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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

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Santa Monica's domes on course for March grand opening



Courtesy photo

DOUBLE-DOME: The new installation will be located at the former Parking Structure 3 site on 4th Street between Santa Monica Blvd and Arizona Ave and will open to the public in March.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Back in November of last year, Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. (DTSM) board members voted unanimously to move ahead with a 360 degree immersive 'dome' entertainment activation on the former site of Parking Structure 3.

The project has been tweaked a little bit since the Daily Press last reported on it. Once upon a time it consisted of just two, 360 degree immersive entertainment domes, very much like the new Sphere in Las Vegas, that has been attracting a lot of attention recently. However, for a variety of reasons that stem from the search for the best interactive experience possible, the layout has changed a little bit and will now feature two domes, each 50ft in diameter and four smaller domes.

The activation will focus around a brand new animated universe aimed at children that centers around an indigenous little girl, named Haibu, who possesses the ability to speak to animals.

"Her story, as defined in our book series, live musical and our upcoming feature film, is universally relatable to a worldwide audience that loves animals. Haibu is quickly becoming the face and voice for global animal conservation," said Blake Freeman, founder of Haibu Media Group.

The site will feature a picnic area, merchandise stalls, bathrooms and food and beverage outlets, including a fully licensed bar and the whole thing is going to be built on wooden decking, much like the Ice at Santa Monica spectacle at the corner of 5th Street and Arizona Ave. This enables it to be raised off of the ground making drainage, should we experience a late winter downpour like we did last year, considerably less of a headache. According to Freeman, one dome will be fully operational first, with the second coming online shortly after, plus the enormous wall adjacent to the site will be utilized to show projections.

The concept of Haibu comes from Freeman's imagination and he says that while watching other popular cartoons, he noticed

SEE **HAIBU DOME** PAGE 8



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Eastern medicine expansion, education top of mind for Seyhart duo



Photo by Thomas Leffler

ACUPUNCTURE FOR ALL: Seyhart owners, husband and wife duo Colin and Tara McCannel, offer treatments like acupuncture and "cupping" at their establishment.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Husband and wife duo Colin and Tara McCannel started their careers on a traditional medicine path alongside many of their contemporaries but the pair have expanded their professional horizons with an Eastward push that brings alternative treatments to their wellness clients.

The two initially attained medical degrees and specialized in eye surgery. While they remain licensed doctors with traditional patients, their Santa Monica storefront, Seyhart, brings a new approach that they say expands the ways they can help people.

The business, located at 2629 Wilshire Boulevard, opened near the end of 2020 and has lasted through the pandemic due to the duo's commitment to focusing on the person, not the patient. At Seyhart, the duo oversees several treatments such as acupuncture and "cupping," which Colin notes is filling the "gaps" between traditional medicine and "pure healthiness."

"We are very busy still clinically, but over the years, especially in the last decade or so, we've felt that we're just not doing enough," Tara said. "We're just kind of helping people, we're fixing things ... but how can we really help people (more)?"

The space has a recreational lobby, followed by several rooms with the goal of making appointments welcoming and comfortable, in order to address a wide range of issues via its acupuncture technique. Though not as widely studied as western medicine, the duo says that the process of inserting thin needles into the body can aid in soothing anxieties, as well as pain in places like the lower back, shoulder and neck.

Tara notes that Seyhart's goal is to help locals "figure out what they can do themselves to recover and to be better," focusing on methods like acupuncture that hone in on the mind-body connection. Acupuncture, she adds, can be for people that feel mostly normal, but with "something off" like a lack of sleep or increased anxiety.

> We are very busy still clinically, but over the years, especially in the last decade or so, we've felt that we're just not doing enough
> - Tara McCannel

"People who have anxiety, it affects everything," she said. "So you might have shoulder (or) neck pain, but then you also are kind of not coping well or you've got (other things that bring stress). The acupuncture can really put things into balance. The thinking about acupuncture is that our body works and is connected by energy meridians, and so when the needles go in, (it) stimulates certain points to help move our energy. A lot

SEE SEYHART PAGE 8

School district facilities, performance on board agenda



Photo courtesy SMMUSD

FRANKLIN PLAN: An updated campus improvement plan for Franklin Elementary School will be heard at Thursday's Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education meeting.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education enters 2024 with new leadership and a slate of agenda items ranging from facility health to student performance.

Thursday's meeting of the board is the first of the new year and the first with Jennifer Smith and Jon Kean as the board's President and Vice-President, respectively. The makeup of the board remains unchanged heading into 2024 aside from the new assignment of duties and the addition of SMMUSD Superintendent Dr. Antonio Shelton as Board Secretary.

A discussion will be held during Thursday's meeting regarding the new campus plan for Franklin Elementary School, presented by district staff and dsk Architects. The updated plan, the district states, is "the result of examining many site alternatives and approximately 30 meetings with school staff and the local community over a three-year period."

Franklin's final campus plan, which proposes such endeavors as a TK/K classroom complex and a library & "flex" building, was initially approved in fall of 2022. However, as the plan proceeded to move into the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process, it was determined that the school's proposed Maker Space Building would remove portable buildings needed for interim classroom housing. Along with this issue, the California Geological Survey notified the district that an earthquake fault was believed to exist within the school site, which impacted the location of buildings in the previously-approved plan.

Subsequent geological tests determined that an earthquake fault was not located on the school site, but the delay combined with the school site's new requirement for additional interim classrooms, forced dsk Architects and the district to develop alternative plans. The latest plan, which delivers necessary interim housing among other fixes, was unanimously approved by the Franklin Site Committee in October 2023.

Along with facility health, the board will look at the district's 2023 California School Dashboard presentation in a study session. The dashboard reports performance and progress in 13 different areas that reflect the priorities of California's Local Control Funding Formula and the metrics required by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act.

The presentation includes state indicators such as academics (English Language Arts, literacy and mathematics), chronic absenteeism rate, English learner progress, graduation rate and suspension rate. Local educational agencies such as the district receive one of five color-coded performance levels on state indicators, those being blue (very high), green (high), yellow (medium), orange (low) and red (very low).

According to the Dashboard, the district is in the "blue" for graduation rate (95.2% in 2023) and English Language Arts (ELA) performance, scoring 56.7 points above grade-level standards on ELA in either the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment or the California Alternate Assessment.

The district scored high or "green" in the indicators of suspension rate, English learner progress and mathematics, and received a medium "yellow" grade for chronic absenteeism. The 2022-23 school year data, counting students Kindergarten-8th grade who were absent 10 percent or more of the instructional days enrolled, found that 17.1% of district students fit that criteria. This was a decline of 2.2% from the previous year's data.

Standards from the Dashboard were met by the district in the categories of "basics" (teachers, instructional materials, facilities), implementation of academic standards, parent and family engagement, local climate survey and "access to a broad course of study."

thomas@smdp.com



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **57.6**

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

Some new WNW swell nudging up the waves. Wind is looking favorable for the morning before an onshore sea-breeze looks likely in the afternoon for some texture+. Looks pretty light right now.

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

Watching for a bump in W/WNW swell. Looking kinda fun-zone for winter spots at this point with conditions looking quite favorable for now. Could have light wind all day which would be good news for the midday tide push.

Weather

Wednesday: Patchy fog before 10am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 62. East southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 10pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 52. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Thursday: Patchy fog before 10am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 65. Northeast wind around 5 mph.
Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 53.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)	High/Low
2024/01/17	Wed	02:00 AM	4.85		H
2024/01/17	Wed	08:31 AM	1.55		L
2024/01/17	Wed	2:01 PM	3.34		H
2024/01/17	Wed	7:53 PM	1.14		L
2024/01/18	Thu	02:56 AM	5.09		H
2024/01/18	Thu	10:17 AM	1.03		L
2024/01/18	Thu	4:02 PM	2.81		H
2024/01/18	Thu	8:51 PM	1.79		L
2024/01/19	Fri	03:55 AM	5.33		H
2024/01/19	Fri	11:39 AM	0.34		L
2024/01/19	Fri	6:07 PM	2.85		H
2024/01/19	Fri	10:03 PM	2.26		L
2024/01/20	Sat	04:52 AM	5.55		H
2024/01/20	Sat	12:40 PM	-0.28		L
2024/01/20	Sat	7:28 PM	3.15		H
2024/01/20	Sat	11:15 PM	2.48		L
2024/01/21	Sun	05:46 AM	5.75		H
2024/01/21	Sun	1:28 PM	-0.73		L

Daily Lottery

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POWERBALL
Draw Date: 1/15
13 30 35 49 59
Power#: 4
Jackpot: 102 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/12
19 34 35 45 67
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: 208 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 1/13
1 2 23 41 44
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 15 M

Fantasy5
Draw Date: 1/15
6 8 14 27 39

Daily 3
Draw Date: 1/15
EVENING: 2 7 1
Draw Date: 1/15
MIDDAY: 1 0 2

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 1/15
1st: 05 - California Classic
2nd: 01 - Gold Rush
3rd: 11 - Money Bags
Race Time: 1:45.18

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Santa Monica Daily Press

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Will Gavin Newsom confront California's structural budget problems or leave them to his successor?

DAN WALTERS

California governors tend to leave hefty budget deficits behind when they depart, forcing their successors to raise taxes, borrow money or make big spending cuts to maintain solvency.

It happened in 2003 when Democrat Gray Davis was recalled and Republican Arnold Schwarzenegger succeeded him, and again in 2011 when Schwarzenegger handed over the governorship to Democrat Jerry Brown, to cite two recent examples.

The current governor, Democrat Gavin Newsom, was spared when he assumed office in 2019. However, having increased spending by nearly 50% over the last five years, Newsom now faces not only a huge deficit – the exact size is subject to debate – but the prospect of multibillion-dollar shortfalls for the remainder of his governorship.

> Overall, the governor's budget runs the risk of understating the degree of fiscal pressure facing the state in the future
> - Gabe Petek

Late last year, the Legislature's budget analyst, Gabe Petek, issued his annual report on the state's fiscal situation, saying not only that state had a $68 billion current deficit due to revenues falling short of projections, but annual deficits in the $30 billion range for the next several years.

Last week, when Newsom proposed a 2024-25 budget, he pegged the deficit at $38 billion and proposed to cover it with a mixture of spending cuts and deferrals, loans from special funds, reserves and some accounting gimmicks.

Over the weekend, Petek reiterated his estimate of a larger deficit and once again told the Legislature that it should take a longer-range view – not only closing the current gap but addressing the structural deficit that lies ahead.

"Overall, the governor's budget runs the risk of understating the degree of fiscal pressure facing the state in the future," Petek said in a review of Newsom's proposal. "The Legislature likely will face more difficult choices next year. To mitigate these challenges, we recommend the Legislature develop this year's budget with a focus on future years."

While Newsom and Petek's disagreement is mostly due to revenue estimates and school finance obligations, they agree that the deficit isn't a one-time problem, but rather an ongoing gap between likely revenues and spending already locked into law.

A little-noticed section of Newsom's budget, projecting income and outgo through 2027-28, says it would be an eye-popping $81 billion out of balance by then, largely due to fairly stagnant revenues being outstripped by mandatory increases in spending for K-12 schools and community colleges, and complete exhaustion of reserves.

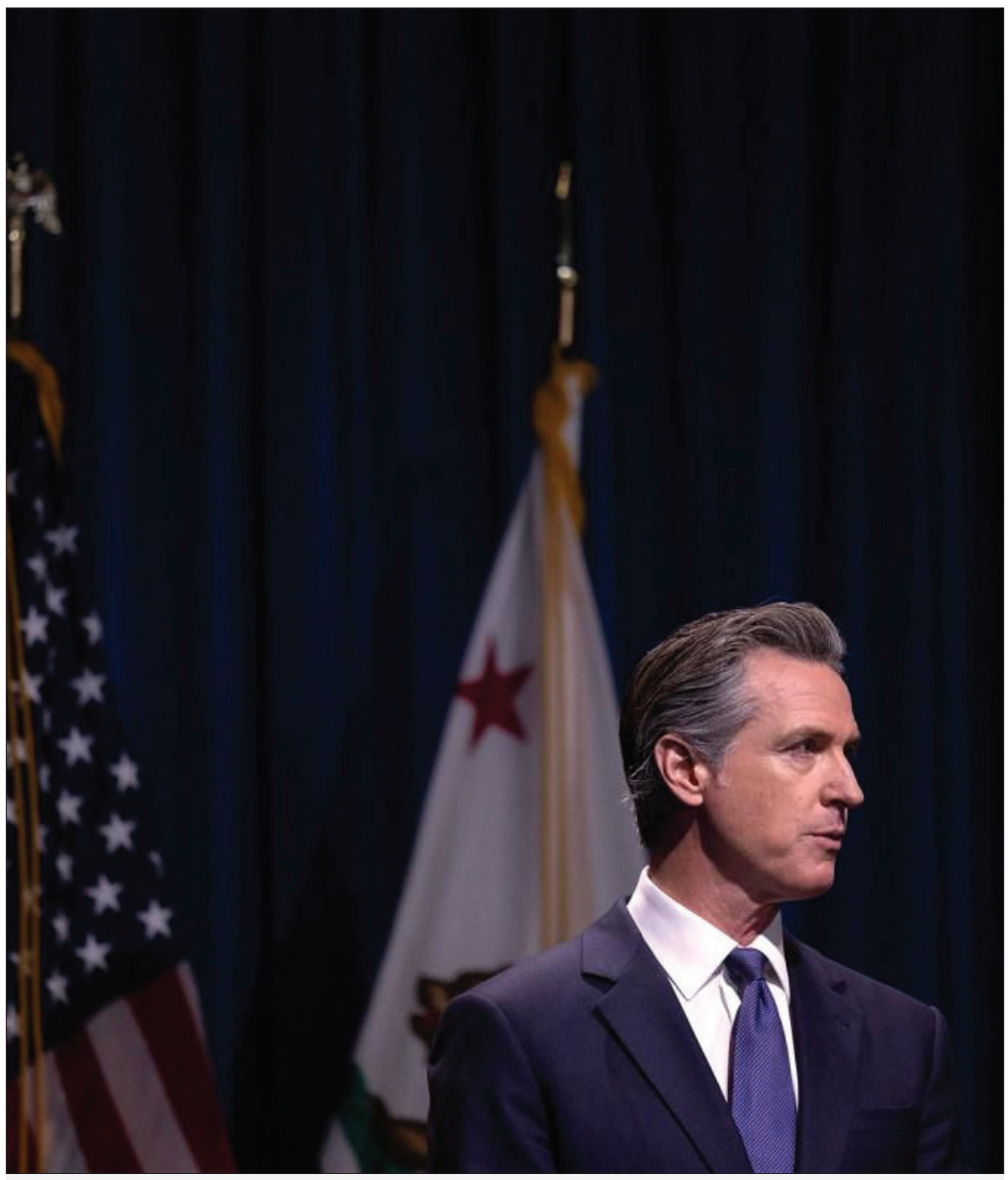


Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters

BUDGET: Gov. Gavin Newsom addresses the media during a press conference unveiling his 2024-25 January budget proposal at the Secretary of State Auditorium in Sacramento on Jan. 10, 2025.

This gloomy fiscal outlook also assumes that the state won't experience a recession in the next few years. Were that to occur, the annual deficits would surely be even larger.

The longer-term projections indicate that Newsom's approach – papering over the current shortfall with actions that could worsen future problems – is very shortsighted, and Petek's advice to legislators about focusing on the future is quite prudent.

However, Petek's approach would require Newsom and a legislature dominated by Democrats to make some very difficult decisions, such as throttling back the extensive array of new and expanded social services they have enacted in recent years and/or raising taxes.

The difficulty is compounded by Newsom's current obsession with building a national political profile, perhaps in preparation for a 2028 presidential run. He has been peddling the image of California as a state that is generous with benefits without increasing its already high level of taxation, specifically opposing those in his party who want to increase taxes on the wealthy or corporations.

The projections by Petek and Newsom's own budget advisors of ever-increasing deficits undercut that image. Will Newsom bite the bullet or muddle through the next few years and dump a huge fiscal crisis on his successor?

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be opened and posted for:

BID #4476 Electrical Services - Water Resources

Submission Deadline is February 26, 2024 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: OpenGov (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

City of Santa Monica

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Trump leads GOP rightward march and other takeaways from the Iowa caucuses

NICHOLAS RICCARDI AND BRIAN SLODYSKO
Associated Press

Donald Trump's iron grip on the Republican Party has been clear since the day he announced he would make another run for the White House 14 months ago. It can be seen in the party's ideological shift even further to the right on cultural issues and, especially, on immigration policy.

Iowa Republicans were a clear reflection of that on Monday night, delivering the former president an emphatic victory. They channeled his anger, and his view that basically everything President Joe Biden has done has been a "disaster." About 9 in 10 voters said they want upheaval or substantial change in how the government operates, according to AP VoteCast, a survey of more than 1,500 voters who said they planned to take part in the caucuses.

As clear-cut as his win was, though, Iowa has not historically played the role of kingmaker in the Republican nominating process. New Hampshire's voters don't take their cues from Iowa.

Here are some key takeaways:

AN INCUMBENT CAMPAIGN

This was the least suspenseful Iowa caucus in modern memory because Trump has essentially been running as an incumbent president. He's convinced many Republicans he didn't really lose the 2020 election to Biden, repeatedly making false claims, and has dominated the race the way someone still in office does.

He traveled sparingly to the state, holding a modest number of rallies. He spurned candidate debates. He chose to appear at court hearings as a defendant in his legal cases in New York and Washington rather than speak to Iowa voters in the final days before the voting.

The former president, who remains the party's dominant favorite, clearly wants to move on to the general election as quickly as possible. In his victory speech, he tried to portray the race as all but over, and a candidate known for his propensity for division asked his party and the nation to come together, praising rivals he had spent months denigrating. But Iowa winnows the field more than it determines the winner.

TWISTS AND TURNS AHEAD

Inevitable can be a dangerous word, especially in New Hampshire, which holds its primary in eight days.

New Hampshire has famously delivered upsets in both parties. Former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley quipped that New Hampshire "corrects" Iowa. George W. Bush felt New Hampshire's sting in 2000 when Senator John McCain defeated him. So did former vice president Walter Mondale when Senator Gary Hart of Colorado scored an upset in the Democratic race in 1984.

With its more moderate, educated electorate, New Hampshire presents Trump's rivals with possibly their best opportunity to slow his march. Haley is hoping for a win there or at least a very strong showing, as is Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who edged Haley out for second place in Iowa but trailed Trump by about 30 points.

After that comes a weird political lull — with the next major competitive race in South Carolina on Feb. 24.

But plenty can happen during that time. The U.S. Supreme Court on Feb. 8 is scheduled to hear arguments in a case challenging whether a constitutional clause banning those who "engaged in insurrection" from holding office applies to Trump. The high court may also weigh in on whether presidential immunity protects Trump from federal charges for trying to overturn his 2020 election loss.

The criminal trial, in that case, is scheduled to start on March 5 — Super Tuesday — when 14 states vote in the presidential nominating process. Trump's strength among Republican voters is beyond dispute, but the road is long and could be bumpy.

IT'S NOT THE ECONOMY

Iowans had something on their minds, but it wasn't jobs, taxes or business regulations.

About 4 in 10 caucus-goers said immigration was their top issue, compared to 1 in 3 picking the economy, according to VoteCast. Other priorities like foreign policy, energy and abortion ranked even lower.

Indeed, about two-thirds of caucusgoers said they felt their finances were holding steady or improving. But the voters still want major changes — 3 in 10 want a total upheaval of how the federal government runs while another 6 in 10 want substantial changes. Additionally, as Trump faces multiple criminal charges, 6 in 10 caucusgoers don't have confidence in the U.S. legal system.

It adds up to a portrait of a slice of the electorate eager to challenge core democratic institutions in the U.S.

DESANTIS' DISMAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Flush with more than $100 million in cash and fresh off a blowout reelection victory, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis entered the 2024 Republican presidential contest projecting himself as the heir to a MAGA political brand that a diminished Trump could no longer effectively carry.

Reality soon intruded.

Eight months and tens of millions of dollars later, DeSantis posed little threat to the former president in Iowa. Still, he vowed to continue his campaign and said he had "punched his ticket" out of Iowa with his second-place finish.

Despite more than $55 million in pro-DeSantis advertising spending, the Florida governor only narrowly bested Haley.

DeSantis has been dogged by negative stories about profligate spending, including DeSantis' preference for flying private planes.

His next challenge will be whether donors will continue to support him.

SEE **TRUMP** PAGE 7

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SANTA MONICA
TRAVEL & TOURISM



Lawmakers announce bipartisan effort to enhance child tax credit, revive tax breaks for businesses

KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press

The chairmen of the top tax policy committees in Congress announced a bipartisan agreement Tuesday to enhance the child tax credit and revive a variety of tax breaks for businesses, a combination designed to attract support from lawmakers of both political parties.

The roughly $78 billion in tax cuts would be paid for by more quickly ending a tax break Congress approved during the COVID-19 pandemic that encouraged businesses to keep employees on their payroll.

The agreement was announced by Sen. Ron Wyden, the Democratic chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and Rep. Jason Smith, the Republican chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee. The lawmakers have been negotiating for months on a tax package that would address an array of priorities before lawmakers turn their focus to election season.

Wyden said his goal is to gain approval for the measure in time for businesses and families to benefit during the upcoming filing season. The Internal Revenue Service will begin accepting and processing tax returns on Jan. 29, so lawmakers are looking to move the bill as quickly as possible.

Meeting that goal may prove difficult as lawmakers are already racing to finish their spending bills and are considering a bill focused on both aiding Israel, and Ukraine and stemming the flow of migrants entering the country at the U.S.-Mexico border. One option would be for leaders in the House and Senate to attach the measure to one of those top-priority bills.

> “Given today’s miserable political climate, it’s a big deal to have this opportunity to pass pro-family policy that helps so many kids get ahead”
>
> - Ron Wyden Sen.

In forging the agreement, Democratic negotiators were focused on boosting the child tax credit. The tax credit is $2,000 per child, but only $1,600 is refundable, which makes it available to parents who owe little to nothing in federal income taxes. The bill would incrementally increase the maximum refundable child tax credit to $1,800 for 2023 tax returns, $1,900 for the following year and $2,000 for 2025 tax returns.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a liberal think tank and advocacy group, projected that about 16 million children in low-income families would benefit from the child tax credit expansion.

“Given today’s miserable political climate, it’s a big deal to have this opportunity to pass pro-family policy that helps so many kids get ahead,” Wyden said in a statement announcing the deal.

Republicans were focused on tax breaks for businesses that they said would help grow the economy. The extensions provided for in the bill would generally align them with other tax cuts that were approved in 2017 when then-President Donald Trump was in office.

Most notably, the bill would give companies of all sizes the ability to deduct research and development costs immediately rather than over the course of five years. It would also allow businesses to fully deduct the purchase of equipment, machinery and technology. And, the bill also provides more flexibility in determining how much borrowing can be deducted.

Smith said the agreement “strengthens Main Street businesses, boosts our competitiveness with China, and creates jobs.”

Some lawmakers have insisted that any tax extensions be paid for so as not to add to projected deficits. The authors of the agreement attempt to do that by speeding up the demise of the employee retention tax credit. Under current law, businesses had until April 15 of next year to claim the credit. The bill would bar additional claims after Jan. 31 of this year. It also would increase penalties for tax preparers failing to undertake due diligence in submitting those COVID-19-related claims.

The tax credit was designed to make it easier for businesses to keep their employees on the payroll at a time when COVID-19 was keeping people at home and away from stores, hotels and restaurants. The IRS in September announced a moratorium in processing new claims through at least the end of the year, following concerns that a substantial share of new claims from the aging program were ineligible.

MOST LOVED 2024 Santa Monica

THERE ARE 3 WEEKS

Until the launch of the Santa Monica **Most Loved Business contest!**

Nominations will be open on **February 7th** for your favorite Coffee house, Beauty Store, Home Decor store and everything in between!

For more information on nomination & voting periods check out the site:
https://smdp.com/mostloved2024/

Supreme Court rebuffs Apple's Court appeal on app payments, threatening billions in revenue

MARK SHERMAN AND MICHAEL LIEDTKE
Associated Press

The Supreme Court on Tuesday allowed a court order to take effect that could loosen Apple's grip on its lucrative iPhone app store, potentially siphoning billions of dollars away from one of the world's most profitable companies.

The justices rejected Apple's appeal of lower-court rulings that found some of Apple's app store rules for apps purchased on more than 1 billion iPhones constitute unfair competition under California law.

The appeal stemmed from an antitrust lawsuit filed in 2020 by Epic Games, maker of the popular Fortnite video game. Epic lost its broader claim that Cupertino, California-based Apple was violating federal antitrust law, and the justices also rejected Epic's appeal Tuesday.

But in turning away Apple's effort to maintain exclusive control over in-app payments, the court lifted a hold on an order to allow app developers throughout the U.S. to insert links to other payment options besides its own within iPhone apps. That change would make it easier for developers to avoid paying Apple's commissions ranging from 15% to 30%.

Those fees have turned into a significant part of Apple's service's division, which generated $85 billion in revenue during the company's last fiscal year ending in September. The specter of consumers being able to defect to other payment channels for in-app transactions is one of several factors that has been weighing on Apple's stock, which has declined 5% so far this year.

The drop has enabled Apple's long-time rival, Microsoft, to eclipse it as the world's most valuable company. Apple's shares declined by 2% in Tuesday's early afternoon trading, leaving the company with a market value of about $2.8 trillion. Microsoft, whose stock has edged up 3% so far this year, is valued at $2.9 trillion.

Besides the possibility of the Supreme Court refusing to consider the payment issue in the Epic case, investors also have been fretting about new European regulations scheduled to take effect in March that also could force Apple to allow alternate payment methods inside iPhone apps. Apple has staunchly resisted taking down the barriers, citing security concerns that could hurt iPhone owners.

Epic, based in Cary, North Carolina, had claimed that Apple's app store — which was launched in 2008, a year after the first iPhone went on sale — had turned into an illegal monopoly that stifles innovation and competition while generating billions of dollars in profit for Apple. Although a federal judge rejected the assertion that Apple had a monopoly on mobile apps, she concluded consumers should have more discretion in how to pay inside apps.

Apple didn't immediately respond for comment on the Supreme Court's rebuff or how it would adopt the September 2021 ruling handed down by U.S. District Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers.

In series of posts Tuesday, Epic CEO Tim Sweeney called the Supreme Court's denial a " sad outcome for developers" while also applauding the prospect of enabling consumers to see " better prices on the web."

Back in August 2020, Epic tried to offer an alternative way to get its mobile app, attempting to evade Apple's commissions charged when digital goods were purchased by players on Fortnite and other games.

Apple ousted Epic from its app store after it tried to get around Apple's restrictions.

Although it lost most of its claims in the Apple case, Epic last month won a jury trial against Google and its Play Store for apps on Android phones in a lawsuit mirroring its action against Apple. A federal judge still must determine what changes Google will have to make to its Play Store.

Liedtke reported from San Ramon, California.

TRUMP

FROM PAGE 5

THE EDUCATION DIVIDE

More than half of Haley's voters had at least a college degree and roughly half of DeSantis' did, according to VoteCast. But only about 2 in 10 of Trump's did.

Education has been a major dividing line among white voters during the Trump era. Iowa confirms what polling has indicated during the primary — that the education divide is also splitting the GOP.

That hints at a possible weakness for Trump in November, should he be the nominee. A greater share of the voting public has at least a bachelor's degree now than in 2016, and that share rises every year as degrees become more popular.

Another indication of vulnerability for Trump came in the suburbs, which tend to have the highest levels of education. Only about a third of caucusgoers there supported him. The suburbs were pivotal in Biden's 2020 victory over Trump.

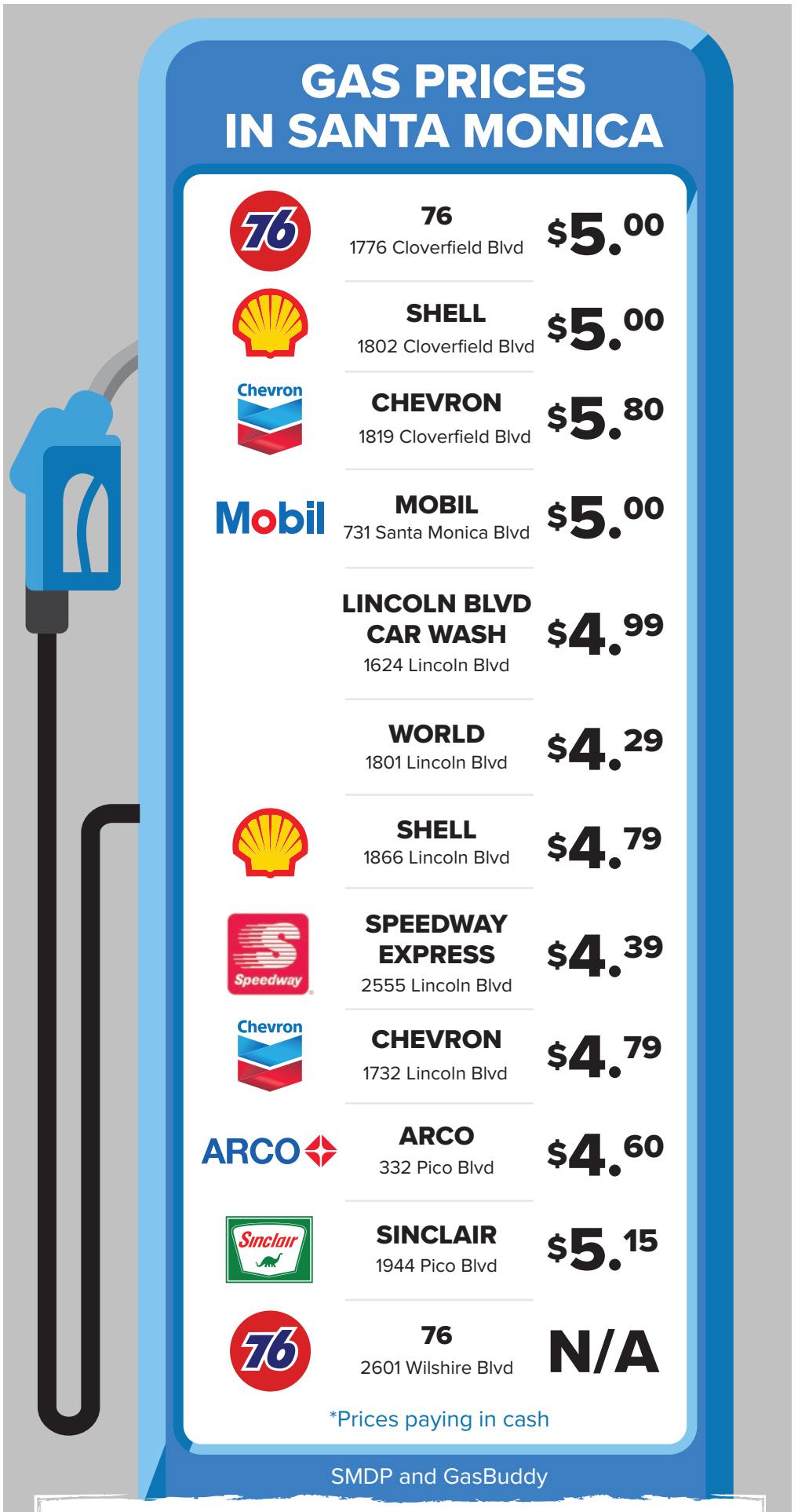
RAMASWAMY PUNCHED HIMSELF OUT

Abrasive, often grating and very online — Vivek Ramaswamy's quixotic bid for the White House has come across as a millennial distillation of Trump's Make America Great Again political movement.

Ramaswamy rapped along to verses of Eminem, delighted in trolling his rivals and often sought to out-Trump Trump with his brash rhetoric. That performative aspect helped the wealthy 38-year-old entrepreneur gain considerable attention in the early days of the Republican White House contest.

But it also proved to wear thin, perhaps summed up best when former New Jersey governor Chris Christie called him the "most obnoxious blowhard in America" during a debate.

As returns from Iowa's caucus posted, Ramaswamy seemed unlikely to reach double digits, and he suspended his campaign.



Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have fallen 9.6 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $4.57/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 15.7 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 12.9 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has fallen 2.0 cents in the last week and stands at $3.89 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at $3.69/g yesterday while the most expensive was $5.99/g, a difference of $2.30/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was $3.38/g while the highest was $6.49/g, a difference of $3.11/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 0.6 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $3.04/g today. The national average is down 1.4 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 23.9 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Santa Monica Daily Press

HAIBU DOME

FROM PAGE 1

how very few of them, if any, carried any kind of environmental message for children, an issue Freeman feels very strongly about.

"These companies [animation studios] are making up to $2 billion a year, but they're not really doing anything of substance, besides entertainment, wholesome values and things like that, but I thought they could be something bigger and better," he says.

Freeman himself hails from an entertainment background and his idea quickly caught the attention of former studio head at Activision John Linden, now CEO of Mythical Games and on the Haibu board of directors. Next onboard was Freeman's longtime collaborator Shane Duffy, an entertainment executive and former CEO of Stan Lee's POW! Entertainment.

"The Santa Monica Haibu's World came to fruition because of our partners at Floor 84 and Magnopus along with the other Haibu team members Scott Ogilvie, Gordon Bejilonic, Tara Price Marvin Wilson, Mark Laisure and Danielle Crane," Freeman says.

And between them and other equally-as-impressive names from the entertainment ecosystem, they certainly have some grand plans, including an interactive element that puts animated wild animals on your smartphone camera when you're close to the beach. He also says that they're currently in talks with a Formula 1 team for potential involvement.

"The Santa Monica site adds a whole new layer to the story, we can educate everyone, not just kids, on how to properly treat our beaches and oceans ... And at the same time, we're in the business of entertainment, so why not make television shows, movies and games that can make a difference in people's thinking," Freeman says.

While the primary driving force behind this unique installation is to showcase the Haibu universe, it will also be marketed as a unique venue that can be hired for business presentations, birthday celebrations, Christmas parties and all manner of public and private events.

The demolition of Parking Structure 3, located on 4th Street between Santa Monica Blvd and Arizona Ave, began in March 2022 following a failed legal effort to stop the project. Since 2018, the City has been working on a plan to demolish the 50-year-old parking garage and replace it with a multi-level affordable housing project, which would include ground floor retail and subterranean parking.

However, since demolition was completed in November 2022, the site has remained empty amid continued concern over the local economy. According to DTSM, the City is expected to break ground in 2025, which is why in the original request for proposals it was made clear that the license agreement would be for a period of 18 months.

"The former Parking Structure 3 lot is underutilized space and we see Haibu as an opportunity to activate this space to benefit our stakeholders and all of Downtown," said Andrew Thomas, CEO of DTSM, adding, "The space will become affordable housing in the near future. Our agreement with the City to activate this space is for 18 months and then goes month-to-month in case the housing project is delayed."

scott.snowden@smdp.com

SEYHART

FROM PAGE 2

of times, we're feeling off because we have these blockages in our energy ... and the principles of acupuncture (work) by moving this blocked energy. Once the energy can move, then we start to feel better."

In order to create more buy-in from those on the fence about acupuncture and Seyhart's other services, the duo hosts monthly educational events to discuss a healing-related topic, believing that building a community network is of top priority because everyone has the "same vision" of mind-body health. The McCannels also set themselves apart from the gaggle of acupuncturists in the Los Angeles area by creating an environment more accessible to the layperson, focusing on what Colin calls "purely the healing part of it."

"(We) just have a very comfortable, warm, western vibe that is very inviting, (very) calm, because if you just lay down in our rooms here, the colors and the way they're designed ... you're ready even without the acupuncture, it's a nice space to disconnect and just chill for a moment," Colin added, noting that they feel their environment is superior to "white walls" and a "plastic gurney" seen at other locations.

Aside from creating education opportunities for new customers and community collaborators, the Seyhart team appreciates the chance to teach their own colleagues in the medical industry. With increased understanding throughout the industry, the duo wants to foster an environment where patients are not afraid to tell their doctor that they've had an acupuncture session.

"Part of our goal is to change that (interaction), and we're working with our colleagues (about it)," Tara said. "We've had events where we bring in medical doctors only, and we sort of just talk about it, have them do little demos, so they can experience (it) ... and by that we're trying to help them realize that we need to include this and ... be open for their patients to be able to do acupuncture and have (these) experiences."

For those hesitant with needles, Seyhart also does "acupressure," which is "deep, deep kneading and pushing" along acupuncture meridians to create a similar effect, though it was noted that needles are the most effective way. The site also offers glass fire "cupping," where heat creates suction in glass cups placed on someone's back, shoulders and/or thighs, helping to move circulation. Along with services, the location's lobby sells products ranging from bath salts and body spray to various supplements aiding in things like sleep and immunity.

The husband and wife have broadened their understanding of both health and their own medical paths, with Colin noting that learning more about "what is wellness and what is good health" was a "big result" of their journey. Tara agreed, adding that her understanding also included the importance of community in building a business.

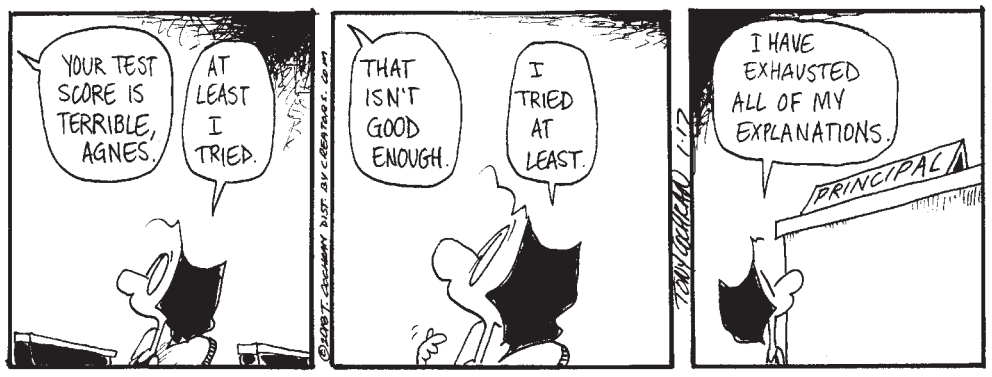
"Actively being part of (the community) is a totally different type of reward than running a clinical practice and just seeing a whole bunch of patients every day," Tara said. "We're actually doing more, and I feel like because we can have a greater reach ... we touched more lives when we (do this). And that's been really cool."

thomas@smdp.com



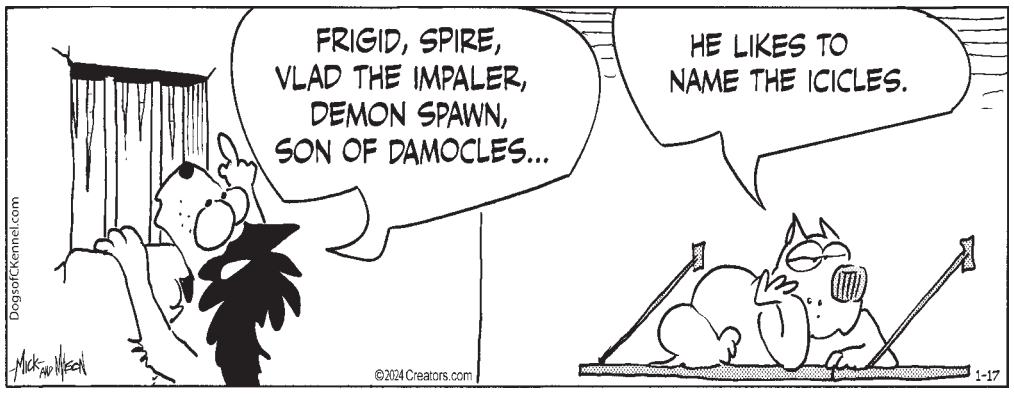
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"WHY CAN'T YOU PLAY NICE?"

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 6092

Future champions

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

Applause
Attempt
Basic
Baton
Best
Canteen
Cardiovascular
Centres
Children
Field
Finish
Food
Gala day
Hammer
Helmet
Hope
Hurdles
Image
Injury
Junior
Lanes
Laps
Lose
Mile
Pace
Pole
Registration
Relay
Sandpit
Shotput
Speed
Sports
Start
Team
Timekeeper
Trials
Trying
Veteran
Walk
Zone

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Do you believe in them?

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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 17)

Daily life will be elevated. Projects with loved ones are so sweet. You'll be so proud of what comes of your relationships and you'll forge a path to even greater purposes. More highlights: You'll be a fearless explorer of both places and ideas. Here comes a thrilling escapade filled with uncharted territories and unexpected discoveries. Aries and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 1, 4, 11 and 18.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). When efforts drain your energy, the gratitude that flows back to you will be restorative. There are people who either can't be or haven't yet learned to be grateful, and you'll do best to take them in very small doses.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Of course, a Google search could shed fresh light on a problem, but it's better when a fellow earth sign (Taurus, Virgo or Capricorn) does it, because the earth signs will then take steps to help you solve it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Butterflies may accompany the day's tasks. Though many a presentation has been brought down by an overabundance of nervous energy, nervousness can portend brilliance, too. It's just an energy. You decide what it means.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Don't worry too much about offending people, and neither should you worry too much about impressing them. Just be you. It's enough. It's more than enough; it's a gift to everyone you choose to give it to.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Set balls in motion. You'll command respect and you get it. People take notice of what you say, and the response will be immediate. The recipe for success: power moves and humble follow-up.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Expressing your need of someone makes you feel vulnerable, but you're willing to risk it. After all, your need of others isn't always a burden to them. Often, it's a gift. It's good to be needed. It gives purpose. Need teaches people what they are good at.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're made of pure energy. Today, you'll feel this profoundly. It may seem difficult to contain yourself. Just ask any lightning bolt — energy seeks grounding. You want to focus and you will, with the proper grounding.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You may hear "no" many times before you get to "yes," but you will get your "yes." Keep going until you do. Cater your offering to the customer. If this is not possible, it's imperative that you find the right customer for your offer.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The reason we wrap gifts is because we know how a slow reveal adds excitement and specialness to our interactions. You'll seize the opportunity to make a thoughtful presentation that includes the element of surprise.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You don't always have to play the same role in a relationship, though it can be hard to switch mid-interaction. It will help if you decide who you want to be first, then act. Obviously, things go differently depending on your role.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Things don't have to be living to have a pulse. Objects have vibes. Today, it will seem they are calling to you. This is why you don't want too many material items in your life; they have a way of cluttering your mind. A purge will free you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Very talented people can also be a bit complex, which you know because you fit into both categories. You'll move people with your work. You'll give yourself fully to your projects, and after the intense output, you'll crave a bit of solitude.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

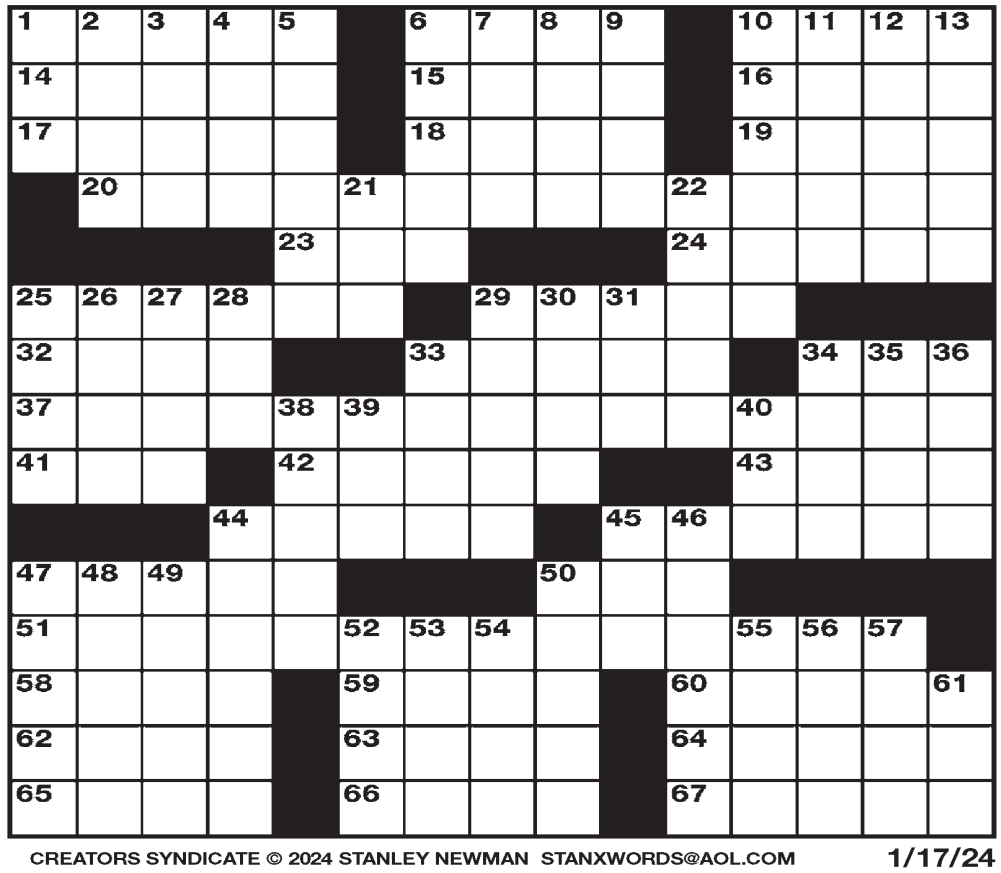
SAME SOUNDS by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Sailboat poles
6 Feudal laborer
10 Type of cabbage
14 Think the world of
15 "That's correct"
16 Periods of history
17 Insertion mark
18 Take a train or cab
19 Cravings
20 See in person
23 Once around a track
24 Model's runway stances
25 Lone Star State cuisine
29 Gossip column subject
32 Brontë heroine
33 Fabric follower of "poly"
34 Swimsuit part
37 Traditional two-course dinner
41 Be too nosy
42 Actress Saoirse or author Farrow
43 Lie in the sun
44 Family car
45 Explosions
47 Scampers away
50 Payable now
51 Order punishment in court
58 Actress Jessica
59 Any stage-play accessory
60 Gray stocking shade
62 Shut with a bang
63 Dessert that's baked
64 Wading bird
65 Red __ (frankfurters)
66 Rushed
67 Terrycloth garments

DOWN

1 __ and cheese (kid's lunch)
2 Genesis guy
3 Angry, informally
4 Genealogy chart
5 Come to terms
6 Shoulder-bag feature
7 Guitarist Clapton
8 Ill-mannered
9 Mile fractions
10 Car unlocker
11 Spheres of interest
12 Ren Faire weapon
13 Twisty shapes
21 Transmit via phone
22 Musical work with arias
25 Office sub
26 Watchful person
27 Dental exam ritual
28 Big Apple ballplayer
29 Senate cable channel
30 British prep school
31 Disappoint, with "down"
33 Crime novelist Buchanan
34 Constricting snakes
35 Remainder
36 Seeks advice
38 "Am not!" rebuttal
39 Head gesture
40 Sched. notation
44 Cooks, as clams
45 Commuter's option
46 Piece of mail
47 Blockbuster show
48 Stringed instrument
49 Slugger's turn
50 Played a trick on
52 Scanned IDs
53 Lint catcher
54 Clown around
55 *Othello* villain
56 Curtail
57 Blunt sword
61 UFO passengers



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

Classifieds

Petition to Admin Estate

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: Inigo Renas Saiz CASE NUMBER: 24STPB13392 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of Inigo Renas Saiz . A Petition for Probate has been filed by Valeria Carriles Martinez in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles-Stanley Mosk Courthouse. The Petition for Probate requests Valeria Carriles Martinez be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The Petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: Date: Apr 5 2024 Time: 8:30 a.m Dept. 79 Room - Address of Court: I Stanley Mosk Courthouse 111 N. Hill St Los Angeles, CA 90012 If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney or Party without Attorney: Gustavo A. Madero Esq. SBN 2773390 Madero Legal Group, PC 65) Grand Ave, Suite 900 Los Angeles, CA 90017 Tel No. 323-685-2150 Fax No. 323-685-2168. Email Gustavo@maderolegal.com 01/17/24, 01/24/24, 01/31/24

Petition to Admin Estate

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: Inigo Arenas Saiz CASE NUMBER: 23STPB13392 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of Inigo Arenas Saiz . A Petition for Probate has been filed by Valeria Carriles Martinez in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles-Stanley Mosk Courthouse. The Petition for Probate requests Valeria Carriles Martinez be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The Petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: Date: Apr 5 2024 Time: 8:30 a.m Dept. 79 Room - Address of Court: I Stanley Mosk Courthouse 111 N. Hill St Los Angeles, CA 90012 If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney or Party without Attorney: Gustavo A. Madero Esq. SBN 273390 Madero Legal Group, PC 65) Grand Ave, Suite 900 Los Angeles, CA 90017 Tel No. 323-685-2150 Fax No. 323-685-2168. Email Gustavo@maderolegal.com 01/17/24, 01/24/24, 01/31/24

Help Wanted

S/W DVLPRCornerstone OnDemand, Inc. has an oppty for an Engrng Mgr. $183,602.00/yr to $230,400.00/yr. May wrk from our HQ office in Santa Monica, CA or reside anywhere in the US & wrk remotely from home. May wrk at other US locatns not prsntly known. Email resume w/Ref# SMAHO to recruitment.to@csod.com. Must be legally auth to work in the US w/o spnsrshp. EOE

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



WEDNESDAY | JANUARY 17

COMPUTER CLASS - GOOGLE SHEETS, SLIDES & MORE
Learn about Google's free applications for spreadsheets and presentations, and how to store documents in the cloud. For intermediate level. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

IT'S TIME FOR BIRDWATCHING!
Lu Plauzoles, from the Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society, discusses the best season for birdwatching and leads a walk to see the birds of Virginia Avenue Park. Binoculars available to borrow. For all ages. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

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 4:30PM-7:00PM 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.

PLANNING COMMISSION
City Hall, 1685 Main Street. 6 p.m. Agenda online at https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Planning-Commission/

AUTHOR TALK:
Film producer Carol Baum will be discussing her new book, "Creative Producing: A pitch-to-picture guide to movie development," at Playa Vista Branch Library, 6400 Playa Vista Dr., beginning at 3 p.m. Barum is the former co-president of Sandollar Productions, Dolly Parton and Sandy Gallin's production company, and she currently teaches at USC's School of Cinematic Arts. For ADA accommodations, call 213-228-7430 at least 72 hours prior to the event.

THURSDAY | JANUARY 18

LOCALS' NIGHT:
The monthly edition of Locals' Night on the Santa Monica Pier will be held from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. The Merry Go-Round Building will host Books & Cookies musical story time at 4 p.m., followed by performances from Benedek, Suzanne Kraft, Jamma-Dee and Warehouse Preservation Society. The main stage and parking deck will host Salsa on the Pier from 6-9 p.m., led by Courtney Parisi and Cesar Romer, as well as a car show featuring several prominent Westside car clubs.

VENICE ART MIXER:
The January Venice Chamber of Commerce Art Crawl Mixer will be held at Venice Soleil Salon, 3014 Pacific Avenue, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Connect with artists and possible hosts for the upcoming 2024 Art Crawls. Members $10, non-members $15. Registration can be done at: https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg

TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE
On the November 8, 2022 election, voters passed Measure CS, a ballot measure to increase the City's Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) rate from 14% to 15% for hotels and motels and to 17% for home-shares. The additional funds raised by the rate increase would be used to fund ongoing urgent community priorities, specifically to address homelessness, improve 911 emergency response times and neighborhood police protection, make public areas safer and cleaner, including streets, sidewalks, parks, and the beach, and provide other vital City services. City Council established by resolution an advisory committee that would make non-binding recommendations on the use of the additional Transient Occupancy Tax revenues. The TOT Advisory Committee meet at least once a year between February and May starting at 6:00 P.M. This meeting will be held in-person at the Santa Monica Institute Training Room, 330 Olympic Drive, 2nd Floor (Plaza Level).

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING:
The first Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education meeting of 2024 will be held at the SMMUSD offices, 1717 4th Street, beginning at 6 p.m. Contact the Board of Education at brd@smmusd.org for more information or visit the SMMUSD website for agendas.

JOB HUNTING WITH CHRYSALIS
Representatives from local nonprofit Chrysalis provide drop-in resume assistance, job search tips, and on-the-spot orientations for their employment programs. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. 3 - 5 p.m.

HAVEN NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES
Stop by for information on free financial coaching services, including budgeting, credit counseling, and identity theft recovery. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 3 - 5 p.m.

MONTANA AVENUE BRANCH BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
This community-led, monthly book discussion group currently meets in person. January's selection is The Marriage Portrait by Maggie O'Farrell. Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Avenue, 6 - 7 p.m.

FRIDAY | JANUARY 19

GRILLED CHEESE & BEER NIGHT
This family-style event has been their most popular. Join now and see what the excitement has been all about! The cost is $75 (plus tax). Andrew's Cheese Shop, 728 Montana Ave, 7:30 - 10 p.m. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/january-19th-grilled-cheese-beer-night-tickets-782689293747

STELLAR NUCLEAR FUSION: CAN WE HARNESS ITS POWER?
Every star is a powerful nuclear reactor, and we owe our existence to the energy our Sun provides. Our climate crisis has us searching for alternative sources of energy. Lecturer Sarah Vincent offers ideas in response to the big question: Can we harness the power of the stars to provide clean energy? Free on Zoom. 8 p.m. https://www.smc.edu/community/planetarium/

CORRECTION

THE BMX EVENT PREVIOUSLY LISTED FOR ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS LISTED IN ERROR AND IS NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC


SANTA MONICA
PIER
Locals' Night
FREE
JAN. 18
4PM–10PM
LIVE MUSIC • CAR SHOW • KIDS ACTIVITIES • ART • DANCING
EVERY THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH
September through May
@santamonicapier | santamonicapier.org/localsnight | #pierlocalsnight