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CA's tough love plan.

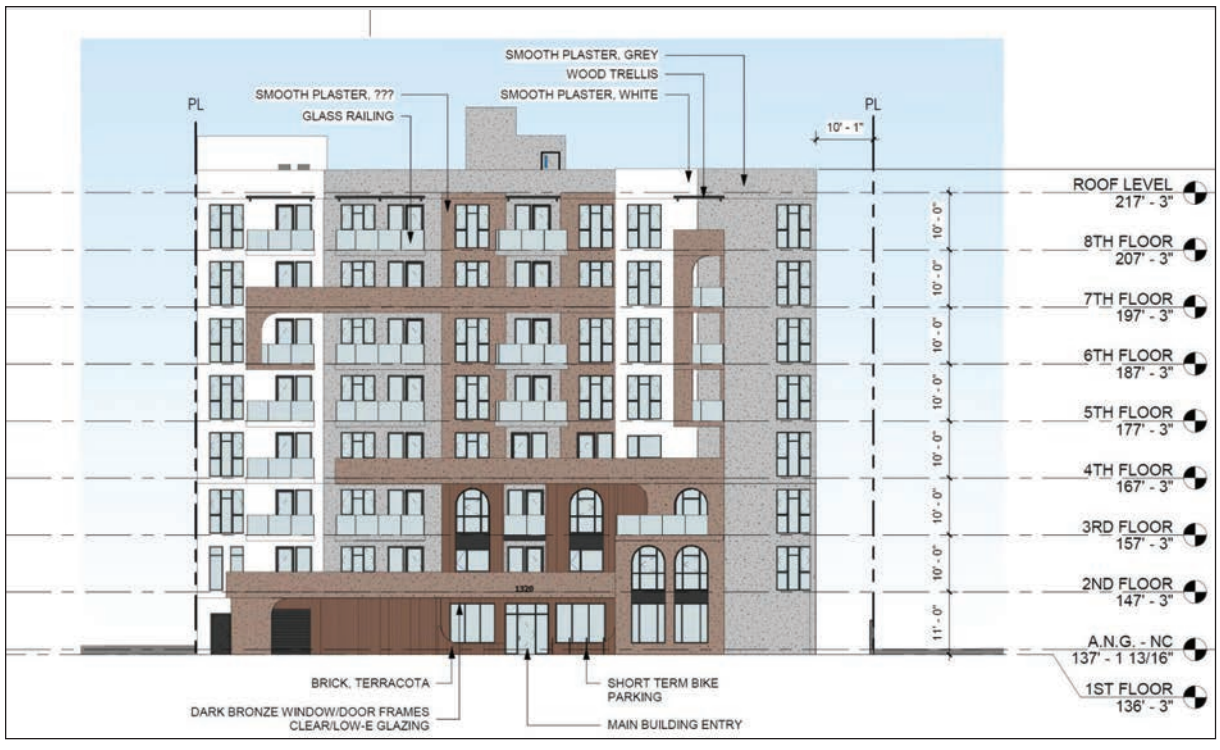
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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 16 THE WEEKENDER 12/6-12/8 smdp.com

1320 Pico Blvd proposal includes 100 apartments in eight story building



Picture Credit: DFH Architects

PICO: Eight stories high, 100 apartments and parking for 78 vehicles.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

A plan for the development of a commercial site just two blocks west of Santa Monica College proposes the construction of a new eight-story edifice according to an application being considered by the City of Santa Monica.

The 1320 Pico Blvd project would incorporate 100 studio, one, two and three-bedroom apartments on top of parking for 78 vehicles, according to West Hollywood-based real estate agency, Dylan Investments.

According to the application, requested approvals include tier 1 density bonus incentives as per Interim Zoning Ordinance 2699 — plus additional incentives as allowed by AB 1287 — to permit a bigger structure than otherwise permitted by zoning rules. As such, a total of 16 of the apartments will be set aside at below market rates.

In addition to the eight-story, Pico Blvd-facing structure, the proposal, designed by DFH Architects, also includes a smaller

SEE **PICO** PAGE 3

High speed pursuit of stolen car from downtown LA ends with crash in Santa Monica

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

A high-speed pursuit that started in downtown Los Angeles ended in Santa Monica with a crash and the subsequent arrest of two suspects. According to reports, the chase began a little after 8 p.m. with the Los Angeles Police Department pursuing a suspect driving a stolen sedan westbound on the 10 Freeway.

Footage from ABC7's helicopter showed the vehicle swerving dangerously through traffic and using the shoulder of the freeway to pass other cars. At times, the suspect exceeded 120 mph, covering the 11 miles from downtown Los Angeles to Santa Monica in just a few minutes.

The pursuit moved off the freeway and onto city streets, where the suspect collided with another vehicle near 34th Street and Pico Blvd at the edge of Santa Monica city limits. However, the driver continued to flee from authorities before eventually abandoning the vehicle in a parking lot near Donald Douglas Loop North and 31st Street, close to Santa Monica Airport.

Both the driver and a passenger attempted to escape on foot, but were quickly apprehended and according to ABC7, authorities confirmed that the grey-colored Infiniti had been reported stolen.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

Malibu submits updated school unification study

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

The City of Malibu has made a second crack at proving the feasibility of an educational split between the city's schools and Santa Monica's.

On Nov. 21, Malibu submitted its feasibility analysis of proposed reorganization of Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) into two separate districts, taking on nine criteria

SEE **MALIBU** PAGE 2



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MALIBU

FROM PAGE 1

set forth by the California Department of Education (CDE). The report will now go through the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) for review, looking over whether the CDE criteria for unification can be "substantially met" or not.

The study comes after Malibu informed the LACOE Committee on School District Organization that the city wished to proceed with public hearings on its original 2017 petition to form an independent district, rather than wait for a completed unification package between the city and SMMUSD.

This is the second time that Malibu submitted a feasibility study, with the first addressed by the LACOE Division of Business Advisory Services in 2021, stating that eight of the nine CDE criteria were not substantially met. In a recent LACOE public hearing, Malibu Deputy City Attorney Christine Wood said those findings were based on "incomplete information."

Out of the nine criteria, the first is that a new Malibu Unified School District (MUSD) "will be adequate in terms of number of pupils enrolled," something that the LACOE division questioned in its 2021 report. The updated Malibu study reads that although a proposed MUSD would likely not meet the threshold of 1,501 students in a Unified District set forth in the California Code of Regulations, the district would "substantially meet the intent" of the criteria because "it will not be dependent on either county office of education or state support."

The city adds that student enrollment may be increased via City Council initiatives to increase housing stock to young families, rebuilt houses from the 2018 Woolsey Fire, and recovering "families that have left the district due to dissatisfaction with SMMUSD."

Another CDE criteria questioned in the 2021 LACOE report was community identity, stating that since Malibu families have sent students to SMMUSD schools for over 70 years, the city has a "long-standing inclusion in SMMUSD" and does "not need to start a new school district to establish community identity." In response, the new Malibu report points to strong community identity within both the city and Santa Monica as reason for separation, adding that school communities would remain intact from the proposed reorganization.

"The proposed reorganization will provide opportunities to maintain and very likely enhance the community's sense of identity through common goals in the school community," the city wrote.

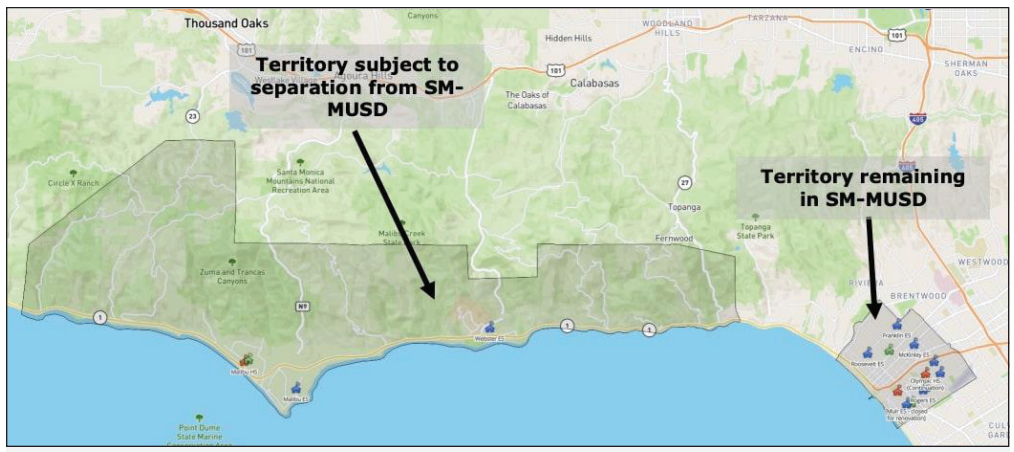
Aside from making its case on other criteria related to finances and division of property, Malibu had to prove its proposed split would be Promoting Educational Performance. CDE code states that any reorganization will need to "promote sound education performance and will not significantly disrupt the educational programs in the districts affected by the proposed reorganization."

In response to this, Malibu writes that a split would see both Santa Monica and Malibu having "sufficient per pupil funding to continue to at least offer the educational programs currently offered at existing school sites," and stated that unification can "provide programs specifically desired by the Malibu community."

Malibu educational consultant Dr. Mike Matthews said at the recent LACOE hearing that Malibu students underperforming on exams compared to Santa Monica students also adds to the city's case, adding that an independent district would be best suited to "look closely at those decreases in Malibu student achievement."

The LACOE committee cancelled its December meeting, with the next opportunity to potentially hear unification updates being during its Jan. 8, 2025 meeting. To view the full Malibu report, visit lacoe.edu/services/business/bas/county-committee.

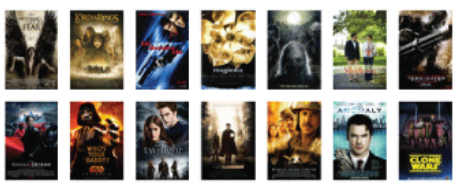
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Courtesy Graphic

MALIBU: A feasibility study for school district separation has been submitted by the City of Malibu.

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Raw milk recall in California expands after tests detect more bird flu virus

JONEL ALECCIA
AP Health Writer

A California farm expanded a recall of raw milk sold in stores and halted production after state health and agriculture officials found bird flu virus in more milk samples.

Raw Farm, of Fresno, voluntarily recalled all whole milk and cream products from stores late Tuesday after tests found bird flu virus in "multiple" retail samples and dairy storage and bottling sites. The recall covers all Raw Farm milk and cream produced between Nov. 9 and Nov. 27.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture quarantined the farm and suspended distribution of raw milk, cream, kefir, butter and cheese products produced on or after Nov. 27.

"Californians are strongly encouraged not to consume any raw milk or cream products in their possession or still on store shelves," officials said in a statement.

The move followed recalls of two lots of Raw Farm products after bird flu was first detected in retail milk on Nov. 21.

No known cases of bird flu virus have been confirmed in people who drank raw milk, health officials said. Pasteurized milk is heat-treated to kill the virus and remains safe to drink.

Pet owners also should avoid feeding Raw Farm products sold nationwide as "pet food topper" or "pet food kefir" to their animals, who can become ill, health officials said. Cats on farms with infected cows have developed brain damage and died after drinking contaminated raw milk.

Bird flu virus, also known as Type A H5N1 avian influenza, was detected for the first time in U.S. dairy cows in March. The virus has been spreading rapidly, particularly in California, where nearly 500 of the more than 700 infected U.S. herds have been detected.

The virus has infected 57 people in the U.S. this year, including 31 in California, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Mild illnesses have been seen in dairy and poultry workers who had close contact with infected animals. In two cases, an adult in Missouri and a child in California, no known source of the illnesses have been identified. No cases of bird flu spreading between people have been detected in the U.S.

Health officials have long warned against drinking raw milk because it can contain germs that cause illnesses that range from mild to life-threatening.

Raw Farm's owner, Mark McAfee, has called for less raw milk regulation. In an Instagram post on Wednesday, farm officials said they were working to restore supply quickly.

"There are no illnesses associated with H5N1 in our products. But rather this is a political issue," the post said. "There are no food safety issues with our products or consumer safety. We are working towards resolving this political issue while being cooperative with our government regulatory agencies."

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., who has been tapped as the nation's top health official, has vowed to allow wider distribution of raw milk. McAfee told The Associated Press that Kennedy is a customer of his products. Kennedy has criticized agriculture departments for cracking down on raw milk and promised that the Food and Drug Administration's " aggressive suppression " of unpasteurized milk would end under President-elect Donald Trump.

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Science and Educational Media Group. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

PICO

FROM PAGE 1

four-story structure at the rear of the site with amenities that include a pool, a gym and multiple terrace decks.

California's so-called builder's remedy lets developers ignore city zoning codes if they promise new affordable housing projects. This combined with the updated California state density law, the eight year cycle housing element and local rezoning ultimately means that eight story new builds are going to become more commonplace in Santa Monica, just like the new proposal at 14th and Olympic.

The site is a stone's throw away from Corsair Field and Santa Monica College's new arts complex, currently under construction at Pico Blvd and 14th Street. Several affordable housing developments have recently been built in the nearby area by the Community Corporation of Santa Monica, including the Brunson Terrace apartments located at 1819 Pico Blvd.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

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Surf report

WATER TEMP: **57.7**

FRIDAY *FAIR*
SURF: Thigh to waist 2-3FT

The Southern Hemi run continues. Size nudges up as SW swell reinforcements move in and it should combo with fresh WNW swell for some fun peaks. Light wind in the forecast at the moment and there's a decent tide push for the early window.

SATURDAY *FAIR*
SURF: Knee to thigh 1-2FT

Looking to be a similar deal to Friday's surf but maybe a touch less size - combo of WNW and SW swells. Note the mid-high tide throughout the first-half of day, along with favorable light wind conditions.

Weather

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 72. Northwest wind 10 to 15 mph.
Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 54..
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 71.
Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 53.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
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
2024/12/08	Sun	09:12 AM	2.64	L
2024/12/08	Sun	2:26 PM	4.03	H
2024/12/08	Sun	9:21 PM	0.55	L
2024/12/09	Mon	04:18 AM	4.80	H
2024/12/09	Mon	10:39 AM	1.83	L
2024/12/09	Mon	4:03 PM	3.71	H
2024/12/09	Mon	10:10 PM	0.88	L
2024/12/10	Tue	04:55 AM	5.39	H
2024/12/10	Tue	11:43 AM	0.89	L
2024/12/10	Tue	5:28 PM	3.60	H
2024/12/10	Tue	10:56 PM	1.23	L
2024/12/11	Wed	05:33 AM	5.96	H
2024/12/11	Wed	12:37 PM	-0.02	L
2024/12/11	Wed	6:43 PM	3.64	H

Daily Lottery

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Draw Date: 12/2
3 9 26 61 67
Power#: 13
Jackpot: 240 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/3
52 60 61 66 67
Mega#: 23
Jackpot: 579 M

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

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/3
4 6 9 34 35

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/3
EVENING: 0 9 8
Draw Date: 12/3
MIDDAY: 1 1 6

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/3
1st: 08 - Gorgeous George
2nd: 12 - Lucky Charms
3rd: 03 - Hot Shot
Race Time: 1:48.02

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Jack Neworth,
David Pisarra.

CIRCULATION
Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com

Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Scott Snowden
scott.snowden@smdp.com

Thomas Leffler
thomas@smdp.com

DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

MARKETING MANAGER
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

1640 5th Street, Suite 218
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OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
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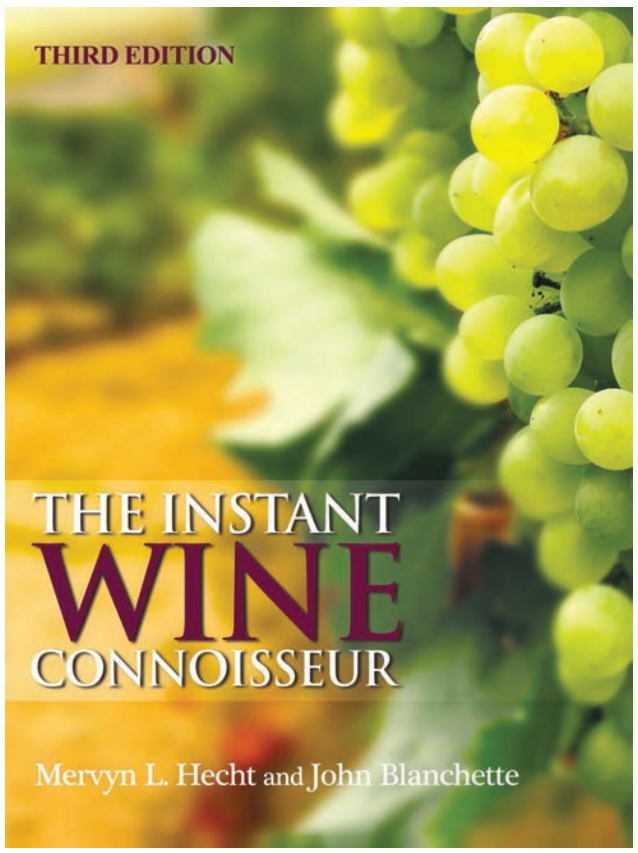
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Santa Monica Daily Press



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★★★★★ Well written, particularly useful, instantly accessible.
★★★★★ ...Hecht has a joyful eye and fabulous taste



Daily Press Food &Wine Columnist Merv Hecht takes you on an delightful tour of the world of wine. A fun way to increase your appreciation and knowledge of wine.

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Tough love plan could end California's unemployment insurance stalemate



Photo by Brian van der Brug, Los Angeles Times via Getty Images

UNEMPLOYMENT: Brenda Bermudez looks for information about her unemployment claim outside of the California State Employment Development Department office in Canoga Park, in 2020.

DAN WALTERS
Special to the Daily Press

When the Great Recession struck California 17 years ago and hundreds of thousands of workers lost their jobs, the state's unemployment insurance system crashed.

The employer-financed program quickly exhausted its thin reserves, due to a short-sighted political decision six years earlier.

In 2001, the Unemployment Insurance Fund had a $6.5 billion positive balance. But the governor at the time, Democrat Gray Davis, owed big political debts to unions that financed his 1998 campaign. He repaid them by doubling unemployment insurance benefits, contending that the seemingly hefty reserve could cover them without raising payroll taxes on employers.

When recession struck, the insurance fund soon leaked red ink and the state borrowed about $10 billion from the federal government to maintain cash payments. When the state didn't repay the loan, the feds raised payroll taxes for nearly a decade to retire the loan.

It should have been a lesson for political policymakers about instant gratification and financial responsibility, but it wasn't.

Shortly after the $10 billion loan was paid off, California was hammered by the COVID-19 pandemic, and upwards of 3 million workers lost their jobs as the state ordered workplace closures.

Once again, the unemployment insurance program had virtually no reserves to cover the sharp increase in claims. Once again it borrowed from the federal government, this time for $20 billion, and once again its failure to repay forced the feds to increase payroll taxes.

In addition to a double dose of financial problems, the Employment Development Department has also experienced managerial failures.

In 2011 Elaine Howle, the state auditor, laid out the department's shortcomings in a sharply worded report, but when the pandemic hit, they once again became evident. There were massive glitches in responding to legitimate claims for insurance benefits, while the department gave tens of billions of dollars to fraudsters.

Meanwhile employers are still repaying the last loan, and the state's insurance fund is continuing to run deficits, unable to cover current benefits of nearly $7 billion a year.

With that history in mind, another watchdog agency, the Legislative Analyst's Office, is urging a complete overhaul of unemployment insurance, declaring the system "is broken."

Noting that the current state payroll tax cannot fully cover current benefits, much less build reserves, the LAO report projects a "perpetually outstanding federal loan" to keep payments flowing that must be repaid with interest.

The report proposes a four-part tough

SEE **UNEMPLOYMENT** PAGE 15

California shorted prisoners on money for their release. It's ending the practice

CAYLA MIHALOVICH
Special to the Daily Press



Photo by Semantha Norris, CalMatters

PRISON: The courtyard at San Quentin State Prison on July 26, 2023.

California prisons are no longer withholding money they are supposed to give people at the time of their release, according to a California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation memo obtained by CalMatters.

The policy change is meant to ensure that thousands of people leaving California prisons will receive their full $200 "gate money" allowance that they are entitled to under a 51-year-old state law. The stipend is intended to help people cover basic necessities in their initial days of freedom.

The new directive follows the filing of a class-action lawsuit and a recent legislative order mandating the department to stop withholding cash from formerly incarcerated people.

The corrections department didn't hide the fact that it deducted money from release allowances. According to its regulations, the agency did so if someone did not have dress-out clothes or arrangements for transportation.

"We're frustrated and disappointed that it took a lawsuit being filed to change an unlawful Department of Corrections' policy, which should have been in compliance with the law from the very beginning," said Chesa Boudin, one of the lead attorneys of the class-action lawsuit.

The class-action lawsuit filed in September by UC Berkeley's Criminal Law & Justice Center and the law firm Edelson PC alleged that the agency illegally docked fees from over a million people since 1994. According to the lawsuit, the department "routinely withholds some or all of the funds based on eligibility criteria of its own making, criteria that violate the plain language of the law."

At the urging of criminal justice advocacy groups, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a government funding bill on Sept. 30 that gave the department an additional $1.8 million for clothing and transportation costs for the next year.

According to corrections spokesperson Mary Xjimenez, the department changed its policy to comply with the new budget appropriation.

"Effective immediately," stated a memo to top prison officials on the day Newsom signed the bill, "cost for clothing and transportation vouchers provided at the time of release will no longer be deducted from the release allowance."

Xjimenez wrote in an email to CalMatters that it is "a lasting policy that will be funded by future budget appropriations." The department is in the process of revising its regulations to reflect the change.

"CDCR understands how critical the first few days of a person's release are for a successful reentry," she wrote.

According to a 2008 report by the Stanford Criminal Justice Center, the first 72 hours after someone is released from prison are paramount to the success of their long-term reentry. The lawsuit describes the release funds as a "critical lifeline" and "small but vital aid."

Boudin said the change in policy is an achievement for the class-action lawsuit, which aims to ensure that the corrections department ends its withholding of allowances and follows state law. But it falls short of addressing the other component of the lawsuit, which seeks retroactive payments for those who had gate money funds deducted — or were denied entirely.

That includes people like John Vaesau, one of the lawsuit's lead plaintiffs, who didn't receive any of his gate money when he was released from Folsom State Prison in June 2023.

"Right now, (the corrections department is) just trying to throw bits and pieces at it, thinking they can fix a crumbling house," Vaesau said. "We don't want them to think they got away with anything. We want them to at least pay for what they got coming, not only for us but for everybody who came before us and after us."

In an attempt to limit the size of the class-action lawsuit, attorneys representing the corrections department pushed back in Alameda County Superior Court filings, stating that "(the agency) has an affirmative defense under the statute of limitations." Claims that the agency "failed to pay the appropriate amount of gate money" prior to July 14, 2021, they argued, "is untimely."

But those who filed the lawsuit remain optimistic that the court will side with them.

"We are absolutely confident that our core legal claims about the illegality of the Department of Corrections' long-standing policy will prevail," Boudin said.

Cayla Mihalovich is a California Local News fellow.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.



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Democrat Adam Gray captures California's 13th US House District, ousting Republican Rep. John Duarte

MICHAEL R. BLOOD
AP Political Writer

Democrat Adam Gray captured California's 13th Congressional District on Tuesday, unseating Republican Rep. John Duarte in the final U.S. House contest to be decided this year.

Gray's win in the farm belt seat that cuts through five counties means Republicans won 220 House seats this election cycle, with Democrats holding 215 seats.

Gray won by a margin of less than 200 votes, with election officials reporting Tuesday all ballots had been counted.

Duarte captured the seat in 2022 when he defeated Gray by one of the closest margins in the country, 564 votes. He was often listed among the most vulnerable House Republicans given that narrow margin of victory in a district with a Democratic tilt — about 11 points over registered Republicans.

Gray said in a statement: "We always knew that this race would be as close as they come, and we're expecting a photo finish this year, too."

Duarte told the Turlock Journal he had called Gray to concede, adding "That's how it goes."

"I'm a citizen legislator, and I didn't plan on being in Congress forever," Duarte told the newspaper, though he didn't rule out a possible future campaign.

In a tough year for Democrats nationally, the party picked up three GOP-held House seats in California.

Both Gray and Duarte stressed bipartisan credentials during the campaign.

Gray, a former legislator, was critical of state water management and put water and agriculture at the top of his issues list. He also said he wants improvements in infrastructure, renewable energy and education.

Duarte, a businessman and major grape and almond farmer, said his priorities included curbing inflation, crime rates and obtaining adequate water supplies for farmers in the drought-prone state.

There is a large Latino population in the district, similar to other Central Valley seats, but the most likely voters statewide tend to be white, older, more affluent homeowners. Working-class voters, including many Latinos, are less consistent in getting to the polls.

US job openings rose last month, though hiring slowed, in mixed picture for labor market

CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

The number of job postings in the United States rebounded in October from a 3 1/2 year low in September, a sign that businesses are still seeking workers even though hiring has cooled.

Openings rose 5% to 7.7 million from 7.4 million in September, the Labor Department said Tuesday. The increase suggests that job gains could pick up in the coming months. Still, the latest figure is down significantly from 8.7 million job postings a year ago.

Last month, job openings rose sharply in professional and business services, a category that includes engineers, managers, and accountants, as well as in the restaurant and hotel and information technology industries.

The number of people quitting their jobs rose in October, a sign of confidence in the job market. And layoffs tumbled to just 1.6 million — below the lowest figures in the two decades that preceded the 2020 pandemic.

Taken as a whole, Tuesday's figures suggest that the job market might be stabilizing at a modest level, with hiring moderate but layoffs uncommonly low. The unemployment rate is at a low 4.1%, even though job gains slowed sharply in October, according to the monthly jobs report. The slowdown in job growth last month reflected mainly the impact of hurricanes and a strike at Boeing.

"There's a lot of cause for optimism," said Cory Stahle, an economist at Indeed, the job listings website. "The fact that job openings ticked up is always an encouraging sign."

Tuesday's figures mean there are now 1.1 available jobs for each unemployed worker, a healthy figure. Before the pandemic there were usually more unemployed people than openings.

Still, the latest ratio is down from a peak of roughly two job openings per unemployed person two years ago. Businesses have pulled back from the hiring frenzy that occurred as the economy emerged from the pandemic recession.

Tuesday's report, known as the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey, or JOLTS, showed that overall hiring slowed in October. Total hiring slipped to 5.3 million from 5.6 million, though that decline reflected hurricane-related disruptions.

The JOLTS report is separate from the monthly jobs figures, which will be released Friday. That report is forecast to show a net gain of nearly 210,000 jobs in November, up from an anemic 12,000 in October.

Tuesday's report also showed that the number of Americans who quit their jobs rebounded in October to 3.4 million, after having reached a four-year low in September. An increase in quitting is a good sign for the economy, because it suggests that people are confident enough to search for new job opportunities.

The Federal Reserve is watching the jobs data closely. Any sign that hiring is sharply weakening could encourage Fed officials to cut their key interest rate more quickly, to try to bolster borrowing and spending and support the economy.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Citywide

Santa Monica's Most Cherished Holiday Fundraising Event The SANTA Monica Pub Crawl Returns Saturday, December 14, 2024

The annual SANTA Monica Pub Crawl returns for its 16th year on Saturday, December 14, 2024 to raise money for the Westside Food Bank and support those in need for the holidays. The SANTA Monica Pub Crawl is one of the city's most beloved holiday events when thousands of crawlers fill the streets of Santa Monica with merry and good cheer.

More than 20 bars and restaurants across the city will come together to offer exclusive $6-$9 drink specials and discounted food items to those with the official pub crawl wristband. In addition, the ticket also includes free entry into all locations, 1 free drink (first 500 ppl), DJs, beer gardens, and live entertainment, and entry into Santa's Secret After Party at Mon Ami. There are two different routes to choose from (MAIN STREET, PROMENADE) or you can select the VIP Route Hopper wristband to enjoy specials at all locations.

Pub crawl participants are encouraged to dress in Santa/Holiday attire and prizes are awarded to best holiday spirit and winners of Santa's Scavenger Hunt. There will also be raffle tickets and Santa hats available for sale at each of the official starting locations.

Participating Locations include:

The Bungalow, The Victorian, Jameson's Irish Pub, Ashland Hill, LuLa Cocina Mexicana, JuneShine, Library Alehouse, Tavern on Main, Cabo Cantina, Barney's Beanery, Britannia Pub, Harvelle's, Lanea, Ye Olde King's Head, Mon Ami, Joe's Pizza, Santa Monica Whaler & More

For more information and a complete list of official pub crawl locations, specials, and prizes, visit www.santamonicapubcrawl.com.

SUBMITTED BY KIM KOURY

Citywide

Santa Monica Receives Perfect Score in HRC's 2024 Municipal Equality Index Scorecard

For the sixth consecutive year, the city of Santa Monica has earned a perfect score in the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index, reflecting the city's inclusive municipal laws, policies and services for LGBTQ+ people who live and work here.

The annual Municipal Equality Index, or MEI, rates cities based on non-discrimination laws, the municipality as an employer, municipal services to the community and law enforcement and leadership on LGBTQ+ equality.

"This perfect score is a recognition of Santa Monica's commitment to equity and inclusion," Mayor Phil Brock said. "We are committed to ensuring everyone, regardless of who they love, feels welcome and is treated with dignity."

As part of its comprehensive effort surrounding equity and inclusion, Santa Monica employs community liaisons in several city departments, includes gender identity and sexual orientation as categories in all non-discrimination policies for staff and vendors, and regularly provides training to staff on understanding gender identity and sexual orientation.

Santa Monica was one of the first cities to be recognized for the inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity in anti-bullying policy and training for all youth programs, and the city was one of the first in the state to require all new multi-stall bathrooms to be all gender.

For more information about MEI and to read Santa Monica's scorecard, visit https://www.hrc.org/resources/municipal-equality-index.

SUBMITTED BY LAUREN HOWLAND

Promenade

Outlandish Redefines Black Friday With Record-Breaking Livestreams

Outlandish, the global leader in live shopping and social commerce, revolutionized Black Friday this year with two record-breaking celebrity livestreams that captivated audiences worldwide. Featuring superstar hosts Nicki Minaj and Jason Derulo, these groundbreaking events combined entertainment, social commerce, and cutting-edge production to create an immersive shopping experience that redefined audience engagement and set new industry benchmarks.

The highlight of the weekend was Nicki Minaj's historic livestream for her brand Pink Friday Nails, which became the most viewed livestream ever with 3.6 million viewers. With Outlandish's unmatched production expertise, Minaj's electrifying performance connected with millions of fans in real-time, creating a vibrant and engaging shopping experience. The high-quality backdrops used in the livestream were designed and implemented by Outlandish.

Jason Derulo's livestream with Crocs offered another compelling showcase of Outlandish's full production value. From Outlandish creators engaging with Derulo to the production team producing the livestream and moderating the audience participation, the event attracted more than 23 million impressions and over 400,000 highly engaged viewers. Derulo's enthusiasm and original songs celebrating Crocs amplified the brand's message and cultivated deep consumer connections, turning the livestream into a viral sensation.

Outlandish's seller-run livestreams and videos achieved remarkable success during Black Friday, generating $2.4 million in total sales. This included $1.5 million in Gross Merchandise Volume (GMV) from live events and $884,296.58 in GMV from videos, reinforcing Outlandish's position as a leader in dynamic live shopping.

"Outlandish is committed to pushing the boundaries of live shopping," said William August, CEO of Outlandish. "The record-breaking success of Nicki Minaj's livestream and Jason Derulo's incredible event with Crocs exemplify the power of celebrity-driven live commerce when paired with world-class production. We continue to redefine consumer engagement through dynamic, flawlessly executed livestreams that deliver value for both audiences and brands."

Outlandish's unique model and capabilities drove impressive growth throughout November, with TikTok shop partners' sales reaching $48 million, a 140% increase from June. The company's Creator Agency Partner (CAP) creators surpassed $10 million in Gross Merchandise Volume (GMV) in November, reflecting a remarkable 455% growth since June. Outlandish's live hub accumulated over 1,000 hours of livestreaming in November alone—cementing its position as the industry leader in live shopping production.

SUBMITTED BY JULIE STEPHENS

HOA HOMEFRONT

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Don't Delay Preventing Termite Damage

BY KELLY G. RICHARDSON, ESQ. CCAL

In California, the overwhelming majority of homes are built with wood framing, which means the structures are susceptible to termite damage. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, termites cause from $1 to $7 billion ANNUALLY in damage to U.S. homes. While Alaska doesn't have termites, all other 49 states must deal with these wood-destroying pests.

While California law is helpful, sometimes the developer's original CC&Rs do not adequately enable the HOA to deal with the challenges of termite prevention and damage repair.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR TERMITE PREVENTION AND DAMAGE?

Civil Code Section 4780 states that the first source of responsibility comes from CC&Rs. If, as is usually the case, the CC&Rs are silent, per the section's subpart "a" termite prevention and damage repair is the responsibility of the condominium, stock cooperative, and community apartment associations. However, per subpart "b" it is NOT the responsibility of planned development associations.

This statute can be problematic for attached style planned development associations. When a developer sets up an association as a planned development with homes attached to other homes (such as "townhomes" and "patio homes" for example), unless the CC&Rs provide the authority the HOA is unable to compel homeowners to submit to termite treatment, and those homes are prone to suffer avoidable progressive damage. One of my long-time townhouse-style planned development clients has seen all the owners in a single building band together to jointly procure treatment for their building, but that commendable action is extremely rare. Such HOAs should consult their counsel about amending the CC&Rs, because it makes no sense to leave such a matter to individual choice when it clearly affects the individual's attached neighbors. To determine if your HOA is a planned development, review your CC&Rs and your deed – or consult legal counsel.

WHAT IF HOMEOWNERS DISAGREE WITH THE BOARD'S SELECTED APPROACH TO TERMITE TREATMENT?

Not everyone agrees with the best approach to termites but for the sake of the HOA community someone must have the final say. So long as the HOA board consults the appropriate expertise, the courts defer to the HOA board regarding maintenance and repair decisions, under the 1999 Lambden v. La Jolla Shores Clubdominium decision.

WHAT IF OCCUPANTS REFUSE TO VACATE FOR TERMITE TREATMENT?

Under Civil Code Section 4785, the HOA after giving at least 15 but not more than 30 days written notice may cause the occupant's "temporary, summary removal" from the home. "Summary removal" in this regard does not mean the HOA can physically force the occupants out on the day of the treatment. The legal process must still be invoked and a court order should be obtained so that local law enforcement can secure the vacation of the property on the day of treatment. This means that HOAs will need to plan on seeking the emergency order in this regard at least several days ahead of the scheduled treatment date.

While one would assume that licensed pest control businesses will normally handle termite eradication, if for some reason the HOA does not use licensed personnel, know that Civil Code Section 4777 requires the HOA to make very specific disclosures to all impacted residents.

Homeowners; work together against this common enemy, which are the pests weakening your homes.

Read any California statute at www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov.

Kelly G. Richardson CCAL is a Fellow of the College of Community Association Lawyers and Partner of Richardson Ober LLP, a California law firm known for community association advice. Send column questions to Kelly@roattorneys.com. Past columns at www.HOAHomefront.com. All rights reserved®.

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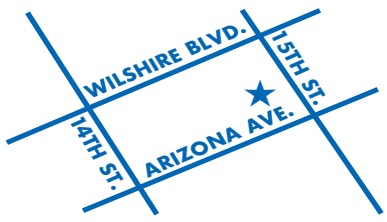
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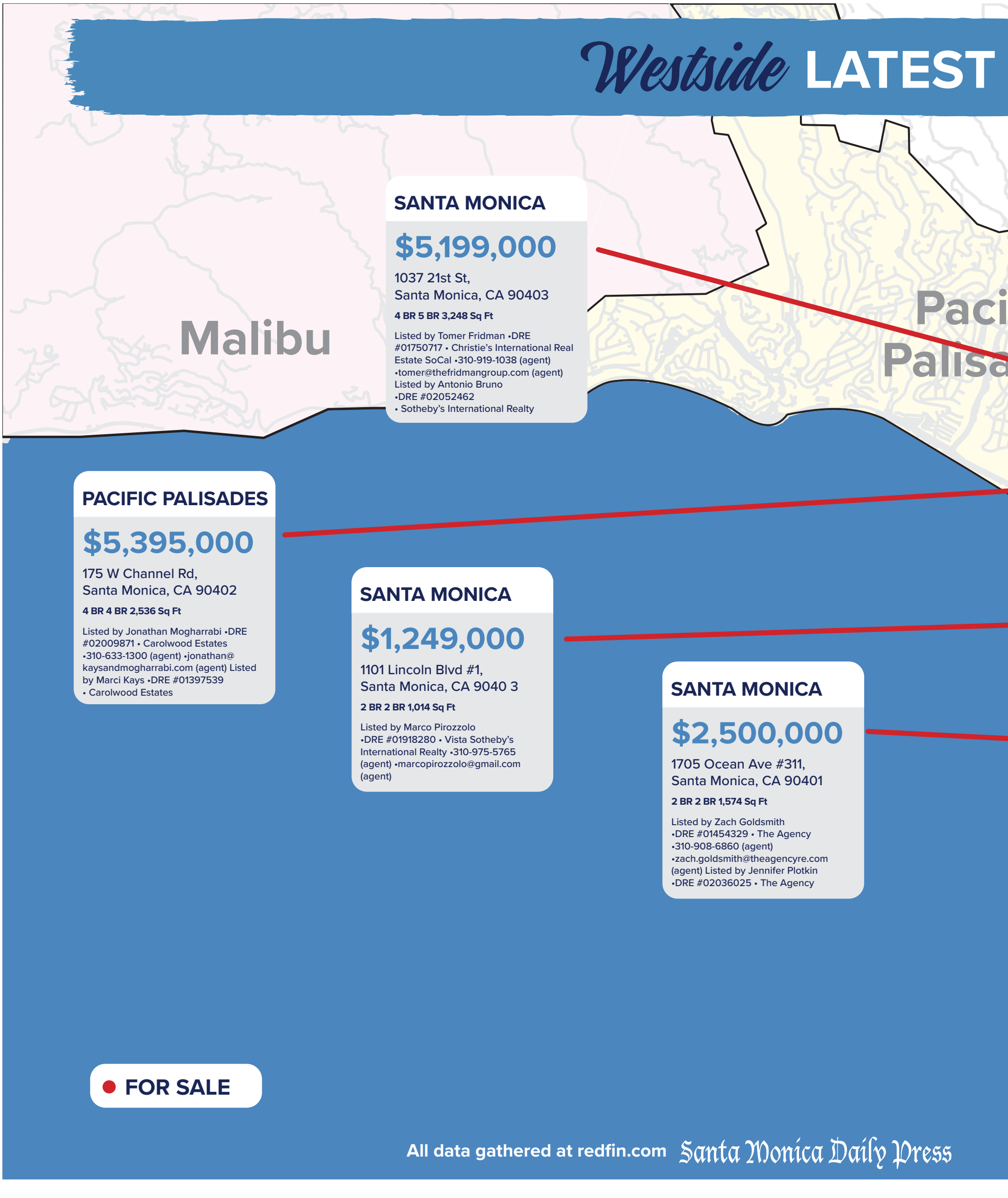
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Westside LATEST



SANTA MONICA

$5,199,000

1037 21st St,
Santa Monica, CA 90403

4 BR 5 BR 3,248 Sq Ft

Listed by Tomer Fridman •DRE #01750717 • Christie's International Real Estate SoCal •310-919-1038 (agent) •tomer@thefridmangroup.com (agent) Listed by Antonio Bruno •DRE #02052462 • Sotheby's International Realty

PACIFIC PALISADES

$5,395,000

175 W Channel Rd,
Santa Monica, CA 90402

4 BR 4 BR 2,536 Sq Ft

Listed by Jonathan Mogharrabi •DRE #02009871 • Carolwood Estates •310-633-1300 (agent) •jonathan@kaysandmogharrabi.com (agent) Listed by Marci Kays •DRE #01397539 • Carolwood Estates

SANTA MONICA

$1,249,000

1101 Lincoln Blvd #1,
Santa Monica, CA 9040 3

2 BR 2 BR 1,014 Sq Ft

Listed by Marco Pirozzolo •DRE #01918280 • Vista Sotheby's International Realty •310-975-5765 (agent) •marcopirozzolo@gmail.com (agent)

SANTA MONICA

$2,500,000

1705 Ocean Ave #311,
Santa Monica, CA 90401

2 BR 2 BR 1,574 Sq Ft

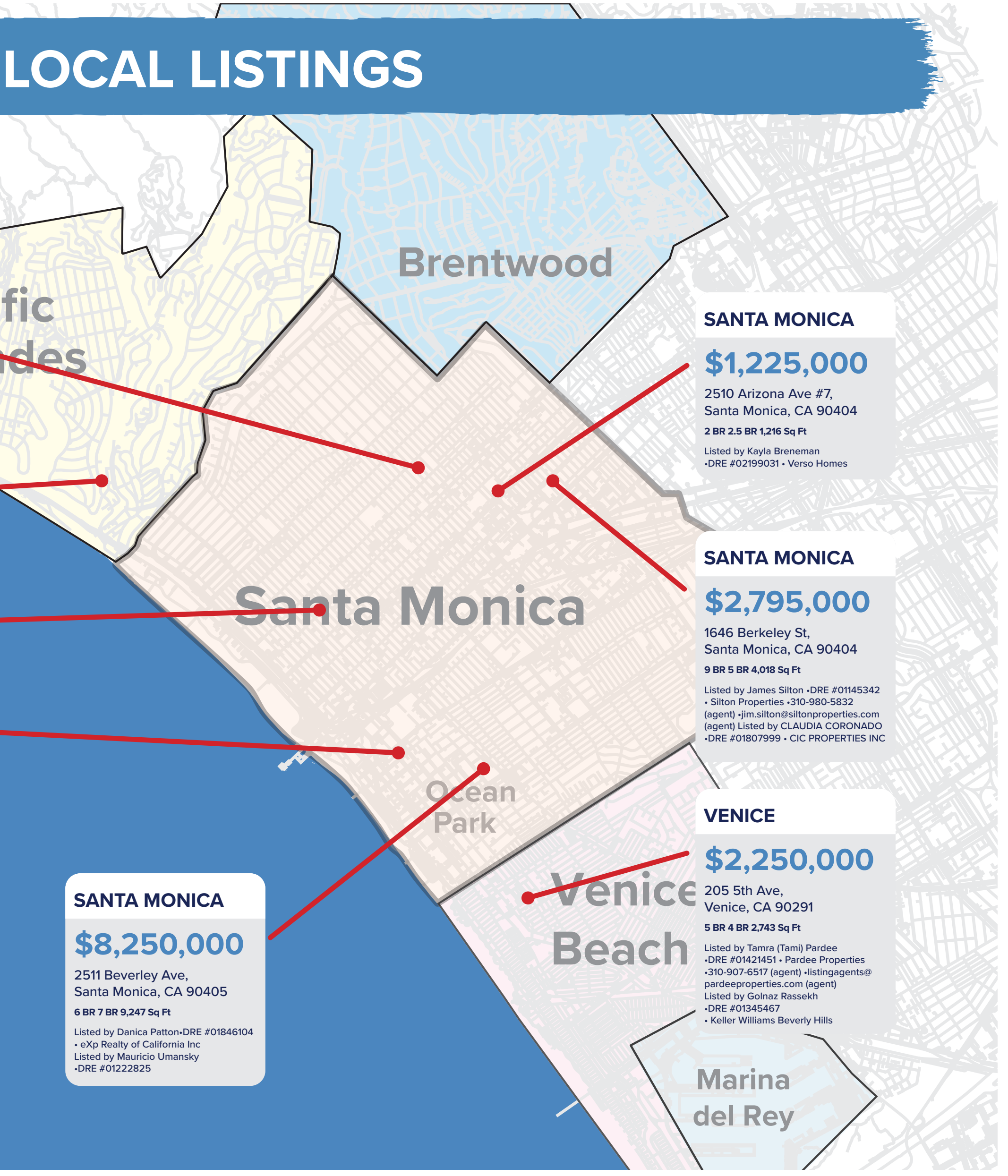
Listed by Zach Goldsmith •DRE #01454329 • The Agency •310-908-6860 (agent) •zach.goldsmith@theagencyre.com (agent) Listed by Jennifer Plotkin •DRE #02036025 • The Agency

● FOR SALE

All data gathered at redfin.com

Santa Monica Daily Press

LOCAL LISTINGS



SANTA MONICA

$1,225,000

2510 Arizona Ave #7,
Santa Monica, CA 90404

2 BR 2.5 BR 1,216 Sq Ft

Listed by Kayla Breneman •DRE #02199031 • Verso Homes

SANTA MONICA

$2,795,000

1646 Berkeley St,
Santa Monica, CA 90404

9 BR 5 BR 4,018 Sq Ft

Listed by James Silton •DRE #01145342 • Silton Properties •310-980-5832 (agent) •jim.silton@siltonproperties.com (agent) Listed by CLAUDIA CORONADO •DRE #01807999 • CIC PROPERTIES INC

VENICE

$2,250,000

205 5th Ave,
Venice, CA 90291

5 BR 4 BR 2,743 Sq Ft

Listed by Tamra (Tami) Pardee •DRE #01421451 • Pardee Properties •310-907-6517 (agent) •listingagents@pardeeproperties.com (agent) Listed by Golnaz Rassekh •DRE #01345467 • Keller Williams Beverly Hills

SANTA MONICA

$8,250,000

2511 Beverley Ave,
Santa Monica, CA 90405

6 BR 7 BR 9,247 Sq Ft

Listed by Danica Patton•DRE #01846104 • eXp Realty of California Inc Listed by Mauricio Umansky •DRE #01222825

Santa Monica's 'Tis the Season

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SCAN ME



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.

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 7

SANTA MONICA PREPARATORY HOLIDAY PLAYDATE & OPEN HOUSE
9 - 11 a.m. Saint Monica Preparatory, 1011 7th St. Join Saint Monica Preparatory's annual Christmas Playdate & Open House. The fun and festive morning is a wonderful opportunity for families starting to explore Kindergarten and primary grade options for the 2025-2026 school year to get to know our community better and to kick off the holiday season! Saint Monica Prep's Transitional Kindergarten, Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade teachers will all be on hand at the event to lead storytime, arts & crafts and STEM activity stations. Interested families with children ages 3-8 can RSVP at saintmonicaprep.org.

LITTLE SNOWDROP VILLAGE
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Westside Waldorf Early Childhood Center, 1439 15th St. A special holiday offering for families with young children, ages 0-6. Puppet shows will be offered every half hour, including "Sammy Snowman Finds a Friend" for ages 0-3 and a show TBD for ages 3-5. Also includes holiday crafting, seasonal live music offerings, a visit with the Snow Fairy, shopping at the Acorn Store for handmade toys, and light festive beverages and snacks. Free admission for infants under 1 year old in carrier or stroller. Street parking is available on Broadway, 15th St., and Santa Monica Blvd. Tickets $15 for adults, $18 for children 0-6. To purchase, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/little-snowdrop-village-tickets-1073599407729.

PALISADES VILLAGE HOLIDAY STROLL
11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Palisades Village, 15225 Palisades Village Ln, Pacific Palisades. A holiday market with live music, snowfall, a champagne chalet, festive sips and bites, exclusive offers and a visit from Santa. Pick up gifts for everyone on your list. PalisadesVillageCA.com.

COMMUNITY DOG TRAINING CLASSES
12 - 1 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. People's Dog Training, a Love At First Sit program, offers Community Dog Training Classes on Saturdays at Virginia Avenue Park in Santa Monica. Class fee is $5, then Pay-What-You-Can after that, with class proceeds donated to charity. Sign up at peoplesdogtraining.com/community-training.

ALL ABOUT SANTA
2 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St. It's holiday time at the North Pole and everyone is in a tizzy - Santa has disappeared. Is he taking a vacation? Did the sleigh run out of spirits? Can Mrs. Claus keep the home fires burning and the toy shop churning until he can be found? Starring Sarah Hajmomenian, Madeline Lemay, Isabel Lindley, JT Melaragno, Michala Peltz and Megan Wright. Book, music and lyrics by Evelyn Rudie and Chris DeCarlo. SantaMonicaPlayhouse.com.

IMAGINEERING SANTA MONICA
2 -4 p.m. Santa Monica History Museum, 1350 7th St. Bring the family to a free, interactive workshop where creativity and city-building come to life. Participants of all ages will design their ideal version of Santa Monica. The event will open with insights from local writer and urbanist Frances Anderton, followed by expert guidance from James Rojas of Place It! and John Kamp of Prairieform, specialists in urban planning. Attendees will be able to explore the museum and engage with a 14-block model of Santa Monica, featured in the museum's current exhibition, Un|Housed: A History of Housing in Santa Monica. Let the museum know you're coming, RSVP@santamonicahistory.org.

SANTA CRUISE
3 - 11 p.m. Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. Join for an iconic holiday group ride for skateboarders, rollerbladers, bikers and more. The route is a 6-mile beginner-friendly loop from Santa Monica to Venice and back. Expect music, dancing and several surprises along the way. Keep the party rolling with an epic after party at The Waterfront. Group ride free RSVP, after party general admission $25, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/santa-cruise-las-biggest-holiday-group-ride-party-tickets-1047692234677.

MONTANA AVENUE HOLIDAY WALK & MARKETPLACE
3 - 8 p.m. Montana Avenue. Santa Monica's best festive event to shop, dine and support small businesses all at once. At this free event, the streets are closed to cars as shop windows are decked out in the season's finest. This 11-block holiday party is the perfect opportunity to discover what's new and pick out some wonderful holiday gifts for your loved ones.

THE LUNAR LIGHT: DISCOVERY
5 p.m. Santa Monica Media Park, 1813 Centinela Ave. Prepare to embark on a journey unlike any other. As a Mission Specialist in The Lunar Light Saga, you'll step into the boots of an astronaut in a fully immersive world of virtual reality and live interactive theater, where the Moon's greatest mystery awaits you. Tickets $42-$77, to purchase visit: https://www.universe.com/events/the-lunar-light-discovery-tickets-XW5G0C.

VENICE HOLIDAY SIGN LIGHTING
6 - 9 p.m. Windward Avenue & Pacific Avenue, Venice. 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 13th 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. Don't miss this magical start to the season.

SANTA MONICA SYMPHONY
7 - 9 p.m. John Adams Middle School Performing Arts Center, 1630 Pearl St. Join the Santa Monica Symphony for the Legends and Legacies concert with guest conductor Geoffrey Pope. To RSVP for free, visit https://www.eventbrite.com/e/santa-monica-symphony-legends-and-legacies-tickets-1004145344757

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 8

TAKE A MOMENT - AN UNPLUGGED EVENT
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Hwy. The Annenberg Community Beach House hosts "Take a Moment," its first offline, unplugged event with opportunities for all ages. Luxuriate in four hours of offline space designed for you to be in solitude or in community while you read, knit, draw, write, play games, color or engage in a seasonal wellness tea workshop. The afternoon will wind down with a sound bath. To RSVP, visit https://www.eventbrite.com/e/take-a-moment-an-unplugged-event-at-the-annenberg-community-beach-house-tickets-1075238500299.

MIRACLE ON MAIN STREET
3:30 - 7 p.m. California Heritage Museum, 2612 Main St. Miracle on Main Street 2024 will include kids activities, Santa and the tree lighting on the Heritage Museum lawn. Plus Carolers and street-wide festivities and holiday parties into the night. The Holiday Kid Corner takes place from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. with free face painting, musical story time and more. Santa and Mrs. Claus will make their grand entrance in a festive fire truck at 4 p.m.

VENICE CANALS HOLIDAY BOAT PARADE
4 p.m. Eastern and Carroll Canals, Venice. Originally founded in 1989, the parade has grown to become a highlight of the holiday season in the community. Each year, residents and visitors gather along the canals to enjoy the lights, music, and creative displays as boaters compete for best decoration awards. Get more information at venicecanals.org/parade/.

MONDAY | DECEMBER 9

CARD AND BOOKMARK MAKING WORKSHOP
3 - 5 p.m. Multipurpose Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Epicycle old cards into bookmarks or turn them into new holiday cards. Drop-in for fun crafting and a cozy atmosphere. The Library will provide additional craft materials to all. For all ages.

LANDLORD-TENANT FORUM 2024
5:30 - 8:30 p.m. MLK Auditorium, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. A joint presentation of the Consumer Protection Division of the City Attorney's Office and Rent Control, this popular event brings together property owners and managers, tenants, and city staff to discuss hot topics. This years subjects include: Updates on landlord/tenant topics around the state, updates on changes to local laws, tenants' rights to replace roommates and tenant protection during construction. Register at santamonica.gov/events.

TUESDAY | DECEMBER 10

SOCIAL SERVICE ASSISTANCE
9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. Help with family nutrition and health care access is resuming at Virginia Avenue Park thanks to Providence St. John's Community Health Program. The trained Providence St. John's staff can assist with enrollment in CalFresh, the state of California's food subsidy program created to improve the nutrition of families through access to healthy foods. Staff can also help navigate enrollment or questions for MediCal and Medicare. If you have questions about whether you qualify for benefits or if you need help completing enrollment forms, you can make an appointment by calling 310-458-8688. Drop-ins are also welcome.

TUESDAY TALES
10:30 - 11 a.m. Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Avenue. This fun and engaging weekly series features stories, songs and rhymes, and travels to a different library location each week. Free tickets are available at 10:15 a.m. For ages 2-5.

WINTER TALES, SNACKS & CRAFTS
4 - 5 p.m. Youth Activity Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Read cozy winter stories with your kids or let them be read to by the library's teen volunteers while enjoying winter-themed snacks and a craft. For families.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
5:30 p.m. City Council Chambers, 1685 Main St. The City Council is made up of seven members elected at-large for staggered four-year terms. Every two years, after each election, the City Council selects one of its members to serve as Mayor and another to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore. The City Council also sits as the following bodies for the City of Santa Monica: Housing Authority, Parking Authority, Public Financing, Redevelopment Successor Agency and Audit Subcommittee.

Lincoln Heights warehouse controversy presents another test of Los Angeles' aspirations

JIM NEWTON
Special to the Daily Press

In one of Los Angeles' oldest neighborhoods, a tidy elementary school sits on ground it has occupied for nearly a century, proudly displaying its "gold ribbon" from the state of California, an honor for exemplary public schools. Victorian homes and family-owned shops line the nearby streets of Lincoln Heights, a neighborhood that hovers just above the heart of Downtown.

Last week, more than 100 residents — parents and children, activists, elected officials and businesspeople — marched in opposition to a warehouse development planned for directly across the street from Hillside Elementary. The warehouse would bring diesel and other trucks, traffic, noise and pollution.

It's a familiar struggle in California, pitting commerce against a community. The residents want it stopped.

"This is a residential community," Michael Henry Hayden, who lives nearby and has helped galvanize opposition to the proposal, told me a few days earlier as we walked around the area. "That should matter."

The site of this dispute has its own, long history. Once the home of a dry cleaner that billed itself "America's largest industrial laundry," the parcel is scarred by decades of chemical contamination, and it abuts the 110 Freeway.

It's a pie-shaped corner of land adjacent to three gigantic apartment buildings that are under construction and nearing completion. The apartment buildings are an eyesore — "skyscrapers lying on their sides," as Hayden aptly described them — but at least they will bring housing to a city that badly needs more of it. In this case, they are expected to deliver 468 units, enough for some 1,400 residents, when they open.

But the remaining wedge of land is being offered up as a "distribution center," the new euphemism for a warehouse, and will be served by an endless stream of trucks — big ones arriving with loads from the port and airport, little ones leaving to distribute those goods around Los Angeles.

There's nothing inherently wrong with that. Angelenos need goods, and those goods arrive from around the world, delivered to homes within days of hitting a button on a smartphone or computer. That requires a distribution network that stretches from our devices to a manufacturing plant, often very far away, and back home.

But this particular site is a reminder that just because the world relies on the movement of goods does not mean that every parcel is equally appropriate for joining that network.

The warehouse is opposed by City Councilwoman Eunisses Hernandez, as well as County Supervisor Hilda Solis and LAUSD Board Member Rocío Rivas, all of whom represent the area. At the recent demonstration, Hernandez said the project should "never, never be allowed to go forward." Rivas called it "dangerous and irresponsible."

"This is our home," she said of the neighborhood. "We're going to protect it."

The broad opposition to this project is the latest flashpoint in an everlasting test of what Los Angeles is — and what it aspires to be. They sketch the boundaries between a city that imagines itself as a waystation in international trade and one that sees itself as a collection of self-regulating communities, one of neighborhood councils and community solidarity.

Here, activists and residents and their representatives present a compelling case.







Photo by Zaydee Sanchez for CalMatters

WAREHOUSE: Parents and children join the Lincoln Heights Community Coalition in a rally outside Hillside Elementary School, protesting the development of a warehouse across the street that activists say would harm the health of local residents, in Los Angeles on Nov. 26, 2024.

QUESTIONABLE LOCATION FOR A WAREHOUSE

Start with children. There is just one way in and out of the warehouse site, which at the moment is being used as a staging area for construction of the adjacent apartment complex. That entrance sits squarely in a crosswalk that children use to traverse Pasadena Avenue to reach Hillside Elementary. Fumes from the trucks would add to what already is some of the city's worst air pollution.

Beyond the school is the community itself. This is not a warehouse district. It's a neighborhood of homes and small businesses. It's overwhelmingly Latino and mostly low-income. The Fortuna general store is on one side of the school, and a tamale restaurant on the other.

The apartment complex is already going to change the character of these streets, especially because it includes just 200 parking spaces for its 468 units, a tradeoff that helps maximize multifamily housing projects. The warehouse will redouble that impact, and it will sit right up against one of the new apartment buildings, which surely would be a rude awakening for future tenants.

And then there is the question of access. On the map, it seems like a smart place to build a facility that relies on the freeway — the site is adjacent to the Pasadena Freeway, which runs along the property's western edge. But that's misleading: There are no onramps or offramps to the 110 from the property, and the winding Pasadena Freeway does not allow truck traffic anyway.

The result is that trucks utilizing this warehouse will be next to a freeway that they can't use. Instead, they'll have to travel surface streets, barreling through residential neighborhoods to get on and off Interstate 5, which is roughly a mile away.

It is, all in all, a stupid place to build a warehouse. Surely, then, the city will step in to stop it.

That's proven difficult so far. Since the school-adjacent property is foolishly zoned for industrial use, the owner believes it is being developed "by right" and doesn't need city approval. Once the apartments are done and the construction area is closed up, the developer, Xebec, may be free to put up its warehouse — sorry, "distribution center."

That doesn't mean local officials have surrendered. The company needs permits to begin construction, and it needs them by today. Last week, Hernandez was coy about what her office is doing to prevent that, but she vowed to intervene with city departments to force the developer at least to perform an environmental analysis and face public questions about the proposal.

SEE **WAREHOUSE** PAGE 15

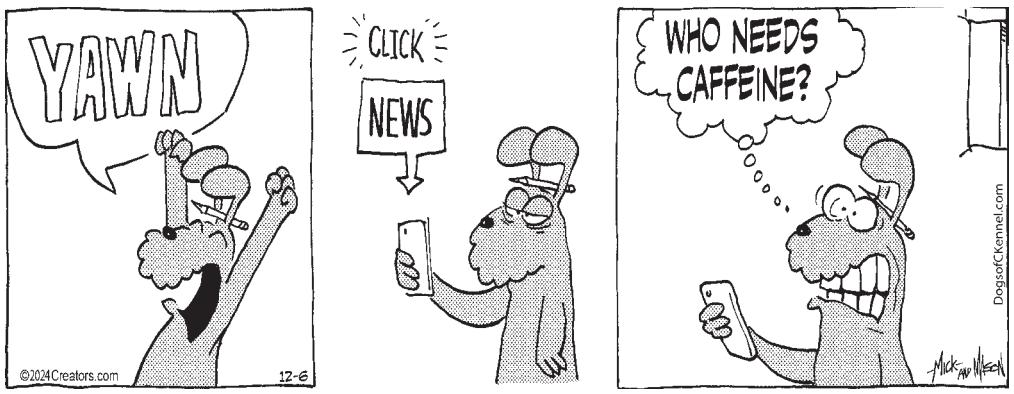
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



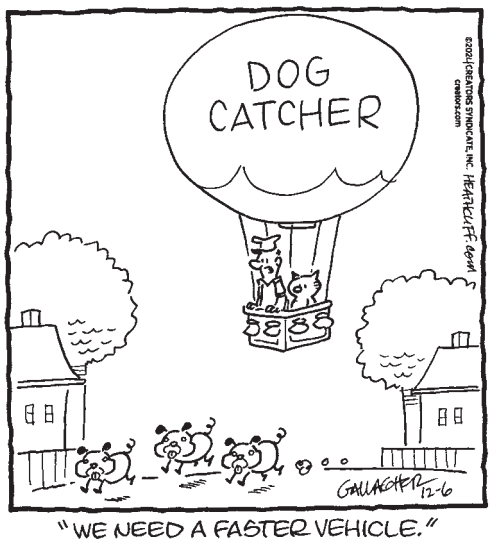
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

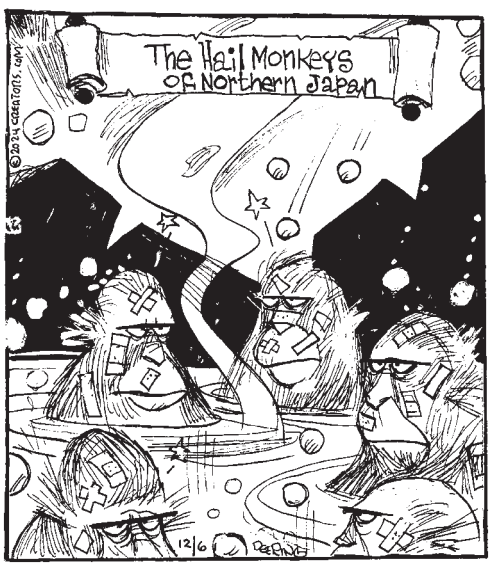
By PETER GALLAGHER



"WE NEED A FASTER VEHICLE."

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.

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Market day

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

Arts
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Axes
Basket
Bike
Books
Cage
Cakes
Cash
Chai
City
Designer
Eggs
Ferns
Find
Fish
Flute
Food
Fruit
Gates
Hats
Herbs
Jams
Jeans
Junk
Knives
Ladder
Meeting
Neighbourly
Pets
Pies
Produce
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 6)

You'll string together the life you want to proudly wear in this year when ideas flow like a thread through beads, and the treasures will keep adding up. You'll have a sweet partner in the adventure. More highlights: A move has upgraded your style, property and possessions, A new environment brings buzzy excitement, fresh friends, rewarding challenges and more. Libra and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 8, 21, 24 and 19.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You know the frustration of feeling unheard, but at least it motivated you to tell better stories, refine your delivery and control the volume. Your influence will be undeniable. Others will tune in, and you'll relish being listened to.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Don't worry about who understands you or doesn't. Their lack of imagination gives you an advantage. You'll play in the wonderland of your imagination, and you'll quietly develop the ideas that will eventually add to your influence.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You are driven by an ideal. You aspire to serve many, improve lives and contribute to the well-being of all. The aim requires you to stay open to understanding that the needs of others can differ greatly and veer surprisingly from your original assumption.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). As far as friendship, love and work go, you're looking for a good fit. Knowing that you're likely to end up a little like the people you're around, you want to be around those who inspire you to grow in the direction of your dreams.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). In an environment that has no rules, everyone will act according to their understanding and feelings in the moment. It speaks to the importance of being around those of pure and gentle intent - the type who don't need to be told to be kind.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Don't depend on faith alone. Sure, it can keep you going when you're not being rewarded by the action itself or any tangible reward. But you need more. What else can you learn or do? Who else can you reach out to?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You want to be the reason someone smiles. It's made easier for you because you notice what people like and you actively look for opportunities to give it to them. Also, you know not to force things. With presence, you all get there.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Love leans in with you toward your better angels. The one who loves you will push you toward your dreams. The one with a selfish agenda will not because they only want you to be powerful in so much as it suits their purposes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). What if your number one task was to make yourself happy? What would you be doing differently? To consider it is to make yourself aware of the many ways you compromise and give yourself credit or remedy, as needed.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). People sense need and greed and distrust the actions of the wanting. Because you want nothing from others, and you act only out of the intention to see them content, you'll end up as the recipient of much generosity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Activities are only as productive as they are healthy, because the cost of anything that wears away at your vitality is paid for in a currency with unparallelled value. Protect your well-being, and the rest will fall into place.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). In reflective moments, you'll be tempted to judge yourself for certain unwanted patterns. Considering everything you're carrying and craving, it's understandable why they'd be hard to break. New tactics will come to mind.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

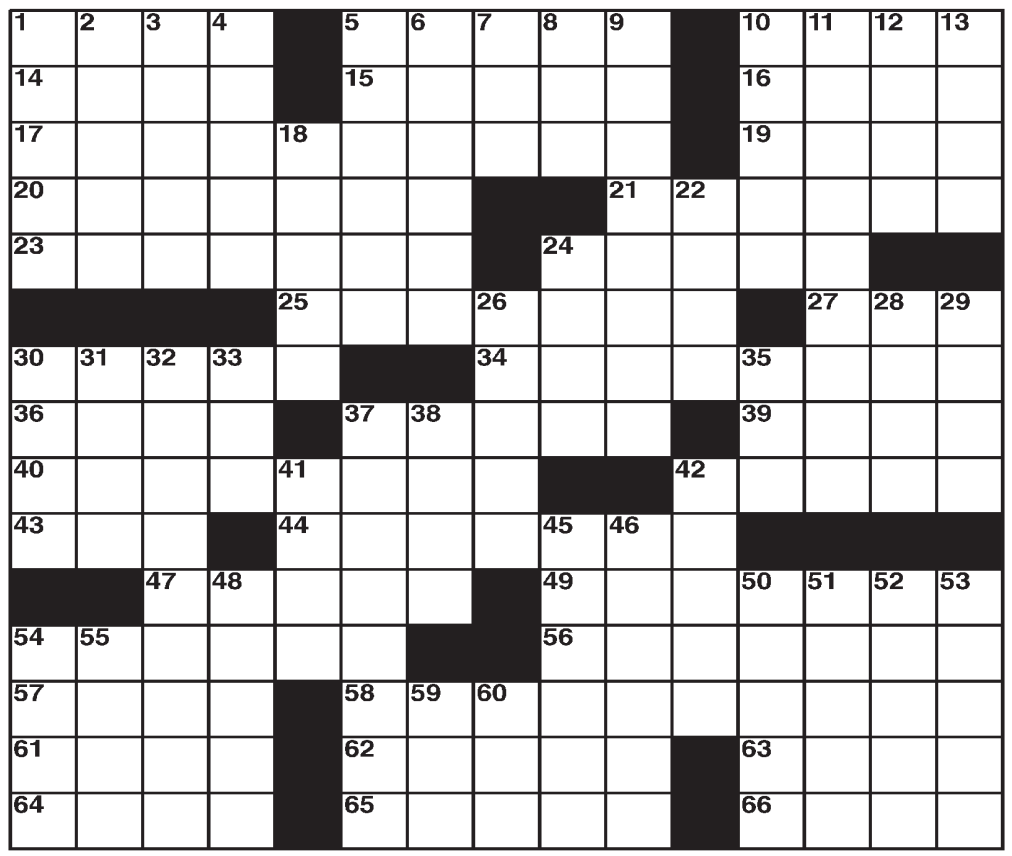
DITTO by Gary M. Larson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 S&L ID
5 What you might put on the dog
10 Found very easy
14 45th vice president
15 Pungent dressing
16 Mantra chanter
17 *They may be added to some bills
19 Do without
20 Marine hitchhikers
21 Hold fast
23 Germless
24 Piece of certain veggies
25 Letters to A-listers
27 Noisy distraction
30 Good quality
34 Highly thought of
36 Be too much
37 Pseudo-cultured
39 Make sound again
40 Do-it-yourself draft
42 Common wedding guests
43 Wool coat wearer
44 Spot for semiconductors
47 Kit contents
49 Good health, happiness, etc.
54 1850s battleground
56 Tidied up
57 Lawn treatment
58 *Rapt
61 Solemn endorsement
62 Lloyd Webber title character
63 Polynesian figure
64 Fiddle (with)
65 Reportorial approach
66 Socks

DOWN

1 Gelling agents
2 Four-legged flyer on 12/24
3 Tart part, perhaps
4 Train of thought
5 49th vice president's first name
6 German chocolate brand
7 Chicago's __ Center skyscraper
8 Extreme degree, in brief
9 "Too bad"
10 "Hi" or "bye" word
11 *News crew guys
12 Robed ruler
13 Booking
18 Train of thought
22 Take-out order
24 Brash talk
26 Hint to what the answers to the four starred clues have in common
28 Nick's cousin
29 Numerical likelihood
30 Longing
31 Not very busy
32 *On occasion
33 Scrutinize
35 Australian fast runner
37 High-intensity lighting
38 Insurgents, for short
41 Service club's initials
42 Freud colleague
45 "You gotta be kidding!"
46 Yield to pleading
48 Warning signals
50 A Theological Virtue
51 WWII battleground near Rome
52 Sense offenses
53 Oscar actor Redmayne
54 Silent type
55 Coleridge creation
59 Sinuous swimmer
60 Title like Mrs.



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WAREHOUSE

FROM PAGE 12

Ultimately, she wants the parcel to become a park, which is clearly not what Xebec has in mind. The company did not respond to a request for comment.

'MARKET UBER ALLES'

All of this is puzzling in Los Angeles, which, if anything, has a reputation for being too accommodating of residents, sometimes at the expense of business. Try building a homeless shelter or affordable housing, for instance, and watch homeowners rally to protect their investments and communities.

But in Lincoln Heights, these are mostly working-class people in neighborhoods that lack the organization that wealthier communities have established over the years. They're alarmed but not surprised at the suggestion that their neighborhood school could be pummeled and their streets flooded with trucks, just so that shippers can inch closer to customers.

If development is often a balance between commerce and community, in this case, the pendulum has swung awfully far toward commerce — and at the expense of the people who already live here.

"Everybody says we have too much regulation," Hayden observed. "Sometimes, we don't have enough."

These are new versions of old problems, and as such, it's worth considering what some of this state's wiser heads have thought about them. Take Jerry Brown, for instance.

Near the end of his last term, Gov. Brown was sent a bill that would have allowed bars to stay open later in some cities. It was supported by the hospitality industry, of course, because it would have allowed some of its members to make more money. Brown recalled that one representative implored him: "We have to support our nightlife industry."

"Why?" Brown asked. Why should he sign a bill that would allow people to drink and carouse longer just because a business wanted them to do so? Why should policymakers feel compelled to elevate money over other priorities? Would that not, as Brown called it, "market uber alles?"

"What else is there?" Brown continued when we discussed this in 2018. "Only the market — unfettered buying and selling by distant corporate aggregates... That trumps thousands of years of custom and tradition and religious sentiment."

When the only question is money, Brown went on, other priorities get lost. What enhances freedom? What makes communities safer and more livable? Why do those not rank at least as high for policymakers as the money that might be made by a bar staying open late or a warehouse being built in a residential neighborhood?

Those questions need to be asked in Lincoln Heights, not just because a community's well-being is at stake but also because the answers reveal what Los Angeles actually cares about. As this city and others find their place in international trade, it can't come at the expense of communities and those who depend on them. To ignore those people is indeed to acquiesce to "market uber alles."

Brown, incidentally, vetoed the bill. The market does not always prevail.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

UNEMPLOYMENT

FROM PAGE 4

love approach to a crisis that has been building for more than two decades and cannot solve itself, to wit it advises the state to:

-Increase the taxable wage base from $7,000 per worker to $46,800, tying it to the actual benefits of up to $450 a week. It "would place California among the ten states with taxable wages bases above $40,000 and all other Western states."

-Adopt two payroll tax rates, one to cover current benefits and another to rebuild reserves. The combined rate of 1.9% would be applied to the $46,800 wage base.

-Base employers' tax rates on their changes in employment, thus imposing higher costs on employers that reduce their number of workers.

-Refinance the federal loan with a bond backed by payroll taxes and state loans from its internal sources to reduce overall interest costs.

There may be other alternatives, perhaps affecting benefits, but the main thing is that doing nothing will just perpetuate this crisis — even though the politics of the issue are daunting.

It's been a political stalemate for nearly a quarter-century, pitting unions seeking to protect, or even increase, benefits against employers who don't want to shoulder increased taxes. Successive governors and legislative leaders have shunned engagement, preferring to kick the can down the road.

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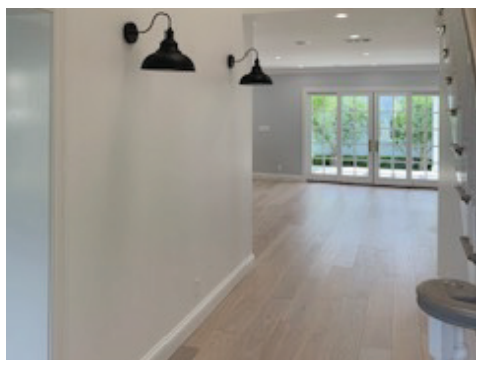


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