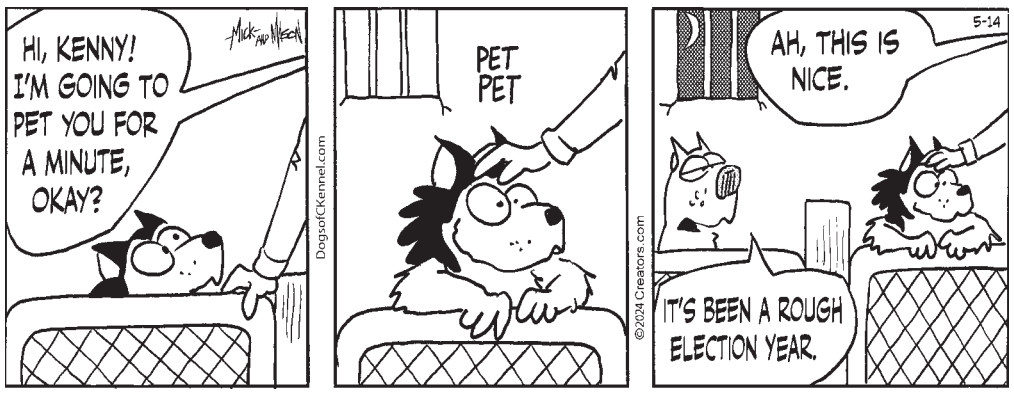
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



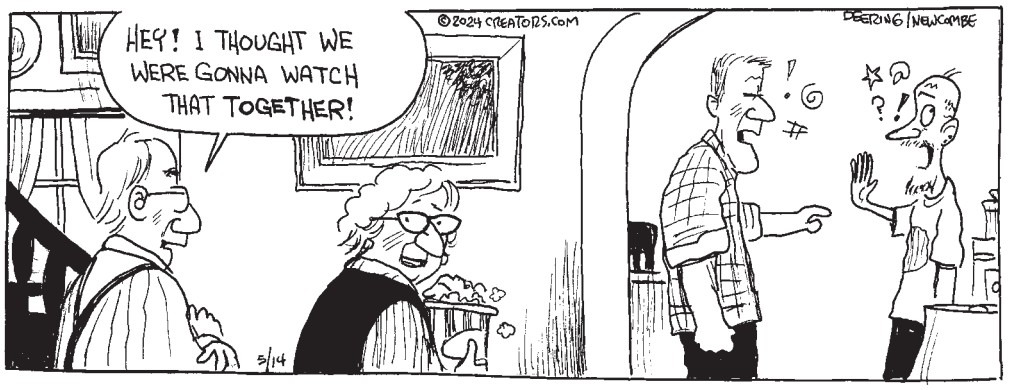
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



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 22 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6210

Mother's Day

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

Adore	Chaos	In May	Positive
Afternoon	Coped	Kids	Rest
nap	Crumbs	Love	Robe
Appreciate	Days	Lunch	Sage
Argue	Dedication	Mama	Sons
Asleep	Experience	Meals	Strict
Book	Father	Messy	Sweet
Bright	Fete	Movie	Tired
Busy	Hardworking	Noisy	Treats
Cake	Heart	Phone call	
Care	Hugs	Picnic	

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 14)

You'll answer the call to matters of depth and importance and be rewarded for your valor with adventures in the lighter side of life. Your impressive growth in a short amount of time will earn you a position. More highlights: a reframing of your story that makes new avenues accessible to you in social, professional and personal realms. Your people will make you proud. Virgo and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 22, 4, 11 and 16.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll get evidence that you do your best work when you have a looser grip and let the chips fall as they may. A project is taking a different shape from how you'd originally envisioned it, and this is a good thing.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You can't plan everything, and even if you could, you would still leave room for fate to put a hand in. Today, you give fate an open-ended invitation, resulting in something uncanny and delightful.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The more you mull over an idea, the more you doubt it's any good. It could, in fact, be an utter waste of time. But if you're compelled to do it, there's a reason — and that reason will set off a fortuitous chain of events.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your loved ones know that you love them whether they're up or down, wrong or right. You'll give your unconditional kind of love today and hold back the urge to say, "I told you so."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're still figuring something out that will affect your days going forward. And though this seems like a crucial decision, what matters is not the decision itself but that you made it. Whichever way you go, you'll be freer.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Dwell not on proving your rightness; it's nobler to simply be right. Besides, the ones who matter will see clearly how you serve an idea or relationship. They will appreciate your dance with the truth at hand.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). As an approachable leader, you'll learn much more than the type who rule from on high. You'll find out what motivates your team, and you'll be in touch with the reality of the group — the pressures in play and what resources there are to draw on.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll advocate for those who need help and commit to seeing things through to their conclusion. However it turns out, this is an empowering experience. What you think of as a small act is heroic to someone else.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Treasure is often hidden in terrain that is also hiding trips and traps. But whether you risk the quest or not, at some point, everyone falls. More times means less fear of falling, and more practice getting back up.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When someone hurts your feelings, even if it's only a little, this is worth taking on. Letting it go might leave you open for future slights. Small offenses are best dealt with in equally small countergestures of defense.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Stick to the main matter and work it until it's done — no tangents, no switch-up in tools or company, no significant pauses. This is how you'll make today the most productive one you've had in weeks.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You don't have a problem with authority, but you'll only do what you're told if the directive aligns with what you have in mind for yourself. You will not fulfill a request blindly just because it comes from the top.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

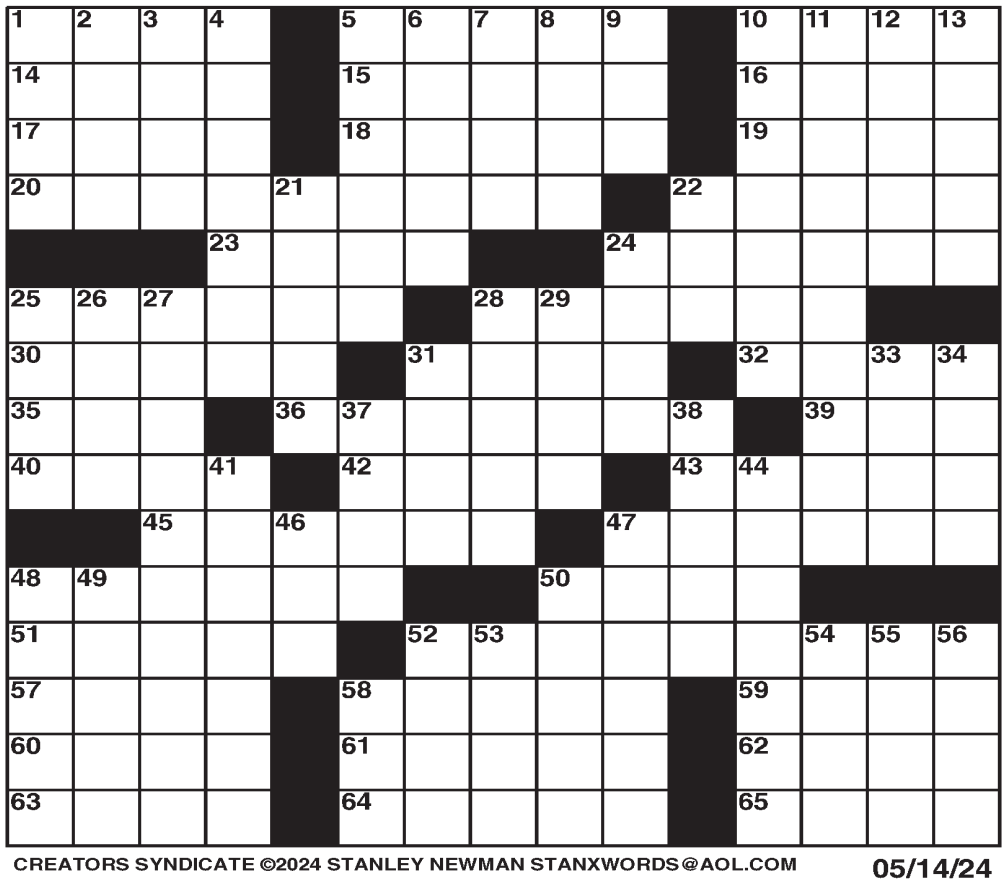
SUIT AND TIE by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Slightly open, as a door
5 Rides the waves
10 Roundish hairstyle
14 Folk knowledge
15 Start of an exercise motto with "lose"
16 Wasn't truthful
17 "Not guilty," for example
18 Easter costume with long ears
19 "Pay __ mind" ("Ignore that")
20 TIE ending a chess game
22 Playful river mammal
23 End of a kite
24 Soaks in a tub
25 Accompany on a trip
28 Ladybug, for instance
30 Taking not much time
31 Prod with one finger
32 Flows back, as the tide
35 Implement with ink
36 Woman with an inheritance
39 Written promise to pay
40 "Billionth" prefix for second
42 Neckline shapes
43 Cantaloupe or honeydew
45 Walks inside
47 Kingdoms
48 Battle zone
50 Shaker seasoning
51 Wyoming's Grand __ peak
52 SUIT filed in court
57 Diva's solo
58 Holland's floral symbol
59 Wines and dines
60 Life stories, briefly
61 Ohio or Oregon
62 At the summit of
63 Mailed out
64 Typed (in)
65 Talks and talks

DOWN

1 Swiss peaks
2 Sudden bump
3 Square footage
4 Home-selling pro
5 Hand in
6 Habitual
7 Landlord's income
8 Parking ticket penalty
9 Enclosure for pigs
10 Slightly
11 SUIT something perfectly
12 Actress Zellweger
13 Strong scents
21 Our planet
22 Cheerios grain
24 Spelling contests
25 NFL and NBA channel
26 __ butter (lotion ingredient)
27 TIE of a relationship
28 Tiresome people
29 __ out a living (barely gets by)
31 Ship's dock
33 Explosion sound
34 Solar system centers
37 At any time
38 Detect, as an aroma
41 Served within browned bread
44 Erode
46 Heavy weight
47 Knocked sharply
48 Wild guesses
49 Spine-tingling
50 Strike down, in the Bible
52 Adorable
53 Cosmetics brand that sounds like a cheer
54 Tiny bit
55 Secluded corner
56 Sugar amts.
58 Sound of scolding



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05/14/24

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

HOUSING

FROM PAGE 5

permissive policies aren't working."

CALIFORNIA'S 'HOUSING FIRST' HOMELESSNESS POLICY

At issue is the state's adherence to "housing first," a framework where homeless residents are offered housing immediately and with minimal caveats or requirements, regardless of sobriety. The housing should be "low-barrier," meaning residents are not required to participate in recovery or other programs. After someone is housed, providers are then supposed to offer voluntary substance use and mental health treatment, job training, or other services. The idea is that if people don't have to focus all their energy on simply surviving on the streets, they're better equipped to work on their other issues.

Housing first became law of the land in California in 2016 when the state required all state-funded programs to adopt the model.

The federal government also uses that framework. But in 2015, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development said requiring sobriety is not necessarily anti-housing first. California did not follow suit.

Some Republicans and conservative-leaning groups now are pushing to overturn California's housing first framework, saying it hasn't successfully reduced homelessness. Assemblymember Josh Hoover, from Folsom, is trying to completely repeal housing first with AB 2417. That bill has yet to be heard by a committee, and likely won't advance this year.

But with more than 180,000 Californians lacking a home, even Democrats want to see changes. The bills by Haney and Assemblymember Chris Ward of San Diego would allow up to 25% of state funds in each county to go toward sober housing.

Neither Democrat wants to upend housing first. Instead, they want sober housing facilities to operate under a housing first framework. Haney's bill would require counties to make sure sober facilities kept people housed at rates similar to facilities without sobriety requirements.

Both bills specify that tenants should not be kicked out of their sober housing just because they relapse, and instead they should get support to help them recover. If a resident is no longer interested in being sober, the program should help them move into another housing program.

Having a sober living option for people who want it would be a good thing — but it would have to be their choice, said Sharon Rapport, director of California state policy for The Corporation for Supportive Housing. But homeless housing is so scarce in California, that it's unlikely participants would be given a true choice, she said. And, these bills would divert already limited state money away from low-barrier housing.

"My worry is that we have one pie of funding for housing," she said. "So it's not like we're saying, 'Let's add extra money and try this other approach.' We'd be saying, 'Let's spend less money on harm-reduction housing.'"

Her organization has not taken an official position on the bills.

To make sure people don't end up back on the street after a relapse, counties would have to keep spaces in low-barrier housing free, in case someone needs to move out of sober housing, Haney said. But that's not explicitly mandated in the bill.

One key motivation for Haney to draft his sober housing bill is the surge of deaths caused by the opioid fentanyl.

"Our housing first policies in California do not reflect the realities of fentanyl and the need to provide pathways to get off of and away from such a deadly drug," he said.

Overdose deaths are rampant inside San Francisco's homeless housing, a 2022 San Francisco Chronicle investigation found. But the state doesn't track those deaths in public housing, meaning if Haney's sober housing bill passes, it will be all but impossible to tell whether it saves lives.

The state should track those deaths, Haney said, adding, "maybe I'll do that bill next year."

DOES HOUSING FIRST WORK?

The argument against housing first is simple: Since California adopted the policy, the state's homeless population has grown by more than half.

But experts say that's because high housing costs are pushing people onto the streets faster than the state's overburdened supportive housing system can pull them back inside.

Under immense pressure to do something about the crisis, politicians are pointing to housing first as a scapegoat, said Ann Oliva, CEO of the National Alliance to End Homelessness. But that's like blaming the emergency room for the number of COVID patients coming in during the pandemic, she said.

> "That is as much evidence as I think would be necessary to show that this model works really well"
> - Jennifer Loving, CEO

Multiple studies have shown housing first to be successful. The Department of Veterans Affairs in 2010 found adopting housing first reduced the time it took to place people in housing from 223 days to 35 days. A two-year study in five Canadian cities found housing first participants spent 73% of their time in stable housing, compared with 32% for participants in non-housing first programs.

People Assisting the Homeless (PATH), which operates housing first programs in Southern California and the Bay Area, reported 94% of people who moved in were still housed a year later. Destination: Home in Santa Clara County, which spearheads the county's housing first efforts, reported similar results.

"That is as much evidence as I think would be necessary to show that this model works really well," said CEO Jennifer Loving, "and the problem is we haven't been able to do enough of it."

This article was originally published by CalMatters.



TUESDAY | MAY 14

SOCIAL SERVICE ASSISTANCE

Virginia Avenue Park, in partnership with Providence St. John's Community Health Program, resumes Social Service Assistance from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Help with facility nutrition and health care access from trained community health workers. The trained Providence St. John's staff can assist with enrollment in CalFresh, the state of California's food subsidy program created to improve the nutrition of families through access to healthy foods. Staff can also help navigate enrollment or questions for MediCal or Medicare. If you have questions about whether you qualify for benefits or if you need help completing enrollment forms, you can make an appointment by calling 310-458-8688. Drop-ins are also welcome.

EMPOWERING PARENTHOOD

Part of a free Family Constellation Workshop series presented by SMMUSD teacher Aileen Salmaggi, parents will explore hidden family dynamics and understand how they shape their parenting. Through guided exercises, participants can gain insights into generational patterns and challenges, ultimately empowering them to create a more positive and nurturing family environment. The third workshop on the topic of "Belonging" will take place at The Annex at Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave., beginning at 5:30 p.m.

FREE PLASTIC INTERVENTION WORKOUT

Cleancult, a next-generation eco-warrior home and personal care brand cutting 90% of single-use plastic from cleaning rituals, invites you to its inaugural Plastic Intervention Ambassador event, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at RA MA Institute, 1729 21st St. Join or a holistic workout with Karly Treacy, the founder of the KT method, and come together to commit to eliminating plastic waste from cleaning rituals for good. No ceremonial robes or secret handshakes required, just your yoga mat. Spots are limited, RSVP at jointhe.cleancult.com.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

WEDNESDAY | MAY 15

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

The largest grower-only Certified Farmers Market in Southern California and a favorite for local chefs. Enjoy Santa Monica's downtown farmers market from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. between 4th St. and Ocean Ave. Widely considered to be among the best on the west coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheese, delicious foods, live music and more.

SMALL BUSINESS SUMMIT

Elevate your business at Money Mindset with the 2024 Small Business Summit Series, an immersive experience that unites small business owners with experts, advice and connections to turn your dreams into reality. Whether you're aiming to expand, secure funding, boost your brand or conquer the digital landscape, this series equips you with the strategies for your business journey. Experience a half-day dedicated to empowering your business vision and profitable strategies, all while gaining clarity and fostering a money mindset. Begins at 12 p.m. at Snapchat Santa Monica, 3250 Ocean Park Blvd. Tickets $49. For more, visit: https://helloalice.com/events/may-santa-monica/.

FREE WALK-IN LEGAL CLINIC

Santa Monica residents can meet one-on-one with a lawyer from Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles to help with housing issues. Runs from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Virginia Avenue Park's Park Center, 2200 Virginia Ave. Immediate assistance is available by calling LAFLA directly at 800-399-4529 or visit lafla.org/gethelp.

THURSDAY | MAY 16

LOCALS NIGHT

Join the Santa Monica Pier from 3:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. as the Pier will be rolling out the red carpet for Santa Monicans for a curated series for locals, by locals. Gather your friends and family and head down to the Pier for entertainment including youth activities, a car show, local DJs and live music from local bands. This month's music performances include Plow Posture, Cycotic Youth and Strawberry Fuzz. Other activities include the Rick Crocker 5K Challenge, the John Adams Middle School/Santa Monica Alternative School House musical performance of "Mean Girls Jr.," and a professional volleyball showcase.

BRING BACK THE BEACH GALA

A fundraising benefit for Heal the Bay, the exclusive Bring Back the Beach Gala event welcomes hundreds of leaders from the business, political, entertainment and environmental communities. Event includes cocktails, dinner, a silent auction, a live auction, award presentations and entertainment. This year, the gala will feature music by international musician and ocean conservationist Samuel J for a very special live concert and DJ set. Begins at 5:30 p.m. at Jonathan Beach Club, 850 Palisades Beach Rd. Attire is beach/cocktail/chic, part of the event will be on the sand so consider shoe choice. To get tickets, visit: https://healthebay.org/event/join-us-at-the-bring-back-the-beach-gala-2024/.

DISCO QUEEN

LouLou Rooftop Restaurant and Lounge, 395 Santa Monica Place #300, hosts the hottest new disco and drag party on the Westside beginning at 6 p.m. Disco Queen pays homage to Disco Queen nights in Paris filled with disco balls, smooth grooves and over-the-top talent. The top drag queens on the planet will host the hottest night out with resident DJ ARA playing classic disco hits. The launch event will feature a special performance by RuPaul's Drag Race veteran and Emmy-nominated actor Willam. For more information, visit loulousantamonica.com.



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