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Caucus growing, diversifying.

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Special 'Trump-proof' session.

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Held for JAMS students.

6 **Beach Grades**
From Heal the Bay.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

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14th and Olympic could see significant change with mixed-use proposal

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

The northwest corner of Olympic Blvd and 14th Street could undergo some significant change as an application recently filed with the city suggests that kitchen and bath showroom Snyder Diamond is putting its Santa Monica location up for redevelopment.

The site at 1399 W. Olympic Boulevard is located close to Memorial Park, Tacos Por Favor and across the street from the Police Activities League center. The proposal is for a new eight-story build featuring 222 studio, one, two, and three bedroom apartments above approximately 9,484 square feet of ground-floor commercial space and a two-level, 211-car subterranean parking garage.

Snyder Diamond is a popular source of quality household appliances and fittings in Southern California and also has outlets in Pasadena, Solana Beach and Van Nuys. In fact, this December, the locally-based business celebrates its 75th anniversary in Santa Monica.

Russ Diamond, President at Snyder Diamond, told the Daily Press that this proposal was awaiting approval and nothing will happen until then. And once that's done, there's still the matter of a relocation.

"We're waiting to get the approvals initially, so it will make the property probably a little bit more valuable, because if a developer comes in, will already have the approvals. And typically it takes a year to two years to get an approval," Diamond said, adding, "So we're just being a little preemptive, based on the fact that Santa Monica, due to the housing



DFH Architects

DEVELOPMENT: The proposal would certainly breathe a bit of life into this largely empty area on Olympic.

SEE **OLYMPIC** PAGE 11

Grammy Award-winning group joins forces with local music prodigies

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

The young, yet immensely talented, classical music prodigies of Santa Monica are now ready to have their skills accentuated by world-renowned artists.

This coming spring, local music ensemble organization Elemental Music will introduce four-time Grammy Award-winning contemporary classical sextet Eighth Blackbird to its students. The legendary group will be working with Elemental's Chamber Music

SEE **MUSIC** PAGE 7



Courtesy Photo

MUSIC: The students of Elemental Music watch on as Grammy Award-winning Eighth Blackbird presents a lesson to the group.

Landlords are using AI to raise rents — and California cities are leading the pushback

WENDY FRY
Special to the Daily Press

If you've hunted for apartments recently and felt like all the rents were equally high, you're not crazy: Many landlords now use a single company's software — which uses an algorithm based on proprietary lease information — to help set rent prices.

Federal prosecutors say the practice amounts to "an unlawful information-sharing scheme" and some lawmakers throughout California are moving to curb it. San Diego's city council president is the latest to do so, proposing to prevent local apartment owners from using the pricing software, which he maintains is driving up housing costs.

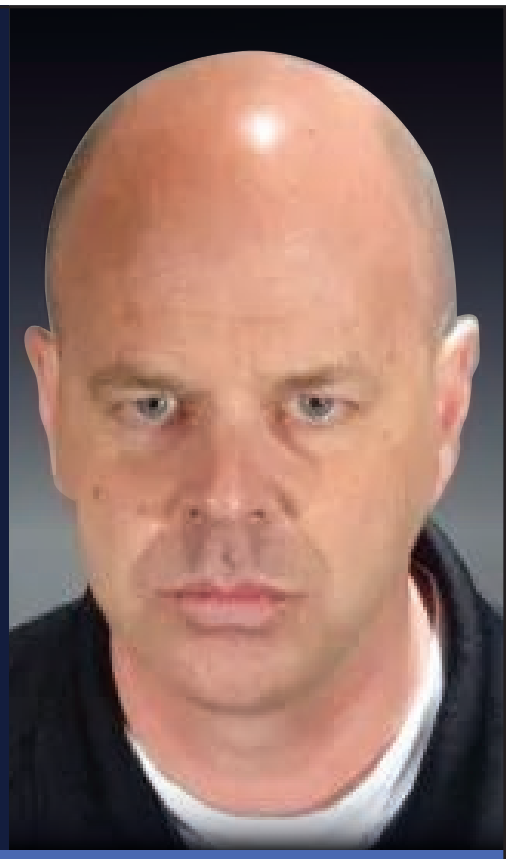
San Diego's proposed ordinance, now being drafted by the city attorney, comes after San Francisco supervisors in July enacted a similar, first-in-the-nation ban on "the sale or use of algorithmic devices to set rents or manage occupancy levels" for residences. San Jose is considering a similar approach.

And California and seven other states have also joined the federal prosecutors' antitrust suit, which

SEE **RENT** PAGE 8



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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California's Republican caucus is growing and more diverse, but it's a long way from power



Photo by Jules Hotz for CalMatters

POLITICS: A ballot is dropped into one of the official ballot drop boxes at the County of Riverside Registrar of Voters office in Riverside on Nov. 5, 2024.

RYAN SABALOW
Special to the Daily Press

The Republican caucus in California's Legislature is growing more diverse as Latino and Asian American candidates apparently flipped three Democrat-held seats, including unseating an incumbent Democrat senator for the first time in a presidential election since 1980.

When new legislators are sworn in next week, Democrats will still control a supermajority in the Legislature. But the three flipped seats have Republicans hopeful that California's reputation as a liberal enclave state may be shifting. They point to Latino and Black voters helping send Donald Trump to the White House for a second term.

"As Californians grow increasingly frustrated with the failures of Democrat leadership, they are shifting toward Republican solutions," Senate Republican Leader Brian Jones said in a statement. "Senate Republicans are not only growing in numbers but also diversity."

The Republican caucus is on pace to have at least 50% non white members for the first time, according to the CalMatters Digital Democracy database. As it stands, based on unofficial results, 13 of the 27 legislative Republicans are not white. The caucus could become more than half non white, depending on the outcome of two pending special elections in solidly Republican districts. Two Asian American Republicans, Sen. Janet Nguyen and Assemblymember Vince Fong, won election for other offices earlier this month, leaving their seats vacant.

Jones' statement noted that six of the Senate's 10 Republicans are women and three of the women are Latino.

Jones sent out his statement Monday, the same day Orange County Democrat Sen. Josh Newman conceded his seat to Republican Steven Choi, a Korean-American former Assemblymember. It was the first time since 1980 that Republicans ousted an incumbent Democratic senator in a presidential election.

The other two flipped seats were in the Assembly. In California's Latino-majority Imperial and Coachella valleys, Republican Jeff Gonzalez beat a Democrat to win in the 35th Assembly District where Democrats had a 14-point registration advantage and the population is 70% Latino.

And in the state's closest legislative race, Republican Leticia Castillo had a 568-vote lead on Tuesday over Clarissa Cervantes for an Inland Empire seat vacated by Cervantes' sister, Sabrina Cervantes, a fellow Democrat who won a state Senate seat. The Associated Press has not officially called the race.

If the results hold, it will be an impressive victory for Castillo. Thanks to her sister, Cervantes had substantially more name recognition than Castillo in her sister's former district. Cervantes also raised more than $1 million for her campaign compared to Castillo's $78,000.

Democratic leaders, however, say the results are hardly a groundswell or a referendum against their party, which continues to hold every statewide elected office along with the supermajority in the Legislature. They note that aside from Newman, none of the dozens of other Democratic incumbents up for reelection this year lost.

"In a challenging year for Democrats nationwide, our members fought and won some extremely competitive races," Democratic Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas said in a statement. "It is clear that Democrats have maintained our supermajority and the caucus has maintained its historic diversity and strength."

Experts such as election analyst Paul Mitchell said it's also worth keeping in mind that the party that lost nationally in a presidential election almost always surges

SEE **REPUBLICANS** PAGE 11

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California lawmakers to begin special session to 'Trump-proof' state laws

TRÂN NGUYỄN
Associated Press

California Gov. Gavin Newsom and state lawmakers returned to the state Capitol on Monday to begin a special session to protect the state's progressive policies ahead of another Trump presidency.

The Democratic governor, a fierce critic of President-elect Donald Trump, is positioning California to once again be the center of a resistance effort against the conservative agenda. He is asking his Democratic allies in the Legislature, who hold supermajorities in both chambers, to approve additional funding to the attorney general's office to prepare for a robust legal fight against anticipated federal challenges.

Democratic Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel on Monday introduced legislation to set aside $25 million for legal fees to respond to potential attacks by the Trump administration on state policies regarding civil rights, climate change, immigration and abortion access.

"While we always hope to collaborate with our federal partners, California will be ready to vigorously defend our interests and values from any unlawful action by the incoming Trump Administration," Gabriel said in a statement.

California sued the first Trump administration more than 120 times to various levels of success.

"We're not going to be caught flat-footed," Newsom said at a recent news conference.

Trump often depicts California as representing all he sees wrong in America. Democrats, which hold every statewide office in California and have commanding margins in the Legislature and congressional delegation, outnumber registered Republicans by nearly 2-to-1 statewide.

Trump called the Democratic governor "New-scum" during a campaign stop in Southern California and has relentlessly lambasted the Democratic stronghold over its large number of immigrants in the U.S. illegally, homeless population and thicket of regulations.

Trump also waded into a water rights battle over the endangered delta smelt, a tiny fish that has pitted environmentalists against farmers and threatened to withhold federal aid to a state increasingly under threat from wildfires. He also vowed to follow through with his campaign promise of carrying out the mass deportation of immigrants without legal status and prosecuting his political enemies.

Before the special session begins, state lawmakers are scheduled to swear in more than two dozen new members and elect leaders for the 2025 legislative session. Hundreds of people also are planning to march around the Capitol on Monday to urge the Legislature to try to stop Trump's mass deportation plans.

State Attorney General Rob Bonta said his office will protect the state's immigration population, while Newsom last week unveiled a proposal to revive a rebate program for electric vehicle purchases if the incoming Trump administration eliminates a federal tax credit for people who buy electric cars. Newsom is also considering creating a backup disaster relief fund for the wildfire-prone state after Trump's threats.

Republican lawmakers blasted Newsom and his Democratic allies over the special session. Rep. Vince Fong, who represents the state's Central Valley farm belt, said California should work with the incoming Trump administration instead.

"Gavin Newsom's actions are tone-deaf to the concerns of Californians who disapprove of the direction of our state and country," Fong said in a video on social media.

Legislators also are expected to spend the year discussing ways to protect dozens of laws expected to be targeted by the Trump administration, including one that has made the state a sanctuary for people seeking abortions who live in states where such practices have been severely limited.

California, the nation's most populous state, was the first to mandate that by 2035 all new cars, pickup trucks and SUVs sold in California be electric, hydrogen-powered or plug-in hybrids. The state also extends state-funded health care to all low-income residents regardless of their immigration status.

Newsom hasn't provided details about what actions the lawmakers will consider but said he wanted funding in place before Trump's inauguration day, Jan. 20. The state spent roughly $42 million in litigation costs during the first Trump administration, officials said.

California is projected to face a $2 billion budget deficit next year, with bigger shortfalls ahead. Gabriel, who sued the first Trump administration in 2017 when it tried to end a program to shield young immigrants from being deported, said lining up the funding now is "a wise investment."

California successfully clawed back $57 million between 2017 and 2018 after prevailing in a lawsuit to block the Trump administration from putting immigration enforcement conditions on certain federal law enforcement grants. Another legal victory over the citizenship question in the 2020 census forced the federal government to return $850,000 to the state, according to the attorney general's office.

"We are positioned, if necessary, to be the tip of the spear of the resistance and to push back against any unlawful or unconstitutional actions by the Trump administration," said Gabriel, who chairs the budget committee.

During Trump's first presidency, Democratic attorneys general banded together to file lawsuits over immigration, Trump's travel ban for residents of Muslim countries, the environment, immigration and other topics. But Trump has one possible advantage this time around: He was aggressive in nominating conservative jurists to federal courts at all levels, including the Supreme Court.



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **57.7**

TUESDAY — ***FAIR***
SURF: 1-2FT, Knee to thigh
Fun SW swell holds as WNW swell looks to ease. Light winds due through the morning, but mind the near 6' mid AM high tide.

WEDNESDAY — ***FAIR TO GOOD***
SURF: 2-3FT, Thigh to waist
Size likely nudges up from Tuesday as fresh SW swell shows. Modest to kinda fun for most spots with long period focal points going a bit bigger. Conditions look clean for the morning with a decent tide push first thing.

Weather

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 64. Northeast wind around 5 mph becoming south southwest in the morning.
Tuesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 50. Calm wind.
Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 63. Calm wind becoming southwest around 5 mph in the afternoon.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 10pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 50.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2024/12/03	Tue	02:50 AM	2.64	L
2024/12/03	Tue	09:20 AM	6.06	H
2024/12/03	Tue	5:05 PM	-0.62	L
2024/12/03	Tue	11:59 PM	3.33	H
2024/12/04	Wed	03:28 AM	2.78	L
2024/12/04	Wed	09:59 AM	5.87	H
2024/12/04	Wed	5:51 PM	-0.50	L
2024/12/05	Thu	12:58 AM	3.36	H
2024/12/05	Thu	04:17 AM	2.94	L
2024/12/05	Thu	10:46 AM	5.55	H
2024/12/05	Thu	6:40 PM	-0.31	L
2024/12/06	Fri	02:00 AM	3.51	H
2024/12/06	Fri	05:30 AM	3.08	L
2024/12/06	Fri	11:42 AM	5.10	H
2024/12/06	Fri	7:32 PM	-0.06	L
2024/12/07	Sat	02:55 AM	3.82	H
2024/12/07	Sat	07:11 AM	3.06	L
2024/12/07	Sat	12:53 PM	4.55	H
2024/12/07	Sat	8:27 PM	0.23	L
2024/12/08	Sun	03:39 AM	4.26	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: 11/30
4 24 29 39 63
Power#: 25
Jackpot: 224 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 11/29
3 29 34 37 38
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 541 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 11/30
10 13 23 29 37
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 45 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/1
9 11 31 33 35

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/1
EVENING: 2 3 0
Draw Date: 12/1
MIDDAY: 1 9 6

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/1
1st: 01 - Gold Rush
2nd: 07 - Eureka
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:44.18

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Santa Monica Daily Press
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Summons

Summons (Citacion Judicial) Sum-100CASE NUMBER(Número del Caso):24SMCV00252NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO ALDEMANDADO): AUDIO DIGITAL CENTER, INC.DBA STARTRONICS; EDWARD E BORGWARDTAKA EDUARDO E AGUIRRE AKA EDDIE EBORGWARDT AKA EDDIE NIKKI BORGWARD AKAEDDIE E AGUIRREYOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO HANDEMANDADO EL DEMANDANTE)UNITED EL SEGUNDO, INC.NOTICEI You have been sued.The court may decide against you without your beingheard unless you respond within 30 days. Read theinformation below.You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summonsand legal papers are served on you to file a writtenresponse at this court and have a copy sewed on theplaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you.Your written response must be in proper legal form ifyou want the court to hear your case. There may be acourt form that you can use for your response. Youcan find these court forms and more information atthe California Courts Online Self-Help Center(wwmceurtinfo.ca.gev/seifhelp), your county lawlibrary, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannotpay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiverform. If you do not file your response on time, youmay lose the case by default, and your wages,money, and propertymay be taken without further warning from the court.There are other legal requirements. You may want tocall an attorney right away. If you do not know anattorney, you may want to call an attorney referralservice. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may beeligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legalservices program. You can locate these nonprofitgroups at the California Legal Services Web site(wwmlawhelpcalifemraorg), the California CourtsOnline Self-Help Center(www.caurtinfe.ca.gev/selflielp). or by contacting yourlocal court or county bar association. NOTE: Thecourt has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs onany settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 ormore in a civil case. The court's lien must be paidbefore the court will dismiss the case. [AVISOI Lo handemandade. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, lacone puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar suversión. Lea La información aContinuation.Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que leentreguen esta citación y papeles Legales parapresentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte yhacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Unacarta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Surespuesta por escrito tiene que estar en el formatolegal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en lacorte.. Es posible que haya un formulario que ustedpuede usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estosformularies de la corte y mas información en 9!Centre de Ayuda do [as Cortes de California(www.sucorte.ca.gov). en la biblioteca de leyes de sucondado e en la certs que le quads mats cerca. Si nopuede pagar La cuenta de presentación, pida alsecretario de la corte que la de un formulario deexención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta surespuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso porincumplimiento y a certs le podrá quitar su sueldo,dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.Hay otros requisitos Legales. Es recomendable quellame a un abogado inmediatamente. SI no conoce aun abogado, puede llamar a un servicio deThe name and address of the court are (El nombre ydirecci6n de la corte son) iLOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT — SANTAMONICA COURTHOUSE1725 MAIN STSANTA MONICA, CA 90401. The name, address, and telephone number of thepetitioner's attorney, or the petitioner without anattorney, are: (El nombre, direcci6n y número deteléfono del abogado del demandante, o deldemandante si no tiene abogado, son)iJONATHAN B. TEPERSON SBN:156470LAW OFFICE OF JONATHAN B. TEPERSONP.O. BOX 890123, TEMECULA, CA, 92591TEL: (949) 570-0990Date (Fecha) 1/18/2024Clerk By (Secretario Por) David W. SlaytonDeputy (Asistente) /s/ A. LLieva

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COMMUNITY NEWS

SMMUSD

JAMS Students Embrace Civic Responsibility Through Mock Election and Insights from Senator Ben Allen

John Adams Middle School (JAMS) recently transformed its classrooms into spaces of civic discovery, with eighth grade social studies and Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) students learning the impact of democracy through a hands-on mock election and an inspiring visit from California State Senator Ben Allen. Spearheaded by social studies teachers Titia Murphy and Cori Goldberg, the initiative encouraged students to understand democracy's core principles and the significance of voting from an early age.

Murphy and Goldberg began by introducing students to the fundamentals of democracy, examining "free and fair elections" and "citizen participation" as essential elements. Through collaboration with the League of Women Voters, students delved into the history of voting rights in America, creating a timeline that was featured in a workshop at the Santa Monica Public Library and is now on display at Santa Monica City Hall. This preparation led up to the California Statewide Student Mock Elections on October 8, 2024, when JAMS students had the opportunity to cast their votes in a simulated statewide election. Prior to casting their votes, the eighth-grade students studied each of the California ballot measures and candidates, discussing both national and local impacts.

> "Exercising your right to vote is one of the most powerful ways to engage in our democracy"
> - Titia Murphy

"Exercising your right to vote is one of the most powerful ways to engage in our democracy," said Murphy. "Our students learned that while voting in national elections is critical, the decisions made at the local and state levels often have the biggest impact on our daily lives."

As the unit drew to a close, Senator Allen visited JAMS to speak with students, underscoring that civic engagement begins early and that every vote truly counts. His presence brought a real-life connection to the classroom lessons, reinforcing that "we the people" hold the power to shape communities and that young voices matter.

"Voting is our most important way of being involved in the democratic process and if people don't vote, if you yourself don't vote, you're letting other people make the decision of who runs the government for you," said Senator Allen during his visit to JAMS. "Power does not dissipate just because you don't participate."

The project extended beyond social studies as students in the AVID program took the principles of civic engagement further, participating in community service activities and sharing insights from their lessons. AVID students were able to engage with the local community directly, speaking at the library event to underscore the role of civic awareness and community participation.

Murphy emphasized the importance of empowering students to engage in their communities and make their voices heard.

"Your power is your voice, and your voice matters, young, old, any race or gender," she said, highlighting the significance of early civic involvement. Goldberg shared a similar perspective, explaining that her role as a history teacher extends beyond lessons of the past. "I teach U.S. History not only to educate students about the past but to prepare them for the future," said Goldberg. "Students today need to be equipped with the skills and knowledge to make a difference, to discern fact from fiction, and to exercise their voice effectively when they reach voting age."

Through these experiences, JAMS students walked away with a deep understanding of the democratic process and the knowledge that their voices have power. The takeaway from these engaging lessons was clear: their voices matter, and as future voters, they are essential to upholding democracy.

SUBMITTED BY DIANA BOUCHAAYA

Downtown

Annual Meet Me Under The Fig Tree Charity Event Returns And Lights Up The Santa Monica's Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows On Sunday, December 15

As a longstanding community pillar, Santa Monica's iconic five-star Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows will raise a toast to the holiday season with the return of the annual 'Meet Me Under The Fig Tree' Event on Sunday, December 15, 2024.

From 1:00pm – 4:00pm, Angelenos, Santa Monica residents, and hotel guests alike can gather around Fairmont Miramar's beautifully adorned historical landmark the Moreton Bay Fig Tree for a celebratory afternoon full of complimentary festive drinks, small bites, and holiday activities.

At Fairmont Miramar's winter wonderland, families can take photos with Santa Claus, dance to live music, decorate festive cookies, enjoy a kid-friendly bounce house, arts & crafts, and experience a Fire Truck showcase. Food vendors include Emporium Thai, BOA Steak, Sushi Roku, Chef Luigi Fineo, Michael's and Shake Shack.

Immerse yourself in the holiday magic with live music, special performances by the SaMo High Orchestra and Jason Pelsey, and raffles every hour with incredible prizes, including overnight stays and dining experiences.

In partnership with local non-profit Santa MoniCARES, the Westside Food Bank, and Chrysalis, the annual 'Meet Me Under The Fig Tree' event, is free to attend. Guests are encouraged to bring canned food, new or gently worn clothing, or monetary gifts for donations.

SUBMITTED BY VIOLET LOPES

California bill would give public university admission priority to slaves' descendants

SOPHIE AUSTIN, TRÂN NGUYỄN AND OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ
Associated Press

A California lawmaker said he will introduce a bill Monday that would give admission priority to the descendants of slaves at the University of California and California State University, the state's two large public university systems.

Assemblymember Isaac Bryan, a Democrat who represents parts of Los Angeles, told The Associated Press he will introduce the bill as lawmakers meet in the Capitol to swear in new members for a new legislative session. They also will convene a special session to consider ways to protect the state's progressive policies ahead of another Trump administration.

The incoming administration of President-elect Donald Trump is expected to make dismantling diversity, equity and inclusion programs a priority. Around the U.S., a conservative movement to limit DEI initiatives has been gaining momentum in state capitals and college governing boards, with officials in many states taking action against them.

The movement gained momentum last year after the Supreme Court's decision to end affirmative action at universities, which created a new legal landscape around diversity programs in the workplace and civil society.

But DEI's emergence as a political rallying cry also has its roots on campus, with Republican opponents saying the programs are discriminatory and promote left-wing ideology. Trump has hinted at potential legislation to fine universities over diversity initiatives.

At the same time, legacy admissions, long seen as a perk for the white and wealthy at selective colleges, have come under fire in recent years following the Supreme Court's ruling against affirmative action. By banning affirmative action but allowing legacy preferences, which favor the children of alumni and donors, critics say the court left admissions even more lopsided against students of color.

"For decades universities gave preferential admission treatment to donors, and their family members, while others tied to legacies of harm were ignored and at times outright excluded," Bryan told the AP. "We have a moral responsibility to do all we can to right those wrongs."

Bryan said he is hopeful for approval of the measure, which is in line with recommendations developed by members of California's Black reparations task force.

"There is a growing understanding of California's role in perpetuating the inequalities that arose from slavery, and there's a willingness to try to rectify that harm, to heal that harm," he said.

Black students made up about 4% of the California State University's student population and about 4.7% at the University of California in 2023, according to the university systems' latest reports.

The proposal follows reparations efforts at the state level that have yielded mixed results. Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a law in September to formally apologize for the state's legacy of racism and discrimination against Black residents.

But state lawmakers blocked a bill that would have created an agency to administer reparations programs, and Newsom vetoed a proposal that would have helped Black families reclaim property that was seized unjustly by the government through eminent domain.

Earlier this month, California voters also rejected a ballot measure that would have amended the state constitution to ban forced prison labor, squashing another proposal championed by Bryan and other members of the California Legislative Black Caucus.

The purpose of the measure is to rectify past and current discrimination at universities, Bryan said.

"When folks think about reparations, they think about just cash payments. But repairing the harm and the inequality that came from slavery and the policies thereafter is a much bigger process," he said.

Bryan said he also proposed the measure, which will have to go through a monthslong legislative approval process, in part to respond to Trump's recent statements about paying "reparations" to white students that he said have been affected by diversity, equity and inclusion programs.

States including Kansas and Iowa passed laws banning DEI offices and initiatives in higher education, and Republican lawmakers in about two dozen states proposed at least 50 bills to restrict DEI programs last year.

Trump's incoming deputy chief of policy will be his former adviser Stephen Miller, who leads a group called America First Legal that has aggressively challenged corporate DEI policies.

Trump, who has vowed to rid America's schools of perceived " wokeness," also has plans to cut funding for schools that defy him on a multitude of issues on his first day in office, though even some of his supporters say he lacks the authority to make such swift and sweeping changes.

Trump has heaped scorn on the federal Department of Education, describing it as infiltrated by "radicals, zealots and Marxists." He has picked Linda McMahon, a former wrestling executive, to lead the department.

But like many conservative politicians before him, Trump also has called for dismantling the department altogether, a cumbersome task that likely would require action from Congress.

Rodriguez reported from San Francisco.

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‘Moana 2’ sails to a record $221 million opening as Hollywood celebrates a moviegoing feast

JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

Christmas came early at the box office this year.

“Moana 2” brought in a tidal wave of moviegoers over the Thanksgiving Day weekend, setting records with $221 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday. That, combined with “Wicked” and “Gladiator II,” made for an unprecedented weekend in cinemas and a confluence of blockbusters more like what’s often found in late December.

Expectations were high for Walt Disney Co.’s “Moana 2,” but the film — originally planned as a series for Disney+ before it was redirected to the big screen — blew predictions out of the water. Its five-day opening set a new record for Thanksgiving moviegoing. (The previous best was $125 million for “Frozen 2” in its second week of release in 2019.) “Moana 2” added $165.3 million internationally; with $386 million worldwide, it’s the second-best global launch of the year.

At the same time, the sensation of “Wicked” showed no signs of slowing down. The Universal Pictures musical brought in $117.5 million over the five-day weekend, pushing its two-week global total to $359.2 million. Not accounting for inflation, “Wicked” is now the highest grossing Broadway adaptation over “Grease.” (That 1978 film grossed $190 million, but factoring in inflation would put it past $900 million.)

“Gladiator II,” meanwhile, also held well, dipping 44% from its opening weekend. Ridley Scott’s sequel to his Oscar-winning best picture original collected $44 million in its second weekend. While its steep price tag of $250 million will make profitability challenging, “Gladiator II” has swiftly gathered $320 million worldwide.

Those three films drove the overall box office to a record $420 million in overall Thanksgiving weekend ticket sales, according to Comscore — more than $100 million more than ever before. For an industry that has been battered in recent years by the pandemic, work stoppages and the upheaval caused by streaming, it was a triumphant weekend that showed the still-potent power of Hollywood’s blockbuster machine. Before “Wicked,” “Moana 2” and “Gladiator II” arrived in theaters, ticket sales were running about 25% behind pre-pandemic levels.

Michael O’Leary, president and chief executive of the National Association of Theatre Owners, said the weekend showed what’s possible when “all the pieces of the puzzle come together” in compelling big-budget movies with marketing muscle.

“We’re very optimistic that this weekend is the start of what we believe is a full-on charge into the future,” he said. “The remaining quarter of this year looks very promising and then on into 2025 and 2026. We’re hoping next year is the first kind of normal year this industry has had in a long time.”

Like the last time such anticipated movies collided on the release calendar — 2023’s much-ballyhooed “Barbenheimer” — the movie industry again could see evidence of a rising moviegoing tide lifting all blockbusters. In recent years, studios have typically tried to space out most of their biggest releases. Earlier this fall, “Venom: The Last Dance,” for example, was the No. 1 film for three straight weeks, despite not being particularly successful.

“For a long, long time in Hollywood, there’s been a belief that you don’t put big blockbuster movies up against each other,” said O’Leary. “But the truth of the matter is that competition is good. It’s good for the movies. It’s good for the studios. It’s good for the theater owners. But it’s particularly good for the moviegoing public.”

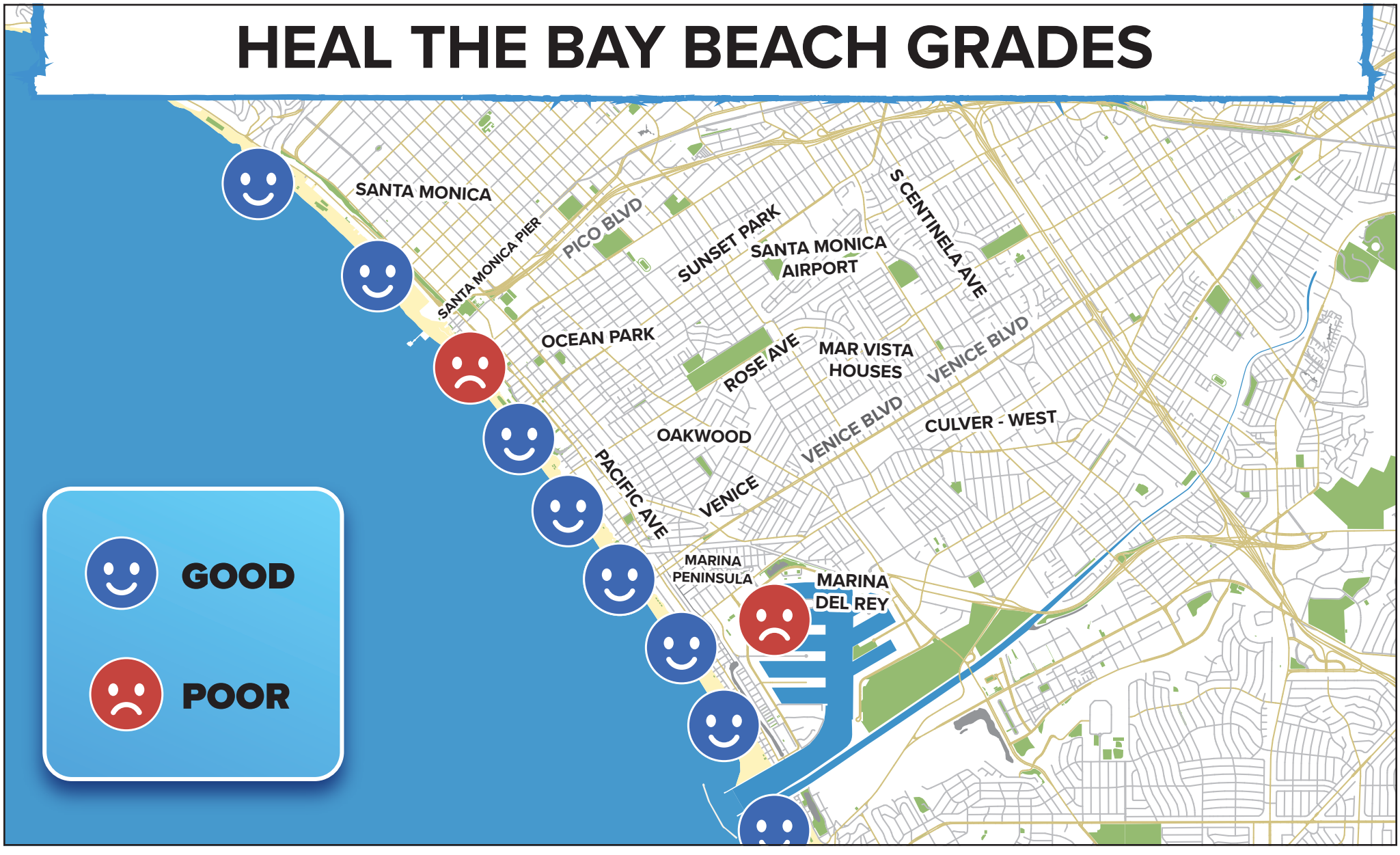
“Moana 2” was the nexus of a strategy shift for Disney. When it first began development, it was fashioned as a series for streaming. But when Bob Iger returned as chief executive, he reconsidered the balance between theatrical and streaming. The original “Moana,” after all, was the most streamed movie on Disney+ in 2023, with the added benefit of $680 million in box office in 2016. Only in February this year did Iger announce the release of “Moana 2,” with Auli’i Cravalho and Dwayne Johnson returning as the voices of Moana and Maui.

“It just shows you that the big screen and small screen are not adversarial. They can be complementary and additive,” says Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. “Whoever made that decision to go big screen globally with ‘Moana 2,’ that was one of the greatest decisions ever.”

And it helped lead a resurgence for Walt Disney Co., whose last two animated November releases — “Strange World” and “Wish” — fizzled in theaters. “Moana 2” may become the third $1 billion-grossing movie for the studio in 2024, along with “Inside Out 2” and “Deadpool & Wolverine.” Though reviews for “Moana 2” have only been 65% “fresh” on Rotten Tomatoes, audiences gave it an “A-” CinemaScore.

“Moana 2” is also part of a major rebound for family moviegoing. According to David A. Gross, a film consultant who publishes a newsletter for Franchise Entertainment, family moviegoing in 2024 is going to account for approximately $6.8 billion in ticket sales, roughly the sums of 2022 and 2023, combined.

After such large debuts, “Moana 2” and “Wicked” are likely to continue to drive moviegoing through December. The only question will be if this year’s Christmas movies — historically a much bigger holiday period for theaters — can come anywhere near the Thanksgiving lineup. Among the movies aiming for that holiday corridor are Disney’s “Mufasa: The Lion King,” Paramount’s “Sonic the Hedgehog 3” and Searchlight’s “A Complete Unknown,” with Timothée Chalamet as a young Bob Dylan.



MUSIC

FROM PAGE 1

Institute, consisting of middle and high school pupils, on a project that will culminate in a joint concert in April 2025.

Entitled "Blackbird Elementals," the project commissions a collection of new composer works for the young musicians, with the six composers collaborating with Institute students on the pieces. Not intended to be "learning pieces," the resulting music will stand on its own for ensembles across the globe to glean from.

For its part, Eighth Blackbird will be working directly with Institute pupils at least twice in the spring, in addition to playing together on April 27 at St. Matthew's Music Guild. The sextet will be coaching each Institute group assigned to a commission piece, such as a violin trio, a woodwind trio and a "piano quintet" consisting of two violins, a viola, a cello and a piano.

In addition, the Chamber Music America Visionary Award-winners will be holding special workshops for all students with a "flex" piece that utilizes their combined talents. The workshops will work as rehearsals for the piece they will play together, Chamber Music Institute Director Emily Call said.

"I think they were excited about the opportunity to kind of branch out and work with younger students … they've always been pretty committed to working with the next generation … so it was a really good fit in that way," Call said of Eighth Blackbird's involvement.

The partnership began with a dinner between Elemental Music Executive and Artistic Director Josephine Moerschel and Eighth Blackbird Artistic Director Matthew Duvall. The two traded stories of their own work, and Duvall believed that the students' efforts matched the sextet's educational initiatives outside of the concert hall.



Courtesy Photo

MUSIC: The students of Elemental Music have been helped by the presence of Eighth Blackbird.

"This collaboration embodies Elemental Music's mission to inspire the young musicians of tomorrow by giving them direct access to the composers and performers of today," Moerschel said. "We are honored to bring in the incredible musicians of Eighth Blackbird to work alongside our teaching artists this season and foster the next generation of music-makers."

Eighth Blackbird Co-Founder and Executive Director Lisa Kaplan added that she was reminded how "inspiring" it was to collaborate with professionals as a student, and wants to return the favor.

The six chosen composers, including Juhi Bansal and Sakai Dixon Vanderveer, have also been working with Institute students either in-person or over Zoom, asking students for feedback so they can have a direct impact on what's being written.

"Students don't normally have the opportunity to work with composers," Call said. "A lot of the music that we play is written by people who aren't living anymore … it's so far removed from our current times, so to be able to bring in young composers (and) diverse voices, it really kind of helps the students realize that this is a living art form, and it lets them approach music in a way they haven't necessarily before."

Despite working with composers, the Institute students will learn to perform the pieces without their help, a standard for Elemental's middle and high school levels. Out of everything Eighth Blackbird will be teaching, such as concert presentation and technical skills, the non-verbal communication needed between students to pull off a show is a crucial point of the learning process.

"It's a very different experience to go on stage and not have the security blanket of someone in front of you, showing you where the downbeat is or where the next bar begins, so being able to have the communication skills without speaking on stage … I think they're going to learn about body language and those kind of communication skills from (Eighth Blackbird), they're just absolute pros," Call said.

For more information on the program, visit elementalmusic.org.

thomas@smdp.com



RENT

FROM PAGE 1

targets the leading rental pricing platform, Texas-based RealPage. The complaint alleges that "RealPage is an algorithmic intermediary that collects, combines, and exploits landlords' competitively sensitive information. And in so doing, it enriches itself and compliant landlords at the expense of renters who pay inflated prices…"

But state lawmakers this year failed to advance legislation by Bakersfield Democratic Sen. Melissa Hurtado that would have banned the use of any pricing algorithms based on nonpublic data provided by competing companies. She said she plans to bring the bill back during the next legislative session because of what she described as ongoing harms from such algorithms.

"We've got to make sure the economy is fair and … that every individual who wants a shot at creating a business has a shot without being destroyed along the way, and that we're also protecting consumers because it is hurting the pocketbooks of everybody in one way or another," said Hurtado.

RealPage has been a major impetus for all of the actions. The company counts as its customers landlords with thousands of apartment units across California. Some officials accuse the company of thwarting competition that would otherwise drive rents down, exacerbating the state's housing shortage and driving up rents in the process.

"Every day, millions of Californians worry about keeping a roof over their head and RealPage has directly made it more difficult to do so," said California Attorney General Rob Bonta in a written statement.

A RealPage spokesperson, Jennifer Bowcock, told CalMatters that a lack of housing supply, not the company's technology, is the real problem — and that its technology benefits residents, property managers, and others associated with the rental market. The spokesperson later wrote that a " misplaced focus on nonpublic information is a distraction… that will only make San Francisco and San Diego's historical problems worse."

As for the federal lawsuit, the company called the claims in it "devoid of merit" and said it plans to "vigorously defend ourselves against these accusations."

"We are disappointed that, after multiple years of education and cooperation on the antitrust matters concerning RealPage, the (Justice Department) has chosen this moment to pursue a lawsuit that seeks to scapegoat pro-competitive technology that has been used responsibly for years," the company's statement read in part. "RealPage's revenue management software is purposely built to be legally compliant, and we have a long history of working constructively with the (department) to show that."

The company's challenges will only grow if pricing software becomes another instance in which California lawmakers lead the nation. Following San Francisco's ban, the Philadelphia City Council passed a ban on algorithmic rental price-fixing with a veto-proof vote last month. New Jersey has been considering its own ban.

IS IT PRICE FIXING — OR COACHING LANDLORDS?

According to federal prosecutors, RealPage controls 80% of the market for commercial revenue management software. Its product is called YieldStar, and its successor is AI Revenue Management, which uses much of the same codebase as YieldStar, but has more precise forecasting. RealPage told CalMatters it serves only 10% of the rental markets in both San Francisco and San Diego, across its three revenue management software products.

Here's how it works:

In order to use YieldStar and AIRM, landlords have historically provided RealPage with their own private data from their rental applications, rent prices, executed new leases, renewal offers and acceptances, and estimates of future occupancy, although a recent change allows landlords to choose to share only public data. This information from all participating landlords in an area is then pooled and run through mathematical forecasting to generate pricing recommendations for the landlords and for their competitors.

The San Diego council president, Sean Elo-Rivera, explained it like this:

"In the simplest terms, what this platform is doing is providing what we think of as that dark, smoky room for big companies to get together and set prices," he said. "The technology is being used as a way of keeping an arm's length from one big company to the other. But that's an illusion."

In the company's own words, from company documents included in the lawsuit, RealPage "ensures that (landlords) are driving every possible opportunity to increase price even in the most downward trending or unexpected conditions." The company also said in the documents that it "helps curb (landlords') instincts to respond to down-market conditions by either dramatically lowering price or by holding price… Our tool ensures that [landlords] are driving every possible opportunity to increase price even in the most downward trending or unexpected conditions."

Providing rent guidance isn't the only service RealPage has offered landlords. In 2020, a Markup and New York Times investigation found that RealPage, alongside other companies, used faulty computer algorithms to do automated background checks on tenants. As a result, tenants were associated with criminal charges they never faced, and denied homes.

IMPACT ON TENANTS

Thirty-one-year-old Navy veteran Alan Pickens and his wife move nearly every year "because the rent goes up, it gets unaffordable, so we look for a new place to stay," he said. The northeastern San Diego apartment complex where they just relocated has two-bedroom apartments advertised for between $2,995 and $3,215.

They live in an area of San Diego where the U.S. Justice Department says information-sharing agreements between landlords and RealPage have harmed or are likely to harm renters.

The department in August filed its antitrust lawsuit against RealPage, alleging the company, through its legacy YieldStar software, engaged in an "unlawful scheme to decrease competition among landlords in apartment pricing". The complaint names specific areas where rents are artificially high. Beyond the part of San Diego where Pickens lives, those areas include South Orange County, Rancho Cucamonga, Temecula, and Murrieta and northeastern San Diego.

In the second quarter of 2020, the average rent in San Diego County was $1,926, reflecting a 26% increase over three years, according to the San Diego Union-Tribune. Rents have since risen even more in the city of San Diego, to $2,336 per month as of November 2024 – up 21% from 2020, according to RentCafe and the Tribune. That's 50% higher than the national average rent.

The attorneys general of eight states, including California, joined the Justice Department's antitrust suit, filed in U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina.

The California Justice Department contends RealPage artificially inflated prices to keep them above a certain minimum level, said department spokesperson Elissa Perez. This was particularly harmful given the high cost of housing in the state, she added. "The illegally maintained profits that result from these price alignment schemes come out of the pockets of the people that can least afford it."

Renters make up a larger share of households in California than in the rest of the country — 44% here compared to 35% nationwide. The Golden State also has a higher percentage of renters than any state other than New York, according to the latest U.S. Census data.

San Diego has the fourth-highest percentage of renters of any major city in the nation.

The recent ranks of California legislators, however, have included few renters: As of 2019, CalMatters could find only one state lawmaker who did not own a home — and found that more than a quarter of legislators at the time were landlords.

Studies show that low-income residents are more heavily impacted by rising rents. Nationally between 2000 and 2017, Americans without a college degree spent a higher percentage of their income on rent. That percentage ballooned from 30% to 42%. For college graduates, that percentage increased from 26% to 34%.

"In my estimation, the only winners in this situation are the richest companies who are either using this technology or creating this technology," said Elo-Rivera. "There couldn't be a more clear example of the rich getting richer while the rest of us are struggling to get by."

THE STATE HAS INVESTED IN REALPAGE

Private equity giant Thoma Bravo acquired RealPage in January 2021 through two funds that have hundreds of millions of dollars in investments from California public pension funds, including the California Public Employees' Retirement System, the California State Teachers' Retirement System, the Regents of the University of California and the Los Angeles police and fire pension funds, according to Private Equity Stakeholder Project.

"They're invested in things that are directly hurting their pensioners," said K Agbebiyi, a senior housing campaign coordinator with the Private Equity Stakeholder Project, a nonprofit private equity watchdog that produced a report about corporate landlords' impact on rental hikes in San Diego.

RealPage argues that landlords are free to reject the price recommendations generated by its software. But the U.S. Justice Department alleges that trying to do so requires a series of steps, including a conversation with a RealPage pricing adviser. The advisers try to "stop property managers from acting on emotions," according to the department's lawsuit.

If a property manager disagrees with the price the algorithm suggests and wants to decrease rent rather than increase it, a pricing advisor will "escalate the dispute to the manager's superior," prosecutors allege in the suit.

In San Diego, the Pickenses, who are expecting their first child, have given up their gym memberships and downsized their cars to remain in the area. They've considered moving to Denver.

"All the extras pretty much have to go," said Pickens. "I mean, we love San Diego, but it's getting hard to live here."

"My wife is an attorney and I served in the Navy for 10 years and now work at Qualcomm," he said. "Why are we struggling? Why are we struggling?"

Santa Monica Daily Press
Classifieds

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAMECase No. 24SCMP00569 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Suebat Adunola Adeyeni for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Suebat Adunola Adeyeni a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Suebat Adunola Adeyeni to Suebat Adunola Yakubu . 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 12/13/2024 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

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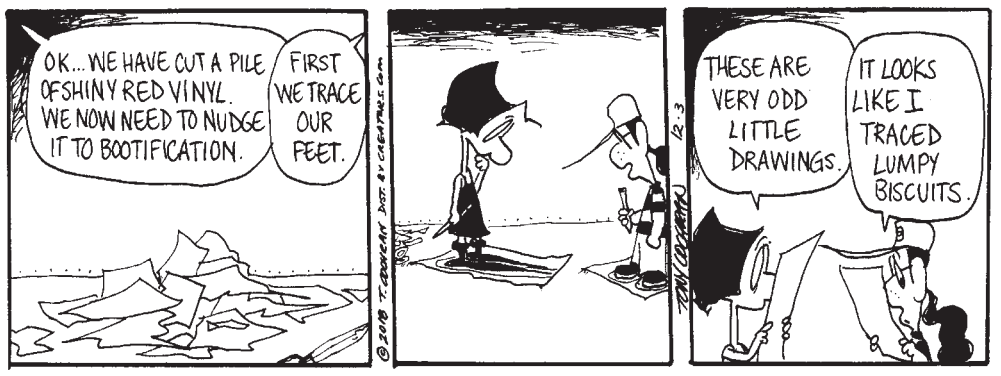
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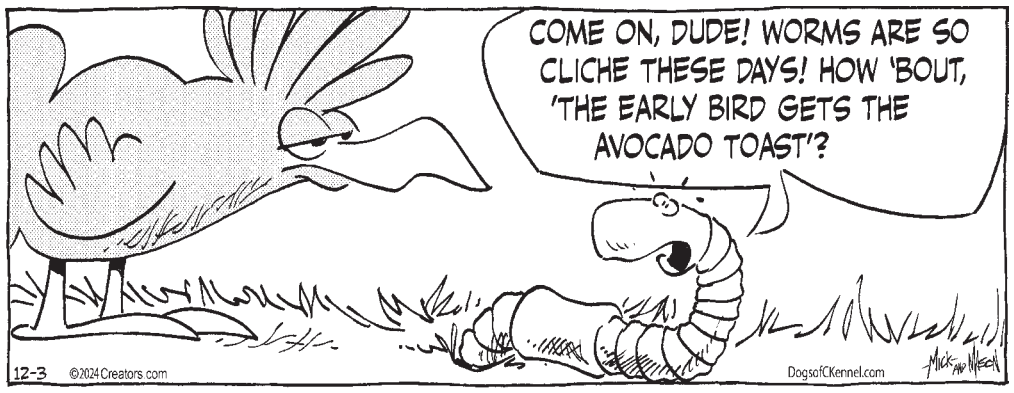
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

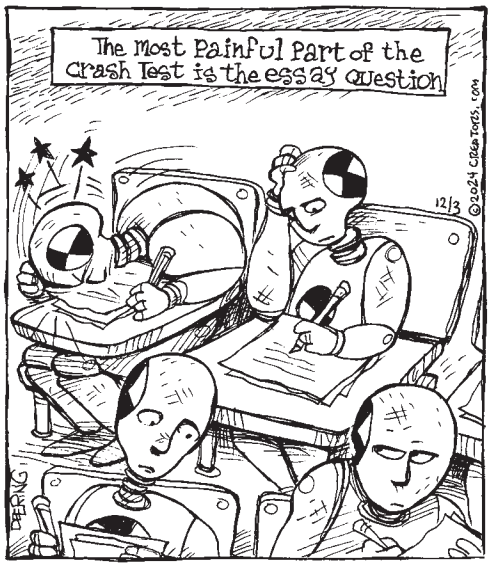
By PETER GALLAGHER



"WELCOME TO THE BIG LEAGUES, KID."

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 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6413

The rule of law

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

Accused	Exhibit	Outcry	Subpoena
Acts	Federal	Political	Suit
Attack	Fees	Prosecutor	Surprise
Ballot	Filed	Public	Topic
Bond	Fine	Service	Truth
Bound	Guilty	Reasonable	Upheld
Case	Jury	Report	Upper
Debate	Laws	Revoke	Veto
Decree	Notes	Robes	
Defer	Oath	Seat	
Evidence	Onus	Speaker	

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 3)

There's a daring venture requiring you to educate yourself and commit to a challenging practice. With dedication and kindness, your path is illuminated and you'll step confidently, leaving a lasting mark, especially with those who cherish your influence most. More highlights: Travel, new friends and self-discipline that amounts to a result you've wanted for years. Virgo and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 12, 2, 20, 14 and 17.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You show up and deliver, constant as a machine, but from the heart and with the full force of your spirited personality, with results that no machine could ever produce. You'll balance your work and family with such skill that you'll have others asking you how you do it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). When the show runs right, the spotlight follows your performance. When the operator is asleep on the job, you have to either go where the light is and deliver from there or work in the shadows. But your audience needs you, so adjust and shine.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's a weird reality: Not doing things can take a lot more energy than doing them. Fighting impulses and wrangling your way out of bad habits is tough. Honor and reward yourself for exhibits of restraint.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You've an excellent sense for how to give and take appropriately. If someone gives too much, you suspect them of trying to control you. Colleagues will rise to your high standards of integrity and fair play.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). As you navigate over, under or around the obstacles, not only will you move forward but you will also create yourself in the role of the problem-solving hero. It's an identity that comes together without one thought about image.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Don't fear the problems that come with togetherness. If you're facing life together, problems are inevitable. Whether the problem drives you apart or galvanizes you as a unit has more to do with attitude than the actual problem.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). If your life is a tapestry, what are the patterns you'd like to see on it? What would keep things beautiful and interesting for you? You will imagine, claim and begin a sequence of actions with the potential to create some impressive outcomes.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's as if you're back at zero and you must achieve a fresh set of points to push into the next frame of the game. You'll do it because it's what you set out to do, and that's reason enough for you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's a certain glamour that goes along with being you, and you're working that to its greatest advantage. You don't take your advantages for granted. Not using your talents is an act of ingratitude. Be you, unapologetically.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You hold allure for someone who doesn't know you well. Make it last by staying a bit mysterious. When it's time to make your move, do the unexpected. It keeps the attraction interesting.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You have an instinct to take the less experienced under your protective wing before teaching them to fly. Some do this from a place of ego - it makes them feel good to know more than another person. You wish only for the other person's success.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). To focus on what you don't have would only distract you from what you do have, which is everything you need to take it to the next level. Try not to think too far ahead because this is a step-by-step process.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

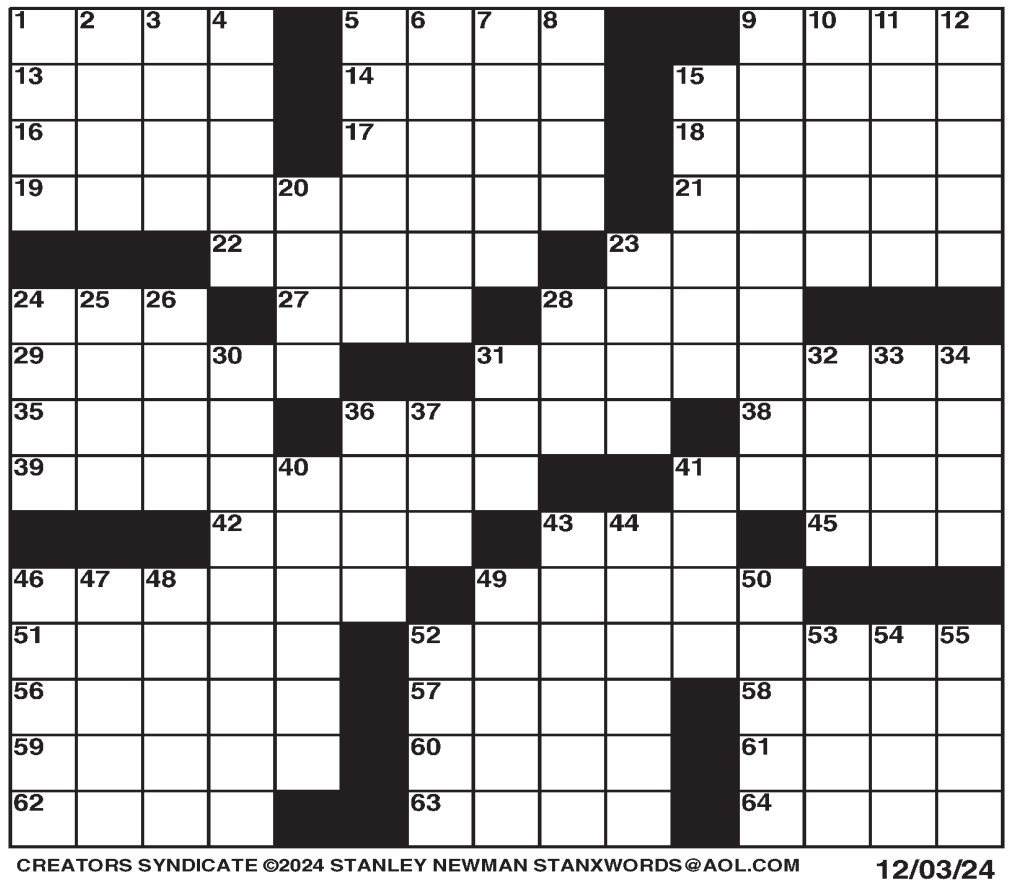
STARTING OFF by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
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ACROSS

1 Do laps in the pool
5 "Single" prefix for rail
9 Performs in a film
13 Treaty
14 "__ your pardon?"
15 Unusual knickknack
16 Ship's staff
17 Emblem "of approval"
18 Central Florida city
19 "__ off!" ("The horserace has begun!")
21 Say out loud
22 Agricultural enterprises
23 Gripper in a toolbox
24 "Delicious!"
27 Sandwich bread
28 Start all over with
29 Early afternoon hr.
31 Any for-profit venture
35 Wise mentor
36 Etna or Everest
38 Wicked
39 Purple gemstone
41 British superstar singer
42 Ballerina's skirt
43 Website help section
45 Fishing pole
46 Overly showy
49 Become blocked
51 Cut of steak
52 __ off (sit down)
56 Narrow shelf
57 Unlock
58 General's fighting force
59 Steer clear of
60 Sudden invasion
61 Casual eatery
62 Campsite shelter
63 Concludes
64 Shade trees

DOWN

1 Pet welfare org.
2 Advise caution to
3 Topped with frosting
4 Workweek calendar headings
5 Great distress
6 "Do as I say!"
7 Closes in on
8 Stare at
9 __ off (sold to the highest bidder)
10 Wooden shipping box
11 Ceramic flooring installer
12 Flies like an eagle
15 "Will you let me?"
20 Do damage to
23 Nuisance
24 Spiritual exercise
25 E pluribus __
26 Insignificant
28 Compete in a marathon
30 __ off (procrastinating)
31 "On the other hand..."
32 At any time
33 Grain storage tower
34 Snowy day vehicle
36 Ancient legend
37 Sch. in Columbus
40 Prepared to cook, as corn
41 Watery blue hue
43 Spy's passport, more than likely
44 Makes __ (atones)
46 F sharp alias
47 Tylenol alternative
48 Gas checked for in homes
49 Tokyo's land
50 Location
52 Ripped (apart)
53 Spoken aloud
54 Two-band radio switch
55 Salon colorings



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OLYMPIC

FROM PAGE 1

element, increased the FAR so we were able to almost double the amount of units we could put on the site. And based on Santa Monica politics, we just wanted to be grandfathered in for the next, you know, three, four or five years. So until we find another site, we will be here."

"And part of [this plan] would be helping us find another site, hopefully in Santa Monica. And we have looked at a few sites, but nothing that has met our requirements at this point," Diamond said.

Requested entitlements include density bonus incentives to allow more housing than would normally be permitted by zoning rules. In return, 35 of the newly constructed apartments would be set aside for rent as low and moderate income affordable housing.

Santa Monica-based DFH Architects is designing the 1399 Olympic proposal, which is shown in conceptual artwork as a contemporary podium-type building divided into three blocks, separated by courtyards and amenity decks.

Urbanize reports that at an August community outreach meeting, a representative of the project indicated that it may take as many as five or six years to come to fruition.

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REPUBLICANS

FROM PAGE 2

back in the midterms. If that happens in 2026, he said Republicans could see the legislative gains they made this election vanish.

WILL REPUBLICANS REGAIN POWER IN CALIFORNIA?

Nonetheless, experts say Democrats would be wise not to brush off Republican victories as anomalies, and they expect California's GOP to continue to make inroads with non white voters, even if Republicans have a long way to go to retake political power in California.

"It's not like (the Legislature is) crossing over to being majority Republican, or even close to it," Mitchell said. "They're probably not going to do that in our lifetimes. But if you're a Latino Republican, and you can capture votes from Latino voters as a complement to a maybe diminishing Republican base … then that's a powerful combo."

Part of the change is that Republican-dominated districts are becoming more diverse, reflecting California's population as a whole. Whites make up just 35% of California's 39 million residents.

And there are other signs that a shift may be occurring.

Christian Grose, a political science professor at the University of Southern California, said surveys of non white voters in urban areas of California still show they are solidly Democratic. But in rural or suburban areas, he said there's been a shift toward the Republican Party from non white voters, particularly men and people without college degrees, that could have a noticeable impact on future elections.

"In California, the winning strategy for a Republican in these districts would be to run candidates who are ethnically diverse and represent their communities," he said. "But the coalition for the Republicans is actually probably a white-voter majority in many of these districts like the Central Valley, plus some Latino voters."

Mike Madrid, a longtime Republican consultant with expertise in Latino politics, took it further. He has called the election a "five-alarm fire" for Democrats. He sees the election as a sign that the racial-identity politics that defined the previous generation's political affiliations are fading away.

"The idea that race and ethnicity are cornerstones of our political beliefs will become an outmoded concept," Madrid said. "It was definitive for the past generation, and now it will be a relic of the past. … The bigger issue here that the Democratic Party has to understand is there's a class problem, and that … a multiracial, (multi)ethnic working class is emerging in the country."

For their part, legislative Republicans say California's voters – of all races – made a clear statement during the election that they were fed up with Democratic policies. They rejected progressive ballot initiatives to raise the minimum wage, allow cities to block rent increases and to prohibit unpaid inmate labor. And they resoundingly approved a ballot initiative to impose harsher sentences for crimes, despite Gov. Gavin Newsom and progressive leaders opposing it.

But fresh off his victory in the Imperial and Coachella valleys, incoming Republican Assemblymember Gonzalez believes his victory mostly came down to the state's high costs.

He said his district is close enough to the Arizona border that it's easy for voters to see that gas is cheaper on the other side of the state line. Voters, he said, are smart enough to realize that Democratic policies are what makes California more expensive.

"California has become unaffordable for not only the Latino, but the average person," Gonzalez said.

Assemblymember Kate Sanchez, a Republican from Rancho Santa Margarita, said the election proved that Latinos like her "feel unseen and unheard by the current majority in the state."

She said it's no coincidence that Gov. Newsom has been touring majority Latino counties since the election, touting his economic policies.

"I think he sees the writing on the wall and he realizes, 'California, this is a new dawn,' " she said. "This is a new chapter in California history and California politics, and he's wanting to get in good graces. However, we've all had to deal with the fallout of his administration and the extreme policies, and so I don't think people are buying it."

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TUESDAY | DECEMBER 3

TEEN DECODEN DESIGN

4 - 5 p.m. Youth Activity Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Personalize a compact, trinket box, or barrette in Decoden, a Japanese style of decorating with faux frosting and kawaii charms. All materials will be provided. For ages 12-18.

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY BOOK FAIR

4 - 6:30 p.m. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. The Library's holiday book fair returns! Kids and teens (under 18) are invited to "shop" for free gift books for their parents, siblings or someone special, then wrap them up to share this holiday season.

PUBLIC SAFETY REFORM AND OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING

6 - 9:30 p.m. City Council Chambers, 1685 Main St. On January 26, 2021, the City Council adopted an Ordinance to create a new Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission to promote, in partnership with the Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD), the best practices in community-oriented policing for the fair treatment, safety, and wellbeing of all, and provide a body to work with SMPD and experts to develop, recommend, and help implement proposed reforms for handling complaints regarding SMPD conduct.

WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 4

WINTER STUFFIE SLEEPOVER

5:30 - 6:15 p.m. Youth Activity Room, Santa Monica Main Library. Author Sarah Mlynowski reads her new book "A Dragon for Hanukkah" at this special pajama story time featuring winter holiday stories from many traditions. Bring your favorite stuffed animal and then leave them afterwards for a night of fun in the library. Book sale and signing follows the story time. Space is limited. For ages 4-10.

PLANNING COMMISSION

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

SCHRAMBERG WINEMAKER DINNER

6 - 9 p.m. Farmshop LA, 225 26th St, Suite 25. The conclusion of Farmshop's 2024 wine dinner season with Schramsberg and Davies vineyards. Farmshop's culinary team is collaborating with Napa's finest for a curated dining experience with wine maker Hugh Davies. Farmshop is featuring a four-course tasting menu focusing on free, local ingredients paired with a special selection of both sparkling and still wines showcasing the best of California. $225 per person, to RSVP visit: https://www.opentable.com/booking/experiences-availability?rid=117178&restref=117178&experienceId=381472&utm_source=opentable&utm_medium=tms_email&utm_campaign=shared.

Ha Ha Hanukkah:

8:30 - 10 p.m. The Crow, 2525 Michigan Ave., Unit F4. A night of the best Jewish comedians from HBO, Comedy Central and Netflix. Proceeds from the comedy show will benefit Jewish Family Service LA. Tickets via donation tiers of $36-$108, to purchase visit: https://crowcomedy.com/showsandtickets.

THURSDAY | DECEMBER 5

IMMIGRATION SERVICES OFFICE HOURS

12 - 2 p.m. Study Room 1, Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. Come in for a free consultation for immigration services with an attorney from the nonprofit African Communities Public Health Coalition. This nonprofit organization offers free assistance with family-based immigration, including Petition for Alien Relative, VAWA and DACA. Services available on a first arrival basis.

HOUSING COMMISSION

6:15 p.m. Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. The Santa Monica Housing Commission is a city advisory body whose mission is to protect and improve the quality of life of all Santa Monicans by listening to input from city residents and staff, publicly deliberating, and providing recommendations to both the Santa Monica City Council and Santa Monica Housing Authority Board on issues related to housing in Santa Monica.

19TH STREET COMMUNITY FARM DESIGN PRESENTATION

6:30 - 8 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. Join for the presentation of the proposed design for the 19th Street Community Farm and Wellness Garden. The first of two community conversations surrounding the final design, the second will take place via Zoom on Dec. 10. RSVP for one, or both, of these meetings at: https://www.santamonica.gov/events/4wfw40brdvw5q66cwh4sm39c-dp/202412051830.

AN EVENING WITH PEGGY NOONAN

8 - 9:15 p.m. Ann and Jerry Moss Theatre at New Roads School, 3131 Olympic Blvd. Pulitzer-Prize winning opinion columnist at the Wall Street Journal where her column, Declarations, has run since 2000. She is the author of ten books on American history and culture and was a special assistant and speechwriter to President Ronald Reagan. General admission ticket plus signed copy of the book $50, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-evening-with-peggy-noonan-tickets-1012904684177.

FRIDAY | DECEMBER 6

THE PROM

7 p.m. Morgan-Wixson Theatre, 2627 Pico Blvd. Join for a heartwarming and hilarious musical that celebrates love, acceptance and standing up for what is right. Tickets $16-$25, to purchase visit https://www.morgan-wixson.org/yes-dynamic-2/prom.

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