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Santa Monicans celebrate with New Year's Resolutions



SMDP Image

NEW YEAR: After the celebration comes the resolutions and locals told SMDP about their plans for the New Year.

The New Year is upon us and SMDP asked a variety of local newsmakers about their plans for 2025.

"My New Year's resolution is to dedicate more time to wellness for myself and others. I feel we all need solace, peace of mind and community and if I could provide that for others I would be so grateful!" **-Nicole Peredo, Owner/Founder, ARTime Barro**

"My resolution is to take even more short trips around Santa Monica without a car, both for work and with my family. Whether riding a bike or fully electric Big Blue Bus, we have so many reliable, safe, and sustainable car-free options here - and they're all a lot more fun than driving! I'm also excited to support Santa Monica's ongoing work to enhance safety for pedestrians, transit riders, and everyone who uses our roads." **-Anuj Gupta, Director, Santa Monica Department of Transportation**

"My resolution is inspired by the kids Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica serves. I'm committing to bringing a sense of play to our work, mirroring the infectious energy of our members! Our Clubs are safe, consistent, empowering places - but they are also FUN, and I want to find even more joy in our mission as we serve more kids in 2025." **-Brynja Seagren,**

SEE **RESOLUTIONS** PAGE 7



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- Over almost 30 years, he sexually abused hundreds of boys and girls.
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With seasonal celebrations in full swing, bartenders share their best hangover cures

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

With hard partying comes hard hangovers and the holiday season is probably the most problematic time of the year, with celebrations in full swing for Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, Day of the Virgin of Guadalupe and every other religious-linked occasion, plus of course New Year, all within a teeny-tiny five-week window.

Medically speaking, a hangover refers to a set of symptoms that occur as a consequence of drinking too much. Typical symptoms include fatigue, weakness, thirst, headache, muscle aches, nausea, stomach pain, vertigo, sensitivity to light and sound, anxiety, irritability, sweating, and increased blood pressure.

A hangover can vary from person to person and it's largely dictated by what you chose to consume the previous night. And how much of course.

According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse & Alcoholism, a number of factors can contribute to hangovers, including poor sleep, gastrointestinal irritation, inflammation, acetaldehyde exposure and dehydration. However, for some the right cure can be equally psychological in addition to physiological and with the exception of a trained medical technician, the only other person who is qualified to hand out guidance on hangover cures, is a professional bartender. They are afterall, omnipotent.

So, the Daily Press went out in search of the best advice possible, in preparation for the hard partying ahead.

"Chicken broth with jalapenos, it has to be spicy, it's going to make you sweat everything out," said Alfonso from Tu Madre.

"It's got to be a full English breakfast, so, big order of hash brown, two bangers, I go light on the Irish bacon, then three eggs, over-easy, beans, toast and lashings of brown sauce," said Max from the Britannia Pub.

"Black coffee and then maybe French toast with a berry combo on top, bacon, sausage and then, honestly, a shot of mezcal and maybe an orange juice," said Sonny, from the Misfit Bar & Restaurant.

"If you're drinking anything that's like dark liquor, it's going to be bitters and soda water and then some junk food, like maybe a cheese burger or pizza and I'd DoorDash it so I don't have to go out. Or, a ton of salt water. Our bodies are made up of salt water so you need to replenish that, just like when you go to hospitals, you get saline solution, so it's a similar principle," said Brianna from Barney's Beanery, before disclosing that she was studying at nursing school, so she in fact sometimes sets up her own IV drip at home. "You can do a mix of B12 and saline together, that works too," she added.

"A spicy Bloody Maria, so instead of vodka, it's made with tequila, but it has to be spicy," said LIsa from Cabo Cantina.

"A spicy enchilada," said José at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel.

"I haven't had a drink in 16 years, so it doesn't bother me," laughed Raul from The King's Head, adding, "But back in the day, I'd have a shot of Jameson and then start all over again. So you can see, it's probably better for everyone that I stopped."

> When people come up and ask for a drink that will help with a hangover, I usually give them something with bitters, club soda, lime juice and just a little bit of Tabasco and maybe some ginger too, that helps a lot
>
> - Raúl from The Shore Hotel

"Soda water, bitters and a shot, but it depends on the type of hangover," said Paulina at The Georgian Hotel, adding, "If it's a tequila hangover, you do a shot, then soda water and bitters."

"A Michelada and a shot of tequila. Works every time," said Amber at The Whaler.

"When people come up and ask for a drink that will help with a hangover, I usually give them something with bitters, club soda, lime juice and just a little bit of Tabasco and maybe some ginger too, that helps a lot," said Raúl from The Shore Hotel.

"Hair of the dog, just get back on it," said Stuart from Chez Jay, adding, "That's the only way. A full English breakfast is only a temporary hangover cure, because it feels good at the time, but you're still wrecked for the rest of the day."

"It depends on the kind of hangover you have, but Pepto-Bismol, ibuprofen and Pedialyte," said Steven at the Regent Hotel, adding, "You'll feel like a champ in an hour."

"A shot of Jameson and a beer, any beer and that would be my hangover cure, maybe with some fried food too," said Ruth at the Viceroy.

Finally, if you really want to shift that feeling of fragility after having gone out and gotten absolutely wrecked the night before, then you could consider the med-spa Dripology

SEE **HANGOVER** PAGE 8

Holiday shoppers increased spending by 3.8% despite higher prices

Sales rose this year during the holiday shopping season even as Americans wrestled with elevated prices for many groceries and other necessities, according to new data.

Holiday sales from the beginning of November through Christmas Eve climbed 3.8%, outpacing the 3.1% increase from a year earlier, according to Mastercard SpendingPulse, which tracks all kinds of payments including cash and debit cards. The last five days of the season accounted for 10% of the spending.

This year, retailers were even more under the gun to get shoppers in to buy early and in bulk since there were five fewer days between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Michelle Meyer, chief economist at Mastercard Economics Institute, said the holiday shopping season "revealed a consumer who is willing and able to spend but driven by a search for value" as seen by concentrated online spending during the biggest promotional periods.

Sales growth was higher than the 3.2% increase Mastercard SpendingPulse had projected this fall. The data released Thursday excludes the automotive industry and is not adjusted for inflation.

Clothing sales rose 3.6%, with most of the growth being fueled by online shopping. Spending on restaurants, and sales of electronics and jewelry also grew. Online sales jumped 6.7% from a year ago and in-person spending rose 2.9%.

Consumer spending accounts for nearly 70% of U.S. economic activity and economists carefully monitor how Americans use their money, particularly during the holidays, to gauge how they're feeling financially.

The most recent government data on consumer spending, released on Dec. 17, showed shoppers stepped up activity at retail stores last month. But auto dealer sales drove most of those gains as huge storms created a need for new cars in parts of the southeast slammed by Hurricane Helene in October. Big discounts at many retail chains also attracted shoppers.

But the report also hinted at some consumer caution as sales at grocery stores, clothing shops, and restaurants fell. Outside of car dealers and online retailers, sales gains were modest.

Retailers felt more pressure this year due to the shorter holiday shopping period, and also from a presidential election that captured the attention of many consumers. Sales of general merchandise slid 9% in the two weeks ended Nov. 9, according to Circana, a market research group. Sales have been rebounding but stores will have to make up for those losses.

A broader picture of how Americans are spending their money arrives next month when the National Retail Federation, the nation's largest retail trade group, releases its combined two-month statistics based on November-December sales figures from the Commerce Department.

The group expects that shoppers will have made $979.5 billion to $989 billion worth of purchases in November and December, which would represent a 2.5%-3.5% increase over the same two-month period a year ago. That would be a slower rate than the 3.9% increase from holiday 2023 over holiday 2022 season.

Overall, retailers had a decent start to the unofficial kickoff to the holiday shopping period despite lots of discounts that started as early as October.

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO and HALELUYA HADERO AP Business Writers

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Surf report

WATER TEMP: **64.4**

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

Watching for shorter to mid-period NW swell mix to kick up overnight and mix with a modest pulse of SSW Southern Hemi swell. Probably not the highest quality day but the mix could be broken up enough to spread some fun corners around the region.

WEDNESDAY — ***POOR TO FAIR***
SURF: Knee to thigh 1-2FT

Slowly fading NW-swell-mix -- smaller than previous days, but not by much. Early to mid morning looks best for size, incoming tide, and favorable wind.

Weather

Tuesday: Patchy fog before 10am. Otherwise, cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 63.
Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 49. West wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east northeast in the evening.
Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 74. North northeast wind around 5 mph.
Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 50.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
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
2024/12/31	Tue	10:44 PM	3.60	H
2025/01/01	Wed	02:59 AM	2.31	L
2025/01/01	Wed	09:18 AM	6.35	H
2025/01/01	Wed	4:46 PM	-1.14	L
2025/01/01	Wed	11:22 PM	3.69	H
2025/01/02	Thu	03:45 AM	2.29	L
2025/01/02	Thu	09:58 AM	6.10	H
2025/01/02	Thu	5:23 PM	-0.95	L
2025/01/03	Fri	12:02 AM	3.84	H
2025/01/03	Fri	04:39 AM	2.28	L
2025/01/03	Fri	10:43 AM	5.64	H
2025/01/03	Fri	6:00 PM	-0.59	L
2025/01/04	Sat	12:44 AM	4.06	H
2025/01/04	Sat	05:42 AM	2.26	L
2025/01/04	Sat	11:34 AM	4.96	H
2025/01/04	Sat	6:38 PM	-0.10	L
2025/01/05	Sun	01:29 AM	4.34	H

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Powerball — Draw Date: 12/28
6 31 51 54 55
Power#: 12
Jackpot: 163 M

Fantasy5 — Draw Date: 12/29
2 9 14 33 39

Mega Millions — Draw Date: 12/27
3 7 37 49 55
Mega#: 6
Jackpot: 20 M

Daily 3 — Draw Date: 12/29
EVENING: 2 6 3
Draw Date: 12/29
MIDDAY: 9 3 9

SuperLotto Plus — Draw Date: 12/28
6 14 22 28 35
Mega#: 24
Jackpot: 12 M

Daily Derby — Draw Date: 12/29
1st: 06 - Whirl Win
2nd: 12 - Lucky Charms
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:44.06

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Working Well: Returning to the office can disrupt life. Here are some tips to navigate the changes

Jason LaCroix felt privileged to work from home, especially as a father to two young children. He needed flexibility when his son, then 6, suffered a brain injury and spent 35 days in intensive care.

LaCroix, a senior systems engineer based in Atlanta, took time off and then worked from home while managing his son's care and appointments. But LaCroix was laid off last February from that job, where he'd been working remotely for five years. His new role requires him to spend four days a week in a company office and commute for three hours a day.

> Over the years, people have adjusted their lives. They've figured out, 'Oh wow, I can pick my kids up for school. Wow. I can caretake for my aging parents while I am still working
>
> - Shavon Terrell-Camper

"I want to be around for my kids," LaCroix, 44, said. "It's very important for me to be around for my son, because we almost lost him."

Heading into 2025, thousands of workers face an unsettling reality: after years of working from the comfort of home, they must return to the office full-time for the first time since the coronavirus pandemic or look for new work.

Employees at Amazon, AT&T and other companies have been called back to the office five days per week. President-elect Donald Trump has vowed to fire federal workers who don't show up to do their jobs in-person.

"People always want to have flexibility," said Mark Ma, a University of Pittsburgh associate professor of business administration. "I have never heard anyone telling me that I thank my job because it's so rigid in its schedule."

Ma researched what happened when technology and finance companies in the S&P 500 stopped allowing employees to work remotely in recent years. He found the companies experienced high turnover rates after implementing return-to-office mandates, especially among female employees — who often have childcare responsibilities — and senior-level executives.

"Over the years, people have adjusted their lives. They've figured out, 'Oh wow, I can pick my kids up for school. Wow. I can caretake for my aging parents while I am still working,'" said Shavon Terrell-Camper, a therapist and mental wellness coach. "Once you have tasted work-from-home ... it's difficult to see your life going back to something that could've been unsustainable from the beginning."

Workers and experts have advice to share about how to navigate the changes when an employer calls you back to the office.

SEEK FLEXIBILITY

Employers can compromise if their goal is to increase how much time staff members spend together. Ma suggests an "employee-choice" approach which gives teams the authority to decide how many days they will work in the office as a group.

If that's not an option, employees also can ask to adjust their hours. LaCroix leaves home at 5 a.m. and works in the office until 2 p.m. to reduce time in traffic and allow him to be home when his kids get off the bus after school. His employer requires eight hours in the workplace but is flexible on which hours.

"A lot of people are pushing back, and they are trying to work out scenarios to see what type of flexibility does exist within the mandate," Terrell-Camper said.

Some are coming up with work-arounds that aren't endorsed by upper management. "Coffee badging" is a technique that involves heading to the office, swiping a company ID, having a coffee and leaving to work from home. Desperate to hold onto valuable employees, supervisors have tried a "hushed hybrid" approach, where they take their subordinates' ID badges and swipe them "in" and "out" to make it appear they've been in the office, Ma said.

It's best to have an honest conversation with a manager about any personal needs and to "ask for forgiveness ahead of time, because your family is the most important thing," said Amy Dufrane, CEO of the Human Resource Certification Institute. Many companies have employee assistance programs that do more than most people realize, such as directing employees to resources that can help them care for parents or children, she said.

SAY WHAT YOU NEED

Medical conditions can make it especially challenging to work on-site. Kyle Anckney, a public relations strategist based in Fort

SEE **OFFICE** PAGE 8

2024 year in review: How did California pay for everything?



Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters

BUDGET: The podium before Gov. Gavin Newsom addresses the media to unveil his 2024-25 January budget proposal at the Secretary of State Auditorium in Sacramento on Jan. 10, 2024.

To understand what happened with the state budget in 2024, you have to go back to 2023.

That year Gov. Gavin Newsom and Democrats who control the Legislature decided against raiding the state's roughly $37 billion rainy-day fund despite a shaky fiscal picture. Those dollars came in handy as lawmakers grappled to plug an estimated $56 billion shortfall this year and next.

That the state had a major deficit is partly the fault of flying fiscally blind. In response to devastating storms, federal and state tax collectors extended filing deadlines last year well past the date lawmakers normally finalize the state budget. As a result, the revenue picture was incomplete. Basically, the state spending plan last year assumed more revenue than what ultimately flowed in, all because key data wasn't available in time.

What are these deficit numbers in context? The state's general fund budget — spending on schools, health care, prisons, green energy initiatives and more — from July 1 to next June is $298 billion, among the highest ever.. As recently as 2021, the state was spending $270 billion.

How'd lawmakers close this year's budget chasm? For starters, they pulled $12 billion from the state's reserves for the next two years. Lawmakers also cut most state agency allocations by almost 8%, eliminated thousands of vacant government jobs and got rid of a handful mid-sized spending programs — savings of $16 billion. Gone was a plan to have the state lend colleges money to build more student housing, $1.1 billion in affordable housing and about $500 million for a new program that would have paid college students to work in jobs tied to their majors.

Other savings came from freezing business tax credits. Then there's the budget "fund shifts" lawmakers apply to the numbers that move money around to notch savings.

Among the few state programs that actually saw their budget grow? Public colleges and universities, though the University of California and California State University are slated to see those 8% cuts next year, unless the state budget picture improves.

2025 OUTLOOK

Revenues so far are higher than what was anticipated — thanks to big gains in the stock market, particularly in tech, and the income tax those investors pay. But the Legislature's independent budget analysts say all that extra revenue doesn't mean there's room to spend more, in part because they're projecting multi-billion dollar deficits through 2028-29. Plus, so much of what California spends money on now is expected to get more expensive.

Ultimately how much the state decides to spend on its vast array of programs — we're not the fifth largest GDP in the world for nothing — depends considerably on the stock market and the incomes of California's

SEE **BUDGET** PAGE 8

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FARMERS MARKET

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

January at the market

Hello and Happy New Year everyone! We are very excited to announce the 30th Anniversary of the Main Street Farmers Market. Hard to believe that this market was founded in 1995 and continues to be a favorite weekly community event. For that reason and many others, we decided to celebrate all 4 Sundays in January! Look for local music and special events throughout the month starting January 5th with a special Farm to Table pizza cutting event with the newly appointed Mayor of Santa Monica, Lana Negrete!! Yes! Free bites of a farmers market inspired Triple Beam pizza, a chance to meet the new Mayor and express yourself artistic self with the help of the Sunnyside Chalkers.

It is officially citrus season with a plethora of vitamin C goodness including tangerines, mandarins, oranges, lemons, limes and grapefruits! Stalk up for a sweet healthy treat for lunches or as a compliment to your favorite greens, salads, juicing or the ultimate smoothy! Perfect for helping you stay on track and keep at least one of your New Years resolutions! Garcia Organics will be back on January 5th!!

And avocados too!! Fuertes are in season with Haas avocados on the way. You might have seen a few Haas avocados at the markets, but the official California season starts in January. Just ask Steve from Sunrise Ranch. He will be back with his delicious Haas avocados and Meyer lemons mid-January!!

JANUARY CALENDAR 2025

Pico

January 4	DJ and the Greenleas
January 11	Teddy Bang Trio
	National Alliance for Mental Illness
January 18	East of Lincoln
	UC Master Gardeners
January 25	Megan Ukoh

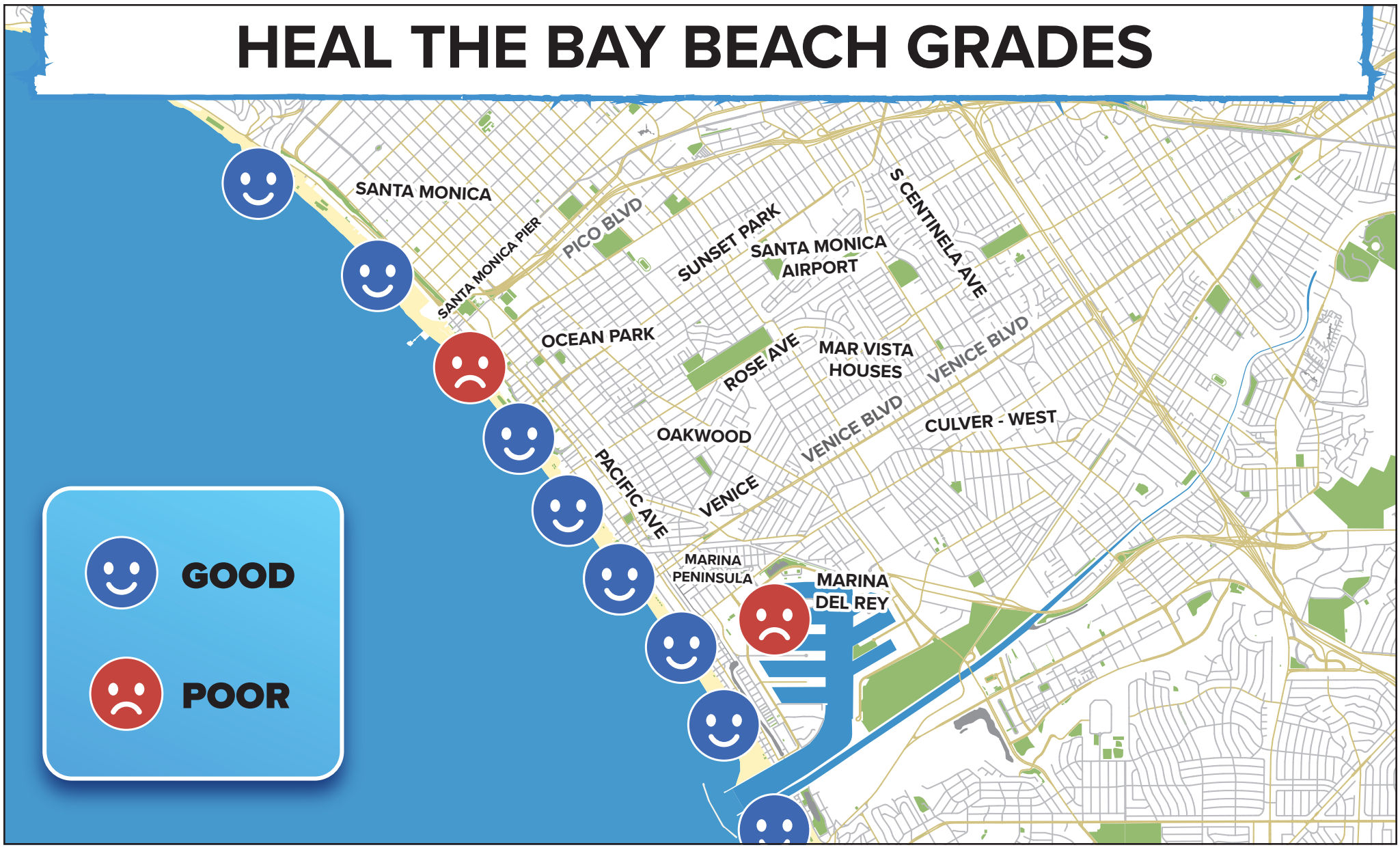
MAIN STREET – CELEBRATING OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY

January 5	Kiki and the Sunnyside Chalkers - 9am
	DJ and the Main Street Jam – 10am-1pm
	Special Guests – Mayor Negrete – Triple Beam Farm to Table pizza cutting! 11am
January 12	The GM Jazz Quartet -10am-1pm
January 19	School of Rock - 10-10:45am
	Fleece Kawasaki – 11am-1pm
	YARI – Youth Animal Rescue Initiative
	The Tutu School mini dance lessons
January 26	Dance with Miss Alice – 9:30am
	Megan Ukoh Duo – 10am-1pm



Courtesy photo

CITRUS: January at the market includes oranges and lemons.



RESOLUTIONS

FROM PAGE 1

Chief Executive Officer, Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica

"Our resolutions are to continue to build community in Santa Monica and also to spend more time in Clover Park with our daughters. We also want to try more of the amazing restaurants in our community and have been wanting to try Citrin and Mélisse." **-Dr. Jose Ortiz & Jodie Laczko, Alinea Orthodontics**

"I resolve to talk to my husband, instead of texting him. Especially when he's in the room. I also resolve to do all I can to assure that the magic of live theatre continues to brighten and enrich the lives of everyone in our community and in our world." **-Evelyn Rudie, Co-Artistic Director, Santa Monica Playhouse**

"The work at Will Rogers Learning Community is not just about academics - it's about nurturing a space where every student feels seen, heard, and valued. In the spirit of this, I resolve to encourage each of us, as community members, educators and parents, to actively build relationships that help create a school culture centered around a sense of belonging and joy." **-Lila Daruty, Principal, Will Rogers Learning Community**

"While I don't have any huge changes on the horizon for the new year, I do resolve to continue on the path that I have paved during the powerful year that is coming to a close: more opportunities to share poetry with the good people of our community, continued health and healing, hard laughter and deep listening with my beloveds. Here's hoping 2025 brings all of us every beautiful thing that we need to continue thriving and shining in Santa Monica! Here we go!" **-Anne Carmack, Santa Monica Poet Laureate**

"As I step into the New Year as the Mayor of Santa Monica, my resolutions are deeply personal and community-focused. Having recently battled breast cancer, faced the loss of my father and continue to struggle as a small business owner, I am committed to fostering resilience and compassion within our community. I am to prioritize health and well-being, both personally and for the residents of Santa Monica, while also striving to create a supportive environment that honors all resident voices, fosters a comeback within our business community and a let's work together attitude from the Dias to address the needs of our community." **-Lana Negrete, Santa Monica Mayor**

"I want to be kinder to myself and grant myself the same grace I extend to others. I also want to work on acknowledging and recognizing my achievements, celebrating as they happen and not letting the moment pass me by without taking the time to pause and reflect on my success." **-Elizabeth Noble, Chair, Santa Monica Animal Shelter Foundation**

"I think my goal for next year is to stay focused and positive and not to let any negativity that comes my way knock me off my game." **-Nikima Newsome, City Clerk**

"I want to spend more time outside with Hudson, my dog, this year. I feel like during the campaign I missed out on some fun moments of his life and he only has so many years with us! He's such a caring and protective creature who always wants to play and is a bundle of energy; he truly embodies the notion of 'man's best friend.'" **-Councilmember Dan Hall**

"Our resolution is to host Outlandish creator events at the Promenade, launch live offline shopping experiences, and transform Santa Monica into a premier influencer hotspot!" **-William August, CEO, Outlandish**

"In 2025, I hope more young students can learn about science. I hope we can expand early access to science through our PS Science program to more schools, in Santa Monica and throughout Southern California. Science education is so important to our children's futures, and unfortunately most elementary school students don't receive enough STEM learning because California doesn't test science scores until fifth grade. We feel like we're making a real difference in the community, but we need help to continue to grow." **-Julie Olds, Executive Director, PS Science**

"As a new year arrives, I'm thinking about small and large ways we can all make a difference in 2025. Beyond our personal lives and businesses, how are we making a difference in our community? My personal resolution for 2025 is to deepen my connection with the nonprofit organizations I work with, whether by contributing resources or volunteering my time." **-Rob Solomon, President, BLT Enterprises**

"In the New Year, I'm looking forward to continued enthusiastic community engagement and planning for Santa Monica's 'Great Park' as we advance towards the Airport's closure in 2028. It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity - frankly our last and only opportunity - to secure sufficient park and recreation space for generations to come, especially as the rapid build-out and densification of Santa Monica and the Westside inexorably marches forward." **-Steven Johnson, Santa Monica Recreation & Parks Commission**

"As we welcome the new year, I'm reflecting on how travel has always inspired me to create meaningful experiences for our guests. My resolution is to continue fostering sustainability at Shore Hotel, Ocean View Hotel, and Santa Monica Hotel, while deepening our connection with the Santa Monica community. This year, I'm also committed to supporting local initiatives and drawing inspiration from my travels to bring fresh ideas to our hotels, ensuring every guest feels at home in this beautiful city. I'm especially proud to kick off the year with the opening of Shoreside, our new coastal-inspired restaurant at Shore Hotel, which represents our commitment to delivering exceptional experiences for both locals and visitors." **-Jon Farzam, Chief Executive Officer, Shore Hotel | Santa Monica Hotel | Ocean View Hotel**

"I'm looking forward to many things in the new year and have great hope for the future of this wonderful city. Although I'm not one to make New Year's resolutions, I have set my intentions for the new year to be kinder to others, to learn something new every day, and try to read more books. I want to also wish everyone in Santa Monica a warm and happy holiday season and look forward to a bright 2025." **-Natalya Zernitskaya, Santa Monica City Councilmember**

"My resolution would be to shop at the farmers market more!" **-Sabrina Ironside, Co-Owner/President, The Gourmandise School**

"One of my New Year's Resolutions for Elemental Music is to continue strengthening our community engagement. Now that we have our own campus, we would love to host more events, workshops, and performances that bring together families, local musicians, and supporters to celebrate all the ways that music can connect us!" **-Josephine Moerschel, Executive & Artistic Director, Elemental Music**

"Personally, it's releasing control a little bit. I definitely have a bit of a hard time doing that, and I very much kind of do a lot of things myself. We've been open now for almost five months, and I have a really, really strong team behind me, so releasing the reins a little bit and just letting people take on more, or just trusting people to help support me a little bit more." **-Paige Gilson, Owner, Pvolve Santa Monica**

As we wrap up 2024, I am grateful for a Library Team dedicated to reducing barriers to access, developing impactful programs and services, and fostering meaningful connections with community members and visitors. In 2025, I resolve to ensure that Santa Monica Public Library serves as an anchor for our neighborhoods—focusing on resilience, shared experiences, and a genuine interest to learn from one another. A library card is a valuable resource for every resident, regardless of age! I look forward to collaborating with our staff to activate spaces, restore services, build relationships, and explore new ideas and possibilities. Cheers to a new year and new adventures! **-Santa Monica Public Library Director Erica Cuyugan**

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OFFICE

FROM PAGE 4

Lauderdale, Florida, has cerebral palsy and needs a nurse to help him change a catheter three times a day. His health insurance will only send a nurse to one location, so working in an office isn't an option.

"If that weren't an issue, I could find my way into the office," he said.

Anckney, who ran his own PR firm for years, was seeking director-level roles, but a recruiter told him he should consider less-senior roles because of his need to work remotely. Instead, he applied to director-level jobs that were advertised as on-site or hybrid, and then reached out to explain his circumstances and ask if the hiring companies were open to him working from home.

"While I would never normally, especially in a career setting, lead with, 'I have cerebral palsy and I'm in a wheelchair,' I'm finding that I'm almost having to make myself vulnerable in that way just to see if the opportunity is even there for me," Anckney said.

WEIGH YOUR OPTIONS

Landing a fully remote job can be competitive. "There are going to be many people that don't have the luxury just to leave" their current jobs if they're required to return to the office, "especially in a volatile market such as we're in right now," Terrell-Camper said.

Attorney Holly Keerikatte was recently working on-site five days a week at a hospital, commuting about three hours a day and looking for a role that allowed more time with her family. She received two job offers. One was fully remote. The other paid 50% more but required a long commute. She recalled reading the phrase, "The only people who remember you worked late are your children." She chose the remote job.

"My primary driver is what's best for my family," Keerikatte said. "My advice is to be up-front and transparent about what you want, what you're looking for and why."

FIND BRIGHT SPOTS

When faced with the inevitability of returning to an office, look for the positives. Friendships can blossom as colleagues take coffee breaks together or sample new lunch spots. In-person conversations can spark ideas that wouldn't surface at home.

Employers can ease the transition by organizing activities that create camaraderie. For example, managers can put together a series of talks about the transition and have groups share what works for them, Dufrane said.

Face-to-face contact allows people to better understand what colleagues are thinking and doing, which helps prevent resentment and can provide helpful feedback.

Video director Deborah Ann DeSnoo, who owns Plug-In Inc., a video production company in Chofu, Japan, says she has worked in many countries where the film industry was male-dominated and female directors like her were uncommon. She makes a point to connect with colleagues in person, giving her a chance to bond.

"You can read the air in a different way, and you find a solution," DeSnoo said. "When you're on a Zoom and they ignore you, there's nothing you can do."

By CATHY BUSSEWITZ Associated Press

HANGOVER

FROM PAGE 2

at 1411 7th Street. Open Monday–Friday 10am–3pm, Saturday–Sunday 12–5 pm, this clinic offers an personal intravenous drip experience, a service that became popular about 10 years after a series of pop-up clinics appeared in hedonistic locations like Las Vegas, before becoming more mainstream not long after.

Dripology Chief of Operations Amin Afshari said, "We don;t just focus on hangover cures, but the Detox package is the one you'd want. It offers half a liter mixture of vitamin C, magnesium, vitamin B12, niacinamide, vitamin B complex, Toradol, Zofrab and Pepcid as needed. It's going to have a blend of every single vitamin you'd need in a very moderate amount," he said.

"The truth is though, every IV will detox you a little bit because they're diluting your system and rehydrating you and it does flush the system. Even our basic product is going to help you when you're in a pickle, when you don't feel your best," Afshari said.

More information about the full range of drips on offer at Dripology can be found at dripology.co.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

BUDGET

FROM PAGE 5

richest residents. Capital gains taxes from a hot Wall Street means big bucks for the state's programs.

A Republican-led White House and Congress with an eye toward tax cuts might spur stocks to soar (though tax cuts often mean federal program cuts). But President-elect Donald Trump's plan for heavy tariffs and mass deportations of undocumented workers could crimp the economy because of higher inflation and worker shortages.

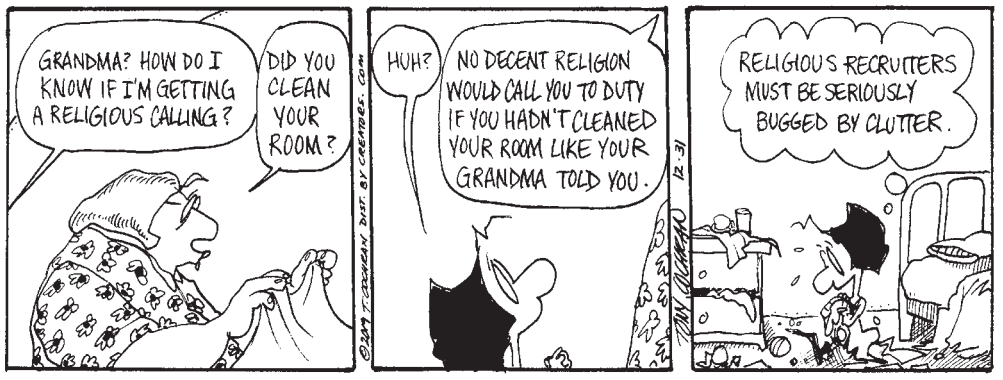
By Mikhail Zinshteyn. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

GET IT DAILY...



Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



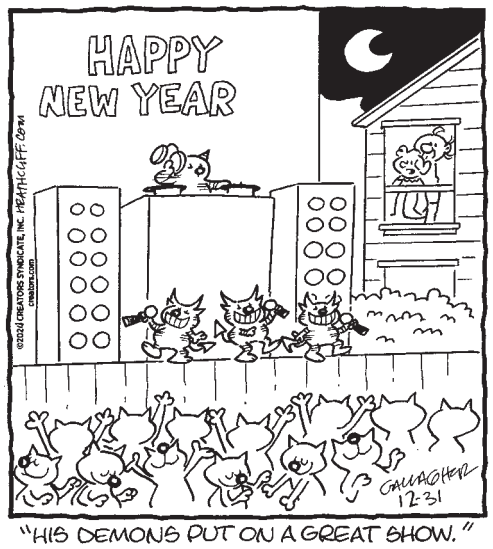
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"HIS DEMONS PUT ON A GREAT SHOW."

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 26 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6441

Coastal retreats

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

Akolele	Coogee	Pambula	Surf
Avalon	Dalmeny	Port	Tanja
Bathe	Durras	Macquarie	Tuross
Bays	Eden	Red Pt	Head
Beach	Forster	Rivers	Ulladulla
Bega	Harbours	Roads	Unit
Berry	Kiama	Sail	Urunga
Boats	Kioloa	Sand	Windang
Bombo	Lakes	Shoreline	
Canoe	Mogo	Suffolk	
Care	Outing	Park	

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 31)

It's a year when opportunities will either be flowing or overflowing. You'll have work that allows you to get paid for doing your favorite things, including thinking deeply into issues and creating truly innovative fixes. Family makes you proud, carrying on legacies of heart and principle. More highlights: Adoring eyes, mutual attractions and sublime attention. Aries and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 19, 3, 4, 1 and 28.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). In relationships, the classroom is always open, and lessons abound. From small interactions to significant milestones, there is endless space for growth. The willingness to learn and improve strengthens bonds and keeps your connections alive with curiosity and care.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Emotions come in hot, and you process them well, especially by writing them down. By putting pen to paper, you give yourself the space to reflect, analyze and untangle the various threads of your experience.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The loved one who tests your patience the most is the one who needs it most right now. It will take an almost saintly level of self-control and restraint, but you have what it takes to offer the understanding they need.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Ideas have value even if they are never fully materialized. Of course, many ideas would be impossible to bring to life, and many more are best left in their ethereal form. Even then, the spark of creativity can lead to brilliance that will change the world.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your personality will resonate like a melody, attracting those who complement your tune. You'll meet people who amplify your best qualities and bring harmony to your interactions. The best part is, they'll consider themselves lucky for encountering you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Just a reminder: You are worthy of love whether or not you fulfill another's expectations. Focused on the beauty of your being, true affection sees beyond roles and services. Reconnect with your intrinsic value, independent of external validation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). While others meticulously plan their appeal, you find that your natural state holds the most charm. Embracing simplicity brings out your most confident and radiant self. This ease will draw admiration and inspire others to follow your relaxed lead.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The Italian proverb reminds us that when the game is over, the king and the pawn share the same fate. Today you'll embrace humility, seeing how power and status pale next to shared humanity.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Setting things straight works wonderfully in a linear situation, such as a library shelf. As for the biological and emotional world, a holistic, spherical or radiant approach will serve you well. Feelings are like balls -- hard to stack, easy to roll with.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Love is versatile. You can seed, need, bleed or feed it. You can want it or flaunt it. You can give it, you can live it. And if you can experiment with the many tones and colors of love without risking its loss, you've truly won.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). As the air sign you are, you've intimate knowledge of the many sorts of wonders that can arrive on the wind. Zephyrs of good fortune will whisper through your mind, lending ideas for a brilliant next project or relationship.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A moment of foresight will be a valuable gift. Your perception sharpens as you envision the future of a relationship with vivid clarity. The insights you gain now will guide your next steps, whether toward deepening the connection or adjusting course.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

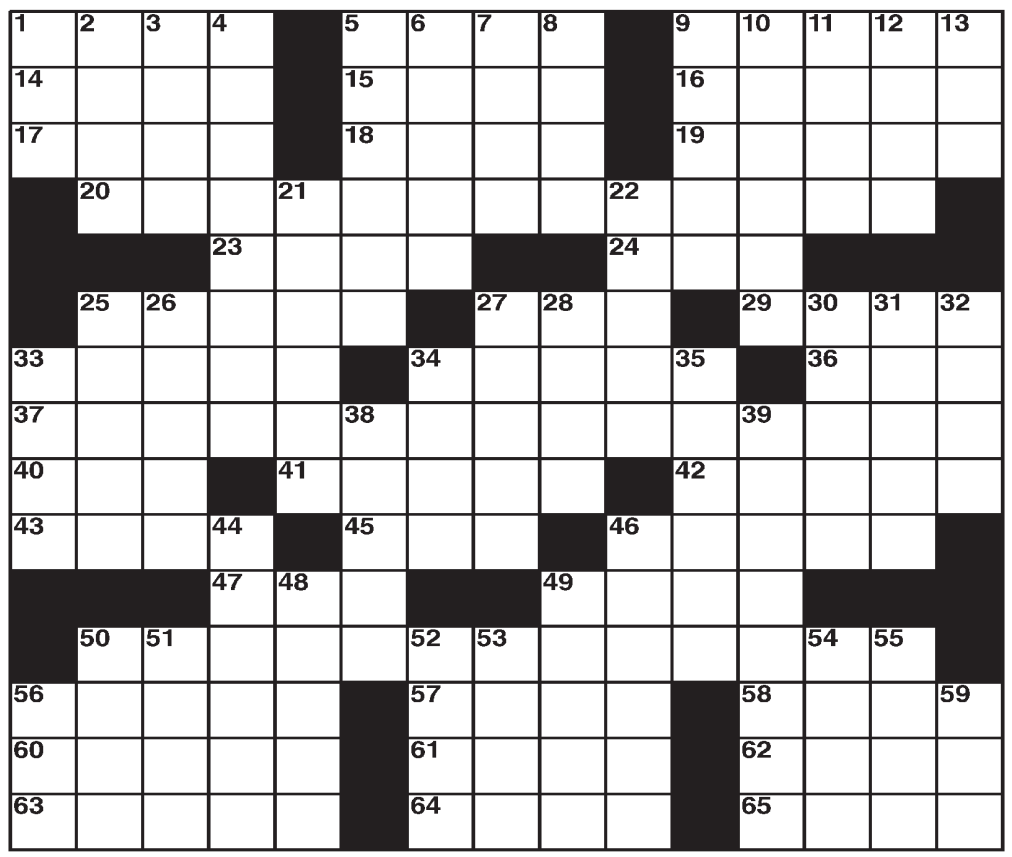
SPINNERS by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Male singing range
5 Birds that hoot
9 Clock's wake-up signal
14 Hesitant agreement
15 Red vegetable
16 Happen again
17 Local food shop
18 Narrow advantage
19 Weight increases
20 Carnival carousels
23 Viral Internet idea
24 Kitty or canary
25 Self-assurance
27 Likely (to)
29 Unpleasant smell
33 Reduce sharply, as prices
34 Do great on an exam
36 Aussie flightless bird
37 Laundry appliances
40 Frozen water
41 Skin openings
42 Germany's major river
43 Window screen material
45 __ in "Sam"
46 Kitchens and dens
47 Male pal in Paris
49 Hand-cleaning bar
50 Winter Olympics athletes on 40-Across
56 Jewelry for fingers
57 "Therefore..."
58 Within easy reach
60 Confuse
61 Minor bumper damage
62 Nothing but
63 Trifled (with)
64 Luxury retail chain
65 Carryall bag

DOWN

1 Unopened blossom
2 Attention-getting sound
3 Shoe bottom
4 Minor battle
5 "Do what I told you!"
6 Pie slice shape
7 Brand of kid's plastic bricks
8 Suffix for young or prank
9 Have a quarrel
10 Crude shed
11 Corrosive liquid
12 Competes on a track
13 New bride's title, sometimes
21 Send again
22 Of the eyes
25 Location
26 Desert spots with water
27 Highest points
28 Pod veggies
30 Jeans fabric
31 Prophetic signs
32 Deceptive tactic
33 Do the backstroke, say
34 Taj Mahal city
35 Where tonsils are
38 Soldier's denial
39 "Heaven forbid!"
44 Negotiate a lower price
46 Cooks beef in an oven
48 Pondered
49 Black-and-white mammal known for its 29-Across
50 Generic dog
51 Annual 500-mile car race, for short
52 Predicted takeoff hrs.
53 __ butter (lotion ingredient)
54 Nevada city
55 Pretzel seasoning
56 Lab rodent
59 Sandwich bread



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

COMMUNITY NEWS

Downtown

Chabad of S. Monica Celebrates 34th Annual Menorah Lighting on 3rd Street Promenade

On December 25th, Chabad of S. Monica hosted its 34th annual Menorah lighting ceremony on the iconic 3rd Street Promenade. The joyous event drew a crowd of over 1,000 community members, who gathered to celebrate the Festival of Lights.

The evening's festivities included Chanukah crafts for kids, hot latkas, and cocoa for all participants. Four members of the Santa Monica City Council attended the event, demonstrating their support for the community.

A live demonstration of an authentic olive oil press with volunteers from the children participating was thoroughly enjoyed by the crowd.

Newly elected Councilmember Ellis Raskin had the honor of lighting the shamash (helper) candle and shared warm greetings with the crowd. Rabbi Eli Levitansky of Chabad SMC delivered a poignant message, emphasizing the significance of the Menorah: "To fight darkness, we must ignite a light. This truth resonates on both physical and spiritual levels."

Following the lighting ceremony, children were treated to real and chocolate Chanukah gelt (money) courtesy of Rabbi Isaac Levitansky and Councilmembers Natalya Zernitskaya and Dan Hall. Excitement filled the air as kids participated in raffles for brand-new scooters and bikes.

In a show of solidarity, the community came together for a special prayer, pleading for the swift and safe release of the Israeli hostages.

The crowd enjoyed spirited dancing and lively musical entertainment by Boruch Friedman.

Chabad of S. Monica's annual Menorah lighting has become a beloved tradition, promoting unity, joy, and the values of the Festival of Lights.

Chabad was on 3rd street once again on Sunday and there will be a lighting for the final night of Chanukah at the end of S. Monica Pier, Wednesday January 1, 4:15 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY RABBI ELI LEVITANSKY





Courtesy photos

MENORAH: Officials gathered for the annual event last week.



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/.

CRAWL 'TIL THE BALL FALLS

6 p.m. - 2 a.m. Britannia Pub, 318 Santa Monica Blvd. Barcrawlerz is a Santa Monica Bar Crawl like no other, featuring the best drink specials and the best bars in town. Participating bars are Britannia Pub, Barney's Beanery, Cabo Cantina, Lanea and Santa Monica Whaler. Tickets $20, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/crawl-til-the-ball-falls-santa-monica-nye-bar-crawl-2025-tickets-1015668751577.

LA NYE PARTY 2025

6 p.m. - 2 a.m. Jameson's Pub, 2702 Main St. Enjoy the ultimate NYE party night out with drink specials at the biggest and best bar crawl Santa Monica has to offer. Registration begins at Jameson's Pub or Barney's Beanery. VIP entry to fantastic venues, exclusive deals and drink specials as low as $4 drafts and 2-for-1 premium and champagnes. Tickets $25, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/la-new-years-eve-party-2025-santa-monica-bar-crawl-tickets-1089390780149.

SANTA MONICA PLAYHOUSE NYE MUSICAL REVUE

6:30 - 8:30 p.m., 10 - 11:59 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St. Champagne, sparkling juice and a delectable dessert buffet accompany this rousing, family-friendly Rudie-DeCarlo musical revue. Join in the singing, dancing, humor and other delights culled from over six decades of audience favorite Santa Monica Playhouse productions. Tickets $39.50-$59.50, discounts for students, seniors, military and kids. For more information, visit: https://www.santamonicaplayhouse.com/nye2024.html.

NYE AT THE VICTORIAN

8 p.m. The Victorian, 2640 Main St. Join for a night of fun, music and dancing with entry to the main floor and upstairs, as well as Spiked Punch, Photo Booths, Prom King & Queen, Confetti Countdown, Champagne & Hors D'oeures upon arrival. Tickets $35, VIP tickets $150, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-years-eve-santa-monica-the-victorian-tickets-1109600909189.

NYE EVEN BETTER TOGETHER

8 p.m. Zinqué, 1445 4th St. Take in New Year's Eve with DJs Patricio, Junkyard, Le Frank, Sequin Tiger, Mayor, Liz Favini and Rolland Colón. Presented by Sweet Nectar. Tickets $52, for more information visit: https://www.lezinque.com/nye.

I GOTTA CROW NYE CELEBRATION

8 p.m. The Crow, 2525 Michigan Ave. Ring in the New Year with an early show featuring comics from HBO, Netflix, Comedy Central and late night TV. Lineup includes Jordan Conley, Ray Lau, Nina Nguyen, Magic To Do and Jenny Zigrino. Tickets $50, to purchase visit: https://jetbook.co/e/i-gotta-crow--nye-celebrationxv6d.

EAST COAST COUNTDOWN CELEBRATION

8:30 - 9:30 p.m. Ice at Santa Monica, 1324 5th St. Ice at Santa Monica invites you to a heartwarming and unforgettable NYE celebration tailored for families and kids of all ages. Experience ice skating under the stars and the excitement of a countdown to midnight. For more information, visit: https://iceatsantamonica.com/santa-monica-events/.

RING IN 2025

8:30 p.m. - 1:30 a.m. Hotel Casa del Mar, 1910 Ocean Way. Celebrate New Year's Eve in style at Hotel Casa del Mar. General admission tickets include three drink tickets for premium brands, passed appetizers, late night bites and a champagne toast. Tickets $225, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ring-in-2025-with-a-new-years-eve-celebration-at-hotel-casa-del-mar-tickets-1048293633477.

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