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Tradition takes the year off.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 25 | TUESDAY 12/19/23 | smdp.com

Plans for the airport's future take flight at tonight's council meeting



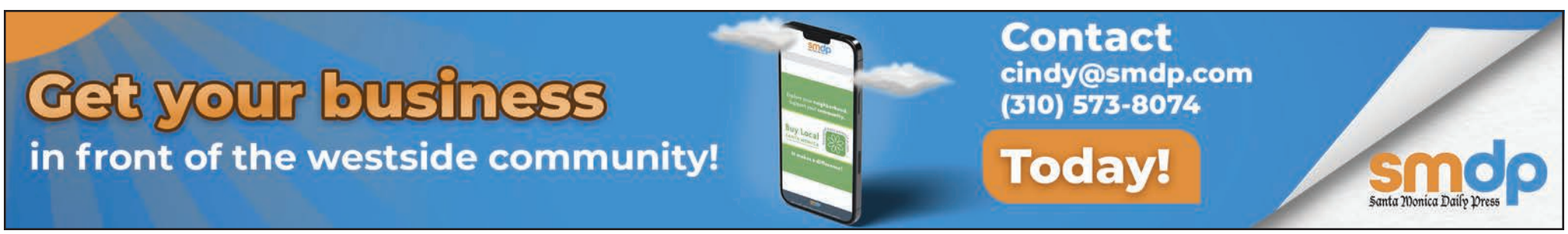
SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

While everyone may be eager to get home for the holidays, the last council meeting of 2023 is actually quite substantial with the Santa Monica Airport, pay bumps for city staff and negotiations for the sale of public land all on the agenda.

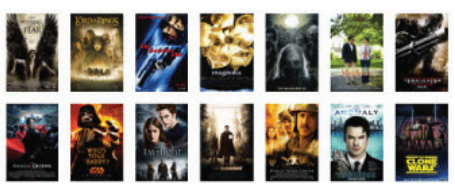
The council meeting is being held today to avoid a meeting happening the day after Christmas and to be able to address agenda items while balancing holiday schedules.

Arguably the most notable of these is the request to authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Sasaki Associates, Inc. for visioning services and concept design for the airport conversion project.

SEE **COUNCIL PREVIEW** PAGE 8



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Council extends free parking in downtown structures for the holidays



SMDP Photo

PARKING: Free parking will double during the last few days before Christmas.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

In an effort to spur last-minute holiday shopping for local residents and visitors, Santa Monica City Council has extended free parking in downtown public parking structures from 90 minutes to three hours effective December 22-24, 2023.

Mayor Pro Tempore Lana Negrete mentioned how Macerich, the Santa Monica-based real estate investment trust that manages Santa Monica Place shopping mall and its attached parking structures supported this gesture.

"They were in full support," Negrete said, adding, "While shopping is still a reason to visit the Promenade, there's dining, you can watch a movie and for families who are parking in the downtown area to go down to the pier, three hours makes a difference ... It's another opportunity to encourage people to come back to the downtown area to shop ... And this is one of the small gestures that we can do, in order to help our businesses out."

Andrew Thomas, CEO of Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. (DTSM) spoke during the Public Input session regarding this issue. "My board has not taken a position on this item, so I can't give you our specific endorsement, but I can say that I believe this item falls within our general scope and mission of supporting our local businesses and doing what we can to improve our parking experience."

"I also believe this will be a very nice incentive for our visitors, for our residents and for local businesses. And if this item does move forward, I can commit DTSM resources to promote this free parking during this period of time to the fullest extent possible," Thomas added.

However, there was a little concern about whether or not the juice was worth the squeeze. "When we did this in 2020, we calculated there was a loss to the city of approximately I think it was $160,000. Do we have any estimate about what the loss here would be?" Councilmember Gleam Davis asked.

City Manager, David White, responded, "Staff did a high level analysis and estimates about a $30,000 loss in revenues for the three days. And then there are some nominal costs associated with marketing, putting up additional signage and reprogramming the machines."

Davis raised the question of whether more could be spent on other incentives, referencing that Beverly Hills offers two hours of free parking and Century City was down to just one hour. "So we're certainly within the competitive sweet spot for free parking," she said, before adding, "I'm just wondering if there was some thought given to something else that might draw people to the Promenade in terms of the shopping ambiance that wouldn't include traffic and pollution."

And while Councilmember Jesse Zwick informed the dais of his support for the item, he too expressed concerns saying he was "skeptical" that this would truly benefit local businesses based in Downtown.

"In December 2020, the City of Santa Monica implemented ... a longer period of free parking in the downtown lots. It was enabled at parking structures one through six, but as a means of a natural experiment, the paid parking was maintained at the same rates and structure seven and eight. And then the city studied what happened as a result."

Zwick said that the conclusion of that study indicated that despite offering more free parking in structures one through six, the regular paying structures seven and eight had just as much, if not several times more. The conclusion was that parking behavior

SEE **FREE PARKING** PAGE 7

Council votes to put out request for proposals for the Civic Auditorium



SMDP Photo

CIVIC: The city wants someone to reopen the Civic Auditorium as an events venue.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

In the latest chapter of the story starring Santa Monica's famed Civic Auditorium, Council voted unanimously to instruct the City to issue a public notice to solicit letters of interest for the long-term lease of this historic landmark.

This item, raised in Tuesday's meeting, was made at the request of Councilmember Gleam Davis and Mayor Pro Tem Negrete. Specifically, the City Manager is being asked to prepare a public notice that shall indicate that the City will maintain ownership of the Civic Auditorium and will consider entering into a long-term lease.

In addition, the public notice should indicate that the City is seeking letters of interest from individuals and/or entities that have the experience to operate the facility as a thriving entertainment and cultural arts venue, experience working with projects with landmark restrictions and express intention to preserve the distinguishing historical landmark attributes of the facility, to the greatest extent possible, and has the demonstrated financial wherewithal to operate the facility without any financial contribution from the City

This unassuming building located near the intersection of Main St and Pico Blvd positively drips with local history. It opened in summer 1958, then the second-largest auditorium in Los Angeles County. The Academy Awards were held at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium for eight consecutive years from 1961. The 38th Academy Awards ceremony, held in 1968, was hosted by Bob Hope and marked the first time the event was broadcast live in color. The two most nominated films were Dr. Zhivago and The Sound of Music. Just about every notable musical act has played here at one time or another, including Pink Flloyd, the Rolling Stones, James Brown, David Bowie, Frank Sinatra, Elton John, Prince and Bob Dylan.

The Santa Monica Civic Auditorium is zoned for recreational use and is designated as a City landmark to preserve its historic features. However, it is currently deemed seismically unsafe and has been closed since 2013, except for a small meeting space in the East Wing that ultimately closed in 2020. Parts of the property's parking lot have already been repurposed as a childcare

> They have now certified that we have met all the requirements of the Surplus Land Act, which leaves it to the city now, to determine what to do with the land
> - Gleam Davis, Councilmember

educational facility and an athletic field.

Past efforts to find a partner to help reopen the building have failed and at present, the City lacks the budget and staff to rehabilitate and reopen the site on its own. However, in 2022, the City declared the property as "surplus" under the Surplus Land Act (SLA) in response to an inquiry regarding potential reuse of the site. The designation is required before any lease or sale of civic property can occur, but State regulators told the Daily Press that any use

SEE **CIVIC AUDITORIUM** PAGE 8



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **62.1**

TUESDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 2-3ft
Thigh to waist

Decent size run of WSW/W swell continues thanks to cutoff low pressure off the California coast — standouts west of Dume 4-5'. Morning wind is looking manageable/light then southerly flow develops for worsening conditions.

WEDNESDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 2-3ft
Thigh to waist

Slows down in the morning then a new WNW swell build from another storm pushing across the Gulf of Alaska towards the California coast. Wind and conditions look sketchy.

Weather

Tuesday: Showers likely. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 66. East wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%.
Tuesday Night: Rain. Low around 57. Southeast wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%.
Wednesday: Rain before 10am, then showers and possibly a thunderstorm after 10am. High near 65.
Wednesday Night: Showers and possibly a thunderstorm. Low around 56. Chance of precipitation is 100%.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)	High/Low
2023/12/19	Tue	03:14 AM	4.43		H
2023/12/19	Tue	08:58 AM	2.37		L
2023/12/19	Tue	2:20 PM	4.05		H
2023/12/19	Tue	9:05 PM	0.50		L
2023/12/20	Wed	04:02 AM	4.91		H
2023/12/20	Wed	10:33 AM	1.66		L
2023/12/20	Wed	3:58 PM	3.59		H
2023/12/20	Wed	9:58 PM	0.97		L
2023/12/21	Thu	04:45 AM	5.39		H
2023/12/21	Thu	11:43 AM	0.82		L
2023/12/21	Thu	5:30 PM	3.41		H
2023/12/21	Thu	10:48 PM	1.39		L
2023/12/22	Fri	05:27 AM	5.83		H
2023/12/22	Fri	12:40 PM	0.04		L
2023/12/22	Fri	6:48 PM	3.44		H
2023/12/22	Fri	11:35 PM	1.75		L
2023/12/23	Sat	06:07 AM	6.17		H
2023/12/23	Sat	1:27 PM	-0.58		L

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POWERBALL
Draw Date: 12/16
3 9 10 20 62
Power#: 25
Jackpot: 543 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/15
10 20 28 40 54
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: 41 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 12/16
3 6 12 17 29
Mega#: 10
Jackpot: 7 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/17
1 3 8 28 34

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/17
EVENING: 7 8 1
Draw Date: 12/17
MIDDAY: 4 2 3

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/17
1st: 03 - Hot Shot
2nd: 05 - California Classic
3rd: 07 - Eureka
Race Time: 1:41.47

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Santa Monica Daily Press

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Raiders of the Lost Park

Editor:

There'll be an Indiana Jones moment at City Council tonight (December 19th), the equivalent of the dramatic scene in the George Lucas movie where Indie realises that "X" really DOES mark the spot. And the treasure we're looking for? More than two hundred acres of prime parkland our city bought for public recreation back in 1926, which has been buried under layers of asphalt and concrete for more than eighty years. We lost it when, patriotically enough, Santa Monica loaned the land to the Federal Government after Pearl Harbor, and in the process left us one of the lowest ranked cities in California for open space. The war ended in 1945, but once something has been handed over to Washington, it's hard to get it back. (Remember the Ark of the Covenant being wheeled into that immense government warehouse? A bit like what happened to our park.)

Amazingly, however, after years of campaigning, and despite the best efforts of private pilots and big corporations, the government has agreed to let us have the park back at midnight on December 31, 2028. That's still some years off, but something as important as this needs to be planned. Which is why next Tuesday is so crucial.

That's the meeting where the City Council should direct a consulting company called Sasaki Associates to start working out how to turn the airport back into a park. Sasaki is a good choice: around the world they've already converted ten airports into parks. But here's the danger – what if they're asked to look at the possibility of doing something else with the land? Like covering it with roads, traffic and houses?

Sadly, there are plenty of people who'd like that to happen: there'd be huge profits to be made if developers got their hands on this precious open space. And of course there are powerful corporations who want the airport to stay open because it's so convenient for their CEOs to be able to fly private jets in and out of Santa Monica.

But fortunately, less than ten years ago, after a hard-fought campaign and a democratic vote, the people of Santa Monica decided overwhelmingly (60/40) that when the airport closed, the land should become a park again. That was "Measure LC," and the Council should tell Sasaki that anything they consider for the land should comply with that.

If they tell them to consider other uses – like building a huge new housing development – it could be like that other Indiana Jones moment, when Belloc steals the Ark of the Covenant and makes off with it. But anyone contemplating that should remember what happened to Belloc and his allies at the end of Raiders: suffice it to say, it wasn't good.

We're on the point of uncovering our Lost Park, and creating something for which our children and generations of children to come will be hugely grateful: a green, peaceful oasis in the midst of the city. Let's not blow it. To all our City Council members we say, with great sincerity (and quoting yet another Indiana Jones movie) – "Choose wisely."

Gavin Scott, local resident, airport-to-park activist, and one of the writers of George Lucas' Young Indiana Jones Chronicles. Zina Josephs, Secretary, Friends of Sunset Park

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RE: Item 11A

Editor:

Am I reading this right (I might not be)? Does Item 11A on the City Council Meeting Agenda fail to include a phase that compels Sasaki Consultants, Inc. to get feedback from every neighborhood in our city about the Santa Monica Airport Conversion Project? How can we decide the best option for the Airport's 227 acres if the City's consultant isn't required to get opinions from a holistic sample of residents and find out what Santa Monica really wants and needs from airport land?

Could it be that certain members of the City Council are once again obeying the orders coming from the vocal residents of Sunset Park to stack the deck in their favor? On 10/10/23, Council Members Brock, De La Torre, Parra, and Negrete naively rejected a proposal to reach out to the entire Santa Monica community—Sunset Park and beyond—through an innovative randomized public lottery system to make sure every Santa Monica neighborhood had an equal say during this process. Back then, as here, it seems these council members are opting to give a microphone to already loud voices rather than figuring out what our city, as a whole, should do with airport land. Open-ended meetings and outreach about airport land will attract the most motivated residents to voice their opinions. And Sunset Park residents are understandably motivated about this topic because (1) their neighborhood is closest to the Airport, and (2) property owners in the area will make a lot of money if the City chooses the "Great Park Only" option they want for airport land. Let's be real: a "Great Park" will immediately and dramatically increase Sunset Park property values, whether it is the best option for the city or not. And this is a totally fine proposal, even if non-Sunset Park residents, like myself, disagree with it. In a democracy, people can advocate for whatever they want, including proposals based on total self-interest and financial gain as many Sunset Park residents are doing here.

But what about reimagining airport land to really benefit the entire community? How about development that addresses child care shortages, or community gathering spaces, or a new library. Or, heaven forbid, the City looks into using airport land to address Santa Monica's stifling housing problems! Maybe these aren't good options either, but the City Council should enact measures to ensure everyone in the community participates in this process to bring forth all of our ideas. It isn't right to have a process that blatantly favors the loudest voices in the room to make such a monumental decision for our entire community.

"Great Park Only" residents will likely say Measure LC, passed back in 2014, only permits the City Council to approve the development of parks, public open spaces, and public recreational facilities, and the maintenance and replacement of existing cultural, arts, and education uses on airport land. They will also say, "everyone voted for a park, so that is what everyone should get." However, these same residents know Measure LC allows airport land to be used for something other than a "Great Park" if residents vote for it via election. Personally, I voted for Measure LC in order to reject Measure D, which would have left Santa Monica with an airport forever. Many Measure LC voters, like myself, only backed the imperfect Measure LC because it also says potential non-park uses of airport land are possible if/when voters approve it. Let's not forget this important provision.

The process described in the Staff Report for Item 11A affords the City Council two chances to evaluate options before making a decision. To make a truly informed decision, the City Council should make sure everyone has had a chance to speak and understands the issues. More information is better than less! And, I reckon, ALL Santa Monica voters can be trusted to select the best option for airport land, if it comes down to an election.

If the City Council approves Item 11A, they must make sure the public process is open and focused on the entire city. They should simultaneously demand that Sasaki Consultants, Inc. research every viable proposal for airport land from a holistic sample of residents, even those that will ultimately require voter approval. Otherwise, our City Council is potentially using our government to undermine public discourse and favor Sunset Park's interests over the interests of the City as a whole. And that is unacceptable.

Kabir Chopra, Santa Monica

GET IT DAILY...

How to manage holiday spending when you're dealing with student loan debt

ADRIANA MORGA
Associated Press

For Nicole Plauché and her family, Christmas is the time of the year where they can use their preferred love language: gift giving. This year, however, Plauché is worried about how much she can afford to spend on gifts. Her main struggle? Student loan payments.

"It just doesn't leave much room for anything outside of just basic necessities," said Plauché, a 23-year old tech sales manager from Dallas, Texas.

Marisa Johnson, 26, has approximately $145,000 in student loan debt from both her bachelor's and master's degrees. Since the COVID-era payment pause ended in October, she's been paying back $300 a month while she waits to see if she'll be enrolled in a new income-driven repayment plan.

> We know that the holidays are often a very joyful time of the year and an expensive one every year
> - Courtney Alev

Because all of her money is going to necessities and paying back her student loans, Johnson hasn't been able to spend as much on gifts as in previous years.

"I've mostly been trying to think of affordable gifts or combining gifts with my older sister," said Johnson, a non-profit worker in Citrus Heights, California.

Plauché and Johnson are just two of the millions of people who had to start paying back student loans after the Biden administration ended the three-year payment pause.

"We know that the holidays are often a very joyful time of the year and an expensive one every year," said Courtney Alev, consumer financial advocate at Credit Karma. "With federal student loan payments just resuming, it's going to add another often very significant line item into holiday budgets."

If student loan payments are cutting into what used to be your holiday budget, here are some recommendations:

THE PRESSURE IS REAL

From family expectations to social media and TV ads showing lavish gifts, many people feel that the only way they can show love is to spend a lot of money.

Between being a mom and a new grad with a salary to match, Plauché says she can barely manage her daily expenses. Still, she feels a responsibility to give her family gifts because that's how they have traditionally shown each other love.

"I don't want to give my family this message that they're not loved and it definitely adds a lot of pressure," she said.

Johnson feels guilty because the holidays are the time she feels she can show her family how grateful she is for them. She has always prided herself on being a great gift giver who not only finds something nice but knows how to spot unique and special gifts.

"I think I'm a little embarrassed to tell them that this year I might not be able to be a good gift giver," said Johnson.

Acknowledging that you're feeling pressure is a good first step towards making a plan to set expectations and be realistic about what you can spend.

BUDGET

Alev is a big proponent of the 50-30-20 budgeting method, where 50% of your income is allocated for necessities like food and rent, 30% for things you want, and 20% for savings and debt repayment.

To find space in your budget for gifts, Alev recommends that you plan ahead as much as possible and only take money from the 30% portion of your budget.

If the 50-30-20 is not the right format for you, there are plenty of other budgeting methods that you can use. Whether is recording your spending on an Excel spreadsheet, using an app or writing it down on a notebook, keeping a budget is most effective when you do it in a format that works for you.

If you are looking for a budget template, Microsoft Office offers a holiday spending-focused version.

COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR LOVED ONES

If you're experiencing a lot of financial pressure this holiday season, Alev recommends that you try to communicate your feelings to your loved ones.

> One of the hardest things is resentment can build up if you feel like you need to buy gifts for your family and you can barely make your student loan payments, so bring things up
> - Courtney Alev

"One of the hardest things is resentment can build up if you feel like you need to buy gifts for your family and you can barely make your student loan payments, so bring things up," Alev said.

Sharing your financial struggles can be hard. If you want to talk but don't want to share every detail of your financial struggles, that's okay. Ultimately, what you want is for your loved ones to understand how you're feeling.

Plauché just recently started sharing her money worries with her family.

"I have been open with my family, just that I'm not going to be able to give gifts that year," she said.

EXPERIENCES VS. GIFTS

Another great way to save money is to skip material gifts and instead, grant your time. In many cases, your family would rather spend quality time with you.

Alev recommended planning low-cost activities such as a hike with your family, or attending a free event in your city. Other options can be a holiday movie marathon with your friends, a free museum with your parents or a volunteering day with your family.

USE CREDIT RESPONSIBLY

Since Plauché is already paying her student loan debt every month, she is avoiding using her credit card this holiday season to avoid carrying more debt.

If using your credit card is your only option, it's important that you use it wisely.

If you struggle with overspending during the holidays, Alev also recommends setting a budget for each of your credit cards.

If you can't pay your balance in full every month, it's important that you understand when you payment is due and have a plan to avoid paying a lot of interest.

If you're planning to use " buy now, pay later services ", it's best to be very intentional, Alev said.

"It's easy to get caught up. It's easy to use it a lot and have several different payments that will come down the road," she said.

AFFORDABLE ALTERNATIVES

There is more than one way to find the "perfect" gift for your family and it doesn't always involve spending a lot. In her quest to find gifts that don't cause her financial stress, Johnson has been getting creative.

"I've definitely been trying to save or just make gifts because I don't really have the disposable income to buy other people gifts or even buy myself a Christmas gift," Johnson said.

She's been looking into gifting a used book to her dad and because she loves painting and already has all the tools, she's working on a painting for her mom.

Other affordable alternatives can be sending hand written notes to your loved ones, buying from thrift stores, hosting a cookie bake off or simply spending quality time with your family.





COMMUNITY NEWS

Citywide

Reservable drop-in pickleball program now available at Memorial Park

Pickleball enthusiasts can now reserve court time at Memorial Park and select sessions to be matched with others at their skill level.

Novice, intermediate and advanced player sessions are available on Mondays and Wednesdays between 5-9:30 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays from 8-11 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.-2:15 p.m. A total of 12-16 courts is available per session. The fee for reservations is $3 per person per session for Santa Monica residents and $5 for non-residents.

> I'm thrilled to see this new system come online for those who are brand new to the sport, for our intermediate players or for advanced players wishing to play with others at their skill level
> - Jenny Rogers, Director of Recreation and Arts

The city's pickleball program first started in 2015. During the pandemic, the city partnered with the newly formed Santa Monica Pickleball Club to continue to offer drop-in pickleball sessions at Memorial Park.

As the popularity of the sport continued to grow, so did wait times at the courts, and the ability to play was not guaranteed with the open, drop-in system. The new reservable system is intended to meet the community's need for an informal drop-in experience while also providing better access to courts. The Santa Monica Pickleball Club continues to be a key partner in offering complementary programming, including pickleball clinics and tournaments.

The tennis/pickleball courts at John Adams Middle School continue to be available for free drop-in play on weekends through the joint use agreement between the city and the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

"I'm thrilled to see this new system come online for those who are brand new to the sport, for our intermediate players or for advanced players wishing to play with others at their skill level," Director of Recreation and Arts Jenny Rogers said. "Through our partnership with the pickleball club and the school district, we are able to offer a diverse array of experiences for pickleball enthusiasts here in Santa Monica."

For more information, visit santamonica.gov/programs/pickleball.

SUBMITTED BY TATI SIMONIAN, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Downtown

UnHoused: A History of Housing in Santa Monica

Explore the evolution of Santa Monica's housing through the captivating exhibition, UnHoused: A History of Housing in Santa Monica, Opening Friday, February 2 at the Santa Monica History Museum.

From the Tongva people to its contemporary beach town metropolis, the exhibition delves into the heart of Santa Monica's housing legacy by providing perspectives on policy and development. It moves to poignant narratives of migration, affordability, redlining, restrictive covenants, and the ever-relevant topic of rent control.

Addressing contemporary housing challenges faced by Santa Monica and the region, the exhibition further explores affordable housing, support systems for those experiencing homelessness, equity and inclusion, and the importance of historic preservation in maintaining the city's cultural identity.

Rob Schwenker, Executive Director of the Santa Monica History Museum, emphasizes the critical role of understanding the past to navigate today's complex and dynamic concerns, "Housing is perhaps the preeminent issue in our region and across all of California. It is critical to understand where we've been and how we got here." The exhibition takes an immersive examination of the city's architectural heritage, environmental dynamics, and the complex interplay of socio-political factors.

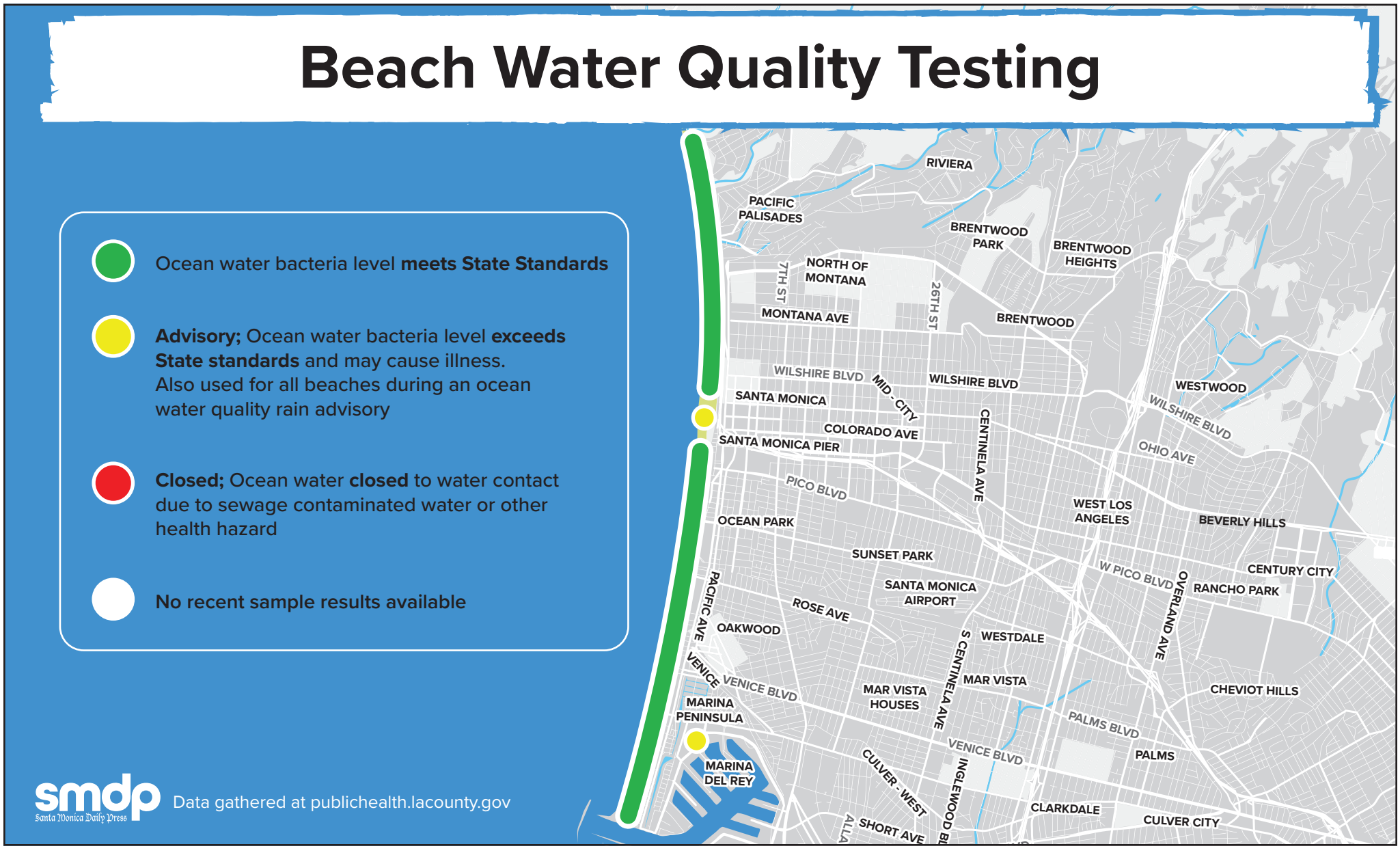
Visitors are invited to engage with the future through interactive models and thought provoking questions like "What makes a home?" and "Why does Santa Monica look the way it does today?" The exhibition centers around the future of housing, encouraging contemplation of the evolving nature of residential spaces.

UnHoused: A History of Housing in Santa Monica at the Santa Monica History Museum seeks to foster community dialogue about the past, present, and future of housing. It emphasizes that housing is not merely a structure but a reflection of community, inclusivity, and shared heritage.

Since 1975, The museum has been sharing the rich, diverse history of the Santa Monica Bay Area. They are committed to serving the community by providing access to dynamic exhibitions highlighting the depth and complexity of collective history through our extensive collection of historical objects and an exceptional image archive. They offer ongoing programming, pop-up exhibitions, and community events. The museum is located at 1350 7th Street, www.SantaMonicaHistory.org.

SUBMITTED BY LISA DANNENBAUM, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND VISUAL CONTENT

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR
Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com



COMMUNITY NEWS

MidCity

PIRCH Announces Steven Crutchfield as New Santa Monica Showroom Director

PIRCH, a leading retailer of luxury kitchen, bathroom and outdoor appliances in Southern California, is proud to announce Steven Crutchfield as director of its eighth Southern California showroom in Santa Monica.

Steven Crutchfield joins PIRCH from the world of luxury fashion, last successfully opening the Men's Store for Louis Vuitton on Rodeo Drive. Before that, he was with Saks Fifth Avenue in two different locations including the Beverly Hills Flagship in senior leadership positions. Previous roles include Tesla, Bloomingdale's, CHANEL and Neiman Marcus. A lover of all the finer things in life as well as the beauty of living in Southern California, Steven is thrilled to be opening the Santa Monica Flagship for PIRCH.

"Since moving to Los Angeles I have always had a fondness for the easy, breezy but still luxuriously fabulous Santa Monica community. I cannot wait to swing open our doors and invite all of LA to experience the magic of our Santa Monica Showroom," says Crutchfield.

> Since moving to Los Angeles I have always had a fondness for the easy, breezy but still luxuriously fabulous Santa Monica community. I cannot wait to swing open our doors and invite all of LA to experience the magic of our Santa Monica Showroom
> - Steven Crutchfield

PIRCH will bring their signature client-focused, elevated retail experience to the Westside for the first time, as well as its PIRCH Premier program for trade customers. Serving both the design community and the savvy consumer, PIRCH Santa Monica will feature a working kitchen display complete with chefs demonstrating the most advanced cooking technology, numerous expertly-designed kitchen and bath lifestyle installations, and the latest and greatest in appliances, plumbing, fixtures, tile, surfaces, hardware, cabinetry and more, from top names such as Sub-Zero, Wolf & Cove, Thermador, Gaggenau, Dornbracht, Hestan and Lynx.

Notably, PIRCH is the exclusive Waterworks Boutique Partner of Los Angeles and Orange County, and will feature the largest Waterworks display of any Boutique Partner in Southern California inside their new Santa Monica Showroom. Other noteworthy elements of the showroom include two live Galley workstation displays, and an outdoor area featuring products for outdoor cooking, refrigeration, cabinetry, plumbing, and more to create the ultimate outdoor entertaining space.

PIRCH Santa Monica is estimated to open early 2024 and will be located at 2520 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90404.

SUBMITTED BY PIRCH

Citywide

Santa Monica Nativity Scenes will not return this year

Motorists and pedestrians passing by Calvary Baptist Church at 20th Street and Broadway may have noticed that a familiar Santa Monica Christmas feature is missing — the Nativity Scenes.

The multiple booths with life-size scenes depicting events in the Christmas story ranging from the Annunciation of Christ's birth to Mary through the Nativity to Jesus' boyhood in Joseph's carpenter shop will not be displayed this year. However, the familiar Nativity Scenes sign is posted at the site.

A spokesman for the sponsoring Santa Monica Nativity Scenes Committee explained: "We have decided to take our first voluntary sabbatical in 70 years in order to reorganize and improve this cherished event. Our goal is to return this time-honored display next year to its customary location to continue presentation of the true meaning of the season to Santa Monica, fulfilling its title of 'City of the Christmas Story.'"

The distinctive multibooth Nativity Scenes display, sponsored by numerous area churches and community organizations, began in 1953 in Palisades Park and has moved to various other locations over the years.

Individuals and businesses that would like to support this longtime community tradition may send checks to the Santa Monica Nativity Scenes Committee, P.O. Box 648, Santa Monica, CA 90406.

SUBMITTED BY THE NATIVITY COMMITTEE

FREE PARKING

FROM PAGE 2

was largely driven by nearby amenities and attractions. "Essentially, people park close to places that they wanted to go to and less so by the benefit of the free parking," he said.

Zwick quoted the Santa Monica parking manager's report from that time, "Free parking devalues the inventory. Parkers are more location sensitive than price sensitive. Paid parking helps to manage the supply and to manage effective turnover for nearby businesses."

Ultimately, Councilmember Oscar de la Torre moved the motion with the friendly amendment that an after action study was conducted to analyze any financial impact this had to the City. Negrete seconding the motion and Councilmembers voted unanimously, 7-0 to approve this item.

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Downtown

From the Ground Up: The Life of Vernon Brunson at the Santa Monica History Museum

The Santa Monica History Museum presents a new exhibition, From the Ground Up: The Life of Vernon Brunson, an examination of Vernon Brunson's remarkable life in Santa Monica and his impact on the community through his creative and scientific endeavors and commitment to civil rights. Opening Saturday, February 3.

Born into one of the first Black families in Santa Monica, Brunson was a poet, playwright, and columnist for the California Eagle newspaper. Despite encountering barriers in aviation due to racism, he channeled his passion by becoming an electromechanical designer at Hughes Aircraft. Additionally, he founded a branch of the Black Wings Flying Club, championing inclusivity in aviation.

Brunson was a vocal advocate for equality, contributing an accessibility ramp to the design for Santa Monica City Hall, emphasizing the intersection of his work with the broader social issues of his time.

> We are so excited to continue to deepen our relationship and further our work with the Quinn Research Center through this fascinating look at the life of the extraordinary Vernon Brunson
> - Rob Schwenker, Executive Director of the Santa Monica History Museum

The exhibition positions Brunson within the context of Black architects like Paul Revere Williams, showcasing his collaborations and highlighting his impact on the architectural landscape. Visitors can expect to see a diverse array of his work, from architectural plans to paintings, furniture designs, and even a unique "selfie" mechanism he created for his camera.

The exhibition will also delve into the personal aspects of his life, providing a holistic view of this extraordinary individual. From the Ground Up: The Life of Vernon Brunson will be featured in the museum's Quinn Gallery, established under a partnership with the Quinn Research Center, an archive for Black Family History. "We are so excited to continue to deepen our relationship and further our work with the Quinn Research Center through this fascinating look at the life of the extraordinary Vernon Brunson," said Rob Schwenker, Executive Director of the Santa Monica History Museum. "Brunson was a true renaissance man, and we're honored to present his story."

The Santa Monica History Museum invites the public to join in this tribute to Vernon Brunson's life and achievements, fostering a deeper understanding of his legacy in shaping the fabric of Santa Monica.

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The Quinn Gallery is a partnership of the Santa Monica History Museum and the Quinn Research Center (QRC). The Quinn Gallery advances the museum's commitment to inclusivity as they continue our mission to share the history of the Santa Monica Bay area.

The QRC is an archive of Black family history and Santa Monica Bay culture. It was established by Carolyne and Bill Edwards as a tribute to the legacy of Dr. Alfred T. Quinn, a prominent Santa Monica Black educator and community leader. The museum is located at 1350 7th Street, www.SantaMonicaHistory.org

SUBMITTED BY LISA DANNENBAUM, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND VISUAL CONTENT



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[1] "Medicare & You," Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2020
Includes the Participating (in GA: Designated) Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Product not available in all states. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, LA, NY; call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for similar offer. Certificate C250A (ID: C250E; PA: C250Q); Insurance Policy P150 (GA: P150GA; NY: P150NY; OK: P150OK; TN: P150TN); Rider kinds B438/B439 (GA: B439B).
6255



COUNCIL PREVIEW

FROM PAGE 1

Following the City Council's vote in January to move ahead with the process of planning for a future park where the Santa Monica Airport is currently located, the issue of exactly what to do with the 227 acre site has once again been propelled into public scrutiny. And in a little over five year's time, at the stroke of midnight on December 31, 2028, the form and function of this substantial swath of land could significantly change.

A previous proposal to use a lottery system to create an advisory body for the work was abandoned earlier this year.

However, council asked staff to return with a request for both qualifications and proposals to determine the best team of consultants to help the community and staff understand the existing conditions of the Airport, provide meaningful engagement with community members, and envision potential land-planning scenarios leading to a preferred design concept for the "Great Park."

Staff recommended Sasaki for the work detail laid out in the SP2641-Airport Conversion document based on its extensive experience with re-envisioning airports into parks and working collaboratively with community members, city leadership and staff. The budget is to not exceed $2,070,000 (including a 12% contingency) for a period of no longer than 21 months with future year funding contingent on Council budget approval.

The airport is home to both aviation and non-aviation industries within the 227 acre site, which is made up of 187 acres of open space, including the runway, car parks and areas for aircraft storage, together with 40 acres of existing buildings, such as Barker Hangar, the Museum of Flying and the Airport Arts Campus and many others. The site incorporates recreational facilities, arts, culture, education, retail and even a restaurant. There are 166 businesses in total, covering 43 different sectors, generating approximately $20 million in annual revenue.

Two visions for the land have emerged with some supporting the aforementioned park, which is non-revenue generating and could be potentially costly to build and maintain. Others back a "mixed use," which is revenue generating and could include housing elements together with both retail and commercial space.

However, if the land is to be developed, in any way, significant research will have to be conducted to assess any potential environmental impact from a century of aviation operations, including the presence of noxious, possibly hazardous waste chemicals. Lest we forget, the site was a giant aircraft manufacturing facility during WWII.

On the Consent Calendar is a motion to adopt a resolution of salary rates for both the City Manager David White and the Chief of Police Ramon Batista and the approval of modification to the employment agreement with White. According to the City of Santa Monica, in 2022, Batista's salary approximately $355,440 and White's was $365,952

Due to the nature of bonus payments, its possible for the Deputy Police Chief to exceed their base salary of $284,736 and make more money than the Chief and City Manager, hence the proposal to increase the Chief's salary.

The annual salary for Police Chief is increasing by 6% and the City Manager will receive a 10% increase in base salary

According to the Consumer Price Index report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, inflation averaged approximately 4% in the USA in 2023.

Also up for discussion in closed session at an early 4:30 p.m. start time will be the sale of several city properties including land at 1654 19th Street and 1444 7th Street.

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CIVIC AUDITORIUM

FROM PAGE 3

of a previously vacant building, even by the city itself, required completion of the SLA process if the State deemed the proposed use "nonessential."

Once property has entered the SLA process, municipalities must engage in good faith negotiations with interested parties, but they do not have to come to an agreement. The state gives priority to housing, education and park use, but if the SLA process does not yield a new use, the City could pursue other kinds of projects without state regulation.

Two bidders emerged during the process, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District and the Community Corporation of Santa Monica. Council rejected the latter and the former voluntarily discontinued its proposal allowing the city to clear the Surplus Land Act and pursue other partners for the site. At the start of the process, the City said it had no intention to sell or redevelop the property and those requirements were reiterated in the proposal at Council.

Outside of the municipal process, local nonprofit the Santa Monica Conservancy has filed an application to have the building added to the National Register of Historic Places (NHRP). According to the Conservancy, listing in the Register is honorific, recognizing important places, and does not affect property rights or add additional regulatory requirements beyond those already established with city zoning and Landmark status.

The Conservancy says that as a financial incentive, listing in the NHRP does provide opportunities for federal and state tax incentives to attract private investment, as well as grants and use of State Historic Building Code alternatives that could make a critical difference when analyzing the feasibility of any project or venture.

"They have now certified that we have met all the requirements of the Surplus Land Act, which leaves it to the city now, to determine what to do with the land," Davis said. "We know at least there seem to be rumors ... and in the city there is at least one group that is interested in making all of the necessary infrastructure improvements to the Civic as well as operating it."

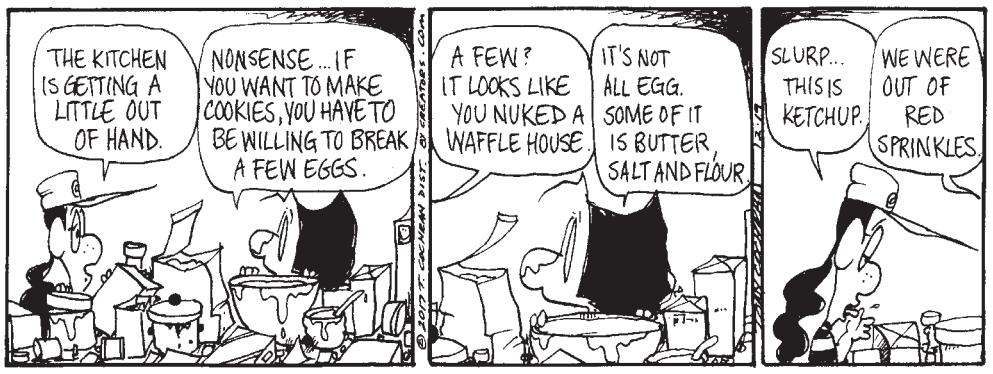
"It seemed to me that while we certainly want to welcome their interest, we should determine whether or not there is anyone else that is also willing to [agree to] the terms set forth in this item ... And of course, to propose a plan that would not require any financial contribution from the city as we are not in a position to provide any," Davis reiterated.

This item raised little to no discussion and the motion was made with no amendments by Davis and seconded by Negrete and Council ultimately voted unanimously 7-0 to move ahead.

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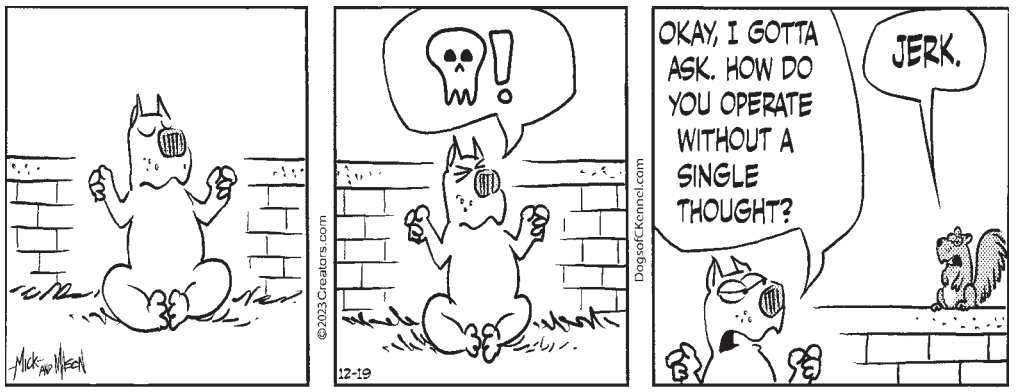
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



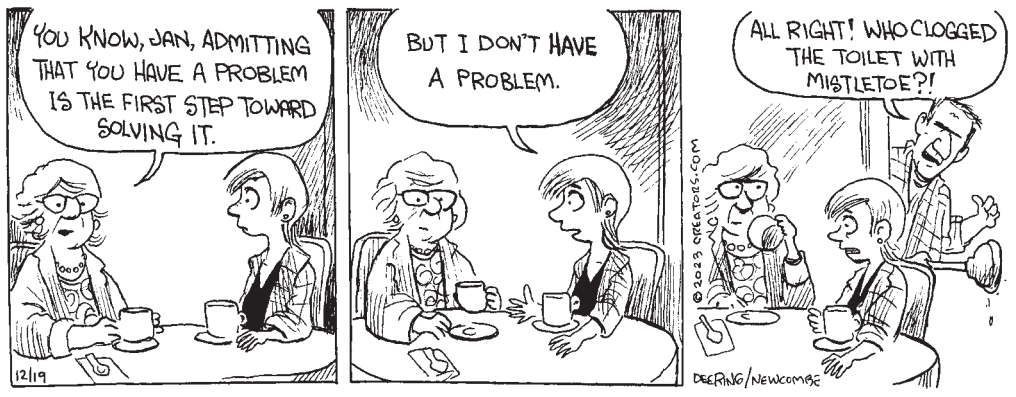
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"THEY'LL STOP STIRRING BY CHRISTMAS EVE."

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 24 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6063

Queensland's capital

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

Ascot	Gailes	Redbank
Bardon	Ipswich	Reefs
Bunya	Ithaca	Road
Bush	Kedron	Russell Island
Carina	Lindum	Sharks
Close	Logan	Sherwood
Coorparoo	Lota	South
Deception Bay	Manly	Suburb
Development	Murarrie	Tides
Dugong	North	Unique
East	Paddington	West
Ferry	Pier	Wynnum

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 19)

A year of continual evolution and renewal. Though your desire for transformation is ever-abiding, you'll recognize and revel in the beauty of daily moments in which you enjoy yourself just the way you are. More highlights: two big checks spaced six months apart, love and connection in tight friendships, and following through on a big promise. Gemini and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 14, 3, 1 and 19.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). To outperform your standards will require you to extend your trust and delegate to others. Are your people supportive? Can a process happen without you doing all the work? Stretch beyond your comfort zone and find out.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Considering that no one in the entire world is universally liked, working to be the first would be a weird use of your energy. Instead, you'll go boldly forward and expect mixed results.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Avoid comparison. You're working on something that is so wonderfully beyond compare that trying to A-B it against the work of others would be reductive. "I have an inferiority complex, but it's not a very good one." — Steven Wright

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're involved in a kind of dance today, and learning the movements will happen more easily when you step back and get the overall feeling first. Observe a while, and when you join up, you'll hit a natural flow.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Oftentimes, we don't really know what we need. Even though you didn't feel the least bit empty, someone comes into your world and suddenly, you're filled up. Trust you've done the same for others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A customer is a compliment — a signal of trust and a nod to the value you provide. You will be similarly complimented by anyone who comes to you for advice or help. You rise to the expectations of you, and then you soar beyond.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The dynamic of "mentorship" is coming into your life. The confidence between teacher and student is sacred. It creates a safe place. Truth and wisdom will be discovered there.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There have been times you considered your persistence to be a curse. You'll now see your tenacity for the great gift that it is. You'll keep pushing ahead even when you think you might fail — now that takes heart! Your actions will inspire a whole team.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Don't confuse the symbols of success with success itself. Success is a process, not a result. As you go through the maze of the day, pause to soak in the feelings. You're making it. You're winning life. You already won.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll imagine an intention for someone and send it straight to their heart. The energy will shift. This could be the start of a wonderful connection, or the end of a problem you've longed to see resolved.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). No matter what the facts are, there is always a flip side. When it's not going in your preferred direction, make it spin. This day is like a coin you can toss, catch and turn over on your hand to discover what luck awaits.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Just because you were born into a body, mind and circumstance, it doesn't mean you know everything about it. Whatever you do to know yourself brings happiness, and whatever brings happiness will help you get to know yourself.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

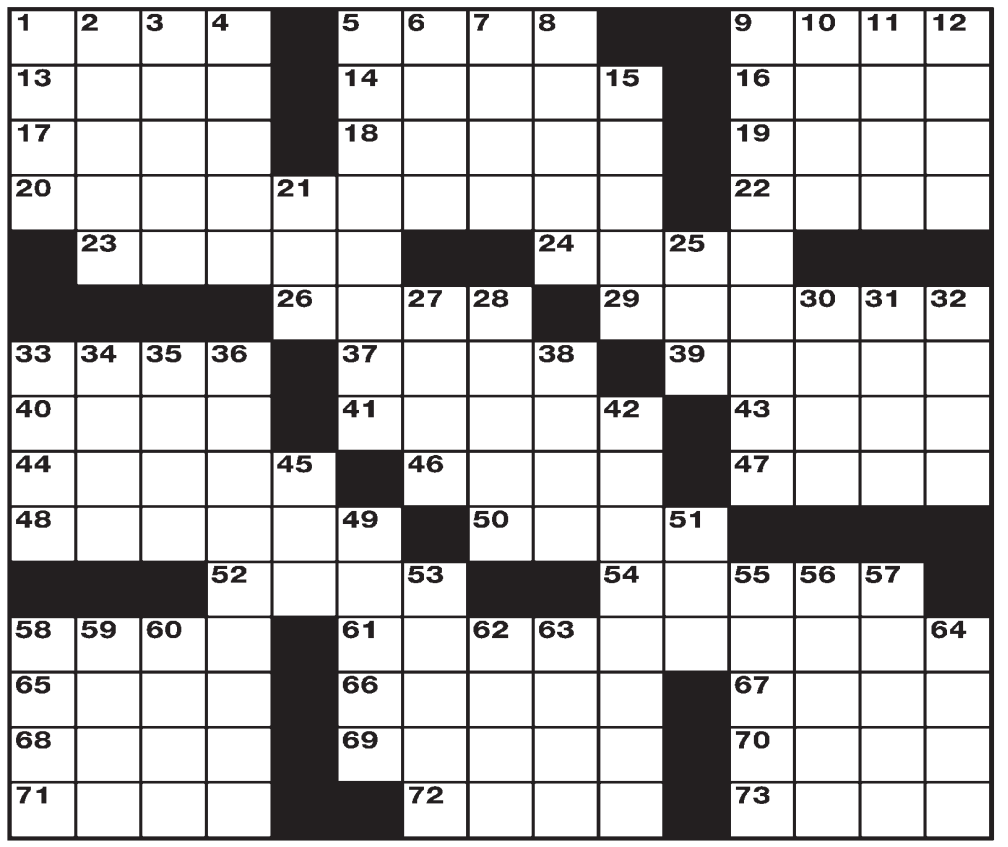
COCKTAIL HOUR by Stella Zawistowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Mix with a spoon
5 "I __ my case"
9 The majority of
13 Garment for Julius Caesar
14 Toss out of school
16 Up to a task
17 Comrade in battle
18 Creme de __ (chocolate liqueur)
19 Person, place or thing
20 Vodka + tomato juice
22 Group of cattle
23 __ boom (jet sound)
24 Epic story
26 Prepare for the future
29 Group of soap suds
33 Do laps in a pool
37 Online auction website
39 Kitchen range
40 "Look what I did!"
41 Turf torn by a golfer
43 Prayer's last word
44 __ so often (occasionally)
46 Help yourself to
47 Baby bird's place
48 Hardly enough
50 Gave temporarily
52 Army no-show: Abbr.
54 No longer sleeping
58 Way off in the distance
61 Rum + pineapple juice
65 Cab
66 Text message illustration
67 Colored part of the eye
68 Leave out
69 Try to unearth
70 Session in a tub
71 Southwestern flat-topped hill
72 British conservative
73 __-bitsy (tiny)

DOWN

1 Wild guess
2 Turnpike charges
3 Arctic dome dwelling
4 Synthetic shirt fabric
5 Sorted paper and plastic in bins
6 Student's test
7 Pet welfare org.
8 Rips (up)
9 Whiskey + vermouth
10 Woodwind instrument
11 Speak unclearly
12 Be apt (to)
15 True-blue
21 Topping for potato chips
25 Fuel for a car
27 Very slightly
28 Of admirals and warships
30 Your residence
31 Nights before holidays
32 Tenant's monthly payment
33 Flower stalk
34 Surface for surfing
35 Notion
36 Tequila + lime juice
38 Collar for oxen
42 Persistence
45 Tree that sounds like "you"
49 Caught with a lasso
51 A couple of
53 Place restrictions on
55 Suspect's story
56 Gold purity measure
57 Revises for publication
58 Part of a molecule
59 Widespread renown
60 Earth's rotation line
62 Canceled, as a launch
63 Slightly open, as a door
64 With a grayish-white color



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2023 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 12/19/23

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TUESDAY | DECEMBER 19

MYSTERY BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION
This community-led, monthly book discussion group currently meets online/virtually via Zoom. To register, email library@santamonica.gov. December's selection is Island of the Mad by Laurie R. King. 7 - 8 p.m.

NONFICTION BOOK CLUB
This lively group of avid readers meets on the third Tuesday of each month to discuss a work of nonfiction. Books selected for discussion can be new or old and come from a wide array of genres, styles, and authors. December 19: An Invisible Thread by Laura Schroff. 1 p.m. Donald Bruce Kaufman - Brentwood Branch Library, 11820 San Vicente Boulevard.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. 5:30 p.m. Agendas available online at: https://www.smgov.net/departments/clerk/agendas.aspx

WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 20

FREE WALK-IN LEGAL CLINIC
Santa Monica residents can meet one on one with a lawyer from Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles for help with HOUSING issues. Third Wednesday of the month 4:30 - 7 p.m. at Virginia Avenue Park- Park Center. Immediate assistance is available by calling LAFLA directly at 800-399-4529 or visit lafla.org/gethelp. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE MULTI LEVEL LOW
Santa Monica Public Library hosts an ongoing series of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors. Classes are free and students must be 18 years or older to attend. Community parents and SMMUSD parents have priority enrollment. Learn more about California adult education at caladulted.org. Enrollment is through the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Adult Education Center, located at 2510 Lincoln Blvd., Room 203, Santa Monica, CA, 90405. Contact Olga Saucedo at (310) 664-6222, ext.76203 or osaucedo@smmusd.org to enroll. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET
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, delicious foods, live music and more. Downtown Farmers Market Locations: Wednesdays at Arizona Ave & 2nd St and Saturdays at Arizona & 3rd St. 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

THURSDAY | DECEMBER 21

MONTANA AVENUE BRANCH BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
This community-led, monthly book discussion group currently meets in person. December's selection is Say Nothing by Patrick Radden Keefe. Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Avenue. 6 - 7 p.m.

LOCALS NIGHT ON THE SANTA MONICA PIER
Join organizers every THIRD THURSDAY of the month on the Santa Monica as the Pier Corp. will be rolling out the red carpet for Santa Monicans for a curated series for locals, by locals. Gather your friends and family and head down to the Pier for amazing entertainment including youth activities, a car show, local DJs and live music from local bands, art exhibits, salsa dancing and so much more! You really won't want to miss this incredible and unique outdoor setting to unwind, all while celebrating Santa Monica. Santa Monica Pier, 200 Santa Monica Pier, 3:30 - 10 p.m.

FAMILY STORYTIME
Stories, songs, fingerplays, rhymes: building reading skills while having fun! Suggested for ages 3 and up. Palisades Branch Library, 861 Alma Real Drive
Pacific Palisades 4 p.m.

BUILDING BLOCK PARTY AT THE LIBRARY FOR KIDS AND TEENS
Bring your engineering ideas to life with soft blocks, Duplos, and LEGOs. For ADA accommodations, call (213) 228-7430 at least 72 hours prior to the event. Para ajustes razonables según la ley de ADA, llama al (213) 228-7430 al menos 72 horas antes del evento. West Los Angeles Regional Branch Library, 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard, Los Angeles, 4:15 p.m.

FRIDAY | DECEMBER 22

THE PHARCYDE
This event is 21 and over. Any ticket holder unable to present valid identification indicating that they are at least 21 years of age will not be admitted to this event, and will not be eligible for a refund. The Venice West, 1717 Lincoln Blvd, 8 p.m., $45, https://www.ticketweb.com/event/the-pharcyde-the-venice-west-tickets/13556808

THE NO CHASERS HOLIDAY SHOW
Doors open at 8 PM. Show starts at 9:30PM. Online ticket sales end at 7 PM, tics available at the door after 8 PM. 2 drink minimum. The No Chasers" are hailed as one of the greatest cover groups around SoCal. Harvelle's Santa Monica, 1432 4th St, $10, https://santamonica.harvelles.com/shows/244678

POP UP: WEAVING CREATIVITY
These exhibition-based workshops encourage creative inspiration for different activities, so make sure to check out the corresponding galleries. No prior art-making experience is necessary; our friendly staff will happily work with you on your creation. All ages are welcome! Please note, these in-gallery workshops are free with general admission. Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 5905 Wilshire Blvd, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

COCOA & CAROLS
Join organizers at RUNWAY Wonderland for a vibrant evening of Cocoa and Carols! RUNWAY Wonderland will be extra Merry on Friday Nights in December. Come by and get a cup of gourmet hot cocoa with a variety of toppings and sweet extras, as you enjoy the sounds of acapella carolers. Find them on The Turf on Town Center Dr. Epic Mega Cookie Co. will be popping up for a special treat. First come, first serve. RUNWAY Playa Vista, 12746 West Jefferson Boulevard, 6 - 8 p.m.

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 23

ALLIGATOR BEACH
Doors open at 8 PM. Show starts at 9:30PM. Online ticket sales end at 7 PM, tics available at the door after 8 PM. 2 drink minimum. Funk roots run deep - all the way to Hermosa Beach, California - where some of the most sought-after backup musicians in the biz are creating a stir in a New Orleans-flavored funk band called Alligator Beach. Alligator Beach: New Orleans meets Los Angeles. They are going to grab something from The Meters, The Neville Brothers, Maceo Parker and Aretha. They are going to round up all the party people and head down to the beach to have a funky good time and shake everything we got. Harvelle's Santa Monica, 1432 4th St. $10.

THE NUTCRACKER AND THE FOUR REALMS
Accommodative Screening E. T. A. Hoffmann's short story "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King" and the subsequent ballet by composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and choreographer Marius Petipa inspired this lavish and visually inventive fantasy. The Academy, 8949 Wilshire Boulevard, 11 a.m. - 12:45 p.m., $5, https://www.discoverlosangeles.com/event/2023/12/23/the-nutcracker-and-the-four-realms

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 24

MARINA DEL REY SUNDAY CONCERTS
Enjoy free live music on the plaza at Fisherman's Village. Sundays year-round, weather depending. Free admission. Get two hours of free parking with validation from a shop or restaurant in the village. 1 - 4 pm
4640 Admiralty Way,

MONDAY | DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS IN VENICE 2023- COME HELP FEED THE HOMELESS
Join as a volunteer by purchasing a $10 ticket in the category of the item you'd like to donate on the day of the event. Your $10 contribution helps cover essential costs like permits for street closures, tables, barricades, insurance, and supplies, ensuring a successful and impactful event. Rose Ave- In between Hampton Dr and Main St. 6:30 - 10 a.m. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christmas-in-venice-2023-come-help-feed-the-homeless-tickets-769370506897

TUESDAY | DECEMBER 26

SOCIAL SERVICE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY PROVIDENCE ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM
Help with family nutrition and health care access is resuming at Virginia Avenue Park thanks to Providence St. John's Community Health Program. Trained community health workers will be available to meet in person with community members at the Park Center Building in Virginia Avenue Park. The first Tuesday of the month 11:30 am to 7 pm and 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Tuesdays from 9:30 am to 5 pm. The trained Providence St. John's staff can assist with enrollment in CalFresh, the state of California's food subsidy program created to improve the nutrition of families through access to healthy foods. Staff can also help navigate enrollment or questions for MediCal and Medicare. If you have questions about whether you qualify for benefits or if you need help completing enrollment forms, you can make an appointment by calling 310.458.8688. Drop-ins are also welcome. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave.

SMARTY PANTS STORYTIME - IN-PERSON PROGRAM
Let's get ready for school! Enjoy books, songs, rhymes, and movement while learning school readiness skills and having fun. For ages 2 - 5 with their parent. 11:00am - 11:30am. Lloyd Taber-Marina del Rey Library - Meeting Room

READ TO A DOG - IN-PERSON PROGRAM
Practice your reading skills by reading aloud to a trained therapy dog and volunteer handler from the BARK Reading Dogs group! 2 - 3 p.m. Lloyd Taber-Marina del Rey Library - Meeting Room.

WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 27

SAMO NIGHT | WEDNESDAYS ON ICE
Get ready to make waves for SaMo Night as they celebrate everything Santa Monica! A community night dedicated to the people who make our city so special . Ice at Santa Monica, presented by Netflix, invites guests to join Wednesdays on Ice themed skate nights during the 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. sessions throughout the season. For more information on each themed night, visit iceatsantamonica.com.

COME SING WITH THE BAND - LIVE BAND KARAOKE
Doors open at 8 PM. Show starts at 9:30PM. Online ticket sales end at 7 PM, tics available at the door after 8 PM. 2 drink minimum. New Band!! New Experience!! Come in Sign up SING! Harvelle's Santa Monica, 1432 4th St, $10.

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