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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

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Klein throws third no-no for Vikings, Lady Vikings hang 16 in first round

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica's diamond exploits will continue into the second week of California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Southern Section playoff action, powered by dominant pitching by the Vikings' Jackson Klein and an offensive barrage by the Lady Vikings softball squad.

The Vikings capped off the first baseball CIF-SS playoff victory since 2015 with Klein's third no-hitter of the season, putting the senior standout in top national company. According to high school statistical database MaxPreps, only six other pitchers in the country have had three no-hitters, with Klein joining Delta Charter's Evan Hollis as the only California hurlers on the list. Klein also picked up his ninth win of 2024, putting him tied for 10th overall amongst California pitchers, per MaxPreps.

In seven innings of action, Klein no-hit Nogales as part of a 5-0 Vikings win, throwing 91 pitches and striking out eight opposing batters. The opening round matchup had a senior flavor to it, as seniors Bobby Munoz and Sage Douglass also batted in three runs between them. Junior Isaac Liberman and Brady Satinover accounted for the other two runs batted in, securing a second-round appearance for the Vikings.

The Lady Vikings faced off against a dynamic Santa Paula offense in its first playoff bout in two years, but the squad was the one who put on an offensive show, winning a 16-0 shutout. The 16-run effort was the third time in 2024 the team scored in double digits, and

SEE **SPORTS** PAGE 5

Student advocates loom large in SMMUSD shift to renewable energy

Photo by Thomas Leffler

CLEAN ENERGY: The student captains of Samohi's Team Marine marked Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's transition to 100% renewable energy at a "Plugging In" ceremony.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

A monumental victory for sustainability was recognized this past week, as one of the city's biggest energy users marked a transition to 100% renewable energy sources.

On May 1, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) hosted a "Plugging In" ceremony to commemorate a switch back to renewable energy sourcing, a movement spurred in large part by student activists at Santa Monica High School. On the rooftop of the Samohi Discovery Building, the students were the stars of the show, namely members of Samohi's Team Marine, who were instrumental in the SMMUSD Board of Education approving the transition.

"We have the responsibility to be the change, to break out of the status quo, and to make those revolutionary decisions that create ripples across the globe," said Team Marine captain and Samohi senior Maya Williams.

Williams came to the SMMUSD board in early 2023 with a petition featuring over 800 signatures from students and community members calling on the district to transition back to renewable sources. The

SEE **ENERGY** PAGE 7

City sets up 'Celebrate28 initiative' in preparation for the 2028 Olympic Games

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

The City of Santa Monica has taken the first steps to create what it's calling the "Celebrate28 initiative" by inviting relevant members of CIty staff, along with key community leaders and business representatives "to play a pivotal role in shaping the trajectory of our city in preparation for this global event."

According to the City, there will be a total of nine separate committees and they "will serve as the driving force to define goals, set milestones, and determine resource needs essential for Santa Monica's successful participation in the LA28 Olympics."

Committee members will "be at the forefront of decision-making, contributing your expertise to ensure Santa Monica's involvement in the Olympics is not just memorable but also impactful."

Communications & Public Information Officer for the City of Santa Monica Lauren Howland told the Daily Press, "This effort is in the very early stages, so we don't have a lot to share quite yet. We haven't started the meetings yet and have only done initial outreach to the participants, who are primarily city staff and key community stakeholders."

Some of Santa Monica's most important planners, organizers and business representatives have been asked to join select committees, including Police Chief Ramon Batista, Executive Director at the Santa Monica Pier Corporation Jim Harris and Downtown Santa Monica Inc. CEO Andrew Thomas and Operations & Placemaking Director Jeremy Ferguson.

SEE **OLYMPICS** PAGE 11

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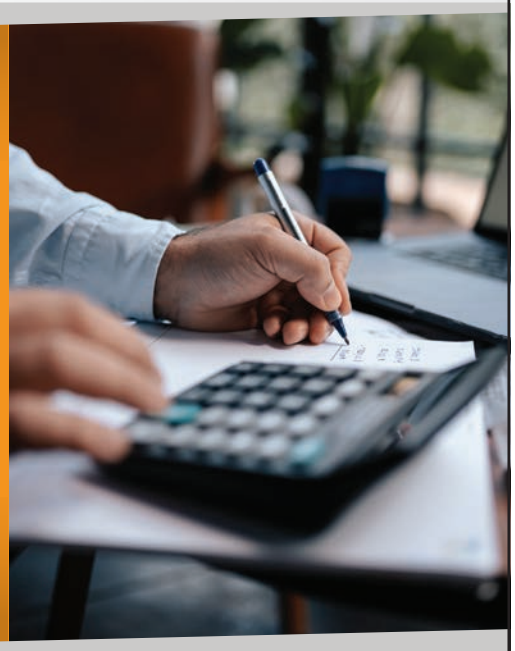

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Jaguars find long-awaited roar with playoff success

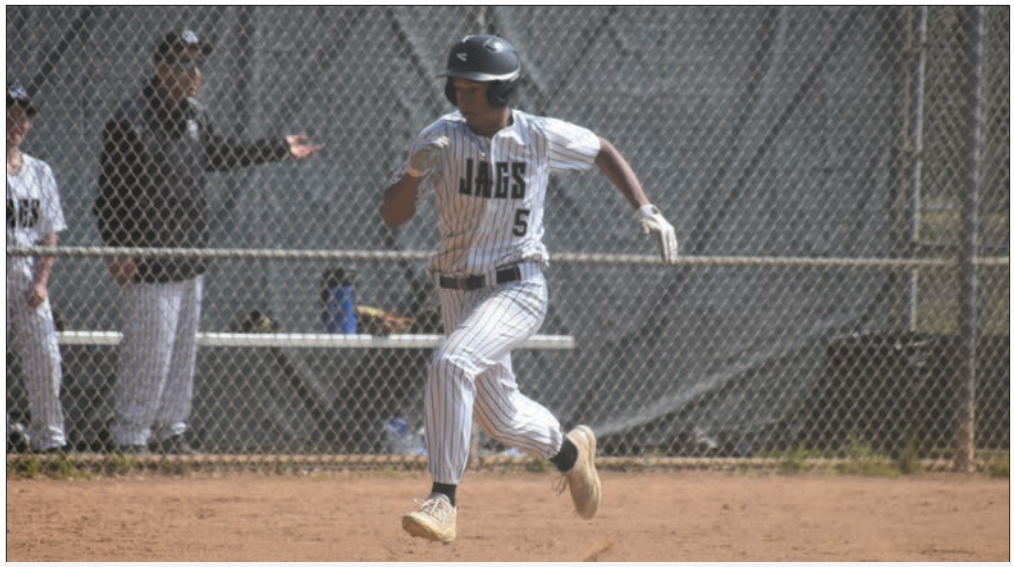

Photo by Thomas Leffler

JAGUARS: New Roads Jaguars sophomore Hayden Farrell-Katseanes makes a break for home plate during the team's 6-4 victory over Bolsa Grande on May 2.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

After a very lean period for the New Roads baseball squad, the Jaguars unit has finally found its roar thanks to new leadership on the field and in the dugout.

This past week, the Jaguars secured a playoff victory for the first time since 2016, defeating Bolsa Grande 6-4 in front of a Marine Park home crowd. The contest was the breakthrough New Roads has been looking for since the hiring of head coach Hector Zamora at the beginning of the 2022 season, going 0-31 between 2018 and 2021.

After an eight-year stint as an assistant head coach at Cerritos College, New Roads reached out to Zamora asking if he was interested in taking over the program. Hired one week prior to the 2022 season, the new coach showed up at Gandara Park not knowing if he was in the right place, considering the park's field was little-league sized.

Zamora immediately went to work in shifting the program, not just reserved to finding regulation-sized fields to practice on like the one at Marine Park.

"(We changed) the culture, uniforms, players mentality, all across the board commitment," Zamora said. "(We) implemented a college-style format in regards to strength (and) conditioning through the course of our summer (and) fall into the spring for maintenance, in addition to skill development … normally these schools only participated during the actual spring, (during the) season, but on our behalf, we implemented a year-round program to develop."

Thanks to the new training structure, the young Jaguars roster began to believe in themselves after another tough 1-10 campaign in 2022. The team made a tremendous leap in 2023, clinching a Coastal League co-championship and a California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) playoff spot. New faces contributed mightily, including Elio LaPorta, who captured the 2023 Coastal League MVP award as a freshman.

The new Jaguars crop have continued to produce in 2024, with one of the youngest teams in CIF having four sophomores and three freshmen in the starting lineup. Along with LaPorta, youth has anchored the team's pitching staff, as freshman Santiago Jimenez and sophomore Xavier Walker were tremendous in starting roles, while freshmen Sebastian Berumen and Donovan Eastwood along with sophomore Asamino Spong have alternated in bullpen duties.

"It's outstanding because it also sets the tone for the next two to three years," Zamora said of his underclassmen.

The squad's upperclassmen have also contributed in a big way, with senior Tristan Nash finishing second in the Coastal League behind LaPorta in runs batted in, and junior Fox Raggio pacing the Coastal League in runs scored. Together, the Jaguars clinched an outright league championship with a 7-1 Coastal League record, including a two-game series sweep of rival Rolling Hills Prep, marking the first victories over Rolling Hills since 2013.

After a defeat in the first round of the CIF playoffs last season, the 2024 Jaguars erased that memory with the victory over Bolsa Grande, getting a key bases-clearing triple from Spong in the second inning to take a 4-1 lead before holding on for the 6-4 win.

"Since we're a young team, one of the things for us was we've been (working on) maturity as we played through the spring season … (asking) can we take a hit?," Zamora said. "And can we strike back without giving up on the situation? (That game) was one of the big indicators regarding that we were able to do that and finally grow up as a unit, so that was very positive to see as a head coach."

Along with the growth of maturity and skill on the field, the Jaguars have bolstered camaraderie in the dugout, frequently hollering for teammates' successes with the calling card "let's go kid!" Zamora added that the fun extends to off-field activities with the roster and the greater New Roads community.

"We (like to) incorporate our families to be involved (in) hanging out like (doing) barbecues or (doing) special events that are not baseball related, but getting everybody involved, because the parents are also the ones that are taking the kids to practices and basically maintaining all the aspects of the program, so they're very highly valued as

SEE **JAGUARS** PAGE 11

Lawsuit against Meta asks if Facebook users have right to control their feeds using external tools

BARBARA ORTUTAY
Associated Press

Do social media users have the right to control what they see — or don't see — on their feeds?

A lawsuit filed against Facebook parent Meta Platforms Inc. is arguing that a federal law often used to shield internet companies from liability also allows people to use external tools to take control of their feed — even if that means shutting it off entirely.

The Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University filed a lawsuit Wednesday against Meta Platforms on behalf of an Amherst professor who wants to release a tool that enables users to unfollow all the content fed to them by Facebook's algorithm.

> The reason it's worth challenging Facebook on this is that right now we have very little control as users over how we use these networks
> - Ethan Zuckerman

The tool, called Unfollow Everything 2.0, is a browser extension that would let Facebook users unfollow friends, groups and pages and empty their newsfeed — the stream of posts, photos and videos that can keep them scrolling endlessly. The idea is that without this constant, addicting stream of content, people might use it less. If the past is any indication, Meta will not be keen on the idea.

A U.K. developer, Louis Barclay, released a similar tool, called Unfollow Everything, but he took it down in 2021, fearing a lawsuit after receiving a cease-and-desist letter and a lifetime Facebook ban from Meta, then called Facebook Inc.

With Wednesday's lawsuit, Ethan Zuckerman, a professor at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, is trying to beat Meta to the legal punch to avoid getting sued by the social media giant over the browser extension.

"The reason it's worth challenging Facebook on this is that right now we have very little control as users over how we use these networks," Zuckerman said in an interview. "We basically get whatever controls Facebook wants. And that's actually pretty different from how the internet has worked historically." Just think of email, which lets people use different email clients, or different web browsers, or anti-tracking software for people who don't want to be tracked.

Meta declined to comment.

The lawsuit filed in federal court in California centers on a provision of Section 230 of the 1996 Communications Decency Act, which is often used to protect internet companies from liability for things posted on their sites. A separate clause, though, provides immunity to software developers who create tools that "filter, screen, allow, or disallow content that the provider or user considers to be obscene, lewd, lascivious, filthy, excessively violent, harassing, or otherwise objectionable."

The lawsuit, in other words, asks the court to determine whether Facebook users' news feed falls into the category of objectionable material that they should be able to filter out in order to enjoy the platform.

"Maybe CDA 230 provides us with this right to build tools to make your experience of Facebook or other social networks better and to give you more control over them," said Zuckerman, who teaches public policy, communication and information at Amherst. "And you know what? If we're able to establish that, that could really open up a new sphere of research and a new sphere of development. You might see people starting to build tools to make social networks work better for us."

While Facebook does allow users to manually unfollow everything, the process can be cumbersome with hundreds or even thousands of friends, groups and businesses that people often follow.

Zuckerman also wants to study how turning off the news feed affects people's experience on Facebook. Users would have to agree to take part in the study — using the browser tool does not automatically enroll participants.

"Social media companies can design their products as they want to, but users have the right to control their experience on social media platforms, including by blocking content they consider to be harmful," said Ramya Krishnan, senior staff attorney at the Knight Institute. "Users don't have to accept Facebook as it's given to them. The same statute that immunizes Meta from liability for the speech of its users gives users the right to decide what they see on the platform."

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

Surf report

WATER TEMP: **54.0**

TUESDAY *FAIR*
SURF: 2-3ft+ Thigh to stomach
Morning wind is looking light, but deeper mid AM high tide slows many breaks. Should be up in size for the summer points as long period SSW swell builds from Monday and there's enough NW energy left to help shape west of Dume.

WEDNESDAY *FAIR*
SURF: 2-3ft+ Thigh to stomach
AM wind looking more favorable as decent shot of long period SSW swell builds to a peak. Still enough NW energy for an occ. corner but structure helps in the shape department. Worth watching the afternoon/evening window.

Weather

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 65. Light and variable wind becoming southwest 10 to 15 mph in the afternoon.
Tuesday Night: Increasing clouds, with a low around 55. West southwest wind 5 to 15 mph becoming east after midnight.
Wednesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 67. East northeast wind 5 to 15 mph.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 56.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2024/05/07	Tue	03:36 AM	-1.12	L
2024/05/07	Tue	09:49 AM	4.16	H
2024/05/07	Tue	3:02 PM	1.06	L
2024/05/07	Tue	9:19 PM	6.55	H
2024/05/08	Wed	04:23 AM	-1.41	L
2024/05/08	Wed	10:43 AM	3.89	H
2024/05/08	Wed	3:37 PM	1.49	L
2024/05/08	Wed	9:55 PM	6.54	H
2024/05/09	Thu	05:11 AM	-1.44	L
2024/05/09	Thu	11:40 AM	3.61	H
2024/05/09	Thu	4:13 PM	1.90	L
2024/05/09	Thu	10:33 PM	6.31	H
2024/05/10	Fri	06:01 AM	-1.25	L
2024/05/10	Fri	12:44 PM	3.36	H
2024/05/10	Fri	4:52 PM	2.29	L
2024/05/10	Fri	11:14 PM	5.91	H
2024/05/11	Sat	06:53 AM	-0.90	L
2024/05/11	Sat	1:57 PM	3.21	H

Daily Lottery

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Powerball
Draw Date: 5/4
14 20 23 53 69
Power#: 4
Jackpot: 214 M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 5/3
6 13 15 53 56
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 306 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 5/4
5 12 24 32 43
Mega#: 5
Jackpot: 33 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 5/5
11 16 23 27 28

Daily 3
Draw Date: 5/5
EVENING: 3 4 3
Draw Date: 5/5
MIDDAY: 0 8 3

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 5/5
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 03 - Hot Shot
3rd: 02 - Lucky Star
Race Time: 1:45.73

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An AI-controlled fighter jet took the Air Force leader for a historic ride

TARA COPP
Associated Press

With the midday sun blazing, an experimental orange and white F-16 fighter jet launched with a familiar roar that is a hallmark of U.S. airpower. But the aerial combat that followed was unlike any other: This F-16 was controlled by artificial intelligence, not a human pilot. And riding in the front seat was Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall.

AI marks one of the biggest advances in military aviation since the introduction of stealth in the early 1990s, and the Air Force has aggressively leaned in. Even though the technology is not fully developed, the service is planning for an AI-enabled fleet of more than 1,000 unmanned warplanes, the first of them operating by 2028.

It was fitting that the dogfight took place at Edwards Air Force Base, a vast desert facility where Chuck Yeager broke the speed of sound and the military has incubated its most secret aerospace advances. Inside classified simulators and buildings with layers of shielding against surveillance, a new test-pilot generation is training AI agents to fly in war. Kendall traveled here to see AI fly in real time and make a public statement of confidence in its future role in air combat.

"It's a security risk not to have it. At this point, we have to have it," Kendall said in an interview with The Associated Press after he landed. The AP, along with NBC, was granted permission to witness the secret flight on the condition that it would not be reported until it was complete because of operational security concerns.

The AI-controlled F-16, called Vista, flew Kendall in lightning-fast maneuvers at more than 550 miles an hour that put pressure on his body at five times the force of gravity. It went nearly nose to nose with a second human-piloted F-16 as both aircraft raced within 1,000 feet of each other, twisting and looping to try force their opponent into vulnerable positions.

At the end of the hourlong flight, Kendall climbed out of the cockpit grinning. He said he'd seen enough during his flight that he'd trust this still-learning AI with the ability to decide whether or not to launch weapons in war.

There's a lot of opposition to that idea. Arms control experts and humanitarian groups are deeply concerned that AI one day might be able to autonomously drop bombs that kill people without further human consultation, and they are seeking greater restrictions on its use.

"There are widespread and serious concerns about ceding life-and-death decisions to sensors and software," the International Committee of the Red Cross has warned. Autonomous weapons "are an immediate cause of concern and demand an urgent, international political response."

Kendall said there will always be human oversight in the system when weapons are used.

The military's shift to AI-enabled planes is driven by security, cost and strategic capability. If the U.S. and China should end up in conflict, for example, today's Air Force fleet of expensive, manned fighters will be vulnerable because of gains on both sides in electronic warfare, space and air defense systems. China's air force is on pace to outnumber the U.S. and it is also amassing a fleet of flying unmanned weapons.

Future war scenarios envision swarms of American unmanned aircraft providing an advance attack on enemy defenses to give the U.S. the ability to penetrate an airspace without high risk to pilot lives. But the shift is also driven by money. The Air Force is still hampered by production delays and cost overruns in the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, which will cost an estimated of $1.7 trillion.

Smaller and cheaper AI-controlled unmanned jets are the way ahead, Kendall said.

Vista's military operators say no other country in the world has an AI jet like it, where the software first learns on millions of data points in a simulator, then tests its conclusions during actual flights. That real-world performance data is then put back into the simulator where the AI then processes it to learn more.

China has AI, but there's no indication it has found a way to run tests outside a simulator. And, like a junior officer first learning tactics, some lessons can only be learned in the air, Vista's test pilots said.

Until you actually fly, "it's all guesswork," chief test pilot Bill Gray said. "And the longer it takes you to figure that out, the longer it takes before you have useful systems."

Vista flew its first AI-controlled dogfight in September 2023, and there have only been about two dozen similar flights since. But the programs are learning so quickly from each engagement that some AI versions getting tested on Vista are already beating human pilots in air-to-air combat.

The pilots at this base are aware that in some respects, they may be training their replacements or shaping a future construct where fewer of them are needed.

But they also say they would not want to be up in the sky against an adversary that has AI-controlled aircraft if the U.S. does not also have its own fleet.

"We have to keep running. And we have to run fast," Kendall said.

GET IT DAILY...

California man indicted for allegedly making threats to Georgia prosecutor in Trump election case

JEFF AMY
Associated Press

A California man has been indicted by a federal grand jury in Atlanta for sending death threats to District Attorney Fani Willis, who is overseeing the prosecution of former President Donald Trump and 18 others on charges of illegally trying to overturn the 2020 presidential election in Georgia.

Marc Shultz, 66, of Chula Vista, is facing charges of transmitting interstate threats to injure Willis. Prosecutors alleged that Shultz posted comments to YouTube livestream videos in October 2023 that threatened Willis, including stating that the prosecutor "will be killed like a dog."

> Sending death threats to a public official is a criminal offense that will not be tolerated
> - Ryan Buchanan

"Sending death threats to a public official is a criminal offense that will not be tolerated," Ryan Buchanan, the U.S. attorney in Atlanta, said in a statement Friday.

The April 24 indictment was unsealed Thursday. A federal public defender listed as representing Shultz didn't immediately return emails seeking comment.

Records show Shultz appeared before a judge in San Diego on Thursday and was released on bail. Buchanan said Shultz would be formally arraigned in Atlanta in June.

Also Friday, Fulton County leaders testified before a special state Senate committee that they had no legal power to control Willis' spending or her hiring of former special prosecutor Nathan Wade.

The Republican-led committee is probing Willis' hiring of Wade to lead the team that investigated and charged Trump, lawyers and other aides in the Georgia case. Willis and Wade have acknowledged a romantic relationship with each other.

Trump and some other defendants in the case have tried to get Willis and her office removed from the case, saying the relationship with Wade created a conflict of interest.

Wade stepped down from the prosecution after Fulton County Superior Court Judge Scott McAfee in March found that no conflict of interest existed that should force Willis off the case. But he ruled that Willis could continue prosecuting Trump only if Wade left. Trump and others are appealing that ruling to a higher state court.

The allegations that Willis had improperly benefited from her romance with Wade resulted in tumultuous months in the case as intimate details of Willis and Wade's personal lives were aired in court in mid-February. The serious charges in one of four criminal cases against the Republican former president were largely overshadowed by the love lives of the prosecutors.

Willis told reporters Friday that she had done nothing wrong.

"They can look all they want," Willis said. "The DA's office has done everything according to the books. We are following the law. I'm sorry that folks get mad when everybody in society can be prosecuted."

Willis is running for reelection this year and faces a Democratic opponent, Christian Wise Smith in a May 21 primary. Early voting for that election is ongoing.

But the lawyer who initiated the effort to remove Willis, Ashleigh Merchant, has also claimed that Wade's firing violated a state law that required approval of the hiring of a special prosecutor by the county commission.

Fulton County Commission Chairman Rob Pitts, a Democrat, and Fulton County Attorney Soo Jo both told the committee that while the law appears to require county commission approval, judges decades ago interpreted the law in such a way to give Willis the freedom to hire who she wants without approval. Jo, who represents the commission, cited three separate Georgia Court of Appeals cases backing up that point

"What I have found is that the court has rejected the proposition that this particular statute requires a district attorney to obtain explicit permission from a county prior to appointing a special assistant district attorney," Jo said.

State Sen. Bill Cowsert, the Athens Republican who chairs the committee, disputed that interpretation when questioned by reporters after the hearing.

"I think the clear language of the statute says that that requires county approval, and especially where it's funded by the county," Cowsert said.

He went on to suggest the committee, which doesn't directly have the power to sanction Willis, might change the law to give counties more control over spending by state officers funded by counties, including district attorneys and sheriffs. Fulton County officials said they don't believe they currently can control how Willis spends money once it's appropriated to her.

Cowsert said increased county oversight would be "extraordinarily complex" for district attorneys managing funds contributed by more than one county. While Willis and 15 other district attorneys in Georgia only prosecute cases from one county, others prosecute cases from as many as eight counties.

Senate Democratic Whip Harold Jones II of Augusta said the hours of questioning over details of how Fulton County budgets money shows the panel is "on its last legs," noting three of six Republicans didn't appear for a committee meeting called on short notice.

"They're not even interested in this anymore," Jones said. "There's nothing else to talk about, quite frankly. And we found that out today."

SPORTS

FROM PAGE 1

the scoring output tied a 16-3 win on April 17 against Peninsula for its highest of the year.

"We took a lot of batting practice thinking really about hitting line drives and ground balls, just getting the ball in play ... we've had some games where we really hit a lot of fly balls, those are just quick outs," Lady Vikings head coach Jenny Forster said. "So we were working on putting the ball on the ground ... and they really executed on that. We managed to not just score on singles and doubles, but also on errors from the other team (by) just putting the ball in play hard."

Forster added that this season's "full team effort" has led to some of the best team chemistry she's seen in her time at Samohi, and the coach has been particularly proud of juniors Drew Vudmaska and Talia Yermian as a dynamic pitcher-catcher combination. Vudmaska has been the Lady Vikings starter in every 2024 contest, holding a 1.78 earned run average in 24 appearances, giving the coach less to think about while planning out games.

"She's got the best attitude, the best work ethic, it's really nice to just know she's going out there and she's gonna make it happen ... she's risen to the occasion, even more than we thought she would" Forster said of Vudmaska.

Clicking at the right time, the Lady Vikings now face off in the second round of the CIF-SS Division IV bracket against La Quinta, beginning at 3:15 p.m. Tuesday. La Quinta enters the matchup after dispatching Hemet 4-0 in the first round, and are led offensively by Lauren Mauer, who has a .478 average with 43 runs scored, 36 runs batted in, six triples, nine home runs and 13 stolen bases this season.

The Vikings will be in the second round at the same exact time, facing off with Ganesha in the Division V bracket. The Giants went an impressive 15-0 in the Miramonte League and have put up some eye-popping scoring efforts, including a 31-0 win over La Puente on April 17 and a 29-2 victory over Bassett on March 1. The Giants offense is anchored by sophomore first baseman Victor Garcia, who paces the squad in hits (24) and runs batted in (28).

Outside of the diamond, the Vikings boys lacrosse unit defended home field in its opening round CIF-SS Division II playoff win, defeating Tesoro at Historic Belmar Park 7-5. The Vikings would go on to drop the second round contest against Bay League rival Mira Costa, losing 12-3 to finish the 2024 season 12-7 overall.

On the track, the boys and girls of Samohi took on the best at the CIF-SS Division I Prelims at Trabuco Hills on May 4, with the Lady Vikings in particular showing out in several performances. Senior Reign Snowden finished fourth amongst all competitors in the varsity shot put, while junior Phoebe Benun and senior Zinnia Weybright finished in the top 10 in the 1,600-meter race and the high jump, respectively.

SANTA MONICA BASEBALL:

Friday, May 3:

Vikings vs Nogales, CIF Southern Section Baseball Championships Division V

Vikings win 5-0

Batting/Baserunning:

Sage Douglass (Senior): 0-3, RBI, BB. Bobby Munoz (Senior): 1-3, 2B, R, 2 RBI. Spencer Levin (Senior): 2-2, R, BB, SB. Blue Hunter (Junior): 1-4, K, FC, SB. Isaac Liberman (Junior): 2-4, 2B, RBI, K. Jackson Myrow (Junior): 1-2, 2 BB. Theo Smith (Senior): 2-4, R. Brady Satinover (Junior): 0-4, R, RBI, K, FC. Manny Lares (Junior): 0-3, R

Pitching:

Jackson Klein (Senior): 7.0 IP, W, 8 K, 0.00 ERA

Vikings Record: 18-7 (6-4 Bay League)

Next Game: Tuesday vs Ganesha, CIF Southern Section Baseball Championships Division V, 3:15 p.m.

SANTA MONICA SOFTBALL:

Thursday, May 2:

Lady Vikings vs Santa Paula, CIF Southern Section Softball Championships Division IV

Lady Vikings win 16-0

Lady Vikings Record: 16-11-1 (6-5 Bay League)

Next Game: Tuesday vs La Quinta, CIF Southern Section Softball Championships Division IV, 3:15 p.m.

SANTA MONICA BOYS LACROSSE:

Wednesday, May 1:

Vikings vs Tesoro, CIF Southern Section Boys Lacrosse Championships Division II

Vikings win 7-5

Friday, May 3:

Vikings vs Mira Costa, CIF Southern Section Boys Lacrosse Championships Division II

Mira Costa win 12-3

Vikings Final 2024 Record: 12-7 (6-0 Ocean League)

SANTA MONICA BOYS AND GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD:

Saturday, May 4:

CIF Southern Section Division 1 Prelims at Trabuco Hills

Men's 100 Meter Varsity Prelims:

18- Giovanni Crabtree-Ireland (Junior), 11.01 seconds

Men's 400 Meter Varsity Prelims:

19- Spencer Hotch (Senior), 50.26 seconds

Men's Shot Put Varsity Prelims:

38- Alberto Villasenor (Senior), 41-3

Men's Discus Varsity Prelims:

43- Alberto Villasenor (Senior), 120-7

Women's 800 Meter Varsity Prelims:

15- Cleo Topp (Junior), 2:19.96

Women's 1,600 Meter Varsity Prelims:

9- Phoebe Benun (Junior), 5:01.09

Women's 3,200 Meter Varsity Prelims:

14- Phoebe Benun (Junior), 10:47.02

Women's Shot Put Varsity Prelims:

4- Reign Snowden (Senior), 39-0.5

Women's Discus Varsity Prelims:

36- Reign Snowden (Senior), 93-9

Women's High Jump Varsity Prelims:

10- Zinnia Weybright (Senior), 5-0

Women's Triple Jump Varsity Prelims:

20- Zinnia Weybright (Senior), 34-4

SAINT MONICA BOYS TRACK AND FIELD:

Saturday, May 4:

CIF Southern Section Division 4 Prelims at Carpinteria

Men's 100 Meter Varsity Prelims:

9- Joshua Barnes (Senior), 11.19 seconds

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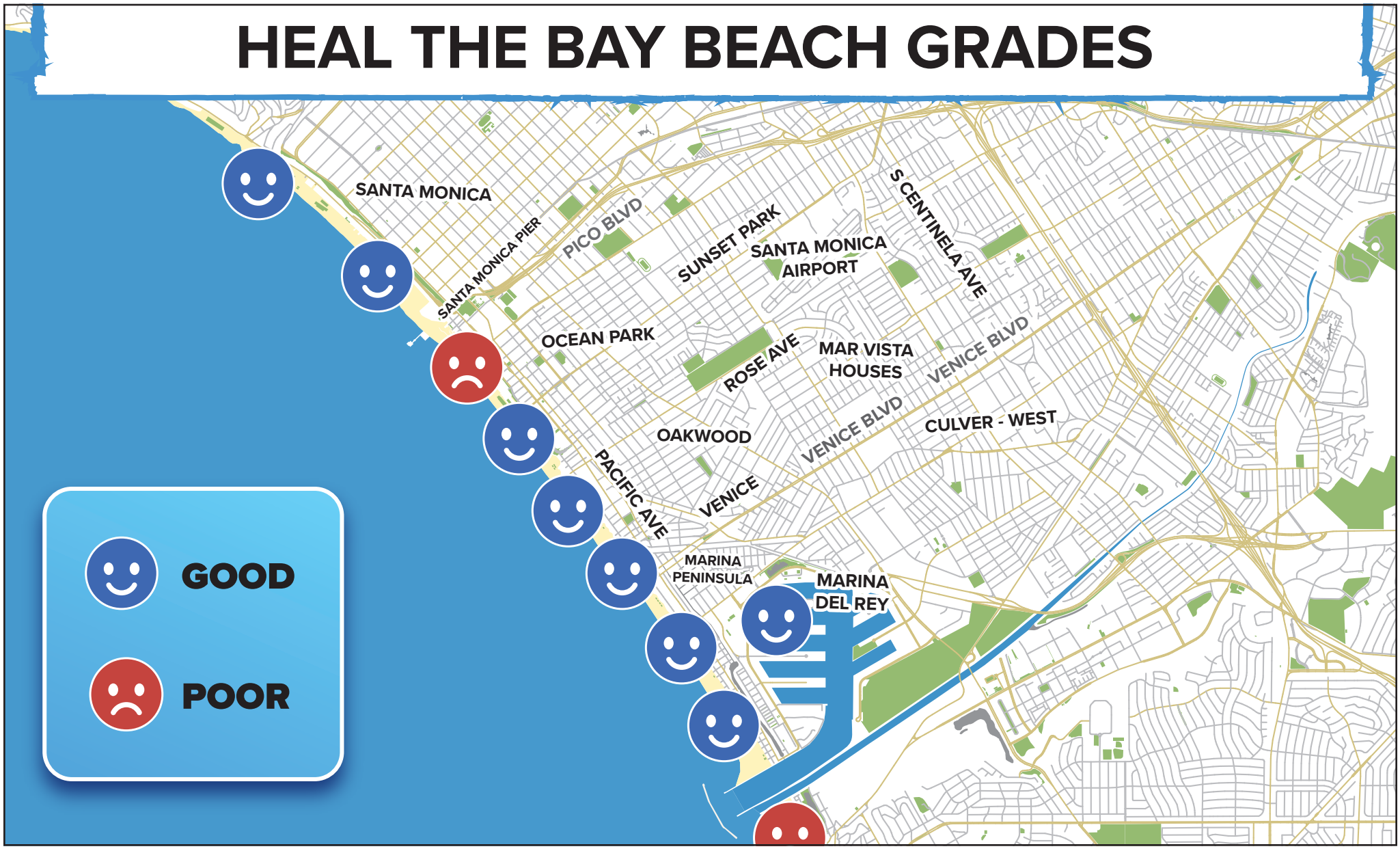
Westside celebrates Mexican heritage during holiday weekend

Photos by Thomas Leffler

CINCO: All of the Westside came together to celebrate Mexican culture, heritage and freedom during various Cinco de Mayo events this past weekend. In Santa Monica, local points of interest like the Third Street Promenade and Pier were packed out, with a special Mariachi performance at the Promenade bringing a large crowd. The Pier was especially crowded for the holiday, and the location was host to a special season ticket holders event Sunday for National Women's Soccer League squad Angel City FC, which included player meet-and-greets and a special Q&A panel with Angel City Coach Becki Tweed and General Manager Angela Mangano. In Venice, the streets and beach were taken over by the vibrant Mexican car culture, with a Saturday street festival adjacent to Oakwood Recreation Center featuring low-riders along with musical entertainment and food trucks. On Sunday, the Venice Beach boardwalk was taken over by a special Car Show, featuring the likes of 310 Riders Car Club and United Riderz Los Angeles.



ENERGY

FROM PAGE 1

district previously ran on 100% green power through the Clean Power Alliance (CPA) from March 2019 to March 2020, a decision reversed due to cost reasons. Team Marine stayed vigilant in recent years, however, playing a large role in the board approving the switch back.

"When I walked up to the podium at the SMMUSD boardroom, I spoke with leaders who are prepared to take bold climate action and stand up to the fossil fuel industry in the name of their community," Williams added.

In between the 100% renewable periods, CPA provided 40% renewable energy for all school sites aside from Samohi and Malibu High School, with SoCal Edison (SCE) providing the remaining 60%. SCE will continue to act as the pipeline to deliver electricity to school sites, but the partnership with CPA will make that energy generated by renewable sources rather than natural gas.

CPA Community Advisor Cris Gutierrez said that the district opting into renewable sources "makes such a big difference" in greenhouse gas emission reductions, and she commended Team Marine and Samohi advocates for remaining motivated throughout the process.

"The kids were the ones with the sharper sense (to say) no more waiting, we've got to move (on) this, and the board listened, faculty supports were generally good … I would think it's a no-brainer, but it wasn't a no-brainer for a lot of people … but the value of it is extraordinary," Gutierrez said.

In a March 2023 presentation to the SMMUSD Board by SMMUSD Sustainability Manager Austin Toyama, he noted that the additional cost to transition all school accounts to the CPA 100% renewable green energy rate was between $30,000 and $40,000 per year, which was down from a previous estimate of $109,000 per year. Toyama added that this cost will likely be offset by new solar systems and improved power management in the district.

Photo by Thomas Leffler

SAMOHI: Santa Monica City Councilmember Gleam Davis presented commendations to Samohi's Team Marine during a May 1 ceremony at the Discovery Building.

SMMUSD Superintendent Dr. Antonio Shelton spoke on rooftop solar installations, a major part of energy conservation cost savings, as an initiative that has been "deeply integrated into our daily operations," and that the transition to 100% renewable energy "marked a bold step forward in our commitment to sustainability." Shelton, like others at the Plugging In ceremony, was proud of Team Marine and the Samohi advocates for their contributions.

"It is crucial to acknowledge the role our students (played) in this journey," Shelton said. "I (give my) deepest appreciation to the visionary Samohi students who advocated for this initiative … your dedication and advocacy remind us that change begins with courage and action. You are the driving force behind the transformation our world needs."

Local officials representing the City of Santa Monica also offered their support, including City Councilmember Gleam Davis who read a commendation to Team Marine on behalf of the council "for applying their climate leadership and understanding, intellect and imagination to promote and enact significant sustainability practices and climate action that (is a) model for others."

Other stakeholders in the city, such as hospitals and other large employers, are now the focus of Climate Action Santa Monica, with Co-Chair Kent Strumpell saying a shift to renewable energy is part of being "good corporate citizens." Strumpell's Co-Chair Laurene Von Klan echoed that sentiment while also speaking highly of the student advocates at SMMUSD.

"The students are critical because they are living it now, and they will live it in 20 years, (and) they'll be able to say we did something to make a difference for our climate and our planet … having people who will be here for the long-term speak up changes the dialogue," Von Klan said.

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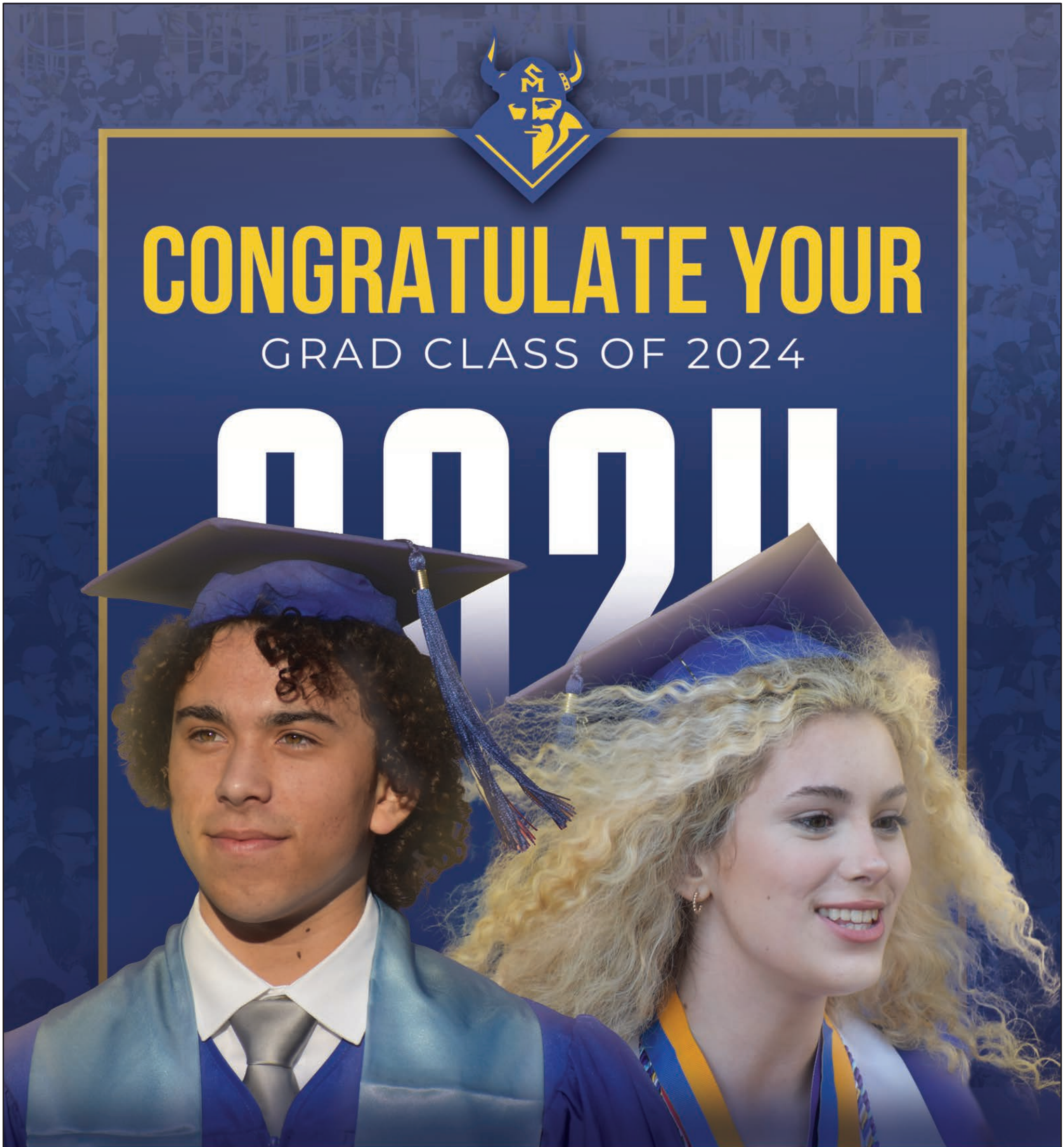

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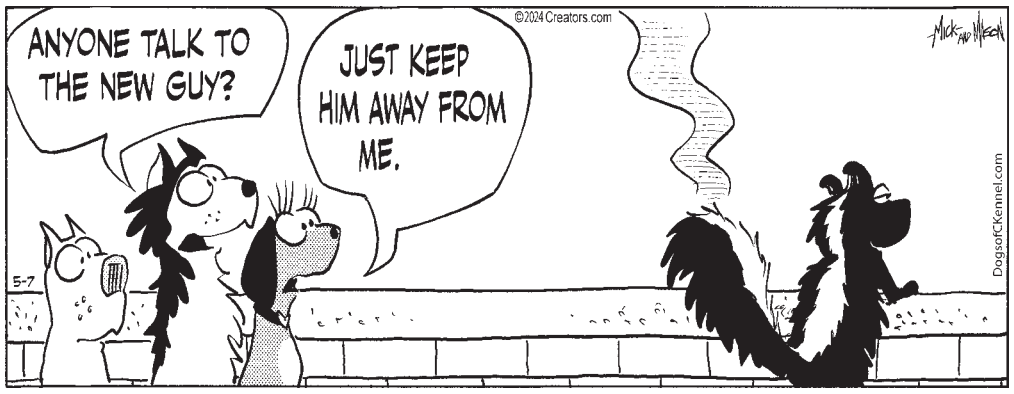
SCAN ME

Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN

Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART

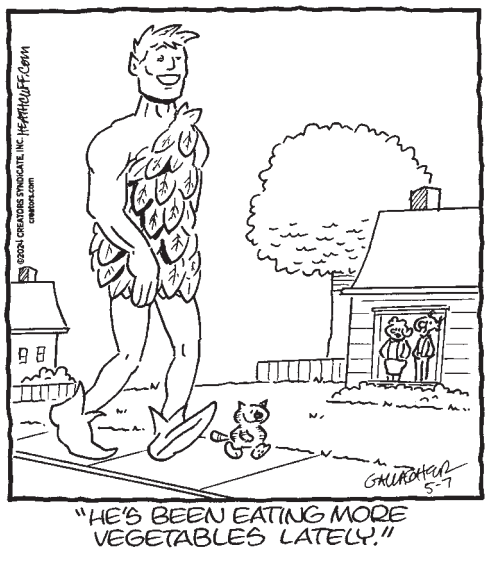


Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE

Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING

FIND THE WORDS

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6203

Loddon Mallee

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

Arid	Frosts	Murray	Stump
Barley	Germinate	River	Swans
Birds	Gisborne	Paakantji	Tent
Camp	Grapes	Parrot	Thirst
Care	Greenery	Pines	Tourism
Desert	Growth	Rain	Track
Ducks	Heat	Rats	Trouble
Fire	Huge	Red gum	Usage
Flat	Kyneton	Sand	Utes
Fowl	Life	Snake	Windblown
Foxes	Orchid	Soil	Wrens

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 7)

You'll make small changes that have a big impact. Your economic status moves to match your dreams, and more importantly, your strength and power grow to meet the demands of this exciting new cycle. More highlights: A dear influence makes domestic life sweet. Your reputation will attract those who need you and those who can help your mission, too. Leo and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 4, 10, 21 and 13.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). By honoring personal boundaries and staying true to yourself, you'll come into a blend of politeness and stubbornness - even when the circumstances seem bent toward leading you in a different direction.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Aligning with like-minded individuals can amplify your voice, but it can also limit the music. Ideal teams are diverse. Together you're like a choir. Most choirs don't sing in unison all the time. You need different voices to make harmony.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've an innate ability to pitch and persuade. You believe in your ideas and you refine them every time you present, which sharpens you and deepens your passion and purpose. Trust your instincts and let your genuine enthusiasm lead.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Financial matters will strain relationships if approached with emotional volatility. Adopt a mindset of financial neutrality. It will reduce unnecessary tension and facilitate better money management.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). We don't often see ourselves how others see us. They'll see what isn't there and what is very much there. Just keep in mind, if you are called to a job, it means someone thought you would be good for it, and maybe they see something in you that you don't. Yet.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Shouldn't friendships sometimes feel like a cozy blanket on a chilly day? If you always have to do extra things to make relationships bloom, you start to wonder if they just aren't a natural fit. Real love is like wildflowers.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Unless you've just consulted a weird video, you typically don't ask your dishwasher to bake a cake. Just because something doesn't serve the function you want it to serve doesn't mean it's broken.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The spiritual and emotional wounds of the past have a way of healing in quiet moments without your tinkering or involvement. As it is with your body, healing happens naturally and can't be willed.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It is possible that the one who lacks confidence and command is also highly accomplished, extremely knowledgeable and has much to offer you. You may also encounter the opposite scenario with those who know nothing, and loudly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A responsibility is like a tiny pebble in your shoe - it may seem insignificant, but when you're continually stepping on it, it will become the foremost thing on your mind.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Most people act differently depending on the context. It's normal and true of you, too, to some degree. However, when the inconsistency is glaring, you wisely perceive the red flag and proceed accordingly.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're a wonderful friend. You will boost someone's self-esteem when they're feeling low. You'll see the value in them that they may not notice themselves.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

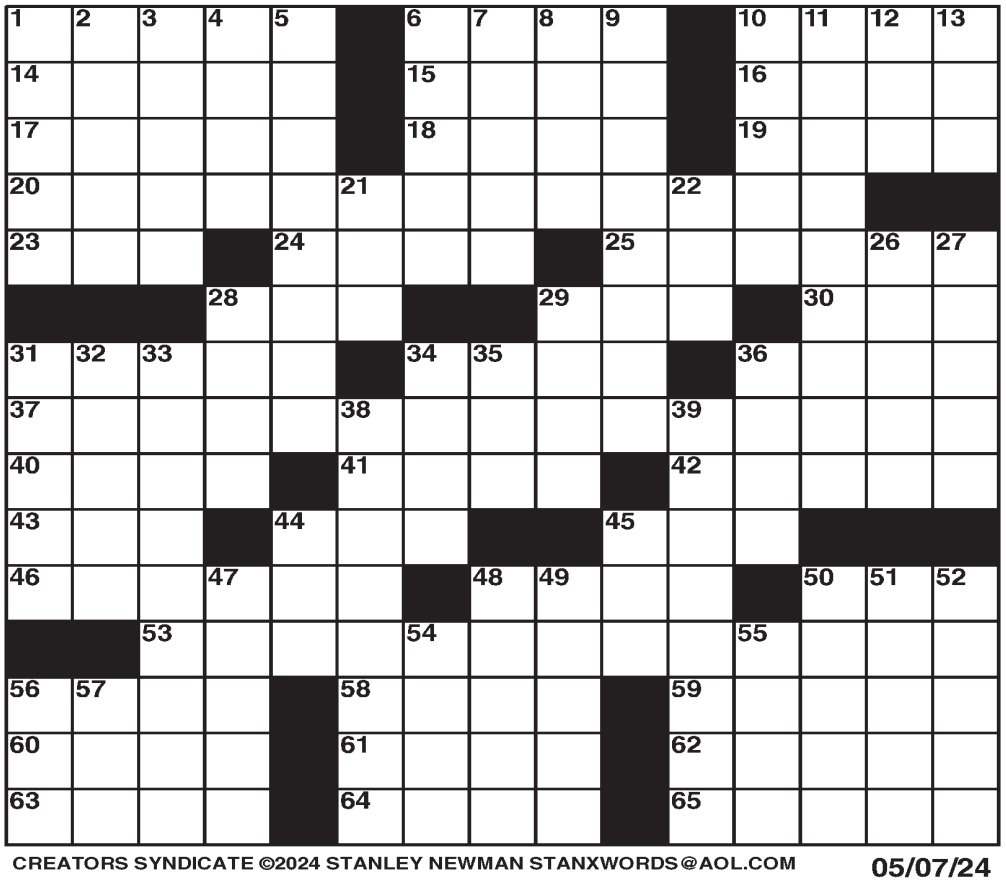
AROUND THE CLOCK by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Thick, as squirrels' tails
6 Not so much
10 Baby lions
14 "So are we!"
15 Ireland nickname
16 Each, informally
17 Corporate makeover, for short
18 Grocery's sandwich section
19 Film-rating org.'s former name
20 Early a.m. hot beverage
23 __ day now (soon)
24 Borscht veggie
25 Of roses, orchids...
28 Assemble with thread
29 Two-__ paper towels
30 Finance degree: Abbr.
31 Australian bearlike beast
34 Soft French cheese
36 Rove around
37 Nap taken following lunch
40 Street or avenue
41 Food safety agcy.
42 Evaluates
43 Raggedy doll
44 And so on: Abbr.
45 Police officer
46 Makes fun of
48 Deliberately avoid
50 Air quality org.
53 Wee-hours guard guy
56 STOP or YIELD
58 Historical periods
59 Last but not __
60 Legal rights org.
61 Chauffeur-driven car
62 Stand up
63 Salon colorings
64 "Tender" beef
65 Parcels (out)

DOWN

1 Thailand neighbor
2 Apply to, as a liniment
3 "Bedtime" reading
4 Trumpet or bugle
5 Toon bruin
6 Narrow shelf
7 Construct, as a building
8 Grain tower
9 Cold's nasal-sound symptoms
10 Brief movie role
11 Highest in height
12 "Constrictor" snake
13 Masseuse's employer
21 Just published
22 Go by plane
26 Subside gradually
27 Tibetan priests
28 Snow vehicle
29 __ colada cocktail
31 Gold purity measure
32 "Six __, half a dozen..."
33 Leaning somewhat
34 Variety of pear
35 Fishing pole
36 Harvest, as crops
38 Discarded part of a pecan
39 Unbreakable, as a rule
44 Brain scan letters
45 Shorten in length
47 Nasal passage
48 Hindu mentor
49 Is wearing
50 Letter sent online
51 Out of style
52 Starts a poker pot
54 Half a sextet
55 Medal of Honor recipient
56 Feeling blue
57 Frosty



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OLYMPICS

FROM PAGE 1

"As an interdepartmental effort, Celebrate28 is being led by the City Manager's Office and aims to ensure that the city and our partners are prepared for this major global event to come to our city," Howland said, adding, "It is largely an internal planning effort to coordinate with the departments that will have the most involvement in the events."

According to the City, each member can expect to:

• Participate in regular committee meetings where ideas are shared, progress is tracked, and strategies are developed and executed.

• Collaborate with fellow committee members to outline clear objectives and milestones that align with Santa Monica's values and vision for the LA28 Olympics and a plan for achieving them.

• Identify the resources necessary to accomplish your committee's goals and advocate for their allocation in alignment with the City's annual budget process.

• Clearly define roles and responsibilities and take actionable steps to execute your committee's plan.

"As with everything we do as a city, all major decisions, particularly those involving monetary impact, will be made in line with council direction. The City Council members have been fully briefed," Howland said.

The 2028 Olympic Games will be spread all across the Los Angeles County area and the vast swathes of Santa Monica sand will be used as the venue for the beach volleyball competition. The concept plan includes a temporary 12,000-seat stadium north of the Pier, plus warm-up and practice courts together with operational and broadcast components in Beach Lot 1 North.

Since the 2026 FIFA World Cup final has relocated to New Jersey's MetLife Stadium as a result of the $5.5 billion SoFi stadium's pitch being too small, greater emphasis will be placed on the success of the Olympics. As a result, Santa Monica will miss out on the chance for a dry-run-of sorts, not to mention substantial revenue. However, as a small consolation, SoFi will host the USA's first 2026 match, but only eight games (out of a total 104) will now be played at the Inglewood venue, the highest ranking of which is just one quarterfinal.

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Courtesy Photo

OLYMPICS: Artwork shows how the volleyball competition setup will look on the beach.

JAGUARS

FROM PAGE 2

well," Zamora said.

Up next for the Jaguars is a tough second-round test in the CIF Southern Section Division VIII bracket, as the team will travel to San Jacinto to take on San Jacinto Valley Academy, starting Tuesday at 3:15 p.m. Zamora said that he's told players about the long drive ahead, but that they're going to "go out there and compete" despite the legs feeling "a little heavy" from the ride.

Regardless of the result, the Jaguars have solidified a future foundation that will continue the team's remarkable turnaround.

"(There's) a lot of love towards every single individual … working with New Roads has been an amazing journey, (and) it's going to continue to be an amazing journey," Zamora said.

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TUESDAY | MAY 7

SOCIAL SERVICE ASSISTANCE

Virginia Avenue Park, in partnership with Providence St. John's Community Health Program, resumes Social Service Assistance from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Help with facility nutrition and health care access from trained community health workers. The trained Providence St. John's staff can assist with enrollment in CalFresh, the state of California's food subsidy program created to improve the nutrition of families through access to healthy foods. Staff can also help navigate enrollment or questions for MediCal or Medicare. If you have questions about whether you qualify for benefits or if you need help completing enrollment forms, you can make an appointment by calling 310-458-8688. Drop-ins are also welcome.

EMPOWERING PARENTHOOD

Part of a free Family Constellation Workshop series presented by SMMUSD teacher Aileen Salmaggi, parents will explore hidden family dynamics and understand how they shape their parenting. Through guided exercises, participants can gain insights, ultimately empowering them to create a more positive and nurturing family environment. The second workshop on the topic of "Give and Take" will take place at The Annex at Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave., beginning at 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY | MAY 8

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

The largest grower-only Certified Farmers Market in Southern California and a favorite for local chefs. Enjoy Santa Monica's downtown farmers market from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. between 4th St. and Ocean Ave. 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, cheese, delicious foods, live music and more.

THINK PINK 2024

The Irene Dunne Guild will hold its 18th annual Think Pink for Women's Wellness, a fundraiser for Saint John's Health Center, at the Upper Bel Air Bay Club in Pacific Palisades from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Think Pink is an event that focuses on health education and awareness for women and their families. The Irene Dunne Guild, a support group of Saint John's Health Center Foundation, raises funds for nursing scholarships and new medical equipment. Tickets are $195 per person, to purchase visit irenedunneguild.org.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS NEWCOMERS MEETING

Overeaters Anonymous is a Fellowship of individuals who, through shared experience, strength, and hope, are recovering from compulsive overeating. We welcome everyone who wants to stop eating compulsively. There are no dues or fees for members; we are self-supporting through our own contributions, neither soliciting nor accepting outside donations. Begins at 5:45 p.m. at Colorado Center Community Room, 2500 Broadway. For more information, contact Becky at itspossibleLAW@gmail.com.

PLANNING COMMISSION

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

THURSDAY | MAY 9

SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

The Library Board meets at 6 p.m. at the Ocean Park Branch Library Main Reading Room, 2601 Main St. The public is welcome to attend. Current and past agendas and minutes are available on small.org. For special disability accommodations, please contact Library Administration at 310-458-8600.

DISCO QUEEN

LouLou Rooftop Restaurant and Lounge, 395 Santa Monica Place #300, hosts the hottest new disco and drag party on the Westside beginning at 6 p.m. Disco Queen pays homage to Disco Queen nights in Paris filled with disco balls, smooth grooves and over-the-top talent. The top drag queens on the planet will host the hottest night out with resident DJ ARA playing classic disco hits. The launch event will feature a special performance by RuPaul's Drag Race veteran and Emmy-nominated actor Willam. For more information, visit loulousantamonica.com.

14TH ANNUAL WAVE AWARDS

The 14th Annual WAVE Awards is presented by the Venice Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, and celebrates the hard work and dedication of local educators. The theme for this year's awards is "Inspiring Unity," embracing the challenging and emotional climate faced by teachers and students. Honored teachers have demonstrated a balanced approach to meeting students' needs through inclusive and emotionally engaging ats in the classroom. Begins at 6 p.m. at Westside Vineyard, 3838 S Centinela Ave. Dinner, wine and refreshments will be provided. Tickets are $75, to purchase visit: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/sp2grcs.

HEAL THE BAY IN-PERSON VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Take the first step toward helping Heal the Bay work for safe, healthy, clean coastal waters and watersheds. Come to an in-person volunteer orientation at Heal the Bay Aquarium, 1600 Ocean Front Walk, starting at 6:30 p.m. Learn about volunteer programs, additional ways to help the environment, and be the first to know when specific trainings are scheduled. Benefits of volunteering with Heal the Bay include building professional and personal skills and becoming a confident advocate for the environment. To register, visit: https://healthebay.org/event/in-person-volunteer-orientation-at-heal-the-bay-aquarium-8/.

RENT CONTROL BOARD MEETING

The Rent Control Board meets to conduct business associated with the Rent Control Charter Amendment and Regulations. Meeting begins at 7 p.m. at Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St.

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