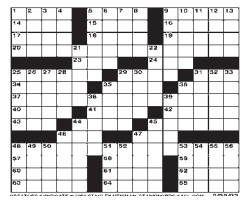


2
AI outsmarts humans
In games and real-life.



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Solving homelessness
California has the tools.



9
Crossword
Plus horoscopes.

TUESDAY
02.28.23

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 22 Issue 87

smdp.com



HISTORIC STORM LEAVES SANTA MONICA WET BUT UNHARMED

Matthew Hall

RAIN: The strong storm soaked local streets and downed several trees but left little damage in Santa Monica.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Santa Monica emerged from the recent winter storm a touch bedraggled but otherwise unscathed.

The Santa Monica Police Department reported no significant storm-related incidents over the weekend and while countless small tree limbs could be seen on the ground over the weekend, few large branches or whole trees caused significant damage.

The City of Santa Monica responded to about 25 uprooted trees and 30 downed limbs. They also pumped water from the Gandara Park parking lot, repaired potholes and a downed light pole.

A lightning storm caused beach evacuations and closures for several hours on Saturday but there were no reports of injury.

The area got a brief break from severe weather on Sunday but the previous rain swelled Los Angeles-area rivers to dangerous levels, flooded roads and dumped snow at elevations as low as about 1,000 feet.

The sun came out briefly Sunday in greater LA, where residents emerged to marvel at mountains to the north and east blanketed in white.

Suburban Santa Clarita, received its first significant snowfall since 1989.

The weather service said

SEE **RAIN** PAGE 7

School District seeks new trial in $45 million special education case

GRACE INEZ ADAMS
SMDP Staff Writer

Efforts to seek a new trial and reduce damages in a recent ruling against the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) are moving forward with the Board getting an update on the case this week.

A Los Angeles Superior Court jury found in favor of the plaintiffs in October 2022 and ordered the district to pay $45 million to the

SEE **SMMUSD** PAGE 4

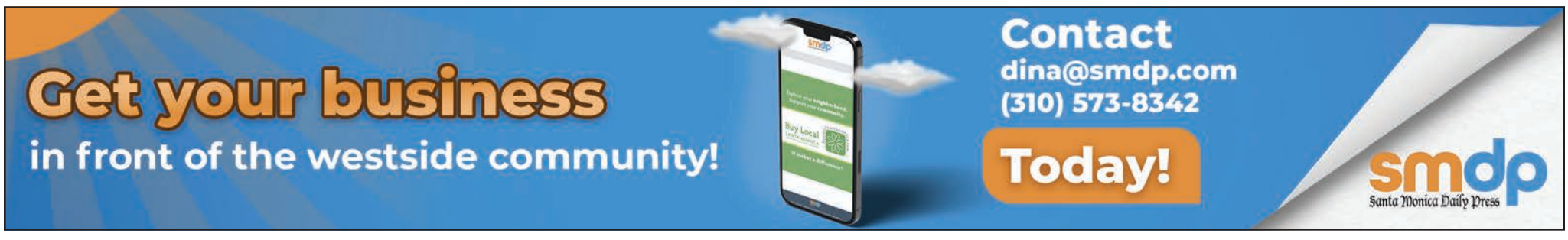
Last chance to see the Sea Dragon as original ride is retired

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

One of the oldest and most cherished rides on the Santa Monica Pier, the original Sea Dragon, is bidding farewell to its prized Pacific view as it's retired to make way for an all-new Sea Dragon ride. It's on display until Wednesday March 8, 2023, in the upper pier parking lot adjacent to the east entrance of the amusement park, daily from 11am to 9pm.

A special send-off is planned for Thursday, March 9 at 8am during which the all-new Sea Dragon will also be making its debut. The swinging ride is based loosely on what's referred to as a "pirate ship

SEE **SEA DRAGON** PAGE 6



Supreme Court student loan case: The arguments explained

JESSICA GRESKO
Associated Press

The Supreme Court is about to hear arguments over President Joe Biden's student debt relief plan, which impacts millions of borrowers who could see their loans wiped away or reduced.

So far, Republican-appointed judges have kept the Democratic president's plan from going into effect, and it remains to be seen how the court, dominated 6-3 by conservatives, will respond. The justices have scheduled two hours of arguments in the case Tuesday, though it will probably go longer. The public can listen in on the court's website beginning at 10 a.m. EST.

Where things stand ahead of the hearing as well as what to expect:

HOW DOES THE FORGIVENESS PLAN WORK?

The debt forgiveness plan announced in August would cancel $10,000 in federal student loan debt for those making less than $125,000 or households with less than $250,000 in income per year. Pell Grant recipients, who typically demonstrate more financial need, would get an additional $10,000 in debt forgiven.

College students qualify if their loans were disbursed before July 1. The plan makes 43 million borrowers eligible for some debt forgiveness, with 20 million who could have their debt erased entirely, according to the Biden administration.

The White House says 26 million people have applied for debt relief, and 16 million people had already had their relief approved. The Congressional Budget Office has said the program will cost about $400 billion over the next three decades.

HOW DID THE ISSUE WIND UP AT THE SUPREME COURT?

The Supreme Court is hearing two challenges to the plan. One involves six Republican-led states that sued. The other involves a lawsuit filed by two students.

A lower court dismissed the lawsuit involving the following states: Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and South Carolina. The court said the states could not challenge the program because they weren't harmed by it. But a panel of three federal appeals court judges on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit — all of them appointed by Republican presidents — put the program on hold during an appeal. The Supreme Court then agreed to weigh in.

The students' case involves Myra Brown, who is ineligible for debt relief because her loans are commercially held, and Alexander Taylor, who is eligible for just $10,000 and not the full $20,000 because he didn't receive a Pell grant. They say that the Biden administration didn't go through the proper process in enacting the plan, among other things.

Texas-based U.S. District Judge Mark Pittman, an appointee of President Donald Trump, sided with the students and ruled to block the program. Pittman ruled that the Biden administration did not have clear authorization from Congress to implement the program. A federal appeals court left Pittman's ruling in place, and the Supreme Court agreed to take up the case along with the states' challenge.

HOW DID BIDEN GET TO CANCEL THE DEBT?

To cancel student loan debt, the Biden administration relied on the Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students Act, commonly known as the HEROES Act. Originally enacted after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attack, the law was initially intended to keep service members from being worse off financially while they fought in wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Now extended, it allows the secretary of education to waive or modify the terms of federal student loans as necessary in connection with a national emergency.

Trump, a Republican, declared the COVID-19 pandemic a national emergency in March 2020, but Biden recently announced that designation will end May 11. The Biden administration has said that the end to the national emergency doesn't change the legal argument for student loan debt cancellation because the pandemic affected millions of student borrowers who might have fallen behind on their loans during the emergency.

WHAT ARE THE JUSTICES LIKELY TO ASK ABOUT?

Expect the justices to be focused on several big issues. The first one is whether the states and the two borrowers have the right to sue over the plan in the first place, a legal concept called "standing." If they don't, that clears the way for the Biden administration to go ahead with it. To prove they have standing, the states and borrowers will have to show in part that they're financially harmed by the plan.

Beyond standing, the justices will also be asking whether the HEROES Act gives the Biden administration the power to enact the plan and how it went about doing so.

WHEN WILL BORROWERS KNOW THE OUTCOME?

It will likely be months before borrowers learn the outcome of the case, but there's a deadline of sorts. The court generally issues all of its decisions by the end of June before going on a summer break.

Whether or not the debt gets cancelled, the case's resolution will bring changes. While federal student loan payments are currently paused, that will end 60 days after the case is resolved. And if the case hasn't been resolved by June 30, payments will start 60 days after that.

GET IT DAILY...

AI learns to outsmart humans in video games - and real life

MATT O'BRIEN
AP Technology Writer

Speed around a French village in the video game Gran Turismo and you might spot a Corvette behind you trying to catch your slipstream.

The technique of using the draft of an opponent's racecar to speed up and overtake them is one favored by skilled players of PlayStation's realistic racing game.

But this Corvette driver is not being controlled by a human — it's GT Sophy, a powerful artificial intelligence agent built by PlayStation-maker Sony.

Gran Turismo players have been competing against computer-generated racecars since the franchise launched in the 1990s, but the new AI driver that was unleashed last week on Gran Turismo 7 is smarter and faster because it's been trained using the latest AI methods.

> Gran Turismo had a built-in AI existing from the beginning of the game, but it has a very narrow band of performance and it isn't very good
>
> - Michael Spranger, chief operating officer of Sony AI

"Gran Turismo had a built-in AI existing from the beginning of the game, but it has a very narrow band of performance and it isn't very good," said Michael Spranger, chief operating officer of Sony AI. "It's very predictable. Once you get past a certain level, it doesn't really entice you anymore."

But now, he said, "this AI is going to put up a fight."

Visit an artificial intelligence laboratory at universities and companies like Sony, Google, Meta, Microsoft and ChatGPT-maker OpenAI and it's not unusual to find AI agents like Sophy racing cars, slinging angry birds at pigs, fighting epic interstellar battles or helping human gamers build new Minecraft worlds — all part of the job description for computer systems trying to learn how to get smarter in games.

But in some instances, they are also trying to learn how to get smarter in the real world. In a January paper, a University of Cambridge researcher who built an AI agent to control Pokémon characters argued it could "inspire all sorts of applications that require team management under conditions of extreme uncertainty, including managing a team of doctors, robots or employees in an ever-changing environment, like a pandemic-stricken region or a war zone."

And while that might sound like a kid making a case for playing three more hours of Pokémon Violet, the study of games has been used to advance AI research — and train computers to solve complex problems — since the mid-20th century.

Initially, AI was used on games like checkers and chess to test at winning strategy games. Now a new branch of research is more focused on performing open-ended tasks in complex worlds and interacting with humans, not just for the purpose of beating them.

"Reality is like a super-complicated game," said Nicholas Sarantinos, who authored the Pokémon paper and recently turned down a doctoral offer at Oxford University to start an AI company aiming to help corporate workplaces set up more collaborative teams.

In the web-based Pokémon Showdown battle simulator, Sarantinos developed an algorithm to analyze a team of six Pokémon — predicting how they would perform based on all the possible battle scenarios ahead of them and their comparative strengths and weaknesses.

Microsoft, which owns the popular Minecraft game franchise as well as the Xbox game system, has tasked AI agents with a variety of activities — from steering clear of lava to chopping trees and making furnaces. Researchers hope some of their learnings could eventually play a role in real-world technology, such as how to get a home robot to take on certain chores without having to program it to do so.

While it "goes without stating" that real humans behave quite differently from fictional video game creatures, "the core ideas can still be used," Sarantinos said. "If you use psychology tests, you can take this information to conclude how well they can work together."

Amy Hoover, an assistant professor of informatics at the New Jersey Institute of Technology who's built algorithms for the digital card game Hearthstone, said "there really is a reason for studying games" but it is not always easy to explain.

"People aren't always understanding that the point is about the optimization method rather than the game," she said.

Games also offer a useful testbed for AI — including for some real-world applications in robotics or health care — that's safer to try in a virtual world, said Vanessa Volz, an AI researcher at the Danish startup Modl.ai, which builds AI systems for game development.

But, she adds, "it can get overhyped."

"It's probably not going to be one big breakthrough and that everything is going to be shifted to the real world," Volz said.

Japanese electronics giant Sony launched

SEE AI PAGE 4

‘Take It Down:’ a tool for teens to remove explicit images

BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP Technology Writer

“Once you send that photo, you can’t take it back,” goes the warning to teenagers, often ignoring the reality that many teens send explicit images of themselves under duress, or without understanding the consequences.

A new online tool aims to give some control back to teens, or people who were once teens, and take down explicit images and videos of themselves from the internet.

Called Take It Down, the tool is operated by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and funded in part by Meta Platforms, the owner of Facebook and Instagram.

The site lets anyone anonymously — and without uploading any actual images — create what is essentially a digital fingerprint of the image. This fingerprint (a unique set of numbers called a “hash”) then goes into a database and the tech companies that have agreed to participate in the project remove the images from their services.

Now, the caveats. The participating platforms are, as of Monday, Meta’s Facebook and Instagram, Yubo, OnlyFans and Pornhub, owned by Mindgeek. If the image is on another site, or if it is sent in an encrypted platform such as WhatsApp, it will not be taken down.

> “Take It Down is made specifically for people who have an image that they have reason to believe is already out on the Web somewhere, or that it could be”
> - Gavin Portnoy, a spokesman for the NCMEC

In addition, if someone alters the original image — for instance, cropping it, adding an emoji or turning it into a meme — it becomes a new image and thus need a new hash. Images that are visually similar — such as the same photo with and without an Instagram filter, will have similar hashes, differing in just one character.

“Take It Down is made specifically for people who have an image that they have reason to believe is already out on the Web somewhere, or that it could be,” said Gavin Portnoy, a spokesman for the NCMEC. “You’re a teen and you’re dating someone and you share the image. Or somebody extorted you and they said, ‘if you don’t give me an image, or another image of you, I’m going to do X, Y, Z.’”

Portnoy said teens may feel more comfortable going to a site than to involve law enforcement, which wouldn’t be anonymous, for one.

“To a teen who doesn’t want that level of involvement, they just want to know that it’s taken down, this is a big deal for them,” he said. NCMEC is seeing an increase in reports of online exploitation of children. The nonprofit’s CyberTipline received 29.3 million reports in 2021, up 35% from 2020.

Meta, back when it was still Facebook, attempted to create a similar tool, although for adults, back in 2017. It didn’t go over well because the site asked people to, basically, send their (encrypted) nudes to Facebook — not the most trusted company even in 2017. The company tested out the service in Australia for a brief period, but didn’t expand it to other countries. In 2021, it helped launch tool for adults called StopNCII — or nonconsensual intimate images, aka “revenge porn.” That site is run by a U.K. nonprofit, the UK Revenge Porn Helpline, but anyone around the globe can use it.

But in that time, online sexual extortion and exploitation has only gotten worse, for children and teens as well as for adults. Many tech companies already use this hash system to share, take down and report to law enforcement images of child sexual abuse. Portnoy said the goal is to have more companies sign up.

“We never had anyone say no,” he said.

Twitter and TikTok so far have not committed to the project. Neither company immediately respond to a message for comment Sunday.

Antigone Davis, Meta’s global head of safety, said Take It Down is one of many tools the company uses to address child abuse and exploitation on its platforms.

“In addition to supporting the development of this tool and having, reporting and blocking systems on our on our platform, we also do a number of different things to try to prevent these kinds of situations from happening in the first place. So, for example, we don’t allow unconnected adults to message minors,” she said.

The site works with real as well as artificial intelligence-generated images and “deepfakes,” Davis said. Deepfakes are created to look like real, actual people saying or doing things they didn’t actually do.

Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

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PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Jack Neworth,
David Pisarra.

CIRCULATION
Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com

Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Grace Inez Adams
grace@smdp.com

Scott Snowden
scott.snowden@smdp.com

DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

MARKETING MANAGER
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

Cristina Rios
cristina@smdp.com

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Santa Monica Daily Press

1640 5th Street, Suite 218
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

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WINNER

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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Proposed amendments to the text of the Zoning Ordinance to establish an Outdoor Space Program allowing outdoor commercial activity on privately-owned property and consideration of other minor zoning changes related to economic recovery and emergency response, including two-year extensions of certain permit timeframes.

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to consider amendments to the text of Article 9 of the Santa Monica Municipal Code (Zoning Ordinance) allowing outdoor commercial activity on privately-owned property and consideration of other minor zoning changes related to economic recovery and emergency response, including two-year extensions of certain permit timeframes.

On January 25, 2023, the Santa Monica Planning Commission adopted Resolution Number 23-001 recommending to the City Council that the City Council adopt the proposed amendments to the text of the Zoning Ordinance.

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023 AT 6:30 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 councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov or via mail to City Clerk, 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, California 90401. Written public comment submitted before 12:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be available for online viewing. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item number in the subject line of your written comments.

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

Address your comments to: City Clerk
Re: Outdoor Space Program & Economic Recovery Zoning Amendments

VIA EMAIL: councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov
VIA MAIL: 1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION:
If you want more information about this project, please contact Steve Mizokami at (310) 458-2200 ext. 2225 or by e-mail at steve.mizokami@santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (310) 458-8211 or (310) 917-6626 TDD at least 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. 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) 458-2275.

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SMMUSD

FROM PAGE 1

family of two special needs twins who alleged abuse by a behavioral aid.

The lawsuit, filed back in 2019, alleged that a school district employee at Juan Cabrillo Elementary School in Malibu physically abused two special needs second graders during the 2017-18 school year.

The district announced its intention to seek a new trial following the verdict and officials have stated that they believe the verdict "was not justified by the evidence presented." In the meantime, the Board of Education has moved to split the $45 million payment over a 10 year period, stating that paying it all out at once would have a negative impact on SMMUSD and the services they provide.

A court date regarding the matter is scheduled for March 2 and Board of Education members will discuss the case with their legal counsel during closed session at their meeting later that same day.

During the public portion of the meeting, board members are set to discuss the potential of the district purchasing the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium from the City of Santa Monica to use as a competition gym for Samohi.

The Civic Auditorium, located just across from Samohi, has been vacant since 2013. City Council has been unsuccessful in finding a way to redevelop the site for over a decade and recently listed it as "surplus" land. Municipal property that is unused receives this designation under a state law which gives priority to affordable housing, parks/recreation, or schools in purchasing and redeveloping the land.

District staff have said that the purchase would allow the SMMUSD to accelerate its plan to renovate and expand the Samohi campus. While parts of the plan are already complete or under way, upcoming phases, including a new competition gym, have yet to begin construction.

Utilizing the Civic Auditorium for this purpose would eliminate plans to construct such a gym on the campus and would also mean the current music building, track and field and baseball and softball fields would not need to be relocated. Staff said this would decrease overall construction costs and shave several years off of the anticipated timeline.

However, before the District moves forward with the purchase, it must first be determined if the building, which has been deemed to not be seismically safe, can be brought into compliance with current State standards. The district issued a request for proposals for companies to conduct such work and will vote on hiring contractors at the March 2 meeting.

Also on the agenda is a presentation and discussion about special education in SMMUSD. The district currently has an enrollment of 1,294 special education students.

District staff will present an update on the use of assistive technology in schools, staffing, teacher training and legal cases relating to special education. So far, the district has settled 20 such cases in the 2022-23 school year.

The March 2 public meeting will begin at 6 p.m. Due to the boardroom at the district's new headquarters not yet being set up, the meeting will be held at John Adams Middle School Performing Arts Studio at 2425 16th Street. Virtual commenting will not be an option for this meeting and those wishing to speak must attend in-person and fill out a public speaking card. The full agenda can be viewed at: https://www.smmusd.org/Page/4047

grace@smdp.com

AI

FROM PAGE 2

its own AI research division in 2020 with entertainment in mind, but it's nonetheless attracted broader academic attention. Its research paper introducing Sophy last year made it on the cover of the prestigious science journal Nature, which said it could potentially have effects on other applications such as drones and self-driving vehicles.

The technology behind Sophy is based on an algorithmic method known as reinforcement learning, which trains the system by rewarding it when it gets something right as it runs virtual races thousands of times.

"The reward is going to tell you that, 'You're making progress. This is good,' or, 'You're off the track. Well, that's not good,'" Spranger said.

The world's best Gran Turismo players are still finishing ahead of Sophy at tournaments, but average players will find it hard to beat — and can adjust difficulty settings depending on how much they want to be challenged.

PlayStation players will only get to try racing against Sophy until March 31, on a limited number of circuits, so it can get some feedback and go back into testing. Peter Wurman, director of Sony AI America and project lead on GT Sophy, said it takes about two weeks for AI agents to train on 20 PlayStations.

"To get it spread throughout the whole game, it takes some more breakthroughs and some more time before we're ready for that," he said.

And to get it onto real streets or Formula One tracks? That could take a lot longer.

Self-driving car companies adopt similar machine-learning techniques, but "they don't hand over complete control of the car the way we are able to," Wurman said. "In a simulated world, there's nobody's life at risk. You know exactly the kinds of things you're going to see in the environment. There's no people crossing the road or anything like that."

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

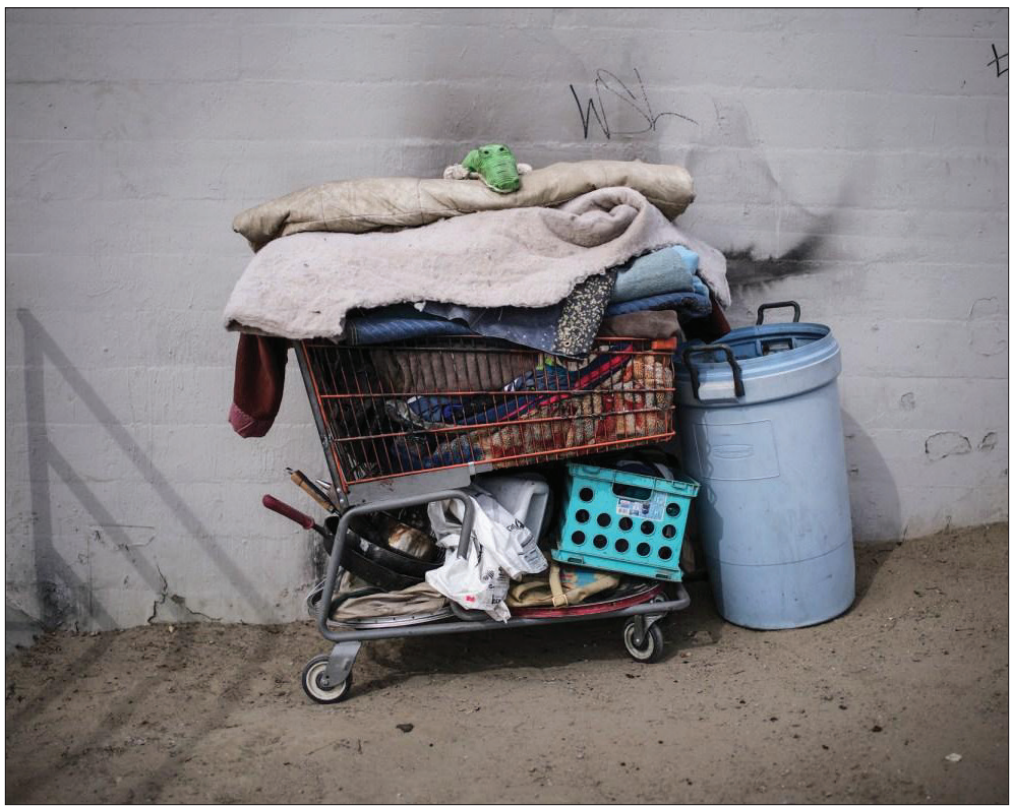
- **RFP: #348 BUSINESS LICENSE TAX MODERNIZATION**
- **Submission Deadline Is March 10, 2023, at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

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.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California can solve homelessness. Lawmakers have the solutions in front of them



Pablo Unzueta for CalMatters

HOMELESS: The belongings of an unhoused person is put away by the Los Angeles River in Long Beach.

Fourteen years ago, Vikki Vickers was diagnosed with schizophrenia and eventually became homeless. She lived for years outside the Santa Monica Library until an outreach worker connected her with medical care at the Venice Family Clinic. That led to voluntary mental health treatment and a bed in an emergency shelter.

Eight months later, Vickers moved into supportive housing at the Downtown Women's Center. The stability of a roof over her head and supportive services allowed her to work. She is now a case manager helping others, and has lived stably in her own apartment without government subsidies for the past two years.

Stories like hers remind us that solving homelessness in our state is possible. The California Homeless Housing Needs Assessment in December concluded that California can solve homelessness through investments of $8.1 billion in housing, shelter and supportive services every year for the next 12 years.

SEE **HOMELESSNESS** PAGE 7

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 #4446 TRANSIT BUS TIRE RENTAL
Submission Deadline is March 8, 2023 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

BID #4447 TRANSIT BUS BODY REPAIRS
Submission Deadline is March 15, 2023 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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City calendar

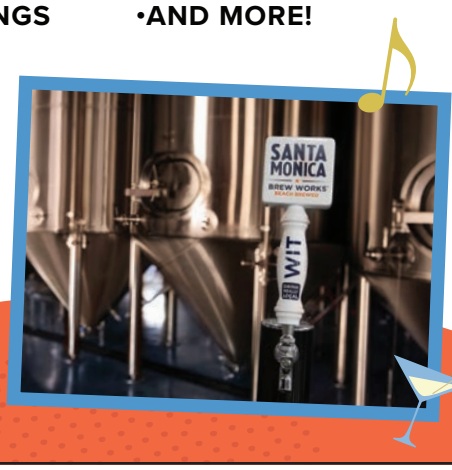
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A complete list of all the happenings in the **City of Santa Monica** and surrounding areas!
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SEA DRAGON

FROM PAGE 1

ride" since this was the appearance that early incarnations of the ride took. The dragon swings back and forth in a 180-degree arc, subjecting the rider to various levels of angular momentum together with a series of up to 40 ft plummets and thrilling launches.

"The original Sea Dragon is retiring to keep the park new and fresh for guests," Cameron Andrews, a representative of Pier Communications said. "It's being replaced with an updated version of the same ride and sports the familiar bright green, scaly exterior and has been installed in the identical space and delivers the same high-swinging ride experience."

Since it opened in May 1996, it has provided more than 12 million rides to both locals and visiting tourists and now those very same visitors have the opportunity to share their favorite memories of the fairground ride by submitting a video, photos and-or text regarding their experience at https://pacpark.com/seadragonmemories.

"We look forward to sharing the public's memories of the Sea Dragon with our guests and team members as we celebrate the retirement of the original Sea Dragon ride," said Nathan Smithson, Director of Marketing and Business Development at Pacific Park in a statement. "The Sea Dragon is an iconic piece of the amusement park ride experience for everyone including the film and music industries and numerous celebrities."

This unassuming but iconic element of the pier can be spotted in a number of movies and television shows, including Iron Man (2008) directed by Jon Favreau and Her (2013) directed by Spike Jonze.

> "We look forward to sharing the public's memories of the Sea Dragon with our guests and team members as we celebrate the retirement of the original Sea Dragon ride
>
> - Nathan Smithson, Director of Marketing and Business Development

scott.snowden@smdp.com



Pier Communications

RIDE: Santa Monica Pier's original Sea Dragon is being retired and replaced in March, 2023.

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION
Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

HOMELESSNESS

FROM PAGE 5

Through a combination of extensive research, focus groups led by people with lived experience, and conversations with 125 people working in the field, the analysis found that California needs to build 112,527 affordable homes at a cost of $5.7 billion per year.

The state also needs to help subsidize rent in 225,053 homes for $1.8 billion a year. And supportive services, like case management and employment assistance, would provide an essential foundation for 62,966 households with disabilities to heal and stay housed, with an average outlay of $488 million per year.

And finally, California needs an additional 32,235 interim interventions, such as shelters, to help people stay safe while they wait for housing, at a total cost of $630 million.

Homelessness in California is a systemic issue rooted in decades of inadequate investment in deeply affordable housing. It requires a systemic response that provides ongoing funding at scale.

State investment in combating homelessness increased dramatically, spurred in part by our urgent, collective response to COVID-19. Those efforts expand on local initiatives supported by voters, such as Los Angeles' Proposition HHH. Until recently, California had never examined its spending, or the scale of investment needed before the assessment.

Numerous examples demonstrate the value of setting clear goals based on data and investing ongoing funding in housing. The federal government reduced homelessness among veterans by 55% from 2010 to 2022. Houston reduced homelessness by upwards of 63%. Finland cut homelessness by 40% and is projected to eliminate homelessness entirely by 2027.

California can set an example of progress, but only with an honest analysis of the reality it faces.

An $8.1 billion price tag is strikingly high at first glance, but it amounts to just 2.7% of California's state budget.

The status quo is more expensive. One study in Orange County estimated that the average annual cost of municipal, health, justice system and other services for people experiencing homelessness totaled $45,000 per person. Even these costs leave out the state's disproportionate spending on Medi-Cal, prisons or state hospitals, let alone the immeasurable cost for people caught in the trauma of experiencing homelessness.

California is not starting from zero, either. Expected state and federal resources have already committed $1.2 billion to create housing, leaving lawmakers to allocate $6.9 billion on average each year.

The data California leaders need to make informed decisions is available now. With continued investment, there can be more success stories like Vickers closing a difficult chapter of history for good.

This article was originally published by CalMatters. Sharon Rapport is the California state policy director at the Corporation for Supportive Housing.

RAIN

FROM PAGE 1

Mountain High, one of the closest ski resorts to Los Angeles, received an eye-popping 7.75 feet of snow during the last storm, with more possible this week.

Rain and snow fell again Sunday in Northern California as the first of two new storms began moving in.

Blizzard warnings went into effect at 4 a.m. Monday and will last until Wednesday for much of the Sierra Nevada. An avalanche warning was issued for the backcountry around Lake Tahoe, where up to 6 feet of snow was expected over the next two days in the upper elevations and gale-force winds could create waves up to 5 feet high on the lake, the National Weather Service in Reno said.

"Extremely dangerous and near to impossible mountain travel is expected due to heavy snow and strong wind," the weather service's Sacramento office warned on Twitter.

State offices across northern Nevada and the Nevada Legislature in Carson City both shut down on Monday due to the winter storms.

The new series of storms arrived even as parts of California were still digging out from last week's powerful storm, which added to a massive snowpack left by a siege of "atmospheric rivers" in December and January.

In the Sierra, Yosemite National Park announced it would be closed until midweek, and numerous roads were closed in Sequoia National Park. Trans-Sierra highways were subject to closures and chain requirements.

Days of downpours dumped almost 11 inches of rain in the Woodland Hills area of the San Fernando Valley, while nearly 7 inches were reported in Beverly Hills.

In Valencia, north of Los Angeles, county officials said the heavy rains eroded an embankment at an RV park and swept multiple motorhomes into the Santa Clara River, with emergency video showing one of the vehicles toppled on its side. No one was reported injured.

East of Los Angeles, all roads to San Bernardino Mountain resort communities around Big Bear Lake remained closed because of last week's huge snowfall. One route to the Mojave Desert was open only to downhill traffic. In the San Gabriel Mountains, roads remained closed to the Mountain High resort, where the storm dumped 7 3/4 feet of snow.

The northbound side of Interstate 5, the West Coast's major north-south highway, was shut down by wintry conditions and disabled vehicles about 90 miles south of the Oregon line. Interstate 80, the major route between San Francisco and Lake Tahoe and Reno was closed due to whiteout conditions.

The Associated Press contributed to this report. editor@smdp.com

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 28)

Wherever you go, you'll be followed by magic, love and revelry, ready to join you at the slightest invitation. This solar return features a special and specific drive. The belief you have in yourself will get you started, and then the love of family and friends will make you unstoppable. You'll release an old pattern easily. Gemini and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 14, 6, 33 and 20.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). This game will follow your rules. Think about what you'd like to receive, and then give it to the others to whatever extent you are able. Your example will be followed.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). How you start out will set the tone for your entire day. There's a key piece of your routine that could really use a good tweak, and this is a fine day to set a new precedent.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Love's energy, when blocked, has a way of transmuting into unexpected forms, some of which would be easily mistaken for something that's not love at all. Look for the blockages to love. Can they be removed?

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll take the lead and get results. Your work with others will give you the opportunity to offer encouragement as well as correction. The kindness in your voice lets people know you're on their side.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You have a strange feeling that you don't know everything you need to know to work a situation well. It only takes one good question to reveal the missing piece. With your curiosity turned all the way up, you'll feel your way to the key.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll be around the kind of people who are only impressed with those who do not try to impress them. So, think straight away about what's in it for you. What interests you in the scene? Seek your own pleasures and benefits.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). People around you will talk themselves up in a desire to impress or out of a sense of competition. The one who is busy patting himself on the back has no hands left to applaud the success of others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You understand well what is relevant to the situation. You are an astute witness and a fair judge. However, it's a good day to be involved in only that which directly pertains to you, or that which you are asked to participate in.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Thoughts are not things, but they are the potential for a thing and are as powerful as any seed, blueprint or outline. You've had a thought repeatedly. Keep going with it. Someday you will be standing inside it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Keep your personal information on a need-to-know basis, not because you need to protect it but because it's more entertaining this way. As screenwriters know, the backstory doesn't belong in the opening scene.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The accomplishment of a loved one will be a source of pride, and rightly so. You've been a supporter and champion, and the victory is shared. Now it's time to swing back to your own domain of excellence.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll use what you need and gladly give the rest to others to keep the resources flowing. It looks like generosity, but it's really the kind of giving that comes at no loss to you.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

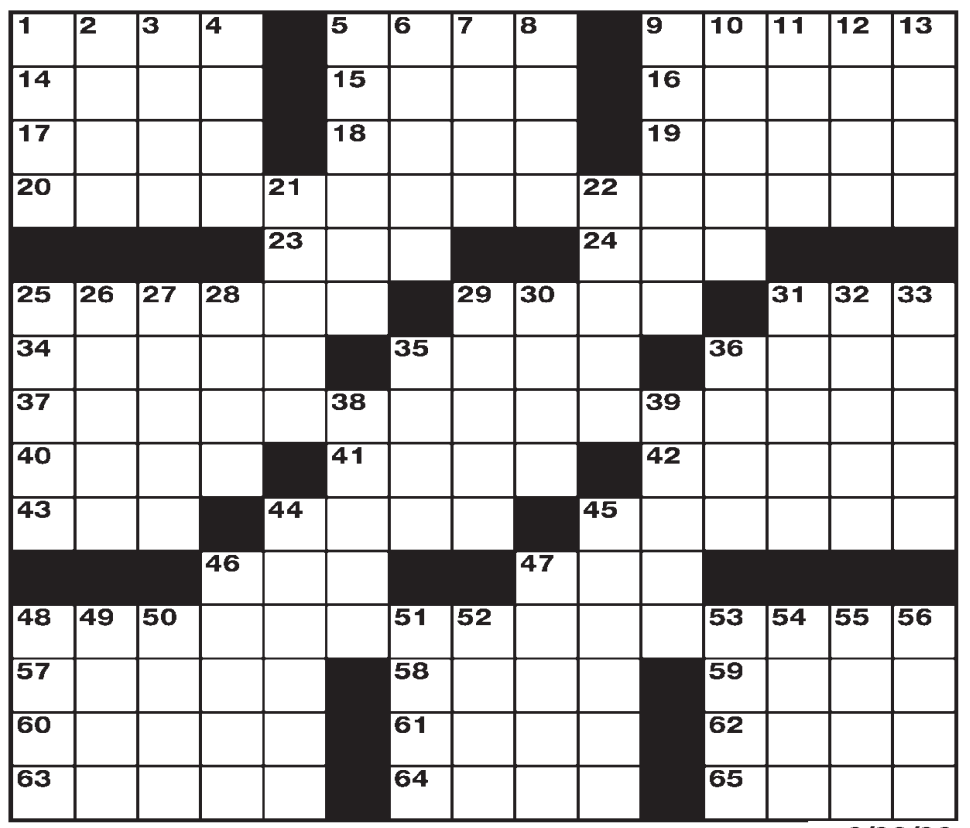
				8	6			9
	2	9			5			
6					4	8	2	
		1		6		5		
3	9			2			7	4
		8		1		6		
	8	2	7					5
			8			7	3	
1			6	5				

Newsday Crossword

END OF FEBRUARY by Sally R. Stein
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Female parents
5 Stare open-mouthed
9 One walking through water
14 Freeway off-ramp
15 In the center of
16 __ and kicking (in good health)
17 Bit of heredity
18 Narrow road
19 Book of fiction
20 Where chimps or elephants are kept safe
23 __ Angeles, CA
24 Once possessed
25 Border of a printed page
29 Null and __ (not valid)
31 Org. of expert putters
34 Pseudonym
35 Ivy League school in Philly
36 In addition
37 Marble sculptures of famous Americans in Washington
40 Prayer-ending word
41 Western alliance acronym
42 With perfect timing
43 Was victorious
44 Family rooms
45 Most current
46 Earl Grey or pekoe
47 Distress signal at sea
48 Insurance risk expert
57 Trip itinerary
58 "Upper" or "lower" bed
59 "Scat!"
60 Balance sheet "plus"
61 Initial poker payment
62 Damp, as morning lawns
63 Brief note from a teacher
64 12-month period
65 Reply to "Are not!"

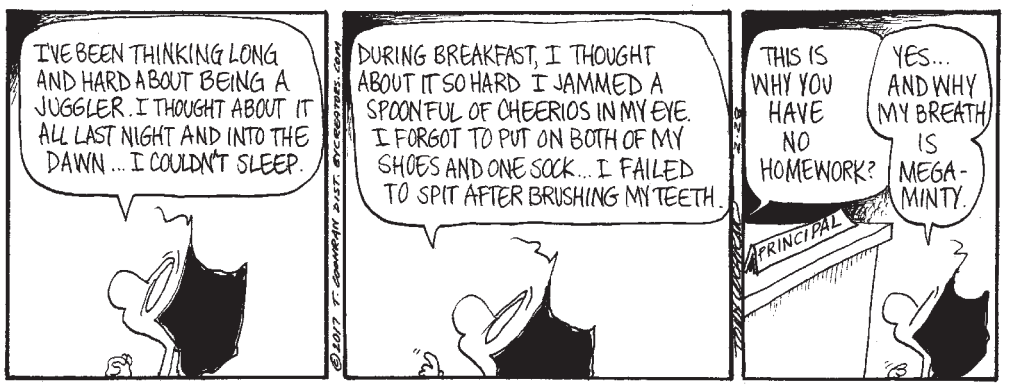
DOWN
1 "Big" prefix for bucks or phone
2 Plow-pulling bovines
3 Short skirt
4 Flower stalk
5 Gasoline measure
6 Collect in great quantity
7 __ colada cocktail
8 Garden for Eve
9 Newspaper's job listing
10 Audibly
11 Female opera star
12 At any time
13 Depend (on)
21 Elite group of guests
22 Fancy dinnerware
25 Big-beaked parrot
26 San Antonio landmark
27 Become ready to harvest
28 Weight increase
29 "Bulletproof" clothes
30 Not fooled by
31 "There's no __ like home"
32 Wise advisors
33 So far
35 Make preparations
36 Fourth-down football kick
38 Hoops great Shaquille
39 Bread that's browned
44 Erase, as computer files
45 Gym's storage compartment
46 __ pole (tribal carving)
47 December sleigh driver
48 Historical periods
49 Odor-sensing organ
50 Sneaky scheme
51 Online auctioneer
52 Sand hill
53 Beef inspection agcy.
54 Attention-getting sound
55 Lines of theater seats
56 Round toy on a string



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2023 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 2/28/23

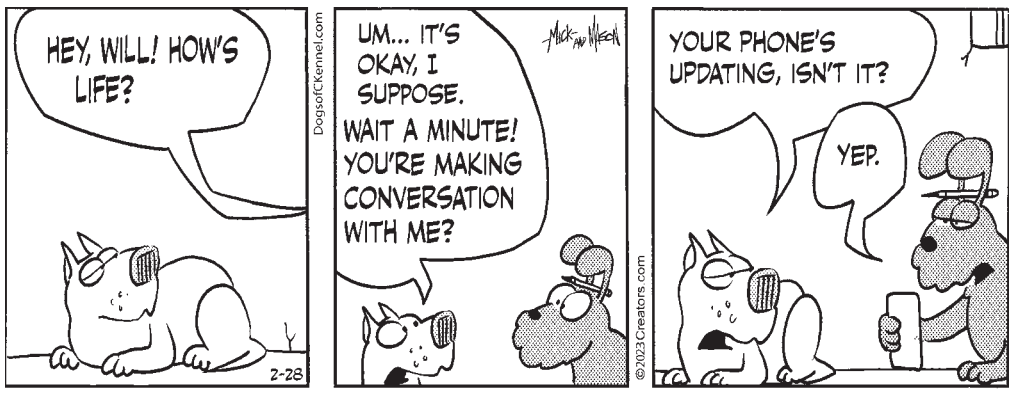
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



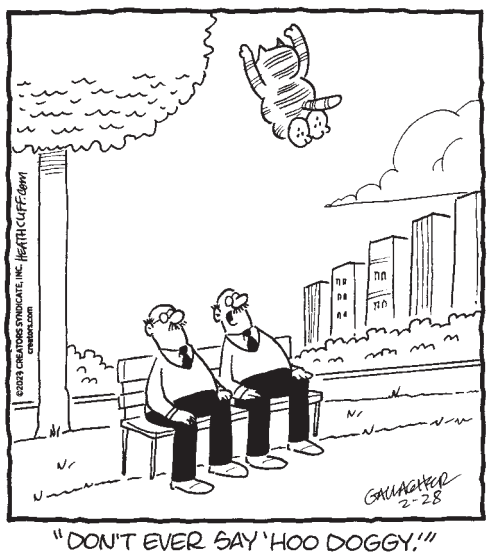
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

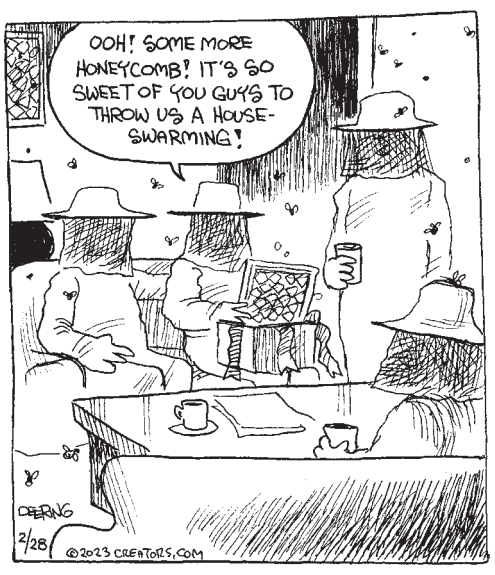
By PETER GALLAGHER



"DON'T EVER SAY 'HOO DOGGY.'"

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 5769

Kick back and relax

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

Abseil
Adept
Admission
Aunty
Bait
Bask
Beer
Book
Calm
Canoes
Cats
Cello
Chat
City
Coast
Cruise
Dawn
Draw
Dunk
DVDs
Event
Expo
Farm
Frogs
Hikes
Idle
Knit
Laps
Lazy
Ludo
Netball
Open
Party
Pergola
Play
Pool
Potter
Puzzle
Results
Rural
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Scuba
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TUESDAY | FEBRUARY 28

BLACK HISTORY SERIES: MR. SOUL SCREENING
A free screening and discussion of the documentary Mr. Soul! explores the story of Ellis Haizlip, the co-creator, producer, and co-host of the first nationally broadcast show featuring Black performers on public television, "Soul!" An audience Q&A follows the screening as part of SMC's Black History Series on February 28 at 3 p.m. in the SMC Student Services Center Orientation Hall (SSC 183).

WEDNESDAY | MARCH 1

COLORADO AVENUE PROTECTED BIKEWAY COMMUNITY POP UP
The Colorado Avenue Protected Bikeway project will construct a one-way dedicated bicycle facility along Colorado Avenue westbound from 17th Street to 5th Street. This project is part of the City of Santa Monica's commitment to improve the safety and accessibility of bicycle transportation in your neighborhood. Your input is essential to the success of this project, and we look forward to hearing your thoughts and answering any questions you may have. Our team will be available to discuss the project's details, including its design and construction schedule. We hope you can attend!, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

THURSDAY | MARCH 2

THE TAO OF ACTING WITH BILLY MCNAMARA
Join Billy and explore the Tao of Acting. Billy will be demonstrating techniques that he's learned from numerous teachers, including Guskin and Kim Stanley. These techniques have immediate application to your work on stage, film, TV, commercials, and self tapes. eventbrite.com/e/the-tao-of-acting-tickets-480083160657, 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm, IntoMeSea 1812 Lincoln Blvd Santa Monica, 90404.

FRIDAY | MARCH 3

MARIA SCHNEIDER ORCHESTRA PRESENTS DATA LORDS
2019 NEA Jazz master and seven-time GRAMMY winner Maria Schneider brings her expansive talent to BroadStage, performing arrangements from her 2021 Pulitzer Prize finalist album Data Lords. With her 18-piece orchestra, Schneider boldly explores the polar extremes of the digital and organic world. broadstage.org/performances/2022-23/jazz-blues/mariaschneider

SATURDAY | MARCH 4

BYOB (BRING YOUR BABY/BOOB/BOTTLE/BUGGY): A COMEDY SHOW
Have a baby? Date nights non-existent? We have a mid-day, raunchy comedy show for parents – by parents – that you can bring your baby to! The BYOB Comedy Show: bring your baby, boob, bottle, buggy! (Stroller parking included.) Enjoy a comedy show in the middle of the day instead of crying in the corner while your baby doesn't nap. Bring the baby to the show because they don't understand sh*t yet! (This is what happens when a mom owns a comedy club and had terrible postpartum depression.) 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm, The Crow, 2525 Michigan Avenue, Unit F4 Santa Monica, CA 90404

626 NIGHT MARKET
Mini is back this Spring 2023! We're bringing the epic flavors of our giant flagship food festivals to the Westside: Downtown Santa Monica. Welcoming new and returning food lovers from the Westside to join us. This event series will take place near Third Street Promenade at Lot 27 and will be free-to-attend for attendees as appreciation for ten+ years of support! With three dozen food, merchandise & crafts vendors, enjoy the intimate coastal vibe and casual setting to munch on favorite eats. The event will also feature a full alcohol bar with limited edition cocktails. Reserve your free tickets and get ready to munch! Tickets are limited.

ANGELA GHEORGHIU AT BROADSTAGE
Celebrity Opera is back! Vibrant opera star Angela Gheorghiu makes her return to BroadStage amidst a whirlwind tour of opera engagements. Called "alluring and expressive" (The New York Times), Gheorghiu will enchant the stage with an unmatched repertoire, including Handel, Strauss, Tosti, Massenet, and more — accompanied by Alexandra Dariescu, piano and Alexandru Tomescu, violin. broadstage.org/showinfo.php?id=480

FIRST SATURDAYS DRAG BRUNCH
Join us for margaritas, tacos and a show First Saturday of every month! no cover. Music by DJ Daunkos. Show starts at 2 pm. Lanea 217 Broadway Santa Monica, CA

SUNDAY | MARCH 5

SUNDAY TASTING AT ESTER'S WINE SHOP & BAR
Sunday Tastings are 12-9 p.m., with new themes every week, curated by Sommelier Randall Middleton. Enjoy a flight for $25/person, which includes a mini cheese pairing and link to a video of our team telling stories about the lineup. 1314 Seventh Street Santa Monica, CA 90401

LIVE DJ MUSIC
Meet at Santa Monica Place every Saturday and Sunday from 2-5pm in Center Plaza to enjoy the sounds of our DJ playing his best beats while soaking up all the Santa Monica sun. 2:00pm-5:00pm Downtown Santa Monica / Third Street Promenade

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



SURF REPORT

WATER TEMP: **54.7**

TUESDAY *POOR*	**SURF:**	1-2ft Knee to thigh	Slight pick up in NW swell. Onshore flow looking likely out of the gates at this point, persisting out of the W all day long.
WEDNESDAY *VERY POOR*	**SURF:**	2-3ft+ Thigh to stomach	Potential modest mix of NW swell and Southern Hemi energy. Onshore wind looking stronger than Tue with choppy surf by midday.

WEATHER

Tuesday: A 50 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 56. North northwest wind 5 to 15 mph becoming west southwest in the morning. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.
Tuesday Night: Rain. Low around 47. West southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%.
Wednesday: Rain, mainly before 10am. High near 55. Breezy, with a west wind 20 to 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%.
Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 40.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2023/02/28	Tue	03:48 AM	4.42	H
2023/02/28	Tue	12:06 PM	0.17	L
2023/02/28	Tue	7:43 PM	3.26	H
2023/02/28	Tue	11:09 PM	2.92	L
2023/03/01	Wed	05:04 AM	4.55	H
2023/03/01	Wed	12:53 PM	-0.16	L
2023/03/01	Wed	7:58 PM	3.49	H
2023/03/02	Thu	12:12 AM	2.65	L
2023/03/02	Thu	06:02 AM	4.81	H
2023/03/02	Thu	1:28 PM	-0.38	L
2023/03/02	Thu	8:14 PM	3.64	H
2023/03/03	Fri	12:51 AM	2.31	L
2023/03/03	Fri	06:46 AM	5.08	H
2023/03/03	Fri	1:57 PM	-0.52	L
2023/03/03	Fri	8:29 PM	3.77	H
2023/03/04	Sat	01:22 AM	1.97	L
2023/03/04	Sat	07:21 AM	5.30	H
2023/03/04	Sat	2:22 PM	-0.58	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: 2/25
11 24 58 66 67
Power#: 26
Jackpot: 131 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 2/24
2 22 49 65 67
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: 145 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 2/25
4 15 22 24 32
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: 37 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/26
2 10 14 31 33

Daily 3
Draw Date: 2/26
EVENING: 3 0 8
Draw Date: 2/26
MIDDAY: 7 3 6

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 2/26
1st: 06 - Whirl Win
2nd: 01 - Gold Rush
3rd: 11 - Money Bags
Race Time: 1:46.58

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