2 **Council**
Full agenda for new dais.

3 **Becoming Santa Monica**
On Santa Monica Airport.

5 **Disaster relief**
Money left on the table.

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

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 23 | TUESDAY 12/17/24 | smdp.com

LA County reported hate crimes spike to highest in decades



Courtesy Graphic

HATE CRIMES: An annual report on hate crimes in Los Angeles County had some troubling statistics.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

The growing feeling of stoked racial fires across the country has been crystallized locally with a damning new report.

This past week, the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations released its annual report on hate crimes, focusing on those reported throughout LA County in 2023. The amount of reported hate crimes skyrocketed from 930 in 2022 to 1,350 in 2023, the highest number in the history of the report dating back to 1980.

The previous high water mark was 1,031 hate crimes reported in 2001, due in part to the September 11th attacks. According to California state law, hate crime charges may be filed when "there is evidence that biased based on the victim's actual or perceived race, ethnicity or ancestry; religion; nationality; disability; gender; or sexual orientation; or association with a person or group with or perceived to have one or more of these characteristics" is a "substantial factor in motivation for crime."

Two particular spikes were in anti-transgender and religious crimes, with the former increasing 125%, with 97% of the crimes being violent. Religious crimes spiked 90%, including the largest amount of anti-Jewish crimes (242) ever recorded.

The report noted that while 72% of sexual orientation-motivated hate crimes occurred in the City of Los Angeles, there was also a cluster of such crimes in Santa Monica, including an incident on April 15. In that incident, a lesbian Latina couple were victims of a suspect attempting to pull down one of the victim's pants while yelling "she's not a man." Another occasion saw the suspect stealing money from both victims.

Similarly, the majority (77%) of reported religious crimes took place in Los Angeles proper, but Santa Monica was noted as a "small cluster" area alongside Beverly Hills, Burbank, Long Beach and West Hollywood. One such incident occurred on Feb. 20, 2023 when a suspect made anti-Jewish comments and attempted to steal a victim's tip money. When the victim moved tip money away from the suspect, the suspect brandished a stun gun, threatening to shoot the victim.

Santa Monica Police Department records show seven recorded hate crimes from January through September 2023, with 11 victims of crimes ranging from Anti-Jewish and Anti-homosexual to Anti-Black incidents.

While the numbers are staggering, part of the growth in reported hate crimes was due to increased use of the reporting mechanisms LAvsHate.org and 211, which LA County Commission on Human Relations President Helen Chin said was a "signal that more people are coming forward to report hate crimes and are refusing to accept the normalization of hate."

"Hate crimes don't just target individuals - they harm entire communities," Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Kathryn Barger added. "They are an attack on the very fabric of who we are, and the shared values that unite us. That's why this report is so important - it's more than just data. It serves as a mirror, reflecting the challenges we face and the work we must do to create a County where everyone feels safe, respected and valued."

In the first hate crime report received after he won the county's District Attorney position, Nathan Hochman said that the rise in hate

SEE **HATE CRIMES** PAGE 11



A full agenda awaits the new councilmembers in Tuesday's meeting

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

The first meeting for newly elected City councilmembers Dan Hall, Ellis Raskin, Barry Snell and Natalya Zernitskaya features a record 26 items on the Consent Calendar, so depending on how many are pulled for discussion will very much determine if the inaugural assembly sails into the early hours or is a more efficient affair.

However, among those many items are several of interest, including entering an agreement with the Hollywood Community Housing Corporation as the selected development team for affordable housing on three City-owned sites adjacent to Wilshire Blvd.

There is also a request for more Taser devices for the Police Department and to enter into an agreement for more closed circuit television camera equipment, costing $716,562 over three years, plus uniforms for the Fire Department at a cost of $415,000 over five years.

Moreover, subjects being discussed behind closed doors in Closed Session include negotiations of a lease for the landmark Civic Auditorium; the ongoing lawsuit of the Pico Neighborhood Association et al. v. City of Santa Monica voting rights case, litigation spearheaded by Oscar de la Torre's wife, Maria Loya; and the appointment of an interim City Manager.



Courtesy image

COUNCIL: The Santa Monica City Council as it will look for at least the next two years.

The lawsuit advocating the switch to district-based elections has been contested for over eight years, from the County Superior Court to the State Supreme Court and back again, costing taxpayers in the City of Santa Monica some $14 million in legal fees already. Loya and others allege that the City's at-large voting system discriminates against Latino voters and subsequently sought a move to district voting. However, it is extremely unlikely that this new, far left-leaning majority will settle.

David White's surprise resignation last week means that, as former councilmember Gleam Davis mentioned in her exit speech a week ago, this will be Santa Monica's fourth

SEE **COUNCIL** PAGE 4

GARDENWORKS
Landscaping & Maintenance

NEED HELP WITH YOUR OUTDOOR SPACE?
Garden Works landscaping team is here to help!

WHAT WE OFFER:
- Complete Yard Clean-Up
- Lawn Mowing & Trimming
- Landscape Maintenance
- Mulching & Planting Services
- Tree Trimming

HOT OFFER:
$80.00-$90.00 PER VISIT!

WHY CHOOSE US?
- Experienced and dedicated team
- Customized solutions for every client

BOOK YOUR VISIT TODAY!
Call us at [310-930-5353] | text [310-930-5353] | Visit us at LandscapingTreeLA.com

Phoenix
Classical Pilates

Phoenix Classical Pilates, keeping Santa Monica strong and flexible since 2018!

Want to feel more energetic and younger?

At Phoenix Classical Pilates, we can give you a strong, pain-free body. We specialize in private, semi-private and small group classes.

Sign up for one of our Intro Offers;
3-Group Classes for $89 or 3-Private Sessions for $275!

www.phoenixclassicalpilates.com
hello@phoenixclassicalpilates.com | 424-835-2810



OPINION | BECOMING SANTA MONICA

Miles Warner

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Don't close the airport until there is an approved plan

We are a deliberative city. We think carefully about everything we do. Every decision has got to meet the highest standards of environmental impact and societal benefit before anything moves forward. And it can seem almost comical the lengths we go to be all together progressive.

Take for example one trip I had to the new city hall where there appeared to be no air conditioning and the meeting room had fans. For a hot summer day, it was not comfortable. The deliberation and ideological forwardness had gone too far.

There's an honesty and relief in accepting oneself and as a city, that is who we are. We should not deceive ourselves that we will act in any other way with the once in a lifetime opportunity that the closure of the Santa Monica Airport provides our city.

The visions for future uses (and combinations of uses) of the airport's nearly 200 acres vary wildly. Many want more housing. A loud group wants to turn it into a large park space. Others see a future innovation and technology incubation district.

This is huge decision and it will require master plans and lots and lots of funding. I'm sure you're aware, but Santa Monica is basically broke. Yes, our wealthy little utopia by the sea has legal and general fund obligations that preclude billion-dollar projects anytime soon. So, funding this transformation will take planning and clarity of mind.

Well, let's just issue bonds, right?!

This is where I step in to be a sadly righteous—this is why you don't approve bonds for SMC's foreign student housing or SMMUSD's adventure in rebuilding every school with new luxury buildings that often don't work—or in some cases leak for 20 years and have to be closed down due to mold. More bonds equal more risk and higher interest rates—eventually there is a maximum you can borrow.

So, bonds are of little help here.

Who's going to pay for the environmental remediation? There was an aircraft factory that operated during periods before current environmental regulations existed, where heavy metals and other contaminants we're lost to the soil. Whoever decides to develop this land will have to spend some serious money. If it's not the city itself, there will have to be big financial incentives to outside developers... If it is the city, there will have to be big funds waiting for the terrifying surprises locked in these pre-war leaded crypts.

If we decide to go with outside developers, are we going to lease the land or sell it? How are we going to determine the specific uses? We'll need a master plan. We will need design committees and impact committees.

These things take time and money—a lot of time and a lot of money.

Who is going to patrol the fenced emptiness while we as a city go back and forth for years or decades? The buildings and streets will decay without use. SMPD, who is already quite busy, will have an added responsibility to keep squatters from setting up shop. One could imagine whole encampments as we saw in Oakland, where a similar abandoned industrial area gave rise to a village of squatters. More money. More time.

So, let's leave the airport open until we have an agreed upon plan. Let's have the people who currently spend their time and money to keep the airport operational keep doing that. We have the 'ok' from the FAA to shut it down, so let's form an official task force and really do the difficult work of pricing in the environmental and financial impact of different ideas. Once we've come up with what we want to do, let's outline how we're going to do and then, THEN set a time table to close the airport.

Because what is not being talked about here enough, is the technological evolution that is just around the corner. There is a world of electric airplanes that are quiet and safe that might transform how we operate as a society. We might be very glad that we still have the infrastructure in place to board a small electric flying machine and whisp off to San Diego or San Francisco.

When we have funding, when we have a plan in place, then we act. Until then, we wait and let the airport operate as it has for nearly 100 years. For much of our city's early periods, the airport and the ocean were our economic drivers. There is such an opportunity here—let's be smart. Let's take our time and get it right.

Let's keep the airport open until we have an agreed upon plan.

Exploring the emerging and changing identity of our city. And stirring the pot ... a bit. Send comments to editor@smdp.com or reach Miles directly at @mileswarnerSM



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **57.0**

TUESDAY
POOR

SURF: Shin to knee
0-1FT

Continued NW swell. Light winds due in the morning but mind the 6'+ mid morning high tide.

WEDNESDAY
POOR TO FAIR

SURF: Shin to knee
0-1FT

Keep an eye on the early AM tide push. A deep high tide bogs down the later morning, then surf improves again in the afternoon as the tide backs out. Expecting there will be decent NW swell on tap through the day, plus a little S swell, with a favorable wind outlook.

Weather

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 67.
Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 53.
Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 71.
Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 53.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2024/12/17	Tue	03:24 AM	2.45	L
2024/12/17	Tue	09:40 AM	6.41	H
2024/12/17	Tue	5:12 PM	-1.11	L
2024/12/18	Wed	12:02 AM	3.69	H
2024/12/18	Wed	04:13 AM	2.59	L
2024/12/18	Wed	10:24 AM	5.91	H
2024/12/18	Wed	5:56 PM	-0.69	L
2024/12/19	Thu	12:55 AM	3.70	H
2024/12/19	Thu	05:08 AM	2.73	L
2024/12/19	Thu	11:09 AM	5.31	H
2024/12/19	Thu	6:40 PM	-0.20	L
2024/12/20	Fri	01:49 AM	3.77	H
2024/12/20	Fri	06:13 AM	2.85	L
2024/12/20	Fri	11:58 AM	4.64	H
2024/12/20	Fri	7:24 PM	0.30	L
2024/12/21	Sat	02:43 AM	3.91	H
2024/12/21	Sat	07:40 AM	2.85	L
2024/12/21	Sat	12:57 PM	3.96	H
2024/12/21	Sat	8:09 PM	0.80	L
2024/12/22	Sun	03:32 AM	4.12	H
2024/12/22	Sun	09:34 AM	2.57	L
2024/12/22	Sun	2:18 PM	3.35	H
2024/12/22	Sun	8:56 PM	1.27	L

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: 12/14
12 17 23 52 67
Power#: 1
Jackpot: 55 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/13
36 43 52 58 65
Mega#: 16
Jackpot: 740 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 12/14
9 10 17 33 45
Mega#: 8
Jackpot: 8 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/15
6 7 9 10 18

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/15
EVENING: 6 5 6
Draw Date: 12/15
MIDDAY: 6 0 1

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/15
1st: 01 - Gold Rush
2nd: 04 - Big Ben
3rd: 02 - Lucky Star
Race Time: 1:46.07

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Jack Neworth,
David Pisarra.

CIRCULATION
Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com

Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Scott Snowden
scott.snowden@smdp.com

Thomas Leffler
thomas@smdp.com

DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

MARKETING MANAGER
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

1640 5th Street, Suite 218
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

AWARD WINNER

Sustainable Quality Awards
WINNER

The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 8,200 on weekdays and 8,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

PUBLISHED BY NEWLON ROUGE, LLC

© 2023 Newlon Rouge, LLC, all rights reserved.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit electronic bids for the:

SP2744 SMPD Smart Center TI

Bids will only be accepted through the CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL, OpenGov Procurement or https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca. They must be received by the specified date and time. Late bids will not be accepted. Please allow sufficient time for uploading of documents. The bid opening will be electronic, all submitted bids will be viewable by the public via OpenGov Procurement immediately after bid close time.

NON - MANDATORY PRE-B D JOB WALK:
December 18, 2024 @ 9am. 333 Olympic Dr., Santa Monica, CA 90402.

PROJECT ESTIMATE: $700k
CONTRACT DAYS: 6 months, 182 days
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $500 Per Calendar Day

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca. The Contractor is required to have a **Class B** license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

FOR QUOTES PLEASE CALL 310-573-8074

or email **cindy@smdp.com**

CLASSIFICATIONS					
Announcements	Pets	Apartments/Condos	Real Estate Loans	Attorney Services	Wealth and Success
Creative	Boats	Rent	Storage Space	Business	Lost and Found
Employment	Jewelry	Houses for Rent	Vehicles for Sale	Opportunities	Personals
For Sale	Wanted	Roommates	Massage	Yard Sales	Psychic
Furniture	Travel	Commercial Lease	Services	Health and Beauty	Obituaries
	Vacation Rentals	Real Estate	Computer Services	Fitness	Tutoring

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAMECase No. 24SMCP00636 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition 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

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED HERE

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm
LOCATION 1640 5th Street, Suite 218, Santa Monica, CA 90401

Former FBI informant pleads guilty to lying about phony bribery scheme involving the Bidens

A former FBI informant pleaded guilty on Monday to lying about a phony bribery scheme involving President Joe Biden and his son Hunter that became central to the Republican impeachment inquiry in Congress.

Alexander Smirnov entered his plea to a felony charge in connection with the bogus story, along with a tax evasion charge stemming from a separate indictment accusing him of concealing millions of dollars of income.

An attorney for Smirnov, 44, declined to comment after the hearing in Los Angeles federal court.

Prosecutors and the defense have agreed to recommend a sentence of between four and six years in prison when he's sentenced next month.

Smirnov will get credit for the time he has served since his February arrest on charges that he told his FBI handler that executives from the Ukrainian energy company Burisma had paid President Biden and Hunter Biden $5 million each around 2015.

Smirnov had been an informant for more than a decade when he made the explosive allegations about the Bidens in June 2020, after "expressing bias" about Joe Biden as a presidential candidate, prosecutors said.

But Smirnov had only routine business dealings with Burisma starting in 2017, according to court documents. An FBI field office investigated the allegations and recommended the case be closed in August 2020, according to charging documents.

No evidence has emerged that Joe Biden acted corruptly or accepted bribes as president or in his previous office as vice president.

While Smirnov's identity wasn't publicly known before the indictment, his claims played a major part in the Republican effort in Congress to investigate the president and his family, and helped spark a House impeachment inquiry into Biden. Before Smirnov's arrest, Republicans had demanded the FBI release the unredacted form documenting the unverified allegations, though they acknowledged they couldn't confirm if they were true.

During a September 2023 conversation with investigators, Smirnov also claimed the Russians probably had recordings of Hunter Biden because a hotel in Ukraine's capital where he had stayed was "wired" and under their control — information he said was passed along to him by four high-level Russian officials.

But Hunter Biden had never traveled to Ukraine, according to Smirnov's indictment.

Smirnov claimed to have contacts with Russian intelligence-affiliated officials, and told authorities after his arrest this year that "officials associated with Russian intelligence were involved in passing a story" about Hunter Biden.

The case against Smirnov was brought by special counsel David Weiss, who also prosecuted Hunter Biden on gun and tax charges. Hunter Biden was supposed to be sentenced this month after being convicted at a trial in the gun case and pleading guilty to federal charges in the tax case. But he was pardoned this month by his father, who said he believed "raw politics has infected this process and it led to a miscarriage of justice."

Alanna Durkin Richer and Jaimie Ding, Associated Press.

COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 2

City Manager since Rick Cole resigned in March 2020, citing an inability to preside over budget and staffing cuts the City was facing. City Attorney Lane Dilg took over the position until leaving in June 2021, when John Jalili took over as Interim City Manager.

The Council tried to hire Montebello City Manager Rene Bobadilla in June of 2021. Bobadilla declined Santa Monica's offer after a press leak of the selection prompted Montebello City Council to offer him a significant raise.

White began his role as permanent City Manager in October 2021 after serving as the Deputy City Manager of Berkeley, the role he is in fact returning to. During his time with the City of Santa Monica, he oversaw a budget of $705.5 million, the operation of 12 City departments and a workforce of 1,923.

In addition to this already rather substantial agenda, further filled by 15 mostly administrative Discussion Items related to the newly appointed councilmembers, is Item 16N, a request of Vice Mayor Caroline Torosis, Councilmember Jesse Zwick and Mayor Lana Negrete that the City Attorney and City Manager prepare the City of Santa Monica for the presidential transition.

Finally, at the request of Zwick, Zernitskaya and Torosis, in order to reduce the time and cost associated with developing new housing, the City Council will direct the City Manager and City Attorney to return with an ordinance by April 30, 2025 that allows all "housing projects" proposed in all non-residential zones except the Bergamot Area Plan to be processed through an "administrative approval" process regardless of the size of the parcel upon which the housing project is located.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

California got millions to train workers in disaster relief, but it's leaving money on table



Photo by Larry Valenzuela, CalMatters/CatchLight Local

DISASTER: Temporary worker Demetrius Ensign uses a chainsaw to cut tree branches and trunks in Bartlett Park in Porterville on Dec. 4, 2024. Workers from the National Dislocated Worker Grant, a federally-funded jobs program, are being used to help clean the park of flood damage.

In January 2023, and continuing throughout the spring, rain swelled many of California's reservoirs and creeks, engulfing homes and businesses and killing 21 people. One federal estimate says it cost the state nearly $5 billion.

Now, nearly two years later, it's Alexis Ramirez's job to help pick up the pieces, clearing debris from a damaged park. For him, and hundreds of others across the state, the disaster isn't just about loss — it's also an opportunity for temporary work. But these cleanup jobs are precarious and difficult, often requiring physical, back-breaking labor in remote areas under extreme conditions. Some government agencies struggle to manage these workers because of administrative hurdles, shifts in the weather that complicate disaster relief, and delays in the grant awards that make this cleanup possible, according to a CalMatters analysis of eight federal grants and interviews with agencies across the state.

Ramirez is part of one federal program, known as the National Dislocated Worker Grants, that has pumped over $210 million into California since 2015 to provide temporary, disaster-relief jobs to low-income and unemployed workers. The money came from 12 grants, each one in response to drought, floods, wildfires, or the COVID-19 pandemic.

Of these disaster-relief grants, the state failed to use about 20% of the money that was available, according to a CalMatters analysis of public records. That's in part because of "bureaucratic hoops," such as delays in receiving grant money, said Michael Cross, executive director of the Northern Rural Training and Employment Consortium. He said his 11-county program in Northern California has sometimes had to delay or "stop work" on relief projects related to the wildfires and floods because the money was slow to arrive.

Around the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ramirez said he got sick and was unable to find steady work that could support himself and his 4-year old daughter. "I was really in need of a job." Now, he said he's making about $21 an hour, almost twice what he made picking blueberries and grapes before the pandemic. But his current job, which began in September, ends in the next few weeks, and he said he has yet to find other work.

TEMPORARY WORK PROVIDES A NEW START

California's Central Valley saw some of the worst flooding during the 2023 winter storms, and small agricultural towns were hard hit. In Tulare County, a local river overflowed its banks in March 2023, washing over homes, roads, and parks near the town of Porterville, population 62,000.

Two months later the county received money to hire temporary relief workers, but it was too early, said Priscilla Gonzales-Gray, a career services coordinator with the Tulare County Workforce Investment Board. The initial proposal was to clear debris from Porterville's waterways, but by the time the money had arrived, winter snowmelt had filled the sloughs with fast-running, deep water. "It was not a safe working environment

SEE **DISASTER** PAGE 7

FINDING A NEW DENTIST IS TOUGH!!!
(BUT WE MAKE IT EASY!!!)
YOUR CHOICE

If you don't like what we have to say we will give you a copy of your x-rays at no charge

DENTAL CARE WITHOUT JUDGEMENT!

WE OFFER UNIQUE SERVICES
*Nitrous Oxide available
*No interest payment plans
*Emergencies can be seen today
*Our dentists and staff members are easy to talk to

TRY OUR NO OBLIGATION
$20 EXAM INCLUDES FULL XRAYS
*Offer to non insured patients

OR

TRY OUR NO OBLIGATION
$99 EXAM AND CLEANING
For New Patients
INCLUDES FULL XRAYS
*Offer to non insured patients

AND OF COURSE WE DO
• Invisalign • Periodontist on Staff • Oral Surgeon on Staff
• Cosmetics and Implants • Zoom bleaching • and more

SANTA MONICA FAMILY DENTISTRY
DR. ALAN RUBENSTEIN
1260 15th ST. SUITE #703
(310) 736-2589



WWW.ALANRUBENSTEINDDS.COM



GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Political division only benefits Trump, billionaires. Why Californians need to come together

Since the election, there has been a lot of finger-wagging about what happened in California.

Headlines proclaimed that California shifted to the right, that our values of inclusion and care are to blame. Centrist Democrats and conservative pundits alike claim the Democratic Party has gone too far to the left.

This oversimplified narrative overlooks an important red flag: the unchecked power of corporate billionaires who spent heavily peddling lies and misinformation. Even worse, it succeeds in doing precisely what the political right and Trump want — to divide working people, blame immigrants and other vulnerable Californians, while billionaires line their pocketbooks.

The $259 million that Elon Musk spent to get Trump elected and buy his role in the administration has been well covered, as has the role of venture capitalist Peter Theil in bankrolling JD Vance's political career.

What received less attention was the mountain of money that corporate giants in real estate, retail and oil spent on this election to mislead voters and protect their bottom lines.

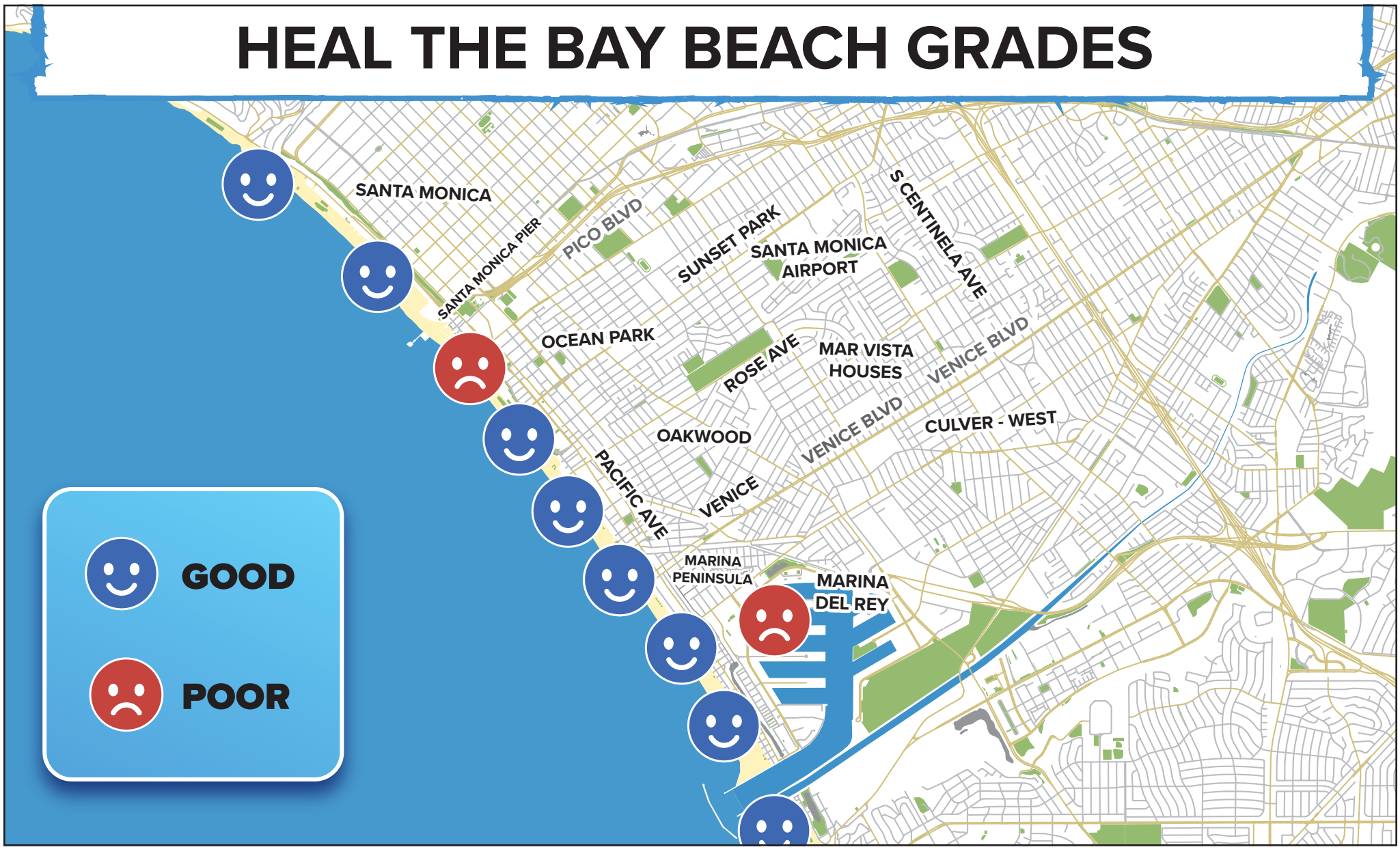
In Oakland, for example, a single billionaire funded the mayoral recall campaign, while a consortium of wealthy investors spent heavily to target progressive district attorneys in Los Angeles and Alameda County. Real estate corporations and business groups spent hundreds of millions of dollars to defeat ballot measures that would have raised wages for hard-working people, protected renters and made it easier to build more affordable housing — all while claiming that they were good guys looking out for renters and workers.

SEE **POLITICAL DIVISION** PAGE 8



Photo by Jules Hotz for CalMatters

ELECTION: Voters wait in line at the County of Riverside Registrar of Voters office in Riverside on Nov. 5, 2024.



DISASTER

FROM PAGE 5

for employees," said Gonzales-Gray.

The county decided to send workers to a Porterville park instead, which had flooded around the same time as the waterway, leaving a playground completely submerged.

It was September 2023 before the waters had receded enough to allow workers to begin clearing out the park. Since work began, Gonzales-Gray said the county has hired 23 people, including Ramirez, all for temporary jobs.

Ramirez said he arrives at the park at 6 a.m. and works until 2:30 p.m., four days a week, using hand-tools like shovels and rakes to gather broken branches, tree trunks, and rocks. "It's not a ton of hours," he said in Spanish, "but it's helping me start over."

The program's insurance doesn't allow workers like Ramirez to use power tools, said Gonzales-Gray, so the county puts workers on a team with the parks department, which is authorized to use wood-chippers and chainsaws. "That does make the work go a little slower," she said. "However, it does provide longer opportunities for these temporary employments."

The park is scheduled to open in January, and the county is preparing to hire a new round of temporary workers to repair another park. By the time both parks are complete and open to the public, Gonzales-Gray said the county will have hired about 60 workers from a roughly $1.5 million grant.

WHY MERCED LEFT MONEY ON THE TABLE

Like Porterville, the town of Planada in Merced County revolves around agriculture and most residents are Latino. Many are undocumented.

In January 2023, floods tore through the town, and Anastacio Rosales, who has lived in Planada for 60 years, was one of many residents whose homes were destroyed. "I have lost all of my most valuable possessions, including family photos and precious keepsakes from my parents," he wrote in an Op-Ed to CalMatters a few months after the storm. "Sadly, the same can be said for many of my neighbors."

One study by the University of California, Merced found that more than 80% of Planada's roughly 4,000 residents suffered financial losses as a result of the storms, such as missed work or property damage.

Erick Serrato, Merced County's director of workforce investment, said the county won't claim most of the federal money available for temporary disaster-relief jobs. Initially, the county workforce agency planned to hire workers to assist in the town's reconstruction, such as repairing its community center. But once money arrived in Merced County in May 2023 — five months after the initial flooding — waters had receded and others had already repaired the parks that temporary workers were supposed to fix, Serrato said. "When you have to wait five months to receive the support you need right in the aftermath, it makes it difficult to put those resources to work."

The grant money also comes with restrictions, Serrato said. Temporary workers can't repair private property, such as homes or businesses; they can only work on public lands, such as parks or waterways. The repairs can only return public lands to their prior conditions — workers can't make any improvements that weren't there before the flood.

Instead of repairing parks or waterways, which Serrato said were in good condition by May, the workforce board repurposed some of the federal grant money to hire workers to perform other services, such as helping homeowners navigate the state's reimbursement process. This spring, for instance, the state gave the town of Planada $20 million to support recovery, including reimbursements for homeowners and businesses. That money remains largely unspent due to the county's planning process and state rules requiring residents to verify their damages.

Rosales acknowledged that the community center is functional again but in a recent interview, he said that other public lands still need repairs. "Around the creeks and canals, they haven't cleaned them up like they're supposed to."

He said debris is gathering in the storm drains and waterways once again, and if another storm comes, they could flood.

MOVING MONEY AROUND

Following floods in 2017 and dangerous, deadly wildfires in 2018, California's workforce agencies spent over $80 million in federal funds to hire temporary workers to clean debris. In both cases, the state used more than 90% of the money it was allocated. But after wildfires in 2020 and 2021, the state left around $20 million — about 55% — in federal funds unclaimed.

If California doesn't use all of the money, then the federal government reallocates it to other places that need it, said Monica Vereen, a spokesperson for the US Department of Labor, which provides these disaster relief grants to states. She said it's common for states not to claim all of the money, but that every dollar ultimately gets used.

Greg Lawson, a spokesperson for California's Employment Development Department, said there are various reasons why federal money goes unclaimed. "The cleanup may not take as much time as initially estimated, the impact on jobs in the area may not end up as big, or people may be able to return to their jobs more quickly," he said.

"These funds weren't as critical to us as maybe other parts of the state," Serrato said about the workforce money that Merced County never claimed.

Of the federal workforce grant, the county ultimately spent $165,000 — about 16%. Because the state awards the dollars in installments, Merced never had to return any money; it just never asked for the remaining cash.

Adam Echelman. CalMatters reporter Levi Sumagaysay contributed to this story. Financial support for this story was provided by the Smidt Foundation and The James Irvine Foundation. This article was originally published by CalMatters.





Photo by Larry Valenzuela, CalMatters/CatchLight Local

FIRST: A temporary worker, Alexis Ramirez, walks through his work site with pruning shears under his arm. Last: Ramirez piles tree branches and trunks in Bartlett Park in Porterville on Dec. 4, 2024.

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

ADVERTISE WITH US TODAY!

Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Beware of districts

A decision on whether to settle the voting rights lawsuit against the city is on the Council's Agenda on Tuesday. It would change our at large Council elections to voting by district.

Those who are not happy with the Council we have elected naively assume that they will get better representation by voting for one councilmember every four years, instead of the seven we now select. They claim that their district's councilmember would solve their neighborhood's perceived problems.

This desire assumes that they will elect an effective person. But councilmembers will have to persuade three others to vote their way to get a majority. This will inevitably lead to the trading of votes - "I'll vote for what you want, if you vote for what I want." - leading to decisions that are not necessarily what's best for the city as a whole. And if my district's councilmember is not effective, I will have to wait four years to elect someone else. Right now, I get to vote for all seven councilmembers over four years.

Certainly it would be cheaper and easier to run in one district. But it will also be cheaper and easier for "special interests" to support their candidates. Having been elected under the current at large system, I had to be concerned with the city as a whole and not just my part of town.

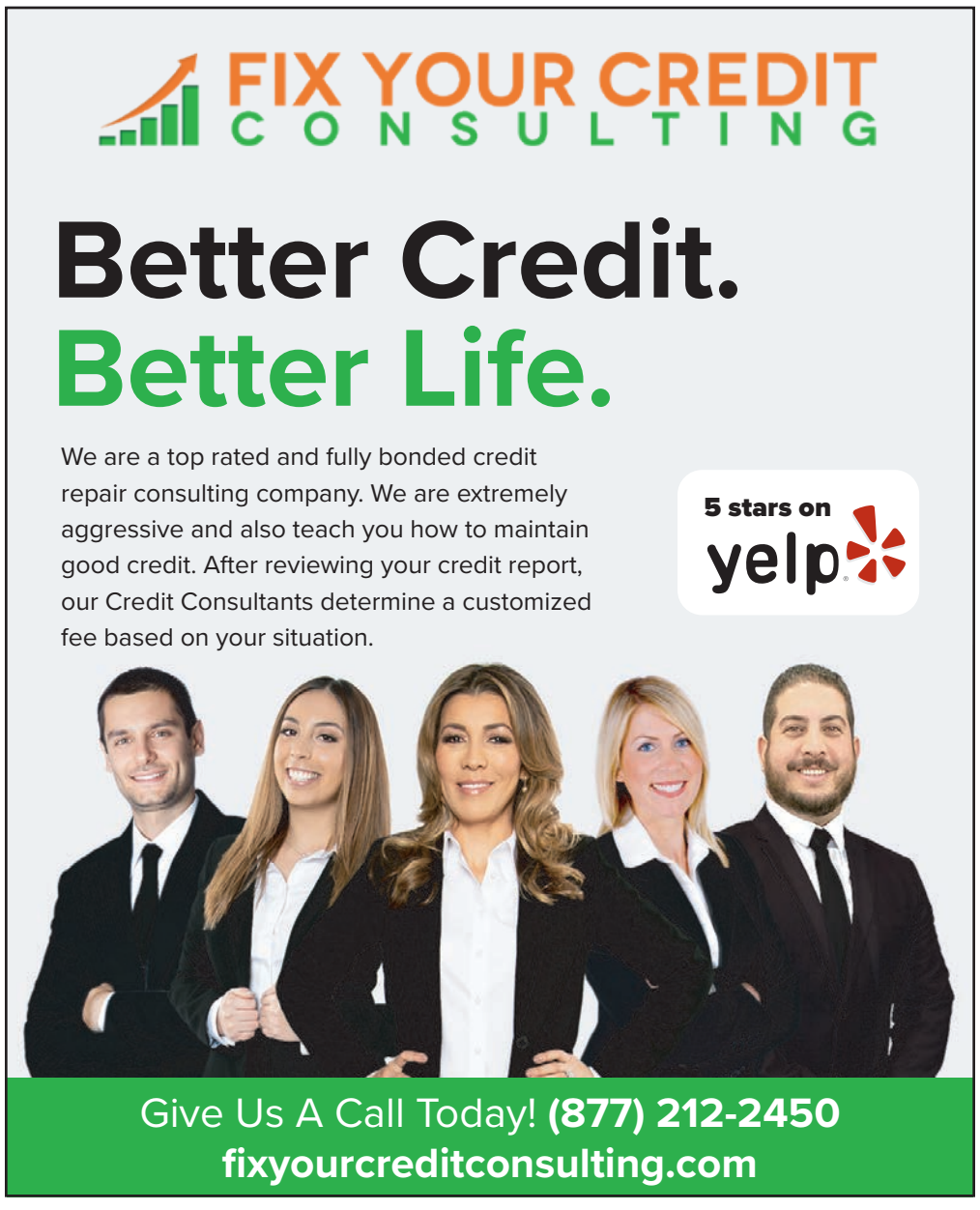
The lawsuit claims that the Pico neighborhood has been mistreated by the city. I don't agree, but if it has, what is to prevent the other districts from freezing Pico out by uniting to grab the city's resources.

Civil rights are extremely important and I'm sure many cities need to change their voting system, but Santa Monica is not one of them. In recent years, over half of the city council has been Latino. Two-thirds of the city's Latino residents now live outside the Pico neighborhood. It has become a majority white area. If Santa Monicans have discriminated in voting, how have we elected numerous people of color to the city council, school board and college trustees?

I'm proud to live in a city that is a national leader of progressive policies and I look forward to the new council continuing that vision.

Supporters of district elections should beware of what they seek, the grass is not always greener on the other side of the fence!

Paul Rosenstein, Former Mayor



POLITICAL DIVISION

FROM PAGE 6

Instead of pointing to corporate billionaires who cost the state wins on pocketbook issues like affordable housing and minimum wage, some centrist Democrats are joining Trump and conservative media in blaming immigrants, transgender kids and poor people.

The election outcome has serious consequences for our communities. Trump overstates his mandate — the near-final vote counts show that he leads Harris by only 1.5%, one of the smallest popular vote wins in U.S. history. But there can never be a mandate for the level of cruelty Trump is threatening to unleash, and we know he will rule like an authoritarian.

Democratic insiders and establishment leaders need to stop the blame game and roll up their sleeves to get to work. Trump is coming for everyone. Leaders need to focus on protecting and defending communities that we know will be under attack.

The Democratic Party needs to acknowledge that voters' economic anxieties and fears are driven by genuine consequences of policies advanced by corporate billionaires. California leaders need to accelerate progress on an economic agenda for working people that delivers concrete improvements to our lives — affordable housing, health care, higher wages and a stronger safety net for our families.

When voters feel abandoned by our government, they are less likely to identify with the government as an extension and expression of their democratic power. They are less likely to vote and more susceptible to authoritarian appeals. The best defense against Trumpism is showing that government can improve the lives of all Californians — from small business owners to farm workers, from educators to tech workers, and from the service industry workforce to gig workers.

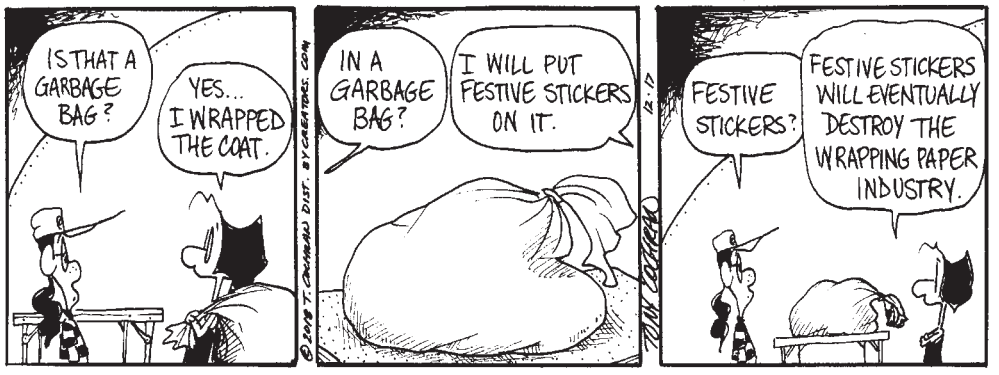
We Are California strives to be a home for people who are sick of politics as usual and who believe in our state's values of community and inclusion. Bringing together Californians from every walk of life to protect and defend California against the worst of the coming federal policy, and to advance state policies that serve the majority of Californians, this is what people want — not an agenda of corporate billionaires.

In a time when so many are being pushed to think only of themselves, there is a different path: one where we stand together, fight together and win together. This isn't the moment to back down — it's the moment to double-down. The future of California's multiracial democracy depends on it.

John Kim is the president and CEO of Catalyst California. He is a founding partner of We Are California. Sabrina Smith is the CEO of California Calls. She is a founding partner of We Are California. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

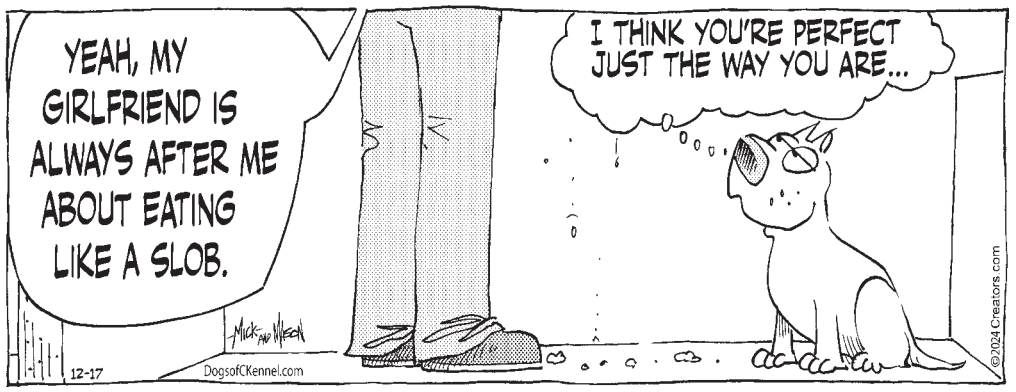
Agnes

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6427

The fragile Murray

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

Angle	Cast	Gol Gol	Relax
Area	Cobram	Lake Hume	Renmark
Awed	Controversial	Lines	Rods
Banks	Cray	Lure	Running
Barham	Dams	Meal	Stays
Biggara	Drink	Mildura	Swim
Boat	Echuca	Moama	Trees
Burst	Ecology	Natya	Weir
Caddel	Eels	Nyah	Worms
Camp	Fish	Perricoota	
Canoe	Flood	Race	
Carp	Frog	Redfin	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Unforgettable scenes

Covering the city by the bay since 2001.
To advertise, email cindy@smdp.com or call 310.458.7737
smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 17)

You'll be more in touch than ever with your own preferences, creating a life aligned with your own eyes and heart. More highlights: You'll be changed by a magical crossing. A priority shift will be followed by a period of greater financial ease. New styles and ways of relating to people will bring much beauty into your realm. Aries and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 30, 22, 27 and 15.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're a dreamer with a clear-eyed view of what's needed to make those dreams real. Tempting deals will surface, but don't rush. The first offer won't be the only one - or the best. Hold out for what truly aligns with your vision.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Unfamiliar situations act like mirrors at odd angles, showing parts of you hidden in the everyday. Routine is stripped away and instincts awaken. In the strange, you meet yourself anew, raw and honest - no filters.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Drama and practicality seem like opposing forces but they're often dance partners. One fuels passion; the other steadies the project. Where wild creativity finds purpose and grounded actions, life becomes an interesting pleasure.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Focusing too much on the prize can eclipse the magic in the doing. Spontaneity is your strength today. To feel it and act in the same moment is to make a difference everyone feels. It's impressive, attractive and exciting.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Learning something fascinating about someone will amplify the allure. Each revelation leads deeper into their labyrinth. Just as one question is answered, a thousand more take its place, each richer than the last.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When someone needs an open door, you'll be there - both literally and figuratively - with a smile. As for your talents, they're stronger than you realize. Trust yourself. Invest in your skills and your confidence will rise accordingly.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The urge to grow out of your tight spot is a primal instinct, a call to explore, adapt and thrive. It's not escape but courage - a deliberate act of discovery that expands your world and redefines the boundaries of your territory.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Words cannot be retracted, and action is even more irreversible. Because of this, think carefully about today's interactions as there's something about the atmosphere that makes powerful memories out of today's discourse.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're not interested in easy wins. You have a high tolerance for discomfort and will do what it takes to gain the advantage and take the prize. Your victory will be sweet because you worked so hard for it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When you love and trust someone, the time you spend together doing very little will be just plain wonderful. If being with a person requires you to do some pretending, that's work and should be weighed against the benefits it provides.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The very thought of a certain person has a way of changing your mood. If only you could command your mind to never think of someone you don't want to think about, but of course, it's almost impossible to pull off. Can you instead reframe the thoughts?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The early stage of a relationship was like a golden age, but you'll never find what you're seeking by retreating to the past. Instead, step bravely forward. What lies ahead has the potential to be even more extraordinary.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

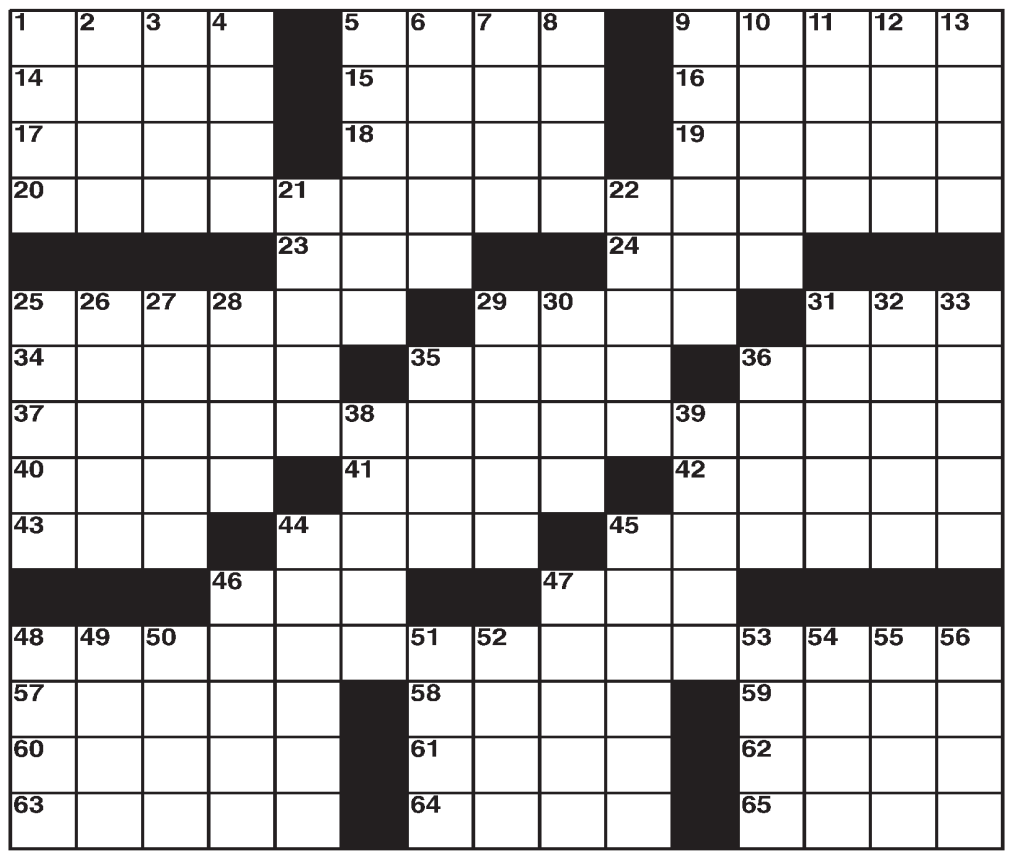
"DON'T GO" SIGNS by Sally R. Stein
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Trims a lawn
5 24-hr. cash dispensers
9 Divide in two
14 Assist in a crime
15 "Scat!"
16 Visitor from another planet
17 Having achy muscles
18 Brown sushi seaweed
19 Appointed to a job
20 "Don't go" park sign
23 See 36-Across
24 "__ so sorry!"
25 Less fresh and crispy
29 "Attendee" suffix for movie
31 Network with an eye logo
34 Anxious to get started
35 Island near Oahu
36 With 23-Across, cookware for chowder
37 "Don't go" vacant lot sign
40 Sit __ by (do nothing)
41 Small wallet bills
42 Was compelled
43 Sailor's assent
44 Major burden
45 Become less good
46 Pub drink
47 Art on an arm, for short
48 "Don't go" intersection sign
57 Sharp, as eyesight
58 Be concerned (about)
59 Starch in Japanese cuisine
60 Female horses
61 Hardly __ (rarely)
62 Unlock
63 Nasal sound of scorn
64 Damp, as a lawn at dawn
65 Untidiness

DOWN

1 Scuba diver's eye covering
2 Woodwind instrument
3 "Wish you __ here"
4 Staircase surface
5 Request, as assistance
6 Crime of stealing
7 Lose feathers
8 Second-year student, informally
9 Garage for an airliner
10 Car's security device
11 Capital of Peru
12 Neckline shapes
13 Completes
21 Gig for a soprano
22 "...Macdonald had a farm, __"
25 Brown snapshot tint
26 Behind schedule
27 Physically nimble
28 Assess, as a tax
29 Stares in amazement
30 For both of us
31 Thin ropes
32 Small flat-topped mountain
33 Watch secretly
35 Eatery's list
36 Char on a grill
38 Copy machine powder
39 Snapshot
44 Most senior
45 Overly diluted
46 Make changes to
47 Tossed
48 Sweet potatoes
49 "__ hardly wait!"
50 100 cents, in Spain
51 Cooled down with cubes
52 Donated
53 Start __ scratch (do it over)
54 Dry off with a towel
55 Hotshot pilots
56 Cravings



CREATORS SYNDICATE ©2024 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM

12/17/24

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

HATE CRIMES

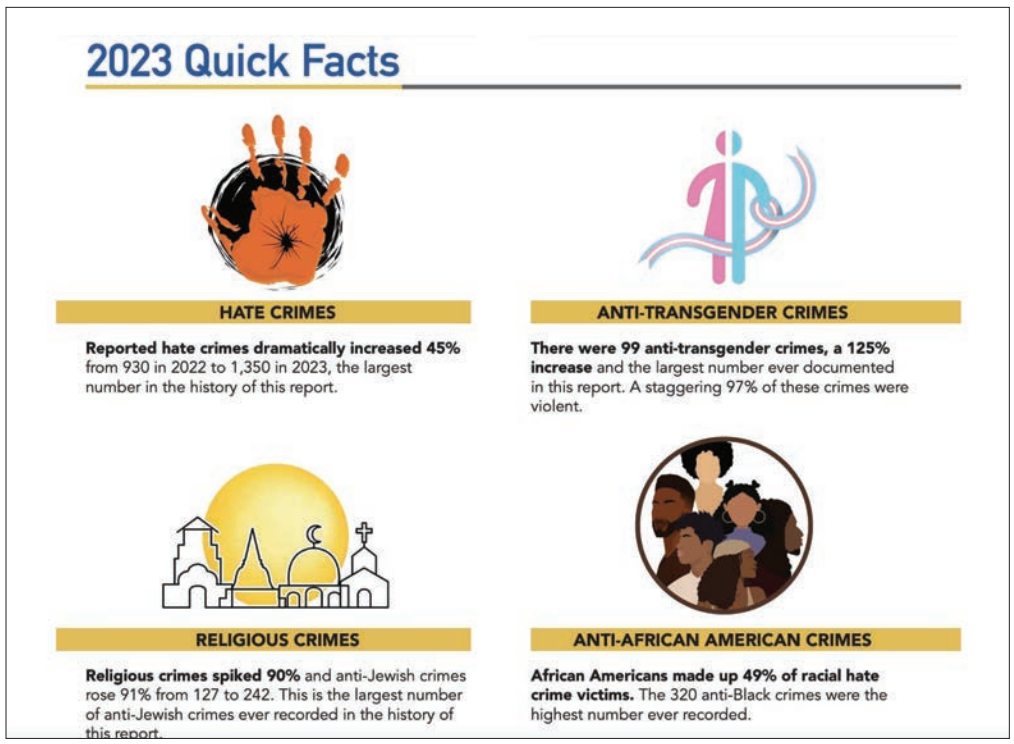
FROM PAGE 1

crime is "deeply troubling."

"We must come together to protect and support our diverse communities," Hochman said. "Today, we have an opportunity to combat hate and prejudice so that every resident in LA County can feel safe in their homes, their places of worship, and their neighborhoods."

To view the complete report, visit the County's website at lacounty.gov.

thomas@smdp.com



INSIDE
THE DAILY PRESS
PODCAST
smdp.com/pod
ALSO AVAILABLE ON

To learn how to feature your upcoming event on the SMDP and various digital event calendars
Contact dina@smdp.com today!



TUESDAY | DECEMBER 17

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

5:30 p.m. City Council Chambers, Santa Monica City Hall, 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, Audit Subcommittee.

MYSTERY & THRILLER BOOK GROUP

7 - 8 p.m. Virtual. This community-led, monthly book discussion group meets virtually to discuss domestic and international titles in the mystery and thriller genres. To register, email library@santamonica.gov. This month's title is "The Consequences of Fear" by Jacqueline Winspear.

WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 18

BMH & POD OFFICE HOURS

4 - 6 p.m. Park Center Building, Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. The Housing Division will be hosting office workshops for community members about the City's Below Market Housing (BMH) and Preserving Our Diversity (POD) programs. No appointment necessary, first come basis.

FREE WALK-IN LEGAL CLINIC

4:30 - 7 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica residents can meet one on one with a lawyer with Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles for help with housing issues. Immediate assistance is available by calling LAFLA directly at 800-399-4529 or visit lafla.org/gethelp.

PLANNING COMMISSION

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

THURSDAY | DECEMBER 19

LA LAW LIBRARY OFFICE HOURS

2 - 6 p.m. Lobby, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. A legal research specialist helps patrons find answers to legal questions. Legal research specialists are not attorneys and cannot provide legal advice, help fill out forms or interpret the law.

RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION

6 - 8 p.m. City Council Chambers, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. The Commission shall act in an advisory capacity to the City Council and Director of Community Services in all matters pertaining to public recreation including playgrounds, music and entertainment. The Commission will consider the budget of the Community and Cultural Services Department and make recommendations to the City Manager and the City Council.

MONTANA BRANCH BOOK GROUP

6 - 7:30 p.m. Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave. This community-led, monthly book discussion group meets in person to discuss a mix of fiction and nonfiction titles, often on topics chosen from current events. To register, email library@santamonica.gov. This month's title is "River of the Gods" by Candice Millard.

FRIDAY | DECEMBER 20

DARDEN IN THE GARDEN

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Merrihew's Sunset Gardens, 1526 Ocean Park Blvd. Celebrate the start of winter with live music under the stars, featuring Darden, a family of five siblings from the OC with a unique spin on Alternative Americana. Opening for them are local favorites Guitrras Hermanas. Tickets $25, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/darden-in-the-garden-tickets-1096855517379.

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER

7 - 10 p.m. Jamaica Bay Inn, 4175 Admiralty Way, Marina del Rey. Join Jamaica Bay Inn for "The Most Wonderful Crime of the Year," where a jolly standup performance quickly turns into a murder investigation. Bribe, barter and gather clues from other guests as you try to figure out whodunit. Includes a welcome drink and buffet menu, cash bar available. Tickets $85, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-most-wonderful-crime-of-the-year-a-murder-mystery-dinner-tickets-1049231398357.

JOHN BEASLEY'S HOLIDAZE

7:30 - 9 p.m. BroadStage, 1310 11th St. Grammy-winning composer, arranger, pianist and local Santa Monica legend John Beasley is back, setting his sights on the holiday season. Holidaze is a joyous collection and reimagination of timeless Christmas songs. Beasley and his trio are teaming up with emerging virtuoso vocalist, composer, and one of the most acclaimed and versatile voices in music today, Michael Mayo. For more information, visit Broadstage.org.

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 21

TOY SWAP AND FRUIT TREE REPOTTING PARTY

9 - 11 a.m. Ishihara Park Learning Garden, 2909 Exposition Blvd. The Ishihara Park Learning Garden's monthly community breakfast will have some lightly used toys and children's books should you know someone that would benefit from some holiday cheer. Bring one to swap, bring one to donate, or simply show up and take one for regifting. The morning will also have repotting of fruit trees, garden pancakes on the griddle, chalk art, and compost and veggie seeds for your home garden.

UC MASTER GARDENERS AT PICO FARMERS MARKET:

10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. Visit with the UC Master Gardeners, with a booth filled with free advice on how to care for plants, how to troubleshoot a gardening problem, and much more. Free seeds and seedlings are available on a limited basis.

PRO SUP SHOP PRESENTS

Red Bull Athlete, International SUP Champion, Instructor & Coach

Olya Raskina

Women's Wellness Series



Morning Sessions *Tuesdays, 8:30 am*
Evening Sessions *Fridays, 6:00 pm*

(310) 989-4350 • info@prosupshop.com
Located on the Southwest end of the Jamaica Bay Inn parking lot at 4175 Admiralty Wy, Marina del Rey, CA

PHOTO CREDIT : KIRILL UMRIKHIN