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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

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All treats for UCLA children patients on Halloween



Photo by Thomas Leffler

HALLOWEEN: Young patients at UCLA Santa Monica Medical Center were able to trick-or-treat in the location's garden on Thursday.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

From husky dogs turning into sharks, to nurses transforming into witches, Halloween had plenty of treats for young patients at UCLA Santa Monica Medical Center.

On the holiday, UCLA staff set up different booths and dressed up in a number of costumes for patients, with patients being able to take part in trick-or-treating in their own garb. The hospital's main garden turned into a Halloween hangout for the children and staff alike.

"It's really great to see all the different departments come out and set stuff up and plan ahead and prepare for the kids," UCLA Pediatrics Unit Director Amy Goldberg said. "The kids really enjoy (it), they look forward to coming down. We've been preparing them all week so that they can be ready and excited for today, and (we) love having them all here to do this."

Goldberg added that the day serves as a "morale booster" for the costumed staff, with popular outfits for this year including the emotions of Disney's "Inside Out" film and the wizards of Harry Potter. More importantly, though, the patients were able to feel "normal for a day," Chief Medical Officer Philip Levin said.

SEE **HALLOWEEN** PAGE 12

Big Blue Bus to expand electric fleet, open off-leash dog run



File Photo

BBB: Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus will be expanding its battery electric, zero-emissions fleet thanks to a state grant.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Big Blue Bus is making big moves both citywide and right at its home base.

This past week, the California State Transportation Agency announced that the transportation organization will receive a $53.3 million grant through its Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP). A few days later, Big Blue Bus (BBB) stated its plans to open a new off-leash dog run at its 1660 7th St. headquarters.

The TIRCP grant will fund initiatives that will enable BBB to meet statewide greenhouse gas reduction goals, as well as advance

SEE **BBB** PAGE 6

Lady Vikings flag football making most of first CIF playoffs run after undefeated league campaign

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

After starting the program with an undefeated Ocean League campaign last year, the Samohi Lady Vikings Girls Flag Football squad is back for even more.

In its second season as a CIF-sanctioned sport, the Lady Vikings are in the first girls flag playoff setting, knocking off Cabrillo, Estancia and Windward en route to a Saturday CIF Division 4 semifinals showdown. The squad will be in a tough road environment in Montebello, facing off with Schurr.

The squad was undefeated in league play once again this fall, this time being rewarded with postseason contests. Coach Ramsey Lambert found out in the springtime that CIF would be adding the playoff component, immediately being "super excited" for his unit.

"I know we returned a lot of girls, and they were kind of bummed when the season ended (last year) and not getting a chance to continue playing," Lambert said. "So they were super excited, I was excited for them that they would have a chance to really play for something on the line at the end of the year."

The Lady Vikings kept last year's mantra of a high-tempo offense with what Ramsey called a "really nice spread" of receivers. The receiving corps feature Ocean League Most Outstanding Player, senior Jayla

SEE **FLAG FOOTBALL** PAGE 12



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2) **WILL NOT BAN** needle & glass meth pipe distributions.
3) **WILL NOT BAN** sleeping in our parks and public areas.
4) **OPPOSE** increasing our understaffed **POLICE** force.
5) **NEGLECT** struggling business districts that provide general fund money for city services.
   - **FOCUSED ON REMOVING Parking Structures** surrounding the Promenade, damaging prospects for business recovery.
   - **PLAN to REMOVE 24 Parking Lots** in Santa Monica for homeless and other housing, further damaging city revenues without assessing financial impacts.
6) **ADVOCATE** for **HIGHER TAXES.**

STAY AWAY FROM THE ESTABLISHMENT'S CHAOS SLATE!

Ad paid by: Santa Monicans for Change in support of Brock, Putnam, Roknian & De La Torre for City Council 2024. Not authorized by a candidate or candidates committee.

Eric Uller, who volunteered at Santa Monica's Police Activities League (PAL), masqueraded as a police officer during the late 1980s to early 2000s and *sexually abused hundreds of children.* There may still be time to make a claim.



PAL SANTA MONICA

"I never wanted to be the last one in the car with him."
- Eric Uller victims

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Newsom provides welfare to the wealthy, skimps on anti-homelessness programs

DAN WALTERS

Gov. Gavin Newsom has played Santa Claus for the last week, promising bigger state subsidies to Hollywood's film and video industry and giving cities and counties a new tranche of state aid to combat homelessness.

The amounts are in the same ballpark but the recipients could not be more dissimilar, $750 million to improve the balance sheets of a few already wealthy entertainment producers and $827 million to help an estimated 186,000 homeless people gain shelter. The governor's attitudes about recipients of the political largesse, as expressed in closely spaced news conferences in Los Angeles, are also markedly different.

Newsom characterized the expansion of entertainment subsidies from $330 million a year to $750 million as "investing in the future of this industry and the future of this state," but devoted much of his homelessness announcement to warning local officials that they must do better and will face new performance standards.

"We've given our local partners the tools and the resources they need," Newsom said in a statement. "It's time to end this crisis now. These new funds represent the hard work, accountability and strategic planning needed to address homelessness with real, long-lasting results."

The governor's office said that, "as a condition of receiving the funding, the awardees must agree to increased accountability, transparency, and compliance measures. These new measures will help enhance the ability for these state investments to drive real, measurable results and will help improve the tracking of data and outcomes. This ensures that grant recipients remain accountable and protects state funding."

Over the last four years, the state has allocated $2.4 billion in aid to local governments for homelessness programs, and Newsom has periodically threatened to withhold further appropriations, saying the recipients were not spending the money effectively.



Photo by Manuel Orbegozo for CalMatters
CAMP: Michael Johnson gets ready to leave the site where he put up his tent before city workers arrive to clean the area for an encampment sweep in downtown San Francisco on Aug. 9, 2024.

However local officials have countered that getting money one year at a time, with no commitments of long-term financing, makes it difficult to establish permanent programs to help homeless people find shelter and deal with the issues that made them homeless in the first place.

It's also noteworthy that Grant Parks, the state auditor, has excoriated Newsom's Interagency Council on Homelessness for failing to monitor anti-homelessness programs as it was created to do. Until the council does its job, "the state will lack up-to-date information that it can use to make data-driven policy decisions on

SEE **ANTI-HOMELESSNESS** PAGE 7

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Fact Check: Why Vote Yes on Measure QS

Despite living in a famously progressive region, Santa Monicans are not immune from the same political misinformation and disinformation that afflicts civil discourse elsewhere in the United States. As backers of Measure QS, we feel compelled to share facts and correct misinformation surrounding this school facilities bond measure campaign. Bottom line: the schoolchildren and teachers of Santa Monica deserve your support.

FACT: Measure QS is not a blank check.

Opponents of the bond argue, despite factual evidence to the contrary, that the bond is a blank check. Nothing could be further from the truth. Virtually all of the 252 school bond measures on ballots throughout California this November contain almost exactly the same, industry-standard project list language as Measure QS ("the following...are the types of projects authorized to be financed with voter-approved bond proceeds").

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) has already designed, resourced, and permitted multiple projects that will begin as little as two months after the election, should the bond measure pass. (The full, prospective project list is on the SMMUSD website.) The first of these projects is at Grant Elementary school, which will provide essential transitional kindergarten space for our youngest learners. Beginning next summer, projects will get underway to provide a new library and early education building at Roosevelt; a new classroom building at Grant, which will replace old, leaky, portable classrooms; a new STEM building at John Adams Middle School, replacing the dilapidated science building; and modernizing the 500s building at Lincoln Middle School, converting it into an eighth grade STEM hub. Plans are also underway for a new early education building at Franklin Elementary and a Student Services building at Santa Monica High School, which will replace the long overdue Business building. Calling this bond a blank check illustrates a lack of honesty and ignorance of the government-regulated facilities bond process.

FACT: "No Audit" is a lie.

Opponents state that they would support a bond only if the bond program is audited first. Guess what? As required by state law, Santa Monica's recent bond programs are audited, every year. Proposition 39 (2000) not only requires the creation of a Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC), but also mandates annual third-party performance and financial audits. These audits are presented to the Board of Education annually, have discovered no reportable negative findings, and are available for public view on the District website. Opponents may disagree with the results of audits (or any other legally conducted civic process), but that does not mean the process or its findings are invalid. It is true that per California law, our CBOC does not have authority to determine the projects; however, the District holds dozens of school site and community meetings as it creates the master plans for all school campuses, which are public record. Anyone who wants to provide input is welcome, and has ample opportunity to give it.

FACT: This bond measure is widely supported by civic leadership organizations.

The list of endorsers for Measure QS is far too long to list here. The bond measure enjoys the widespread support of, in part: Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association; Santa Monica-Malibu Council of PTAs and many individual school PTAs; Santa Monica Firefighters Union; Santa Monica Police Officers Association; Santa Monicans for Renters Rights; Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce; Community for Excellent Public Schools; and the Santa Monica City Council, including Mayor Phil Brock and Vice-mayor Lana Negrete. Opponents list endorsements from some individuals, and a few neighborhood organizations; virtually none of the neighborhood organizations took a public vote when the bond issue was presented to membership at their regularly scheduled meetings.

FACT: Halting all project development now has serious consequences, and wastes millions of dollars.

Without offering an alternative for an acceptable audit (acceptable to whom?) or funding source, opponents propose defunding, for an indefinite period of time, construction and improvement projects that they acknowledge are important and necessary. The first and most important consequence of this defunding is that repairs and fixes to our school facilities – average age: 70 years – will be further delayed, and not have a stable source of funding. The second consequence is that later construction will have significantly greater cost. Projects slated to fall within Measure QS funding have set budget amounts at current prices, and costs would already be higher if they are delayed. A $10 million project in 2020 would cost more than $12 million today – multiply that by the scale of slated projects and the cost consequences become crushing.

FACT: Construction issues will happen.

Regarding construction defects, the opposition to QS betrays its ignorance of commercial construction. These projects, including school facilities, are large, complex, and subject to substantial regulatory compliance. Industry wide, defects of construction impact only about 5% of a given commercial building project's many parts. In a classroom setting, 95% is an A grade. No audit process or oversight will ever ensure that there will be no construction flaws. Defects are never acceptable. The District facilities teams are aware of, and work to address, all defects as soon as they appear. Note that maintenance-related issues such as clogged toilets, sticky locks, or peeling paint are

SEE **VOTE** PAGE 4



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **58.6**

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

Rebounding steep-angled NW swell, building through the day. Modest SSW swell mixes in. AM wind looks light, the high tide best for small wave focal points.

SATURDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: Knee to thigh 1-2FT

Similar to Friday, we're expecting some steep-angled NW swell-mix to wrap in for the day. Small SSW swell joins in. Local conditions looking to be OK for now for at least the AM.

Weather

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 68. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southwest in the morning.
Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 52. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east after midnight.
Saturday: Rain likely after 11am. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 59. East northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
Saturday Night: A 50 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 52.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)	High/Low
2024/11/01	Fri	02:59 AM	1.76		L
2024/11/01	Fri	09:15 AM	5.85		H
2024/11/01	Fri	4:13 PM	-0.02		L
2024/11/01	Fri	10:25 PM	3.90		H
2024/11/02	Sat	03:19 AM	2.03		L
2024/11/02	Sat	09:37 AM	5.91		H
2024/11/02	Sat	4:48 PM	-0.10		L
2024/11/02	Sat	11:07 PM	3.65		H
2024/11/03	Sun	02:39 AM	2.30		L
2024/11/03	Sun	09:02 AM	5.88		H
2024/11/03	Sun	4:28 PM	-0.08		L
2024/11/03	Sun	10:57 PM	3.40		H
2024/11/04	Mon	02:59 AM	2.55		L
2024/11/04	Mon	09:30 AM	5.78		H
2024/11/04	Mon	5:13 PM	0.02		L
2024/11/05	Tue	12:01 AM	3.18		H
2024/11/05	Tue	03:18 AM	2.79		L
2024/11/05	Tue	10:03 AM	5.59		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: 10/30
13 22 29 43 58
Power#: 22
Jackpot: 54 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 10/29
16 22 26 36 56
Mega#: 1
Jackpot: 281 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 10/30
3 13 23 36 41
Mega#: 13
Jackpot: 36 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 10/30
1 18 27 37 39

Daily 3
Draw Date: 10/30
EVENING: 7 0 9
Draw Date: 10/30
MIDDAY: 1 5 4

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 10/30
1st: 08 - Gorgeous George
2nd: 11 - Money Bags
3rd: 03 - Hot Shot
Race Time: 1:45.97

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

VOTE

FROM PAGE 3

specifically excluded being paid with bond funds, by California law.

Our community is fortunate to have engaged and activist citizens who want to ensure the best possible conditions for our students, and our society at large. We have shared these important facts to support our community in making an informed decision. For the good of our students and the school community, we hope that decision is Yes on QS.

Casper Casparian, SMMUSD parent (Lincoln MS), legislation advocacy chair, Santa Monica-Malibu Council of PTAs (SMMPTA), Danielle Litak, SMMUSD parent (Roosevelt Elementary), VP Education, SMMPTA, Patti Braun, parent of SMMUSD graduates, VP Community Concerns, SMMPTA, Sarah Starks, SMMUSD parent (Santa Monica High School, JAMS), Doug Hayes, SMMUSD parent (Lincoln MS, Franklin Elementary)

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

SANTA MONICA
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
SANTA MONICA CITY HALL

DATE/TIME: Monday, November 04, 2024 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Council Chambers, (wheelchair accessible)
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Room 250

PUBLIC HEARING:

2919 Wilshire Boulevard – 24ARB-0142: Residential/ Mixed-Use
Review of the design, colors, materials, and landscape plans for the construction of an eight-story, 85'-tall, mixed-use building consisting of 127 units and approximately 5,700 square feet of ground floor commercial space above 4 levels of subterranean parking in the Mixed-Use Boulevard (MUB) Zoning District.

2307 Lincoln Boulevard– 24ARB-0126: Residential/ Mixed Use
Review of the design, colors, materials, and landscape plans for the construction of a seven-story, 88'-high, mixed-use housing building consisting of 69 residential units and 1,800 square feet of ground floor commercial space with two levels of subterranean parking located in the General Commercial (GC) Zoning District.
This project was reviewed on September 16, 2004, and continued with comments.

More information is available online at https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Architectural-Review-Board/ (en espanol tambien at (310) 458-2201 ext. 2431#).

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Those wishing to give written public comment shall email comments to planningcomment@santamonica.gov. Comments received **prior to 12 p.m.** on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Architectural Review Board prior to the meeting and posted online. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

For disability-related accommodations, please contact (866) 311-7266 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation.

All written materials are available in alternate languages provided the request is received 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL : Esto es una noticia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si desea más información, favor de llamar a Ana Fernandez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-2201 ext. 2431 o envíe un correo electrónico a ana.fernandez@santamonica.gov

La ciudad de Santa Mónica fomenta los comentarios públicos. Los miembros del público que no puedan asistir a una reunión pero deseen comentar sobre uno de los puntos enumerados en la agenda pueden enviar comentarios por escrito antes de la audiencia pública por correo electrónico a planningcomment@santamonica.gov o por correo a City Planning, 1685 Main Street Mail Stop 28, Santa Monica, California 90401. Comentario público escrito enviado antes de las 12:00 p.m. el día de la reunión estará disponible para su visualización en línea. Todos los comentarios escritos formarán parte del registro público. Tenga en cuenta el número del tema de la agenda en la línea de asunto de sus comentarios escritos.

También puede comentar en persona en la audiencia de la Comisión Architectural Review Board. Consulte la agenda para obtener instrucciones más detalladas sobre cómo comentar en persona.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Public Trust

Editor:

Public trust in our Santa Monica City Council is priceless and essential for our city and community to be steady and confident. Santa Monica's residents, students, workers, and visitors depend on the public trust for them to have what it takes to enjoy good, decent and safe life experiences in a habitat that is cared for and protected. Public trust is only made real when elected officials or other city leaders are honest, have integrity, and work well together to uplift our Santa Monica progressive values and unify our community. Most important, public trust means serving public interests, not personal interests.

Sixty-nine years ago, I was born in Santa Monica, a Mexican-American child thanks to my heritage from both my parents and my ancestors. I have been lucky living most of my life in this city where our multicultural and social-economic diversity has been appreciated for decades and where past, painful discriminations or injustices are being acknowledged and confronted through constructive leadership from council, staff and community members. Diversity and unity are our strengths. Undermining those strengths by threatening the public trust or by being divisive undermines us all.

That is why I have spoken out publicly several times to urge the council to continue to defend our voting rights against the lawsuit that Council Member Oscar de la Torre initiated some years ago seeking to force a change to our voting system so that voters choose only one Council member instead of all seven. Yes, while we currently have four Council members with Latino heritage and two who reside in the Pico neighborhood, de la Torre has adamantly sought to see the general electorate's voting rights sliced up.

It's no secret that Council member Oscar de la Torre is a fierce advocate for by-district elections in Santa Monica, arguing that Latinos, particularly those living in the Pico neighborhood, have been marginalized by our current at-large system of electing our seven City Council members. I live outside the Pico neighborhood. District voting would knock out my voting power as a Latina in two ways. First, de la Torre's proposed district for the Pico neighborhood would eliminate me. Second, like all eligible voters, I would lose 85% of my voting power, voting for only one of seven council members. The lawsuit is divisive and an attack against our electorate and community; it is still unresolved and costing taxpayers millions of dollars.

What a shame that de la Torre didn't choose the more democratic option, one that could build public trust, by pursuing a ballot measure to revise how we vote: by now the people would have decided rather than the lawyers and judges.

Instead, with flagrant hypocrisy, it's astounding that de la Torre, self-professed champion of the Pico neighborhood and Latino candidates, is running on a slate with three White individuals who live on the north side of town. While I have no problem with a generally White candidate slate – depending on the quality of character and preparedness of the people involved – de la Torre has purported that Latino and racial differences are foremost. Additionally, his four-candidate slate is from only two, not four, different sectors of the city. So much for reflecting his demand for by-districts election choices.

If de la Torre truly cared about social justice, equity and inclusion, he'd be backing the challenger slate of Barry Snell, Dan Hall, Ellis Raskin, and Natalya Zernitskaya that includes a Black man, a gay man and a bisexual Jewish woman, three of whom live in the Pico neighborhood, and all of whom are renters, like the majority of our population.

De la Torre's motto is "Do as I say, not as I do." Heavens to Murgatroyd, has he lost his way!

Remember Santa Monica's progressive way is forward: Dan Hall, Ellis Raskin, Barry Snell and Natalya Zernitskaya.

Cris Gutierrez, Santa Monica

A rare bird

Editor:

I'm a Republican living in Santa Monica, a rara avis in these parts, but I am supporting Phil Brock, Oscar de la Torre, John Putnam, and Dr. Vivian Roknian for city council.

The other day I woke up to find a homeless person sprawled in my driveway, where he slept for four hours, surrounded by a grocery bag and food. When he finally left, he didn't clean up his mess. In fact, he returned later in the day to sit amongst his trash and get a little more shuteye. After the vagrant left again, one of the neighbors threw out his trash, and the vagrant didn't return.

It is unacceptable to have homeless people sleeping in private driveways or in public driveways, for that matter. The next thing you know, that vagrant might return to my driveway and start shooting up.

The Brock team of candidates is against having people camping and sleeping in public spaces. The Brock team also wants to stop neighboring jurisdictions from pushing their homeless populations on Santa Monica. They also want to end needle distribution in Reed Park. These are all good ideas to help prevent crime. The "status quo" team of candidates for city council want to keep needle distribution, and they refuse to ban people from sleeping overnight in public areas.

Now if we can only get rid of our soft-on-crime DA George Gascon and replace him with Nathan Hochman, hopefully crime will go down.

Bryan Cassiday, Santa Monica

EDITORIAL

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The Choice Is Yours

As Santa Monica voters approach Tuesday's election, their choice hinges on two fundamental questions: Do they feel safe in their city? And has the thirty-year experiment with progressive homeless policies delivered results?

These aren't abstract debates – they're personal questions each voter must answer based on lived experience. Your comfort level walking downtown after dark, or your assessment of the city's approach to homelessness, will likely determine your vote more than any campaign promise.

The race presents two opposing slates with dramatically different solutions. The Unity Slate – Natalya Zernitskaya, Dan Hall, Barry Snell, and Ellis Raskin – emerges from the city's established political machinery. While new to Council, they represent the same progressive establishment that has guided Santa Monica's policies for three decades.

The Safety Slate – incumbents Phil Brock and Oscar de la Torre, with Vivian Roknian and John Putnam – arose from the aftermath of the 2020 Downtown looting. They argue the status quo has failed and champion a law-and-order reset of city policies.

Independent candidate Ericka Lesley offers a unique alternative. A current Rent Control Board member, she combines progressive housing policies with strong public safety positions, potentially bridging the divide between the two slates. Wade Kelley rounds out the ballot as a nominal candidate.

On public safety, the division is clear. The Safety Slate pushes for increased policing and stricter enforcement, while their progressive opponents emphasize addressing underlying social causes. Lesley aligns with the Safety Slate here while maintaining her progressive housing stance.

The homelessness crisis crystallizes the election's central question about the legacy of Santa Monicans for Renters Rights (SMRR). The Safety Slate advocates coupling services with enforcement to discourage influx, while the Unity Slate maintains SMRR's traditional services-first approach. Voters must decide whether to continue current policies or change course.

Housing development remains contentious despite state mandates limiting local control. The Unity Slate embraces density and growth, while the Safety Slate seeks to maintain something closer to the minimum required development levels. Rent control itself isn't at risk – it requires voter approval to change – but the Unity Slate will likely make it a stronger priority.

Questions of competence loom large. The incumbents' votes against ethics reform and leak investigations raise concerns, and allegations against de la Torre demand voter attention. Both slates promise business-friendly reforms – a perennial pledge that has yet to materialize under any administration.

As Santa Monicans cast their ballots, they should reflect on their experience of the city. Has the progressive approach created the safe, compassionate community they envision? Or have three decades of well-intentioned policy created a need for change? While the slates represent opposing views, Lesley's candidacy suggests these goals might not be mutually exclusive.

This election isn't just about selecting council members – it's a referendum on Santa Monica's direction. The choice is yours.

SMDP Editorial Board



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Outstanding community servants

Editor:

We are writing to express our support for four outstanding community servants who are running for seats on the Santa Monica City Council: Dan Hall, Ellis Raskin, Barry Snell, and Natalya Zernitskaya. As Santa Monica homeowners since 2000, business owners, and parents of three children who have attended Santa Monica public schools since 2011, we feel deeply invested in the health, wellbeing, and future of our community.

Through our volunteer work in the community and political organizing sphere, we met and quickly grew to respect Barry, Ellis, Natalya, and Dan. We supported Natalya's initial run for City Council in 2022, and when the four candidates decided to run as a slate in this year's election, we supported them all. We knew that each one brought civic and lived experiences and education that would benefit our small city and region. Ellis and Dan have served in as city commissioners in business and planning; Barry has served as a leader in our business community and as an elected member of the school board and the college board; and Natalya has served as the president of the League of Women Voters. All four of these excellent candidates have both professional and personal backgrounds that make them ideal for public service in our diverse, beautiful, and innovative community.

Barry is a certified public accountant and has raised several children and started a nonprofit service organization serving African Americans in Santa Monica. Ellis is a land use attorney and Santa Monica renter whose professional expertise is in the California Environmental Quality Act and other aspects of environmental and housing law. Dan is a graduate of West Point who served our country in battle during the "don't ask, don't tell" era of the military, and who has gone on to earn a business and public administration degrees, advocate for LGBTQ+ civil rights, and leader at a large local business. Natalya came to the United States as a refugee from the former Soviet Union and grew up on public assistance before attending the University of California and becoming a financial analyst. Like Dan, she is a member of the LGBTQ+ community. Three of the candidates are young millennial professionals who have already served Santa Monica as civic leaders, and one is an elected public servant and parent of adult children raised in Santa Monica. You could not ask for a more competent and compassionate slate of candidates to be the stewards of our beachside city and its $750 million annual budget. Beyond competence, we support them because we know that each of them will do the homework for the demanding job that they are seeking because they are ethics and evidence-driven public servants. Together we have marched with them for workers' rights in Santa Monica and elsewhere in Los Angeles. We have stood with them for LGBTQ+ people's rights and for data-driven public health policy in our region. One of us (Susan) has interviewed many of the candidates who have run for local office in Los Angeles in the last several years, and found them to be among the most highly qualified who have stepped up to serve.

Our current City Council and the opposition slate of candidates seem to wave around the words "public safety" as if saying them alone will reduce poverty and homelessness and will clean up sidewalks and fix potholes. If only city administration and governance was this simple! It's no more effective to say these words than it is to say "build the wall" to fix our country's immigration issues.

The Los Angeles County Democratic Party and many pro-environment, pro-civil rights, and pro-working family organizations endorsed Dan Hall, Ellis Raskin, Barry Snell, and Natalya Zernitskaya. These candidates are the people who have already done hard work and are prepared to put in a lot more hard work, including the work of listening to their constituents, reading staff reports and scientific data, and conducting the people's business with the seriousness and steadiness that Santa Monica residents, workers, and business owners deserve.

Please join us in voting for Dan Hall, Ellis Raskin, Barry Snell, and Natalya Zernitskaya for Santa Monica City Council.

Thank you,

Susan Sheu, Recording Secretary, Los Angeles County Democratic Party, Brian Colker, Co-owner and Chief Financial Officer, Linea Solutions, Inc., and co-founder of the Grassroots Democrats HQ



BBB

FROM PAGE 1

the City of Santa Monica's Sustainable & Connected goals.

Last April, BBB was awarded $22.9 million in TIRCP funds to purchase five battery electric buses and complete three phases of its electrification master plan.

Of the $53.3 million, approximately $35.5 million will go toward completing phased implementation of the electrification master plan, while a little over $17.3 million will enable the purchase of 73 battery electric buses. The remaining $406,405 will provide workforce development to operate infrastructure improvements.

> We are thrilled that the state is investing in our project to expand Big Blue Bus service and complete our conversion to a 100 percent battery electric, zero-emissions fleet
>
> - Anuj Gupta, Santa Monica DOT Director

"We are thrilled that the state is investing in our project to expand Big Blue Bus service and complete our conversion to a 100 percent battery electric, zero-emissions fleet," Santa Monica DOT Director Anuj Gupta said. "This funding will enhance our ability to deliver sustainable transit service - reducing emissions and congestion, and connecting our community to opportunity."

The BBB Fleet Electrification Master Plan is a seven-phase strategy from the organization to transition from a renewable natural gas fleet to a 100 percent zero-emissions fleet by 2031.

Along with the purchase of the 73 zero-emission buses, the plan implements electric utility and charging equipment upgrades at the 6th and Colorado BBB depot. This implementation involves constructing a large canopy with overhead reel charging dispensers, fully charging an electric bus in about four hours. Last April's TIRCP funds were able to get BBB through Phases 2, 3 and 4 of the Master Plan.

Grant money will also go toward improving Route 2 service on Wilshire Blvd., connecting the route to Metro Los Angeles's D Line at two stations once the rail line is fully extended to the West Los Angeles Veterans Affairs Medical Center in 2027.

"These funds will deliver tangible improvements for Big Blue Bus riders, enhance the social and economic well-being of the communities we serve, and provide a world-class transit experience for major regional events, including the 2026 FIFA World Cup and 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games," Gupta added.

Back at headquarters, BBB will be hosting a free community event on Nov 9 to celebrate the grand opening of its new off-leash dog run, Little Blue Dog Run. The project, a collaboration between BBB, the City's Public Works Department, general contractor Ramco and architect SWA Group; will revitalize an area next to BBB headquarters as a green space for the community.

The dog run will include fenced exercise areas for all sizes of dogs, dog drinking fountains, trees and a picnic area with seating.

"This project aligns with our mission to improve the lives of those we serve by promoting connection, access, and mobility, while also contributing to a clean and safe Santa Monica," Gupta said. "It transforms a busy Big Blue Bus stop and layover, served by three routes, into a dynamic community gathering space designed to enhance safety for our riders and staff through the installation of improved lighting and additional security cameras along the entire block."

For more information about the Little Blue Dog Run opening, visit santamonica.gov/events.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Flyer: Santa Monicans Deserve the Truth

A virtually anonymous flyer circulated in single-family neighborhoods has inserted an existing state law, Senate Bill 10 from 2021, into the current Santa Monica Council election. That flyer, headlined "Santa Monicans deserve the truth," appears to misrepresent SB10. Voters may find it helpful to know more about the law.

I opposed SB10 as originally submitted, because it seemed it could be used to override our local Proposition LC and our commitment to a great park at the former airport site, both of which I strongly supported.

While I can't take personal credit, the final version of SB10 addressed those concerns. It specifically exempts "Any local restriction enacted or approved by a local initiative that designates publicly owned land as open space land… or for park or recreational uses."

Whew. So what DOES SB10 do?

SB10 preserves local control, but encourages us to consider new housing options. It authorizes local governments to allow rezoning and streamlined approvals for housing near mass transit, if such housing is consistent with the local General Plan and Housing Element. Why did the state step in to do this? According to the non-partisan Legislative Counsel's Digest, "changes proposed by this bill address a matter of statewide concern rather than a municipal affair and, therefore, apply to all cities, including charter cities."

Given widespread complaints about a housing crisis, California now requires what is called "affirmatively furthering fair housing." For many decades, affordable and available housing was severely constrained in some communities by discriminatory restrictions like redlining and covenants (prohibiting ownership by families of color, Jews, and others).

If you're fortunate enough to live in an exclusive neighborhood, well, who do you think got excluded? California is strongly encouraging local communities to rethink where and how housing is allowed, with requirements for "affirmatively furthering fair housing." We in Santa Monica should readily agree that housing should be affordable and fair.

So, back to that locally circulated flyer. It claims that certain Council candidates "will vote for Senate Bill 10." That's absurd, as SB 10 was a state, not local, measure, and was already passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor over three years ago.

The flyer's claim appears to be based on one of the infamous "paddle questions" from a recent candidates' forum. Candidates were allowed to answer only yes or no, with no nuance and no explanation. The question was not whether candidates would enact the maximum allowed under SB10, but rather, "Do you support implementation of the optional SB10 in Santa Monica?"

Note that implementation would mean acknowledging state law by conducting public hearings on whether and how to "affirmatively further fair housing," not a blind adoption of SB10's theoretical maximums. Conversely, a "no" answer would mean denying the need for fair housing and willfully ignoring an adopted state law.

Santa Monica is in California. State laws apply here. How smart is it to simply disregard state law?

We got that answer three years ago when four Councilmembers submitted an inadequate Housing Element, and our neighborhoods were punished with multiple "builders remedy" highrises, far out of keeping with long-established local zoning laws.

We were warned about the dangers of ignoring clear state guidelines. A crudely phrased caution at the time was "F--- around and find out." A bare Council majority chose to f--- around, and we all found out. Echoes of those "builders remedy" projects are still bedeviling us with entitled highrises up to 34 stories.

It's smarter, then, to acknowledge the state's legislative direction by letting our local community consider how best to "affirmatively further fair housing." By exploring our own options, we prevent Sacramento from stepping in and imposing theirs.

Note that implementing SB10 through local engagement does NOT mean allowing 14 units per parcel, which is the outside limit of where SB10 could allow streamlined approvals. That many units might be appropriate for other cities where parcel sizes are much larger, but not for us in Santa Monica.

As for affordability, Santa Monica has required inclusionary affordability in new housing projects for 25 years now. Any local implementation of SB10 in Santa Monica would involve the maximum feasible inclusionary affordability, whether or not that's mentioned in the state law.

So what is this scary flyer really about? The four candidates on the "united" slate – the only four candidates endorsed by the Democratic Party – have indicated they will responsibly explore how SB10 should apply in Santa Monica. Other candidates are posturing, promising to ignore state law, no matter the consequences.

Besides avoiding more "builders remedy" punishments, voters need to ask themselves which response represents social justice. Do we believe in affirmatively furthering fair housing? A vote to ignore SB10 is a vote to perpetuate housing inequity.

Santa Monicans deserve the truth – and that's the truth!

Kevin McKeown, former Mayor

ANTI-HOMELESSNESS

FROM PAGE 2

how to effectively reduce homelessness," Parks said in a report last April, just before Newsom and the Legislature staged their annual tussle over homelessness spending in the state budget.

As the number of homeless people continues to climb, the squabbling between Newsom and local officials seems less over how the crisis should be attacked and more over who will be blamed for failure.

Newsom has just 26 months remaining in his governorship, and it's dead certain that when he leaves homelessness — particularly unsightly encampments on streets and sidewalks and in parks —– will still be high on the voting public's list of issues. It might even be worse.

He is obviously eager for the political onus to be on local officials, rather than be part of his gubernatorial legacy, as signaled by his remark that "we've given our local partners the tools and resources they need."

In fact, it's far short of what would be needed for an all-out program to clear the streets by housing the unhoused.

The new allocation includes $254 million for the City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County, but a recent study commissioned by Los Angeles City Council says that eradicating homelessness in the county would cost $22 billion over 10 years or $2.2 billion a year, nearly 10 times what the state is providing.

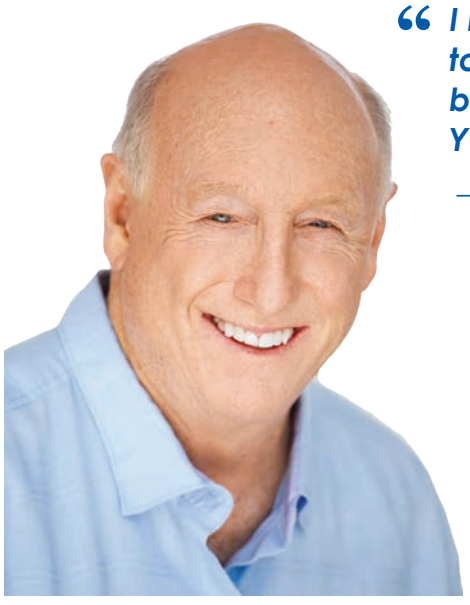
This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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Endorsements
SANTA MONICA POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
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BLUE WAVE DEMOCRATIC CLUB
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS 42
HOSPITALITY SANTA MONICA
Thrive LA
LATax Los Angeles County Taxpayers Association
See full list of endorsements at BrocktheVote.org

SMDP's Santa Monica Voter Guide

BALLOT MEASURES

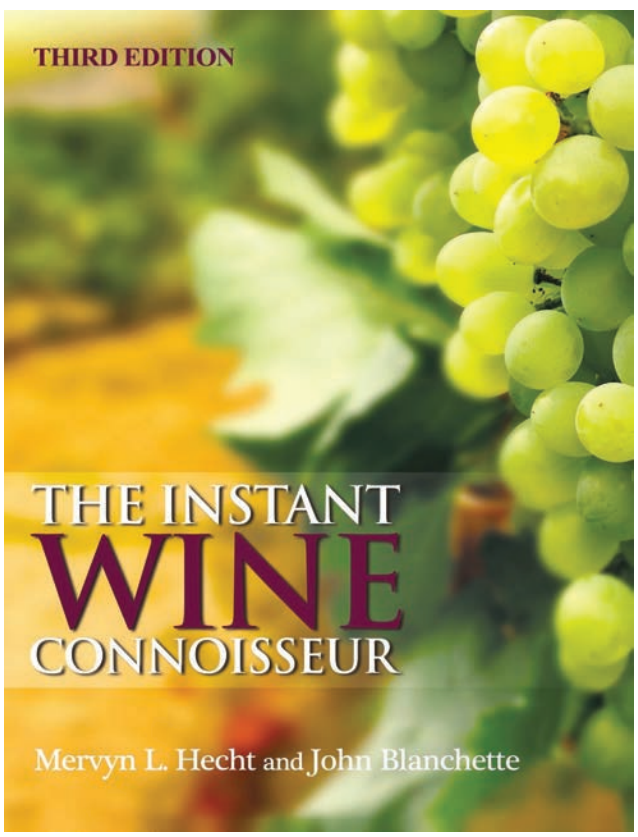
Local
County
State

Measure	Description & Rationale
VOTE NO — F	Euphemistically titled the "**Business License Modernization**" measure, this is a rejiggering of taxation that creates losers in a way we believe encourages leaving Santa Monica. One example is the .25% tax for businesses that choose to make us their headquarters. "Welcome to Santa Monica, now pay up for the privilege of being here."
VOTE YES — K	**Increase parking tax to 18% from 10% to fund public safety** Applies to non City-owned lots. If you thought parking at your doctor was expensive, wait until it costs 8% more. That said, our city is broke (evidenced by the fact this is an evergreen tax). Public safety is the first priority of government and should be budgeted accordingly, but we desperately need this money now.
VOTE YES — PSK	**Dedicate at least half of Measure K revenue to public safety** We strongly believe Measure K funds should go to public safety, but there is no guarantee for that. PSK is strictly an advisory measure with no teeth, but at least it reemphasizes why Measure K passed (assuming it does).
VOTE YES — QS	**$495 million bond to repair/improve Santa Monica schools** As evidenced by several neighborhood groups' opposition, citizens are feeling bond fatigue, but we need to finish what we started. A tour of Samohi's new Exploration Building and gym showcases what SMMUSD seeks to accomplish: highly flexible, best-in-class facilities.
VOTE NO — G	**Amend LA County charter** Expands Board of Supervisors from 5 to 9 members. Changes the County Executive role (our CEO if you will) from appointed to an elected position. Establishes an independent Ethics Commission. The changing of the County Executive to an elected role is bad policy and leads to further politicization of key functional roles and is a dealbreaker.
VOTE NO — A	**Sales tax increase for homelessness services and affordable housing** Would raise an estimated $1.1 billion annually via a **permanent** 0.5% increase in sales tax. We think the County has nearly zero credibility given the billions they already have mismanaged. Lighting more money on fire is not the solution.
VOTE YES — 2	**Borrow $10 billion to build schools, colleges** A follow-on to the failed $15 billion proposal in 2020. California has an idiotic system that does not fund school repairs systematically and instead relies on bond issuance. The coffers are dry and they need money.
VOTE YES — 3	**Reaffirm the right of same-sex couples to marry** Writes the right to same-sex marriage into the California constitution Repeals Prop 8 — a measure approved by voters in 2008 defining marriage as between a man and a woman. A ceremonial measure as the U.S. Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage in 2015.
VOTE YES — 4	**Borrow $10 billion to respond to climate change** The bond parade continues with new spending for a variety of climate-related issues including wildfire prevention, safe drinking water and other initiatives to mitigate impacted communities.
VOTE NO — 5	**Make it easier for local governments to borrow money by lowering 2/3rd voter threshold to 55%** This is a backdoor way to increase property taxes by making it easier for governments to pass bond measures and add them back to property tax bills. The simple question is, do you trust your elected officials to spend your money wisely?
VOTE YES — 6	**Limit forced labor in state prisons** Would allow state prison inmates to refuse work assignments and prevent prisons from punishing inmates who refuse to work. Instead prisoners can earn credit to shorten their sentences. Experts agree this will make running prisons more difficult and costly.
VOTE YES — 32	**Raise state minimum wage to $18 an hour** Not a big issue in Santa Monica as our minimum is already $17.27 ($19.73 for hotels) and with the mandatory inflation bump will move above the $18 in 2025.
VOTE NO — 33	**Expand Local Control of Rent Control** After initial skepticism from many groups, there is now growing support for 33 due to its repeal of Costa-Hawkins and the flexibility it *might* return to local governments. That said it unleashes a wrath of unknown consequences due to a lack of specificity.
VOTE NO — 34	**Require Certain Participants in Medi-Cal Rx Program to Spend 98% of Revenues on Patient Care** The real purpose is to prevent the controversial Michael Weinstein's AIDS Healthcare Foundation from spending discounted drug profits on lobbying. The constitutionality of this measure is beyond murky and is guaranteed to end up in Federal court.
VOTE YES — 35	**Managed Care Tax to fund Medi-Cal** Tax managed care health plans and use proceeds to fund the public insurance program for low-income Californians and those with disabilities. Given 1/3rd of Californians are on Medi-Cal this tax will benefit many via increased reimbursements to medical providers who currently refuse Medi-Cal due to their abysmally low rate card.
VOTE YES — 36	**Drug and Theft Crime Penalties and Treatment-Mandated Felonies Initiative** Would allow for felony charges for possessing certain drugs and for thefts under $950—both currently chargeable only as misdemeanors—with two prior drug or two prior theft convictions. Overturns 2014's Prop. 47 which reduced thefts under $950 and drug crimes from felonies to misdemeanors.

★★★★★ A light-hearted fun read.

★★★★★ Well written, particularly useful, instantly accessible.

★★★★★ ...Hecht has a joyful eye and fabulous taste



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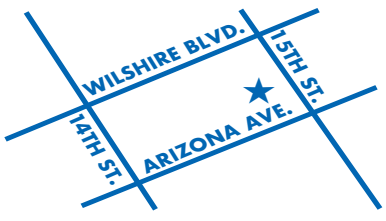
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FRIDAY | NOVEMBER 1

FIRST FRIDAY FOOD TRUCK FEST
5 - 9 p.m. 1525 Abbot Kinney Blvd., Venice. A fun and festive night on Abbot Kinney Boulevard in Venice. Chances are you will find whatever food you are craving, along with special merchant events.

SMC APPLIED MUSIC SHOWCASE
7:30 - 9 p.m. SMC Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th St. Don't miss this fantastic concert performed by some of Santa Monica College's most accomplished music students. The eclectic program includes solo and group performances in diverse styles. Tickets $10, free with student ID. To purchase, visit: https://www.smc.edu/community/events/tickets.php.

ONE-WOMAN SHOW
9 - 11 p.m. Morgan-Wixson Theatre, 2627 Pico Blvd. After her first sold-out tour, Laura Laune returns to the stage with her "Glory Alleluia" one-woman show. Known for her assertive dark, hard-hitting writing and trashy, no-holds-barred universe, Laura continues to push the boundaries of irreverence with finesse and subtlety. Tickets $55-95, to purchase visit: https://www.tickettailor.com/events/piaff/1289117.

SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 2

NEUROSCIENCE NURSING SYMPOSIUM
8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. LA Puglia, 1621 Wilshire Blvd. The annual Neuroscience Nursing Symposium is a one-day conference held in November each year that provides updates on new developments, evidence-based treatments, and the specialization of neuroscience in nursing practice. Tickets $40, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/15th-annual-neuroscience-nursing-symposium-tickets-1000805344727.

LITTLE HANDS ART CLASS
10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Youth Activity Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Learn about different traditions of Indigenous pottery and get inspired to make your own creation. For ages 2-5.

HUMAN LIBRARY- CHECK OUT A HUMAN BOOK
1 - 4 p.m. Central Courtyard, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Check out a human book for a one-on-one, 30-minute conversation that challenges stereotypes and prejudices. Register at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/smpl-hosts-human-library-check-out-a-human-book-tickets-1016879954317.

ART IS HOPE EXHIBIT AND GALA
5:30 - 8 p.m. The Salvation Army Santa Monica, 1533 4th St. This unique exhibit will showcase photos taken by The Salvation Army of Santa Monica's homeless clients, senior residents, children in transitional living, and stunning artwork from local artists. Plus, a special appearance by a guest entertainer. To register or donate, visit: https://give-sc.salvationarmy.org/event/art-is-hope-exhibition-or-the-salvation-army-of-santa-monica/e626631.

SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 3

CONTEMPORARY INDIGENOUS ART EXHIBIT
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Event House Gallery, Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Hwy. Refractions: Contemporary Indigenous Art is a collection of contemporary artworks by Native and Indigenous artists from or connected to the Los Angeles region. This exhibit is presented in conjunction with the City Hall Mural project as part of a series of events responding to the public recommendations and as a beginning to Phase II of the larger initiative.

5K HUNGER WALK
12 - 4 p.m. Ocean View Park, 2701 Barnard Way. The Westside Food Bank's 34th Annual 5K Hunger Walk is an event to make a difference in the lives of those facing food insecurity in LA County. Registration is free, and all registered participants will receive a complimentary t-shirt and swag bag. There will be a pre-event program with Good Day LA anchor Brooke Thomas as an emcee, and a ticket-only Beach Bash After-Party will be held near the finish line. To register, visit wsfb.org/hungerwalk.

BOOK LAUNCH PARTY
4:30 - 6 p.m. Zibby's Bookshop, 1113 Montana Ave. Zibby's bookshop is thrilled to celebrate the launch of "On Being Jewish Now!" Libby Owens will be joined by many of the anthology offers. Profits will be donated to Artists Against Antisemitism. Tickets with copy of the book $14, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/launch-party-for-on-being-jewish-now-with-zibby-owens-and-contributors-tickets-1007779885767.

MONDAY | NOVEMBER 4

FLAGS FOR HEROES
9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Santa Monica College Main Campus Veterans Success Center, 1900 Pico Blvd., Cayton Center, Lower Level, Room 006. Come join Santa Monica College to honor our military veterans during Veterans Awareness Week. Drop by the Veterans Success Center, where flags will be available to honor veterans.

WHIPLASH EXHIBITION
11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Propeller Gallery, Airport Artist's Studios, 3026 Airport Ave. Santa Monica Cultural Affairs, in collaboration with Art at the Airport, is proud to announce the opening of WHIPLASH: Art In The Ever-Changing Now, a groundbreaking exhibition that explores the profound and dynamic shifts shaping our world today. Created by Rebecca Youssef, Alexandra Dillon and April Banks, this exhibition offers a reflective exploration of our times, showcasing the ways contemporary artists interpret and respond to the rapid transformations that affect societal norms, cultural identities, environmental crises and political divisions.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
7 p.m. City Council Chambers, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. The Architectural Review Board established in 1974, acts "to preserve existing areas of natural beauty, cultural importance and assure that buildings, structures, signs or other developments are in good taste, good design, harmonious with surrounding developments, and in general contribute to the preservation of Santa Monica's reputation as a place of beauty, spaciousness and quality."

TUESDAY | NOVEMBER 5

TEEN EMBROIDERY WORKSHOP
4 - 5 p.m. Youth Activity Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Learn to embroider popular song lyrics and book quotes to create a fun piece of decor. All materials provided. For ages 12-18. Santa Monica Public Library 601 Santa Monica Blvd.4 - 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY | NOVEMBER 6

ACCELERATE 2050
8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Expert Dojo, 395 Santa Monica Pl. #308. This is the 19th national event hosted by Sustainatopia with a focus on climate, impact and more. Tickets $799-$1,199, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/accelerate-2050-los-angeles-tickets-1030797341597.

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS CLUB
4:30 - 6 p.m. Youth Activity Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Join the adventure for one-shot sessions with characters you have created or pick up a readymade character for the day's journey. All materials provided. For ages 10-14.

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.

FUROSHIKI GIFT WRAPPING WORKSHOP
6 - 7:30 p.m. Multipurpose Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. KUMI of The Art of Japanese Gift Wrapping presents a hands-on workshop on the Japanese art of sustainable gift wrapping with fabric. Class limited to 25 participants. Email library@santamonica.gov to register.

WHIPLASH: ART IN THE EVER-CHANGING NOW
Santa Monica Cultural Affairs, in collaboration with Art at the Airport, is proud to announce the opening of WHIPLASH: Art In The Ever-Changing Now, a groundbreaking exhibition that explores the profound and dynamic shifts shaping our world today. Curated by Rebecca Youssef, Alexandra Dillon, and April Banks, this exhibition offers a reflective exploration of our times, showcasing the ways contemporary artists interpret and respond to the rapid transformations that affect societal norms, cultural identities, environmental crises, and political divisions. Open gallery hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 11am-4pm, and every other Saturday (10/26, 11/9, 11/23, 12/7, 12/21, and 1/4) of exhibition 12pm-4pm. Propeller Gallery at Airport Artist's Studios in Santa Monica, 3026 Airport Ave.

TEEN EMBROIDERY WORKSHOP
Learn to embroider popular song lyrics and book quotes to create a fun piece of decor. All materials provided. For ages 12-18. Santa Monica Public Library 601 Santa Monica Blvd.4 - 5 p.m.

THURSDAY | NOVEMBER 7

HOUSING COMMISSION
6 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.

SPEED DATING AGES 26-35
7 - 9 p.m. Kavahana, 306 Pico Blvd. Eliminate online matches you never meet in person, dead-end first dates and boring small talk with this event that creates a welcoming and inclusive environment for all attendees. Tickets $30, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/speed-dating-santa-monica-ages-26-35-tickets-1050002304157

Submit your event online at smdp.com/events

FLAG FOOTBALL

FROM PAGE 1

Johnson-Lake, who caught 45 passes for 529 yards and 8 touchdowns in the regular season. Flanking Johnson-Lake are junior Chloe Sanders and senior Bella Medina, who combined for over 800 receiving yards and 9 touchdowns. Medina doubled as an All-League Safety, racking up 12 interceptions on the defensive end.

Making it all happen has been senior Anica Mindes, who was named Ocean League MVP for the second straight year after her dazzling displays at the quarterback position. In the regular season, Mindes threw for 2,507 yards with a sparkling 33-8 touchdown-interception ratio.

Despite having the requisite talent, the team faltered out of the gate with a 2-6 start, a stretch of tough games that Ramsey said gave the Lady Vikings a chance to be "battle-tested." Some of the losses were within just a couple of points, leading to the coach stressing with his girls to "trust the process."

"It took a lot of trust from the girls and myself and our coaching staff to say hey, just because we're losing, we were in those games … so we really had to focus on our process and how we were playing, instead of just what the end result (was)," Ramsey said.

The process began to work after a Sept. 7 loss to Eagle Rock, as the Lady Vikings haven't lost since, riding a 10-game win streak into Saturday's showdown with Schurr. Not knowing too much about the semifinal opponent, Ramsey said they just have to prepare with "what we do well."

"(We'll) make sure we're in our right spots, run our right routes, and our timing is good and our (defensive) pursuit is good … that's been our practice this week, is just to focus on what we do well, honing on our strengths and just be ready to play and handle our business," Ramsey said.

Before the Saturday tilt, area boys football squads will be playing their final regular season contests. The Samohi Vikings (4-5, 1-3 in Pioneer League play) will be hosting Peninsula for Senior Night, while the Saint Monica Mariners (6-2, 3-1 in Camino Real League play) will be on the road at St. Bernard. The Mariners had a three-game win streak snapped last week at St. Genevieve, but are still in good shape to make the CIF playoff field, where the squad became CIF Southern Section Division 13 champions last year.

thomas@smdp.com



Photo by Thomas Leffler

FOOTBALL: Samohi Lady Vikings star Jayla Johnson-Lake (#1) was named Ocean League Most Outstanding Player for the second straight year.

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HALLOWEEN

FROM PAGE 1

"It allows for the kids who are in the hospital to kind of feel like they're still part of Halloween … you can see how many people love getting involved and excited to come and be something different," Levin added.

For children not able to come down and join the festivities, costumed staff went to them with a "reverse trick-or-treating" bedside.

The long-running Halloween event has inspired other endeavors such as a toy delivery from Santa during the holidays, as well as visits from the animals of UCLA Health's People-Animal Connection (PAC) on Valentine's Day.

UCLA's PAC initiative is designed to provide companionship to both children patients and adults in the building, with dogs coming for Halloween in underwater-themed outfits. PAC teams also make monthly visits to Santa Monica on the last Tuesday of each month, bringing along both dogs and a miniature therapy horse.

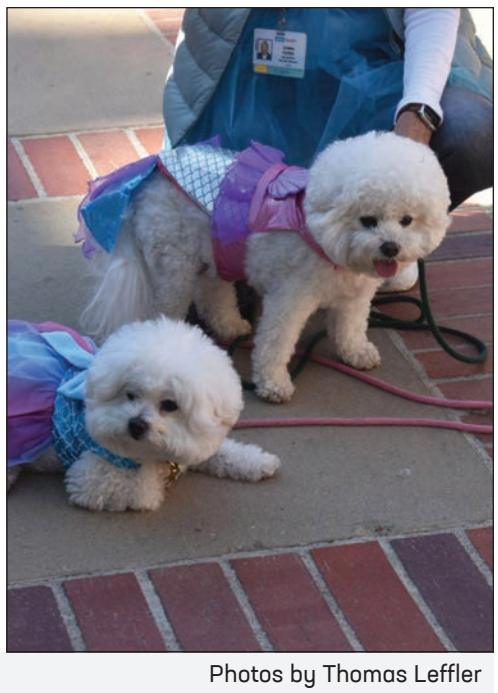
"Everybody loves them," Levin said of the dogs. "Our pediatric patients really support (them), our adult patients, everybody. Our staff also love the dogs, especially during (the COVID-19 pandemic) when people were so stressed, having some pets come by really kind of alleviated the stress for the staff members."

For more information on the PAC initiative, visit uclahealth.org/programs/pac.

thomas@smdp.com







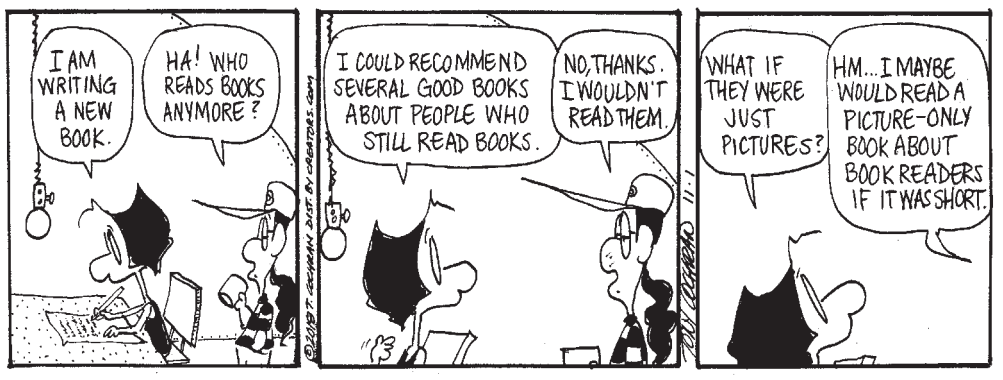
Photos by Thomas Leffler

UCLA: Child patients and staff alike were in the Halloween spirit at UCLA Santa Monica Medical Center.

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Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



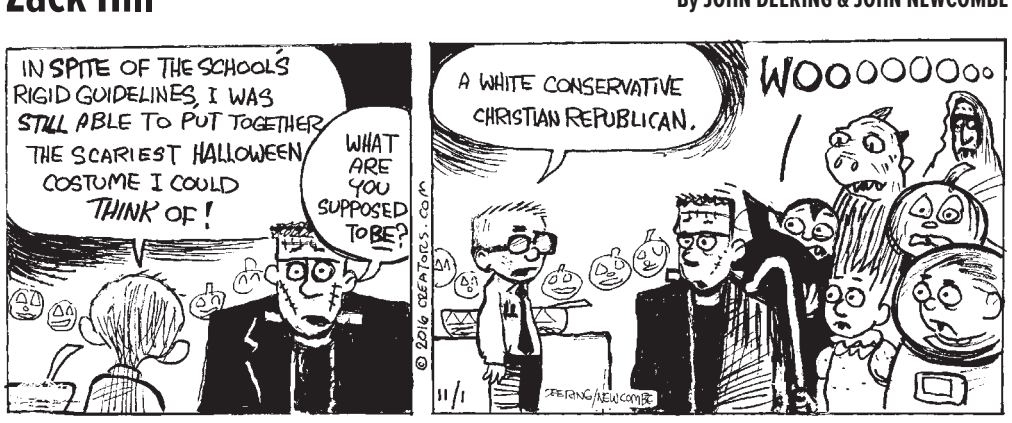
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"WE HAD A LOT LEFT OVER."

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6381

Organic farming

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

Acre	Calf	Easier	Loss	Sunrise
Agist	Care	Eggs	Lush	Task
Algae	Clean	Ewes	Maize	Tree
Annual	Collect	Garden	Patience	Trough
Arable	Cows	Gate	Pens	Tube
Bail	Crop	Geese	Rain	Wamoon
Barn	Danger	Goats	Rake	Wheat
Beef	Dips	Grass	Rams	Yenda
Bins	Dogs	Hay bale	Rich	
Bran	Ducks	Herd	Role	
Break	Dust	Improve	Shed	
Bull	Early	Labour	Stall	

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 1)

Though you put people first, your ambitions still get a fair amount of focus. You'll finally achieve something that's been on your heart for years, and with it, a newfound confidence in your own power. More highlights: Your gift for empathy will shine, opening key connections. You'll adventure with someone who expands your palate of enjoyments. Taurus and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 13, 38, 21 and 16.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Discretion is one of your superpowers, and others can sense it, even if they never quite catch you in action because you're keeping all your cards close to the vest.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). As far as you're concerned, happiness that comes at someone else's expense isn't happiness at all. You make it your business to know what the real story is. Your moral compass is sharp, and you'll seek fairness.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The focus is on relationships and interdependence. Don't hesitate to ask for help and offer it in return; it's how we thrive together. Also, even if it feels like a luxury, take the time to exercise because the mental clarity you gain will be priceless.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your creativity is ever-evolving. You've got the core ideas, and you'll land in a dream collaboration - the sort that doesn't make you second-guess your moves as you commit to turning out the best craft possible.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Too much attention too soon can smother even the best concepts. Let things grow on their own without hovering over them. Your ideas spread like wildfire when they're given space to breathe.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). People won't ask for what they really need. For instance, they ask for advice when they really want approval, or they ask for input when they really want attention, funding, or, in today's case, something more subtle like a feeling of power.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Beware of the smile that spreads across the mouth but never reaches the eyes. The eyes are supposed to be the starting point. Real smiles will come from true hearts and point to sweet opportunities.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Having candy or not having candy isn't a reason to cry. But, just ask any 2-year old, insignificant events can significantly impact the mood for those with a limited perspective. Broadened your perspective and a "candy" crisis will matter less.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's something occupying too much of your mental space. It's draining your energy without offering a solution. Let it go so you can redirect your focus to something productive.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It's a trope of crime movies - the board of pictures, facts, evidence and the red yarn making connections. Today there's a mystery to put together... not a crime, but a complex issue with characters and timelines and connections that are best sorted in a visual way. You're so close to a breakthrough.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You've seen things go off track, and you've also gone the distance with projects that came to full fruition. So while it doesn't always seem like you know what you're doing, on a very basic level you most certainly do, so trust yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Relationships go through different temperatures and tones. Don't let the one that's been simmering for too long become a reductive mess. Welcome a change in any direction to shake things up with spice and intrigue.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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.

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

Newsday Crossword

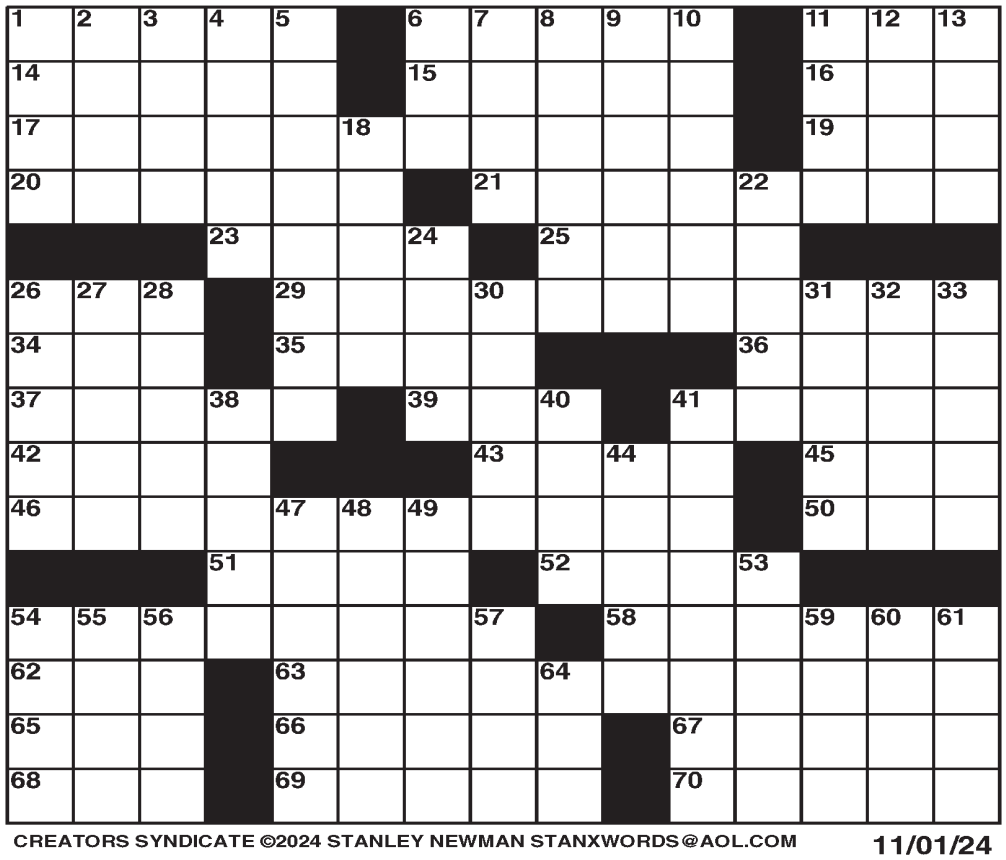
WELL-CONNECTED by Bruce Venzke
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Circle dances
6 German food, informally
11 Jacuzzi nozzle
14 *"__ Mio"*
15 George HW Bush alma mater
16 *Simpsons* grandpa
17 Illegal mailing
19 *Meet the Press* network
20 Dojo discipline
21 Subway slogan
23 Except for
25 Ostrich cousin
26 *NewsHour* network
29 News source
34 Pedometer's starting point
35 Where K2 is
36 Limits of Liverpool
37 Striped pet
39 Code-cracking org.
41 Lyon lasses: Abbr.
42 Manual reader
43 Vet
45 Coll. senior's test
46 Deceive and delay
50 Endorses
51 *The King and I* setting
52 Certain fed
54 *Inside Man* director
58 Madame Curie's hometown
62 "Chocolate" dog
63 Knitting pattern
65 Ancestor to all
66 Semester enders
67 Pour on the theatrics
68 Waterlogged
69 Chat-room administrator
70 Big name in library science

DOWN

1 Get cash for, maybe
2 Labor Dept. arm
3 Guffaw
4 Nom de plume
5 Banished
6 "See ya!"
7 Be worthy of
8 Wedding settings
9 Acquire canines
10 Web browser
11 Christie sleuth
12 Recedes
13 Engineering school, for short
18 Wranglers rival
22 Debussy contemporary
24 Green land
26 DC VIP
27 Big talk
28 Reserved and rational
30 Display stand
31 Volunteer's offer
32 Bob Cratchit's job
33 Alternating turns on racecourses
38 Sharp and stimulating
40 Nerve cell part
41 Made a move
44 Mimics a mouse
47 Some kinfolk
48 Impressive assemblage
49 Simple life
53 Police matter
54 Plethora
55 Do road work
56 "Oh, sure"
57 Falsetto Muppet
59 Store on board
60 Part of Parisian plays
61 Cheesemaking by-product
64 Second sight



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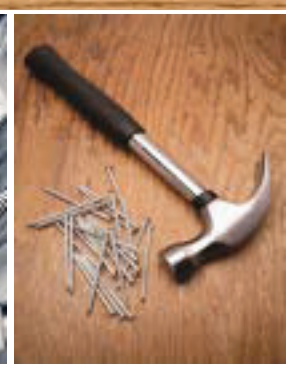
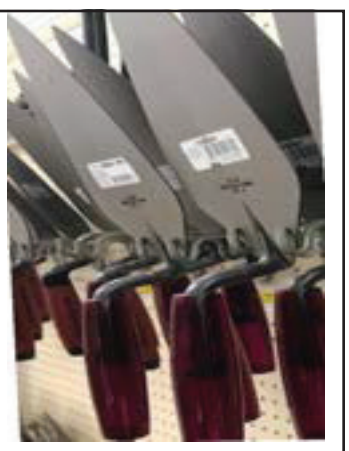
STATEWIDE BALLOT MEASURES:
Prop 2 - Yes
Prop 3 - Yes
Prop 4 - Yes
Prop 5 - Yes
Prop 6 - Yes
Prop 32 - Yes
Prop 33 - Yes
Prop 34 - No
Prop 35 - Yes
Prop 36 - No

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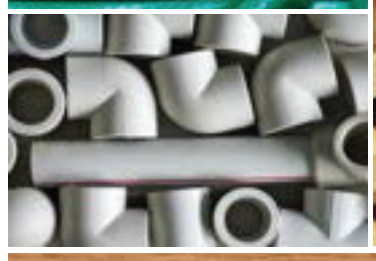
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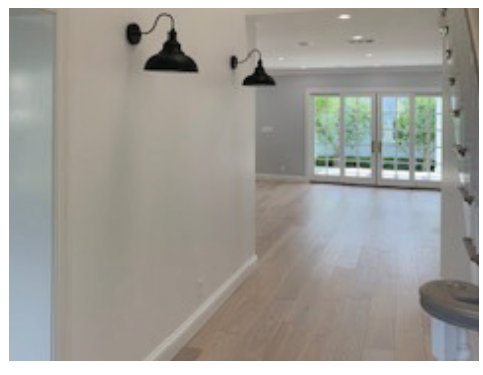
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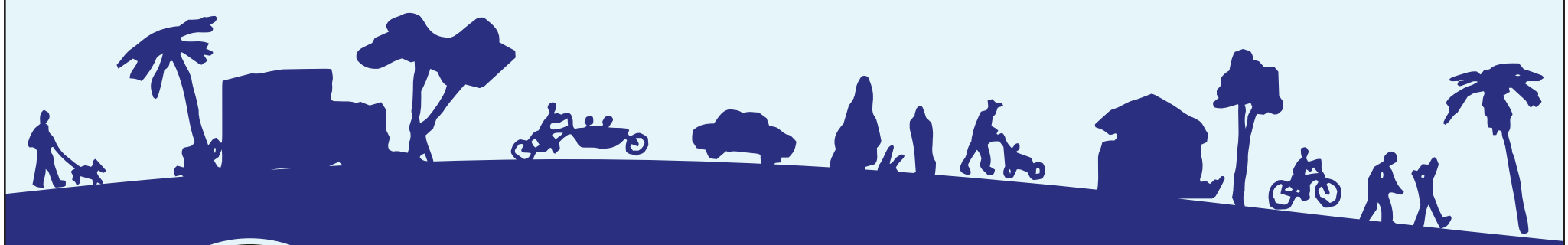
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