3 **Surf Report**
Get your weather update.

9 **Comics**
Plus Word Search

10 **Horoscope**
Plus Crossword.

11 **What's Up Westside**
Calendar of events.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 28 | THURSDAY 12/26/24 | smdp.com

The Year in Review: Cosmic darkness and emotional light

Santa Monica began the year with a partial eclipse and a host of charitable acts



Thomas Leffler

ECLIPSE: The first part of 2024 included an opportunity for locals to see a partial solar eclipse, the last local opportunity until 2029.

As the year draws to a close, the Santa Monica Daily Press has summarized the year's news as reported in our pages. In today's edition, you'll find recaps covering January through April. Visit SMDP.com for more year-end coverage.

JANUARY

Road safety improvements continue throughout town with stop signs, bike lanes and new traffic warnings: The City of Santa Monica Mobility Department upgraded 10 intersections from two-way to four-way stops after a fatal accident.

Commission encourages SMPD to look for tear gas alternatives: The Santa Monica Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission approved SMPD's military equipment report but urged the department to seek alternatives to tear gas. Deputy Chief Darrick Jacob noted its use is rare and typically reserved for barricaded suspects.

Santa Monica rolls out mobile mental health unit: The City launched Therapeutic Transportation teams to assist residents experiencing mental health crises. Teams can conduct psychiatric transports and impose 72-hour holds when necessary.

Mariners captain commits to Idaho for football: Saint Monica Mariners captain Joshua Barnes committed to play for the University of Idaho Vandals.

District remains vigilant against illness as winter break ends: SMMUSD officials acknowledged circulating respiratory illnesses with a pre-break message to families.

Local lawsuit linking Snapchat to drug deaths can proceed: A judge denied most of Snap, Inc.'s motion to dismiss a lawsuit linking Snapchat to drug-related deaths. Filed in 2022, the case involves families of children who purchased drugs on the platform.

Santa Monica's Mediterranean movement continues on Main Street with the arrival of Zona Little Italy: Zona Little Italy opened at 2400 Main Street, between the Bicycle Service Center and Dolcenero Gelato.

Fairmont becomes second hotel to sign a deal with hotel union: The Fairmont Miramar signed a labor deal with Unite Here Local 11, securing wage increases, healthcare, and pension benefits for workers.

Students display hope, positivity in PTA art program: Out of 580 submissions

SEE **JANUARY** PAGE 2



City of Santa Monica
WOODLAWN
Cemetery
Mausoleum
Mortuary
FD #2101
Helping families honor, remember, and celebrate life.

• Traditional Burial • Green/Natural Burial • Cremation
• Funeral Planning & Mortuary Services
ALL IN ONE LOCATION
1847 14th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404 ▪ (310) 458-8717 (on-call - 24/7)
woodlawn.cemetery@santamonica.gov ▪ www.woodlawnsm.com

Get the local news that matters to you!
Sign up for The CURRENT
SMDP's free daily newsletter for all your Santa Monica news & events!
POWERED BY smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

Tool Repair & Servicing
Bourget Bros. offers Expert Repair on all of your tools:
Compressors
Rotary Hammers
Strip Nailers
Cordless Tools
Pneumatic Tools
Demolition Hammers & More



Blade Sharpening
Saw Blades
Gardening Tools
Knifes and Scissors
Bourget Bros. Building Materials
1636 - 11th Street
Santa Monica, CA 90404
bourgetbros.com • (310) 450-6556
All repair work meets factory regulations and comes with a 90-day warranty. Stop in or call us to schedule service.

JANUARY

FROM PAGE 1

from SMMUSD students, 21 artworks were honored in the National PTA "Reflections" program.

Community Corp. conjures up revitalization plan for Venice church: Community Corporation of Santa Monica partnered with Hoop Bus Inc. to reimagine the First Baptist Church in Venice as a cultural and community center.

Performances, speeches, acts of service take place for MLK holiday: MLK Day celebrations included the Interfaith Council's Freedom Celebration, a Day of Service, and a Santa Monica Symphony Orchestra concert.

Scooter injuries occurring more frequently and with greater severity: UCLA-led research reported scooter injuries tripled nationwide between 2016 and 2020, with severe cases requiring surgeries.

Big Blue Bus reports rise in ridership, plus a new safety officer program: Despite operator shortages, Big Blue Bus ridership grew in 2022-23. The MODE program for seniors and disabled riders also increased. A new transit security officer program was approved to improve system safety.

Popular second-hand clothing store Buffalo Exchange permanently closes: Buffalo Exchange's Main Street location closed as the lease ended. Stock will be redistributed to other area stores.

Free Telehealth option bolsters district mental health services: SMMUSD partnered with Hazel Health to provide free virtual therapy sessions for students during school hours or at home.

Stunning Saint Anne mural latest in virtuoso's repertoire: Artist Gustavo Zermeño Jr. unveiled his latest mural at Saint Anne School, depicting Saint Anne, Mary, and Jesus set against local Santa Monica backdrops.

Longtime local favorite bar JP's reopens: JP's Sports Bar & Grill reopened at 925 Wilshire Blvd, one block west of its original site.

BMX pros bring energy, messaging to Roosevelt students: Roosevelt Elementary hosted BMX freestylers Dustin McCarty and Dennis Westfall for an anti-bullying assembly.

SMC synergy with Chamber connects academics, new industries: Santa Monica College and the Chamber of Commerce launched Talent Connect, linking students to internships and jobs in forward-thinking industries.

English learners drive testing success and failure at SMMUSD: District testing results highlighted challenges faced by non-native English-speaking students.

Locals' Night returns for first 2024 event: The Santa Monica Pier's Locals' Night featured salsa dancing, a car show, and musical performances in the merry-go-round building.

Breaks turn young students into burgeoning ecosystem stewards: Heal the Bay Aquarium's winter science camp gave students hands-on ocean learning experiences.

Japanese delegation reinforces Sister Cities relationship with first post-pandemic visit: A Fujinomiya delegation visited Santa Monica, strengthening Sister City ties with gift exchanges and local tours.

Threats against councilmembers prompt enhanced security for tonight's meeting: Security increased for a January Council

SEE **YEAR** PAGE 3

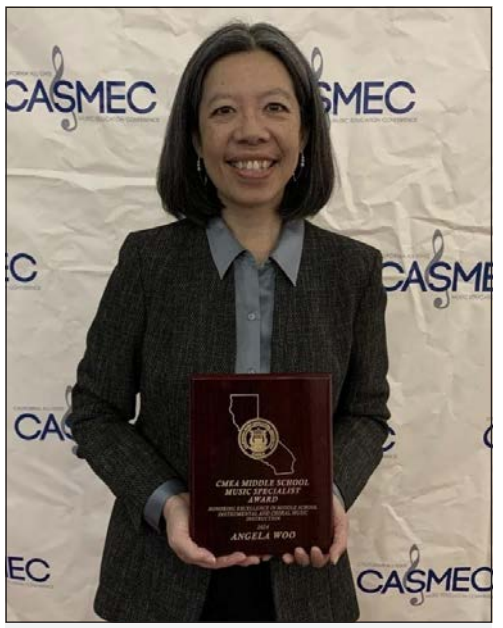


Photo Courtesy SMMUSD

MUSIC AWARD: John Adams Middle School (JAMS) Director of Instrumental Music Angela Woo was presented with the 2024 California Music Educators Association Middle School Music Educator Award.



Courtesy photo

BOB'S: The namesake of Bob's Market, Bob Rosenbloom (center) died after decades in business on Ocean Park Blvd.

YEAR

FROM PAGE 2

meeting following unspecified threats.

Retail theft is a "top priority" for Sacramento lawmakers: Assemblymember Rick Zbur assured Santa Monica businesses that tackling retail theft and organized crime is a legislative priority.

Fairmont takes on composting prototype to meet new standard: Fairmont Miramar partnered with Dyrt to process food waste, diverting nearly three tons weekly and producing compost for rooftop gardens.

Jazz legend collaboration crests with Samohi band performance: Jazz icon Stanley Clarke joined Santa Monica High School bands for a winter concert, showcasing his mentorship.

Folklorico program pays tribute to education leader: SMMUSD's Folklorico and Mariachi recital honored late Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jacqueline Mora with cultural dances and mariachi performances.

New atmospheric eatery to offer a double the size of some projects: Sacramento legislation, particularly AB 1287, allows developers to double project density, limiting local agencies' opposition.

Happy Birthday Marion: The Santa Monica Conservancy hosted a birthday event honoring silent film star Marion Davies at the Annenberg Community Beach House.

McKinley showcases world of cultures: McKinley Elementary's Multicultural Day featured activities, cuisine, and performances celebrating diverse cultures and communities.

Chamber summit brings new trends to local businesses: The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce's Business Summit included industry panels and awarded Providence St. John's CEO Michael Ricks as Outstanding Business Leader.

Santa Monica embraces Black History Month with Council proclamation: February was declared Black History Month, featuring events like food trucks, dance gatherings, and the Greens Festival.

Baby boomers dominate home ownership, leaving little for Gen Z: Reports show Baby Boomers own 39% of LA metro homes, while Gen Z struggles with affordability due to high mortgage rates and inflation.



Thomas Leffler

HOUSED: After years of health struggles, Scott Brutzman was evicted but was able to find new housing in the city.

Parisian twist to the humble hamburger: Chef Sean MacDonald opened Burgette, a Parisian-inspired burger eatery next to Bar Monette.

Matthew Hallock appointed Santa Monica fire chief: Former Monterey Park Fire Chief Matthew Hallock was appointed as Santa Monica's new fire chief, bringing 24 years of experience.

Holocaust Remembrance Day marked amid a raging war and a rise in hate: International Holocaust Remembrance Day honored victims and survivors, commemorating the liberation of Auschwitz.

Emeritus Gallery showcases one of its own in exhibition: Artist Anna Conley showcased her exhibition "The Invisible Man" at Santa Monica College's Emeritus Gallery.

Arrest made in Ocean Park Blvd. shooting: Kayla Denise Mackey was arrested for the fatal shooting of William Edwards III, identified with witness information.

SMFD starts the year with new plan and a new chief: SMFD presented its five-year strategic plan at the first City Council meeting of 2024.

Campus plans in motion at district elementary sites: Will Rogers Learning Community broke ground on Phase 1 of its campus plan, while Franklin Elementary updated its Master Plan.

Density bonus rules allow developers to

FEBRUARY

Los Angeles DA announces 200 organized retail theft cases were filed in 2023: On Feb. 1, Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón announced that "approximately 200" organized retail theft cases involving adult and juvenile defendants were filed by the office in 2023. The cases were filed through the efforts of organized retail task forces, which are composed of regional law enforcement agencies and the District Attorney's Office partnering together to prosecute these crimes.

School officials broach ways to support struggling students: The Board of Education

SEE **FEBRUARY** PAGE 4



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **56.8**

THURSDAY
FAIR

SURF: Thigh to stomach 2-3FT+

Still plenty of surf in the water as run of WNW/NW swell gradually starts to let off the gas a touch. Current wind outlook is favorable but will want to keep an eye on it.

FRIDAY
FAIR

SURF: Thigh to stomach 2-3FT+

A new WNW swell may move in over the PM on top of the previous energy. Deep early high tide to work around, so mid to later AM generally best, especially for the point. Light AM wind is currently expected.

Weather

Thursday: Cloudy, with a high near 60.
Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 48.
Friday: Cloudy, with a high near 60.
Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 48..

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2024/12/26	Thu	05:49 AM	5.25	H
2024/12/26	Thu	1:17 PM	0.23	L
2024/12/26	Thu	7:45 PM	3.16	H
2024/12/26	Thu	11:44 PM	2.39	L
2024/12/27	Fri	06:21 AM	5.54	H
2024/12/27	Fri	1:50 PM	-0.23	L
2024/12/27	Fri	8:24 PM	3.30	H
2024/12/28	Sat	12:23 AM	2.46	L
2024/12/28	Sat	06:55 AM	5.82	H
2024/12/28	Sat	2:24 PM	-0.61	L
2024/12/28	Sat	8:59 PM	3.40	H
2024/12/29	Sun	01:01 AM	2.46	L
2024/12/29	Sun	07:29 AM	6.07	H
2024/12/29	Sun	2:58 PM	-0.89	L
2024/12/29	Sun	9:33 PM	3.48	H
2024/12/30	Mon	01:39 AM	2.43	L
2024/12/30	Mon	08:04 AM	6.26	H
2024/12/30	Mon	3:33 PM	-1.08	L
2024/12/30	Mon	10:08 PM	3.53	H
2024/12/31	Tue	02:18 AM	2.38	L
2024/12/31	Tue	08:40 AM	6.36	H
2024/12/31	Tue	3:59 PM	-1.15	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: 12/18
6 15 18 33 49
Power#: 7
Jackpot: 88 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/17
56 66 67 68 69
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 825 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 12/18
4 5 17 19 47
Mega#: 6
Jackpot: 9 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/19
1 11 14 32 39

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/19
EVENING: 6 2 8
Draw Date: 12/19
MIDDAY: 5 5 6

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/19
1st: 04 - Big Ben
2nd: 11 - Money Bags
3rd: 05 - California Classic
Race Time: 1:40.91

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.

Santa Monica Daily Press





FEBRUARY

FROM PAGE 3

focused on fall diagnostic and interim assessments to highlight "promising practices" for districtwide support on lagging students, as well as how to invert chronic absenteeism in student subgroups like African American/ Black students.

Brew Works partners with Bludso's to release a roasted malt smoked lager: Santa Monica based Brew Works teamed up with Bludso's BBQ for a limited release smoked malt lager. Select grains used in the lager were roasted "low and slow" in Bludso's iconic "Ole Hickory" smoker and pecan wood was chosen for its delicate and slightly nutty flavor characteristics.

Two days of deluge bring astronomical rainfall: Atmospheric river-powered storm totals in Santa Monica over a 48-hour period from Feb. 4 through Feb. 6 was 6.79 inches, according to the National Weather Service observation station at Santa Monica Municipal Airport.

utilizes the very latest in aviation simulation technology and is targeted at pilots of all levels of experience and offers a hands-on way for flyers to experience the most modern training techniques along with the chance to potentially fly over landmarks all across the world.

YMCA partners with local group for Black History Month: The Santa Monica YMCA hosted the Santa Monica Black Lives Association (SMBLA) and representatives of other local groups for a Black History Month kickoff event on Feb. 1.

New plant-based sandwich shop B&T's on Montana Ave offers alternative green grub:

B&T's sandwich shop offers 10 signature sandwiches, all of which have their own flavor profile, and everything is 100% plant based. Co-founder Terrence Caldwell said all the ingredients used are organic and locally sourced, avoiding fake imitation meat, so every sandwich has a main plant-based "meat replacement" component.

Astrophysicist and alien hunter Dr. Avi Loeb gives talk at Amateur Astronomy Club: The Santa Monica Amateur Astronomy Club welcomed astrophysicist and Harvard professor Dr. Avi Loeb, one of the most prominent proponents on the existence of extraterrestrial intelligence. Dr. Loeb is arguably best known for ruffling feathers in the scientific community for suggesting that 'Oumuamua - the first cosmological object officially classified as "interstellar" that sailed through our solar system in 2017 - could have been an alien spacecraft.



Thomas Leffler

DANCE: Samohi hosted Harlem Night featuring musical and dance performances.

Life can be tough so couple made an album to help everyone sing their feelings: A pair of Santa Monicans may have missed out on a Grammy Award, but that didn't make their nominated Children's Album any less of an accomplishment. Duo Andrew Barman and Polly Hall's nominated album "Ahhhhh!" was born out of the couple's own experience in parenting and mental health after the COVID-19 pandemic, touching on points beyond the struggle of childhood.

CIF honors Mariners, Vikings football standouts: The California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) 2023 All-CIF Southern Section football squads featured members of the Saint Monica Mariners and Samohi Vikings teams. Mariners senior wide receiver, cornerback and team captain Joshua Barnes was named the CIF Southern Section Division 13 Offensive Player of the Year, while Coach Thomas Barnes was honored at the division's Championship Coach. The Samohi squad had six selections on the Division 9 team, including seniors like running back and linebacker Caden McCallum, as well as wide receiver Griffin Seals.

Swiss precision is applied to aviation as virtual reality flight simulation 'hub' opens at Santa Monica Airport: Global pioneer in digital aviation simulation, Loft Dynamics, opened its first virtual reality (VR) simulation "hub" forming the company's first North American headquarters at Santa Monica Airport. The high-end simulator

Council approves DEI study and authorizes added renter protections: The council awarded a contract for a study to explore barriers to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in the City's procurement and contracting practices for the Finance Department. Council also approved a slate of added protections for renters, including prohibitions against drastic rent increases, unjust evictions and harassment.

History of the housed and unhoused, examined at new museum exhibit: The Santa Monica officially opened its latest main gallery exhibit "UN|HOUSED," diving deep into the history of Santa Monica housing and spotlighting the ever-present issue of homelessness in the city.

Santa Monica shutterbug snaps every step of Endeavour's adventure: The Space Shuttle Orbiter Endeavour rolled off the NASA

SEE **REVIEW** PAGE 5

REVIEW

FROM PAGE 4

production line in April 1991, flying a total of 25 missions from 1992 to 2011, clocking over 7,000 hours in space, flying over 122 million miles and completing 4,671 orbits of the Earth. Space buff Stephen Silberkraus was there every step of the way, a local amateur photographer who has snapped photos of the Endeavour over the years due to the space industry always being an influence in his life.



Courtesy photo

MUSIC: Samohi continued its tradition of music performances.

Vikings forge path to their college athletic homes: The Samohi student body honored some of the school's finest senior student-athletes as they made their college decisions during a National Signing Day ceremony. Moving on to college athletics were Samohi football standouts Caden McCallum (Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts), Jayden Montanez (University of California, Davis) and Ryland Hawkins (Willamette University in Salem, Oregon); girls' soccer standout Cassie Bibby (University of Southern California), lacrosse leader Jasper Ford (Dominican University of California in San Rafael), boys' water polo record holder Darragh Flanders (Pomona Pitzer College in Claremont), girls' volleyball star Emersen Werger (University of Denver), sailor Oliver Keeves (Tufts University) and baseball standout Bobby Munoz (Macalester College in Saint Paul, Minnesota).

St. John's recognizes Black History Month with healthcare panel: Providence Saint John's Health Center hosted a discussion focused on how to address racial disparities in healthcare, particularly when it comes to Black Americans, who face persistent issues like higher rates of infant/maternal mortality, asthma, mental health challenges, high blood pressure and Alzheimer's disease.

RealReal designer retail store broken into for the second time in 10 weeks: Five suspects were arrested a couple of months after a priory robbery involving four suspects at the same store. Thieves entered the store and forced their way past the front door security, using hammers to smash multiple display cases containing brand-name purses worth over $50,000.

Crime continues to rise in Santa Monica: Crime increased in Santa Monica for the third consecutive year in 2023 driven by high value thefts and petty assault according to Santa Monica Police Chief Ramon Batista, who presented the annual report. Part I crimes, serious offenses like violent assault, robbery and burglary, increased by 129 calls with high value thefts accounting for 59% of Part I incidents. Part II crimes, led by simple assaults, vandalism, narcotics-related incidents, public intoxication and fraud increased by 7%, with the largest share of Part II crimes being simple assault (which results in minor or no injuries).

Designer looks to open opportunities with SMC collaboration: Los Angeles-based designer Jade Marlin and his Jade Marlin Foundation began implementing a "fashion academy" in the 2010s, giving youth and aspiring adults alike the push in a successful direction in the fashion industry, something several Santa Monica youth have already taken advantage of. The Foundation's latest Santa Monica connection is a partnership with fashion professors at Santa Monica College. Marlin noted that he loves Santa Monica, as the city is where he started "getting the creative mind" for fashion.

Ursula's Costumes Closure: Ursula's Costumes, a renowned local wardrobe store, closed this year. The owner, Ursula Boschet, anticipated shutting down permanently and initiated a "Closing Down Sale" in February. The store was a fascinating experience akin to a Hollywood wardrobe museum, offering a vast array of costumes and accessories spanning different eras and cinematic chapters.

City Hall Mural Controversy: Santa Monica City Hall discussed its controversial 1939 murals by Stanton Macdonald-Wright. The depictions of Native Americans sparked a recent dispute over historical framing. The City Council unanimously approved the Reframe: City Hall Mural project, initiating the implementation phase to address concerns.

Samohi Performing Arts Presents The Phantom of the Opera: Barnum Hall transformed into the Paris Opera House as Samohi Performing Arts presented The Phantom of the Opera. Directed by Jeffe Huls, the musical showcased the students' theatrical, visual, and audio talents, promising a spectacular performance.

Barefoot Dutchman's Cross-Country Trek for Mental Health: Anton Nootenboom, known as "The Barefoot Dutchman," embarked on a 3,000-mile cross-country trek from Santa Monica to New York City. Walking barefoot, he raised awareness and funds for male mental health through the #BraveMenTalk campaign, supporting charities like Movember and We Are Mind.

Saint Monica Athletics Semi-Final Outcomes: Saint Monica's girls soccer and girls basketball teams faced semi-final defeats in their respective CIF 2024 Southern Section championships, marking the end of impressive runs. The soccer team's 20-game winning streak concluded with a 3-2 loss to

SEE **LOCAL** PAGE 6

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

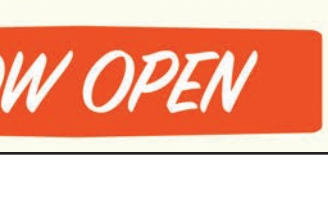
TRY OUR NO OBLIGATION
$20 EXAM INCLUDES FULL XRAYS
*Offer to non insured patients

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

LOCAL

FROM PAGE 5

Maranatha.

SMMUSD's Mid-Year Update on Learning Goals: Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District received a mid-year update on the Local Control and Accountability Plan, focusing on goals related to college readiness and social justice. The report detailed progress, expenses, and priorities, including a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion practices.

Vice Mayor Lana Negrete announces cancer diagnosis: Vice Mayor Lana Negrete confirmed that she has been diagnosed with cancer. Negrete used her platform at Council to make note of February being National Cancer Prevention Month, stating that she's going to use her voice going forward "as much as possible" to be vocal "about all things surrounding cancer."

Black community speaks out over Silas White property controversy, descendants call for land to be returned: Advocates for the return of land formerly owned by a Black family in Santa Monica returned to Council to reiterate the importance of resolving the controversial issue of ownership of the land where the Viceroy Hotel now sits at the corner of Ocean Avenue and Pico Boulevard. A Black entrepreneur and Santa Monica resident named Silas White purchased the land in 1957, but just one year later, the City of Santa Monica claimed the property through eminent domain. Public comment at Council included family members of the deceased White, calling for restitution.

John Adams Middl2 School recognized for exceptional student performance: Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's John Adams Middle School, or JAMS, was recently recognized as being "exceptional" for both closing the achievement gap and demonstrating student performance, as California Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond announced that JAMS was part of the 293 middle schools and high schools selected in the prestigious 2024 California Distinguished Schools Program. Schools are recognized for exceptional student performance based on achieving exemplary performance in English Language Arts (ELA) and math, as well as reducing suspensions.

District sings the blues alongside national group: Students found out all the facts of blues music during a partnership with national nonprofit JazzReach. As part of SMMUSD's Black History Month education, district Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator Tom Whaley led efforts to secure grants for a four-day JazzReach visit to district sites.

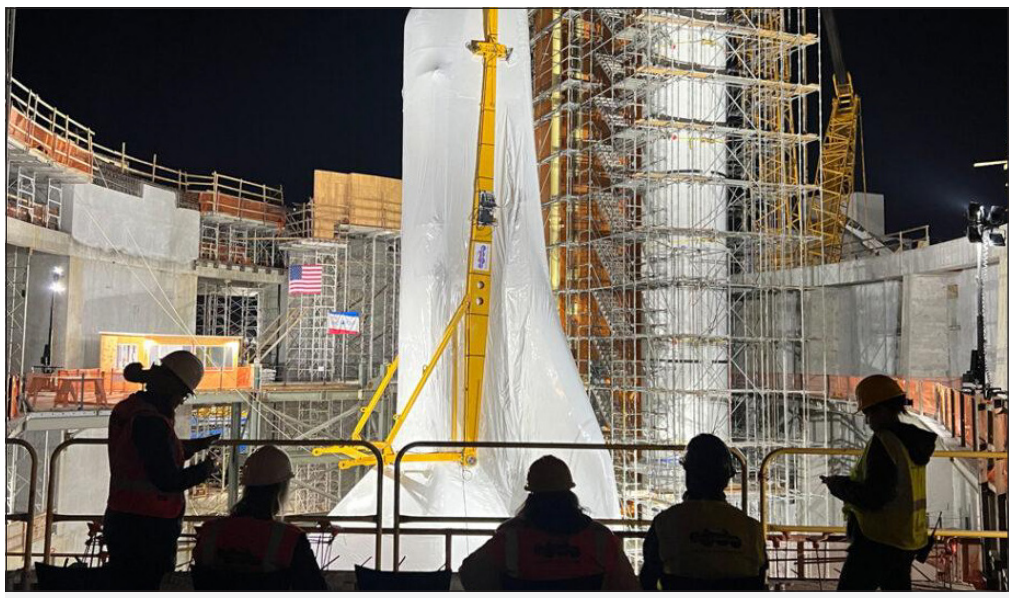
Shell shock as pistachio eating contest goes nuts with new champion: Pacific Park played host to the second-annual Wonderful Pistachios Get Cracking' Eating Championship featuring the competitors of Major League Eating (including competitive eating legend Joey Chestnut) and Los Angeles Chargers linebacker Joey Bosa. Over 1,600 pistachios were consumed in an eight-minute period, including a new world record for the tiny snack. James Webb, the fifth-ranked eater in the world from Sydney, Australia, shattered the previous record of 188 pistachios with an astonishing 338 pistachios consumed, taking home the championship title and a $5,000 check.

Pier marks starting point for two incredible cross-country journeys: On the morning of March 1, two top athletes began to expend energy for cross-country journeys across America for important causes. Beginning at 8 a.m. at the Santa Monica Pier, both Andrew Linder and Paul Johnson took their first steps in respective journeys spanning 3,000-plus miles, heading from Los Angeles to New York City. Linder's "Pier to Park" trek covered from the Pier to NYC's Central Park, while Johnson ran with pace in mind in an attempt to break a world record of a 42-day pace for the 3,000 miles.



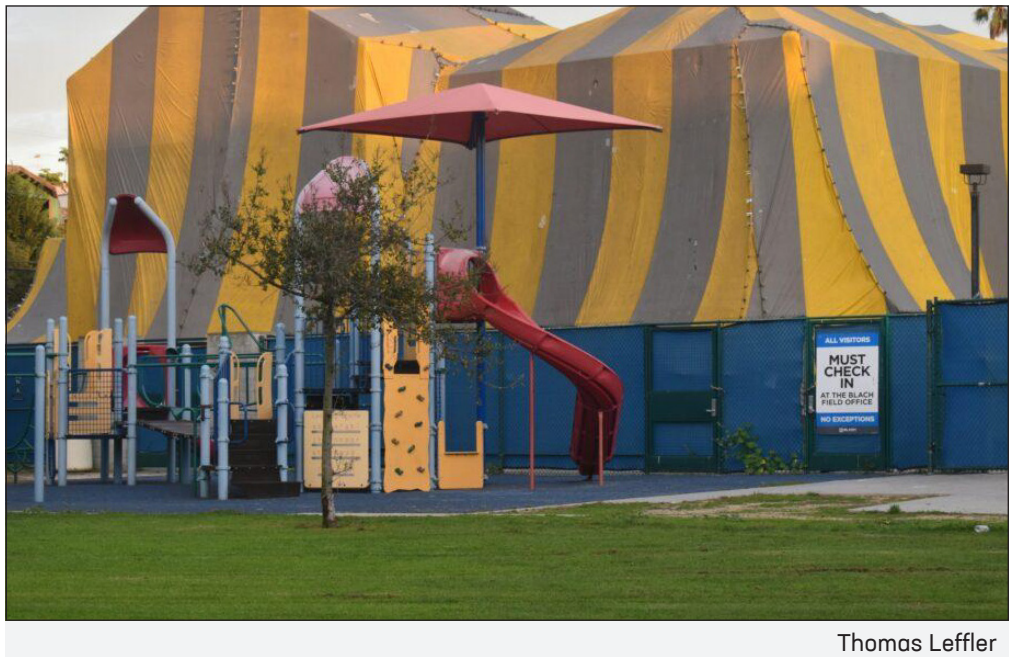
Photo by Thomas Leffler

PROTEST: A group of individuals representing union SEIU Local 99 rallied outside of Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District headquarters March 7.



Courtesy photo

FINAL FRONTIER: A Santa Monica photographer was able to document the Space Shuttles journey.



Thomas Leffler

TERMITE: Construction at SMASH included termite treatment.

MARCH

Thriving city 'shines once again' while leaders focus on top issues: Local leaders gathered at John Adams Middle School on Feb. 29 for the 2024 State of the City event, touching on city successes and the challenges to come.

Klein dazzles with second straight no-hitter for Samohi: Senior pitcher Jackson Klein pitched seven scoreless innings without a single hit in a March 1 game against Grace, following a no-hitter against Hamilton on Feb. 24.

Historical novel 'final frontier' for local entertainment veteran: Entertainment veteran Catherine Butterfield published her first novel, "The Serpent and the Rose," based on 16th Century French princess Marguerite de Valois.

Fresh food spot cuts into community with ceremony: The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce welcomed Rabano Handcrafted Food & Drinks with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Travel expenses detour Council's budget discussion: A proposal to increase travel allowances caused a council rift. The motion eventually added $15,000 into a discretionary fund for flexible use.

MUD\WTR hopes to clear the mind with mushroom-based caffeine alternative: MUD\WTR's mushroom-based drink offers a natural coffee alternative. Founder Shane Heath's ties to Monterey Mushrooms inspired the brand.

Youth leaders honored for sizable local contributions: The Boys and Girls Clubs honored Jayson Bautista as Youth of the Year and Samohi student Haley Castanaza as runner-up during a Lunetta ceremony.

School district trustee area voting petition denied by county committee: A petition to shift SMMUSD elections to trustee area voting was denied in a 9-1 vote by the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization.

Public protests persist for Gelson's replacement project: Residents raised concerns at an ARB meeting regarding a six-story, mixed-use housing development at 2601 Lincoln Blvd. The ARB approved the design with conditions.

Union rallies at district offices to demand more staffing, better pay: Union SEIU Local 99 held a rally demanding more student services staffing and better pay for essential education workers.

Venice Heritage Museum opens doors on Main St: The Venice Heritage Museum opened at 228 Main Street, preserving and exhibiting the area's rich history.

Samohi string sound brings Spring to Barnum Hall: Santa Monica High School musicians performed their 2024 Spring Concert, heralding the season with orchestral pieces.

California Yacht Club celebrates sailing season: Three months after a fire damaged its clubhouse, the California Yacht Club kicked off sailing season with a Mardi-Gras-themed celebration in Marina del Rey.

6-year-old assaulted by homeless man: A six-year-old was attacked on Main Street by suspect Ashante Lamar Morgan, later arrested after attacking a second child.

Rotary reached for the stars with annual fundraising event: The Rotary Club's Wine & Food Festival at the Skirball Cultural Center raised funds for food banks, schools, and community organizations.

Women business leaders honored at Chamber luncheon: The Santa Monica Chamber celebrated five female leaders during the 2024 Women in Business Leadership Awards, featuring speeches and performances.

American Film Market moves to Las Vegas: Organizers announced the entertainment event's relocation to Las Vegas, following attendee complaints about last year's Santa Monica venue.

Tux Creative Agency marks one year in LA: Santa Monica-based TUX Creative

SEE **MARCH** PAGE 7

MARCH

FROM PAGE 6

House collaborates with brands like L'Oreal and Converse, delivering luxe marketing content under founders Dominic Tremblay and Ludwig Ciupka.

Closing time: local departures reflect national trend: Recent closures include Interactive Cafe, The Craftsman Bar and Kitchen, Champs Sports, Bearfruit Jewelry, and Cult Cafe.

Brushstrokes for BroadStage as theater celebrates Picasso: BroadStage hosted Herbert Sigüenza's one-man show, "A Weekend with Pablo Picasso," bringing the legendary artist's writings to life.

Two decades of music tradition shared during Elemental anniversary concert: Elemental Music celebrated 20 years of youth music education with a milestone concert at Barnum Hall.

PAL Poker Night: Santa Monica PAL's 5th-annual Poker Tournament at the Moose Lodge raised funds for enrichment programs. Ben Jenkins won the tournament.

Santa Monica makes month matter with CHLA business specials: The ninth annual Make March Matter campaign benefited pediatric programs at Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

Operator of Pacific Park announces sale to SC Holdings: SC Holdings acquired Pacific Park, planning $10 million in investments over five years to enhance park operations.

Community donations boost school district budget: SMMUSD received a positive certification on its 2023-24 budget report, signaling financial stability for the current and next two fiscal years.

Gala goes to Phantom status for food bank: The Westside Food Bank's 28th Phantom Dinner raised funds for food insecure residents through its direct-service mobile pantries.

Local man accused of national prostitution and child abuse scheme: John Douglas Burch, 54, was indicted for traveling to engage in illicit sexual conduct and grooming minors.

Trio's technique, sensibility sizzles at Santa Monica school: The Gourmandise School, run by Clémence De Lutz, Sabrina Ironside, and Claire Hutchens, continues offering culinary education at Santa Monica Place.

Archer VTOL 'air taxi' headlines Aviation Innovation series: Archer Aviation SVP Miles Rogers introduced the company's eVTOL air taxi during a new speaker series at the Museum of Flying.

Pumps bump up in March as summer-blend transition begins: LA gas prices increased 17 cents per gallon in March, averaging $4.25—seven cents higher than last year's average.

Samohi turns to Harlem in exciting entertainment event: Samohi's Black Student Union hosted Apollo Night, inspired by Harlem's Apollo Theater amateur nights, showcasing student talent.

March brings high school marchers a crucial travel upgrade: Samohi's Marching Band welcomed a new trailer to transport over $300,000 of equipment during competitions.

District reaches the 'stars' with annual music tradition: Nearly 900 students performed at the 73rd annual "Stairway of the Stars" concert, showcasing the district's choir, band, jazz band, and orchestra.

Rent, mortgage only piece of payment pie: Santa Monica's average household expenses total $3,598 monthly, 69.2% higher than the U.S. average.



Courtesy photo

CHURCH: Community Corporation announced a partnership with Hoop Bus Inc. to revitalize the First Baptist Church in Oakwood.



Photos by Thomas Leffler

BMX: Freestyler Lennie Westfall engaged with students at Roosevelt Elementary during the school's inaugural RevUP event.



Photos by Thomas Leffler

CREATIVE BLESSING: A new mural depicts a representation of Saint Anne cradling her child, the other side depicts Jesus Christ by Santa Monica Beach.

Shein hosts Santa Monica Place pop-up: Global fashion brand Shein hosted a temporary pop-up, providing customers a rare chance to shop in-person.

Students take on the world, one issue at a time: Samohi's Model UN earned top honors at Marymount's competition, with club leaders Bibi Peterson and Sienna Shah receiving awards.

Proactive parental figures crucial in fighting online exploitation: Dr. Charlene Doak-Gebauer's documentary "Vulnerable Innocence" screened at Laemmle Monica, educating parents on online child safety.

Unanimous council advances research to return land or compensate White family: Council combined measures to study the historic loss of land owned by Black entrepreneur Silas White, now home to the Viceroy Hotel.

Mariners march into conversation for best national golf program: Saint Monica Mariners shot a personal best 192 under coach Charles Womack, propelling the program's rise in national golf rankings.

SMC, Chamber take plunge into ocean economy: The Santa Monica Chamber hosted a blue economy event at Heal the Bay Aquarium, promoting ocean-related workforce opportunities.

Hotel workers secure new contract worth $100K a year: After a major strike, workers at 34 hotels ratified a contract increasing wages by 40-50% and ensuring housing affordability.

Flag takeover leads to national honor for Samohi student: Isabella Sanchez, co-captain of Samohi's undefeated flag football team, earned a National Football Foundation Scholar Athlete Award.

Comedians to take wise crack at superstardom at local festival: The Crow at Bergamot Station hosted the Bergamot Comedy Festival, showcasing performers and educational panels.

APRIL

Officials welcome cycles, caviar and coffee with ribbon cuttings: Santa Monica welcomed new businesses into the community including, Oasis Restaurant, Bandit E-Bikes, and Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf.

El Segundo hires former SMPD Captain Saul Rodriguez as new Police Chief: Former Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) Captain Saul Rodriguez was hired by the City of El Segundo as their new Chief of Police. With the exception of two and a half years spent as a transit police officer for LA County at the very beginning of his career, the majority of Rodriguez's 30 years of law enforcement experience comes from time spent at the SMPD.

Samohi student learns to live fearlessly despite diabetes diagnosis: Santa Monica High School senior Lucas Marcelo Milk was awarded the Skin Grip Diabetes Scholarship, putting $1,000 toward his eventual college education. Milk, a captain of the Samohi track team and member of the school's soccer unit, was awarded for achieving a healthy student-athlete life despite being diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes in 2019.

Seasonal spectacle 'Ice at Santa Monica' exceeds expectations: This past winter's "Ice at Santa Monica" seasonal skating activation was more successful than anticipated, according to a report presented by the Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. (DTSM) Marketing and Business Development Committee. Opened on November 1, 2023, the project at the corner of 5th Street and Arizona Avenue was 25% bigger than any other previous year.

Brothers bring skate, surf culture back to local roots: The Bentivoglio brothers, Galeazzo, Sante and Francesco, are the driving force behind Bay Street Boards at 3216 Santa Monica Blvd. Approaching its 10-year anniversary, Bay Street is a local love letter to skateboarding and surfing culture, particularly on the Westside of Los Angeles where the brothers grew up. Bay Street relies on being a do-it-yourself outlet, with a big bulk of the business coming from repair efforts as well as rentals for surfboards and wetsuits.

Reconnecting to readers is a joy for national ambassador: The Santa Monica Public Library Pico Branch at Virginia Avenue Park welcomed author Meg Medina, with the author introducing her platform "¡Cuéntame! Let's Talk Books" to Santa Monica.

The Other Art Fair returns to Barker

SEE **2024** PAGE 8

Santa Monica Daily Press
Classifieds

FOR QUOTES PLEASE CALL 310-573-8074
or email cindy@smdp.com

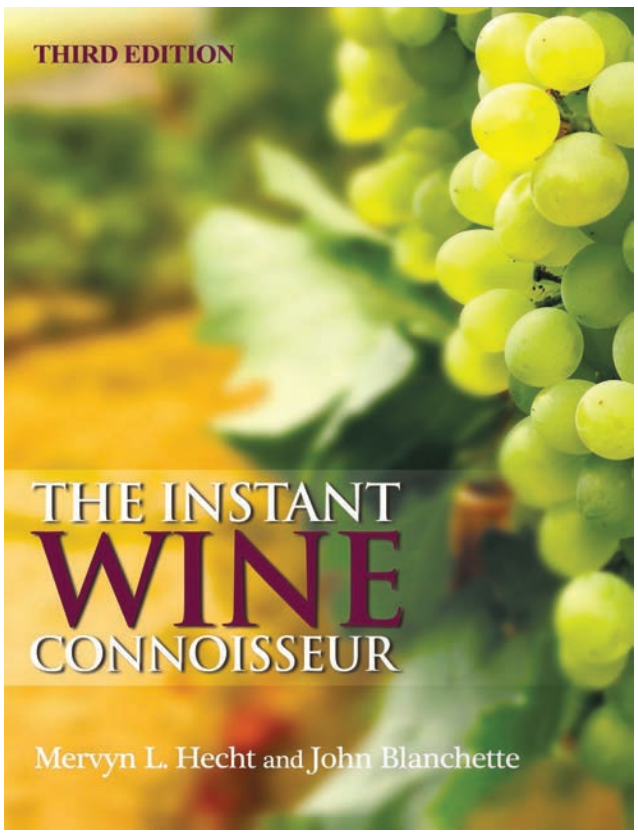
Help Wanted

Sr. AR Designer, R&D (6) sought by Snap Inc. (Santa Monica, CA) *Hybrid work permitted - Snap practices a "default together" approach & expects team members to work in Santa Monica ofc at least 80% of time (avg 4 days/wk). Set up new processes around A/B testing of new use cases of AR Lenses. Base salary: $202,000-$303,000/yr. Eligible for discretionary performance-based bonus award. Eligible for equity in form of RSUs. Our Benefits: https://careers.snap.com/benefits. Email Resume: apply2snap@snap.com. Ref. Job Code #SARDRD6-1124-AK. EOE.

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED HERE

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

★★★★★ A light-hearted fun read.
★★★★★ Well written, particularly useful, instantly accessible.
★★★★★ ...Hecht has a joyful eye and fabulous taste



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

available at amazon

2024

FROM PAGE 7

Hangar: The Other Art Fair returned to Santa Monica for its 11th annual Los Angeles edition, bringing together a diverse array of artists, live performances and experiences for art enthusiasts and collectors alike. Taking place at the iconic Barker Hangar, the art fair aimed to turn the traditional experience on its head by offering visitors an in-person opportunity to connect directly with emerging and independent artists from around the world, together with plainly listed artwork prices and a significantly less pretentious atmosphere.

LA County health survey details struggles for Black, Latino adults: In its first release since the COVID-19 pandemic, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health unveiled the latest LA County Health Survey, with results skewing poorly as it relates to Black and Latino residents.

Historic Douglas World Cruiser aircraft on course to return to Santa Monica: One of the two remaining Douglas World Cruiser aircraft that took part in the first ever aerial circumnavigation of the world was set to return to the place where it was originally conceived, designed and built, Santa Monica Municipal Airport. One of the aircraft, the New Orleans, was recently noted by Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County Collections Manager Beth Werling as potentially finding a home at the Santa Monica airport, with discussions beginning on how to properly display the plane.

Students rock out for sun block out: A multitude of students at Grant Elementary School, spanning multiple grade levels, all came outside together to witness the April 8 solar eclipse, peaking at nearly half-coverage of the moon. This was the final chance to view an at least partial solar eclipse in the Los Angeles area until January 2029, and the April 8 event was also the last nation-spanning eclipse until 2044.

Cross-country trek for MS research starts at Pier: Michael Azar kicked off the MS Run the US ultra relay at the Santa Monica Pier, committed to running the first segment of a cross-country journey poised to end in New York City in August.

Community unites over passing of Bob Rosenbloom, founder of Bob's Market: Well-known Ocean Park Blvd. grocery store Bob's Market closed early on April 9 so that employees, members of the surrounding community and relatives could gather at Hillside Memorial Park to celebrate the life of market founder Bob Rosenbloom. According to Sue Moss, Rosenbloom's niece and manager of the store, Rosenbloom had been ill for some time, hit with COVID-19 during the pandemic and soon after developing a case of shingles. Rosenbloom was 91 years old and passed away on April 5.

Comedy culture comes together for mental health support: A talented troupe of comedians teamed with Find Your Anchor during "Mental Health Day" at the Bergamot Comedy Festival. At The Crow comedy club, jokesters jumped at the chance to make Find Your Anchor boxes, filled with mental health resources such as cards detailing "anchors," or reason to live in the name of suicide prevention and awareness.

Gas prices up almost 20 cents: According to gas prices resource GasBuddy, local gas prices in Los Angeles were up about 20 cents in the week of April 2-9 and 35 cents over the month. Nationally, prices increased 6.5 cents over the same week, and prices were up 17.1 cents from a month ago. A spokesperson for AAA said that the spike in oil prices were partially due to renewed Ukrainian attacks on Russia's oil infrastructure and increasing tension in the Middle East, while GasBuddy experts pointed to the impending switch over to California's summer blend gasoline taking refineries offline as another reason for the increase.

Nearly three decades of musical success honored at state level: John Adams Middle School Director of Instrumental Music Angela Woo was presented with the prestigious 2024 California Music Educators Association Middle School Music Educator Award. Woo, who has worked at JAMS for 29 years, was commended for her contributions at the middle school level during the 2024 California All-State Music Education Conference in Sacramento.

Children's choral phenomenon powered by local voice: Santa Monica-born Luke McEndarfer celebrated his 20th year with the National Children's Chorus, one of the world's top children's choirs that boasts a roster of over 1,200 students across eight global chapters.

Popular Broadway Baker shuts doors, will be replaced with brand new bakery: Broadway Baker, the extremely popular pastry store on Wilshire Blvd., closed its doors to be replaced with a brand new bakery that will "focus on French and Mexican inspired pastries." The talented chefs behind Broadway Baker, Jim Orsorno and his partner Tom Mueller, have decided to retire, but two more incredible talented bakers, Clémence de Lutz (co-owner of The Gourmandise School) and her partner, Tony Hernandez (Bread Lounge, Friends & Family) are taking over the space. The new establishment, called Petitgrain Boulangerie, debuted in May.

Council approves business tax changes, but stresses importance of assisting small businesses: Councilmembers voted to approve the proposed business license modernization and associated business license tax rate changes. According to Assistant City Treasurer Stephanie Manglaras, the tax code modernization reflects economic changes that have occurred in the past few decades. Manglaras noted that the finance department collects business license taxes from approximately 23,000 businesses and 13,000 of those are physically located within the city and the City of Santa Monica adopted its existing business license tax code in 1990, more than 30 years ago.

New exhibit salutes Chicano culture, community: The Chicano art movement has represented both the struggle and success of Mexican-American artists since the 1960s, and the Mecca of Chicano art found a home at the California Heritage Museum with the "Arte Chicano Hecho En Los Angeles" exhibit.

Special guest panel on homelessness reveals how other cities are handling the crisis: A group of officials gathered at the 1212 restaurant on the Third Street Promenade to focus on successful strategies to achieve a reduction in homelessness. T

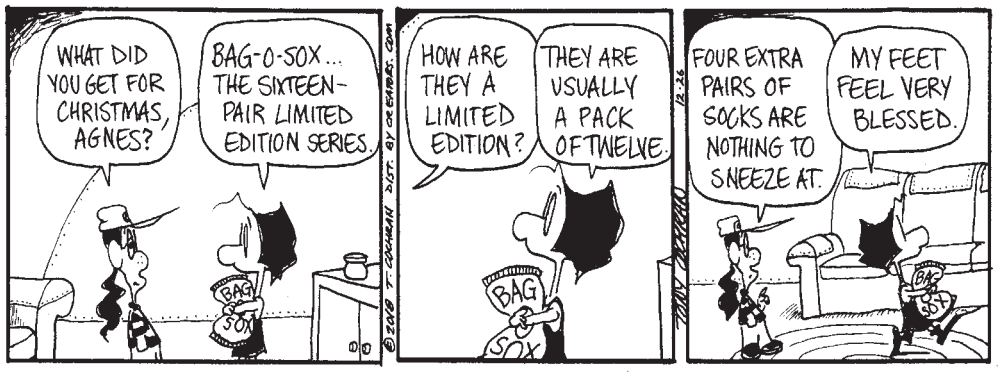
A pair of local cyclist revolutionaries successfully swim with the 'Sharks': On the April 12 episode of ABC's "Shark Tank," locals Bryan Visintin and Ani Armstrong presented their noseless and bumpless bike seat product, the VSEAT, securing $200,000 in funding from the combination of Kevin O'Leary and Robert Herjavec in exchange for 25% equity in their business.

Reed Park protest highlights opposition to ongoing needle distribution program: A crowd of approximately 100 people gathered

SEE NEWS PAGE 11

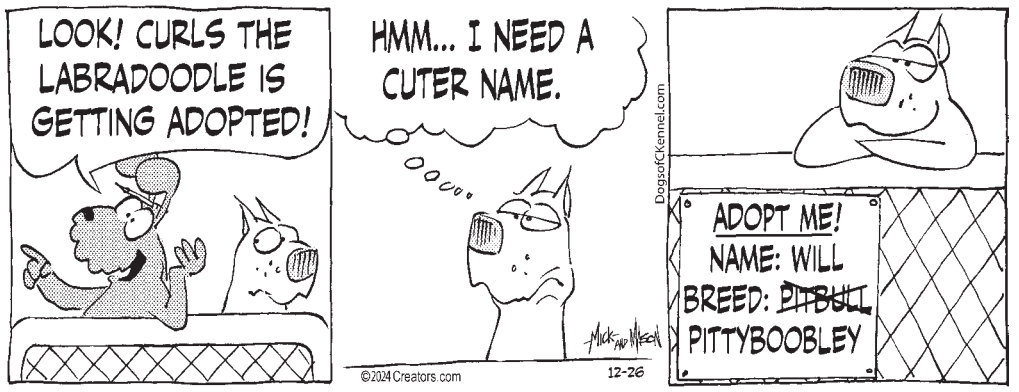
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



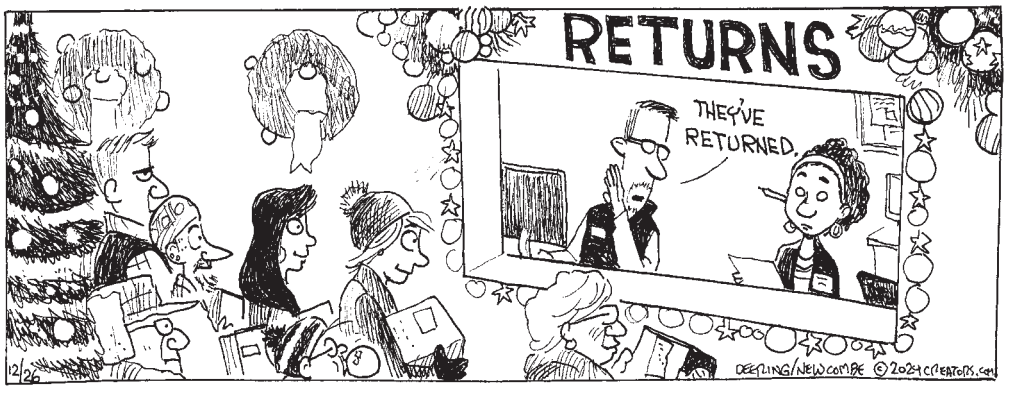
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

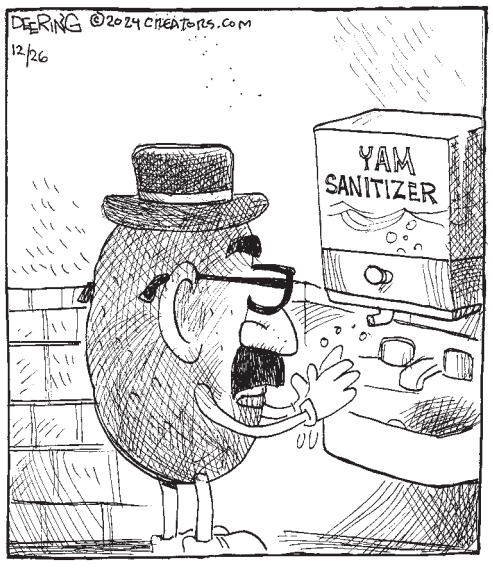
By PETER GALLAGHER



"JIMMY'S IS THE LAST PRESENT UNDER THE TREE."

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 27 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6436

The Hunter region

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

Adamstown
Arcadia Vale
Awaba
Belmont
Bicycle
Boolaroo
Coal
Dock
Eleebana
Fern Bay
Fishing
Glebe
Inlets
Lake
Library
Medowie
Millers Forest
Mountains
Ocean
Port
Redhead
Relax
Ryhope
Swansea
Tarro
Teralba
The Junction
Tomago
Tranquil
Waratah
Worimi
Wyee

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Singing Auld Lang Syne

Covering the city by the bay since 2001.
To advertise, email dina@smdp.com or call 310.573.8342
smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 26)

A year for doubling down on your talents. Watch them grow exponentially and in fast-motion. What you do to execute your responsibilities with style brings unexpected adventure, opportunity and bounty. More highlights: New modes of transportation, old friends make new relationships, and you'll discover resources that lift the group to the level of thriving. Virgo and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 14, 17, 21, 34 and 13.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Even though it's fun to be good at something out of the gate - and being the sign of beginner's luck, this often happens for you - the gentle steady gains of the day will have more to teach you than any easy win could.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). When you see people get the things you are also wishing for, it makes you so happy. It gives you the feeling good fortune will soon visit you, too, and you're right about this. Open your hands and heart; it's coming.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your group is made up of individuals going at the pace that suits them. Your patience and support will be needed, and in large supply. Follow the "no one left behind" rule and eventually you'll all get to the same destination.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your eagerness endears you to leaders. Being up for anything, game to make the most of what's there and happy to hear any nugget that might contribute to your process is the attitude that will lead you to opportunities in a fresh new environment.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The thrill of competition will pale in comparison to the joy of cheering others on. So while winning will be fun, watching someone else win might be even more fun. However this goes, you really can't lose.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). To truly know someone, see them in a variety of contexts. Each environment reveals a slightly different facet of who they are. The changes may be subtle, but you notice such things, and all will offer insights to deepen your understanding.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Each time you try, it counts for something, it changes your odds, it creates new probabilities. You'll be inspired to try often today, and those odds keep stacking up in your favor. Your luck will turn, but more importantly, your skills will sharpen.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). "I'll think about it" is usually what you say as a nicety to buffer the social situation. Deliberation will be unnecessary today. You'll know immediately what you want, what you're interested in and what you'll pass on.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Unlike auto insurance, life doesn't give you a discount for being a safe driver. In fact, it may penalize you, as fortune quite often favors the bold. To risk with your heart is to risk more than money, but life rewards it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A project you've put time and thought into is becoming something that only you can finish. Collaboration is ill-advised. Your personal power will surge as you take charge and sprint to the finish.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). What you're giving the world is precious. Consider it a treasure. Treasures are hidden away for safekeeping or publicly shown under protective measures. How can you simultaneously give and preserve the brilliant value you offer the world?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Any fool can pretend to know the answer when they don't. It takes a smart fool to pretend not to know the answer when they do. Tricking the mind to perceive beyond preconceptions will open life to a fuller range of options.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

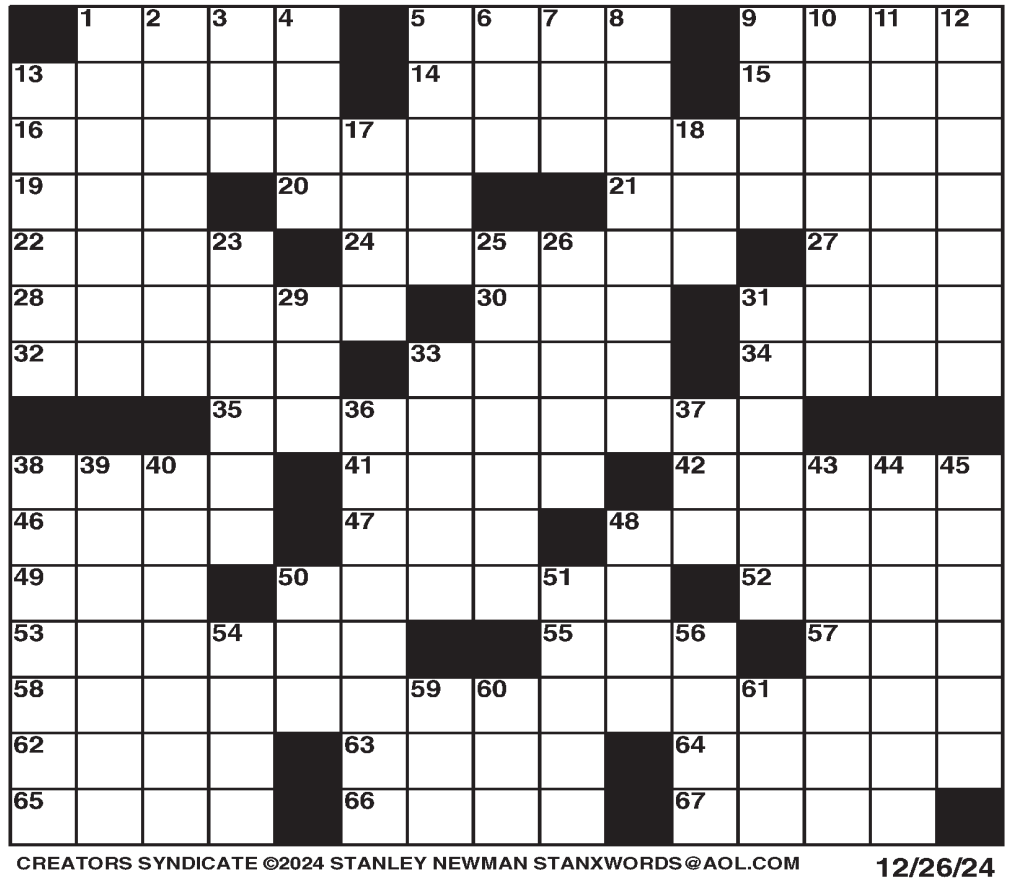
TAKE A FAKE BREAK by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Vigor, in music
5 Boston NBAer
9 One of the Stones
13 Spot for sports
14 Verbal nod
15 Regarding
16 Fake drake
19 Palermo possessive
20 Big Ten school
21 Need replenishment
22 "Can that be?"
24 Steel scrubber
27 French article
28 Pleasant change
30 Candy to dispense with
31 Laudatory lines
32 County north of the Thames
33 Red Sea port
34 Kid-vid roommate
35 Fake lake
38 Unfurnished
41 Cathedral area
42 Computer networking giant
46 Retired for the night
47 Profile, for short
48 Kitchen container
49 What the EPA banned in the '70s
50 Medium session
52 Fewer than few
53 Hot Wheels purchase
55 Common Arabic prename
57 Pond carp
58 Fake steak (in development)
62 Have a sit-down
63 Reuniongoer
64 Excessive excitement
65 Terminates
66 Unites
67 Design datum

DOWN

1 Fruit flaws
2 Lurches back
3 Soy in newspapers
4 Where Interstate H1 is
5 Half of *diez*
6 EPA-__ Hwy MPG
7 Boo Radley creator
8 Marble mosaic
9 Personal bearing
10 Make room for
11 Bublé or Sinatra
12 Southernmost city in the continental US
13 Seek to emulate
17 DoD branch since 2010
18 Lead balloon
23 Stadiumlike
25 Urges forward
26 Rankle
29 PC program file extension
31 Novelist Edna
33 Dark brown
36 Portable power tool
37 Henri's here
38 Inauspicious moment
39 Midsection
40 Transcribed twice
43 It's southeast of Vancouver
44 Recognized and accepted
45 Central New York lake
48 "The King of Soccer"
50 It has an Oslo hub
51 Pacifies
54 Foldable furniture
56 Some of the first PCs
59 Suffix for project
60 Begin to bloom
61 Hard knock



CREATORS SYNDICATE ©2024 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM

12/26/24

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

NEWS

FROM PAGE 8

at Christine Emerson Reed Park to protest against the free needle distribution program in Downtown Santa Monica. Organized by the Santa Monica Coalition, the crowd assembled after a notice was distributed and posted online about a week before the event.

Marina tourism continues rebound despite inflation challenge: The Marina del Rey Tourism Board released the 2023 Economic Impact of Tourism Study for the waterfront locale, which plays a pivotal role in Los Angeles tourism as a whole. The study showed that tourism in the Marina generated an estimated impact of $638 million in 2023, with overnight visitors surpassing 2019 numbers before the COVID-19 pandemic. During the year, Marina del Rey hosted 551,726 overnight visitors, beating the 2019 total by 14 percent and gaining 3,014 visitors over the 2022 total.

Patagonia, other businesses honored for environmental stewardship: The City of Santa Monica announced the winners of the 28th annual Sustainable Quality Awards, a partnership between the city and environmental education nonprofit Sustainable Works that recognizes sustainable economic development, social responsibility and stewardship of the environment. Patagonia Santa Monica on the Third Street Promenade was the grand prize winner, while other local businesses received recognition in separate categories (Angeles Investment Advisors, Avocado Green Mattress, Physical Therapyworks and Yoga-urt). The Santa Monica location of Patagonia has supported climate initiatives like Stand Together Against Neighborhood Drilling Los Angeles (STAND-L.A.) and Friends of Ballona Wetlands.

Cellista soars in upcoming aerial cello experience: Performance artist Cellista combined two top-notch entertainment forms at the Highways Performance Space, performing the Aerial Cello piece "Élégie." The phrase is exactly what it means, as Cellista will be hoisted in the air in a static trapeze setting, all while playing her own cello composition.

Latino icon with local ties immortalized in music history: The Library of Congress announced its selections for the National Recording Registry, a preservation of recordings with "cultural, historic, or aesthetic significance to life in the United States." One of the selections, nominated by Congressman Joaquin Castro (D-TX), is Juan Gabriel's song "Amor Eterno," part of Castro's push to include recognition of Latino musicians in the registry. Gabriel, a mainstay in the Latino arts community during his distinguished career, passed away in Santa Monica in August 2016 at the age of 66.

Bigger, better Marmalade Cafe aims to satisfy lunchtime sandwich-seeking stomachs: Popular Montana Avenue-based eatery Marmalade Cafe finally completed its relocation to Santa Monica Blvd. after more than a year of planning and development.

Project learning, career education growth highlighted by school board: During the board meeting, SMMUSD Coordinator of Learning and Innovation Dr. Devon Smith gave a presentation on the district's project-based learning initiative and the latest news on Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways on school sites like Samohi. The CTE program being a priority for the district during the 2023-24 school year has led to a sharp increase of students taking in the experiential focus at the high school level.

Will Rogers students, faculty celebrate Earth Day: In advance of Earth Day, students and faculty of Will Rogers Learning Community had a green-thumbed party of their own, hosting an Earth Day Festival at the campus' regenerative farm.

Man arrested for using a shopping cart to grill and a sword as a skewer: A man was arrested on Santa Monica Beach, close to Los Angeles County Fire Department Lifeguard station, after he was seen grilling in a shopping cart, using a sword as a shish kebab-style skewer to cook meat. According to the Santa Monica Police Department, the individual was the source of a call for service about the open flame in his ad hoc barbecue/cart set-up on Ocean Blvd. He initially ran from the responding officer, feeling down to the beach with the cart. The officer eventually stopped him in the 1600 block of the beach and extinguished the fire.

Master plan for Grant campus approved by school board: The Board of Education approved a resolution certifying the Grant Elementary School master plan, including the plan's final environmental impact report and the decision to carry out the project. The master plan is broken down into three phases, with the first phase including a renovation of the Grant library, a restoration of the campus central garden, and a renovation of early education space.

Top-tier chefs celebrate local institution's 45th anniversary: Michael's Santa Monica at 1147 3rd St. reached its 45th anniversary milestone with a celebratory party giving back to the organization No Kid Hungry, dedicated to ending childhood hunger.

Pico poet spreads the word about new city position: In March, Pico neighborhood poet Anne Carmack began a two-year term as the city's Poet Laureate, a public outreach position that seeks to highlight Santa Monica's diverse and vibrant literary arts scene and promote local arts education through various events.

Support for the people of Palestine dominates public input during City Council meeting: A total of 33 speakers came forward to speak about the continuing war in Gaza during the public input on non agenda items section in April 23's Santa Monica City Council meeting. The meeting a day before tensions escalated at the University of Southern California where pro-Palestinian protesters clashed with police and campus security. Prior to the meeting, the peace and social justice movement Codepink encouraged community members in a statement sent by email to call "on the city council to pass a ceasefire resolution in solidarity with the growing global movement advocating for an end to the US backed genocide in Gaza."

After eviction, perilous housing journey comes to close for senior citizen: One local senior citizen who likened his fight for housing to a "death sentence" was given a reprieve in his situation, finding at least a small bit of comfort in his new abode. Santa Monica resident Scott Brutzman was able to move into a one-bedroom apartment at the Christian Towers senior living facility something he says "beats living on the curb" after he was left homeless from the fallout of a January eviction hearing at his previous office-turned-apartment at 3301.

Symposium breaks down new tenant protections, 'misunderstandings' of unhoused struggle: The symposium covered a range of topics, including tenant protections enacted in March that amended the city's Housing Anti-Discrimination Code to prohibit landlord discrimination on the basis of a tenant's housing status, becoming the first jurisdiction in the state of California to include "housing status" as a protected class.



THURSDAY | DECEMBER 26

OAKWOOD ROOTS FARMERS AND WELLNESS MARKET

11 a.m. - 6 p.m. 685 Westminster Ave. Oakwood Roots Venice Farmers' and Wellness Market is a hub for local foods, wellness classes and holistic healing. This is part of a larger effort to revitalize the abandoned parking lots across the street from the park into a community hub, in partnership with Community Corporation of Santa Monica and Hoopbus.

SLOW FLOW YOGA

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. ARTime Barro, 302 Pico Blvd. Join for a meditative and relaxing practice involving mindful movement and deep breathing. Let your creativity flourish as you unwind and make space for clarity and inspiration. Tickets $10, for more visit: https://www.artimebarro.com/workshops/slow-flow-yoga.

FRIDAY | DECEMBER 27

DRUNK THEATRE LA HOLIDAY SHOW

9 - 10:30 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St. Drunk Theatre is the entirely improvised, unpredictable and crazy comedy show that'll kick your weekend into overdrive. Cast includes Sahil Desai, Ittai Geiger, Cassie Grilley, Rodd Naimi, Oleg Trofimov and five shots of whiskey. Tickets $22, VIP tickets $35, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/drunk-theatre-la-wildest-holiday-nye-comedy-show-tickets-1052174802157.

DISCO POR FAVOR

9:30 - 11:30 p.m. Nalu Vida Venice Beach, 1 Washington Blvd., Venice. Join Nalu Vida and resident DJs Brian Epstein and Joeshua, as well as guests, who will be playing House, Disco, Rare Groove and Soul music. For more information, visit naluvida.com.

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 28

TANTRA SPEED DATE

7:45 - 10:45 p.m. Love Yoga Venice, 835 Lincoln Blvd. At Tantra Speed Date, trained facilitators use cutting-edge relational techniques to bring you and your dates into a mindful state of presence. Interactive guided exercises light that "spark" for you, no awkward small talk needed. Tickets $74, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tantra-speed-date-los-angeles-venice-meet-singles-speed-dating-tickets-941169652767.

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 29

SUNDAY TASTING

12 - 9 p.m. Ester's Wine Shop & Bar, 1314 7th St. New themes every week for Sunday Tastings, curated by Sommelier Randall Middleton. Enjoy a flight for $25 per person, which includes a mini cheese pairing and link to a video of the team telling stories about the lineup.

FISHERMAN'S VILLAGE WEEKEND CONCERT

2 - 5 p.m. Fisherman's Village, 13755 Fiji Way, Marina del Rey. Break out your dancing shoes for free outdoor concerts, featuring great performers playing R&B, Jazz, Latin, Pop and Blues.

MONDAY | DECEMBER 30

FREE MAT PILATES

7 - 8 a.m. ARTime Barro, 302 Pico Blvd. 50 minutes of Mat Pilates-inspired movement to build strength, flexibility and core. 10 minutes of gentle stretching and mindfulness to center and ground your energy. Bring comfortable workout clothes, a yoga mat and water for hydration.

TUESDAY | DECEMBER 31

NYE AT SALT

4 - 10 p.m. SALT Restaurant & Bar, Marina Del Rey Hotel, 13534 Bali Way, Marina del Rey. Ring in 2025 with a delightful three-course prix fixe dinner. Indulge in Maine Lobster Bisque, savor Salmon Soba, or enjoy Boneless Short Rib, followed by a decadent Bread Puddling Soufflé. A la carte menu available as well. To reserve, visit: https://www.opentable.com/booking/experiences-availability?rid=156871&restref=156871&experienceId=373364&utm_source=external&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=shared.

NYE AT BEACHSIDE RESTAURANT

4 - 10 p.m. Jamaica Bay Inn, 4715 Admiralty Way, Marina del Rey. Celebrate NYE with an unforgettable dining experience, complete with live music. Enjoy a Prix Fixe Menu for $65 per person, starting with a glass of sparkling wine. An à la carte menu will also be available. To reserve, visit: https://www.opentable.com/booking/experiences-availability?rid=51730&restref=51730&experienceId=373245&utm_source=external&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=shared.

FRIENDS OF VENICE LIBRARY ZOOM BOOK CLUB

5 - 6 p.m. Virtual. Join the Venice Branch Library for a lively discussion of the month's fiction or non-fiction book pick. New members welcome. Copies of the book are available at the circulation desk of Venice Branch Library, 501 South Venice Blvd. Email venice@lapl.org for Zoom link.

NYE DINNER AT MICHAEL'S

5 - 10 p.m. Michael's Santa Monica, 1147 3rd St. Featuring 5 courses with multiple incredible options that shall please even the most discerning palates. The dining room is set in a luscious garden decorated beautifully in holiday style, providing the perfect ambience to celebrate the upcoming year. Tickets $145-$225, to purchase visit: https://resy.com/cities/los-angeles-ca/venues/michaels-santa-monica/events/new-years-eve-2024-2024-12-31?seats=2&date=2024-12-18.

REGENT NYE CELEBRATION

5 p.m. - 12 a.m. Regent Hotel Beach, 100 Ocean Ave. Celebrate New Year's Eve in unforgettable style at Regent Santa Monica Beach. Indulge in a spectacular Mediterranean tasting menu at Orla by Chef Michael Mina, perfectly paired with exquisite beverages and elevated by live performances from the glamorous Satin Dollz. Toast to the New Year with a glass of bubbles and festive party favors. $125-$175 for adults, $55 for children ages 9 or younger, for more visit: https://santamonica.regenthotels.com/experience/holidays/.



STUDIO ROYALE
Assisted Living

LIFE ON Your TERMS

OFFERING ASSISTED LIVING

COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH WITH TOUR!*

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL RHONDA MADRID
(424) 672-4373

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

3975 OVERLAND AVE,
CULVER CITY, CA 90232

License #198601566

Offer valid through 12/31/24.
Some exclusions may apply.
Contact community for more details.

STUDIOROYALECULVERCITY.COM