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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 18 TUESDAY 12/10/24 smdp.com

Tuesday's City Council meet will mostly be about the ceremonial handover

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

In what will be an emotional evening for many, this will be the last time Mayor Phil Brock and Councilmembers Gleam Davis, Christine Parra and Oscar de la Torre will be sitting on that side of the dais. And it won't even be for very long as newly-elected Councilmembers Dan Hall, Ellis Raskin, Barry Snell and Natalya Zernitskaya take their positions.

Current Vice Mayor Lana Negrete will become Mayor under the new seniority system. In January 2023, the Council voted six to one to change the system from a vote of the council to "select the longest continuously serving Councilmember, whether initially elected or appointed, to serve as Mayor for a one-year term."

According to Rule 17 within the council protocol, "after each municipal election, the City Clerk shall determine City councilmember seating order by drawing lots, with the exception of the Vice Mayor, who shall be seated next to the Mayor. Changes in seating may be allowed by the Mayor, without requiring a vote, for good cause when those changing seats consent."

So who will end up sitting next to who, ultimately remains to be seen. Moreover, a majority vote will be taken as to who the new Vice Mayor will be. Councilmember Caroline Torosis will be the second longest serving councilmember after Negrete and despite arguably being the favorite candidate, there is no guarantee that she will be awarded the role of deputy.

Negrete spoke of how emotional and humbling the experience is

SEE **COUNCIL** PAGE 11

Middle schoolers branch out into STEM learning



Courtesy Photo

STEM: The students of PS Science have proven to be more adept at understanding scientific concepts and testing materials.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

With STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) careers expected to expand rapidly over the next decade, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District students have become prepped in the scientific realm with the help of a local organization.

This year, PS Science launched its middle school curriculum, providing materials to SMMUSD school sites and teachers for STEM lessons and using technology to do student-driven research. Lesson plans for middle schoolers also include learning about the importance of technological advances, as well as in-depth subjects like the gene modification process.

Starting in 2006, PS Science has been expanding its reach within the district, partnering with a multitude of sites like McKinley and Grant elementary schools, as well as the district's middle schoolers.

The early access to science education is paramount, PS Science Board of Directors member and BLT Enterprises President Rob Solomon said. Solomon pointed to a recent skills assessment for PS Science students, which showed a 50-60% increase in students' understanding of scientific ideas and testing, as compared to the national testing average for other students of the same age.

STEM is the natural evolution of the program, which currently serves 17 public schools in Los Angeles County and more than 12,000 students in total. The field

SEE **PS SCIENCE** PAGE 6

Maintanence, fundraising arms of district share progress

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

With 2024 beginning to wind down, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education caught up on progress reports from district maintenance staff and the Santa Monica Education Foundation.

As the board's Nov. 21 meeting, Maintenance and Operations staff gave the board its progress report from the 2023-24 school year, which kept the division busy, closing 4,065 maintenance work orders and 969 operations work orders across the district. Both Santa Monica High School and Malibu High/Middle School took priority from the crews, including over 1,000 maintenance work orders closed on the Samohi campus.

As part of the presentation, school sites' 2024 Facility Improvement Tool (FIT) scores were shared, an integral metric in the Local Controls Funding Plan that ranks the overall condition of a school site via evaluation of 15 components.

Staff said that they were "proud" of their work at Samohi, which scored a "Fair" rating in the 2023-24 FIT scoring and was upgraded to "Good" for 2024-25. Projects on the campus included replacing AC Split Units in the Music Room, replacing 68 broken windows in the Business Building and pumping water from the elevator pit in the Language Building.

On the middle school level, maintenance staff dealt with a rodent infestation over the summer at John Adams Middle School. Seeing that

SEE **SMMUSD** PAGE 11



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Disappearing bills: More than 2,300 bills died without a vote in the last two years

SAMEEA KAMAL
Special to the Daily Press

We know how legislatures work: lawmakers introduce bills, debate on them and vote yes or no.

Right?

Not exactly. Of the 2,403 bills that died in the recent two-year session, CalMatters' Digital Democracy data found just 25 failed because a majority of lawmakers voted "no."

Most of the remaining bills disappeared through procedural tactics that leave little trace of responsibility for the policy decisions. Rather than vote no, lawmakers typically find ways to sideline bills they don't want, causing them to fail when they don't meet procedural deadlines.

"Allowing bills to die behind closed doors for reasons that are never made known publicly runs contrary to the purposes of having an open, transparent and accountable government," said Jonathan Mehta Stein, executive director of California Common Cause.

Bills can disappear in various ways:

The number of bills that died through the notorious "suspense file" was 1,045. That's where the Senate and Assembly Appropriations Committees send bills that the ruling party would like to avoid, either for cost or for political reasons.

The number of bills that disappeared because a committee chair never brought them up for a hearing totaled 668, while another 274 had at least one hearing, but were not taken up by a second committee or by the floor.



Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters

BILLS: Assemblymember Evan Low speaks with a fellow lawmaker Phillip Chen at the Capitol on March 27, 2023.

Twenty-seven bills died because a majority of legislators did not vote, which counts the same as a vote against the bill.

There were 364 bills withdrawn by authors. Another 166 bills, in addition to the 2,403, were introduced, but they were just used as placeholders for budget negotiations and were never intended to pass through the Legislature.

Lawmakers introduce nearly 5,000 bills each two-year session and nearly all that proceed to a public hearing or floor vote will pass. As Digital Democracy reported earlier, Democratic legislators voted no less than 0.5% of the time in 2024. They sent 2,252 bills to Gov. Gavin Newsom, who vetoed 189 of them, more than seven times as many as the Legislature voted down.

CalMatters provided the data to the offices for Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas and Senate President Pro Tem Mike McGuire, who both pointed to the many bills that do go through public discussion and votes.

"It's important to highlight that the vast majority of proposals and bills experience thousands of hours of public discussion and testimony, with legislation often receiving multiple hearings, across both houses, in addition to several thoughtful written analyses and, ultimately, thousands of up-or-down votes from lawmakers," said Nick Miller, spokesperson for Rivas.

McGuire, in a statement to CalMatters, said policy measures "are carefully considered by Senators from both parties who are accountable to voters and neighbors back home. As is the case every year, not all bills will have the votes necessary to move forward – it happens to all of us."

But for some who invest time and money into lobbying on legislation that disappears, the process can feel like a black hole.

City of Stanton officials, for example, tried for months to lobby for Assembly Bill 2646, which sought to reinstate some authority for law enforcement to address solicitation — a

SEE **BILLS** PAGE 8

PALISADES VILLAGE
HOLIDAY
STROLL
Caruso
Saturday, December 7
11AM – 7PM
HOLIDAY MARKET • TREE LIGHTING
VISIT FROM SANTA • SNOW FALL
LIVE MUSIC • FESTIVE SIPS & BITES
FAMILY FUN • CARUSO SIGNATURE
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Suspect in healthcare CEO's murder worked for Santa Monica based company

MICHAEL R. SISAK AND CEDAR ATTANASIO
Associated Press

Police arrested a suspect Monday in the brazen Manhattan killing of UnitedHealthcare's CEO after a quick-thinking McDonald's employee in Pennsylvania alerted authorities to a customer who was found with a weapon, mask and writings linking him to the ambush.

The chance sighting at the restaurant in Altoona led to a dramatic break in a challenging but fast-moving investigation that had captivated the public in the five days since the shooting that shook the health insurance industry.

The suspect, identified by police as 26-year-old Luigi Nicholas Mangione, had a gun believed to be the one used in last Wednesday's shooting of Brian Thompson, as well as writings suggesting anger with corporate America, police said.

Mangione was taken into custody about 9:15 a.m. after police got a tip that he was eating at a McDonald's in Altoona, Pennsylvania, police said.

"He is believed to be our person of interest in the brazen, targeted murder of Brian Thompson," NYPD Commissioner Jessica Tisch said.

Mangione had clothing and a mask similar to those worn by the shooter and a fraudulent New Jersey ID matching one the suspect used to check into a New York City hostel before the shooting, Tisch said.

NYPD Chief of Detectives Joseph Kenny said Mangione was born and raised in Maryland, has ties to San Francisco and a last known address in Honolulu, Hawaii. His social media pages list his last job as a Data Engineer at Santa Monica-based TrueCar.

A message left Monday with a Philadelphia-area phone number connected to Mangione was not immediately returned.

He was being held in Pennsylvania on gun charges and eventually will be extradited to New York to face charges in connection with Thompson's death, Kenny said.

Police found a three-page document with writings suggesting that Mangione had "ill will toward corporate America," Kenny said.

The handwritten document "speaks to both his motivation and mindset," Tisch said.

Mangione had a ghost gun, a type of weapon that can be assembled at home from parts without a serial number, making them difficult to trace, investigators said.

"As of right now the information we're getting from Altoona is that the gun appears to be a ghost gun that may have been made on a 3D printer, capable of firing a 9 mm round," Kenny said.

Officers questioned Mangione, who was acting suspiciously and carrying multiple fraudulent IDs, as well as a U.S. passport, Tisch said. Officers found a suppressor, "both consistent with the weapon used in the murder," the commissioner said.

NYPD detectives and staff from the Manhattan district attorney's office traveled to Altoona to interview Mangione, Kenny said.

Thompson, 50, was killed last Wednesday as he walked alone to a hotel, where UnitedHealthcare's parent company, UnitedHealth Group, was holding its annual investor conference, police said.

UnitedHealth Group thanked law enforcement in a statement Monday. "Our hope is that today's apprehension brings some relief to Brian's family, friends, colleagues and the many others affected by this unspeakable tragedy," a company spokesperson said.

The shooting shook U.S. businesses and the health insurance industry in particular, causing companies to rethink security plans and delete photos of executives from their websites.

The shooter appeared to be "lying in wait for several minutes" before approaching the executive from behind and opening fire, police said. He used a 9 mm pistol that police said resembled guns farmers use to put down animals without causing a loud noise.

Mangione attended an elite Baltimore prep school, graduating as valedictorian in 2016, according to the school's website. In his graduation speech, he talked about his classmates' "incredible courage to explore the unknown and try new things."

He went on to earn undergraduate and graduate degrees in computer science in 2020 from the University of Pennsylvania, a school spokesman said.

In the days since the shooting, police turned to the public for help by releasing a collection of nine photos and video — including footage of the attack, as well as images of the suspect at a Starbucks beforehand.

Photos taken in the lobby of a hostel on Manhattan's Upper West Side showed the suspect grinning after removing his mask, police said.

On Monday, police credited news outlets for disseminating the images and the tipster for recognizing the suspect and calling authorities.

Investigators earlier suggested the gunman may have been a disgruntled employee or client of the insurer. Ammunition found near Thompson's body bore the words "delay," "deny" and "depose," mimicking a phrase used by insurance industry critics.

The gunman concealed his identity with a mask during the shooting yet left a trail of evidence, including a backpack he ditched in Central Park, a cellphone found in a pedestrian plaza and a water bottle and protein bar wrapper that police say he bought at Starbucks minutes before the attack.

On Friday, police said the killer had left the city soon after the shooting. Retracing the gunman's steps using surveillance video, investigators say the shooter rode into Central Park on a bicycle and emerged from the park without his backpack.

He then walked a couple blocks and got into a taxi, arriving at at the George Washington Bridge Bus Station, which is near the northern tip of Manhattan and offers commuter service to New Jersey and bus routes to Philadelphia, Boston and Washington, Kenny said.

The FBI announced late Friday that it was offering a $50,000 reward, adding to a reward of up to $10,000 that the NYPD offered.



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **57.4**

TUESDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: Knee to thigh 1-2FT

Watching the potential for a robust Santa Ana wind event. Smaller surf due off easing NW swell and SSW swell.

WEDNESDAY
FAIR
SURF: Thigh to waist 2-3FT

A touch slower early but the day is worth keeping tabs on as the Santa Ana wind backs off. Potential for some new NW swell to move in through the day.

Weather

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 65.
Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 49.
Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 67.
Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 51

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2024/12/11	Wed	11:40 PM	1.54	L
2024/12/12	Thu	06:12 AM	6.46	H
2024/12/12	Thu	1:26 PM	-0.78	L
2024/12/12	Thu	7:45 PM	3.72	H
2024/12/13	Fri	12:25 AM	1.81	L
2024/12/13	Fri	06:52 AM	6.82	H
2024/12/13	Fri	2:12 PM	-1.31	L
2024/12/13	Fri	8:39 PM	3.77	H
2024/12/14	Sat	01:09 AM	2.02	L
2024/12/14	Sat	07:33 AM	7.00	H
2024/12/14	Sat	2:57 PM	-1.58	L
2024/12/14	Sat	9:30 PM	3.79	H
2024/12/15	Sun	01:53 AM	2.18	L
2024/12/15	Sun	08:15 AM	6.98	H
2024/12/15	Sun	3:42 PM	-1.61	L
2024/12/15	Sun	10:20 PM	3.76	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: 12/7
1 31 43 55 57
Power#: 22
Jackpot: 260 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/3
16 21 33 39 45
Mega#: 24
Jackpot: 619 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 12/7
56 7 17 19 44
Mega#:4
Jackpot: 46 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/8
4 6 7 13 32

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/8
EVENING: 7 7 9
Draw Date: 12/9
MIDDAY: 2 6 3

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/8
1st: 06 - Whirl Win
2nd: 03 - Hot Shot
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:44.68

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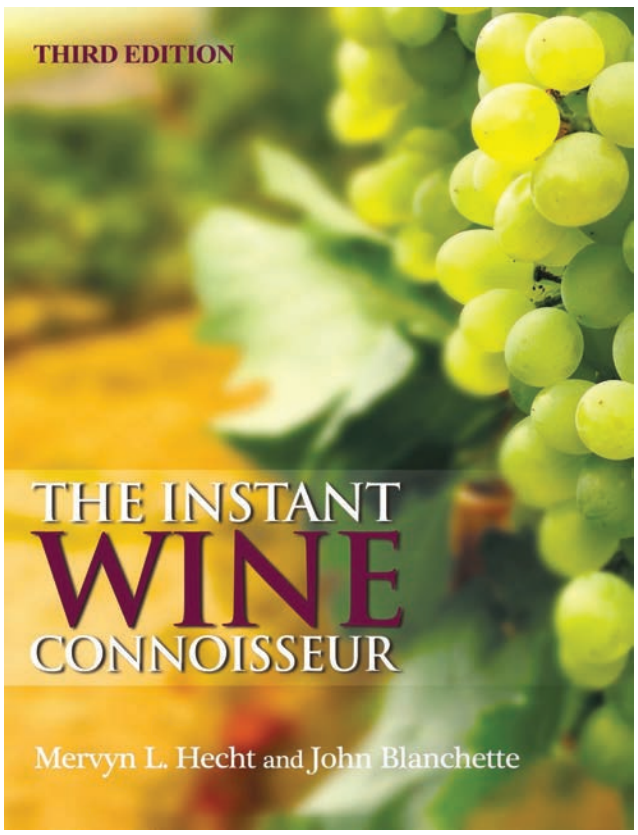
Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 24SMCP00636 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles Petition of Olivia Alexandra Adams for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Olivia Alexandra Adams with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Olivia Alexandra Mchtosh Adams to Olivia Alexandra Mchtosh . The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 01/17/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: - The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA - COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 1725 Main St Santa Monica, CA 90401 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press

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NASA's stuck astronauts hit 6 months in space. Just 2 more to go

MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer

Known across the globe as the stuck astronauts, Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams hit the six-month mark in space Thursday with two more to go.

The pair rocketed into orbit on June 5, the first to ride Boeing's new Starliner crew capsule on what was supposed to be a weeklong test flight. They arrived at the International Space Station the next day, only after overcoming a cascade of thruster failures and helium leaks. NASA deemed the capsule too risky for a return flight, so it will be February before their long and trying mission comes to a close.

> "When the crews go up, they know they could be there for up to a year"
> - Jim Free, NASA Associate Administrator

While NASA managers bristle at calling them stuck or stranded, the two retired Navy captains shrug off the description of their plight. They insist they're fine and accepting of their fate. Wilmore views it as a detour of sorts: "We're just on a different path."

"I like everything about being up here," Williams told students Wednesday from an elementary school named for her in Needham, Massachusetts, her hometown. "Just living in space is super fun."

Both astronauts have lived up there before so they quickly became full-fledged members of the crew, helping with science experiments and chores like fixing a broken toilet, vacuuming the air vents and watering the plants. Williams took over as station commander in September.

"Mindset does go a long way," Wilmore said in response to a question from Nashville first-graders in October. He's from Mount Juliet, Tennessee. "I don't look at these situations in life as being downers."

Boeing flew its Starliner capsule home empty in September, and NASA moved Wilmore and Williams to a SpaceX flight not due back until late February. Two other astronauts were bumped to make room and to keep to a six-month schedule for crew rotations.

Like other station crews, Wilmore and Williams trained for spacewalks and any unexpected situations that might arise.

"When the crews go up, they know they could be there for up to a year," said NASA Associate Administrator Jim Free.

NASA astronaut Frank Rubio found that out the hard way when the Russian Space Agency had to rush up a replacement capsule for him and two cosmonauts in 2023, pushing their six-month mission to just past a year.

Boeing said this week that input from Wilmore and Williams has been "invaluable" in the ongoing inquiry of what went wrong. The company said in a statement that it is preparing for Starliner's next flight but declined comment on when it might launch again.

NASA also has high praise for the pair.

"Whether it was luck or whether it was selection, they were great folks to have for this mission," NASA's chief health and medical officer, Dr. JD Polk, said during an interview with The Associated Press.

On top of everything else, Williams, 59, has had to deal with "rumors," as she calls them, of serious weight loss. She insists her weight is the same as it was on launch day, which Polk confirms.

During Wednesday's student chat, Williams said she didn't have much of an appetite when she first arrived in space. But now she's "super hungry" and eating three meals a day plus snacks, while logging the required two hours of daily exercise.

Williams, a distance runner, uses the space station treadmill to support races in her home state. She competed in Cape Cod's 7-mile Falmouth Road Race in August. She ran the 2007 Boston Marathon up there as well.

She has a New England Patriots shirt with her for game days, as well as a Red Sox spring training shirt.

"Hopefully I'll be home before that happens -- but you never know," she said in November. Husband Michael Williams, a retired federal marshal and former Navy aviator, is caring for their dogs back home in Houston.

As for Wilmore, 61, he's missing his younger daughter's senior year in high school and his older daughter's theater productions in college.

"We can't deny that being unexpectedly separated, especially during the holidays when the entire family gets together, brings increased yearnings to share the time and events together," his wife, Deanna Wilmore, told the AP in a text this week. Her husband "has it worse than us" since he's confined to the space station and can only connect via video for short periods.

"We are certainly looking forward to February!!" she wrote.

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.

Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

California will appeal rejection of lawsuit over Huntington Beach voter ID law

ASSOCIATED PRESS

California will appeal a judge's decision to reject a state lawsuit over a measure allowing the city of Huntington Beach to require voter identification at the polls, officials said Thursday.

State officials said they plan to continue to fight over the measure — passed by voters in March in the coastal city of 200,000 people — in the court of appeal. An Orange County Superior Court judge last month found it was too soon for the state to bring litigation over the local law, which allows the city to implement voter identification requirements in 2026.

"With preparations for the 2026 elections beginning late next year, we want and need a state appellate court to weigh in expeditiously," Attorney General Rob Bonta said in a statement.

Michael Gates, Huntington Beach's city attorney, said he supports the court's ruling and noted that the voting public supported the local measure.

"Voter ID in Huntington Beach is the law of our land here, it's our Constitutional right, and, it's here to stay – I will make sure of that," Gates wrote in an email.

The Huntington Beach measure also lets the city increase in-person voting sites and monitor ballot drop boxes in local elections.

The state sued, saying the measure violates state law and could disenfranchise poor, non-white, elderly and disabled voters, and Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom later signed into a law a state measure banning local governments from establishing laws requiring residents to provide identification to vote.

Huntington Beach, which has been dubbed "Surf City USA" and is known for its scenic shoreline dotted with surfers, has a history of sparring with state officials over the measures it can take under its city charter on issues ranging from immigration to housing. The city is led by a politically conservative city council, and the GOP is dominant in Huntington Beach with nearly 57,000 registered voters versus 42,000 Democrats, county data shows.

> "With preparations for the 2026 elections beginning late next year, we want and need a state appellate court to weigh in expeditiously"
>
> - Rob Bonta, Attorney General

COMMUNITY NEWS

Venice

Los Angeles City Councilwoman Traci Park Raises More Than $100,000 in First 24-Hours Since Launching Re-Election Campaign in District 11

After launching her re-election and opening her fundraising committee on December 2, 2024, Los Angeles City Councilwoman Traci Park has announced she raised more than $100,000 in the first 24-hours of her campaign for Los Angeles City Council District 11. The support in just one day in December came from neighbors, small business owners, firefighters and regular people who her campaign said believe in Park's common-sense agenda of clean streets, safe communities, and livable neighborhoods.

"I'm overwhelmed with the early responses I have received in support of our campaign to return common sense and sanity to Los Angeles City Hall. There is a silent majority of Democrats, Republicans, and Independents in Council District 11 who are tired of government appeasing and placating the loudest and most outrageous special interest voices. Our constituents support our firefighters and police officers and desperately want safe and livable neighborhoods. That's been my priority over my first two years in office and I'm truly honored to have so much early support from such a broad base of groups and individuals," stated Councilwoman Park.

"Traci Park has set the bar for how a Los Angeles City Councilmember should advocate for her constituents, clean up dangerous homeless encampments, and fight for public safety in CD11 and throughout Los Angeles. She is what right looks like in City Hall and our LA City Firefighters need to keep leaders like her in office. That's why I'm proud to personally contribute to her re-election and plan to get firefighter unions from throughout California to support her efforts once again," stated LAFD Captain II and President of United Firefighters of Los Angeles City Freddy Escobar.

The 11th Council District encompasses the LA City communities west of the 405 freeway including Westchester, Playa Del Rey, Playa Vista, Venice, Mar Vista, Del Rey, Brentwood, Pacific Palisades, Sawtelle, and Ladera. The Primary Election will take place on June 2, 2026.

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PS SCIENCE

FROM PAGE 1

is prime for career exploration, as the Bureau of Labor Statistics states that STEM careers are expected to grow at more than twice the rate of non-STEM careers over the next decade. The Department of Labor adds that total STEM occupations are expected to grow by almost 11% by 2031, with more lucrative salaries than non-STEM jobs.

"We are committed to getting much-needed STEM education in the hands of young children," Solomon said. "We need to set our kids up for success early and ensure that all students have the same educational opportunities, no matter their socioeconomic background."

PS Science Executive Director Julie Olds added that since science education is not as spotlighted as reading and math comprehension, due in large part to lack of state testing on the subject until 5th grade, out of school time has become an important part of the organization's work. This includes offering assistance to after-school robotics programs in the STEM realm, while also offering summer camps to its TK-8 audience.

Olds, who has been with PS Science from the beginning, also said educators are curious if science testing scores appearing on the California School Dashboard going forward will "elevate" the concern over providing students requisite science education.

"From a societal perspective, we have a need for scientists and science education," Solomon added. "It's underfunded and underserved in California (at) the elementary school (level), and then that just continues on into middle school, so I think that the expansion of the (STEM) program through middle school will just help continue to get kids interested in science. We need, with a digital economy, more scientists."



Courtesy Photo

STEM: PS Science works directly with local students during various after-school programs.

Getting kids interested means giving them substantial lessons while keeping things fun and interactive. Aligned with The Next Generation Science Standards, PS Science developed a curriculum for grades TK-8 that touch on Earth Science, Physical Science, Life Science and STEM. The nonprofit provides all lesson materials to teachers, as well as instructional videos on how to introduce a particular lesson to students.

One example Olds gave for younger grades was a lesson plan on different parts of plants, adding in units about the silkworm caterpillar's relationship with the mulberry leaf, as well as the caterpillar's metamorphosis into moths and their creation of silk, adding in how humans use the animal's silk to produce products like fabrics.

From incorporating "living organisms" to working with artifacts, the director wanted to find ways to "expose the joy, awe and the discovery of the real world to kids."

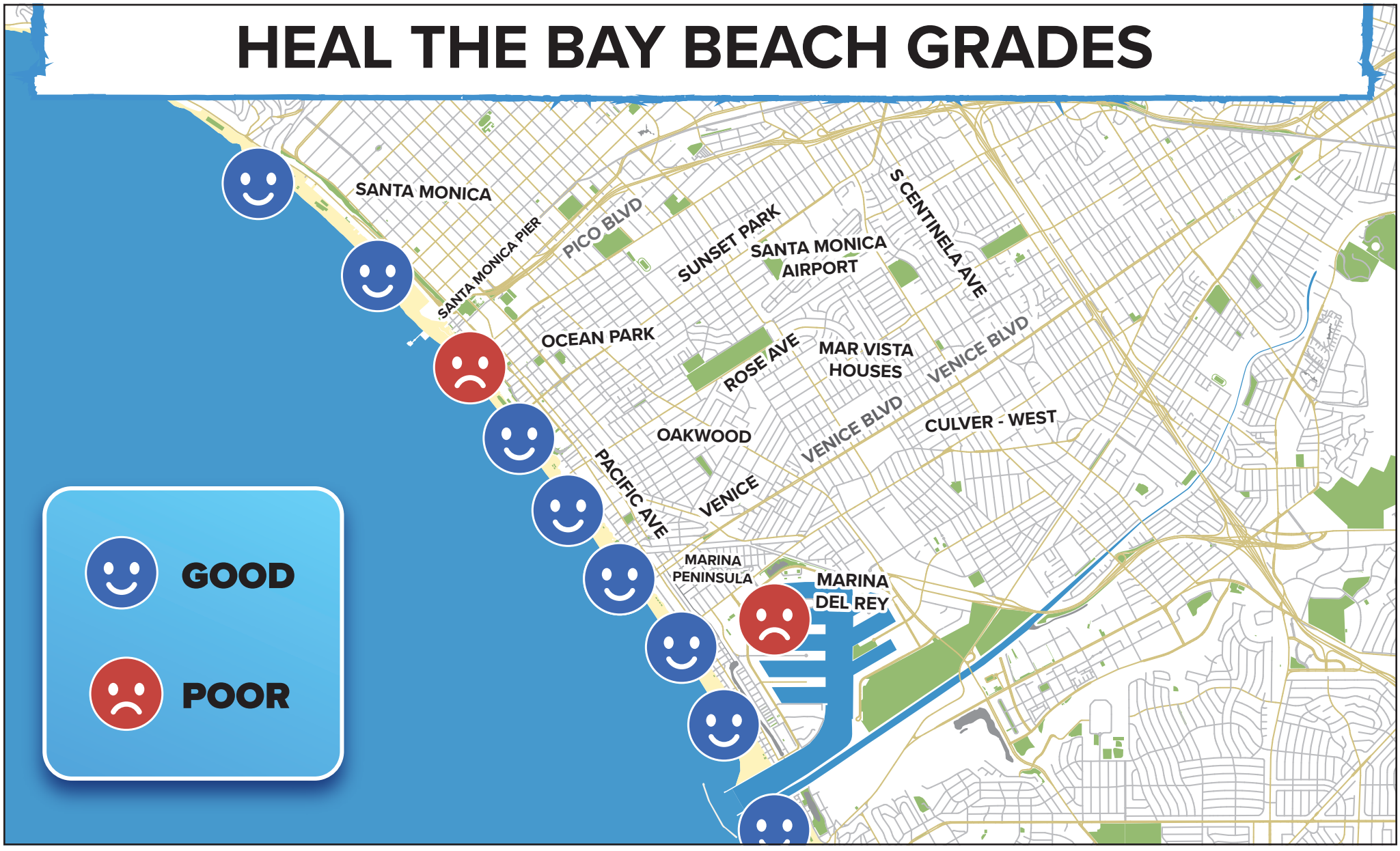
"Our number one kind of consideration when we were developing these lessons was, how do we make it as hands-on as possible, and how do we integrate as much stuff from the real world as possible … because we really feel like kids at this young age benefit from as much exposure as possible to what the real world is," Olds said.

Students in 4th and 5th grade take part in a unit about Physical Science, looking at momentum, collisions and forces. The students build cars mostly out of paper, with an engineering challenge to protect an egg in a "car crash." Activities such as that which promote problem-solving, Olds said, is "a really critical" skill set to attain.

"We want kids in most of the schools, if not all of them (to think) when our instructor comes to campus, or when their teacher says it's science day, the kids are jumping up and down, like it's the best day of the week," Olds said. "It's not the drudgery of memorization and testing."

To learn more information about PS Science, or make a donation to the nonprofit, visit psscience.org.

thomas@smdp.com



California officials plan for a dry 2025 with grim water supply guesswork



Andrew Innerarity / California Department of Water Resources

WATER: A drone view of low water conditions at the Bidwell Bar Bridge located at Lake Oroville in Butte County, California. On this date, the water storage was 1,790,095 acre-feet (AF), 51 percent of the total capacity. Photo taken January 12, 2022.

DAN WALTERS
Special to the Daily Press

Each December there's a new version of an old guessing game about how much water will be provided to agricultural and municipal users in the year ahead.

Federal and state water agencies post initial, and usually very low, estimates based on the current condition of reservoirs, soil conditions that affect runoff, and assumptions of rain and snow during the winter and spring.

Over the next few months, the estimates are upgraded as firmer precipitation data accumulates, often — but not always — increasing.

For 2022, as drought gripped California, the state Department of Water Resources initially projected zero water deliveries, later raised them to 15% of the contracted supplies, but finally delivered just 5%.

One year later, however, the department initially promised 5%, but after a very wet winter finally delivered 100%. This year began with a 10% estimate of state water supply and ended up with 40%.

The huge swings in initial allocations and final deliveries are an obvious headache for the 29 local and regional water purveyors supplied by the state water system, serving some 29 million people. Do the public water agencies impose strict conservation on their customers in years with low initial projections, try to obtain supplemental supplies, take a chance that eventual deliveries will be higher, or all of the above?

The annual game resumed this week, when the Department of Water Resources announced an initial 2025 estimate of just 5%.

> Based on long-range forecasts and the possibility of a La Niña year, the State Water Project is planning for a dry 2025 punctuated by extreme storms like we've seen in late November
> - Karla Nemeth

"Based on long-range forecasts and the possibility of a La Niña year, the State Water Project is planning for a dry 2025 punctuated by extreme storms like we've seen in late November," department director Karla Nemeth said in a statement. "We need to prepare for any scenario, and this early in

SEE **WATER SUPPLY** PAGE 11

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City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed proposals for

- **RFP #427 LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM – MCO SUPERVISORS.**
- **Submission Deadline Is January 8, 2025, at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is OpenGov (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for the RFP package.

Roofing Supply











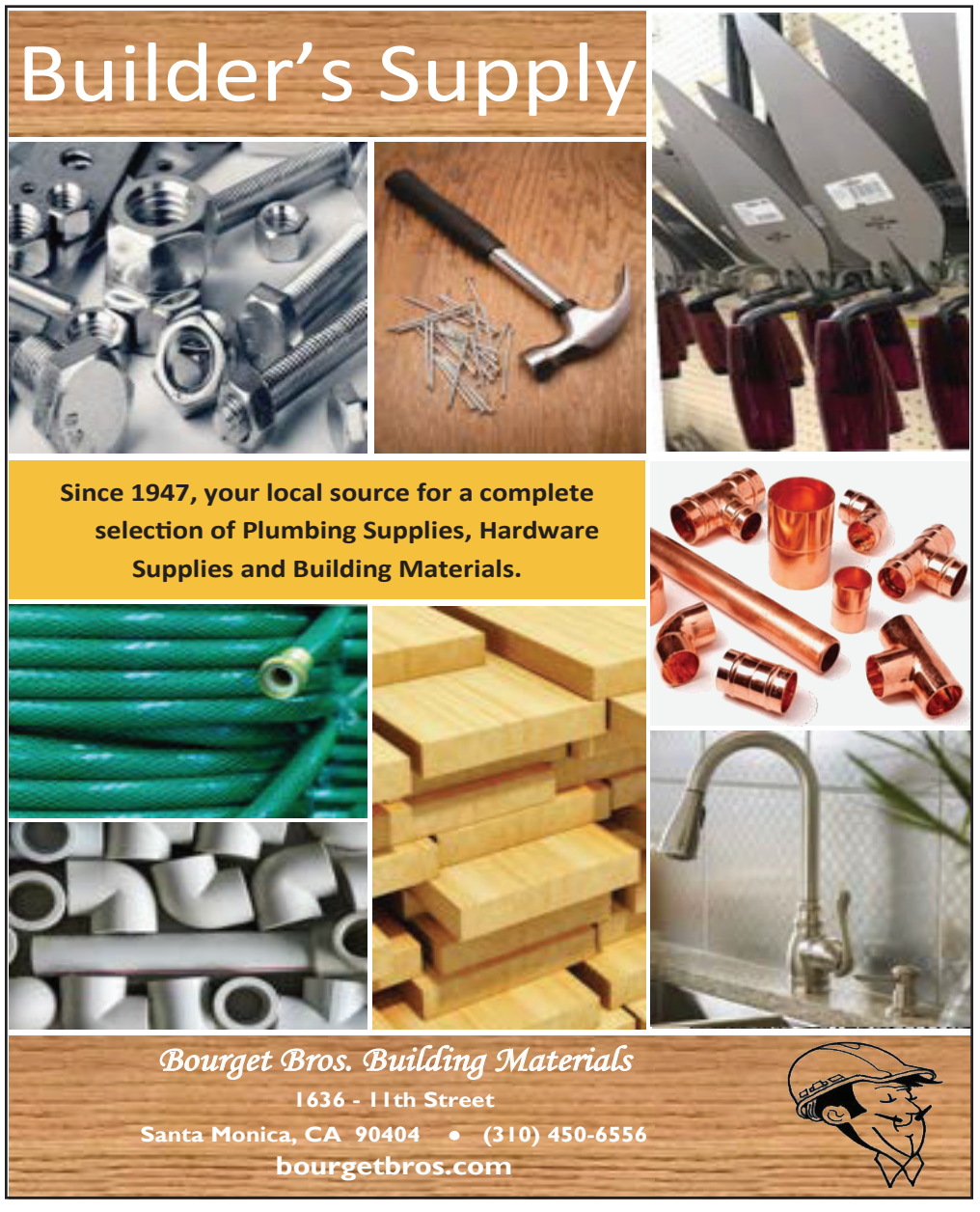
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BILLS

FROM PAGE 2

long-standing issue in the city. That bill would have partially reversed a law passed in 2022 that decriminalized loitering for purposes of prostitution. The law was meant to protect transgender Californians, women of color and victims of trafficking from being unfairly targeted by law enforcement.

The bill was pulled before it reached one of the first stages: a policy committee hearing. The Speaker's office declined to comment on why the bill was pulled.

"I was deeply disappointed to learn that the bill will be killed without being granted a hearing," Republican Assemblymember Tri Ta, the bill's author, said via email. "Every bill deserves to be heard and voted on, ensuring a fair and transparent legislative process."

Stanton City Manager Hannah Shin-Heydorn said that while they were open to hearing from opponents to figure out a workable policy, the process was frustrating for a smaller city that doesn't have the resources to lobby heavily on state legislation.

"We don't get to go represent our community members before [legislators], who then have the discretion to either agree to move it along or not," she said. "That is unfortunate, because we're supposed to be providing that vehicle to our community to express their concerns, and it feels like that's getting left out."

HOW BILLS DIE

Digital Democracy gathered data about the status and progress of bills from the government website California Legislative Information. The data shows each bill introduced and every time it is considered in a committee or in a floor session. But many bills officially die because, for various unseen reasons, they fail to progress past key deadlines in the legislative calendar.

According to the Digital Democracy analysis, of the 25 bills that failed from "no" votes over the last two years, 23 were by Republican authors. Another 18 were voted down, then granted "reconsideration," or a second chance, but did not get taken up by the committee again. That's often a formality that allows lawmakers to be polite to bill authors.

Of the 27 bills that died from NVRs, or "no vote recorded," 14 were authored by Republican members. Another 16 were granted reconsideration, but were not taken up by the committee again.

One of the most controversial steps of the legislative year is the suspense file hearings in the Senate and Assembly Appropriations Committees. Twice each year, both committees consider hundreds of bills that are estimated to cost more than $50,000 from the state's general fund or $150,000 from one of its special funds, although politically dicey bills are sometimes sidelined too. The bills they reject are placed on the "suspense file," where only bills that pass have vote counts read out.

It's a process that advocates for government transparency find especially problematic. "The idea that the California state Legislature has created a mechanism for killing difficult bills in a way that enables no one to take a tough vote feels really contrary to the whole point of electing leaders to handle our toughest decisions in the state's Capitol," Mehta Stein said.

Some bills are introduced only to make a political statement or they are found to duplicate existing laws. Still, Mehta Stein said those decisions should be made transparent.

The first stop after a bill is introduced is the Rules Committee, where legislative leaders decide which policy committees should consider the bill. This is where some bills disappear because they are never assigned to a committee. Many more bills disappear when they are assigned to a committee, but never scheduled for a hearing while others have a hearing but are set aside and never reconsidered.

Authors also withdraw their own bills, sometimes because they learn in private discussions that the bill will not pass.

The authority for who decides how bills might fail varies — some leaders give more decision-making power to committee chairs, for example. The rules are typically communicated to members in caucus meetings at the beginning of each legislative year.

Some speakers have also had a policy that lawmakers must "show their vote cards" — in other words, prove they have the votes for the bill to pass before it is heard, according to Mike Gatto, a former Democratic Assemblymember.

That can be a way for leaders to protect other members from having to publicly oppose issues their constituents support — or saying no to colleagues who may do the same on their bills.

It also saves the lawmaker from humiliation, he said.

"There has always been a perception among Speakers that for a bill to hit the floor without the support it needs to pass would humiliate both the author, and to some degree, the speaker," he said. "Authors are loathe to bring up a bill and watch it die spectacularly on the floor … watching it hang there while people make the bomb noise with their mouth. That is very humiliating."

OTHER STATES DO IT, TOO

California is not unique in its approach of killing bills by shelving them. In fact, there's a term political scientists use to describe the process: negative agenda control, according to Jeff Harden, a politics professor at the University of Notre Dame who studies legislative transparency.

Not taking up bills can be a way for legislative leaders to represent the needs of constituents, by not wasting resources on bills that don't merit consideration.

But the issue of secrecy became so controversial in Colorado that voters in 1988 passed the "GAVEL ACT" — or the "Give A Vote to Every Legislator" Act — requiring a public hearing for every bill. That, too, has its downsides, notes Peverill Squire, a politics professor at the University of Missouri who specializes in legislative studies.

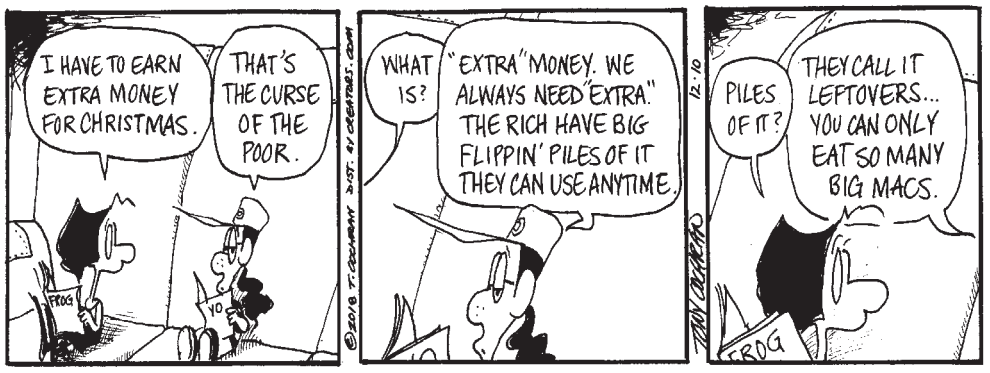
"That complicates the legislative process and makes it harder for things to work efficiently, and it's not clear that it really produces more in the way of transparency, because there are many ways to prevent things from really getting thoroughly debated — but it is a concern," he said.

To some advocates in California, reducing the number of bills can improve the process. This week, legislative leaders lowered the number of bills authors are allowed to introduce each two-year session, from 50 in the Assembly to 35, and from 40 to 35 in the Senate.

"If every lawmaker has fewer bills, they care more about each one, and they might demand answers on each one to a far greater extent," said Mehta Stein. "It would also allow committee staff to focus more intently on each bill and work on improving them meaningfully, as opposed to drinking from a fire hose and having to just kill stuff that isn't fully baked."

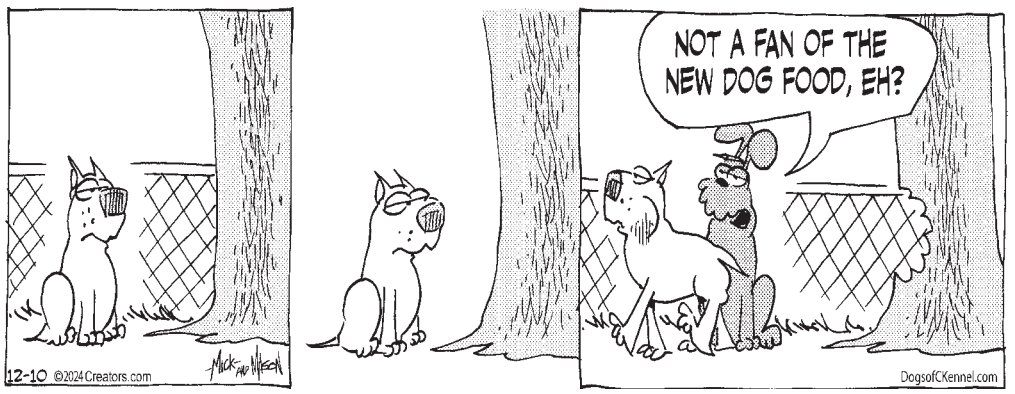
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



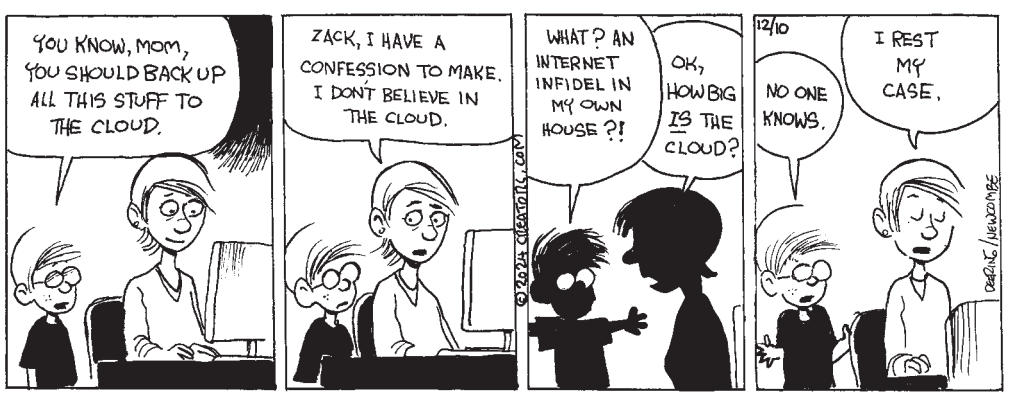
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



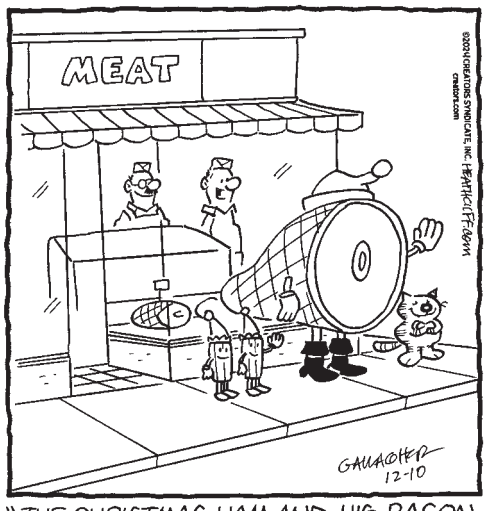
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

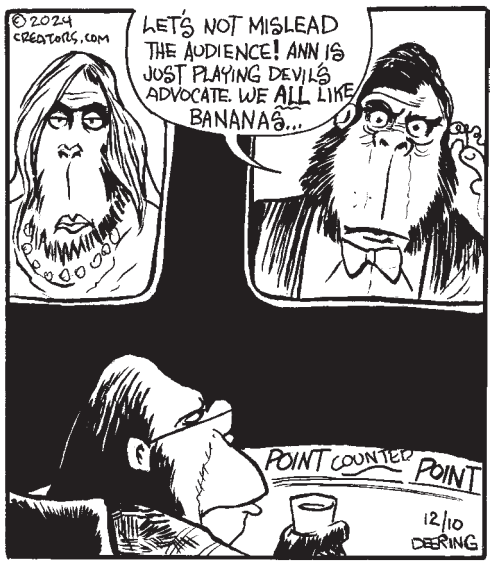
By PETER GALLAGHER



"THE CHRISTMAS HAM AND HIS BACON BUDDIES HAVE IMPROVED SALES."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 21 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 6420

The great race

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

Acrasia
Arwon
At Talaq
Away
Back
Bets
Caps
Delta
Draw
Encounter
Fancy
Fast
Float
Gait
Grey
Hats
Hiraji
Jeune
Kensei
Kiwi
Lead
Mare
Odds
Paid
Pays
Phar Lap
Post
Race
Rein
Rogan Josh
Roses
Saintly
Scales
Shocking
Silks
Sirius
Star
Think Big
Thoroughbred
Viewed
Weight
Whip
Wins
Wotan
Zulu

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 10)

As Aristotle believed, "Excellence is not an act, but a habit." This year, you'll cultivate a fresh set of daily action items to elevate you to new levels of health and wealth. More highlights: You'll connect with a new interest and move quickly through the learning curve. You'll also make a big sale, change positions at work and dance with love that spans seasons and regions. Pisces and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 12, 7, 19 and 30.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Status is only as important as it is useful. Strive for the level that provides access to people, opportunities and resources that matter, and don't stop until you get there. But once you're there, don't exhaust yourself striving for more.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You let people know that their gestures are meaningful to you, even when things don't quite come together. The way you handle mishaps, mistakes and miscommunications with kindness says a lot about you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Just because a thought is negative doesn't mean it shouldn't be entertained, aired or examined. Express yourself. An uninvolved third party or private diary will be the sounding board you need to get it off your chest.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Because you've lived and loved on this planet awhile now, there's a room in your heart reserved for unconventional and hard-to-define relationships. Successful dealings are forecasted, especially with an ex-love or a friendly competitor.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Doing what's best for the group will be best for you, too, because a rising tide carries all ships. The collective needs something well within your expertise, and it will be a pleasure to give.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You don't have to argue to support your ideas. To simply accept that everyone has an opinion puts you in a position of strength and conserves your energy so you can apply it where it will make the most impact.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You give others credit for the role they play in your success. You don't always attribute the role others play in holding you back, though, and it's worth considering now. Be aware of who is helping or hurting your progress.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Once people take action, differences of style are easy to see. But in inaction, style is difficult to detect and people are hard to predict. Some inaction is neglect; other inaction is purposeful restraint aimed at a particular end.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The people who are most suited to or who most need what you're doing will show up and give their all. However, it may take a while for you to realize who fits the category. Be prepared to give plenty of guidance and incentives at first.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You are never too young or old to discover new ways your heart can love because there's a boundless quality to love that defies age and circumstance. Each stage has its own lessons in connection; each discovery opens your heart wider.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll be offered more help and support than you need. Don't turn any away. Having extra allows you to give with generosity and abandon, especially to those who would love you even if you had nothing to offer.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). What can you let go of? Clearing something away will do more for you than anything you could buy. The act of organization teaches you about your own priorities. One simple, satisfying shift will give you an instant boost of energy.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

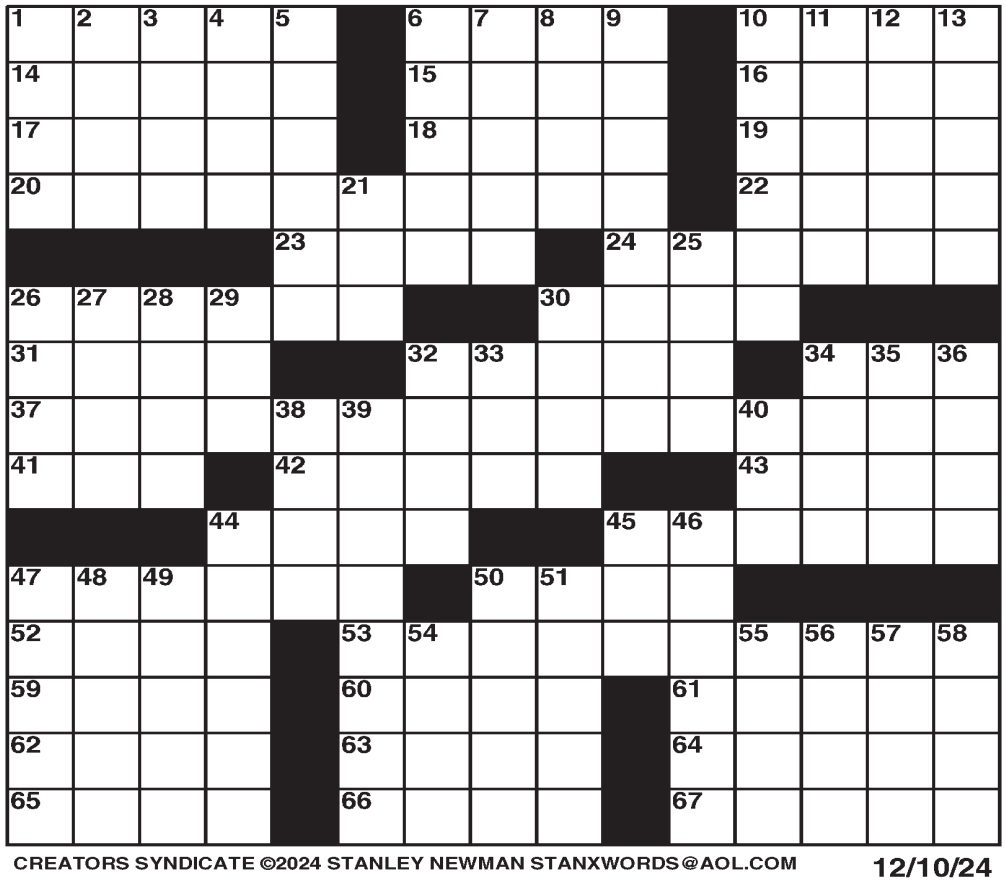
SANTA SAYS by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Fundamental
6 Picnic's shredded cabbage
10 Harvard U.'s state
14 Camel's South American cousin
15 Ancient legend
16 Female chorus member
17 From the largest continent
18 Apex
19 Stadium seating level
20 Major brat
22 Rival of Lyft
23 Facts and figures
24 In a spooky way
26 Represent officially
30 Back of the neck
31 Nile queen, for short
32 Florida cruise port
34 Very very softly, on music
37 Composer of "Georgia on My Mind" and "Stardust"
41 Football game distances: Abbr.
42 Oceanic weeds
43 Convertible or coupe
44 Lowest poker pair
45 Gin-and-lime cocktail
47 100-yard race
50 Unwanted email
52 "Are you out __?"
53 Magician's word
59 Competes at an auction
60 Flapjack restaurant chain
61 Like very much
62 Slight advantage
63 Ship of 1492
64 Cuban line dance
65 Fishing rod's spool
66 Departs
67 Elms and oaks

DOWN

1 Uninteresting, informally
2 In addition
3 Travel by boat
4 "If __ be so bold..."
5 Lacks the ability for
6 Brainy
7 Stretchy sportswear fabric
8 "Airy" prefix for sphere
9 "What is this place?"
10 Full-grown
11 Whodunit suspect's story
12 Strong alloy of iron
13 "My apologies"
21 Something to whisper into
25 Heroic tale
26 Sore from exertion
27 Clumsy person
28 Pekoe and Earl Grey
29 Haze in the air
30 Identify
32 Monthly publications, for short
33 Nest egg initials
34 McCartney or Revere
35 St. __ (Tampa neighbor)
36 Secret scheme
38 Show that you need a nap
39 Attire
40 Meat in an omelet
44 Christmas season glitter
45 Car tank filler
46 Collide with
47 Clear-headed
48 Self-esteem
49 Chain of hills
50 Breakfast biscuit
51 Cocoon residents
54 Cleveland's state
55 Strong aroma
56 Funnel shape
57 Egg on
58 Huge bodies of water



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12/10/24

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

COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

given that she hailed from a very modest, working class background. “I only wish my dad was alive to see because, you know, my parents became citizens here, and I remember it distinctly, standing in front of City Hall with a picture. So that part is very heartwarming, and I'm really excited to just embrace all of that,” she said.

She spoke of how many might not realize that the position of Mayor is not omnipotent or all-powerful. “We get asked or blamed for things that we really don't have a lot of control over, some of which are things outside of the city's hands.” she said,” adding, “So, my only fear is that there will be this expectation to address and attack major issues that are national issues like homelessness and crime and they'll expect to see immediate results that unfortunately, as an elected official in a charter city, are not unattainable.”

Davis put her own, unique stamp on Council by highlighting a different animal waiting to find their forever home at the Santa Monica Animal Shelter and Brock chose to highlight a different element of Santa Monica history each meeting. Many are curious as to how Negrete will personalize her mayorship.

“Mine is going to be a community voice video. We'll highlight a person and there'll be a forum that has three questions; what do you love most about Santa Monica? What issue would you like to see City Council address? And how are you giving back to your community? And those three simple questions, people can submit somebody, and we will highlight someone. And the goal is to highlight people of every age, from every background.”

Negrete said that years ago, when she was growing up, her first exposure to City Council was when her school sports team received a commendation and she hopes that by highlighting local residents, it might ignite an interest in local politics, where they had previously not been particularly interested.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

SMMUSD

FROM PAGE 1

rodents were getting into classrooms, staff worked to seal off any openings the small animals were using to enter the building, able to knock down the population, killing 75 rats just from the construction. Staff added that they don’t use any kind of harsh chemical to kill rodents, instead using the sealing method.

Lincoln Middle School also presented “quite a bit of projects,” including replacing HVAC drain lines on the campus’ roof, glass window repairs, and removal of water from an elevator pit. On the elementary level, staff dealt with work orders like water intrusion at Edison Language Academy and a renovation of the Roosevelt Elementary School athletic field.

Shifting over from maintenance to fundraising, the board heard a quarterly report from the Santa Monica Education Foundation, with new Executive Director Raymur Flinn sharing fundraising progress this year. Flinn stated that she has had an “amazing welcome” to the “very generous” community of Santa Monica.

The foundation has been able to fund $2.48 million in school programs, including adding a $50,000 contribution for middle school athletic programs. As of Oct. 31, the foundation was 46.7% complete in its goal of $1.8 million to the district for next year, with 20% of Santa Monica families donating thus far.

Families of SMASH (39%), Roosevelt (31%) and Franklin Elementary School (30%) have been the most giving as of Oct. 31. Flinn said that last year’s donation period ended with 34% of families giving, hoping to have more families participate. She added that “Pledge Week” from Oct. 6 through Oct. 13 was a “strong week,” with over $200,000 raised for the foundation.

thomas@smdp.com

WATER SUPPLY

FROM PAGE 7

the season we need to take a conservative approach to managing our water supply. Our wettest months of the season are still to come.

“What we do know is that we started the water year following record heat this summer and in early October that parched the landscape. We must account for dry soils in our State Water Project allocation planning and our runoff forecasts for the spring.”

That’s a fairly grim scenario that may already be outdated because it was made without counting the heavy rains and snows that hit the state in late November.

“These storms will be taken into account along with other variables for future allocation updates. Prior to these storms, the start of the water year had been dry and warm,” the department said. It’s also noteworthy that after the spate of storms, California’s weather has returned to dry and warm.

Another factor in the guessing game is the status of reservoirs, not only the state’s Lake Oroville, but the multiple storage projects managed by the federal government, such as Lake Shasta, and those owned by cities and irrigation districts.

At the moment, the state’s reservoirs are generally above 100% of historic averages after a couple of relatively wet winters, which indicate that ultimate water deliveries will be higher than the low initial estimates, although how much higher is uncertain. Shasta is at 113% and Oroville at 109%.

The annual guessing game would be more accurate if the state had done what it should have done decades ago — developed more storage capacity, either in reservoirs or aquifers, that could be filled in wet years and cushion the impact of drought.

A couple of storage projects are underway, Sites Reservoir on the west side of the Sacramento Valley and an enlargement of the San Luis Reservoir in the Pacheco Pass west of Merced.

Much more is needed as climate change affects the precipitation cycle.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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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.

WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 11

COMPUTER CLASS- INTRO TO GOOGLE DRIVE

10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Computer Training Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Learn how to use Google Drive to create, save, and share documents, photos and other files on the cloud. Intermediate level.

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS CLUB

4:30 - 6 p.m. Youth Activity Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Join the adventure for one-shot sessions with characters you have created or pick up a readymade character for the day’s journey. All materials provided. For ages 10-14.

GIFTS THAT GIVE BACK

6 - 10 p.m. Club Joyful, 2121 Lincoln Blvd., Venice. Presented by Global Women Foundation & Band Of Brothers, and Mayu Mission, join to celebrate the season of giving. This event features gifts that support nonprofits, local artisans and sustainable brands - spreading holiday cheer while making a difference in communities locally. To RSVP, visit: https://www.gwfbob.org/event-details-registration/gifts-that-give-back.

LITERARY LOUNGE

6:15 - 7:30 p.m. Courtyard Cafe, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Discover the joy of social reading at the Literary Lounge; a space for bibliophiles to bond over books, with music and refreshments. Bring your own book or choose one from a collection of staff favorites.

THURSDAY | DECEMBER 12

MUSIC CLASS FOR LITTLE ONES

10:30 - 11 a.m. Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave. A professional musician from Elemental Music leads babies, toddlers and their caregivers in this fun class which supports motor skills, language and cognitive development through singing, movement and play. For ages 4 months-3 years and their caregivers.

SONGS OF THE SEASON

11 a.m. - 12 p.m. MLK Jr. Auditorium, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. The Lyric Chorus of SMC Emeritus College puts you in the holiday mood with their seasonal favorites and festive Broadway tunes.

LIHI HOD EXCLUSIVE TRUNK SHOW

11 a.m. - 6 p.m. NWLA Bridal, 1627 Montana Ave., Suite D. For Los Angeles brides, step into a world where elegance meets enchantment with the Lihi Hod Dreams 2025 “Twilight” collection debut trunk show. Discover the new collection that brings effortlessly romantic vibes and timeless style for the modern bride. By appointment only, to book visit: https://www.lihihod.com/dreams-lihi-hod-events/#/popup/event/2.

OAKWOOD ROOTS FARMERS AND WELLNESS MARKET

11 a.m. - 6 p.m. 685 Westminster Ave., Venice. Oakwood Roots Venice Farmers’ and Wellness Market is a hub for local foods, wellness classes, and holistic healing. Dedicated to fostering a strong community, supporting local businesses, and advocating for sustainable practices. Join 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.

TECH & TASKS

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

Rent Control Board Meeting:

7 p.m. City Council Chambers, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. The Rent Control Board meets to conduct business associated with the Rent Control Charter Amendment and Regulations.

A TASTE OF CAYMUS VINEYARDS

7 - 9 p.m. Marina Del Rey Hotel, 13534 Bali Way, Marina del Rey. Embark on an exclusive tasting journey with Caymus Vineyards, a renowned Napa Valley winery, and savor their exquisite collection of wines. Ticket includes three-course dinner (starter, main, dessert), three wine pairings and a take-home souvenir. Tickets $86, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-taste-of-caymus-vineyards-at-the-marina-del-rey-hotel-tickets-768686902217.

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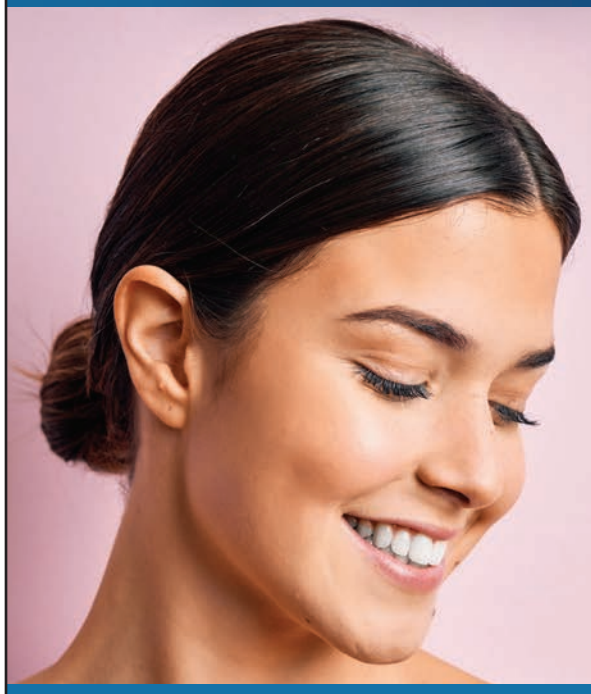
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