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Catalytic converter theft
California is a hotspot.





8 & 9

Candidate Profiles
See inside this paper for candidate responses to questions from the paper and visit smdp.com to see more information about each candidate.

TUESDAY
10.11.22

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 21 Issue 277

smdp.com

Muir/SMASH reopening becomes SMMUSD campaign issue

GRACE INEZ ADAMS
SMDP Staff Writer

Plans to reopen the shuttered Muir/SMASH campus are on pace to have students return for the 2024 school year but some parents are raising doubts over the future of the school site.

Several dozen parents, students and other community members gathered outside the district headquarters to demand transparency and accountability in regards to the campus repair process last week.

Among the rally's organizers were several School Board candidates including Miles Warner and Angela DiGaetano, who are running as part of a slate of four challengers hoping to unseat incumbents in the upcoming Nov. 8 election.

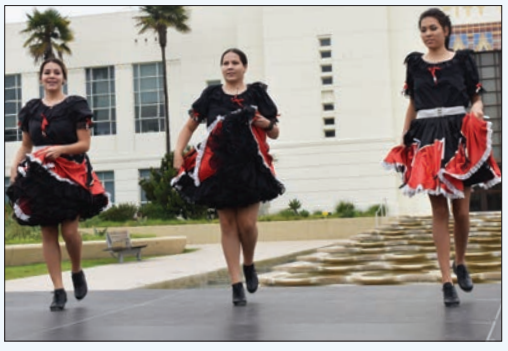
"Our beloved John Muir Elementary has long been underfunded, under-resourced and neglected by the SMMUSD. Despite this inequitable treatment, the parents, teachers and students, with the support of our local neighborhood, have built John Muir into a vibrant and unique learning community — a true neighborhood school," said Muir parent TJ Hill in a statement before the meeting. "After years of facility neglect, our school was unceremoniously taken from us in a process that served to confuse, disempower and disenfranchised the members of our community, many of whom are already marginalized. We have had enough of the inequitable treatment, broken

SEE **SMMUSD** PAGE 6

City Hall celebrates Indigenous Peoples Day











Grace Inez Adams

DANCE: In honor of Indigenous Peoples' Day, a dance group from the Manitoba Métis Federation and Red River Métis in Winnipeg, Canada, performed in front of City Hall Yesterday. Council Member Oscar de la Torre introduced the group and acknowledged the people who used to live on the land that is now Santa Monica, including the Tongva and Gabrielino.

"There were people living here and teaching real practices of what we now we call environmental sustainability," he said. "People were living off the land in harmony. And so it's very important for us to remember that and to honor the people that were here with those with those practices."

Jeremy Gonzalez, a Gabrielino descendant also spoke, saying that the country, state and city still has work to do in terms of reconciling years of mistreatment towards indigenous people on the national, state and city level.

Los Angeles City Council president resigns after broadcast of racist remarks

JOHN ANTCZAK
Associated Press

The president of the Los Angeles City Council resigned from the post Monday after she was heard making racist comments and other coarse remarks in a leaked recording of a conversation with other Latino leaders.

Council President Nury Martinez issued an apology and expressed shame.

"In the end, it is not my apologies that matter most; it will be the actions I take from this day forward. I hope that you will give me the opportunity to make amends," she said in a statement. "Therefore, effective immediately I am resigning as President of the Los Angeles City Council."

The statement did not say she would resign her council seat. There was no immediate response to a call and email sent to her spokesperson.

Martinez said in the recorded conversation that white Councilmember Mike Bonin handled his young Black son as if

SEE **LOS ANGELES** PAGE 11

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Vote YES on Measure SMC

The Santa Monica-Malibu Council of PTAs endorses Measure SMC

"Santa Monica College is important to our local students' education. ***Nearly 6,000 students attending SMC over the last dozen years are from our local high schools****, including Santa Monica High, Malibu High, and Olympic High. Measure SMC helps ensure that Santa Monica College continues to deliver accessible, affordable, high-quality education and career training for our students and our communities. Community colleges play a critical role in providing skilled workers to meet the needs of our state and nation. The Santa Monica-Malibu Council of PTAs is proud to support Measure SMC."*

Here's what Measure SMC will make possible:

- ✓Replacing and upgrading obsolete classrooms and instructional labs.
- ✓Improving access to new career training programs including respiratory therapy, fashion design and photography.
- ✓Providing technology and facilities for hybrid in-person and online learning.
- ✓Upgrading the college's Veteran's Success Center.
- ✓Housing for homeless and qualified low-income students, with priority for local families and individuals.
- ✓A state of the art language learning center.
- ✓Helping to replace Malibu High School's auditorium to support college and high school media studies.
- ✓Modernizing energy systems and achieving energy savings.
- ✓Providing fire safety and environmental upgrades.

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Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce
Malibu Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce
Santa Monica Democratic Club
Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights (SMRR)
Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS)
Santa Monica Forward
Santa Monica Early Childhood Task Force
Ben Allen, CA State Senator
Richard Bloom, CA State Assemblymember
Sheila Kuehl, L.A. County Supervisor
Sue Himmelrich, Santa Monica Mayor
Kristin McCowan, Santa Monica Mayor Pro Tempore
Gleam Davis, Santa Monica City Councilmember
Oscar de la Torre, Santa Monica City Councilmember
Lana Negrete, Santa Monica City Councilmember
Bob Hertzberg, California State Senator, LA County Supervisor Candidate
Lindsey Horvath, West Hollywood Councilmember, LA County Supervisor Candidate
Rick Chavez Zbur, State Assembly Candidate



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DAILY POLICE LOGS

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 289 CALLS ON OCTOBER 9

Trespassing 2600Blk 2nd St 12:13 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 6th St / Santa Monica Blvd 12:14 a.m.
Person Down Lincoln Blvd / Ocean Park Blvd 12:26 a.m.
Person With A Gun 2600Blk Main St 1:03 a.m.
Party Complaint 9th St / Michigan Ave 1:05 a.m.
Loud Music 14th St / Santa Monica Blvd 1:09 a.m.
Party Complaint 500Blk 16th St 1:11 a.m.
Battery 2900Blk Main St 1:12 a.m.
Fight 1500Blk 6th St 1:13 a.m.
Party Complaint 800Blk 6th St 1:27 a.m.
Loud Music 800Blk Bay St 1:33 a.m.
Loud Music Ocean Ave / Broadway 2:14 a.m.
Missing Person 1400Blk Ocean Ave 2:18 a.m.
Auto Burglary 200Blk Ocean Ave 2:31 a.m.
Party Complaint 1100Blk 12th St 2:52 a.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 1500Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 2:55 a.m.
Missing Person 300Blk Olympic Dr 2:57 a.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop Moomat Ahiko Way / Ocean Ave 4:29 a.m.
Loud Music 1500Blk Wilshire Blvd 4:30 a.m.
Trespassing 1400Blk Ocean Ave 5:16 a.m.
Trespassing 1900Blk Arizona Ave 7:22 a.m.
Fight 1700Blk The Beach 7:24 a.m.
Loitering 3200Blk Olympic Blvd 7:47 a.m.
Panic Alarm 700Blk 22nd St 7:50 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2700Blk Barnard Way 8:55 a.m.
Petty Theft 400Blk Broadway 9:11 a.m.
Construction Noise 1100Blk Princeton St 9:34 a.m.
Trespassing 3000Blk Pico Blvd 9:51 a.m.
Indecent Exposure 300Blk Santa Monica Pier 10:04 a.m.
Encampment 1300Blk Palisades Park 10:12 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1200Blk Yale St 10:13 a.m.
Missing Person 2100Blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:22 a.m.
Attempt Burglary 800Blk The Beach 10:24 a.m.
Battery 1300Blk 3rd Street Prom 10:32 a.m.
Trespassing 1100Blk 15th St 10:41 a.m.
Panic Alarm 700Blk 22nd St 10:48 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1300Blk Yale St 10:58 a.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 2000Blk Ocean Ave 11:06 a.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 500Blk Pacific St 11:23 a.m.
Missing Person 2400Blk Lincoln Blvd 11:29 a.m.
Person Down 1600Blk Wilshire Blvd 11:31 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 600Blk Ozone St 11:37 a.m.
Battery 1000Blk 19th St 11:39 a.m.
Defrauding Innkeeper In Progress 1400Blk 4th St 11:58 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1300Blk 9th St 12:03 p.m.
Burglary 800Blk 11th St 12:05 p.m.
Auto Burglary 700Blk Marine St 12:11 p.m.
Missing Person 2800Blk Washington Ave 12:22 p.m.
Auto Burglary 700Blk Wilshire Blvd 12:52 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 2400Blk 7th St 1:15 p.m.
Fire Request Police 18th St / Arizona Ave 1:17 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1000Blk Ocean Park Blvd 1:29 p.m.
Person Down 18th St / Wilshire Blvd 2:04 p.m.
Petty Theft 2900Blk 31st St 2:13 p.m.
Auto Burglary 1400Blk 4th St 2:13 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 700Blk Interstate 10 2:23 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 2200Blk The Beach 2:24 p.m.
Grand Theft 3200Blk Colorado Ave 2:27 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1500Blk 5th St 2:32 p.m.
Auto Burglary 1100Blk 4th St 2:40 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1300Blk 2nd St 3:00 p.m.
Person With A Gun 300Blk Santa Monica Pier 3:08 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 3300Blk Barnard Way 3:13 p.m.
Person With A Gun 1600Blk Cloverfield Blvd 3:38 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 1400Blk Ocean Ave 3:45 p.m.
Stolen Vehicle Recovered 800Blk 19th St 3:51 p.m.
Trespassing 1100Blk 26th St 3:55 p.m.
Indecent Exposure 300Blk Santa Monica Pl 3:56 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 2600Blk Barnard Way 4:01 p.m.
Valet Zone Violation 1500Blk Ocean Ave 4:01 p.m.
Loitering 700Blk Broadway 4:19 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2000Blk Marine St 4:20 p.m.
Petty Theft 800Blk Montana Ave 4:30 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1200Blk 2nd St 4:54 p.m.
Speeding 11th St / Santa Monica Blvd 5:02 p.m.
Speeding Lincoln Blvd / Colorado Ave 5:04 p.m.
Grand Theft 2700Blk Main St 5:05 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 200Blk Hollister Ave 5:06 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1200Blk 4th St 5:14 p.m.
Trespassing 2900Blk Pico Blvd 5:26 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 2600Blk 3rd St 5:26 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 800Blk 4th St 5:27 p.m.
Petty Theft 2700Blk Main St 5:55 p.m.
Encampment 1800Blk The Beach 6:12 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2300Blk 16th St 6:14 p.m.
Petty Theft 2700Blk Main St 6:32 p.m.
Person Down 2nd St / Santa Monica Blvd 6:59 p.m.
Encampment 1200Blk 3rd Street Prom 7:09 p.m.
Oversize Vehicle Violation 1100Blk 16th St 7:25 p.m.
Public Intoxication 200Blk California Ave 7:29 p.m.
Auto Burglary 900Blk 18th St 7:30 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2900Blk Ocean Park Blvd 7:41 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 5th St / Arizona Ave 7:42 p.m.
Petty Theft 300Blk Olympic Dr 7:51 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2400Blk 31st St 7:54 p.m.
Speeding 2600Blk Lincoln Blvd 7:56 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 900Blk 10th St 7:57 p.m.
Person Down 16th St / Arizona Ave 8:05 p.m.
Indecent Exposure 1400Blk 4th St 8:15 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 20th St / Pearl St 8:36 p.m.
Open Door 2200Blk Wilshire Blvd 8:42 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 4th St / Broadway 8:52 p.m.
Person With A Gun 300Blk Santa Monica Pier 9:08 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 4th St / Civic Center Dr 9:12 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 17th St / Broadway 9:43 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon 1600Blk Block Of Ocean Front Walk 9:48 p.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 1700Blk 18th St 10:05 p.m.
Oversize Vehicle Violation 2500Blk 6th St 10:06 p.m.
Loud Music Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 10:13 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 17th St / Colorado Ave 10:21 p.m.
Battery 1100Blk 2nd St 10:55 p.m.
Loud Music Lincoln Blvd / Bay St 11:29 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOGS

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 45 CALLS ON OCTOBER 9

EMS 1300Blk 15th St 12:24 a.m.
EMS Lincoln Blvd / Ocean Park Blvd 12:27 a.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Wilshire Blvd 12:36 a.m.
EMS 2900Blk Main St 1:20 a.m.
EMS 1100Blk Arizona Ave 3:47 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 7:18 a.m.
EMS 1500Blk 16th St 7:37 a.m.
EMS 1700Blk Cloverfield Blvd 8:10 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2000Blk Broadway 8:22 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 8:23 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk Grant St 9:04 a.m.
EMS 400Blk 14th St 9:08 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 9:12 a.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 23rd St / Santa Monica Blvd 9:15 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 20th St 9:18 a.m.
EMS 1100Blk 16th St 11:17 a.m.
EMS 1600Blk Wilshire Blvd 11:31 a.m.
EMS 20th St / Arizona Ave 11:54 a.m.
EMS 100Blk Ocean Park Blvd 12:11 p.m.
EMS 26th St / Broadway 12:28 p.m.
EMS 18th St / Arizona Ave 12:34 p.m.
EMS 2600Blk Centinela Ave 12:36 p.m.
EMS 16th St / Colorado Ave 12:54 p.m.
EMS 18th St / Arizona Ave 1:32 p.m.
EMS 18th St / Wilshire Blvd 2:04 p.m.
EMS 18th St / Wilshire Blvd 2:17 p.m.
EMS 1500Blk 5th St 2:18 p.m.
EMS 3rd Street Prom / Broadway 3:11 p.m.
EMS 900Blk 15th St 3:12 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 3:44 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 9th St 4:00 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 17th St 6:08 p.m.
EMS 100Blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:45 p.m.
Electrical Fire - No Fire Visible 800Blk 23rd St 6:49 p.m.
EMS 1400Blk 2nd St 7:00 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 800Blk 21st St 7:59 p.m.
EMS 16th St / Arizona Ave 8:05 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 8:17 p.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 1300Blk Palisades Park 8:47 p.m.
EMS 3rd Street Prom / Wilshire Blvd 9:21 p.m.
EMS 1400Blk 4th St 9:30 p.m.
EMS 300Blk Colorado Ave 9:47 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk Arizona Ave 9:51 p.m.
EMS 1100Blk 4th St 10:33 p.m.
Structure Fire 1000Blk Wilshire Blvd 11:23 p.m.

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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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Billionaire Caruso on spending binge to sway LA mayor's race

MICHAEL R. BLOOD
AP Political Writer

Rick Caruso, billionaire developer and underdog candidate for Los Angeles mayor, is mounting what might become the city's largest-ever voter-turnout operation to try to defeat U.S. Rep. Karen Bass, who could be the first Black woman to lead the nation's second-most-populous city.

Caruso is deploying several hundred paid canvassers and droves of volunteers to knock on doors, make phone calls and send texts and emails. Their targets are identified by campaign staff who rely on demographic research and polling to ferret out potential supporters among undecided Latinos, Asians and independents.

Of particular interest are people who sat out the June primary when Bass topped the field and outdistanced Caruso by 7 points, setting up a runoff.

Latinos make up about half the city's population of about 4 million and they tilted toward Caruso in the primary, but can be inconsistent voters. Bass has been fighting for their votes, too, and has lined up endorsements including former Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, City Council President Nury Martinez and labor leader Dolores Huerta.

Longtime Democratic consultant Roy Behr sees an opening for Caruso if he can win over enough voters who would otherwise have skipped the election. The outcome is "really dependent on both the turnout and the choices of Latino voters," Behr said.

Consultant Dveen Babaian, who oversees Caruso's paid canvassers, said in lower-income neighborhoods typically overlooked by campaigns "our door knocks are the first door knocks some of these voters have ever gotten."

"This campaign will be won by engaging marginalized communities," Babaian said.

On a recent afternoon in a heavily Latino neighborhood of modest homes in the city's San Fernando Valley, a Caruso canvasser was knocking on doors and distributing flyers in English and Spanish.

The results were mixed. At some homes no one came to the door, but she was able to get others to pledge support for Caruso and agree to post yard signs.

In a conversation that jumped from English to Spanish, one woman said she was supporting Caruso because of frustration with high crime.

"I don't believe that he is a Democrat," she said of Caruso. "But I don't care if you are going to do something."

> "This campaign will be won by engaging marginalized communities - Dveen Babaian"

Caruso, in his first race for elected office, was a longtime Republican who switched and became a Democrat near the deadline to enter the race in a city where the GOP is virtually invisible.

He's tapped into his estimated $5.3 billion fortune to build a $60 million war chest, most of it his own money, an amount that easily eclipses fundraising by all candidates in the previous three mayoral races.

Despite the financial advantage, even his internal polling shows he's trailing.

Time is running out and the race has taken on an increasingly hostile tone as mail-in ballots go out for an election that concludes Nov. 8.

"It's not the power of the money, it's the power of the people," Bass, a lifelong Angeleno and former state Assembly speaker, told cheering supporters at a recent outdoor rally.

The contours of the race have been set for months: finding solutions for the long-running homeless crisis, rising crime and runaway rents and housing prices.

The centrist Caruso, the son of Italian immigrants, is testing if the famously liberal city might swing to the political right for the first time in decades. He's promising to expand the police department and quickly get homeless encampments off the streets.

The progressive Bass has positioned herself as a coalition-builder and emerged as the Democratic establishment pick, with her supporters including President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, a former California U.S. senator and attorney general.

The winner will replace outgoing two-term Democratic Mayor Eric Garcetti, who has been largely absent in the contest. His nomination to become U.S. ambassador to India — made by Biden more than a year ago — appears stalled in the Senate over sexual harassment allegations against a former Garcetti top adviser.

The contest was jolted Sunday by the disclosure of a nearly year-old recording of racist comments made during a closed-door meeting of several prominent City Council Latino Democrats and a Latino labor leader. The Los Angeles Times, which obtained the leaked recording, reported that Council President Nury Martinez is heard describing the Black son of a white councilmember as behaving "Parece changuito," or "like a monkey." The Times said Martinez also referred to the councilman, Mike Bonin, as a "little bitch" and at another point mocked Oaxacans, who are from a state in southern Mexico that has a high percentage of indigenous peoples.

SEE CARUSO PAGE 12

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SMDP's candidate guides, voter information and election analysis

Oct. 3 - 15
CANDIDATE INFORMATION
Compare the candidates in our side-by-side survey, read their candidate statements and listen to indepth interviews with candidates for City Council and School Board.

Oct. 17 - 22
ELECTION ANALYSIS
Endorsement information, fundraising totals, decision making tools and SMDP's summary of the races.

California is a hotspot for catalytic converter theft. Will new laws make a difference?

BY GRACE GEDYE

A beam of light glints beneath Isaac Agyeman's 2009 Prius, parked outside his Temecula home early one August morning. One person is under the hatchback, another by its side and a third is stationed nearby. After a few mechanical roars and a quick scoot out from under the car, all three hurry away.

It was the second time Agyeman's catalytic converter — which scrubs a car's emissions to make them less toxic and contains precious metals — had been stolen. This time, he caught the whole thing on camera.

"I was upset. I was really frustrated," he said. He filed a police report, sent them the footage and called his insurance company. On top of everything, it was his birthday.

Agyeman paid $500 for the repair and his insurance covered the rest. He forked over another $150 to get a protective gate installed over his converter, hoping to deter future would-be thieves, and between $6,000 to $8,000 on an upgraded home security system, he estimates. As of September, he still hadn't heard anything from the police, he said.

Catalytic converter theft has spiked across the country in recent years, from 1,298 reported thefts in 2018 to 52,206 in 2021, according to claims data from the National Insurance Crime Bureau. The bureau sampled member company claims data to identify catalytic converter theft trends, and a spokesperson wrote in a statement that the numbers don't represent all thefts.

CALIFORNIA HASN'T BEEN IMMUNE.

Nationally, 37% of catalytic converter theft claims tracked by the bureau in 2021 were in the Golden State — a disproportionate share, even accounting for California's large population.

About 1,600 are stolen per month in California, per a 2021 presentation from the state's Bureau of Automotive Repair. Hondas and Toyotas, particularly older Priuses, are most often targeted, according to claims data provided by the AAA Automobile Club of Southern California. Hybrids have two converters and the parts tend to get less wear, making them more valuable, according to the National Insurance Crime Bureau. Thieves sell the converters, which can be removed in minutes with an electric saw, for $50 to $250, the bureau wrote in a statement.

CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT IS HARD TO INVESTIGATE

Folks all over the state have suffered.

This summer, police recovered 112 converters and arrested 28 people in the Inland Empire. In September, four marked San Francisco Police Department vehicles were relieved of their converters.

In April, staff at Yolo Food Bank in Woodland realized a catalytic converter had been stolen from a Prius they use to make small deliveries. Staff used their own cars to drop off food while the Prius was out of commission, said Maria Segoviano, director of marketing communications at the food bank.

The organization paid about $400 for a shield to protect the converter and began parking the car inside its warehouse. And, because this wasn't the first time they'd had someone break through a wire fence to get to their parking lot, they decided to invest in an heavy-duty, 8-foot fence.

It set them back $69,200 — which translates to about 81,000 pounds of fruit and vegetables, Segoviano said.

"Catalytic converters obviously have been around forever, and they've been getting stolen forever, but never this bad," said Jared Cabrera, a service writer at Art's Automotive in Berkeley.

Before the pandemic, it was almost unheard of, he said. Now he estimates he sees four or five cars a week that have had their converters stolen.

The value of the precious metals in converters, particularly rhodium, has skyrocketed since late 2019, potentially driving the surge in theft. Rhodium is currently valued around $14,000 per troy ounce, about eight times the current price of gold.

"It's so incredibly difficult to investigate these cases, to charge them, and to hold anybody accountable," said Tamar Tokat, a Los Angeles County deputy district attorney.

It's rare that people are caught by police while they're taking the converter, since it happens so quickly. And if law enforcement finds someone with hundreds of converters, it might be suspicious but, said Tokat, because converters are unmarked, they can't be traced back to a particular car.

"How can we disprove a claim that it came from a junkyard, or disprove a claim that they [were] given it by some other auto mechanic?" said Greg Totten, CEO of the California District Attorneys Association. It's very difficult under those circumstances to prove to a jury of 12 — beyond a reasonable doubt — that it was stolen, he said.

STATES TAKE ACTION

Lawmakers across the country have scrambled to curb the catalytic converter crime spree.

Amanda Essex of the National Conference of State Legislatures said remedies have mainly fallen into three categories:

Regulating the sale of converters (for example, requiring more documentation).

Increasing or creating new criminal penalties.

Labeling the converters in some way so they can be traced back to owners.

States have passed at least 37 laws, according to Essex. But the laws are so recent there's little evidence yet which, if any, are effective.

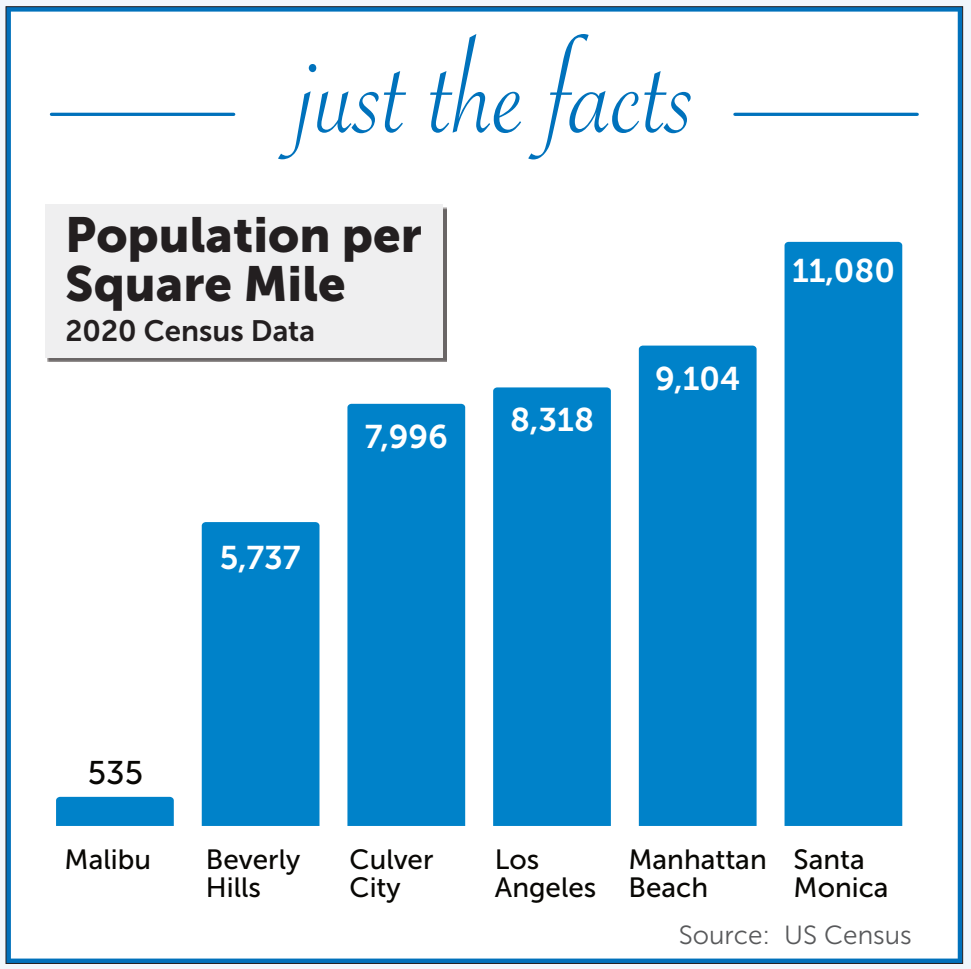
California lawmakers also produced their own pile of 11 bills this most recent session. Many died early, but four wound their way through several layers of committees and votes. They are:

AB-1653, which adds theft of vehicle parts to the list of crimes the California Highway Patrol's Regional Property Crimes Task Force should prioritize.

SB 1087, which limits legal sellers of catalytic converters to people who can prove it came from their own vehicle, and to businesses including licensed auto dismantlers and repair dealers. Fines for breaking the law start at $1,000, and escalate for repeat violations.

AB 1740, which requires people or businesses who buy catalytic converters to document the purchase by recording the year, make, model,

SEE CONVERTER PAGE 12



SMDP image

FACTS: Just the Facts is an occasional feature of SMDP highlighting a fact about the City of Santa Monica. The city is the 85th largest in California with a 2020 population of 93,744.

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City of Santa Monica

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- **Submission Deadline Is December 1, 2022, at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is ProcureNow (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for the RFP package.

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SMMUSD

FROM PAGE 1

promises and vague plans for the future of our school. We implore Superintendent Dr. Ben Drati and the SMMUSD Board of Education to commit to a defined and purposeful plan to rebuild and reopen John Muir Elementary as a fully resourced neighborhood school — to bring equity to a community that has for too long been ignored."

The school was closed this summer following the discovery of extensive water damage and mold.

Following the closure of the campus, the district's plan to reshuffle students sparked indignation and claims of discrimination from parents. The shuttered campus was also home to the Santa Monica Alternative School House(SMASH) and, while the SMASH community was kept intact and relocated to another nearby campus, John Muir – the district's only Title 1 school with a primarily minority student body – students and staff were dispersed between different schools throughout the district.

District officials have said that the campus will reopen in Fall 2024, but some parents have expressed doubt that this will be the case and distrust in the district's handling of the situation.

Inside the building at the board meeting, Superintendent Ben Drati said that the process is moving ahead on schedule and directly addressed concerns the school will not reopen.

"That is not the case at all," he said. "In all my documents, presentations, conversations, I've always maintained that there will be a neighborhood school there."

He added that he will be soliciting formal input from the community on the future of the campus in coming months.

"I'm going to be commissioning a committee of Muir and SMASH parents and staff to engage in that conversation," he said.

SMMUSD Chief Operations Officer Carey Upton told the board construction plans are on track and that DTR, the company the district has contacted with to carry out the repairs, was onsite last week. He added that the district has an upcoming meeting with the Division of State Architects this month which will help them to get a better idea of the exact timeline for the project.

"At this time we do think we'll be able to start construction in April," he said. "You'll see a contract for pre-construction services either in December or January... We do believe we are still on track to have the school ready and open for August 2024."

The principals of Will Rogers and Grant Elementary, the two schools that took in the most Muir students, also spoke at the meeting about integrating the Muir community into their schools. A process which they said they feel has so far been a successful one.

"The feedback that I've received from our families who have come from Muir is that they are happy to be at Grant despite having to leave, if only temporarily, their beloved Muir school," Grant Principal Christian Fuhrer said.

Drati said he still acknowledges the challenges and frustration of some in the community.

"This is not to say there are no families who are still not missing or angry out there," he said. "I just want to say in general we are seeing that the majority of families are pretty much happy at where they are right now."

grace@smdp.com



Grace Inez Adams

PROTEST: The closure of Muir/SMASH has angered some parents.

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Increased patrols in parks and public spaces.

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Public Works staff continues to ensure high levels of sanitization and safety in public spaces citywide.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

$11.5 million in local and state funding secured for behavioral health services and programs.

The Santa Monica Fire Department launched its Community Response Unit with the goal of improving the safety, health, and wellbeing of the city's vulnerable populations.

HOUSING

Over $38 million in state-funded rental assistance was given to Santa Monica residents to prevent homelessness.

100 new federal Emergency Housing Vouchers secured.

134 new affordable residences opened.

191 additional affordable residences currently in development.

FOR UPDATES AND MORE INFORMATION:
Visit santamonica.gov/progress-in-addressing-homelessness or scan the QR code

City of Santa Monica

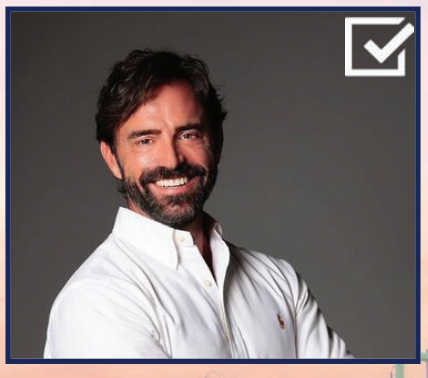
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CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

School Board Candidate: Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein

All candidates were given an opportunity to provide written answers to a set of questions provided by SMDP and two sets of answers will be printed each day. Answers are also available online alongside additional information from each candidate.



Courtesy photo

RICHARD TAHVILDARAN-JESSWEIN: Tahvildaran-Jesswein is a college professor.

SMMUSD HAS FAILED TO SOLVE THE WATER/MOLD ISSUE AT SMASH/MUIR FOR 20 YEARS, WHY SHOULD THE DISTRICT BE TRUSTED WITH MORE MONEY FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IF EXISTING WORK IS OF SUCH POOR QUALITY?

This question misrepresents what has occurred at SMASH/Muir. The buildings in question were built in 1996 and are not reflective of our modern day construction and modernization standards. The District's ongoing construction and modernization projects are imperative to providing our students with 21st Century learning and to ensuring our school environment is safe and clean.

AS NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING MALIBU UNIFICATION CONTINUE, WHAT IMPACT HAS THIS ONGOING ISSUE HAD ON THE DISTRICT'S ABILITY TO MEET ITS CORE FUNCTION OF EDUCATING STUDENTS AND WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO BRING THE MATTER TO A CLOSE?

SMMUSD's ongoing negotiations with the City of Malibu have not impacted the core function of educating students in either community, Santa Monica or Malibu. I am in support of Malibu's bid for unification as is the full Board of Education. I am hopeful that we will reach a fair and equitable resolution where students in both communities will continue to thrive and flourish.

WHAT DOES 21ST CENTURY LEARNING LOOK LIKE IN THE CLASSROOM AND WHAT DOES SMMUSD NEED TO DO TO IMPLEMENT IT?

Twenty-First Century learning places the student front and center in the classroom. It is student-centered learning – where inquiry and innovation are valued and nurtured. This requires strong teacher-led professional development and the rethinking of physical spaces for curriculum delivery that is project based and focused on inquiry, collaboration.

DESCRIBE YOUR SPECIFIC IDEAS FOR ADDRESSING THE DECADES-LONG ACHIEVEMENT GAP.

During my service on the Board of Education, we have made progress in closing the achievement/opportunity gap, but of course there is work to be done, as the systemic problem cannot be solved by the District alone. I have worked collaboratively with my school board colleagues and our District's teachers to establish policies/initiatives to address this perennial struggle that we face throughout the state and the country. We have made progress, including:

1. The development and implementation of Social Justice Learning Standards.
2. The full integration of Restorative Justice throughout our District.
3. The development and implementation of the American Cultures and Ethnic Studies (ACES) graduation requirement.
4. The de-tracking of 9th Grade Honors English at Santa Monica High School.
5. The expansion of Parent Engagement programs.
6. The expansion of academic intervention programs.
7. The development and launch of the Project Based Learning School.

HOW SHOULD SMMUSD PIVOT IN ADDRESSING THE POST-COVID MENTAL HEALTH STRUGGLES OF STUDENTS?

As we emerge from the global pandemic, we must continue to prioritize the well being of our students, which includes addressing mental health. We must identify and take full advantage of the social services and intervention programs available in our District and throughout Los Angeles County, and we must look at other school districts to see what is and what isn't working.

I am advocating for a well being task force made up of parents, teachers, and mental health experts to assist SMMUSD as we, together, work to bring some normalcy back to our students' school experience.

WHAT CAN SMMUSD DO TO PROVIDE MEANINGFUL WAYS TO ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY INPUT INTO DECISIONS THAT RESULTS IN OUTCOMES CATERING TO THE MAJORITY OF STUDENT NEEDS?

SMMUSD actively seeks parent and community engagement and input in planning and decision-making. District Advisory Committees (DACs), PTA's, Superintendent Advisory Committees, LCAP engagement, and school site councils all afford thoughtful and important input to the District and contribute to our decisions.

SEE TAHVILDARAN-JESSWEIN PAGE 12

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

School Board Candidate: Stacy Rouse

All candidates were given an opportunity to provide written answers to a set of questions provided by SMDP and two sets of answers will be printed each day. Answers are also available online alongside additional information from each candidate.



Courtesy photo

STACY ROUSE: Rouse is a conflict specialist

SMMUSD HAS FAILED TO SOLVE THE WATER/MOLD ISSUE AT SMASH/MUIR FOR 20 YEARS. WHY SHOULD THE DISTRICT BE TRUSTED WITH MORE MONEY FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IF EXISTING WORK IS OF SUCH POOR QUALITY?

Our communities need functional, healthy, clean schools, and this requires community support in the form of facilities bonds. That said, bonds must be crafted to be transparent regarding specific work, timelines, and cost with sizable community input from development through implementation. Prioritization of projects across our different schools in an equitable manner is a must to prevent avoidable and damaging closures like the Muir school community is experiencing and like Malibu schools have experienced. That includes proactively targeting bonds to repair and improve facilities and address hazardous conditions that impact the safety of our students with the highest level of priority.

AS NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING MALIBU UNIFICATION CONTINUE, WHAT IMPACT HAS THIS ONGOING ISSUE HAD ON THE DISTRICT'S ABILITY TO MEET ITS CORE FUNCTION OF EDUCATING STUDENTS AND WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO BRING THE MATTER TO A CLOSE?

Unification has been a draw on financial resources and district time, and it has impacted community relationships. It appears the matter is close to a settlement - SMMUSD and the city of Malibu are actively in professionally mediated negotiations on the final details. It is within our ability to arrive at a fiscally responsible agreement that provides for every student in both cities without adversely affecting the funding of our Santa Monica students. My rating of the unification as an 8 reflects its great importance, but prioritized after student learning and wellness.

WHAT DOES 21ST CENTURY LEARNING LOOK LIKE IN THE CLASSROOM AND WHAT DOES SMMUSD NEED TO DO TO IMPLEMENT IT?

I have experienced 21st Century Learning. It involves high collaboration between the teachers and the students. This classroom environment promotes curiosity-driven learning that is teacher developed and supported and student-led. At its best, it involves real life scenarios and projects, connected to the places and issues in closest proximity to the students and their collective interests. These classrooms are accessible to all, have high expectations, and yet provide students with safe places to learn and fail and try again. This is dependent on a full roll-out of project based learning, multidisciplinary and cross-disciplinary teaching, and continued detracking initiatives.

DESCRIBE YOUR SPECIFIC IDEAS FOR ADDRESSING THE DECADES-LONG ACHIEVEMENT GAP.

To address the achievement gap, I commit to relentlessly pursuing the recommendations laid out in the Noguera Report we commissioned in 2016. This includes focusing on culturally relevant education practices, choosing specific strategies based on actionable conversations among teachers, staff, students, and the community, and following those strategies through to completion. This requires an iterative process with built in feedback and community commitment to see it through. My strong hopes based on best practices for those strategies would include a focus on early childhood education, as pre-literacy and socioemotional skills for children ages two to five are critical and are directly related to successes in kindergarten, third grade, high school, and at graduation, and expansion of our Restorative Justice program to be embedded across our campuses.

HOW SHOULD SMMUSD PIVOT IN ADDRESSING THE POST-COVID MENTAL HEALTH STRUGGLES OF STUDENTS?

COVID was a catalyst for significant learning loss and socialization loss. Both deeply impacted our students' mental health. Resocializing and continued readjustment is vital to rebuild safe and connected school communities. There is a need to address the anxiety our students may experience. Any existing anxiety can be heightened as they shift from norms and rules that were crafted in the height of the pandemic to new Best Practices as we enter endemic status.

Emphasis on proactive teaching around mental health and wellness, including mindfulness practices, peer mentoring, peer mediation, playful learning, physical movement, and outdoor activities are vital.

SEE **ROUSE** PAGE 12





VOTE NO ON MEASURES GS & DT

THE FACTS:



HIGHER RENTS

Measures GS and DT could raise rents on small businesses that are struggling with the cost of inflation. Apartment owners may be forced to raise rents to make up for increased costs.



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Measures GS and DT could increase taxes by 800% on seniors who have lived in Santa Monica for decades and are looking to sell their homes for retirements.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Malibu

2022 Malibu Library Speaker Series Continues In-Person with Shark Attack Survivor Paul de Gelder

The 2022 Malibu Library Speaker Series continues with Paul de Gelder, an elite Australian Navy diver who lost two limbs in a horrific shark attack that changed his life and set him on an inspirational path, on Tuesday, October 11, 7 p.m. at the Malibu Library.

De Gelder now inspires others to overcome obstacles and champions shark conservation. He will discuss his journey of discovery and triumph that can relate to anyone. His inspiring story will spark conversations about inspiration, teamwork, happiness, overcoming obstacles, and turning weakness into strength.

He has been a long-time co-host on the Discovery Channel's Shark Week. He has also been tapped to help promote The Meg, an action-horror film about a 95-foot prehistoric shark starring Jason Statham. Triumphing over tragedy by relying on the mantra that he learned as a young paratrooper in the Australian Army, "Improvise…Adapt…Overcome," Paul has enthralled and motivated audiences around the world.

De Gelder went from a rough life on the streets as a youth to joining the military and rising to the elite Australian Defense Forces as an Army paratrooper and Navy bomb disposal diver. In 2009, he was attacked by a giant bull shark while diving for the Navy in Sydney Harbor. He was pulled from the water barely alive, having lost arm and a leg, and embarked on an extraordinary journey of healing, rehabilitation and renewal.

ABOUT THE SERIES

Launched in 2013, the Malibu Library Speaker Series is a program in partnership with the Malibu Library, part of LA County Library, and the City of Malibu. It features experts, authors, and other notable figures discussing a wide range of subjects, including the entertainment industry, literature, science, motivation, the arts, education, sports, travel, food and the environment.

The free event includes a reception with a Q&A. Space is limited, so RSVPs are required. The Malibu Library is located at 23519 West, Civic Center Way. For more information or to RSVP, visit www.MalibuCity.org/Speakers or call the Malibu Library at 310-456-6438.

SUBMITTED BY MATT MYERHOFF, MEDIA INFORMATION OFFICER

Citywide

Westside Ladies Clean Up History

Members of the Santa Monica Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) spent some time this past month cleaning a few of their historical markers in town. One such marker is located at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel at the base of the Moreton Bay Fig and commemorates the planting of said tree by Senator John Percival Jones in 1879.

In 1875, Jones co-founded Santa Monica with Colonel Robert S. Baker. Jones built a Victorian home overlooking the ocean (called Miramar, or "view of the sea"). According to team leader, Marjorie Graham, "We worked closely with the Fairmont Miramar's General Manager, Sam Jagger. The Miramar is a wonderful steward of both this amazing tree and our commemorative marker, reminding us of our local history." The Santa Monica Chapter dedicated the marker in 1969 on the anniversary of the Chapter's founding.

The Santa Monica Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, was organized on May 17, 1906, and seeks to follow the guidelines of the National DAR as a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children. Members are all lineal descendants of those who supported the cause of independence in the Revolutionary War. For more information, see their website at santamonica.californiadar.org.

SUBMITTED BY LINDA MARTINEK



Courtesy photo

MEMBERS: From left to right: Susan Rosenthal, Diane Jenkins, Marjorie Graham, Lucy Bailey.

Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

LOS ANGELES

FROM PAGE 1

he were an "accessory" and described the son as behaving "Parece changuito," or "like a monkey," the Los Angeles Times reported Sunday.

Martinez also referred to Bonin as a "little bitch" and at another point mocked Oaxacans, the Times said.

"I see a lot of little short dark people," Martinez said in reference to a particular area of the largely Hispanic Koreatown neighborhood.

"I was like, I don't know where these people are from, I don't know what village they came (from), how they got here," Martinez said, adding "Tan feos" — "They're ugly."

The recording's content rocked the political establishment just weeks before elections for the mayor's office and several council seats.

Bonin and his husband, Sean Arian, had issued a statement calling for the resignations of Martinez and two other council members who were involved.

"The entirety of the recorded conversation … displayed a repeated and vulgar anti-Black sentiment, and a coordinated effort to weaken Black political representation in Los Angeles," they said.

The conversation was recorded in October 2021, and others present were Councilmembers Gil Cedillo and Kevin de León and Los Angeles County Federation of Labor President Ron Herrera, the Times reported. The overall discussion was about frustrations with redistricting maps produced by a city commission.

The Times reported that the approximately hourlong audio was posted on Reddit by a now-suspended user, and that it was unclear who recorded the audio and whether anyone else was present at the meeting.

Martinez initially issued an apology after the Times article appeared online.

"In a moment of intense frustration and anger, I let the situation get the best of me and I hold myself accountable for these comments. For that I am sorry," she said.

"The context of this conversation was concern over the redistricting process and concern about the potential negative impact it might have on communities of color," she said. "My work speaks for itself. I've worked hard to lead this city through its most difficult time."

Martinez, whose district website describes her as "a glass-ceiling shattering leader who brings profound life experience as the proud daughter of working-class immigrants," was elected to the council in 2013 and became the council's first Latina president in 2020.

De León, a former state legislator, referred at one point in the conversation to Bonin as the council's "fourth Black member."

"Mike Bonin won't f—-ing ever say peep about Latinos. He'll never say a f—-ing word about us," he said.

During the part in which Martinez likened Bonin's son to an "accessory," De León appeared to compare Bonin's handling of the child to "when Nury brings her Goyard bag or the Louis Vuitton bag."

"Su negrito, like on the side," Martinez responded.

Bonin's son came up in a tangent of the conversation in which Martinez suggested the child misbehaved while they were riding on a float in a Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade, the Times said.

"They're raising him like a little white kid," Martinez said. "I was like, this kid needs a beatdown. Let me take him around the corner and then I'll bring him back."

De León said in a statement that the comments were inappropriate.

"I regret appearing to condone and even contribute to certain insensitive comments made about a colleague and his family in private," he said. "I've reached out to that colleague personally."

Cedillo issued a statement of apology Monday.

"While I did not engage in the conversation in question, I was present at times during this meeting last year," he said. "It is my instinct to hold others accountable when they use derogatory or racially divisive language. Clearly, I should have intervened."

Herrera, the labor official, said in an apology that there is "no excuse for the vile remarks made in that room," and that he "didn't step up to stop them," the Times reported.

In their statement, Bonin and his husband said Martinez was unfit for public office.

"No child should ever be subjected to such racist, mean and dehumanizing comments, especially from a public official. It is painful to know he will someday read these comments," they said.

Three Black members of the council issued a joint statement saying it was "a very dark day in LA politics for African-Americans, the LGBTQ+ community, Indigenous people and Angelenos who have put their faith in their local government."

Councilmembers Curren Price, Heather Hutt and Marqueece Harris-Dawson said that a "facade" had come crashing down.

"This is 2022 and we will not turn a blind eye to the blatant prejudice, discrimination and racism that has been put on full display for the whole world to see," they said.

Shockwaves roiled the mayoral race.

Martinez had endorsed U.S. Rep. Karen Bass, who is seeking to become the first Black woman to lead the nation's second-most populous city.

"Let me be clear about what was on those tapes: appalling, anti-Black racism," Bass said in a statement.

"All those in the room must be held accountable, and I've spent the day speaking with Black and Latino leaders about how to ensure this doesn't divide our city," Bass added.

Her opponent, billionaire developer Rick Caruso, said it was a "heartbreaking day for our proud, diverse city," and he called for all three involved to resign from the council.

"Now, we must unite and strongly repudiate what was said," Caruso said in a statement.

GET IT DAILY...

TAHVILDARAN-JESSWEIN

FROM PAGE 8

IF YOU WERE REIMAGINING THE SMMUSD BUDGET FROM SCRATCH, HOW WOULD YOU CHANGE THE ALLOCATION OF THE DISTRICT'S CONSIDERABLE RESOURCES?

Each year the budget is developed in an open and transparent manner in public view and reflects the values of our Santa Monica-Malibu community.

GIVEN ENROLLMENT TRENDS, HOW SHOULD SMMUSD EVALUATE ITS REAL ESTATE OPTIONS AND BALANCE THOSE AGAINST RAISING TAXES TO FUND IMPROVEMENTS, PROGRAMS AND EXCELLENCE?

SMMUSD should continually evaluate all options while maintaining clean, effective and safe working and learning environments.

CONVERTER

FROM PAGE 5

and VIN number of the car that the converter came from.

SB 986, which would require car dealers to etch a car's unique VIN number onto its catalytic converter if the converter is "readily accessible." It would also require a traceable method of payment for converters.

The first three bills were signed into law while the fourth failed to pass a late August vote in the Assembly. That bill was sponsored by the Los Angeles district attorney's office and was aimed at making it easier for law enforcement to investigate and prosecute catalytic converter theft.

Car dealers, who would have been tasked with etching numbers onto converters, opposed the bill. They didn't think it would deter theft, said Brian Maas, president of the California New Car Dealers Association, and they thought it could be expensive. For cars where the catalytic converter is easy to get to, it wouldn't take much time, he said. But for others — say, a car that has a converter attached to its engine block — the etching could cost hundreds or thousands of dollars, Maas said.

Legislators amended the bill so that it didn't require VIN numbers if the converter wasn't "readily accessible" and marking it "would reasonably require the significant removal or disassembly of parts of the vehicle." But Maas said that standard wasn't sufficiently defined, and was worried the ambiguity would lead to lawsuits against dealerships. "I can't tell you today what 'significant disassembly' means. I don't know which car that applies to," Maas said.

"We're concerned that our dealers are going to be held responsible for not marking a catalytic converter that ultimately might have been stolen," he said.

The bill's author, democratic state Senator Tom Umberg from Garden Grove, said he was "honestly shocked," in a statement after the bill's failure.

"I'm not surprised that the auto dealers and car manufacturers would be reluctant to take on this task to support their customers — we engaged in multiple conversations with them in the last seven months. Frankly, I'm more surprised that the majority of the California State Assembly chose the concerns of the car dealers over the cries of help from their constituents."

Tokat, with the Los Angeles County district attorney's office, thinks the two laws regulating the sale of converters will be less effective without the VIN etching bill. "We've already had record-keeping laws on the books for many years now and they've really been ineffective," she said.

Still, others see the new laws as a step in the right direction. They won't completely "wipe out" the issue, said Amanda Gualderama, a legislative advocate with AAA. But the bill limiting who can legally sell converters, SB 1087, closes loopholes in existing laws, she said.

WILL CONGRESS STEP IN?

Congress could also mandate that VIN numbers be etched onto converters. Under federal law, cars are already required to label several other parts, including the engine. A bill in congress would add catalytic converters to the list and create a grant program to help pay for marking existing vehicles.

"I kind of think it's appalling that the manufacturers don't just voluntarily put the VINs on the catalytic converters because they know they're a huge target," said Rosemary Shahan, president of Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety, a consumer advocacy non-profit.

CalMatters reached out to Ford, Toyota, and Honda. Ford didn't respond to CalMatters' questions. Toyota also didn't answer CalMatters' questions, but a spokesperson said in a statement, "Catalytic converter theft is an industry wide challenge … the most effective approach requires close collaboration between the broader automotive industry and local and state authorities to devise legislative solutions aimed at eliminating the market for these stolen parts."

Honda, which didn't answer questions, directed CalMatters to the Alliance for Automotive Innovation, an advocacy group for car manufacturers.

The Alliance did not make anyone available for an interview but said, via a statement, "Catalytic converter theft is a major problem in California and across the country… We are working closely with policymakers and law enforcement authorities on how legislation or other efforts, including increasing public awareness and enhanced penalties for unlawful possession, can help deter this kind of criminal activity."

WHAT'S A CAR OWNER TO DO?

There are steps motorists can take to reduce the odds their converter gets stolen, according to the Bureau of Automotive Repair. Parking on a well-lit street — or in a garage if you have one — helps. You can adjust your car's alarm, to make it more likely to go off if someone tries to get under the vehicle. And there's a whole niche market of shields, clamps, protective plates and cages that can be installed to protect converters.

But not everyone can park on a well-lit street or in a garage, and gadgets don't guarantee protection. Cabrera, at Art's Automotive, says he's seen cars with theft deterrent devices still wind up with their converters stolen.

For one driver, though, a converter shield has provided security — at least so far. Greg Feldmeth, a retired teacher in Altadena, had his catalytic converter stolen four times beginning in 2020. When he got a Prius years ago, he was happy with the car and its great gas mileage.

"Since then, I've wondered if it was the right choice," he said. He's become familiar with the "horrible" noise his Prius makes when it no longer has a converter.

After the part was stolen for a fourth time in October 2021, Feldmeth had a protective shield installed. His converter has stayed put since.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

ROUSE

FROM PAGE 9

Ensuring mental health services and resources are available to all students and families, such as the services offered through the Wellness Club by the Boys and Girls Club of Malibu to all Malibu pathways students and families is paramount.

WHAT CAN SMMUSD DO TO PROVIDE MEANINGFUL WAYS TO ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY INPUT INTO DECISIONS THAT RESULT IN OUTCOMES CATERING TO THE MAJORITY OF STUDENT NEEDS?

SMMUSD can encourage community input in important decisions in many ways. Providing resources for accessibility including childcare and translation, and hybrid options and recordings of meetings. Holding regular, periodic community forums that are outside of the confined structures of board meetings would encourage communication and idea collaboration. For decisions impacting a specific school or population, such as the flooding at Malibu Elementary or the mold at John Muir, relaying information and receiving feedback is critical. In addition to targeted communication, a "community impact forum" for affected populations that is recorded and provided to the impacted community for subsequent viewing, would ensure that more people are aware of these meetings and their content. Utilizing community surveys that ask for both closed and open ended responses and include an element of freeform feedback on specific issues could also help gather more meaningful input from the community.

IF YOU WERE REIMAGINING THE SMMUSD BUDGET FROM SCRATCH, HOW WOULD YOU CHANGE THE ALLOCATION OF THE DISTRICT'S CONSIDERABLE RESOURCES?

Given my background in conflict engagement, I will focus on developing proactive systems of dispute resolution, resulting in more dollars for student expenditures instead of unneeded lawsuits. I support zero-based budgeting with itemized expense categories that tracks the income used to pay for programs – general fund, property taxes above basic aid funding,

Measure R dollars, or dollars from YY and GSH. I will focus on building a budget that funds students and classrooms first, building outward from that point, prioritizing teacher and staff support and programs, then guiding central office needs to directly support the work at the school sites.

CARUSO

FROM PAGE 4

Martinez, who is backing Bass, said Monday she was stepping down as Council president. Caruso said Martinez and others on the call should resign, including one of his supporters, Councilman Gil Cedillo. "They have let our city down," Caruso said.

Bass, who was on Biden's short list for vice president, has been sharpening her attacks on Caruso, lampooning his decision to become a Democrat. She calls the campaign "a fight for the soul of our city," echoing a line Biden used against then-President Donald Trump.

She also is underlining donations he has made to candidates who oppose abortion rights, including congressional Republican leaders Mitch McConnell and Kevin McCarthy. Caruso says he's a supporter of reproductive rights.

> "I think he is trying to buy Los Angeles - Jennifer Yi"

Along with her own campaign infrastructure, she's counting on the support of powerful labor unions that are working to turn out voters for her.

Bass "is actively reaching out to pro-choice Democrats," campaign spokeswoman Sarah Leonard Sheahan said.

At the rally, a long line of speakers described Bass as the only authentic Democrat on the ballot and the only one with an unquestioned record defending reproductive rights.

In the crowd, Bass supporter Jennifer Yi, a Democrat who works on homeless initiatives at United Way of Greater Los Angeles, recoiled at Caruso's campaign spending.

"I think he is trying to buy Los Angeles," Yi said.

Caruso has resumed relentless TV and digital advertising, which include attempts to raise doubts about Bass' character.

Bass has faced questions over a roughly $100,000, full-tuition scholarship she received from the University of Southern California's social work program.

Last October, a longtime Bass friend, suspended City Councilman Mark Ridley-Thomas, and a former USC dean were charged with a bribery scheme in which Ridley-Thomas promised to steer millions of dollars in contracts to the school if his son got a scholarship and a teaching job. The former dean has pleaded guilty.

Federal prosecutors have said Bass is not a target of their investigation. But the Los Angeles Times reported in September that prosecutors said Bass' scholarship and her dealings with USC are "critical" to their case.

Caruso said he was "troubled" and warned Bass would bring "corruption" to City Hall. Bass has said the case "has nothing to do with me."

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 11)

When you look back at 2022, you'll be able to say the rare, impressive thing few can claim: "I made things better." You'll move thoughtfully; you'll move impulsively — either way with keen instinct for lasting improvement. But what you'll be most proud of is the care you gave and received in special relationships. Cancer and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 10, 23, 11 and 17.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Doing one thing well will be satisfying, whereas splitting attention between many tasks will feel entirely unproductive. Tonight highlights your optimism, which is as good for your health as it is for your social life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Since people value things that they put effort into, you're better off asking for help and contribution than you would be serving up everything yourself. Tonight, be the strong leader with a vision.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Identities evolve, and you like knowing that you can change when you want to. Just because the evolution is uncomfortable doesn't mean it's not going well.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). At some level, everyone who lives among people is involved in politics. You'll do a diplomatic balancing act today as you navigate between those who might have trouble getting along without the comfortable buffer you provide.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your opinion is valued. Others will want to know how you think and feel. You'll be asked to vote, take a survey or otherwise weigh in. If you're not sure, resist pressure to commit. Gather more information instead.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Good fortune comes in many forms. Sometimes it's the luck of the draw, and other times it's the luck of elbow grease and sweat — or, in today's case, the luck of striking up a conversation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A degree of flexibility is required for relationships to have staying power. Just as friendships built in fair weather are tested by the storms of life, bonds that were built in difficult times will be tested when the good times roll.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It is rarer to be wise than it is to be smart. Intelligent people do dumb things all the time. But wisdom disallows a person a purposeless focus. You may be among the wise minority now as you focus on what's truly important.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The basic needs of life are often taken for granted. Not by you. Your life is good because you don't wait for a loss to appreciate the miracle of such things as breath, water, food and a safe place to enjoy them.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The person who likes and dislikes all the same things as you is not your soulmate. Beware of imitators who copy you out of deference. You're better off experiencing differences than redundancy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Serenity is a simple matter of letting go of the picture in your mind and taking in the one before your eyes. Take the pressure off with a simple song: "Whatever will be will be."

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). To the untrained eye, you're simply having a good time. But in reality, you're working the room. You'll be admired for talents of practicality and problem-solving, as well as for your strategy in business or games.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

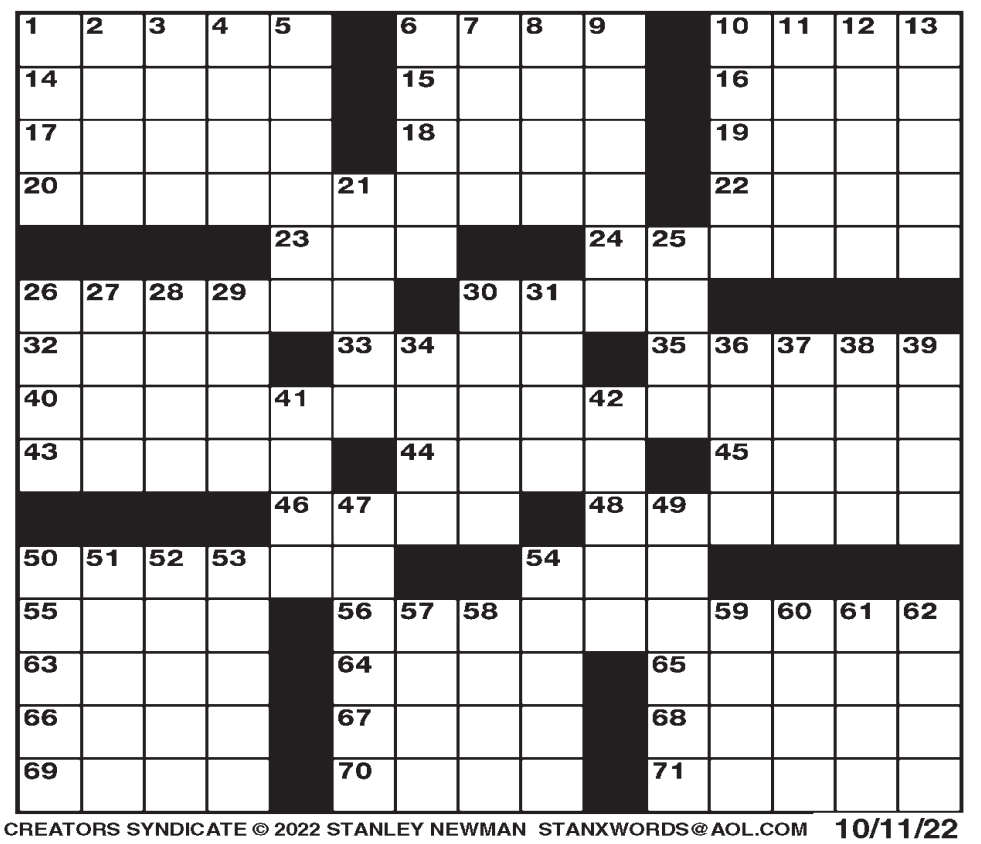
			1				4	
		4		5	9	7		2
5		7			3		8	
	4	8				5		
1				2				7
		9				8	2	
	5		8			1		4
8		1	7	3		2		
	7				6			

Newsday Crossword

TRIPLE-DECKER by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Legendary golden-touch king
6 Hole-making tools
10 Highest pair in poker
14 British singer of "Skyfall"
15 Bangkok native
16 Golf course vehicle
17 Last but not ___
18 Sentence of a film script
19 Woodwind instrument
20 Fortune-teller's DECK
22 Ferris wheel or roller coaster
23 ___ Vegas, NV
24 Auto route under a river
26 Didn't fail a class
30 Practice boxing
32 App symbol to click on
33 Has some food
35 What a raisin once was
40 Time of year when "DECK the Halls" is sung
43 Hangs on to
44 Oven glove
45 Small earring
46 Gas glowing in store signs
48 Despises
50 Refuse to comply
54 Weep
55 Door to walk out through
56 Vacation vessel with a Lido DECK
63 "Small" suffix for kitchen
64 Sunrise direction
65 Nary a soul
66 Instrument played with sticks
67 Ocean's rise and fall
68 Postal scale measure
69 Shrill barks
70 Clothed (in)
71 Inflict, as havoc

DOWN
1 Grain in beer
2 Notion
3 Much loved
4 Furthermore
5 Resolve a dispute
6 Map book
7 Blender sound
8 End a plane flight
9 Afternoon nap
10 Squirrel's meal
11 Log dwelling
12 Slowly wear away
13 Sword metal
21 West Point student
25 Egg on
26 Choose
27 Muscle discomfort
28 Having muscle discomfort
29 Quick scissor cut
30 Clothing discoloration
31 "Hey you!" whisper
34 Artillery supply, for short
36 Too hasty
37 Regarding, in memos
38 Rain hard
39 Brings to a close
41 Nine-digit IDs
42 Points of light in the sky
47 "And so on, and so on"
49 "See ya!"
50 Sounding like a 19 Across
51 Optional addition
52 Stomach-tightening exercise
53 Entries of a list
54 Made mention of
57 Part of a train track
58 Beef inspection agcy.
59 How lemon juice tastes
60 Sharpen
61 Ancient Andes native
62 Sneak a look

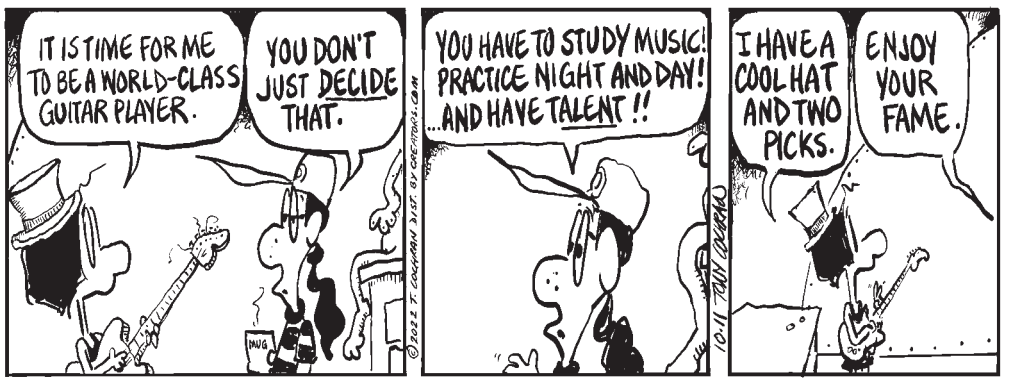


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MORE OF STAN'S CROSSWORDS! Play FREE from Stan's archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords

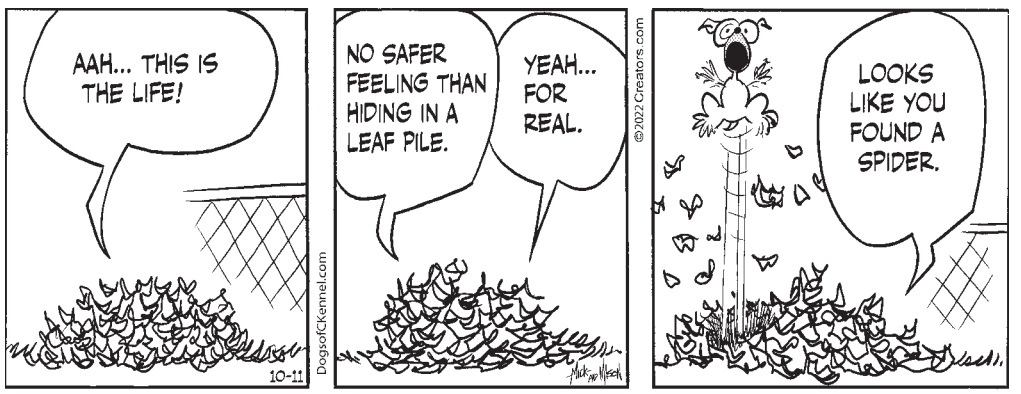
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

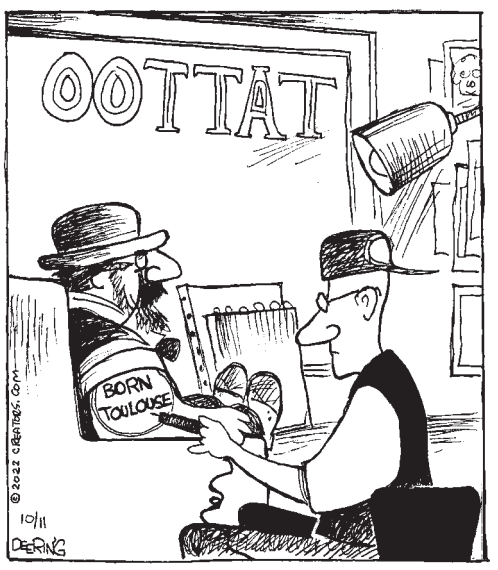
By PETER GALLAGHER



"MUSCLE CAT."

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 5629

Cast a line

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

ANSA
Bake
Barramundi cod
Bass
Bays
Beach
Bite
Bone
Borer
Break
Cast
Chub
Clam
Coral trout
Disappointment
Dive
Dory
Eels
Esky
European carp
Fees
Freeze
Haul
Herring
Hook
Inlet
Jewfish
Kelp
Lure
Mako
Maps
Mask
Motor
Nacre
Opah
Penn
Perch
Pike
Pipi
Poles
Port
Relaxation
Rigs
Rocks
Rods
Sand
Shrimp
Skill
Steer
Tides
Trailer
Tuna
Weed

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Much to learn

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Somos Amigos
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Let Us Help You Address Early Memory Loss
A Program of WISE & Healthy Aging
WISE Minds
A Veterans Benefit!

What's Up Westside

out and about in Santa Monica

TUESDAY | OCTOBER 11

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
The Zoning Administrator issues land use permits that are minor in nature. https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Zoning-Administrator/ 10:30 a.m.

TUESDAY TALES AT YOUR LIBRARY
An engaging and fun storytime with stories, songs and rhymes. For ages 2-5. The storytime series travels to a different library every month. Pico Branch Library. 10:30 - 11 a.m.

WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 12

LGBTQIA+ SANTA MONICA - GOING FORWARD TOGETHER
In honor of LGBTQIA+ History Month, hear from local voices on the upcoming year's goals and challenges. Mixed media presentation and discussion. Main Library. 6 - 7:45 p.m.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS - REGISTER AND ASK QUESTIONS
The League of Women Voters of Santa Monica will offer voter registration and answer your questions. Main Library. 3 - 4 p.m.

HOLIDAY JOB FAIR AT SANTA MONICA PLACE
Santa Monica Place will host a center-wide holiday job fair for job seekers interested in a variety of employment opportunities on October 12 from noon to 6pm. Participating stores and restaurants will have a table displayed at their storefronts to meet candidates, accept applications and conduct interviews as desired. Please visit the Concierge Desk in Center Plaza for a list of participating retailers, where to apply and for more information regarding Santa Monica Place's job fair. 12 - 6 p.m. Santa Monica Place, 395 Santa Monica Place. https://www.santamonicaplace.com/Events/Details/571413

TRAVELING STORYWALK(R)
Read each page of Aaron Reynolds' Creepy Carrots, while you walk by the library. All ages. Find its current location on social media: follow us on Facebook (smpublib), Instagram and Twitter (@SantaMonicaLibr), or visit smpl.org. All Santa Monica Public Library Branches.

THURSDAY | OCTOBER 13

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH TEEN BOOK DISCUSSION: CEMETERY BOYS BY AIDEN THOMAS
Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, LGBTQIA+ History Month and Spooky Season with Mexican pastries and a discussion of Cemetery Boys, a supernatural, coming-of-age novel about a transgender, teenage brujx. A limited number of free copies of the book will be available for pickup at the Main Library and Pico Branch. For teens ages 13-18 only. Main Library. 4 - 5 p.m.

WALK-IN TUTORING @TUTORING CENTER
Location is 2nd floor Tutoring Center. Volunteer tutors provide help with basic reading and writing skills, using the Internet, filling out online forms, using email, resume writing, and job searches. Main Library, 1 - 3 p.m.

SANTA MONICA RENT CONTROL BOARD MEETING
The Rent Control Board meets to conduct business associated with the Rent Control Charter Amendment and Regulations. City Hall, 7 p.m.

CURRENT EVENTS DISCUSSION
Attend a lively discussion on current events, every Thursday 1:00 to 2:30. Formerly at the Fairview Library, now conveniently on Zoom. Excellent facilitator, Marsha, sends an email list on Wed. night of topics to discuss which is informative in itself. There is never a lack of interesting material or opinions. For information and to receive a Zoom link for the next meeting, email to mushcb@gmail.com.

GLASS PUMPKIN SALE
Santa Monica College, 1900 Pico blvd. adjacent to Main Quad, concurrent with SMC College Fair. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

FRIDAY | OCTOBER 14

ANNENBERG COMMUNITY BEACH HOUSE TOUR
The free 20-minute docent tours are available on a walk-up basis for individuals and groups of up to six people. Just head to the Marion Davies Guest House where you will be greeted by a docent. https://www.smconservancy.org/events-programs/annenberg-beach-house/

SATURDAY | OCTOBER 15

NOTABLE FICTION DISCUSSION GROUP
A community-led book club, focusing on books which have won major prizes or are otherwise notable. This month's selection is Native Speaker by Chang-rae Lee. Contact jeff.schwartz@santamonica.gov for the Zoom link. 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

VIRGINIA AVE. PARK FALL FESTIVAL
Pico Blvd/Cloverfield. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

SPOOKTACULAR GARDEN AT ISHIHARA
9 - 11 a.m. Ishihara Park Learning Garden, 2909 Exposition Blvd. Werewolves, Witches, Giant Spiders and the like will inhabit the Ishihara Park Learning Garden on Saturday, October 15 for our Monthly Pancakes in the Park. Anyone dressed in costume can pick up a pack of fall vegetable seeds. Costume or not, we'll have plenty of activities for the young ones, hot coffee to get the not-so-young rolling, seasonal themed pancakes on the griddle and warm compost if you feel a chill and need to warm up your fingers or toes! santamonicaroots@gmail.com.

For help submitting an event, contact us at
310-458-7737 or submit to events@smdp.com



SURF REPORT

WATER TEMP: **64.8**

TUESDAY *FAIR*	**SURF:** 3-4ft Waist to chest	SSW swell peaks. NW swell due to ease. Clean morning conditions are expected along with a nice tide push to start the day.
WEDNESDAY *POOR TO FAIR*	**SURF:** 2-3ft+ Thigh to stomach	SSW swell holds to slowly eases through the day with smaller NW energy blending in. Shape straightens out at the beachbreaks, but spots with some structure still offer a few decent corners if the wind cooperates — onshore flow possible.

WEATHER

Tuesday: Cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 70.
Tuesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 63.
Wednesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 71.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 62.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2022/10/11	Tue	04:16 AM	1.22	L
2022/10/11	Tue	10:26 AM	5.99	H
2022/10/11	Tue	5:11 PM	0.07	L
2022/10/11	Tue	11:23 PM	4.30	H
2022/10/12	Wed	04:41 AM	1.76	L
2022/10/12	Wed	10:54 AM	5.84	H
2022/10/12	Wed	5:55 PM	0.20	L
2022/10/13	Thu	12:15 AM	3.80	H
2022/10/13	Thu	05:03 AM	2.28	L
2022/10/13	Thu	11:22 AM	5.58	H
2022/10/13	Thu	6:42 PM	0.43	L
2022/10/14	Fri	01:23 AM	3.38	H
2022/10/14	Fri	05:21 AM	2.74	L
2022/10/14	Fri	11:52 AM	5.23	H
2022/10/14	Fri	7:40 PM	0.72	L
2022/10/15	Sat	12:30 PM	4.84	H
2022/10/15	Sat	9:01 PM	0.96	L
2022/10/16	Sun	1:30 PM	4.45	H

DAILY LOTTERY

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 10/8
13 43 53 60 68
Power#: 5
Jackpot: 401 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 10/7
6 11 29 36 55
Mega#: 21
Jackpot: 445 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 10/8
9 11 17 33 36
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: 32 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 10/9
1 18 33 35 37

Daily 3
Draw Date: 10/9
EVENING: 6 3 8
Draw Date: 10/9
MIDDAY: 0 0 4

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 10/9
1st: 06 - Whirl Win
2nd: 09 - Winning Spirit
3rd: 12 - Lucky Charms
Race Time: 1:41.19

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