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WEDNESDAY
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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Early election results favor progressive candidates









SMDP Photos

ELECTION DAY: Many voters braved the rain yesterday to vote in person. Those votes were counted later in the night delaying results for many races but there was hope for some candidates at their election night events after initial results favored Caroline Torosis, Jesse Zwick and Lana Negrete.

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

Preliminary Santa Monica election results showed Caroline Torosis, Jesse Zwick and Lana Negrete in the lead for city council and incumbents leading the school board race, but results were too early to call by press time.

The LA County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's Office began releasing early voting results shortly after polls closed Tuesday, but most races were too close to call by Daily Press deadline on Tuesday night.

In the City Council race, attorney and Rent Control Board Member Caroline Torosis was in the lead as preliminary votes were counted, followed by fellow progressive candidate Jesse Zwick, incumbent Lana Negrete and a third progressive, Natalya Zernitskaya. Change Slate candidates Armen Melkonians and Albin Gielicz were in sixth and seventh place, respectively, but the race was too early to call with less than one percentage point between third and sixth place.

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) Board of Education incumbents Laurie Lieberman and Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein were in the lead on the school board race as results began to flood in, followed by Stacy Rouse and Alicia Mignano.

In the competition between two seemingly similar but fundamentally different property transfer tax measures, Measure GS — proposing a third tier transfer tax rate of $56 per $1,000 of value for property

SEE **ELECTION** PAGE 6

Parents invited to fentanyl town hall Thursday

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

The local school district is hosting a town hall for parents this week to warn of the dangers of fentanyl amid the ongoing crisis in California, in an effort by the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) to raise awareness about the synthetic drug.

Fentanyl is considered responsible for killing 1,125 people in Los Angeles County in 2020, a staggering increase of 3,917% over the number of fentanyl deaths

SEE **FENTANYL** PAGE 6

Heat, humidity and COVID protocols reveal need for AC repair work in District

GRACE INEZ ADAMS
SMDP Staff Writer

When high temperatures hit Santa Monica this September, the School District's air conditioning technicians were overwhelmed as cooling systems at multiple school sites required urgent service, prompting the District to bring in

SEE **AC WORK** PAGE 5



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Powerball ticket sold in California snags record $2.04B win

STEFANIE DAZIO AND SCOTT MCFETRIDGE
Associated Press

Someone who bought a Powerball ticket in Southern California has won a record $2.04 billion Powerball jackpot after more than three months without anyone hitting the top prize.

The winning numbers were selected Tuesday morning, nearly 10 hours after the scheduled Monday night drawing because of problems processing sales data at one of the game's member lotteries. Lottery officials acknowledged the unprecedented delay for such a high-profile drawing but said the game's security process took precedence.

"Protecting the integrity of the draw is of utmost importance, and we were able to do that during this historic drawing with the cooperation of all participating lotteries," said Drew Svitko, the chairman of the Powerball Product Group and executive director of the Pennsylvania Lottery.

On Tuesday afternoon, the Minnesota Lottery acknowledged their sales verification system caused the lengthy delay.

The winning numbers drawn Tuesday morning at the Florida Lottery draw studio in Tallahassee were: white balls 10, 33, 41, 47 and 56, and the red Powerball was 10.

The jackpot ticket was sold at Joe's Service Center in Altadena, an unincorporated community in the foothills northeast of Los Angeles. For selling the winning ticket, business owner Joe Chahayed will receive a maximum Powerball bonus of $1 million.

"I'm very surprised. Very excited. Very happy," said Chahayed, who wore a bright yellow California Lottery shirt and cap.

Chahayed said he didn't know who won the giant prize but hopes it's someone local.

> "I wish I knew the person but most people who buy tickets from me are from the neighborhood. I hope one of them will be the winner - Joe Chahayed

"I wish I knew the person but most people who buy tickets from me are from the neighborhood. I hope one of them will be the winner," he said.

Chahayed said he would spend his $1 million on his five children and donate some to the community.

Under California rules, the name of the winner must be disclosed but no other information, including the winner's address, has to be made public.

Thomas Murrell said he had stopped at Joe's Tuesday morning with the intention of buying gas and $200 worth of Powerball tickets, in case no one had won the giant jackpot.

"I know Joe. I've known him for years and talk to him all the time," Murrell said. "Joe's always been a lucky guy. He's a good guy. I'm not surprised it happened here."

The $2.04 billion jackpot was by far the largest lottery prize ever won, topping the previous record $1.586 billion prize won by three Powerball ticketholders in 2016. Only four previous jackpots have topped $1 billion, but none of those are close to the current prize, which started at $20 million back on Aug. 6 and has grown over three winless months. No one has won the jackpot since Aug. 3.

The jackpot was initially reported as an estimated $1.9 billion on Monday, but the prize was increased to $2.04 billion Tuesday morning after updated calculations.

The Multi-State Lottery Association said the scheduled drawing was delayed from 10:59 p.m. EST Monday to 8:57 EST a.m. Tuesday because a participating lottery wasn't able to process its sales data. After Minnesota completed its pre-draw procedures, the drawing was able to go ahead.

Marie Hinton, a Minnesota Lottery spokeswoman, said the lottery was reviewing what happened and hoped to report its findings by Wednesday.

Terry Rich, a former director of the Iowa Lottery who also served on the Powerball board, said the delay was likely due to a two-part verification system of ticket sales that makes use of an outside vendor to ensure all is in order before the game's numbers are drawn.

"Each state must verify through a dual process that all of the sales and dollars match before the Multi-State Lottery Association can do the draw," said Rich, who headed the Iowa Lottery for 10 years and was president of the North American Lottery Association. "This is a state-by-state procedure, which separates the whole process and has been very effective."

Rich said state lotteries deal with similar problems several times a year but the delays usually don't attract much attention because the potential jackpots are far less than was up for grabs this week.

The winning numbers and recorded video of the drawing were posted to the Powerball's YouTube channel.

The $2.04 billion prize is for a winner who chooses an annuity, paid annually over 29 years. Nearly all winners instead opt for cash, which was valued at $997.6 million.

The odds of winning the jackpot are 1 in 292.2 million.

The game is played in 45 states, as well as Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

McFetridge reported from Des Moines, Iowa.



COMMUNITY NEWS

LOS ANGELES

Nigerian man sentenced to over 11 years in federal prison for conspiring to launder tens of millions of dollars from scams

A prolific international fraudster who conspired to launder tens of millions of dollars through a series of online scams and flaunted his luxurious, crime-funded lifestyle on social media was sentenced to 135 months in federal prison.

Ramon Olorunwa Abbas, a 40-year-old Nigerian national, also known by his Instagram handle, "Ray Hushpuppi," was sentenced by United States District Judge Otis D. Wright II, who also ordered Abbas to pay $1,732,841 in restitution to two fraud victims.

Abbas pleaded guilty in April 2021 to one count of conspiracy to engage in money laundering. He was arrested in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in June 2020 and has remained in federal custody since his expulsion from the UAE.

"Abbas bragged on social media about his lavish lifestyle – a lifestyle funded by his involvement in transnational fraud and money laundering conspiracies targeting victims around the world," said United States Attorney Martin Estrada. "Money laundering and business email compromise scams are a massive international crime problem, and we will continue to work with our law enforcement and international partners to identify and prosecute those involved, wherever they may be."

"Ramon Abbas, a.k.a. 'Hushpuppi,' targeted both American and international victims, becoming one of the most prolific money launderers in the world," said Don Alway, the Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI's Los Angeles Field Office. "Abbas leveraged his social media platforms – where he amassed a considerable following – to gain notoriety and to brag about the immense wealth he acquired by conducting business email compromise scams, online bank heists and other cyber-enabled fraud that financially ruined scores of victims and provided assistance to the North Korean regime. This significant sentence is the result of years' worth of collaboration among law enforcement in multiple countries and should send a clear warning to international fraudsters that the FBI will seek justice for victims, regardless of whether criminals operate within or outside United States borders."

Abbas conspired with Ghaleb Alaumary, 37, of Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, a convicted money launderer, to launder funds derived from various crimes, including bank cyber-heists, business email compromise (BEC) schemes and other online frauds. BEC schemes typically involve gaining unauthorized access to a business email account and attempting to trick a victim business into making an unauthorized wire transfer.

In January 2019, Abbas conspired with Alaumary to launder funds stolen from a bank in Malta by providing account information for banks in Romania and Bulgaria. The United States has charged North Korean hackers with committing the bank cyber-heist in Malta, and alleged that those funds were destined for the North Korean government. Abbas has admitted that the intended loss with respect to the Maltese bank was approximately $14.7 million.

In May 2019, Abbas conspired with Alaumary to launder millions of pounds stolen from a professional soccer club in the United Kingdom as well as a British company. In connection with that scheme, Abbas provided Alaumary with details for a bank account in Mexico that "could handle millions and not block," according to court documents.

Abbas also fraudulently induced a New York-based law firm in October 2019 to transfer approximately $922,857 to an account that a co-conspirator controlled under someone else's name.

Alaumary was charged separately and pleaded guilty in November 2020 to one count of conspiracy to engage in money laundering. He is serving a 140-month federal prison sentence and was ordered to pay more than $30 million in restitution.

Abbas also admitted in his plea agreement to conspiring with others to defraud an individual in Qatar who sought a loan of $15 million to build a school.

At the sentencing hearing, Judge Wright ordered Abbas to pay $922,857 in restitution to the law firm victim and $809,983 in restitution to the businessperson in Qatar.

Abbas and another conspirator duped the victim businessperson into paying approximately $330,000 to fund an "investor's account" to facilitate the loan. Abbas specifically directed the victim to send $100,000 to a bank account controlled by a co-conspirator, and $230,000 to the bank account of a luxury watch seller. Abbas used those funds for his personal benefit, including purchasing a $230,000 Richard Mille RM11-03 watch, which he arranged to have brought to him from New York to Dubai. The watch made numerous appearances on Abbas' wrist on his now-defunct Instagram account, often with the hashtag #RichardMille.

Approximately $50,000 of proceeds from the scheme were used to fraudulently acquire a St. Christopher (St. Kitts) and Nevis citizenship and a passport for Abbas through a sham marriage to a St. Kitts citizen.

In January and February 2020, Abbas and another conspirator corresponded with the victim businessperson, attempting to fraudulently induce a further payment of $575,000 in purported taxes to release the $15 million loan. In February 2020, the victim sent approximately $299,983 to Kenyan bank accounts specified by another conspirator. In March 2020, Abbas fraudulently induced the victim to send another $180,000 to U.S.-based bank accounts; those funds were subsequently laundered with assistance from several co-conspirators.

"By his own admission, during just an 18-month period defendant conspired to launder over $300 million," prosecutors wrote in a sentencing memorandum. "While much of this intended loss did not ultimately materialize, [Abbas'] willingness and ability to participate in large-scale money laundering highlights the seriousness of his criminal conduct."

The FBI investigated this matter as part of Operation Top Dog. The FBI thanks the government of the United Arab Emirates and the Dubai Police Department for their substantial assistance in this matter.

Assistant United States Attorney Khaldoun Shobaki of the Cyber and Intellectual Property Crimes Section prosecuted this case. The Justice Department Criminal Division's Office of International Affairs provided substantial assistance in this matter.

SUBMITTED BY THOM MROZEK, DIRECTOR OF MEDIA RELATIONS U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Chip, chip, chipping away at residential neighborhoods

Editor:

On November 2, the Planning Commission approved a new liquor store in a residential neighborhood. Big developers have found a loophole in the zoning code that allows them to build 'General Markets' in any multi family residentially zoned neighborhood. And sell liquor.

This case involves a vacant lot on the NWC of 2nd St and Hill St in Ocean Park, zoned Ocean Park Low Density Residential (OP2). The lot had 3 units of rent controlled apartments that were demolished without a permit in 1989. Developer Redcar bought the lot for $3.9 million for use as parking for their adjacent commercial project on Main St.

When confronted with the requirement of residential use, instead of building 3 units of housing, Redcar is putting in 2 residential units plus an alcohol serving market. The legislative history of the 'General Markets' section of code was to allow legacy non-conforming markets to continue operating – not to build new commercial in residential neighborhoods. And certainly not on a property that is within 300 feet of a commercial district.

Amongst those speaking against the project was the pastor of one of the churches and a Main St liquor store owner. Despite being adjacent to 2 churches and 2 preschools, and 100 feet away from the plethora of bars and liquor stores on Main St, the Planning Commission chose to ignore the clear language of the zoning code and the concerns of more than 45 neighbors who are already dealing daily with the negative spillover effects of all the alcohol on Main St. Giving the green light to any developer that wants to put a liquor store in any multi-family neighborhood.

Mark Gorman, Santa Monica

CRIME WATCH

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

ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29 AT 7:10 P.M.

Officers were dispatched to a call regarding an indecent exposure on the 2000 block of 20th St. The arriving officers located a subject matching the description given by dispatch and detained him while they spoke to the victim. The victim relayed that she saw the individual exposing and sexually gratifying himself. She was alarmed and called her mother who had experienced a similar situation with a subject matching his description. Officers conducted a field show-up where the victims confirmed his identity. Michael Antoine Britt was arrested for indecent exposure.

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WINNER

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Downtown

ETHOS FILM FESTIVAL moves from Las Vegas to Santa Monica

The ETHOS FILM AWARDS, founded by actor/filmmaker Anabelle D. Munro and a team of passionate industry professionals, comes to Santa Monica in November.

Official selections will be presented on an online platform. All finalists will screen at the renowned Laemmle Monica Film Center or their co-producing partner facility at Santa Monica College's Public Policy Institute as part of ETHOS' live screenings and special event schedules with special guests and panelists from Nov. 10-13. The festival will also screen three student films from the award-winning SMC Film Program—recently ranked as one of the top film schools in North America by MovieMaker. Local veteran film director Henry Jaglom's "Train to Zakopané" headlines as the opening night movie on Nov. 10, at 6 p.m.

One of ETHOS' celebrities attending is Cindy Cowan who will be leading the first workshop at SMC on Nov. 10. Cowan along with Kevin Smith will be receiving a special ETHOS Impact Award for their outstanding contributions to "Conquering Disability with Film."

Festival organizers pick circa 150 projects to screen and present 20 awards for genres that are atypical of other awards—with judges looking at outstanding achievements in film and written work in categories focusing on values such as courage, sustainability, tolerance, diversity and inclusion, addiction recovery, and social justice. Submissions have been received by up-and-coming filmmakers in over 27 countries.

There is also a Next Generation award for content created by children under 18 years old. The festival is open to all genres. Artists who take creative approaches to break a genre stereotype have proved to be the most acclaimed.

EVENT SCHEDULE

A kick-off Hollywood event on Nov. 9.

Opening Weekend (Nov.10-11) includes two red carpet special events. Official selections will be shown on ETHOS Film Festival's online platform Filmocracy from Nov. 1-15.

Finalists will screen at the Laemmle Monica Film Center (the Laemmle) and at Santa Monica College (SMC), which is partnering with the festival to present screenings and in-person events. Panels for the festival will also be meeting during that time at both locations.

The Laemmle and SMC are hosting in-person events throughout the festival Nov. 10-13. The primary morning panel, hosted and presented by Munro, will be at SMC. Theater screenings begin between noon and 1 p.m. and end between 10 and 11 p.m. at both locations.

The ETHOS Film Festival is planning special ticketed events at SMC, including a casting director workshop and a writer's event that features books and scriptwriting collaborations.

Tickets for a single showing can be $15 — whilst the full festival pass (online and live) go for $145, with the top tier Platinum Pass at $275 and includes the VIP after show party, special events, and full access to the online library of selections up for audience choice awards from Nov. 1 - Nov. 15.

Audience choice winners will be announced on Nov. 13 during the award show at 6 p.m. For more information, visit: filmfreeway.com/ETHOSfilmawards

SUBMITTED BY

Los Angeles

Man sentenced to 3½ years in prison for role in 'SIM Swapping' that led to account takeovers and $122,000 in losses

A Clarkston, Michigan man was sentenced today to 42 months in federal prison for his role in a series of "SIM swapping" schemes that allowed him and his confederates to take control of online accounts, which resulted in the theft of cryptocurrency, causing more than $28,000 in losses.

Anthony Joseph Carlson, 25, also conducted a separate "phishing" scheme to hijack valuable Instagram accounts, which he was able to monetize. And he defrauded other victims by selling stolen Instagram accounts, causing additional losses of over $93,000.

Carlson was sentenced by United States District Judge Percy Anderson, who scheduled a hearing for January 18, 2023, to determine the amount of restitution that the defendant will be ordered to pay to approximately 10 individuals and companies.

Carlson pleaded guilty on August 22 to four felony offenses – two counts of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and two counts of unauthorized access to a protected computer to obtain information.

Judge Anderson today emphasized the seriousness of the cybercrimes by saying, "It's the same as if the defendant was actually robbing the victims," later adding, "You don't get a break because you used a computer."

SIM swapping is fraud in which cell phone service providers are tricked into reassigning a victim's cell phone number to a new cell phone controlled by a fraudster, without the victim's knowledge or authorization. The new cell phone device has a new Subscriber Identification Module (SIM), thus, SIM swapping. After hijacking a victim's phone service, a SIM swapper is able to receive communications intended for the victim, including password reset codes for a victim's online accounts. Carlson worked with others in SIM swapping schemes to reset victim account passwords, take over victims' online accounts and steal cryptocurrency.

Carlson participated in two separate conspiracies to use SIM swapping to gain unauthorized access to the email, financial and social media accounts of the victims to steal cryptocurrency. One scheme that did not result in any actual losses involved the takeover of a Coinbase account in order to steal $10,000 in cryptocurrency, and a second involved the takeover of a Facebook account that allowed Carlson and a co-conspirator to obtain cryptocurrency from two friends of the person whose account had been compromised.

As a result of a separate phishing scheme – in which Carlson sent emails purporting to be from a legitimate source to induce victims to reveal information, including personal identifying information and passwords – he was able to gain control of valuable Instagram accounts with large numbers of followers. Carlson told the victims who owned the Instagram accounts that he wanted to purchase advertising on their accounts, but he needed to first determine how valuable their accounts were for marketing purposes. Carlson convinced the victims to download his purported analytics software, which had a spoofed website name almost identical to a commonly used Instagram analytics software, and they were tricked into providing their Instagram usernames and passwords, which Carlson used to take over their Instagram accounts to monetize for his personal gain.

Carlson also obtained stolen Instagram accounts from others and then re-sold them to other victims for thousands of dollars. In another scheme, Carlson collected money for advertising on Instagram accounts he did not actually control.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation conducted the investigation in this matter. Assistant United States Attorney Lisa E. Feldman of the Cyber and Intellectual Property Crimes Section prosecuted this case.

SUBMITTED BY THOM MROZEK, DIRECTOR OF MEDIA RELATIONS U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

AC WORK

FROM PAGE 1

an outside company for assistance.

At last week's Nov. 3 School Board meeting, members approved a resolution to authorize district-wide emergency air conditioning repair and maintenance work and awarded a contract for the service to the same company,

> "The systems that we put in are not really quite planned to do all of those things, particularly in a hot, and especially in a humid environment - Carey Upton

Pardess Air Inc., with an anticipated cost of up to $350,000.

While Chief Operations Officer Carey Upton stressed that the September heat wave was "unprecedented," as climate change continues to push temperatures upwards it is likely extreme heat events will continue to occur with more frequency.

Up until about five years ago, most SMMUSD buildings did not have air conditioning. Now, according to Upton, it has been installed in close to 95% of classrooms and offices, but the recent high temperatures, coupled with intense humidity and COVID protocols – which require higher levels of filtration and recommend keeping doors and windows open – have pushed the system to its limit and revealed the need for the work.

"The systems that we put in are not really quite planned to do all of those things, particularly in a hot, and especially in a humid environment," Upton said. "A lot of the emergency repairs that we had to do had to do with going where we had excessive condensation, like I said, it was a much higher humidity than what we normally see and with the windows and doors open it really created a lot of condensation which made systems overwork and shut down."

In line with public health guidelines Upton said the district has also installed MERV 13 filters which are capable of capturing finer particles and preventing the spread of disease through the air, but must be replaced more frequently.

"We're filling up our filters much faster," he said. "Usually whenever we're using MERV 7s, MERV 9s, we replace these filters six months, every nine months. With the MERV 13s we're now replacing those up to once every three months... so we're having a hard time keeping up."

Until recently the District only had two heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) technicians on staff. A third was just hired and began work this week and Upton said they are in the process of searching for a fourth.

In addition to keeping classrooms cool, Board President Maria Leon-Vazquez raised the topic of the kitchen at Will Rogers Learning Community, which, like over half of school kitchens in the District, does not currently have air conditioning.

"We really need to look at that," she said. "Not just that but the other areas we feel need it too."

Upton said the issue was already in the process of being prepared as an agenda item for a future meeting.

The Board approved the emergency work authorization and awarding of the contract unanimously with a 4-0 vote. Board members Jon Kean and Craig Foster were not present at the meeting.

grace@smdp.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

Citywide

Teen joins Jewish leadership summit

Josh Eghbalieh has always had leadership energy to him and a desire to make a difference. This past Sunday Josh represented Santa Monica as the local CTeen leader at the Southern California CTeen Leadership Training Program in Pacific Palisades.

CTeen of Santa Monica, a branch of CTeen International, the world's leading Jewish youth network, is one of the most active Jewish teen groups on the west side. The members of CTeen-Santa Monica, have created a place for the teens to belong, and a space which celebrates Jewish pride, holidays, and giving back to the community.

Every year, "CTeeners" are chosen from each city to be the leaders of their respective chapters. The leaders of every region attend a training and development course where they learn from great lecturers, previous leaders, and fellow teens. The topics are carefully designed to give over what it takes to be an effective Jewish leader in today's times addressing instilling Jewish identity, marketing, public speaking, motivating the unmotivated, and so much more. The program also marks the Jewish Year of Gathering, known by the Hebrew name Hakhel.

"I had lots of fun learning about what it means to be a leader and how I can develop that for the coming year," said Josh. Rabbi Menachem Levitansky, the local CTeen co-director, helped coordinate the event. "Our goal is that the teenagers themselves should take the initiative. We want to empower our youth to be creative in their style and fashion. Herein is the greatest work of the leaders. They are tuned to what would engage their social groups, but are also instilled with a higher purpose to gather Jewish kids together and create a warm community. I feel blessed to be working with them," said Levitansky.

To find out more information about Jewish teen programs on the west side, visit www.cteensm.com or call 310-994-3532.

SUBMITTED BY SHMAYA HECHT

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FENTANYL

FROM PAGE 1

reported just five years earlier in 2015, when 28 people overdosed on fentanyl countywide.

The Associated Press calls the abundance of fentanyl flooding U.S. drug markets "an overdose crisis deadlier than any the U.S. has ever seen." According to the AP, the federal government counted more accidental overdose deaths in 2021 alone than it did in the 20-year period from 1979 through 1998. Many of those are due to fentanyl, a lab-produced synthetic opioid that is found more and more laced into other drugs such as cocaine, methamphetamine and various pills.

The CDC considers fentanyl to be up to 50 times as potent as heroin and 80 to 100 times more powerful than morphine. According to the County Department of Public Health, in 2021, fentanyl was identified in about 77% of adolescent overdose deaths nationally. Fentanyl and methamphetamine-related overdose deaths have increased in Los Angeles County even prior to the pandemic and continue to rise at an alarming rate.

Between April 2021 and October 2022, the California Department of Justice seized more than 4 million fentanyl pills and nearly 900 pounds of fentanyl powder, according to AP reporting.

Here in Santa Monica, three local students reportedly overdosed in late May this year after taking fentanyl-laced drugs. All three were SMMUSD students and survived the ordeal after being hospitalized. A year earlier, Santa Monica teen Sammy Berman Chapman was killed after ingesting a fentanyl-laced pill he purchased from a dealer on the social media app Snapchat, which he mistakenly believed to be Xanax.

In response, back in June, the SMMUSD pledged to step up outreach efforts, with Drati publicly stating the school district would schedule a series of hands-on educational workshops for students and parents at Virginia Avenue Park, but as of November those have not occurred.

The SMMUSD town hall on fentanyl is scheduled for Thursday evening, Nov. 10, at 7 p.m. and will be available to attend in person or virtually via Zoom. It is being hosted by the parent teacher organizations at John Adams Middle School (JAMS), Lincoln Middle School and Samohi, but all parents and teachers from SMMUSD schools are welcome to attend.

Drug Awareness Foundation's Juli Shamash and Clare | Matrix's Jolan Dawson will speak at the town hall to discuss the dangers of fentanyl, describe how teenagers acquire drugs today, and present ways for parents and teachers to protect kids.

Students are not invited to the talk, according to information from the District.

"This conversation will be geared for parents; it would not be appropriate to bring students to this presentation," an official flier for the event states.

Those who would like to attend in person can go to the JAMS Performing Arts Center Studio at 2425 16th Street. Those who prefer to attend virtually can do so at bit.ly/parentedptsa.

The panel is also accepting questions ahead of time to bit.ly/3D04gIz.

emily@smdp.com

ELECTION

FROM PAGE 1

transfers of $8,000,000 or more — had taken just over 50% of early votes reported. The other property transfer tax proposal, Measure DT — proposing an additional incremental tax of $25 per $1,000 of the value in excess of $8 million — had received just 33% of votes counted by Tuesday night.

Measure CS, an increase to transient occupancy tax, had taken a healthy lead with 73% of early votes.

As of 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, LA County was reporting on 979,859 ballots counted; about 87% of those were vote by mail ballots, to 13% in-person. Information on Santa Monica voter turnout was not yet available. More results were to be released in coming days, with final vote certification due later in November.

Despite some anecdotal complaints on social media, voters and election workers from across Santa Monica reported positive attitudes and bright smiles at Vote Centers on Election Day and throughout early voting.

"People have been very positive. I've gotten a lot of thank-yous from voters on their way out," Santa Monica Democratic Club volunteer Janine Bush said Tuesday. Bush was at the end of a three-hour shift handing out fliers. Standing on the sidewalk outside the 100-foot Vote Center perimeter, Bush said even from that distance she could feel the positive energy at the National Typewriter Company Vote Center.

"I enjoy it to see the civic engagement — it never gets old," Bush added.

Workers at the location also said voters had been "very friendly and up-beat."

Attendance varied across the city with some vote centers, like Roosevelt Elementary School, filling up while others were quiet. Poll workers at Joscyln Park said they had seen a steady stream of 4-6 voters throughout the day, far fewer than the 15 they were set up to accommodate.

Election workers at the National Typewriter Company location in the early afternoon on Tuesday reported they had been busy all day, despite the Vote Center's peculiar location at Olympic Boulevard and Euclid Street — a dead end. Parking there was sparse and the Vote Center entrance was not visible from busy Olympic, but short lines were forming on and off in the early afternoon. This came after three very slow days of early voting, workers at the location shared.

Some Santa Monica residents at both Roosevelt and Joscyln park were surprised to learn they couldn't vote in the Los Angeles mayor's race between Rick Caruso and Karen Bass.

New Santa Monica resident Emily Meyer opted for same-day voter registration and said the whole process went off without a hitch. Meyer learned of same-day registration, Googled the nearest Vote Center and was able to cast a ballot on Tuesday without waiting in line. The inclement weather did not dampen the new voter's spirits.

"I'm from the East Coast, so rain doesn't really bother me," Meyer said.

National Typewriter Company proved a popular Vote Center among the nine centers open in Santa Monica on Election Day; later in the evening, state Sen. Ben Allen, an incumbent running to retain his seat representing CA Senate District 26, posted on social media that he and his family voted there in person.

emily@smdp.com

Beach Water Use Advisory



Matthew Hall

BEACH: The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) cautions residents who are planning to visit Los Angeles County beaches to be careful of swimming, surfing, and playing in ocean waters due to possible contamination caused by storm drain discharge. Ocean and bay recreational waters, especially near discharging storm drains, creeks and rivers can be contaminated with bacteria, chemicals, debris, trash, and other public health hazards from city streets and mountain areas after a rain fall. Individuals who enter the water in these areas could become ill. Rain advisories remain in effect for 72 hours after the rainfall ends. Advisory for ALL County beaches until Thursday, November 10, at 3 p.m. Recorded information on beach conditions is available 24- hours a day on the County's beach closure hotline: 1-800-525-5662. Information is also available online at: PublicHealth.LACounty.gov/Beach/.

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Mark Ernest Ulrich

October 22, 2022

Mark Ernest Ulrich passed unexpectedly in his sleep on October 22, 2022. He is survived by his daughters Taylor Thompson and Sophia Torres-Ulrich who were the center of his world. A true Santa Monica native, Mark attended Lincoln Middle School and Santa Monica High School. He then went on to receive a bachelor's degree from UCLA before starting his long tenure with Poms and Associates, where he served as Vice President.

Mark had a deep love for Santa Monica and the children of the community. He was a father, a mentor, a coach and a friend to many. A life-long athlete, Mark was always in motion. You could often find him riding his bike, hiking, swimming, and body surfing. His soul lives on forever in the wind, the sand, and the waves.

He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and everyone who had the honor of knowing him. A celebration of life and love was held by his family at Lifeguard Tower 26 on Santa Monica Beach on Saturday, November 5th. In lieu of gifts, the family requests that any donations be made in his name directly to Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services.

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 9)

You live by your own creed and follow your own advice. This self-respect makes you powerful. Your influence is often indirect, but it does just what you need. Your instincts are hot regarding investment. More highlights: a long-term contract, family pride and a change of style that does just what you want it to. Leo and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 4, 44, 16 and 5.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The usually easy task of discerning between what's crucial and what's not will now be illogically challenging. Nonessentials go masquerading as luxuries and vice versa. You sense what's important. Trust that.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There's something about the group dynamic that makes everything easier for you. When you share with others, you feel vital and capable. You'll make a difference in your own life and the world at large.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Positive thinking isn't always the way. Sometimes it helps to acknowledge your worry or consider what could go wrong. You won't dwell in it, rather you'll use it to make a better plan.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The truth is like a mustard seed. It doesn't need to be planted very deep to grow. You'll speak honestly and keep it light. Humor helps everyone accept a reality. It's the first step to improvement.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When the problem is solved but nothing changes, it makes you think maybe you were solving the wrong problem. You'll get the best perspective from people who aren't involved at all. Try to see it from an outsider's point of view.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're appreciated more than you know, but unless they tell you, what difference does it make to you? This is why you go out of your way to make sure the people around you feel seen, heard and acknowledged.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Before you put more time and money into improving a thing, ask yourself what's really necessary. Think of the big picture and all you could give your resources to. Sometimes it's wasteful to focus too small.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Whatever you are curious about, get deeper into it. Go ahead and tackle the big questions. There's much good that comes of asking how things might be accomplished, especially seemingly impossible things.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're in a thoughtful mood. Your reactions to things may take longer than usual because you want to let things sink in. Understanding the deeper levels and meanings changes everything about your experience.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). After you make your point — you will have many to make over the day's discourse — don't forget to wait for a response. It's the response of others that will illuminate the path to success.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Acknowledge your true feelings, whatever they may be. This ensures that you'll have the best start on your journey toward a gleaming goal. Your success will depend on accurately projecting the future outcome of possible actions.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The digital clutter in your life takes up no room at all, but it's still something to consider and sort through. It might be argued that how you organize your desktop is how you organize your mind.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

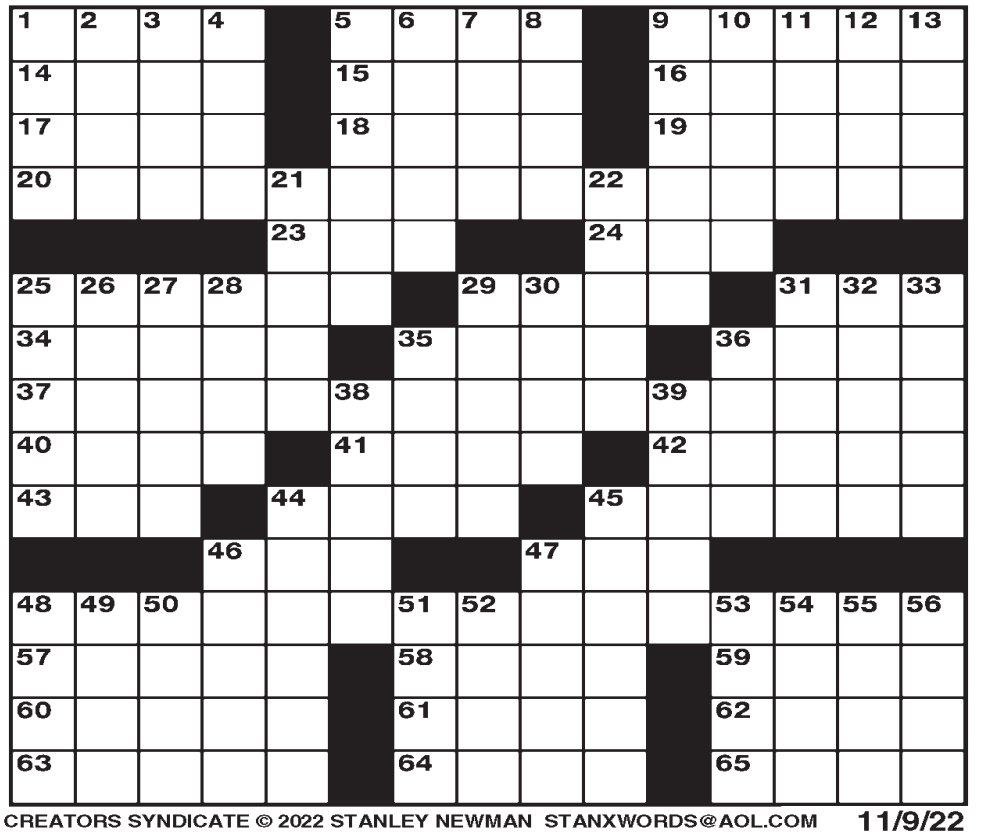
4			9					8
	2						6	
3		9		6			1	
7			6		5	8		1
		5		9		2		
1		3	8		4			5
	6			4		7		9
	5						8	
2					9			6

Newsday Crossword

FRIENDS OF CLAUDIO by Steve Faiella
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Grocery sacks
5 Voice below soprano
9 Sports squads
14 Cream-filled cookie
15 Sidewalk's edge
16 Short summary
17 Make airtight
18 Quartet minus one
19 Indoor sports venue
20 Heart-healthy gym routines
23 AMA members
24 Chowed down
25 Coconut Girl Scout cookies
29 Annoys
31 Castaway's dwelling
34 Piece of fabric
35 Genealogy diagram
36 Sheet of glass
37 "Satellite" music programs
40 Iowa State University city
41 Watermelon covering
42 Bandleader's signal to play
43 Office seeker, for short
44 Drains of energy
45 Hardly ever
46 Off-road auto, for short
47 Sounds of satisfaction
48 Participants in "live" TV shows
57 Place for a boutonniere
58 High-fiber cereal
59 Money in Spain
60 Take in a shelter dog
61 Frozen waffle brand
62 Jockey's strap
63 Would like to have
64 Catches sight of
65 Praiseful poems

DOWN
1 Variety of pear
2 Vicinity
3 Auto transmission selection
4 Got money for
5 Cast members
6 Entices
7 Longtime cereal "for kids"
8 Woodwind instrument
9 Land parcels
10 Spooky
11 Top poker cards
12 Lion's hair
13 Relaxing resorts
21 Potato state
22 Gathered leaves
25 Paper fragment
26 San Antonio landmark
27 Fashion-show strutter
28 Big name in elevator history
29 Golf clubs that aren't woods
30 Enjoy a book
31 Reckless speed
32 No later than
33 In a bad mood
35 Stumble while walking
36 Twosome
38 Operagoer's "Well done!"
39 Run after
44 Clown's walking props
45 Nose-horned African beasts
46 Expert (at)
47 Traditional maxim
48 Shredded cabbage
49 "And here it is!"
50 "Once __ a time . . ."
51 $5 bills, informally
52 Push for
53 Infamous Roman emperor
54 Given a signal on stage
55 A Great Lake
56 Boys in the family

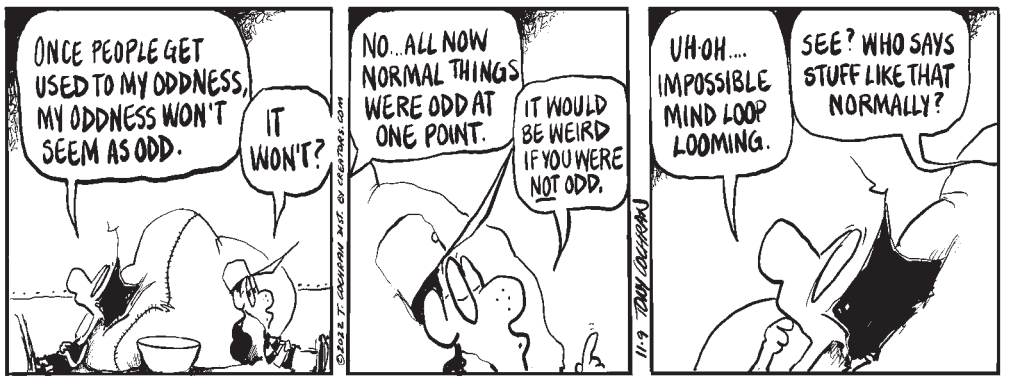


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MORE OF STAN'S CROSSWORDS! Play FREE from Stan's archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords

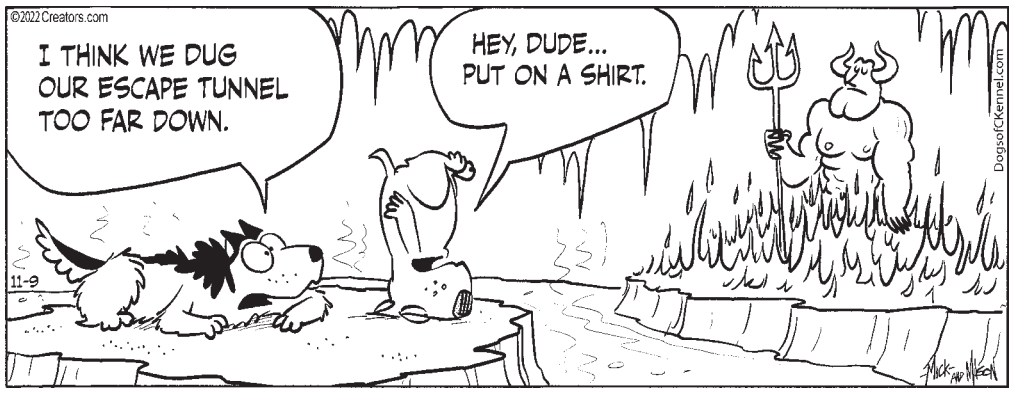
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



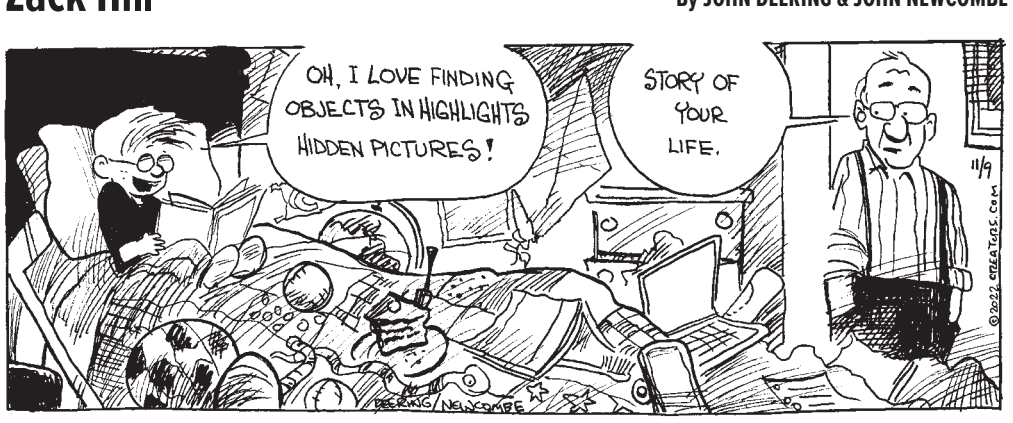
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



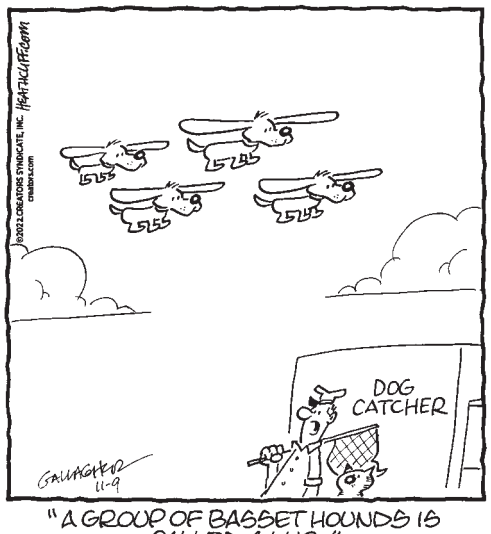
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



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

© australianwordgames.com.au 5658

Wouldn't it be nice

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

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Action
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Boat
Bouquet
Casino
Chic
Cigar
Cruise
Debts
Draw
Envy
Faro
Flight
Gain
Gold
Happy
Holiday
House
Idle
Kids
Lotto
Lucky
Maid
Money
Mortgage
News
Nice
Numbers
Omen
Proceeds
Purse
Quit
Relax
Restaurant
Risk
Shock
Streak
Sunny
Toast
Tour
Unbelievable
Utopia
Wealth
Wept
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SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

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What's Up Westside

out and about in Santa Monica

WEDNESDAY | NOVEMBER 9

CLEAN BEACHES & OCEAN COMMITTEE MEETING
A meeting of the Clean Beaches & Ocean Parcel Tax Citizens' Oversight Committee. An agenda will be posted online closer to the meeting date at https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PublicWorks/ContentCivEng.aspx. 6:30 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL GAMES WEEK: FAMILY GAMES
Challenge fellow game enthusiasts at family board games. For All Ages. Pico Branch Library. 4 - 5 p.m.

THURSDAY | NOVEMBER 10

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

LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
The mission of the Santa Monica Public Library Board is to support and have charge of the administration of the Santa Monica Public Library. Agenda: https://smpl.org/Library_Board.aspx. Main Library. 6 - 8 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL GAMES WEEK: FAMILY GAMES
Challenge fellow game enthusiasts at family board games. For All Ages. Montana Avenue Branch Library. 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

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

FRIDAY | NOVEMBER 11

WINE & CHEESE TASTING AT LUNETTA
Join Lunetta for a night of wine and cheese on Friday, November 11th, 2022 in the Gallery Room & All Day Room. This is a unique experience where you will be able to taste wines from the local Lumen winery of Santa Barbara County and learn about the wines from their dedicated staff. Along with a curated cheese board from Eric Brazel, who is an established cheese guru. There will be two tasting time slots, one starting at 6:30pm and 7:30pm. $42 - $65. https://www.instagram.com/p/CkcAaOIAMfL/

SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 12

DRESS BRITISH THINK YIDDISH
The Santa Monica Playhouse Benefit Series presents Suzanne Levy's Dress British Think Yiddish. Bangers and mash at school lunch, chopped liver with gribenes at home; morris dancing with jingling bells, the kazatzkah at family weddings; politely murmuring "biscuit anyone?" at work as a BBC producer, kvetching about cold kneidlach at Friday night family dinners. Writer/performer Suzanne Levy juggles the tsuris and joy of sparring identities in this funny, poignant solo play about growing up Jewish in the UK. All proceeds support the Santa Monica Playhouse Keep the Open Doors Campaign. Santa Monica Playhouse Main Stage 1211 4th Street. $25, Tickets available online at https://www.showclix.com/event/suzanne-levy-s-dress-british-think-yiddish

PICO FARMERS MARKET
The family market in the heart of the Pico neighborhood's Virginia Avenue Park. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 13

MAIN STREET FARMERS MARKET
The Sunday Main Street Farmers Market features some of California's freshest produce plus prepared foods from local Main Street restaurants as well as artisanal foods prepared with ingredients sourced from California farmers. Main Street, 2640 Main Street. 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

MONDAY | NOVEMBER 14

LANDMARKS COMMISSION MEETING
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." 7 p.m. https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Landmarks-Commission/

TUESDAY | NOVEMBER 15

THE ART OF SELLING IN THE DIGITAL AGE
In this interactive workshop from Youthful Savings, teens will learn how to harness the power of the internet and use digital tools to market their creations, and economically empower themselves and their communities. For ages 13-18 only. Pico Branch Library, 5 - 6 p.m.

MYSTERY BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION
Join a community-led discussion of an exciting mystery novel each month. Currently held on Zoom. Email library@santamonica.gov to join. 7 - 8 p.m.

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



SURF REPORT

WATER TEMP: **62.1**

WEDNESDAY *POOR*	**SURF:** 3-4ft Waist to chest	Chunky NW swell mix on tap through the day from coastal storm. Wind is light NW early then builds from the WNW through the day. South facing spots that handle the tide and pull in NW swell are the best shot at a decent morning.
THURSDAY *FAIR*	**SURF:** 2-3ft Thigh to waist	Smaller mix of NW and SSW swells could be enough for a couple of modest peaks. Wind looking nice for the morning at this point but you'll want to keep that deep mid-morning high tide in mind.

WEATHER

Wednesday: A 30 percent chance of showers before 10am. Mostly sunny, with a high near 58.
Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 43. North northeast wind around 10 mph.
Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 61. North northeast wind around 5 mph.
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 47.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2022/11/09	Wed	02:33 AM	1.93	L
2022/11/09	Wed	08:48 AM	6.18	H
2022/11/09	Wed	3:58 PM	-0.41	L
2022/11/09	Wed	10:24 PM	3.76	H
2022/11/10	Thu	02:57 AM	2.30	L
2022/11/10	Thu	09:14 AM	5.99	H
2022/11/10	Thu	4:38 PM	-0.27	L
2022/11/10	Thu	11:18 PM	3.50	H
2022/11/11	Fri	03:21 AM	2.64	L
2022/11/11	Fri	09:43 AM	5.70	H
2022/11/11	Fri	5:21 PM	-0.03	L
2022/11/12	Sat	12:25 AM	3.30	H
2022/11/12	Sat	03:42 AM	2.93	L
2022/11/12	Sat	10:14 AM	5.36	H
2022/11/12	Sat	6:10 PM	0.25	L
2022/11/13	Sun	10:51 AM	4.97	H
2022/11/13	Sun	7:09 PM	0.53	L
2022/11/14	Mon	11:41 AM	4.55	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: 11/7
10 33 41 47 56
Power#: 10
Jackpot: 20 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 11/4
2 20 47 55 59
Mega#: 19
Jackpot: 154 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 11/5
3 15 21 38 42
Mega#: 24
Jackpot: 40 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 11/7
1 8 15 22 34

Daily 3
Draw Date: 11/7
EVENING: 6 0 9
Draw Date: 11/7
MIDDAY: 9 7 6

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 11/7
1st: 12 - Lucky Charms
2nd: 08 - Gorgeous George
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:48.06

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