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Find the words.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 25 Issue 14 | THURSDAY 12/4/25 | smdp.com

Pier photos at the Georgian







Fran Lyness

PHOTO: The Georgian Hotel is hosting a photography exhibit featuring vintage photography and memorabilia from the Santa Monica History Museum collection, celebrating 150 years of Santa Monica and a century of the iconic Pier. The Gallery is open daily from 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. through New Years.

School Board approves historic Malibu-Santa Monica district split

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education voted unanimously Monday to approve a separation package that would split the nearly 70-year-old district into two independent entities, marking a major milestone in Malibu's decades-long quest for local control of its schools.

The 7-0 vote during a special meeting Dec. 1 approved three foundational agreements establishing the financial, operational and governance frameworks needed to create an independent Malibu Unified School District alongside a Santa Monica Unified School District.

"Last night's unanimous approval is a historic milestone that brings Malibu one step closer to achieving the local control our community has worked toward for so many years," Malibu Mayor Marianne Riggins said. "This is a victory for the future of students in both Malibu and Santa Monica."

The separation package includes a Property Tax Revenue Sharing Agreement allocating revenues between the two future districts, an Operational Transfer Agreement outlining the transition of staffing and facilities, and a Joint Powers Agreement creating shared

SEE **DISTRICT SPLIT** PAGE 11

Santa Monica doctor sentenced to more than 2 years in prison in connection with Matthew Perry's death

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

A former Santa Monica physician was sentenced Tuesday to 30 months in federal prison for repeatedly selling ketamine to actor Matthew Perry despite knowing about Perry's well-documented history of drug addiction.

Salvador Plasencia, 44, known as "Dr. P," received the sentence from U.S. District Judge Sherilyn Peace Garnett, who also fined him $5,600 and ordered him immediately remanded to federal custody.

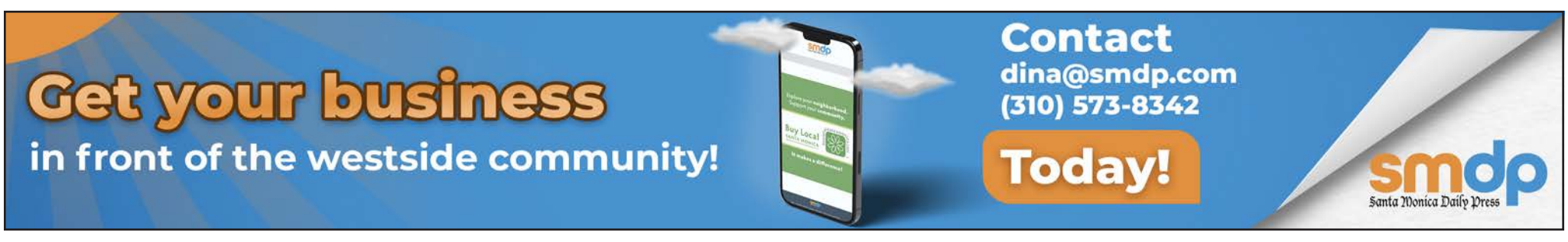
Plasencia pleaded guilty in July to four counts of distribution of ketamine. He surrendered his California medical license in September.

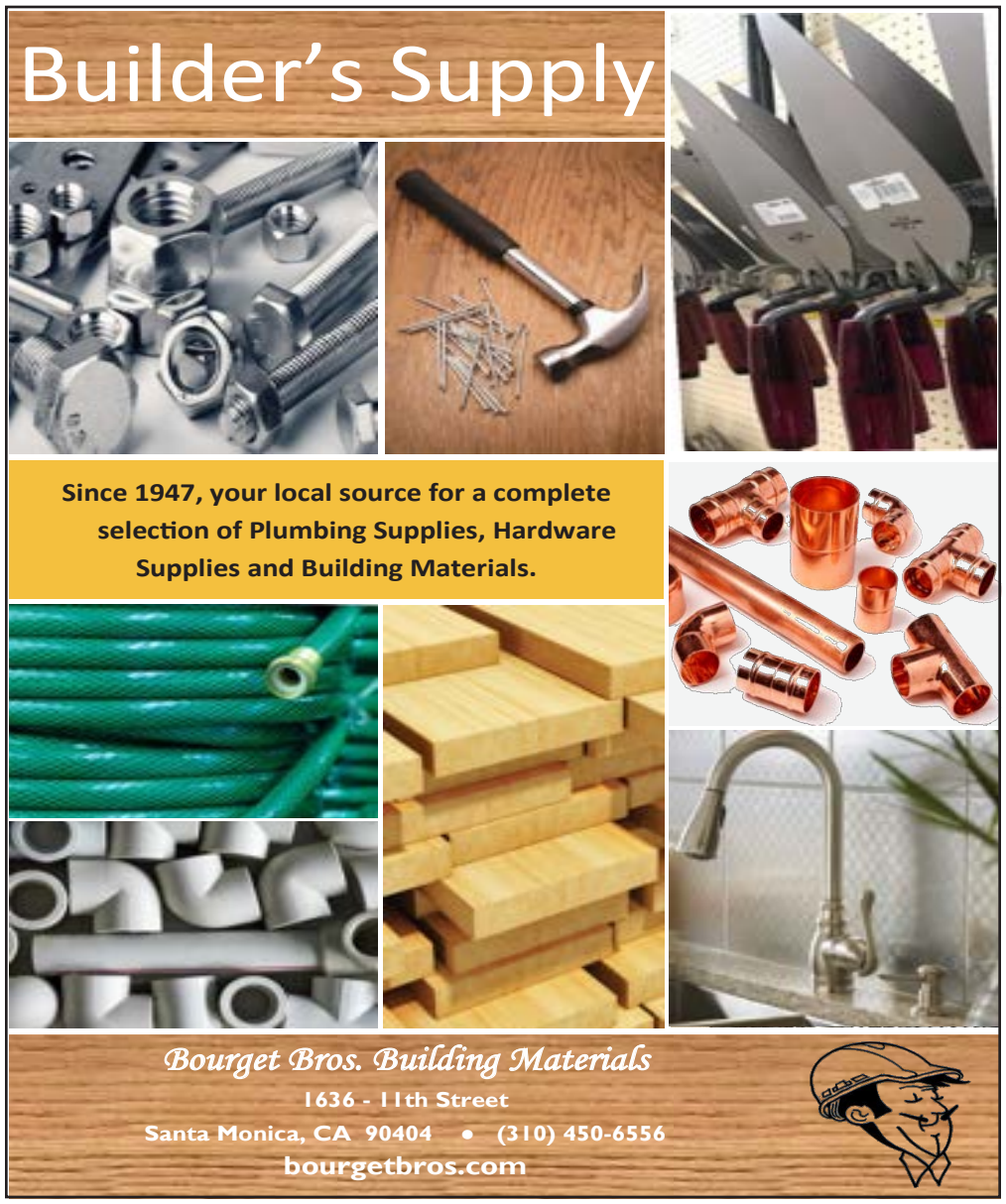
Plasencia owned and operated Malibu Canyon Urgent Care LLC, a Calabasas-based urgent-care clinic. As a licensed medical doctor, he knew ketamine was a controlled substance and anesthetic used without Food and Drug Administration approval to treat depression and other psychiatric conditions.

According to court documents, Plasencia understood the potential risks associated with ketamine, including sedation, psychiatric events, and abuse by patients. His own treatment notes reflected his belief that patients "should be monitored by [a] physician when undergoing treatment as a safety Measure."

Perry had been using ketamine through his regular doctor in a legal but off-label treatment for

SEE **PERRY** PAGE 5





Lawsuits challenge Trump administration's radical homeless policy changes

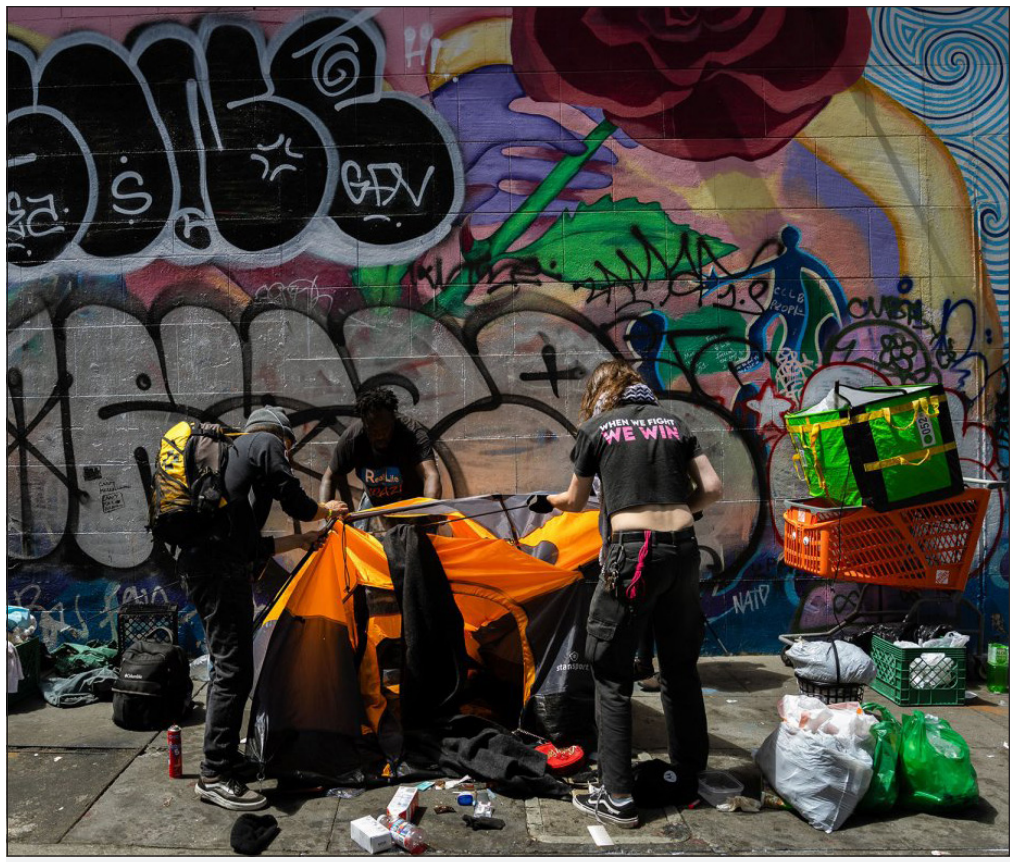


Photo by Manuel Orbegozo for CalMatters

SAN FRANCISCO: Michael Johnson takes down his tent in downtown San Francisco with the help of activists on Aug. 9, 2024.

California is fighting back after President Donald Trump's administration instigated homeless housing cuts that local service providers said would be "devastating."

Two recently filed lawsuits accuse the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development of illegally going over Congress' head to make massive changes to the way federal homelessness funds are distributed.

"HUD's new grant rules would effectively defund permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing programs across the nation, eliminating proven tools that help residents exit homelessness sustainably," Santa Clara County Counsel Tony LoPresti said in a statement. "This is another instance of the Trump administration prioritizing its political agenda above the needs of our most vulnerable community members."

Santa Clara County and San Francisco sued the Trump administration this week, in conjunction with the National Alliance to End Homelessness and the National Low Income Housing Coalition. A separate lawsuit was filed last week by Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration and a handful of other states. It marked the 47th time California sued the Trump administration in 44 weeks.

Now, homeless service providers are waiting anxiously to see how the litigation plays out and wondering if the impending legal battle will further delay the money they desperately need.

"It's just the matter of how long it's going to take that concerns me," said Robert Ratner, director of Santa Cruz County's Housing for Health, which coordinates the county's homelessness response. "Because while we're waiting for these issues to get resolved, we have programs that are going to run out of money to support people."

The Department of Housing and Urban Development did not respond to a request for comment.

In a statement last month, HUD Secretary Scott Turner said the changes are aimed at

SEE **HOMELESS** PAGE 8





GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California's new labor law could have unintended and unwanted consequences



Photo by Jungho Kim for CalMatters

SAN FRANCISCO: Workers walk the picket line at an Amazon warehouse in the Bayview District in San Francisco on Dec. 19, 2024. A new California law lets the state intervene in union disputes with private employers.

The California Legislature has a bad habit of writing new law in the moment and paying little or no attention to its potential consequences.

While legislative history contains many examples, the most spectacular occurred three decades ago when legislators and then-Gov. Pete Wilson massively overhauled how electricity is generated, distributed and priced, telling consumers it would make power more affordable and reliable.

The real world impact was just the opposite. Power became less reliable, prices skyrocketed and the state's investor-owned utilities were pushed into insolvency.

Other examples of unintended consequences in California include launching a bullet train project without comprehensive construction or financial plans, sharply increasing public employee pensions without considering costs and doing the same with unemployment insurance benefits.

One could also add the current practice of draining emergency reserves to cover budget deficits that result from overestimating revenues and underestimating spending, leaving the state's finances vulnerable to an inevitable economic downturn.

Then there is Assembly Bill 288, one of many measures the Legislature dominated by Democrats and Gov. Gavin Newsom have passed in recent years to thwart — or so they hope — President Donald Trump.

AB 288, sponsored by California labor unions and carried by Assemblymember Tina McKinnor, an Inglewood Democrat, expands the authority of California's Public Employment Relations Board — which oversees union-management activities in state and local governments and school districts — to include private sector employment.

The bill aims for the Public Employee Relations Board, or PERB, to step into the role performed for many decades by the National Labor Relations Board because, McKinnor and other advocates maintain, the NLRB is frozen by a dispute over its membership.

Early this year, Trump removed Dwynne Wilcox, the NLRB's chair, leaving the board without a quorum and unable to decide pending cases. Trump's action is being fought in the courts.

"Well, I'll just say that if we have no board, no quorum, no board, no justice to state workers, for state workers," McKinnor told the state Senate Judiciary Committee just before AB 288 passed. "And so, we need to make sure that, you know, that PERB can hear these cases,

SEE **GUEST COMMENTARY** PAGE 8



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **64.4**

THURSDAY
POOR TO FAIR

SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Size dips, still fun-zone in the morning with some corners. AM offshores in the cards. Good day to get in the water before size gets a little smaller for the end of the week. Waist-chest high surf sticking around out west for the AM window, taking a noticeable dip into the afternoon. AM offshore flow in the cards and the wind should stay nice long enough to wait out the 7' high tide during the early window. Drained out with moderate onshore flow in the afternoon.

FRIDAY
POOR TO FAIR

SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Smaller day of waves and a deep high tide bogging down much of the morning. Mostly working with modest southerly swell as a little bit of shorter-period NW energy mixes in. Pretty flat around the 7' high tide, bumping into knee-high territory for the points as it drops. Standouts go thigh-hight. Wind should stay down long enough to get a piece of the tide drop, and the back half of the day could.

Weather

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 67. North northeast wind around 10 mph becoming west southwest in the afternoon.
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 47. North wind around 10 mph, with gusts as high as 15 mph.
Friday: Sunny, with a high near 64. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west southwest in the afternoon.
Friday Night: Clear, with a low around 51.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2025/12/04	Thu	01:18 AM	1.90	L
2025/12/04	Thu	07:43 AM	7.22	H
2025/12/04	Thu	3:04 PM	-1.72	L
2025/12/04	Thu	9:35 PM	3.88	H
2025/12/05	Fri	02:03 AM	2.08	L
2025/12/05	Fri	08:26 AM	7.28	H
2025/12/05	Fri	3:53 PM	-1.79	L
2025/12/05	Fri	10:30 PM	3.81	H
2025/12/06	Sat	02:50 AM	2.24	L
2025/12/06	Sat	09:12 AM	7.09	H
2025/12/06	Sat	4:44 PM	-1.63	L
2025/12/06	Sat	11:27 PM	3.76	H
2025/12/07	Sun	03:41 AM	2.41	L
2025/12/07	Sun	10:01 AM	6.68	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: 12/1
5 18 26 47 59
Power#: 1
Jackpot: 775 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/2
17 25 26 53 60
Mega#: 16
Jackpot: 50 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 11/29
20 21 22 32 43
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: 7 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/2
6 16 18 20 33

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/2
EVENING: 3 6 2
Draw Date: 12/2
MIDDAY: 7 8 4

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/2
1st: 01 - Gold Rush
2nd: 08 - Gorgeous George
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:48.81

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WINNER

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.

PUBLISHED BY NEWLON ROUGE, LLC

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Santa Monica Daily Press

AROUND TOWN

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Holiday Festivals Abound!

SMDP's Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town includes the Official City of Santa Monica Tree Lighting Ceremony, Miracle on Main Street Festival, Montana Ave. Holiday Walk, an underwear run (you read that correct!), and much more!

Official City of Santa Monica Tree Lighting Ceremony: 🎄Santa is lighting the tree and taking FREE photos with everyone! Enjoy special performances, hot cocoa, holiday crafts, and more. Thursday, Dec. 4, 6-8p.m., 1351 Third St. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-official-city-of-santa-monica-tree-lighting-ceremony-tickets-1835888514969 https://www.instagram.com/reel/DQ4yOGVgYqt/

MeUndies Holiday Undie Run: No pants, no problem at this FREE "cheeky" three-mile run at The Penmar, followed by tacos, Juneshine, and branded goodies. Runners will receive a free pair of MeUndies Holiday undies upon arrival to wear during the event. Thursday, Dec. 4, 6:30p.m., 1233 Rose Ave., Venice https://www.eventbrite.com/e/meundies-holiday-undie-run-tickets-1963593875139

Pier Plans Three Nights of Free Holiday Festivities with Photos with Santa and Marionette Theater Performances: The series runs Thursdays Dec. 4, 11 and 18, turning the Pier's Merry Go-Round building and nearby walkways into a themed holiday hub featuring art activities, live entertainment and seasonal displays. Each Thursday from 3:30 to 7 p.m., children can write letters to Santa and make ornaments with the local studio Paint:Lab inside the historic carousel building. Books & Cookies will lead musical storytime sessions, and The Bob Baker Marionette Theater is scheduled to perform two shows nightly, accompanied by vendors selling hot cocoa, churros, popcorn and other treats. https://www.santamonicapier.org/cheeronthepier

Annual King Tides Celebration: "King tides" occur when the orbits and alignment of the Earth, moon, and sun combine to produce the greatest tidal effects of the year. Climate Action Santa Monica is organizing a morning meetup at Heal The Bay Aquarium this Friday to mark the annual occurrence, discuss the relevancy of rising tides in consideration of climate change, and collect images for scientific documentation of the tides for the Coastal Commission." FREE. Thursday and Friday, Dec. 4 and 5 and Jan. 2 and 3. @ Heal the Bay Aquarium, 1600 Ocean Front Walk

AJA's Annual Ugly Sweater Party & Competition: Wear your BEST holiday ugly sweater. Grab a glass & enter their contest for the ugliest sweater! They'll have a catwalk & competition, specialty pricing and more! Winners receive prizes of wine related gifts! Must be 21+ to enter competition. Thursday Dec. 4, 6:30p.m., 1417 2nd St. https://ajavineyards.com/event/2nd-annual-ugly-sweater-party-competition/

Uniqlo Santa Monica Grand Opening: UNIQLO is moving to the Promenade! Their new and larger Santa Monica store opens Friday, 12/5 and they're celebrating opening week all weekend long. From Fri 12/5- Sun 12/7, while supplies last, the first 250 customers in line will receive a FREE UNIQLO knot bag filled with a UNIQLO Frame Bottle and Japanese treats, celebrating the grand opening! 1431 Third St. Promenade

Holiday Wreath Workshop: Create your own custom holiday wreath in this hands-on, festive workshop. We'll provide a beautiful wreath base & teach you the mechanics step-by-step so you feel confident building and designing your own. Saturday, Dec. 6, 3 – 5:30p.m.,1440 South Lincoln Blvd., Venice bloomdega.com/workshops/p/winter-wreath-workshop

Fa-La-La-La-Lanes: Holiday Sweater Community Bike Ride: Throw on your best (or worst!) holiday sweater and join City staff and Santa Monica Spoke for a bike tour of the Bergamot Area First/Last Mile Improvements. Saturday, Dec. 6, 10a.m., 17th St/SMC Metro Station smspoke.org/2025/11/21/fa-la-la-la-lanes-holiday-sweater-community-bike-ride/

Venice Holiday Sign Lighting Festival: Join the Venice Chamber of Commerce, special guests, and your community for a beloved tradition—the annual changing of the Venice Sign lights to festive red and green for the holidays! Now in its 14th year, this special celebration will take place on Windward Avenue (east of Pacific Avenue), with street closures to make room for live music and family-friendly activities. Saturday, Dec. 6, 6 - 9p.m. business.venicechamber.net/events/details/vcc-14th-annual-venice-holiday-sign-lighting-65726



Montana Avenue Holiday Walk: The annual Holiday Walk & Marketplace transforms Santa Monica's Montana Avenue into an enchanted outdoor festival filled with local merchants, live music, roaming carolers, and special appearances by the Grinch, Cindy Lou, and Princess Elsa. Saturday, Dec. 6, 12 - 8 p.m. https://www.eventeny.com/events/montanaavenueholidaywalk-24323/

Santa Claus "Candy Cane Drive": Santa Claus is coming to town with Santa Monica's police officers & firefighters leading the way. Santa and his public safety helpers will be distributing good cheer and thousands of candy canes as part of this year's 33rd Annual "Candy Cane Drive." Dec. 6 at various parks from 10a.m. - 3p.m.: https://www.santamonica.gov/press/2025/11/12/santa-claus-is-coming-to-town-december-6-2025

Santa Cruise Group Ride: Deck yourself in your most festive attire for a joyful 5.8-mile cruise through Santa Monica & Venice. Bikes, roller blades, skateboard, and other wheeled transports welcome for all ages. Saturday, Dec. 6, 3pm–11pm, starting at SaMo City Hall. More info here. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/santa-cruise-2025-las-biggest-holiday-group-ride-tickets-1686075831199

SeXObjects Exhibit Opening Reception: Reception Saturday, Dec. 6 , 4 - 6p.m., and exhibit runs through Jan. 17, Craig Krull Gallery, 2525 Michigan Ave. https://www.hannahsloan.com/events/sexobjects

Venice Holiday Sign Lighting: Now in its 14th year, this special celebration will take place on Windward Avenue (east of Pacific Avenue), with street closures to make room for live music and family-friendly activities. Saturday, Dec. 6, 6 - 9 pm. https://business.venicechamber.net/events/details/vcc-14th-annual-venice-holiday-sign-lighting-65726

Holiday Art Fair at the Santa Monica Airport Arts Center: Studios 3026 Sunday, Dec. 7, noon – 4 p.m., 3026 Airport Ave. Enjoy live music, participate in holiday art activities, sample seasonal refreshments and explore the talent and creativity of our local artists at this festive holiday open studios event. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/holiday-art-fair-at-the-santa-monica-airport-arts-center-studios-3026-tickets-1963629365291?aff=oddtdtcreator

Miracle on Main Street Returns to Santa Monica on Dec. 7! Join the community for the annual Holiday Tree Lighting featuring the 20-foot Shopping Cart Tree, free photos with Santa, live music, kids' crafts, a pop-up bar by The Victorian, and pizza from Triple Beam. The celebration begins after the Main Street Farmers Market and continues through the early evening. Sunday, Dec. 7, https://www.eventbrite.com/e/miracle-on-main-street-holiday-tree-lighting-tickets-1975036020905

Aleichem Sholom Returns to Santa Monica Playhouse: This musical is performed in English with just a taste of Yiddish and follows the life of the beloved Yiddish story-teller Sholom Aleichem and his mespoche, spinning tales of his loves and losses, his fame and his failures, his travels, his travails and the tremendous joy and optimism that kept him going against all odds. Saturday, Dec. 7 and 14. SantaMonicaPlayhouse.com/aleichem-sholom.html

All About Santa returns to Santa Monica Playhouse: Enjoy an "An afternoon of theatre magic in which audience participation and brotherly love pave the way for another happy yuletide season." Saturdays at 2:00pm and Sundays at 12:30pm, Dec. 6 - 14, 1211 4th St. SantaMonicaPlayhouse.com

Holiday Concert & Ukulele Strum-Along: Cali Rose and the CC Strummers invite you to strum along, sing along, and enjoy festive holiday and popular songs. Bring your own uke, borrow one of theirs. Saturday, Dec. 6, 2p.m., Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. https://www.santamonica.gov/events/4wt5vss8cdq34rcbs83fdfsmxc/202512061400

Feliz Improvidad Comedy Show at Lula's: Grab dinner & margaritas and enjoy the hysterical, completely made-up-on-the-spot comedy show based on YOUR suggestions. Sunday, Dec 7 from 6 - 8p.m., 2720 Main St. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/feliz-improvidad-comedy-show-at-lulas-tickets-1909475315069

Children's Holiday Book Fair: The Library's annual holiday book fair returns! Kids and teens are invited to "shop" for free gift books for their parents, siblings or someone special, then wrap them up to share this holiday season. Tuesday, Dec 9, 4 - 6:30p.m., Fairview Branch Library 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. https://www.santamonica.gov/events/4cpem79q2g3y2vm5ze9s0yz7nb/202512091600

SEE **AROUND TOWN** PAGE 11

PERRY

FROM PAGE 1

depression, which has become increasingly common. He began seeking more ketamine than his doctor would give him.

The actor struggled with addiction for years, dating back to his time on "Friends," when he became one of the biggest stars of his generation playing Chandler Bing. He starred alongside Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Lisa Kudrow, Matt LeBlanc and David Schwimmer for 10 seasons from 1994 to 2004 on NBC's megahit sitcom.

On Sept. 30, 2023, one of Plasencia's patients introduced him to Perry, describing the actor as a "high profile person" seeking ketamine who was willing to pay "cash and lots of thousands" for treatment, according to the plea agreement.

"Rather than do what was best for Mr. Perry – someone who had struggled with addiction for most of his life – [Plasencia] sought to exploit Perry's medical vulnerability for profit," prosecutors argued in their sentencing memorandum. "Indeed, the day [Plasencia] met Perry he made his profit motive known, telling a co-conspirator: 'I wonder how much this moron will pay' and 'let's find out.'"

That same day, Plasencia contacted Mark Chavez, 55, then a licensed San Diego physician. Plasencia drove to Costa Mesa and purchased $795 in ketamine vials and tablets, syringes and gloves from Chavez. He then drove to Perry's Los Angeles home, injected Perry with ketamine and left at least one vial with Kenneth Iwamasa, 60, of Toluca Lake, Perry's personal assistant. Iwamasa paid Plasencia $4,500.

Over the following weeks, Plasencia repeatedly purchased ketamine from Chavez and administered the drug to Perry multiple times at Perry's home and once in a Long Beach parking lot while in the backseat of Perry's vehicle.

During one treatment at Perry's home, Perry's blood pressure spiked, causing him to freeze up. Despite this adverse reaction, Plasencia left additional vials of ketamine with Iwamasa, knowing the assistant would inject the drug into Perry without medical supervision.

Between Sept. 30 and Oct. 12, 2023, Plasencia distributed 20 vials and multiple tablets of ketamine and syringes to Iwamasa and Perry. Prosecutors said he charged a total of $57,000 for these efforts, even though the going price of ketamine was only approximately $15 per vial.

Court documents show Plasencia knew his conduct fell below the proper standard of medical care and that the ketamine transfers were not for a legitimate medical purpose.

On Oct. 27, 2023, after ordering 10 vials of ketamine through a licensed pharmaceutical company using his Drug Enforcement Administration license, Plasencia texted Iwamasa: "I know you mentioned taking a break. I have been stocking up on the meanwhile. I am not sure when you guys plan to resume but in case its when im out of town this weekend I have left supplies with a nurse of mine ...I can always let her know the plan."

Perry fatally overdosed on ketamine the following day, Oct. 28, 2023. The medical examiner ruled ketamine was the primary cause of death although Plasencia did not provide the ketamine that caused Perry's death.

After Perry's overdose, Plasencia falsified treatment notes and an invoice in response to a DEA subpoena. Prosecutors said these documents were designed to cover up his illegal sales of ketamine to Iwamasa.

The fraudulent notes claimed that on Oct. 7, 2024, Perry was "scheduled to meet for a treatment session but was not present." In reality, Plasencia was scheduled to meet only with Iwamasa that day at midnight at a public street corner outside a Santa Monica bar to sell him vials of ketamine.

In exchange for his guilty pleas, prosecutors dropped three additional counts of distribution of ketamine and two counts of falsifying records.

Chavez and Iwamasa pleaded guilty last year to federal drug charges. Chavez is scheduled to be sentenced Dec. 17, and Iwamasa on Jan. 14, 2026.

Two other defendants charged in connection with Perry's death also pleaded guilty and await sentencing. Erik Fleming, 56, of Hawthorne, is scheduled for sentencing Jan. 7, 2026.

The only remaining defendant who has not reached an agreement with the U.S. Attorney's Office is Jasveen Sangha, 42, of North Hollywood, known as the "Ketamine Queen." Prosecutors allege she is a drug dealer who sold Perry the lethal dose. Her trial is scheduled to begin next month. She has pleaded not guilty.

editor@smdp.com

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German Christmas Market

Sunday, December 7, 2025 – 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Hosted by:
German-American Club of Santa Monica
1843 Lincoln Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90404

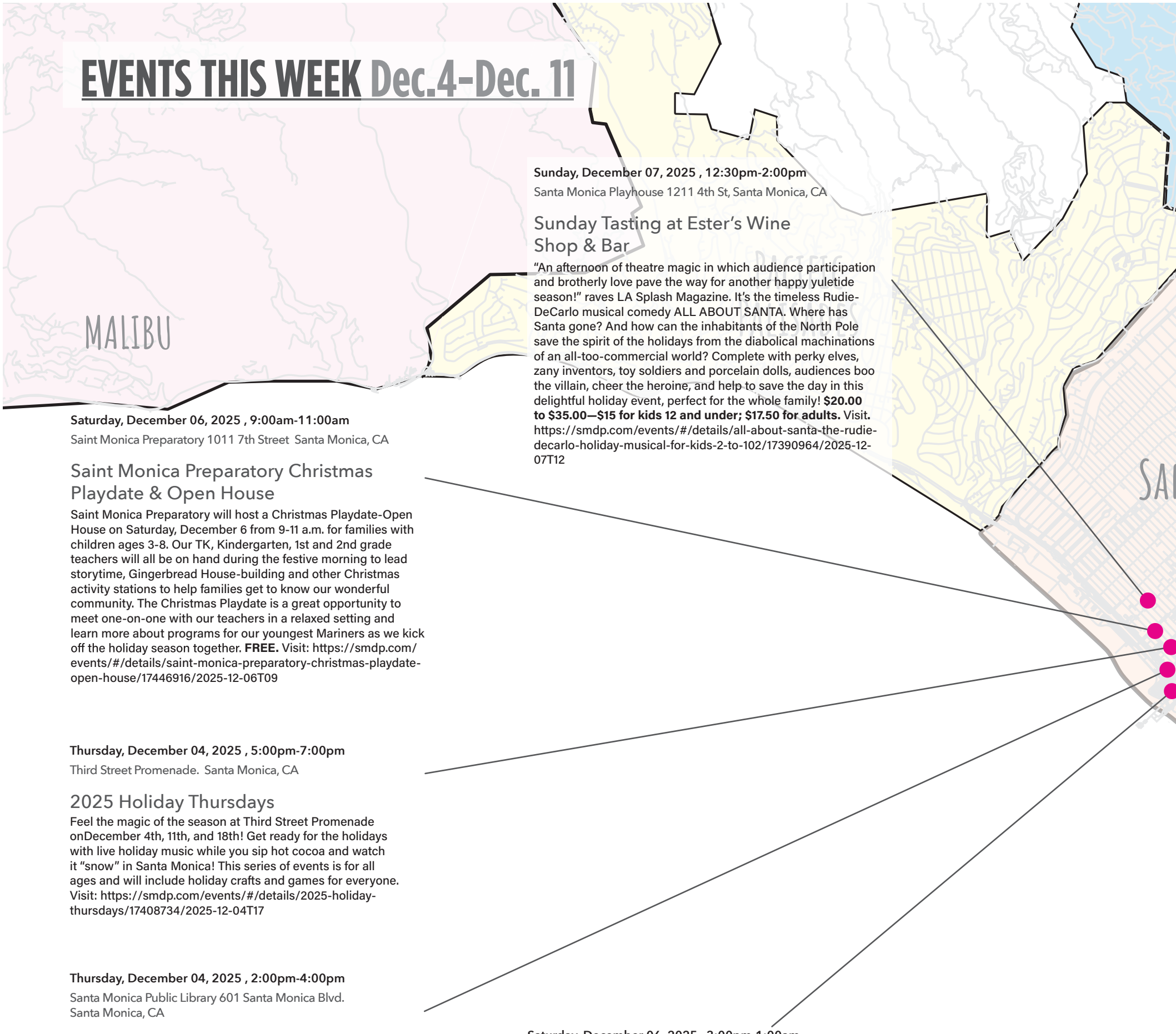


What to expect:
• Live Music
• Traditional gifts and crafts
• Authentic German Food
• Glühwein and full bar
• Santa Claus Visit
• Cookie Decorating for Kids & Other Games
• Bounce House and Family Fun

Admission:
Free for Members & Children under 14
$5 Temporary Membership at Entry
Primarily cash, though some vendors accept credit cards, Venmo and/or Zelle.
Questions? Contact: germanamericanclubsm@gmail.com



EVENTS THIS WEEK Dec.4-Dec. 11



Saturday, December 06, 2025 , 9:00am-11:00am

Saint Monica Preparatory 1011 7th Street Santa Monica, CA

Saint Monica Preparatory Christmas Playdate & Open House

Saint Monica Preparatory will host a Christmas Playdate-Open House on Saturday, December 6 from 9-11 a.m. for families with children ages 3-8. Our TK, Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade teachers will all be on hand during the festive morning to lead storytime, Gingerbread House-building and other Christmas activity stations to help families get to know our wonderful community. The Christmas Playdate is a great opportunity to meet one-on-one with our teachers in a relaxed setting and learn more about programs for our youngest Mariners as we kick off the holiday season together. **FREE.** Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/saint-monica-preparatory-christmas-playdate-open-house/17446916/2025-12-06T09

Thursday, December 04, 2025 , 5:00pm-7:00pm

Third Street Promenade. Santa Monica, CA

2025 Holiday Thursdays

Feel the magic of the season at Third Street Promenade onDecember 4th, 11th, and 18th! Get ready for the holidays with live holiday music while you sip hot cocoa and watch it "snow" in Santa Monica! This series of events is for all ages and will include holiday crafts and games for everyone. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/2025-holiday-thursdays/17408734/2025-12-04T17

Thursday, December 04, 2025 , 2:00pm-4:00pm

Santa Monica Public Library 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Santa Monica, CA

Tech & Tasks

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. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/tech-tasks/13932094/2025-12-04T14

Check out more events at: smdp.com/events

Sunday, December 07, 2025 , 12:30pm-2:00pm

Santa Monica Playhouse 1211 4th St, Santa Monica, CA

Sunday Tasting at Ester's Wine Shop & Bar

"An afternoon of theatre magic in which audience participation and brotherly love pave the way for another happy yuletide season!" raves LA Splash Magazine. It's the timeless Rudie-DeCarlo musical comedy ALL ABOUT SANTA. Where has Santa gone? And how can the inhabitants of the North Pole save the spirit of the holidays from the diabolical machinations of an all-too-commercial world? Complete with perky elves, zany inventors, toy soldiers and porcelain dolls, audiences boo the villain, cheer the heroine, and help to save the day in this delightful holiday event, perfect for the whole family! **$20.00 to $35.00—$15 for kids 12 and under; $17.50 for adults.** Visit. https://smdp.com/events/#/details/all-about-santa-the-rudie-decarlo-holiday-musical-for-kids-2-to-102/17390964/2025-12-07T12

Saturday, December 06, 2025 , 3:00pm-1:00am

Santa Monica City Hall 1685 Main St. Santa Monica, CA

Santa Cruise 2025: LA's Biggest Holiday Group Ride!

Join the 5th Annual Santa Cruise in Santa Monica! A festive holiday ride & party for skateboarders, roller skaters, cyclists, and more. **USD.** Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/santa-cruise-2025-la-s-biggest-holiday-group-ride-/17353536/2025-12-06T15



Saturday, December 06, 2025, 11:00 a.m.– 1 p.m.
Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave at 17th St.

NEIGHBORHOOD COALITION Annual General Membership Meeting

We hope you can join us at our annual Wilmont membership meeting. All members are welcomed and you can join online or at our annual meeting. We are a city-recognized, non-profit organization advocating for our residents on issues such as public safety, homelessness and development, providing monthly meetings about the city we live in and the people who run it, and doing community outreach such as live music and outdoor summer movies at Reed Park. We meet the FIRST TUESDAY of every month at 7 PM via ZOOM. Santa Monica Interim Police Chief Darrick Jacob with Q &A Wilmont/City Hot Topics and Guests Wilmont Award.



THURSDAY | DECEMBER 4

CLUB LATINO PARA ADULTOS MAYORES
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica Venga, aprenda, y diviertase cada jueves de 11 AM a 1 PM el el salón 3 del parque Virginia. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/club-latino-para-adultos-mayores/13943928/2025-12-04T11

OAKWOOD ROOTS FARMERS AND WELLNESS MARKET
11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. 685 Westminster Ave Venice. Oakwood Roots Venice Farmers' and Wellness Market is a hub for local foods, wellness classes, and holistic healing. We are dedicated to fostering a strong community, supporting local businesses, and advocating for sustainable practices. Join us in creating a healthier and more connected neighborhood. 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. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/oakwood-roots-farmers-and-wellness-market/14548473/2025-12-04T11

REBUILD COMMITTEE - SANTA MONICA & PALIBU CHAMBER
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Virtual. Zoom link to be sent before the meeting Santa Monica, CA. Rebuild Committee - Santa Monica & PaliBu Chamber Must be a Member to attend - either a member of Santa Monica Chamber or PaliBu Chamber. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/rebuild-committee-santa-monica-palibu-chamber/15499169/2025-12-04T15

HOLIDAY WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Viola Floral 1639 11th St. Suite 162 Santa Monica. Join us for an evening of wreathmaking to celebrate the winter season! We'll start with beautiful 18" grapevine wreaths, and use an array of winter greens and special touches and embellishments—all customized to your individual style. Enjoy a wine pairing from Divine Vintage and leave with stunning winter-themed art for your door! Difficulty: Beginner–Intermediate. Address: Viola Floral Studio: 1639 11th St. Suite 162, Santa Monica. Convenient parking in the back of the building. Please note that all workshops are non-refundable, but if something comes up, feel free to send a friend in your place — flower joy is always transferable. Please plan to arrive 15 minutes early to settle in, sip something refreshing, and get ready to bloom. Kit Included. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/holiday-wreath-making-workshop/17198388/2025-12-04T18

FRIDAY | DECEMBER 5

UNIQLO THIRD ST PROMENADE GRAND OPENING
10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. 1431 Third St Promenade Contact Info 8089902643 chunen.choy@uniqlo-usa.com Visit UNIQLO's NEW and LARGER Santa Monica store at 1431 Third Street Promenade opening FRIDAY 12/5. From Fri 12/5- Sun 12/7 enjoy Santa Monica exclusive giveaways and new collections. Limited-time promotions Fri 12/5 - Thurs 12/11. ACTIVATIONS: The fir
Santa Monica, CA. Visit UNIQLO's NEW and LARGER Santa Monica store at 1431 Third Street Promenade opening FRIDAY 12/5. From Fri 12/5- Sun 12/7 enjoy Santa Monica exclusive giveaways and new collections. Limited-time. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/uniqlo-third-st-promenade-grand-opening/17526454/2025-12-05T10

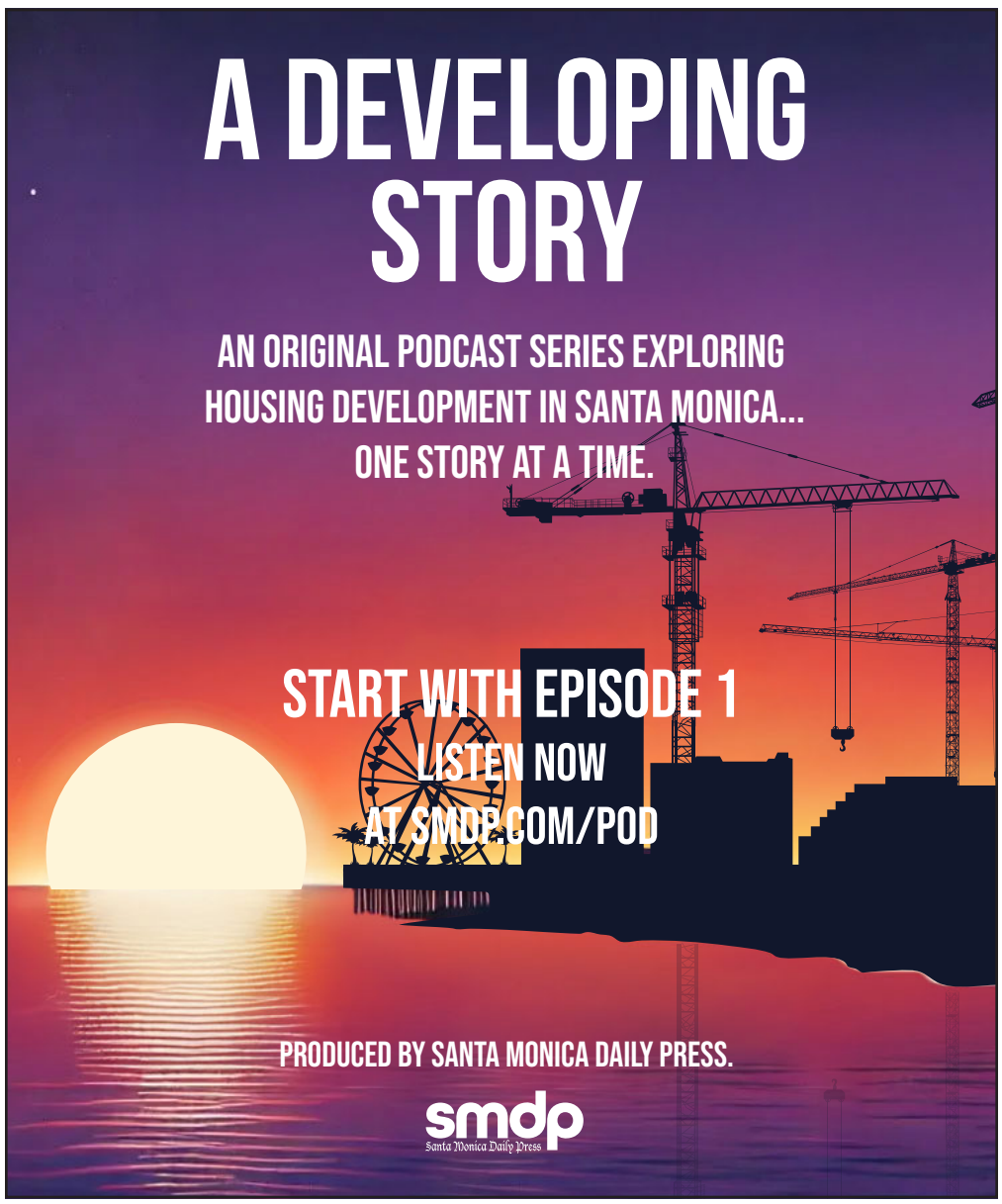
BRUNCH FRIDAYS WITH LIVE MUSIC IN OUR GARDEN PATIO!
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Tiato Kitchen & Venue 2700 Colorado Ave Santa Monica. Our newly launched Brunch Fridays just got vibey-er! Every week enjoy great eats, summer libations, and a featured music artist on our beautiful garden patio! So come toast to summer with our uniquely crafted brunch menu including our Turmeric Spiced Cloud Egg dish, Smoked Gouda Scramble with Smashed Ube, Vietnamese French Toast, along with Mama An classics such as Famous Garlic Noodles, Shaken Beef, and Seafood Egg Fried Rice! And of course, it wouldn't be brunch without bottomless mimosas & summer punch bowls, so grab your brunch crew and enjoy the fair along the beautiful backdrop of Al fresco dining. RESERVE NOW. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/brunch-fridays-with-live-music-in-our-garden-patio-/14639006/2025-12-05T11

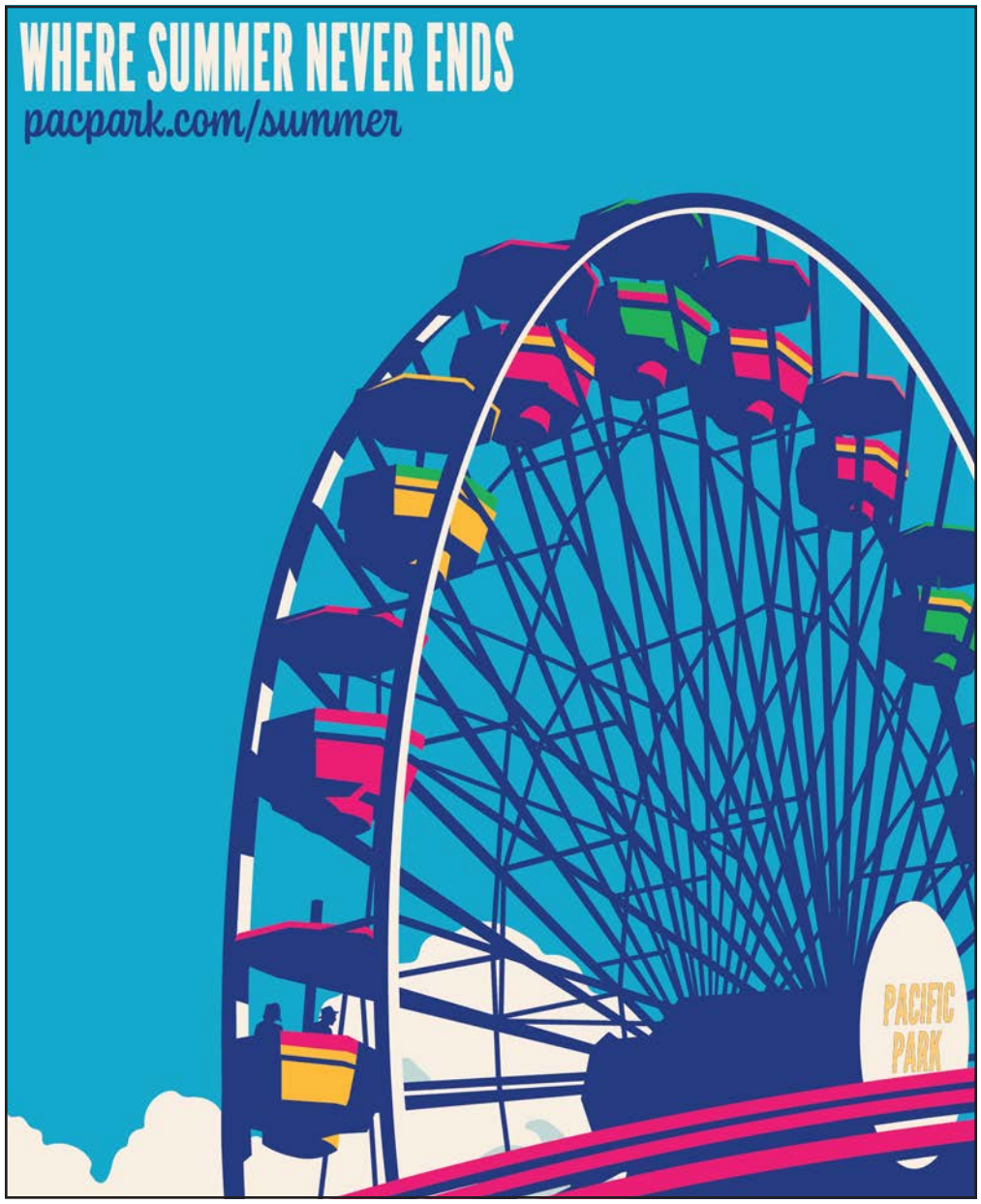
LIVE MUSIC FRIDAYS AT THE SURFING FOX
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. 120 Colorado Ave CA Contact Info (424) 214-1830 matt.sedgwick@candrpr.com Visit thesurfingfoxsm.com to view menus and learn more Santa Monica. Erinn Alissa performs acoustic folk pop with her guitar Friday nights at The Surfing Fox. Enjoy a night of live music, tasty bites, and Foxtai. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/live-music-fridays-at-the-surfing-fox/14385252/2025-12-05T18

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 6

NEIGHBORHOOD COALITION ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
11:00 a.m.– 1 p.m. Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave at 17th St. We hope you can join us at our annual Wilmont membership meeting. All members are welcomed and you can join online or at our annual meeting. We are a city-recognized, non-profit organization advocating for our residents on issues such as public safety, homelessness and development, providing monthly meetings about the city we live in and the people who run it, and doing community outreach such as live music and outdoor summer movies at Reed Park. We meet the FIRST TUESDAY of every month at 7 PM via ZOOM. Santa Monica Interim Police Chief Darrick Jacob with Q &A Wilmont/City Hot Topics and Guests Wilmont Award.

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HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 2

"stopping the Biden-era slush fund that fueled the homelessness crisis, shut out faith-based providers simply because of their values, and incentivized never-ending government dependency."

At issue are changes the Trump administration made to its funding policy last month. Jurisdictions applying for a piece of about $4 billion in federal homelessness funds now can't spend more than 30% of that money on permanent housing — a significant decrease. Los Angeles County, for example, currently spends more than 80% on permanent housing. Instead, the federal government wants localities to prioritize emergency shelter and temporary housing programs that require participants to be sober or participate in treatment.

While shelters offer a temporary respite from the streets, permanent housing can end someone's homelessness. For years, the federal government has prioritized funding permanent housing using the "housing first" method — a strategy that moves people into housing as quickly as possible, without requiring them to first get sober or agree to addiction treatment. Veering away from both of those principles marks a major policy shift.

Last year, California communities won more than $683 million in federal homelessness funds through what is called the Continuum of Care program. About 90% of that went to permanent housing projects, which currently house tens of thousands of Californians, according to Newsom. The new rule threatens to put those people back out onto the street, he said in a news release.

The new policy also prohibits the use of federal funds for diversity and inclusion efforts, support of transgender clients, and use of "harm reduction" strategies that seek to reduce overdose deaths by helping people in active addiction use drugs more safely. And it gives preference for projects in cities, counties and states that ban homeless encampments.

Both lawsuits allege that the Trump administration's funding changes violate the Administrative Procedure Act and the Constitution by defying the rules Congress set out for distributing the funds. Congress authorized a two-year grant cycle in 2024, meaning local jurisdictions wouldn't have to reapply for funds in 2025. The Trump administration flouted that decision when it suddenly forced jurisdictions to reapply, the lawsuits allege.

The lawsuits also claim the administration didn't go through proper protocol before enacting the changes to its funding strategy, which would have included giving cities and counties more time to comply with the new rules, and allowing stakeholders to comment on the changes.

In Santa Cruz County, Ratner is of two minds about the lawsuits. On one hand, he believes the abrupt way the Trump administration rolled out the funding changes was "very inappropriate." But he worries a lengthy court battle could tie up funds his county needs to pay people's rents.

The National Alliance to End Homelessness sued the Trump administration over similar allegations tied to a smaller, $75 million pot of homelessness funding in September. A judge sided with the Alliance, and temporarily barred the federal government from distributing those funds. But now that money is frozen, unable to help unhoused residents as the case moves forward.

Ratner worries that could happen again in this case. Santa Cruz County is set to start hitting serious financial problems as soon as February, Ratner said. That's when a $1.2 million supportive housing grant, which currently houses about 50 people in different apartments around the county, is set to expire.

The Trump administration doesn't expect to start awarding Continuum of Care money until May. It's unclear how the lawsuits will affect that timeline.

In the meantime, Ratner and other homeless service providers are trying to remain optimistic.

"At this point, we don't know how long the litigation process will take, but we're hopeful it leads to a more workable path forward," Sacramento Steps Forward CEO Lisa Bates said in a statement. "Of course, any delay in federal funding would have real impacts on communities across the country, including ours, to operate shelters, rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, and essential system coordination."

Marisa Kendall, CalMatters Homelessness Reporter

GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 3

because if there's no forum for workers to resolve unfair labor practices, then where do they stand?

"What do we do for them? We can't just leave them out in the cold because the NLRB doesn't have a quorum. We also can have loss of union protections, like bargaining rights, organizing protections and reinstatement after retaliation. And so, we can't have our workers unprotected, because employers will take advantage of that."

Private employer groups opposed the measure, contending the existence of the NLRB, even though it's stymied, preempts a state from usurping federal authority.

Generally, states can legislate on labor relations only in economic sectors not covered by federal law. That's why, a half-century ago, California could create the public employment board and the Agricultural Labor Relations Board to oversee employment on farms and in food processing plants.

The NLRB and interests that opposed AB 288 are suing in federal court, contending that the legislation is illegal under federal law.

AB 288 represents a potentially disruptive, even dangerous, precedent. Were it to survive the legal challenge, every state would be free to create its own set of laws governing unionization of workers.

Blue states such as California could virtually mandate unionization of private sector employees, as it already has for public employees and farm workers.

Meanwhile, red states could virtually prohibit unions from organizing workers, to make the states more attractive to industry and insulated from NLRB oversight even if Democrats regain the White House.

Balkanizing labor-management relations would create chaos in the national economy. It also could potentially work to the overall disadvantage of union organizing efforts. Do California's unions and their political allies really want to take that chance?

Dan Walters, CalMatters Opinion Columnist

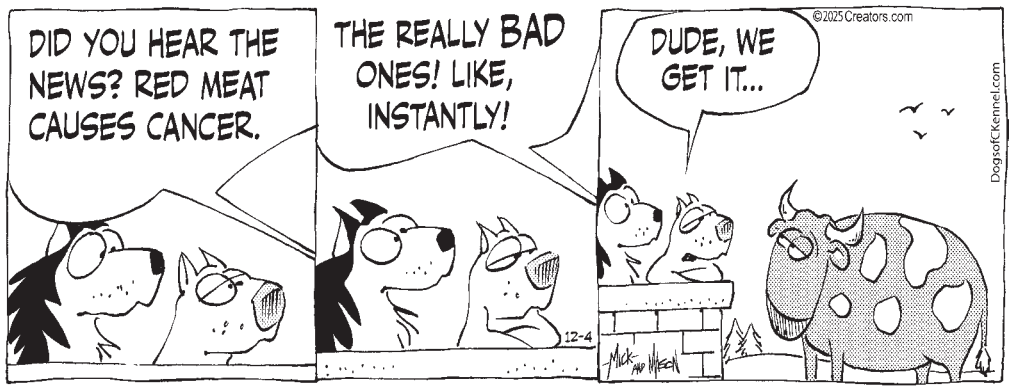
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

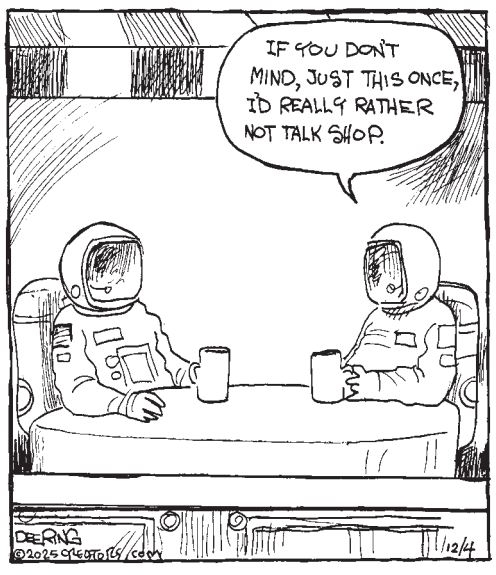
By PETER GALLAGHER



"JIMMY IS RIDING A MUSK OX AGAIN."

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6779

Electric revolution

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

Aerodynamic
Alternator
Amps
Antique
Axle
Boot
Brakes
Bush
Buying
Caps
Choke
Corolla
Dirty
Disc
Door
Engine
Friend
Fuel
Gears
Hood
Hoses
Jets
Kits
Lens
Lights
Lock
Mats
Mid-life crisis
Muffler
Oils
Pins
Plug
Points
Repair
Rims
Roof
Rust
Saab
Shaft
Skid
Smash
Sports
Sump
Tank
Tyres
Used
Utes
Wheels

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Skip the politics

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 4)

Welcome to your Year of Mastery and Reward. What you've practiced for years suddenly clicks. You rise to meet the moment and exceed it. One new influence makes a huge difference. Look for the spark in bright eyes, quick wit and a flash of imagination. You'll spot it the moment it looks back at you - fire! More highlights: a sweet financial comeback, joyful reunions and renovations that bring ease to daily life. Virgo and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 19, 42, 16, 5 and 30.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're on a roll with a clear head, taking deliberate steps. You'll handle one thing at a time and finish strong. What makes this possible? Good rest. Good habits. Be sure to give credit where credit is due.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you place too much expectation on one person or subject, life falls out of balance. Spread your attention around. Take breaks, change the scenery and allow for "time wasting" distraction, because novelty keeps your energy high.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've worked hard. You've earned your skills. Now all you have to do is trust them. Use what you have. It's enough. Confidence isn't pretending, it's remembering you've done this before.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). While you chew on a hard truth, a white lie is on your lips. Social niceties can be the most compassionate way to go. All will come to the truth eventually, each adjusting to reality at their own pace.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). An old fear may find its way back. This fear is not the enemy; it just wants a minute. You're older and wiser now. You can listen to what fear has to tell you and take what's useful. Once it feels heard, it quiets down or maybe leaves entirely.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Whether someone comes through for you is besides the point. Regardless, real security comes from your own integrity and preparation. Even the kindest person can fail you, so build your peace on what you can control - your own choices.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Human chemistry is unpredictable. Throw the theories out the window and go for a real-life experience. Data comes from presence, not speculation. Meetings, rehearsals, collaborations and relationships all reveal their truth only when lived.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll notice people around you dragging today - tired, distracted and stuck in their heads. Then there's you, breaking the spell with humor, kindness and your superstar smile. Wherever you go, your energy changes things.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're usually quick to pick up on things, but today you're downright telepathic. A look, a tone, a pause - that's all it takes. You'll read the room perfectly and respond like a pro.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Mild feelings like boredom or awkwardness can be tricky to overcome because they don't come with the motivational adrenaline rush of hotter feelings like fear or passion. You'll have to take charge to move your mood, and so you will.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're ready to take a risk, especially with your work, which deserves more exposure. Show the world what you can do, and let the world show you the needs and niches you can fill.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). People take your agreement for granted. Dare to be a little disagreeable today. Throw in a "no" or a "maybe" or an "I'll think about it." If you always say "yes," then agreement is not really a decision; it's a default.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

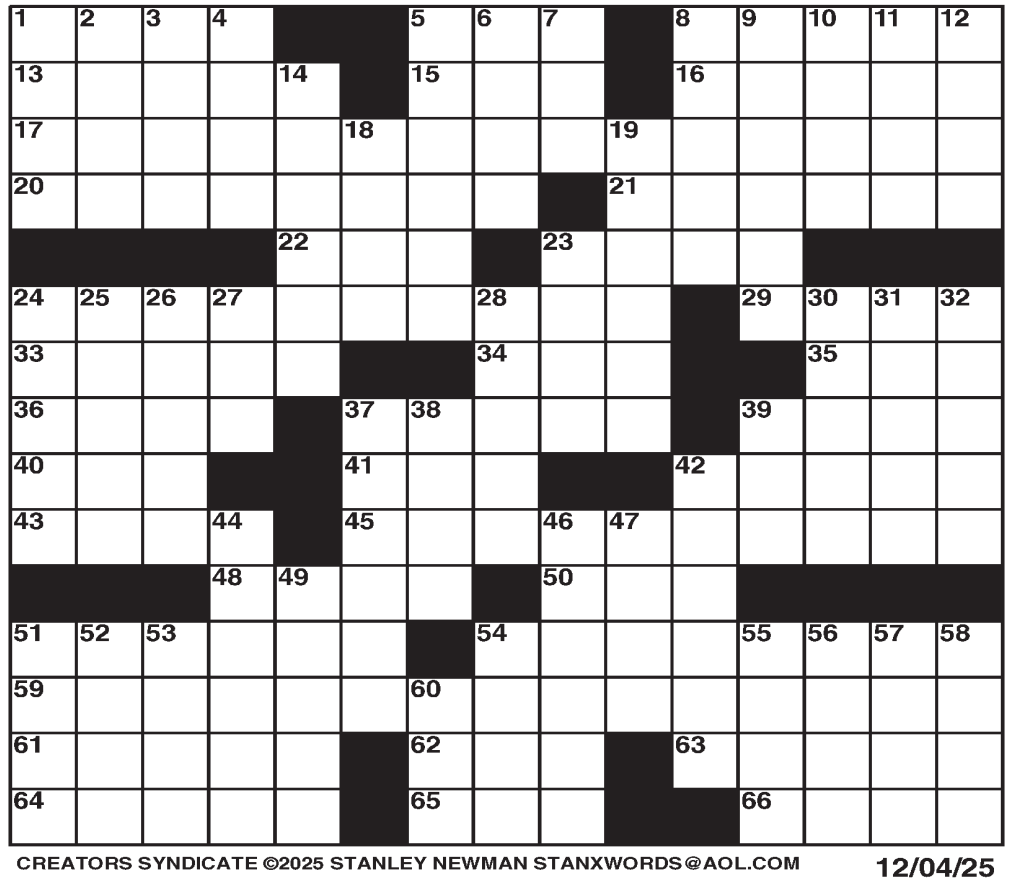
CREAM OF THE CROP by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Browser bookmarks
5 First called
8 New England haddock
13 Doctor's order
15 Street often near Maple
16 Genetic copy
17 Decision for a dilemma
20 Come before
21 Protective trinket
22 *Exclamación de entusiasmo*
23 Set foot (on)
24 Filet option
29 Hand tools
33 Head off
34 Spoken spur
35 Summit
36 Little bit
37 Handle the food
39 Indonesian isle
40 Barnyard sound
41 Slip in a pot
42 Made public
43 Being broadcast
45 Scofflaw's arrears
48 Ye __ Shoppe
50 Major ATM maker
51 Word on the Canadian province list
54 "No lunch for me!"
59 101 or 233, in math
61 __ breakfast (grits, often)
62 Nearby star
63 It's west of Montgomery
64 It means "across"
65 Half of some couples
66 Number on a ticket

DOWN

1 Edibles oversight org.
2 With 8-Down, water source
3 Bus alternative
4 Well-protected
5 What "it" is
6 *Cosmo* rival
7 FD staffer
8 Hapless person
9 See 2-Down
10 Stir up
11 Way back when
12 Repellent acronym
14 Lay low
18 Peace and quiet
19 Lifework
23 Loyal
24 Cuban music
25 French spa
26 Coup __
27 Exasperated feeling
28 Be bratty
30 Big name in screen games
31 Made on a loom
32 Card symbol
37 Spanish city
38 Superb
39 Peter Pan rival
42 Sellers of spots
44 Decide by ballot
46 Iron blocks
47 Rapper/actor
49 Legal claims
51 Monthly S&L document
52 Blacken lightly
53 Oceanic predator
54 Composer Stravinsky
55 Olympian aggressor
56 A blank you might draw in a game
57 Madame Bovary
58 Well-organized
60 "School of thought" suffix



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12/04/25

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

AROUND TOWN

FROM PAGE 4

ONGOING: Ice at Santa Monica (through Jan. 19); "Two Bit Circus" Pop-Up; Museum of Illusions;

WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

Champagne & Churrasco Holiday Event at Fogo de Chao: Enjoy tastings of their fire-roasted cuts and seafood favorites, paired with two premium sparkling wines and champagne of your choice, or the limited-time Mistletoe Spritz cocktail, plus a selection of passed bar bites. Thursday, Dec. 4, 6:30p.m., 1551 Ocean Ave. opentable.com/booking/experiences-availability?rid=1381726&restref=1381726&experienceId=558050

Abbot Kinney First Friday Food Truck Fest: About two dozen food trucks are expected to line the street for the monthly event. Friday, Dec. 5, starting at 5p.m. abbotkinneyblvd.com

Ina Bakes: Favorites & Festive Pop-Ups: This month, we're bringing twice the magic with two pastry pop-ups you won't want to miss! New seasonal treats, beloved favorites, and pre-order options for your holiday celebrations. Come for the pastries, stay for the joy. Sunday, Dec. 7 & 21, 9a.m. – 1p.m., 535 Rose Ave, Venice inabakes.com

Charcoal Venice 10th Anniversary Celebration with Guest Chef Dinner with Joe Hou of Angler SF: This $125 five-course menu brings together two fire-driven kitchens: Angler's seafood-forward dishes, each touched by live fire and inspired by views of their iconic wood-burning hearth and the San Francisco Bay, paired with Charcoal's comfort-forward backyard barbecue style. Monday, Dec. 8, 425 Washington Blvd, Marina Del Rey opentable.com/booking/experiences-availability?rid=190390&restref=190390&experienceId=586334

Sushi & Sake Wine Class at Divine Vintage: Embark on a journey with sake expert Kerry-San to delve into the history, production process, and the diverse styles of sake alongside a curated selection of sushi and sashimi. $95. Wednesday, Dec. 10, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m., 1025 Montana Ave. divinevintage.com/products/sushi-sake-wine-class

Viceroy Debuting Après Surf Lounge: The seasonal pop-up transforms the hotel's palm-tree-surrounded outdoor terrace into a stylish winter escape. The destination will celebrate its public opening on Dec. 11 with a live DJ and a retail pop-up. Kicking off from 6p.m., hotel guests and visitors alike will be able to enjoy coastal-inspired beats as they discover an edited collection vintage books surf coded luxury - think Prada wetsuits, Burberry swimwear, Versace paddle sets, and other covetable vintage pieces that blur the lines between beach culture and high fashion. instagram.com/viceroysm

Pasjoli Listed #1 on Eater's "Best Soups in LA" List: Pasjoli's French onion souplette is a miniature version of the iconic dish whose indulgent interpretation comes with more cheese than soup. A thick, bubbly, floating blanket of cheese rests on top, obscuring the sweet braised onions immersed in a rich vegetable broth beneath. Instead of the bread being baked into the soup, two tiny breadsticks sit on the side of the piping hot ceramic pot for dipping. This is one soup you cannot miss in fall and winter. 2732 Main St. https://la.eater.com/maps/best-essential-soups-noodles-los-angeles

Calabra Makes The Infatuation's "Best Brunch in LA" List: "When it comes to brunch on the Westside, it doesn't get dreamier for most people than views of the ocean, lots of sun, and a menu filled with shareable, Mediterranean small plates. Calabra has all three in spades. Perched atop the Santa Monica Proper Hotel, the splashy space includes an indoor lounge, poolside patio, and lots of loungy furniture. The music is loud and people definitely want you to notice their outfits, but the atmosphere is fun and breezy, the challah french toast with cinnamon coconut cream is a must-order." 700 Wilshire Blvd. https://www.theinfatuation.com/los-angeles/guides/best-brunch-la-greatest-hits-list

Tartine Important Life Update: Tartine SaMo has officially entered its dinner era — and it's every bit as satisfying as you'd hope from the beloved bakery. I checked it out recently and was super impressed with the offerings. Think blistered veggies, perfectly chewy-crusted pizzas, and mains that make you say "just one more bite" even when you know you're full. 1925 Arizona Ave. instagram.com/tartinesantamonica

Further Afield: VinylFest: For the second year in a row we will be hosting a large-scale VinylFest celebration now lasting two days, December 6 and 7. They will be featuring even more dealers selling vinyl, alongside a stage featuring popular DJs, plus a variety of other music brands and organizations. Saturday, Dec. 6, 9a.m. - Sunday Dec. 7, 9p.m. farmersmarketla.com/events/vinylfest25

Looking Ahead: SaMo City Tree Lighting (12/4); Montana Ave. Holiday Walk (12/6); Main St. Tree Lighting & Holiday Party (12/7); SaMo 150th Anniversary Grand Finale Celebration (12/13); Taylor Swift's Birthday at Ice Santa Monica (12/13); SANTA Monica Pub Crawl (12/13); Meet Me Under the Fig Tree (12/14)

If there's something you think is worth highlighting, you can reach out directly to me at sean@smdp.com. Let me know if you have any feedback on Around Town: Holiday Festivals Abound!

DISTRICT SPLIT

FROM PAGE 1

governance to oversee the process.

Board Member Jon Kean, who serves on the unification subcommittee, said the agreements meet critical criteria for approval.

"Both cohorts of students will benefit, and each cohort will receive a comparable education on the last day of SMMUSD as they will on day one of SMUSD and MUSD," Kean said. "Delivering local control while not harming students is driving my decision."

The Malibu City Council will consider the same separation package at its meeting Monday, Dec. 8, at 5:30 p.m. If approved, both bodies will pursue necessary special legislation and state approvals to formally establish the two independent districts.

Malibu's push for an independent school district stretches back to informal efforts in the 1970s. The campaign gained momentum in 2011 when Malibu parents and officials formed Advocates for Malibu Public Schools to champion local control.

The Malibu City Council formally resolved to pursue an independent district in 2015, leading to negotiations that stalled and restarted multiple times over the next decade.

In December 2017, Malibu submitted a formal petition for unification to the Los Angeles County Office of Education. The district offered a compromise in 2018, proposing a 50-year revenue-sharing plan if Malibu would pause its petition.

After renewed attempts at separation, both sides entered formal mediation in late 2021. Throughout 2022 and 2023, negotiators made significant progress, reaching a breakthrough in October 2022 with a joint term sheet outlining key points of a deal. Negotiations continued after the County rejected a version of the split, culminating in the November 2025 finalization of the separation package now approved by the school board.

Malibu supporters have long argued that their roughly 1,100 students face unique challenges, including wildfire evacuations and lengthy commutes, that require focused attention from local administrators. They contend that Malibu schools, representing under 15 percent of district enrollment, have been overshadowed by the much larger Santa Monica schools.

Santa Monica officials have consistently expressed fears that a split would hurt funding and the educational experience for local students.

However, the negotiated agreements appear to address those concerns. Board members emphasized that the separation package benefits students in both communities by allowing each new district to focus on distinct needs and long-term planning.

At the Dec. 1 meeting, the teachers' union president took a neutral stance, urging the board to prioritize the best interests of students and teachers. While the union doesn't oppose the plan, concerns have been raised about teacher retention and which city would see job losses.

If the Malibu City Council approves the agreements Dec. 8, the two bodies will work together to secure special legislation and state approvals needed to complete the separation.

Supporters have said the agreements establish frameworks for dividing resources, assets and liabilities to ensure the fiscal health and educational success of both successor districts.

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