2 **Rugby match**
International team visits L.A.

3 **STELLA!!!!!**
Pizzeria announces closure.

4 **Beloved City Clerk**
Retires as of this week.

12 **Crime Watch**
MDR murder/suicide.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 23 THE WEEKENDER 12/15-12/17 smdp.com

Federal labor regulators demand Starbucks reopen shuttered Pier location

Antoinette Damico

REOPENING?: The former Starbucks location next to the Pier could be reopened if federal regulators win a case against the coffee giant.

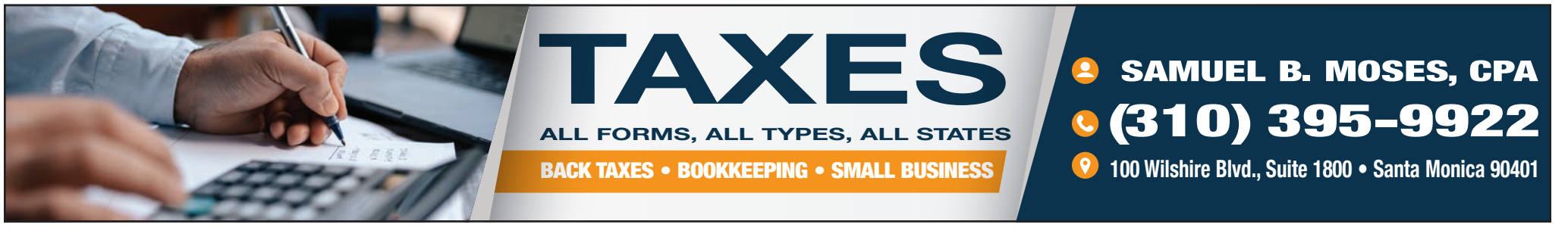
MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The Starbucks corporation may be forced to reopen a location at the Santa Monica Pier that closed in 2022 following a ruling by federal regulators this week accusing the company of trying to undermine unionization efforts across the country.

Regional Director Ronald K. Hooks in the National Labor Relation Board's Region 19 (Seattle) Office issued a complaint on December 13 against Starbucks Corporation consolidating several cases along the West Coast. The complaint alleged that Starbucks closed 23 stores (including the Ocean Front Walk & Moss store in Santa Monica and five other stores in LA), eight of which had Workers United certified as bargaining representative, to discourage membership in a labor organization. The complaint further alleges that Starbucks closed the stores without prior notice to the union and without affording the union an opportunity to bargain about the decisions and that a manager told employees they could not "borrow" shifts at other stores while the employer negotiated with the union about the closures.

The NLRB General Counsel is seeking an order for several remedies, including immediate reopening of all 23 stores and offers of reemployment for unit employees; bargaining in good faith with the eight unionized stores; make-whole relief for

SEE **STARBUCKS** PAGE 6



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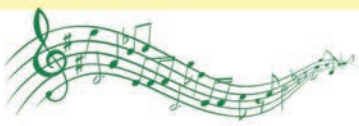
SANTA MONICA FAMILY DENTISTRY
DR. ALAN RUBENSTEIN (310) 736–2589
1260 15th ST. SUITE #703 WWW.ALANRUBENSTEINDDS.COM

First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica
Christmas Eve Services
Sunday, December 24

Service of Lessons and Carols 10 a.m.
The annual worship service of music and word, with brass quintet.



Christmas Eve Family Service
4 p.m.
Celebrate with Christmas carols, re-telling the Christmas story, and rejoicing together. Costumes will be available at the door for all children to participate.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
7 p.m.
Choir, Organ, Harp and Candlelight

All services will also be online:
www.santamonicaumc.org

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SANTA MONICA
1008 11th St. Santa Monica, CA 90403
310.393.8258

Santa Monica Rugby Club hosts Oxford University RFC

Scott Snowden

RUGBY: Everyone who is anyone in the West Side rugby scene was at Samohi on Tuesday evening to watch this thrilling game

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica Rugby Club hosted the Oxford University first XV on Tuesday night in an enjoyable, albeit somewhat one-sided game played at the grounds of Santa Monica High School, with the game ultimately ending 7-47 to the visitors.

The Santa Monica Dolphins drew first blood with a try from number 14, Right Winger Zak Wall in the 14th minute, which was successfully converted by number 15, Full Back Jaime Chuidian. However, the Oxford Blues replied just five minutes later with a try from number 13, Outside Center Wolfe Morn, which was then converted by number 11, Left Winger Vasco Faria.

Oxford were coming to the end of their four-game Southern California tour, having played games over the weekend against the San Diego Legion on Saturday and the Chicago Hounds also in San Diego on Sunday. The tour began last Thursday with a thrilling match against the UCLA Bruins, in an incredibly close contest that saw the score level for most of the game. However, the Bruins inched ahead in the closing stages of the match to finish the game 20-12.

The Blues also lost against both the Legion and the Hounds, so they were looking to end the tour with a win. While Oxford might still have been struggling with jet lag, the Dolphins were fielding a team with many new players that were hungry for on-field experience, especially against an international side.

"I don't even know half the guys on our team tonight and that means all these young, new guys that are new to the team, new to playing at a higher level and therefore can get a game. And you know, if Oxford gets a win, that's good for them of course, but this is worth so much more to our depth and breadth as a team going forward," Steven Johnson, President of Santa Monica Rugby Club, said.

Despite the Dolphins retaining possession for much of the first 40 minutes, they couldn't quite manage to turn that advantage into points and their score remained at one converted try. But the home side remained resilient and did not give up a single inch without a fight, right up to the final whistle. Santa Monica's scrum was solid throughout the whole 80-minute match, which was an achievement since the Blues dominated that set piece in their match against the Bruins.

Both teams maintained their discipline, mostly, and while there were a number of unforced handling errors from each side, there were also some thoroughly enjoyable moments of individual effort and throughout the game, the tacking was fierce. Interestingly, the game is refereed slightly differently in the US than it is in the UK, with less strict rules on the height of tackles on this side of the Pond and that was something that certainly took Oxford by surprise in their first game against UCLA as the Blues were hit hard — and high — on more than one occasion.

"This was a good game and a great tour for Oxford and I can see the transition in their style of play, from the UCLA game to this one," said Marquise Goodwin, the Major League Rugby referee who oversaw

SEE **RUGBY** PAGE 10

COMMUNITY NEWS

Main Street

Stella Barra closes after years of serving pizza on Main Street.

Stella Barra Pizzeria & Wine Bar announced it will close on Friday, January 5, 2024. “The neighborhood spot for artisanal pizza has been a part of the local community for over a decade, and it has been a pleasure to serve all of our loyal guests,” said Emily Clark Ehrenberg with Lettuce Entertain You, the company that owns the business. “We’re grateful to the Stella Barra team for bringing Lettuce’s signature hospitality to Southern California and for their commitment to providing the Santa Monica community with great food and service over the years.”

Ehrenberg declined to provide any additional information about the closure or the reasons behind it. The adjoining M Street Kitchen closed several years ago 2018 and the company operated the space as an event venue. No information was available about future uses of the Stella Barra space.

SMDP STAFF

Malibu

City of Malibu Launches New Webpage as Part of Efforts to Improve Safety on Pacific Coast Highway

The City of Malibu is thrilled to announce the launch of a dynamic webpage dedicated to keeping the community informed about ongoing efforts to improve safety conditions on Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) within Malibu city limits. The webpage, at www.MalibuCity.org/PCHSafety, is intended to serve as a central hub for updates, resources, and key information related to PCH safety projects, and milestones. This initiative represents a significant step forward in the City’s commitment to transparency, education, and community engagement on all things PCH.

“Our goal is to create an environment where safety is a shared responsibility. This webpage serves as a vital tool for keeping our community and stakeholders informed about the ongoing efforts to enhance public safety on PCH in Malibu,” said City Manager Steve McClary. “We believe that an informed community is a safer community.”

The newly unveiled webpage is designed to be a one-stop destination for residents, businesses, and visitors seeking the latest information on PCH Safety efforts. Key features include, but are not limited to, the following:

City Updates: Stay informed about any recent actions taken by the City of Malibu to address safety concerns on PCH.

Events and Meetings: Find information on recent or upcoming events, meetings and opportunities for community involvement and collaboration relevant to PCH safety.

PCH Safety Taskforce Updates: Stay engaged with summaries and outcomes from PCH Taskforce meetings as we actively work to address challenges and implement solutions to improve safety along this vital corridor.

Updates on Efforts by County and State Elected Officials: Stay informed on the latest developments from our local and State legislative partners working towards enhancing safety measures on PCH.

Enforcement Initiatives: Learn about our efforts led by LA County Sherriff’s Department and California Highway Patrol to improve traffic management, promote safe driving practices and address specific safety concerns.

Resources: Find valuable resources, including PCH traffic and law enforcement reports and statistics to better understand the current state of PCH safety.

Fact Sheet: A list of actions the City has taken to improve PCH safety.

Improving safety on PCH has long been a priority for the community. PCH is a state highway under the jurisdiction of Caltrans, leaving the City with limited ability to make changes to the highway. Nonetheless, the City has taken numerous actions and has invested millions of dollars in recent years to improve PCH safety within its ability.

In recent years, conditions on PCH have grown increasingly hazardous with excessive speeding, reckless and distracted driving, and intoxicated driving. Since 2010, 58 individuals have died on Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu. During the past 10 years, Malibu has had more than 4,000 traffic collisions, 1,600 of which involved injuries, and more than 100,000 traffic citations have been issued. On October 17, 2023, four Pepperdine students tragically lost their lives after being struck by a speeding motorist while walking on PCH.

To address the crisis, the City Council declared a Local Emergency on November 13, 2023. This proactive measure underscores the urgency and significance of addressing this threat to public safety in our community.

Community members are encouraged to visit www.MalibuCity.org/PCHSafety regularly to stay informed and engaged in the collective effort to improve safety on Pacific Coast Highway. Any significant updates on the PCH safety effort will be posted on the webpage, as well as on the City’s social media accounts.

SUBMITTED BY MATT MYERHOFF, MEDIA INFORMATION OFFICER

Surf report

WATER TEMP: **61.5**

FRIDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

A storm north of Hawaii over the weekend sends a modest round of WNW swell. A deep morning high tide slows many breaks but there should be some energy left for the afternoon low tide and wind could remain light.

SATURDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

WNW swell is on the way down early. A new one builds in the PM. Clean early with a decent tide push in the morning, worth watching as the tide drains out through the back half of the day.

Weather

Friday: Patchy fog before 10am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 76. Northeast wind around 10 mph.
Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 52. Northeast wind around 10 mph, with gusts as high as 15 mph.
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 72. Northeast wind around 15 mph becoming west in the afternoon.
Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 53.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2023/12/15	Fri	03:28 AM	2.50	L
2023/12/15	Fri	09:54 AM	6.43	H
2023/12/15	Fri	5:33 PM	-1.12	L
2023/12/16	Sat	12:23 AM	3.60	H
2023/12/16	Sat	04:25 AM	2.63	L
2023/12/16	Sat	10:44 AM	6.03	H
2023/12/16	Sat	6:23 PM	-0.84	L
2023/12/17	Sun	01:21 AM	3.75	H
2023/12/17	Sun	05:35 AM	2.73	L
2023/12/17	Sun	11:42 AM	5.45	H
2023/12/17	Sun	7:15 PM	-0.44	L
2023/12/18	Mon	02:19 AM	4.03	H
2023/12/18	Mon	07:05 AM	2.72	L
2023/12/18	Mon	12:52 PM	4.74	H
2023/12/18	Mon	8:09 PM	0.02	L
2023/12/19	Tue	03:14 AM	4.43	H
2023/12/19	Tue	08:58 AM	2.37	L
2023/12/19	Tue	2:20 PM	4.05	H

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: 12/13
3 8 41 56 64
Power#: 18
Jackpot: 535 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/13
8 12 18 32 39

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 12/12
8 23 44 45 53
Mega#: 3
Jackpot: 28 M

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/13
EVENING: 3 4 7
Draw Date: 12/13
MIDDAY: 7 8 0

Super Lotto Plus
Draw Date: 12/13
4 9 28 36 41
Mega#: 20
Jackpot: 23 M

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/13
1st: 08 - Gorgeous George
2nd: 02 - Lucky Star
3rd: 10 - Solid Gold
Race Time: 1:43.49

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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.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS TO THE

SANTA MONICA HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

UNSCHEDULED VACANCY

Santa Monica Human Services Commission:
One seat available for a term ending **June 30, 2025.**
Applicant must be a Santa Monica resident.

Applications due by noon, Tuesday, January 16, 2024.
Appointments to be made by City Council, Tuesday, January 23, 2024.

No Santa Monica City Employee may serve as a member of any Board or Commission.

The State Political Reform Act requires certain officeholders to disclose their interest and income which may be materially affected by their official action. The applicants appointed to serve in these positions will be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) upon assuming office, and annually thereafter. In addition, this position will be required to complete two hours of Ethics Training (AB1234) biennially, as well as attend other city sponsored trainings deemed necessary by the city.

Applications are available on-line at: www.smgov.net/boards All current applications on file will be considered.

Disability related assistance and alternate formats of this document are available upon request by calling (310) 458-8211.

City of Santa Monica

City of Santa Monica
Ordinance Number 2769 (CCS)
(City Council Series

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA AMENDING SANTA MONICA MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 4.04.390 PERTAINING TO THE FEEDING OF BIRDS AND OTHER ANIMALS IN THE CITY PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2769 (CCS) prepared by the Office of the City Attorney:

Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 4.04.390 establishes prohibitions against feeding animals and birds in certain locations. The Ordinance amends SMMC Section 4.04.390 to expand prohibited feeding locations to the Santa Monica Municipal and Newcomb Piers and to the public beach. It also clarifies the location of "off leash areas" to include locations within public parks.

The Ordinance will take effect thirty days after its adoption.

The full text of the above Ordinance is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica. Phone: (310) 458-8211.

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

SANTA MONICA
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
SANTA MONICA CITY HALL

DATE/TIME: Monday, December 18, 2023, 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Council Chambers, (wheelchair accessible)
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Room 250

PUBLIC HEARING:

- 395 Santa Monica Place Mall – 23ARB-0219: Sign Program / Sign Adjustment for Santa Monica Place Mall located at 395 Santa Monica Place in the Transit Adjacent (TA) zoning district.

More information is available online at https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Architectural-Review-Board/ (en espanol tambien at (310) 458-2201 ext. 5547#).

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Those wishing to give written public comment shall email comments to planningcomment@santamonica.gov. Comments received **prior to 12 p.m.** on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Architectural Review Board prior to the meeting and posted online. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

For disability-related accommodations, please contact (866) 311-7266 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation.

All written materials are available in alternate languages provided the request is received 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

City Clerk Denise Anderson-Warren honored

Courtesy photo

RETIRE: The longtime City Clerk retired as of Tuesday's Council meeting.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

In Tuesday's relatively light City Council meeting, not only was Phil Brock officially recognized as Mayor as he and former Mayor Gleam Davis went through the formality of swapping seats, but long-serving City Clerk, Denise Anderson-Warren, was honored in her last Council meeting before retiring from public service.

Anderson-Warren's first appearance in chambers was a special meeting on Friday, November 21, 2003, almost 20 years ago to the day. Back then, Richard Bloom was Mayor of Santa Monica and George W. Bush was President. The Iraq War was in progress, Arnold Schwarzenegger was sworn in as governor of California and England became Rugby World Cup champions after defeating Australia 20-17 in extra time.

However, by this time, she'd already been an employee of the City of Santa Monica for over five years, serving as Deputy City Clerk before obtaining her certification as a Certified Municipal Clerk in 2003 from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks.

A video showing archived footage of that meeting was shown as part of a tribute to Anderson-Warren, who was Deputy City Clerk then. In May of 2016, a special proclamation on behalf of the City Council was made, declaring May 1 through 7, Municipal Clerks Week and she collected a certificate from then-Mayor Ted Winterer.

Interestingly, Gleam Davis joined the City Council in February 2009 and upon being elected to the position of Mayor Pro Tempore in December 2016, Anderson-Warren presided over the swearing in ceremony, her first at that point. The video montage included a nice collection of entertaining Council clips, including one showing the clock of one meeting at 4 a.m.

Councilmember Caroline Torosis presented Anderson-Warren with a certificate of recognition of service saying, "We recognize her for her dedication and service to the voters of Santa Monica, but I also want to acknowledge that she and her office were city clerks during a period of really great change for the way that we do elections in LA County … And that she was also the clerk during a global pandemic.

> I have to give my shout out to Maria Stewart. She was my clerk for 18 years and she taught me how to be patient, how to be fair, how to not take things personally. And when you sit here remember, you're working in partnership with the Mayor or the Mayor Pro Tem to run this meeting to be efficient and effective
> - Anderson-Warren

"I also just want to say that Denise and her office are the conduit between the public and the elected and although they're behind the scenes, none of this would happen if it weren't for Denise and her team," Torosis added.

Following in a recently established tradition, Davis presented Anderson-Warren with a mocked up street sign in the style of the City of Santa Monica that had "Anderson-Warren Way" printed on it. She credited her husband Larry and her son Darius and her daughter Aneissa and spoke of how Santa Monica could pride itself on being a city that allows and encourages free and fair elections.

"I have to give my shout out to Maria

SEE **CITY CLERK** PAGE 15

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Progressives frustrated by failure to enact their agenda in deep blue California

DAN WALTERS

Seemingly, California is a deeply blue state in which Democrats hold virtually all of the levers of political power, including all statewide offices and three-fourths of the Legislature's seats.

However, California's most frustrated political bloc these days are the progressives who yearn to remake the state into a model of economic and social egalitarianism with an extensive array of free or low-cost services ranging from universal health care and family income supports to child care and higher education.

Their movement seemed to be making some gains last year when Gov. Gavin Newsom, outwardly the most progressive governor in history, was bragging about a $97 billion state budget surplus and approving expansions of child care, health coverage for undocumented immigrants and other points of the progressive agenda.

It was a fleeting moment at best.

The massive surplus has since become a massive deficit – $68 billion according to the Legislature's budget analyst – while Newsom has been drifting toward the political middle as he concentrates on building a national profile. He talks a lot more about fighting street crime these days than his 2018 campaign pledge to bring single-payer health care to the state.

Progressive groups are now lamenting that they have been unable to realize their many goals and sounding the alarm about losing ground despite having, on paper, a state government full of vocal allies.

"Why are we coming up short?" Dr. Manual Pastor of USC's Equity Research Institute said during a roundtable discussion Tuesday aimed at forging a new coalition of progressive organizations to push for change.

"This is the work of our generation," Henry A.J. Ramos, a senior fellow for the Institute on Race, Power and Political Economy, said.

"While solidly Democratic, California still hasn't lived up to its progressive reputation in terms of real policy change," Ramos and another seminar participant, attorney and organizer Robb Smith, wrote in Capitol Weekly a few months ago. "Why not, when we have such a large pool of left-leaning voters? Because securing long-overdue social and economic justice reforms across our state will require a much greater focus on coalescing voters to first approve structural changes in state governance."

The term "structural changes" means contesting state laws, some of them in the constitution, that make it difficult to raise taxes that would be needed to finance the movement's agenda, even if the state didn't have a big budget gap.

The same lament is also found in another appeal this week from the California Earned Income Tax Credit Coalition, which supported the state's initial efforts to raise incomes of poor families by giving them refundable state tax credits.

The coalition, citing rising levels of poverty, called on legislators to protect the tax credit and other programs to support poor families as they deal with the state's huge budget deficit – by raising taxes if necessary. The coalition specifically supports Senate Bill 220, which would increase corporate income taxes.

Legislative leaders have issued pro forma assurances that they will protect vital programs as they deal not only with the $68 billion current deficit but projections of multibillion-dollar shortfalls for years to come. However, something will have to give – unless they muster the will to raise taxes on corporations and the wealthy that progressives seek.

Newsom has adopted a no-new-taxes mantra as he moderates his national image, but he also opposes a business-backed ballot measure, scheduled for the November 2024 ballot, that would make it even more difficult to increase local and state taxes. Its passage would be the ultimate setback for progressives who already feel stymied.

Photo by Dan Honda, Bay Area News Group

POLITICS: The California Nurses Association, which led the coalition behind the high-profile 2017 push for a single-payer system, has re-branded its campaign with the slogan "Fight to Win Medicare-for-All."

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

STARBUCKS

FROM PAGE 1

affected employees, including for loss of pay and other benefits, search-for-work and interim employment expenses, and other direct or foreseeable financial harms; electronic distribution of a notice to all employees nationwide; a notice reading by a senior management official and electronic distribution of a video recording of that reading; and training for managers and supervisors.

Starbucks closed the Ocean Front Walk store in 2022 after about two years of operation at that location citing an inability to provide a safe environment for staff and customers. It was one of 16 stores throughout the country the company said it was closing for safety concerns as the company reimagined the future of the business. At the time, a Starbucks spokesperson said the closure was not the result of any one specific incident or even a set number of incidents over time but rather an accumulation of challenges related to substance abuse, homelessness and economic upheaval caused by the pandemic. In a statement, the company said the closing stores were no longer spaces where the company could provide employees, partners and customers with the experience they expect and are accustomed to.

The company has denied its actions were related to union efforts saying it routinely closed and opened stores as decided by market conditions.

Starbucks recently released a study conducted by independent labor expert Thomas Mackall that concluded the company did not engage in anti-union actions. Starbucks shareholders had demanded the study following two years of protracted labor complaints against the corporation. While Mackall concluded Starbucks should do more to improve communication with unions and revise its Global Human Rights Statement, he said there was no evidence the company interfered with unionization efforts.

Last week, the company said it's committed to bargaining with its unionized workers and reaching labor agreements next year, a major reversal for the coffee chain after two years fighting the unionization of its U.S. stores.

In a letter to Lynne Fox, the president of the Workers United union, Starbucks Chief Partner Officer Sara Kelly said the current bargaining impasse between the two sides "should not be acceptable to either of us." Kelly asked to restart bargaining in January.

"We will set as an ambition and hopeful goal the completion of bargaining and the ratification of contracts in 2024," Kelly wrote in the letter.

In a statement distributed by Workers United, Fox said she is reviewing the letter and will respond.

"We've never said no to meeting with Starbucks. Anything that moves bargaining forward in a positive way is most welcome," Fox said.

Workers United said the last bargaining session between the two sides was May 23.

Saturday marks the two-year anniversary of a Starbucks store in Buffalo, New York, voting to unionize. It was the first company-owned store to join a union in more than three decades.

Since then, at least 370 company-owned U.S. Starbucks stores have voted to unionize, according to the National Labor Relations Board. There are about 9,600 company-owned Starbucks stores in the U.S.

Workers at 19 U.S. Starbucks stores have filed petitions with the NLRB to decertify the union as the bargaining representative at their stores, but none of those stores has voted on whether to remove the union. The NLRB can delay a decertification vote if an employer refuses to bargain.

Unionizing workers say they're seeking higher pay, more consistent schedules and more say in issues like store safety and workload during busy times. Seattle-based Starbucks has said its stores run more efficiently if it can work directly with its employees and not through a third party.

But the process has been contentious. Twice, federal courts have ordered Starbucks to reinstate workers who were fired after leading unionization efforts at their stores. Regional offices of the National Labor Relations Board have issued 120 complaints against Starbucks for unfair labor practices, including refusal to bargain and reserving pay raises and other benefits for non-union workers.

In October, Starbucks sued Workers United in federal court, demanding it stop using the name Starbucks Workers United for the group organizing its workers after that group posted a pro-Palestinian message on social media. Workers United countersued, saying Starbucks defamed the union by suggesting it supports violence. Starbucks said Friday that lawsuit is proceeding.

Starbucks said last week that its changing stance reflects its wish to support all of its employees. In her letter to Fox, Kelly pledged that the company would respect bargaining participants and refrain from disparaging conduct or language.

But Starbucks may also be shifting its position for business reasons. It reported record revenue in its fiscal fourth quarter, which ended in September, and its full-year revenue climbed nearly 12% to $35.9 billion.

But the company's stock has fallen 10% since Nov. 16, when 5,000 workers at more than 200 unionized Starbucks stores went on strike. Placer.ai, an analytics company, said that after a strong fall, U.S. holiday visits to Starbucks appear to be down from a year ago.

The company may also be trying to head off an effort by the Strategic Organizing Center, a labor group, to elect three pro-union candidates to Starbucks' board of directors next year.

Now that the complaint has issued, the NLRB Regional Office will attempt to facilitate a settlement with the parties. If no settlement can be reached, the case is scheduled to go before an NLRB Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) on August 20, 2024. The ALJ would then issue a decision, which could be appealed to the Board.

AP Business Writer DEE-ANN DURBIN contributed to this report.

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California gas tax revenue will drop by $6 billion, threatening roads

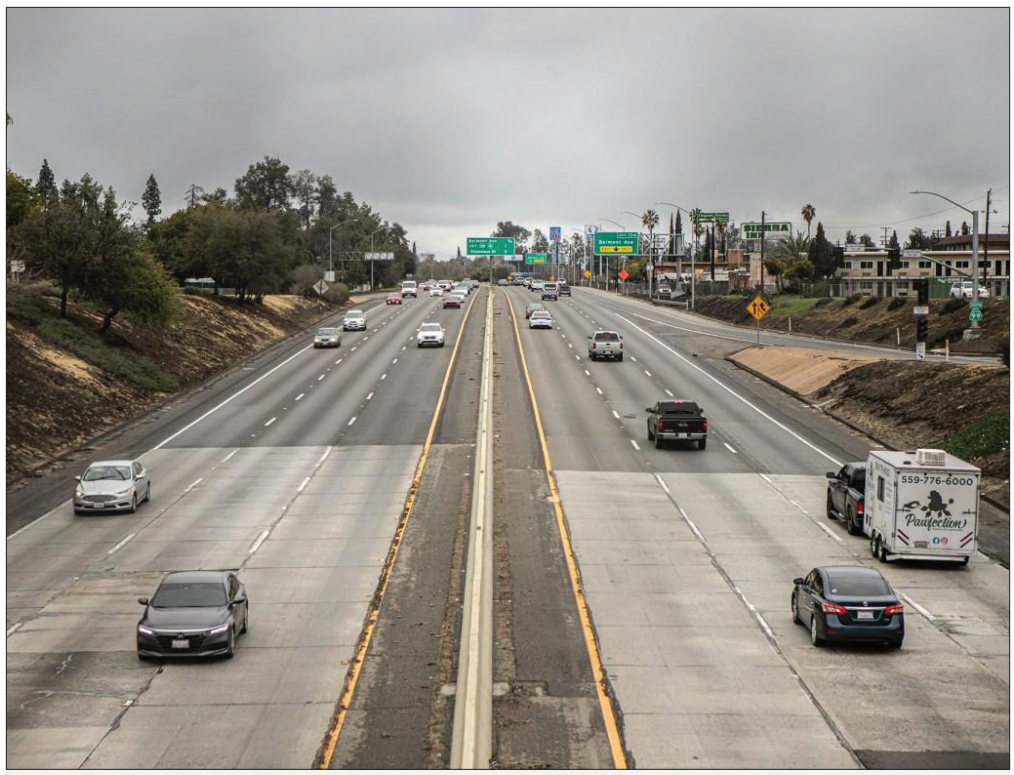

Photo by Larry Valenzuela, CalMatters/CatchLight Local

REVENUE: Traffic on Highway 99 near Parkway Drive in Fresno on Feb. 25, 2023. The newly appointed committee wants to give money to the City of Fresno for a pedestrian bridge that would cross Highway 99 and connect Parkway Drive and Roeding Park.

ALEJANDRO LAZO
Special to the Daily Press

California's funding from gas taxes will drop by nearly $6 billion in the next decade due to the state's electric car rules and other climate programs, "likely resulting in a decline in highway conditions for drivers," according to a new state analysis released today.

As California phases in major policies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions — such as the mandates for zero-emission cars and trucks — consumers buy less gasoline and diesel, and consequently pay less taxes.

Those declines in tax dollars will be partially offset by the state's road improvement fee, which drivers pay when they register their electric cars. But the Legislative Analyst's Office stressed that overall the state will still see a $4.4 billion drop in funding, a 31% decline, over a decade, so the Legislature and governor must come up with substantial new funding sources.

Unless the drop is accounted for with new fees or other funding, there would be substantially less money for highway programs as well as local road maintenance, the analysts wrote. Work supporting buses, trains and other public transit options across the state also would face drops in funding.

"As the state tries to meet its ambitious climate goals through the adoption of zero emission vehicles, and greater fuel efficiency within conventional vehicles, the report finds that we'll see a decline in fuel tax revenues," said Frank Jimenez, a senior fiscal and policy analyst with the office.

Fuel taxes and vehicle fees fund about a third of state spending on transportation. This year's budget, passed in June, includes about $14.2 billion in state funding for transportation.

The report projects declines of $5 billion, or 64%, in the state's gasoline excise tax, $290 million, or 20%, in the diesel excise tax and $420 million, or 20%, in the diesel sales tax, over the next decade.

Highway maintenance is funded primarily by the fuel taxes "and therefore will face significant funding declines," the report says. "…We project funding for these programs will drop by roughly $1.5 billion (26 percent) over the next decade, from $5.7 billion to $4.2 billion."

The state's transportation agency, Caltrans, declined to comment. "Caltrans is reviewing the report but does not comment on potential legislative proposals," a spokesperson said.

Lawmakers could make up for the shortfalls in many of these programs by spending less on transportation, but that would likely mean worsening roads and highways, and also some public mass transit cuts. They might also consider further increasing gas taxes or vehicle fees. But that might have an outsized impact on the state's lower-income communities, who are expected to adopt zero-emission vehicles more slowly as middle- or higher-income Californians.

Lawmakers also could consider using other state funds for transportation or implementing a road charge, which would tax people based on the number of miles they drive.

The report comes as California is bracing for a projected $68 billion budget deficit next year. Gov. Gavin Newsom's Finance Department on Tuesday ordered departments and agencies across government to reign in spending on everything from travel to office supplies.

California aims to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 85% below 1990 levels by 2045, when the state is expected to reach a statewide goal of net zero emissions. One of the most prominent ways the state is doing that is by banning the sale of all new gas-powered cars by 2035.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

OPINION **LAUGHING MATTERS**

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

I Can Chew and Walk Gum at the Same Time

In the 234 year history of the U.S. House of Representatives (Congress) only five members have ever been expelled. That is until December 1, when the former Congressman George Anthony Devolder Santos, (aka Anthony Devolder; Anthony Zabrovsky; drag queen Kitara Ravache) was expelled by the final vote of 311 to 114. And yes, in defending himself, furious George snapped at pushy reporters, "I can walk gum and chew at the same time, you know."

105 Republicans voted to kick him out and 112 voted against doing so. Among Democrats 206 said he should be ousted in a seemingly "don't let the door hit your big butt on the way out" attitude) while 2 voted against expulsion. I'm assuming they did so because if nothing else Anthony Devolder Zabrovsky Ravache was good for some laughs.

Even though my parents were lifelong fans of FDR, growing up in my house there was respect for some GOP presidents and legislators. I can't help but imagine what many of these folks from the past would think of Trump, Santos' and MAGA. A few former presidents who are likely spinning in their graves could include: Abraham Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt, Dwight Eisenhower and Ronald Reagan, along with war heroes Bob Dole, John McCain and George H.W. Bush who at 20 was the youngest fighter pilot in the Naval Reserve to be shot down and dramatically rescued at sea.

William Howard Taft was a former GOP President, but the only former POTUS to become Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. I can only speculate what Taft would have thought of Clarence Thomas accepting lavish vacations and gifts from wealthy donors not to mention his wife Ginni's small lobbying firm given the Court

SEE **LAUGHING MATTERS** PAGE 15

Courtesy image

SANTOS: The now former Congressman has some free time on his hands.

Eric Uller at Police Activities League (PAL) sexually abused hundreds of children in the late 1980s – early 2000s

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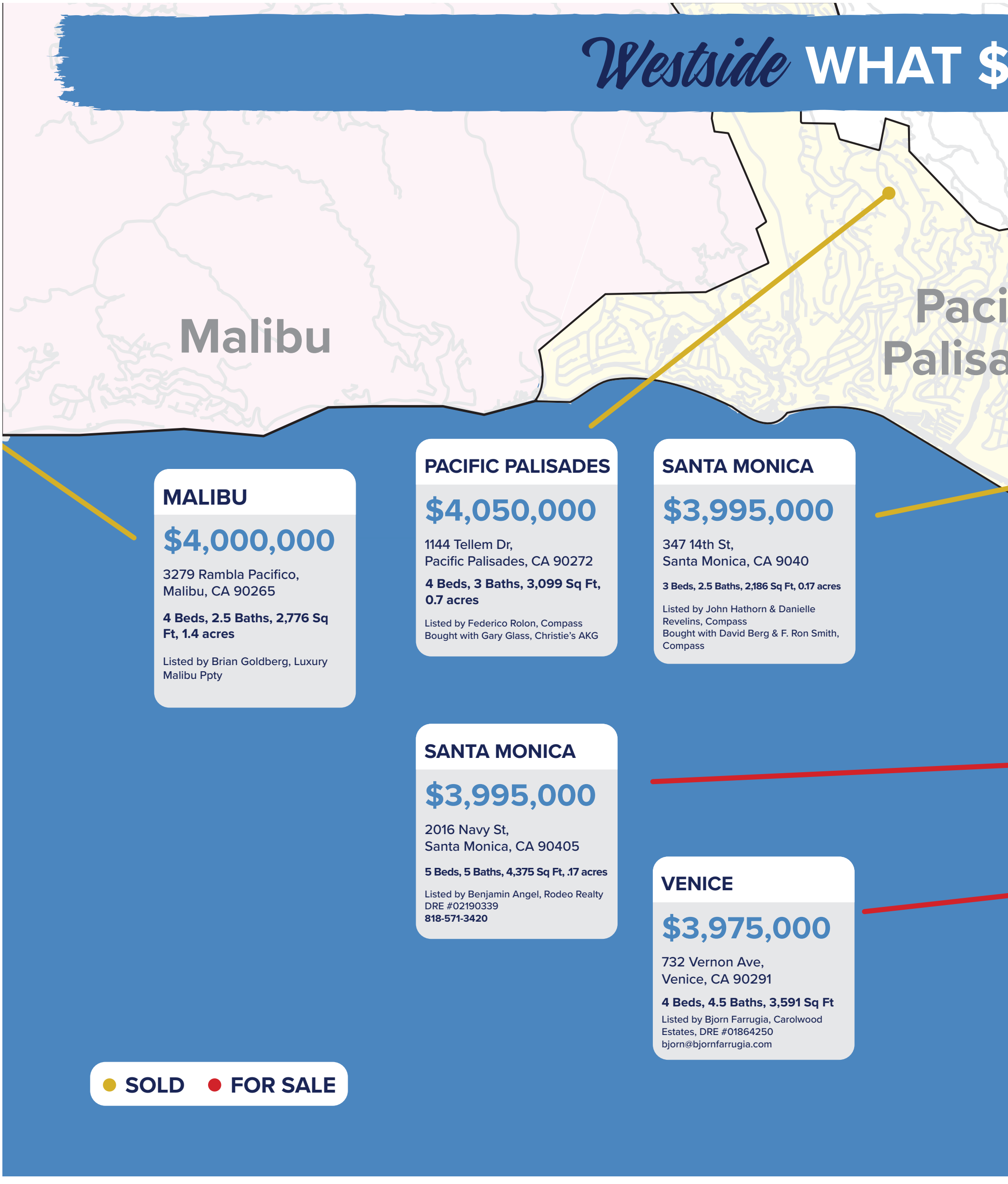

MALIBU

$4,000,000

3279 Rambla Pacifico,
Malibu, CA 90265

4 Beds, 2.5 Baths, 2,776 Sq Ft, 1.4 acres

Listed by Brian Goldberg, Luxury Malibu Ppty

PACIFIC PALISADES

$4,050,000

1144 Tellem Dr,
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

4 Beds, 3 Baths, 3,099 Sq Ft, 0.7 acres

Listed by Federico Rolon, Compass
Bought with Gary Glass, Christie's AKG

SANTA MONICA

$3,995,000

347 14th St,
Santa Monica, CA 9040

3 Beds, 2.5 Baths, 2,186 Sq Ft, 0.17 acres

Listed by John Hathorn & Danielle Revelins, Compass
Bought with David Berg & F. Ron Smith, Compass

SANTA MONICA

$3,995,000

2016 Navy St,
Santa Monica, CA 90405

5 Beds, 5 Baths, 4,375 Sq Ft, .17 acres

Listed by Benjamin Angel, Rodeo Realty
DRE #02190339
818-571-3420

VENICE

$3,975,000

732 Vernon Ave,
Venice, CA 90291

4 Beds, 4.5 Baths, 3,591 Sq Ft

Listed by Bjorn Farrugia, Carolwood Estates, DRE #01864250
bjorn@bjornfarrugia.com

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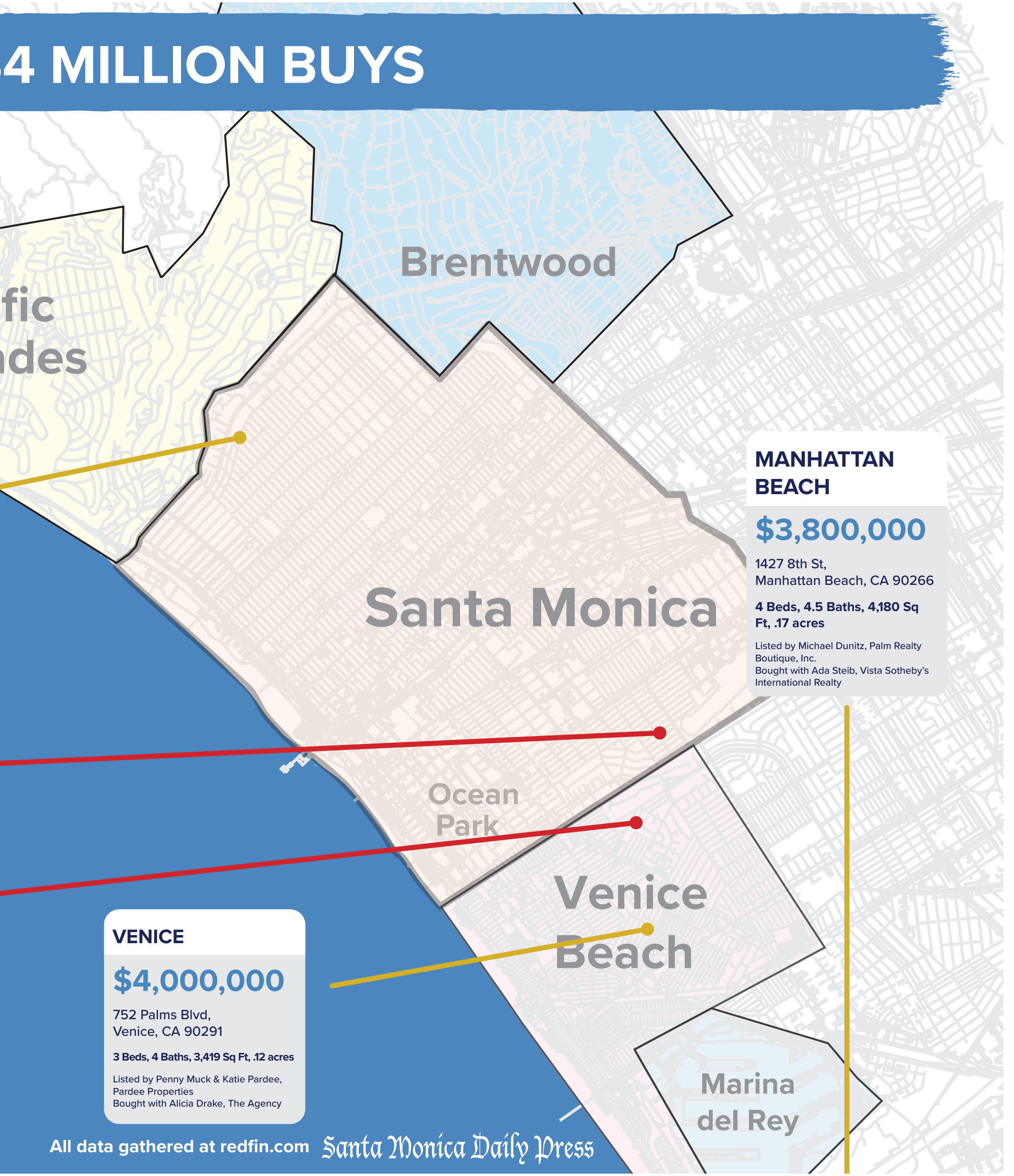

MANHATTAN BEACH

$3,800,000

1427 8th St,
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

4 Beds, 4.5 Baths, 4,180 Sq Ft, .17 acres

Listed by Michael Dunitz, Palm Realty Boutique, Inc.
Bought with Ada Steib, Vista Sotheby's International Realty

VENICE

$4,000,000

752 Palms Blvd,
Venice, CA 90291

3 Beds, 4 Baths, 3,419 Sq Ft, .12 acres

Listed by Penny Muck & Katie Pardee, Pardee Properties
Bought with Alicia Drake, The Agency

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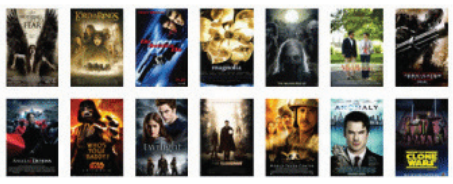
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HOA HOMEFRONT

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Reader Questions – Who Insures What in the Planned Development?

KELLY G. RICHARDSON, ESQ. CCAL

Kelly: Can a Planned Unit Development purchase "Bare Walls" fire insurance for residences since the HOA does not own them? R.M., Vista

Dear R.M.: The term "Planned Development" is used in California and is found in Civil Code Section 4175. Although the term "planned unit development" is often used, it isn't found in California law. Planned developments normally involve the homeowners owning a separate piece of property called a "lot," which is normally created under the Subdivision Map Act. The lot may have attached or detached housing. It's important to note that attached townhouse-style planned development residences are often mistaken for condominiums – read your CC&Rs to be sure.

The HOA's obligation to obtain property damage insurance normally arises through the CC&Rs. Sometimes in attached planned developments, the CC&Rs require the HOA to insure all the "improvements" on the property, even though the structures are individually owned. Some such HOAs conduct membership votes to amend their CC&Rs to reduce the coverage to just "bare walls" or even eliminate the insurance completely, which places the responsibility completely upon the individual homeowners. This is a serious decision in which the HOA's legal counsel should be involved before submitting it to the homeowner membership. If the CC&Rs do not require the HOA to insure the individually owned homes, it would be a very good idea to give homeowners substantial advance notice before this is changed. Thanks, Kelly.

Mr. Richardson: You have NO idea how much your weekly articles have assisted the betterment of our association. Is the manager or our board responsible for ensuring that ALL residents have a personal insurance policy in effect within our condo complex? Insurance premiums have gone through the roof, and we've had a recent severe increase of our HOA monthly dues, as a result of 2 fires within condos. Apparently, the two owners of those 2 condos had NO insurance to cover all the damage, thus all other association members paid the wrath, with increased monthly dues increases. Are not ALL residents in an HOA required to have insurance coverage for damage related to the adjoining attached units, if it was fires caused by the resident and at no fault coverage under the HOA's guidelines and responsibilities ?

Respectfully, J.H., Fullerton

Dear J.H.: Thanks for your kind words. It is gratifying to know I can make a difference for HOAs. As to individual condominium insurance, mortgage lenders normally require homeowners to have such insurance in place. Many HOA CC&Rs or rules also require individual unit owners to carry insurance. This requirement is cumbersome to enforce since it would require the manager to track the expiration dates of all the various individual policies and to have copies of all the insurance information on file.

An individual insurance policy should protect not just against damage but also liability- if something within the unit results in damage to another unit such as a fire or leak from within the unit.

When drafting CC&R revisions requiring individual unit insurance, I make sure the HOA is not required to insure those interiors and I add a "consumer advisory" alerting members that their failure to keep that insurance could result in a great financial hardship to them in the event of a loss.

Best regards, Kelly

Kelly G. Richardson, Esq. is a Fellow of the College of Community Association Lawyers and Partner of Richardson Ober LLP, a California law firm known for community association advice. Submit column questions to kelly@roattorneys.com. Past columns at www.HOAHomefront.com.

RUGBY

FROM PAGE 2

both this game and the match against UCLA. "They adjusted their style of play to a more American style, which is much more physical. And also Oxford did a great job tactically of cutting off Santa Monica's options, especially at the scrum, so I think they'll have lots to take home with them."

"It was a tough game against the seasoned side that's traveled all the way from England, but given how early in the preseason this is for the Santa Monica Rugby Club, that was an extraordinary outing. There is a lot to build on," said Michael Ware, Dolphins Assistant Coach.

Once Oxford gathered momentum, they were difficult to stop, putting 26 unanswered points past the host team in the second half, but the Dolphins fought valiantly to the very end.

"This has been an amazing experience for all our boys, they've been able to benefit from playing really good teams with very different styles of play," Ian Kench, General Manager at Oxford University RFC, said. "They've been able to use this trip to bond as a team and the hospitality and generosity of everyone involved here in Santa Monica has made this a once in a lifetime experience."

scott.snowden@smdp.com

FRIDAY | DECEMBER 15

LA POSADA
Virginia Avenue Park and Familias Latinas Unidas invite you to their annual La Posada event. Gather in front of the library at 5PM. Processions begins at 5:30PM. Bring beach chairs and blankets to set out on the grass and enjoy the entertainment! Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. 5 - 10 p.m.

SMC HOLIDAY ART SALE
Santa Monica College's 45th Annual Holiday Art Sale, featuring a wide range of creative original works at fabulous prices, will be a three-day event again this year. Here's your once-a-year chance to buy some truly unique works of art — prints, ceramics, jewelry, and more created by SMC art students, staff, and faculty — to keep for yourself or to give as gifts this holiday season. East Wing Music Hall, SMC Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th Street, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 16

VERMICULTURE WORKSHOP AND GENTLY USED TOY/ BOOK SWAP
Come join organizers for a dive into the life of Worms and their part in recycling your kitchen scraps. If you are interested in starting your own worm bin at home, this is the perfect time to learn the do's and don'ts to make your project successful. They don't part with our worms easily, but if you need a handful to kick start your vermiculture campaign, they'll send you home with some hungry ones. This event is also our 3rd Annual Gently Used Children's Toy and Book Pick Up. Do you know a small child (your own, relative, neighbor, etc.) that could use some cheer over the Holidays? Be part of the Upcycle movement. Give a gift to put a smile on someone's face, with a lesson about sharing and passing along. Ishihara Park, 2909 Exposition Blvd. 9 - 11 a.m.

NOTABLE FICTION BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
Join a community-led discussion of award-winning current and classic fiction, held via Zoom. Contact library@santamonica.gov for the link. December's selection is Midnight's Children by Salman Rushdie. Virtual. 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

UC MASTER GARDENERS AT PICO FARMERS MARKET
Visit with the UC Master Gardeners at the Saturday Pico Farmers Market. he booth is filled with free advice on how to care for plants, how to troubleshoot a gardening problem, and much more. Free seeds and seedlings are available on a limited basis. Market attendance is subject to change based on weather and holidays. Virginia Ave. Park 2200 Virginia Ave. 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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ADULT PAINTING
Please RSVP by emailing palsds@lapl.org or stop by the Reference Desk at the branch. Come spend an afternoon learning how to paint with Martha Meade. We will be painting with acrylics on canvas and producing a masterpiece each of you can take home and hang on your wall. Martha is a Pacific Palisades-based painter who works primarily in oils on canvas. She is a long-time resident of Pacific Palisades and a member of the Pacific Palisades Art Association. Space is limited, so please RSVP to palsds@lapl.org or stop by the Reference Desk to reserve your place.

SUNDAY | DECEMBER 17

SMC HOLIDAY ART SALE
Santa Monica College's 45th Annual Holiday Art Sale, featuring a wide range of creative original works at fabulous prices, will be a three-day event again this year. Here's your once-a-year chance to buy some truly unique works of art — prints, ceramics, jewelry, and more created by SMC art students, staff, and faculty — to keep for yourself or to give as gifts this holiday season. East Wing Music Hall, SMC Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th Street, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

THE BIGGEST FRIENDS & GAMES SOCIAL IN LOS ANGELES
Join organizers For an Exclusive Friends & Brunch Social at Sorry Not Sorry: Everyone's Welcome! Searching for the ultimate weekend plan? Whether you're coming solo or with your crew, you're invited to an exclusive experience at "Sorry Not Sorry," the Westside's hottest cocktail lounge. We've reserved the entire venue—lounge and patio—just for you! 11520 West Pico Boulevard. $12 - $35.
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-biggest-friends-games-social-in-los-angeles-tickets-771788218337

MONDAY | DECEMBER 18

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
City Hall, 1685 Main Street, 7 p.m. Agenda online at https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Architectural-Review-Board/

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND THE ENVIRONMENT
Civic Center Parking Structure, 333 Civic Center Dr. 7 p.m. Information available online https://www.santamonica.gov/categories/programs/sustainability-and-the-environment

VIRGINIA AVE PARK ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. 7 p.m. Agenda's available online at https://www.smgov.net/Departments/CCS/content.aspx?id=52743

TUESDAY | DECEMBER 19

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

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

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

WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 20

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

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

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET
The largest grower-only Certified Farmers Market in Southern California and a favorite for local chefs! Enjoy one of Santa Monica's farmers markets, widely considered to be among the best on the west coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheeses, delicious foods, live music and more. Downtown Farmers Market Locations: Wednesdays at Arizona Ave & 2nd St and Saturdays at Arizona & 3rd St. 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

THURSDAY | DECEMBER 21

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY | DECEMBER 22

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

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

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INVITATION FOR BIDS BEACH CONCESSION LICENSES

The Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors is issuing an Invitation for Bids (IFB) for concession licenses to provide various services at Los Angeles County-owned and operated beaches. The Authorized Activities include Mobile Food Preparation Units (Food Truck), Concession Stand, Bike & Skate Rentals, and Hang Gliding. The Term of License will commence on May 1, 2024, and terminate on March 31, 2029, with five one-year options.

Please visit our website at https://beaches.lacounty.gov/request-for-proposals/, and click the "Request for Proposals" link to download the IFB. For a hardcopy of the IFB (fee applies), contact Arnulfo Delgado at (424) 526-7738, or E-mail ADelgado@bh.lacounty.gov. The deadline for receipt of bids is January 2, 2024, at 3:00 PM (PST).

The County reserves the right to cancel or modify any and all terms and conditions, including minimum requirements, of the IFB without further notice.

INVITACIÓN PARA OFERTAS LICENCIAS PARA CONCESIONES DE PLAYA

El Departamento de Playas y Puertos del Condado de Los Ángeles está emitiendo una Invitación para Ofertas (IFB, por sus siglas en inglés) para licencias de concesión para ofrecer diversos servicios en las playas operadas por el Condado de Los Ángeles. Las Actividades Autorizadas incluyen Camión de Comida, Puesto de Comida, Alquiler de Bicicletas y Patines, y Ala Delta. El plazo de la licencia comenzará el 1 de mayo de 2024 y terminará el 31 de marzo de 2029, con cinco opciones de un año.

Por favor, visite nuestro sitio web en https://beaches.lacounty.gov/request-for proposals/, y haga clic en el enlace "Solicitud de Propuestas" para descargar el IFB. Para obtener una copia impresa del IFB (se aplica una tarifa), contacte a Arnulfo Delgado al (424) 526-7738, o por correo electrónico a ADelgado@bh.lacounty.gov. La fecha lmite para recibir ofertas es el 2 de enero de 2024 a las 3:00 PM (PST).

El Condado se reserva el derecho de cancelar o modificar cualquier y todos los términos y condiciones, incluidos los requisitos mínimos, del IFB sin aviso adicional.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Citywide

Soundwaves Concert Series Announces 2024 Season

The Santa Monica Public Library's acclaimed Soundwaves new music series will present seven concerts in 2024, each on the first Saturday of the month at 3:30PM, all in the Main Library's Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium at 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

The year begins with two shows of contemporary compositions for strings. On January 6, the Isaura String Quartet gives a program featuring the world premiere of a piece written for them by Sarah Hennies, and violinist/violist/vocalist Wendy Richman, best known as a member of the International Contemporary Ensemble, performs February 3, joined for part of her set by percussionist Tim Feeney.

On March 2 Chris Jonas, a saxophonist who has worked with Cecil Taylor and Anthony Braxton, presents Music from the Deserts, a video and set of compositions inspired by his home in Santa Fe. His band features Cory Wright (reeds), Lisa Mezzacappa (bass), and Jason Levis (drums), all from Oakland.

April 6 spotlights pieces from recent releases on the Venice-based postminimalist Cold Blue Music record label including John Luther Adams' "Darkness and Scattered Light" for five basses.

On May 4, guitarist Joe Baiza, founder of SST Records bands Saccharine Trust and Universal Congress Of, brings a quartet with Jessika Kenney (vocals), David O. Jones (bass guitar), and Brian Christopherson (drums).

The final two shows are both by bassist-led groups that combine contemporary chamber music and improvisation. On June 1, six-string bass guitarist Steuart Liebig presents the latest edition of his band Minim, with Breana Gilcher (oboe), Maggie Parkins (cello), and Vicki Ray (piano), then the series concludes on July 6 with The Present Quartet, organized by Soundwaves co-founder Jeff Schwartz with Ellen Burr (flutes), Anne LeBaron (harp), and Charles Sharp (winds).

Soundwaves was created by librarian/musician Jeff Schwartz and composer Daniel Rothman in 2016 to present cutting-edge music at the Santa Monica Public Library. It has received grants from the Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library and the Amphion Foundation, and programs have included collaborations with the Angel City Jazz Festival, Piano Spheres, Jacaranda Music, Microfest, Cold Blue Music, and the Dog Star Orchestra. A complete list of shows, with many videos, is at soundwavesnewmusic.com.

Over the course of almost 100 events, Soundwaves has demonstrated three ideas: that Los Angeles has been crucial to multiple experimental musical communities, from refugee Modernist composers to free jazz to punk rock and beyond, that very challenging work can be successfully presented to a general audience, and that libraries and other public spaces can partially substitute for grassroots venues and other arts resources lost to gentrification.

All Library programs are free and open to the public. Parking is available underneath the Main Library, several bus lines and the Metro E line stop nearby, and there are bike racks. The MLK Auditorium is wheelchair accessible. Please call (310) 458-8600 to request additional accommodations.

SUBMITTED BY JEFF SCHWARTZ

11th Street

The 45th Annual Holiday Art Sale

Santa Monica College's 45th Annual Holiday Art Sale, featuring a wide range of creative original works at fabulous prices, will be a three-day event again this year. The sale will be held Friday, December 15, through Sunday, December 17. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

This popular sale will be held at SMC's Pete & Susan Barrett Art Gallery, located at the SMC Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th Street (at Santa Monica Boulevard), Santa Monica. Ample free parking will be available.

SMC's Holiday Art Sale is a once-a-year opportunity to buy some truly unique works of art to satisfy holiday, anniversary, birthday, and year-round gift needs. This year's outstanding selection features ceramics and hand-blown glass, fused glass, jewelry, prints, and more.

Proceeds from the sale help support the SMC Art Department. For more information about SMC's Holiday Art Sale, please email art@smc.edu.

SUBMITTED BY DANA WISE

CRIME WATCH

Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ON DEC. 7

Marina Del Rey Station received a call from a concerned person to check the welfare of individuals who resided on a boat in the marina. Deputies responded to the 14000 block of Tahiti Way in the city of Playa Del Rey. They located the boat and discovered a deceased female in the boat. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Homicide investigators responded to conduct a death investigation. While conducting their investigation, investigators were alerted by officers from the Los Angeles Police Department, that a deceased male was located in a vehicle at the 100 block of Via Marina. Local residents advised that the male resided on the boat that was being investigated by Homicide investigators.

The investigation into the deceased female is ongoing. The Los Angeles County Medical Examiner-Coroner's office has ruled the death a homicide. The identity of the female will be released pending the notification of the next of kin.

The deceased male was identified as 33-year-old Kelvin Nelson Jr. and been ruled by the coroner as a suicide.

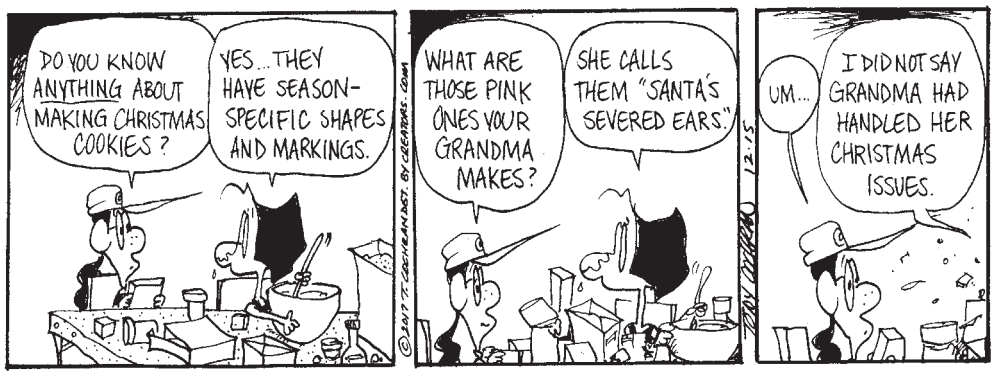
Investigators believe there are no outstanding suspects and encourage anyone with information about this incident to contact the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Homicide Bureau at (323) 890-5500.

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

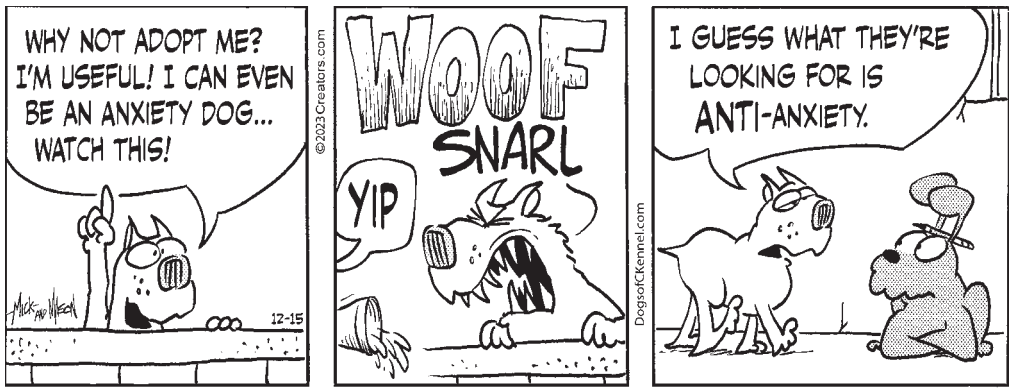
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE

Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER

"HE'S GOT A HELMET FOR EVERYTHING."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING

FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 17 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 6059

Southern delights

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

Bars	Gannet	Licola	Shepparton
Bass	Gatum	Lime	Skye
Bays	Genoa	Lurg	Snow
Bell	Glen Huntly	Macleod	South
Boats	Greta	Marlo	Sprawl
Capital	Gull	Merri	The Age
Caulfield	Hesse	Olympics	Thornbury
Cliffs	Ivanhoe	Port	Timber
Cool	Lakes	Rural	Urban
Docks	Lalor	Sale	Wail
Galleries	Lara	Seabed	Wine

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 15)

Because you're a passionate, driven person, your go-to gear is the one that requires you to push, lift, muscle and sweat. Even so, it's a lower gear that will bring about tremendous gains of joy, connections and financial wins. When you lift the heavy demands you make of yourself and others, you're suddenly more productive, successful and happy. Gemini and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 6, 40, 22 and 8.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Lucky endeavors include making things of beauty, enhancing your living space and supporting the talents of those around you. What nurtures your creative intelligence will add sparkle to your life and relationships.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There's no need to push ahead. It would be like running toward your destination from the inside of a Concorde. Trust that progress is inevitable. The move is no move. Conserve your energy; you'll need it later.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're playing a game that's not unlike poker, if poker lasted for several days. Keep some of those cards close to the vest. Don't be in a rush to divulge. The mystery is working for you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). In time, you'll understand what's wonderful about today's weirdness. Each relationship brings a gift to your life, though with some, you have to wait to open the package, and even then, it may not be immediately apparent what exactly the gift is.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Be patient with new habits. The status quo is like a seasoned muscle builder. The newbie who just started showing up at the gym last week is no serious rival. It will take many reps to get in the game. Keep lifting.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A collaboration that starts out just fine will get even better as you go. Right now, you're building mutual trust. You'll go in with a light heart, find what's useful and leverage it to the benefit of all.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When you keep some of yourself a mystery, people fill in the blanks with their own imaginings. Because of this, you may become bigger than life to them. You will be dancing with people's perceptions of you today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The behaviors of others can surprise you, though today no behavior will be more baffling to you than your own. Your reactions reveal emotion or talent you didn't know you had.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Gratefulness stirs in you as you think about what others have done for you. Relax and receive a moment. You don't want to diminish the pleasure of giving by reciprocating too soon.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Past experiences, particularly those related to personal relationships, still influence your emotions. The resurfacing of old feelings will give you pause. This is a prime opportunity to rid yourself of some baggage.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Commit to a process. It will reduce the number of decisions you have to make. You'll simply get on the path and keep going. You may start and stop, spin and fall, but eventually you'll get there.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Concern yourself with having a good time and you will accomplish it, to the benefit of yourself and everyone around you. You'll balance a caring heart with material and ego necessities.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

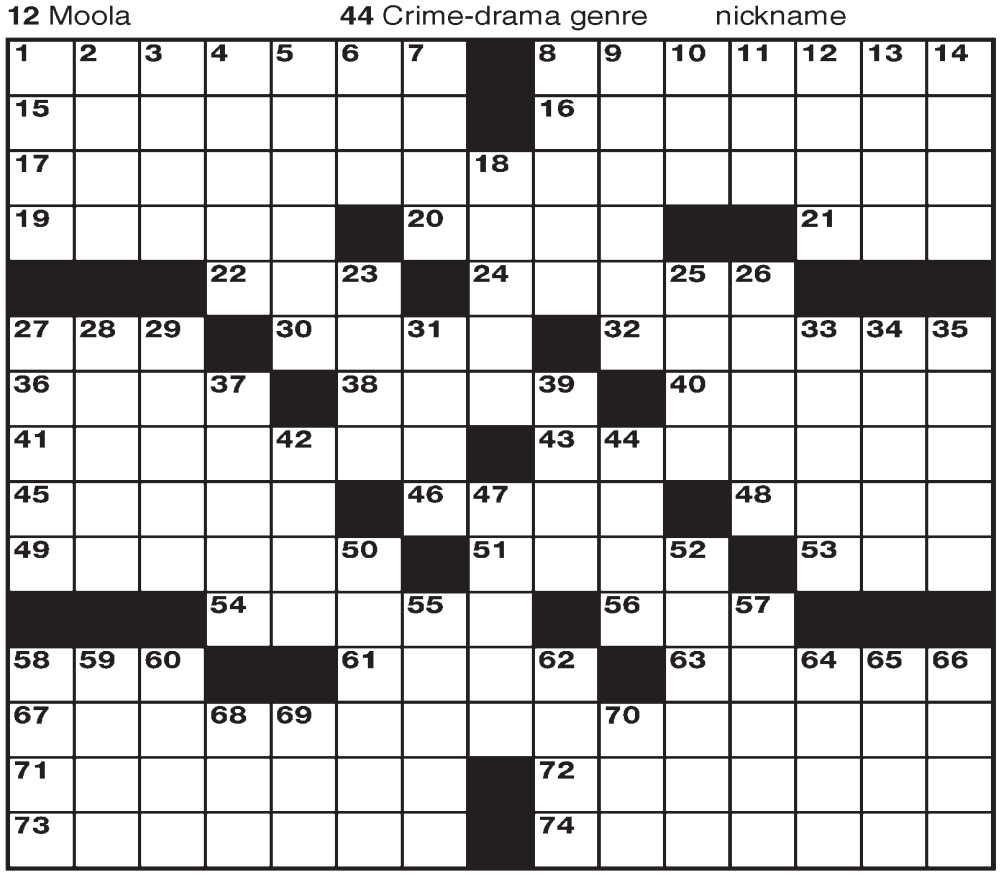
3			2		5		1	
	6			3		5	8	
4					6		9	
	9	1				2		
7			9		8			1
		4				3	7	
	4		1					5
	1	7		5			4	
	2		6		4			7

Newsday Crossword

ELEVATOR MUSIC by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Controversy
8 Visit briefly
15 Polynesia's place
16 Medal of Honor recipient
17 Bucolic folk song
19 First stage
20 Brogan bottom
21 Wee hour
22 Article in *Le Monde*
24 Hold tight
27 Take a chance
30 Puck shape
32 Chilean Literature Nobelist
36 Pivotal line
38 Essence
40 Capital on the Atlantic
41 With 43 Across, Oscar song for 1948
43 See 41 Across
45 Meredith on *Grey's Anatomy*
46 Edifying facts
48 Level-headed
49 NBA stats
51 With 72 Across, the King of Elevator Music?
53 Homeland Security agcy.
54 Starling cousin
56 Turntable letters
58 Excessively
61 For one
63 Hard to explain
67 Oscar song for 1982
71 Keep one's promises
72 See 51 Across
73 Rapture
74 Major city of ancient Crete

DOWN
1 Featherbrain
2 Smartphone graphic
3 Bastes, perhaps
4 Switchboard, e.g.
5 All together
6 Shortest-name element
7 Chow
8 "Oh, great!"
9 Allow to enter without ID
10 Roth plan
11 Org. with Jets and Sharks
12 Moola
13 Cook up
14 Vacillate
18 Gets fast money for
23 Astrological concern
25 Uncool one
26 Impolite acquisitions
27 Innocents
28 Walk on air
29 Sports championship
31 *Absolutamente!*
33 Battle of the Atlantic craft
34 Becomes clear
35 Confused
37 Heat source
39 27th president
42 Nothing more than
44 Crime-drama genre
47 "When pigs fly!"
50 Entangles
52 USA Swimming sponsor
55 Mimicry
57 Blends together
58 Arrogance, so to speak
59 Vienna-based trade bloc
60 Rowling letter carriers
62 Business benefit
64 French kings
65 __ time flat
66 Caviar, essentially
68 Come upon
69 NASA excursion
70 Founding Father nickname



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LAUGHING MATTERS

FROM PAGE 7

appears likely to secure victories for her allies in cases on abortion, affirmative action, and gun rights. And yet good old Clarence never recuses himself. No wonder the popularity of the Supreme Court is at its lowest in history.

Back to Georgie Porgie. Apparently in the less than one year Santos was in office he fibbed a little, or maybe told some whoppers, or more likely, is just a pathological liar. His expulsion puts him in the history books with the 5 others but I ran across a fact that he's also the only openly gay, non-incumbent Republican to be tossed out of the Lower House.

But let's switch to some of Georgie's many falsehoods which are so great in number he's referred to as a "fabulist" which at first I thought was a term applying to his drag queen days.

Allegations about the 35-year-old Republican's checkered past were brought to light by damning New York Times articles published shortly after he was elected to represent New York's 3rd Congressional District in November 2022 (on the heels of an article by The North Shore Leader, a small Long Island paper that broke the scandal--LOCAL NEWS MATTERS).

That Dec. 19 exposé, which called into question nearly every claim Santos made about his personal and professional history including being a soccer star at a college he now admits he never attended, kicked off a chain of events ultimately leading to his historic expulsion.

Santos faces 13 federal charges including fraud and lying to Congress, seven counts of wire fraud, three counts of money laundering, one count of theft of public and two counts of lying to Congress, along with charges of stealing the identities of donors to his campaign and then using their credit cards to ring up tens of thousands of dollars in unauthorized charges allegedly used for trips to casinos, shopping at high-end retailers, Botox treatments and OnlyFans payments.

Among the most heinous allegations against Santos involved Richard Osthoff, a homeless disabled Navy veteran who lived with his sick pit bull in a tent on the side of a road in Howell, NJ. Santos apparently opened a GoFundMe page to raise the $3,000 needed for the dog's surgery but it seems he kept the money for himself. The dog died and Osthoff rhetorically asks of Santos, "Do you have a soul?" (Obviously not but he has pretty smooth skin thanks to the Botox.)

It's estimated that Santos could face up to 20 years of incarceration so he's open to a plea but no jail, saying, "Prison is not pretty." Otherwise he's continuing to live a lavish night life. He's signed with Cameo app videos and brags, "I'm making more with them than I did as a member of Congress." If we're to believe him, a big if, he's receiving $599 for every Cameo he sends out, whereas it's joked that Rudy Giuliani's fee is down to $50 and a bottle of scotch.

Eventually Santos will likely wind up in court. As adept as he is in fabrication, I can imagine him pleading, "Guilty your honor, but with an explanation."

News flash: If you buy $4,000 of Donald Trump's latest trading cards, "The Mug Shot Collection," he will send you a framed portion of the suit he wore that day. Folks, I couldn't make this up.

Jack is at jackdailypress@aol.com.

CITY CLERK

FROM PAGE 4

Stewart. She was my clerk for 18 years and she taught me how to be patient, how to be fair, how to not take things personally. And when you sit here remember, you're working in partnership with the Mayor or the Mayor Pro Tem to run this meeting to be efficient and effective," Anderson-Warren said, adding, "Gleam, you've done an excellent job. Councilmember and soon-be-Mayor Brock, I wish you all the best and I leave you in good hands, I leave all of you in good hands with my staff."

Every member of Council took a turn in thanking Anderson-Warren for her tireless service and patience.

"Denise, I just want to say thank you as someone who came on completely new and in the dark. You're so patient, that's an understatement, and so willing to teach and guide and really just made me feel welcome," Mayor Pro Tempore Lana Negrete said.

"It's pretty scary when you get up here and you don't know the order of things. And then we get 800 page agendas. And I just appreciate the encouragement. And also being constantly and consistently available even after hours. Your family probably didn't appreciate you being here to all hours of the morning, but we certainly did," Negrete said.

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