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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 5 WEDNESDAY 11/20/24 smdp.com

Progressive candidates deemed 'bright spot' in local election despite state, national defeats

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Despite a national rejection of progressivism in the 2024 presidential race, Democratic leaders in the Los Angeles area called Santa Monica's election results a bright spot amidst the party's disappointment.

On Nov. 13, the Santa Monica Democratic Club hosted an analysis panel of elections on the national, state and local levels; including comments from the City Council race's victorious Unity Slate. Former Los Angeles City Councilmember called the win for Dan Hall, Ellis Raskin, Barry Snell and Natalya Zernitskaya a "beacon of hope" in the area for its new progressive supermajority, a trend that also extended to city elections in spots like Culver City and West Hollywood.

Zernitskaya, the city's first openly bisexual council elect, said that people have given her similar sentiments and that the results showed "that when we work together, we win." She added that it may be "kind of silly," but she will be bringing a Robert's Rules of Order book to her first council meeting as a sign of respect to ethics.

"I'm really looking forward to returning to our progressive values, and I'm really looking forward to just making a difference and working with folks who I know are going to do the work and are going to be committed to working collaboratively and ethically and with integrity," Zernitskaya said.

SEE **ELECTION** PAGE 7

Let there be light as Christmas trees are officially illuminated in Santa Monica



DTSM

TREE: The official City of Santa Monica tree lighting ceremony comes to the Third Street Promenade on Thursday.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

The holiday season will officially begin on Thursday as the official City of Santa Monica tree lighting ceremony takes place. The celebration includes live performances by local choirs, a special *Nutcracker* performance and "snowfall" on the Promenade.

The decorated tree will join other seasonal illuminations already beginning to adorn the Promenade, giving Third Street a truly festive feel.

Interestingly, the tree itself is not real, unlike say, the famous Rockefeller Center Christmas tree in Manhattan, which is a 75 ft Norway spruce cut and transported from West Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Instead, the environmentally conscious folk at Downtown Santa Monica, Inc (DTSM) opt every year for an artificial tree.

The Santa Monica pseudo spruce is 32 ft tall, comprises of four ring sections with 36 branches per row, giving a total of 264 branches, nearly 3,000 individual decorations and is supplied by Syracuse, NY-based Downtown Decorations, Inc, as it is every year.

SEE **TREE** PAGE 8

Security guard arrested for murder of homeless man

MATTHEW HALL
SMDP Editor

A security guard has been arrested in connection with the murder of a homeless man near Reed Park.

Los Angeles resident Sebastian Emil Gaston, 36-years-old, was arrested by the Santa Monica Police (SMPD) on Nov. 7. According to SMPD, Gaston admitted to killing the victim and to a prior assault in July of this year.

The murder occurred on Sept. 6 in the alley between 6th and 7th streets near Reed Park. SMPD's Homeless Liaison Program (HLP) officers received a radio call of a person lying on the ground in the 1100 Block. When officers arrived, they discovered a deceased man in his 30s with one stab wound to the chest. Officers gathered evidence, video footage, and witness statements throughout the day.

Detectives identified Gaston who worked in an adjacent building.

Detectives presented the case to an LA County Deputy District Attorney who believed there was enough evidence to file the murder charge. An arrest warrant was issued for Gaston who was subsequently taken into custody on Nov. 7 at the Santa Monica police station. During his interrogation, Gaston admitted to the murder as well as a previous assault in July. Gaston remains in the custody of the LA County Sheriff's Department pending trial.

Anyone with information about this individual or incident is encouraged to contact Detective Kayondo at lawrence.kayondo@santamonica.gov, Sergeant Lozano at alfonso.lozano@santamonica.gov, or the Watch Commander 24 hours a day at 310-458-8427.

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How will Trump change health care? California braces for fights over insurance and abortion

KRISTEN HWANG
CalMatters

The last time Donald Trump was president, his health care policies chipped away at the Affordable Care Act and helped eliminate federal abortion rights, leaving states to fill the gaps. In his second term, experts predict Trump's agenda to be similar and warn that health care will get more expensive and harder to access for millions of people.

Congressional Republicans, newly empowered by Trump's victory and the Senate moving to GOP control, have made it clear that they intend to try to implement long-standing conservative goals that include decreasing government spending on health care and further dismantling abortion rights, which are currently protected in about half of the country, including California.

Newly nominated Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has also pushed erroneous claims about vaccine hazards and exaggerated the risks of water fluoridation that could have ripple effects across state public health efforts.

The Democratic supermajority in the California Capitol, however, has spent the past several years passing laws to stymie future conservative administrations on health care, said Mia Bonta, chairperson of the Assembly health committee and a Democrat from Oakland.

Legislators have protected insurance coverage of abortion and transgender care. They have expanded health insurance programs to low-income undocumented immigrants and paid for it with state funds. They have taken pieces of the Affordable Care Act and written it into state law, expanding the enrollment period and banning lifetime limits on coverage. And they've invested millions of dollars into public health after the system languished for a decade.

"We were able to be very deliberate in the past several years to Trump-proof our health system moving forward," Bonta said.

Not all state lawmakers have been happy with California's health care expansions. Senate Republican Minority Leader Brian Jones, for instance, said public insurance for undocumented immigrants, which as of this year is available to all income-eligible immigrants, is too expensive and should be "delayed or repealed entirely."

But Democratic lawmakers and health care advocates say they are better prepared than the first time Trump took office — though they expect the new administration to put California's new laws to the test.

"We have their playbook from 2017, and almost everything they tried to do, California helped stop through our advocacy … or through court cases," said Rachel Linn Gish, communications director for Health Access California. "In that way we are in a much stronger position than before."

AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE AT RISK



Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters

PROTEST: Pro-abortion rights supporters marched in protest of a Supreme Court ruling that overturned Roe vs. Wade, in Sacramento on June 25, 2022.

During his first term, Trump tried and failed to repeal the Affordable Care Act. He has said for his second term that he has "concepts of a plan" for the program that insures more than 21 million Americans.

Republican lawmakers in general have shifted away from talking about eliminating the program entirely, but some leaders, including Vice President-elect J.D. Vance have suggested changes that would make insurance more expensive. Vance during the campaign said he wanted to increase choices for consumers and "make the health insurance marketplace function a little bit better."

Eliminating the health insurance marketplace, which is also known as Obamacare, has grown deeply politically unpopular even among Republican constituents. Since Trump's first term, the number of people enrolled has grown by more than 9 million nationally. That political leverage is something that California advocates believe will help protect the program.

"More people are enrolled in (Affordable Care Act) marketplaces than ever before," Linn Gish said.

But in many ways the state's Achilles heel is federal funding. Federal spending on California health care programs is more than three times greater than the state's share. That's more than $117 billion from the federal government to support Medi-Cal and the Affordable Care Act compared to $35 billion from California's general fund for all state health spending, which includes public health, state hospitals and social services.

And much of California's policies can only be fully realized with sufficient money in the bank.

With the state grappling with a third consecutive deficit next year, the most immediate and likely federal health care cut will be difficult to prevent: financial assistance for middle-class families.

Outgoing President Joe Biden approved two rounds of Affordable Care Act subsidies during his presidency, making assistance available to middle-class families for the first time. Those subsidies will expire at the end of 2025, and Trump and congressional Republicans have signaled that they don't want to renew them.

Without them, premiums will increase by an average of $1,000 annually for residents with insurance through Covered California, the state's Affordable Care Act program. Premiums are already set to increase by about 8% next year, and without federal assistance other out-of-pocket costs such as deductibles and copays will most likely spike as well.

Prior to Biden's push to lower health care premiums, many Californians paid upwards of 18% of their income on health insurance, according to Covered California data. Federal assistance capped that expense at 8.5%.

"You're talking about a world where we're doubling how much people pay," Linn Gish said.

In 2023, California lawmakers established a backstop of state funding to help more people afford health insurance, but those reserves can't make up the gap if federal funding stops.

HEALTH CARE FOR IMMIGRANTS

Medi-Cal, the state Medicaid program, offers expansive benefits to all low-income individuals regardless of immigration status. The program could face uncomfortable cuts with a less-than-friendly federal administration.

Federal dollars cover about 70% of Medi-Cal's program costs, while the state invests approximately $30 billion in general fund spending.

"The largest concern many of us have who have worked with our state budget is the resources we will be receiving from the federal government this upcoming year," said Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula, a Democrat from Fresno who has focused on expansions for undocumented workers. "There are many who are struggling who need their government to help."

About 7 million more Californians qualified for Medi-Cal after Affordable Care Act rules allowed the state to bump up income limits in 2014, and about 1.8 million undocumented immigrants have gotten Medi-Cal coverage after the state began expanding eligibility for them in 2015.

Some California Republicans have strayed from the party platform when it comes to health care for undocumented immigrants. The Central Valley relies heavily on immigrant labor, and a handful of state Republicans from those communities supported expanded access to health insurance for undocumented residents.

The state GOP, however, still officially opposes coverage for undocumented immigrants and several Republican

SEE **HEALTH CARE** PAGE 8

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Covered California starts offering health care to DACA immigrants. Will Trump's win deter them?

ANA B. IBARRA
CalMatters

For the first time since the passage of the Affordable Care Act, undocumented immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children can purchase subsidized health plans through Covered California, the state's insurance marketplace.

This move is expected to provide relief to thousands of so-called Dreamers, especially those who are freelancers, self-employed or have no other means of health coverage.

But the expansion is coming at an uncertain time both because of Donald Trump's election as president and because of an ongoing lawsuit that contests the move to allow certain undocumented immigrants to buy health insurance through Affordable Care Act exchanges.

Trump in his first administration unsuccessfully tried to undo both the Affordable Care Act and the Obama-era policy known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) that protects certain undocumented immigrants.

Covered California officials and immigration attorneys say that while it is difficult to predict what will happen in the coming months, those eligible should take the opportunity and get health insurance as soon as possible.

"Coverage is here right now. So if you need to go to the doctor, if you've been putting off care that you need, if you've never had the opportunity to get your preventive care, you can do that right now," said Jessica Altman, the executive director of Covered California. "Let's not let fears about the future prevent what can happen in the here and now and what you can have access to."

Altman and her team have been touring the state to spread awareness of the open enrollment period and this new access for DACA recipients.

Created in 2012, DACA does not grant recipients legal status, but it does protect them from deportation and allows them work authorization. Up until now, they've only been allowed to sign up for health coverage through an employer. In California low-income DACA grantees can also sign up for Medi-Cal.

The Biden administration announced a rule change in May that updated the definition of "lawfully present" for Affordable Care Act eligibility so that DACA recipients could buy insurance in the federal or state insurance marketplaces.

"The rule is correcting a long-standing mistake of exclusion," said Nicholas Espíritu, a deputy legal director at the National Immigration Law Center.

For Trump's Health and Human Services department to undo the rule, it would have to go through a similar administrative process, which includes a notice and public comment period, Espíritu explained. This route could take quite some time.

By some estimates more than half a million people are protected by DACA, but it's unclear exactly how many of them are without health insurance. One survey from UC San Diego and the National Immigration Law Center estimates about 20% are uninsured. That's because with permission to work, most have been able to obtain coverage through an employer.

Expanding coverage to DACA recipients is estimated to cost the federal government between $240 million to $300 million a year. However, because DACA recipients are young, with an average age of 30, they could potentially have a positive impact on the health insurance risk pool — younger and healthier individuals can help bring down the cost of premiums for everyone enrolled in marketplace plans.

Covered California estimates that about 40,000 DACA recipients residing in this state are eligible for marketplace coverage this enrollment season.

Open enrollment started Nov. 1 and runs through Jan. 31. People must sign up by Dec. 31 if they want their coverage to kick in Jan.1. DACA recipients can also get coverage for December 2024 if they sign up before the end of this month.

GOP STATES CHALLENGE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT EXPANSION

The most immediate threat to Dreamers' access to the Affordable Care Act is being fought in a North Dakota courtroom.

In August, a group of 19 Republican attorneys general — from Kansas, Alabama, Florida, Texas, Idaho and other states — filed a lawsuit in federal court challenging the insurance marketplace expansion to DACA recipients.

They argue that allowing DACA grantees into the marketplace creates "additional administrative and resource burden" in states that run their own exchanges. They also argue that access to subsidized health care is likely to encourage undocumented immigrants to remain in the U.S., and may eventually lead to more illegal immigration.

California and 18 other states last month filed a brief in defense of the Biden benefit expansion.

"Dreamers pay billions of dollars in taxes each year to help fund programs like the Affordable Care Act. Yet until now, they've been unable to access these programs themselves," California's Attorney General Rob Bonta said in a statement. "As home to more Dreamers than any other state in the country, California is proud to stand up for their right to access affordable healthcare."

DACA grantees in California pay an estimated $2.1 billion a year in federal taxes and another $1 billion in state and local taxes, according to figures from Center for American Progress.

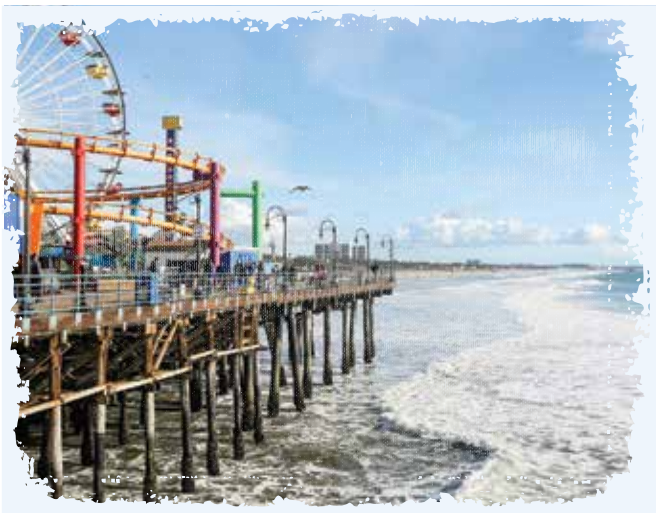
BIDEN HEALTH SUBSIDIES COULD END UNDER TRUMP

Arguably no other state has done more to expand health insurance coverage for its residents, including its immigrants, than California. The federal government's move to open the insurance marketplaces to Dreamers complements California's efforts.

The state already offers Medi-Cal coverage to low-income earners regardless of their immigration status. But thousands of workers who earn above the Medi-Cal income limit don't have many options for affordable coverage. Undocumented people technically can purchase a health insurance plan directly from a broker in the private market, but that's without any type of financial assistance, making it unaffordable for most.

Health policy experts say one way that Trump and the incoming Republican-led Congress could undermine the Affordable Care Act, not just for DACA recipients but for

SEE **DACA** PAGE 8



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **59**

WEDNESDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 0-1ft+

Smaller surf and possible light offshore winds.

THURSDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 0-1ft+

Surf trends back up through the morning tide push — not big or particularly good, but could be fun enough. Watching for a fresh bump of NW swell mix. Decent to good odds for favorable wind and weather.

Weather

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.
Thursday: Patchy fog before 10am. Otherwise, cloudy, with a high near 66.
Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 50.
FridayMostly sunny, with a high near 66.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2024/11/23	Sat	10:27 PM	0.80	L
2024/11/24	Sun	05:25 AM	4.56	H
2024/11/24	Sun	11:33 AM	2.11	L
2024/11/24	Sun	4:50 PM	3.74	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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The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 8,200 on weekdays and 8,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

GAS PRICES IN SANTA MONICA

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Chevron	CHEVRON 1819 Cloverfield Blvd	$5.00
Mobil	MOBIL 731 Santa Monica Blvd	$5.00
	LINCOLN BLVD CAR WASH 1624 Lincoln Blvd	$4.59
	WORLD 1801 Lincoln Blvd	$4.19
Shell	SHELL 1866 Lincoln Blvd	$4.70
Speedway	SPEEDWAY EXPRESS 2555 Lincoln Blvd	$4.19
Chevron	CHEVRON 1732 Lincoln Blvd	$4.79
ARCO	ARCO 332 Pico Blvd	$4.29
Sinclair	SINCLAIR 1944 Pico Blvd	$4.39
Chevron	CHEVRON 1330 Santa Monica Blvd	$4.79
Chevron	CHEVRON 1348 Pico Blvd	$4.90
Chevron	CHEVRON 432 Wilshire Blvd	$4.79

*Prices paying in card

Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have fallen 1.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $4.43/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 13.1 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 70.7 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has declined 0.4 cents in the last week and stands at $3.52 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at $3.76/g while the most expensive was $5.57/g, a difference of $1.81/g. The lowest price in the state was $3.55/g while the highest was $6.79/g, a difference of $3.24/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 2.6 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $3.03/g today. The national average is down 16.7 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 32.3 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Santa Monica Daily Press

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Los Angeles County approves historic governance reform. San Francisco backs a study



Photo by Kirby Lee via AP Photo

LOS ANGELES: The Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration in downtown Los Angeles in 2020.

BY DAN WALTERS

It got lost in the massive attention paid — with good reason — to Donald Trump's triumphant return to the presidency, but a quiet revolution occurred in Los Angeles County.

Its voters approved a ballot measure to completely overhaul how the huge county, whose 10 million residents are greater than the populations of all but 10 states, is governed. After the 2030 census, the county's Board of Supervisors will be expanded from five to nine members, hopefully making it more representative of the county's incredible demographic diversity.

One could argue that the board should be even larger, perhaps 13 or even 15 members, to reduce each member's constituency to a more manageable size. However, nine is certainly better than five.

The most startling aspect of the change is that the reform was placed on the ballot by a majority of the present board. It effectively reduces the clout that individual members have wielded, something that politicians are generally unwilling to do.

"People really want this change. They know it is time," Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, chair of the board and co-author of the measure with Supervisor Janice Hahn, said on Tuesday after it became apparent that the measure would pass.

"Five supervisors for 10 million people? That doesn't make sense," Horvath added. "Even with the hardest working supervisor, people would like to see you more and pay more attention to their needs. It means we can do a lot better."

While expanding the board received most attention prior to the election, another element of the overhaul will potentially have a greater political impact: the creation of an elected county executive, in effect a mayor of the county. The first election for the new position will occur in 2028.

Given the county's size, it will hands down be the second most important political office in California and a very obvious stepping stone to the governorship, particularly since whoever wins the position is almost certain to be a Democrat.

With dozens of mayors, congressional members and state legislators — plus nine county supervisors — Los Angeles County will have no shortage of political figures vying for the powerful position.

Creating an elected county executive was the most controversial aspect of the proposal for the two board members who opposed placing the issue on the ballot. Supervisor Kathryn Barger, who voted against the measure with colleague Holly Mitchell, said it was wrong to have a position with no term limits.

"That will politicize our chief executive officer position. We need an executive that is nonpartisan and unbiased running the daily operations of the county, not another politician," Barger said in a statement.

The quiet revolution that occurred in Los Angeles sharply contrasts with what didn't occur 400 miles to the north in San Francisco. It's a city and a county combined, California's only such entity, governed by an elected mayor and an 11-member Board of Supervisors.

San Francisco voters ousted the incumbent mayor, London Breed, in favor of a wealthy philanthropist, Daniel Lurie, declaring that they wanted a change in governance. But at the same time, they rejected a ballot measure that would have reduced a bewildering array of 130 semi-independent commissions that wield much of the city government's authority.

The interlocking powers of a mayor, supervisors and the commissions are widely cited as preventing San Francisco from addressing its most obvious civic issues, such as homelessness, crime and housing shortages.

A rival measure to study the commission system, which was placed on the ballot by the Board of Supervisors to thwart the more meaningful proposal, apparently passed.

Kudos to Los Angeles but a raspberry to San Francisco.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

UNMUTED

With the election in the rearview mirror and its repercussions still hovering on the horizon, I felt this would be a good time to take a break from commentary about City Council's actions and instead acknowledge the contribution of its longest serving current member, Gleam Davis, who is departing. When I scheduled an "exit interview" with Councilmember Davis in October, I didn't anticipate that two Councilmembers would fail in their bids for reelection, and I didn't anticipate that one of them would choose to end his term with a public tantrum on the dais. However, both events reinforce the reasons to honor Councilmember Davis's achievement as she completes 15 years on the Council.

Due to term limits, her longevity is unlikely to be matched. I suspect that there are many who consider that a good thing, but it's a striking change. When Councilmember Davis was first appointed in 2009, it was typical for Councilmembers to serve more than a decade, but when she leaves, the senior Councilmember will be Lana Negrete, who has only served three years.

Term limits provide an opportunity for more people to participate in government, and the new Council will include four first-time legislators. I expect them to bring enthusiasm and new ideas, but what they will lack is institutional memory: the knowledge of what has worked and what has failed in the past. Any organization without institutional memory risks repeating past mistakes and/or reinventing the wheel.

For the last few years, Councilmember Davis has often been the Cassandra of the Council, alerting Councilmembers when she felt they were straying from historic or legal norms. She's been sometimes accused of being pedantic or patronizing, but she was the one who warned in 2021 that the Council's proposed housing element was not compliant with state law. Her explanations may have seemed like legal mumbo-jumbo in the wee hours of the morning, but the shocking skyscrapers being imposed on Santa Monica are a direct result of her counsel being ignored.

She isn't going to win any congeniality awards, but it's pretty clear that hasn't been her priority. "As someone who never thought about higher office, networking was never my goal," she said. "You can spend a lot of time gladhanding people, or you can choose to do your homework."

She's someone who does her homework, which likely contributed to her attending Harvard Law School. She grew up on the Eastside of Los Angeles County, "where it was smoggy and hot," she said, and she returned to California in 1986 after a stint at the Civil Rights division of the Department of Justice in Washington. When her mother suggested settling down in Pasadena, "I told her I didn't want to chew my air."

Instead, she chose Santa Monica for the ocean breezes she recalled from childhood visits, and her first foray into local public service was as a board member of WISE Senior Services. "I learned how important it was for seniors to age in their own home with dignity," she said.

Affordable housing and tenant rights have remained priorities for her, because of her personal convictions and likely also because she's been a co-chair of Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights and a beneficiary of its political capital. She lost her first race for Council in 2006, but she landed a seat on the Planning Commission and ended up being Mayor twice (2018-2019 and 2022-2023).

Though she's not one to shy away from a fight, she knows the importance of consensus, and she shared the tongue-in-cheek advice she was given when she first joined the Council: "You can do anything you want," she recalled being told "as long as you get four votes for it."

The past two years, she has failed to get four votes for many issues she cares about, and she has bemoaned the Council's discord, even while her uncompromising progressive stances contributed to the erosion. "Maybe the way I've gone about it isn't the right way," she said, "but I always try to do it with data and facts."

As a lawyer, she knows how to select facts and wield them to her advantage. Her opponents could choose to do the same, but more often they've appealed to voters' emotions, too often reactionary ones, which has resulted in Councilmember Davis being vilified in effigy on the Promenade over her support for homeless residents. It's worth noting that she didn't have a tantrum in response.

"If you make a decision that makes this person happy or that person happy, you're not doing your job," she said, reflecting on her lengthy tenure before offering some sage advice for the incoming Council. "Don't be so busy trying to keep your job that you forget to do your job. You should make decisions because you think it's the right thing to do and not because you're worried about getting reelected."

Devan Sipher can be reached at Unmuted.SMDP@gmail.com

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Malibu

The Malibu Library Speaker Series Presents Author and National Political Figure Huma Abedin

The City of Malibu is excited to present the next event in the 2024 Malibu Library Speaker Series, featuring Chief of Staff to Hillary Clinton Huma Abedin discussing her book "Both/And," on Tuesday, November 20, at 7 p.m. at Malibu City Hall.

"Malibu is honored to welcome Huma Abedin to our Library Speaker Series, where she'll share her first-hand experiences and insights from working at the highest levels of American and international politics," said Mayor Doug Stewart. "Her journey and reflections on identity, resilience, and purpose will resonate and offer an inspiring evening for our community."

Huma Abedin has spent her entire career in public service and national politics, beginning as an intern in First Lady Hillary Clinton's office in 1996. After four years in the White House, she worked in the U.S. Senate as Senior Advisor to Senator Clinton and was traveling Chief of Staff for Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign. In 2009, she was appointed Deputy Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of State.

Abedin served as Vice Chair of Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign, which resulted in the first elected female nominee of a major national political party. She currently serves as Clinton's Chief of Staff. Born in the United States and raised in Saudi Arabia, Abedin moved back to the U.S. in 1993.

Abedin will discuss her first book, "Both/And," which grapples with family, legacy, identity, faith, marriage, motherhood, and work with wisdom, sophistication, grace, and clarity.

The free event will take place on Tuesday, November 20, at 7:00 PM at Malibu City Hall, located at 23825 Stuart Ranch Road. RSVPs are required. For more information and to RSVP, visit www.MalibuCity.org/LibrarySpeakers. Launched in 2013, the Malibu Library Speaker Series is a program in partnership with the Malibu Library, part of LA County Library, and the City of Malibu. It features experts, authors, and other notable figures discussing a wide range of subjects, including the entertainment industry, literature, science, motivation, the arts, education, sports, travel, food, and the environment.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

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Fairview Branch Library presents a Children's Holiday Book Fair

Santa Monica Public Library's Fairview Branch presents its second annual Children's Holiday Book Fair on Tuesday, December 3, from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. Designed to help children partake in the joy of the holiday season, the book fair allows children under 18 years of age to "shop" for a free book gift for their parents, siblings, or that special someone, then wrap the present to gift to their loved ones. Library staff and volunteers will be on hand to provide the children assistance in selecting gifts and wrapping them, and gifts will be available for all holiday traditions. Children will also be able to make holiday cards, as well as enjoy holiday treats and drinks. This program is generously supported by the Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library. To learn more about the Friends and become a member, visit friendsofsmpl.org.

The Fairview Branch is located at 2101 Ocean Park Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90405. This program is free and open to the public. For more information on this and other Library programs, visit smpl.org. All Santa Monica Public Library locations are wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, call (310) 458-8600 one week prior to event. Ride your bike or Big Blue Bus. Bicycle parking racks are available at all Library locations.

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Countywide

Public Health Investigating Cases of E. coli Linked to Carrots

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is investigating two local cases of E. coli associated with a multistate outbreak linked to multiple brands of recalled organic whole bagged carrots and baby carrots sold by Grimmway Farms.

One local case linked to this outbreak resulted in the death of an adult over 65 with medical conditions.

Public Health is working with the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA), U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the California Department of Public Health on the investigation of this multistate outbreak. The organic bagged carrots and baby carrots were potentially contaminated by a type of bacteria known as Shiga toxin-producing E. coli (STEC), which can lead to serious health conditions. Residents should check to see if they have recalled carrots at home. These products should be returned or thrown away.

On November 16, 2024, Grimmway Farms recalled multiples sizes and brands of bagged organic baby and whole carrots. Carrots on store shelves right now are likely not affected but recalled carrots may be in people's homes.

The recalled food includes: Baby Organic Carrots - Best-if-used-by dates ranging from 9/11/2024 to 11/12/2024.

Brands: 365, Bunny Luv, Cal-Organic, Compliments, Full Circle, Good & Gather, GreenWise, Grimmway Farms, Marketside, Nature's Promise, O-Organic, President's Choice, Raley's, Simple Truth, Sprouts, Trader Joe's, Wegmans, Wholesome Pantry.

Whole Organic Carrots - Were available for purchase in stores approximately from 8/14/2024 through 10/23/2024.No best-if-used-by-dates are on the bags of organic whole carrots.

Brands: 365, Bunny Luv, Cal-Organic, Compliments, Full Circle, Good & Gather, GreenWise, Marketside, Nature's Promise, O-Organic, President's Choice, Simple Truth, Trader Joe's, Wegmans, Wholesome Pantry.

E. coli is a bacteria found in many places, including in the environment, foods, water, and the intestines of people and animals. Most E. coli are harmless and are part of a healthy intestinal tract. People get E. coli through contaminated food or water or contact with animals, environments, or other people. Groups of people who are at increased risk for E. coli infection include: Children younger than 5, adults 65 and older and people with weakened immune systems. Infection with Shiga toxin-producing E. coli (STEC) can lead to a serious health condition called hemolytic uremic syndrome, which can lead to kidney failure, permanent health problems, and even death.

Most people infected with Shiga toxin-producing E. coli experience severe stomach cramps, diarrhea (often bloody), and vomiting. Symptoms usually start 3 to 4 days after swallowing the bacteria. Most people recover without treatment after 5 to 7 days. Seek medical care if you have severe E. coli symptoms.

The best way to prevent E. coli infection keeping your hands clean, preparing food safely, and drinking safe water.

For questions or to find a nearby clinic or doctor, call the Public Health InfoLine at 1-833-540-0473, open every day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information, visit: https://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/outbreaks/e-coli-o121.html

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

FOR QUOTES PLEASE CALL 310-573-8074 or email cindy@smdp.com

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Announcements	Pets	Apartments/Condos	Real Estate Loans	Attorney Services	Wealth and Success
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For Sale	Wanted	Roommates	Massage	Yard Sales	Psychic
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	Vacation Rentals	Real Estate	Computer Services	Fitness	Tutoring

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2024225364 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 10/30/24The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Gooding & Company 1517 20th St Santa Monica, CA 90404. Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. 2557512The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Gooding & Company, LLC 1517 20th St Santa Monica, CA 90404. If corporation or LLC- Print State of CAThis is Business is Conducted: A Limited Liability Company . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 10/24. Registrant /Corp/LLC Name Gooding & Company, LLC Title: CFO . Morgan Carter . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 10/30/2024NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code). 11/05/024, 11/12/2024, 11/19/2024, 11/26/2024

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2024225348 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 10/30/24The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Gooding & Company LLC 1517 20th St Santa Monica, CA 90404. Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. 2557512The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Gooding & Company, LLC 1517 20th St Santa Monica, CA 90404. If corporation or LLC- Print State of CAThis is Business is Conducted: A Limited Liability Company . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 10/24. Registrant /Corp/LLC Name Gooding & Company, LLC Title: CFO . Morgan Carter . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 10/30/2024NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code). 11/05/024, 11/12/2024, 11/19/2024, 11/26/2024

DBA

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 county: Santa Monica Daily Press

NAME CHANGE

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Grocery chains vie for a place on Thanksgiving tables

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP Retail Writer

With Thanksgiving less than two weeks away, Walmart, Target, Aldi and other grocers are competing for a place on holiday tables with turkey dinner deals and other promotions to tempt Americans who haven't recovered from recent food price inflation.

Walmart, the nation's largest food retailer, first bundled the makings of a traditional turkey feast into a meal deal three years ago. This year, the 29-item offer, which includes a frozen turkey and ingredients for side dishes, costs less than $55 and is intended to serve eight. That calculates to less than $7 per person.

Target's version for four people costs $20, $5 less than the company's 2023 Thanksgiving meal, and includes a frozen turkey, stuffing mix and canned green beans and canned jellied cranberry sauce. Aldi's offers a frozen Butterball turkey with gravy mix as well as pumpkin ingredients for pumpkin pie and ingredients for side dishes like sweet potato casserole. The German-owned supermarket chain priced it for $47 and said that was less than it charged for the same items in 2019.

Meijer, with more than 500 supercenters in the Midwest, jumped into the fray last week by offering a frozen turkey for 49 cents per pound or lower and a $37 Thanksgiving family meal for a group of four to six.

Comparing the respective menus to determine which represents the best value is difficult since recommended serving sizes and contents vary. But the promotions, introduced earlier than ever and at a time when many households remain put off by higher prices, underscore the importance of Thanksgiving to grocers, analysts said.

While consumer perceptions of grocery prices is based on the cost of staples like eggs and milk, "the Thanksgiving meal has become essentially a new benchmark," Jason Goldberg, chief commerce strategy officer at Publicis Groupe, a global marketing and communications company.

It's the occasion for the second-largest holiday meal for retailers behind the feasts that accompany the winter holidays. Compared with an average, Thanksgiving meal shopping delivered a $2.4 billion sales lift during the week before and after the holiday last year, market research firm Circana said. Shopping for Christmas, Hanukah and New Year's Day meals gave stores a $5.3 billion sales uplift compared with an average week, Circana said.

Walmart launched its offer on Oct. 14, two weeks earlier than last year and plans to make it available through Dec. 24. The two bundles the retailer offered last year contained different items, but Walmart said this year's selected products cost 3.5% less.

Joan Driggs, a Circana vice president, expects shoppers to buy items on sale for half of what they need to prepare Thanksgiving dinner meal. That's double the amount from 2022, when retailers pulled back on promotions due to limited supplies left over from the coronavirus pandemic.

Consumers still aren't seeing discounts as deep as the ones grocers trotted out in pre-pandemic 2019, Driggs said. To attract customers, retailers therefore are creating strategies like meal bundles, which may "lessen the stress" for shoppers since they show the cost per person, she said.

Angel Rosario-Sanchez, 24, a New Jersey resident who was at a Walmart store in Secaucus on Wednesday, said he planned to have Thanksgiving with his friends but had not shopped for groceries yet. Seeing the big displays of Thanksgiving products in the store made him want to return to buy some.

"I always count on Walmart for deals," said Rosario-Sanchez, who usually selects food from Walmart's lower-end, Great Value brand. "Inflation is too much, and it needs to go back to where it originally was."

For the past two years, Walmart, Target and others have seen price-conscious shoppers shift more of their purchases to store label brands. In response, retailers have improved their selections or created new food lines brands.

Walmart in April launched Bettergoods, its biggest store-label food brand in 20 years in terms of the breadth of items, to appeal to younger customers who aren't loyal to national brands and want chef-inspired foods that are more affordably priced.

But store brands aren't necessarily cheaper.

Wells Fargo's Agri-Food Institute, a team of national industry advisors that provides economic insights and research, compared the costs of store brands and national name brands for a typical Thanksgiving dinner. The name-brand versions of cranberry sauce were less expensive than the store brands the team inventoried, while the name brand pumpkin pies versus store brand versions were the same price.

Robin Wenzel, the head of the Wells Fargo institute, thinks the makers of some familiar brands realized they "overshot" with some of their post-pandemic price increases and are retrenching.

The Agri-Food Institute's 10-person Thanksgiving menu includes turkey, stuffing, salad, cranberries, dinner rolls and pumpkin pie. Using all name-brand would cost $90 this year, 0.5% less than last year. Preparing the same meal with store-branded food would cost $73, or 2.7% more than a year ago.

That gives shoppers the option to mix and match, Wenzel said.

The latest government snapshot on inflation showed grocery prices rose just 0.1% from September to October and are up just 1.1% over the past year. That's providing some relief to consumers after food costs surged roughly 23% over the past three years.

For main Thanksgiving entrées and beverages, prices are easing, but given the spike in food prices in recent years, consumers may or may not feel it.

A 15-item Thanksgiving meal costs an average of $65.51 this year, down nearly 3% from last year but 42% higher overall than in 2019, retail intelligence provider Datasembly said. For example, a 12-ounce can of jellied cranberry sauce averaged $2.89, which is 1% lower than a year ago but still 90% higher compared with 2019.

A 10-pound frozen turkey averages $10.40 this year, a 19% decrease from 2023 but still 6% higher than in 2019, the data firm said. Prices for some Thanksgiving products are still going up: A 30-ounce box of pumpkin pie mix now costs an average of $5.56, up 6% compared with a year ago and nearly 70% more than five years ago, according to Datasembly.

Still, plenty will bypass the bundles at Walmart and elsewhere.

While visiting the Walmart in Secaucus, New Jersey, Nadia Rivest, 70, said she already had shopped

"I like red pepper, red tomatoes, something fresh," she said.

ELECTION

FROM PAGE 1

In another first, Santa Monica's first openly homosexual council elect Hall stated that while he wants to be "sensitive" to the lost diversity on council, he is proud of his group for its own diversity, including himself, Zernitskaya, and Snell being the first Black councilmember in decades. Raskin added that he's looking forward to collaborating "with a really amazing group of teammates" on a host of issues.

"We face some unprecedented challenges locally, but I know that I and my fellow councilmembers look forward to the challenge, and I am always going to be available to meet with you … we're a city where you can still get to know people face-to-face, and I look forward to meeting so many great people in this city over the next few years," Raskin said.

The analysis panel, which also included Councilmember Caroline Torosis and Los Angeles County Democratic Party Chair Mark Ramos, attempted to conflate the fact that Santa Monica voters picked progressive candidates while still voting for the tough-on-crime Proposition 36 statewide as well as Nathan Hochman for the county's District Attorney position. Bonin theorized that losing the "narrative war" when it comes to public safety played a large role, allowing right-wing media to group progressivism alongside crime and homelessness issues.

"We have allowed the question to be 'crime is skyrocketing, do we need more cops or do we need to put more people in jail?' instead of (asking) what is the best way to keep our neighborhoods, our families, our community safe," Bonin said. "Those lead (to) two different answers."

He added that Hochman's campaign was successful by narrowing the definition of crime, leaving little mention of subjects like wage theft, environmental crimes and hate crimes, while Torosis added that George Gascón's election as District Attorney wasn't followed up with requisite support for his policies, hurting his re-election chances.

While safety conversations were molded by right-wing influence on the state level, the panel stated the same narrative controlling took place nationally when it comes to economic issues, clearing the way for President-Elect Donald Trump to sweep swing states and return to the White House for a second term. Torosis said that while she was "so inspired" from attending the Democratic National Convention over the summer, the party must do a better job of attracting moderate voters and showcasing its message of "uplifting everyone" economically.

"The post-pandemic inflation was really ginned up a little bit with the Trump campaign, economic instability for folks, and I think that the message was sent that our Democratic candidates just didn't have an effective message in other parts of the country to address rising costs of living," Torosis said. "I think that it showed that our focus on these progressive social justice issues are really important, but that's not helping us reach these working class voters in purple areas (of) the country."

Ramos said that the real question is why Trump was victorious, rather than why Vice President Kamala Harris was defeated, pointing to reasons like free media coverage of Trump's follies and more surface-level messaging that appealed to the working class.

"People are hurting, people (are) willing to take a chance, and people are angry … (when) Kamala Harris is talking about 'I'm going to go after price gougers,' I'm not really sure that resonated, but (Trump's message of) 'I'm going to put a tariff on China because they're screwing us' makes sense to people in a very visceral way," Ramos said. "Regardless of whatever the tariff means, they just know that it sounds angry … when people feel like they have been left behind in this economy … (they) were willing to take a chance on someone like Donald Trump."

He added that although tensions are still high post-election, insulting Trump voters is "shortsighted" due to the potential of appealing to them in future election cycles, something Democrats need to be willing to do.

"I am committed to do this work, and I ask all of us to do this thing together," Ramos said. "(It's) okay to feel bad today, but let's get back to work."

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HEALTH CARE

FROM PAGE 2

lawmakers want the state to undo that health care expansion.

Gov. Gavin "Newsom and Democrat lawmakers insist on expanding free health care for illegal immigrants to the tune of $5 billion per year. In the midst of a multi-billion dollar budget deficit, hospitals and maternity wards shutting down, and a massive influx of migrants illegally crossing our open border, we should not be expanding this costly government program," Jones, a Republican from San Diego said.

Immigrants who came to the United States in their youth and who are protected by the Obama-era program known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) for the first time can enroll in Covered California thanks to expanded eligibility under the Biden administration.

Liberal lawmakers and policy advocates hailed the expansions as a long-sought-after victory, but they remain controversial among California Republicans. Many lawmakers and advocates expect these expansions to be challenged over the next four years.

"Anything that has Biden's fingerprints on it is going to be the first touched. The DACA expansion is going to be high on the list," Linn Gish said.

This year a bill expanding Covered California to all undocumented immigrants, not just those who came to the U.S. as children, stalled in committee. That measure would have allowed immigrants who make too much money to qualify for Medi-Cal to purchase insurance.

Arambula, who authored the bill, said those populations are "unjustly excluded" from buying insurance at full price even if they want to. He plans on reintroducing the measure, which could be implemented without federal approval.

FAMILY PLANNING AND ABORTION CUTS

On the campaign trail Trump took credit for appointing the Supreme Court justices who ended the national right to abortion by overturning Roe vs. Wade, but he said he would not support a national law banning abortion.

Still, California Democrats aren't taking any chances on abortion rights. They passed more than two dozen laws to protect access to abortion, contraceptives and gender-affirming services in the last three years.

In 2022, voters also protected abortion as a right in the state constitution.

Democratic lawmakers say they have more work to do.

Bonta said she plans on introducing bills to further protect reproductive rights on the first day of the legislative session. Those bills would require hospitals to provide emergency abortions, protect birth control for Medi-Cal recipients and ease the regulation of birth centers. Bonta said lawmakers are working quickly and she expects many of the bills introduced in December to have urgency clauses that allow immediate implementation.

"It's going to be a huge change within the health care space," she said.

The first time Trump was president, he also dismantled Title X regulations that fund the federal family planning network by instituting a "gag rule" prohibiting clinics from performing or referring for abortions. The clinics funded have historically provided contraceptives, abortion care, sexually transmitted infection testing and treatment, gynecology services and postpartum care. After the rule change, the number of people served by Title X clinics dropped 60% nationally as a result of clinics exiting the program, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation, an independent health policy research center..

In California the number of people served dropped from 1 million to fewer than 200,000, said Amy Moy, co-CEO of Essential Access Health, which administers the state's Title X money.

California dedicated $10 million to bridge the gap, but Moy said if there is another federal cut, clinics say to expect longer wait times and fewer providers.

"We will be having to test the bounds of our guardrails and see what we can do here, but we are committed to working with partners and state leaders to do everything possible," Moy said.

Supported by the California Health Care Foundation (CHCF), which works to ensure that people have access to the care they need, when they need it, at a price they can afford. Visit www.chcf.org to learn more. This article was originally published by CalMatters.



Samohi goes on lockdown after active shooter false alarm

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica High School was placed on lockdown Tuesday afternoon following unconfirmed reports of an active shooter nearby, which were later noted by the Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) as a false alarm.

At 2:30 p.m., Gail Pinsker, Community & Public Relations Officer for Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District said in an email that the campus was put on lockdown for a call that came into SMPD about an active shooter. SMPD brought a strong presence to the campus, she added, stating that "all students and staff are safe and secure."

Nine minutes later, SMPD posted on social media that it was a false alarm.

"SMPD officers responded to a report of suspicious activity on the high school campus. As a precaution, students were sheltering in place. It was determined to be a false alarm. Officers are conducting a thorough search to ensure everyone's safety," the post said.

An all clear was given by the police and the lockdown was lifted, with Pinsker adding in a later statement that the district appreciated the "immediate response" by SMPD.

"Samohi students were very orderly, cooperative and followed directions well from staff and administration during the lockdown," Pinsker stated. "We appreciate the support of our local law enforcement agency in protecting our staff and students and their quick and thorough investigation of the incident … we are relieved with this outcome as the safety and health of our students and staff are our top priorities."

The false alarm comes a month after a shooting incident at local educational institution Santa Monica College's Center for Media & Design, in which SMC Custodial Operations Manager Felicia Hudson was fatally injured on the campus.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

DACA

FROM PAGE 3

everyone, is by not renewing the "enhanced premium subsidies" afforded by the Inflation Reduction Act, which are set to expire at the end of 2025. The enhanced subsidies increased the amount of financial assistance available to those already receiving it and made aid available to others for the first time by capping what they pay for the premium of a standard plan to 8.5% of their income.

Increasing the cost of coverage likely would result in some people going without health insurance. The Congressional Budget Office estimates 4 million people nationwide would drop their coverage in 2026 if Congress does not act to extend the subsidies.

It's unclear if Trump will once again go after the Affordable Care Act in its entirety. Republican efforts to repeal the health law in the past have failed, but during his first term, Trump was successful in eliminating or changing pieces of it.

California health leaders say that they are having conversations about how to prepare for potential federal decisions that could impact the gains in coverage that California has made.

"We've made such progress, and it's been incredible and hard-fought," said Altman at Covered California. "Even through the pandemic and the Medi-Cal redeterminations we're at the lowest uninsured rate on record. We've lowered our uninsured rate more than any other state in the nation.

"And so really it's just thinking about…how do we keep moving forward on our mission, whether we have headwinds or tailwinds," she said.

Supported by the California Health Care Foundation (CHCF), which works to ensure that people have access to the care they need, when they need it, at a price they can afford. Visit www.chcf.org to learn more. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

TREE

FROM PAGE 1

"Staying true to Santa Monica's dedication to sustainability, DTSM, Inc. opted for a reusable artificial holiday tree. This choice helps cut down on waste, supports long-term environmental goals, and saves money since we can use the tree year after year," said Andrew Thomas, CEO of DTSM.

The Downtown Christmas tree lighting ceremony is on Thursday, November 21 beginning at 6pm and running to 8pm on the 1300 block of the Third Street Promenade, between Santa Monica Blvd and Arizona Ave. Santa himself will be switching the lights on and guests can enjoy holiday crafts, hot cocoa and a holiday dance party with a live DJ.

"I invite all Santa Monicans to join us for the Official City of Santa Monica Holiday Tree Lighting. It is one of my favorite enduring local traditions because it brings our community together for an evening of joy, connection, and holiday cheer," said Thomas.

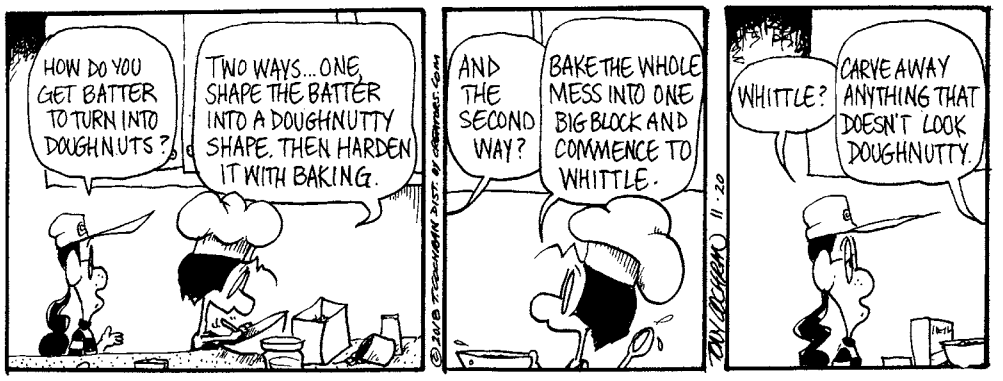
And the seasonal celebrations don't end here so don't put your Christmas ugly sweater away just yet. On Sunday, December 8, the tree lighting on Main Street will take place on the lawn of the California Heritage Museum, beginning at 3:30pm and continuing until 7pm. The Samohi choir will be in attendance and Santa Claus returns to Santa Monica for a photo opportunity with all the children who have been good this year. And he knows.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR
Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



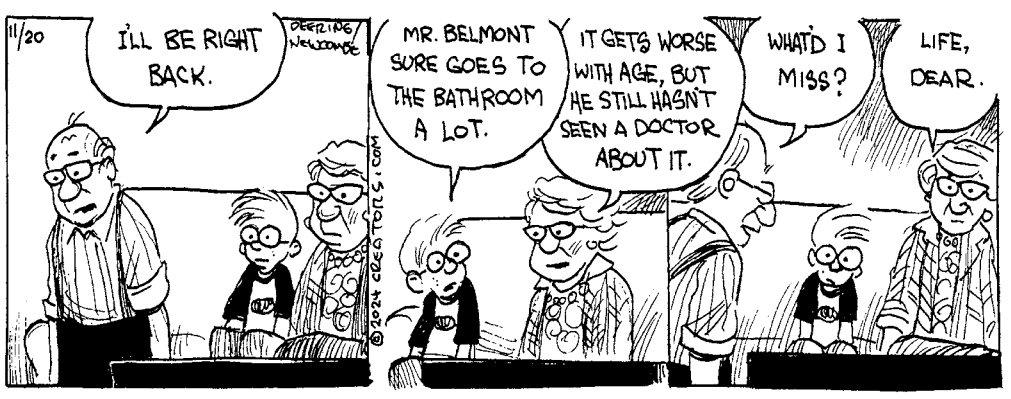
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

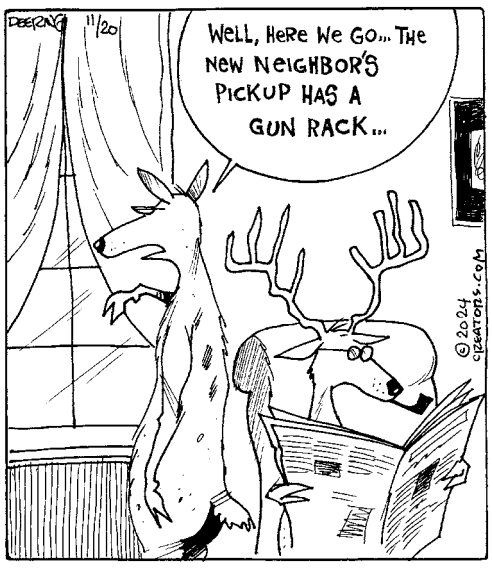
By PETER GALLAGHER



"YOU DON'T SEE MANY FLYKEEPERS."

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.

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Morning workout

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

Agile	Core	Intake	Protein	Skydive
Arms	Dart	Jack	Push	Sled
Athlete	Diet	Juice	Ramp	Sport
Axes	Fast	Keen	Reduce	Step
Bench	Floor	Lean	Relax	Tone
press	Friendly	Legs	Rods	Towel
Bikes	Goals	Mashie	Sabre	Trace
Blade	Golf	Mind	Scales	Yoga
Bowls	Hard	Netball	Shapely	
Caber	Helmet	Oars	Sinker	
Compliment	Hips	Obese	Size	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Picking up the groceries

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To advertise, email cindy@smdp.com or call 310.458.7737
smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 20)

A year of steady, rewarding growth. You'll find the ideal balance between ambition and contentment, creating a life that's on target with your goals while also being deeply fulfilling. More highlights: A journey gives you financial gains from something you thought was a long shot, and friendships that feel like family. Libra and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 11, 26, 30, 45 and 9.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll come up with 10 solutions to a one-solution problem, which is creative, vigorous and ultimately generous. You'll be compelled to share your brilliance for the fun and use of others.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Too much sameness makes you run thought patterns in a loop — fine if you're having a fantastic set of thoughts, but not good for thinking that's stinking. Either way, it's better to get out and do new things today.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll feel a pull toward the mysteries of your lineage. The stories of your elders will captivate you for a reason. They've shaped who you are, and you'll find yourself mirroring their paths.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Why put yourself in a position to prove a point? There's no need to start a competition. What would happen if instead you did all you could to support and highlight the wins of another? That would be a win for both of you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Step back and survey the scene. There are questions waiting to be asked. A good place to start: "Who can help?" and "What's the simpler way?" Try to get to the source of the issue instead of merely treating symptoms.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your image only matters insofar as it helps you make a difference. Today, someone reveals how you've positively impacted their life — a deeper reward than any compliment or surface approval.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You've scanned the horizon, and now it's time to narrow in. Specialization is key. Focus on the area that sparks your deepest curiosity, dive into the details, and become an expert. Mastery comes from commitment, not breadth.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). People will look to you for a fresh perspective, and you'll get them thinking in new directions. This is about a habit that needs breaking. Name it first and you're halfway there. Changing one small thing will have a domino effect.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll have the gift of insight and will understand not just what's happening but why it matters. Your newfound perspective gives you a calm persistence as you navigate opportunities and obstacles alike.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your experiences have mellowed you in lovely and surprising ways. Wisdom softens what once felt urgent. Accept the peace that comes with knowing you don't need to fight every battle because your influence is quietly but profoundly felt without all the drama.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Uncertainty doesn't equal danger, though your mind may need convincing. When your nerves spike this afternoon, it's a natural but unnecessary reaction you can read as a reminder to breathe deep and think of the bigger picture.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your best moments happen when you are in a creative mindset. You have something inside you to express, and it will be a little different with each modality, so stay versatile and be on the lookout for different tools and skills you can add to your arsenal.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

Answer to current puzzle

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

11/19/24

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

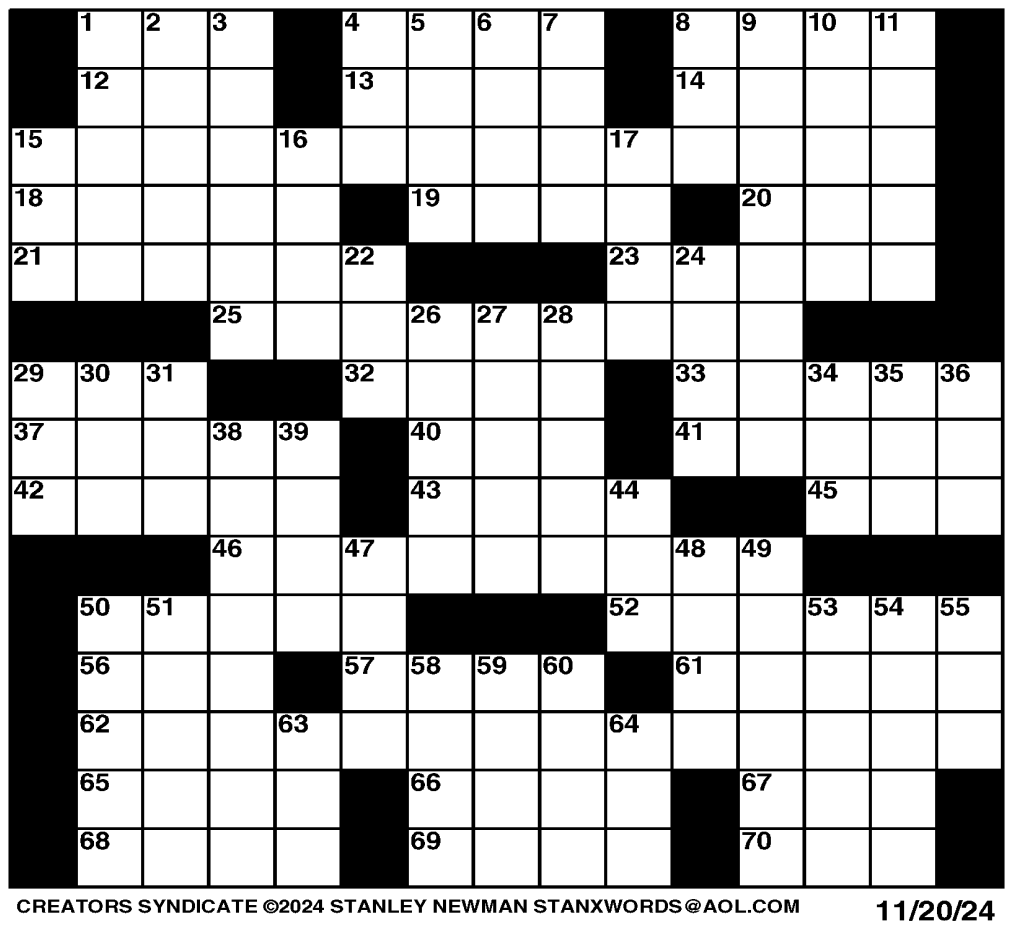
CORRESPONDENCE COURSE by Jerry Clarkson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Sorrowful
4 Snow-clearing vehicle
8 Sled-dog race command
12 Combat sport initials
13 Stay out of sight
14 Disappear __ thin air
15 Common correspondence starter
18 Desire to, informally
19 Region
20 __ out a living
21 Confident poker player's phrase
23 Harder to find
25 With 46-Across, correspondence's main section
29 Self-image
32 Stare intently
33 Full of current info
37 Cello's cousin
40 Soak (up)
41 Revises for publication
42 Moral standard
43 Get __ the ground floor
45 Not feeling well
46 See 25-Across
50 Rubber glove material
52 Transported by truck
56 Spanish cheer
57 Doing nothing
61 Entangling trap
62 Common correspondence ender
65 In any way
66 __ mater (former school)
67 Move to and __
68 Dark wines
69 Elephant's long tooth
70 Miles away

DOWN

1 Makeup mishap
2 Maytag competitor
3 "Oh, rats!"
4 __ Beta Kappa
5 Former Italian coin
6 Strong smell
7 Used to be
8 "Mamma __!"
9 Not well nourished
10 Horseshoes target
11 Bases-clearing hit
15 Motorist's crime, for short
16 Wide belt
17 "Little lamb" owner
22 Brain wave test: Abbr.
24 Top-rated
26 Pesto sauce herb
27 Upper atmospheric layer
28 Bus station
29 Eden woman
30 "Vamoose!"
31 __ and aah
34 Nintendo game console
35 Mo. arch city
36 French fashion monogram
38 Threw trash on the ground
39 Muscle soreness
44 To the __ degree
47 Door to leave through
48 No problem at all
49 Follow-up election
50 Juliet, to Romeo
51 Advil alternative
53 Mrs. George W. Bush
54 Wrong move
55 __ Moines, IA
58 "Oh, rats!"
59 Amazing thing
60 Shade trees
63 12-mo, spans
64 Talk a lot



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11/20/24



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.

FRIDAY | NOVEMBER 22

HOLIDAY SPECIAL: LAUGH IT OFF COMEDY SHOW
Immerse yourself in an enchanting evening filled with belly laughs and holiday cheer as our talented comedians bring joy and humor to the stage during our Holiday Special: Laugh It Off comedy show. Gather your friends and family for a night of unforgettable entertainment, comedic surprises, and a warm, festive atmosphere. Let's make this holiday season one to remember—come laugh with us! Viceroy Santa Monica, 1819 Ocean Ave. $12.50. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/holiday-special-laugh-it-off-comedy-show-tickets-1062874980679

DEMOLITION
Doug, a blue-collar worker at a family owed construction company, is charged with training Paul, the boss's gentle, secretive, college bound son, during the course of a summer renovation project. Their exchanges begin with Doug's bawdy advice that is comically at odds with Paul's shy nature. But soon it becomes apparent that Paul is struggling with something far beyond Doug's purview and experience. This new play is about identity, truth, and the courage it takes to break things apart in order to become your own kind of hero. Pacific Resident Theatre, 703 Venice Blvd. $35.00 to $45.00—Age 55+ Discount $10; Student Rush at door $12. 8 p.m. https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?ticketing=prtve

SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 23

MARINE PARK CG 2 YEAR ANNIVERSARY
Yes, it's really been two years since Marine Park CG was opened.
Come get (re)acquainted with this beautiful habitat that is tucked in a corner near the Tennis Courts.
Never Visited? Well this is your opportunity to learn more about it and perhaps we'll even talk you into becoming a volunteer or member of our Compost Co-Operative.
We will have lots of Children's Activities including painting pots, seeds to start and making Seed Packets with Origami Paper.
Cooking demonstrations using some freshly picked produce from our Community Gardens.
It's a great time to Get Dirty. 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Marine Park Community Garden, 1406 Marine St

CREATIVE WRITING GROUP
Please RSVP by emailing fiction@lapl.org. Calling all writers of fiction, screenplays, poetry, etc. Get feedback on your writing in a fun, supportive environment. Meetings include a writing prompt/exercise, snacks, and a rollicking good time! Whether you are just starting out or well on your way to glory, join us and banish (at least temporarily) those Lonely Writer Blues! Donald Bruce Kaufman - Brentwood Branch Library, 11820 San Vicente Boulevard, Los Angeles. https://www.lapl.org/whats-on/events/writers-group-0

L.A. GROWN: A SHOWCASE OF SHORT THESIS FILMS
Join the Los Angeles International Children's Film Festival for an afternoon of cinematic creativity. Witness the culmination of hard work and passion as emerging filmmakers who grew up in LA and/or attended film school in LA showcase their recent short thesis films. Live-action and animation—all ages welcome. Get ready to be entertained, moved, and inspired by these up-and-coming talents. Panel discussion on the thesis film process, from story to production to sharing the film with the world. An opportunity for young future filmmakers in the audience to learn, and to support the next generation of filmmakers. Films: "Hymns of A Tiny World: The Birds of New Zealand" (Izabella Anguiano Jacobs; CalArts), "Purple and Green" (Charlotte Oxley; UCLA), "Desert Eyes" (Jordan LeBlanc and Rika Mikoguchi; USC), "Land Lover" (Courtney Chapman; UCLA), and the Los Angeles premiere of "La Bibliotheque" (Dana Koops; LA native/Paris College of Art/Emerson College). Santa Monica Public Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 1 - 3 p.m.
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/la-grown-a-showcase-of-short-thesis-films-tickets-1025531120187

BOOK CLUB FOR MIDDLE GRADE READERS: "MASCOT" BY CHARLES WATERS
Please e-mail: akagan@lapl.org or gkim@lapl.org for the Zoom login information. Middle grade readers are invited to participate in our fun monthly book discussions. This month we will be reading: Mascot by Charles Waters and Traci Sorell. For ADA accommodations, call (213) 228-7430 at least 72 hours prior to the event. Para ajustes razonables según la ley de ADA, llama al (213) 228-7430 al menos 72 horas antes del evento. Palisades Branch Library 861 Alma Real Drive, Pacific Palisades. 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

CRITIQUE WORKSHOP WITH DORIANNE LAUX AND KIM ADDONIZIO
Bring a draft of a poem-in-progress (under 2 pages), with copies for all (14 total) for close reading from Kim and Dorianne. We'll discuss elements like clarity, structure, line, image, and other aspects of craft, talk about what we value in poems, and give you specific ideas about revising your work. $190. https://eventbrite.com/e/critique-workshop-with-dorianne-laux-and-kim-addonizio-tickets-993976720127. Beyond Baroque Literary Arts Center, 681 Venice Blvd Venice Beach, Los Angeles.

VENICE OCEANARIUM: MOBY DICK READING
Join Venice Oceanarium for a shared complete reading of the book, Moby Dick, by the Breakwater Rocks on Venice Beach. A Whale of a Tale on Venice Beach! Fall is upon us and soon it'll be time to get cozy in a comfy sweater and bundle up in your favorite beach blanket for an annual Venice Beach tradition! Join us for this FREE family friendly event that's been running for 29 years straight. The reading takes place between Nov. 23 - Nov. 24 from sunrise to sunset. We like to consider this a "Do It Your Way" interactive gathering. Arrive when you please, stay as long as you like and listen to or read from Herman Melville's masterpiece, Moby Dick. If you have a favorite chapter you'd like to read to our guests, please email and let us know which one. We'll do our best to coordinate with you but please understand we won't be able to pause the reading for your arrival. 1 Windward Ave, Venice

Submit your events online at smdp.com/events

WINE AUCTION
10th Annual SANTA MONICA
Pre-Event

Sip into the Season

A Holiday Wine Soirée

Who: Santa Monica Ed Foundation
When: Thursday, Nov. 21st, from 6-8pm
Where: Lincoln Fine Wines

Enjoy a curated selection of red, white, rosé, and festive bubbles led by an expert sommelier. It's the perfect chance to discover unique wine pairings for Thanksgiving, holiday gatherings, and New Year's celebrations!

Your support directly benefits Santa Monica public school students. It's a perfect opportunity to **sip, savor, and give back.**



For additional details, or to purchase tickets:

TEXT SipTheSeason to 76278

