smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

WEDNESDAY
03.02.22
Volume 21 Issue 90

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Veo opens Santa Monica headquarters, seeks to hire 300 new employees

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

E-scooter brands in Santa Monica come and go faster than fashion trends, but with the announcement of its new headquarters on the 3rd Street Promenade, micromobility company Veo intends on being here for the long run.

The company was founded in Chicago in 2017 and brought its e-scooters and e-bikes to Santa Monica in July 2021 after it was selected as one of four micromobility companies authorized to operate in the City through March 30, 2023. The new Downtown office space will function as the company's West Coast headquarters and the base for much of its new hiring and expansion.

The company has ambitious goals to augment its existing 200 person workforce with 300 new employees, the majority of whom will be hired from the Santa Monica area, by the end of 2022.



Photo by Joel Marasigan
TRANSIT: A local fleet of Veo e-bikes

Veo CEO Candice Xie recently relocated to Santa Monica to lead this next chapter in the company's history. She said that Veo was drawn by the city's active community, which the company seeks to utilize to inform its product design and development.

SEE **SCOOTER** PAGE 7

Chess community reacts to Chess Park dismantling

Council members agree the door is open to bring back chess or add other amenities in the future

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica city staff were poised to begin the task of tearing the tables and benches out of Chess Park on Tuesday, March 1, following a decision to remove the park's benches and tables in an effort to deter unhoused people from convening there.

The furniture removal was announced in a February information item posted to the City's website, and Mayor Sue Himmelrich confirmed it was not a Council decision but rather an administrative item taken up by city staff following recommendation by the Recreation & Parks Commission.

SEE **CHESS PARK** PAGE 11

Greens Festival celebrates Black joy and wellness









Photos by Emily Sawicki
FESTIVAL: To a soundtrack spun by KCRW DJ Novena Carmel, Santa Monica community members gathered to celebrate Black History Month at the annual Greens Festival on Saturday, Feb. 26. The midday festivities included horse rides, meditation, cooking demonstrations and much more. The event was a collaboration between the City of Santa Monica's Virginia Avenue Park, the Parent Connection Group, the Pico Branch Library and the Santa Monica Farmers Market.



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California snowpack far below normal after dry winter months

JOHN ANTCZAK
Associated Press

Drought-stricken California's winter mountain snowpack is far below average after two historically dry months that reversed gains from storms late last year, officials said Tuesday as they urged the nation's most populous state to conserve water.

The water content of the statewide snowpack is just 63% of normal to date and the snowmelt forecast is just 66% of average, a state Department of Water Resources official said in webcast from Phillips Station, one of hundreds of measuring sites in the Sierra Nevada.

"That's not enough to fill up our reservoirs, and without any significant storms on the horizon, it's safe to say that we'll end this year dry and continue on into the third year of this ongoing drought," said Sean de Guzman, manager of the department's snow surveys and water supply forecasting section.

Statewide reservoir storage is at about 73% of average, and the largest reservoir, Lake Shasta, is only 37% full, he said.

California's water supply problems stem from a historic drought tied to climate change that is gripping the U.S. West. Snowmelt from the Sierra Nevada and other mountains normally provides about a third of the state's water supply.

Last year, shockingly little runoff reached reservoirs as snowmelt was absorbed by the parched ground. Gov. Gavin Newsom has been calling for Californians to reduce water consumption by 15% from 2020 levels since last summer.

After deluges late last year, California's snowpack was at 160% of normal to date at the start of January. But ominously, the past two months were the driest consecutive January and February in the Sierra in recorded state history.

"We were all encouraged after all that rain and snow in October and December. But after how dry these last two months were, there's no guarantee that the snowmelt will run off and follow the same historical patterns that they have in the past, which makes the results today all that much more important," de Guzman said.

There was some melt during warm February weather, but the bulk of the current snowpack should remain intact for several weeks, he said.

Historically, December, January and February are California's wettest months, delivering over half of annual precipitation, and the snowpack reaches its peak on April 1.

In 1991, heavy late-season snowfall produced a "March Miracle" after scant winter precipitation. The U.S. Climate Prediction Center's outlook for this March has chances for more rain and snow in the northern Sierra but lower confidence for the central and southern Sierra.

"This winter has demonstrated that as the world continues to warm we're seeing average conditions become more rare," said Jeremy Hill, manager of the department's hydrology and flood operations branch.

"Precipitation is moving toward extremes," he said. "Even when we get large storms and heavy snowfall early in the season, after a few dry weeks like we've seen after this past December, conditions go back below normal."

The new pattern is also challenging forecasting efforts.

"Our past forecasting efforts have relied on historical patterns that no longer apply given our current changed climate conditions," Hill said.

The giant Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, a cooperative that supplies water to 19 million people in six counties, called for conservation.

General manager Adel Hagekhalil said in a statement that it is increasingly clear that winter will not relieve California from severe drought conditions.

"Some may be hoping for a miracle March to save us, but that's not a gamble I'm willing to take. We all must immediately examine how we use water and use less," he said.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

Santa Monica continues support to local businesses

BY: DAVID WHITE, CITY MANAGER

Since moving to Santa Monica last fall, I have enjoyed our community's vibrant, local businesses. We are fortunate to have so many dedicated small business owners who shape our community's character, and I am proud of the work that we are doing to support our business community throughout the pandemic. Daily, the City deploys hardworking employees that are focused on City Council's priority of ensuring a Clean and Safe Santa Monica. Even as COVID-19 cases decline, the City will continue to support Santa Monica businesses as part of our goal of achieving an Equitable and Inclusive Economic Recovery. Here are some ways Santa Monica is actively helping our business community right now:

1. Celebrating New Santa Monica Businesses: In collaboration with the Business Improvement Districts, Santa Monica is welcoming and highlighting new businesses in Santa Monica through various communication channels. Follow @buylocalsm and @cityofsantamonica. If you know of a new business you want us to help celebrate, please tell us @BuyLocalSM.

2. More Free PPE for Local Businesses: 120 new appointments have been added to giveaway free masks and hand sanitizer due to high demand. Available while supplies last. Register here: www.surveymonkey.com/r/TVJHFK5.

3. Outdoor Dining and Retail: City Council approved extending fee waivers for temporary use permits for outdoor dining and retail activations, including sidewalk dining, parklets, and the Promenade satellite dining through June 30, 2022.

4. Santa Monica's Most Loved Businesses: Join us in selecting Santa Monica's Most Loved Businesses. The top 5 nominated businesses in each category will be finalists and move on to the voting phase (March 14-31). Plan to vote for your most loved business at www.smdp.com/ml22, and remember that $7 out of every $10 spent locally, stays local.

5. Black Owned Businesses: We love supporting entrepreneurs throughout the City. Check out our features of Black Owned Businesses at www.santamonica.gov/blackownedbusinesses.

6. Commercial Kitchen at Virginia Avenue Park: We're also nurturing local entrepreneurship with the funding and construction of a commercial kitchen. $640,000 in funding has been secured from public and private sources, the architect has been onboarded, and pre-work is beginning now.

7. COVID-19 Business Signage: We have distributed at least 8,000 signs throughout the pandemic to local businesses. We have also newly installed temporary signage to encourage daily beach visitors to enjoy our restaurants and shopping.

8. Reactivated Business Liaison and Health Ambassadors: The City of Santa Monica's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has reactivated a business liaison for any businesses that have COVID-19 related questions. In addition, the EOC continues to deploy Health Ambassadors to help businesses and the community follow COVID-19 guidelines. Have a question? Email us at 311@santamonica.gov or call 3-1-1 within Santa Monica.

9. 2022 COVID-19 Supplemental Paid Sick Leave: Employees who work for employers with 26 or more employees are entitled to up to 80 hours of 2022 COVID-19 related paid sick leave from January 1, 2022, through September 30, 2022, immediately upon an oral or written request to their employer, with up to 40 of those hours available only when an employee or family member tests positive for COVID-19.

To access and learn more about all of these resources visit santamonica.gov/economicrecovery

SUBMITTED BY: CONSTANCE FARRELL, PIO

Los Angeles County likely to drop indoor mask order Friday

Associated Press

Los Angeles County is set to lift its indoor mask mandate this week as coronavirus case rates and hospitalizations plummet, the county's top health official said Tuesday.

Public Health Director Dr. Barbara Ferrer said California's most populous county would likely issue a revised health order that would take effect Friday and align with state guidelines unveiled Monday.

Ferrer told the county's Board of Supervisors that based on new state rules it would still be recommended — but not required — for vaccinated and unvaccinated residents to wear face coverings in public indoor settings.

Ferrer last month predicted that the county's mask mandate could remain in place through March.

The new approach came days after the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced it would begin focusing its measures based more on what's happening at hospitals than on test results.

The CDC said that more than 70% of Americans live in places where the coronavirus poses a low or medium threat to hospitals and therefore can stop wearing masks in most indoor places.

Ferrer also announced plans to ease some of Los Angeles County's rules requiring proof of vaccination at outdoor mega events, such as at stadiums, and indoors at bars, lounges and nightclubs.

Vaccination verification or a recent negative test will still be required at indoor mega events, under state rules. Vaccination proof is also required for healthcare workers and employees of nursing homes.

California earlier this month became the first state to formally shift to an endemic approach to the coronavirus with Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom's announcement of a plan that emphasizes prevention and quick reaction to outbreaks over mask mandates and business shutdowns.

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 233 CALLS ON FEBRUARY 28

Assault W/Deadly Wepaon Now 1400Blk 10Th St 12:42 AM
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2200Blk Colorado Ave 2:13 AM
Encampment Ocean Ave / California Ave 2:29 AM
Drunk Driving Investigation Ocean Ave / California Ave 3:12 AM
Encampment 1400Blk Ocean Ave 5:27 AM
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 300Blk Olympic Dr 6:10 AM
Grand Theft Auto Report 1500Blk 14Th St 6:44 AM
Animal Related Incident 1600Blk 20Th St 6:51 AM
Petty Theft Report 1400Blk 10Th St 8:12 AM
Animal Related Incident 2300Blk Ocean Park Blvd 8:17 AM
Animal Related Incident 3300Blk 17Th St 8:20 AM
Animal Related Incident 2200Blk 22Nd St 8:39 AM
Transport Prisoner 300Blk Olympic Dr 8:43 AM
Identity Theft 1200Blk Princeton St 9:23 AM
Burglary Report 500Blk 7Th St 9:31 AM
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 600Blk Marine St 10:03 AM
Violation Of Restraining Order In Progress 1300Blk 3Rd Street Prom 10:08 AM
Forensics Request - Miscellaneous 500Blk 7Th St 10:14 AM
Violation Of Restraining Order Report 300Blk Olympic Dr 10:15 AM
Indecent Exposure Now 1400Blk 5Th St 10:19 AM
Animal Related Incident 1700Blk 17Th St 10:21 AM
Death Investigation 700Blk Westwood Plz 10:34 AM
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 600Blk Adelaide Dr 10:38 AM
Indecent Exposure Now 1200Blk 7Th St 11:08 AM
Exhibition Of Speed 17Th St / Pico Blvd 11:11 AM
Burglary Report 100Blk Ocean Park Blvd 11:38 AM
Indecent Exposure Now 900Blk Wilshire Blvd 11:50 AM
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 2100Blk Main St 11:51 AM
Grand Theft Report 1600Blk Ocean Ave 11:51 AM
Follow Up 100Blk Hart Ave 12:05 PM
Animal Related Incident 2200Blk 21St St 12:25 PM
Forensics Request - Photo 200Blk Bicknell Ave 12:43 PM
Burglary Report 2400Blk Lincoln Blvd 12:46 PM
Battery Just Occurred 1900Blk Pico Blvd 12:54 PM
Grand Theft Now 700Blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:08 PM
Animal Related Incident 2300Blk Ocean Park Blvd 1:28 PM
Person With A Gun 400Blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:28 PM
Grand Theft Auto Report Ocean Ave / Marguerita Ave 1:31 PM
Indecent Exposure Now 1100Blk Euclid St 1:59 PM
Grand Theft Auto Report Yale St / Broadway 2:03 PM
Transport 300Blk Olympic Dr 2:07 PM
Missing Person 300Blk Olympic Dr 2:14 PM
Fight 1900Blk Pico Blvd 2:50 PM
Exhibition Of Speed 4Th St / Olympic Blvd W 3:19 PM
Burglary Report 2900Blk Arizona Ave 3:26 PM
Battery Just Occurred 1900Blk Pico Blvd 3:34 PM
Exhibition Of Speed Lincoln Blvd / Interstate 10 3:59 PM
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1400Blk 3Rd Street Prom 4:08 PM
Grand Theft Auto Report 900Blk 17Th St 4:18 PM
Forensics Request - Fingerprint 2900Blk Arizona Ave 4:34 PM
Exhibition Of Speed 1100Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 4:54 PM
Battery Report 1400Blk 3Rd Street Prom 4:56 PM
Malicious Mischief Report 1500Blk Euclid St 4:59 PM
Assault Just Occurred 1500Blk Ocean Ave 5:35 PM
Malicious Mischief Report 900Blk 21St St 6:11 PM
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Avenida Mazatlan / Olympic Dr 6:12 PM
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1700Blk Cloverfield Blvd 6:19 PM
Threats Report/Investigations 300Blk Euclid St 6:27 PM
Malicious Mischief Now 9Th St / Wilshire Blvd 6:33 PM
Person With A Gun 2000Blk Main St 6:58 PM
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Lincoln Blvd / Santa Monica Blvd 7:00 PM
Encampment 3400Blk Pico Blvd 7:16 PM
Person With A Gun 200Blk Ocean Ave 8:11 PM
Burglary Report 1400Blk 6Th St 8:12 PM
Grand Theft Report 100Blk Broadway 8:51 PM
Transport Prisoner 300Blk Olympic Dr 10:53 PM

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DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 28 CALLS ON FEBRUARY 28

EMS 2700Blk Neilson Way 12:08 AM
EMS 1400Blk Ocean Ave 12:09 AM
EMS 2800Blk Delaware Ave 12:35 AM
Carbon Monoxide Alarm 1400Blk Harvard St 12:42 AM
EMS 1300Blk 15Th St 1:05 AM
EMS 1000Blk 12Th St 1:53 AM
EMS 2200Blk Colorado Ave 2:30 AM
Automatic Alarm 2100Blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:39 AM
Hydrant Leak 19Th St / Washington Ave 8:20 AM
Carbon Monoxide Alarm 800Blk Harvard St 8:28 AM
EMS 2200Blk Main St 9:24 AM
EMS 900Blk Euclid St 9:32 AM
EMS 2800Blk Pico Blvd 10:36 AM
EMS 1300Blk 20Th St 10:49 AM
Automatic Alarm 100Blk Broadway 11:14 AM
Automatic Alarm 1400Blk Ocean Ave 11:24 AM
EMS 2600Blk Wilshire Blvd 11:26 AM
Structure Fire 2100Blk Main St 11:50 AM
EMS 200Blk Bicknell Ave 12:19 PM
EMS 1800Blk Lincoln Blvd 12:28 PM
Automatic Alarm 2600Blk 31St St 12:31 PM
EMS 300Blk Marguerita Ave 12:36 PM
EMS 1900Blk Pico Blvd 12:58 PM
Automatic Alarm 400Blk Ocean Ave 5:07 PM
EMS 1300Blk 15Th St 6:04 PM
Automatic Alarm 600Blk Pico Blvd 7:07 PM
Public Assist Lincoln Blvd / Bay St 9:26 PM
EMS 1700Blk Cloverfield Blvd 11:56 PM

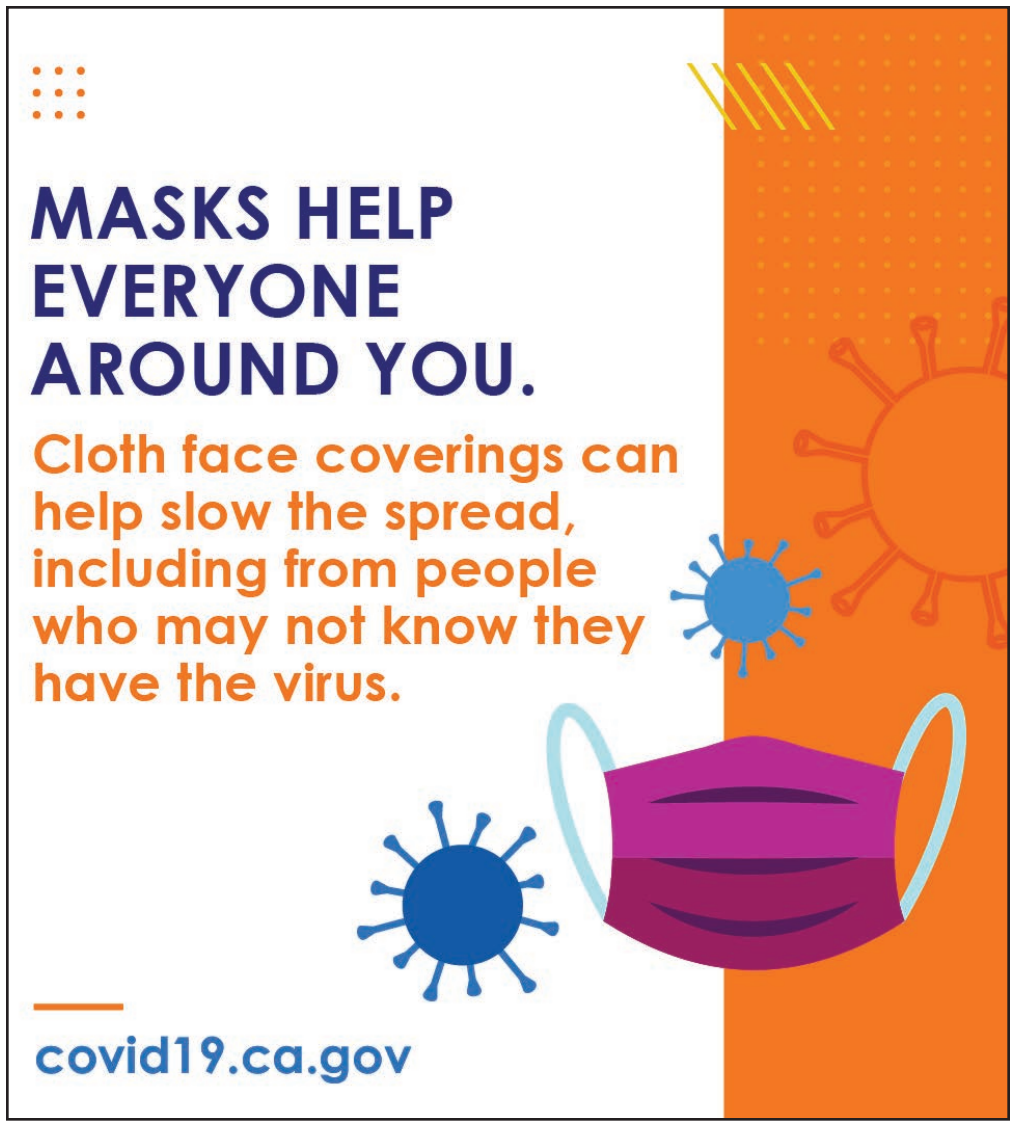
CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH 4:30PM

SMPD Officers responded to a Vandalism call on the 1300 block of the 3rd Street Promenade in front of Foot Locker. The comments of the call stated that the subject had kicked the victim's equipment. Upon arrival, Officers noticed two individuals about to engage in a fight and were successful in de-escalating the situation. Several witnesses relayed that the subject had punched a vehicle's window, assaulted an elderly transient man, assaulted another passerby, and ultimately kicked the current victim's equipment and challenged him to a fight. The subject threatened officers and appeared to be visibly intoxicated. Yusuf Hana Hana was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon, elder abuse, vandalism, and public intoxication. A stay away order from Downtown Santa Monica was also requested.





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THE DAILY PRESS
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ALSO AVAILABLE ON

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

The Broad Stage presents Healing the Ocean Panel with Alanna Mitchell

The Broad Stage is partnering with Santa Monica College's Public Policy Institute to present a panel discussion about the ocean, carbon, the blue economy, and conservation with award-winning science journalist, Alanna Mitchell author and star of the play SeaSick; Terry Tamminen, CEO of the AltaSea organization and former Secretary of Environmental Affairs for the State of California; and Heal the Bay water quality scientist, educator and advocate, Annelisa Moe, for a robust conversation moderated by Santa Monica College's Shari Davis, Co Director of the Public Policy Institute and Patricia Ramos, Dean of Academic Affairs.

Doing It Right is streamed for SMC students and is free to the public on Monday, March 28 at 6:00pm. ZOOM LINK at https://thebroadstage.org/in-community. For more information about Santa Monica College's Public Policy Institute; www.smc.edu/community/public-policy-institute/.

Ilaan Mazzini, Director of Programs and Activations for The Broad Stage said, "A programming tenant of The Broad Stage is relevancy and we are fortunate that science journalist Alanna Mitchell, who will perform her play SeaSick at The Broad Stage can be part of a zoom discussion about the ocean, which is so much a part of the experience of living in Santa Monica."

Joining our two experts in the field – Water Quality Scientist Annelisa Moe, of Heal the Bay, who knows especially about Santa Monica's relationship with the ocean and Terry Tamminen, Chief Executive Officer of ALTASEA who has spent a career thinking about acting about the environment. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed him Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency and later Cabinet Secretary, the Chief Policy Advisor to the Governor, where Terry was the architect of many groundbreaking sustainability policies. They are joined by two Santa Monica College administrators -- Shari Davis, Co-Director SMC Public Policy Institute. This event is made possible, in part, by support from The Kissick Family Foundation.

Alanna Mitchell is an award-winning Canadian author and journalist who writes about science and social trends. Her international best-selling book SeaSick: The Global Ocean in Crisis won the prestigious Grantham Prize for excellence in environmental journalism in 2010. With the help of The Toronto Theatre Centre's artistic director Franco Boni and Why Not Theatre's founding artistic director Ravi Jain, Mitchell turned SeaSick into a one-woman nonfiction play that she has performed across Canada and internationally, her first foray into theatre.

The Broad Stage presents the Los Angeles Premiere of Sea Sick on Friday, April 15 at 8p and Saturday, April 16 at 2p and 8p in The Edye.

SUBMITTED BY TIM CHOY, DAVIDSON & CHOY PUBLICITY

Countywide

LA County to light up red in March for Red Cross Month celebration

Disasters don't take a break and neither did the thousands of Angelenos who stepped up to address the needs of those reeling from record-breaking disasters in 2021, including responding to the second largest wildfire on record in Northern California. This March, the American Red Cross Los Angeles Region invites Angelenos to honor Red Cross Month and its community heroes by giving blood, signing up to volunteer or donating on Giving Day.

For nearly 80 years, U.S. presidents have proclaimed March as Red Cross Month to recognize Americans participating in its lifesaving mission – one that is powered by a workforce that is made up of 90% volunteers.

"Each year the wildfire season seems worse than the year before. And each year, I am stunned to see our community rally together to help when it matters most," said Joanne Nowlin, CEO of the Red Cross LA Region. "March is my favorite time of the year because we spend a month honoring their dedication. I invite everyone to turn their compassion into action by donating, volunteering or giving blood."

For the past two years while we were all dealing with COVID-19, Red Cross volunteers were also answering the call to help those affected by wildfires, tornados, floods and an urgent need for blood. Red Cross volunteers were there each step of the way to provide relief and recovery, but also to prepare communities and partners for the future. In LA alone, dozens of volunteers deployed to all corners of the nation while still responding to more than 350 home fires in LA.

RED CROSS MONTH EVENTS:

Light Up Red is the six-year running tradition across Los Angeles, where iconic buildings, landmarks and companies celebrate Red Cross Month, including:

the Santa Monica Pacific Park Ferris Wheel (March 1),

the Capitol Records building in Hollywood (March 1-3),

water towers at Paramount Pictures (March 1-6), Sony Pictures Entertainment (March 7-11) and Warner Bros. Studios (March 4,14-20)

the U.S. Bank Tower in downtown Los Angeles (March 23)

Red Cross Stories on March 3, volunteers, donors and community partners will gather virtually for an evening of powerful Red Cross storytelling, narrated by luminaries in the entertainment industry. Chris Meloni ("Law & Order: Organized Crime"), Dylan McDermott and Jane Seymour will lead the lineup of Hollywood celebrities. redcross.org/RCStories2022

Help Save Lives by donating blood during Red Cross Month. The Burbank Blood and Platelet Donation Center (317 N Pass Ave.) opens its doors this month to provide donors with a new opportunity to help save lives with the Red Cross. The Red Cross blood supply remains incredibly vulnerable, please make an appointment, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS or download the Red Cross Blood Donor App.

SUBMITTED BY: MARILYN JIMENEZ DAVILA, REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

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The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 8,200 on weekdays and 8,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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WINNER

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California bar investigating Trump lawyer for ethic breaches

ADAM BEAM
Associated Press

The State Bar of California says it is investigating well-known conservative attorney John Eastman for possible ethics violations after the one-time candidate for state attorney general argued former U.S. President Donald Trump could stay in office despite losing the 2020 election.

Eastman, the former dean of Chapman University law school in Southern California, was one of Trump's lawyers during the election. He wrote a memo that argued former Vice President Mike Pence could keep Trump in power by overturning the results of the election during a joint session of Congress convened to count electoral votes. Critics have likened that to instructions for staging a coup.

Pence refused to do that. But on the day of the vote count, Eastman spoke at a rally of Trump supporters Washington. Shortly after that, Trump supporters attacked the U.S. Capitol.

Trump eventually left office. Since then, a committee of U.S. lawmakers investigating the attack has subpoenaed Eastman, along with nine other former White House aides.

Tuesday, the State Bar of California confirmed it has been investigating Eastman since September for potentially breaking the law and state ethics rules "in relation to the November 2020 presidential election." Such investigations are usually kept secret, but the State Bar's rules say it can publicly confirm them "when warranted for protection of the public."

In a news release, the bar said "details of the investigation must remain confidential" to comply with state law and "give the investigation the greatest chance of success."

George Cardona, the State Bar's chief trial counsel, investigates and prosecutes attorney disciplinary matters before the State Bar Court, which can recommend attorneys be either suspended or, in some cases, lose their licenses to practice law. The California Supreme Court ultimately decides what to do.

"A number of individuals and entities have brought to the State Bar's attention press reports, court filings, and other public documents detailing Mr. Eastman's conduct," Cardona said. "We want to thank those who took the time to bring to our attention this information, which serves as the starting point for our investigation."

The State Bar said Eastman knows about the investigation. But attempts to reach him on Tuesday were unsuccessful. There was

SEE **CALIFORNIA** PAGE 11

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Countywide

Equitable distribution of COVID-19 therapeutics is key to mitigating COVID-19 impact among underserved communities

As L.A. County continues to slow community transmission of COVID-19, and access to effective therapeutics improves, equitable distribution of COVID-19 treatments is a critical issue. As supply of these medicines increases, we need to be sure that information and access about therapeutics is available across the county, particularly in those communities with residents at elevated risk of poor outcomes should they become infected with COVID.

Several free treatment options are available and can be used to prevent severe illness and hospitalization from COVID-19. Treatments are available for those who are at increased risk of severe disease, test positive for COVID-19, and have any symptoms, even mild ones (such as runny nose or cough). Five therapeutic options have been authorized by the FDA for the treatment of COVID-19 in individuals ages 12 and over who are at higher risk for severe COVID-19 illness:

ORAL THERAPEUTICS (PILLS)

- Paxlovid (must be taken within 5 days of first COVID-19 symptom)
- Molnupiravir (must be taken within 5 days of first COVID-19 symptom) **Oral therapeutic treatments require a prescription from a healthcare provider.

Monoclonal Antibody Intravenous (IV) and Antiviral Infusions

- Sotrovimab (must be administered within 10 days of first COVID-19 symptom)
- Remdesivir (must be given within 7 days of first COVID-19 symptom)
- Evusheld available for people who can't get a COVID-19 vaccine for medical reasons, or who may not respond well to a vaccine because they have a weak immune system due to a medical condition or treatment. (must be administered before a person is exposed to COVID-19 to prevent them from getting infected)

For the week of February 25, L.A. County received 3,880 doses of Paxlovid, Pfizer's oral treatment, that was distributed to providers, pharmacies, and clinics; this is a 38% increase from the allocation of the prior week. Overall, the county has been allotted a total of 14,740 doses of Paxlovid since the medication was first approved by the FDA to treat high-risk patients for COVID-19.

For the week February 25, L.A. County also received 4,392 doses of Molnupiravir, Merck's

SEE **BRIEFS** PAGE 11



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California man in church shooting prohibited from having gun

KATHLEEN RONAYNE AND STEFANIE DAZIO
Associated Press

A man who was under a restraining order and not supposed to have a gun fatally shot his three daughters, a chaperone and himself during a supervised visit with the girls at a California church, officials said Tuesday.

Investigators were trying to piece together the father's motive and how he got the weapon used in the shooting that occurred at about 5 p.m. Monday. Under California state law, he was not supposed to have a gun because of the restraining order.

On Tuesday morning, a small memorial with flowers, balloons, stuffed animals, a candle and a piece of paper that read "Prayers for peace, may your souls rest" was set up outside the church in the Arden-Arcade neighborhood of Sacramento.

The girls — ages 9, 10 and 13 — attended schools in the Natomas Unified School District in northwestern Sacramento. Counselors and chaplains were at the schools Tuesday to provide support.

"There are very few words that can give comfort right now for this unspeakable tragedy," the school district said in a statement.

Yadira Ortega lives across the street from the church and said she heard the gunfire while sitting in her car after returning home from picking up takeout dinner for her family. She was with her 9-year-old daughter and 6-year-old son.

Ortega said there were multiple shots, then a pause before a final shot. Minutes later the area was swarming with police, she said.

Ortega said she knew little about the non-demoninational church named The Church in Sacramento and said it's busy on Sundays but mostly quiet during the week.

The Sacramento County Sheriff's Office has offered few details about the shooting inside the church, which sits on a mostly residential block near a commercial area east of downtown Sacramento. Authorities have not disclosed the names of the 39-year-old gunman or the victims and have not said what type of weapon used.

Sacramento County Sheriff Scott Jones said the shooter was estranged from his daughters' mother, who had a restraining order against him. Detectives are treating the shooting as a domestic violence incident.

Investigators believe the shooting happened during a supervised visit for the father inside the church with the children and a chaperone who also was killed.

Joyce Bilyeu, deputy director of the Sacramento Regional Family Justice Center, said the specifics of supervised visitations can vary widely.

Sometimes, a victim will request that a pastor or grandparent be the chaperone in their home or church, she said. Other victims seek professional supervision with a trained mediator in a safe location close to law enforcement, but that option can be costly, Bilyeu said.

Bilyeu said visits in places like churches can give victims a false sense of security.

"Generally a lot of people think a church is a safe place," she said. But "there's no metal detectors in a church."

A restraining order, while a typical part of the process in domestic violence cases, should not be considered a solution or deterrent to abuse, she said.

"It is not a shield of armor," Bilyeu said.

A man who emerged Tuesday from the church several times to talk to reporters outside said the church is made up of multiple buildings, including a living space where he and several other members live.

The man, who only gave his name as Alfredo, said he was in the church's main building when the shooting happened and that neighbors called police because he did not have a phone.

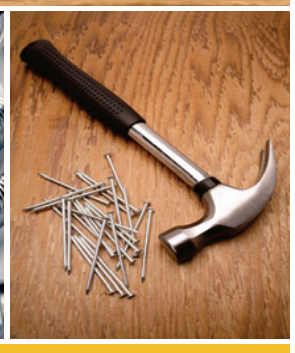
He declined to provide more details, saying church elders planned to issue a statement later.

Officials did not know if the victims attended the church. No events for Monday were listed on the church's online calendar.

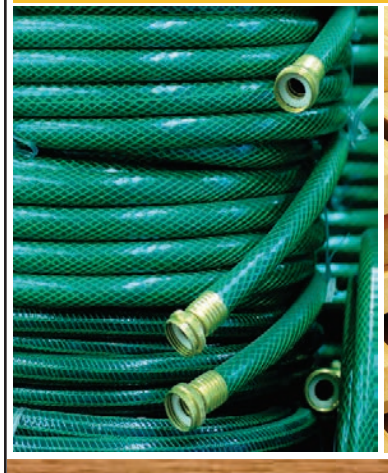
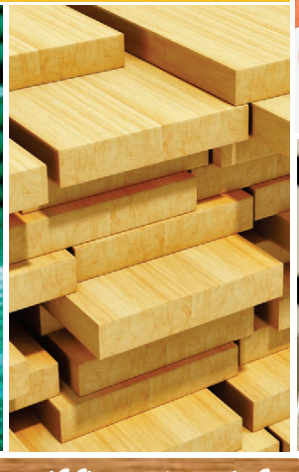
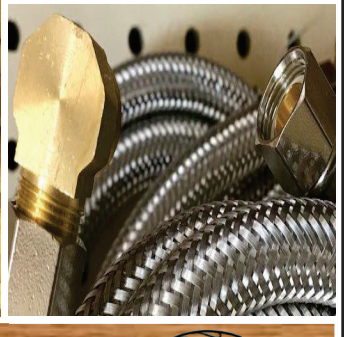
After the shooting, California Gov. Gavin Newsom tweeted: "Another senseless act of gun violence in America — this time in our backyard. In a church with kids inside. Absolutely devastating."

Newsom last month proposed letting private citizens in California sue gun makers to stop them from selling assault weapons.

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SCOOTER

FROM PAGE 1

"It's very important for us to work in the market side by side with our users and to develop the product they need," said Xie. "Santa Monica is the perfect home for us for our next stage, and to scale and grow."

Santa Monica was also selected as the new headquarters due to its strategic location as a launch point for Veo's planned growth across the West Coast. The company is currently operating in over 30 markets across the nation, including major cities like Chicago and Seattle, smaller cities such as Sarasota and St. Petersburg, and college campuses such as Rutgers. Veo seeks to hone in on its California expansion and will soon be launching in the City of LA.

Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. is happy to see a new corporate headquarters opening after watching many technology and micromobility companies leave Santa Monica or lease their office space during the pandemic.

"Downtown Santa Monica has been the center of innovation in Southern California for more than 30 years, earning the moniker Silicon Beach because of the concentration of technology start-ups and other ground-breaking businesses. Veo's addition reinforces our district's commitment to developing solutions to the challenges of today to bring about a better tomorrow," said Mackenzie Carter, Interim Executive Director of Downtown Santa Monica, Inc.

Xie said that she regards Santa Monica as the birthplace of shared mobility and is committed to working collaboratively with the City.



Photo by Joel Marasigan

CO-FOUNDERS: Candice Xie and Edwin Tan met at Purdue University and launched Veo together

Bird e-scooters first launched on the streets of Santa Monica in 2017 and catalyzed an explosion in the micromobility market. Since then many e-bike and e-scooter start-ups have zoomed onto the streets and off into bankruptcy. Bird has not been immune to financial difficulties and laid off 406 employees via a single Zoom call at the start of the pandemic. In July 2021 it lost its appeal to remain one of Santa Monica's authorized mobility providers and was subsequently kicked out of its hometown market.

Despite this history, Xie said that she does not link Bird's operations to Veo's decision to launch a Santa Monica headquarters.

"We don't want to be associated with Bird in any case, because their practice is nothing we agree with. So I don't think our decision to move here has much to do with Bird, it's more focusing on our need and the attractiveness of the city by itself and also the inspiration (that) we want to do better in the industry," said Xie.

Veo has several business principles that differ from some of the standard industry practices. The company prioritizes profit over growth rate and has scaled up more gradually than many of its competitors. This has allowed Veo to become the first profitable micromobility company on the market.

"We take a little bit of a different approach than those tech bros took in the past; they typically get the money, scale, and then fix their issues afterwards," said Xie. "We're more like let's try to figure out the business, what kind of product we need to provide to the city to the user, and what kind of program we need to build to sustain the business."

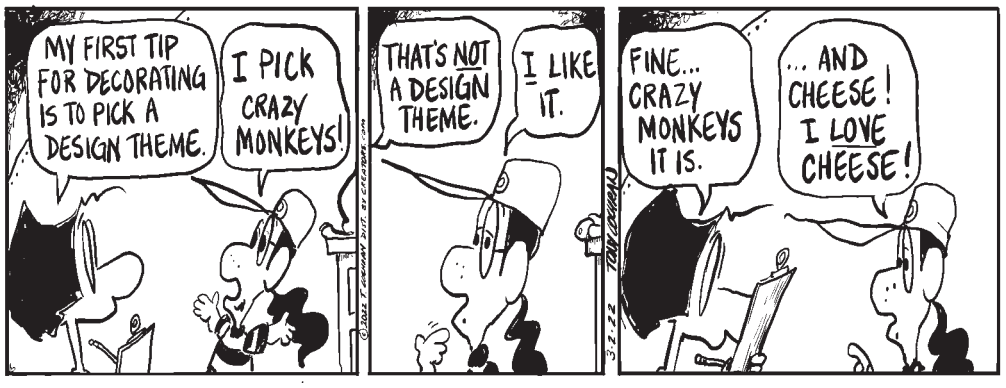
Veo also focuses on working cooperatively with local governments and Xie said the company would not attempt to expand into markets where there is a lack of willingness to partner. While Veo's current authorization to operate in Santa Monica will expire at the end of May 2023, Xie said the company intends to maintain a positive relationship with the City and strive to keep its devices in Santa Monica for many years to come.

Clara@smdp.com



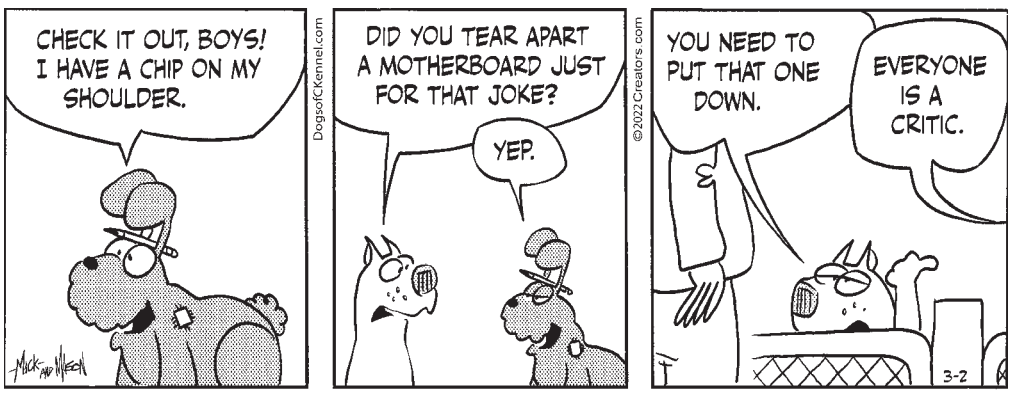
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



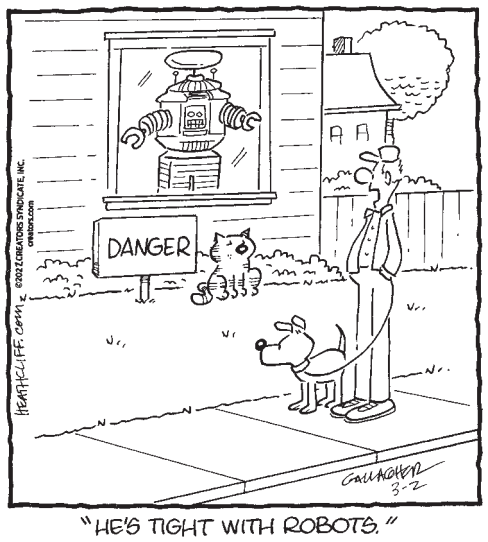
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

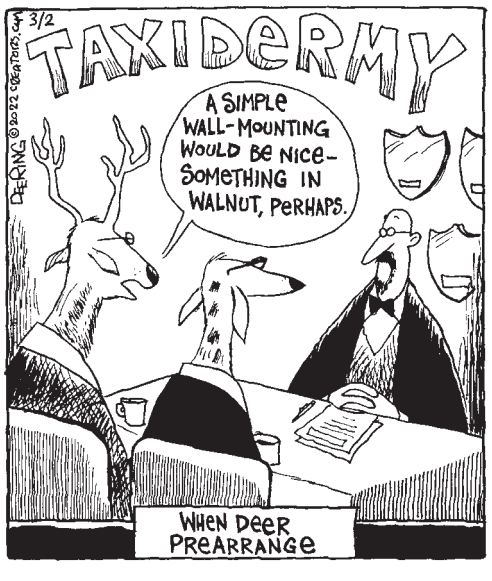
By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE'S TIGHT WITH ROBOTS."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 57.7°

WEDNESDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Thigh to stomach
WNW swell continues. Clean conditions early but a deep mid-morning high tide to work around. Wind could stay light for the tide drop.

THURSDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 1-2ft Knee to thigh
WNW swell eases. AM conditions looking favorable, just need to work around the mid-morning high tide and you'll want some extra foam.

WEATHER

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 72. East southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 52. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Thursday: A 10 percent chance of showers after 4pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 64.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2022/03/02	Wed	02:34 AM	0.94	L
2022/03/02	Wed	08:40 AM	6.15	H
2022/03/02	Wed	3:25 PM	-1.17	L
2022/03/02	Wed	9:40 PM	4.73	H
2022/03/03	Thu	03:17 AM	0.69	L
2022/03/03	Thu	09:21 AM	5.76	H
2022/03/03	Thu	3:56 PM	-0.73	L
2022/03/03	Thu	10:10 PM	4.86	H
2022/03/04	Fri	04:00 AM	0.58	L
2022/03/04	Fri	10:02 AM	5.18	H
2022/03/04	Fri	4:25 PM	-0.18	L
2022/03/04	Fri	10:40 PM	4.90	H
2022/03/05	Sat	04:44 AM	0.59	L
2022/03/05	Sat	10:43 AM	4.50	H
2022/03/05	Sat	4:51 PM	0.44	L
2022/03/05	Sat	11:10 PM	4.85	H
2022/03/06	Sun	05:31 AM	0.69	L
2022/03/06	Sun	11:28 AM	3.77	H
2022/03/06	Sun	5:14 PM	1.07	L
2022/03/06	Sun	11:40 PM	4.71	H
2022/03/07	Mon	06:22 AM	0.87	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERball
Draw Date: 2/28
7 21 39 47 55
Power#: 19
Jackpot: 73 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 2/25
15 31 40 56 66
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 102 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 2/26
2 4 6 30 41
Mega#: 26
Jackpot: 21 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/28
14 17 20 23 38

Daily 3
Draw Date: 2/28
EVENING: 0 7 7
Draw Date: 2/28
MIDDAY: 0 3 5

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 2/28
1st: 11 - Money Bags
2nd: 03 - Hot Shot
3rd: 01 - Gold Rush
Race Time: 1:49.14

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

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (MARCH 2)

Art school students learn that choosing the right subject contributes significantly to the success of the piece. You make masterful subject choices in the art of living, each endeavor possessing the beauty and potential to fuel your pursuit. Late spring brings a big upgrade. Certificates will be earned, documents signed. Taurus and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 40, 22, 39 and 16.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The utility of things depends on who is using them. Basic tools can be magical implements. You'll amaze with your innovative approach, novel application or creative twist.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's a day of illusions optical, emotional and otherwise. A trick of shadow and light can fool your brain and lead your senses to intriguing conclusions. Your mind wants to believe, so enjoy.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A person's real power lies in their ability to empower others. You'll grow as a leader by teaching what you know and helping others to help themselves.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Truth is truth. Whether the words are spoken by a child, a saint, a criminal or a sage doesn't change how true they are. It may, however, affect how many people believe in them.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Since boredom goes with bad habits, keeping yourself entertained is paramount to success. Luckily, today you won't have to look far to find something or someone to be interested in.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When it's your turn to be noticed, don't settle for less than you give and deserve. Those who drift in and out of focus don't mean to invalidate others, but who wants to play to that kind of audience? Don't compromise.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Be very intentional with your interactions. Negativity is much easier to avoid than to overcome. It will take five positive interactions to nullify the slightest negative interaction.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Though it's easier when everything falls into order, it's more beautiful when it doesn't. When what you observe is hard to categorize, this is an opportunity for art. Experiment with different ways to frame it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A clasped bell cannot ring. The attempt to control vibrations mutes them instead. To live with resonance, loosen your grip on life. Open your palms, heart and mind and let freedom ring.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Like a child on the playground, you won't need the rules explicitly explained to you. You'll join in with a willing spirit and soon absorb the rhythm of the game.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). An important part of the fun of a game is not knowing who will win. Tight matches are exciting, while uneven ones are dull or sad. In a similar vein, your personal life will be as satisfying as it is challenging.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Even when the setting and routine are familiar, your social life can be an adventure. You'll offer your gifts without knowing who will enjoy them, then you'll be delighted by who shows up.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

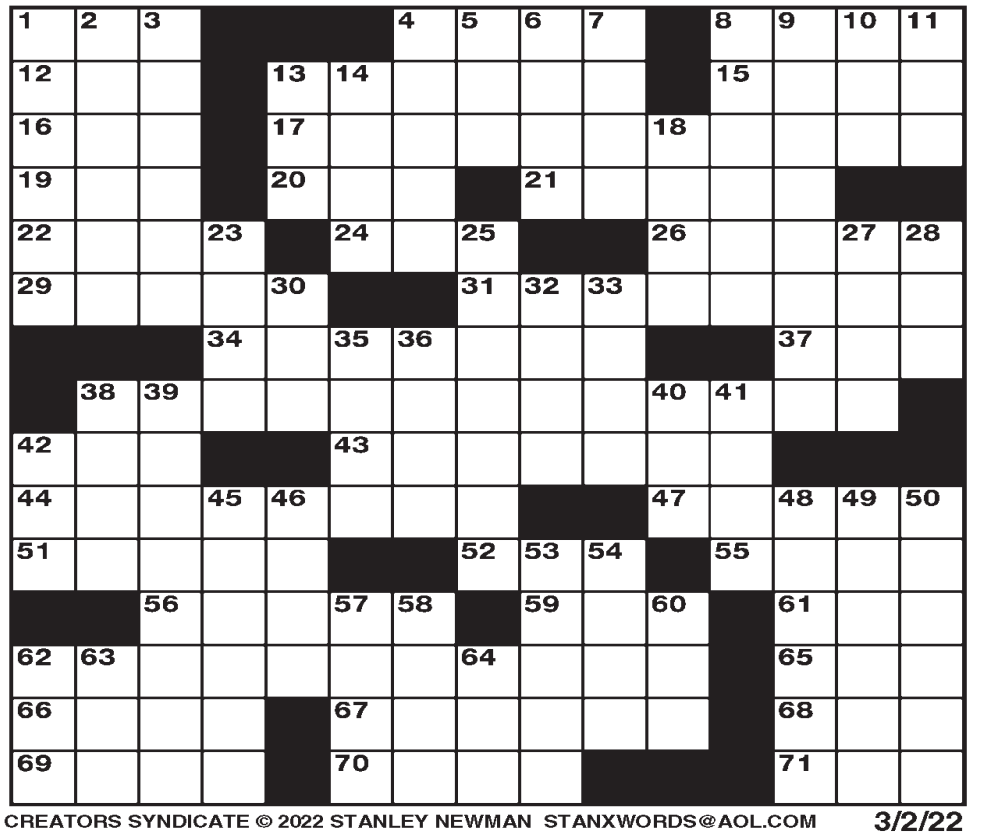
	6	4	9		5		3	
7							6	
	9			8		5		
			3				5	
8		2				9		3
	1				9			
		7		5			4	
	3							5
	5		1		6	3	9	

Newsday Crossword

FROM A TO Z by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Restaurant bill
4 Parts of psyches
8 Grp. in charge
12 Keogh plan alternative
13 Offer again on eBay, say
15 *Et* __ (and others: Lat.)
16 Britain's Isle of __
17 So on and so forth
19 Period of history
20 Tire pressure meas.
21 Can't stand
22 Talk angrily
24 Suffix for lion
26 Stand up
29 Unblinking look
31 Big sports venue
34 Rosa Parks' home state
37 Fix firmly
38 WWII naval leader
42 "Ready when you __"
43 Dow Jones stats
44 Electronic information bank
47 Sealed, as a package
51 No longer edible
52 605, in Roman numerals
55 New Haven school
56 Physics Nobelist Bohr
59 Pal of Pooh
61 Zero
62 Surprise high-school math test
65 Star pitcher
66 Pottery oven
67 Web-footed river mammals
68 Sch. near Harvard
69 Tarzan's neighbors
70 Hornet's home
71 Munched on

DOWN
1 Devices that count down
2 Where the Ark landed
3 Yellow-skinned fruit
4 Historic immigration island
5 "Scram!" in westerns
6 DC workplace monitor
7 Wild guess
8 College students' specialties
9 Most harshly bright
10 *Les* __ (musical, familiarly)
11 Bugs Bunny's whirling adversary
13 Door-knocking sound
14 Ultimatum ender
18 Southeast Asian cuisine
23 Airport shuttle
25 Burned with hot water
27 __ Canal (Mideast shortcut)
28 Paramedic initials
30 55 Across student
32 Prefix for present
33 Not of the clergy
35 Diva's delivery
36 Makes illegal
38 Smell __ (be suspicious)
39 Unsnarl
40 Was introduced to
41 Londoner's exclamation
42 Web pop-ups
45 Sci-fi beings
46 The __ (UK network, informally)
48 __ Canal (Central American shortcut)
49 Draw forth
50 Remove from an email
53 Salad oil holder
54 To see, to Marie
57 Writer Hubbard
58 Fill to excess
60 64 Down fraction
62 Letters preceding an alias
63 Facial feature
64 Ice cream amts.



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What's Up Westside
out and about in Santa Monica

WEDNESDAY | MARCH 2

DIAL-A-STORY
Access 24/7 via telephone at (424) 610-8600. New stories are recorded each week in English, Spanish and Mandarin, and can be listened to by phone at any time.

YOUTH OF THE YEAR
Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica welcome supporters to attend the annual Youth of the Year virtual event, honoring an extraordinary club member who personifies the best of the Boys & Girls Club. Free to attend the virtual event; registration required. 6 p.m. smbgc.org/programs/ youth-of-the-year

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET
The largest grower-only Certified Farmers Market in Southern California and a favorite for local chefs! Enjoy one of Santa Monica's farmers markets, widely considered to be among the best on the west coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheeses, delicious foods, live music and more. 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Arizona Ave. & 2nd St.

THURSDAY | MARCH 3

LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
The mission of the Santa Monica Public Library Board is to support and have charge of the administration of the Santa Monica Public Library. Due to COVID-19 precautions the Board continues to meet virtually. 7 - 9 p.m.

SWIM TEAM
Rally behind the Samohi boys' and girls' varsity swimming & diving teams as they host Mira Costa for a league match to open the season beginning at 3 p.m. at the Santa Monica High School pool, 601 Olympic Blvd.

FRIDAY | MARCH 4

TOURS OF THE MARION DAVIES GUEST HOUSE
Santa Monica Conservancy docents share the rich history of the Beach House site from the 1920s onward. Free 20-minute visits docent tours are available on a walkup basis, for groups of up to six people on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 12 - 2 p.m. Just head to the Marion Davies Guest House where you will be greeted by a docent. Please note masks are required while indoors.

GALLERY OPEN
Open daily, no reservations or admission fee. Schedule subject to change with short notice, check calendar or call (310) 458-4904 to confirm. Annenberg Community Beach House. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

SATURDAY | MARCH 5

LACROSSE
Cheer on the Samohi boys' varsity lacrosse team as they host Chaminade, 1 p.m., 601 Pico Blvd.

DOWNTOWN SANTA MONICA WALKING TOUR
Discover downtown Santa Monica's architecture, history and culture with one of our highly engaging docents. See where Jim Morrison played his first show and visit the lavish Art Deco hotel that housed a speakeasy during Prohibition. The walking tour covers about 6 blocks in 2 hours and begins at the city's first landmark, the 1875 Rapp Saloon. Reservations recommended. Open to all ages. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. 1436 2nd St.

SUNDAY | MARCH 6

MAIN STREET FARMERS MARKET
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. Also, enjoy musical entertainment from a variety of featured weekly bands, face painting, balloon designs, and bi-weekly cooking demonstrations. 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. 2640 Main St.

VIRTUAL JULIA MORGAN LEGACY EVENT
Victoria Kastner, Morgan expert and author of the forthcoming Julia Morgan: An Intimate Biography of the Trailblazing Architect, will be our guest speaker at this virtual talk celebrating California's first licensed woman architect. Morgan is known for her collaboration with William Randolph Hearst to create Hearst Castle, Morgan's legacy includes 700+ projects in nearly five decades of practice. At the Beach House, Morgan designed the Guest House and pool, which comprise the site's historic core. RSVP: www.tinyurl.com/JuliaMorganLegacyEvent

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

FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 19 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 5406

The Top End

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

Alpha
Arid
Aru Islands
Beer-can regatta
Camp
Cape Grenville
Coast
Cobia
Darwin
Derby
Dirty
Dust
Elliott
Fire
Flat
Giru
Gove
Grit
Heat
Huge
Innisfail
Kakadu
Katherine Gorge
Morven
Nebo
Nets
Newman
Remote
Rest
Roma
Roper
Sahul Shelf
Salmon
Seagrass
Secluded
Stop
Swim
Tambo
Tides
Tour
Trevally
Trip
Tuna
Warm

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
The one that got away

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Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

CHESS PARK

FROM PAGE 1

The Commission recommended the move following years of public safety complaints from local residents.

Members of the local chess community said they were surprised and dismayed to learn the City would be removing the equipment from the park, which they said they often used for tournaments and meet-ups prior to the pandemic.

Members of the Santa Monica Bay Chess Club, which meets weekly at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church just outside city limits, fired off a flurry of protestations in the days between the city's announcement and the planned demolition, which was initially scheduled to start on Monday, Feb. 28.

"The recent lack of participation in the chess park there is only a covid thing. Prior to covid, it was thriving," chess player Joe Block wrote in a letter to City staff. "People would start playing there and then migrate over to the Coffee Bean on Main St when it got dark out (which went out of business during covid sadly). So there's fewer and fewer places to play unfortunately, especially on the west side."

Block went on to say he did not believe the removal of tables and chairs would have an impact on the levels of crime reported in the park. That sentiment was echoed by other chess players.

"By removing the chess activity there and just having empty space — I don't see how that stops anybody from hanging around in that empty space and selling, buying or using drugs," Santa Monica Bay Chess Club President Pete Savino said in an interview with the Daily Press. "Of all these other issues that the City is concerned about, removing the chess part is not the problem."

Although Chess Park formally received its monicker in 1999 when the City installed the current benches, tables and permanent chess boards there, Savino said some of the elder club members recalled playing chess games and tournaments there as far back as 1959 — with oral history of Chess Park hosting chess players for decades before that. That history is memorialized on the Club's website, in "A brief, if incomplete history" written by member Tibor Weinberger.

"Chess was played in Santa Monica long before the Santa Monica Bay Chess Club (SMBCC) came into being. The area adjacent to Muscle Beach just south of the pier, today designated as Chess Park, was home to chess activity as far back as the 1930s," Weinberger wrote. "Rudimentary wooden tables and benches were utilized by chess lovers to ply their trade during daylight hours year-round. An informal club coalesced in 1937 and the few members found various venues, like nearby cafes in downtown Santa Monica where they could play chess after dark."

Savino said he had not been to the park since before COVID-19. Even before the pandemic, Savino acknowledged a growing issue of homeless individuals stretching out on benches, but said during tournaments he would ask them to leave and they generally would go without much complaint.

Because of COVID, the club had suspended in-person meetings for nearly two years, but resumed gatherings in February of this year. Savino said he was expecting to be able to use the park for upcoming tournaments later in the year.

Speaking to the Daily Press on Tuesday afternoon, both Himmelrich and Council Member Phil Brock agreed the door remained open to bring chess back to the park once the City budget allowed. Due to budget constraints, city staff wrote in the February information item, there was no immediate plan to bring amenities to the area. For now, it will sit as a flat lot.

Brock and Council Member Oscar de la Torre said they were also open to the possibility of using part of the park area for fitness equipment, expanding Santa Monica's famed original Muscle Beach, but any developments on the .29-acre parcel would need to be discussed at a future meeting.

"Let chess players know: The park is not being taken away. It's being relocated, and we'll have answers for that sometime in the next couple of months," Brock said on Tuesday.

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CALIFORNIA

FROM PAGE 5

no answer at a phone number listed for his law office in Anaheim and no way to leave a message.

Eastman has been a member of the California Bar since 1997, according to the Bar's website. He was a law clerk for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and a founding director of the Center for Constitutional Jurisprudence, a law firm affiliated with the Claremont Institute. He ran for California attorney general in 2010, finishing second in the Republican primary.

Eastman retired as dean of the Chapman University law school last year after more than 160 faculty members signed a letter calling for the university to take action against him.

BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 5

oral treatment, a 110% increase from the amount sent the prior week. Since its FDA approval, the county has been allocated over 36,700 doses that have been distributed to county providers, pharmacies, and clinics.

The county also was allocated 336 doses of Evusheld; this is an increase of 367% from the allocation the previous week.

In total, more than 60,000 doses of these three COVID-19 therapeutics have been distributed across LA County since they first became available in December.

Residents who would like to access these medicines or have questions on which treatment is right for them should contact their medical provider or call the COVID-19 information line at 833-540-0473, 8:00 am - 8:30 pm daily.

SUBMITTED BY: L.A. COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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*May be subject to health screening, face coverings, social distancing, proof of COVID-19 vaccination and/or proof of negative COVID-19 test. Requirements vary by community in accordance with state or local directives or recommendations by the CDC. Please contact us for details.

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