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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 69 THURSDAY 2/22/24 smdp.com

Chestnut cracks again against fellow sports star

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

A month before Godzilla and King Kong clash in movie theaters, titans of their respective arenas will battle on the Santa Monica Pier to see who cracks the most.

This coming Monday will be the best of two worlds combining in a one-of-a-kind competitive eating challenge at Pacific Park. The second-annual Wonderful Pistachios Get Crackin' Eating Championship will crack its first nut at 11 a.m., with hundreds of the food items to be ingested by a legendary group on World Pistachio Day. Taking the Pacific Park stage will be top-ranked eaters around the world, including defending pistachio eating champion Nick Wehry and perhaps the greatest eater in history, Joey Chestnut.

Chestnut is one half of the "Joey vs Joey" challenge, contesting with four-time National Football League Pro Bowler Joey Bosa. The Chargers' defensive standout has been a Los Angeles mainstay since being picked third overall in the 2016 NFL Draft, racking up 67 sacks over his career, and will now be trading in his tackle form for nut cracking finesse.

"Not only does it merge some of our favorite things - pistachios and eating - but does so against the iconic backdrop of Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier, to create photo-worthy moments and memories for attendees," said Wonderful Pistachios vice president of marketing Diana Salsa. "When we were considering just how to make our World Pistachio Day celebrations bigger and better than ever before, it was also important for us to do something that sets itself apart from its peers."

The two Joeys and the other entrants will have eight minutes to crack open and eat as many pistachios as possible, with competitors needing to crack open each pistachio before eating it and moving onto the next one. Results are calculated by weight in grams and converted to the number, with Wehry setting a record of 188 pistachios at Pacific Park last year.

This year's victor will receive a championship title, and $10,000 in cash prizes will be given out in total. Along with Chestnut and Wehry, the first and fourth-ranked competitive eaters in Major League Eating, entrants include fifth-ranked James Webb, seventh-ranked Bartley Weaver and 12th-ranked Darrien Thomas.

"(Wehry) faces one of his most daunting battles of the 2024 Competitive Eating Circuit as he fights to defend his champion title and World Record from an international field of competitors," Major League Eating emcee Sam Barclay said.

One of the competitors is one of America's true dominant athletes, Chestnut, who many know from his hot dog eating exploits each Independence Day on Coney Island. Chestnut won his 16th Nathan's Hot Dog contest in 2023, and holds the record with 76 devoured dogs and buns in 10 minutes in 2021. According to Major League Eating record books, however, Chestnut is more than a one-food act, holding 55 records across different food disciplines.

Despite coming up short of the field in 2023, cracking and eating 121 pistachios, Chestnut says he's more tuned up this year, stating that there are some similarities between cracking action and his hot dog dominance's larger digestion process.

"There's parts of it (that) are exactly the same," Chestnut noted. "I still videotape my practices and look at my technique, see what's tripping me up. The best thing about it though, I can go again and again ... I'm not full afterwards."

He added that recovery is more outward than inward, as his fingers become "raw" while learning how to open pistachios in a quick manner.

Though born in Fulton County, Kentucky, Chestnut is well-versed in California culture, growing up in the Bay Area and attending college at San Jose State University. He said that last year's competition was hampered by rainfall, but he looks forward to seeing "more of a crowd" in a place he adores.

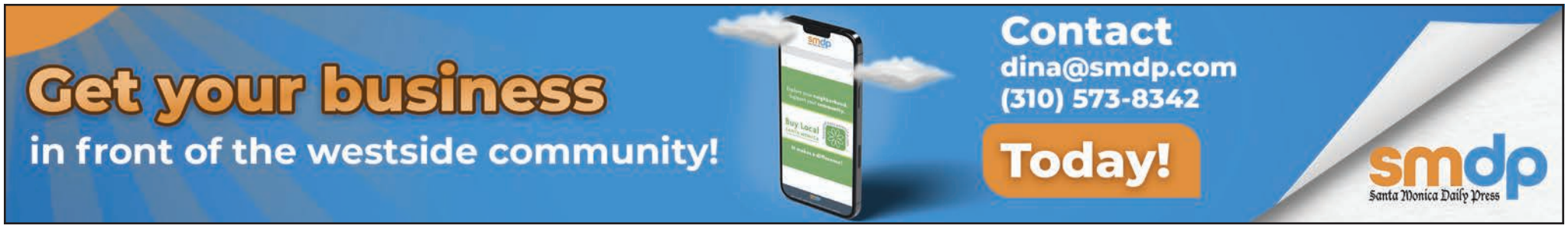
"Santa Monica has pretty much all of the things I do miss (about California)," Chestnut said. "Usually it's good weather and there's (the) beach, there's great Mexican food, great

SEE **PISTACHIO** PAGE 11



Photo Courtesy Wonderful Pistachios

PISTACHIO: Major League Eating legend Joey Chestnut will once again dine on pistachios at Pacific Park Monday.



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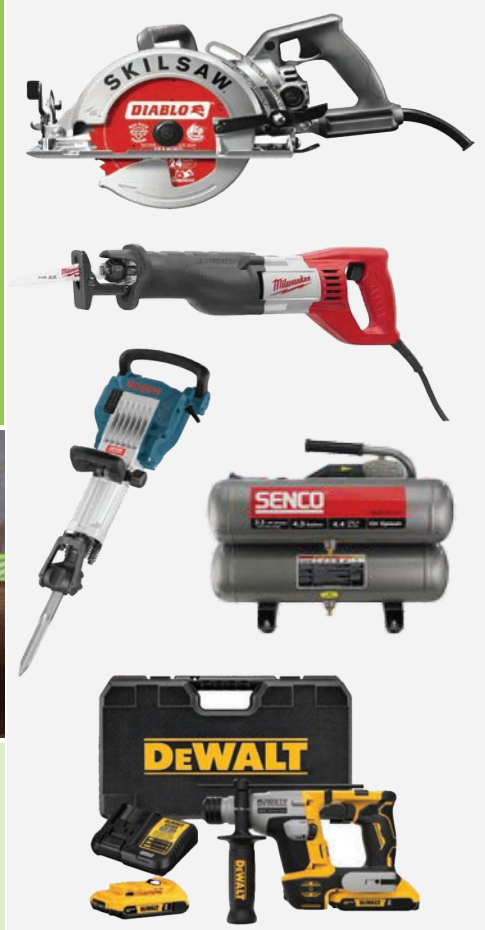


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Big noise made from Waterfront silence in Venice



Photo Courtesy Sunset Vibes Events

SILENT DISCO: The Waterfront Venice is the latest home for the Sunset Vibes silent disco events organized by Adam Malovani.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Visitors walking outside of The Waterfront Venice may not hear much sound, but they definitely see both happy smiles and happy feet inside.

On the final Friday of each month, a new beachside bash takes place both in and around the restaurant and bar, courtesy of a longtime businessman who re-discovered his passion for music. Adam Malovani, owner of World Sound Productions, has organized the Sunset Vibes silent disco at the locale, transforming the frequency of boardwalk gatherings in 2024.

A "silent disco" has been an increasingly popular trend for parties and music festivals alike, a personalized musical journey for many. Each participant of a disco receives a pair of wireless headphones that connect to multiple channels, corresponding to a number of DJs playing a specific genre. The headphones keep the area's sound minimal, with the exception of those wishing to sing along or chat with others, and provides a cavalcade of choice for the audience.

Those entering the Waterfront are given headphones that can connect to 10 different DJs at five stages, playing everything from house and electronic dance music to old-school disco and pop hits. Malovani says that he has roughly 200 DJs in his rolodex, on-call for the latest disco, with the next Waterfront installment coming this Friday.

The organizer also recognized the visual as an accompaniment to the audio, as the Waterfront experience includes ample lighting, lasers and disco balls throughout the sunset hours. Along with the "great ambiance," he notes that it's easier to gain confidence on the dancefloor when things are silent.

"There's something about (putting) on the headphones, you know, it gives people the permission to dance," Malovani said. "A lot of people that wouldn't normally dance feel completely uninhibited … because the vast majority of people are dancing, and I think there's a real freedom … at the core of this experience."

This sentiment is echoed by Greg Montemurro, Executive Producer of 4siteVideo who captured the disco's January debut at the Waterfront.

> It's so cool to see all the smiling faces, the reactions when people put headsets on for the first time
> - Greg Montemurro, Executive Producer of 4siteVideo

"It's so cool to see all the smiling faces, the reactions when people put headsets on for the first time," Montemurro said. "It's like they're brought into another world … it's fun stuff, the content sells itself, so it's definitely not a difficult thing to (shoot)."

A longtime entrepreneur, Malovani was drawn to the disco during a skiing trip at Mammoth Mountain, seeing the experience for the first time.

"Instantly I was having such a good time dancing with 500 other people, and I told my son right at that moment (that) I'm going to do something with this technology, but take it to the next level, which is what I always try to

SEE SILENT DISCO PAGE 11

‘Phantom’ descends into Barnum Hall for six shows



Photo Courtesy Samohi

PHANTOM: The Samohi Theatre Production of “The Phantom of the Opera” will kick off on Friday.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

The concert space of Barnum Hall will be transformed into the Paris Opera House for the next two weekends, as the ambitious students of Samohi Performing Arts will be taking on an all-time classic.

Masterpiece musical “The Phantom of the Opera” comes to Barnum Hall beginning Friday, with five subsequent showings from Samohi Theatre Productions showcasing theatrical, visual and audio aptitude under the first-time direction of Jeffe Huls. The director is no stranger to Samohi, however, this being his 19th year as choir director at the school, and Huls desired to make a splash with the world-acclaimed show.

“It’s always been in the back of my head as something to attempt … I felt I wanted something that would be a spectacle for the eyes, as well as the ears, and I wanted something that I felt the community would turn out to see,” Huls said.

Based on the French novel “Le Fantôme de l’Opéra” by Gaston Leroux, “Phantom” won seven Tony Awards for Original Broadway Production in 1988, including Best Musical. The show, with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics from Charles Hart and Richard Stilgoe, was the longest-running production in Broadway history, eclipsing 10,000 performances in 2012.

To account for such a legendary show, and his first time in the director’s seat, Huls said his workload has increased significantly, though not without its perks. He added that he enjoys being more involved in the visual aspects of production and being able to make decisions regarding set and overall feel of the show.

Aside from the hours, what Huls has contended with most has been Barnum Hall itself, learning “a lot” about stage placement through rehearsals.

“Our performance hall is a giant stage, and so learning how to use a full stage to keep interest for an audience (was) a big challenge as well,” he said.

He hasn’t had to contend much with the student cast, as he stated that Samohi’s theater crew has responded well to his direction with efficient rehearsals, adding that they have “made big commitments to pull this together.”

Major commitments were made by the one unique twist in the “Phantom” casting, that being two actors playing the lead role. Walden Sullivan will be playing the titular Phantom on Friday, Sunday and March 2, while Justin Xu will step into the spotlight on Saturday, as well as March 1 and March 3. Huls said both have “brought a degree of work ethic” to rehearsals that allowed both to explore the character, even if only one of them was currently working on stage.

“It wasn’t always necessary to have to play the 50/50 game, where someone gets to do this 50% of the time, and then we (do) it again for another person,” Huls said. “They were both really working hard to preserve time in a rehearsal.”

The director had to toe the line between having a uniform way to portray The Phantom and allowing the talented duo to have some freedom with the complex character. Huls noted that there won’t be a huge divergence between the two, but intent eyes may pick up “some subtle acting differences.”

“We’ve had long discussions in rehearsals about the overall concept (of) what marks I needed them to hit on stage, the overall emotion of a particular number that they’re performing in,” Huls said. “But then I’ve also allowed them some freedom to kind of explore that character, and bring a little bit of their own personal acting abilities to that character in any given moment.

Playing alongside The Phantom duo will be Brooke Aron in the role of female lead Christine Daaé. Working with Huls on the show are theater director Kate Barraza and music director Terry Sakow.

Start times on Friday, Saturday, March 1 and March 2 will be 7 p.m., with Sunday and March 3 showings beginning at 3 p.m. For more information on the show and to purchase tickets, visit samohitheatre.org.

thomas@smdp.com



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **59.5**

THURSDAY
FAIR
SURF: 2-3ft
Thigh to waist

Fading W/WNW swell for smaller leftovers. Light morning winds, just account for the deep high tide. Surface conditions stay decent as the tide drops mid-morning into midday. PM onshores stay light, keeping evening tide push in play.

FRIDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Smaller WNW swell in the morning. Watching for a fresh round of WNW swell to build in through the end of the day.

Weather

Thursday: Patchy fog after 4am. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 53.
Thursday Night: Patchy fog before 10am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 73. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
Friday: Patchy fog before 10am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 73. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 10pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 54.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2024/02/22	Thu	01:48 AM	1.85	L
2024/02/22	Thu	07:49 AM	5.64	H
2024/02/22	Thu	2:50 PM	-0.79	L
2024/02/22	Thu	9:12 PM	3.99	H
2024/02/23	Fri	02:18 AM	1.59	L
2024/02/23	Fri	08:21 AM	5.62	H
2024/02/23	Fri	3:14 PM	-0.65	L
2024/02/23	Fri	9:31 PM	4.10	H
2024/02/24	Sat	02:48 AM	1.37	L
2024/02/24	Sat	08:50 AM	5.48	H
2024/02/24	Sat	3:35 PM	-0.45	L
2024/02/24	Sat	9:51 PM	4.22	H
2024/02/25	Sun	03:20 AM	1.20	L
2024/02/25	Sun	09:19 AM	5.21	H
2024/02/25	Sun	3:56 PM	-0.17	L
2024/02/25	Sun	10:11 PM	4.35	H
2024/02/26	Mon	03:53 AM	1.08	L
2024/02/26	Mon	09:49 AM	4.82	H

Daily Lottery

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

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 2/19
4 23 45 50 53
Power#: 17
Jackpot: 348 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 2/20
5 45 55 58 68
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: 525 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 2/17
1 3 7 46 47
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 11 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/20
1 2 18 27 34

Daily 3
Draw Date: 2/20
EVENING: 3 5 6
Draw Date: 2/20
MIDDAY: 4 0 5

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 2/20
1st: 02 - Lucky Star
2nd: 06 - Whirl Win
3rd: 08 - Gorgeous George
Race Time: 1:40.58

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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 Proposals for:

Airport As-Needed Land Surveying Services
Project No. SP2695

The City of Santa Monica is inviting proposals from firms interested in providing **as-needed surveying** services for the **Airport As-Needed Land Surveying Services.**

The purpose of the RFP is to select the most qualified consultant to **provide boundary, topographic, legal descriptions, parcel maps, etc. services** of the subject project.

RFP questions to be submitted to **via OpenGov**, no later than 4:00 p.m. on **February 19, 2024.**

Proposers shall upload RFP **via OpenGov**, no later than **4:00 p.m. on March 4, 2024. Size of the electronic proposal shall not exceed 10 MB.**

RFP Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca.

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

DATE/TIME: **Recommendation to the City Council on Adoption of Amendments to Santa Monica Municipal Code Chapter 9.22, Density Bonus, for Compliance with Updates to State Density Bonus Law Adopted by Assembly Bill 1287.**

A public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission to consider adoption of a resolution recommending to the City Council that the Council adopt amendments to Santa Monica Municipal Code Chapter 9.22, Density Bonus, for compliance with updates to State Density Bonus Law applicable to housing projects as set forth in Assembly Bill 1287.

DATE/TIME: **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024 AT 6:00 PM**

LOCATION: City Council Chamber, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Members of the public unable to attend a meeting but wishing to comment on an item(s) listed on the agenda may submit written comments prior to the public hearing via email to planningcomment@santamonica.gov or via mail to the address listed below. Comments received prior to 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Planning Commission prior to the meeting and posted online. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

You may also comment in-person at the Planning Commission hearing. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment.

Address your comments to: **Jing Yeo, AICP, Planning Manager**
Re: AB 1287 Implementation

VIA E-MAIL: planningcomment@santamonica.gov
VIA MAIL: City Planning Division
1685 Main Street, Mail Stop 28
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information regarding implementation of AB 1287, please e-mail housingupdates@santamontica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (866) 311-7266 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate languages provided the request is received 72 hours prior to the meeting. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL
Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-2201 ext. 5547.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Ocean Park Association (OPA) Open Letter to the Community

The Ocean Park Association (OPA) would like to share our values and goals with the community and welcome any and all community members to attend one of our meetings and get involved with the community and the association.

Ocean Park is Santa Monica's beach community. We actively work to make it a tolerant and welcoming community and welcome people with diverse opinions with open arms. OPA's Board of Directors are residents of Ocean Park and elected by residents to represent them. Our Board reflects our community's diversity and works diligently to bring in new voices at every opportunity.

Ocean Park prefers a large and diverse Board of Directors that rotates executive leadership regularly, and to that end, we currently have 14 members and our president and other executive board members average only about two years of service in those roles. We believe everyone should have a voice in shaping the neighborhood and that ideal comes alive with the diversity of views a large Board brings. Each member tends to focus on areas that interest them, which is why we are known for The Main St. 4th of July Parade, proactively supporting LBGTQ+ groups, The Santa Monica Conservancy and those who work to close Main St. to cars several times a year and transform it into a pedestrian plaza neighborhood celebration.

Ocean Park and OPA are made up of a diverse group of people with diverse opinions. We are home to nearly 20,000 Santa Monica residents and there is both significant support and opposition for projects like the Gelson's redevelopment project from smart, engaged, caring residents. In cases like this, OPA feels we can best serve the community by (1) raising awareness of such issues with the community at large, (2) general education of their facts and details, and (3) connecting and empowering community members who are passionate about an issue to join together to fight for their beliefs. This applies to the Gelson's project and the litany of other issues that we grapple with in our lives, including the Bowlmor redevelopment, Main St rezoning, and the Civic Center, that are currently in the spotlight. For example, for both the Gelson's project and the Civic, we have consistently shared updates on the debate and shared channels for activism in our meetings and in our twice weekly newsletter that reaches more than 2,000 people.

While some people and organizations have taken umbrage with our position on the Lincoln Center Project (a.k.a. Gelson's Project), OPA's stance on Gelson's project is simple and clear: educate our members, empower community members to take action, and quietly work to influence the project. We spent considerable effort informing our membership on what components of the Gelson's project we could potentially change during a time when "by right" entitlements were not well understood. We also met with the developer's team to express our residents' wants and desires. We asked for neighborhood serving businesses (like the UPS Store) to populate the plaza. We discussed circulation and expressed concern over ingress and egress for all transportation modes as part of our efforts to champion public safety. We asked them to work closely with SMDoT on finding the safest way to support all mobility options. We even reminded them that new funding was coming on-line thanks to The LiNC Project that OPA worked on for years.

Lastly, there seems to be an effort by some community members to create an umbrella neighborhood organization comprising only six of our neighborhood associations, excluding tens of thousands of voices by not including OPA and Downtown residents. We reject exclusion and reject attempts to subvert the voices of residents, as that is not what OPA or Santa Monica is about.

Diversity, Inclusion, and Compassion is what binds us. The people of Ocean Park respect all voices and encourage all to pursue their dreams in making Ocean Park a desirable place to live, work and play. If you live in Ocean Park and want to make a difference, join OPA. We welcome everybody.

For anyone who would like to learn more about what OPA is about first-hand, we strongly encourage any and all Santa Monica residents to:

Attend one of our monthly meetings live or virtually on the second Monday of every month. Learn more at https://oceanparkassociation.org/ or email contact@opa-sm.org.

Subscribe to our newsletter by visiting https://oceanparkassociation.org/Newsletter-&-Updates and clicking "Neighborhood News & Updates."

Sean Besser, President, Ocean Park Association, contact@opa-sm.org

GET IT DAILY...

AROUND TOWN

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Black History Greens Festival & Venice Mardi Gras



Courtesy photo

NUTS: The competitive eating event returns to the Pier this weekend.

SMDP's Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town includes Black History Greens Festival, the Venice Mardi Gras Parade, the Samo chef who trained "The Bear" star Jeremy Allen White, and much more!

The First Santa Monica Open Pickleball Tournament: The format is a rotating partner round robin. $75. Friday - Sunday, Feb. 23-25 @ Santa Monica Pickleball Center, 2501 Wilshire Blvd. https://swishtournaments.com/product/the-1st-annual-santa-monica-open/

Black History Greens Festival: The event is themed "Acknowledging the Past, Living in the Present, Building for the Future," and attendees can engage in cooking demonstrations, book readings and dance performances. FREE. Saturday, Feb. 24, 10a.m. - 2p.m. @ Virginia Avenue Park. https://santamonica.gov/press/2024/02/06/black-history-greens-festival-celebrates-past-present-and-future

Smart Gardening Workshop: Learn about backyard and worm composting, water conservation, Grasscycling, and edible gardening. Saturday, Feb. 24, 3 - 4:30p.m. @ Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. More details here.

Bruce Lurie Gallery "Give Us Our Flowers" Exhibition: Guy Stanley Philoche's painting style incorporates vintage subjects to convey a tribute to the resilience of human spirit. Opening receoption Saturday Feb. 24, 6 - 9 p.m. with the exhibit running until March 18 @ 873 Vía De La Paz, Pacific Palisades. https://www.luriegallery.com/events

Heal the Bay Aquarium Comedy Club: Where else can you watch comedy while the fish are swimming around you? And it's BYOB! $28. Saturday, Feb. 24, 7p.m. @ 1600 Ocean Front Walk. https://healthebay.org/event/aquarium-comedy-club-february/

Malibu Lagoon State Park Bird Walks: More birds than you can shake a stick at. What can I say? Birds you've never even heard of! Marbled Godwit, Black Turnstone, Heermann's Gull, Frabulated Wigulet, Pelagic Cormorant, Western Roof Owl, maybe 65 other species. A quiet beach on a quiet day. Who can complain about that? Dress in layers. Sunday, Feb. 25, 8:30a.m. Adults; 10a.m. Parents & kids. https://smbasblog.com/

Venice Beach Mardi Gras Parade: Marking its 25th year, participants are urged to don their most festive costumes and join the lively, irreverent celebration. Sunday, Feb. 25, 11a.m. - 6p.m. https://www.venicepaparazzi.com/2024/01/22/mardi-gras-parade/

Pistachio Eating Championship: Monday is World Pistachio Day (because why not?) and LA Chargers linebacker Joey Bosa tackles World Champion Competitive Eater Joey Chestnut and other Major League Eating's top competitors at Pacific Park for another world-record attempt at cracking pistachios. Monday, Feb. 26, 11a.m. https://pacpark.com/wonderful-pistachios-get-crackin-eating-contest/

SEE **AROUND TOWN** PAGE 11

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City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

- **RFP #402: HUMAN SERVICES GRANTS PROGRAM (HSGP) GRANTEE MONITORING SERVCES**
- **Submission Deadline Is March 15, 2024 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

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

Santa Monica Daily Press
Classifieds

FOR QUOTES PLEASE CALL 310-573-8074
or email **cindy@smdp.com**

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Furniture	Travel	Commercial Lease	Services	Health and Beauty	Obituaries
	Vacation Rentals	Real Estate	Computer Services	Fitness	Tutoring

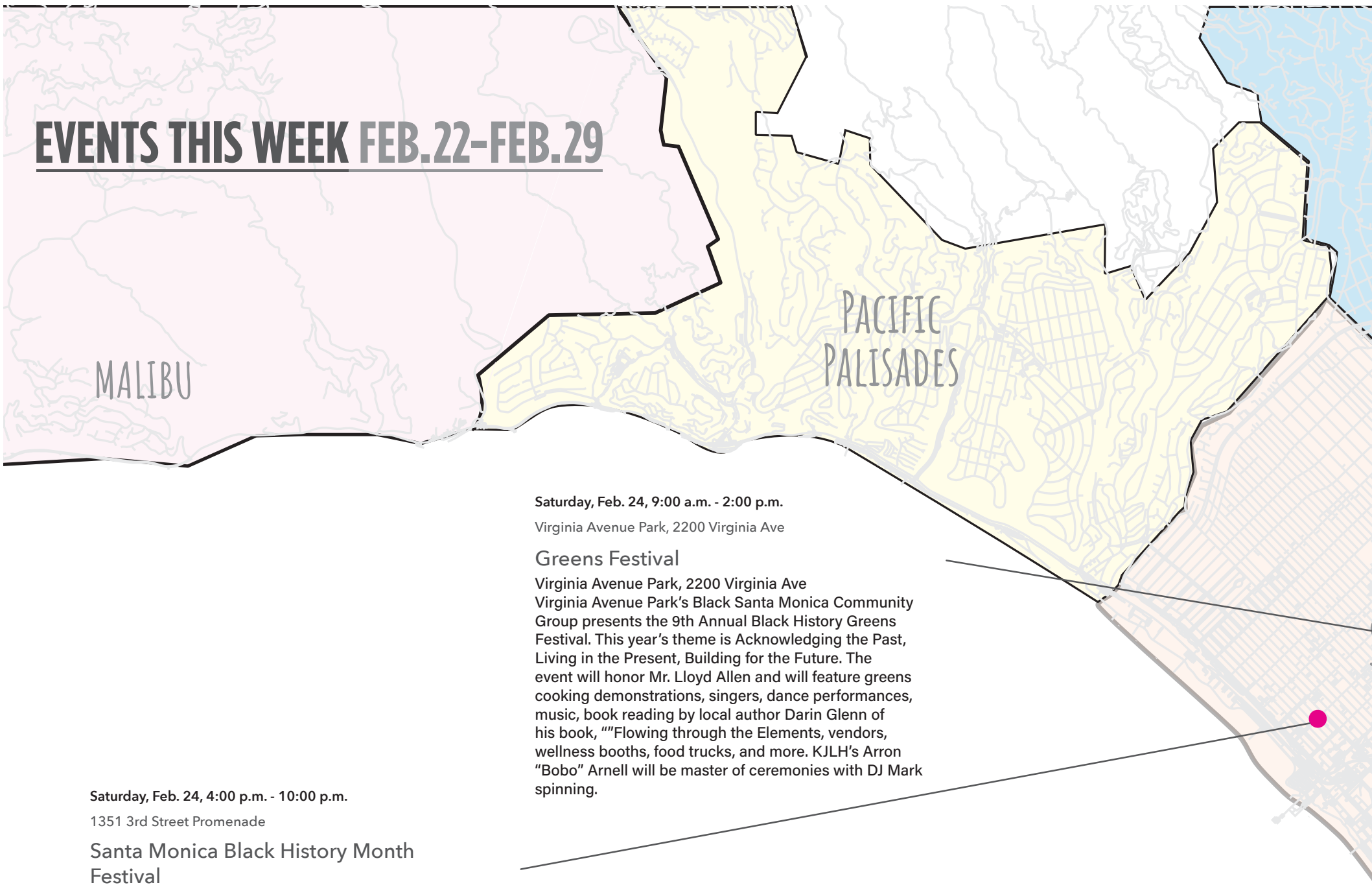
Help Wanted

Data Engineer. US or foreign Master's or equiv. degree reqd. Job location: Los Angeles, CA. Mail resume to: Anschutz Entertainment Group, Inc., 865 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 800, Los Angeles, CA 90017.

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED HERE

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

EVENTS THIS WEEK FEB.22-FEB.29



Saturday, Feb. 24, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave

Greens Festival

Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave
Virginia Avenue Park's Black Santa Monica Community Group presents the 9th Annual Black History Greens Festival. This year's theme is Acknowledging the Past, Living in the Present, Building for the Future. The event will honor Mr. Lloyd Allen and will feature greens cooking demonstrations, singers, dance performances, music, book reading by local author Darin Glenn of his book, ""Flowing through the Elements, vendors, wellness booths, food trucks, and more. KJLH's Arron "Bobo" Arnell will be master of ceremonies with DJ Mark spinning.

Saturday, Feb. 24, 4:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

1351 3rd Street Promenade

Santa Monica Black History Month Festival

CSU Fullerton Assistant Professor of Sociology Brianna Harvey will discuss her research examining how carceral systems use policies, practices, and other mechanisms of control to perpetuate anti-blackness and impact the lives of Black youth and their families. With a focus on legacies of Black resistance and liberation, she will draw connections between the institution of slavery, the prison industrial complex, and the ways Black youth and their families continue to subvert carceral subjugation. Dr. Harley is a former Student Service Specialist for the SMC Guardian Scholars Program. Her previous research explored the K-12 educational experiences of Black foster youth, with attention to the ways schools and the foster system colluded to shape their lives inside and outside of the school setting. Sponsored by the SMC Associates and SMC Student Equity Center. 1351 3rd Street Promenade. 4 - 10 p.m.
https://www.smc.edu/calendar/index.php#event-details/30a1f79a-1eff-4422-8482-b978c8b3b5d2

Saturday, Feb. 24, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Mystic Journey Bookstore, 2923 Main Street Santa Monica

Learn How To Read Tarot

A deep dive into how to read tarot cards and to learn the inner workings behind them. By Mystic Journey Bookstore 4 - 6 p.m. Mystic Journey Bookstore, 2923 Main Street. $30 entry includes a copy of the book, Which Way Is North: A Creative Compass for Makers, Marketers, and Mystics
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/learn-how-to-read-tarot-tickets-828002115617

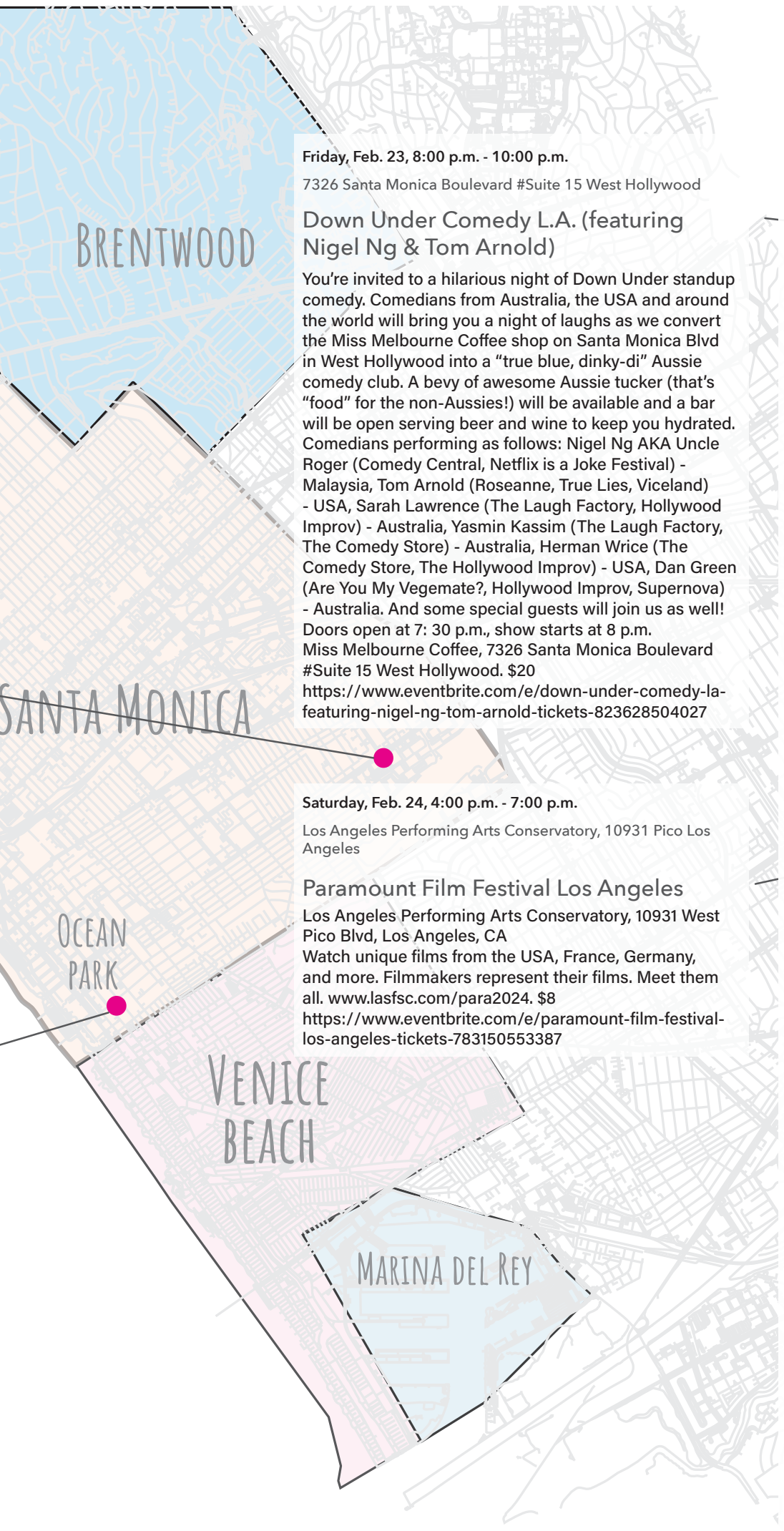
Sunday, Feb. 25, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

From Fairfax Ave. to Vermont

CicLAvia–Melrose

Come experience 4 miles of car-free open streets at our 50th event, CicLAvia—Melrose. Enjoy the pop-up park for the day in your favorite people-powered way, whether that's walking, jogging, biking, roller skating, skating, or simply spectating! All ages and abilities are welcome.
https://culturela.org/event/ciclavia-melrose/

Check out more events at: smdp.com/events



Friday, Feb. 23, 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

7326 Santa Monica Boulevard #Suite 15 West Hollywood

Down Under Comedy L.A. (featuring Nigel Ng & Tom Arnold)

You're invited to a hilarious night of Down Under standup comedy. Comedians from Australia, the USA and around the world will bring you a night of laughs as we convert the Miss Melbourne Coffee shop on Santa Monica Blvd in West Hollywood into a "true blue, dinky-di" Aussie comedy club. A bevy of awesome Aussie tucker (that's "food" for the non-Aussies!) will be available and a bar will be open serving beer and wine to keep you hydrated. Comedians performing as follows: Nigel Ng AKA Uncle Roger (Comedy Central, Netflix is a Joke Festival) - Malaysia, Tom Arnold (Roseanne, True Lies, Viceland) - USA, Sarah Lawrence (The Laugh Factory, Hollywood Improv) - Australia, Yasmin Kassim (The Laugh Factory, The Comedy Store) - Australia, Herman Wrice (The Comedy Store, The Hollywood Improv) - USA, Dan Green (Are You My Vegemate?, Hollywood Improv, Supernova) - Australia. And some special guests will join us as well! Doors open at 7: 30 p.m., show starts at 8 p.m. Miss Melbourne Coffee, 7326 Santa Monica Boulevard #Suite 15 West Hollywood. $20 https://www.eventbrite.com/e/down-under-comedy-la-featuring-nigel-ng-tom-arnold-tickets-823628504027

Saturday, Feb. 24, 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Los Angeles Performing Arts Conservatory, 10931 Pico Los Angeles

Paramount Film Festival Los Angeles

Los Angeles Performing Arts Conservatory, 10931 West Pico Blvd, Los Angeles, CA
Watch unique films from the USA, France, Germany, and more. Filmmakers represent their films. Meet them all. www.lasfsc.com/para2024. $8
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/paramount-film-festival-los-angeles-tickets-783150553387



THURSDAY | FEBRUARY 22

LA LAW LIBRARY OFFICE HOURS
A legal research specialist helps patrons find answers to legal questions. Legal research specialists are not attorneys and cannot provide legal advice, help fill out forms, or interpret the law. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 2 - 6 p.m.

FRIDAY | FEBRUARY 23

AN EVENING WITH CHRISTY MATHEWSON:
The Santa Monica Playhouse will be hosting a showing of "MATTY: An Evening with Christy Mathewson," written and performed by Eddie Frierson and directed by Kerrigan Mahan. "Matty" is the story of Christy Mathewson, legendary pitcher for the New York Giants (1900-1916) who inspired a generation of fans to make baseball America's pastime. Begins at 7:30 p.m., tickets $20, $15 for kids under 12. For more, visit santamonicaplayhouse.com/matty.

GRILLED CHEESE AND WINE PAIRING:
In the newest event at Andrew's Cheese Shop, 728 Montana Ave., Santa Monica, the shop will be doing its famous grilled cheeses paired with some amazing and unusual wines. Starts with starter salad with fresh greens, followed by four open grilled cheeses expertly paired with a unique wine and finished off with a float using Elio Perrone's Bigaro, a sweet blend of Moscato and Brachetto. Begins at 7:30 p.m., tickets $80, can be purchased at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/february-23rd-grilled-cheese-and-wine-pairing-tickets-804210644687.

IRL SHOW:
The Crow at Bergamot Station Arts Center, 2525 Michigan Ave, Santa Monica, will host IRL Show: Comedy Show for Teens 13+, beginning at 8 p.m. The Crow orders pizza for everyone and hosts a free teen open mic at 7 p.m., with feedback from a professional comic. Show features curated comedy with comics from HBO, Netflix, Comedy Central and late night TV. Tickets $15, $10 with student ID, for more visit www.crowcomedy.com.

SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 24

SANTA MONICA GREENS FESTIVAL:
The City of Santa Monica and the Black Santa Monica Community Group will host the 9th annual Black History Greens Festival, a free community celebration that is part of the city's Black History Month events. This year's theme is "Acknowledging the Past, Living in the Present, Building for the Future." The event begins at 10 a.m. at Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave., Santa Monica. Event attendees can check out greens cooking demos with local chefs in addition to a wide array of activities like book readings and giveaways, dance performances, vendors, wellness information and special guest master of ceremonies Arron "Bobo" Arnell of KHLH Radio. Guests are encouraged to bring picnic blanket and/or lawn chairs. Walking and biking are encouraged.

AUTHOR EVENT:
Join local author Christine Van Zandt at the Venice-Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd., Venice, for the release of her new book "Milkweed for Monarchs." Learn about the life cycle of the monarch butterfly and how changing environments make it harder to find food. There will be a butterfly-themed craft and snacks generously provided by the Friends of Venice Library. Begins at 11 a.m.

SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 25

MATHEWSON – A BASEBALL LEGEND COMES TO LIFE!
2 -4 p.m.
Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St,
$15.00 to $20.00—$20; $15 for kids under 12
Santa Monica Playhouse, in Association with the Mathewson Foundation, is proud to present the smash hit Off-Broadway show - perfect for the whole family! It's a three-show-only home series of Eddie Frierson's widely acclaimed theatrical show. "One of the Year's Ten Best Plays! Whether you are a baseball fan or not, Eddie Frierson's play, "MATTY: An Evening With Christy Mathewson," is a superb theatrical experience.
https://www.santamonicaplayhouse.com/matty.html

THE STINKFOOT ORCHESTRA FEAT. NAPOLEON MURPHY BROCK - A FRANK ZAPPA TRIBUTE
6:30 p.m. The Venice West, 1717 Lincoln Blvd, Venice $25 to $30. The Stinkfoot Orchestra pulls no punches – delivering two sets of Frank's music via a 14-piece ensemble which incorporates a six-piece horn section, tuned percussion, and five vocalists. This tour features one of Zappa's most beloved vocalists of all time - Napoleon Murphy Brock. As the iconic front man for Frank Zappa's most infamous 1970's ensemble, Napoleon Murphy Brock helped breathe life into many of Frank's most enduring compositions over the course of 4 albums including what many consider to be Zappa's greatest live release, Roxy and Elsewhere. https://www.facebook.com/events/1022023075788118

MAIN STREET FARMERS MARKET
8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
2640 Main Street. The Sunday Main Street Farmers Market features some of California's freshest produce plus prepared foods from local Main Street restaurants as well as artisanal foods prepared with ingredients sourced from California farmers - you can't get more local than that! Also, enjoy musical entertainment from a variety of featured weekly bands, face painting, balloon designs, and bi-weekly cooking demonstrations featuring local produce.

GOAT YOGA IN THE PARK
Marine Park (Next to the Tennis Courts), 1406 Marine St
Goat Yoga is "baaaa"ck! Our adorable goats have missed you and they can't wait to practice with you SAFELY at our new OUTDOOR location! $45
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/goat-yoga-in-the-park-february-25th-at-930am-tickets-776375509047

California lawmakers face a ballooning budget deficit

SAMEEA KAMAL
Special to the Daily Press

The biggest challenge facing lawmakers and Gov. Gavin Newsom is the state budget deficit — and it just got bigger.

The Legislative Analyst's Office projected the shortfall as $15 billion higher, or $73 billion.

The analyst's office had pegged the 2024-25 deficit at $58 billion in January, using Newsom's revenue estimates when he presented his initial budget proposal.

On Friday, Newsom's Department of Finance reported that preliminary General Fund cash receipts in January were $5 billion below (or nearly 20%) the governor's budget forecast. Unless state tax revenues pick up significantly, the bigger number will make it more difficult to balance the state budget just through dipping into reserves and targeted spending cuts.

But exactly how the state can dig its way out — at least in the Assembly — remains to be seen. Speaker Robert Rivas told reporters today that the budget has been at the forefront of conversations among Assembly Democrats and that he is very concerned with the growing deficit.

He praised the governor's commitment to preserving classroom funding, and said he didn't see a way to avoid dipping into the state's reserves, as the governor's January budget plan proposed — though the speaker urged a prudent approach to using rainy day savings in case the budget picture worsens in future years.



Photo by Fred Greaves for CalMatters Credit: Fred Greaves for CalMatters

BUDGET: State Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas speaks during a floor session of the Assembly at the Capitol in Sacramento on Jan. 22, 2024.

"We are very concerned about short-term fixes for long-term problems," said Rivas, who took over as speaker last summer, just days after the Legislature and Newsom reached a deal on the 2023-24 budget that covered a $30 billion deficit after two years of record surpluses.

"Clearly, we need to prioritize oversight and curb spending and our investments," Rivas added.

In the coming weeks, Rivas' plan calls for an oversight budget subcommittee he formed in December to review the state's spending on housing, he said.

But, as legislative leaders and the governor have noted, the budget deficit won't be addressed just through oversight and cuts. It'll also mean tougher paths for bills lawmakers introduce this year — including the return of the single-payer healthcare effort by Democratic Assemblymember Ash Kalra.

"It's a good idea, but it's a tough, tough sell, especially in the budget climate that we are experiencing now," he said.

And while the governor has shot down any attempt to raise taxes or create new ones to increase state revenues, Rivas did not take a position.

"We look at all of the strategies when it comes to ensuring that we have a balanced budget — there are many of those tools that are available," he said. "Which ones are appropriate, I'm not going to comment on that yet. That's what we're trying to figure out now."

But Rivas may have to make some decisions soon: A spokesperson for Newsom's Department of Finance issued a statement later today calling on the Legislature to take early action on $8 billion in savings to address the looming deficit. Newsom will propose an updated budget in May before negotiations with legislative leaders and a final spending blueprint in June.

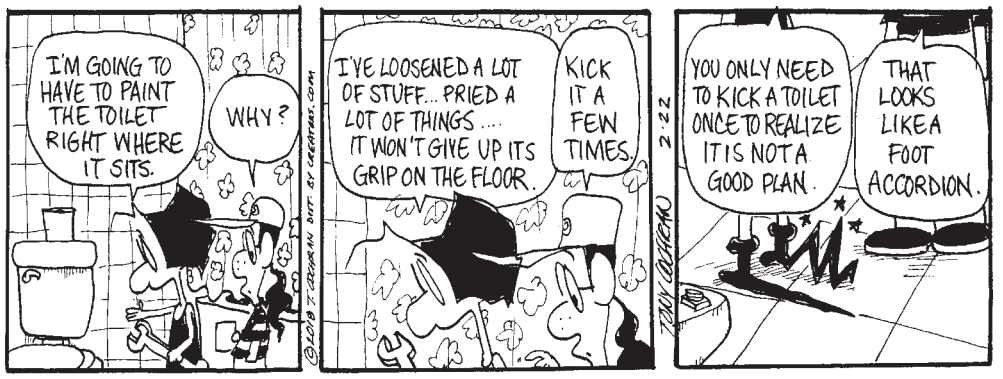
Today's updated deficit projection also prompted concern and criticism of Democrats from the Republican caucus. Sen. Roger Niello, vice-chairperson of the Senate budget committee, echoed the sentiment on oversight, in a statement; "It's time for a course correction and a renewed commitment to responsible budgeting that puts the needs of our residents first."

This article was originally published by CalMatters.



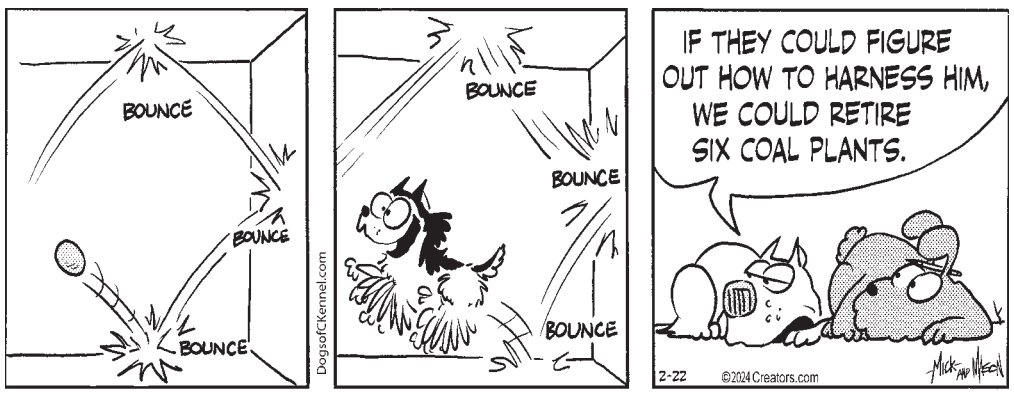
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



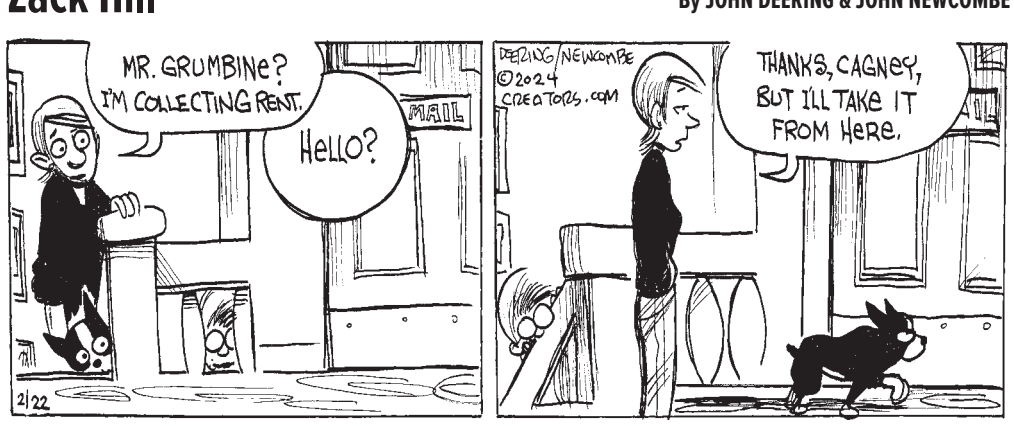
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



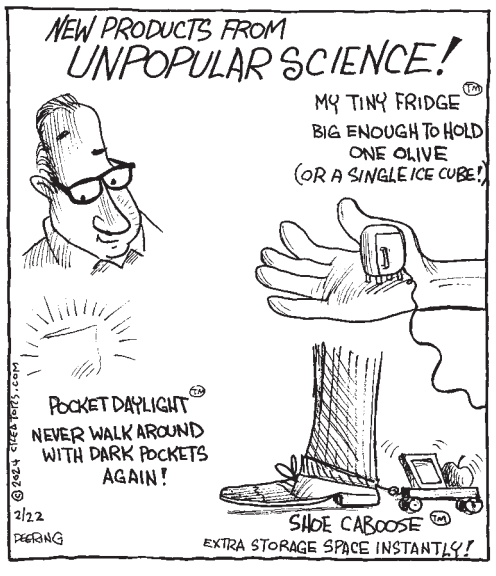
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6128

World cities

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

Accra
Bali
Bern
Bombay
Borneo
Cairo
Chile
Cosmopolitan
Cuba
Damascus
Flew
Greece
Guam
Ha Noi
Havana
Intriguing
Kenya
Laos
Lima
Liverpool
Luxor
Mexico
Milan
Morocco
Moscow
Nepal
Nice
Oman
Onslow
Osaka
Paris
Prague
Reno
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Santiago
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Ubud
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Wales
York

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
King's Indian Attack opening

Covering the city by the bay since 2001.
To advertise, email cindy@smdp.com or call 310.458.7737
smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 22)

Your journey around the sun promises a golden-threaded tapestry of relationships, featuring love, tight-knit friends and lots of lighthearted, casual and lucrative loose ties, too. More highlights: creative collaborations, athletic prowess and a rhythm of success beating through your work life, punctuated by the cymbal crashes of achievement. Libra and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 1, 3, 14 and 25.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It's better not to take chances with murky situations. With muddy waters, it's hard to tell the depth. Let things settle so you can get a better idea what you're dealing with and gauge whether you should inch your way in or dive.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Bad habits die hard, but die they will. Be persistent. Keep trying things until something works. If something is making you feel negatively about yourself, back off of it. Habits will eventually break, but first, give yourself a break.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The truth has a ring to it. And when things are mostly true, or a little true, that has a sound to it, too. But you recognize that people need their defenses. Partial truths can seem very small next to your big, gracious heart. And so, you let it slide.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Ideally, you'll believe in yourself, but if you don't, at least support yourself with an attitude of kindness. Today you have optimism and creativity on your side. Pretend to be confident and soon you really will be.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). A focused mind alone won't give you control over your destiny, but it does allow you more influence to move what is yours to move. Thought patterns can be more addicting than substances. Stick with the ones that help you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The environment is conducive to growth. Everyone around you is contributing to a culture of continuous improvement. Collaborate as much as possible. Everyone will learn from each other and collectively elevate their skills.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The one who's talking like an expert may have far less expertise as the one silently working away. You'll take the time to learn who people are instead of projecting powers onto them that they do not possess.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're a giver. You know how attention works and you're generous with it. It's someone else's turn and you'll resist the urge to tell your own story, even though it will be quite hard, given the relevance and entertainment value of said story.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You really do understand what John Donne meant when he said "No man is an island, entire of itself." You'll empathize with the joy and pain of others and recognize the difference it makes to the entire continent of humanity.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There's a feeling that travels with you wherever you go today, and it can be summed up in two words, "I belong." The reason you tend to fit in practically anywhere is that you're comfortable in your own skin.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). For now, it does you little good to look longingly into the distance at your ideal future. Once you make sure your big goal is aligned with your day-to-day tasks, you can focus on today, knowing that the future will take care of itself.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Maybe you're currently not getting what you want out of a situation, but there's still time. Stay curious, experimental and hopeful. With gentle persistence you'll find the way to get exactly what you need.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

Newsday Crossword

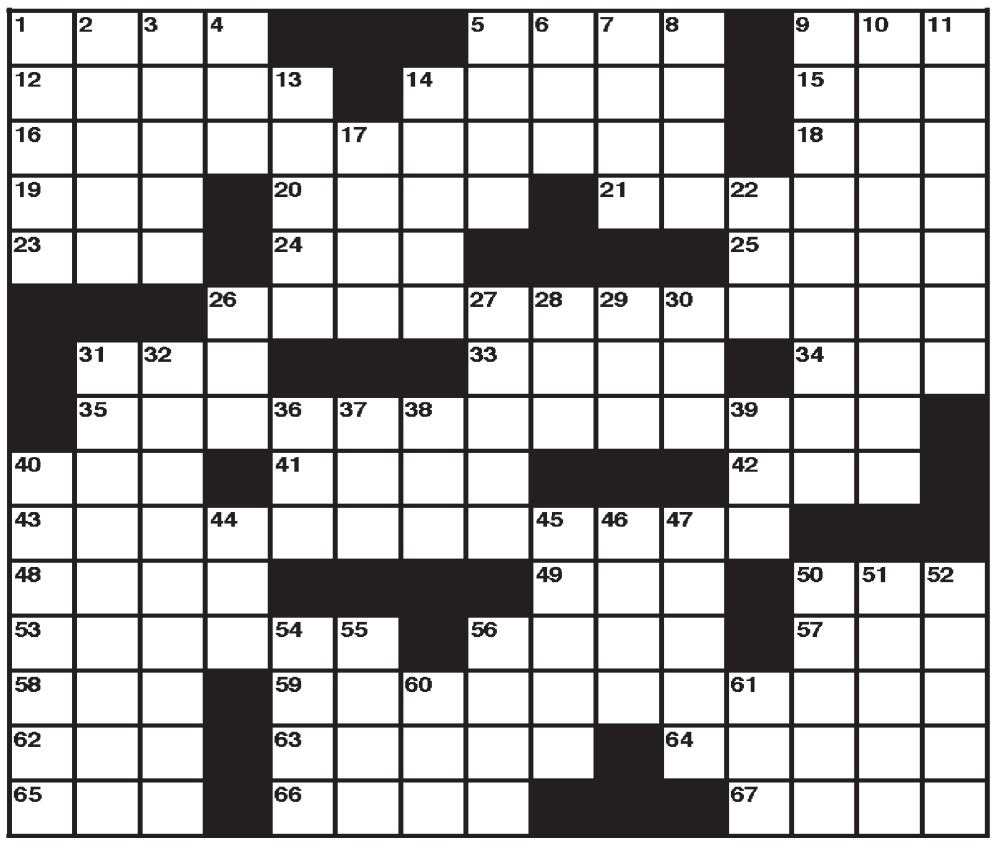
MUSICAL OVERTURES by Kevin Christian
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Garage gripper
5 Party spread
9 Vitamin Shoppe rival
12 Pile up
14 Shaving stuff
15 Driver's club
16 Charleston-era "best ever"
18 Kindled
19 Before now
20 Name related to Inga
21 Blue hue
23 Craving
24 Go wrong
25 Overture follower
26 Vegas spot where Elvis married Priscilla
31 YMCA class
33 No gentleman
34 Far from friendly
35 Venerable mixer maker
40 Quote disclaimer
41 Garner
42 Motor mover
43 Type of deep-dish pizza
48 Piqued state
49 Actress/producer Issa
50 Initials on panda totes
53 Not soon
56 Extremely urgent
57 Stick in the water
58 Tuna at luaus
59 Pitcher's pride
62 Preside over
63 Tablet array
64 "Rock Around the Clock" guy
65 Sudden veering
66 Crayonlike
67 Icelandic inspiration for Tolkien

DOWN

1 Time off, these days
2 Anything seen
3 Refused to reveal
4 *Les Misérables* finale
5 Farm male
6 Farm male
7 Apple desktop
8 Petro-Canada competitor
9 Spaceship of sci-fi TV
10 Mani-pedi people
11 In a spiteful manner
13 Sales pitch
14 Oslo is on one
17 It's south of New Delhi
22 Chinese dumpling
26 Pitcher's pride
27 Hard candy
28 Lithium __ battery
29 Well-worn pencil
30 Giggle sound
31 Four-pound pet
32 Soothing
36 Plan in some portfolios
37 Piano piece
38 Confucian principle
39 Common survey question
40 German-born toy tycoon
44 Big boss of many CPAs
45 Has a go
46 Material measure
47 Moocher
50 Any planet
51 Mimed "hi"
52 Norse Venus
54 Text like IMO
55 Pay-stub acronym
56 Fashion label with a Manhattan HQ
60 *Friends* star
61 Abu Dhabi's group: Abbr.



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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

PISTACHIO

FROM PAGE 1

seafood. Going to Santa Monica makes me miss California. I'm so busy, (but) I get to travel a lot, and it'll be fun to go out there and eat pistachios and hopefully (meet) a ton of great people."

The eating is just one piece of the entertainment pie, as Major League Eating events enter into the fanatical with exaggerated introductions and colorful stage setup. If anyone knows about the allure of the sport, it's the face of the franchise.

"Everybody can kind of relate to it," Chestnut said. "It's not like hitting a baseball, hitting a home run (or) making a three-point shot ... anybody who's watching (competitive eating) from the audience whether you're a man, woman, child, can kind of relate to how we're feeling or relate to the feeling of wanting to eat more ... it kind of draws you in. It's kind of this weird, primal, natural thing, it's easy for people to relate to us when they actually see it."

And many have seen it, as millions tune in for the Nathan's contest each year, along with the cavalcade of carnivores being a popular live attraction. As the premier name of his sport, Chestnut says sticking around nearly two decades into his illustrious career is partially due to representing more than himself, being the man who brings attention to other eaters and various sponsors. However, the main motivation is his love for competition and embracing an unlikely role as entertainer.

"I never thought of myself as an entertainer, growing up I wanted to be an engineer, and I never thought that I'd actually make people happy by doing something" Chestnut said. "It's been a really pleasant surprise. When I go to these events, there's people who have traveled quite a ways to come watch me and take the time out of their day to watch me. I take that seriously, and I'm going to do my best."



Photo Courtesy Wonderful Pistachios

PISTACHIO: Defending Wonderful Pistachios Get Crackin' eating champion Nick Wehry, the fourth-ranked Major League Eating male competitor in the world, will defend his title at Pacific Park Monday.

For more information on the contest and the pistachio brand, visit majorleagueeating.com and wonderfulpistachios.com.

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AROUND TOWN

FROM PAGE 5

Live Talk with Billy Dee Williams: The film legend will discuss his memoir, "What Have We Here?: Portraits of a Life" that recalls his remarkable life of nearly eight decades as a heralded actor who's played the roles he wanted in a career unchecked by racism and typecasting. Monday, Feb. 26, 8p.m. @ New Roads School, 3131 Olympic Blvd. https://livetalksla.org/events/billy-dee-williams/

WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

Velenosi Wine Dinner @ Orto Santa Monica: Explore the delicious wines of Velenosi from Le Marche, Italy. Savor a four course wine dinner paired with a 4 oz pour per course. The owner of the vinery, Angela Velenosi will be guiding the tastings. $110. Monday, Feb. 26 @ 502 Santa Monica Blvd. https://resy.com/cities/la/venues/orto-santa-monica/events/velenosi-wine-dinner-2024-02-26

Meet the chef who trained "The Bear" star Jeremy Allen White: NBC4 published this video story with Chef Dave Beran, owner & head chef of Pasjoli @ 2732 Main St., where he shares what it was like training the award-winning actor. https://www.nbclosangeles.com/california-live/meet-the-chef-who-trained-the-bear-star-jeremy-allen-white/3340660/

EaterLA Previews New "Burgette" at 111 Santa Monica Blvd.: This write-up states "All-American Burgers Get a French Makeover at Santa Monica's Newest Spot." Opening date is expected March 15. https://la.eater.com/2024/2/20/24078593/burgette-santa-monica-restaurant-chef-sean-macdonald-opening-hot-new-french-burger

Rave Review for Atla: "If you're west of Lincoln Boulevard, consider Alta a can't-miss catch-all for lunch, cocktails, or a high-stakes date night. But beyond that, it's also something else: the undisputed best Mexican restaurant on the Westside." https://www.theinfatuation.com/los-angeles/reviews/atla-venice

Further Afield: L.A. Chinatown Firecracker Run: Participate in a 5K or 10K run or walk, a one-mile dog walk as well as a 20 or 50-mile bike ride during this Chinatown tradition. All courses start and end at Chinatown Central Plaza, which will host a concurrent family-friendly festival. Feb. 24-25. https://firecracker10k.org

Looking Ahead Around Town: Frieze Art Fair (2/29 -3/3), LA Wine & Food Festival (3/1-3), L.A. Marathon (3/17)

If there's something you think is worth highlighting, you can reach out directly to me at sean@smdp.com. Let me know if you have any feedback on Around Town: Black History Greens Festival & Venice Mardi Gras

SILENT DISCO

FROM PAGE 2

do," he said.

Previously working with audio through GPS walking tour technology, including selling headphones to the Santa Monica Pier for its weekly guided tours, he began doing discos at the base of Hermosa Pier. His brand of Sunset Vibes also fit in Santa Monica, doing several discos during Locals' Night events on the Pier and working a silent disco beach cleanup with Heal the Bay.

Having an eye on the Waterfront for the past couple of years, because "it's such an ideal venue to do what we do," Malovani felt the January grand opening went "fantastic" and attracted a younger crowd, appreciating seeing "an eclectic mix" of people.

"It's been quite a journey, a fun journey, and ... I think we've done really well (with) the experience itself, people really love it," Malovani said. "I think as long as we keep doing that, it'll grow."

Another advantage of the event, he noted, is the headphones' quarter-mile range with the ability to rent a pair to walk outside the venue and along the beach. The organizer says you'll be able to catch him strutting everywhere, as the event reignited his long-dormant passion for music.

"It's funny, because now I'm so much less inhibited, because I was one of those people that wouldn't be on the dance floor (with rare exception)," Malovani said. "But now, I'm like that old guy that you'll see dancing on the end of the pier ... it's liberating to allow yourself to dance."

> It's funny, because now I'm so much less inhibited, because I was one of those people that wouldn't be on the dance floor (with rare exception)
> - Adam Malovani

Sunset Vibes at The Waterfront Venice, 206 Ocean Front Walk, Venice, takes place the final Friday of each month from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit sunsetvibesevents.com. Readers of the Daily Press who use the Eventbrite promo code "smdp" will receive 20% off their purchase.

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Photo Courtesy Sunset Vibes Events

SILENT DISCO: The Waterfront Venice is the latest home for the Sunset Vibes silent disco events organized by Adam Malovani.

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