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WEDNESDAY
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Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 22 Issue 59

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Student absenteeism still on the rise in post remote learning era

GRACE INEZ ADAMS
SMDP Staff Writer

Since the start of the 2022-2023 school year in August, 2,742 students have already missed at least 10% of days of class in Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) schools.

According to a report presented to the Board of Education last week, high absenteeism rates continue to be an issue of concern for the District following the outbreak of the COVID 19 pandemic and an extended period of remote learning.

A previous report showed that the number of chronically absent students – those who miss 10% of school days or more – just about doubled from 10.3% in the pre-pandemic 2018-2019 year to 20.4% in 2021-2022.

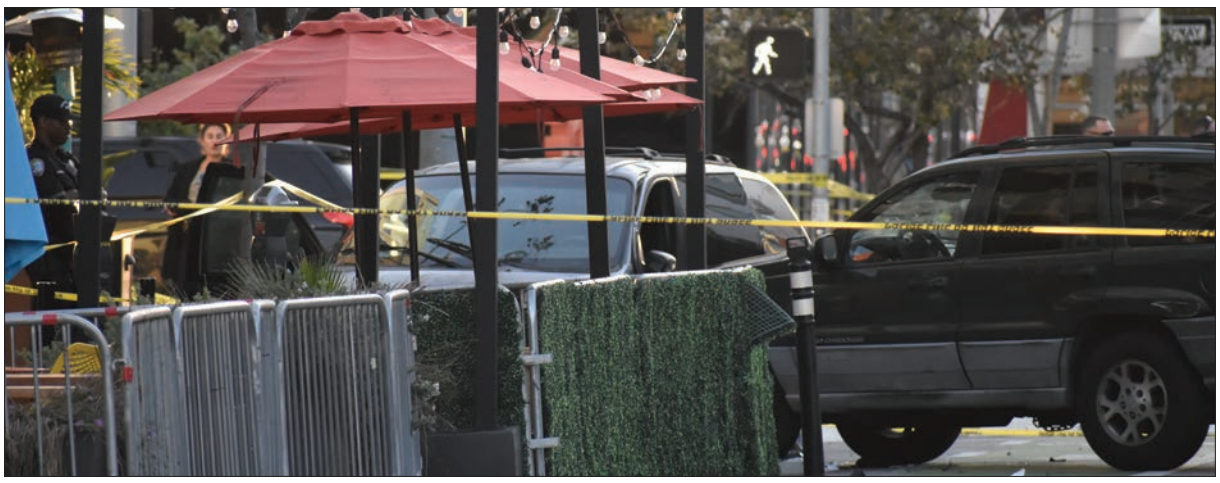
That number continues to climb. So far this school year, 31% of the District's nearly 9,000 students have been classified as chronically absent. Of these students, 7% have missed 20% of days or more. An additional 27% have missed between 5-10%.

Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Jacqueline Mora said the trend is not unique to SMMUSD and is being seen around the country and throughout California.

"Absenteeism has increased;

SEE **ATTENDANCE** PAGE 8

Shots fired after a two-car crash



Grace Inez Adams

CLOSED: Police closed two blocks on Tuesday following a shooting at 6th and Broadway.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

A man has been arrested for shooting at a victim following a two-car crash Tuesday afternoon.

According to SMPD, officers responded to a shots fired call at about 3:42 p.m. near the intersection of 6th and Broadway.

One victim, described as a man in his 40's, was transported to a local hospital with minor injuries to his shoulder.

Witnesses said the two cars were involved in a collision and reported seeing one driver exit an SUV and shoot into the other car. SMPD said the suspect was arrested and a handgun was recovered at the scene.

Local resident Ava Murphy said, "I heard gunshots. First there was one and it sounded like something probably fell and then after that there was [sic] probably six more ... As soon as there were gunshots, I heard police cars coming and I saw a young man walking across the street and he had blood on his t-shirt ... Maybe around 3:30, somewhere around that time."

SMPD said the investigation was active and no motivation was known at this time but initial investigation suggests the victim and suspect know each other.

Matthew Hall and Grace Adams contributed to this story.

Officials tour Samohi's mental health services

TOUR: Samohi hosted Colorado Governor Jared Polis, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and Jennifer Siebel (wife of Gov Newsom) as part of the National Governors Association programs in the area yesterday. The group toured several campus locations where students may make therapy appointments, walk in for support, attend group supports, find resources and services and relax and be mindful.



Santa Monica man missing after swimming near Pacifica



SFSU

STUDENT: Al-Saudi is missing.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

A Santa Monica man remains missing after being swept out to sea in Northern California.

Hamzah Al-Saudi, 22, was with two friends in Pacifica when the three entered the water at about 10:30 a.m. on Jan. 19. While in the water, Al-Saudi was struck by a large wave and pulled away from shore. While the other two swimmers were able to exit the water and call for help, Al-Saudi never came out of the water.

"Officers and fire fighters searched the area and surrounding beaches for the swimmer without

SEE **MISSING STUDENT** PAGE 8



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‘Everything Everywhere’ tops Oscar nominations with 11

JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

The multiverse-skipping sci-fi indie hit “Everything Everywhere All at Once” led nominations to the 95th Academy Awards as Hollywood heaped honors on big-screen spectacles like “Top Gun: Maverick” and “Avatar: The Way of Water” a year after a streaming service won best picture for the first time.

Daniel Scheinert and Daniel Kwan’s “Everything Everywhere All at Once” landed a leading 11 nominations on Tuesday, including nods for Michelle Yeoh and comeback kid Ke Huy Quan, the former child star of “Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom.” Released back in March, the A24 film has proven an unlikely Oscar heavyweight against the expectations of even its makers. Yeoh became the first Asian actor nominated for best actress.

“Even just to be nominated means validation, love, from your peers,” said an “overwhelmed” Yeoh speaking by phone from London. “What it means for the rest of the Asians around the world, not just in America but globally, is to say we have a seat at the table. We finally have a seat at the table. We are being recognized and being seen.”

The 10 movies up for best picture are: “Everything Everywhere All at Once,””The Banshees of Inisherin,” “The Fabelmans,” “Tár,” “Top Gun: Maverick,” “Avatar: The Way of Water,” “Elvis,” “All Quiet on the Western Front,” “Women Talking” and “Triangle of Sadness.”

Nominations were announced Tuesday from the academy’s Samuel Goldwyn Theater in Beverly Hills, California, by Riz Ahmed and Allison Williams. If last year’s Oscars were dominated by streaming — Apple TV+’s “CODA” won best picture and Netflix landed a leading 27 nominations — movies that drew moviegoers to multiplexes after two years of pandemic make up many of this year’s top contenders.

For the first time, two sequels — “Top Gun: Maverick” and “Avatar: The Way of Water” — were nominated for best picture. The two films together account for some $3.5 billion in box office. Tom Cruise missed out on an acting nomination, but “Top Gun: Maverick” — often credited with bringing many moviegoers back to theaters — walked away with seven nominations, including best sound, best visual effects and best song for Lada Gaga’s “Hold My Hand.” Ryan Coogler’s “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever,” made in the wake of Chadwick Boseman’s death, also scored five nominations, including the first acting nod for a performance in a Marvel movie: Angela Bassett, the likely favorite to win best supporting actress.

Nine of the 10 best-picture nominees were theatrical releases — something cheered by “Tár” filmmaker Todd Field, nominated for direction and screenplay. Field noted the theatrical marketplace — especially the specialty business — is still in recovery mode.

“I hope that the faith and the enthusiasm that’s been paid for theatrical films continues,” Field said by phone Tuesday from Los Angeles.

Going by earlier guild nominations, Martin McDonagh’s Ireland-set dark comedy “The Banshees of Inisherin” may be the stiffest competition for “Everything Everywhere All at Once” at the Oscars. The Searchlight Pictures film landed nine nominations Tuesday, including nods for McDonagh’s directing and screenplay, and a quartet of acting nominations: Colin Farrell for best actor, Kerry Condon for best supporting actress and both Brendan Gleeson and Barry Keoghan for best supporting actor.

> “To the random man in the elevator who saw me scream at the news, thank you for hugging me and not freaking out!!!!!!
> - Brian Tyree Henry

Baz Luhrmann’s bedazzled biopic “Elvis” — another summer box-office hit, with $287.3 million worldwide — came away with eight nominations, including a best actor nod for star Austin Butler and nominations for its costumes, sound and production design.

Though Steven Spielberg’s “The Fabelmans” struggled to catch on with audiences, the director’s autobiographical coming-of-age tale landed Spielberg his 20th Oscar nomination and ninth nod for best-director. John Williams, his longtime composer, extended his record for the most Oscar nominations for a living person, and, at 90, became the oldest nominee ever. Williams’ 53rd nominations trails only Walt Disney’s 59.

In the ultra-competitive best actress race, “Fabelmans” star Michelle Williams was nominated after being passed over by the Screen Actors Guild. The other nominees for best actress are: Ana de Armas, “Blonde”; Cate Blanchett, “Tár” and Andrea Riseborough, who emerged as a late contender after a host of celebrities rallied around her performance as an alcoholic West Texas mother in the little-seen “To Leslie.” Notably left out of the category were Viola Davis (“Woman King”) and Danielle Deadwyler (“Till”).

Only one streaming title broke into the best picture field: The German WWI film “All Quiet on the Western Front.” Though Netflix for the first time in years lacks a possible best picture frontrunner, “All Quiet on the Western Front” landed a better-

SEE OSCARS PAGE 6



GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California should be treating gun violence as a public health crisis





Courtesy photos

AUTHORS: California should reconsider how it thinks about gun violence.

BY BRIAN MALTE AND CHET P. HEWITT.

There's an African proverb that says, "In the moment of crisis, the wise build bridges and the foolish build dams." As gun violence rates increase across the country, police budgets have risen like dams in the name of prevention and interruption.

To decrease violence in California, research shows that we must instead invest in our communities. We need to build bridges – to job opportunities, to healing, to mental health services, to a sense of shared safety – for true gun violence prevention.

How will California respond after yet another horrific mass shooting – this time in Monterey Park?

Every three minutes in California, someone is killed by a gun. And firearm injuries are the leading cause of death for California youth ages 19 and under, and for youth under 24 nationwide.

This is a public health crisis.

While California gun homicides have increased in the last few years, fueled by a surge in gun sales and reduced community connections and outreach due to COVID, this rise in violence is reversible.

Public funding of prevention, interruption and intervention efforts is crucial to reducing gun violence. It's most effective, however, when taking a public health approach that integrates community expertise and leadership. This model is a proven, clear path to safety and health equity.

To its credit, California has increased public funding to address gun violence through initiatives like the California Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program, or CalVIP. In 2022, the state allocated a record $156 million to the program. This funding supports critical violence reduction initiatives in communities with the highest risk.

Yet CalVIP funding is handled by the California Board of State and Community Corrections, an agency that oversees law enforcement, rather than public health officials. Unfortunately, as we have seen in cities like Stockton and Sacramento where leaders chose to bypass the public health model, giving law enforcement that type of discretion can be deeply antithetical to both the best practices and the intention of prevention funding.

Law enforcement is primarily engaged in intervention by enforcing laws. When law enforcement is used as a preventative force, it is often couched in increased police or probation presence, criminalization and/or prosecution. These practices often have little to do with prevention or aftercare trauma response.

Enshrining community work within law enforcement conflates intervention and prevention. This approach ignores the social and economic drivers of gun violence as well as the impacts of street violence, interpersonal violence and suicides. Gun violence prevention requires extraordinary expertise and

SEE **GUEST COMMENTARY** PAGE 7

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

I enjoyed Charles Andrews' *Daily Press* column about Von's end at Lincoln & Broadway. I'll miss their fried chicken and free parking; the latter afforded you a short stroll to SMPL where one spent the rest of the day reading instead of paying for parking...

Sincerely,

Henry Rosenfeld, Santa Monica

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

CITY OF SANTA MONICA IS NOW ONLY ACCEPTING ELECTRONIC BID SUBMITTALS

Notice is hereby given that electronic proposals for **Bid No. SP2685-2** shall be received to **furnish and deliver Public Works Streets Concrete Material**, per terms, conditions and specifications. Bids will be electronically opened at 5:00 pm **(Pacific Time) on Friday, February 17, 2023** viewable on the City's e-Procurement Portal, ProcureNow.

Vendor Queries Due: Questions must be submitted online in the "Q&A" tab. The City will only accept or respond to questions submitted through the online vendor portal. Questions regarding this bid are due **Friday, February 3, 2023** no later than 5:00 pm Pacific Time.

Bid Package: Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the City's e-Procurement Portal.

Electronic Submissions: Submissions will only be accepted through the City's e-Procurement Portal, ProcureNow. They must be received by the specified date and bid opening time.

GET IT DAILY...

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City of Santa Monica

OTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA LANDMARKS COMMISSION
VIA TELECONFERENCE
Pursuant to AB361

SUBJECT: **22ENT-0155, 2525 4th Street**
ZONING: OP2 (Ocean Park Low-Density) District
APPLICANT: David Kaplan, KCK Architects
OWNER: XYZ Limited Partnership

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED: The City Landmarks Commission will be conducting a public hearing to consider a Certificate of Appropriateness application for the rehabilitation of one residential unit, construction of two, new two-story Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's) and one additional residential dwelling unit to be located above an existing detached garage structure. On-site parking is provided. The parcel is a contributing property within the Fourth Street Historic District boundary.

DATE/TIME: **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2023 AT 7:00 PM**

LOCATION: In an effort to reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19), members of the Landmarks Commission and City Staff will participate via teleconference. The public may join the teleconference https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/sdcvvwkz or by dialing in at 1-415-466-7000 (PIN: 6739648 #).

HOW TO COMMENT: The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Those wishing to give public comment must make that request via email to planningcomment@smgov.net. Written information received prior to 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Landmarks Commission prior to the meeting and posted online. Written information received after 12 p.m. on the day of the hearing will be read aloud at the meeting for a total of three minutes.

Additionally, public comment can be made by telephone by calling 1-408-740-7256 (Meeting ID: 328601408 and Passcode: 2457 followed by #) when the caller queue opens for the item on which you wish to comment. Remarks from the public made by telephone will be limited to up to 3 minutes per item. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment.

QUESTIONS: regarding the project may be addressed to Stephanie Reich, AIA, LEED AP, Design and Historic Preservation Planner at stephanie.reich@santamonica.gov

MORE INFORMATION: For disability-related accommodations, please contact planning@smgov.net or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL: Este es un aviso de una audiencia publica sobre una solicitud para remodilar un edifecio que tiene valor historico importante. Para más información: planning@smgov.net



GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Would 'wealth taxes' bring big bucks or spur exodus?



Photo by Anne Wernikoff for CalMatters

GOVERNMENT: The California State House on August 12, 2019.

BY DAN WALTERS

Would imposing "wealth taxes" on the richest Californians generate a cornucopia of revenues to fill gaps in the state budget, particularly for services to the poor?

Or would such levies, added to income taxes that are already the nation's highest, persuade more wealthy Californians to abandon the state, ala Elon Musk?

California voters could pose those questions if newly introduced wealth tax legislation makes it through the Capitol, including a signature from Gov. Gavin Newsom, and appears on next year's ballot.

A phalanx of left-leaning legislators, led by Assemblyman Alex Lee, a San Jose Democrat, introduced the new measures – a bill and a constitutional amendment – as part of a nationwide drive by progressives for wealth taxes in California and other blue states. They hope that imposing wealth taxes at the state level would spur a national tax.

Lee and other advocates cite a 2021 ProPublica article that detailed how very wealthy Americans use loopholes in the federal tax system to avoid paying billions of dollars in income taxes. "This is all in the spirit of making those who are not paying their fair share pay what they owe," Lee said.

There's an ironic element to that contention in California. By happenstance, the wealth tax measures were introduced three days after the New Yorker magazine published an article about a lawsuit alleging that two daughters of Gordon Getty, a San Francisco billionaire who is Newsom's close friend and financial patron, used shell trusts based in Nevada to avoid paying millions of dollars in California income taxes on earnings from money Getty gave them.

Lee's measure, Assembly Bill 259, contains elaborate language aimed at preventing rich taxpayers from dodging wealth taxes, which would be initially imposed on those with at least a billion dollars in net assets – 1.5% each year – and later be extended to those with over $50 million at 1%.

The taxes would be levied on worldwide assets, would hit wealthy taxpayers even if they left the state, and hefty penalties would be imposed for underpaying.

The first question is whether Lee's new bill has any better chance of winning legislative approval than his previous version, which never got to first base. There are huge Democratic majorities in both legislative houses, far more than two-thirds, but many Democrats are leery of voting for new taxes.

A key element is whether Newsom, who is personally quite wealthy thanks to the PlumpJack wine and restaurant business he founded with seed money from Getty's trust, would support such a measure.

Newsom has hinted that he's concerned about an exodus of wealthy taxpayers, who already provide a huge share of the state's revenues. Last year, he opposed a ballot measure, Proposition 30, which would have hiked taxes on millionaires to support efforts to counter climate change.

For the first time, wealthy Californians actively opposed the measure, having remained passive when previous tax-the-rich propositions were placed before voters, and with Newsom's added opposition, voters rejected it.

Even if the wealth taxes pass the Legislature, voter approval of the constitutional amendment is problematic. With potentially billions of dollars at stake, a lavishly financed opposition campaign is certain, meaning proponents – particularly public employee unions – would have to commit big bucks as well.

Moreover, another measure to hike income taxes on the wealthy is already ticketed for the 2024 ballot. Its advocates, who want more money for pandemic readiness, stayed off the 2022 ballot to avoid conflict with Proposition 30.

It's another test for an old saying about Californians' attitudes on taxes: "Don't tax you, don't tax me, tax the fellow behind the tree."

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

New year brings a grim wave of mass killings across America

MARYCLAIRE DALE
Associated Press

A year ago, the U.S. marked its first deadly gun rampage of the year on Jan. 23. By the same date this year, there have been six mass killings that have claimed 39 lives, leaving communities nationwide reeling from the onslaught of violence.

Eleven people killed as they welcomed the Lunar New Year at a dance hall popular with older Asian Americans. Seven Chinese and Latino farmworkers killed amid the serene beauty of California's Half Moon Bay. A teen mother and her baby shot dead in an attack that killed six people across five generations of her family.

> "In the end, there are simply too many guns in this country. And there has to be a change. This is not an acceptable way for a modern society to live and conduct its affairs"
> - Dave Pine San Mateo County Board of Supervisors President

"In the end, there are simply too many guns in this country. And there has to be a change. This is not an acceptable way for a modern society to live and conduct its affairs," San Mateo County Board of Supervisors President Dave Pine said Monday, in the wake of the mushroom farm shootings about 30 miles south of San Francisco. "Our hearts are broken."

The grim news from Half Moon Bay came as Californians were still trying to process the weekend carnage at the ballroom dance club in Monterey Park, a bustling Asian American community at the eastern edge of Los Angeles.

Americans in recent years have learned to endure mass shootings in churches and grocery stores, concerts and office parks, and inside the homes of friends and neighbors. The violence can stem from hatred toward other communities, grievances within a group, secrets within families and bitterness among colleagues. But it often ends when a man with a grudge grabs a gun.

Sometimes, it's not even clear a grudge sparked the outburst.

"There was no apparent conflict between the parties. The male just walked in and started shooting," Yakima Police Chief Matt Murray said after three people were shot dead at a Circle K convenience store in Washington state early Tuesday, adding to the nation's grief.

A database of mass killings maintained by The Associated Press, USA Today and Northeastern University shows 2023 off to a particularly deadly start. The bloodshed began on Jan. 4, when a Utah man, investigated but never charged over a 2020 child abuse complaint, shot and killed his wife, her mother and their five children before killing himself.

The database shows 2,793 people have lost their lives in mass killings — those that involve four or more victims, excluding the killer — since 2006. And the recent wave of violence follows a spike in 2022, when the U.S. recorded 42 mass killings, the second highest tally in that time span.

And even gunfire that takes fewer lives, or none at all, can shock the conscience, as was the case in Virginia this month when a 6-year-old boy shot and wounded his teacher in front of his classmates. Virginia Beach Mayor Phillip Jones said he could barely wrap his head around it. And two teenage students were killed Monday in a school shooting in Iowa.

In the Saturday night shooting in Monterey Park, 11 people died and nine others were injured when a 72-year-old man opened fire at the Star Ballroom Dance Studio, just hours after tens of thousands of revelers filled the streets nearby for Lunar New Year festivities. The gunman killed himself as police approached his van the next day.

The 66-year-old suspect in the Half Moon Bay shooting was arrested in the parking lot of a police station. In both cases, investigators are still trying to learn what fueled the shootings.

"We have not even had time to grieve for those lost in the terrible shooting in Monterey Park. Gun violence must stop," Pine said. "The status quo cannot be tolerated."

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Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

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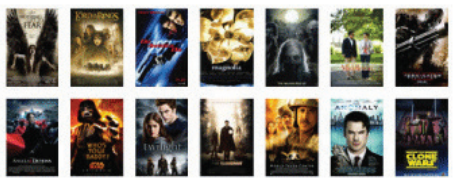




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CRIME WATCH

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

ON JANUARY 15

Officers responded to the 2100 block of Cloverfield for a male attempting to steal a bottle of alcohol that was being detained by the store's security personnel. When officers arrived, they met with Elvin Alexander Salazar, who was in handcuffs and hunched over a stool. Salazar was arrested for shoplifting and public intoxication.

OSCARS

FROM PAGE 2

than-expected nine nominations, including best international film and best adapted screenplay. The streaming service also has the top animated film contender in "Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio," which was nominated for best animated feature alongside "Marcel the Shell With Shoes On," "Puss in Boots: The Last Wish," "The Sea Beast" and "Turning Red."

Along with Butler and Farrell, the best actor nominees are: Brendan Fraser, hailed for his comeback performance as an overweight shut-in in "The Whale," Bill Nighy for "Living" and, in a surprise for one of the most critically lauded films of the year, Paul Mescal, for Charlotte Wells' father-daughter tale "Aftersun."

Brian Tyree Henry landed his first Oscar nomination for his supporting turn in "Causeway," in which he starred opposite Jennifer Lawrence. (Said Tyree in a statement: "To the random man in the elevator who saw me scream at the news, thank you for hugging me and not freaking out!!!!!!") In the supporting actress category, two "Everything Everywhere All at Once" actors — Jamie Lee Curtis and Stephanie Hsu — were nominated along with Hong Chau ("The Whale"), Condon and Bassett.

Quan and Chau — both the children of Vietnam War refugees — and the California-born Hsu and the Malaysia-born Yeoh together make it the most acting nominations ever for Asian or Asian American actors. (Some count Merle Oberon, of Sri Lankan and Welsh heritage, the first Asian best actress nominee, in 1936, though she hid her ancestry.)

For Quan, a much-loved face of the 1980s from "Goonies" and "Temple of Doom," the nomination was a once-unfathomable pinnacle. After his acting opportunities dried up, Quan quit acting for years before being offered the part of Waymond. Speaking by phone from Los Angeles, Quan remembered having dreams as a child of attending the Academy Awards.

"It just seemed so far-fetched. Especially when I had to step away from acting for so many years, that dream seemed like it was dead," Quan said. "My whole thing was: I just wanted a job."

After the best director category saw back-to-back landmark wins for female filmmakers — Chloé Zhao ("Nomadland") in 2021, Jane Campion ("The Power of the Dog") last year — no women were nominated for best director. But in the best picture group, one of the up-for-grabs final slots went to Sarah Polley's "Women Talking," a parable of sexual assault and justice. Polley was also nominated for best adapted screenplay.

In the end, the Oscar push for the Indian action sensation "RRR" landed a sole nomination: best song for M.M. Keeravaani's "Naatu Naatu." The Palme d'Or-winning satire from Swedish director Ruben Östlund, "Triangle of Sadness," scored three big nominations, for best picture, best director and best original screenplay.

Along with "All Quiet on the Western Front," the nominees for best international film are: "Argentina, 1985" (Argentina); "Close" (Belgium); "EO" (Poland); "The Quiet Girl" (a first for Ireland). The category has been criticized for allowing submissions to be chosen by each country's government, a process that disadvantages filmmakers working in oppressive regimes. Iranian director Jafar Panahi, whose "No Bears" was hailed as one of 2022's best, was imprisoned earlier this year.

Current politics were also front and center in the documentary category. Nominees include "Navalny," an up-close portrait of the jailed Russian dissident Alexie Navalny; "A House Made of Splinters," about a Ukrainian halfway house; and Laura Poitras' "All the Beauty and the Bloodshed," about Nan Goldin's opioid activism. They were joined by the volcanologist romance "Fire of Love" and Shaunak Sen's "All That Breathes," about three men's efforts to save New Delhi's pollution-ravaged birds of prey.

The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences will surely celebrate a best-picture field populated with blockbusters; according to data firm Comscore, their collective domestic box office of $1.574 billion is the most ever at the time of nominations. Last year's awards had been looking like a comeback edition before "the slap" came to define the ceremony. In the aftermath, the academy banned Will Smith from attending for the next 10 years. Though he could have still been nominated, Smith's performance as a runaway slave in "Emancipation" didn't catch on with voters.

But larger concerns are swirling around the movie business. Last year saw flashes of triumphant resurrection for theaters, like the success of "Top Gun: Maverick," but less stellar results for most dramas. Partially due to an inconsistent stream of major releases, ticket sales for the year recovered only about 70% of pre-pandemic business. Stocks for streaming services, meanwhile have plunged as Wall Street looked to streaming services to earn profits, not just add subscribers.

Last year's Oscar broadcast drew 16.6 million viewers, according to Nielsen, up from the record-low audience of 10.5 million for the pandemic-marred 2021 telecast. This year, ABC is bringing back Jimmy Kimmel to host the March 12 ceremony, one that will surely be seen as a return to the site of the slap.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Citywide

Santa Monica Education Foundation Announces $25,000 Matching Gift from Fairmont Miramar Hotel

MSD Partners and Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows said they are proud to offer once again a $25,000 matching gift to all donations made to the Santa Monica Education Foundation through January 31. This gift comes at an important time in the Ed Foundation's campaign, because January 31 marks the end of their annual parent fundraising drive. The Miramar has offered this $25,000 match program every January for the last six years, raising over $1,000,0000 for the Santa Monica Ed Foundation.

> We are thrilled to launch this match at such a critical time in our fundraising campaign
>
> - John Baracy, President of the Board of Directors of the Ed Foundation

"We are incredibly grateful for the philanthropic leadership of MSD Partners and Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows, which have been steadfast supporters of our public schools for so many years."

"Partnering with our community and its public schools is a core value of our business," said Ellis O'Connor of MSD Partners. "Schools form the foundation of our community and we are proud to continue our support of the Ed Foundation to help ensure that our community's children have access to the best education possible."

"MSD Partners and the Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows, and their consistent support of the Ed Foundation over the years, is a poignant example of what's possible for students when private and public sectors come together," said Mikko D. Sperber, the Ed Foundation's Executive Director. "Ending our parent fundraising campaign with a matching gift challenge of this magnitude will hopefully inspire parents and community members to donate to the Ed Foundation and support our students. It's a win-win for our schools and community."

The Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows is also a presenting sponsor of the Ed Foundation's Santa Monica Wine Auction, which will be held on Sunday, May 7. Featuring outstanding wine and food tastings around the Miramar's iconic fig tree, with silent and live auctions of world-class wines and exceptional experiences, the Wine Auction brings parents and community members together to sip, savor and support students.

For a full list of the Ed Foundation's programs, or to donate, visit smedfoundation.org.

To learn more about the Ed Foundation, visit smedfoundation.org.

SUBMITTED BY RACHEL FAULKNER, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 3

understanding that violence stems from chronic conditions of historical oppression, poverty and racism.

Trusted and trained organizations with cultural knowledge that are embedded in communities – in a different light – are best prepared to lead on prevention efforts. This trust and approach must extend to the agencies funding and enabling this work.

So, how do we build opportunity in communities and ensure smart funding of effective gun violence prevention?

Treat gun violence as a chronic issue and use a public health (social determinants of health) approach rooted in impacted communities.

Demand prevention efforts at the state and municipal levels are led by agencies with a public health and health equity perspective.

Remove barriers to communities accessing public funding opportunities so people who are most impacted can lead the efforts.

Shift policies and budgets to acknowledge law enforcement focuses on investigation and prosecution tactics – not prevention.

Recognize that strategies to reduce violence must clearly define and understand prevention, intervention and aftercare.

Ensure entities that facilitate community-based funding and gun violence prevention strategies are housed in public health rather than law enforcement (for example, Los Angeles County's Office of Violence Prevention is part of the public health department)

These approaches would set a powerful precedent. California would have appropriate tools, finally funded to the scale of the issue, to lead the way in effective, community-owned violence prevention and interruption efforts.

There is no future in funding paradigms that favor law enforcement responses to public health problems. There is one in sufficiently funding communities – and it's a safe and equitable future. Californians deserve that.

This article was originally published by CalMatters. Brian Malte is the executive director of the Hope and Heal Fund and a nationally recognized leader on gun violence prevention. He helped pass many of California's most effective gun laws. Chet P. Hewitt is CEO of The Center and the president and CEO of the Sierra Health Foundation.

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January 26, 2023



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ATTENDANCE

FROM PAGE 1

that's something that is happening statewide and here in Southern California," she said. "In my conversations with the LA County Office of Ed, that is something that is being experienced across the board."

In SMMUSD, the issue is most prevalent among historically marginalized groups, including students with disabilities, Latinx, Native American and Black students, socio-economically disadvantaged students and English learners.

"They're all ranging between 30-38% which is a high population of our students that are missing school in these subgroups," Director of Assessment, Research and Evaluation Stacy Williamson said.

Mora said the District is working to combat the rise by identifying the reasons students are not showing up and providing targeted services to work with families to address them.

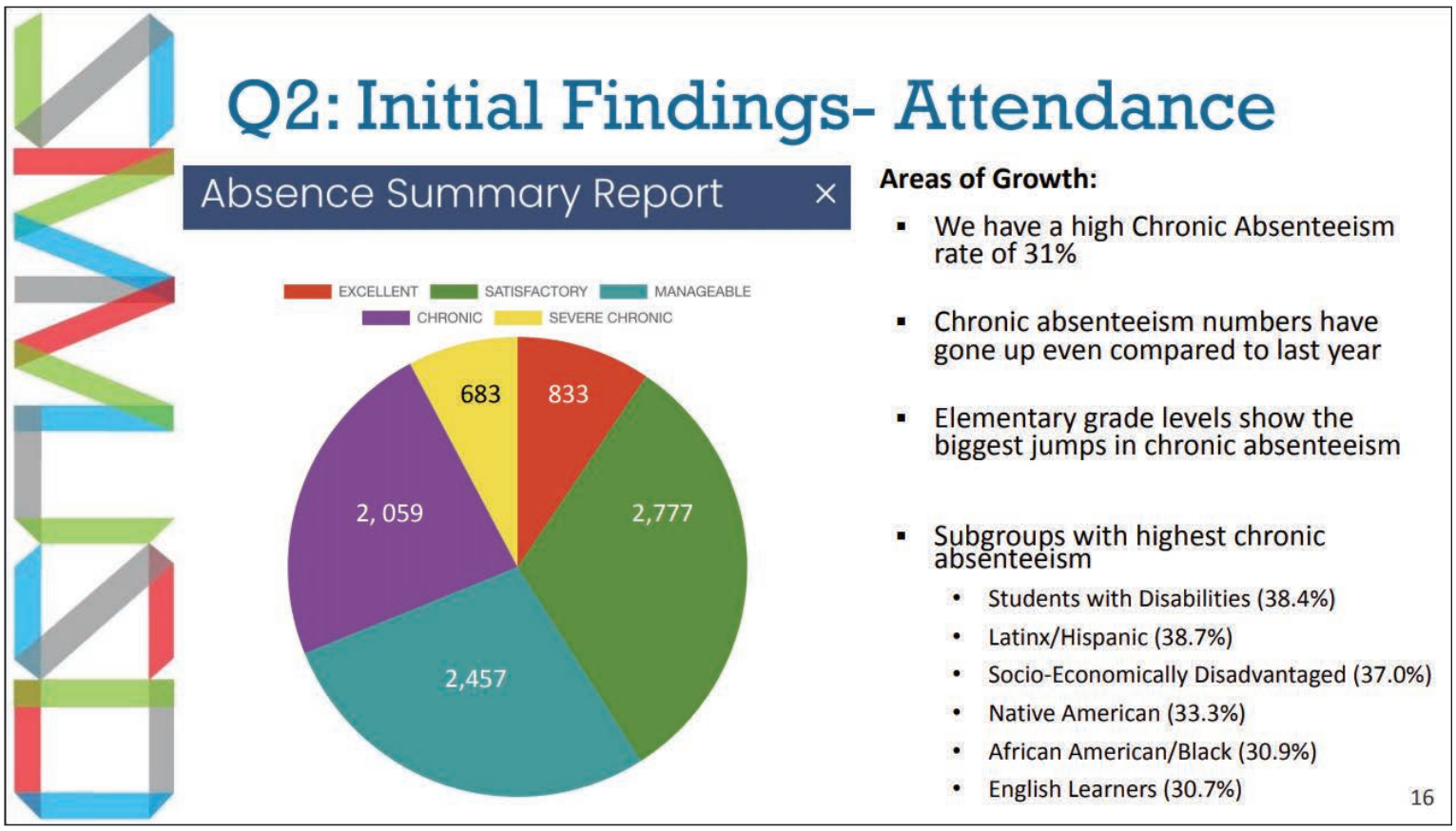
"So really how are we making sure that we're connecting with families and asking them 'what are those barriers?' and "how can we support you?..." she said. "How is it that we are really taking into account the needs of our communities, the needs of our families and students, how are we bringing to the forefront the work around diversity, equity and inclusion and really living, and responding, and acting in a way that helps our families feel that they are heard, that they belong and that we are here as partners to support them and their children."

While the Board expressed support for these efforts, board member Jennifer Smith noted that because attendance data includes both unexcused and excused absences, the ongoing presence of COVID, the severity of this year's flu season and the recent spread of other respiratory illnesses likely accounts for some of the increase.

"We're coming through a terrible illness time and obviously it impacts the same if kids aren't showing up – with excuses or no excuses – but there's a different level of ability to address it in certain circumstances than other circumstances which are harder," she said. "I guess I feel like we're still rebounding from this pandemic...so hopefully we'll go back to our normal levels soon."

District staff will provide another update on attendance rates and other student metrics later in the school year.

grace@smdp.com



Courtesy image

ABSENCE: Chronic absenteeism has increased in the years following the pandemic.

Santa Monica Daily Press
Classifieds

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or email cindy@smdp.com

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MISSING STUDENT

FROM PAGE 1

success. Assistance was requested from the U.S. Coast Guard, California State Parks Ocean Life Guards, the California Highway Patrol air unit, and the San Bruno Police Department for use of their drone to aid in the search," said the Pacifica Police Department last week. "The U.S. Coast Guard responded with aircraft and a surface vessel to assist in the search."

Al-Saudi is a native of Baghdad, Iraq and attended Palisades High School. He attended Santa Monica College and Cerritos College before transferring to San Francisco State University.

SFSU released a statement following identification of Al-Saudi as the missing swimmer.

"It is with very heavy hearts that we share news about one of our beloved students and member of our wrestling team. Our thoughts are with Hamzah, his loved ones, and anyone who needs support during this time," said the university in a statement.

According to SFSU, Al-Saudi is a senior studying political science and minoring in Arab and Muslim Ethnicities and Diasporas (AMED) Studies. The University described him as "a beloved member of the SF State Wrestling team."

> "It is with very heavy hearts that we share news about one of our beloved students and member of our wrestling team. Our thoughts are with Hamzah, his loved ones, and anyone who needs support during this time
>
> - University in a statement

editor@smdp.com



TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 25)

Your work for the common good leads to your own flourishing. Collaborations delight you. Together you'll solve problems from the technical to the emotional and behavioral. Most things are made better because of your knack for picking good people. Other highlights: musical nights, wilderness and a short, lucrative journey. Taurus and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 44, 48, 20 and 16.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Determination, hotheadedness and the swift and fierce instinct of a warrior's charge — it wouldn't be ideal to live these associations every day, but an attractive and exciting vitality pulses through even your mundane moments.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). People don't have to aim for personal growth to achieve it. Typically, growth is a side effect of the struggle to get to a goal. You've earned your self-improvement and you're on your way to another big one.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Time will be on your side, but only after you've done the groundwork. Time will be honored by your calendar markings and other gestures of respect such as plans that make the most of your minutes.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It takes effort to learn the particulars of a culture, the manners of a land and the etiquette of particular situations. This education is an investment in relationships and will repay you with interest.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're out to win friends, fans, customers and hearts. Lean into charm-school basics like picking the right topics for small talk and learning people's names. Simple practices done well allow you to shine.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Though there are no guarantees in life, there are certainly varying degrees of risk, and you're not in the mood to take any more than is necessary today. This is intelligence at work. You'll see the most direct way to your goal.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Imagination turns your elastic heart and mind into a time machine. It's commonly believed that every moment is nonrecoverable. You challenge the premise, defying physics, flying to worlds to work out the past or future in new ways.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You directed some energy into worry — understandable for the circumstance you were in. But you're not there any longer. Redirect it all into action or into deciding on the next action.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're undaunted by difficulty and feel confident in your ability to either do the job or learn something and then do the job. If you can't figure it out, you'll find the person who already has and get help.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Though unproductive, when tension is high, it's not uncommon to react emotionally to minuscule disruption. Emotional triggers are like light switches. Something very small can trigger a lot, depending on how it's wired.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll direct negative energy into positive things. The energy either gets absorbed, dissipates or provides an interesting contrast; it's the spice, the kick, the bite in the recipe of a day.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Shadows are not things, only the evidence of things. You can't change a shadow by moving it; you must move the light or whatever is blocking it. You'll bring illumination to the scene by focusing on what really matters.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

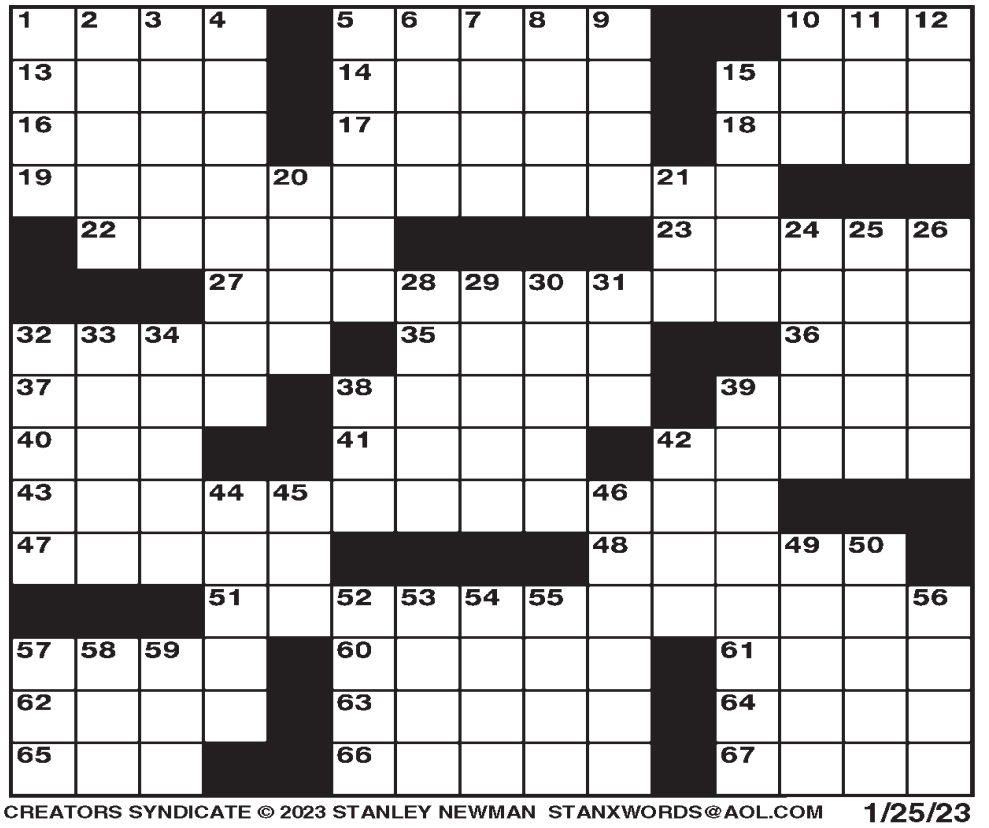
		2	3			7		
		1		7	8		6	
5	7					3		
	4		5					
1		8		2		6		4
					9		7	
		4					2	1
	1		4	3		5		
		6			1	4		

Newsday Crossword

ALL THE HITS by Steve Faiella
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Brunch or dinner
5 Maternity ward event
10 Moisture on lawns in the morning
13 Female choir voice
14 Savory taste
15 Pepsi or Coke
16 Plod along
17 Poe's black bird
18 Signs, as a contract
19 Persevering with one thing
22 "Later!"
23 Italian scooter brand
27 Blocked a car at the curb
32 Breakfast strip
35 Breathing organ
36 Hockey surface
37 Neighbor of Saudi Arabia
38 Major blood vessel
39 Big jump
40 Easy toss
41 Doily fabric
42 Lacked, informally
43 Athlete with three expert skills
47 Sight or smell
48 Be fearful of
51 Bart and Maggie's dad
57 Mystical glow
60 Vicinities
61 __ cost (free)
62 Ship captain's staff
63 Starr of the Beatles
64 Sandal or sneaker
65 Conclude
66 Roomy auto
67 Full collections

DOWN
1 Church service
2 Historic immigration island
3 Make amends
4 Entered username and password
5 Chest of drawers
6 Mosque leader
7 Sitar master Shankar
8 Anti-counterfeiting guys, for short
9 __ legs (dog's rear extremities)
10 Put on, as clothes
11 Moose cousin
12 Used to be
15 Autumn apple drink
20 Large city in France
21 Actress Longoria
24 Took to the slopes
25 Nut in southern pies
26 Highly capable
28 Swell up
29 Sway suddenly
30 Walk inside
31 Org. for Tiger Woods
32 Flashes of lightning
33 Love, in Italy
34 Log house
38 Pub beverage
39 Tardy student's admission slip
42 Do damage to
44 Old-style oath
45 Zodiac feline
46 Phonograph inventor
49 __ crow flies (in a straight line)
50 Start of a warning
52 Scratches up
53 Buffalo's lake
54 Tear to shreds
55 Epic story
56 "Nay" votes
57 Star pilot or pitcher
58 Large coffee server
59 American flag color

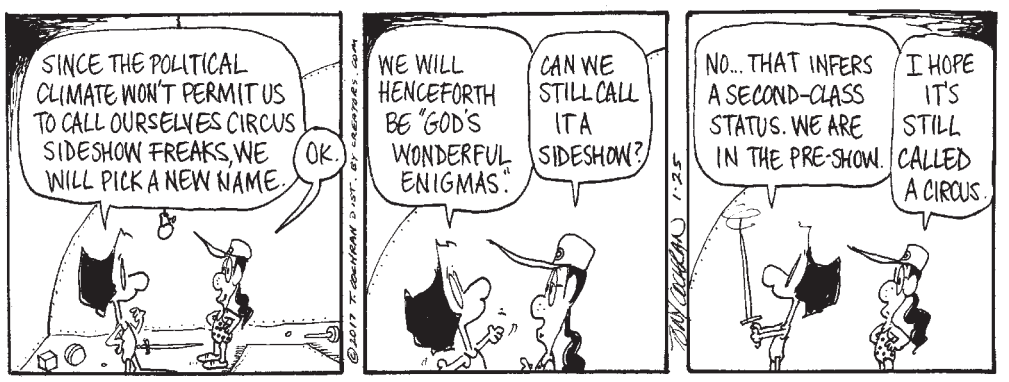


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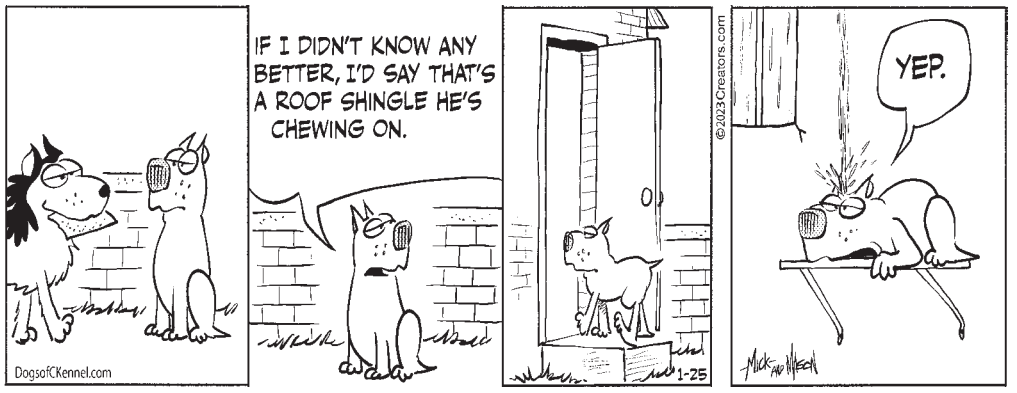
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



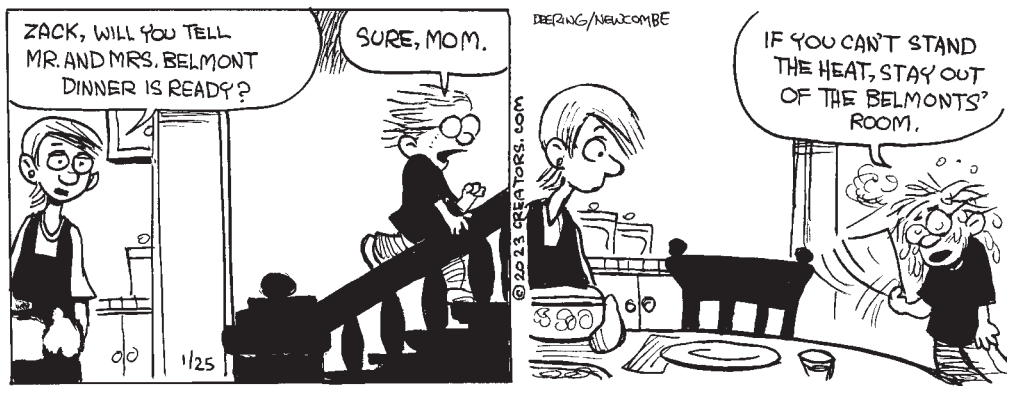
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



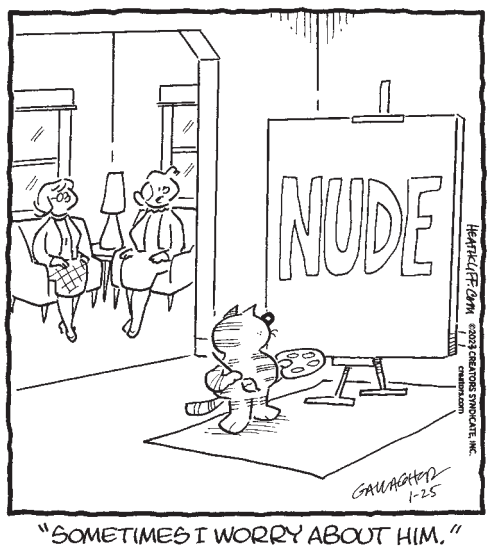
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



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

© australianwordgames.com.au 5735

After the HSC

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

Acne	Disco	Move	Shop
Aims	Earn	Music	Skills
Alert	Enhancing	Nerves	Sports
Anger	Exams	News	Start
Asia	Final	Pals	Students
Beach	Hate	Peers	Suit
Blues	Hobby	Pranks	TAFE
Break	Jobs	Rage	Time out
Cars	Lines	Rebel	Travel
Casual	Luck	Rejoice	Zits
City	Memories	Relationships	
Crazy	Mess	Results	
Defer	Money	School	

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What's Up Westside

out and about in Santa Monica

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.

NEW YEAR, NEW JOB
Representatives from local nonprofit Chrysalis provide drop-in resume assistance, job listings, and on-the-spot orientations for their free employment training and job placement programs. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. 3 - 5 p.m.

THURSDAY | JANUARY 26

COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOP
Diana Hanson, college counselor with Magellan Counseling, presents an overview of the types of aid available to college-bound students and their families, as well as tip for completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the CSS Profile, a second form required by many colleges. For students grades 11-12 and their caregivers. Pico Branch Library 2201 Pico Blvd. 5 p.m. until concluded.

THE NEW BAR AT LUNETTA
Lunetta is excited to welcome The New Bar on Thursday, January 26th, from 6-9 p.m. in the All Day side for tastes of their many non-alcoholic options, as well as mocktails made in-house by Lunetta's bar team. This event is the perfect way to continue your Dry January resolution. Lunetta's 'Golden Hour' menu of bar snacks will be served alongside. The New Bar will also have a market set up at Lunetta where they will be selling many of their favorite products and help you discover what's out there in the nonalcoholic beverage world. For those looking for something a little stronger...Lunetta's regular bar menu will be available as well. Lunetta, 2424 Pico Blvd, 6 - 9 p.m.

FRIDAY | JANUARY 27

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

SATURDAY | JANUARY 28

LUNAR NEW YEAR AT SANTA MONICA PLACE
Santa Monica Place welcomes visitors and shoppers to ring in the Year of the Rabbit with its free Lunar New Year Celebration on Saturday, January 28, 2023. After a two-year hiatus, Santa Monica Place's Lunar New Year programming returns with traditional Chinese lion dance performances, balloon and dough artists, and cherry blossom Wishing Trees for well-wishers to hang their wish for prosperity and renewal in the new year. Overhead red and gold lanterns will adorn Center Plaza and red envelopes with special deals from participating shops and restaurants will be provided to those in attendance. Santa Monica Place 395 Santa Monica Place Santa Monica, CA 90401, 2 to 5 p.m.

SUNDAY | JANUARY 29

MARION DAVIES BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
Join the Santa Monica Conservancy in celebrating Marion Davies — silent film actress, famed party hostess and the original Beach House resident.
1 p.m. – Natalie Jacob & The Vintage Trio kick off the festivities!
1:30 p.m. – Enjoy the 1920's Dance Showcase with James Zimmer & Cynthia Harper
1:45 p.m. – Witness bedazzling sleight of hand by magician Tom Frank
2 p.m. – Dance to Natalie Jacob & The Vintage Trio, and keep the party going!
2-3 p.m. – Delight in the Charleston with James Zimmer & Cynthia Harper, the Cake Walk, the Group Photo, and wrap-up the fun with a rousing Happy Birthday to Marion!
Guests are welcome to come in their favorite Gold Coast era attire. Happy Birthday Marion! is a free, all ages event. Reservations are recommended.
The Annenberg Community Beach House is located at 415 Pacific Coast Hwy. Parking is available for $3 per hour or $8 per day. Please pay for parking at the machine upon your arrival. Cash and credit card accepted. Ample bike parking is available; please bring a lock.

MONDAY | JANUARY 30

CITIZENSHIP CLASSES
An ongoing series of citizenship classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors. Classes are free and students must be 18 years or older to attend. Community parents and SMMUSD parents have priority enrollment. The classes help students complete and submit their U.S. citizenship applications, and prepare them for the official review. Enrollment is through the SMMUSD Adult Education Center (310) 664-6222, ext. 76203 or osaucedo@smmusd.org.

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



SURF REPORT

WATER TEMP: **55.8**

WEDNESDAY *FAIR*	**SURF:** 2-3ft+ Thigh to stomach	Fun round of WNW swell tops out — best west of Dume. New SSW swell builds mainly in the afternoon. AM tide push looks like a window to target. Conditions favorable for at least the morning with offshore flow a notch stronger than Tue.
THURSDAY *FAIR*	**SURF:** 3-4ft+ Waist to shoulder	Decent combo. WNW swell eases as modest SSW swell builds to a peak. Should be a few fun waves to track down through the morning tide push — most size west of Dume but the points are in play. Offshore flow comes up a notch further.

WEATHER

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 67. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 50.
Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 67.
Thursday Night: Clear, with a low around 47.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2023/01/25	Wed	12:01 AM	4.54	H
2023/01/25	Wed	05:28 AM	1.49	L
2023/01/25	Wed	11:25 AM	5.22	H
2023/01/25	Wed	6:10 PM	-0.33	L
2023/01/26	Thu	12:46 AM	4.67	H
2023/01/26	Thu	06:36 AM	1.54	L
2023/01/26	Thu	12:23 PM	4.25	H
2023/01/26	Thu	6:48 PM	0.45	L
2023/01/27	Fri	01:35 AM	4.77	H
2023/01/27	Fri	08:03 AM	1.51	L
2023/01/27	Fri	1:39 PM	3.33	H
2023/01/27	Fri	7:28 PM	1.22	L
2023/01/28	Sat	02:30 AM	4.83	H
2023/01/28	Sat	09:53 AM	1.21	L
2023/01/28	Sat	3:38 PM	2.73	H
2023/01/28	Sat	8:19 PM	1.91	L
2023/01/29	Sun	03:31 AM	4.90	H
2023/01/29	Sun	11:24 AM	0.68	L

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: 1/23
12 31 47 58 60
Power#: 23
Jackpot: 526 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/20
20 29 31 64 66
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 31 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 1/21
7 16 22 31 42
Mega#: 21
Jackpot: 27 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/23
1 14 21 32 39

Daily 3
Draw Date: 1/23
EVENING: 3 1 8
Draw Date: 1/23
MIDDAY: 8 1 6

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 1/23
1st: 07 - Eureka
2nd: 02 - Lucky Star
3rd: 05 - California Classic
Race Time: 1:42.45

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