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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Son arrested for killing his mother early Saturday morning

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) has arrested a man after he stabbed and killed his mother on Saturday, November 16.

According to SMPD, officers responded to an aggravated assault call at an apartment in the 1100 block of 12th Street at about 5:30am on Saturday. At the scene a man told officers his brother had stabbed their mother several times.

"Upon arrival, officers located two male adults [brothers] and removed them from the apartment. An elderly female was down inside, suffering from several upper body stab wounds," said SMPD in a statement. "Our officers rendered emergency medical aid to the victim until the arrival of SMFD paramedics. The victim was transported to a local hospital. She died of her wounds on the way."

"The suspect, 43-year-old Vernon Jeremiah Harris, lives at the location with his mother, the victim, and two older brothers. Harris has no known criminal history. He may have physical and developmental disabilities. The brother who called police acts as a caregiver for Harris and their mother. The brother woke up this morning when he heard his mother yelling for help. When he

SEE **KILLING** PAGE 5

Compass Rose at SMO designated as a historical landmark in unanimous vote

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

The Compass Rose, a 12-point circular magnetic compass, painted nearly 100 years ago onto the tarmac at the northwest corner of Santa Monica Airport, was officially designated as a historic landmark, in a unanimous vote of 7-0 last week.

The first incarnation was originally painted circa 1929, but it's been modified and moved for one reason or another a couple of times. Used as an early aviation navigational aid to manually

SEE **SMO** PAGE 8



Courtesy photo

COMPASS: Just some of the members of public and the Ninety-Nines who were in Chambers on Monday evening.

Police respond to a shots fired call and find deadly boobytraps at Pico residence

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Officers from the Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) prevented a potentially fatal incident when they discovered a number of deadly boobytraps set up in the garage and outside of a residence in the Pico neighborhood.

On November 17, 2024, at about 5:50 p.m., officers responded to a "shots fired" call at a residence in the 3300 Block of Exposition Blvd. A neighbor told 911 dispatchers that she also heard a male voice coming from the garage threatening to kill someone.

Officers on the scene located two elderly females unharmed inside the residence. They also located the third member of the household, suspect Arthur Hideki Tabuchi (61), unharmed and inside.

However, while checking the garage, officers found a shotgun shell mounted on top of a workbench. The shell had been rigged with a spring-loaded firing pin and wire attached to the end of the pin and the garage door. Officers determined the wire was set to pull the pin out of the housing and fire the shell toward the door when opened.

The officers then located a second shotgun shell located next to a pedestrian gate on the north side of the house with a similar firing pin/trip wire set up. This shell, which had been altered to be a sound diversion device (no projectile) had been recently discharged and is believed to be the source of the original shots fired call.

SMPD evacuated the house and called the Los Angeles County Bomb Squad to clear the residence and garage of additional boobytraps. No others were located and the shotgun shell in the garage was dismantled. Detectives obtained a search warrant for the location and found additional illegally obtained ammunition.

Tabuchi was transported to a hospital for a mental health evaluation. Felony charges of assembling, placing and maintaining a booby trap (California Penal Code 20110) will be filed by written complaint with the District Attorney's office. Anyone with information about this individual or incident is encouraged to contact Detective McCoy at james.mccoy@santamonica.gov, Sergeant Cooney at shaun.cooney@santamonica.gov, or the Watch Commander (available 24 hours a day) at (310) 458-8427.

scott.snowden@smdp.com







City of Santa Monica

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2794 (CCS) (CITY COUNCIL SERIES)

AN INTERIM ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA AMENDING REGULATIONS ESTABLISHED BY INTERIM ZONING ORDINANCE NUMBER 2754 (CCS) EXTENDED AND AMENDED BY INTERIM ZONING ORDINANCE NUMBER 2761 (CCS) TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC RECOVERY BY INCREASING FLEXIBILITY IN THE CITY'S DOWNTOWN AREA, ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM TO ALLOW EXCLUSIVELY OUTDOOR COMMERCIAL USES IN THE OFFICE CAMPUS DISTRICT, AND PROVIDING OTHER MINOR AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2794 (CCS) prepared by the Office of the City Attorney:

Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Article 9 establishes particular uses in the Downtown and Third Street Promenade areas of the City. Consistent with City Council's continued support of local businesses and to promote economic recovery efforts within the Downtown and Third Street Promenade Area, this Interim Zoning Ordinance ("IZO") extends the provisions of IZO Number 2761 to relax limitations on permitted non-residential land uses within the Third Street Promenade, including: (1) removing restrictions on game arcades; (2) simplifying review for larger-sized restaurants in the Wilshire Transition and Lincoln Transition zones; and (3) allowing large-scale commercial entertainment and recreation on City-owned property. The IZO also expands Alcohol Exemptions to both sides of 2nd and 4th Streets and evolves the Outdoor Commercial Uses on Private Property Program to allow exclusively outdoor uses on private property in the Office Campus (OC) District, subject to specific standards and regulations. Additionally, the IZO makes other minor updates to ensure consistency with other SMMC provisions.

The Ordinance will take effect thirty days after its adoption.

The full text of the above Ordinance is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica. Phone: (310) 458-8211.

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit electronic bids for the:

Pier Electrical Utility Relocation Project
SP2741

Bids will only be accepted through the CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL, OpenGov Procurement or https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca. They must be received by the specified date and time. Late bids will not be accepted. Please allow sufficient time for uploading of documents. The bid opening will be electronic, all submitted bids will be viewable by the public via OpenGov Procurement immediately after bid close time.

MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK:
November 19, 2024 and November 20, 2024
8:00am to 8:30am
Beach Parking Lot 1 North
1550 Pacific Coast Highway
Santa Monica 90401

PROJECT ESTIMATE: $1 Million
CONTRACT DAYS: 180 Calendar Days
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $3,600 Per Calendar Day

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca. The Contractor is required to have a **Class A or C-10** license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids. Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.

'A pivotal moment?' Why many Latino voters in California chose Trump



Photo by Larry Valenzuela, CalMatters/CatchLight Local

VOTERS: Adrian Jurado, a painter, paints a wall for a business in downtown Los Banos on Nov. 7, 2024.

BY YUE STELLA YU

At first, Marlyn Huesgew Mendoza registered as a Democrat. In 2020, she re-registered as a Republican and voted for Donald Trump for president, as she did this election.

The reason is simple: It was in 2018 — when he was in office — that her family was finally able to buy a house in Merced. The same year, the Trump administration approved her Guatemalan mother's citizenship application — one that had been rejected under President Barack Obama, she said. The approval letter had Trump's signature on it.

"She's like: 'Look who adopted me,'" said Huesgew Mendoza, a 25-year-old graduate from University of California Merced and an administrative assistant at the Merced County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

"Once he came in and it was just so easy for us, I was like, 'Huh, he might not be as scary as people may think.'"

Most — if not all — of California's 12 Latino-majority counties gave a larger share of their vote to Trump compared to 2020, and counties with a higher share of Latino population swung further toward Trump, according to a CalMatters analysis of state voting data. Trump also expanded his vote share in most other counties in California.

But does that signal a rightward shift among Latinos and a departure from the Democratic Party in California?

The answer is complicated.

Absent conclusive demographic data on votes cast in this election, pollsters disagree over how much their surveys show Latinos shifting toward Trump. The AP VoteCast, which surveyed more than 120,000 voters nationwide in English and Spanish, shows 55% of Latino respondents supported Vice President Kamala Harris, while 43% backed Trump. In 2020, Joe Biden won 63% of the vote among Latino respondents versus Trump's 35%.

But almost all polls reached the same conclusion: Latino support has grown for Trump.

A mix of factors contributed to the apparent shift: Inflation blamed on an unpopular administration, concern over border security, resistance to Democrats' messaging on cultural issues and Harris' lack of appeal, according to pollsters, experts, political consultants and a dozen Latinos in the Central Valley who spoke to CalMatters.

How much other Republicans gained from the growing support for Trump remains to be seen. Nationwide, Democrats won four of the five battleground U.S. Senate seats and declared victory on abortion rights ballot measures in Arizona, Missouri and Nevada.

In California, with 88% of the estimated vote counted, Trump has received slightly fewer votes than Republican U.S. Senate candidate Steve Garvey. And in some counties within the state's toss-up congressional districts, Democratic candidates appear to be outperforming Harris. In Merced County, which falls entirely into the 13th Congressional District, Democrat Adam Gray has received 5 percentage points more of the vote than Harris, with nearly 80% of the votes counted.

For Gray, who is narrowly trailing Republican Rep. John Duarte, this election does not reflect voters flocking toward Republicans.

"What you want to call a rightward shift, I would call a rejection of more of the same. Voters are saying … 'We want you guys to change,'" he told CalMatters. "I think people want to see us get back to the basics, and if I'm elected to Congress, I'm going to do just that."

But Mike Madrid, a longtime GOP consultant with an expertise in Latino politics, called this election a "five-alarm fire" for Democrats, who he said have gradually lost support among Latino voters since 2012. He pointed to a pair of Pew Research Center surveys, which suggested Latino support for the Democratic presidential candidate dropped from 71% for Obama in 2012 to 59% for Biden in 2020.

In California, a majority of Latinos have firmly supported Democrats after former GOP Gov. Pete Wilson championed Proposition 187, which was approved by voters in 1994 to deny benefits to undocumented immigrants

SEE **VOTERS** PAGE 5

BECOMING SANTA MONICA

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The Time Machine

MILES WARNER

I was driving with my precocious ten-year-old and somehow the 90's came up. If only we could go back to before the internet, when we shared so much as a country. Cultural events like movies and albums were focal points. Housing, food, everyday things… weren't so expensive.

Maybe we can go back!?

We as country voted for Trump and as a city, we voted for the SMRR slate. Because maybe, just maybe they can take us back to the 90's, or the 50's or the 2010's before COVID changed everything. Before homeless encampments and $4M homes. When the schools were better. When things were cheaper. When we were all so much happier.

Of course, LGBTQ folks lived in darkness, with few rights. Black and brown people were routinely denied positions of power… and women… women were still mostly only valued as objects of sexual desire or as mothers.

Have these issues changed? Yes. No. Yes and no. The internet has opened us to seemingly infinite information, with little validity control. Social media has created contained atmospheres, echo chambers of belief. Vaccines are bad. DC pizza parlors without basements, have pedophilia slavery in their basements. A malignant narcissist is actually the savior of America.

I'd like to tell you that I'm above it all. That with my natural cynicism and intelligence I am not subject to these self-affirming miniature societies. Sadly I am not and neither are you.

A few weeks ago, when I was despairing that the orange man might win, my wife offered, "let me show you something." She knows I don't like TikTok, the mightiest of dopamine machines, but she wanted me to see the thousands of young people lining up to vote. Good is going to win. It's going to be ok. Don't worry, Miles.

I watched, desperate to not feel the awful feeling, and it helped, a little.

All of these opinion hosts; Maddow, Hannity, Limbaugh etc, they all do the same thing. They start with an assumption and build a rational argument on that assumption. Now if you believe or agree with that assumption, the rest follows neatly. If you don't, the whole thing is rubbish.

The assumption on my TikTok safe space was that Harris was going to get the same turn out as Biden/2020. IF she did, she wins. That was true and also it didn't happen—she didn't get the turn out. But for two weeks I believed the hype. I was brainwashed—she was going to win in a landslide!

What a humbling exercise reality can be.

Now still grasping for evidence that I wasn't brainwashed, I can't help questioning the results, wondering if there is any validity to some of the claims found on the nether regions of the internet that some of the Orangutang's tech savvy Slavic and billionaire friends hacked voting machines. Sound familiar?

Without discounting clear prejudice what if folks just wanted to go back in time… Trump's pitch, that we could somehow go back to before COVID, maybe even before the internet, when things were simpler. For bigots that means one thing and for the rest of us, that means something else, but it's compelling, and maybe just maybe it's why we're here today with a malevolent buffoon about to swear an oath to a constitution he has no allegiance to.

All because folks believed the 'assumption' that 'we CAN go back' and so everything else followed rationally after that. I suspect a little voice told them it wasn't true, but hey can things get much worse? (Yes. Here we go)

And in Santa Monica we also went back. After a four-year detour, we return to council members elect who are backed by SMRR and the progressive agenda, whose council members have otherwise governed the city since the early 80's.

Things are changing quickly and it can be scary. Technology is changing how we live and communicate so rapidly that it can feel impossible to keep up—to protect our children and our loved ones. Identity is also changing, and for some that feels very threatening. As marginalized people fight for a spot in the sunlight, those who have enjoyed those privileges are struggling to cope with a world they don't understand.

But time stops for no one. The future is upon us unrelentingly. We are in a moment of great change and so America has in her mind gone backwards. Santa Monica… has gone backwards and 'forward', what that means exactly we'll just have to wait to find out.

I have great hope for Santa Monica's new leaders. They enter a monumental challenge and must find ways to improve issues of safety and habitability. They must navigate many different interests pulling them as all who swear an oath to office must do.

We as a city must support them. We must continue to tell them what we see and what we want. And they in turn must hear our voices, take our criticism as well intentioned and constructive. We will disagree, but if we want to mend a country that is deeply divided, we must start mending it in our own backyard.

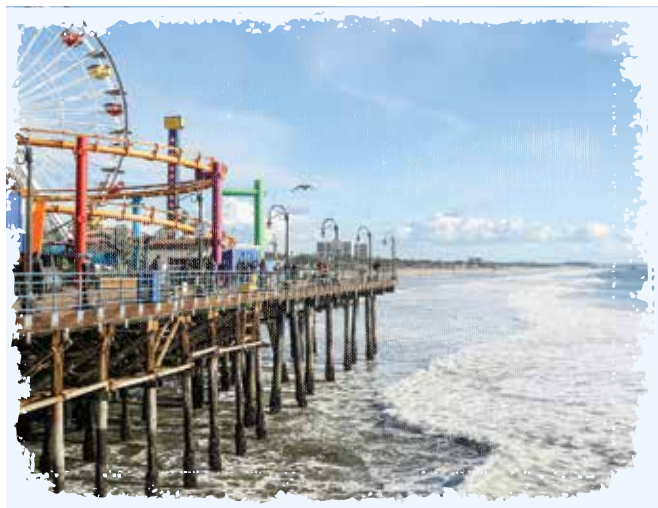
As for the new president, I fear we are in for a roller coaster ride. They say when you put a clown in the palace you don't get a king, you get a circus. Hopefully we as a democracy survive this circus.

p.s. I am sorry this column has been absent. We've been dealing with family health issues. Thank you to all who read it.

Exploring the emerging and changing identity of our city. And stirring the pot … a bit. Send comments to editor@smdp.com or reach Miles directly at @mileswarnerSM

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com



Surf report — WATER TEMP: 62

TUESDAY — **SURF:** 1-2ft+
POOR TO FAIR
Lingering NW swell mix could keep top spots in fun surf as small SSW swell blends in. Beachbreaks and working around the deep mid AM high tide the call. Potential for AM offshore flow.

WEDNESDAY — **SURF:** 0-1ft+
POOR TO FAIR
Smaller surf and possible offshore Santa Ana winds.

Weather

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 65. North northeast wind around 5 mph becoming west northwest in the afternoon.
Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 48. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 65. North northeast wind around 5 mph becoming west southwest in the afternoon.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 10pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 48.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2024/11/19	Tue	12:29 AM	3.57	H
2024/11/19	Tue	04:16 AM	2.83	L
2024/11/19	Tue	10:39 AM	5.98	H
2024/11/19	Tue	6:27 PM	-0.53	L
2024/11/20	Wed	01:50 AM	3.55	H
2024/11/20	Wed	05:17 AM	3.12	L
2024/11/20	Wed	11:34 AM	5.36	H
2024/11/20	Wed	7:30 PM	-0.10	L
2024/11/21	Thu	03:13 AM	3.71	H
2024/11/21	Thu	06:46 AM	3.31	L
2024/11/21	Thu	12:40 PM	4.74	H
2024/11/21	Thu	8:37 PM	0.26	L
2024/11/22	Fri	04:13 AM	3.98	H
2024/11/22	Fri	08:59 AM	3.19	L
2024/11/22	Fri	2:05 PM	4.22	H
2024/11/22	Fri	9:39 PM	0.55	L
2024/11/23	Sat	04:54 AM	4.27	H
2024/11/23	Sat	10:34 AM	2.71	L
2024/11/23	Sat	3:34 PM	3.90	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: 11/16
21 22 25 32 38
Power#: 16
Jackpot: 144 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 11/15
5 17 35 55 69
Mega#: 19
Jackpot: 420 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 11/16
2 11 15 25 43
Mega#: 16
Jackpot: 41 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 11/17
2 11 22 31 39

Daily 3
Draw Date: 11/17
MIDDAY: 8 7 1
Draw Date: 11/17
EVENING: 6 1 7

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 11/17
1st: 10 - Solid Gold
2nd: 07 - Eureka
3rd: 11 - Money Bags
Race Time: 1:48.20

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AWARD WINNER

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TUESDAY | NOVEMBER 19

TUESDAY TALES- A TRAVELING STORYTIME
10:30 - 11 a.m. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St. New to Ocean Park, this fun and engaging weekly series features stories, songs and rhymes. Free tickets are available at 10:15 a.m. For ages 2-5.

TEEN LITERARY LOUNGE
4 - 5 p.m. Youth Activity Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Join for a social reading party just for teens. Pick up a free copy of "Braiding Sweetgrass" or bring a book of your own to discuss. Light refreshments will be served. For ages 12-18.

AUTHOR EVENT
6 - 7 p.m. Zibby's Bookshop, 1113 Montana Ave. Zibby's Bookshop is excited to welcome Sophie Cousens to celebrate the launch of "Is She Really Going Out With Him?" Sophie will be joined by author Falon Ballard to discuss the hilarious love story about a disillusioned divorcée who agrees to let her children play matchmaker. Admission $5, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/author-event-sophie-cousens-x-falon-ballard-tickets-1047973455817.

AUDIT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
6 p.m. SMI Room, 330 Olympic Dr., 2nd Floor. On July 28, 2015, the Santa Monica City Council adopted a resolution establishing an Audit Subcommittee to assist the City Council in fulfilling their oversight responsibilities for the financial reporting process, the framework for internal control, and the audit process.

MYSTERY BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION
7 - 8 p.m. Virtual. This community-led, monthly book discussion currently meets online/virtually via Zoom. To register, email library@santamonica.gov. This month's title is "Exiles" by Jane Harper.

WEDNESDAY | NOVEMBER 20

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

NEW ORLEANS JAZZ LIVE AT LULA
5:30 - 8:30 p.m. Lula Cocina Mexicana, 2720 Main St. Spice up your Wednesdays with live New Orleans Jazz at Lula. Enjoy the soulful upbeat sounds of a talented guitarist and saxophonist duo as they bring vibrant rhythms to your dining experience. Perfect for a lively night out filled with great music, delicious food and unforgettable vibes.

THURSDAY | NOVEMBER 21

OAKWOOD ROOTS FARMERS AND WELLNESS MARKET
11 a.m. - 6 p.m. 685 Westminster Ave., Venice. Oakwood Roots Venice Farmers' and Wellness Market is a hub for local foods, wellness classes and holistic healing; dedicated to fostering a strong community, supporting local businesses and advocating for sustainable practices. This is part of a larger effort to revitalize the abandoned parking lots across the street from the park into a community hub, in partnership with Community Corporation of Santa Monica and Hoopbus.

TECH & TASKS
2 - 4 p.m. Tutoring Center, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Volunteer tutors provide help with reading documents or written tasks, using mobile devices, navigating government websites, filling out forms, using email, writing resumes and more.

LA LAW LIBRARY OFFICE HOURS
2 - 6 p.m. Main Lobby, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. A legal research specialist helps patrons find answers to legal questions. Legal research specialists are not attorneys and cannot provide legal advice, help fill out forms, or interpret the law.

LEGO CLUB
4 - 5 p.m. Youth Activity Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Come explore the limits of your building imagination or try out one of our suggested builds. All materials provided. For ages 18 months - 11 years old.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY
6 - 8 p.m. 1300 Block, Third Street Promenade. Downtown Santa Monica will be all dressed up for the holiday season and the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, where Santa himself will light up the city's official holiday tree. The holiday festivities will feature performances by local choirs, a special performance of "The Nutcracker, and "snow" on Third Street Promenade. After the ceremony, guests of all ages are invited to take free photos with Santa, make holiday-themed crafts and enjoy hot cocoa.

RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
6 - 8 p.m. City Council Chambers, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. The Commission shall act in an advisory capacity to the City Council and Director of Community Services in all matters pertaining to public recreation including playgrounds, music and entertainment. The Commission will consider the budget of the Community and Cultural Services Department and make recommendations to the City Manager and the City Council.

MONTANA AVENUE BRANCH BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
6 - 7 p.m. Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave. This community-led, monthly book discussion group currently meets in person. This month's title is "Lady Tan's Circle of Women" by Lisa See.

AN EVENING WITH JOSH BROLIN
8 - 9:15 p.m. John Adams Middle School (JAMS) Performing Arts Center, 1630 Pearl St. Producer, director, writer and Academy Award-nominated actor Josh Brolin will be discussing his new memoir "From Under the Truck." Tickets plus signed copy of the book $55, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-evening-with-josh-brolin-tickets-1007826655657.

From SMC to MIT



Courtesy Photo
GRADUATE: Les Armstrong is one of the SMC students who has made the shift to MIT.

The world-renowned Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which admits less than 4 percent of applicants, now includes two recent Santa Monica College alumni on its roster of students and graduates — Daniela "Danny" Davalos and Les Armstrong.

This year, Les completed dual Master of Science degrees in technology and policy and electrical engineering and computer science. He wants to blend those skills to help mitigate climate change on multiple fronts. While at the university, he served as a graduate researcher for the MIT Energy Initiative, a hub of research, education and outreach addressing the crisis. He also recently co-wrote an article for the prestigious Science magazine.

Meanwhile, Danny is in her second year as a master's student in MIT's Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, popularly known as "AeroAstro." She focuses on bioastronautics, which integrates biology, medicine and engineering to make long-term space travel safer and healthier.

"We're studying how the stressful conditions of spaceflight affect the human cardiovascular and musculoskeletal systems," Danny explains. "For example, when astronauts are in space for a long time, their bones start to weaken, so we need to develop countermeasures to neutralize such effects."

Danny and Les both credit SMC with helping make their academic and professional journeys possible. "I never thought I'd be able to go to MIT," Les says. "So I'm really grateful for SMC and its faculty for the foundation and opportunities they provided."

SCIENTIFIC APPROACHES

Danny, whose parents emigrated from Mexico, is a first-generation college student. In high school, a teacher noticed her curiosity about how things worked and suggested she join the academic program Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement. After school each day, she and peers would engage in projects from robotics to constructing weight-bearing balsa wood bridges and building cases able to shield eggs from six-story drops.

"That's what introduced me to engineering," Danny recalls. And she thought an education at SMC could help her identify which aspect of the field most appealed to her. She knew about the college because it had set her two older sisters on paths to careers in respiratory therapy and the legal field.

"It's also a lot cheaper to go to SMC," admits Danny, who had been accepted into some well-known universities only to be turned off by their daunting tuition costs.

Les' trajectory to SMC covered a much wider geography. Born in Venice, Calif., to an American father and a mother who emigrated from Argentina, he had always been interested in science and math. When he was 8, though, the family moved to his mom's native country and her home city of Buenos Aires. "I lived there until I was 20, and even started college there," he says.

While growing up, Les developed a passion for physics but felt conflicted about a career in engineering. "I was becoming very aware of climate change and its impacts," he recalls. "And I felt that all the engineers I knew were working on projects that were basically part of the problem. I didn't want to be the person working on a slightly better fridge or slightly bigger car."

Knowing that California was a leader in moving toward a carbon-neutral future, Les resolved to return to his home state to continue his academic career. But then he realized how the admissions policies of American universities differ from Argentina's.

"I hadn't taken anything like the SATs, because they're not offered there," Les explains. His father urged him to check out the state's community college system. Doing some research, Les found out about the Transfer Admission Guarantee that allows qualifying college students to transfer to institutions including the University of California and Cal State University. "SMC really offers these great onramps for nontraditional college students like myself," Les adds.

He also learned that SMC had the highest transfer rates to the University of California system, USC, and Loyola Marymount University.

STEM TO SUCCESS

Although their paths did not cross at SMC, Danny and Les each quickly became involved in the college's STEM Program(opens in new window). They found inspiration from the program's Project Manager Vanan Yahnian and her commitment to unlocking opportunities for students from underserved communities to increase diversity in fields related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

"SMC's STEM Program gave me a sense of community and is where I met a lot of my friends," Danny says. Les agrees, adding that he found the program's resources for students — which include tutoring and peer mentoring — to be incredibly valuable.

Danny became a STEM tutor and peer mentor, conducting workshops and helping design support materials for students. Les took a job in Supplemental Instruction (SI) (opens in new window), an SMC academic

SEE **MIT** PAGE 7

VOTERS

FROM PAGE 2

but was blocked by the courts. But that support could erode as cost of living increases, alienating working-class residents, many of whom are Latinos, Madrid said.

"I think this is a pivotal moment. I think it's as significant as the Prop. 187 moment in 1994, except it was a wake-up call for Republicans," Madrid said.

But some experts warned it may be too early to tell if the past three presidential elections are a referendum on the Democratic Party, given that Democrats have won toss-up statewide races in battleground states and have won every statewide race in California since 2006.

This election is an outlier, with Biden withdrawing from the race and passing the torch to Harris so late in the campaign, said Roberto Suro, a professor of journalism and public policy at the University of Southern California.

"You've got to put an asterisk on this election, or actually, multiple asterisks. Trump as a candidate is a giant asterisk," Suro said. "Trying to say we are seeing any kind of permanent realignment is a mistake."

'THE BOTTOM LINE IS MONEY'

Huesgew Mendoza isn't alone in believing that her life changed for the better after Trump took office in 2017.

Sandra Izaguirre, a 34-year-old in-home caretaker from Lancaster in Los Angeles County, said she supported Obama in 2008, but not in 2012. Then a first-time mother working at a fast food restaurant, Izaguirre needed health care. Obamacare required bigger businesses to provide full-time employees health benefits or pay a fee, so Izaguirre said her employer just cut her hours to disqualify her.

"I wasn't improving. If anything, I was hurting more," she said. "I just wanted a change already."

That drove her to vote for Trump in 2016. A year later, Izaguirre said, she was able to buy her first home.

But because she couldn't work as an in-home caregiver during the COVID-19 pandemic, she said she almost defaulted on her house but was saved by a federal mortgage relief program approved on Trump's watch. The economic downturn, mixed with the state's failure to stop unemployment benefits fraud, was "a recipe for disaster," she said.

Even economic concerns, however, weren't enough to drive Izaguirre to the polls this November. But that's not because she didn't support Trump: She said her vote for him in deep-blue California would not have made a difference anyway.

But the economy is top of mind among Latino voters, as well as among voters overall, as polls have consistently shown throughout the 2024 campaign. Latino and Black Americans are the most likely to feel the pinch of high inflation compared to the overall population, according to a 2022 analysis by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Latinos in California make up 40% of the state's population but more than half of poor Californians, according to an analysis by the Public Policy Institute of California last year. The poverty rate among Latinos rose to 16.9% in fall 2023 compared to 13.5% in fall 2021, the analysis shows.

It's a pain felt by Annissa Fragoso, a Merced insurance agent who voted for Harris this year. As a business owner, she said, she's "struggling a lot with the insurance industry" and growing frustrated with state Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara, a Democrat.

"The Latinos in the past were registered and supportive of the Democratic Party, but it has not been very supportive of us," she said.

Fragoso, who lost in the March primary for the Merced County Board of Supervisors, said she spoke to a lot of Latino voters who saw Trump as an agent of change on the economy.

"The bottom line is money," she said.

Adrian Jurado, a painter in Los Banos who said he never registered to vote since he believed he couldn't make a difference, said that ever since the pandemic, there were fewer painting jobs because people weren't willing to spend anymore. But when Trump was in office, he said, the economy seemed better.

"I've never had it like this," he said. "It used to be that you could put a little bit away. I wasn't able to put nothing away."

While consumer prices have climbed by 20% over the past four years, average wage gains actually outpaced inflation, according to an analysis by the NBC News. But that does not match people's perception, as expenses keep rising, the analysis says. Many voters frustrated with the economy embraced Trump, even as economists warn that Trump's proposed tariffs could hike prices even further nationwide as well as in California.

But voters may be punishing incumbents rather than voting for Republicans, said Rodrigo Dominguez-Villegas, research director at the Latino Policy & Politics Institute of UCLA.

"You get reminded of those high prices every single day because you are buying something every single day," he said. "High inflation was a global phenomenon. It was not unique to the United States. But who happened to be in power when it happened? It was Biden and Harris."

Julián Castro, CEO of the Latino Community Foundation, said Trump's win resembles the victories of Ronald Reagan in 1980 and George W. Bush in 2000: All three campaigned against a Democratic administration that "faced headwinds," he said.

"In 1980, the economy was similar to 2024, at least in people's minds," Castro said. "In 2000, after eight years of Democratic governance, there was a pent-up demand for a change."

But even though they are frustrated at the economy under the Biden administration, most Latinos who spoke to CalMatters said it doesn't mean they will continue to vote Republican.

"I'll just see how it goes in the (next) four years," Izaguirre said.

'THAT'S NOT ME'

Trump has promised to conduct the largest deportation in American history, targeting immigrants in the country illegally, with or without criminal records.

But Izaguirre, as well as other Latino Trump supporters who spoke to CalMatters, said they do not want undocumented immigrants who have been working in the country for years to be deported. The majority of them supported providing legal status for those immigrants — a policy Democrats have championed.

Trump's victory has terrified some migrants at the border and undocumented immigrants in California.

"I feel worried because I don't know what the future will be for us people who don't have documents, and we work here," an undocumented immigrant in Delano told CalMatters in Spanish. CalMatters is not naming him due to his concern for his safety.

But others said Trump's mass deportation plan would not touch them.

"He said he was going to deport people who have a bad record. That's not me. I don't have a bad record," said a farmworker in Stanislaus County who spoke to CalMatters on the condition of anonymity and who said she came to the country by paying off a "coyote" — a term for smugglers — 20 years ago.

Huesgew Mendoza likened Trump's mass deportation to yelling fire in the theater. "It just sounds too scary, too major," she said.

And Aaron Barajas, 46, who voted for Trump this year in his first presidential election, slammed policies that would "rip people apart from their family," arguing those who are already established in the United States should be allowed to obtain legal documents. But he distinguished between those who are already living here and those who wish to come in, arguing Trump merely wants to "bring people into our country, but do it the right way."

It appears Trump's rhetoric on immigration has not deterred Latinos from voting for him, unlike the assumption Democrats have made following the passage of Prop. 187, Suro said.

"The hypothesis was that, when confronted with threats to the immigrant population and xenophobic rhetoric and harsh exclusionary measures toward immigrants … you would alienate Latinos," he said. "Trump has very vividly disproven that."

That's in part because of "scapegoating" by Trump and his allies, who targeted migrants "physically at the border" for mass deportation, Castro said. "They cleaved the recent arrivals from people who have been here for a long time, and that's why I think you hear people express confidence that he doesn't mean them."

Another factor could be the rapidly changing demographics among Latinos in California, as more young, U.S.-born Latinos become eligible to vote, experts say.

"Overall, fewer Latinos are as close as they used to be to the immigrant experience," said Mindy Romero, founder and director of the Center for Inclusive Democracy. "How close you are to the immigrant experience can directly affect how you view policy on internal (immigration efforts) versus border (immigration)."

The anti-immigrant sentiment could even be appealing to some Latino voters who are "fueled by a deep desire to assimilate or to be seen as belonging to a larger American culture and to differentiate themselves from those who are seen as outsiders," said Dominguez-Villegas at UCLA.

A REFERENDUM ON DEMOCRATS?

While it's too early to draw firm conclusions from the election, the takeaway for Democrats is that they must be better at reaching Latino voters, something both major parties have done poorly in California, political consultants say.

California Democrats are "clearly in danger of losing Latino support long term" due to "bad branding" that lasted for more than a decade, Madrid said.

But, he added, "there's very little evidence that suggests Latinos are becoming more conservative. There's a lot suggesting they are becoming more populist."

Michael Gomez Daly, a senior strategist with the progressive California Donor Table, said he's unsure how best to counter the backlash Democrats faced from voters hurt by inflation, stressing that voters may remember Trump with "rose-colored glasses."

However, he said, Trump proved "inspiring" among Latino voters even with his "problematic" rhetoric. Living in the toss-up 41st Congressional District where GOP Rep. Ken Calvert narrowly defeated Democrat Will Rollins, Gomez Daly said he saw conservative YouTube ads targeting young men all the time.

"I think Democrats need to recognize the economic situation that much of inland California is facing and speak to those problems and give hope to people," he said. "I think that was lacking."

CalMatters' data reporter Jeremia Kimelman contributed to this story.

KILLING

FROM PAGE 1

walked into her bedroom, he found Harris standing over her with a knife."

SMPD said the third brother was at work during the incident but arrived on scene during the investigation. Both of Harris' brothers provided statements for detectives. A search warrant was executed at the apartment and detectives located the weapon used in the attack. Forensics responded and processed the scene.

Harris was booked and then transported to Los Angeles County Jail to await his first court appearance.

Anyone with information about this incident or suspect is asked to contact Detective Jauregui, Sergeant Lozano, or the Watch Commander desk (24 hours a day) at (310) 458-8427.

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NAME CHANGE

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAMECase No. 24SMCP00565 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Cleofe Finklea for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:Petitioner or Attorney: Cleofe Finklea a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Cleofe Delucia Finklea to Thiago Cleofe Louisa Delucia . The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 12/20/2024 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: k Room: _ The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 1725 Main St Santa Monica, CA 90401 . A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this

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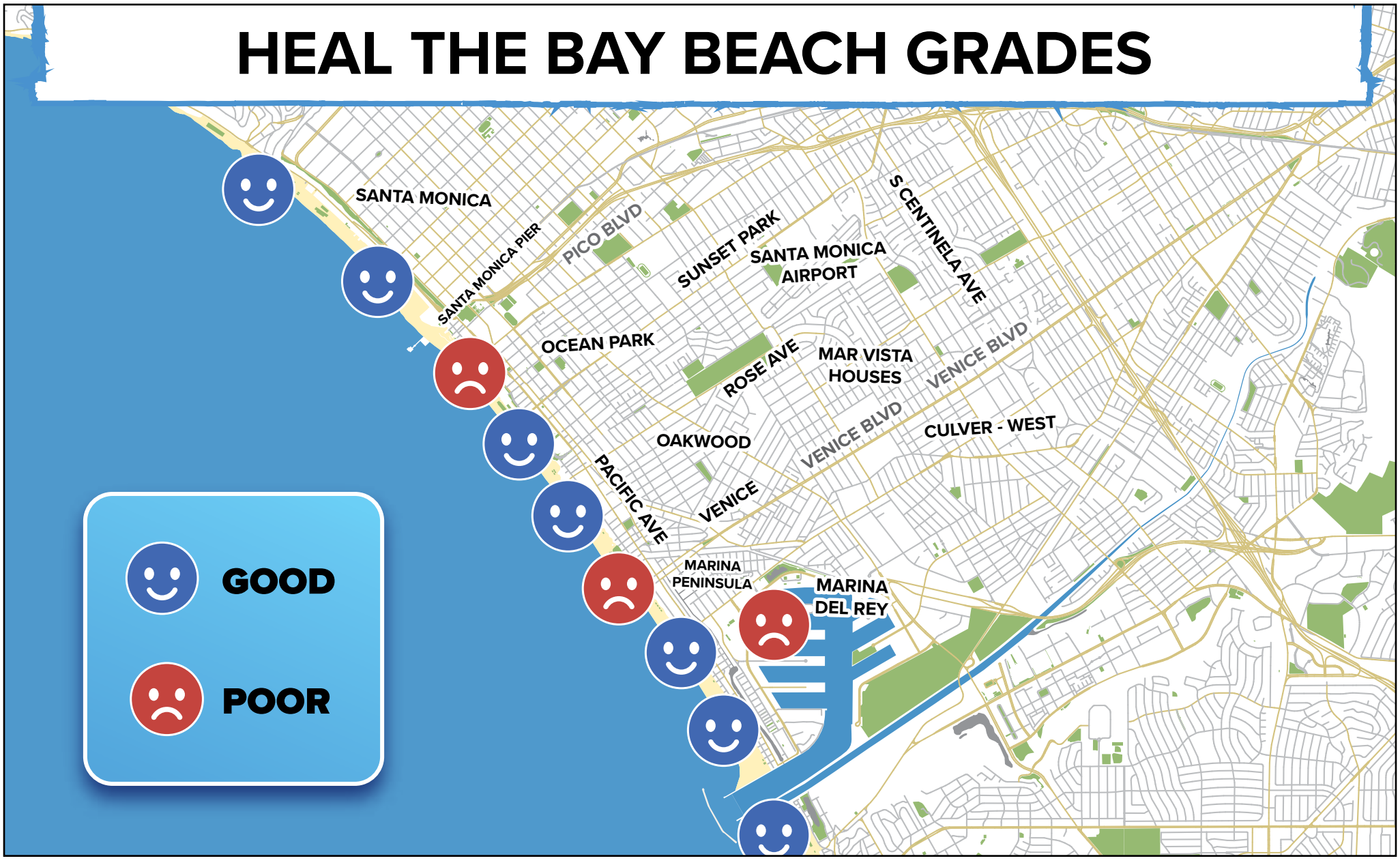
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Are Americans over Holiday gatherings?

MICHAEL DINICH
Wealth of Geeks

Thirty-nine percent of Americans said that this is their busiest holiday season yet, according to new research.

A survey of 2,000 adults looked at how respondents' winter social calendars have evolved from last year.

Although many are feeling busier than ever, Americans are slowing down compared to last holiday season: on average, respondents will attend three gatherings this year, down from five last year.

Those surveyed are comfortable with this change, too, as only 36% wish they were attending more gatherings this year compared to 62% who wished for the same last year.

Americans' Changing Holiday Social Calendar

Regardless of how many events they will attend, two in three shared that they're excited about the holidays.

Conducted by Talker Research for the Chinet brand, the survey found that a third of Americans feel like they've been waiting a long time for the holidays this year (35%).

Looking at where exactly they'll be spending their time, the most popular kinds of gatherings respondents will attend this year are Thanksgiving dinner (79%), Christmas dinner (73%) and Christmas parties (45%); attendance at all of these events are up from last year.

However, fewer respondents will attend New Year's parties (36% vs. 54% last year) and Friendsgiving dinners (17% vs. 54% last year).

Of all the gatherings they will be attending, those surveyed are most excited about Thanksgiving dinner (49%) and Christmas dinner (38%), lining up with last year.

Holiday Hosting Trends and Expectations for 2024

When asked about which event they'd skip if they could, Christmas dinner topped the list in 2023 (22%), but more are inclined to opt out of New Year's parties in 2024 (12%).

"While the types of gatherings people plan to attend may shift from year to year, we still see an increased focus on getting together," says Melissa Rakos, brand manager for the Chinet brand. "It's clear that, for many, the holidays are truly about spending time with those they love most, regardless of what shape that takes."

The survey also looked at what it means to be a sustainable guest.

Nearly a third of those surveyed admit they're more conscious about waste in their own home as opposed to others' homes (31%), and just 18% said the opposite; yet, half of respondents expect guests to be mindful of the same in their own home (54%).

As a holiday guest, respondents are keen on taking just what they need (47%) and limiting the food (44%) they throw away.

Others make a point to turn lights off in rooms that no one is in (37%) and minimize how long they spend washing their hands

> While the types of gatherings people plan to attend may shift from year to year, we still see an increased focus on getting together
>
> - Melissa Rakos, Brand Manager

(15%).

This year, fewer respondents are planning to host guests during the holidays than last year (38% vs. 57%); even so, these hosts are more enthusiastic about having guests over (60% vs. 53% last year).

Forty-two percent also admitted that sustainability takes a back seat when they're focused on hosting.

And although a majority want to inspire their guests to care more about the environment (64%), nearly a third are skeptical of them contributing to waste (29%).

When asked what they would want their guests to bring to the party, respondents matched last year's top picks: food (46%) and drinks (34%).

And this year, one in ten would also like their guests to bring disposable plates to contribute to the gathering this year.

"Holiday hosting can be so fulfilling but is also a ton of work," explains Rakos. "Our goal is to help lessen that burden, helping people focus on spending quality time with guests, and minimizing the impact on the environment."

Survey Methodology:

Talker Research surveyed 2,000 general population Americans; the survey was commissioned by the Chinet brand and administered and conducted online by Talker Research between Oct. 3 and Oct.7, 2024.

MIT

FROM PAGE 4

support program that engages groups of students taking particular courses in activities to boost their study skills and understanding of the material. He was soon promoted to the position of SI peer mentor.

Danny and Les also took advantage of the internship opportunities(opens in new window) offered to SMC STEM Program participants. Danny interned with the Los Angeles World Airports Planning & Development Group, which operates LAX, while still a first-year student. Then, through the Base 11 Summer Fellowship, she conducted research at Caltech under the direction of a faculty member who is a physicist and aerospace engineer.

"One of the projects that I did with her was creating a simulation of an underwater robot for the development of autonomous navigation," Danny says. Later, she was once again able to join the professor's research team.

Les interned for two summers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, working on an X-ray fluorescence spectrometer that was mounted on Perseverance, the rover launched to Mars in 2020. "I was involved in finding ways to calibrate the instruments," Les says.

To this day, Perseverance is still reporting data back from its analysis of Martian rocks and soils.

CURRENT TRAJECTORY

Danny transferred from SMC to the University of California, Davis, where she completed her bachelor's degree in aerospace and mechanical engineering. While there, she worked in its Human/Robotics/Vehicle Integration and Performance Laboratory, which is devoted to technological innovations for keeping people safe in situations from airplane emergencies to rocket flights.

The experience enabled her to learn from a professor who was a former astronaut. "He opened a lot of doors for me," Danny says — including an opportunity to take part in research for NASA's Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory. "I worked on a helmet-mounted display project for astronaut underwater training," she explains.

After finishing her master's at MIT next year, Danny plans to pursue a PhD. "I hope to work with NASA or SpaceX," she says. Then, eventually, she might turn to teaching new generations of bioastronautics innovators.

"I want to let people know that, with perseverance and a system of family and friends, you can get to wherever you want to be," she adds. After all, she and Les are living proof of that.

Les' path took him to UC Santa Barbara, where he earned a bachelor's in physics. A professor in the Environmental Studies department, an expert in energy and climate, was so impressed that he quickly put Les to work in his research group.

"That's how I got my foot in the door of that world," Les says of environmental engineering. But even though his newfound mentor opened that access, "I don't think that would have happened if I hadn't first gotten the opportunity at JPL — which was due to SMC," he notes.

With dual master's degrees in hand, Les has started working at the Boston office of San Francisco-based consulting company E3—Energy and Environmental Economics Inc. Eventually, though, he would like a career in the public sector. "I really want to help cities or states with their energy transition," he says.

Despite their shared SMC backgrounds, Danny and Les have yet to meet in person. But Les hopes they can find some time amid their busy schedules to have coffee. "It was nice to see somebody else from SMC coming to MIT," he says. "It fills my heart."

Article courtesy of the SMC Public Information Office

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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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SMO

FROM PAGE 1

calibrate compasses, it was adjacent to runways 21 and 22 from 1947 to 1987 and was relocated once again in 1989 to where it currently resides. It was painstakingly repainted in 2010 by the Los Angeles chapter of the Ninety-Nines, an international non-profit organization of women pilots founded coincidently the same year that the Compass Rose was painted.

"A surveyor comes out and essentially marks the cardinal points and then we paint it," explains Chairman of the LA Chapter of the Ninety-Nines and Partner of Lopez Law Group, Eve Lopez, adding, "It's mostly maintenance, but sometimes it's a little bit more because every year the earth shifts, so the actual magnetic direction shifts and have to repaint the cardinal marks."

Lopez says that through years of perseverance and a lot of petitioning, the Ninety-Nines have, to all intents and purposes, become custodians of the Compass Rose and in a statement made after the decision by Council, the organization said that, "The Compass Rose stands as an enduring symbol of the contributions of women pilots who have flown out of Santa Monica since the early 20th century. Amelia Earhart's historic 1929 flight in the First Women's Air Derby, which started from Santa Monica airport, inspired this landmark, serving as a beacon of inspiration and a reminder of the City's deep-rooted aviation heritage."

The individual that was adamant in revoking this decision is a gentleman named Ben Wang and he filed an appeal on September 19, 2019. The appeal contends that the Compass Rose does not meet the criteria for Landmarks designation because it:

1. Meets only one of the six Landmarks criteria;

2. Is a painted feature that has changed location over time, is non original, and has been repainted; and

3. Is inconsistent in design with the Ninety-Nines trademarked 16-point symbol.

Additionally, the appeal contends a designation may not be appropriate of the Compass Rose given the City's obligations under the Consent Decree and the City Charter as they relate to the operation of the Airport.

Correspondence obtained by the Daily Press shows that Lopez and Ben Wang have exchanged emails in the past with regards to a letter Lopez wrote to the Editor of the Daily Press on April 11, 2022. Moreover, a cursory search through the newspaper's website reveals comments Wang made on another airport-related issue in October, 2015. In order to register to comment, a minimum amount of personalized information must be provided and in doing so he listed a Facebook page under the name Ben Wenge. Wang was also noticeably absent in Monday's meeting.

Wang filed the appeal independently, without disclosing any official outside counsel. However, Lopez believes he may have received some level of legal guidance. "I'm an attorney, so I'm familiar with legal language and reasoning," Lopez told the Daily Press. "If I had to guess, I'd say there's a lawyer involved behind the scenes, given the appeal's structure and the nuances of his argument, they seem very lawyer-like."

Lopez says that the five year long-appeal has depleted over five years worth of funds for the organization. "As a small chapter of a nonprofit with an extremely limited budget, we had to stretch our resources to bring in a historic preservation consultant — even though we could barely afford it.

"Meanwhile, Mr. Wang filed his appeal independently, submitted a supplemental memorandum, prompting the City Attorney to disseminate a legal memorandum. When you add it all up, it certainly feels like a calculated effort to remain just out of reach — classic lobbyist tactics," Lopez said.

John Fairweather, a key member of the Airport 2 Park campaign, told the Daily Press, "I think the Compass Rose would be a wonderful addition to the park, I can't understand why anyone would want it removed."

Speaking exclusively to the Daily Press, Wang said he filed the appeal because he believes that this decision regarding the Compass Rose should only be made by local government and not the Landmarks Commission. "What we observed was that this landmark decision, while we supported it ... the planning commission wasn't the right decision maker. It had to go to the City Council ... And so we simply asked, and they said, if you want the City Council to review it or to be the decision maker, you simply just have to appeal it, because then they hear the appeal. So it's a procedural thing and so we'll just file the appeal."

Responding to why he was absent at the meeting on Monday evening, Wang said, "Because they just had to decide on the issue, I wrote them that letter that said, I support [the designation]. I didn't think there should be any controversy."

Wang claimed that "zero lawyers were retained" and was unaware that this litigation had cost the Ninety-Nines in excess of $5,000. Regarding his social media pseudonyms, he said he only really used two and that his "usernames" were the result of seeking privacy.

Lopez presented to the City Council and many members of both the public and the Ninety-Nines gave emotional accounts of what this modest mural means to them. Members of Council took no time at all to make a decision and no discussion was required.

"I want to thank all of you for coming and providing such moving and beautiful testimony, Councilmember Caroline Torosis said, adding, "I'm ready to move the staff recommendation and to deny the appeal."

The motion was made by Torosis and seconded by Councilmember Christine Parra before passing unanimously 7-0. All seven members of Council applauded the decision afterward.

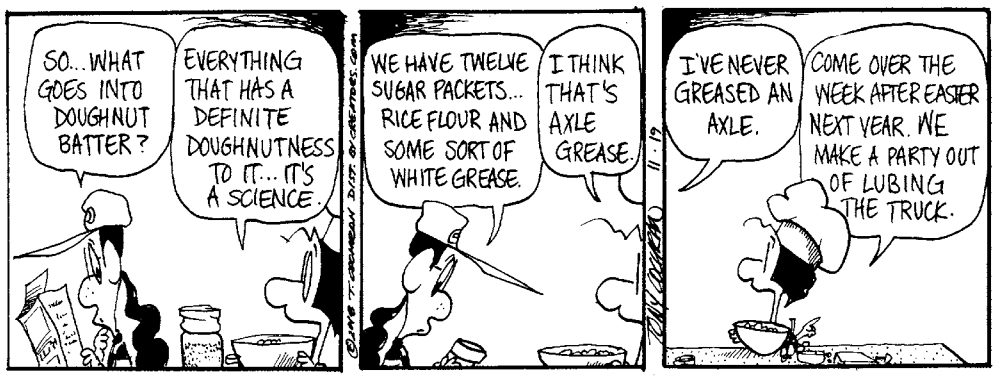
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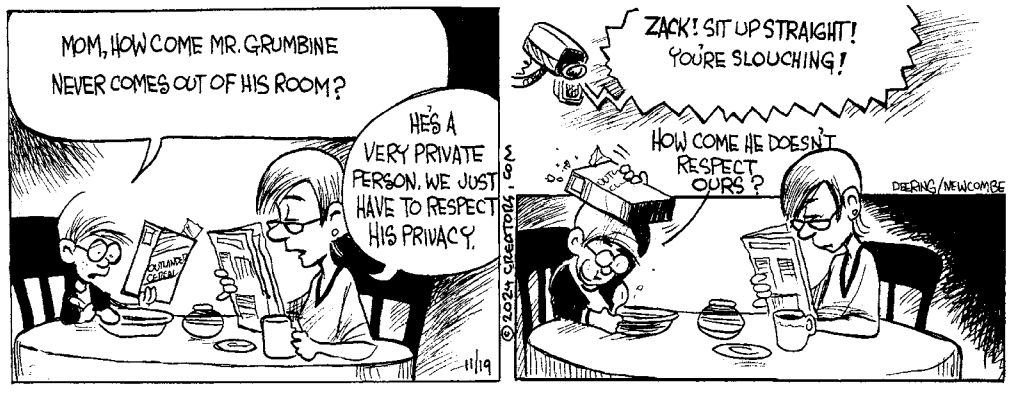
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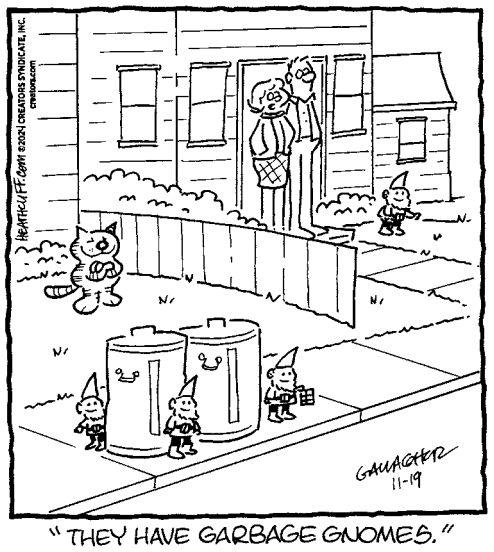
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By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"THEY HAVE GARBAGE GNOMES."

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

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

Bagels	Dessert	Menu	Registers
Baked	Eggs	Omelette	Rissole
beans	Entree	Pasta	Rush
Basil	Fish	People	Sale
Bins	Flour	Pepper	Shop
Bread	Fruit	Pet food	Special
Carpark	Garlic	Plums	Tags
Chat	Grapes	Queue	Tier
Choko	Hassle	Quiche	Tomato
Cocoa	Mall	Reductions	Total
Copha	Meat	Refunds	Trade

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 19)

You prioritize like a pro this year, so you'll have time to nurture your talents, pursue passions and savor the simple joys. The beautiful part is that you never lose sight of what truly matters. More highlights: A mentor who helps you unlock your potential, a dream job offer, and a celebration that leaves you feeling cherished. Gemini and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 16, 25, 36 and 2.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). How others see you may be different from how you see yourself. Don't chase trends or approval. What you offer will connect with the right people when the timing aligns. Focus on your own truth and the world will catch up.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're not avoiding conflict out of fear; you're sidestepping it because you see no need to engage in futility. Let others spin in circles. You simply walk away, toward your own quiet peace. Retreating from the noise is how you advance your calm.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You are more than one idea, one genre or one style. A signature style is only powerful if it continues to evolve. Let yourself explore beyond your own identity. It's a way to keep your art alive and always in motion.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're nervous because you care. Getting comfortable with being nervous is the skill to attain now because it's the same as getting comfortable with being a caring person.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll step up, not for praise but for purpose. You're fully aware that your part in the group doesn't define the whole, and it's good to know the weight isn't all on you. Still, your influence will steer the course, and it's a duty you take seriously.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The strength you need isn't muscular and dominant. There is far more strength in vulnerability. It invites life to join it. What we are when joined in life is always going to be stronger than what we are when we try to stand alone.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll invite good fortune by streamlining possessions and tasks, ordering them differently and giving up a few, too. Don't focus on owning more. Focus on wanting less. Your mood lightens; you meet the day in peace.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Strength and vulnerability are intertwined, like roots beneath the soil. The more open you are, the deeper your strength grows. Brave blooms rise from tender roots.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Relationships follow the same rule as radios. To get the music, you have to tune in to the frequency. Today you'll adjust your dials and notice who's broadcasting on your same wavelength.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Public approval matters less today. You'll get the space to work without judgment and figure out the details without the pressure of eyeballs on your scene. You'll show your work on your own time, when it's ready.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your life is like a race car today, with sleek lines that aren't just aesthetic - they're a practical necessity to eliminate drag. Anything sticking out creates unnecessary friction. You'll file it down to go fast.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You have a soft spot for those keeping their pain at bay. You see it - the struggle behind their restraint. A gentle touch or kind word will set the tone for an environment conducive to healing.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

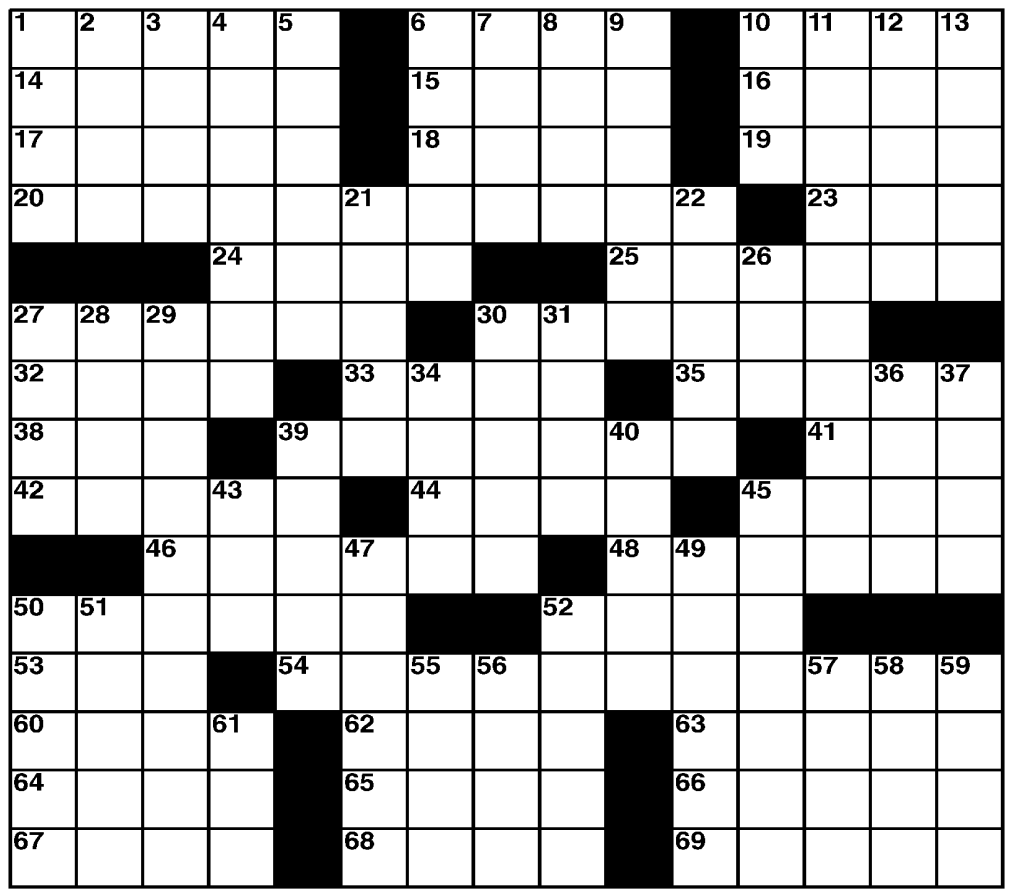
POKER TALK by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Taking little time
6 Burn slightly, as a steak
10 Not brightly colored
14 Thin, crisp cookie
15 Speed contest
16 British noble below duke
17 Whodunit excuse
18 Limbs inside sleeves
19 As __ as an owl
20 "This is unimportant"
23 Junior, to Dad
24 Change for a $20 bill
25 Mythical tale
27 Humble
30 Long military attacks
32 Makes mistakes
33 Fabric tears
35 Turn the __ cheek
38 Mediterranean or Caribbean
39 "After-shave" soothers
41 Ostrich's Aussie cousin
42 Book category for do-it-yourselfers
44 Elsa's sister, in *Frozen*
45 Viral Internet idea
46 Gymnast's attire
48 Comparable (with)
50 Perfect world
52 "Let's go already!"
53 Slangy refusal
54 Theater's take-a-bow time
60 Pottery material
62 Close by
63 Small role for a star
64 Folk wisdom
65 Small fruit pie
66 Bakery appliances
67 Concludes
68 Resorts with saunas
69 Repairs, as a blouse

DOWN

1 Graceful waterbird
2 Angelic light
3 "Think nothing __"
4 Partial-refund promotions
5 Large families
6 Rugged cliffs
7 Tough to figure out
8 Apex
9 Used-car transaction
10 Morning moisture on lawns
11 Operate a wool-producing farm
12 Fire-setting crime
13 Mix thoroughly
21 Emcee's opening statement
22 Child's plastic bricks
26 Obtain
27 Netlike material
28 Black-and-white cookie
29 Approach gradually
30 Whirls around
31 "Help __ the way!"
34 "Let's just leave __ that"
36 Actress Watson or Stone
37 Regretful person
39 Valid reasoning
40 Singer Judd or actress Watts
43 Helpful hint
45 Dad's "sanctuary" room
47 Favorite hangouts
49 Sarge or corporal
50 Dad's brother
51 Eagle's claw
52 Golf course vehicles
55 Bring in a harvest
56 Scarlett O'Hara's home
57 Last word of a prayer
58 Give temporarily
59 At a __ for words (speechless)
61 "That's correct"



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