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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

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Vikings forge path to their college athletic homes



Photo by Thomas Leffler

SIGNING: Family members joined nine Samohi student-athletes during a National Signing Day ceremony on Feb. 7.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

The Samohi student body invaded the campus' North Gym on Feb. 7, honoring some of the school's finest senior student-athletes as they made their college decisions. Representing several different sports, nine of Samohi's best signed on for the next step in their careers during a National Signing Day ceremony.

After an introduction from Samohi Athletic Director Coleen Davenport, the student-athletes ran through the Vikings tunnel typically reserved for football fare, arriving to a rousing ovation by hundreds of students, parents, staff and coaches. Each of the signees were lauded by their respective coaches before family members joined them for the official signing process.

A successful 2023 season for the Vikings football squad, which went 9-5 and went on a miraculous run to the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Southern Section Division 9 championship contest, was aided by three of the signees. Moving on to Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts is running back and linebacker Caden McCallum, offensive and defensive lineman Jayden Montanez committed to the University of California, Davis, and offensive and defensive lineman Ryland Hawkins will be playing for Willamette University in Salem, Oregon.

SEE **SIGNING** PAGE 4

St. John's recognizes Black History Month with healthcare panel

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Black Americans experience almost universally worse outcomes when it comes to healthcare and a recent discussion hosted by Providence Saint John's Health Center focused on how to address racial disparities.

Black Americans face persistent health disparities throughout their lives. Childhood issues start with higher rates of infant / maternal mortality, asthma and mental health challenges. As adults, illnesses such as high blood pressure and Alzheimer's disease are more common.

Various factors contribute to these disparities, including underlying health conditions, but many experts highlight the impact of structural racism leading to inequitable healthcare access, implicit bias, and discriminatory care.

Limited access to quality medical care is identified as a major contributor to poorer health outcomes, along with environmental problems in Black communities and lower priority given to the well-being of Black

SEE **HEALTH** PAGE 6

Council to hear 2023 annual crime update at Tuesday's meeting

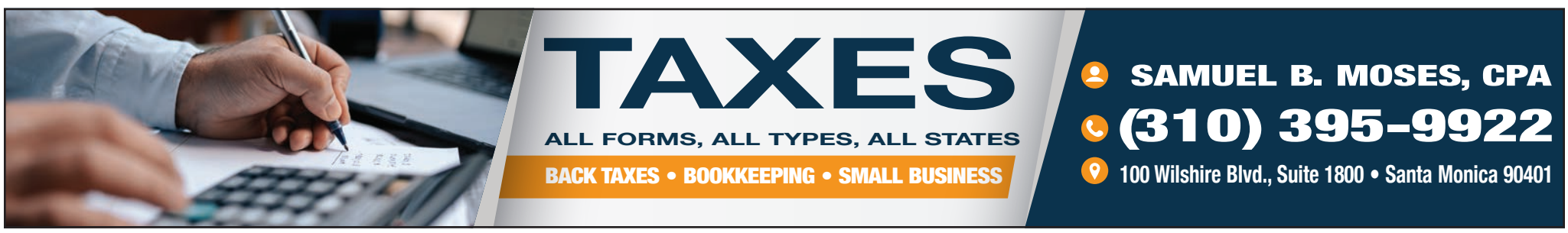
SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

The City Manager's report in Tuesday's Council meeting will be particularly interesting this week as it will contain both the Santa Monica Police Department's (SMPD) 2023 annual crime report update and a summary of AB 1287's changes to state density bonus law for housing projects.

During the City Council meeting on September 12 of last year, Police Chief Ramon Batista declared that the rate of serious crime in Santa Monica had now returned to pre-pandemic levels as he presented the Council with an analysis of recent crime statistics comparing the first eight months of 2023 to previous years.

According to Batista, 911 calls to the SMPD were down by 7.6%,

SEE **COUNCIL PREVIEW** PAGE 4



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News Binge: All of last week's stories in one place

SMDP STAFF REPORT

PETITIONERS, SCHOOL DISTRICT CLASH ON PROPOSED VOTING MAP:

Public commenters were able to have their voice on Jan. 31 during a hearing of the Los Angeles County Office of Education Committee on School District Organization. Held on the Malibu campus of Santa Monica College, the committee received input on the legality of the voting map submitted as part of a petition aiming to establish district-based voting in Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) elections. The petition was initially submitted in 2022 by Malibu attorney Kevin Shenkman on behalf of Malibu residents, claiming that the district's at-large voting system is unfair to minority voters, and proposes a division of the district into seven geographic "trustee areas," including two that would merge parts of Malibu and Santa Monica together non-contiguously.

SCHOOL OFFICIALS BROACH WAYS TO SUPPORT STRUGGLING STUDENTS:

The Feb. 1 meeting of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) Board of Education held an update on Q2 Lead Metrics, part of the district's cycle on inquiry based on Local Control and Accountability (LCAP) goals. The report focused on fall diagnostic and interim assessments, including STAR Reading and Math evaluations, as well as other factors like fall semester secondary grades, English Learner reclassification, attendance and discipline. Board discussion on the item focused on "promising practices" for districtwide support on lagging students, as well as how to invert chronic absenteeism in student subgroups like African American/Black students.

BREW WORKS PARTNERS WITH BLUDSO'S TO RELEASE A ROASTED MALT SMOKED LAGER:

Santa Monica based Brew Works has teamed up with Bludso's BBQ for a limited release smoked malt lager, available on draft at both Bludso's and the Brew Works at 1920 Colorado Ave. Select grains used in the lager were roasted "low and slow" in Bludso's iconic "Ole Hickory" smoker and pecan wood was chosen for its delicate and slightly nutty flavor characteristics.

PUBLIC INPUT ON GELSON'S PROJECT TO MOUNT ONCE MORE:

While public comment has stayed dormant for some time, discussions have begun to ramp up once again on a divisive large-scale housing project, as the Architectural Review Board plans to review a proposed housing project at 2601 Lincoln Blvd. The project would replace the Gelson's grocery store and accompanying retail center with 521 apartments in twelve 5-story buildings.

TWO DAYS OF DELUGE BRING ASTRONOMICAL RAINFALL:

Atmospheric river-powered storm totals in Santa Monica over a 48-hour period from Feb. 4 through Feb. 6 was 6.79 inches, according to the National Weather Service observation station at Santa Monica Municipal Airport. City work crews assisted in removing debris from the California Incline roadway, which was closed in both directions for about an hour the morning of Feb. 5. Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) kept Santa Monica schools open throughout the storm, but road closures in the Malibu area forced Malibu schools in the district to close Feb. 5 and Feb. 6.

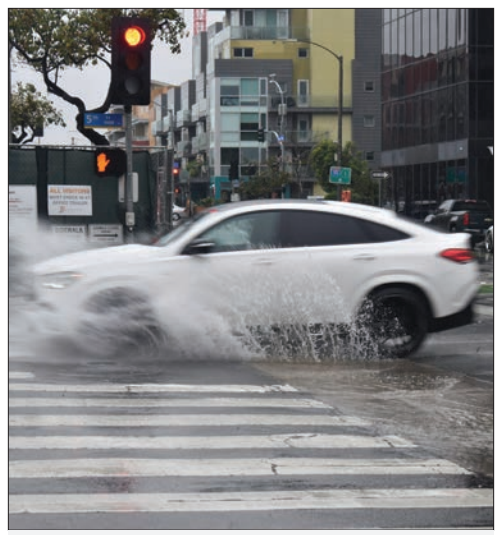


Photo by Thomas Leffler

STORM: A historic 48-hour deluge in Santa Monica pounded the city with 6.79 inches of rainfall between Feb. 4 and Feb. 6.

LIFE CAN BE TOUGH SO COUPLE MADE AN ALBUM TO HELP EVERYONE SING THEIR FEELINGS:

A pair of Santa Monicans may have missed out on a Grammy Award, but that doesn't make their nominated Children's Album any less of an accomplishment. Duo Andrew Barman and Polly Hall's nominated album "Ahhhhh!" was born out of the couple's own experience in parenting and mental health after the COVID-19 pandemic, touching on points beyond the struggle of childhood. While some topics may be heavy, the duo found multiple ways to make them accessible and light-hearted for all to enjoy, particularly children.

CIF HONORS MARINERS, VIKINGS FOOTBALL STANDOUTS:

The California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) All-CIF Southern Section football squads featured members of the Saint Monica Mariners and Samohi Vikings teams. Mariners senior wide receiver, cornerback and team captain Joshua Barnes was named the CIF Southern Section Division 13 Offensive Player of the Year, while Coach Thomas Barnes was honored at the division's Championship Coach. The Division 13 squad also featured eight other Mariners contributors like quarterback Bradley Cassier and running back Elijah Wilson. The Samohi squad had six selections on the Division 9 team, including seniors like running back and linebacker Caden McCallum, as well as wide receiver Griffin Seals.

SANTA MONICA ANIMAL SHELTER AT FULL CANINE CAPACITY, ADOPTION FEES WAIVED:

The Santa Monica animal shelter is currently at full capacity with dogs, which means that they do not have any open dog kennels. In an effort to find these adorable animals their forever homes, the Santa Monica Animal Shelter Foundation is going to be

SEE NEWS PAGE 11

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California wants to cap your medical bills. Guess who's pushing back.



Photo by Pablo Unzueta for CalMatters

HEALTH: Dr. Oscar Casillas removes a pair of stitches from Alex's hand at Martin Luther King Jr. Community Hospital on July 26, 2022. According to Alex, he was born at King Drew Medical Center, a hospital that was born out of the 1965 Watts race riots, which closed its doors in 2003. The hospital building is in the same vicinity of MLK Community Hospital.

ANA B. IBARRA
Special to the Daily Press

A new state office charged with controlling the rising cost of health care in California is moving toward one of the most aggressive goals in the nation, aiming to cap cost increases to 3% a year.

You might not notice right away if the Office of Health Care Affordability commits to the tentative goal it released last month and takes steps to enforce it. But, over time, experts say the cap on price increases could make a difference in how much Californians pay for health care.

"A 3.0% target places California on the path of a more sustainable, affordable, and equitable health care system, slowing the trajectory of growth and improving affordability for all," the office wrote in its recommendation.

The agency's announcement immediately drew criticism from health care industry representatives who called it "unrealistic" and "arbitrary." They contend it could harm patients by reducing access to care if health providers watching their spending end up reducing services.

Meanwhile, consumer advocates and health economists characterized it as a good first step in the state's effort to control costs.

Gov. Gavin Newsom established the office through a provision in the 2022 state budget. Its job is to collect health expenditure data from providers and insurers, analyze it and set limits on spending for the industry.

Eight other states have cost benchmarks. At 3%, California's would be one of the more stringent caps — third only to Connecticut and Nevada.

California's proposed target would allow health care prices and spending to increase, but at a slower rate than in recent years. Between 2015 and 2020, per capita health spending grew each year an average of 5.2%, outpacing wages, according to the Office of Health Care Affordability.

Health spending in California reached $405 billion in 2020 — that's $10,299 per person, according to federal data. This includes what private insurers, public programs and individuals pay for direct services and goods, such as hospital and physician care, prescription drugs and medical devices. It does not include the administrative costs of insurance or public health funding.

The office plans to roll out one statewide cap but may eventually create regional and sector-specific targets. Officials said they came up with the 3% figure because that is how much the annual median household income has changed on average over the last 20 years.

"Most importantly, tying to historical median household income growth signals that health care spending should not grow faster than the income of California families," Vishaal Pegany, deputy director of the Office of Health Care Affordability, said during the most recent board meeting.

Providers and entities that fail to meet the proposed benchmark could have to make improvements or face financial penalties. They would not be punished in the program's first year.

The state's health care affordability board is scheduled to continue discussions this month and has until June 1 to approve a cost target that would go into effect in 2025 and last through 2029.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **64.4**

MONDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh
Modest new round of longer period WNW swell. Deep high tide mid-morning will slow most of the region.

TUESDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh
WNW swell slowly eases. Morning winds look light. Mind the mid day high tide.

Weather

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 63.
Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 46.
Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 63.
Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 48.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2024/02/12	Mon	04:32 AM	0.77	L
2024/02/12	Mon	10:34 AM	5.55	H
2024/02/12	Mon	5:07 PM	-0.55	L
2024/02/12	Mon	11:30 PM	5.06	H
2024/02/13	Tue	05:31 AM	0.73	L
2024/02/13	Tue	11:27 AM	4.63	H
2024/02/13	Tue	5:41 PM	0.20	L
2024/02/14	Wed	12:12 AM	5.16	H
2024/02/14	Wed	06:38 AM	0.77	L
2024/02/14	Wed	12:30 PM	3.65	H
2024/02/14	Wed	6:14 PM	0.99	L
2024/02/15	Thu	12:58 AM	5.14	H
2024/02/15	Thu	08:05 AM	0.78	L
2024/02/15	Thu	2:04 PM	2.82	H
2024/02/15	Thu	6:48 PM	1.76	L
2024/02/16	Fri	01:57 AM	5.04	H
2024/02/16	Fri	09:56 AM	0.55	L
2024/02/16	Fri	4:45 PM	2.58	H
2024/02/16	Fri	7:37 PM	2.42	L
2024/02/17	Sat	03:11 AM	4.96	H
2024/02/17	Sat	11:27 AM	0.09	L
2024/02/17	Sat	7:03 PM	2.98	H
2024/02/17	Sat	9:53 PM	2.80	L

Daily Lottery

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POWERBALL
Draw Date: 2/7
12 21 62 67 69
Power#: 17
Jackpot: 248 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 2/6
2 10 31 44 57
Mega#: 10
Jackpot: 394 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 2/7
25 34 39 42 45
Mega#: 22
Jackpot: 8 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/8
17 18 25 35 37

Daily 3
Draw Date: 2/8
EVENING: 3 0 8
Draw Date: 2/8
MIDDAY: 3 5 5

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 2/8
1st: 12 - Lucky Charms
2nd: 09 - Winning Spirit
3rd: 11 - Money Bags
Race Time: 1:48.66

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Santa Monica Daily Press

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

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

BID #4480 BUS OILS AND FLUIDS
Submission Deadline is February 28, 2024 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

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

Classifieds

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2024012577 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 01/19/24The following person(s) is (are) doing business as SunsetPark Plaza Liquor and Jr Market 2602 Pico Blvd Santa Monica, CA 90405Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON The full name of the registrant(s) is/are SunsetPark Liquor 2602 Pico Blvd Santa Monica, CA 90405If corporation or LLC- Print State of Corporation The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 06/2012Registrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: SunsetPark Liquor Title: President Mohamas Taherian This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 01/19/2024NOTICE: 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 PRESS02/12/24, 02/19/24, 02/26/24, 3/04/24

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2024021812 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 01/31/24The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Pacific Surgery Center of Santa Monica 2021 Santa Monica Blvd Suite 724E Santa Monica, Ca 90405. Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON 2408698The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Pacific Palisades Surgery Center and Medical Group, Inc 2021 Santa Monica Blvd Suite 724E Santa Monica, Ca 90405. If corporation or LLC- Print State of CAThis is Business is Conducted: A Corporation The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/ ARegistrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: Pacific Palisades Surgery Center and Medical Group, Inc Title: President Christian Sanfilippo This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 01/31/2024NOTICE: 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 PRESS02/12/24, 02/19/24, 02/26/24, 3/04/24

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

SIGNING

FROM PAGE 1

Vikings Coach Carter Paysinger spoke highly of the three, including team captain McCallum, who was recently named as part of the All-CIF Southern Section Division 9 squad and the All-Bay League team for his 2023 efforts. As the team's bellcow back, McCallum ran the ball 288 times in 14 games, rushing for 1,604 yards and 24 touchdowns. In the receiving game, he caught 26 passes for 187 yards and 2 scores. McCallum was also active on defense, recording 108 tackles during the season.

Montanez, who Paysinger called a "beast on both sides of the ball," was also an All-CIF and All-Bay League selection in 2023. Along with his work on the offensive line, Montanez was responsible for a team-high in tackles for loss (15.5) and sacks (4.5). Hawkins, an All-Bay League honorable mention, was another anchor on the offensive line and was noted as a team leader and "big reason" for the Vikings' 2023 success by Paysinger.

Three of the other signees chose to stay in-state, those being girls' soccer standout Cassie Bibby (University of Southern California), lacrosse leader Jasper Ford (Dominican University of California in San Rafael) and boys' water polo record holder Darragh Flanders (Pomona Pitzer College in Claremont).

Flanders was applauded by his father and water polo coach Matt Flanders, who said the team and coaching staff were "really happy to see Darragh move on" to the next level. Flanders' accomplishments include a 2022-23 NISCA Boys Water Polo All-American Second Team selection, as well as holding the record for most career goals in Samohi history.

Going out of state for school are girls' volleyball star Emersen Werger (University of Denver), sailor Oliver Keeves (Tufts University) and baseball standout Bobby Munoz (Macalester College in Saint Paul, Minnesota). Munoz was a three-year starter and leader for the Vikings, with coach Jordan Sigman saying he expects "some big things from him."

"His leadership, his will to win, his ability to hold others accountable and himself accountable were the keys to our success this (past) year … we're super proud of him," Sigman said of Munoz.

Davenport took the time to thank student mentors such as coaches for their part in the student-athletes' process.

"They have put in countless hours to work with all of you students to improve your skills, give you a good experience, (guide) you through high school, and I thank them for their hard work," she said.

thomas@smdp.com

COUNCIL PREVIEW

FROM PAGE 1

from 70,101 to 64,744, a return to pre-Covid levels, with 76% community initiated and 24% officer initiated, approximately the same ratios to last year.

However, arrests were up by 32.4% compared to 2022, but remained well below the levels of 2019 (some 72% lower), with 68% of those being unhoused individuals, remaining very similar to the number last year in 2022 (which was 66%). Moreover, the crime rate was up by 5% and sadly has surpassed pre-pandemic levels just creeping past the number recorded in 2019.

The information that will be presented by the City on Tuesday will be a complete report of 2023, factoring in the final four months of last year.

"Public safety in Santa Monica touches all aspects of life in our city. Our department members are deeply committed to the well-being of our neighborhoods, businesses and tourists through thoughtful and deliberate engagement with our community," Batista told the Daily Press.

"Each year I look forward to presenting our annual statistical report to the Council as an opportunity to provide insight into the work my department is doing in the community. I'm also excited to share more about our current and future initiatives that will benefit Santa Monica in the coming year."

In addition, David White, City Manager, will present a report and FAQ on updates to the State Density Bonus Law (SDBL) Recent changes took effect on January 1, 2024 providing, amongst other minor revisions, an additional density bonus for increased moderate and very low income affordable housing units.

Assembly Bill 1287 expands state density bonuses if developers include moderate-income units in their projects. According to California Government Code, the SDBL "provides developers with powerful tools to encourage the development of affordable and senior housing, including up to a 50% increase in project densities for most projects, depending on the amount of affordable housing provided."

An existing density bonus already provided up to a 50% increase if developers included low-income housing and during a recent Planning Commission meeting, Rachel Kwok of the City Planning Division said AB 1287 is a "bonus on top of a bonus," allowing developers to get "another round at the buffet table" and potentially double the size of their projects if they hit the affordable and moderate income goals.

In order to qualify for up to 100% density bonus, projects must first provide the maximum amount of on-site affordable housing units in their project that would qualify them for a density bonus. Compliance with the City's Affordable Housing Production Program (AHPP) would ensure that projects are eligible for the maximum 50% initial State density bonus.

The City previously conducted two Town Halls on how the AHPP and SDBL work together with an associated FAQ, which can be found at santamonica.gov/housing-element-update.

Council will meet in City Hall, 1685 Main Street on Tuesday, Feb. 13. Roll call and public input begins at 5:30 p.m. Meetings are available to watch online via the City's YouTube channel.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Will California leaders nurture or strangle the state's economic golden goose?

DAN WALTERS

During California's 174 years of statehood, it has undergone periodic and often dramatic changes of economic personality.

Its admission to the union in 1850 was largely driven by the gold rush, which temporarily supplanted the agriculture and cattle ranching that had been economic mainstays.

When the gold rush cooled in the late 19th century, farming and ranching resumed their central roles. It's hard to believe now, but Los Angeles County was the nation's most agriculturally productive county in the first decades of the 20th century.

The state's northern reaches developed a major timber industry, and oddly oil was first discovered in 1865 amid Humboldt County's dense forests, a historic fact perpetuated in the name of a tiny hamlet, Petrolia.

However, Southern California saw a much larger oil boom in the final years of the century, and California quickly became the nation's biggest petroleum producer. Simultaneously, the movie industry blossomed in Southern California, thanks to its scenic settings and sunny weather and the desires of early movie moguls to escape from the East Coast's intolerant attitudes and legal disputes.

California's economy, still largely rooted in extracting resources from the earth, underwent a major change when the nation became embroiled in World War II. It became a staging point for the Pacific war, the site of numerous military training bases and an industrial powerhouse producing airplanes and other tools of war, such as ships.

California's central role in producing weaponry and training military personnel continued after the war because the United States soon found itself in a cold war with the Soviet Union, one aspect of which was a hot war in Korea and later another conflict in Southeast Asia.



Photo by Jeff Chiu, AP Photo Credit: AP

ECONOMY: A pedestrian carries an umbrella while walking past a Silicon Valley Bank Private branch in San Francisco on March 14, 2023.

California also saw postwar expansions in civilian industries with steel mills, petrochemical plants, auto assembly lines and multiple other factories. However, by the 1970s, California's heavy industry was shrinking as one-by-one the plants that had employed hundreds of thousands of workers shut down, with the last remaining major manufacturing industry, aerospace, drying up as the Cold War ended in the 1990s and Pentagon contracts disappeared.

Fortunately, military research contracts and Stanford University had spawned a new industry – digital technology – centered in the Santa Clara Valley south of San Francisco. For many decades, it was an agricultural center. Renamed

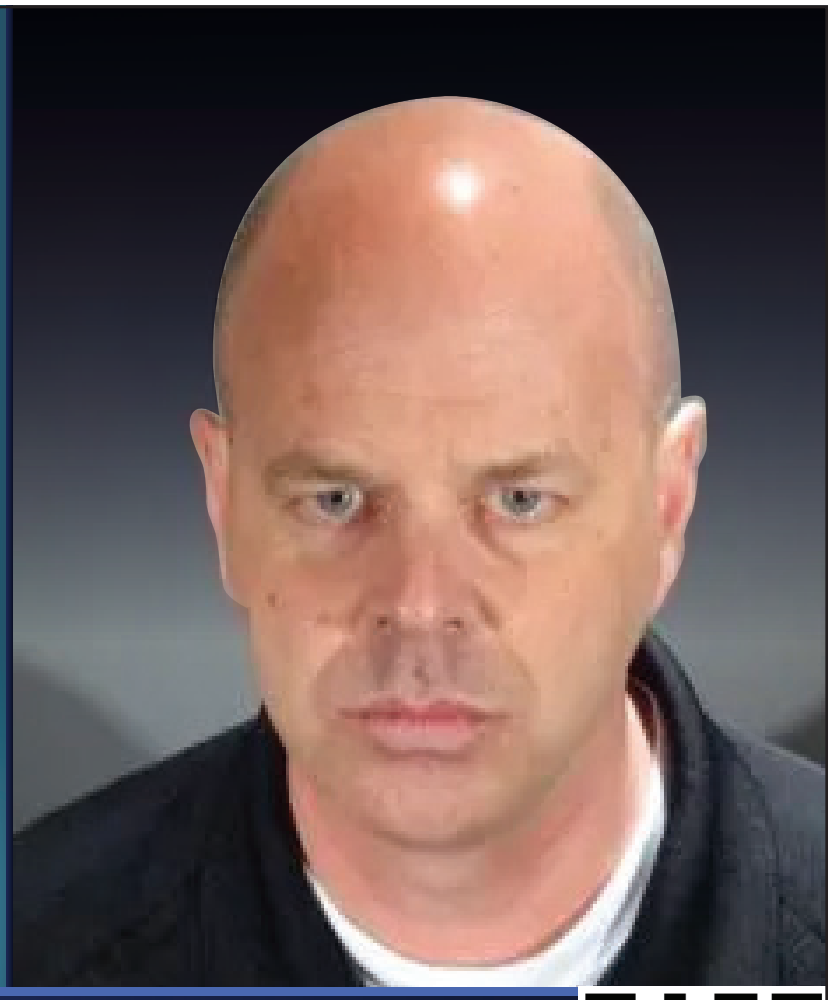
SEE **GUEST COMMENTARY** PAGE 11

SEEKING ERIC ULLER TIPSTERS

Do you have information that can shed light on how Eric Uller of Santa Monica's Police Activities League (PAL) was able to sexually abuse hundreds of children in the late 1980s to early 2000s?

- Why were reports that Uller was sexually abusing children ignored?
- Who at PAL or the Santa Monica Police Department had information?
- How was he able to masquerade as a police officer?

Please contact our firm. Your identity will remain confidential. Help fill in the missing pieces of this puzzle so that we can understand how this happened - for almost 30 years.



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HEALTH

FROM PAGE 1

individuals by healthcare institutions. Recent estimates project a decline in life expectancy for non-Hispanic Black Americans, widening the gap with their White counterparts.

Providence Saint John's Health Center held a "Racial Disparities in Healthcare" symposium on Feb. 7.

The panel discussed specific problems, such as higher rates of Black infertility and cervical cancer compared to white counterparts. Dr. Phabillia Afflack, Obstetrics and Gynecology, said ensuring culturally competent care starts with acknowledging differences between communities and turning the conversation away from professionals that say they "don't see color."

Many of the panelists pointed to improved education on healthcare matters as a way to decrease racial disparity, including Gastroenterologist Dr. Rudolph Bedford, who said "it's all about education" in fighting the challenges Black patients may have for coming in for his services like colorectal screenings. Dr. Eric Williams, Interim Associate Dean of Health Sciences and Nursing Program Director at Santa Monica College (SMC), also stressed the importance of SMC as a local knowledge source for young Black professionals.

Along with the panel, Sylvia Drew Ivie, JD, received the Community Health Equity Champion award from the center

Ivie received the award for her work as a Black mental health advocate, lawyer and activist. Ivie has held many positions throughout her distinguished career, such as serving as former Senior Deputy for Human Services for the 2nd District of the LA County Board of Supervisors, as well as being the former Chief Executive Director of primary health care clinic T.H.E. (To Help Everyone).



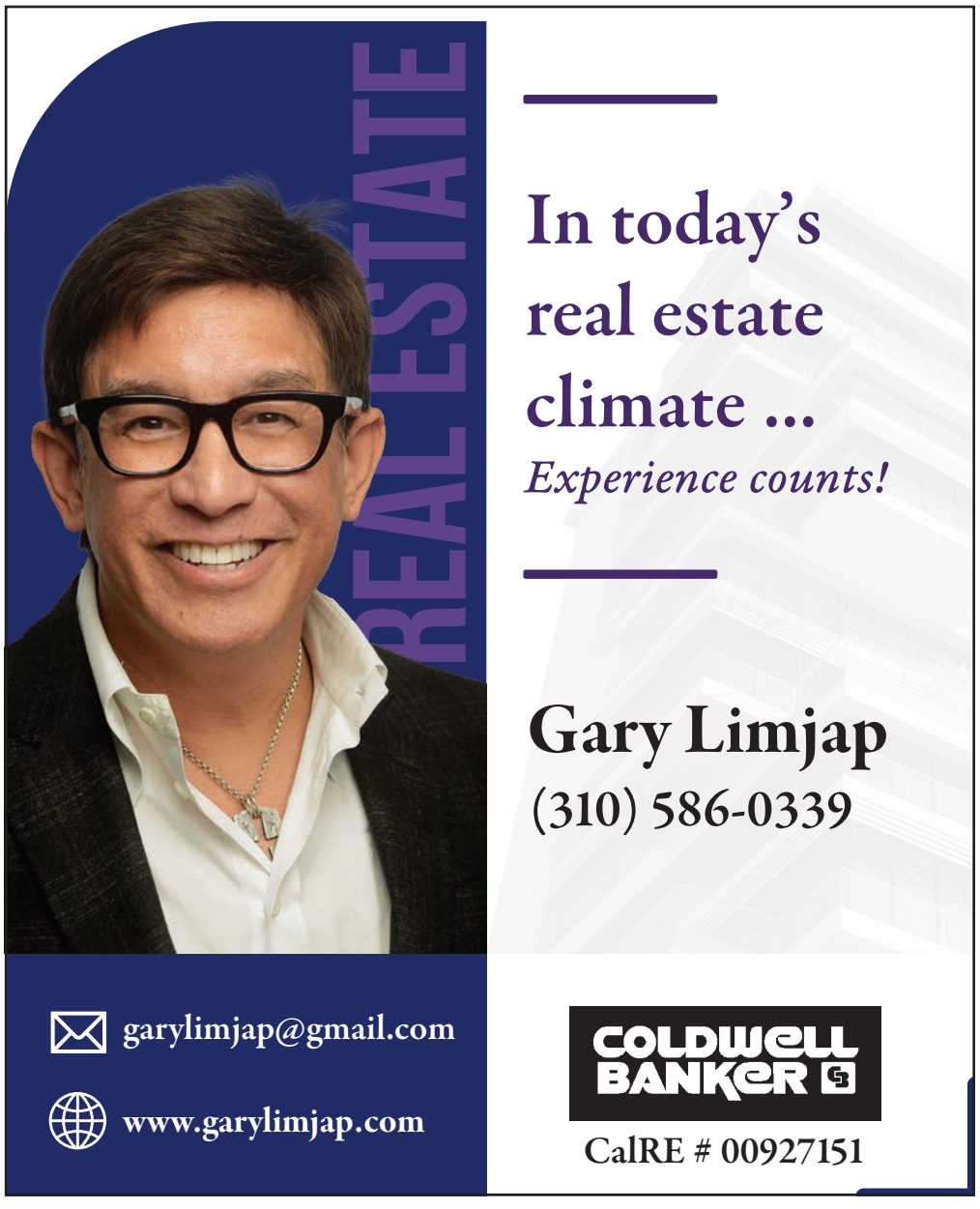
Photo by Thomas Leffler

PANEL: Sylvia Drew Ivie received a Community Health Equity Champion award during a symposium.

She has taken other honors in the past such as the 1993 United Way's Agency Excellence Award for the Most Innovative Approach to Service Delivery, as well as the 1994 Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation's Nelson Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights.

Ivie spoke about the importance of Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science, named in honor of her father, Charles R. Drew. Drew developed large-scale blood banks during World War II, giving medics the chance to save thousands of Allied lives.

thomas@smdp.com



Santa Monica Arrests

For the week of Feb 2nd to 8th

Crime	Arrests
Warrant	6
Possession of Methamphetamines	5
Robbery	4
Shoplifting	4
Domestic Battery	3
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	3
Assault & Battery	2
Burglary	2
Carrying A Concealed Dirk Or Dagger	2
Corporal Injury To Spouse	2
Resisting Arrest	2
Vandalism	2
Assault on a Peace Officer	1
Attempted Murder	1
Battery on a Peace Officer	1
Brandishing a Deadly Weapon	1
Carrying a Loaded Firearm	1
Criminal Threat	1
Driving Under the Influence	1
DUI > 0.08% BAC	1
Illegal Possession of Tear Gas by Narcotic Addict	1
Joyriding	1
Loitering in Parking Structure	1
Obstructing a Business Establishment	1
Obstructing a Pedestrian or Vehicular Traffic	1
Possession of Burglary Tools	1
Trespassing	1
Violation of post-conviction supervision	1
TOTAL	**53**

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California's most mundane school planning processes are vulnerable to DEI backlash

AMIRA BARGER

In California, a seismic shift endangers the educational landscape as we know it.

While overshadowed by national elections, campaigns for school boards and other local positions are in full swing. And school districts are undertaking the task of updating their Local Control and Accountability Plan, or LCAP. Mandated by the state, it is a strategic plan created with parents, educators and the community at large.

In short, the LCAP serves as a guide, articulating the district's goals, actions and services to ensure every student has equitable access to a rigorous education. However, for such a vital process, public awareness remains low.

Data-informed and with a focus on transparency and inclusivity, the LCAP template mandates that spending decisions are aligned with district priorities. Districts with special educational considerations, for example, such as significant English learner populations, will consult with expert advisory committees. School boards are then obligated to conduct public hearings.

For parents unable to participate at a district level, school site council discussions become paramount. Insisting on widely accessible materials and early outreach, parents can ensure that the LCAP becomes a powerful instrument for the equitable and effective allocation of resources.

Against this backdrop, vitriol toward diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) initiatives has intensified, threatening to weave its threads through the fabric of our education system. The LCAP, with its emphasis on monitoring the success of under-resourced students, becomes a focal point for political aggression, transforming every LCAP season into much more than a bureaucratic process.

It is a battleground for the values that shape our children's experiences and future.

But the local struggle simply mirrors a far broader conversation. White people have stopped playing nice when it comes to DEI, and it should come as no surprise – it was a straw house to begin with. The most poignant thing to remember about the backlash against DEI initiatives is that it does not reflect widespread societal sentiment, but rather a reactionary response from a small, vocal minority.

Unfortunately, these factions are often well-funded, amplified and given bully pulpits by right-wing news outlets and social media. But they amount to little more than the Big Bad Wolf attempting to topple advancements toward justice.



CalMatters

AMIRA K.S. BARGER

Consider the alarming book bans in Florida, Texas and other states. The Washington Post uncovered that a mere 11 people orchestrated 60% of book ban requests. School board battles across the nation are similarly influenced by a select group of conservatives who are using their positions to advance a white supremacist agenda through public engagement. Even in higher education, we saw one person's superiority complex drive the removal of Claudine Gay from her post as Harvard president.

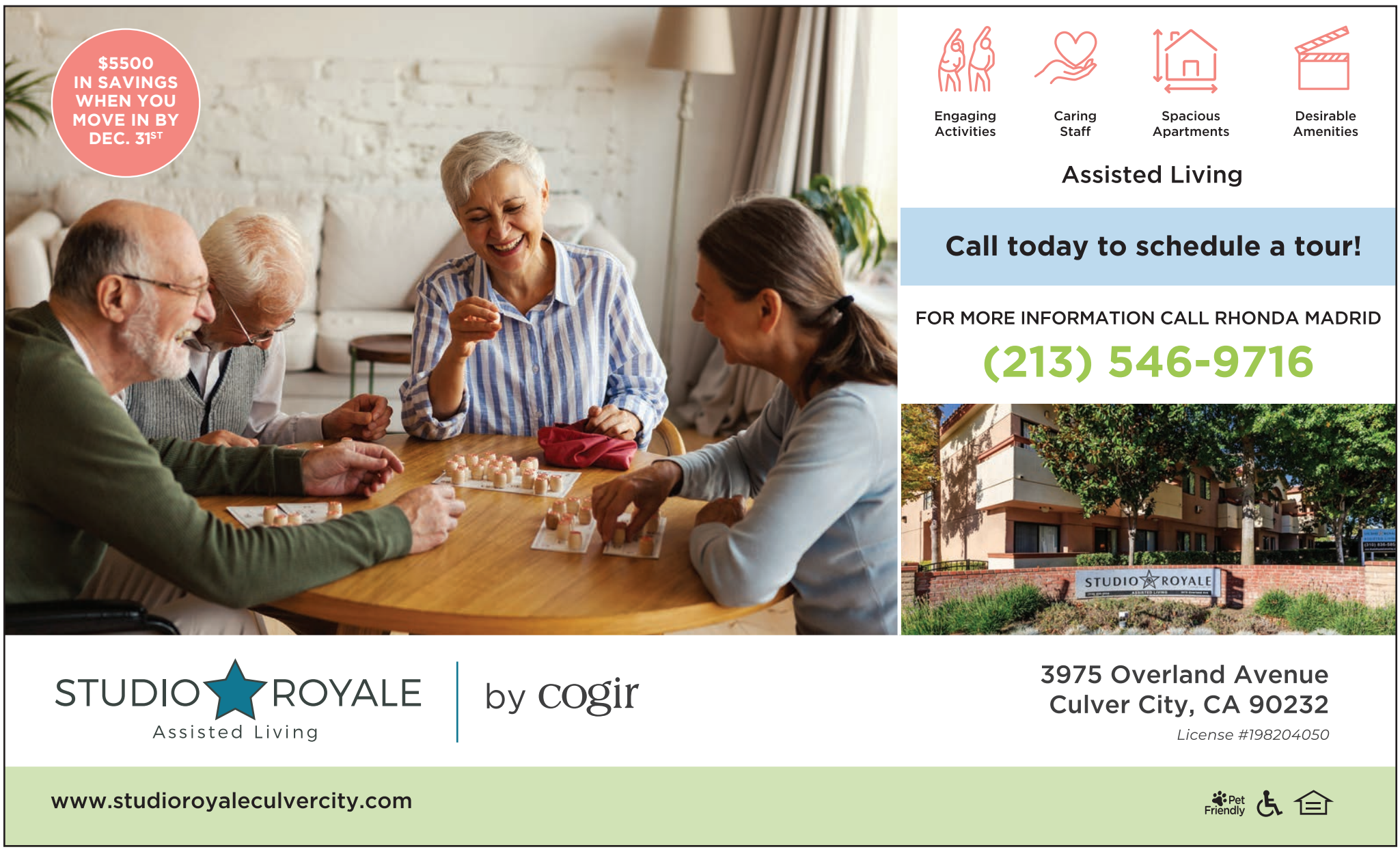
The backlash against DEI is the hijacking of otherwise applicable language for unintended purposes. We've seen this with terms like "woke" or "critical race theory." By distorting the definitions of these terms to insinuate an affront to white people, they rally people against what would be positive tools for progress.

Any critical conversation quickly debunks such methods, but the mob mentality they mean to incite is not known for thoughtful debate. These are tactics designed to appeal to fear rather than reason.

Having served four years on a site council, and as a mayoral appointee to my hometown's racial equity commission, I am deeply invested in the educational experience. As a Black woman and parent, the LCAP review season and the fight against efforts to undermine DEI initiatives hold a deeper resonance.

The veneer of "nice" must be stripped away to confront the root causes of injustice. In the face of anti-DEI sentiment, our resolve must echo Maya Angelou's wisdom: "We may encounter many defeats, but we must not be defeated." No matter how loud the opposition, the cause can only be defeated if those who stand up for justice falter.

Amira K.S. Barger is the executive vice president of communications and DEI advisory for a public relations firm, and a professor at Cal State East Bay. This article was originally published by CalMatters.



Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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Roommates
Commercial Lease
Real Estate
Real Estate Loans
Storage Space
Vehicles for Sale
Massage
Services
Computer Services
Attorney Services
Business Opportunities
Yard Sales
Health and Beauty
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Obituaries
Tutoring

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 20240092922 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 01/17/24The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Aqua Blue Lagoons 17090 Palisades Circle Pacific Palisades, CA 90272 Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Darin Marten Construction Company 17090 Palisades Circle Pacific Palisades, CA 90272 If corporation or LLC- Print State of Incorporation/Organization: This Business is conducted by: A Corporation The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 09/2000Registrant/ Corp/ LLC Name /s/: William McComrick Title: owner William McCormick This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 01/17/2024NOTICE: 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 PRESS01/22/24, 01/29/24, 02/05/24, 02/13/24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2024013619 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 01/22/24The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Daisychained Jewelry Design 2624 Kansas Ave #8 Santa Monica, CA 90404Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Megan Kandell 2624 Kansas Ave #8 Santa Monica, CA 90404If corporation or LLC- Print State of Incorporation/Organization: This Business is conducted by: An Individual The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/ARegistrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: Megan Kandell Title: owner Megan Kandell This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 01/22/2024NOTICE: 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 PRESS01/29/24, 02/05/24, 02/13/24, 2/20/24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2024015736 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 01/23/24The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Jen Bloom Creative Therapy 1833 12th st B Santa Monica, CA 90404Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Jen Bloom 1833 12th st B Santa Monica, CA 90404If corporation or LLC- Print State of Incorporation/Organization: This Business is conducted by: An Individual The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 01/2024Registrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: Jen Bloom Title: owner Jen Bloom This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 01/23/2024NOTICE: 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 PRESS01/29/24, 02/05/24, 02/13/24, 2/20/24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2024025531 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 02/05/24The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Elite Travel Club 1015 2nd St #110 Santa Monica, CA 90403Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON 202252011215The full name of the registrant(s) is/are ETClub LLC 1015 2nd St #110 Santa Monica, CA 90403If corporation or LLC- Print State of Incorporation/Organization: CAThis Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 01/2024Registrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: ETClub LLC Title: CEO Stacy Hope Small This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 02/05/2024NOTICE: 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 PRESS02/12/24, 02/19/24, 02/26/24, 3/04/24

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAMECase No. 24VECP00032 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Steffanie Moyers Jensen for Change of NameTO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:Petitioner or Attorney: Steffanie Moyers Jensen a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Steffanie Moyers Jensen to Steffanie Leo Bradley The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 02/23/2024 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: w Room: 610 The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA - COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Van Nuys Courthouse 6239 Sylmar Ave Van Nuys, CA 91401A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAMECase No. 24SVECP00019 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Rachel Marie Litchmen for Change of NameTO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:Petitioner or Attorney: Rachel Marie Litchmen a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Rachel Marie Litchmen to Rachel Marie-Litchmen Willingham The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 03/01/2024 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: w Room: 610 The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA - COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Van Nuys CourtHouse 6230 Sylmar Ave Van Nuys, CA 91401A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAMECase No. 24SMCP00033 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Martha Lidia Ferrufino De Escalante for Change of NameTO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:Petitioner or Attorney: Martha Lidia Ferrufino De Escalante a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Martha Lidia Ferrufino De Escalante to Martha Lidia Escalante The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 05/17/2024 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: - The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA - COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Glendale CourtHouse 1725 Main Street Santa Monica, CA 90401 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.

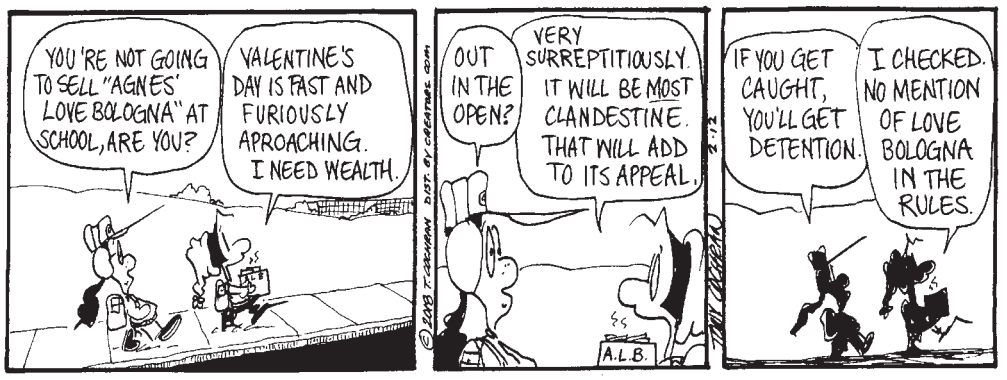
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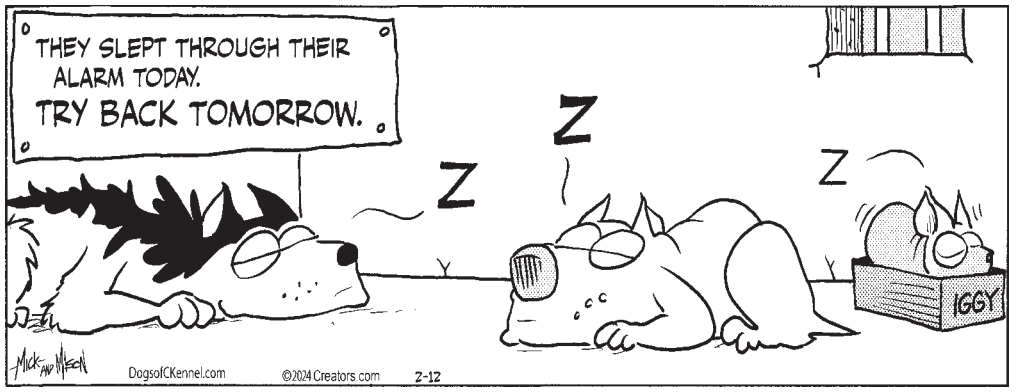
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



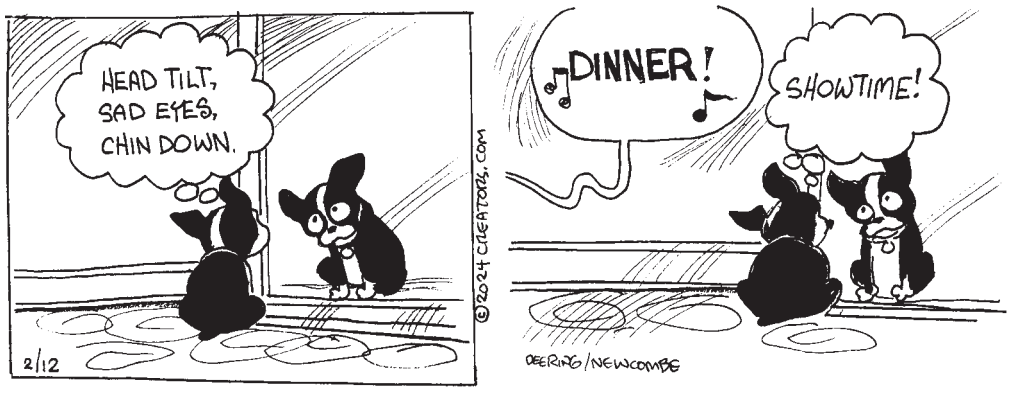
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

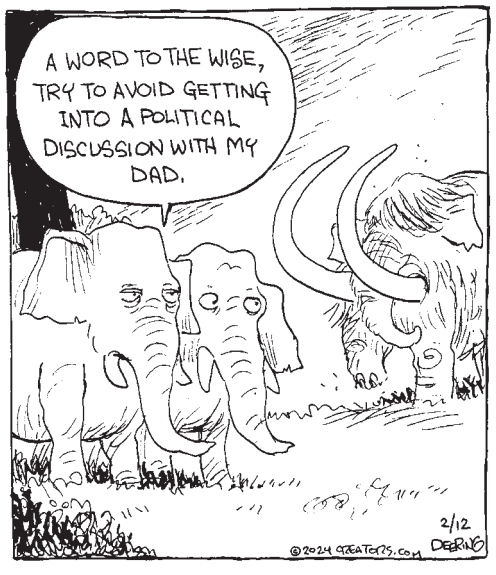
By PETER GALLAGHER



"SOMETHING WENT WRONG."

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 6118

Your favourite beach

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

Alva	Curl Curl	Marlo	South West
Apollo	Dampier	Nowra	Rocks
Avalon	Darwin	Palm	Sunshine
Avoca	Eden	Perth	Coast
Ballina	Harbord	Pialba	Surfers
Baths	Haven	Play	Paradise
Bega	Iluka	Port	Tide
Bondi	Kirra	Douglas	Yamba
Bronte	Lorne	Robe	
Cape	Lucinda	Sand	
Tribulation	Main	Shells	

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 12)

On this plane of multidimensionality, you can often choose your reality — an option you seize and celebrate this trip around the sun. Allies are attracted to your courage. You stand for what's right and take care of business for you and yours. More highlights: three amazing vistas, a chance meeting turned meaningful relationship, and found gold. Sagittarius and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 12, 6, 33, 18 and 42.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Everyone likes to be validated by "yes" people, but you've had enough of that to realize the value of "no" people around you. They make you better, stronger, sharper and more impervious to pain.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You don't have to believe in destiny to want to know what yours is. Mostly, destiny is what you make happen, until small bumps of magic nudge you in a direction you weren't planning — ah, felicity!

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). So much is gained by listening instead of talking: friendship, knowledge, trust, power — the list goes on. You're still not sure what role you want to play in a scene, but the listening you do today will give you a direction.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Though loved ones care about you immensely, today they may exhibit the blindness that comes with familiarity. A stranger can observe and help you better, and will extend a meaningful kindness to you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Friendships is a creative endeavor; it's something you build together. Your approach to socializing will include curiosity and an infectious levity. Bonds are built through laughter.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). If there's one thing you need more of today, it's faith — faith in life's process, faith that potentials can be realized, and faith in people. Just because a person hasn't done something so far in life doesn't mean they won't. Believe.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll enjoy most work that allows you to stretch and let off a certain kind of energy, uninhibited and childlike. You'll find out how you can get more of that flowing through your life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Armed with charm and strategy, you embark — a virtuoso of social dynamics with endless ways of getting what you want. Luckily, it's what's best for everyone, so your innocence remains untarnished.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The good thing about a short attention span is that it keeps you from wasting time. You'll keep the action moving toward what interests you for as long as it does, and this will be in the best interest of all.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Group dynamics are in play. When you have the impulse to make your presence smaller, or fade into the background, it's something to note for future reference. In time, you will understand the reasons for your reactions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll outline the steps for a task, follow them with ease and repeat. This will be the blueprint for a project at large, the success of which will touch many areas of your life with its bright energy.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You don't feel needy in the least, and the last thing you want is for others to have to take care of you. You'll be on the receiving end of kind gestures, though, and the impact this has on your heart may surprise you.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

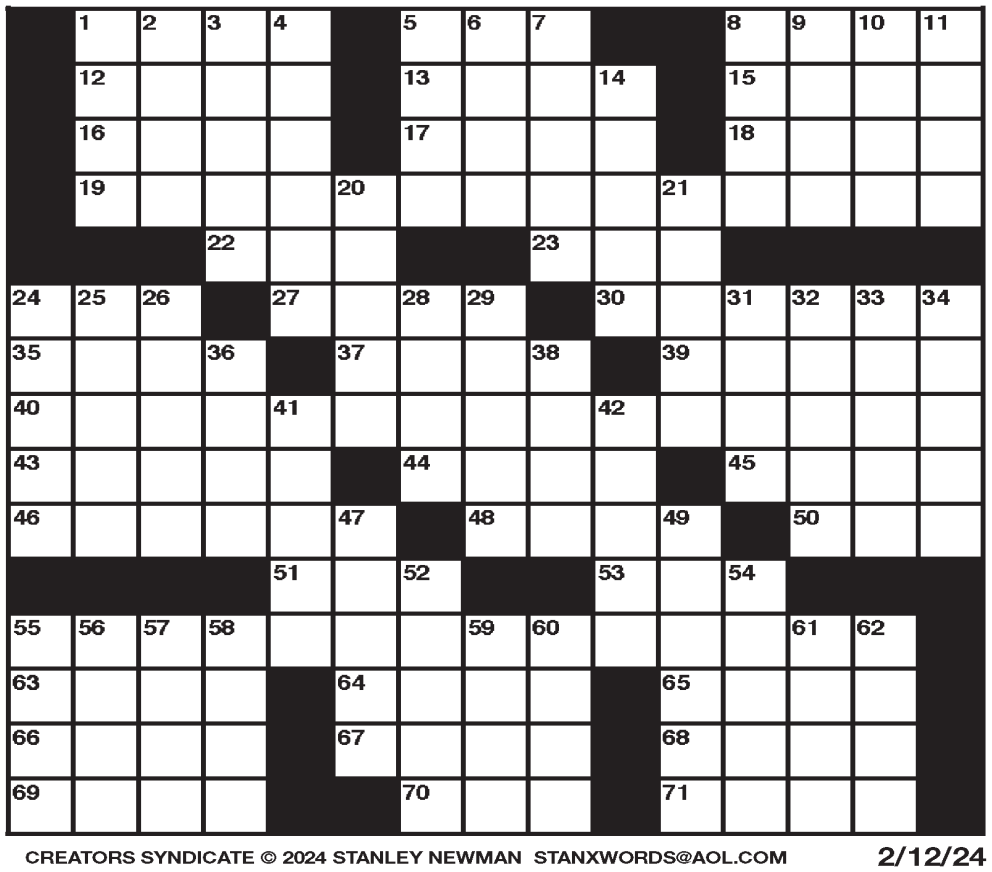
CENTENNIAL by Sally R. Stein
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Easily molded
5 Maple tree fluid
8 Ready, willing, and __
12 "Tall" story
13 "Wise" birds
15 Transport by truck
16 Molecule part
17 Bench or chair
18 "That's too bad"
19 Iconic Jazz Age orchestral work
22 Pekoe or oolong
23 __-Cone (icy treat)
24 "Oh yeah, __ who?"
27 Same old routines
30 Wine glass
35 Designer Cassini
37 Cashews and pistachios
39 River of Paris
40 1924 day on which 19 Across premiered
43 Measures of land area
44 Dog-biting bug
45 Richard of *Pretty Woman*
46 Don't go outside
48 Give off, as light
50 Sandwich bread
51 Teachers' union: Abbr.
53 __ Vegas, NV
55 Composer of 19 Across
63 Muscle discomfort
64 Go out with
65 Des Moines' state
66 Front of the lower leg
67 Occupies a chair
68 Vacation excursion
69 Sound made by 13 Across
70 Tennis court barrier
71 Rustic hotels

DOWN

1 Top-billed performer
2 Solemn pledge
3 Lie on top of a pool
4 __ tantrum (angry episode)
5 Just adequate
6 Extremely impressed
7 Theater productions
8 *Moby-Dick* captain
9 Sphere of yarn
10 Hawaiian banquet
11 Otherwise
14 Bee's attack
20 Spa's steam room
21 Lasso's slipknot
24 Living room couches
25 Vote into office
26 Horse's striped cousin
28 Surf and __ dinner
29 Hair arrangement
31 Brussels' country: Abbr.
32 Career soldier
33 Contest submission
34 Sound of a giggle
36 Earl __ (type of 22 Across)
38 Flower stalk
41 Putting into service
42 Siren sounds
47 Requires
49 South Pacific resort isle
52 One more time
54 Taken a 2 Down
55 Deep cut
56 Rebound of a sound
57 Cleveland's state
58 Payment to a landlord
59 "Small" suffix for kitchen
60 Take a break
61 "Victory is mine!"
62 Short snoozes



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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

NEWS
FROM PAGE 2

sponsoring all dog adoptions. The shelter has seen a significant increase in the number of canines arriving at the shelter and they have more dogs in their care than ever before.

SWISS PRECISION IS APPLIED TO AVIATION AS VIRTUAL REALITY FLIGHT SIMULATION 'HUB' OPENS AT SANTA MONICA AIRPORT:

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. 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.

FASHION FAIRIES RUN SANTA MONICA'S SPARKL PALACE:

At 320 Santa Monica Blvd lies Sparkl Fairy Couture, a pink-laden palace with fashion apparel and accessories 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 the store is young entrepreneur Gabrielle Hall, also known as Gabi Sparkl, who says that her fairy mantra is "being your truest self."

YMCA PARTNERS WITH LOCAL GROUP FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH:

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. 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.

NEW PLANT-BASED SANDWICH SHOP B&T'S ON MONTANA AVE OFFERS ALTERNATIVE GREEN GRUB:

Situated at 912 Montana Ave, B&T's sandwich shop is in a soft opening stage, with a more extensive menu and longer opening times on the way. The shop offers 10 signature sandwiches, all of which have their own flavor profile, and everything is 100% plant based. Co-founder Terrence Caldwell said all the ingredients used are organic and locally sourced, avoiding fake imitation meat, so every sandwich has a main plant-based "meat replacement" component.

FILM FESTIVAL SHARES ITS 'INFLUENCE' WITH MULTIPLE AWARDS:

The AMC Broadway 4 movie theater on the Third Street Promenade shared its space on Feb. 3 for the 2024 Santa Monica International Film Festival, where several films walked out with awards recognition. The Ryan Moore-directed "Influence," depicting a filmmaker kidnapping a famous social media influencer, took home the Best Narrative Feature award. On top of the film award, "Influence" star Cheyenne Perez won for Best Performance.

ASTROPHYSICIST AND ALIEN HUNTER DR. AVI LOEB GIVES TALK AT AMATEUR ASTRONOMY CLUB:

On Feb. 10, the Santa Monica Amateur Astronomy Club welcomed astrophysicist and Harvard professor Dr. Avi Loeb, one of the most prominent proponents on the existence of extraterrestrial intelligence. Dr. Loeb is arguably best known for ruffling feathers in the scientific community for suggesting that 'Oumuamua - the first cosmological object officially classified as "interstellar" that sailed through our solar system in 2017 - could have been an alien spacecraft.

COUNCIL APPROVES DEI STUDY AND AUTHORIZES ADDED RENTER PROTECTIONS:

During a Jan. 30 meeting of Santa Monica City Council, the council awarded Colorado-based BBC Research & Consulting, a privately-held economic and market research consulting firm, the contract for a study to explore barriers to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in the City's procurement and contracting practices for the Finance Department. Council also approved a slate of added protections for renters, including prohibitions against drastic rent increases, unjust evictions and harassment.

HISTORY OF THE HOUSED AND UNHOUSED, EXAMINED AT NEW MUSEUM EXHIBIT:

On Feb. 2, the Santa Monica officially opened its latest main gallery exhibit "UN|HOUSED," diving deep into the history of Santa Monica housing and spotlighting the ever-present issue of homelessness in the city. The exhibits follows in the footsteps of prior engagements achieving the goals of Museum Executive Director Rob Schwenker; those being a valued member of the education community, drive community engagement in exhibitions, and to "be a place where [they're] fostering a sense of belonging and inclusivity."

SANTA MONICA SHUTTERBUG SNAPS EVERY STEP OF ENDEAVOUR'S ADVENTURE:

The Space Shuttle Orbiter Endeavour rolled off the NASA production line in April 1991, flying a total of 25 missions from 1992 to 2011, clocking over 7,000 hours in space, flying over 122 million miles and completing 4,671 orbits of the Earth. Space buff Stephen Silberkraus was there every step of the way, a local amateur photographer who has snapped photos of the Endeavour over the years due to the space industry always being an influence in his life.

LOCAL LATINA VOICE CHANNELS CHILDHOOD FOR MCDONALD'S MOVIE CONTEST:

Santa Monica resident Marissa Díaz was recently selected as one of three finalists in the McDonald's Spotlight Dorado short film contest. Receiving a $75,000 filmmaking grant by the company, Díaz's film "Fancy Florets Summer Staycation" was one of three finalists voted on, with the winner (announced in March) moving on to shoot a McDonald's commercial promoting next year's contest. The film was inspired by her childhood in the San Antonio area, where she first widened her interest in the movie and television craft.

IF FOOD BE THE MUSIC OF LOVE, EAT ON THIS VALENTINE'S DAY:

Couples making plans for Wednesday's Valentine's Day holiday can choose from a number of area eateries cooking up intimate and delicious experience for the occasion. Options began at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel with a special "Galentine's Day" tea service on Feb. 10 and Feb. 11, featuring a menu with scones, pastries and finger sandwiches paired with a selection of Lot 35 loose-leaf teas. Other locations having specials for Valentine's Day itself include Hotel Casa del Mar, Water Grill, Satdha and Mon Ami.



MONDAY | FEBRUARY 12

LANDMARKS COMMISSION

Established in 1975, the mission of the Landmarks Commission is "To protect improvements and areas which represent the City's cultural, social, economic, political and architectural history; safeguard the City's historic, aesthetic and cultural heritage; and promote the use of landmarks and historic districts for the education, pleasure and welfare of the people." Meeting in City Council Chambers, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St., begins at 7 p.m.

ALL-STAR JAM BENEFIT

A benefit for the Raffia Music School for children will be hosted at Harvelle's Santa Monica, 1432 4th St., beginning at 9:30 p.m. Hosted by CC Thomas, Diana Ross' musical director, and you never know who is going to show up. Tickets $5, tickets available at the door after 8 p.m. To purchase tickets online, visit santamonica.harvelles.com.

MINDFUL MONDAYS

Please RSVP in advance to silviwinthropcounseling@gmail.com. Our wonderful meditation program, "Mindful Mondays" is back with the generous support of the Friends of the Palisades Library and Silvi Winthrop. Join us for a morning of mindfulness and meditation. After a busy weekend, it's just what you need. Taught by Silvi Winthrop, a certified Meditation and Mindfulness Instructor. The sessions are free and open to the public. Participants are welcome to bring a cushion to class if they wish to sit on the floor. Otherwise, regular seating will be provided. For ADA accommodations, call (213) 228-7430 at least 72 hours prior to the event. Palisades Branch Library, 861 Alma Real Drive, Pacific Palisades. 10:30 a.m. https://www.lapl.org/whats-on/events/mindful-mondays-2

TUESDAY | FEBRUARY 13

COUNTER CULTURE

The Rainbow Room at Lady & Larder, 828 Pico Blvd Suite 1, Santa Monica, hosts "Counter Culture in Los Angeles," connecting cheesemakers, importers, mongers and buyers in an interactive, educational setting. These trade-only events are intensive, full-day sessions with ample opportunity to talk one-on-one and network with industry peers. In addition to educational content, there is the Tasting Table, a heaping farm table of cheese, charcuterie and accompaniments that attendees are encouraged to sample throughout the day. Begins at 9:30 a.m., tickets $25. To purchase tickets, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/counter-culture-in-los-angeles-tickets-779694225417.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council is made up of seven members elected at-large for staggered four-year terms. Every two years, after each election, the City Council selects one of its members to serve as Mayor and another to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore. Begins in Council Chambers at Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St., at 5:30 p.m.

CHOCOLATE TASTING + NUTELLA CHALLENGE

6:30 p.m. Donald Bruce Kaufman - Brentwood Branch Library, 11820 San Vicente Boulevard, Los Angeles. Taste dark chocolate made from cacao beans from around the world, take the American vs. Italian Nutella taste challenge, and learn more about the world's favorite addiction. No advance registration required. For adults and teens. For ADA accommodations, call (213) 228-7430 at least 72 hours prior to the event. https://www.lapl.org/whats-on/events/chocolate-tasting-nutella-challenge

DECODEN DESIGN

Personalize a picture frame or claw hair clip in decoden, a Japanese style of decorating with faux frosting and kawaii charms. BYO phone case to decoden as well. All other materials provided. For ages 10-18. Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Avenue, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

SOCIAL SERVICE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY PROVIDENCE ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM

Help with family nutrition and health care access is resuming at Virginia Avenue Park thanks to Providence St. John's Community Health Program. Trained community health workers will be available to meet in person with community members at the Park Center Building in Virginia Avenue Park. The first Tuesday of the month 11:30 am to 7 pm and 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Tuesdays from 9:30 am to 5 pm. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

GUEST COMMENTARY
FROM PAGE 5

Silicon Valley, it has anchored California's economy ever since, generating immense wealth that percolated through other economic sectors.

California's economy may be undergoing another evolution. Silicon Valley's high-flying past is giving way to a more uncertain future as companies shed thousands of workers and other states see tech industry growth.

California's past, present and uncertain future deserve intense political, media and academic attention because how its economy evolves will determine how well the state as a whole manages during the 21st century.

That's why a recent announcement that the Public Policy Institute of California is creating an economic research arm is important. Hopefully, the Economic Policy Center's research will persuade political and civic leaders to stop taking the state's economy for granted and reconsider policies that are strangling the golden goose.

However, the center's first paper – aimed at framing the existing economic picture – is not reassuring. It all but ignores the structural factors that threaten the economy, dwells on superficial effects, and shows a fondness for political mitigation of those effects rather than fixing the fundamentals.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

BIG 5 SPORTING GOODS

LA 5K

MARCH 16, 2024













REGISTER HERE

LA BIG 5K 2024

5K AND KIDS RUN

The McCourt Foundation est. 1992

Striving to cure neurological diseases while empowering communities to build a healthier world.

LOS ANGELES MARATHON PRESENTED BY asics