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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 231 THE WEEKENDER 10/11-10/13 smdp.com

Despite uncertainty, Council agrees to continue negotiations for Olympic beach volleyball



File Photo

OLYMPICS: A mixed response from Santa Monica City Council during Tuesday's meeting has kept LA28's beach volleyball venue in limbo for the moment.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

The nuts and bolts of hosting the Beach Volleyball tournament in the 2028 Olympic Games were laid bare in Tuesday's City Council meeting where nostalgia struggled against a seemingly overwhelming number of unsatisfactory elements to the LA28 agreement.

Memories of Los Angeles 1984 and the potential legacy of being part of the Olympic Games in just four short years were about the only thing that saved the agreement from LA28 from being rejected as councilmembers agreed to continue negotiations with the LA28 organization.

Melissa Spagnuolo, Community Partnerships Manager for the City of Santa Monica gave an enlightening presentation, diving into the pros and cons of hosting such an event. However, from the outset, it became obvious that the cons were both significant and sizable in number.

They included, but absolutely were not limited to, not knowing how operations would be affected on the Pier, known financial risks with an unknown magnitude and no revenue-generating opportunities such as sponsorships, co-branding, and public or private events without prior written approval from the IOC. That said, the City is required to give LA28 a priority option to purchase up to 100% of the City's advertising space.

"[Another issue] that has come up continuously … when I have spoken to people in the community, and that's the community benefits," Spagnuolo said, adding, "So, currently in the games agreement, there are no community benefits being offered."

"When the city has negotiated agreements with Cirque du Soleil, for example, or the MLB All Star game that was on the beach a couple summers ago. There [was] a list of community benefits that were negotiated as part of those agreements … and we can

SEE **CITY COUNCIL** PAGE 15



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OSCAR DE LA TORRE
JOHN PUTNAM
VIVIAN ROKNIAN



We need a SAFER Santa Monica. This election will determine the direction of our city for years to come. Our SLATE of longtime residents understands the importance of public safety as well as business and economic development. They have the knowledge and experience needed to revive our city, fund public safety, protect rent control, and do what it takes to make Santa Monica Safe!

SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

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Not authorized by a candidate or candidate's committee.

Westside rental market noted as least competitive in California

Hottest Rental Markets in California in Peak Season 2024

Rank	Market	Score	Average Vacant Days	Occupied Apartments	Prospective Renters	Lease Renewal Rate	Share of New Units
1	Orange County	80.0	41	95.5%	12	63.5%	0.13%
2	Silicon Valley	78.4	35	95.6%	14	55.0%	1.16%
3	Central Valley	77.1	39	96.0%	11	53.3%	0.08%
4	Eastern Los Angeles County	76.8	43	96.0%	16	54.2%	0.47%
5	San Diego	75.8	38	95.0%	12	52.9%	0.60%
6	Sacramento	73.5	42	94.8%	11	51.2%	0.28%
7	North LA - Ventura County	72.9	44	94.9%	11	52.8%	0.11%
8	Inland Empire	71.5	46	94.5%	13	54.0%	0.45%
9	East Bay	70.5	42	93.9%	9	51.4%	0.42%
10	San Francisco Peninsula - North Bay	67.0	43	93.3%	7	47.5%	0.44%
11	Western Los Angeles County	64.9	44	92.3%	9	39....	0.30%

Source: RentCafe analysis of Yardi Matrix data • Created with Datawrapper

Graphic Courtesy RentCafe

RENT: The rental market in Western Los Angeles County, including Santa Monica, has been deemed less competitive than other California markets.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Both apartment and housing costs remain exorbitant in Santa Monica, with one new report stating that the swath of Los Angeles that includes the city is an outlier in the competitive California rental market due to the pricing, while another report lands the city near the top of the most expensive home buying zip codes in the nation.

In a new study analyzing the hottest rental markets in the United States, RentCafe ranked Western Los Angeles County last out of 11 tracked California markets, citing a much lower lease renewal rate for renters in the area.

The RentCafe methodology delves into apartment metrics like occupancy rate, average vacancy days on the market, prospective renters per vacant unit, renewal lease rate and share of new apartments. Out of the 11 California markets, Western LA County ranks last in occupied apartments (92.3%), and last by a wide margin in lease renewal rate, around 39%.

That lease renewal rate pales in comparison to competitive California spots like Orange County (63.5%), Silicon Valley (55%) and Central Valley (53.3%). Another area where West LA was weak was in prospective renters per vacancy (9), far behind Eastern LA County's 16.

A reason for lack of renewal rate across the area may just be the sheer price of rent, with median rent for a one-bedroom apartment in Santa Monica listed at $2,309, per ApartmentList. The number remains high despite another month-to-month drop (0.3%) through September, with the fall now at 6.1% year-to-year.

Just south of the city, one-bedroom apartments in Venice are even more pricey, listed at an average price of $2,737 per month on Apartments.com. Despite the drop in Santa Monica, Venice apartments have increased in price by 0.9% over the past year, per the site. The same website lists the average Marina del Rey one-bedroom at $3,496; a jump of 1.4% year-to-year.

Overall, what's deemed as "peak rental season" by RentCafe has the United States apartment market "very competitive," with a higher renter lease renewal rate (62%) than this time last year (60.5%).

"In many cases, renters prefer to renew (as opposed to searching for a new place) during the moving rush because it helps them avoid rent increases that typically come with signing a new lease while potentially getting renewal incentives," RentCafe's Veronica Grecu stated. "This choice often helps renters save money on moving costs, application fees and security deposits. Choosing to renew their leases also allows renters - especially families with children in school - to remain settled for longer."

The report particularly highlights the Midwest as a hotspot, with Suburban Chicago in a tie with Miami-Dade County for the highest competitive score.

"The Midwest's transformation from its 'Rust Belt' past, driven by a diversified economy in tech and manufacturing, is attracting budget-conscious renters seeking affordability, amenities, and nature - in short, the persisting trend of 'hipsturbia,'" Grecu writes.

Another report by PropertyShark looked at the 100 most expensive zip codes in the United States by median closed home sale prices, with Los Angeles County dominating the list via 18 entries. Coming in 10th is 90402, the Santa Monica zip code that covers the North of Montana sector of the city. Though not at its peak as the third-most expensive zip code in 2019 and 2020, the 2024 median sale price of $4.41 million is still shocking to outsiders, and serves as the priciest zip code in all of LA County.

Coming in behind 90402 on the list for Los Angeles County were 90210 (Beverly Hills, #13) and 90265 (Malibu, #22), at median home sale prices of $4.013 million and $3.45 million, respectively.

For more information on the rent market report, visit rentcafe.com. For more on the home sale report, visit propertyshark.com.

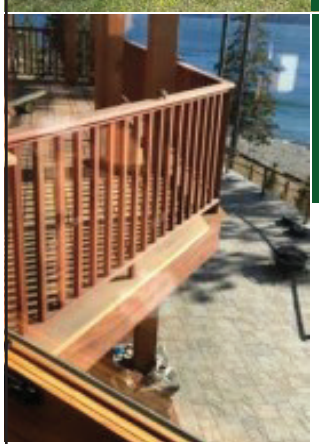
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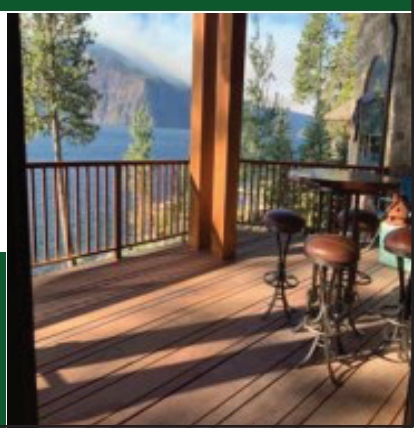
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Ballona Creek project moves past pilot stage after mass trash collection



File Photo

TRASH: The Ballona Creek Trash Interceptor Project has moved past the pilot stage after a Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors meeting Oct. 8.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

A wildly successful pilot program for Westside beaches will now be a permanent fixture in the area.

On Tuesday, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the permanent implementation of the Ballona Creek Trash Interceptor Project, which was deployed in October 2022 with a goal to divert trash and other materials away from Santa Monica Bay.

The staff report on the item stated that between October 2022 and April 2024, the Interceptor prevented over 248,000 pounds of trash and debris (124 tons) from reaching the ocean and local beaches. The amount is more than twice the anticipated production of the project, 60 tons, and locals shared observations that beaches near the Interceptor site have been noticeably cleaner since deployment.

Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, who made the motion to move the project past pilot stage, stated that early concerns about the Interceptor's noise and aesthetics were "thoroughly evaluated" as part of a minimum performance criteria, and was eventually seen as a "huge success."

"We're proud to say that the Interceptor completed its mission by capturing over 50% of the trash in Ballona Creek and reducing trash on our County beaches without impacting the quality of life for our residents," Mitchell said.

Deployed by The Ocean Cleanup, the Interceptor (called Interceptor 007) is a solar-powered unit that sits on the surface of the water to catch and collect waste floating downstream. Ballona Creek was chosen as a pilot location due to pollutants from the creek impacting beaches in Santa Monica, Venice, Playa Del Rey and other Westside spots.

Mitchell added that the Interceptor "couldn't have come at a better time," as the pilot period included abnormal rainstorm seasons in the County, including a late 2022-early 2023 period of atmospheric rivers. In February 2023, Los Angeles recorded 8.51 inches of rain in a three-day stretch, the second-wettest such period in the city's history.

> We're proud to say that the Interceptor completed its mission by capturing over 50% of the trash in Ballona Creek and reducing trash on our County beaches without impacting the quality of life for our residents
> - Holly J. Mitchell, Supervisor

County Department of Public Works

SEE **BALLONA CREEK** PAGE 10



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **64.4**

FRIDAY
FAIR
SURF: Thigh to stomach 2-3FT+

Refresh of SSW swell keeps fun zone surf running for the region as small NW swell lingers. Still fairly fun, maybe the occasional peak/corner off the swell mix with good odds for clean morning conditions.

SATURDAY
FAIR TO GOOD
SURF: Thigh to waist 2-3FT

Watching for an uptick in NW windswell as well as some new SSW swell to start creeping up. Should make for some modest to locally fun peaks. Higher tides favor spots with good inner bars and AM conditions look nice at this point.

Weather

Friday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny, with a high near 72.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 60. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Saturday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 73.
Saturday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 58.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2024/10/11	Fri	07:17 AM	3.77	H
2024/10/11	Fri	10:50 AM	3.46	L
2024/10/11	Fri	4:35 PM	4.86	H
2024/10/12	Sat	12:18 AM	0.17	L
2024/10/12	Sat	07:18 AM	4.12	H
2024/10/12	Sat	12:04 PM	2.85	L
2024/10/12	Sat	5:49 PM	5.18	H
2024/10/13	Sun	12:57 AM	-0.07	L
2024/10/13	Sun	07:35 AM	4.58	H
2024/10/13	Sun	12:56 PM	2.09	L
2024/10/13	Sun	6:49 PM	5.47	H
2024/10/14	Mon	01:32 AM	-0.16	L
2024/10/14	Mon	07:57 AM	5.11	H
2024/10/14	Mon	1:43 PM	1.26	L
2024/10/14	Mon	7:42 PM	5.62	H
2024/10/15	Tue	02:06 AM	-0.08	L
2024/10/15	Tue	08:23 AM	5.68	H
2024/10/15	Tue	2:28 PM	0.47	L

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: 10/9
25 32 43 53 66
Power#: 10
Jackpot: 364 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 10/8
3 19 20 22 66
Mega#: 9
Jackpot: 150 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 10/9
2 28 39 41 42
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 30 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 10/9
1 6 23 27 38

Daily 3
Draw Date: 10/9
EVENING: 2 0 6
Draw Date: 10/9
MIDDAY: 6 2 8

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 10/9
1st: 01 - Gold Rush
2nd: 03 - Hot Shot
3rd: 08 - Gorgeous George
Race Time: 1:43.32

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Jack Neworth,
David Pisarra.

CIRCULATION
Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com

Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Scott Snowden
scott.snowden@smdp.com

Thomas Leffler
thomas@smdp.com

DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

MARKETING MANAGER
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

1640 5th Street, Suite 218
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Candidate Questions: Ellis Raskin

SMDP provided candidates with three opportunities to address readers this year. Candidates were asked to fill out a short form survey, provide responses to written questions and invited into the SMDP office for a one-on-one interview about their candidacy.

Over the next week, we will be publishing answers from all participating candidates online at smdp.com. We will also be printing the written answers from each candidate in the print edition.

Each candidate was sent the same three questions and given the opportunity to answer any or all of them as they saw fit.



Courtesy Photo

ELLIS RASKIN

Question 1) The vast majority of Santa Monica's homeless population were made homeless somewhere else and traveled to Santa Moncia. What is the city's role and responsibility in addressing homelessness given the regional nature of the problem and the disproportional impact the crisis has on Santa Monica?

Santa Monica's leaders need to (1) provide an immediate, compassionate response to those who are unhoused (and experiencing housing insecurity) in our city, and (2) ensure that our city is doing its part to address the underlying causes of homelessness.

Our immediate responses to the homelessness crisis should focus on programs that prevent evictions and displacement in the first place. Santa Monica's Preserving Our Diversity (POD) program has proven to be a successful model for keeping vulnerable seniors in their homes. We should expand the POD program and provide other emergency rental assistance opportunities. Voters who care about these issues should be aware that landlords and developers are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to support Brock, de la Torre, Putnam, and Rocknian. For example, Douglas Emmett (the landlord behind the attempted Barrington Plaza mass evictions) donated $100,000 to support their campaigns.

Santa Monica's immediate responses should incorporate evidence-based and health-focused strategies. By some estimates, approximately 75% of unhoused individuals in Santa Monica experience some form of mental illness or addiction (which is closely associated with co-occurring mental health issues). We need to work with our partner agencies across LA County to invest in programs like the Therapeutic Transport Vans, behavioral health outreach teams, and other on-the-ground solutions that connect individuals to resources. We need to ensure that we support transitional housing and temporary housing services that are directed at providing resources and health interventions for this vulnerable population. We also need to ensure that individuals experiencing homelessness are provided safe and appropriate emergency shelter space at both a local and regional level. Diversionary programs like the CARE Court and STEP Court programs are also a step in the right direction, though these programs will only be effective if participants can make their way to supportive housing or residency programs that provide a pathway to long-term housing.

As for the underlying causes, experts agree that homelessness in urban areas is largely the result of a lack of affordable housing opportunities. This is a regional and state-wide problem, but Santa Monica needs to do its part to provide our share of meaningful affordable housing opportunities for our residents. Santa Monica obviously cannot solve California's housing crisis (or the regional housing crisis) on its own. But we need to do our part.

Question 2) The city's economy continues to lag and a recent study said Santa Monica was among the most expensive places to operate a business. What will you do to address the City's economic challenges and increase local revenues?

We need to restore trust in public government and ensure that Santa Monica remains an attractive destination for businesses, residents, and visitors.

In my work as an environmental and land use attorney, and as the former Chair of the Santa Monica Planning Commission, I have a deep understanding of the regulatory challenges that business owners face on a daily basis, and I understand the work that will be needed to help our business community recover from the effects of the COVID pandemic, including common-sense regulatory reforms (e.g. permit streamlining).

I know from my personal friendships with local business owners in Santa Monica that many businesses are hanging on by their last thread. We need to implement regulatory reforms that are specifically targeted toward struggling small businesses, such as rent relief programs and relief from business taxes. If we don't implement these programs, then commercial gentrification will only get worse.

We also need to recognize that the retail economy is evolving. Once we finally move forward with the Promenade 3.0 process and other planning initiatives for our business districts, we need to support zoning and other regulatory programs that attract the types of business that will thrive in our post-COVID economy. Experiential retail experiences have proven successful, and so have innovative options for re-using underutilized commercial spaces. As a Planning Commissioner, I advocated for regulatory programs that incentivize these types of creative spaces, and I will continue to advocate for these programs as a member of the City Council.

Question 3) Every candidate who spoke to the Daily Press brought up Public Safety as a top priority. What has driven this subject to the forefront of local politics and what are you going to do to make residents feel safe in their public spaces?

With the exception of Dan Hall, who fought on the front lines in Iraq, I believe I am the only candidate who has worked for law enforcement agencies in the past. My first two jobs after enrolling in law school were law clerk positions for the San Francisco Sheriff's Department and the Alameda County Counsel's Office, where I worked with the Alameda County Sheriff's Department. I worked with these agencies to review use of force policies, a range of policies for interactions with unhoused individuals, and other issues relating to the day-to-day challenges of operating a law enforcement agency.

We need to make sure that our police department is appropriately staffed. If Chief Batista tells us that we need more officers after we fill existing vacancies, we should figure out how to meet the Department's needs. I understand that as of mid- 2023, there were as many as 50 retirements that were expected within the Police Department within the next few years. These waves of retirements are cyclical, and I understand our city has experienced similar waves of retirements in the past. Our budget process will need to account for this and ensure that we are appropriately compensating existing officers.

Fundamentally, we need to implement smart, forward-thinking policing strategies. By embracing equitable 21st Century public safety strategies, which will require careful integration of new technologies, I am confident that we can address our public safety needs within the scope of existing budget constraints. Strategies such as drones, real-time watch centers, and other high-tech solutions have proven successful in other communities and should be supported here in Santa Monica. I will also ensure that our city allocates appropriate resources to support our police and fire departments with trained mental health professionals who can proactively reach out to individuals experiencing homelessness to get them the treatment they need.

We also need to think holistically about public safety. In a county where more people die from traffic violence than gun violence, we need to prioritize public safety on our streets. We also need to continue to step up efforts against retail theft, and we need to continue to be prepared to respond to natural disasters.

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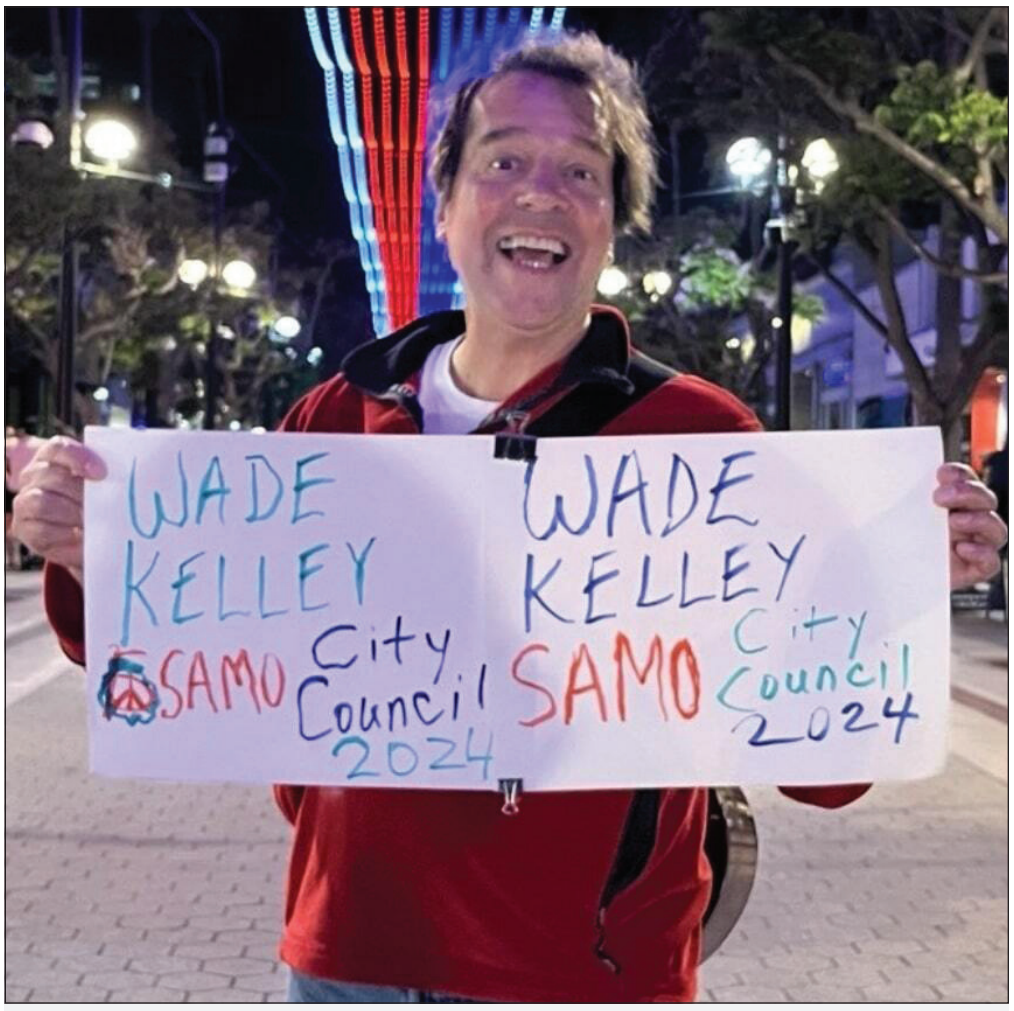
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Candidate Questions: Wade Kelley

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Each candidate was sent the same three questions and given the opportunity to answer any or all of them as they saw fit.



Courtesy Photo

WADE KELLEY

Question 1) The vast majority of Santa Monica's homeless population were made homeless somewhere else and traveled to Santa Moncia. What is the city's role and responsibility in addressing homelessness given the regional nature of the problem and the disproportional impact the crisis has on Santa Monica?

We must admit that most of Santa Monica's residents have moved here from somewhere else, whether they are housed or unhoused, and Santa Monica has been trying to push its poor residents out, for generations. Since 1970 the population of Santa Monica has grown by 2000, while, in that 54 years, the population of California has grown by 20 million! So, it would be more accurate to say that Santa Monica has had a disproportional impact on creating this housing crisis, this homelessness crisis(along with other affluent coastal communities), by not building enough affordable housing for its poor residents. There is no reason for only rich people to live next to... OUR PUBLIC BEACHES! It leads to segregation and works against a more inclusive democracy! We need to work toward solutions, and not try to criminalize our way out of this homelessness crisis. This summer the ultra conservative Supreme Court handed down a ruling in Grants Pass versus Johnson, giving states and cities the power to criminalize homelessness! In her dissent of this ruling, Justice Sotomayor said, to keep people from sleeping is cruel and unusual punishment and goes against the eighth amendment of our constitution! Phil Brock and Oscar de la Torre, and others on Santa Monica city Council, have followed Trump's ultra conservative Supreme Court by voting to criminalize sleeping bags and bed rolls for our unhoused human beings, without any alternative housing for this 1% of Santa Monica's population! Instead of complaining that this very wealthy city of Santa Monica has been overburdened by its homeless population, while it has been dragging its feet about building affordable housing, and pushing the homeless down the road through all kinds of programs and hoping that these human beings will just... Disappear. Santa Monica needs to work towards solutions, transitional housing, secure 24 hour public restrooms, more professionals to help connect these people with services... And build more affordable housing now! Housing is a Human Right!

Question 2) The city's economy continues to lag and a recent study said Santa Monica was among the most expensive places to operate a business. What will you do to address the City's economic challenges and increase local revenues?

First, I would work with others towards making it easier for employees working in Santa Monica to live in Santa Monica by proposing to build more affordable housing, and putting forward more programs that would help those employees already working in Santa Monica to be able to live in Santa Monica. This would make workers lives easier, by lessening their travel time and costs, and making for less traffic in and around Santa Monica and benefiting the environment. I would propose to use some of the Santa Monica airport land for affordable housing for employees of Santa Monica, as well as other city owned properties around Santa Monica. Because, when we are talking about costs of doing business. We should be talking about the costs of those people working for the businesses to be able to survive and thrive. If you have good number of corporate headquarters in your city, and you have one percent of your population sleeping in the streets... You need to change your business model! We need to be more concerned with lifting up the poor and making sure that the people in the middle can have a decent life, living and working in Santa Monica! We have to stop blaming the poor for bad business! The business owners on the third Street promenade have been operating under the misguided perception that the promenade is a private mall. The public promenade belongs to the people, and as I like to remind those on the promenade, "If you are homeless on this public promenade, you have the same rights as the richest person in the whole wide world!" We need to find more ways to help businesses that believe in community and human rights, and the right for every one to have the basics in this richest, most powerful country in the world! And do whatever we can, as a city, to Raise Taxes on the Rich! The rich will be just fine. We have done a very good job of being kind to the greedy... We have to do a better job of being kind to the needy!

Question 3) Every candidate who spoke to the Daily Press brought up Public Safety as a top priority. What has driven this subject to the forefront of local politics and what are you going to do to make residents feel safe in their public spaces?

I think we can all agree that the most important job of government is to protect its citizens from violence. And that means all of its citizens... Including those who are unhoused, living in the streets. Statistics show that it is much more likely for a homeless person to be the victim of violent crime than be a perpetrator of violent crime. But, some would like to criminalize homelessness, which has been brought on by generations of bad government. Santa Monica, led by Phil Brock and Oscar de la Torre, has criminalized sleeping bags and bed rolls for homeless human beings! Oscar de la Torre told me that that law would not be enforced. I said, why would you vote for a law that you think would not be enforced? Are you just trying to appease, the hate mongers and fear mongers! If we believe in public safety and the rule of law, we need to stand up for the rights of everyone! So yes, If someone is committing a crime, we all need to speak up, and we need to help law-enforcement do their job to protect and serve. And, we have to stand up for the rights of all human beings here in Santa Monica!

Peacelove, Wade Kelley





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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION

SUBJECT: **To Solicit Public Input on a Proposed Substantial Amendment to the FY 2024-25 Action Plan for use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership Act (HOME) funds**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Santa Monica will hold a public hearing to receive community input on a Proposed Substantial Amendment to the 2024-25 Annual Action Plan, which was originally submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) following Council approval on April 23, 2024. The Annual Action Plan delineates the City's specific projects and activities for one-year use of CDBG and HOME funds to address the City's housing and community development high-priority needs as specified in the Council-adopted 2020-24 Consolidated Plan. The amended plan proposes to reallocate a portion of the City's $1.15 million FY 2024-25 CDBG award to a previously approved CDBG project in need of additional funding. Both the 2020-24 Consolidated Plan and the Proposed Substantial Amendment to the 2024-25 Annual Action Plan can be viewed at: https://www.santamonica.gov/community-development-block-grant-and-home-investment-partnership-programs

DATE/TIME: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024 AT 6:00 PM
Check agenda at www.smgov.net/rpc prior to meeting to confirm start time

The agenda will also be posted at the Santa Monica Institute (SMI) room, located at 330 Olympic Drive in Santa Monica at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. The agenda is subject to change up to 72 hours prior to a regular meeting and 24 hours prior to a special meeting. Please check the agenda prior to the meeting for changes.

LOCATION: City Council Chambers, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Oral public comment can be given in person on the day of the meeting. Members of the public unable to attend in person, but wishing to provide comment are strongly encouraged to submit written comments via email to RecreationAndArts@santamonica.gov. Written public comment submitted before 12:00 pm on the day of the meeting will be available for online viewing. Please note the agenda item number in the subject line of your written comments. All written comments shall be made part of the public record and will be included in the final, amended 2024-25 Annual Action Plan submission to HUD.

ACCOMODATIONS
The agenda is available in alternate formats upon request. The City Council Chambers is wheelchair accessible. If you require any special disability related accommodations (i.e. sign language interpreting, access to an amplified sound system, etc.), please contact RecreationAndArts@santamonica.gov at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

Translation service available upon request. Please contact the RecreationAndArts@santamonica.gov at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

Transportation Information: City of Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines and the Metro Expo Line serve City Hall. Parking is available on Main Street, Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

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

Bacon hogs the spotlight in election debates, but reasons for its sizzling inflation are complex

DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Business Writer

She blames greedy companies for price-gouging. He blames the Biden administration's economic policies.

Kamala Harris and Donald Trump agree on one thing: Tapping into sour consumer sentiment about high grocery prices is one way to court voters.

Bacon prices have been a particular focus for Trump. He mentioned them in his Sept. 10 debate with Harris and again a week later during an interview on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"Things are not going, right now, very well for the consumer," Trump said during the interview. "Bacon is up five times."

Trump's math is wrong, but bacon has seen some sizzling price increases. According to federal data, U.S. bacon prices peaked in October 2022 at $7.60 a pound, up 30% from October 2019.

In September, bacon averaged $6.95 a pound, 25% higher than five years ago. That's in line with a 29% increase in overall food prices over that period, according to the Labor Department. Still, September bacon prices were 1.8% lower than they were a year ago.

Prices for bacon are always volatile. Among other things, they're subject to weather, animal disease, feed costs, seasonal demand and, according to Harris and other critics, some price gouging by giant food conglomerates.

Bacon prices typically go up in the summer when Americans have a hankering for BLTs, for example. A president's policies generally have little direct impact on the prices consumers pay for bacon or food overall.

Prices for not just bacon but groceries in general — and most other products — began surging in 2021 as the economy rebounded with unexpected speed from the pandemic recession, causing snarled supply chains and goods shortages. The price spikes worsened later after Russia invaded Ukraine. Food costs jumped across the world, not just in the United States.

Though U.S. inflation has tumbled from its peak in mid-2022, average food prices remain elevated. The impact of those price spikes, though, has been cushioned in part by a comparable rise in average wages.

Here are some factors that have made it more expensive to bring home the bacon.

COVID-19 spread quickly in meat processing

Workers stand close together on production lines in the U.S. meat processing industry. Big bacon producers like Smithfield Foods and Tyson Foods temporarily closed plants in the spring of 2020 after thousands of workers got sick and some died. While plants were closed, millions of pigs got too big to be processed and were culled instead, leading to shortages just as home-bound Americans were shopping for more breakfast bacon, said David Ortega, a professor of food economics at Michigan State University.

Demand from China jumped

China's growing demand in 2020 contributed to lower pork supplies at home. U.S. pork exports to China jumped 75% in 2020 as Beijing scrambled to replace hogs that were lost to an outbreak of African swine fever, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Over the course of 2020, U.S. bacon prices rose 6%.

Meat processors faced higher costs

Meat companies paid out pandemic bonuses and invested in protective gear in order to get plants running again. Tyson Foods required all its 139,000 workers to receive COVID vaccines.

By the end of 2021, Tyson said it had spent more than $800 million on bonuses, vaccine clinics and other COVID-related measures. It was also paying more for packaging and transportation in a supply chain that had been mangled by COVID. To recoup those costs, the company jacked up the prices of pork products by 25% in its 2021 fiscal year.

Labor costs took a toll

After risking their lives to keep working during the pandemic, many workers sought better pay and benefits. In June 2021, unionized workers at a Smithfield Foods pork processing plant in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, threatened to strike after contract negotiations broke down. The coronavirus killed four workers at the plant and infected nearly 1,300.

Smithfield Foods, which is owned by the Chinese pork company WH Group, eventually agreed to higher wages and $520 bonuses for its Sioux Falls workers. U.S. bacon prices rose 24% over the course of 2021.

Moscow's war against Ukraine sent prices up

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 caused global wheat and corn prices to surge. That made it costlier to raise hogs. According to Iowa State University, feed costs rose 24% between 2021 and 2022. Early in 2022, Brazil-based JBS, another major U.S. pork processor, said it was raising prices to cover the higher cost of animal feed.

Did corporate profits play a role?

Harris has proposed a ban on "price gouging" by food companies, arguing that some of the companies kept raising prices long after pandemic-related supply problems dissipated so they could boost their profits.

There's no strict definition of "price gouging," though it generally refers to sharp price increases that companies impose after a supply disruption. Three big bacon producers — Tyson, Hormel and JBS — reported record sales in 2022, when bacon prices hit a peak of $7.61 a pound.

Eventually, those higher prices reduced demand. In the year ending Oct. 1, 2022, U.S. consumers bought 8% fewer packages of bacon than in the prior year, according to Nielsen. By the end of the 2022, prices were falling.

Over the course of 2022, U.S. bacon prices fell 3.7% to $6.95 a pound.

SEE **INFLATION** PAGE 10

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A damning statement

"The biggest problem with the school board is that it's run by the Jews"
Oscar de la Torre, SMMUSD School Board Member
August 6, 2019

Before I get to the heart of this letter, I need people to read that quote. This "statement" was corroborated by four people, one of whom had first-hand exposure and three who confronted Oscar after being told that "a board member has said this..." and he admitted it was him. I am one of those three. There is no scenario in which it is possible to deny that those words were his response when he was asked to describe the biggest problem facing the school board.

I have hesitated to write this letter but not because I am scared of retribution. I expect retribution. Oscar can say whatever he wants about me. Call me a racist. Call me an elite north of Montana, white, privileged, out of touch jerk. I can handle his personal attacks. I do have a fear that he will hold a grudge against the school district and intentionally take actions and votes to secure revenge and I think that is a legitimate concern. But, my greatest fear in sharing this story is that no one will care. I have told select individuals this quote and have been met with everything from shock to rationalizations to indifference. In the fall of 2020, a political ad was placed in the SMDP that reeked of antisemitic tropes in how it portrayed Michael Dell. What I learned then was that if you were anti Michael Dell and the proposed development at the Miramar you could excuse away this image that seemed to be plucked from the pages of Der Stürmer and the Third Reich's propaganda machine. Antisemitism is hurtful. Seeing friends, colleagues, and fellow Jews dismiss it merely because the source of it is a politically expedient tool for achieving preferred outcomes is doubly hurtful. Does politics really trump all? Sadly, Santa Monica has become a microcosm of our country as a whole. We have become binary with only two sides and two choices.

To return to the quote in the beginning, I want to say that I am not calling Oscar antisemitic. His comment certainly is, but I can't point to what is in his heart. I can only go by what I have seen and heard in my four years spent as his colleague on the school board and what I have witnessed since. Oscar seems to see all issues through a deficit lens. If one group has something it means that another group has less of the same thing and, with Oscar, that "thing" is usually the concept of who has power. As he sees it, Jews have power and power is the goal in any situation. So, if the Jews run the school board, they have power and therefore, as he sees it, his quote is a compliment. This was literally his rationalization to me, that his statement was a compliment. I did try to explain 6,000 years of Jewish history to Oscar and hoped that we had started the beginning of a longer conversation. After all, at that time Oscar just equated "Jew" with "white", disregarding the presence of Sephardic, Mizrahi, and Jews of color globally.

My biggest regret from that time is saying nothing publicly. Back then, I was cognizant of antisemitism on the right: very fine people on both sides, Kanye West, the Tree of Life mass shooting. What I failed to realize was the extent of antisemitism on the progressive left. I honestly thought that Oscar had heard me and would seek out a greater understanding going forward. I guess that one is on me. His comments during the Ethnic Studies conversations on the school board should have tipped me off as should have his comments after the George Floyd murder. His deficit thinking was on display and I down played it in order to avoid conflict. I failed to speak up.

I still am not certain if any reader of this letter will change their thinking or even seek out further information on the subject which is why I was hesitant to write it. But at a council meeting a couple weeks ago a member of the public made a comment critical of Oscar and he responded by defending his "Jewish bona fides", mentioning two people who I will have to assume are Jewish and how they supported him so therefore how could he be an antisemite. The "some of my best friends are Jews" defense was infuriating to me and made it clear that my failure to speak up years ago played a role in allowing this to happen. I would like to point out his vote in favor of the ceasefire resolution in Israel/Gaza (5/14/2024 council meeting at the 8:33:47 mark). After a short speech about civilians dealing with hardships and how as a father he could relate so deeply to the struggle (he seemed to be speaking on behalf of Palestinians in Gaza) he then stated, "and definitely there's some responsibility for what Hamas did on October 7th". ***Some responsibility***? Allow me to translate that: the Jews had it coming and their actions justified the brutal attack on October 7th where girls and women were subject to the most depraved sexual violence imaginable, babies and children were killed in front of their parents or kidnapped, and hundreds were slaughtered merely for being Jewish. That's not a dog whistle, that's a scream and a damning statement.

There is a story in the Old Testament describing Terach, arguably the worst man of the ancient era. He was completely irredeemable. But he was also the father of Abraham and before he died he insisted on bringing Abraham to Eretz Canaan, the Land of Canaan (eventually Israel). The biblical lesson here is that any person, no matter how repugnant and terrible can still do one thing that can change the world for the good. This is how many people justify their current support of Trump, "Yes, he's a terrible person but he is doing well for Israel, or the courts, or giving me a tax break". I see this as a similar moment here in Santa Monica. Are we so consumed with getting what "we" want that we are willing to ignore or even embrace values that we find

SEE **LETTER** PAGE 10

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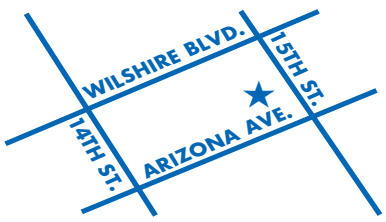
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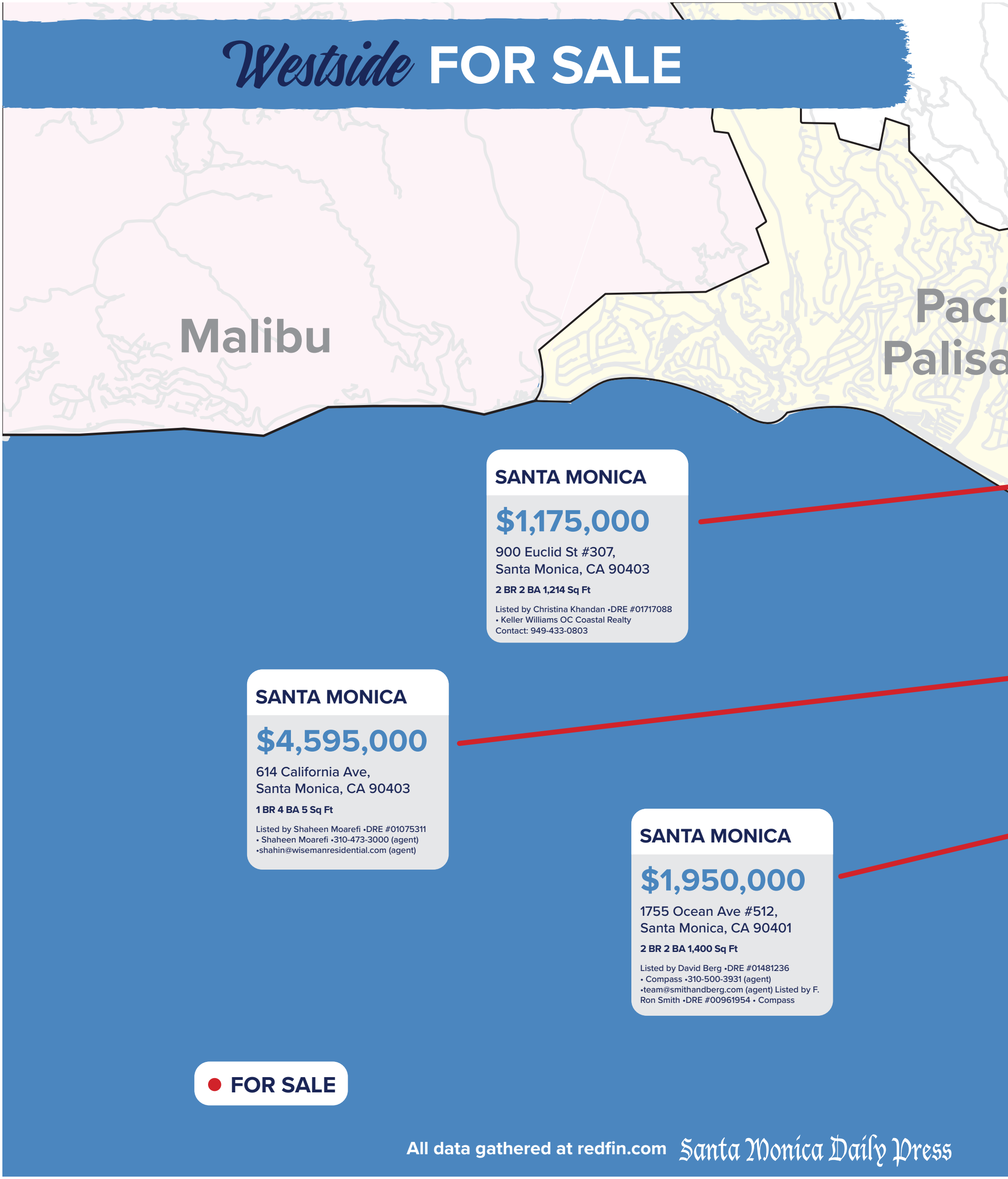
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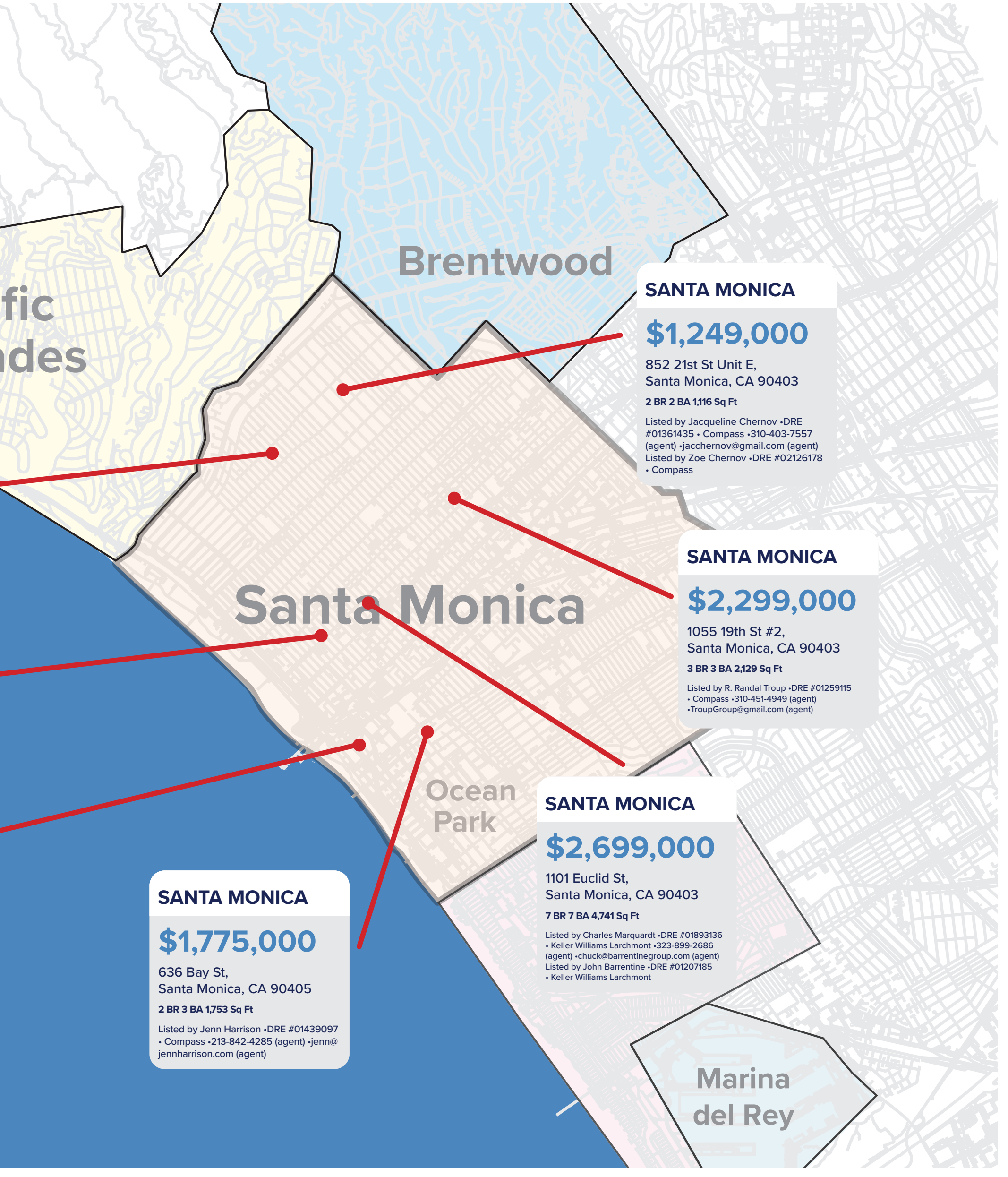
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The City of Santa Monica and Hollywood Community Housing Corporation (HCHC) invite you to hear updates about the future affordable housing at 1217 Euclid St and 1211-1217 14th St.
La Ciudad de Santa Mónica y la Corporación de Vivenda Comunitaria de Hollywood (HCHC) lo invitan a escuchar actualizaciones sobre las futuras viviendas asequibles en 1217 Eudid St y 1211-1217 14th St.

Presenters will include the City of Santa Monica, HCHC, and kevin daly Architects.

Date: Wednesday, October 23rd, 2024
Time: 6:00-7:30pm. The meeting will start at 6:05pm
Location: Virtual. A Zoom meeting link will be posted on 10/22, to www.HCHCSantaMonica.org/community-meetings/
To RSVP: Visit www.HCHCSantaMonica.org/community-meetings/

Los presentadores incluirán a la Ciudad de Santa Mónica, HCHC y kevin daly Architects.

Fecha: Miércoles, 23 de octubre de 2024
Tiempo: 6:00 a 7:30pm. La presentación comenzará a las 6:05pm
Ubibación: Virtual, Se publicará un enlace de reunión de zoom de 22 de octubre para www.HCHCSantaMonica.org/community-meetings/
Confirmar su asistencia: Visita www.HCHCSantaMonica.org/community-meetings/

Comments and questions can be submitted through October 31st, 2024 at:
Se pueden enviar comentarios y preguntas hasta el 31 de octubre de 2024 en:
www.HCHCSantaMonica.org/contact

Development team contact information:
Contacto del equipo de desarrollo:
www.HCHCSantaMonica.org
SMAH@HollywoodHousing.org
(866) 601-3490

HOLLYWOOD COMMUNITY HOUSING Building Stories of Hope
City of Santa Monica



BALLONA CREEK

FROM PAGE 3

Director Mark Pestrella stated that the pilot period had four main categories of performance measures: Operational effectiveness, community acceptance, impact on the environment and impact on education about beach and ocean health.

Operational effectiveness was measured in part to see if the "one of one" device could remain operational throughout the year, particularly in the face of storms, and Pestrella stated the Interceptor was "in place and operational" through 90% of the pilot period.

"We have no other devices that we use at the end of our rivers that can actually operate that amount of time ... the Interceptor is designed to actually ride out major storms" Pestrella said. "It made out (of) these significant storms in the last two years ... (it) even rode out one storm event that produced 18,000 cubic feet per second running down Ballona Creek. That's like 18,000 basketballs running by every second, and each basketball weighing about 62 pounds. The forces that were acting upon it (were) significant, and from an operational effectiveness perspective, it did an amazing job."

Public comment was similarly positive, with Playa Del Rey-based nonprofit Friends of the Jungle Executive Director Lucy Han calling the Interceptor a "godsend."

"We go to the beach every day, and after every storm, there is crap all over our beach," Han said. "But with this Interceptor, we have such a cleaner beach."

The Interceptor is slated to be temporarily removed from the creek for service and upgrades, and is planned to be back in Ballona for the upcoming Southern California storm season.

thomas@smdp.com

INFLATION

FROM PAGE 6

Animal welfare law had an effect

In 2018, California voters approved a law requiring more space for breeding pigs, egg-laying hens and veal calves. Producers in other states must meet those standards if they want to sell pork, eggs or veal in California. The pork industry sued, supported by the Biden administration. But the U.S. Supreme Court declined to overturn the law, which took effect on July 1, 2023. Because not all pork producers are meeting the standards, less bacon is available to Californians, thereby driving up prices.

Daniel Sumner, a professor of research and agricultural economics at the University of California, Davis, estimates that prices for pork products will be 7% to 10% higher in California over the long term because of the law.

The election raises uncertainty

Joe Glauber, a senior research fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute and a former economist for the USDA, said food price inflation was a global issue over the past few years, not one caused by the Biden administration. Past run-ups in food prices, he noted, have occurred regardless of which party was in office.

One wild card this time is Trump's promise to impose a 20% tariff on everything the U.S. imports. Chad Hart, an agricultural economist at Iowa State University, noted that the U.S. generally exports between 20% and 25% of its pork, and other countries would likely retaliate by imposing tariffs on U.S. pork. If that happened, more pork might remain in the U.S., which would cause bacon prices to fall. Yet the price of dozens of other imported products would rise.

"If you want a BLT, the bacon may be a little cheaper, but the lettuce and tomato will cost a fair amount more," Hart said.

Harris has denounced Trump's proposed sweeping tariffs, though she has supported targeted tariffs on Chinese imports.

Harris has vowed to crack down on unfair mergers that give big food companies too much pricing power. She's also said she would investigate and prosecute price-fixing, an ongoing issue in the heavily consolidated meat industry. McDonald's recently sued four big beef companies, including Tyson and JBS, accusing them of price-fixing.

LETTER

FROM PAGE 7

abhorrent? I am not trying to tell anyone who to vote for. If the ends justify the means for you, the vote is yours to cast. For me, I cannot ignore what I have experienced and felt that if I failed to speak up before this important election, I would have failed the Jewish people once again. That was a bridge too far for me to stay silent any longer.

— Jon Kean

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FRIDAY | OCTOBER 11

SECULAR HIGH HOLIDAYS
7 - 9 p.m. Church in Ocean Park, 235 Hill St. Join the Church in Ocean Park for a short and sweet, totally musical, seder-style, secular High Holidays. Come see how fulfilling, complete, even spiritual, a humanistic High Holidays can be. To register, visit: https://www.sm-jhc.org/calendar.

GRILLED CHEESE & WINE NIGHT
7:30 - 10 p.m. Andrew's Cheese Shop, 728 Montana Ave. A twist on the typical grilled cheese event, this time paired with some amazing and unusual wines. Meal begins with a starter salad with fresh greens, followed up by four open faced grilled cheeses each expertly paired with a unique wine and finished off with a float using Elio Perrone's Bigaro, a sweet blend of Moscato and Brachetto. Tickets $80, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/andrews-grilled-cheese-wine-night-tickets-1030160908007.

SATURDAY | OCTOBER 12

SOCKTOBER DAY OF GIVING
9 - 11 a.m. Main Street Community Garden, 2318 Main St. A volunteer day of service at the Main Street Community Garden, kindly donating new socks to be distributed to neighbors and families in need to ensure everyone has the opportunity to keep their feet warm in the colder months. Hot coffee, warm conversation, lots of smiles and cool season veggie seeds also available. To volunteer, visit https://santamonica.volunteermatters.org/project-catalog/266.

TEEN WRITING WORKSHOP
10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Youth Activity Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Novelist Craig Clevenger leads a discussion on the best practices for writing dialogue for dramatic prose. For teens ages 12-18.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OPEN HOUSE
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Fire Station 1, 1337 7th St. Join Fire Station 1 for an Open House for Fire Prevention Week. This year's theme is "Smoke Alarms: Make Them Work For You." Santa Monica Fire Department is partnering with the American Red Cross to install free smoke alarms for the community. Come take a tour, meet with firefighters and sign up for the Sound the Alarm program.

POETRY WORKSHOP
11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Beyond Baroque Literary Arts Center, 681 Venice Blvd., Venice. In "Composting Language for Unexpected Poems," Ash Good will guide you as you dive into the art of crafting centos from lines harvested from both your own writing and the words of others. Whether you're a seasoned poet or simply curious, come ready to play with words and grow something vibrant and entirely your own. Tickets $90, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/composting-language-for-unexpected-poems-a-poetry-workshop-with-ash-good-tickets-1014178815137.

SUNDAY | OCTOBER 13

SAINT MONICA OPEN HOUSE
1 - 4 p.m. Saint Monica Preparatory, 1011 7th St. Learn more about Saint Monica Preparatory's strong TK-12 academic programs including experiential learning opportunities and league champion athletic programs, plus meet current students, faculty, coaches and families, and explore classrooms and facilities.

SANTA MONICA SEAFOOD FESTIVAL
3 - 7 p.m. Santa Monica Pier. Off The Hook Santa Monica Seafood Festival returns to the iconic Santa Monica Pier, showcasing the city's best restaurants and chefs with dishes and their favorite underwater ingredients. Attendees enjoy unlimited seafood tastings, craft beer, boutique wine tastings, spirits and cocktails, live music and more. General admission $85, VIP tickets $160. To purchase, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/off-the-hook-santa-monica-seafood-festival-tickets-866751134977.

SMC WIND ENSEMBLE
4 - 5:30 p.m. SMC Performing Arts Center, The Eli & Edythe Broad Stage, 1310 11th St. Organized by the Santa Monica College Music Department, the SMC Wind Ensemble under the direction of Kevin McKeown will play the continous composition "Fan-Ta-Sia." Tickets $10, free with any student ID. To purchase, visit: https://www.smc.edu/community/events/tickets.php.

LIVE MUSIC AT MCCABE'S
7 - 10 p.m. McCabe's, 3101 Pico Blvd. Riveting Americana artist Jesse Lynn Madera is set to embark on an exciting tour this fall, joining forces with the iconic New York singer-songwriter Jill Sobule. Celebrating the success of her sophomore album "Speed of Sound," Madera will co-headline nine shows across the U.S., including at McCabe's. Tickets $28, to purchase visit: https://www.mccabes.com/product/jill-sobule-jesse-lynn-madera/?v=7516fd43adaa.

MONDAY | OCTOBER 14

SANTA MONICA INNOVATION HUB
10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Palisades Park, Ocean Ave. Santa Monica's Ocean Avenue and Palisades Park will be the site of a street fair focused on technology, innovation, investments and the future of business, hosted by the City of Santa Monica and StartUpStarter. This one-day event kicks off LA Tech Week and brings together more than 2,000 key players from LA's tech ecosystem. Beyond the networking and business opportunities, the fair will feature VR/AR activation, a co-working lounge, a sound stage and a beer garden. Tickets $39, to purchase visit: https://lu.ma/santa-monica.

LANDMARKS COMMISSION
7 p.m. City Council Chambers, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. Established in 1975, the mission of the Landmarks Commission is "To protect improvements and areas which represent the City's cultural, social, economic, political and architectural history; safeguard the City's historic, aesthetic and cultural heritage; and promote the use of landmarks and historic districts for the education, pleasure and welfare of the people."

TUESDAY | OCTOBER 15

SOCIAL SERVICE ASSISTANCE
9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. Help with family nutrition and health care access is resuming at Virginia Avenue Park thanks to Providence St. John's Community Health Program. 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 and Medicare.

¡GUELAGUETZA!
11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Latino Center, Main Campus Quad, Santa Monica College, 1900 Pico Blvd. Join Santa Monica College for a traditional celebration dating back to indigenous times in Oaxaca, Mexico. Guelaguetza is a time for the SMC community to come together and enjoy Oaxacan presence, culture, live music and food.

MYSTERY BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION
7 - 8 p.m. Virtual. This community-led, monthly book discussion group currently meets online/virtually via Zoom. To register, email library@santamonica.gov. This month's selection is "A Dangerous Man" by Robert Crais.

HOUSING COMMISSION
7 p.m. City Council Chambers, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. The Santa Monica Housing Commission is a city advisory body whose mission is to protect and improve the quality of life of all Santa Monicans by listening to input from city residents and staff, publicly deliberating, and providing recommendations to both the Santa Monica City Council and Santa Monica Housing Authority Board on issues related to housing in Santa Monica. The Santa Monica Housing Commission is committed to strengthening the social, economic, and cultural vitality and diversity of Santa Monica through habitable, fair, and equitable housing for all.

AN EVENING WITH CHRIS WALLACE
8 - 9:15 p.m. John Adams Middle School Performing Arts Center, 1630 Pearl St. Chris Wallace, anchor of CNN's "The Chris Wallace Show" and host of "Who's Talking to Chris Wallace?" On Max, will be discussing his book "Countdown 1960: The Behind-the-Scenes Story of the 312 Days that Changed America's Politics Forever." General admission ticket and signed copy of the book $55. To purchase, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-evening-with-chris-wallace-tickets-1009185439817.

WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 16

ALL YOU CAN CARRY PUMPKIN PATCH
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Downtown Farmers Market, intersection of Arizona Ave. and Second St. The All You Can Carry Pumpkin Patch is set during the Downtown Farmers Market. For $10 per person, kids and adults can take home all the pumpkins that can be carried in one trip. No helpers, no carts, no bags, just a bit of muscle, some luck and tons of fun. All are invited to try to beat last year's record of six pumpkins.

ANGELENO HOUR
4 - 7 p.m. The Georgian Hotel, 1415 Ocean Ave. Angeleno Amaro, California's celebrated amaro, will host its signature event series Angeleno Hour, a one-night-only event that offers attendees a unique opportunity to savor Angeleno Amaro in a stunning setting overlooking the Pacific Ocean. At Angeleno Hour, guests will enjoy three expertly crafted cocktails: Angeleno Spritz, The Rodriguez and MexiCali. For more information, visit https://angelenoamaro.com/.

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

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS NEWCOMERS MEETING
5:45 - 6:15 p.m. Colorado Center Community Room, 2500 Broadway. Overeaters Anonymous is a Fellowship of individuals who, through shared experience, strength, and hope, are recovering from compulsive overeating. We welcome everyone who wants to stop eating compulsively. For more information, contact Becky at itspossibleLAW@gmail.com.

PLANNING COMMISSION
6 p.m. City Council Chambers, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. Established in 1946, the Planning Commission envisions Santa Monica as a city of wellbeing, sustainability, and equity, and seeks to balance the many needs and priorities within our community in accordance with the City's General Plan and Specific Plans. The Commission acts through open and civil discourse that is informed by public input, impartial analysis, and best practices in land use and planning.

LITERARY LOUNGE
6:15 - 7:30 p.m. Tutoring Center, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Discover the joy of social reading at the Literary Lounge, a space for bibliophiles to bond over books, with music and refreshments. Bring your own book or choose one from a collection of staff favorites.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE OF NOMINEES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE
NOVEMBER 5, 2024, GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following persons have been nominated for the offices designated to be filled at the General Municipal Election to be held in the City of Santa Monica on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. Elections for members of the Rent Control Board and College Board of Trustees were cancelled as the number of qualified candidates did not exceed the number of vacant positions. Currently there are no qualified Write-In Candidates. For more election information, visit santamonica.gov/elections/2024-11-05, email clerk@santamonica.gov or call (310) 458-8211.

For Member of the City Council (4-yr term) **Vote for no more than Four**

Ericka Lesley
Oscar de la Torre
Dan Hall
Ellis Raskin
Vivian A. Roknian
John Putnam
Phil Brock
Wade Kelley
Barry A. Snell
Natalya Zernitskaya

For Member of the School Board of Education (4-yr term) **Vote for no more than Three**

Christine Falaguerra
Maria Leon-Vazquez
Jon Kean
Jennifer Smith

Measures to be Voted On:

MEASURE F: To fund essential city services such as 911 emergency response, public safety, and addressing homelessness, shall the measure modernizing the City of Santa Monica's 1990 business license tax ordinance to improve tax equity and fairness, exempting small businesses from the tax, decreasing tax rates for most retailers and restaurants, raising the corporate headquarters rate to 0.25%, removing auto dealer tax exemptions, and restoring a business license processing fee, generating approximately $3,000,000 annually, until ended by voters, be adopted?	Yes No
MEASURE K: To enhance public safety, create safe routes to school to protect children, lower the risk of fatal traffic accidents, and maintain other essential city services, shall the measure increasing the City of Santa Monica Parking Facility Tax by 8% for users including visitors and tourists, causing no additional cost in City-owned lots and structures (including downtown and the beach) because of a partial City exemption, generating approximately $6,700,000 annually until ended by voters, be adopted?	Yes No
MEASURE PSK (ADVISORY VOTE ONLY): If Measure K is enacted, should at least half of the additional revenue raised be used to protect public safety in Santa Monica, including attracting and retaining well-trained police officers and firefighters, improving crime and homelessness prevention services, and increasing police patrols and enhancing emergency medical response in neighborhoods and public areas, including downtown, the pier, and the beach?	Yes No

Additionally, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) submitted bond Measure QS to be voted on by voters within the School Facilities Improvement District (SFID) 1 or the City of Santa Monica, however, the Los Angeles Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's Office also included Malibu's Measure MM on Santa Monica ballots in error. Only Measure QS for Santa Monica school improvements is applicable to Santa Monica voters. For more information, visit: https://bit.ly/SMMUSDballotPR1. General Measure QS bond information and project lists are online: www.smmusd.org/Bonds.

/s/ NIKIMA S. NEWSOME
City Clerk
October 9, 2024

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City of Santa Monica

CIUDAD DE SANTA MÓNICA
NOTIFICACIÓN DE LOS CANDIDATOS
NOMINADOS PARA CARGOS PUBLICOS
ELECCIONES GENERALES MUNICIPALES, 5 DE NOVIEMBRE, 2024

POR LA PRESENTE SE DA AVISO de que se han nominado las siguientes personas para los cargos que han de ser cubiertos en las Elecciones Generales Municipales que se llevará a cabo en la Ciudad de Santa Mónica el martes, 5 de noviembre, 2024. Las elecciones para los miembros de la Junta de Control de Alquileres y la Junta del Colegio fueron canceladas ya que el número de candidatos calificados no excedió el número de puestos vacantes. Actualmente no hay candidatos por escrito calificados. Para obtener más información sobre las elecciones, visite www.santamonica.gov/elections/2024-11-05, envíe un correo electrónico a clerk@santamonica.gov o llame al (310) 458-8211.

Miembro del Concejo Municipal (periodo de 4 años) **Vote por no más de cuatro**

Ericka Lesley
Oscar de la Torre
Dan Hall
Ellis Raskin
Vivian A. Roknian
John Putnam
Phil Brock
Wade Kelley
Barry A. Snell
Natalya Zernitskaya

Miembro de la Junta de Educación (periodo de 4 años) **Vote por no más de tres**

Christine Falaguerra
Maria Leon-Vazquez
Jon Kean
Jennifer Smith

Medidas sometidas a votación:

MEDIDA F: A fin de financiar los servicios esenciales de la ciudad, como la respuesta a emergencias del 911, seguridad pública y abordar la indigencia, ¿debe adoptarse la iniciativa de ley que moderniza la ordenanza del impuesto sobre licencias comerciales de la Ciudad de Santa Mónica de 1990 para mejorar la equidad y la justicia fiscal, eximiendo a las pequeñas empresas del impuesto, reduciendo las tasas impositivas para la mayoría de los minoristas y restaurantes, aumentando la tasa para sedes corporativas al 0.25%, eliminando las exenciones fiscales de los concesionarios de automóviles, y restableciendo una tasa de procesamiento de licencias comerciales, generando aproximadamente $3,000,000 anualmente, hasta que los electores lo abroguen?	Sí No
MEDIDA K: Para mejorar la seguridad pública, crear rutas seguras a la escuela para proteger a los niños, reducir el riesgo de accidentes de tráfico mortales y mantener otros servicios esenciales de la ciudad, ¿debe adoptarse la iniciativa de ley que aumenta el Impuesto a las Instalaciones de Estacionamiento de la Ciudad de Santa Mónica en un 8% para los usuarios, incluidos los visitantes y turistas, sin generar costos adicionales en los estacionamientos y estructuras de propiedad de la Ciudad (incluidos el centro y la playa) debido a una exención parcial de la Ciudad, generando aproximadamente $6,700,000 anualmente hasta que los electores lo abroguen?	Sí No
MEDIDA PSK (VOTO CONSULTIVO ÚNICAMENTE): Si se aprueba la Iniciativa de Ley K, ¿debe utilizarse al menos la mitad de los ingresos adicionales recaudados para proteger la seguridad pública en Santa Mónica, incluyendo la atracción y retención de agentes de policía y bomberos bien capacitados, la mejora de los servicios de prevención de la delincuencia y la falta de vivienda, y el aumento de las patrullas policiales y la mejora de la respuesta médica a emergencias en los vecindarios y zonas públicas, incluyendo el centro de la ciudad, el muelle y la playa?	Sí No

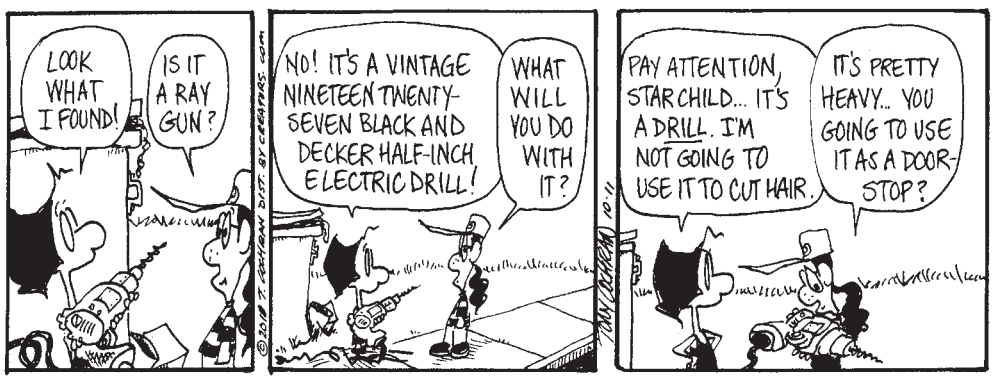
Adicionalmente, el Distrito Escolar Unificado de Santa Mónica-Malibú (SMMUSD) presentó la Medida QS de bonos para ser votada por los votantes dentro del Distrito de Mejoramiento de Instalaciones Escolares (SFID) 1 o la Ciudad de Santa Mónica, sin embargo, la Oficina del Registrador del Condado de Los Ángeles también incluyó la Medida MM de Malibú en las boletas de Santa Mónica por error. Sólo la Medida QS para mejoras escolares de Santa Mónica es aplicable a los votantes de Santa Mónica. Para obtener más información, visite: https://bit.ly/SMMUSDballotPR1. La información de los bonos de Medida General QS y las listas de proyectos están en línea: www.smmusd.org/Bonds.

/s/ NIKIMA S. NEWSOME
Secretaria Municipal
Fecha: 9 de octubre, 2024

Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

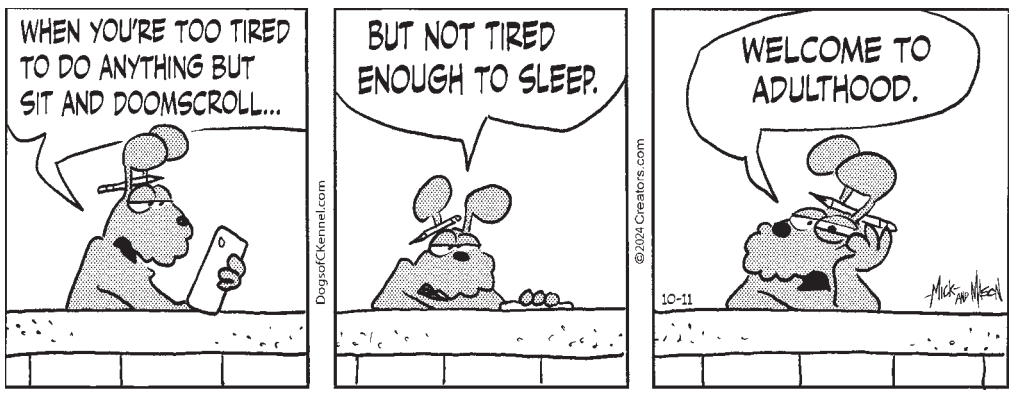
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



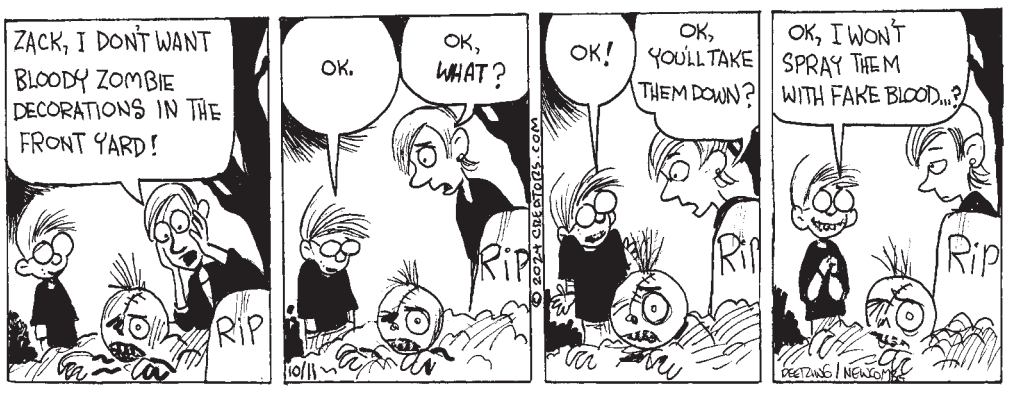
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

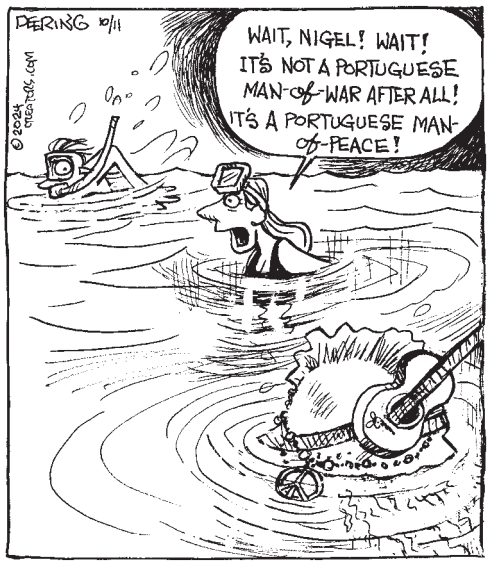
By PETER GALLAGHER



"UH-OH."

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

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Preparing a meal

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

Baste	Fold	Mango	Rice	Skim
Beef	Glaze	Mint	Rissole	Snags
Braise	Grill	Nutrition	Satisfied	Soup
Broil	Heat	Omelette	Sausage	Stir
Chops	Herbs	Pans	roll	Stove
Cube	Jams	Pare	Scald	Sugar
Cure	Knead	Pear	Score	Sweets
Cuts	Lamb	Peel	Seal	Tart
Dust	Lean	Pickle	Shred	T-bone
Eggs	Liver	Pies	Sift	Tongs
Flake	Lunch	Pork	Simmer	Toss

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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 11)

The year brings many gifts, some subtle as a texture, some with enormous bows on top. A bump of meaningful recognition boosts your spirit and progresses your work. More highlights: Silliness and money go hand-in-hand. Fortifying visits; stunning hospitality and the exact kind of publicity you want and private attention you prefer. Aquarius and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 8, 14, 7 and 31.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Friends may learn more than they want to know about one another but are nonetheless willing to incorporate it into a bigger picture for the simple reason that love does not always get to choose what it wraps around. Love just wraps.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Some people take a long time to get comfortable. Let the process of building trust happen over the course of months, not hours. Don't be in a hurry. Anyone who feels rushed will retreat.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There are equations that don't make sense and maybe never will, but you still keep coming back, hoping for a little illumination. Even if the mystery continues to go unsolved, you will somehow feel richer for revisiting today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's not selfish to focus on yourself with love unless you cut others out in the process. Knowing that selfishness can turn any scene into a cage, you choose to include more people into your big, colorful world.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The words you long to hear live in a secret drawer of your mind. Can you take them out? Articulate them to yourself? It might feel strange, but it would be the release to start a magic flow, giving you more of what you need.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Don't look at the puppet; look at the puppeteer. See the peer pressure, the corporate interest, the family line... People who would seem to be acting independently quite simply aren't, if only because no man is an island.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're communicating well. People know what to make of you, how to please and delight you, also what to expect of you and how likely you are to surpass their expectations. You see, and you are seen.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Opinions are optional. Not everything needs to be categorized, valued, organized or figured out. It's enough to go through the day a little breezy and open to letting the world do the work.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Decide on a single concentration for the day. Of course, you'll have more that needs tending, but it just helps to have one focus in mind. One concrete accomplishment you can point to at the end of the day will give you confidence.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There are definitely people around you who want something from you. The question is, who is good for you? Try for the objective point of view that will help you see it. If you were on your own side, would you also be on their side?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Text can be deceiving. Voices over a phone line serve only slightly better. Communication gets tricky when you can't see what's in front of another person. The ideal scenario is to share space.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The reason options exist is because people tend to spend more money when they are watching each other spend money. Marketplaces have their own curious chemistry. In today's case, a frenzy is implied.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

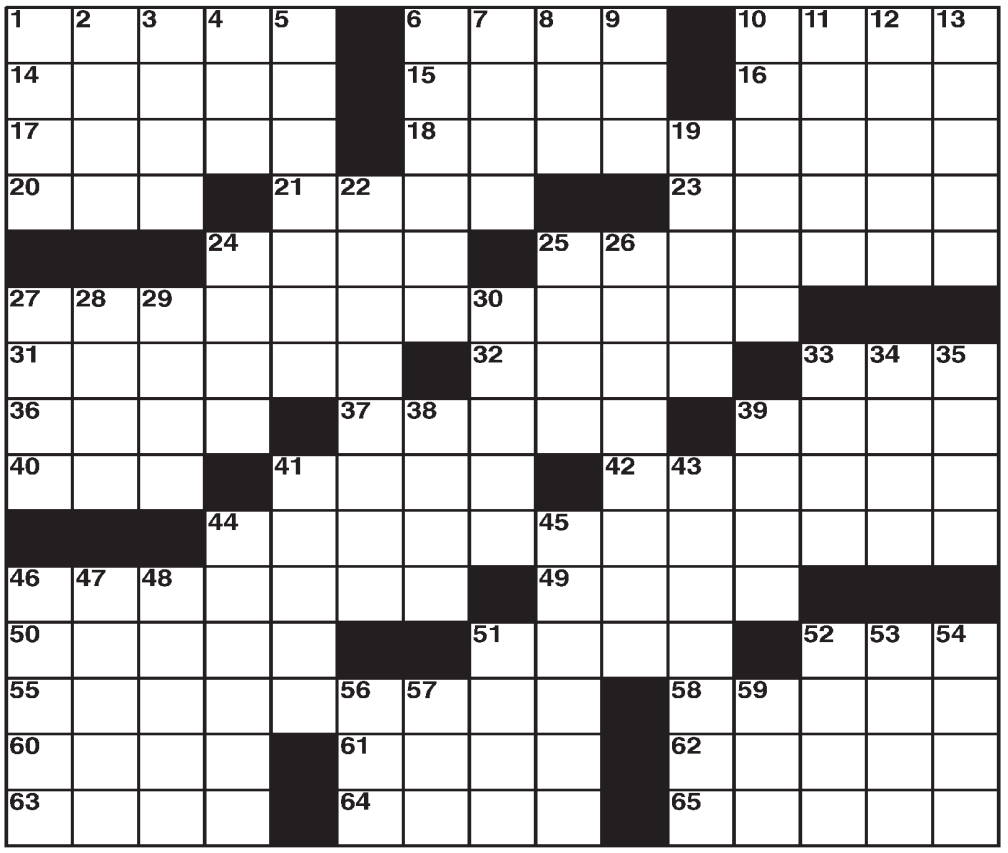
A VISIT TO KEW by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Creature in the WWF logo
6 Poke fun (at)
10 NBA positions
14 Part of some pie exteriors
15 Its fleet displays six-sided figures
16 Source
17 *Hungarian Rhapsodies* composer
18 Lineup at a London kerb
20 Flour source
21 Nocturnal predators
23 Therms expended, e.g.
24 Inner space
25 Confounded
27 British Airways fare check
31 Roundup accessory
32 Show __ (attend)
33 Turn loose (on)
36 Paperback ID
37 Circular
39 It may be going or lending
40 NHL or NBA stats
41 A Canadian First Nation
42 Secured in a slip
44 When Commons grills the Prime Minister
46 Attractions
49 Tiny fraction of a min.
50 Many Mesoamericans
51 Humble abodes
52 Antlered grazer
55 UK's Treasury Department
58 Venom, for instance
60 Emperor of Rome at 16
61 It precedes back or foot
62 Not in the dark
63 Wet blanket
64 Stuff sold in paper packets
65 Website with a "Find your home" search

DOWN

1 Sport with four-player teams
2 Italian word for "air"
3 Settle comfortably
4 Sleep, in product names
5 City on the Columbia
6 Cause of travel fatigue
7 "Unfortunately..."
8 Peace, to the Pope
9 Bulldog booster
10 Rough in character
11 *Comer* or *manger*
12 Compact contents
13 Charger, for example
19 Strawberry package
22 Was sprung
24 Pretty close
25 Swindle
26 In the very back
27 Trend-line anomaly
28 Malthouse cousin
29 Poet's planets
30 Serene
33 Bollywood costume
34 Distinct piece
35 Hand over
38 Cheaper
39 Source for many US officers
41 Jinx
43 Poor film rating
44 New England chowder clam
45 Hardened (to)
46 Rephrase
47 More forgiving
48 Activewear fabric
51 "Try this!"
52 Dental procedure
53 A euro predecessor
54 Tinkertoy alternative
56 The Manning bros.
57 OPEC member
59 Have loans



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10/11/24

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CITY COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

only assume that [here] there are none," Spagnuolo said, adding, "But I would like to say that even though there's no tangible community benefits being offered, there would be intangible benefits from hosting, such as community pride of being part of the Olympics."

Mark Kubaczyk from HR&A Advisors, a national consulting firm that specializes in economic development, explained that the potential net fiscal impact across two scenarios had been evaluated: an "Event Scenario" where impacts from the beach volleyball event and broader Olympic visitation were considered and a "Non-Event Scenario" where impacts only from broader regional visitation during the Olympics were considered.

In his succinct analysis, Kubaczyk pointed out that hotels, hostels and other accommodations would reach maximum capacity during the peak tourist season regardless of whether the City chose to host the beach volleyball event.

He went on to explain that in an Event Scenario, the anticipated revenue of $14.09 million would be eclipsed by a projected $15.54 million cost, leaving the City $1.45 million in debt. In a Non-Event Scenario, the revenue was less at $11.3 million, but the costs were significantly less at $650,000, leaving the City $10.5 million better off.

"Looking at this from an incremental standpoint, thinking about the loss in the Event Scenario, as well as the opportunity cost of revenues potentially lost in the Non-Event Scenario, the cost of hosting for the city is roughly $12.1 million," he said.

Councilmember Jesse Zwick opened up the questioning by asking how the situation regarding the Pier and the fact that it might not be able to operate as per normal had changed from a previous situational analysis, to which Spagnuolo replied that it was connected to the Department of Homeland Security and potential security issues.

Zwick also asked arguably the most important question, what would happen if Council voted to proceed with this first agreement and then decided later on in the process that perhaps the arrangements weren't favorable to the City of Santa Monica after all? To which Susan Cola, Assistant City Attorney responded, "It does set the framework for the negotiation, so it would be hard to deviate from the framework."

"If we deviate from the parameters of the framework, potentially we could be viewed as breaching the games agreement … On the other hand, if we are acting in good faith and … there is a dispute resolution procedure, it is subject to binding arbitration the way it is now, so it [would] have to be worked out," Cola said.

Councilmember Gleam Davis narrowed in on several small, but significant issues, like potential federal reimbursement, the sale of licenced merchandise and even if events could be organized away from the actual tournament site and frankly, the answers were not encouraging with little in the way of positive response.

Vice Mayor Lana Negrete asked Spagnuolo if any members of the LA28 organization, some of whom were in fact sitting in chambers, would be prepared to speak publicly either now, or at a later date to assist in the act of transparency and community outreach. Spagnuolo looked toward the seating area and replied, "No."

Negrete pushed to seek actual opinion, asking, "Have you ever seen an agreement like this?" adding, "This is a horrible business deal, right? Being asked to sign something with a bunch of unknowns that have severe financial impacts with really no financial gain."

Cola responded, "No, we've never entered into that kind of an agreement [before]."

Through somewhat limited back and forth discussion, Negrete clarified that if the City was to host, then local businesses would be extremely limited in using any signage whatsoever that related to the Olympic Games without IOC approval. Sadly however, it was impossible to find out how easy or difficult that would actually be because no one from LA28 was willing to speak.

Councilmember Caroline Torosis clarified that "If LA28 is financially unsuccessful, Santa Monica has literally no recourse to get reimbursed … and we don't know where we would be in a waterfall of all the other cities waiting for reimbursement."

She then drew comparisons to how differently the Paris organizers handled the community benefits. "It's my understanding that Paris signed their social compact in 2019 with very robust community benefits, local hire provisions etc – 2019 being five years in advance of the games, laying out a specific plan for community benefits that would benefit the entire region hosting the games. Has LA28, despite the fact that we can't see any specific benefits for Santa Monica, shared their plan for community benefits regionally?"

Spagnuolo responded, "They have not shared that with us."

Following comments from the dias where each councilmember agreed how nice it would be to play a part in history in 2028, they also all agreed that more work needed to be done, including an increased public presence and improved offering of community benefits from the LA28 organization. This item will be brought back to Council as an administrative item on October 22 for a vote that will determine the future of this event.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

GET IT DAILY...

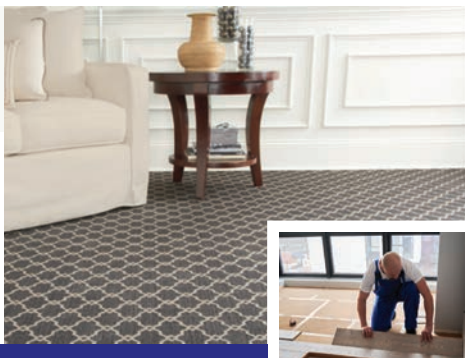
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