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Burger building contest.

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Plan your weekend.

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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 65 THURSDAY 2/15/24 smdp.com

Crime continues to rise in Santa Monica

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Crime has increased in Santa Monica for the third consecutive year driven by high value thefts and petty assaults according to Santa Monica Police Chief Ramon Batista who presented the annual report at Tuesday's City Council meeting.

To better understand the results, criminal behavior is broken down into two categories, Part I crimes, which are serious offenses like violent assault, robbery and burglary and Part II crimes, which are typically lesser offenses involving property and misdemeanors.

Part I crimes increased by 129 calls or 2.7%. While the category includes some of the most serious charges such as murder, rape and aggravated assault, high value thefts accounted for 59% of all Part 1 incidents.

Car theft has been a rising trend locally, as it has nationally. Hyundai is the most stolen car for the past five years followed by Toyota but Kia thefts have spiked in the past two years.

Part II crimes, led by simple assaults, vandalism, narcotics-related incidents, public intoxication and fraud increased by 7%. While fraud crimes were relatively low in number (241) the category had the largest percentage increase of 16.6%. Simple assault, which results in minor or no injuries, accounted for the largest share of Part II crimes at 859, a 15% increase from last year.

The number of arrests increased by 12% (totaling 2,723) and while that figure is still, thankfully, a far cry from the 2019 figures (3,840), it has steadily increased since 2020.

As has been the trend for several years, about two-thirds of the city's arrests are of homeless individuals. Homeless arrest numbers are up to 1,839, making up 67.6% of the total number of 2,723 arrests (an 11% increase compared to last year). In 2022, the total number of arrests was 2,438 and the unhoused percentage of that was 66.9%, a total of 1,632.

According to SMPD, the department's dedicated homeless liaison program cleared 381 encampments last year, issued 226 citations and made 1,308 referrals for services.

But perhaps most alarmingly, is that more firearms are being found by police.

"I was just talking to two patrol officers today and what they noticed is that they're finding more handguns, more guns in people's cars, more ghost guns, guns that have had the serial number removed. And they're out there floating around in our city," Batista said, adding, "I have to say though, more often than not, these are not residents of Santa Monica, that they [officers] were coming into contact with."

Furthermore, some of these weapons are ending up in the hands of the homeless. The recent Sunset Park shooting is a perfect example. "The officers are seeing that they're running into a lot more either facsimiles of guns or real guns in their contact with the unhoused," Batista said.

Councilmember Oscar de la Torre asked Chief Batista to expand a little more on how guns are being found during traffic stops.

"The department has always trained very carefully, on making sure that there is a respectful engagement between our officers and the people that we stop," Batista said. "[Last] year, there was a new law ... that makes it so that when an officer approaches the car, the first thing he or she does is inform the person what they're being stopped for. And so that right away, puts it right out there as to why we're making the stop ... So it's coming about through that, an investigative stop after a legitimate traffic stop for some type of traffic violation."

scott.snowden@smdp.com



SMDP Photo

POLICE: High value thefts and petty assaults have driven crime in Santa Monica, according to SMPD Chief Ramon Batista..

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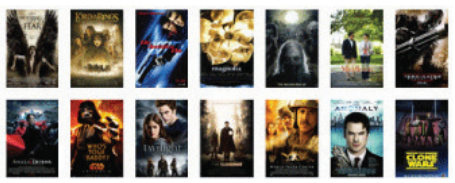


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Music legends, educators look to the future of industry



Photo Courtesy Compton Unified School District

EDUCATION: (L-R) Santa Monica-based producer Maejor, Compton Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Darin Brawley, Santa Monica Mayor Phil Brock, television icon Randy Jackson and Santa Monica Arts Commissioner Michelle Edgar came together to discuss education in the arts and music industries recently at the Viceroy Hotel.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Even in the entertainment and arts world, which is often a battle for resources, the most important asset is one that encapsulates all industries: Education.

To guide the next generation of artists and musicians into their own space of confidence and creativity, heavyweights in the music industry discussed the vitality of education during a Culture Collective panel entitled "Drive to Serve" Jan. 31 at the Viceroy Hotel in Santa Monica. Moderated by Santa Monica Arts Commissioner Michelle Edgar, the panel included Santa Monica-based producer and artist Maejor, music executive and television icon Randy Jackson, and Compton Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Darin Brawley.

Kicking off the evening was Santa Monica Mayor Phil Brock, who stressed that education is tied into service, drawing from his years of education at Los Angeles schools like Crenshaw High School and Hamilton High School.

"I learned early on that our mission in life is not only to take care of ourselves, but it's to help take care of everyone as well … we need to serve selflessly, I'm proud you're all here in Santa Monica and I hope that all of you will find a way to serve today," Brock told the Viceroy crowd.

The panel all touched on the educational paths that took them to their current stature, including Jackson, who many know from his time as a judge on "American Idol." Jackson noted that it "really is the truth" that "children are our future," and that education is not just in textbooks, but is found in every interaction a young artist or musician can have. He also pointed to how a young artist needs to grow social skills and an ability to "read the room."

"You learn all you can and you apply it, use the wisdom and pay it forward," Jackson said. "I just love learning, I felt like one of the things that helped me when I was a kid growing up … is that I learned everything I could. I sponged everything, every speaker … everything I could go to, because I wanted to know all that I could, because I didn't know what I would need."

Currently, Jackson works with foundations like Save The Children, a global leader in health, education and protection for youth. He stated that he loves nurturing and inspiring the next generation, especially during his time on "Idol."

"You need somebody to say 'you know what, you really got something,'" he said. "You see people turn on the lightbulb. That belief in someone else is so great and so taken for granted."

Maejor, who has produced hit songs for the likes of Justin Bieber throughout his illustrious career, said that his mindset towards giving back to others was completely changed after a bout with cancer.

"At the time … it was a shift of purpose for me in terms of instead of putting off the things I want to do into the far future, I started thinking what could make an impact now," he said.

The Santa Monica native has made that impact by teaching wellness and sound therapy, honing in on his passion to share the effect sound has on humanity. He recently joined the Black Music Action Coalition for an event at King/Drew Magnet High School of Medicine and Science on that very topic.

"I think through art is a great way (to educate), (it) helps expand our consciousness in a beautiful way, (there's a) universal language of music," he said.

The future of music education grew stronger in California in November 2022 with the passage of Proposition 28, otherwise known as The Arts and Music in Schools Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act. The measure required the state to establish a program supporting arts instruction in schools beginning with the 2023-24 school year, allocating hundreds of millions of dollars to that cause. Dr. Brawley said that this will bring avenues for arts and music professionals to venture onto school campuses.

"(It's) a huge opportunity … those individuals who are interested in teaching music to students, they'll be able to get hired right away," Dr. Brawley said.

thomas@smdp.com

Create your own Whopper and win $1 million with Burger King on the Pier this weekend



Burger King/Julio Davalos

WHOPPING WEEKEND: Burger buffs will be able to try an exclusive Santa Monica Whopper that will be exclusively available at the Pier pop-up.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

As part of the promotional campaign behind the recently announced Million Dollar Whopper competition, Burger King is hosting an immersive pop-up on Santa Monica Pier this Saturday and Sunday.

There will be one-of-a-kind photo opportunities, interactive games, free prizes (while supplies last) music and special entertainment. Burger buffs will be able to try an exclusive Santa Monica Whopper that will be exclusively available at the pop-up, featuring a flame-grilled all-beef or Impossible patty topped with Monterey Jack cheese, birria, citrus aioli, pickled roasted fresno chili slices, heirloom tomatoes, red leaf lettuce and smashed avocado on a sesame seed bun.

The Million Dollar Whopper competition runs until Sunday, March 17 and encourages fans of all things flame-grilled to submit an idea for, and the ingredients required to make, their dream Whopper sandwich concept, which can feature up to eight toppings.

Later this year, three creations will be selected by the contest judges and the three finalists will be invited to Burger King headquarters in Miami, where they will have the opportunity to refine their concepts before they appear on menus nationwide for a limited time later this year. Guests will then have a chance to try out the three final Whopper creations and vote on their favorite, with the finalist who receives the most votes taking home a $1 million prize.

Hamburger habitués can visit BK.com/MDW or the BK App (no purchase is necessary) to submit their Whopper creation before the deadline using your free Royal Perks account. (To become a Royal Perks member or to find your nearest Burger King, or in this instance, the only Burger King in Santa Monica, at 1919 Pico Blvd, go to bk.com.)

After submitting your entry, you'll receive a preview AI-generated version of your culinary creation, to which you can add a personalized jingle and a thematic background. The final image or video can then be shared across social media platforms, if you're so inclined. Moreover, your first entry earns you a free Whopper with a $1 purchase…at participating US outlets, naturally.

> Burger King is all about having it your way and this contest is a true embodiment of that. More than 50% of guests customize their Whopper sandwich and now, the possibilities of what those customizations include are endless
> - Pat O'Toole, Chief Marketing Officer of Burger King

"Burger King is all about having it your way and this contest is a true embodiment of that. More than 50% of guests customize their Whopper sandwich and now, the possibilities of what those customizations include are endless," said Pat O'Toole, Chief Marketing Officer of Burger King in a statement.

The pop-up on the Pier kicks off this Saturday, February 17 at noon and runs until Sunday, February 18 at 6:00 p.m.

scott.snowden@smdp.com



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **59.4**

THURSDAY — ***POOR TO FAIR***
SURF: 1-2ft Knee to thigh
Size is similar to Wednesday for the early AM. Refresh of mid period W/ WNW swell due through the afternoon. Wind looks light for the morning.

FRIDAY — ***POOR TO FAIR***
SURF: 1-2ft Knee to thigh
Fresh pulse of better-angled WNW swell looks to potentially top out overnight then hold through the morning. Wind looks favorable in the morning. Potential is there for a decent morning of waves to cap off the workweek.

Weather

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 63. West southwest wind 5 to 15 mph.
Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 51. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 65. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southwest in the afternoon.
Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 51.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2024/02/18	Sun	04:30 AM	5.01	H
2024/02/18	Sun	12:30 PM	-0.35	L
2024/02/18	Sun	7:43 PM	3.36	H
2024/02/18	Sun	11:32 PM	2.73	L
2024/02/19	Mon	05:38 AM	5.18	H
2024/02/19	Mon	1:17 PM	-0.65	L

Daily Lottery

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

Powerball
Draw Date: 2/12
17 36 43 53 67
Power#: 14
Jackpot: 285 M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 2/13
1 3 19 25 58
Mega#: 20
Jackpot: 457 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 2/10
8 19 29 39 40
Mega#: 2
Jackpot: 9 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/13
3 4 5 9 22

Daily 3
Draw Date: 2/13
EVENING: 6 6 1
Draw Date: 2/13
MIDDAY: 2 9 2

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 2/13
1st: 07 - Eureka
2nd: 09 - Winning Spirit
3rd: 01 - Gold Rush
Race Time: 1:43.36

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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: # 400 Aging & Disability Strategic Planning

- **Submission Deadline is March 8, 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.

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: # 2024-RFP-00004 Farmers Market Prepared and Pre-packaged Food Vendors Main Street and Pico Markets

- **Submission Deadline is March 14, 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.

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.

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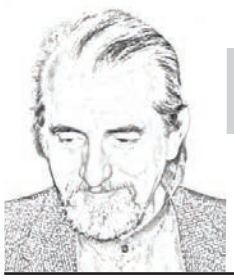
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OPINION **NOTEWORTHY**

Charles Andrews | Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Mavis, Ludwig, Theatre

MAVIS STAPLES – is truly all those words of high praise that are so often thrown about too lightly: she is unique, a legend, a civil rights pioneer, a national treasure, a singer who says more with what she leaves out than others can put across with an entire aria. And she's turning 85, and still touring. That birthday will be celebrated April 18 at YouTube Theater, and here is a partial list of the folks who will pay her tribute that night, and sing her songs, with her – Chris Stapleton, Jackson Browne, Michael McDonald, Taj Mahal, Norah Jones, Keb' Mo'. Jeff Tweey, Grace Potter, Black Pumas, Robert Randolph, Nathaniel Rateliff. If you don't know some of those names, trust me, this is an earthshaking lineup.



Courtesy photo
85: Legendary singer Mavis Staples will be turning 85 soon.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

"AN EXTRAORDINARY ORDINARY MAN" – Extraordinary, indeed. It refers to John Collella's father, a baker, but more importantly to theatre lovers, also this first effort of writing and performing by John II ("my mother was not going to have a grown man son being called 'Junior'"). But even "extraordinary" may not be sufficient. This is a tour de force, of writing and acting, that knocks it out of the park. Sure, there were things about his father that were remarkable, without a doubt, but that kind of heroism is quietly lurking in many family histories. This is really John II's story, and he tells it so rivetingly, with such rapid fire delivery for just over an hour, that you wouldn't want to cough for fear of missing a word. With few props but an abundance of gestures that get the story across, this is the real craft and art of acting. Only scheduled for one more weekend, so get tickets now. Sat 8 p.m., Ruskin Group Theatre, SMO, $20-30.

HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES – Did you go to our Ruskin Group Theatre at Santa Monica Airport Saturday before last to see them in a concert setting? I sure hope so. They tore it up, playing two sets of not just the Django Reinhardt-style 1930s jazz (he and violinist partner Stephane Grappelli were simply exquisite, every note) they are known for, but also selections from their new release "Nova," But if you missed the Ruskin concert,, you can go to the Cinema Bar any Monday, 9 - 11:30. They should have copies of "Nova" there for sale. Mon 9 p.m., Cinema Bar, Culver City, no cover.

RECOMMENDED:

Tonight - SCHUBERT, BEETHOVEN, LA PHIL – We're so spoiled (and about to become unspoiled) with our gifted Venezuelan wunderkind conductor Gustavo Dudamel, that I sometimes dismiss out of hand a performance without the baton in his hand. But this is the LA Philharmonic. Built through many gifted leaders, over more than a century, into one of the very finest symphony orchestras in the world. I'm not familiar with this conductor, Jukka-Pekka Saraste, but he sure didn't get this gig because he's somebody's cousin. You've got a Beethoven symphony, the 7th ("un-twin" of the 6th), and one by Schubert, one of the heavyweights, for sure. He wrote this for a lot of instruments you have to play with your mouth, so, if that also appealing... Thurs, Sat 8 p.m., Fri 11 a.m., Sun 2 p.m., Walt Disney Concert Hall, LA, $55-241.

Tonight - GOVERNMENT MULE – How can I recommend this band when I have never seen them live? Two reasons. They have had a rabid following, for years, and some time ago when I got to see their rhythm section play with other musicians, I thought Holy Moley, how good are these guys as a full band? Next Thurs p.m.,Wiltern Theatre, LA, $57-1,111.

"IT'S ONLY A SHOW " – I'll have to catch this other one-person show at The Ruskin, because it has been extended longer than "Extraordinary" (see above), which is a don't-miss tour de force. Could we be so fortunate as to have two outstanding productions at the same place, not far away? Only one way to find out. Sat 5 p.m., Ruskin Group Theatre, SMO, $20-30.

LIZZIE NO – I never do this. (Never say never.) Don't expect to see it again. (Unless you do.) How many times have I heard, this performer is GREAT, you would love them! A) I don't have time to listen to songs and albums and watch videos by folks I am not familiar with and, B) that doesn't really tell me what they are like live, and that's what I'm in the business of recommending. But for some reason when McCabe's concert director Wayne Griffith off-handedly mentioned,

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 11

AROUND TOWN

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Pier, Golf, Eat

SMDP's Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town includes Pier Locals Night, Genesis Golf Tournament, rave reviews for restaurants Shirube & vegan B&T Deli, and much more!

The Genesis Invitational Golf Tournament: The PGA returns to LA Thursday Feb. 15 - Sunday Feb. 18 @ Riviera Country Club, 1250 Capri, Pacific Palisades https://genesisinvitational.com

Pier Locals Night: This month includes a diverse musical line-up of DJs and live bands, youth activities, classic car show, art exhibits, salsa dancing, complimentary drink tastings, and much more. Thursday, Feb. 15, 4 - 9p.m. https://www.santamonicapier.org/localsnight

Comedy Night at Juneshine on Main St.: Juneshine and Dose of Laughter are collaborating to put on a night of stand up comedy. Dose of Laughter was founded in 2019 by Registered Nurse and Comedian Chuck Meyers with the idea that "Humor decreases stress, inspires hope, and connects people to others. Comedy is a therapy that everyone could use, and doesn't have any side-effects (Besides occasionally peeing your pants)." Friday, Feb. 16, 7pm @ 2914 Main St. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/comedy-night-at-juneshine-santa-monica-tickets-793564551937

Chili Peppers Party with Red Hot Tribute @ The Venice West. Friday, Feb. 16 , 11:00pm @ 1717 Lincoln Blvd. https://www.ticketweb.com/event/chili-peppers-party-with-red-the-venice-west-tickets/13506793

SMPL Authors in Conversation: Childhood Heroes: Curtis Chin (Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant) discusses his memoir about growing up as a gay Chinese American kid in 1980s Detroit. Jeff Yang (The Golden Screen: The Movies that Made Asian America) talks about the history of Asian Americans onscreen. A book sale and signing follows. Saturday, Feb 17, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM @Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. https://santamonica.gov/events/43swhfwdk4g6hv76n1j29zjpwm/202402171300

PHOTO CREDIT: JESSIE CLAPP · RATINGS GUIDE



Jessie Clapp

NOW OPEN: Tokyo-based izakaya chain Shirubē has opened its first United States location in Downtown Santa Monica.

Karla Diaz: Wait 'til Your Mother Gets Home: As a child, artist Karla Diaz would often get in trouble for drawing on walls. "Wait 'til your mother gets home!" her aunt

SEE **AROUND TOWN** PAGE 11

BENEFITTING THE YOUTH OF THE

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Saturday, March 2, 2024

Check-In, Dinner & Bar | 5:00 PM

Poker Lessons | 5:30 PM

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Santa Monica Moose Lodge | 1600 Ocean Park Blvd.

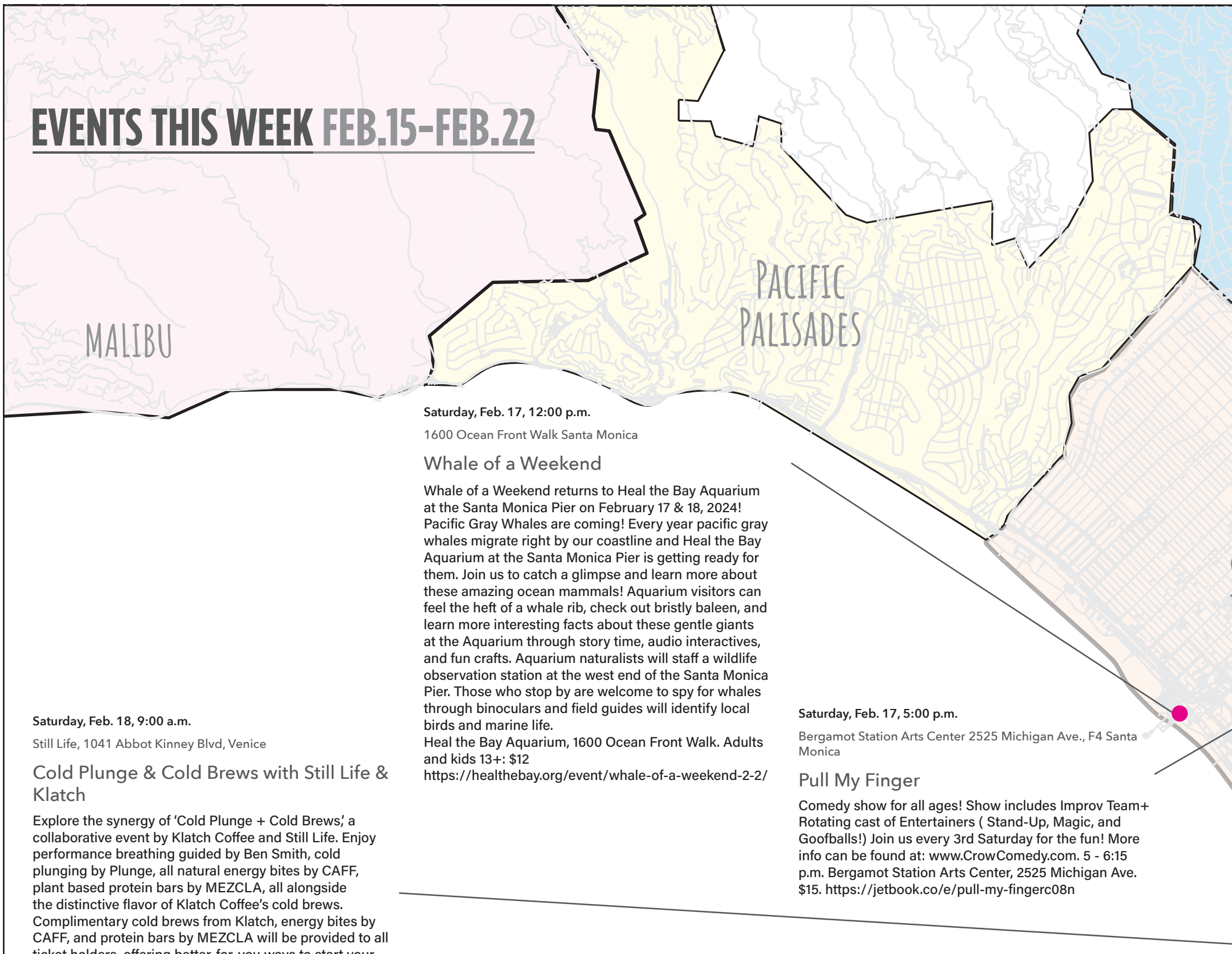
For Tickets and more info

https://PALPoker2024.givesmart.com

Santa Monica PAL

310.458.8988 | smpal.org | @samtamonicapal

EVENTS THIS WEEK FEB.15-FEB.22



Saturday, Feb. 17, 12:00 p.m.

1600 Ocean Front Walk Santa Monica

Whale of a Weekend

Whale of a Weekend returns to Heal the Bay Aquarium at the Santa Monica Pier on February 17 & 18, 2024! Pacific Gray Whales are coming! Every year pacific gray whales migrate right by our coastline and Heal the Bay Aquarium at the Santa Monica Pier is getting ready for them. Join us to catch a glimpse and learn more about these amazing ocean mammals! Aquarium visitors can feel the heft of a whale rib, check out bristly baleen, and learn more interesting facts about these gentle giants at the Aquarium through story time, audio interactives, and fun crafts. Aquarium naturalists will staff a wildlife observation station at the west end of the Santa Monica Pier. Those who stop by are welcome to spy for whales through binoculars and field guides will identify local birds and marine life.
Heal the Bay Aquarium, 1600 Ocean Front Walk. Adults and kids 13+: $12
https://healthebay.org/event/whale-of-a-weekend-2-2/

Saturday, Feb. 17, 5:00 p.m.

Bergamot Station Arts Center 2525 Michigan Ave., F4 Santa Monica

Pull My Finger

Comedy show for all ages! Show includes Improv Team+ Rotating cast of Entertainers (Stand-Up, Magic, and Goofballs!) Join us every 3rd Saturday for the fun! More info can be found at: www.CrowComedy.com. 5 - 6:15 p.m. Bergamot Station Arts Center, 2525 Michigan Ave. $15. https://jetbook.co/e/pull-my-fingerc08n

Saturday, Feb. 18, 9:00 a.m.

Still Life, 1041 Abbot Kinney Blvd, Venice

Cold Plunge & Cold Brews with Still Life & Klatch

Explore the synergy of 'Cold Plunge + Cold Brews,' a collaborative event by Klatch Coffee and Still Life. Enjoy performance breathing guided by Ben Smith, cold plunging by Plunge, all natural energy bites by CAFF, plant based protein bars by MEZCLA, all alongside the distinctive flavor of Klatch Coffee's cold brews. Complimentary cold brews from Klatch, energy bites by CAFF, and protein bars by MEZCLA will be provided to all ticket holders, offering better-for-you ways to start your day. This event provides a unique opportunity to immerse in a morning of energy-inducing modalities, such as breathwork, cold plunging, energy bites, and even social connection. Agenda: 9:00am-10:00am Performance breathing with Ben Smith 10:00am-1:00pm Open cold plunging, Klatch cold brews, CAFF energy bites, MEZCLA protein bars, and connection Learn more about our partners and sponsors: - Still Life (@still.life) - Klatch Coffee (@klatchcoffee) - Ben Smith (@benveesmith) - CAFF (@eatcaff) - MEZCLA (@eatmezcla) - Plunge (@plunge). 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Still Life, 1041 Abbot Kinney Blvd, Venice. $20. https://momence.com/Still-Life/Cold-Plunge-%2526-Cold-Brews/99423678

Saturday, Feb. 17, 10:00 a.m.

HOTEL MdR ~ A DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 13480 Maxella Avenue Marina del Rey

SoulSearch Marina del Rey Enlightenment Expo and Psychic & Healing Fair

The SoulSearch Marina del Rey Enlightenment Expo, a FREE 2-Day event on Saturday - Sunday, February 17-18, 2024, is a psychic & healing fair, metaphysical festival, health & wellness fair and mind body spirit expo. It features psychics, healers, massage therapists, artists, and speakers. Experience readings and healings for yourself and/or buy gift certificates for your loved ones - astrology readings, tarot readings, energy healing, chakra balancing, massage, bodywork, and much more. Shop crystals, gemstone jewelry, holistic self-care products, wellness products, handmade home decor products, and much more. HOTEL MdR ~ A DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 13480 Maxella Avenue Marina del Rey. $0-$10. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/soulsearch-marina-del-rey-enlightenment-expo-and-psychic-healing-fair-tickets-778651857667

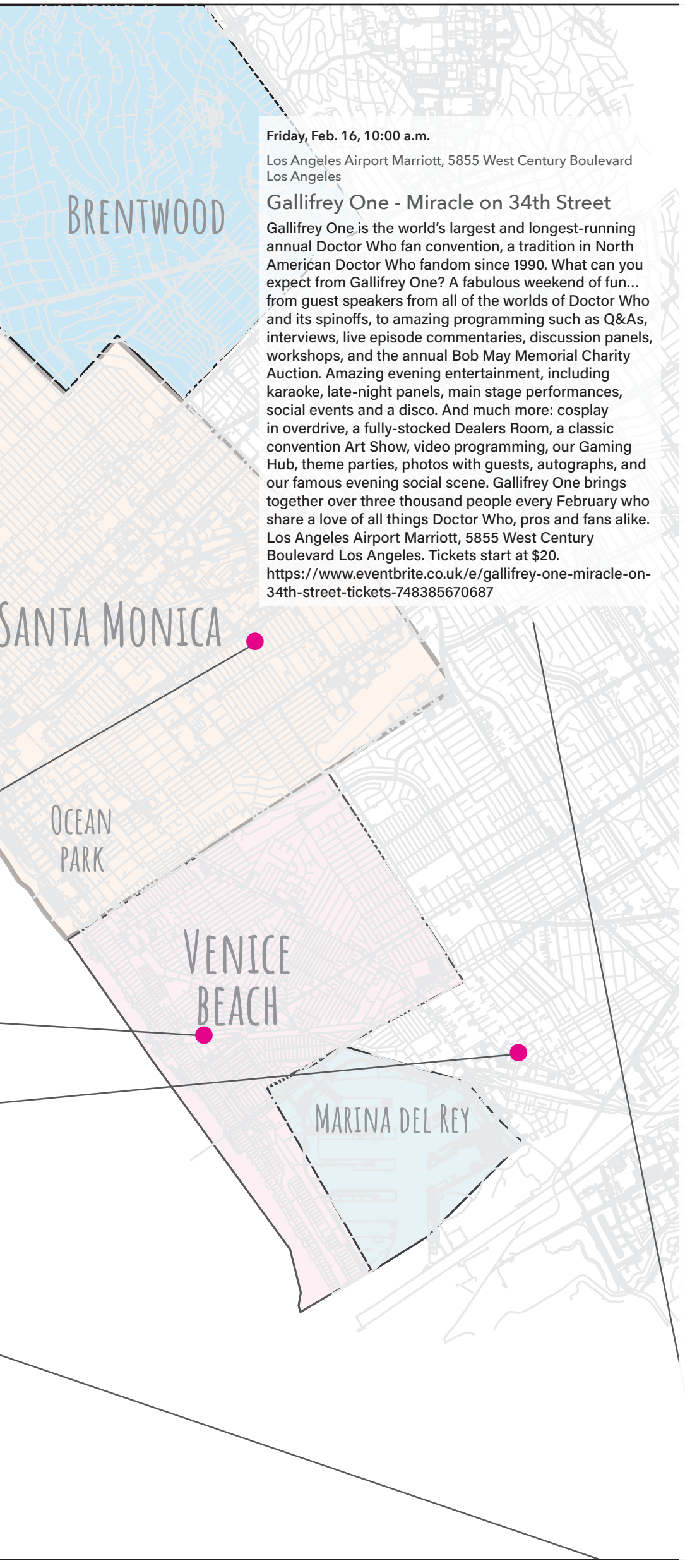
Saturday, Feb. 17, 8:00 p.m.

Kia Forum, 3900 W Manchester Blvd., Inglewood

Jo Koy - World Tour

Coming off of the highly anticipated film, Easter Sunday and his recent Netflix special, Jo Koy: Live From The Los Angeles Forum, Jo Koy begins the Jo Koy World Tour stopping at the Kia Forum The Kia Forum, 3900 W Manchester Blvd, Inglewood. $62.50 to $87.50 https://thekiaforum.com/concert/jo-koy-jo-koy-world-tour/

Check out more events at: smdp.com/events



Friday, Feb. 16, 10:00 a.m.

Los Angeles Airport Marriott, 5855 West Century Boulevard Los Angeles

Gallifrey One - Miracle on 34th Street

Gallifrey One is the world's largest and longest-running annual Doctor Who fan convention, a tradition in North American Doctor Who fandom since 1990. What can you expect from Gallifrey One? A fabulous weekend of fun... from guest speakers from all of the worlds of Doctor Who and its spinoffs, to amazing programming such as Q&As, interviews, live episode commentaries, discussion panels, workshops, and the annual Bob May Memorial Charity Auction. Amazing evening entertainment, including karaoke, late-night panels, main stage performances, social events and a disco. And much more: cosplay in overdrive, a fully-stocked Dealers Room, a classic convention Art Show, video programming, our Gaming Hub, theme parties, photos with guests, autographs, and our famous evening social scene. Gallifrey One brings together over three thousand people every February who share a love of all things Doctor Who, pros and fans alike. Los Angeles Airport Marriott, 5855 West Century Boulevard Los Angeles. Tickets start at $20. https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gallifrey-one-miracle-on-34th-street-tickets-748385670687



THURSDAY | FEBRUARY 15

LOCALS' NIGHT

Locals' Night returns to the Santa Monica Pier from 3:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. with a host of activities. There will be a Books & Cookies storytime at the Merry Go-Round Building at 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. A Disco Renegade's Silent Disco will take place in the Merry Go-Round Building from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Performances on the main stage include Syreeta Neal, BLVCK H3RO and Mighty Love. A Classic Car Show will also take place from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

LIFE'S A COMEDY

Enjoy a night of amazing stand-up comedy at the Bamboo Bar and Restaurant, 10845 Venice Blvd., with comedians like Dante Chang, Tim McCray, Katherine Yoon, Adam Richmond, Mammal and Charlton Brio. Lineup subject to change. Doors 5 p.m., open mic 6 p.m., show 8 p.m. Tickets $15, can be purchased at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lifes-a-comedy-february-stand-up-tickets-803239730657.

AUTHOR TALK

Author Ed Zwick will be discussing his book "Hits, Flops, and Other Illusions: My Fortysomething Years in Hollywood," a memoir from the director of films like "Blood Diamond" and "The Last Samurai." Begins at 5 p.m. at The Ann and Jerry Moss Theater at New Roads School, 3131 Olympic Blvd., Santa Monica. Joining Zwick will be award-winning writer and director Patty Jenkins, known for the blockbuster "Wonder Woman" and Oscar-winning feature "Monster." General admission tickets $25, tickets plus a signed copy of Zwick's book $47. Additional books available for purchase at event. Face masks recommended. Purchase tickets at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ed-zwick-with-patty-jenkins-tickets-810380488857.

FRIDAY | FEBRUARY 16

TRANSFORMATION MEDITATION

Join Shaman Durek and immerse yourself in the transformative experience of "Energy Spectrum," a profound in-person meditation journey designed to harmonize your mind, body, and spirit. Guided by Shaman Durek's profound wisdom and expertise, and enhanced by the ethereal production and music by Natalia Alava, this meditation will embark you on a sacred exploration of vibrational frequencies. Begins at 7 p.m. at RA MA Los Angeles, 1729 21st St., Santa Monica. Tickets $45, can be purchased at: https://www.universe.com/events/energy-spectrum-meditation-with-shaman-durek-tickets-TPCY19.

THE NIGHT SKY SHOW

The Night Sky Show is a short program with the latest news in space exploration and astronomy. The program uses freeware sky visualization tools to show you the constellations planets and deep sky objects in the Southern California night sky. The show will last about 30 minutes followed by a short Q&A when guests can type questions into a chat box. Begins online on Zoom at 7 p.m. For more information, visit: https://www.smc.edu/calendar/index.php#event-details/7a27266e-426d-438e-89dc-be7db92574df.

WOMEN OF SPACE SERIES

There is a long list of distinguished (and often under-appreciated) women who have made critical contributions to astronomical research and significant advances in the fields of astronomy and space exploration. The show - the second installment of the Women of Space series - will shine a light on more of these often-hidden figures. Features lecturer Sarah Vincent. Begins online on Zoom at 8 p.m. For more information, visit: https://www.smc.edu/calendar/index.php#event-details/d3502855-f43d-4721-957f-49edd05c2eb5.

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. Featuring Galiana & Nikolchev's "The Useless Room." Starts at 8 p.m. at the Odyssey Theatre, 2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles. Tickets $25. For more, visit odysseytheatre.com.

BLACK VALENTINE'S

Harvelle's Santa Monica, 1432 4th St., hosts a "Black Valentine's" event featuring funk music artist Cliff Beach. The Berklee-trained singer/songwriter/keyboardist and DC native has created a style of music he coins as "Nu-funk," a hybrid of soul, traditional R&B, funk and neo-soul which he performs regularly throughout Southern California. Begins at 9:30 p.m. Tickets $10, two drink minimum. For more, visit santamonica.harvelles.com.

SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 17

CITRUS CARE AND PRUNING WORKSHOP

The monthly Pancakes in the Park will show some love for the Citrus Orchard with an Annual Citrus Care and Maintenance Program at Ishihara Park Learning Garden, 2909 Exposition Blvd., Santa Monica, beginning at 9 a.m. Led by the UC Master Gardener Orchard Team, the event covers proper tool use, techniques, tool cleaning, tree care and more, with hands-on opportunities to do pruning of the City's first and only public fruit orchard. In addition to gloves and pruners, please bring reusable plates, utensils and cups. Reserve your spot at the workshop at: https://portal.caclimateactioncorps.org/opportunities/xG72eyJFL1?%24.

ELKS LODGE OPEN HOUSE

The Santa Monica Elks Lodge #906, located at 1040 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, will be celebrating their 120th birthday with a community celebration from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. There will be food and family fun including a Raptor Events animal presentation, bounce house, face painting, games and crafts. Santa Monica Elk members will be available for tours of the lodge and provide information about their history and charitable work. For more information, contact Gloria Steck at Gloriakiddsteck@yahoo.com or 310-463-1212.

Some worry California proposition to tackle homelessness would worsen the problem

TRÂN NGUYỄN
Associated Press

Democratic California Gov. Gavin Newsom is urging voters to approve a ballot initiative that he says is needed to tackle the state's homelessness crisis, a change social providers say would threaten programs that keep people from becoming homeless in the first place.

In 2004, voters approved legislation that imposed a tax on millionaires to finance mental health services, generating $2 billion to $3 billion in revenue each year that has mostly gone to counties to fund mental health programs as they see fit under broad guidelines.

Newsom wants to give the state more control over how that money is spent. Proposition 1, before voters on the March 5 ballot, would require counties to spend 60% of those funds on housing and programs for homeless people with serious mental illnesses or substance abuse problems.

The single formula would mean rural counties such as Butte, with a homeless population of fewer than 1,300 people, would be required to divert the same percentage of funds to housing as urban counties such as San Francisco, which has a homeless population six times bigger. San Francisco Mayor London Breed said she supports the measure. Butte County officials have expressed concerns.

The funding from the millionaire tax in Butte County has mostly gone to prevention services to combat high suicide and childhood trauma rates. Officials estimated they would have to divert at least 28% of current funding from existing programs toward housing. They say the change could cause cultural centers, peer-support programs, vocational services and even programs working with homeless people to lose funding.

Tiffany McCarter burst into tears when talking about how the African American Family & Cultural Center she runs in rural Oroville, a city in Butte County, might have to close its doors. The 14-year-old center with a mission of breaking the cycle of trauma in the Black community relies heavily on mental health funding from the county.

The center offers an after-school program, art and dance classes and anger management sessions — designed to steer young people away from the streets. McCarter said some have learning disabilities or parents who are incarcerated.

"I'd love to solve the homeless problem," McCarter, the center's executive director, said as the halls filled with laughter of children who ran around her to win her attention. "But then which one of my kids are we going to leave behind?"

With makeshift tents lining streets and disrupting businesses in communities across the state, homelessness has become one of the most frustrating issues in California and one sure to dog Newsom should he ever mount a national campaign. The Democratic governor has raised about $10 million to back the ballot measure and has appeared in television ads promoting it, indicating it's one of his top political priorities.

Already he has pushed for laws that make it easier to force people with behavioral health issues into treatment, and he touts the proposition as the final piece of the new approach.

"We are in a unique position to take what we have been promoting — these promises — and make them real, and finally address the issue that defines more stress and more frustrations than any other issue in this state," Newsom said at the proposition kickoff event.

Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg, who authored the 2004 millionaire tax, said the funding is meant to serve homeless people with serious mental illnesses and that county officials and providers "miss the big picture."

"While it has funded many good programs over 20 years, it has gotten away from the original purpose," Steinberg said. "Nothing is more important than alleviating the unacceptable suffering of people living and dying on our streets."

The two-part measure would authorize the state to borrow $6.38 billion to build 4,350 housing units, half of which would be reserved for veterans. It also would add 6,800 mental health and addiction treatment beds.

Newsom's administration already has spent at least $22 billion on various programs to address the crisis, including $3.5 billion to convert rundown motels into homeless housing. California is also giving out $2 billion in grants to build more treatment facilities.

But the crisis is worse than ever, many say.

The state accounts for nearly a third of the homeless population in the United States; roughly 181,000 Californians are in need of housing. A recent survey by the University of San Francisco's Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative found about two-thirds of homeless people in California have a mental health disorder, but only 18% had received recent treatment and only 6% had received any addiction treatment despite rampant abuse.

The state needs some 8,000 more beds to treat mental health and addiction issues, according to researchers who testified before state lawmakers last year.

California has 5,500 beds, down from as many as 37,000 more than a half-century ago, the governor said.

The proposal could also add beds in locked psychiatric facilities, which advocates say could force more people into involuntary treatment. Newsom and state lawmakers haven't decided what types of facility would be built.

"From a humanitarian and civil rights perspective, we vehemently oppose

SEE **HOMELESS** PAGE 11

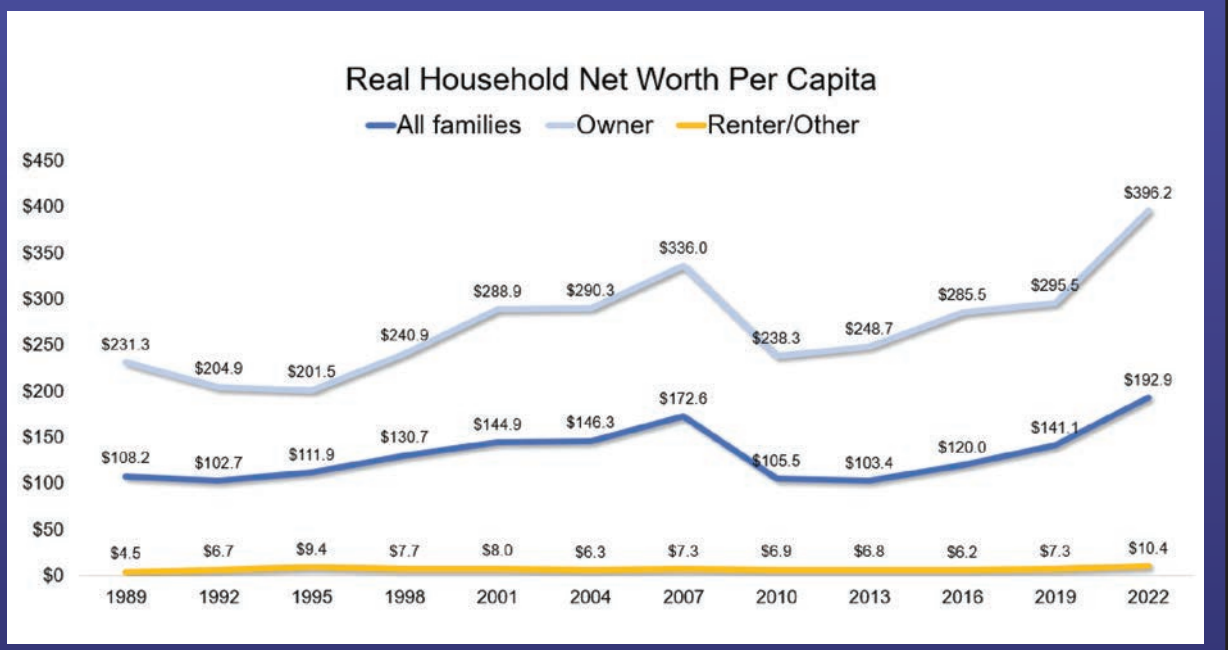
IT DOESN'T PAY TO RENT!

WHY it is important to include homeownership in your future plans, part 1 of 4

Homeownership opens up a world of transformative benefits that extend far beyond just having a place to live. By investing in your own property, you're not just securing a roof over your head; you're laying the foundation for financial stability and longterm wealth accumulation. No longer subject to the whims of rent fluctuations, homeownership provides a sense of stability and predictability in your housing expenses.

Beyond the financial aspect, owning a home offers the freedom and flexibility to tailor your living space to your specific needs and preferences. Whether it's making renovations to accommodate a growing family, creating an income stream by renting out a portion of your property, or even selling and upgrading to a larger home as your circumstances change, homeownership provides a level of adaptability that renting simply can't match.

Isn't it time to take the first step towards securing your financial future and creating a sense of stability and security for yourself and your family?



INFOGRAPHIC PRODIVED BY JORDAN LEVINE, CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS



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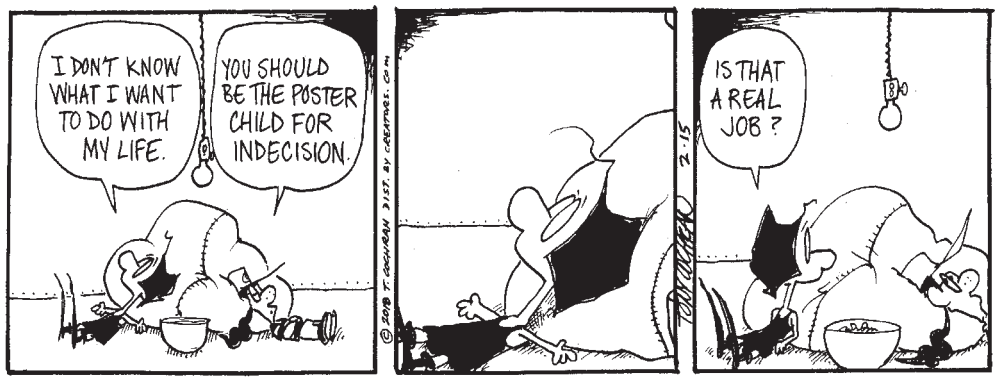
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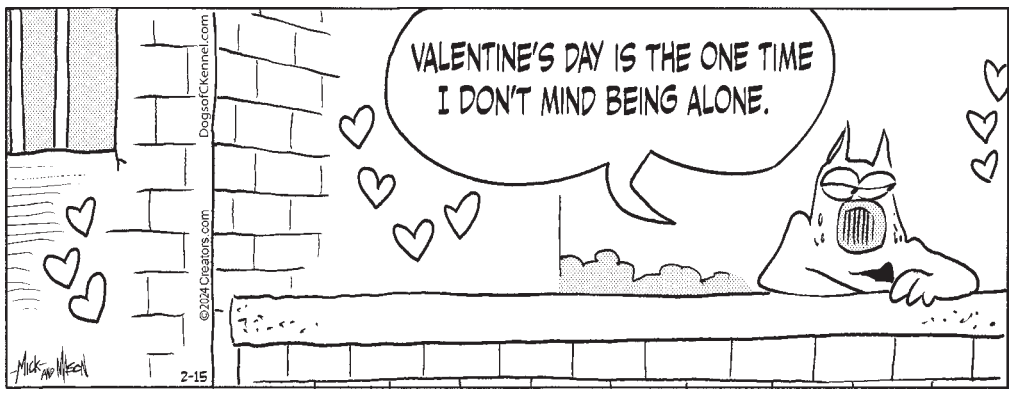
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



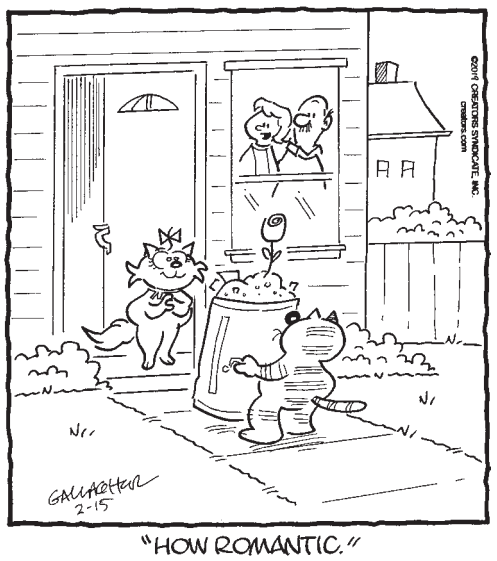
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

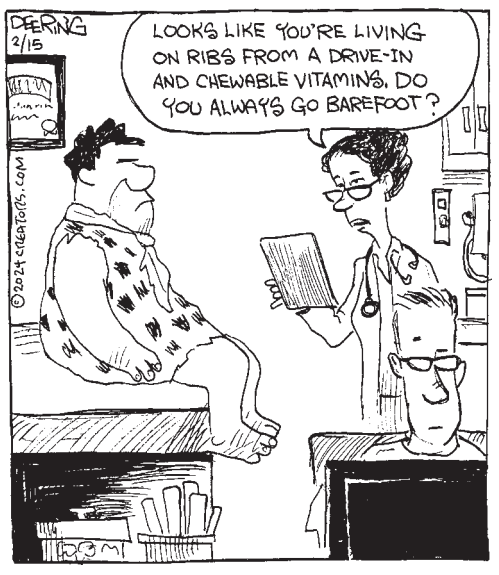
By PETER GALLAGHER



"HOW ROMANTIC."

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 27 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6121

Amazing Broome

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

Atmosphere
Bays
Big dry
Boat
Camel
Coastal
Derby
Dive
Drink
Eating
Festival
Fish
Gems
Holiday
Humid
Income
Indian Ocean
Jetty
Ketch
Luggers
Matso
Meda
Museum
Observatory
Pioneer Cemetery
Rain
Relic
Resort
Safari
Scrub
Shell
Tourism
Warm
Yawuru
Zoos

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 15)

Excellence is your reputation but it's your "je ne sais quoi" that brings friends and fans from all over. People will learn what you do and hire you to do more of it. More highlights: Your commitment to integrity and ethical behavior sets a standard others will follow. Love is a thrill-ride bringing mystery, indulgence, sacrifice, security and more. Virgo and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 14, 7, 19 and 38.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). In the spirit of generosity, you can stick with what matters and overlook quite a lot. There's nobility in this kind of focus, and in the approaches guided by your golden heart.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Would you rather look like you're having fun while you're not, or have fun all alone without a witness? The answer is a no-brainer for you. And anyway, genuine fun is so attractive, it often leads to accompaniment.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). When you notice people asking too many questions or eyeing what you consider to be your property, it's natural to react and protect what's yours. Just note: what's truly yours cannot be stolen. It is woven into your eternal soul.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). People ask a lot of you, but don't feel obligated. It's OK to give what's easy and do what pleases you. To take care of yourself and be happy is good for all your relationships.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's a day to focus on building your self-appreciation and boost the joy wherever you can. With those levels higher, life gets more exciting. These attractive qualities bring new relationships into your world.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's a protective aura that envelops you while you're sleeping, meditating and imagining. Perhaps this is because your dreams are particularly potent and will be relevant to more than just you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have a feeling you can make someone happy. Answer that intuition with action. Wonderful moments start as follow-through of a gentle inkling. You are a healing balm for brokenness in the world.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're a little unclear about why you're doing a thing and who it's for. The important part now is the "how." Practice good technique, get the form right, focus on the timing. The other parts will fall into place soon.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The varied aspects of history will be relevant to the action today, especially the part about history being a story told from one point of view — not to be confused with an irrefutable fact.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Group goals should be big as a cake so that at the end you can cut and serve. Make your solo aims small as a cake pop and life will be manageable and sweet.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're thoughtful and considerate, so no wonder you are surrounded by friends and confidantes. You'll exchange things with others for mutual benefit. Transactions will go particularly well with Sagittarius and Aries.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You do not give your word unless you feel you can stand behind it, defend and honor it, and do what it takes to see the promise through. The world needs more of this kind of integrity.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

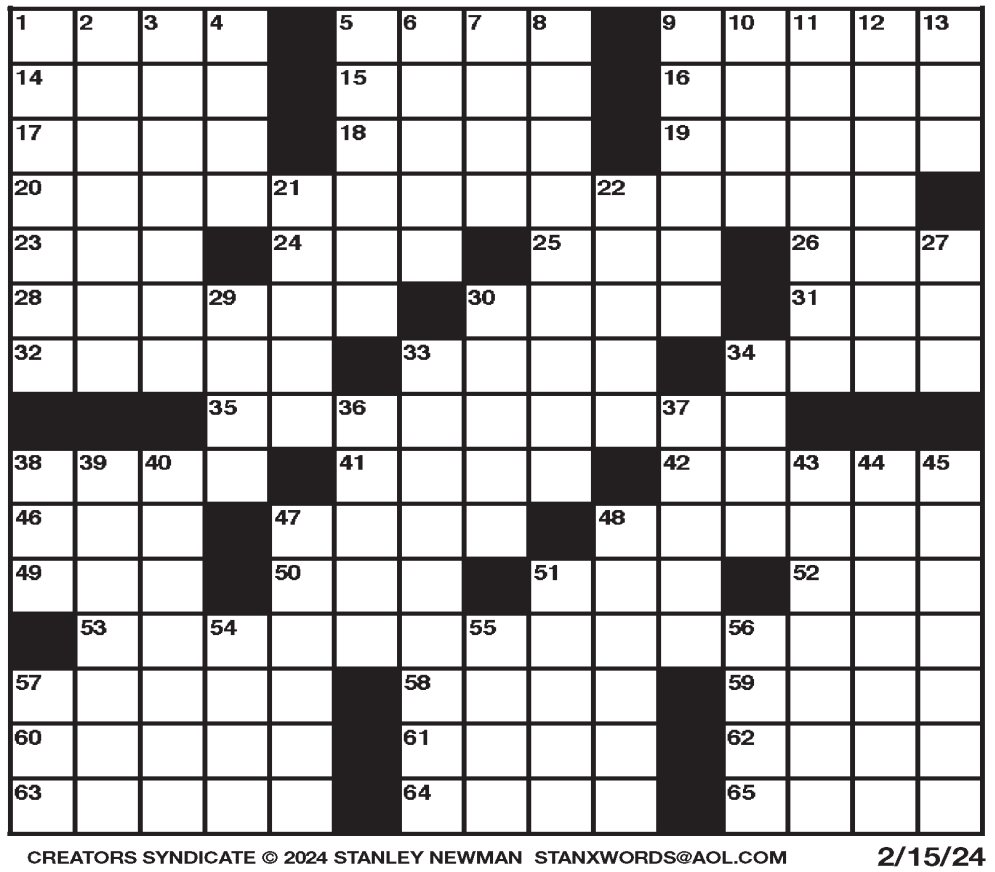
DIGITAL ALTERNATIVES by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 PC peripherals
5 Office acronym
9 Volunteer's offer
14 Itch remedy
15 Common kitchen piece
16 Where it's at
17 Rich supply
18 Autocrat
19 Kin to 5 Across
20 With 35 Across, "I've turned the tables on you"
23 Canal locale
24 Capital of South Dakota
25 No-consonant consent
26 Timespan
28 French fowl course
30 Airing
31 Venerable rag doll
32 Makes well
33 Slide on the ice
34 Moved 19 Across
35 See 20 Across
38 Westminster Abbey has one
41 "Perhaps"
42 Bookstore amenities
46 Almanac page in color
47 Escalator maker
48 On the player roster
49 Links org.
50 *Gangs of London* US airer
51 Alphabetic trio
52 Ultimately pocket
53 Alternatively
57 Parting word
58 British archeologist of video game fame
59 Part of AD
60 Tijuanan till
61 Stumblebums, so to speak
62 Trash hauler
63 Scared-looking
64 Goddess on Olympics medals
65 Felled

DOWN

1 Prestigious Pasadena school
2 Tune often sung at luaus
3 Major vaccine maker
4 Calls on
5 Wholesale
6 T-shirt store choices
7 Jai __
8 Epitomize, as someone might
9 Historically hateful 18 Across
10 Teared up
11 Piled without purpose
12 Central Swiss city
13 Singing role in *1776*
21 Caper film plot element
22 Best
27 "Your point being. . ."
29 Hazardous white sheet
30 Podded plants
33 Typographical mark
34 Kin to 5 Across
36 Request for a card
37 Come about
38 Crank (up)
39 Places of worship
40 Where we got "alligator" from
43 Wharton major
44 Still, surprisingly
45 Put onto paper
47 Waikiki wahine, e.g.
48 Inactive
51 First Best Animated Feature Oscar winner
54 Head overseas
55 What can sit at a stand
56 Breakfast serving
57 "At last!"



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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

NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 4

do you know of Lizzie No? No? She's really different, and getting very popular. So – I wound up watching videos and listening to all three albums, and from the first notes I was intrigued, with the voice, words, music and arrangements. She's really GREAT, you would love her! Sat 8 p.m., McCabe's. Santa Monica, $22.

TOLEDO DIAMOND – Unique, riveting, first class act. There's nothing like it, it is high performance art and great decadent fun. Degeneracy is rarely so well disciplined. And the band is smokon'! EM performed stunning shows every Tuesday for a couple of years at Harvelle's, every week in this column I HIGHLY RECOMMENDED her and urged you to go – and now she's gone. Don't. Miss. Toledo Diamond. Sun 9:30 p.m., Harvelle's, Santa Monica, $12.

Next Thurs - KEI AKAGI TRIO – Continuing a week of taking some chances with my recommendations, I'm going with a pianist with decades of top level performing, more than 60 albums, but here's what got my attention: the Miles Davis band. At the end, true, late '80s, but... Miles Davis. Never played with no schlubs. Akagi is playing with drummer Jason Harnell, who I don't know, but also with bassist Darek Oles, who I have seen many times, and I am a fan. That trio has been together for more than three decades, so, there you go. Thurs 7:30, 9:30 p.m., Sam First, LAX, $25.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: "AN EXTRAORDINARY ORDINARY MAN," Ruskin Theatre, 2/24; "IT'S ONLY A SHOW," Ruskin Theatre, 2/24, 3/9, 16, 23; TOLEDO DIAMOND, Harvelle's, 2/18, 25; HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES, Cinema Bar, 2/19, 26; MALKKI CONDUCTS BRAHMS, Disney Hall, 2/23, 24, 25; PRICKLY PAIR, JEFF PLANKENHORN, McCabe's, 2/23; TAJ MAHAL, Luckman Fine Arts Complex, 2/23; SHAWN PHILLIPS, McCabe's, 2/24; "HIGHWAY 1, USA"/"THE DWARF," LA OPERA, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 2/24, 3/3, 6, 9, 14, 17; JUDY COLLINS, Luckman Fine Arts Complex, 3/2; ROBERT FRIPP, David Singleton, An Evening of Conversation, Questions, Insights, McCabe's, 3/3; DIANNE REEVES, Disney Hall, 3/3; TERRY REID, McCabe's, 3/8; CHRISTONE "KINGFISH'' INGRAM, Fonda Theatre, 3/9; SOUTHSIDE SLIM, Harvelle's, 3/15; PHILIP GLASS, COMPLETE ETUDES, Disney Hall, 3/20; ESA-PEKKA SALONEN, SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, 3/22; LOS STRAIGHTJACKETS, McCabe's, 3/24; SLEATER-KINNEY, Wiltern, 3/28, Belasco, 3/29; YO YO MA, KATHRYN SCOTT, Disney Hall, 4/3; SPRINGSTEEN, Kia Forum, 4/4, 7; ETHAN IVERSON TRIO with PETER ERSKINE, DAREK OLES, Sam First, 4/5; "LA TRAVIATA," LA Opera, 4/6, 14, 18, 21, 24, 27; SAINT-SAENS, ORGAN SYMPHONY, LA PHIL, Disney Hall, 4/12, 13, 14; ALBERT LEE, McCabe's, 4/19; HERBIE HANCOCK, Disney Hall, 4/20; ACADEMY OF ST. MARTIN IN THE FIELDS, The Soraya, 4/21; RHIANNON GIDDENS, Theatre at Ace Hotel, 4/25; MOZART, STRAUSS, DUDAMEL, LA PHIL, Disney Hall, 5/2, 3, 4, 5; DVORAK, ORTIZ, DUDAMEL, LA PHIL, Disney Hall, 5/9, 10, 11, 12; "TURANDOT," LA Opera, 5/18, 26, 30, 6/2, 5, 8; KRAFTWERK, Disney Hall, 5/21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30; JOHN MCEUEN, McCabe's, 5/24; CHRIS STAPLETON, Hollywood Bowl, 6/26, 27; ROLLING STONES, SoFi Stadium, 7/10, 13.

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

HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 8

Proposition 1," said Mark Salazar, executive director of Mental Health Association of San Francisco, which serves more than 15,000 people monthly. "There are studies that show over and over that coercing treatment just doesn't end well for the individual."

Mark Cloutier, CEO of Caminar, which provides mental health services, employment placement and supportive housing to mostly young adults, believes the ballot measure is needed because the lack of housing and treatment beds means many people end up in jail or the emergency room.

Joe Wilson, who runs Hospitality House in San Francisco, said more housing and beds are needed but not at the expense of other programs like his organization's two drop-in centers in the Tenderloin neighborhood and Sixth Street Corridor. Workers there, most of whom were once homeless, help navigate services for people, update resumes, and drive them to appointments.

"Everyone agrees that we need more resources for housing," he said. "Is this the best way to do it? We don't believe so."

One of the center's workers, Anthony Hardnett, a San Francisco native who was homeless and suffered from addiction issues, said many people he has helped have become independent and productive by learning new skills and hobbies, like in the chess club he hosts. The group connected more than 30 people to jobs last month.

"You've got to show them something different to change their mindset," Hardnett said. "We can't just give up on them."

In the Butte County city of Chico, about 165 miles (265 kilometers) north of San Francisco, providers say the city's only drop-in center for troubled youth is at risk. The 6th Street Center for Youth also offers rent assistance to college students, but workers do not believe that would protect it from having its budget cut.

Solace Kalkowski, who uses the pronoun they, found themself sleeping in their truck after a breakup a few weeks ago and said the center kept them from ending up chronically homeless.

"It's a healthy outlet for me to come where people will listen and give you advice," Kalkowski said. "I've been working on myself and being more productive. ... Me having this chance, I'm blown away."

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AROUND TOWN

FROM PAGE 5

would exclaim. Diaz still loves to draw and paint. Karla Diaz: Wait 'til Your Mother Gets Home features her recent works on paper and canvas that focus on American Mexican identity from the 1970s to the present, emphasizing a cultural context of social upheaval and justice through her explorations of recollection and imagination. Diaz's vivid, narrative paintings and works on paper depict portraits and landscapes of people and places that inform her memories growing up in Los Angeles and Mexico. 18th Street Arts Center Propeller Gallery @ 3026 Airport Ave. Opening Reception: Saturday, February 17 at 5 PM https://18thstreet.org/event/opening-reception-karla-diaz-wait-til-your-mother-gets-home/

Take a Self-Guided Public Art Tour: The City has created a tour of selected works on the Beach, in Downtown and the Civic Center areas. The suggested route can be accomplished by bicycle/car, or on foot in sections and predominantly visits public artworks in the City's collection, interspersed with a few public artworks by other entities including Metro and private developers. https://santamonica.gov/media/Art/Santa_Monica_Public_Art_Tasting_Tour-1.pdf

WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

EaterLA Reviews B&T Deli on Montana: "Santa Monica's Newest Sandwich Shop Gives the Westside a Strong Meatless Deli Contender" 912 Montana Ave. https://la.eater.com/2024/2/14/24062680/b-and-ts-deli-santa-monica-vegetarian-submarine-sandwiches-los-angeles

Where To Eat Lunch In Santa Monica: The Infatuation has updated their list of Best of SaMo lunch spots all around town. https://www.theinfatuation.com/los-angeles/guides/where-to-eat-lunch-in-santa-monica

The Infatuation's Praises Shirube as One of LA's Best New Restaurants: "A good izakaya is easy to love—cold beer, sake, and small plates that warm your belly after a day of hitting tiny buttons and pacing around the snack drawer. It's a simple but effective formula, one that Shirube makes exponentially more interesting. We're not exactly sure why this Tokyo-based izakaya chain decided to open its first US location next door to a Chevron in downtown Santa Monica, but we're glad they did. Even if the choice of real estate makes it easy to miss, this narrow drinking tavern serves creative Japanese dishes with high-end touches, somehow at very reasonable prices. It's the most delicious bang for your buck in the neighborhood and a modern izakaya experience where the right amount of flair makes even a quick meal here feel special." 424 Wilshire Blvd. https://www.theinfatuation.com/los-angeles/reviews/shirube

Further Afield: LA Art Show: "The Most Comprehensive International Contemporary Art Show in America" is back with more than 180,000 square feet of exhibition space, including domestic and international galleries. Wednesday - Sunday, Feb. 14 - 18 @ LA Convention Center. https://www.laartshow.com/

Looking Ahead Around Town: Frieze Art Fair (2/29 -3/3), LA Wine & Food Festival (3/1-3)

If there's something you think is worth highlighting, you can reach out directly to me at sean@smdp.com.

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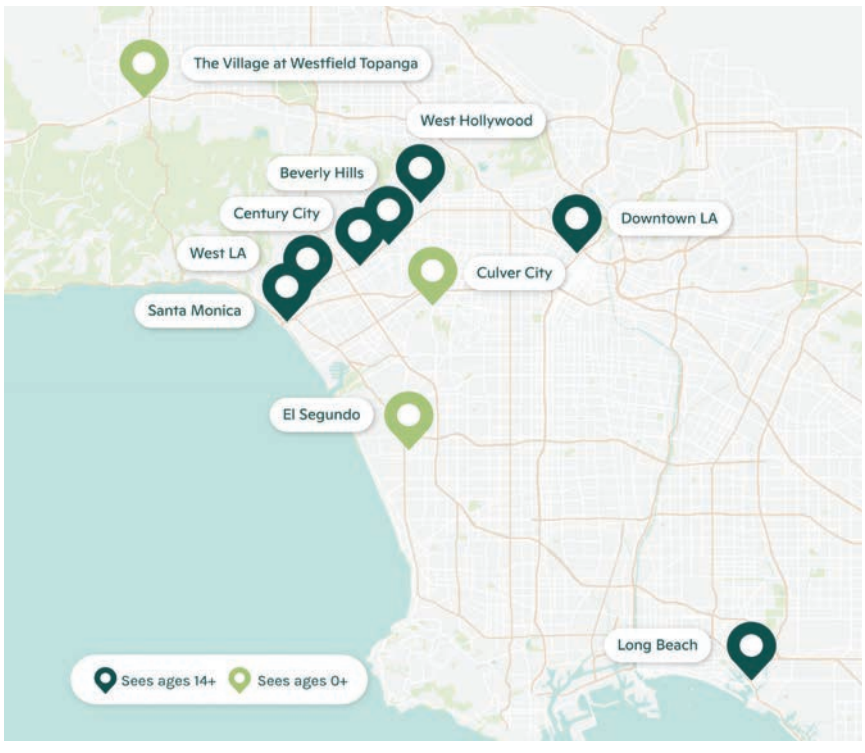
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