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Egg shortage hits food bank



Scott Snowden

EGGS: Westside Food Bank (WSFB) is turning to alternative suppliers to try and find eggs as scarce shelves shock customers around the country. WSFB said it has been unable to purchase eggs from their typical sources due to an avian flu outbreak and inflation. Lately, the organization has had to resort to buying the grocery staple from retail establishments outside their usual purchasing from wholesale food brokers, but those sources are also increasingly unavailable. For example, WSFB recently ordered 720 cartons of eggs from a big-box store, but supply chain challenges meant they could only provide 100 cartons.

"It is unfortunate that such an essential item is not as readily available as it once was," Westside Food Bank President and CEO Genevieve Riutort said. "This is such a key ingredient in homes and not being able to provide that to the families we serve breaks my heart."

This struggle comes as WSFB had already reduced egg purchases. In November, WSFB cut egg purchases by 20%, and that jumped to 50% in December because of the soaring costs of eggs.

To accommodate for the egg shortage, WSFB is pivoting to less expensive protein sources, like beans and canned fish and meats. They are encouraging members of the community to help provide nutritious food for people in need by donating on their website, wsfb.org/donatenow.

Construction plans advance at elementary and middle schools

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

While all eyes are on the emergency construction project at John Muir/SMASH, preplanned projects have continued at schools throughout the district with plans for work at McKinley and Grant currently open for public review.

The district is approaching the final phase of its multi-year Campus Assessment process to evaluate improvements to elementary and middle schools. Nine schools were evaluated and officials are working to allocate funds from the $485M Measure SMS bond approved by voters in 2018.

At McKinley the proposed project would be constructed in three phases over approximately 5.70 acres of the 6.48-acre campus. Plans include 11 existing portable classrooms, playground restrooms, one modular building, and one elevator being selectively demolished and removed for a total of 82,505 square feet of demolition over three phases.

At Grant, construction would also be in three phases and would occur over 5.41 acres of the 6.01-acre District-owned campus. Work would include the demolition and removal of some existing structures, including 10 existing modular classrooms, playground restrooms, shade structures, and a portion of one permanent building. The project includes renovation of

SEE **SCHOOL** PAGE 8

Santa Monica takes steps towards an electric future with new building codes going into effect

GRACE INEZ ADAMS
SMDP Staff Writer

Gas stoves, heaters and dryers are a thing of the past for new buildings in Santa Monica. Two new building codes that went into effect at the start of this year require all newly built constructions within city limits to be all-electric and include an increased number of electric vehicle (EV) charging spaces as part of efforts to reduce the city's carbon footprint.

Approved by city council in September, 2022, the new requirements build upon existing city and state codes. Both were initially introduced as part of Santa Monica's Climate Action and Adaptation plan which lays out a plan to reduce the City's carbon emissions by 80% by 2030.

Santa Monica buildings are currently responsible for about 30% of the City's carbon emissions, due in large part to the burning of natural gas for space and water heating. Senior Sustainability Analyst for the City's Office of Sustainability and the Environment Ariana Vito said focusing on fully electrifying new buildings is an effective way of reducing this impact going forward.

"We have a lot of new buildings that will be built to meet the state housing requirements," she said. "This is kind of a low hanging fruit way to ensure that new buildings that are built are as sustainable as

SEE **ELECTRIC BUILDINGS** PAGE 8



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State COVID testing sites begin to close as emergency ends

KRISTEN HWANG
Special to the Daily Press

California is preparing to close dozens of state-run COVID-19 testing and treatment sites ahead of the planned end of the state of emergency in February.

Sites that are operating under 50% capacity are scheduled to close before the end of January. Forty-four OptumServe sites will be shuttered this week, and 48 mobile "mini-buses" will begin closing in two weeks, according to the California Department of Public Health. OptumServe, a health care operations company, runs 123 testing and treatment sites along with four vaccination clinics through state contracts.

The health care giant has at least four contracts, under its former name Logistics Health, with the state totalling $1.05 billion to provide testing and vaccination services though it has been criticized in the past for its bumpy rollout. Another branch of the company signed an additional $47 million contract to design a data management system for COVID-19 test results.

"A final plan for demobilizing the remaining sites is being prepared, but we have not set a completion date," an unidentified department spokesperson said in a statement. The state health department would only answer emailed questions and did not attribute the statement to a person.

The state of emergency, which has provided extra funding and staffing flexibilities at medical facilities, is slated to end on the last day of February.

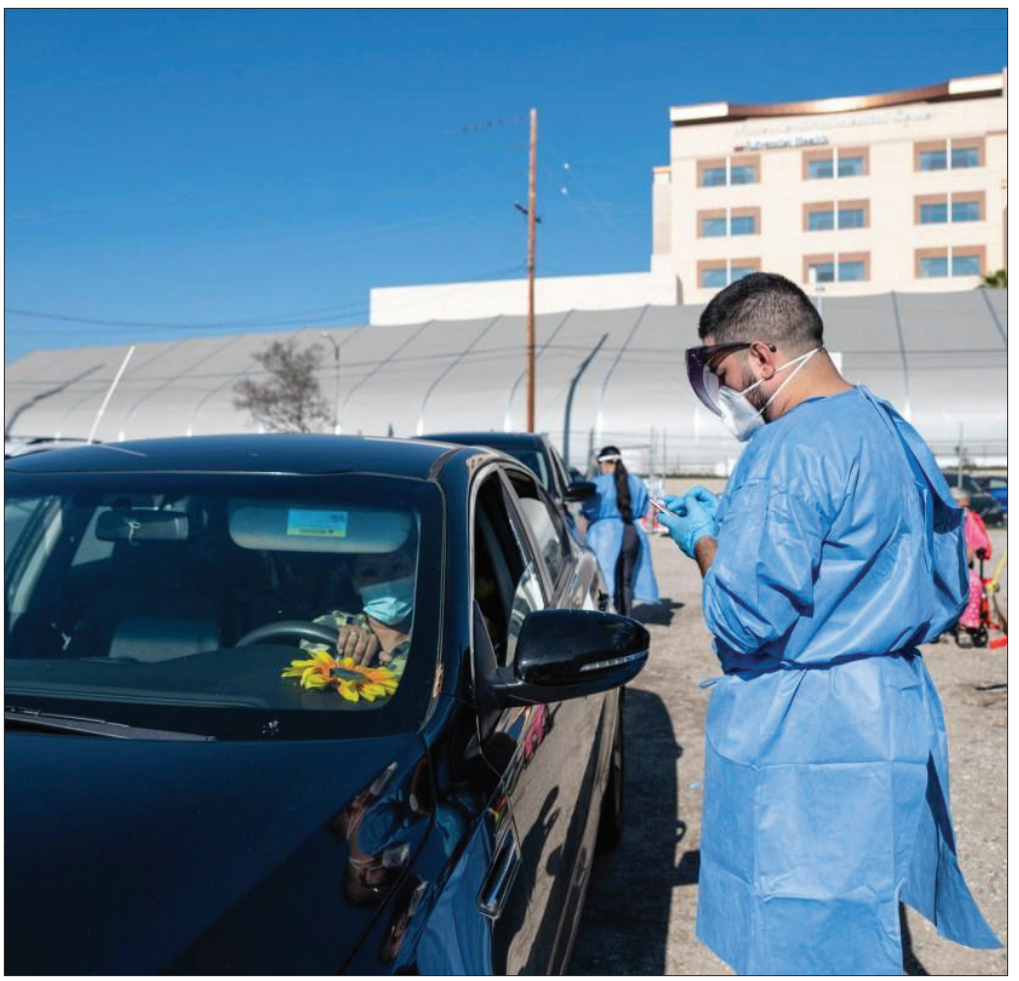
The closures come just one week after Gov. Gavin Newsom released his January budget proposal, which moves $614 million in unspent COVID-19 response funds to the state's general fund and drastically reduced the amount of pandemic money for the upcoming year.

Last year's budget included $1.8 billion for COVID-19 emergency response and the state's long-term strategy, while the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year is only $176.6 million. The cutbacks come as the state faces a projected $22.5 billion deficit, according to Newsom's proposal. State Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly said in a budget call with reporters that the bulk of the proposed decrease comes from fewer state testing responsibilities, but he emphasized that the spending reductions are not "a statement about moving on from COVID in California."

"We will continue to seek opportunities to support public health," Ghaly said. "We learned a lot through this COVID response, and we need to make sure we don't lose those gains."

Demand for molecular COVID-19 testing has plummeted statewide since last January, when the omicron variant pushed hospitals to the brink of collapse. At the time, more than 800,000 PCR test results were reported for a single day and more than 15,000 people were hospitalized with COVID-19 at the peak of the surge. In comparison, less than 30,000 test results and 4,600 hospitalizations

SEE **COVID TESTING** PAGE 8



Raquel Natalicchio for CalMatters

TESTING: A staff member of Total Testing Solutions Covid-19 testing site in Boyle Heights, Los Angeles checks in a patient that had been waiting over two hours in a long queue of cars for a COVID-19 test on Jan. 5, 2022.



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AI tools can create new images, but who is the real artist?

MATT O'BRIEN AND ARIJETA LAJKA
Associated Press

Countless artists have taken inspiration from "The Starry Night" since Vincent Van Gogh painted the swirling scene in 1889.

Now artificial intelligence systems are doing the same, training themselves on a vast collection of digitized artworks to produce new images you can conjure in seconds from a smartphone app.

The images generated by tools such as DALL-E, Midjourney and Stable Diffusion can be weird and otherworldly but also increasingly realistic and customizable — ask for a "peacock owl in the style of Van Gogh" and they can churn out something that might look similar to what you imagined.

But while Van Gogh and other long-dead master painters aren't complaining, some living artists and photographers are starting to fight back against the AI software companies creating images derived from their works.

Two new lawsuits — one this week from the Seattle-based photography giant Getty Images — take aim at popular image-generating services for allegedly copying and processing millions of copyright-protected images without a license.

Getty said it has begun legal proceedings in the High Court of Justice in London against Stability AI — the maker of Stable Diffusion — for infringing intellectual property rights to benefit the London-based startup's commercial interests.

Another lawsuit in a U.S. federal court in San Francisco describes AI image-generators as "21st-century collage tools that violate the rights of millions of artists." The lawsuit, filed on Jan. 13 by three working artists on behalf of others like them, also names Stability AI as a defendant, along with San Francisco-based image-generator startup Midjourney, and the online gallery DeviantArt.

The lawsuit alleges that AI-generated images "compete in the marketplace with the original images. Until now, when a purchaser seeks a new image 'in the style' of a given artist, they must pay to commission or license an original image from that artist."

Companies that provide image-generating services typically charge users a fee. After a free trial of Midjourney through the chatting app Discord, for instance, users must buy a subscription that starts at $10 per month or up to $600 a year for corporate memberships. The startup OpenAI also charges for use of its DALL-E image generator, and StabilityAI offers a paid service called DreamStudio.

Stability AI said in a statement that "Anyone that believes that this isn't fair use does not understand the technology and misunderstands the law."

In a December interview with The Associated Press, before the lawsuits were filed, Midjourney CEO David Holz described his image-making service as "kind of like a search engine" pulling in a wide swath of images from across the internet. He compared copyright concerns about the technology with how such laws have adapted to human creativity.

"Can a person look at somebody else's picture and learn from it and make a similar picture?" Holz said. "Obviously, it's allowed for people and if it wasn't, then it would destroy the whole professional art industry, probably the nonprofessional industry too. To the extent that AIs are learning like people, it's sort of the same thing and if the images come out differently then it seems like it's fine."

The copyright disputes mark the beginning of a backlash against a new generation of impressive tools — some of them introduced just last year — that can generate new visual media, readable text and computer code on command.

> "Once we lose this capability of telling what's real and what's fake, everything will suddenly become fake because you lose confidence of anything and everything
>
> - Wael Abd-Almageed, Professor of electrical and computer engineering at the University of Southern California.

They also raise broader concerns about the propensity of AI tools to amplify misinformation or cause other harm. For AI image generators, that includes the creation of nonconsensual sexual imagery.

Some systems produce photorealistic images that can be impossible to trace, making it difficult to tell the difference between what's real and what's AI. And while some have safeguards in place to block offensive or harmful content, experts fear it's only a matter of time until people utilize these tools to spread disinformation and further erode public trust.

"Once we lose this capability of telling what's real and what's fake, everything will suddenly become fake because you lose confidence of anything and everything," said Wael Abd-Almageed, a professor of electrical and computer engineering at the University of Southern California.

As a test, the AP submitted a text prompt on Stable Diffusion featuring the keywords "Ukraine war" and "Getty Images." The tool created photo-like images of soldiers in combat with warped faces and hands, pointing and carrying guns. Some of the images also featured the Getty watermark, but with garbled text.

AI can also get things wrong, like feet and fingers or details on ears that can sometimes give away that they're not real, but there's no set pattern to look out for. Those visual clues can also be edited. On Midjourney, users often post on the Discord chat asking for advice on how to fix distorted faces and hands.

With some generated images traveling on social networks and potentially going viral, they can be challenging to debunk since they can't be traced back to a specific tool or data source, according to Chirag Shah, a professor at the Information School at the University of Washington, who uses these tools for research.

"You could make some guesses if you have enough experience working with these tools," Shah said. "But beyond that, there is no easy or scientific way to really do this."

For all the backlash, there are many people who embrace the new AI tools and the creativity they unleash. Some use them as a hobby to create intricate landscapes, portraits and art; others to brainstorm marketing materials, video game scenery or other ideas related to their professions.

There's plenty of room for fear, but "what can else can we do with them?" asked the artist Refik Anadol this week at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, where he displayed an exhibit of climate-themed work created by training AI models on a trove of publicly available images of coral.

At the Museum of Modern Art in New York, Anadol designed "Unsupervised," which draws from artworks in the museum's prestigious collection — including "The Starry Night" — and feeds them into a digital installation generating animations of mesmerizing colors and shapes in the museum lobby.

The installation is "constantly changing, evolving and dreaming 138,000 old artworks at MoMA's archive," Anadol said. "From Van Gogh to Picasso to Kandinsky, incredible, inspiring artists who defined and pioneered different techniques exist in this artwork, in this AI dream world."

Anadol, who builds his own AI models, said in an interview that he prefers to look at the bright side of the technology. But he hopes future commercial applications can be fine-tuned so artists can more easily opt out.

"I totally hear and agree that certain artists or creators are very uncomfortable about their work being used," he said.

For painter Erin Hanson, whose impressionist landscapes are so popular and easy to find online that she has seen their influence in AI-produced visuals, the concern is not about her own prolific output, which makes $3 million a year.

She does, however, worry about the art community as a whole.

"The original artist needs to be acknowledged in some way or compensated," Hanson said. "That's what copyright laws are all about. And if artists aren't acknowledged, then it's going to make it hard for artists to make a living in the future."

O'Brien reported from Providence, Rhode Island.

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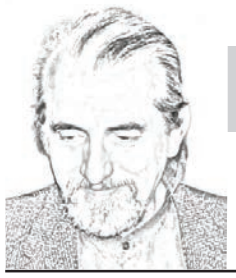
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WINNER

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OPINION **NOTEWORTHY**

Charles Andrews | Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Great music is worth waiting for

57 YEARS...

I hate technology, I love technology.

I previously wrote in NOTEWORTHY, upon the sad occasion of the sudden, unexpected death of British master electric guitarist Jeff Beck (of bacterial meningitis), that seeing him perform live was on my very short music bucket list. Somehow I missed him every time he came through town (which was not very often). I almost saw him, I thought, 57 years ago in a small New Mexico town.

It was unbelievable, that fall of my freshman year in college, The Yardbirds, one of the great British Invasion bands, would be playing Las Cruces, NM, but there it was. I convinced a couple of buddies that we had to go, even though it was more than 200 miles. We selected the person whose car seemed most likely to survive the trip and were all set to take off, very excited, when I somehow got word the night before that the venue had burned to the ground. Arson, from long hair hippie hating southern NM rednecks? We'll never know.

The Yardbirds famously kept replacing their star lead guitarist with another bigger star. The pick passed from Eric Clapton to Jeff Beck to Jimmy Page. I know. I didn't know then what the lineup was, and didn't care. But all this time later I was curious – who was the star Yardbirds guitar whiz that I almost saw? My research didn't answer the question, until finally I found a post where every single Yardbirds tour was listed, from beginnings through reformations and current pretender tours. It was on that list that I finally found their North American tour of that time, and the likely answer.

It was four dates, in early September 1965. Oklahoma City (State Fair), Phoenix (Jaycees Club), LA (Bob Marley's House - ??), and Memphis (Skateland). My guess is that Las Cruces was scheduled as the first stop (!!) until the fire, then OKC was quickly substituted. Because of the dates I was able to finally determine that it would have been the redoubtable Mr. Beck knocking out those fierce, inventive guitar runs.

Was it worth the wait, to finally, finally see him live at the beautiful Regent Theatre in downtown LA? Oh, yes. And it would be hard to imagine that anyone else in that packed house waited longer, or just missed him as a teenager because of a fire in the New Mexico desert.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

THE HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES – Close your eyes. Listen. Where am I? What part of the world? Which century? You're just outside Santa Monica, and it is now, every Monday in fact, for years now, and you haven't punched this free time travel ticket to 1930s Paris yet? OK, it is a tiny, unpretentious room in Culver City but the sound is great, the stage maybe a foot high and right next to you, drinks are reasonable, street parking is easy and there is no cover any night. Hot Club's brand of virtuoso, sometimes breakneck Django-style 1930s gypsy swing jazz is found nowhere else and even if it was, it couldn't possibly be this tasty. These guys are masters, individually and collectively. You will find it hard to stop smiling all night. Mon 9 p.m., Cinema Bar, Culver City, no cover.

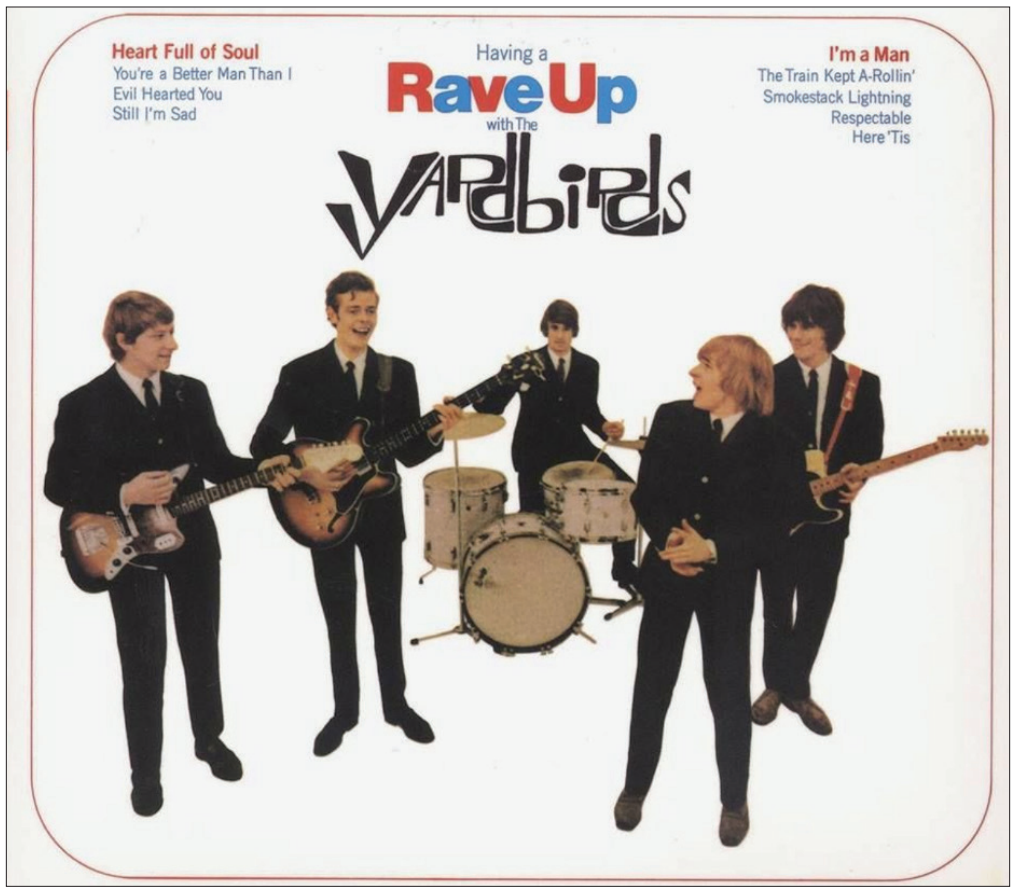
EM – She's back! After a little break she might even be over the top with energy and new creativity, so, now's the time! One of the most gifted and dynamic all-around entertainers you will ever see. That's quite a statement. But what if I'm right? 12 bucks and a little time is not much to gamble on a performer and a show that might leave you at a loss for words. And a fan forever. Go see her and then tell me I'm lyin'. Tues 9:30 p.m., Harvelle's, $12.

RECOMMENDED:

MONTEREY JAZZ FESTIVAL ON TOUR with KURT ELLING, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Lakecia Benjamin, Christian Sands, Yasushi Nakamura, Clarence Penn – All right, I'll 'fess up, I'm not very familiar with these performers. Names only, pretty much. But none of them would be on this bill if they weren't first class. Kurt Elling, on the other hand, I am familiar with. Take this for what it's worth, but I am recommending this show just because of him. I hope the large band setting, only one of several featured performers, doesn't take the magnetic, very personal edge off his act, because when I saw him not long ago at Zebulon in Silver Lake, he completely made a fan of me. A consummate performer, more like a rocker than a jazz man. So yeah, I am recommending that whole big show just so you can catch Elling casting his spell. Fri 8 p.m., Disney Hall, $49-104.

TOLEDO DIAMOND – Unique, riveting, first class act. Just trot your procrastinating carcass down this Sunday night and see what you've been missing. Choreographer to the biggest stars, his stage show is funky but finely crafted. His persona is unique; octaves-low growl vocalizing that is '50s hipster poet meshed with ghetto cool. His band just keeps getting better and are worth the show themselves. And The Dames? – well I remember back when he was on Sunset Strip that we were still taken by surprise when a young woman seemed so moved by the moment that she slid to the dance floor to gyrate to the groove, progressing (by Diamond design of course) to a featured dance number, even incorporating chairs, table and bar tops, and unsuspecting patrons as props. With Toledo barely noticing and never skipping a beat. There's nothing like it, it is high performance art and great fun, and he's been doing it at Harvelle's every dang Sunday night for more than two decades, no misses, even when he had to fly back from making a film in France. Rarely is degeneracy so well disciplined. Sun 9:30 p.m., Harvelle's, Santa Monica, $12.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: TOLEDO DIAMOND, Harvelle's, 1/22, 29; HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES, Cinema Bar, 1/23, 30, 2/6, 13, 20, 27; EM, Harvelle's, 1/24, 31, 2/7. 14, 28; AX – MA - KAVAKOS, Disney Hall, 1/28; EMMANUEL AX, Disney Hall, 2/1; "RACHMANINOFF WAS HERE," Maybourne Beverly Hills, 2/2; P-22 CELEBRATION OF LIFE, Greek Theater, 2/4; MOZART'S "THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO," LA OPERA, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 2/4, 6, 11, 16, 19, 23, 26; RICK SHEA, Cinema Bar, 2/10; DAREK OLESZKIEWICZ B-D CELEBRATION, Sam First, 2/11; "RACHMANINOFF WAS HERE: Beverly Hills Avant-Garde, Surrealism to Sunset Strip," BH Womens' Club, 2/11; "RACHMANINOFF WAS HERE: at the Greystone Mansion & Gardens," 2/18; DAMN WELL PLEASE ORGAN TRIO, Harvelle's, 2/21.



Courtesy photo

GUITAR: Jeff Beck (far right) died recently.

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 3,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 37 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

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GUEST COMMENTARY

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To reel in oil industry, California should examine its maintenance practices – not tax profits



Photo by Larry Valenzuela, CalMatters/CatchLight Local

GAS PUMPS: Gas prices at a pump station in central Fresno on Sept. 29, 2022.

LARRY HARRIS
Special to the Daily Press

Retail gasoline prices last year shot to record highs in California – a spike partly related to crude oil prices – but to a level unique to the Golden State. Responding to widespread outrage, Gov. Gavin Newsom called for a special session of the California Legislature to consider imposing an excess profits tax on refiners.

Although founded on fairness principles, Newsom's proposed tax will do little to address the underlying root causes of the price spikes. State elected officials instead need to shift their focus and understand the incentives for refiners to maintain their facilities and store finished products. To accelerate effective policymaking, the Legislature must facilitate research and lift the legal barriers to accessing the state's industry data.

In general, refinery shutdowns are necessary to conduct maintenance and to address unexpected safety and quality problems. These outages largely do not impact prices since refineries typically store significant amounts of gasoline to cover potential shortages. Outside of California, many refineries produce common gasoline grades, so lost production at a single refinery rarely affects overall prices.

But in California, refineries are required to produce specially formulated gasoline grades and switch between summer and winter formulations. Since few refineries produce the state's formulation, routine and unscheduled shutdowns can cause shortages that other refineries cannot make up. Additionally, refineries are reluctant to store substantial quantities of the current formulation when the seasonal changeover is near. These shortages cause our gasoline price spikes.

The role of these factors – and the lack of scrutiny – demonstrate that policymakers must pay close attention to refiner maintenance practices to attenuate spikes in gasoline prices.

When gasoline prices increase, producing refiners collect windfall profits. This means refiners have a strong incentive to produce during price spikes.

These incentives are strongest for refiners that operate only one refinery producing California grades. If they experience an outage, they miss out on the windfall.

But if a refiner operates two or more sites, periodic price spikes alter their incentives for maintenance. When one of their refineries goes offline, the windfall profits they obtain at other refineries offset their lost profits. The windfall profits can be so great that the refiner may make more money overall despite a shutdown.

Multi-refinery operators thus have an incentive to schedule more routine maintenance. And depending on repair costs, the windfall profits earned reduce their incentives to better maintain their equipment. If repair costs are not too high relative to maintenance costs, they will do less maintenance, and unscheduled downtime will increase.

These observations are founded on well-accepted managerial economic theory that researchers have proven in many other industries. Still, knowing that these predictions actually characterize maintenance decisions made by California refiners would be helpful to public policymakers. In particular, policymakers ought to know whether maintenance outcomes vary by how many refineries refiners operate.

To this end, I asked the California Energy Commission to allow me to examine the

SEE **GAS PRICES** PAGE 7

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Warming to make California downpours even wetter, study says

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

As damaging as it was for more than 32 trillion gallons of rain and snow to fall on California since Christmas, a worst-case global warming scenario could juice up similar future downpours by one-third by the middle of this century, a new study says.

The strongest of California's storms from atmospheric rivers, long and wide plumes of moisture that form over an ocean and flow through the sky over land, would probably get an overall 34% increase in total precipitation, or another 11 trillion gallons more than just fell. That's because the rain and snow is likely to be 22% more concentrated at its peak in places that get really doused, and to fall over a considerably larger area if fossil fuel emissions grow uncontrolled, according to a new study in Thursday's journal Nature Climate Change.

> We are providing more of a worst-case scenario, but understanding that if we do take action to reduce emissions in the future, we could end up better
>
> – Ruby Leung, Climate scientist at the U.S. Pacific Northwest National Lab

The entire western United States would likely see a 31% increase in precipitation from these worst of the worst storms in a souped-up warming world because of more intense and widely spread rainfall, the study said.

Scientists say the worst-case scenario, which is about 7.9 degrees Fahrenheit of warming since pre-industrial times, looks a bit more unlikely since efforts are being undertaken to rein in emissions. If countries do as they promise, temperatures are on track to warm about 4.9 degrees Fahrenheit, according to Climate Action Tracker.

The National Weather Service calculated that California averaged 11.47 inches of precipitation statewide from Dec. 26 to Jan. 17 — including 18.33 inches in Oakland and 47.74 inches in one spot 235 miles north of San Francisco — because of a series of nine devastating atmospheric rivers that caused power outages, flooding, levee breaks, washouts and landslides. At least 20 people died.

"It could be even worse," said study author Ruby Leung, a climate scientist at the U.S. Pacific Northwest National Lab. "We need to start planning how would we be able to deal with this."

Leung used regional scale computer simulations to predict what the worst of the western winter storms will be like between 2040 and 2070 in a scenario where carbon emissions have run amok. She looked at total precipitation, how concentrated peak raining and snowing would be and the area that gets hit. All three factors grow for the West in general. California is predicted to get the highest increase in peak precipitation, while the Southwest is likely to see more rain because of a big jump in area of rainfall. The Pacific Northwest would see the least juicing of the three areas.

Overall precipitation is a bit lessened from adding all the factors, because just as the peak rainfall grows the rainfall on the edges of the storms is predicted to weaken, according to the study.

There are two types of storms that Leung said she worries about: Flash floods from intense rain concentrated over a small area and slower, larger floods that occur from rain and snow piling up over a large area. Both are bad, but the flash floods cause more damage and hurt people more, she said.

And those flash floods are likely to get worse from what Leung's paper calls a "sharpening" effect that happens in an ever warmer world. That means more rainfall concentrated in the central areas of storms, falling at higher rates per hour, while at the outer edges rainfall is a bit weaker.

This happens because of the physics of rain storms, Leung said.

Not only can the atmosphere hold 4% more moisture per degree Fahrenheit, but it's what happens in the storm that changes and makes the precipitation come down even more, Leung said. You've got air rising inside the storm with more water vapor condensing to produce rain and snow; it then releases heat "that kind of causes the storm to become more vigorous and stronger," she said.

When water vapor condenses it comes down as rain and snow along the edges of the storm, but heating sort of squeezes that falling precipitation in toward the middle, Leung said.

"The concepts and impacts of how precipitation features are likely to change are well quantified and well explained," said David Gochis, an expert in how water affects the weather at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, who wasn't part of the study.

When she used computer simulations, Leung chose the most severe worst-case scenario for how the world's carbon emissions will grow. It's a scenario that used to be called business as usual, but the world is no longer on that track. After years of climate negotiations and the growth of renewable fuels the globe is heading to less warming than the worst case, according to climate scientist Zeke Hausfather of the tech company

SEE **CALIFORNIA STORM** PAGE 8

SMC Volleyball







Photos courtesy of Santa Monica College

SMC: At a first-ever "All Alumni Day & Match" held Jan. 13 in Santa Monica College's Corsair Gym, SMC men's volleyball players and coaches from throughout the years took part in an evening of recognition, camaraderie, and friendly competition. Guests including legendary/U.S. Olympian athletes and coaches Butch May, Dave DeGroot, Pat Powers, Marv Dunphy, and many more were present. The event sponsored by the SMC Foundation was designed to recognize past luminaries and to connect the new generation with its storied roots.

GAS PRICES

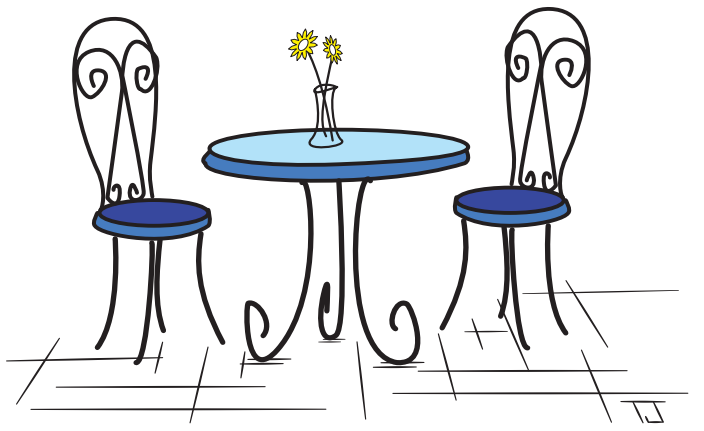
FROM PAGE 5

production data that all California gasoline refiners report monthly. Unfortunately, current law only allows the commission and its employees to examine the data. This restriction prevents academic researchers (or members of the public) from producing work that could help the Legislature and the energy commission better regulate gasoline markets.

In the meantime, agency employees should study their data to determine whether maintenance outcomes vary by how many sites a refiner operates. If they do – as I expect they will find – the commission should strengthen the incentives to keep refineries up and operating safely and, in turn, keep prices lower at the pump.

This article was originally published by CalMatters. Larry Harris is a professor and the Fred V. Keenan Chair in Finance at the USC Marshall School of Business. He was chief economist of the Securities and Exchange Commission from 2002-04.

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SCHOOL

FROM PAGE 1

some structures that remain, construction of two new buildings, new and reconfigured playfields and playgrounds, and two new and reconfigured parking lots.

The environmental review process for two schools will open soon. The district will hold in-person meetings on Jan. 31 for McKinley and Feb. 7 for Grant to accept comments from the community.

The scoping meetings are part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process and will cover historical findings, campus plans, and discuss findings of the Initial Study (IS) that was prepared for each campus.

Following the public meetings and feedback from regulators, the district will prepare a final report for presentation to the SMMUSD Board in the Spring of this year.

A similar process has already concluded for other schools including Franklin, JAMS and Will Rogers.

The proposed Franklin project consists of removing and demolishing eight buildings and nine portables, constructing three new buildings, and renovating two buildings and outdoor areas on the existing school campus.

At JAMS the project would occur over four phases and would result in demolition of one existing building, construction of one new building, and renovation/reuse of six existing buildings over an approximate span of 10 to 15 years.

At Will Rogers, the project would result in the addition of the property located at 1515 Maple Street to campus and the removal/demolition of 16 portable and permanent buildings, construction of three new buildings, renovation and reuse of eight existing buildings (classrooms and cafetorium) and outdoor spaces, and reconfiguration of outdoor and parking/transportation areas over an approximate span of 10 to 15 years.

Those projects have concluded the comment process and moved through approval by the SMMUSD Board.

To attend one of the upcoming meetings (McKinley Elementary School, Jan. 31, 801 Montana Ave. and Grant Elementary School Feb. 7, 2368 Pearl St.), register at: https://bit.ly/CmtyMtngs2023.

For more information on SMMUSD construction projects, visit https://www.smmusd.org/Page/5527.

editor@smdp.com

ELECTRIC BUILDINGS

FROM PAGE 1

possible."

Vito said that the prohibition of gas appliances in new builds is especially positive in light of recent studies that have highlighted the negative effects of gas stoves on health, including increasing risk for childhood asthma.

"It really enables us to kind of walk in reduced emissions and better health for people living and working in new buildings," she said.

In addition to environmental and health benefits, Vito added that the new requirements have beneficial financial implications as well.

"The efficiency is so much better for a lot of electric appliances and there's more flexibility in terms of being able to take advantage of lower electricity costs. For example, with water heaters you can program them to heat the water in the tank when electricity is cheaper during off peak periods," she said."It also reduces construction costs by not requiring a gas hookup, only electric, so one less connection for powering the facility."

She said the increased EV charging space requirement makes sense for similar reasons.

"We're seeing a pretty significant increase in EV adoption largely tied to reduced prices of electric vehicles and increased incentives at the state and now federal level," she said, adding that removing roadblocks at the city level can help further facilitate the transition to non-gas transportation methods.

"Santa Monica has comparably pretty high adoption rates of EVs, but we know that the biggest challenge typically when people are interested in switching to electric is not having somewhere to charge in their home or work," she said. "So ensuring that new buildings have increased levels of charging infrastructure just makes it that much easier."

She added that there are rebates available at the federal, state and local level for those who purchase EVs.

Those interested in learning more about EV infrastructure and incentives in Santa Monica can visit https://santamonica.gov/topic-explainers/electric-vehicles.

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ALSO AVAILABLE ON

COVID TESTING

FROM PAGE 2

were reported on the final day of December (the most recent day with finalized tallies, according to state data).

Across the state, county health departments are preparing for the closures and absorbing the costs into their own budgets.

In Los Angeles County, OptumServe will stop operating four sites, but the county will contract with another vendor to keep the doors open, a county health services spokesperson said via email.

"It is important to underscore that the change will be seamless," the health services communications office told CalMatters in an unsigned statement. "Community residents seeking a testing site will not experience any disruption to the existing services."

> "Public health recently created a COVID Prevention and Control Program as part of our standard operations. Most of the work now resides here
> - Roger Ross

During a media briefing last week, L.A. County Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said the county was committed to ensuring there are "ample" testing and vaccination options.

In other areas of the state, health departments are unable to run the sites alone. All five OptumServe sites in Fresno County will close by Jan. 31. Only one of the sites is currently operating above 50% capacity, public health spokesperson Michelle Rivera said. The mobile test-to-treat buses will stop services the first week of February.

Community members will still have options, Rivera said. The county health department is continuing to work with community-based organizations, UCSF-Fresno and Fresno State's nursing school to keep offering testing, treatment and vaccination services throughout the area. The Fresno County Board of Supervisors also approved funding for a rural mobile health program to deliver health care to farmworker and other rural communities.

Fresno County has been hit particularly hard by the latest post-holiday wave of COVID-19 as well as concurrent flu and respiratory syncytial virus surges, issuing emergency do-not-transport orders to EMTs for the sixth time since the start of the pandemic to combat overflowing emergency departments. Do-not-transport orders, also known as assess-and-refer, require ambulance personnel to determine whether a patient requires emergency transportation or if they are stable enough to be referred to a non-emergency medical facility like primary care.

In Santa Clara County, state-run sites are also slated for closure in the coming weeks, emergency operations spokesperson Roger Ross said. The county will, however, continue to run three mass vaccination sites and has already begun folding COVID-19 response into the health department's normal operations.

"Public health recently created a COVID Prevention and Control Program as part of our standard operations. Most of the work now resides here," Ross said. "Unfortunately, it appears we will be dealing with COVID for the long haul."

In Orange County, where COVID-19 health orders have at times drawn public ire, testing and vaccination strategies will largely move to "the open marketplace where individuals will self-manage COVID-19" through primary care and other community resources, the health department announced last month in a news release. County-run vaccine sites, which were serving about 200 patients per week, were closed in December, although the health department continues to offer vaccinations for vulnerable populations like unhoused individuals, said Obinna Oleribe, deputy chief of Orange County public health services.

The federal government requires health insurance plans to cover eight over-the-counter COVID-19 tests per person per month, including FDA-approved at-home PCR tests. Every household can also order four free rapid tests from the federal government. When used appropriately, at-home tests of all kinds are considered highly accurate, although data shows PCR tests are more reliable.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

CALIFORNIA STORM

FROM PAGE 6

Stripe and Berkeley Earth.

"We are providing more of a worst-case scenario, but understanding that if we do take action to reduce emissions in the future, we could end up better," Leung said. "If we control the emissions and lower the global warming in the future, we can limit the impacts of climate change on the society, particularly flooding and extreme precipitation that we are talking about in this study."

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 20)

Your cosmic birthday gift is cash in the card! This year you'll grow in skill, social reach and power. You'll gain resources and mentors to show you how to use them. More highlights: earning a certificate, exciting events with a cherished loved one, and a reverse-Russian-doll series of ever-bigger treats. Sagittarius and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 30, 21, 14 and 6.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). People remember who you are because you make an impression. Interacting with you is a little different from what people would normally get and because of this, they feel something. Emotional response is what creates memories.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It is good to yearn sometimes because it tells you that what you want is deeply important to you and worth putting some effort into. Once you understand this, get into action. Yearning is better as a fuel than a personality trait.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll be surrounded by dynamic people. Avoid comparison. Let success stories inspire instead of intimidate you. What matters most now is consistent action toward your aim.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You've sparked someone's interest and will have the opportunity to make a further impression, a pitch, or both at a face-to-face meeting. This will go well because you'll show up early and come prepared.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There's so much you could say, do and bring to the table but you'll be wise to focus on what fits the situation. This takes discernment and maturity. They'll know you by your effective, efficient contribution.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Scientists have proven that storytelling activates more of the brain than other information delivery systems. You'll tell stories to connect with someone or make a point. The story will change as you shape it for maximum impact.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Even though social conditioning is in and of itself a mask, there are moments you feel safe enough to take it off. You are both vulnerable and powerful in those moments when your private and public selves merge.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Often, we become so familiar with our own struggles that we don't know what we're doing wrong, nor can we see a clear way out of the trap. An astute outside observer will be an enormous help today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Is it a hobby or an obsession? A loved one may want you to dial it back, assuming you'll have more attention to pour their way. But you're more inclined to finish what you started. Your passions feed your soul.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You may end up at the same destination as everyone else, but your way of getting there will be different. No need to keep checking where everyone is. Stick to your own route and focus on enjoying the scenery where you are.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). People around you will be inclined to show you how much they like you. Accept the attention. Rejecting praise is like turning down cake: it might offend the baker. You don't have to eat it all up, but at least take a bite.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You may have the sensation that you are steering the action like a child turning the little steering wheel at the front of the grocery cart. You go right, left, full circle but the cart always goes where your mom wants it to.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

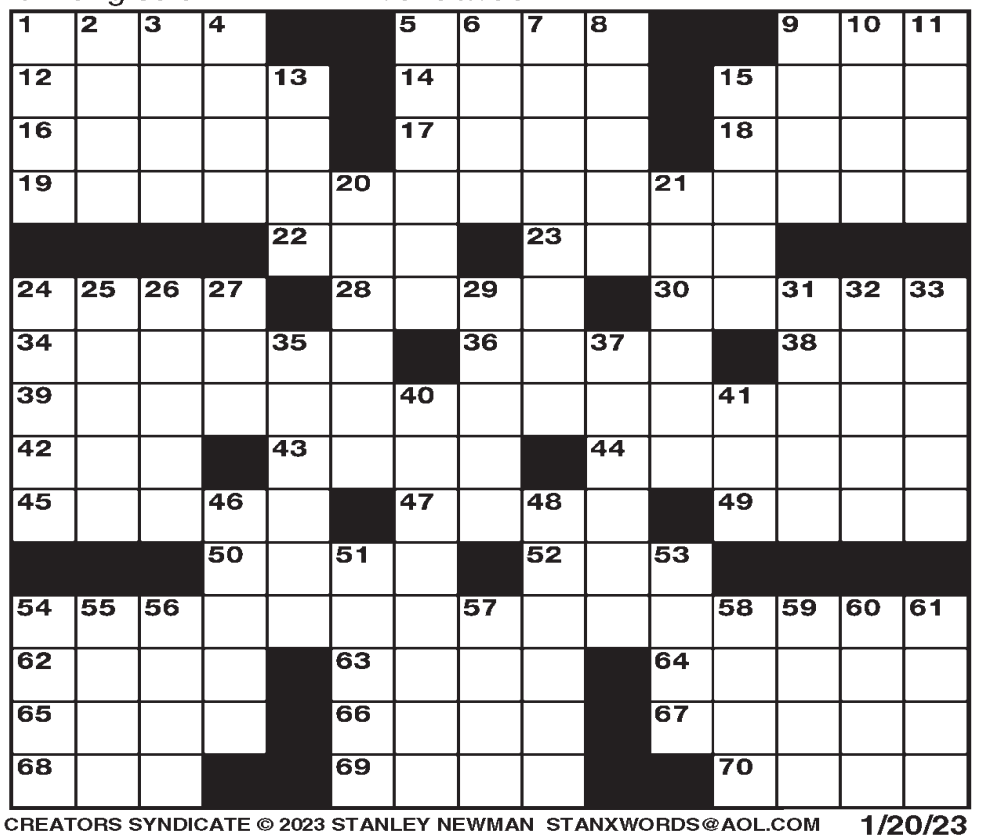
		3		4			9	5
	8				7			
6		5		9		7		
	9	1			3	2		6
			4		1			
2		7	6			4	8	
		8		6		9		2
			1				4	
3	4			8		1		

Newsday Crossword

TAG ENDS by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Far from riveting
5 Play group
9 Glossy reading
12 Shade close to plum
14 Hard to find: Lat.
15 Tree-lined walk
16 Buffett's birthplace
17 Decorative material
18 Large fair
19 Energy expenditure at rest
22 Opposite of "enhance"
23 Benefit
24 Gerald Ford's major at UMich
28 Bakery assortment
30 Plastic patch
34 Savings bank, to Wall Streeters
36 Water transporter
38 Many a silicate
39 World-famous
42 "Based __ true story"
43 Noncommittal conclusion
44 Pressing
45 Fish-finding aid
47 Rouse from inactivity
49 *Simpsons* bus driver
50 Oppose boldly
52 Chi preceder
54 Result of planetary rotation
62 Pointed tip of a tooth
63 Clears (of)
64 Taken as a whole
65 Hilarious experience
66 Soft rock
67 What the three long answers end with, in brief
68 Emotional peaks
69 Pop singer from Donegal
70 Newcastle's river

DOWN
1 Bit of paint
2 South American capital
3 "Regrettably . . ."
4 A few laughs
5 Major road
6 Shopper's selection
7 Period when dinosaurs appeared
8 Rio rhythm
9 Long suit
10 They run through northern Italy
11 Rip off
13 Storm warning, supposedly
15 Fight, from the French
20 Many a saint
21 Conflict avoidance phrase
24 Group character
25 Coarse cotton
26 Bach's instrument
27 US medical research agency
29 Where to see Spaceship Earth
31 One of Santa's team
32 Negative contraction
33 Brought about
35 Bit of broccoli
37 What deer can be
40 Ancient Mesopotamian
41 "Where did __ right?" (*Producers* line)
46 Alter for a new medium
48 Lake source of the Mississippi
51 Long suit
53 Heron cousin
54 Hosiery hue
55 Pointed line
56 GI hangouts
57 Without purpose
58 Military detachment
59 Not inclined to hustle
60 Narrow lowland
61 Besides this

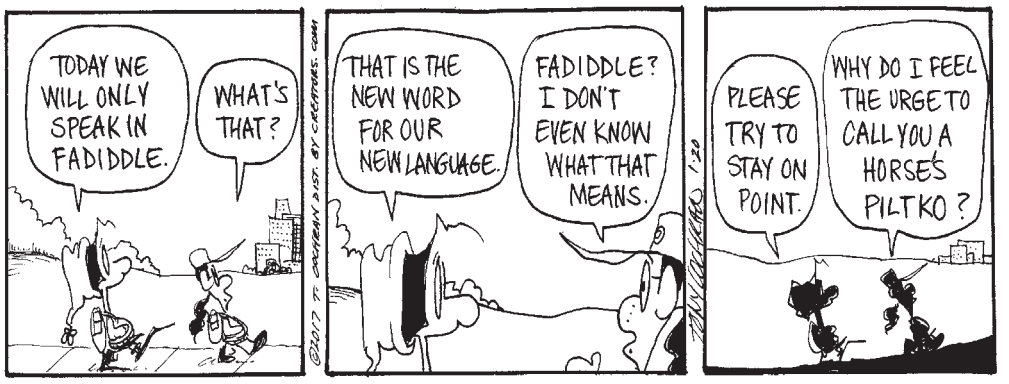


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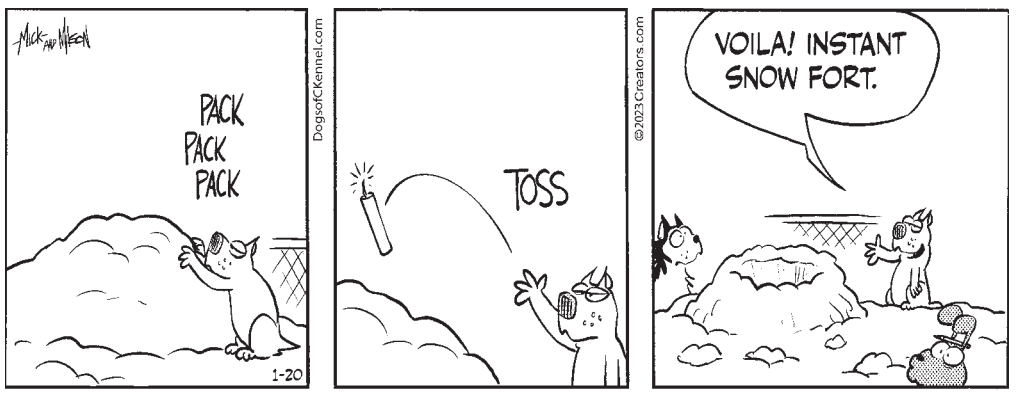
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

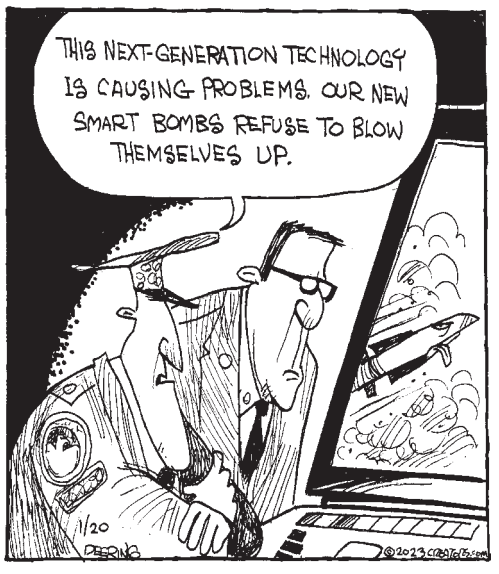
By PETER GALLAGHER



"WE'RE LIVING THE DREAM."

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 13 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 5730

Veggie delight

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

Aloe	Dill	Juice	Plum	Swede
Basil	Endive	Kale	Radish	Taro
Beds	Fennel	Leek	Reap	Tomato
Beet	Fertiliser	Mint	Ripe	paste
Carrot	Flower	Mulch	Salad	Truss
Celery	Frost	Neep	Snails	Vines
Chia	Fruits	Okra	Soft	Water
Choko	Grow	Orach	Soil	Yam
Coriander	Gumbo	Peas	Sorrel	
Cress	Herbs	Pests	Space	
Crop	Hose	Plots	Spray	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

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FRIDAY | JANUARY 20

TAKÁCS QUARTET WITH JEREMY DENK
Experience a night of acoustic wonderment from two titans of classical music. The richly dramatic program is uniquely interpreted through the energy and imagination of the prestigious Takács Quartet and MacArthur "Genius" Jeremy Denk. Program includes works from Haydn, Mendelssohn Hensel, and Schumann.
BroadStage, 1310 11th St. https://broadstage.org/performances/2022-23/classical/takacsjeremydenk

SATURDAY | JANUARY 21

PULL MY FINGER
A super silly and high energy g-rated comedy show fun for the whole family! All ages welcome. The Crow, 2525 Michigan Avenue, Unit F4. https://www.crowcomedy.com/family-shows

GRAMMY-AWARD WINNING GUITAR ARTIST LAURENCE JUBER
First internationally recognized as lead guitarist in Paul McCartney's Wings, Juber has since established himself as a renowned guitar virtuoso and entertainer. Laurence Juber returns to McCabe's with his trio: long-time studio collaborator Domenic Genova on upright bass/bass guitar and Christopher Allis on drums and percussion. LJ will perform on both acoustic and electric guitar, with an eclectic repertoire drawn from his own celebrated compositions and arrangements. McCabes Guitar Shop 1301 Pico Blvd 8 p.m. Tickets are $28 https://www.mccabes.com/product/laurence-juber-trio

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

NOTABLE FICTION BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
Join a community-led discussion of award-winning current and classic fiction, held via Zoom. Contact library@santamonica.gov for the link. 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

SUNDAY | JANUARY 22

SANTA MONICA AIRPORT ANTIQUE MARKET
Noted as One of the Top Ten "Flea Markets' in America, visit the Santa Monica Airport Antique Market, a fun outdoor market full of many great dealers with furniture, antiques, collectibles, art, vintage clothes, jewelry, rugs and much more. As a destination for lovers of antiques of all ages, shop from a wide range of styles from Victorian to Mid-Century. The market is located next to the Museum of Flying and occurs every 1st and 4th Sunday of every month.

MONDAY | JANUARY 23

KARAOKE NIGHT PARTY AT TAVERN ON MAIN
Sing a song, sing it loud and sing it strong at Tavern on Main's Karaoke Night Party, every Monday and Wednesday night from 9pm to 1am. Enjoy music, food, and atmosphere with free entry. Late Night happy hour will last from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m.

BLOOD DRIVE
To book a time to give, visit RedCrossBlood.org, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, or call 1-800-RED CROSS. In partnership with the National Football League (NFL), those who come to give blood, platelets or plasma Jan. 1-31, 2023, will be automatically entered to win a trip for two to Super Bowl LVII in Arizona. 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., American Red Cross Santa Monica Chapter, 1450 11th St.

SANTA MONICA AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING
The Airport Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the City Council in all matters pertaining to the Municipal Airport and to aviation matters generally to the extent that they affect the City. City Hall, 1685 Main St. 7 p.m.

TUESDAY | JANUARY 24

BOOK GROUP OF THE SANTA MONICA BAY WOMANS CLUB
The January gathering at this historic Santa Monica location (1210 Fourth St.) will begin with a short discussion of the love of books and the books we love. It will then focus on "We Are Our Mothers' Daughters" by Cokie Roberts. For questions or to RSVP please email Susan Barry at sbarry1015@sbcglobal.net. Santa Monica Bay Womans Club,1210 Fourth St, 6 p.m.

ACTIVE AGING AT THE MONTANA BRANCH LIBRARY
Stop by the Active Aging table and talk with staff about the program and your transportation options. Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Avenue, 1 - 3 p.m.

WEDNESDAY | JANUARY 25

KID'S CLUB
Come play with us on the first Wednesday of every month for a fun, family-friendly musical morning hosted by Twinkle Time, a bilingual, Billboard pop-artist for kids, and featuring special guests each month. This free event will provide snacks (while supplies last). Santa Monica Place, 395 Santa Monica Place.

For help submitting an event, contact us at
310-458-7737 or submit to events@smdp.com



SURF REPORT
WATER TEMP: **60.8**

FRIDAY *POOR TO FAIR*	**SURF:**	1-2ft Knee to thigh	Still some modest NW swell running and the wind looks favorable. Mind the early AM high tide.
SATURDAY *POOR TO FAIR*	**SURF:**	1-2ft Knee to thigh	Mix of modest NW swell and selective long-period WNW swell forerunners. Nice conditions continue. Mind the mid AM high tide.

WEATHER

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 60.
Friday Night: Clear, with a low around 43.
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 62.
Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 45.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2023/01/20	Fri	12:58 AM	2.16	L
2023/01/20	Fri	07:23 AM	6.88	H
2023/01/20	Fri	2:47 PM	-1.88	L
2023/01/20	Fri	9:17 PM	3.85	H
2023/01/21	Sat	01:50 AM	1.93	L
2023/01/21	Sat	08:10 AM	7.10	H
2023/01/21	Sat	3:29 PM	-2.02	L
2023/01/21	Sat	9:56 PM	4.03	H
2023/01/22	Sun	02:40 AM	1.71	L
2023/01/22	Sun	08:57 AM	7.06	H
2023/01/22	Sun	4:11 PM	-1.91	L
2023/01/22	Sun	10:36 PM	4.21	H
2023/01/23	Mon	03:33 AM	1.55	L
2023/01/23	Mon	09:44 AM	6.71	H
2023/01/23	Mon	4:52 PM	-1.57	L
2023/01/23	Mon	11:18 PM	4.38	H
2023/01/24	Tue	04:28 AM	1.48	L
2023/01/24	Tue	10:33 AM	6.08	H

DAILY LOTTERY

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 1/18
6 15 22 42 47
Power#: 26
Jackpot: 473 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/17
2 12 18 24 39
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 20 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 1/18
3 7 21 34 40
Mega#: 22
Jackpot: 26 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/18
1 12 18 25 35

Daily 3
Draw Date: 1/18
EVENING: 7 8 7
Draw Date: 1/18
MIDDAY: 1 3 4

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 1/18
1st: 02 - Lucky Star
2nd: 03 - Hot Shot
3rd: 04 - Big Ben
Race Time: 1:41.70

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