2 **Sparkl**
Produces fairy fashion

3 **Storm**
Rain rolls on

4 **Black History**
Kickoff at YMCA

7 **Gas Buddy**
Where to fill up

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 59 WEDNESDAY 2/7/24 smdp.com

Swiss precision is applied to aviation as virtual reality flight simulation 'hub' opens at Santa Monica Airport



Loft Dynamics

GET TO THE CHOPPER: The high-end simulator utilizes the latest in aviation simulation technology and offers an interactive way for pilots to experience modern training techniques.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Global pioneer in digital aviation simulation, Loft Dynamics, has opened its first virtual reality (VR) simulation "hub" forming the company's first North American headquarters at Santa Monica Airport (SMO).

The high-end simulator utilizes the very latest in aviation simulation technology and is targeted at pilots of all levels of experience and offers a hands-on way for flyers to experience the most modern training techniques along with the chance to potentially fly over landmarks all across the world.

"We recognized a significant unmet demand to experience our technology in person in the U.S. Establishing a physical space became the obvious solution, making it more accessible to fly our sims, practice a range of maneuvers, and fully grasp the power of VR technology in this capacity," said Fabi Riesen, founder and CEO of Loft Dynamics. "Our SMO location offers convenient access for a high concentration of pilots and enhances onsite and remote support for our North American customers."

Dübendorf-based Loft Dynamics (formerly VRM Switzerland) expanded to North America in 2021, integrating its simulators at various flight schools, helicopter operators, and global regulatory organizations, including Airbus Helicopters and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

The company has permanently taken up residence in one of the many empty spaces inside the main terminal building at 3221 Donald Douglas Loop South and the hub features the company's Airbus H125 VR Flight Simulation Training Device (FSTD).

Riesen says he's calling it a "hub" because it will act as both a showroom where potential customers can come along and try it out for themselves and as an actual classroom that can be booked by flight training instructors for trainee pilot tuition.

SEE **LOFT DYNAMICS** PAGE 7



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City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed proposals for

RFP: # 401 Professional Engineering Services for the 2024 One Water Master Plan

- **Submission Deadline is March 15, 2024 at 5:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is OpenGov (https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca) There is no charge for the RFP package.

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Fashion fairies run Santa Monica's pink palace



Photo by Thomas Leffler

SPARKL: Ashlie Roswell and Gabrielle Hall, also known as Ashlie Crystal and Gabi Sparkl, have made names for themselves with the Sparkl Fairy Couture brand.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

On a beautiful Santa Monica day, kids are building sandcastles and losing themselves in a fantasy world of wizards, witches and magic. For anyone else looking to enrich their lifestyle with magical properties, they need not travel far, as an opportunity is provided for them just a stone's throw from the Third Street Promenade.

At 320 Santa Monica Blvd lies Sparkl Fairy Couture, a pink-laden palace with fashion apparel and accessories geared toward fantasy worlds. From dresses and bikinis to coats and footwear, everything at Sparkl is designed with magic in mind, drawing inspiration from fairies, mermaids, unicorns and other storybook favorites. Guiding customers through her palace is Gabrielle Hall, a young entrepreneur known as Gabi Sparkl, who says that her fairy mantra is "being your truest self."

"[It's] letting your energy and inspiration flow out on the outside, because everything that you have on the inside people can't see," she said, adding, "So being sparkling, it's [being] happy, smiling … hopefully [it] inspires [people] to be a little bit less ordinary [and] more extraordinary."

A constantly creative type during her youth in Maui, Hall recounted her "really beautiful childhood" molding art and fashion from scratch while viewing the wonders of Hawaii. However, it wasn't all rainbows, as Ponzi financial schemes targeting Hawaiians in the aftermath of the 2008 recession wiped out her family's assets, forcing bankruptcy and a swift move to North Carolina.

The headstrong Sparkl owner eventually sought Los Angeles to turn fashion dreams into reality, starting with a short stint at the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising (FIDM). While she appreciated the tools the school gave her, Hall felt she was being pushed "in a very corporate direction" and desired ownership and control over her self-expression. Her true experience began while she was still a teenager, selling bikini designs in Venice Beach while contemplating what her true calling was.

"I'd make a little stand and go out there in my bikini, but then I was like, what do I do when I'm not at the beach?," she said. "And I had this idea that I wanted to make my whole world Sparkl, so I took that to heart, I stopped wearing anyone else's clothes, only clothes that I made."

Opening Sparkl as a pop-up at 23, she noted that "nothing could prepare" her for owning her own space. To complicate things further, the COVID-19 pandemic ravaged businesses nationwide two months later, forcing her to survive off online sales and private showings. Launching her shop with a focus on bikinis, Hall finally found a business boon by introducing a footwear collection, which remains a key part of the Sparkl catalog. The current inventory includes tops, dresses, lingerie, jackets and travel bags; mixing the functional with the cute fairy look and feel customers have come to expect. The fusing of function and form is evident in the store's current hot seller, the Coco Puffer Coat and Aspen Puffer Jacket.

The inspiration behind Sparkl's color palette of purples and pinks comes from the self-expressionism of the music festival scene and bringing the unique world into the everyday one. The vision has been co-opted by A-list collaborators, with the likes of Paris Hilton and Megan Fox modeling the clothing.

"I'd see everyone would come out and dress up to the nines and everyone's different, then we come back to everyday life and everyone was wearing these [black] suits, or just all blending in, and I was like, what happened?" Hall asked. "What's the disconnect between why is everyone allowed to be themselves there and not out here?"

To aid in the extension of her business, Hall brought on like-minded Ashlie Roswell, known as Ashlie Crystal, who also attended FIDM and appreciates the individualistic nature of Los Angeles fashion. The second-in-command eventually rose to be Sparkl's Fashion Brand Manager, helping in a host of areas like graphic design, game planning and modeling.

"I didn't know what I was getting myself into … but I just did it, and Sparkl is totally my vibe, I believe in the brand," she said.

Identifying specifically with the mermaid aesthetic, Roswell added that she "loves helping [Hall] create this vision" and the endeavor has forced her to become more organizational. The duo's organizational skills will be especially tested over the next several weeks, as the fairies will be spreading their wings to Paris Fashion

SEE **SPARKL** PAGE 8

Second day of deluge adds to astronomical rainfall



Photo by Thomas Leffler

RAIN: The typically visually pleasing Santa Monica Beach was turned into a muddy mess due to wild rainfall in the area.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

While the second round of rain in Santa Monica Monday was a far cry from Sunday's portion of the storm, the continued drenching tacked on to the mammoth precipitation totals in the area.

According to the National Weather Service (NWS) observation station at Santa Monica Municipal Airport, an extra 1.05 inches of rain fell between Monday and Tuesday morning, making for a total 48-hour storm total of 6.79 inches. The historic total was such that in 48 hours, the city received more rain than all of April 2023 through January, per historical weather database Weather Underground (6.29 inches). February's deluge has pushed Santa Monica's 2024 rainfall to 30% above normal annual levels already, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Tuesday saw much lighter precipitation, with most areas in Los Angeles (including Santa Monica) kept under 0.25 inches of rainfall. The NWS forecast for the area states that periods of moderate to heavy rain are still possible later Wednesday afternoon and evening, along with gusty west to northwest winds which will continue into Thursday. Wind gusts calmed down in Santa Monica throughout the latter part of Monday into Tuesday, after peaking at 21 mph between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Monday.

Both a Flood Advisory and a Flood Watch issued by the NWS for Santa Monica expired at 4 p.m. Tuesday, with the city all clear of NWS hazardous weather condition alerts. The city was under a flood advisory during the peak of the storm on Sunday.

City Public Works employees continued to monitor conditions Monday after responding to a closure of the California Incline, working to remove debris from the roadway. City officials did not note any major incidents beyond the Incline closure, but reminded residents on social media to "please be mindful" of local baseball and soccer field conditions during the storm, asking locals to avoid using fields until they are dry "to help maintain their integrity for the upcoming spring (sports) season."

Santa Monica schools within the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) remained open on Tuesday, however Malibu schools within the district stayed closed for the second consecutive day. Initial determinations were that Malibu schools would be open on Tuesday, but after "further review of conditions in and around the Malibu community," the district reversed course and closed. In between the two announcements, some Malibu staff arrived on campuses, with Malibu Pathway Executive Director Isaac Burgess stating Tuesday morning that "if your student has already arrived … they are being supervised at this time."

"Our campus facilities are in good condition and we expect that to continue," Burgess added in an earlier statement to parents. "We appreciate the work of our maintenance teams to provide a safe school environment."

Malibu has received a perilous amount of rainfall from the storm, with 48-hour totals ranging from 5.05 inches at a Pepperdine University NWS station, to a staggering 9.30 inches at Malibu Canyon. Other local 48-hour totals from Sunday morning through Tuesday morning include 6.83 inches in Venice and 7.30 inches in Pacific Palisades.

Travel throughout the Los Angeles area was severely hampered throughout the storm, including drivers having to deal with precarious mudslides and debris flows. According to a NBC 4 Los Angeles report, the Los Angeles Fire Department dealt with more than 300 mudslides throughout the storm. Air travel was not exempt, with flight tracking service FlightAware recording a total of 1,203 delays of departing and arriving flights at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) between Sunday and Monday, along with 63 cancellations.

Regional, state and national leaders

SEE **RAIN** PAGE 8



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **59.5**

WEDNESDAY
FAIR
SURF: 2-3ft+
Thigh to stomach

Fresh round of longer period but steep-angled NW swell possible as mid period NW swell fades. Wind looks ok in the morning but a deep high tide will slow most spots early.

THURSDAY
FAIR TO GOOD
SURF: 3-4ft+
Waist to shoulder

Potential for another coastal low to move into the region with problematic winds. Decent pulse of NW swell mix on the cards right now.

Weather

Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of showers after 10am. Mostly sunny, with a high near 57.
Wednesday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 47.
Thursday: A 10 percent chance of rain after 4pm. Mostly sunny, with a high near 58. North wind 5 to 10 mph.
Thursday Night: A 30 percent chance of rain, mainly between 10pm and 4am. Partly cloudy, with a low around 48.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2024/02/07	Wed	12:23 AM	2.37	L
2024/02/07	Wed	06:45 AM	6.20	H
2024/02/07	Wed	2:11 PM	-1.44	L
2024/02/07	Wed	8:42 PM	3.71	H
2024/02/08	Thu	01:13 AM	1.98	L
2024/02/08	Thu	07:32 AM	6.61	H
2024/02/08	Thu	2:47 PM	-1.72	L
2024/02/08	Thu	9:11 PM	4.00	H
2024/02/09	Fri	02:01 AM	1.57	L
2024/02/09	Fri	08:16 AM	6.80	H
2024/02/09	Fri	3:23 PM	-1.77	L
2024/02/09	Fri	9:42 PM	4.29	H
2024/02/10	Sat	02:49 AM	1.21	L
2024/02/10	Sat	09:00 AM	6.70	H
2024/02/10	Sat	3:58 PM	-1.58	L
2024/02/10	Sat	10:16 PM	4.59	H
2024/02/11	Sun	03:39 AM	0.93	L
2024/02/11	Sun	09:46 AM	6.26	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: 2/5
1 2 27 30 67
Power#: 9
Jackpot: 228 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 2/2
11 22 42 64 69
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 365 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 2/3
2 12 18 20 44
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 7 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/5
7 20 24 26 27

Daily 3
Draw Date: 2/5
EVENING: 8 5 2
Draw Date: 2/5
MIDDAY: 6 8 6

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 2/5
1st: 08 - Gorgeous George
2nd: 12 - Lucky Charms
3rd: 11 - Money Bags
Race Time: 1:48.86

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Santa Monica Daily Press

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed proposals for

- **RFP: #389 SANTA MONICA BLVD SAFETY ENHANCEMENT STUDY**
- **Submission Deadline Is March 4, 2024, at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL**. The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is ProcureNow (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for the RFP package.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit sealed bids for the:

Olympic Boulevard & 26th Street Project
SP2662

Bids will only be accepted through the CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL, OpenGov or https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca. They must be received by the specified date and time. Late bids will not be accepted. Please allow sufficient time for uploading of documents. The bid opening will be electronic, all submitted bids will be viewable by the public via OpenGov immediately after bid close time.

MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK:
N/A

PROJECT ESTIMATE: $1,150,000
CONTRACT DAYS: 180 Calendar Days
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $4200 Per Calendar Day

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca. The Contractor is required to have an **A General Engineering License** at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit electronic bids for the:

Airport Mechanical Equipment Replacement
SP2694

Bids will only be accepted through the CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL, OpenGov Procurement or https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca. They must be received by the specified date and time. Late bids will not be accepted. Please allow sufficient time for uploading of documents. The bid opening will be electronic, all submitted bids will be viewable by the public via OpenGov Procurement immediately after bid close time.

MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK:
Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 10:00 AM
3223 Donald Douglas Loop South

PROJECT ESTIMATE: $550,000.00
CONTRACT DAYS: 180 Calendar Days
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $1,000.00 Per Calendar Day

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca. The Contractor is required to have **C-10, C-20, A or B License** at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.

YMCA partners with local group for Black History Month kickoff







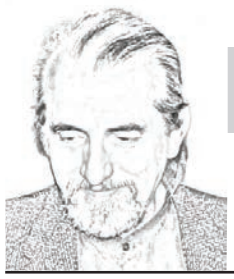






Photos by Thomas Leffler

SMBLA: The Santa Monica YMCA hosted the Santa Monica Black Lives Association (SMBLA) and representatives of other local groups for a Black History Month kickoff event on Feb. 1. The event included guests from the Santa Monica Police Department (including SMPD Chief Ramon Batista), Santa Monica Fire Department, Santa Monica College, the Santa Monica Travel and Tourism Board, along with Santa Monica City Councilmember Gleam Davis. As part of SMBLA's commitment to showcasing Black businesses in the city, Andrian Driscoll set up a station with several virtual portals to business pages, such as King's Celebrity ATA Martial Arts at 2110 Wilshire Blvd. Along with small business support, SMBLA services include mental health and wellness resources, housing and homelessness assistance, youth and family programs, as well as career building. The organization can be contacted at 310-310-8066 or at the office location at 520 Arizona Ave.



OPINION | CURIOUS CITY

Charles Andrews | Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Union of Residents of Santa Monica

URSM

Another acronym?! Just what we need.

Well, maybe we do, this one. We need some umbrella, some place we can go, we beleaguered residents who care about Santa Monica's future, and recognize and value our unique past, to be able to stand up in the present to the organized, moneyed forces of greed and political influence who do not care about any of that.

Of course, those of us in that mindset of awareness and caring do not agree on everything. But there are enough big issues facing our city that we can agree on – safety, water, homeless/mental health, budget allocations, density, sea rise/climate change, schools, traffic, small businesses, historical preservation – that we can make huge progress, if we organize and speak with one voice.

All these issues beg some path toward solutions. Sooner, not later. Instead we have been misled, misinformed, propagandized in the direction of a handful of too-influential ideologues with their own agendas.

(I use the term "ideologue" frequently, and while I do favor running to my online dictionary for an unfamiliar word or uncertain definition, let me save you a trip this time. "1) an often blindly partisan advocate or adherent of a particular ideology; 2) an impractical idealist." And yes, you can spell it with or without the "-ue.")

HOW?

Maybe not so hard. Maybe it can happen soon. We already have good organizations in place, with our neighborhood groups. But they haven't really acted in concert. Here's one idea.

We have seven groups that pretty much cover the city. Individually, they are valuable because they discuss issues affecting their population, get a feel on larger city issues, and bring in as guests experts and city leaders, for information (and, often, grilling, uh, I mean, holding to account). Each of those groups has a chair, and they are passionate and informed about our issues. Those chairs already meet once a month. They are the logical ones to organize this, and could serve as the Board. No campaigns or elections necessary. That would be a reasonably sized governing board, with six members.



Courtesy photo

SEAL: Fortunate People ...

BUT – THERE ARE SEVEN

Neighborhood groups, you said. Yes, but you wouldn't want to include the Ocean Park Association (OPA), in my opinion, from my experience. Many informed residents will tell you we have six neighborhood associations, recognizing that reality.

They are, unfortunately, my neighborhood group and I attended meetings off and on for years until finally realizing I was wasting my time. They rarely take a stand on anything of importance (not even the monster housing development going in at Ocean Park and Lincoln, which will adversely affect OPA residents), and when they do present information to members it is often one sided (LV, massive school bond).

Judy Abdo was a Council member 30 years ago (also on the Santa Monicans for Renters Rights, SMRR, Steering Committee, and currently co-chair of Forward, a group advocating for much more development in SM, richly funded from outside, and she was a prime mover in getting the early childhood center built, inappropriately on civic land, near the SM Civic Auditorium, almost edging out the soccer playing field we now have, in defiance of a long-approved City plan for that area, in a financial deal with the City that would make Donald Trump jealous. Abdo seems to me to control OPA, for years, with a majority. And that is also what I have been told by former Board members.

OPA BOARD PLAYS FAST AND LOOSE

It's a ridiculously large Board, 14 members (down from 17), and many neighbors have complained to me they were intimidated from speaking at meetings because of that. There are often more honchos at long tables up front, than folks in the audience. Abdo has even had housemates/renters on the Board, shamelessly never finding that to be a conflict of interest. Exceptions for many years have been Jeff Jarow, Mary Marlow, Dave Tann and Cathy Gordon-Tann (longtime Treasurer - they need her expertise, no matter how she votes).

When Council member Gleam Davis

SEE **CURIOUS CITY** PAGE 11



Newsom asked for a bill to legalize psychedelic therapy. Lawmakers move to give him one

ANA B. IBARRA
Special to the Daily Press

Gov. Gavin Newsom last fall signaled he was ready to bring psychedelic drugs into the mainstream of California's mental health system, and a pair of lawmakers today submitted a bill to hold him to his word.

Sen. Scott Wiener, a San Francisco Democrat, and Assemblymember Marie Waldron, a San Diego Republican, are carrying a bill that would legalize psychedelic therapy. It would allow adults 21 and older to use the hallucinogenic drugs psilocybin mushrooms, MDMA, DMT and mescaline in a controlled setting and under the supervision of a licensed and trained facilitator.

The new proposal follows Newsom's veto of a broader bill in October that would have decriminalized the possession of psychedelic drugs. At the time, he indicated he would support a measure focused on therapies.

"California should immediately begin work to set up regulated treatment guidelines — replete with dosing information, therapeutic guidelines, rules to prevent against exploitation during guided treatments, and medical clearance of no underlying psychose," Newsom said in his veto message.

The new measure, Senate Bill 1012, would require the state to establish a licensing board that would develop training and oversight rules for therapy facilitators. Facilitators would have to screen individuals before they can participate. The bill also asks for the creation of a public-private fund to support grants for public health education related to psychedelics.



Photo by Rahul Lal for CalMatters

THERAPY: Bonnie Metcalf shows a medicinal mushroom micro dose Supreme Micros during her medicating session at her residence in Sacramento on July 20, 2023. Metcalf suffers from Sarcoidosis, a disease spurring growth of tiny collections of inflammatory cells in different parts of the body. She takes cannabis products to ease the pain.

"I want California to be on the leading edge of psychedelic access for people seeking therapy, I also want California to be on the leading edge of public education and safety around psychedelics, and this bill will point us in that direction," Wiener said in a briefing with reporters.

NEW RESEARCH INTO PSYCHEDELIC THERAPIES

Growing research characterizes psychedelic drugs as promising in helping people address various mental illnesses, including depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has not approved psychedelic-assisted therapies, although some may be close. In December, the nonprofit research group Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies applied for FDA review of its MDMA-assisted therapy for PTSD. That review could come later this year.

Meanwhile, the Department of Veterans Affairs last month announced its intent to study psychedelics for the treatment of PTSD and depression. According to the department, this is the first time since the 1960s that it is funding such research.

Wiener said California can move forward on psychedelic therapies even though their status is uncertain with the federal government. "We are not waiting for the federal government to bless us," he said. "We are addressing California's legal obstacles to this therapy."

Oregon last year became the first state to open centers that offer regulated psilocybin therapies. More than 700 people used these

SEE **MUSHROOM** PAGE 8

MOST LOVED 2024 Santa Monica

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Nomination period February 7-29

For any questions please contact dina@smdp.com

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Virginia Avenue Park

Black History Greens Festival celebrates past, present and future

The city of Santa Monica and the Black Santa Monica Community Group will host the 9th annual Black History Greens Festival, a free community celebration that is part of the city's Black History Month events.

The event will take place on Saturday, Feb. 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Virginia Avenue Park and this year's theme is "Acknowledging the Past, Living in the Present, Building for the Future." It is a key initiative in advancing the city's strategic priority of advancing Justice, Equity & Diversity.

Event attendees can check out greens cooking demos with local chefs in addition to a wide array of activities like book readings and giveaways, dance performances, vendors, wellness information, and special guest KJLH radio's Arron "BOBO" Arnell as the master of ceremonies.

This year's event will highlight Santa Monica's local history by paying tribute to a prominent community member, former commissioner and local Santa Monica business owner Lloyd Allen, who recently celebrated his 103rd birthday. Allen is a champion for civil rights and a trailblazer as the first Black member of the Santa Monica Rotary Club and the Santa Monica Recreation and Parks Commission and is also a key figure in establishing Virginia Avenue Park.

The day's festivities also include:

Event opening with a drumming and dance performance by
Olokun Cultural Group
Blessing by Shekinah "Paradise" Shakur
DJ music mixing by Mark Birotte
Book reading of "Flowing through the Elements," by Santa Monica author Darin Glenn
Live cooking demonstrations with local chefs of family favorite greens recipes
Book giveaways and coloring activities hosted by the Pico Branch Library
A farmer's market featuring Master Gardeners giving out seedlings
A wide variety of resource booths and vendors

Guests are encouraged to bring picnic blanket and/or lawn chairs. Walking and biking are encouraged. For more information call (310) 458-8688 or visit santamonica.gov.

SUBMITTED BY TATI SIMONIAN, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER.

LOFT DYNAMICS

FROM PAGE 1

Loft Dynamics has already sold a number of these training devices to organizations around the world. Several months ago, Whistler-based rotary wing operator Blackcomb Helicopters acquired the technology to increase its flight training capabilities while removing the safety risks and the carbon emissions of in-flight training.

A number of different simulators are available from the Swiss company, with the H125 enabling training on a single turbine helicopter.

During the official opening ceremony, the company announced that the Los Angeles Police Department Air Support Division, the largest municipal airborne law enforcement operation in the world, has initiated a purchase of the H125 VR FSTD.

"It's incredibly challenging for any pilot today to realistically train for the dangerous maneuvers and diverse scenarios in which we fly," Kevin Gallagher, Chief Pilot, Los Angeles Police Department, Air Support Division, said adding, "Learning and mastering the skills and procedures needed to fly under instrument flight rules and to survive an inadvertent instrument meteorological conditions flight is no exception."

Loft Dynamics simulations use cloud-based software, allowing the regular addition of new and applicable training scenarios. Moreover, the sim's full-motion technology precisely replicates the motion of a helicopter in-flight, while the visual technology accurately simulates challenging flight conditions in a realistic 3D view.

"These features are critical to providing our more than 50 pilots, who fly around the clock, with the type of conditions and maneuvers they often encounter. With the sim onsite, our pilots can regularly and safely train to maintain proficiency in these essential skills," Gallagher said.

The fully immersive ISO 9001-certified simulators are equipped with a three dimensional high-resolution panoramic view, dynamic six-degrees-of-freedom motion platform and a full-scale replica cockpit with a unique pose tracking system. Each device is 20 times less expensive and 10 times smaller than traditional flight simulators. The VR headset offers a 3D, 90Hz frame refresh rate, 2 x 8 megapixel resolution and 30 pixel-per-degree display.

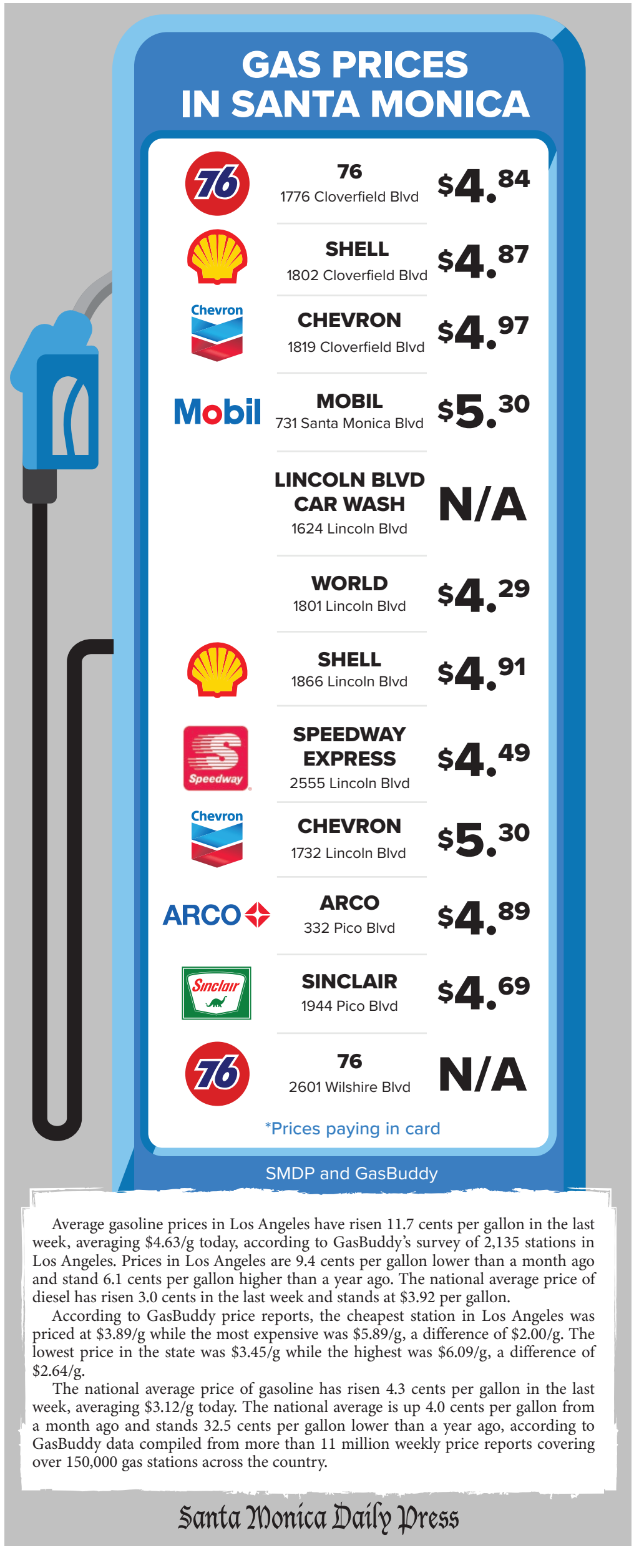
Mayor Phil Brock cut the ribbon at a packed event on Thursday evening saying, "We have a long tradition of flying in Santa Monica, over 100 years. It was, at one time, the busiest single-runway airport in the world and it played a pivotal role in the aviation industry," he said.

"We're more than happy to welcome Loft to Santa Monica [and they're] bringing their first ever demo facility in the United States here. That's an achievement," Brock said adding, "And they're using technology to address one of the aviation industries' most pressing needs, a more accessible and lower cost way to safely train pilots in real world scenarios."

"In addition, Loft is going to help nurture that next generation of pilots and a lot of those will be flying in electric planes as well as vertical takeoff and landing aircraft … We're a great incubator for all sorts of new technology. We want to head forward into the future and we're happy to have Loft in our future."

scott.snowden@smdp.com

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Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have risen 11.7 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $4.63/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 9.4 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 6.1 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has risen 3.0 cents in the last week and stands at $3.92 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at $3.89/g while the most expensive was $5.89/g, a difference of $2.00/g. The lowest price in the state was $3.45/g while the highest was $6.09/g, a difference of $2.64/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 4.3 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $3.12/g today. The national average is up 4.0 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 32.5 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Santa Monica Daily Press

SPARKL

FROM PAGE 2

Week at the end of February, their largest promotional assignment to date.

While they couldn't divulge their full collection details for Paris, Sparkl plans on bringing a "fairy twist" to an "American classic," that being denim wear. One of the world's landmark fashion gatherings, Paris is an expansion point that highlights the team's go-getting attitude.

"I think one of the things I've learned [in] the fashion community is you make all your own opportunities, then put yourself in the right places," Hall said adding, "There are endless opportunities out there."

This year marks the 10-year anniversary of Hall's colorful journey, one where she has "mastered the way" she wants her artistry "to be distributed to the world." Along with mastering her craft, she's mastered what it means to grow her skill set and mental fortitude.

"I've scraped together every single thing I've made," she said. "When I was 18, I was working like four or five different jobs just to make this happen, and I continue to actually do that. I really developed my skills in multiple avenues … to be able to be paid for my work is a really cool thing."

To browse Sparkl products or learn more about the business, visit sparklfairycouture.com.

thomas@smdp.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Hypocrisy in Congress

Editor:

Recently, a bi-partisan Congressional hearing was convened to address child safety and the power of the internet. As parents, loved ones, and survivors of the worst influences of today's ever emerging social media and technology sat in attendance respectfully listening to the discussion, tech CEO's of Meta, X, Tik Tok and Snap as well as Congressmen, when suddenly Lindsey Graham (r South Carolina) made a passionate statement declaring and demanding that big tech must not be permitted to continue to be exempt from tort claims for the damage done as a result of a lack of adequate safety standards and enforcement.

The same Lindsey Graham who voted to exempt the gun industry from any legal liability for the leading cause of death among children in the US, gun violence.

Please make a note of the hypocrisy.

Stewart Resmer, Los Angeles

RAIN

FROM PAGE 3

continue to assess the situation throughout the Los Angeles metro, as the two-day rain total for Downtown Los Angeles was the third-highest total for two consecutive days in the area since 1877, when rain totals began being recorded. After Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass issued a local state of emergency Monday morning, Gov. Gavin Newsom followed suit by declaring a state of emergency for most of coastal Southern California. On Monday, President Joe Biden also promised to provide federal assistance in storm management.

thomas@smdp.com

MUSHROOM

FROM PAGE 6

services in the second half of 2023, said Dr. Brian Anderson, a psychiatrist at UC San Francisco.

"And they had waitlists of thousands of people at the different centers," Anderson said. "In Oregon, you see people coming from out of state, so we'd have to anticipate how many Californians would access this versus other people possibly wanting to access it, but there seems to be quite a demand."

BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR MENTAL HEALTH MEASURES

Several Republicans voted for last year's decriminalization bill. Waldron said lawmakers from both parties support the therapies because they see a new need for new mental health solutions. She shared she's heard from veterans and first responders who shared that psychedelics have helped them overcome severe traumas and suicidal thoughts.

"Our current approach to mental health has been criminalization and lack of access, we can do better," said Waldron, who is also the author of a second bill that establishes a state workgroup to study psychedelic-assisted therapies.

A UC Berkeley poll last year showed that 60% of those surveyed supported psychedelics for therapeutic use, and 78% supported making it easier for researchers to further study psychedelics. Meanwhile, 49% said they supported removing criminal penalties for personal use.

A number of law enforcement unions, cities and the state lobbying group for district attorneys opposed last year's decriminalization bill. Parents and several researchers also spoke at hearings on the bill, with some requesting additional safety and education components.

Outside of the Legislature, a group of doctors and advocates are gathering signatures to place a measure on the November ballot that would approve $5 billion in state general obligation bonds to create a state agency for psychedelic therapy research. The group has until March 20 to submit signatures.

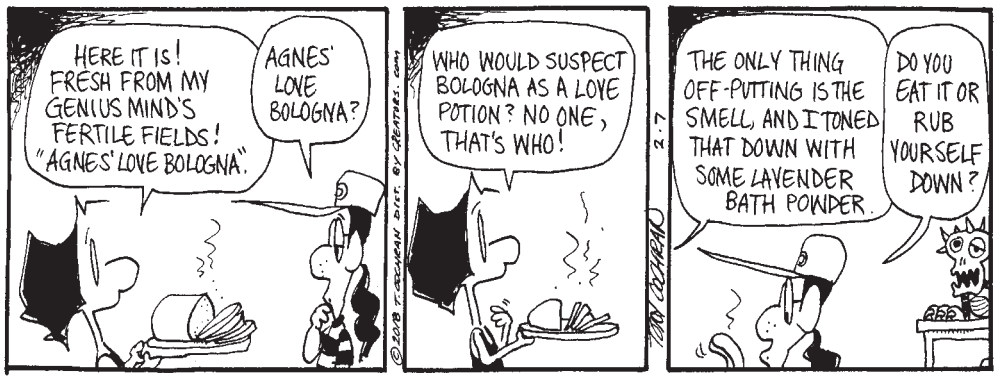
Supported by the California Health Care Foundation (CHCF), which works to ensure that people have access to the care they need, when they need it, at a price they can afford. Visit www.chcf.org to learn more.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.



Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



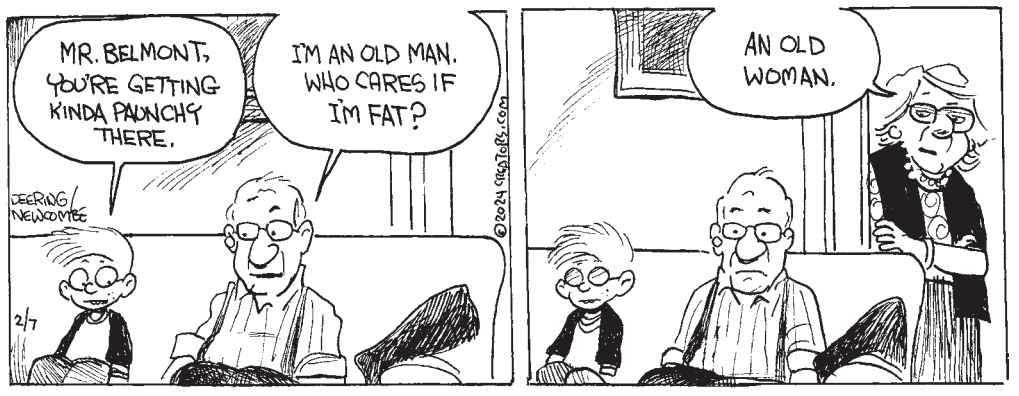
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



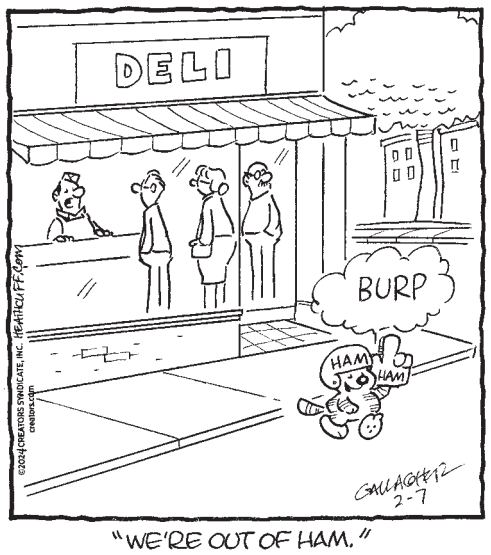
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

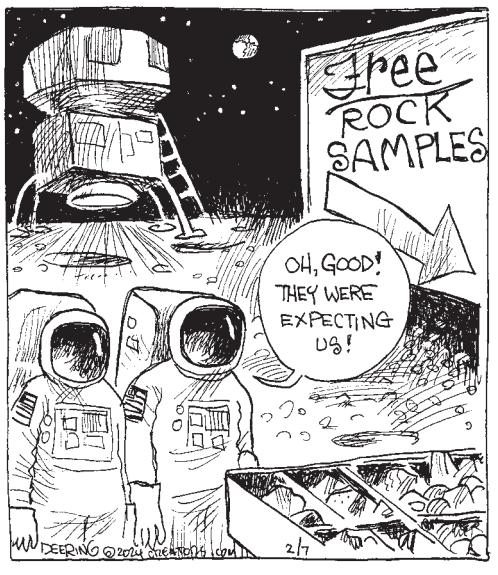
By PETER GALLAGHER



"WE'RE OUT OF HAM."

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 26 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6113

Compass reading

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

Analyzer
Arrow
Astronomical
Attain
Circular
Cold
Date
Degrees
Dials
Find
Float
Grasp
Gyroscope
Handy
Help
Improvised
Liquid
Magnet
Map
Markers
North
Orbit
Orient
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Pole
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Small
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 7)

A spontaneous and eventful year! Curious and brave, you open your heart and watch love make a new world of your life. More highlights: An unconventional venture yields priceless rewards, and monetary ones with a value you'll bank on. A healing will release the weight of yesteryears. You'll crack a code and invent one, too. Aries and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 1, 44, 16 and 30.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Others have learned the hard way so you don't have to. Tap on one of the many resources around you. Read, study and observe so that when you make mistakes, they won't have been avoidable or redundant.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). What if your own fulfillment was top priority? Aims that were near and dear to you have been shuffled to the back burner where you cannot properly tend to them. Move things around so you can focus on what matters to you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Today, you'll be tempted to hand over the result someone needs, but the bigger gift will be if you can offer someone an opportunity to create, build and solve things on their own.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Don't take it personally when you get a delayed response, or no response. All it means is that the other person doesn't know what the appropriate response should be, or, for whatever reason, is unable to deliver it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You could face the problem head-on, though perhaps a strategic sidestep is in order. This is not a move of weakness but a decision to conserve your strength for a worthier purpose.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's no use arguing with what is. Wondering if it's right or ideal is as silly as wishing it were another way. Reality is supreme. Your strongest position is one of commitment. Say "yes" to what's happening and use it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You feel suspended between worlds, unable to fully inhabit either. You are not the only one. "Feet on the earth, head in the clouds" is an apt description of the human condition.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll be in a teaching role. Too much instruction limits learning. There's no need to point out mistakes early in the process. Hang back ready to guide, knowing it's ultimately best for people to come into knowledge their own way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's easier for you to make good choices when you realize how many others will be affected. When kind to yourself, you are kind to the ones who love you, too. And if you cause yourself harm, you also harm those you love.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You are sometimes your own worst enemy, but it's only because you're human and thus complex. One must be cunning indeed to outsmart their own self-sabotaging behaviors. You'll pull it off today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). People around you will thrive because you are oxygen, reviving and enlivening wherever you go. You'll give a light touch to your purposes, finding the humor and fun while still getting things done quickly and correctly.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). What is stronger and more enduring than the volatile forces? The gentle ones. Tornadoes dissipate. Fires burn out. Volcanoes go extinct. What remains, for millions of years, is the placid lake.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

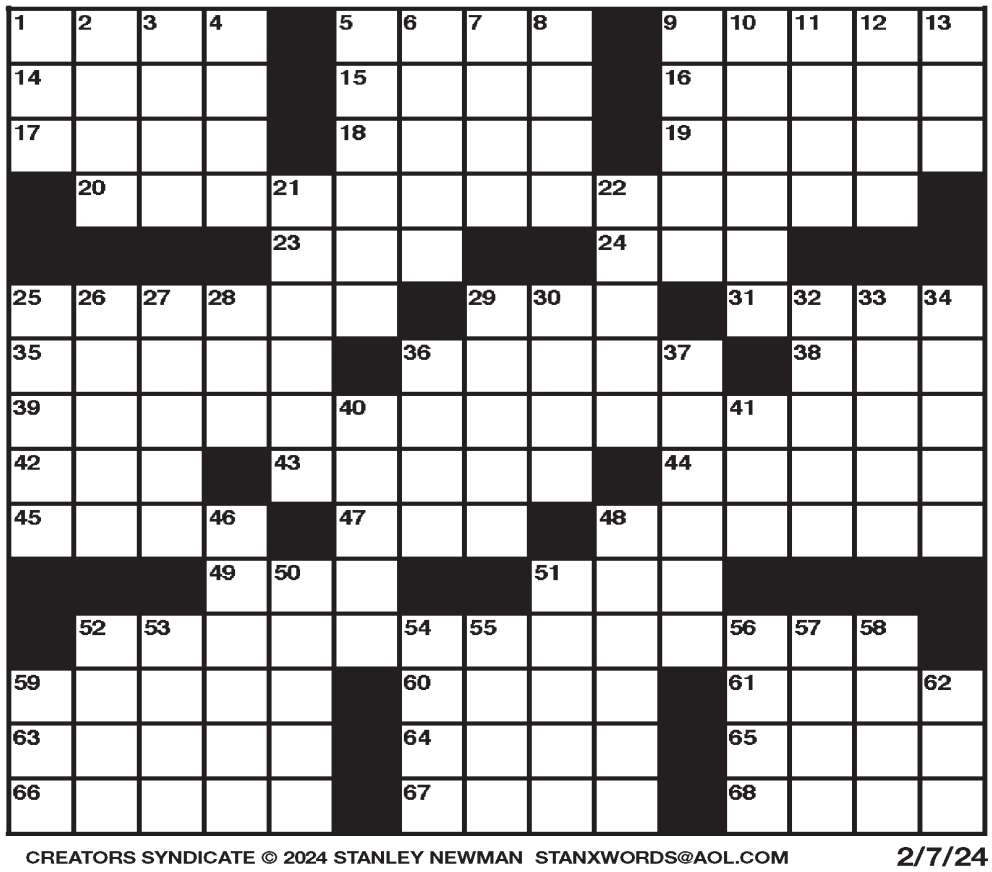
GO AFTER IT by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Went very fast
5 Corrosive liquid
9 Weather with lightning
14 Female choir voice
15 Carry off
16 Forbidden thing
17 Oz canine
18 Fir or elm
19 Got out of bed
20 Study law in school, say
23 Recent USNA grad
24 Barely passing grade
25 Give the meaning of
29 Donkey
31 Made a sketch of
35 Lesser of two __
36 Yellowish brown
38 __ Baba
39 "Do what I do" game
42 __ out a living
43 Gave a grade to
44 Location
45 Crimson and scarlet
47 Landscaper's turf
48 Card suit
49 Boy king of Egypt
51 Guys
52 Rush around ineffectually
59 Fry lightly
60 Quart fraction
61 Make beer or coffee
63 Wrath
64 In addition
65 Pop singer Del Rey
66 Unwanted plants
67 Tilt a bit
68 Finishes with

DOWN

1 Occupied a chair
2 Raindrop sound
3 Caesar's rebuke
4 Entryway
5 Bring into harmony
6 Is interested
7 Swedish furniture chain
8 Homeowner's document
9 Theater platform
10 Sealed, as a driveway
11 Clarinet kin
12 Valentine flower
13 *Simpsons* bartender
21 Motion-detecting device
22 Unsuccessful '50s Ford
25 Reschedule for later
26 Call to mind
27 Sent in, as tax forms
28 __-at-ease (nervous)
29 Needed a massage
30 Building for tools
32 Plane-tracking device
33 Vote into office
34 Metallic strings
36 *Beetle Bailey* dog
37 Be regretful
40 Squander
41 __ carte menu
46 Uttered
48 *Ten Commandments* star
50 Software buyers
51 High-IQ club
52 Walking stick
53 Immense
54 White gem
55 *Ten Commandments* river
56 Up to a task
57 Neighbor of Iraq
58 Provide for a while
59 Woodcutter's tool
62 Had been



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

CURIOUS CITY

FROM PAGE 5

and husband John Prindle moved to Ocean Park recently, Prindle (an employee of mega-developer Michael Dell, whose projects include the ghastly behemoth Miramar Hotel redevelopment, something Davis did not disclose, or recuse for, until a resident confronted her with it) was very quickly appointed to the OPA Board, in violation of their long-standing rules for that position. He then immediately started pushing his idea for closing Main Street to cars, which was abandoned after several trials brought little enthusiasm, except from bar and restaurant owners, and a lot of complaints. Prindle's bio still states, "I have been a SM resident for nearly 3 decades, and in Ocean Park for 13 of those years" – but does not mention that it had been decades since he lived in Ocean Park, making him less familiar with the current situations, than someone who had lived here. When I asked some Board members how that happened, they said, well, we made an exception.

So those are my reasons for suggesting we need a six chair, not seven, Board of neighborhood leaders for URSM. Personally, I do not like the politics I have observed from the OPA leadership, nor their practices. But that's just me. I think it is the exact opposite of what residents want for this city. But I hate to exclude my own neighborhood of 38 years, so maybe an "at large" appointment could be made. There are plenty of good folks in Ocean Park who could be an asset.

WE NEED THIS

I was among many who thought Armen Melkonians' Residocracy organization of a few years back would become a political party of sorts, representing the interests of residents. But Armen often overruled his Board, by his own design. And I think his intention from the beginning was to see this function so well in Santa Monica that he could franchise it, all over the country.

I like the acronym for the name, because it sounds like, You Are Santa Monica, the notion behind it all. But I am open to a different name, and a different organizational plan. But please, let's do something now, before the next election throws us back so far we may never recover.

URSM!

Charles Andrews has lived in Santa Monica for 38 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

Classifieds

DBA

R FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2024004197 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 01/08/24 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as La Vecchia Cucuina 2.) La Vecchia 2654 Main St Santa Monica, CA 90405. Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Trinacria Restaurant, Inc 3928 Van Burden PL Culver City, CA 90232 If corporation or LLC-Print State of Incorporation/ Organization: CA This Business is conducted by: A Corporation The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 04/2006 Registrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: Trinacria Restaurant, Inc Title: CFO Anthony Mollica This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 01/08/2024 NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS 02/7/24, 02/14/24, 02/21/24, 2/28/24

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WEDNESDAY | FEBRUARY 7

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

THURSDAY | FEBRUARY 8

RENT CONTROL BOARD MEETING
The Rent Control Board meets to conduct business associated with the Rent Control Charter Amendment and Regulations. Held at 7 p.m. at Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street.

BOOK DISCUSSION
Michèle Lamont with Viet Thanh Nguyen will discuss her book, "Seeing Others: How Recognition Works - and How It Can Heal a Divided World," beginning at 8 p.m. at The Ann and Jerry Moss Theater - New Roads School, 3131 Olympic Blvd., Santa Monica. General admission $20, GA ticket plus a signed book copy $45, GA ticket plus a signed book copy and a signed book copy of "A Man of Two Faces" by Nguyen $70. Can be bought at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/michele-lamont-with-viet-thanh-nguyen-tickets-764846716117.

COMEDY ON MAIN
Featuring comedians from Netflix, BET, Amazon Prime and more. Doors at Tavern on Main, 2907 Main St., open at 8 p.m. and show begins at 8:30 p.m. Tickets $10 online, $15 at the door, use code MAIN for half off tickets while they last. Can be bought at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/comedy-on-main-sm-tickets-694553286577. For more, contact Reid at 301-213-5129 or reid.clark35@gmail.com.

FRIDAY | FEBRUARY 9

KING TIDES CELEBRATION
Experience one of the wonders of nature, the highest tides of the year with Climate Action Santa Monica. When the planets and sun are at their closest, and the orbits of the earth and sun are just right, the King Tides, the highest tides of the year, will occur. These high tides give us a glimpse into the future of sea level rise and how these changes will affect our beach, coastal infrastructure, and our community. Begins at 7:30 a.m. at Heal the Bay Aquarium, 1600 Ocean Front Walk, Santa Monica. Tickets are free, reserve a spot at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/3rd-annual-santa-monica-king-tides-celebration-tickets-759363796557.

DANCE THEATRE
Join Invertigo Dance Theatre in an evening of collective cupid creativity and fun at MidiCi Pizza in Marina Del Rey. Starts at 5 p.m. at MidiCi the Neapolitan Pizza Company, 13488 Maxella Avenue Unit 100, Marina del Rey. Meet and greet Valentine's reception from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., dinner consisting of appetizer, one cocktail, salad, pizza or pasta entree and dessert. Tickets $50, Tickets with VIP Seating for extra $50 donation. Tickets can be purchased at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fall-in-love-with-invertigo-dance-theatre-tickets-796183605597.

DANCE AT THE ODYSSEY
Odyssey Theatre Ensemble returns with its annual six-week celebration of contemporary dance that has established the company's unique "Dance at the Odyssey" festival as the go-to place to view new work by cutting edge companies and choreographers. Begins at 8 p.m. with a performance of "How I Became Kinder, and Kinder," by choreographer Azuki Umeda. Tickets $25. Odyssey Theatre is located at 2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd. For more, go to odysseytheatre.com.

DRUNK THEATRE
A comedian takes five shots of whiskey in a row and tries to perform an improvised play with five sober comedians. What could go wrong?! Starts at 9 p.m. at Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St., Santa Monica. Tickets $20, limited pre-sale discount $18, early bird group discount $15 for groups of 4 or more, VIP seating $35. Tickets can be purchased at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/drunk-theatre-la-the-wildest-improv-comedy-show-tickets-792142769347.

SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 10

VALENTINE'S GLASS SALE
Save the date! A chance to find beautiful, creative, and one-of-a-kind gifts for Valentine's Day. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. In conjunction with the Virginia Ave. Park Valentine's Day Celebration. 2200 Virginia Ave. Proceeds help support the SMC Art Department and events at Virginia Ave. Park.

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