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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 25 Issue 18 WEDNESDAY 12/10/25 smdp.com

Grammy nominated singer killed by son at their Santa Monica home

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

A 71-year-old man was found dead with stab wounds inside his Delaware Avenue home Monday night, and his son has been taken into custody on suspicion of homicide, police said.

Santa Monica Police Department

SEE **MURDER** PAGE 11

New emails prompt new questions about timeline for controversial housing project with new Mayor defending the city's process

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Mayor Caroline Torosis is refuting accusations that newly released emails show she was aware of, and involved with, proposals to house mentally ill individuals on Ocean Ave. saying she personally thought the location was inappropriate but was prevented from commenting earlier due to the confidential nature of the process.

As proposed, the two buildings along Ocean Ave. would have housed about 50 individuals under

SEE **TOROSIS** PAGE 8

Seasonal fun in Santa Monica











Photos by Fran Lyness, City of Santa Monica and Devan Sipher.

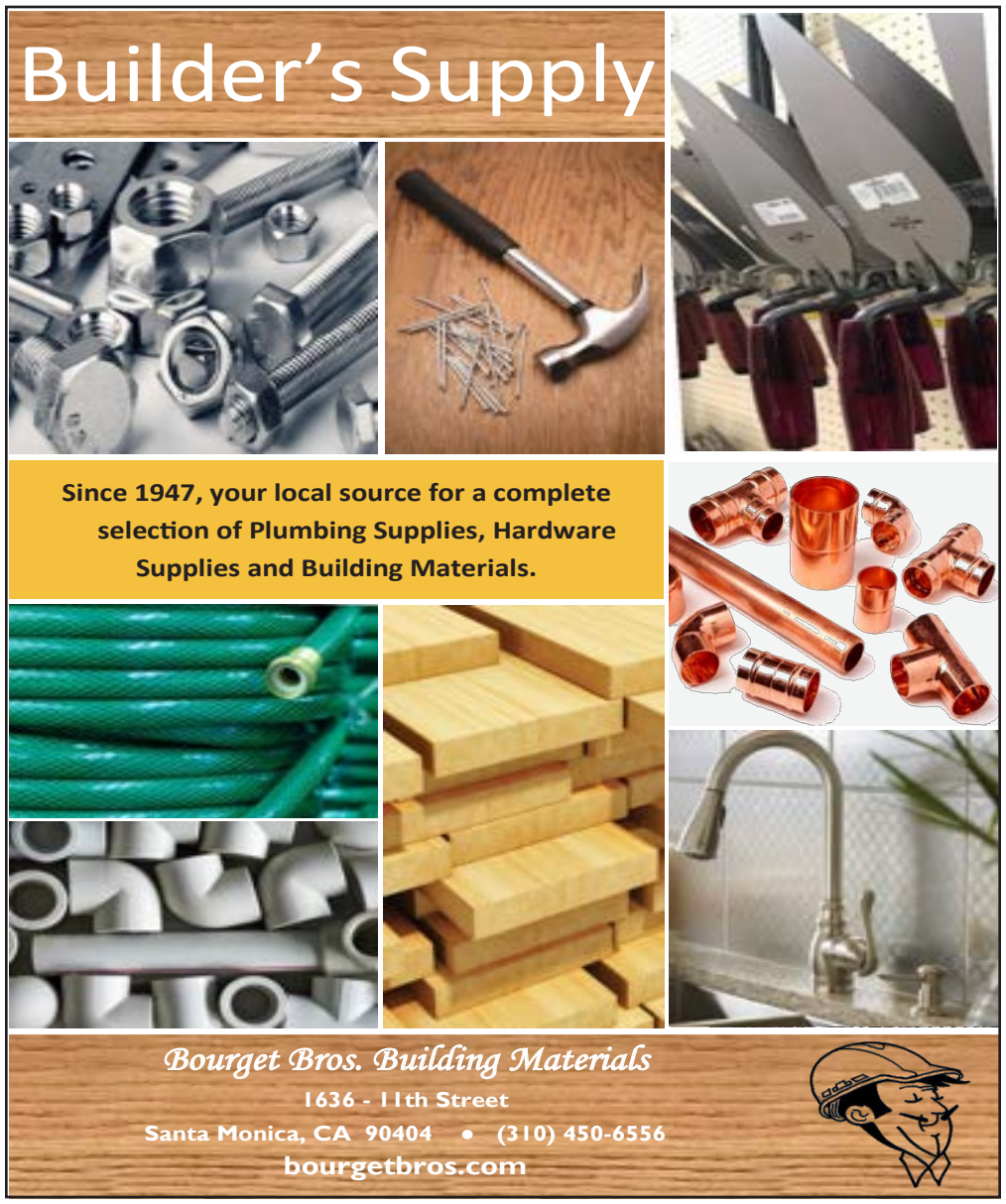
EVENTS: Santa Monica is getting into the spirit of the season with holiday events. Over the past week locals participated in the city's tree lightings, SMPD Candy Cane drive and the Montana Holiday Walk and several Menorah lightings are on tap for the coming days.

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Malibu takes historic step toward independent school district

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

After generations of struggle for local control over education, the Malibu City Council unanimously approved three foundational agreements Monday night that bring the city significantly closer to establishing an independent school district separate from Santa Monica.

The 5-0 vote at the Dec. 8 council meeting represented what officials and community members described as a watershed moment in a fight that began more than a decade ago, though Deputy City Attorney Christine Wood cautioned that actual implementation remains years away.

"We will not have a school district next school year," Wood told the packed council chambers. "We will have a district soon, and that's what this milestone represents, that the Malibu Unified School District will happen at some point, not next year, but at some point very soon."

The agreements, which the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education approved the previous week, establish the financial and operational framework for splitting the current unified district into two separate entities: Santa Monica Unified School District and Malibu Unified School District.

The three agreements address revenue sharing, operational transfer of assets and services, and establishment of a joint powers authority to oversee the transition.

Under the Revenue Sharing Agreement — described as the most significant component — property taxes from the future Malibu district would guarantee Santa Monica 4% annual growth in unrestricted revenue. Crucially, if Santa Monica achieves that growth independently, Malibu would contribute nothing.

"The revenue sharing agreement guarantees Santa Monica 4% annual growth and unrestricted revenue to the extent additional funding is needed," Wood said in her presentation. "The most significant thing about this is, if Santa Monica realizes their 4% growth on its own, there will be no contribution from the city, from the Malibu Unified School District."

The Operational Transfer Agreement addresses practical concerns including the division of assets, liabilities and programmatic resources between the two districts. A key provision ensures the new Malibu district would start with at least $7.5 million in reserves, even if standard allocation formulas would result in less — a concession Wood described as "significant" in negotiations.

The Joint Powers Agreement creates a seven-member governing body with three representatives each from Malibu and Santa Monica, plus one neutral member jointly selected. This authority would oversee property tax transfers and manage unexpected variances in the revenue-sharing formula.

The path to Monday's vote stretched back to 2011, when Advocates for Malibu Public Schools formed and gathered thousands of petition signatures. The city officially submitted its petition for separation to Los Angeles County's Committee on School District organization in August 2017.

After multiple delays for negotiations, the county committee recommended denial in June 2025 by a narrow 5-4 vote. The petition now sits before the State Board of Education. Meanwhile, mediation between the city and district that began in February 2022 produced the agreements approved Monday.

Councilmember Bruce Silverstein acknowledged the contentious history before voting. "I'll just echo everything everyone has said. You all speakers, you're amazing," Silverstein said. "I mean, this may be the first significant matter that I've sat up here and dealt with. Nobody spoke against us."

Mayor Marianne Riggins, who served on the school separation ad hoc committee, thanked dozens of current and former officials, consultants and residents by name for their contributions over seven years. But she also issued a warning about potential obstacles ahead.

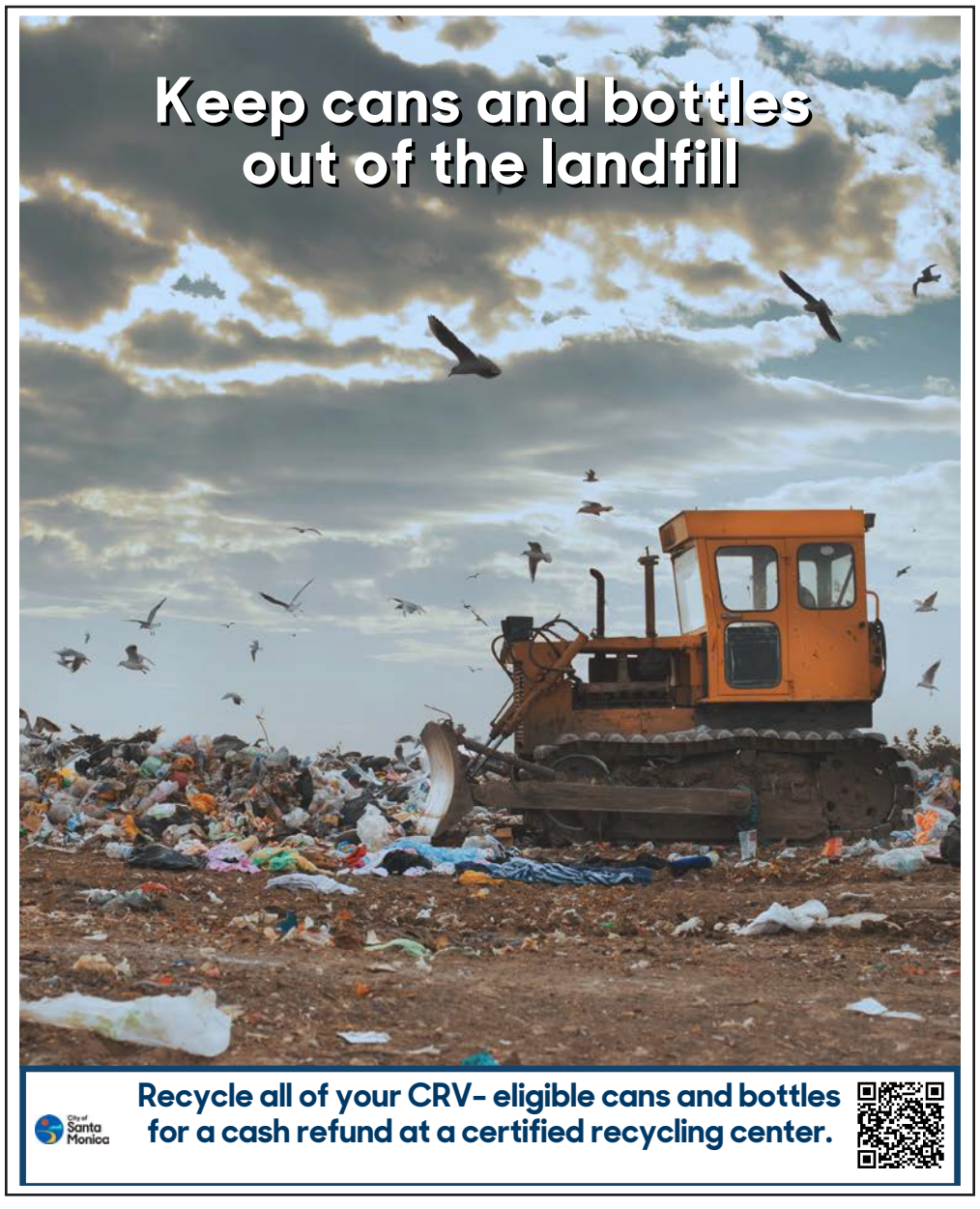
"The one thing that I heard from the Santa Monica district is their intent on having a full wide vote, including the city of Santa Monica," Riggins said. "I will do everything in my power and fight, fight, fight. And I think that that's going to be the big fight that we're going to keep it in the Malibu area as the affected area to vote for."

Next steps include working with the district to incorporate the agreements into the state approval process, securing special legislation to support implementation, and potentially completing environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Wood emphasized the collaborative approach needed moving forward while acknowledging uncertainty about timeline and process.

"There's still a question as to how to incorporate these agreements into the approval process," Wood said. "We will begin, literally tomorrow, working with the district to identify how to incorporate the agreements

SEE **MALIBU** PAGE 6







OPINION **UNMUTED**

Devan Sipher

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

What we won from the Ocean Avenue battle

Many in the Santa Monica community felt ambushed by the housing project plans on Ocean Avenue, resulting in great turmoil over the past two months. The drama continued over the Thanksgiving weekend when the property developer attempted to sneak in a sober living facility under the radar. I've rarely seen so many residents so agitated.

And that's a good thing.

People who normally pay no attention to Santa Monica politics were suddenly seeking out local news stories. The silent majority started speaking up and speaking out. Some of what they had to say was anger- or fear- based, and it would be hard to ignore the NIMBY aspect of upscale residents protesting their inclusion in county-wide housing efforts.

However, there were ample reasons to protest an ill-considered project with a self-serving developer. The city is currently planning to relocate the Santa Monica Shelter (SAMOSHEL) to reduce the negative impact on tourism and local businesses downtown, so it would seem counter-productive to open a facility equidistant from those same businesses and across the street from the Palisades Park. Either the left hand didn't know what the right hand was doing or the left hand was downright antagonistic to the city's "realignment."

Residents across the city felt threatened by the proposed projects and the lack of transparency. Some of them joined the North of Montana Association (NOMA) meeting devoted to the topic last Thursday, and I'm happy to report there were no pitchforks present, literal or metaphoric.

To the credit of Dr. Matt Goldenberg, the vice chair of NOMA who moderated Thursday's event, it was an even-tempered discussion, intended to enlighten rather than enrage. Multiple representatives from the city, county and state showed up to answer questions. I'd like to think that any neighborhood would have received the same response, though it's certainly possible that the resources and Rolodexes of NOMA played a part. (I'm dating myself with the Rolodexes.).

Surprisingly, there was a minimum of government gobbledy-gook or evasiveness. Instead, officials shared details and objectives without sugarcoating the challenges. Amy Perkins, the senior housing and homelessness deputy for County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, fielded the majority of the queries and did so with unflappable candor. When asked why the homelessness team would continue to work with a developer who had broken city laws, Ms. Perkins acknowledged "We often take what we can get."

She didn't challenge the objections to placing behavioral health bridge housing (BHBH) in Santa Monica, but she pointed out that if homeless people with severe mental illness aren't provided with housing, they will live on the streets, which is even more objectionable.

There are no easy solutions. Ms. Perkins provided assurances the county wouldn't impose housing facilities on the city, but she also informed attendees that the county is anticipating an increase in the homeless population in 2026 due to a loss of social service funding. This issue wasn't addressed by the moderator, and there wasn't even a whisper about how NOMA or any other neighborhood will respond if the city proposes moving SAMOSHEL somewhere nearby.

But the good news is that people in the community were engaged. They didn't all agree, and they didn't all have virtuous motives. Some of the commentary over the past couple months was unproductive (especially an unsigned defamatory mailer about the incoming mayor), and not everyone is satisfied with the outcome. But this is what democracy looks like. These words are often used as a simplistic slogan at protests. The reality is far more messy, confounding and time consuming.

However, at a time when the cracks in the foundation of democracy are all too visible across the country, here in this sliver of a city of Santa Monica when people show up, they can be heard and make a difference. That's the silver lining to the fear and frustration experienced. And that's a win for everyone.

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

GET IT DAILY...



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **62.8**

WEDNESDAY ***POOR TO FAIR*** | **SURF:** 1-2ft Knee to thigh

Up slightly, small but rideable on the right gear. Light offshores for early morning Lingering NW swell mix and traces of SSW swell for waves mainly under waist high. Low-incoming tide helps in the morning. Best suited for the micro groms and beginners. Light offshore flow and groomed clean in the morning. Light+ WNW onshores and dropping tide over the afternoon.

THURSDAY ***FAIR*** | **SURF:** 1-2ft Knee to thigh

Waves edge up as some fresh swell moves in. Morning winds looking light, PM onshores manageable. New mid-period WNW swell fills in, as a little SSW swell nudges up through the day, setting up thigh to waist high+ surf for good spots. Light/variable winds due much of the morning, followed by a manageable afternoon W sea breeze.

Weather

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 77. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west in the afternoon.
Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 54. North wind around 5 mph.
Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 74. North wind around 5 mph becoming west southwest in the afternoon.
Thursday Night: Clear, with a low around 54.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2025/12/10	Wed	02:32 AM	4.04	H
2025/12/10	Wed	07:20 AM	2.79	L
2025/12/10	Wed	12:58 PM	4.59	H
2025/12/10	Wed	8:17 PM	0.26	L
2025/12/11	Thu	03:28 AM	4.31	H
2025/12/11	Thu	09:11 AM	2.54	L
2025/12/11	Thu	2:21 PM	3.90	H
2025/12/11	Thu	9:12 PM	0.77	L
2025/12/12	Fri	04:15 AM	4.62	H
2025/12/12	Fri	10:42 AM	1.99	L
2025/12/12	Fri	3:54 PM	3.44	H
2025/12/12	Fri	10:02 PM	1.23	L
2025/12/13	Sat	04:55 AM	4.91	H
2025/12/13	Sat	11:47 AM	1.36	L
2025/12/13	Sat	5:22 PM	3.24	H
2025/12/13	Sat	10:45 PM	1.64	L
2025/12/14	Sun	05:29 AM	5.17	H
2025/12/14	Sun	12:37 PM	0.76	L

Daily Lottery

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Powerball — Draw Date: 12/8
8 32 52 56 64
Power#: 23
Jackpot: 930 M

Mega Millions — Draw Date: 12/5
34 38 42 44 69
Mega#: 8
Jackpot: 60 M

SuperLotto Plus — Draw Date: 12/6
6 10 30 42 43
Mega#: 19
Jackpot: 9 M

Fantasy 5 — Draw Date: 12/8
7 31 33 35 38

Daily 3 — Draw Date: 12/8
EVENING: 5 0 5
Draw Date: 12/8
MIDDAY: 8 9 0

Daily Derby — Draw Date: 12/8
1st: 06 - Whirl Win
2nd: 11 - Money Bags
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:47.20

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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GUEST COMMENTARY

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Who's seeking fire aid for Los Angeles, candidate Newsom or Gov. Newsom?

California Gov. Gavin Newsom, an all-but-certain candidate for president in 2028, jumped at the chance to address a forum of business executives and other A-list figures last week and burnish his credentials as President Donald Trump's most vocal critic.

> As the fire response has shifted into long-term recovery, the focus now is on rebuilding homes, schools, utilities and critical infrastructure while also supporting small businesses and job growth in the impacted region
>
> - Gavin Newsom, California Gov.

He excoriated attendees at a New York Times-sponsored event for being too accommodating of Trump, whom he accused of undermining democracy. He even suggested they should acquire the parody kneepads he's selling, for "groveling to Trump's needs."

"Some of you may need to buy them in bulk," he said.

"Some of you are probably fine with it," Newsom said as he ticked off Trump's authoritarian policies. "A lot of people figured it out. They know the game, state capitalism, crony capitalism, the great grift. A lot of you are doing extraordinarily well."

It was exactly what to expect from someone eyeing the White House, who hopes that positioning himself as Trump's resistor-in-chief would give him a leg up on other Democratic contenders.

Politico, a website devoted to politics, quoted an unnamed Newsom advisor as saying his confrontational presentation was deliberate. "So he came prepared to tell the truth," the advisor said.

A day later, Newsom landed in Washington, doffed his presidential candidate hat, donned his gubernatorial chapeau and asked Republicans who control Congress and the White House to give California $34 billion to help Los Angeles County communities recover from deadly wildfires that swept through the region nearly a year ago.

"As the fire response has shifted into long-term recovery, the focus now is on rebuilding homes, schools, utilities and critical infrastructure while also supporting small businesses and job growth in the impacted region," Newsom told congressional leaders in a letter, adding, "As in past and current disasters, complete recovery is not possible without essential federal aid. The state of California continues to respectfully request a supplemental appropriation for disaster funding to support key programs to aid survivors."

Respectfully? Newsom implies that he can portray Trump and other Republicans as agents of the devil and immediately ask them for many billions of dollars to help his very blue state recover from disaster.

The two days on the eastern seaboard encapsulate the bifurcated image Newsom will display during his final year as governor — aggressive candidate for the White House and chief executive of the nation's largest state.

There are conflicts as Newsom juggles the two roles, with his pleas for wildfire aid being an obvious one.

He knows that Trump demands obsequiousness from anyone seeking favors — exactly what Newsom cited in his New York presentation. The flip side of Trump's alpha-male psyche is that if flattery is not forthcoming, the seeker will likely be shunned.

"Back in January, the president looked me in the eye on the tarmac at LAX and promised me, and the people of LA, that he'd 'take care of it' as we rebuild and recover," Newsom said in a statement. "That commitment isn't being met, and instead he's leaving survivors behind. It's time for Trump to wake up and do his job."

Newsom knew that confronting Trump would probably doom any chance California had to get disaster aid. The White House even rebuffed Newsom's request for a meeting with Trump or other high-ranking officials.

"The Trump Administration refused a routine wildfire recovery meeting — a rejection we've never seen before — even as LA families near a year without

SEE **GUEST COMMENTARY** PAGE 6

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California's water partnerships are effective and in danger



Photo by Larry Valenzuela, CalMatters/CatchLight Local

FLOOD: Residents in Planada drive through a flooded neighborhood after a series of storms on Jan. 11, 2023.

In a year of profound shifts at the federal level, uncertainty has been the name of the game across the United States. Nowhere is that truer than in the California water world.

Over many decades, the state has forged a symbiotic relationship with federal agencies to manage its notoriously complex — and aging — water system. The state has worked with an alphabet soup of federal agencies to manage some of the worst floods and droughts the state has ever seen.

Research and technical expertise undergird all water-related activity in California, whether you're a farmer applying water to your crops, a utility providing clean drinking water to your customers or a municipality trying to protect your community from floods.

Fortunately the state is blessed with top-notch water experts, hailing from state and federal agencies, universities, consulting firms and nongovernmental organizations. They're responsible for many of the tools the state uses to manage its water. Any California water action relies on decades of applied research and experienced people to implement it.

Changes at the federal level have put this tight state-federal partnership in doubt.

SEE **WATER** PAGE 11

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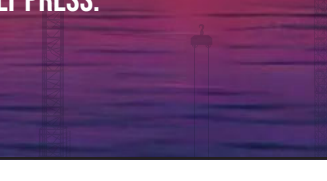
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Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have fallen 8.8 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $4.57/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 30.4 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 24.2 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has decreased 5.1 cents compared to a week ago and stands at $3.671 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at $3.73/g while the most expensive was $5.69/g, a difference of $1.96/g. The lowest price in the state was $2.81/g while the highest was $8.19/g, a difference of $5.38/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 5.0 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $2.90/g. The national average is down 17.6 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 7.3 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Santa Monica Daily Press

COMMUNITY NEWS

SMC

SMC Concert Chorale and Chamber Choir Present 'Home for the Holidays' Dec. 12

The Santa Monica College Music Department will present the SMC Concert Chorale and SMC Chamber Choir in "Home for the Holidays" on Friday, Dec. 12, at 7:30 p.m. in The Eli & Edythe Broad Stage at the SMC Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th St. at Santa Monica Boulevard.

The concert is under the direction of SMC music faculty Jeremiah Selvey Convento, with guest harpist Cristina Montes Mateo, SMC guitar faculty Ken Rosser and SMC music alum Adam McCrory, baritone.

"Home for the Holidays" features harp, marimba, guitar and vocal solos in collaboration with the voices of SMC's Concert Chorale and Chamber Choir. The evening's program will explore different experiences of the holidays through the music of Christmas carols from European and Hispanic diaspora, as celebrated in Benjamin Britten's A Ceremony of Carols and Conrad Susa's Carols & Lullabies, and the first-person immigrant stories of Dreamers in Melissa Dunphy's American DREAMers.

Tickets are $12 general admission, plus a modest service charge. Tickets are free for students with any student I.D. Advance tickets can be purchased online at smc.edu/tickets or by calling 310-434-3005 Monday-Friday. Tickets may also be purchased starting 45 minutes before the performance begins at The Broad Stage Box Office at the SMC Performing Arts Center. Free parking is available on premises. Seating is strictly on a first-arrival basis.

More information is available by calling 310-434-4323.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Ed Gandara

CONCERT: The Santa Monica College Music Department presents the SMC Concert Chorale and SMC Chamber Choir performing "Home for the Holidays" on Friday, Dec. 12, at 7:30 p.m.

MALIBU

FROM PAGE 2

into the approval process."

The emotional meeting drew families with young children, longtime advocates and former council members who had championed separation efforts years earlier. Multiple speakers described the moment as completing Malibu's original drive for cityhood 35 years ago.

maaz@smdp.com

GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 4

long-term federal financial help," Newsom spokesperson Izzy Gardon said in a statement. "The message to survivors is unmistakable: Donald Trump doesn't care about them."

Newsom made a choice, and candidate Newsom prevailed over Governor Newsom. As 2026 unfolds, we will see many other conflicts between the two personages. The candidate will probably continue to dominate.

Dan Walters, CalMatters Opinion Columnist

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Contact dina@smdp.com today!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Ocean Park

LoveBug & Me Music Hosts Annual Holiday Pajama Day Sing-Along

LoveBug & Me Music will host its annual Holiday Pajama Day Sing-Along, a festive, family-friendly event for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their caregivers.

Families are encouraged to come dressed in their holiday pajamas. Guests can enjoy live music, dance, sensory stations, a take-home art project and a special appearance by Santa Claus. The interactive concert includes Christmas, Hanukkah and winter holiday favorites, as well as LoveBug original songs.

> We're grateful to the families who return year after year to celebrate with us, and we always love to meet new lovebugs
>
> - Mary Arden Gorman, owner of LoveBug & Me Music

The December celebration will be held at Santa Monica's Tongva Park, steps from the Santa Monica Pier, starting Dec. 13. The outdoor park space offers plenty of room for strollers, blankets and energetic little ones, with restrooms and on-site security available. Tickets are open to the public.

A multi-award-winning program trusted across Los Angeles since 2012, LoveBug & Me Music provides music and art that nurtures creativity, confidence, social development and joyful family connection. With more than 100 weekly classes, the program offers engaging early childhood experiences including Family Music, Bilingual English/Spanish Music and Messy Sensory Art for ages 0-5, all built around hands-on interaction, movement and play.

"We're grateful to the families who return year after year to celebrate with us, and we always love to meet new lovebugs," said Mary Arden Gorman, owner of LoveBug & Me Music. "Welcoming Santa and our puppet mascot, LoveBug, to the stage makes the event a core memory. It's a wonderful opportunity for children to experience music, creativity and community all in one place."

For more information and tickets: https://lovebugandme.com/event/holiday-sing-alongs/

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy photo

EVENT: The interactive concert includes Christmas, Hanukkah and winter holiday favorites, as well as LoveBug original songs.



TOROSIS

FROM PAGE 1

the care of the St. Joseph Center. The facility would have been funded through a grant administered by the County but was first paused, then cancelled, when residents organized in opposition.

News of the project was first made public in October by then Mayor Lana Negrete. Since then, residents have questioned how the project was able to proceed, why they were not informed earlier and have demanded accountability from elected officials about its origins.

The new emails show communication to the City began in at least December of 2024 with a request from the project's representatives for the City to support a grant application.

A timeline provided by the City had previously listed March of 2025 as the start of preliminary discussions about the project.

Torosis, who became mayor Tuesday night, said the request was one of hundreds received by the Council and that her only involvement was to bring the request to the attention of then City Manager David White and Housing Director Heather Averick.

"If you could share a draft with us as well as more information about the projects that would be appreciated," she wrote.

Gina Gribow with Englander Knabe & Allen provided a summary of the project.

"I am reaching out to request your support for a grant funding application for proposed interim housing sites in Santa Monica. Our client Leo Pustilnikov owns a couple of former assisted living facilities in Santa Monica and is looking to transition them to interim housing with St. Joseph Center serving as the operator," she said. "In response to the LA County Department of Mental Health's request for applications for interim housing (through Shine BC LA, and with funding from California's Behavioral Health Bridge Program and the Mental Health Services Act), St. Joseph Center is submitting a proposal for grant funding for both of these sites. The proposed facilities will provide temporary safe and clean shelter, 24-hour oversight, bed availability, case management, restrooms and showers, laundry, meals, accommodations for service and support animals, security, and linens, hygiene products and toiletries. For reference, the facilities are located at 825 Ocean Avenue and 413 Ocean Avenue."

Staff then begin a discussion with the various representatives for the program that includes discussions about appropriate zoning for the project and a guarantee of dedicated beds for individuals originating in Santa Monica.

The City asked for, and eventually received, a promise to be able to use some of the beds at the facility but while the emails include the name of an attachment that appears to be a draft letter of support no letter was submitted by the city.

Torosis eventually asks to be kept in the loop as the project representatives work to contact staff members at Supervisor Lindsay Horvath's office.

Torosis said the request to support a grant application didn't constitute a final project and as such, wasn't something she paid close attention to at the time.

"To insinuate we did anything other than handing off a request to staff is incorrect," she said. "We get hundreds of requests and I only found out that it was actually a project at the same time as the rest of council."

She said the idea was worth staff time to evaluate even if she ultimately felt the location was inappropriate.

"It's my responsibility as a Councilmember to explore improving the quality of life for all residents, not just those with resources," she said.

The project was first made public by then Mayor Lana Negrete. There have been questions raised about the timing of her knowledge and while Negrete has said she may have missed or failed to remember early communications she has maintained she spoke up publicly as soon as she realized it was happening.

A prior release of emails included a statement from the project representatives that said they had been working with Torosis and city staff on both funding and concept. When that email was made public, Torosis denied working with the developers and at a public meeting she denied early knowledge of the project.

During the Oct. 14 Council meeting, speakers said any possible collaboration between the council and the developer was a betrayal of the public trust and Torosis was accused of collusion dating back to Nov. 2024.

"I just want to refute that statement that was just made. It is not true that I've known about this project since then," Torosis said at that meeting. She said she did not want to say more at that time given a pending threat of litigation over the subject.

Torosis reiterated this week that the initial email in 2024 was vague and after forwarding it to staff, she hadn't spent any time working with or on it in a way that would constitute prior knowledge.

"To insinuate I knew something about this project when there was not a project is false," she said. "If I'm guilty of anything it's of forwarding this to staff."

Torosis was part of a subsequent unanimous council vote for new transparency standards for supportive and transitional housing projects, responding to the community backlash over a proposed behavioral health facility. Negrete drafted the measure to direct staff to develop coordination protocols with Los Angeles County and developers to ensure community engagement before projects advance.

The framework requires written council briefings when projects are first discussed, comprehensive community engagement, clarification of zoning requirements, and creation of a communications system including a webpage and hotline.

Pustilnikov, who does not own the properties but does have a master lease on them, did not give up after the initial project was rejected. Instead he pivoted over Thanksgiving and attempted to open a sober living facility in the buildings with a different operator and funding source. Individuals were moved into at least one of the buildings the day overnight and without the required permits or business license. The illegal housing operation was shut down by the City within days of opening and as of today, both remain vacant.

editor@smdp.com



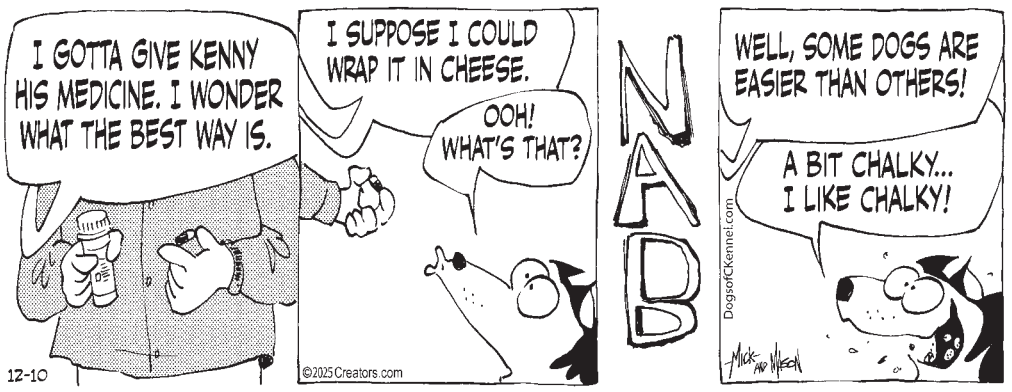
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



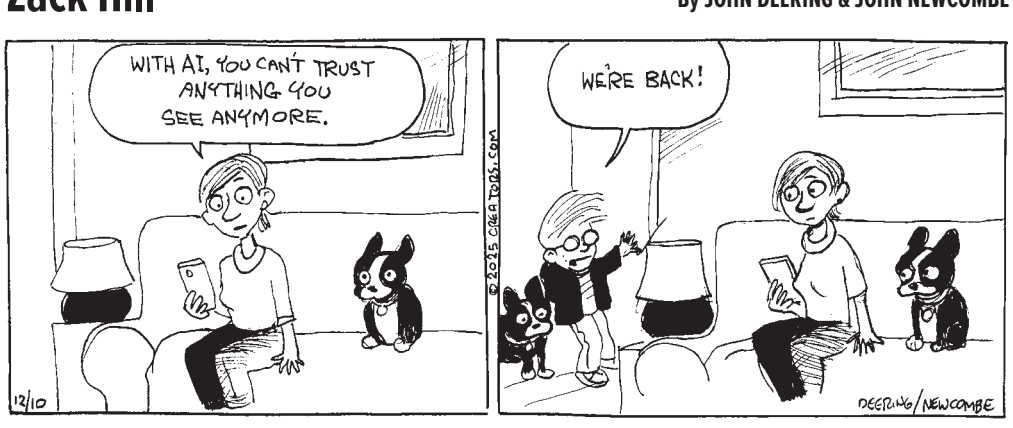
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



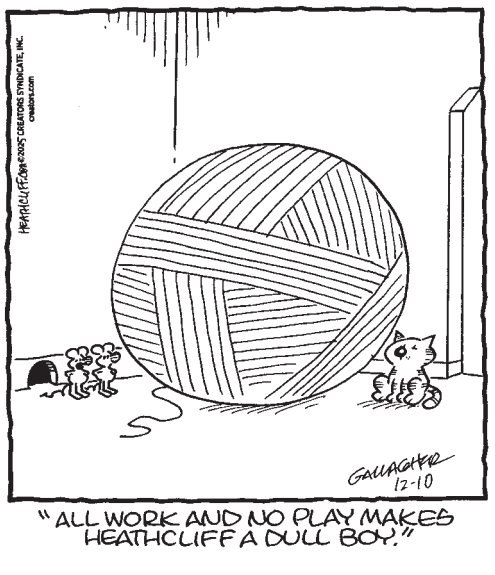
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6785

Points on a map

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

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Nepal
Nice
Oman
Osaka
Oslo
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 10)

Welcome to your Year of the Bright Bridge. With kind observations, a sharp mind and ever-improving communication skills, you'll connect worlds - art and commerce, old and new, local and global - and find yourself in the sweet spot where magic meets momentum. More highlights: family peace, creative recognition and prosperity that reflects your growth. Aries and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 19, 27, 38 and 21.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). When you count your blessings, you feel fortunate. Most of your problems would be considered minimal on a global scale. Knowing someone, somewhere, would relish your worst-case scenario really puts things in perspective.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The right teacher will be the difference between picking up a skill or not. There are many who know the thing you want to learn, and a bit of shopping around will be well worth the time, effort and money.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're feeling impulsive and adventurous, and that's not a bad thing. When you act with joyful abandon instead of fear or hesitation, even your "mistakes" become stories worth telling. Passion purifies folly.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). People relax around decisive energy. It feels like safety and direction. And when action begins, clarity follows. So take a breath, step back, and give your nervous system a moment to settle. Then, on your marks, get set ... go!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Saying, "Tell me what you think I know" is a helpful directive because sometimes people think you are privy to information you just don't have, and you'll never know where the confusion lies until you ask more questions. You will learn something that sorts out the confusion.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The gears you've been grinding are finally turning smooth. Don't slow down now; stay in rhythm with the magic you've built. Momentum is a living thing; feed it gratitude and watch it spin gold from your effort.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Rumors will fly. Don't be bothered by any unverified information. While you could pursue further investigation, you could also benefit from staying out of it completely for now. What's important will resurface more fully later, sparing you the work.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Cancel the noise and keep what's really helping you execute your plans and stick with your purpose. Every time you prune a bill, habit or regret, your energy comes back doubled. Simplification is freedom.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Emotional accounting brings surprising profits. Start the day by unloading the stories that weigh you down. When you clear your inner ledger, space opens for decisive action, strategic creation and measurable wins.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You may be put on the spot, but it doesn't mean you should scramble to come up with anything or pretend to be something you're not. Just your truth, plus good manners, is enough. If they need you to put on a big show, they are the ones mistaking performance for connection.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Breaking family patterns is sacred rebellion. It rewrites the DNA of love itself. Celebrate your small daily wins as generational miracles. Also, you may feel like you're overanalyzing sometimes, but the fact that you care to analyze at all? That's remarkable.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're thinking about change, and much of it's physical. Other plans go better when you feel strong. Training that builds stamina and steadiness builds power, too - the kind that supports every creative, emotional and practical goal you've set.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

Newsday Crossword

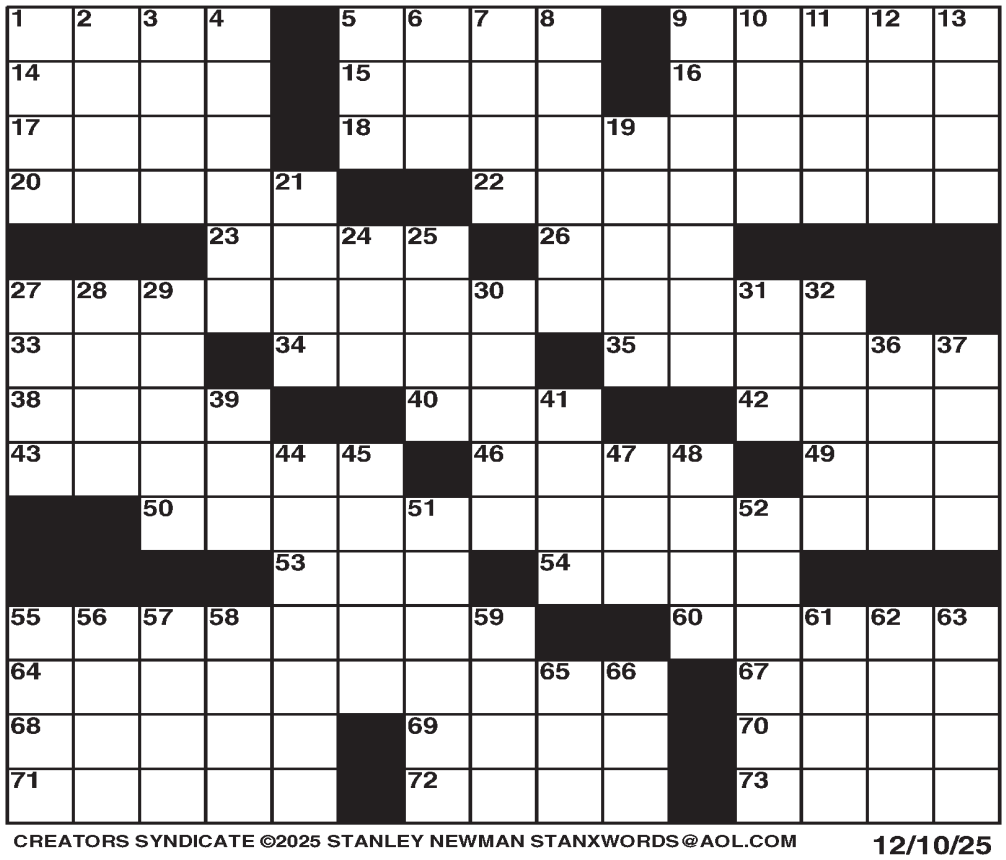
GAME RECTANGLES by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Historical periods
5 Small metric weight
9 Unable to move
14 Chianti, to Italians
15 Simple to do
16 Electric car brand
17 Caesar's rebuke
18 Hands-and-feet floor game rectangle
20 Horse sound
22 Woo with a song
23 Attila's followers
26 Once around a racetrack
27 Super Bowl rectangle
33 Rustic hotel
34 "Go away!"
35 Most factual
38 Actor Guinness
40 Public school support grp.
42 Great joy
43 Rare blood category
46 Become fatigued
49 Light brown
50 Rectangle with Park Place and Chance
53 Cube on a 50 Across
54 Row of stitches
55 Paths on a rural road
60 Dough-rising ingredient
64 Heavyweight match rectangle
67 Guitar ancestor
68 "You __ kidding!"
69 Dog Chow alternative
70 British prep school
71 Actress Zellweger
72 Spanish bull
73 Pulls from behind

DOWN

1 __ so (nevertheless)
2 Formal ceremony
3 Prefix for freeze
4 Searched for
5 Obtain
6 Not yet cooked
7 With no guarantee
8 Me, __ and I
9 Harder to climb
10 Seagull cousin
11 West Point sch.
12 Dressed (in)
13 Princess of Wales, in headlines
19 Characteristic sound
21 Major airports
24 "I'll pass!"
25 Swine food
27 Italian car
28 Nothing but
29 Latish lunch hr.
30 State-run numbers game
31 Carry wearily
32 River mouth formation
36 Burn just a bit
37 Baby-sit
39 Corp. leader
41 Is under the weather
44 Slow tempo
45 Trampoline spring
47 Sandwich bread
48 Internet auctioneer
51 Watch closely
52 Egg-and-cheese order
55 Sort of ski lift
56 Was dressed in
57 Plow-pulling beasts
58 Bit of poetry
59 Grain storage structure
61 Thing in a lot's spot
62 Load, as cargo
63 Change for a twenty
65 Noncommercial audio network
66 Sticky stuff



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12/10/25

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

MURDER

FROM PAGE 1

officers responded to a residence in the 1700 block of Delaware Avenue at approximately 9:20 p.m. Monday after receiving a 911 call reporting an assault in progress.

Officers arrived and were directed inside the home by the reporting party, where they found Jubilant Sykes suffering from critical injuries consistent with a stabbing, according to police. Santa Monica Fire Department personnel pronounced Sykes dead at the scene.

His son, Micah Sykes, 31, was found inside the residence and taken into custody without incident, police said. He will be booked on suspicion of homicide.

Detectives from the department's Criminal Investigations Division secured the scene and obtained a search warrant. Forensic specialists are processing physical evidence, including a weapon recovered at the scene, police said.

The circumstances surrounding the incident remain under investigation. Homicide investigators remained at the scene Tuesday morning documenting evidence. Crime scene tape was placed on the street outside the home and inside the residence.

Police said the incident appears to be isolated and occurred within a private residence, with no ongoing threat to the community. Officers have maintained a presence in the area throughout the investigation.

Sykes was a Grammy nominated singer who grew up in Los Angeles, where he sang soprano as a child. He has performed with guitarist Christopher Parkening and appeared at venues including the Metropolitan Opera, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, London's Barbican Centre, the Apollo Theater, Hollywood Bowl and New Orleans Jazz Festival.

The case will be presented to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office for filing consideration.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Peter Zamfirov at (310) 458-8451 or peter.zamfirov@santamonica.gov, or the Watch Commander at (310) 458-8427.

editor@smdp.com

WATER

FROM PAGE 5

The dust has yet to settle on the cuts — including the impact of the recent shutdown — but the effects are already being felt, just as storm season gets underway in California. These cuts already are impacting flood forecasting and emergency response.

The California-Nevada River Forecast Center is reducing the frequency of its flood predictions. And staff reductions of emergency responders and at regional National Weather Service offices mean fewer people will respond to extreme weather events, which puts Californians at risk.

The loss of institutional expertise is harder to quantify, though it's vital to managing droughts and floods, protecting human health and restoring ecosystems.

The state must keep water flowing for the wellbeing of California's residents, economy, and ecosystems. It's equally important to be ready for droughts, floods, fires and other natural hazards.

Fortunately, in recent years, Californians have come together to find pragmatic solutions to water problems.

Voters have shown they are all in on water, with most passing bond measures that fund crucial work. Partnerships once considered impossible — between agriculture and environmentalists, or cities and farms — are becoming the gold standard in this state.

Research is helping us use scarce water wisely.

In a recent report, we at the Public Policy Institute of California make recommendations for where research dollars should go. We need to keep better track of our water, find new ways of funding big projects and develop new tools for the new problems we're facing.

"California's farms, communities, and ecosystems would all benefit from more accurate and timely systems to track how rain and snowmelt move through soils, vegetation, groundwater, rivers, and wetlands," the study says.

"Just as important are improved tools to monitor and measure water use — across agriculture, cities, and the environment — so that managers can respond quickly and effectively to changing conditions. Without these systems, water planning, management, and emergency services are all hamstrung."

The challenges confronting California water are not going away. The state will need to step up to fund and maintain the technical expertise needed to manage our water systems.

Now is the time to double down on research. The governor, the Legislature and researchers can work collectively by setting priorities, allocating funds and collaborating with other western states.

We've done hard things before; we can do it again.

Jeffrey Mount is a senior fellow at the PPIC Water Policy Center. Letitia Grenier is director and a senior fellow at the PPIC Water Policy Center.





WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 10

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET - WEDNESDAY MARKET

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Downtown Santa Monica Arizona Avenue (Between 4th & Ocean) Santa Monica. One of the largest grower-only Certified Farmers Market in Southern California and a favorite for local chefs! Enjoy one of Santa Monica's farmers markets, widely considered to be among the best on the west coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheeses, and more. Downtown Farmers Market Locations: Wednesdays at Arizona Ave & 2nd St and Saturdays at Arizona & 3rd St. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/downtown-farmers-market-wednesday-market/12382446/2025-12-03T08

PET PHOTOS WITH SANTA

4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Santa Monica Place 395 Santa Monica Pl, Santa Monica. Bring your cats and dogs for festive photos with Santa! Pets must be on a leash or in a carrier. December 10 & 11 | 4 - 7 p.m. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/pet-photos-with-santa/17477348/2025-12-10T16

ANNUAL HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE AND POLICY UPDATE

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Santa Monica Place 395 Santa Monica Pl, Santa Monica. Please join us for our Annual Holiday Toy Drive and Policy Update, in partnership with Connections for Children and Safe Place for Youth! This will be a great opportunity to give back and help local families in need this holiday season, as well as for us to discuss the top legislative and district issues going into the new year. Come enjoy live music, spirited conversation, and free snacks and beverages. A donation is not required to attend the event. However, if you are able, please consider bringing a new, unwrapped toy that will be distributed to local families in the coming weeks. If you have any questions on this matter or need any assistance, please feel free to contact our Capitol office at (916) 651-4024 or our district office at (310) 414-8190. You can also visit our website for additional resources. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/annual-holiday-toy-drive-and-policy-update/17552086/2025-12-10T17

ORIGINAL UNDERSTUDIES

8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Mi's Westside Comedy Theater 1323-A Third Street Promenade Santa Monica. The Bear Supply Hour is now Original Understudies. The same high energy comedy that was once named one of "The 100 Best Things in Comedy" by The Comedy Bureau, is now joined by a cast of both fresh and veteran comedians in fast-paced sketch and long form improv. Every show features special guests creating a high-octane, freakishly entertaining, one-of-a-kind improvised spectacle. $11.49. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/original-understudies/15018109/2025-12-10T20

THURSDAY | DECEMBER 11

SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Santa Monica Public Library 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Santa Monica. This is a regular meeting of the Library Board held on the second Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Main Library, Administration Conference Room, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. The public is welcome to attend. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/santa-monica-public-library-board-meeting/14604496/2025-12-11T18

RENT CONTROL BOARD MEETING

7:00 p.m. Santa Monica City Hall 1685 Main Street Santa Monica. The Rent Control Board meets to conduct business associated with the Rent Control Charter Amendment and Regulations. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/rent-control-board-meeting/13406661/2025-12-11T19

FOOTBALL SHOWINGS AT THE WHALER!

101 Broadway CA 90401 Contact Info (424) 330-0166 info@venicewhaler.com Does not apply on holidays Santa Monica. Enjoy food & drink specials during every football game! The Whaler shows every college and nfl game on all tvs every week all season! (Sound is only on if that is the only game playing. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/football-showings-at-the-whaler-/17408731/2025-12-11T00

FRIDAY | DECEMBER 12

DRUNK THEATRE: THE WILDEST IMPROV COMEDY SHOW!

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse 1211 4th St, Santa Monica. A comedian takes five shots of whiskey in a row and tries to perform an improvised play with five sober comedians. What could go wrong?! Drunk Theatre is the entirely improvised, unpredictable, and crazy comedy show that'll kick your weekend into overdrive. Reserve your spot now as limited seating and space is available. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/drunk-theatre-the-wildest-improv-comedy-show-/15793351/2025-12-12T08

BRUNCH FRIDAYS WITH LIVE MUSIC IN OUR GARDEN PATIO!

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

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Let's be honest, most gifts end up collecting dust but people actually remember and use our rental packs again and again.



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4175 Admiralty Wy, Marina del Rey, CA (Entry on Palawan or Marina Lot #10)