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3 **Housing crisis**
Who is making it worse?

4 **Suspect arrested**
For attempted sexual assault.

5 **Pier runs**
For a good cause.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 77 | TUESDAY 3/5/24 | smdp.com

Klein dazzles with second straight no-hitter for Samohi

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Samohi baseball's senior pitching ace added an incredibly impressive feat to his resume last week, completing his second consecutive no-hit effort for the Vikings.

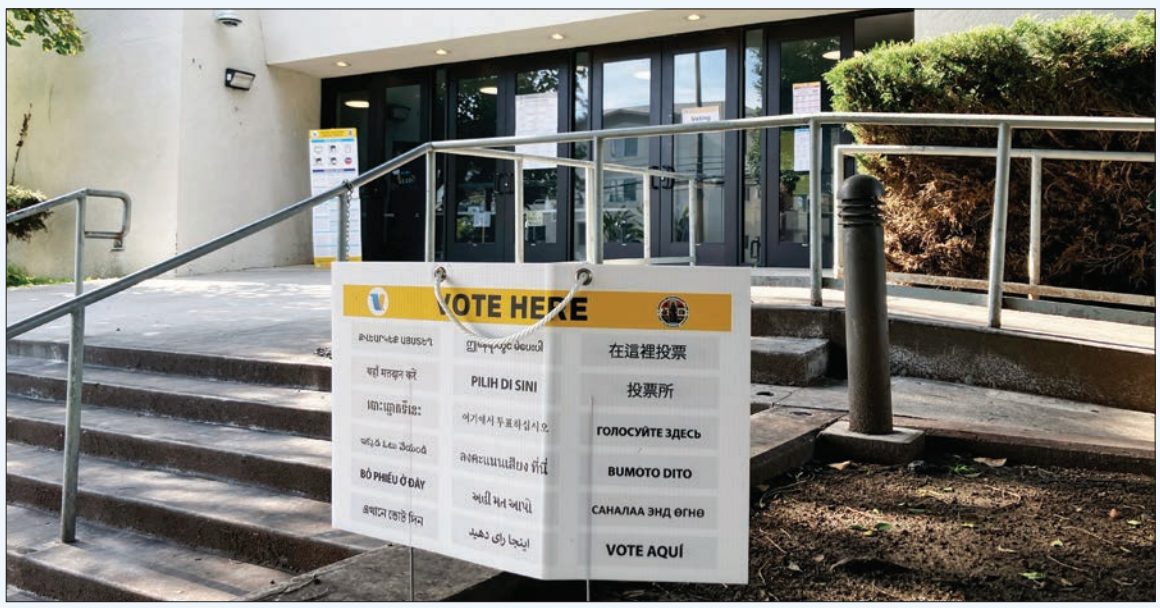
In a March 1 contest against Grace, Samohi's Jackson Klein pitched seven scoreless innings without giving up a single hit, facing the minimum 21 batters necessary for the no-hitter feat. Along with not giving up a hit, Klein was fanning Grace batters left and right, striking out 13 in all. The Grace matchup was his second straight no-hitter, also throwing one against Hamilton on Feb. 24 while striking out 12 more batters.

Klein was just happy to take the mound against Grace, as he feared the game may have been canceled due to rain, and kept a team success mindset throughout his warm up routine.

"In the bullpen before the game, I was feeling pretty good, pretty dialed in," Klein said. "My coach is pretty big on attacking hitters early and throwing as many strikes as you can ... it sounds pretty obvious, but it's not the easiest thing to do in the world, at least for me in the past, so that's been one of my focuses ... I just kind of went about the game, (I) had a couple close calls on defense, (but) I was

SEE **SPORTS** PAGE 6

Super Tuesday elections







Scott Snowden

ELECTION DAY: California's primary election is part of the Super Tuesday block that will likely secure nominations for the November presidential race. Locally, voters can weigh in on other races such as District Attorney, Senator and Prop. 1. In-person voting is available at several locations in Santa Monica and voters can visit https://locator.lavote.gov for a list of locations and other voting information.

Petition to force districts upon local schools could be rejected this week

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

A longstanding petition to implement trustee area voting in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) may be decided this week.

On Wednesday morning, the Los Angeles County Committee on School District Organization will be holding its March meeting, with an update on the petition scheduled as part of its agenda. The agenda reads that the committee "may decide if it will render a decision on the petition." The petition was initially submitted by Malibu attorney Kevin Shenkman in 2022 on behalf of residents, claiming that SMMUSD's current at-large voting system is unfair to minority voters.

In January and February, the committee held two hearings focusing on the legality of the voting map submitted as part of the petition, which would create two non-contiguous districts merging parts of Santa Monica and Malibu. One of the seven proposed trustee areas would combine the eastern half of Malibu with Santa Monica's Sunset Park neighborhood, while another would fuse the western half of Malibu with Santa Monica's North of Montana (NOMA) and

SEE **PETITION** PAGE 4



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Historical novel 'final frontier' for local entertainment veteran

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica is home to a host of entertainers and media creators, and in the industry, resident Catherine Butterfield has finally done it all. From acting and writing screenplays to television and film work, Butterfield had one "final frontier" to conquer, penning and publishing a full novel, something she finalized this year.

Butterfield's historical novel "The Serpent and the Rose," based on the life of 16th Century French princess-turned-queen Marguerite de Valois, marks her book debut that attempts to rectify the reputation of someone who was often smeared during her life. The novel is told in diary form, voicing de Valois' concerns with religion, her "extremely oppressed" status by the patriarchy of the period, and constant bad press from politically-charged attacks.

The princess was regarded historically as the first woman to ever write and publish her memoirs, readings that inspired Butterfield to bring a "modern slant" to de Valois' life. Another inspiration was a visit to the southwestern French commune of Nérac, where de Valois' and husband Henry (later King Henry IV of France) resided. Butterfield had limited knowledge of the couple, but took umbrage with the double standard of their sexuality.

"My feminist sensibilities were inflamed by the fact that he was a well-known rake, and went through every woman ... whereas she was known as some kind of pervert," Butterfield said. "She probably just was a young person who enjoyed her body (but) she was known as a pervert, a letch, a sexually depraved princess. And I thought wow, this is so not fair."

The author stated she wrote in de Valois' voice, but a slightly more "feisty" version that asked more questions of her situation. Penning the novel in a state of "outrage," Butterfield's portrayal of the princess asked why she was always used for political reasons, why she couldn't have agency over her own future, and how she could escape the claws of her mother, the infamous Catherine de' Medici.

"I just felt like I could feel her presence, and I thought I'm going to clean up this woman's reputation ... she's not the only one this has happened to, but this is the one that I (took) an interest in, and I (tried to) tell her story the way I want it to be told," Butterfield said.

Butterfield has been telling stories her way for a while now, brought into the entertainment world "by osmosis" due to her father's career as a general manager for CBS television affiliates. Both of her parents were also actors, which was the first facet of the industry she conquered, performing in New York and regional theater before transitioning into playwriting.

After having plays produced both domestically and internationally, she turned to the film and television industry, writing and producing for such shows as "Ghost Whisperer" and "Party of Five." Butterfield also wrote two short films for the Interact Theatre Company in Los Angeles, winning a Telly award for both projects.

Her career eventually led her to Los Angeles in the mid-1990s, initially living in Silver Lake before her pregnancy made her consider the prospect of pushing a stroller up the steep hills of the neighborhood. Butterfield moved to Santa Monica to raise her daughter, Audrey, and has stayed beachside ever since.



Courtesy Photo
AUTHOR: Santa Monica resident Catherine Butterfield now has her first published book with the historical novel "The Serpent and the Rose."

"I saw these women rolling their little strollers up and down Montana Avenue and I thought, that's what I want to do," she noted. "Also, the air is so nice out here ... Santa Monica is awfully seductive."

When she first gained interest in de Valois' life, she was considering returning to her roots with a screenplay project, but pivoted to the book project after introspection relating to project autonomy.

"I thought of all the screenplays that I have sitting in my garage that either went into turnaround, or just never got made, and I thought why should I (write) this great idea to (just be) in my garage again?," she said. "I should make it a book, because then friends can have it on their bedside table, and it's a real thing. It's a tangible thing."

Now a published novelist, she states that it is "enormously gratifying" to see other people positively reviewing her work. The Historical Fiction Company, for instance, calls the work "a captivating tale" that "paints a complex and memorable portrait" of de Valois.

"When the book first arrived and I could hold it in my hands, (it was) a thrill ... (with) a book, there it is, you can read it, you can enter that world at any time ... and I find that so thrilling," she added. "And now that people are reaching out to me and saying I finished (the book), that's so exciting."

"The Serpent and the Rose" can be purchased on Goodreads and more information on Butterfield can be found on her website, catherinebutterfield.com.

thomas@smdp.com

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Private equity giants worsen California's housing crisis. Why are we giving them public dollars?



CalMatters

HOUSING: Mold can be seen on the exterior of the building at Grove Condominiums on April 18, 2023 in Imperial Beach, Calif.

LIZ PERLMAN

For the better part of the last decade, California leaders of every conceivable political stripe have told us that addressing the state's housing affordability crisis was a top priority.

A plethora of proposals soon followed: "by right" laws, environmental reforms and measures to expand construction of ADUs were suggested as strategies to boost supply. Cities that failed to build new units were sued. We passed laws to improve construction job quality so we could attract more of the skilled workers we need to do the building, and much, much more.

Unfortunately, any impact of these well-intentioned efforts has been more than offset by inflationary spikes that have pushed the cost of housing further out of the reach for everyday working families, students, seniors and other vulnerable populations.

Accelerating this trend has been market power of private equity firms and hedge funds – massive, multibillion-dollar financial instruments buying up housing units with cash, then raising rents, evicting tenants and skimping on things like ordinary maintenance and pest control in order to maximize returns for shareholders.

Their market power has been augmented by their political power as major contributors to candidates, and against ballot measures designed to control rent increases.

It's not just a problem in California anymore. The United Nations has now linked these instruments, such as Blackstone's Real Estate Investment Trust, to a level of market distortion that's created a global housing affordability crisis. Congress has introduced legislation to curb the practice, which comprised 28% of all U.S. home sales in 2022 alone, according to The Pew Charitable Trusts.

For employers, this dynamic only further antagonizes an already tight labor market. When workers are priced out of homes near their jobs, they often seek employment elsewhere.

Evidence from the University of California, the state's third largest employer, suggests this is already happening. The UC's vacancy rate has tripled in recent years, amid a decline in inflation-adjusted wages for many campus service and patient care jobs

SEE **GUEST COMMENTARY** PAGE 7



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **59.4**

TUESDAY
POOR TO FAIR

SURF: 2-3ft+
Thigh to stomach

Smaller combo waves off leftover NW swell and easing SSW swell for the early morning. Possible rise in WNW swell through the end of the day. Light winds due in the AM.

WEDNESDAY
POOR TO FAIR

SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

NW/SSW combo looking to ease down a bit further from Tuesday. Favorable wind for at least the AM, but not much size running. Onshore seabreeze for the PM.

Weather

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 62. Southeast wind 5 to 15 mph becoming west southwest in the afternoon.
Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 49. West wind 10 to 15 mph becoming east northeast 5 to 10 mph after midnight.
Wednesday: A 40 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 60.
Wednesday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 49.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2024/03/05	Tue	04:31 AM	4.90	H
2024/03/05	Tue	12:28 PM	-0.51	L
2024/03/05	Tue	7:31 PM	3.33	H
2024/03/05	Tue	11:24 PM	2.60	L
2024/03/06	Wed	05:38 AM	5.42	H
2024/03/06	Wed	1:06 PM	-1.00	L
2024/03/06	Wed	7:45 PM	3.69	H
2024/03/07	Thu	12:22 AM	2.04	L
2024/03/07	Thu	06:32 AM	5.91	H
2024/03/07	Thu	1:42 PM	-1.33	L
2024/03/07	Thu	8:07 PM	4.09	H
2024/03/08	Fri	01:11 AM	1.41	L
2024/03/08	Fri	07:21 AM	6.24	H
2024/03/08	Fri	2:16 PM	-1.45	L
2024/03/08	Fri	8:33 PM	4.54	H
2024/03/09	Sat	01:58 AM	0.79	L
2024/03/09	Sat	08:07 AM	6.30	H
2024/03/09	Sat	2:49 PM	-1.33	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: 3/2
3 18 27 36 53
Power#: 12
Jackpot: 460 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 3/1
15 33 37 55 61
Mega#: 24
Jackpot: 650 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 3/2
1 7 12 40 41
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 15 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 3/3
4 9 10 19 26

Daily 3
Draw Date: 3/3
EVENING: 6 6 9
Draw Date: 3/3
MIDDAY: 4 0 7

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 3/3
1st: 05 - California Classic
2nd: 03 - Hot Shot
3rd: 12 - Lucky Charms
Race Time: 1:40.92

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Santa Monica Daily Press

COMMUNITY NEWS

Downtown

Suspect arrested for attempted sexual assault

On February 29, 2024, at approximately 2:10 a.m., a male subject entered a residence in the 2400 block of 2nd Street. The victim awoke to the subject standing by her bed and touching her face while he masturbated. The victim ordered the subject to leave, and he complied, fleeing the area before officers arrived. Responding officers obtained security footage of the suspect entering the victim's house. The security video was immediately shared with detectives who, within hours, identified the suspect as Anthony Romero, 28 years old, currently experiencing homelessness.



On March 1, 2024, at 9:22 a.m., A Watch officers located Romero walking in the 400 block of Santa Monica Boulevard. With the help of the UAS/Drone, which was on scene in minutes, and the assisting K9 officer who contacted the suspect, Romero was taken into custody without incident.

Romero was booked for Burglary, Indecent Exposure, Attempt to Commit Rape, and a Parole Hold (out of San Bernardino County). Romero's booking photo is attached.

We encourage anyone with information related to this individual or incident to contact Detective McCoy at James.McCoy@santamonica.gov, Detective Sergeant Goodwin at Chad.Goodwin@santamonica.gov, or the Watch Commander (24 hours) at 310-458-8427.

SUBMITTED BY LIEUTENANT ERIKA AKLUFI

Malibu

City of Malibu Environmental Sustainability Director Named Supervisor of the Year for Exceptional Leadership by California Water Environment Association

The City of Malibu congratulates Yolanda Bundy, Malibu City Environmental Sustainability Director, for receiving the Supervisor of the Year award for the Los Angeles Basin Section (LABS) of the California Water Environment Association (CWEA).

"During my time on the City Council, Yolanda has been one person I have worked with who uniquely stands out," said Mayor Steve Uhring. "She understands Malibu's unique environment and has been flexible and willing to take on our many environmental projects, not only keeping us in compliance with State and local regulations, but also making sure we protect our local wildlife, habitat, coastal waterways, and quality of life. Also, she keeps us updated on the progress of her programs, and that is dear to my heart."

CWEA is an organization comprised of over 10,000 professionals throughout California that represent all facets of water and wastewater management and resource recovery. LABS is comprised of approximately 88 cities and 140 unincorporated areas, communities, and towns. The CWEA Supervisor of the Year award recognizes successful mentoring of team members, professional development, and effective communication. The award is presented annually to people who have demonstrated exceptional dedication, innovation, and effectiveness in advancing environmental goals and initiatives within their respective communities. Bundy has demonstrated a profound commitment to nurturing talent within the City's Environmental Sustainability Department and fostering a culture of eco-consciousness within the Malibu community.

As the Director of the Environmental Sustainability Department, Bundy provides oversight for activities including permitting, public counter services, building safety, building plan check, inspection, geotechnical and coastal engineering, clean water, solid waste, environmental health, and wastewater. She fosters cooperative working relationships among City departments, consultants, various public agencies, and the community.

After the 2017 Thomas Fire, Bundy successfully led the City of Ventura's rebuild efforts by developing a fast-track building permit approval process to assist homeowners of over 524 structures. This experience made her the perfect candidate to join the City of Malibu after the 2018 Woolsey Fire that destroyed 488 structures in Malibu.

The City of Malibu extends its heartfelt congratulations to Bundy for this well-deserved honor and expresses gratitude for her ongoing leadership and commitment to environmental sustainability.

To learn more about the Environmental Sustainability Department, visit www.malibucity.org/ESD.

SUBMITTED BY MATT MYERHOFF

CRIME WATCH

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.

ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD AT APPROXIMATELY 10:56AM

Officers arrived at 2nd Street and Colorado regarding a flag down of a Battery. The victims reported that they were walking westbound on the 100 block of Colorado Avenue when the Suspect suddenly punched the male victim in the face. The two victims ran off and waved down police for help. Shawn Saeidi Mendozai was arrested for Battery.

PETITION

FROM PAGE 1

Wilmont neighborhoods.

During the meeting, the committee will hear from petitioners, SMMUSD representatives "and any members of the public who want to address it," after which the committee "may make a determination on the sufficiency of the map submitted … or may require additional information to make its decision on approval of the map."

In what may be a precursor to the committee's decision, the Los Angeles County Office of Education Business Advisory Services staff prepared a report to the committee, appearing on the committee's website on March 2. After conducting a feasibility study on the petition, the staff recommended that the committee "determine the map as submitted does not comply with existing state law," and "recommends that the committee disapprove the petition to implement trustee areas and trustee area voting within the district."

The staff report "identified several ways" in which the petitioners' map "does not conform to the mandatory criteria listed in Elections Code Section 21130," including the non-contiguity of trustee areas, the intent of the petition and the electoral influence of Malibu in SMMUSD matters.

Staff analysis of the petition's map stated that in the case of the district, it is "practicable" to have each trustee area (in a hypothetical move to area voting) be contiguous by itself "because the Malibu portion of the school district can serve as a single trustee area and still comply with the population equality requirements" of state and federal Constitutions. Malibu population data indicates that the population of the city falls within 10 percent "of the ideal trustee population" of 15,719 persons for SMMUSD, a permissible variation under law. Therefore, since Malibu could be kept "whole" as a single trustee area, staff notes that the petition's map fails to comply with Elections Code.

On the intent of the petition, Elections Code Section 21130 states that "the districting body shall not adopt election district boundaries for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, political candidate, or political party." The staff report notes that multiple speakers supporting the petition, including Chief Petitioner Jennifer deNicola, stated a desire to unseat incumbent SMMUSD Board of Education members, something specifically prohibited by the Elections Code. "According to the SMMUSD, three current Board members reside in the two non-contiguous, majority-Malibu districts (in the petition's map), both of which would be slated for the first election under the petition's proposed sequencing," the staff report states.

The staff report also pointed to speakers at the committee hearings advancing "their perception that residents of one neighborhood controlled the school board, and had for many years, to the detriment of residents in Malibu." However, the report states that "evidence adduced during the hearings" confirmed that Malibu "has historically successfully elected representatives to the SMMUSD Board," and that Malibu residents have served on the board for the past decade and beyond.

Justification of approving a trustee area petition on the grounds that it protects voting rights, the report continued, "depends on the demography of the neighborhood at issue and, critically, whether the neighborhood is comprised of residents who meet the definition of a 'protected class.'" The California Voting Rights Act uses the federal Voting Rights Act definition of protected classes, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color or membership in a language minority group. The report states that "petitioners have not shown that residents in the Malibu portion of SMMUSD are primarily members of any racial or language minority," and that the residents of Malibu are not a protected class, as U.S. Census data lists the City of Malibu at 79.8% white.

Shenkman recently told the Daily Press that CVRA litigation against the district separate to the petition may be pursued in the future, a decision reliant on the pending committee ruling on the petition. The committee's meeting agenda also makes note of a potential update on a petition to form a Malibu Unified School District from territory within SMMUSD.

thomas@smdp.com





Top athletes begin expeditions with Pier starting line













Photo by Thomas Leffler

RUN: The morning of March 1 brought a crowd to the entrance point of the Santa Monica Pier, as a duo of top athletes began their respective cross-country journeys across America. Starting at 8 a.m. at the Pier, both Paul Johnson and Andrew Linder started the clock on their runs that began in Los Angeles and will end in New York City. Johnson, a Navy officer, is running in an attempt to break a world record of a 42-day pace for the roughly 3,000 miles, poised to be completed in mid-April in NYC. He runs in the hope of raising $1 million for military veteran wellness nonprofit Team Red, White & Blue, with veterans meeting Johnson at the Pier to run the first mile of his expedition. Linder's "Pier to Park" trek, scheduled to end in NYC's Central Park, will be the first cross-country run completed with a 15-pound weighted vest on his body. A former college football player, Linder eventually went from sprints to ultramarathon lengths in his running career, and the athlete is running in support of Sisters Rising Worldwide and the fight against human trafficking.



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SPORTS

FROM PAGE 1

lucky to have a very solid defense behind me. These last two games could not have been accomplished without them."

He added that he keeps the same routine in the dugout regardless of the current score of his starts, something that longtime teammates are aware of.

"A big majority of the team on varsity have played together since we were very young, maybe like 6-7 years old, so I've grown very comfortable and very close to a lot of these guys ... (along with) me knowing them very well, they know me very well and they know that when I'm starting, no matter what's happening in the game, I don't particularly like to engage in conversation ... I like to stay focused and stay locked in ... just do my best to keep myself calm, keep my muscles relaxed," Klein said.

The senior is now an unblemished 4-0 to start the 2023-24 campaign, and has yet to cede a run or earned run over 23 innings. Klein has also hurled 38 strikeouts to just seven opponent walks, with the 38-strikeout mark good for fourth-most in the entire state of California, according to MaxPreps. The high school sports statistical database also shows that Klein is one of five pitchers in the state to achieve four wins thus far, joining La Salle (Pasadena)'s Adrian Hernandez, Westlake Village's Andrew Habermann, Palm Desert's Zach Gibbs and Estancia (Costa Mesa)'s Andrew Mits.

Klein has been a key cog in the Vikings' hot start, as the squad sits at 7-2 through nine contests, including four shutout victories. The Vikings, undefeated on home grass, have been bolstered in the offensive game by Brady Satinover (.571 average, 12 hits, 7 runs scored) and Isaac Liberman (.435 average, 10 hits, 5 runs scored). The senior standout said that this Vikings unit is "by far" the best he's been a part of in his four seasons.

"It's a mix of a lot of things ... we're trying our best to get on the same page with one another, obviously nothing can be done in sports alone, it's a team effort no matter what, so we really wanted to lock that in ... we worked really hard in the offseason to really dial in our offense, which has been a little bit of a struggle of ours in the past, but we've really gotten our bats going so far," Klein said.





Photo Courtesy Jackson Klein

VIKINGS: Samohi senior pitching ace Jackson Klein threw his second consecutive no-hitter on March 1 against Grace.

SAMOHI SPORTS SCORES:

SANTA MONICA BASEBALL:

Tuesday, February 27:

Vikings at Royal

Royal win 6-5

Batting/Baserunning:

Jacob Myrow (Senior): 0-1. Gavin Kirtley (Junior): 0-2, K. Sage Douglass (Senior): 1-3, 3B, R, BB. Angel Lomeli (Junior): 0-3, RBI, SF. Bobby Munoz (Senior): 1-3, HR, R, 2 RBI, K. Spencer Levin (Senior): 0-2, K. Isaac Liberman (Junior): 2-4, 2B, 3B, R, RBI. Jackson Myrow (Junior): 0-3, R, BB, K. Aaron Heirigs (Sophomore): 1-2, 2B, R, RBI, BB. Theo Smith (Senior): 0-1. Manny Lares (Junior): 1-3, SB

Pitching:

Eddie Jennings (Junior): 5.0 IP, 8 H, 3 R, 3 ER, 4 BB, 7 K, 4.20 ERA. Tony Ponce (Senior): L, 1.2 IP, 3 H, 3 R, 3 ER, 1 BB, 1 K

Thursday, February 29:

Vikings vs Oakwood

Vikings win 4-2

Batting/Baserunning:

Sage Douglass (Senior): 0-3, K. Bobby Munoz (Senior): 1-3, 2B, R. Spencer Levin (Senior): 0-1, R, BB, SB. Isaac Liberman (Junior): 1-2, R, BB, FC, 2 SB. Jackson Myrow (Junior): 0-3, K. Aaron Heirigs (Sophomore): 0-3, K. Johnny Recendez (Freshman): 0-2, K. Brady Satinover (Junior): 2-3, R, SB. Manny Lares (Junior): 0-3

Pitching:

Gavin Kirtley (Junior): W, 5.0 IP, 2 H, 2 R, 2 BB, 6 K, 0.00 ERA. Tony Ponce (Senior): 1.0 IP, 1 H, 1 K, 0.00 ERA. Aaron Heirigs (Sophomore): 1.0 IP, 0 H, 1 K

Friday, March 1:

Vikings vs Grace

Vikings win 5-0

Batting/Baserunning:

Jacob Myrow (Senior): 0-1, RBI. Sage Douglass (Senior): 1-3, R, RBI, BB, SB. Bobby Munoz (Senior): 1-3, R, BB. Spencer Levin (Senior): 0-1, R, SH/B, BB. Isaac Liberman (Junior): 1-1, RBI, 3 BB. Jackson Myrow (Junior): 2-4, RBI, K. Aaron Heirigs (Sophomore): 0-3, K. Theo Smith (Senior): 2-3, R, FC. Brady Satinover (Junior): 2-3, R, RBI, BB. Manny Lares (Junior): 0-2, BB, K

Pitching:

Jackson Klein (Senior): W, 7.0 IP, 0 H, 13 K, 0.00 ERA

Vikings Record: 7-2

Next Game: Tuesday at Peninsula, 3:15 p.m.

SANTA MONICA SOFTBALL:

Monday, February 26:

Lady Vikings vs Torrance

Tie 2-2

Batting:

Cienna Burgos: 0-2, BB, K. Avey Thompson: 0-0, SH/B, 2 BB. Maya Paysinger: 0-2, R, BB, FC. Drew Vudmaska: 1-2, RBI, BB. Haley Riehl: 0-3, K. Sakura Krohn: 0-2, SH/B, K. Talia Yermian: 0-2, BB, K. Andrea Castro: 0-2, R, BB. Bella Myers: 1-3, FC

Pitching:

Drew Vudmaska: 6.0 IP, 5 H, 2 R, 1 ER, 4 BB, 7 K, 1 HBP, 1.17 ERA

Wednesday, February 28:

Lady Vikings vs Bishop Montgomery

Lady Vikings win 5-0

Batting/Baserunning:

Cienna Burgos: 0-1, R, K. Avey Thompson: 1-2, 3B, R, BB, K. Maya Paysinger: 1-2, BB. Jasmine Arana: 1-3, RBI. Drew Vudmaska: 1-4, HR, R, 3 RBI, K. Sakura Krohn: 2-3, R, BB, FC, SB. Alyssa Gonzalez: 0-3. Talia Yermian: 0-3, R, HBP, FC. Bella Myers: 1-4. Brooke Meshekow: 1-3, K

Pitching:

Drew Vudmaska: W, 7.0 IP, 5 H, 1 BB, 9 K

Friday, March 1:

Lady Vikings vs Mira Costa

Mira Costa win 3-2

Batting:

Cienna Burgos: 0-4, 2 K. Maya Paysinger: 0-1, R, SH/B, BB, K. Drew Vudmaska: 1-3, HR, R, 2 RBI, K. Haley Riehl: 2-3. Debbie Amezquita: 1-3, 2B, K. Sakura Krohn: 1-3, K. Talia Yermian: 1-3, SH/B, K. Andrea Castro: 0-3, K. Bella Myers: 0-2, BB, K

Pitching:

Drew Vudmaska: 7.0 IP, 5 H, 3 R, 3 BB, 4 K

Lady Vikings Record: 5-3-1 (0-1 Bay League)

Next Game: Wednesday vs Saint Monica, 3:15 p.m.

SANTA MONICA BOYS VOLLEYBALL:

Monday, February 26:

Vikings vs Beverly Hills

Vikings win 3-0

Wednesday, February 28:

Vikings vs Brentwood School

Vikings win 3-0

Vikings Record: 6-3

Next Game: Wednesday vs Peninsula, 3:30 p.m.

SANTA MONICA BOYS LACROSSE:

Tuesday, February 27:

Vikings vs Crespi

Crespi win 13-6

Thursday, February 29:

Vikings at Palos Verdes

Palos Verdes win 12-7

Vikings Record: 1-4

Next Game: Tuesday at St. John Bosco, 3:30 p.m.

GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 3

and a spike in the number of people who forced to commute long distances or sleep in their cars.

Over the same period, the UC Board of Regents invested $4.5 billion to prop up Blackstone's Real Estate Investment Trust, even though UC communities already cost 30% more than comparable campuses across the country on average, and the institution only houses 38% of its students.

In doing so, UC officials called the investment – which included the pension funds of UC employees being priced out by private equity giants – "a capitalistic win for retirees."

Really?

It bears repeating that the UC is a public institution, supported with billions of California taxpayer dollars each year, and millions more to support food banks for students struggling with the cost of living. By any objective standard, it's investments in private equity landlords such as Blackstone that are making California's (and the nation's) affordability crisis worse.

The university's Board of Regents includes Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond and former Senate leader Toni Atkins. All three are running for governor in 2026 and claimed they are in favor of more affordable housing. Atkins has even publicly criticized Blackstone. Yet as members of the UC board, they failed to stop the institution from making investments that benefit investors more than UC workers and students.

In fairness, UC is not the only public system investing in institutions that accelerate the affordability crisis. Other public pension funds in California – and elsewhere – have made similar choices.

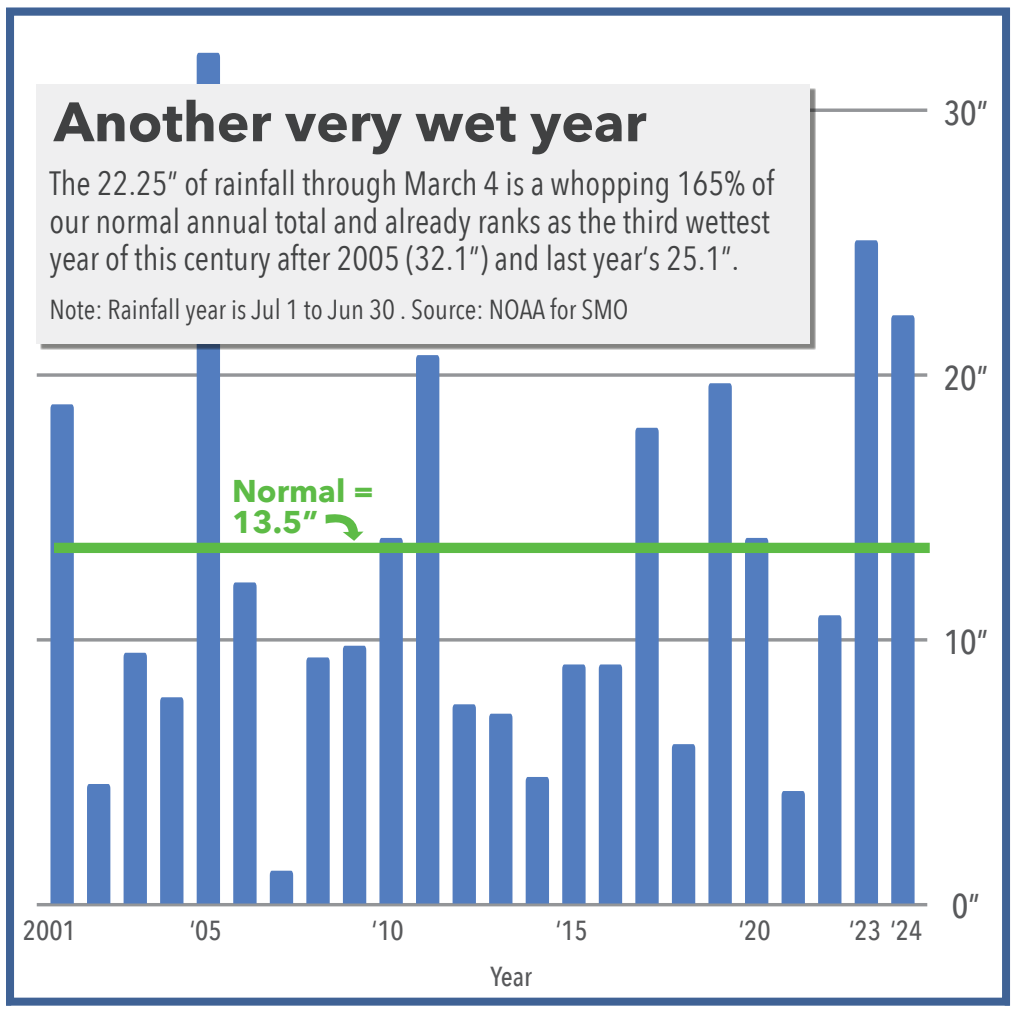
But shouldn't public investments align with our stated public policy goals? Shouldn't we expect that – in the case of Kounalakis, Thurmond and Atkins – that they at least align with stated campaign priorities?

The first test of leadership for the people making these decisions – and seeking to make even more consequential decisions for our state – should be not making our biggest problem worse. The apparent willingness of aspiring politicians to go along with these investments should serve as a flashing red light for the electorate.

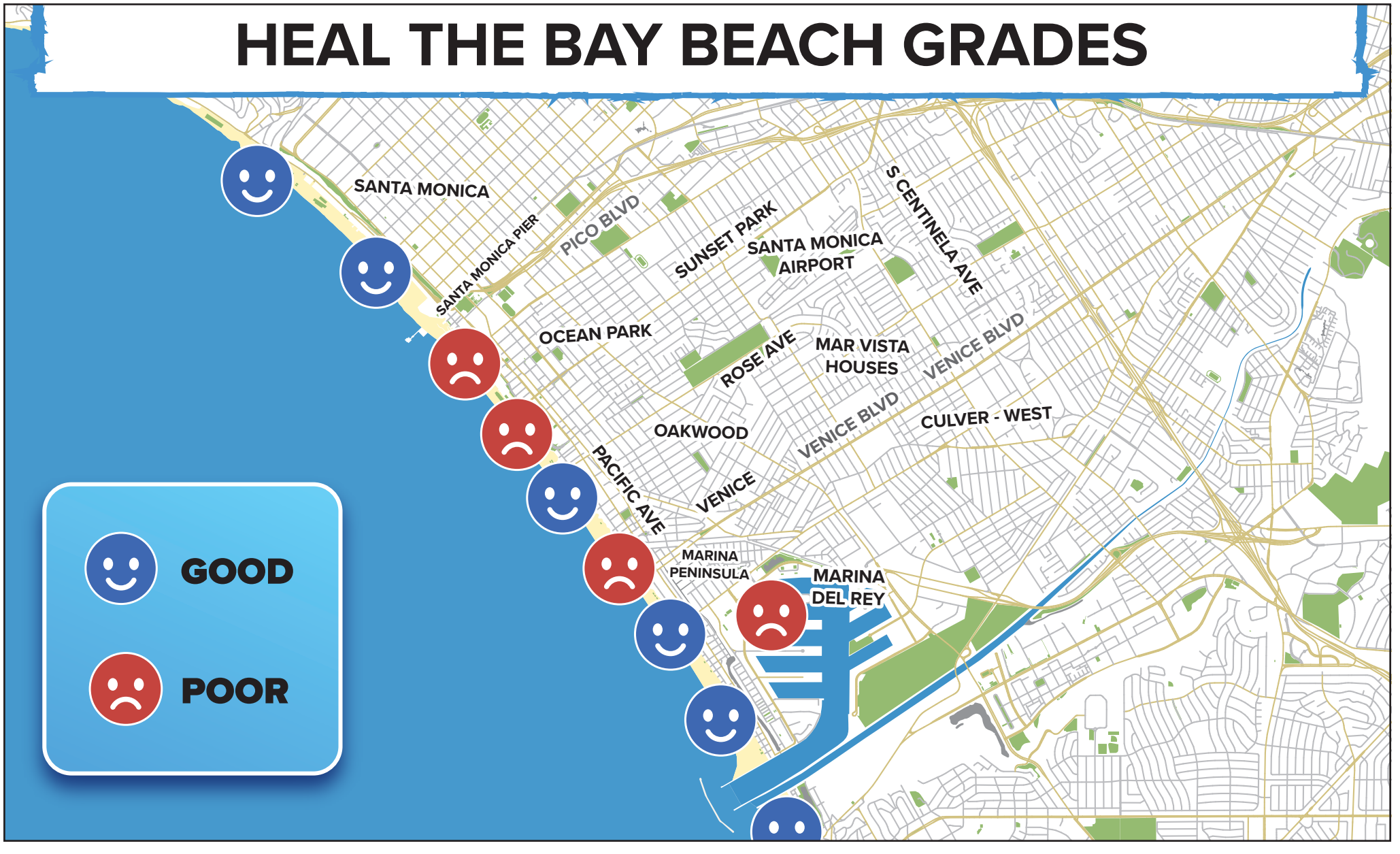
The alternative, of course, would be for entities such as the UC Board of Regents to consider the well-documented concerns of their workers and students and reverse course, as they once did with apartheid in South Africa, or as some have done with the fossil fuel industry. That would mean immediately divesting from private equity giants like Blackstone and investing in housing that actually helps students and workers.

California can no longer afford leaders who are unwilling to attack our biggest problems head on.

Liz Perlman is the executive director of AFSCME Local 3299, which represents more than 33,000 University of California workers. This article was originally published by CalMatters.



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May 17, 2024 | Fairmont Miramar

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www.smbgc.org/events

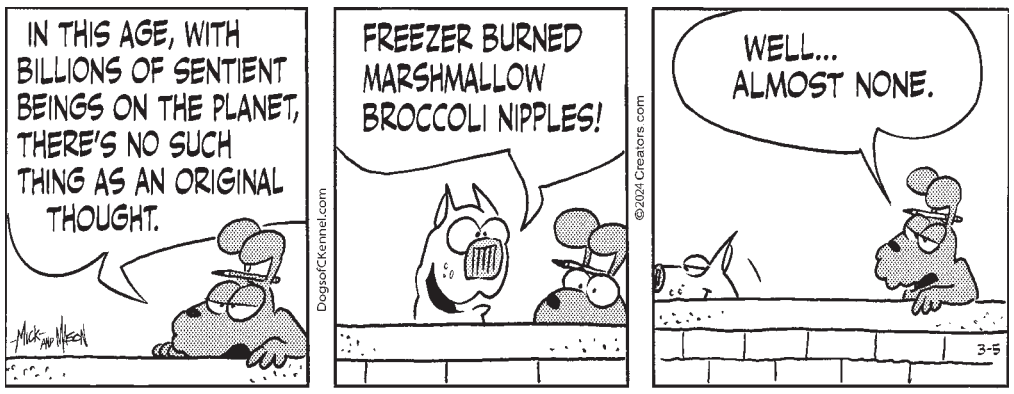
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



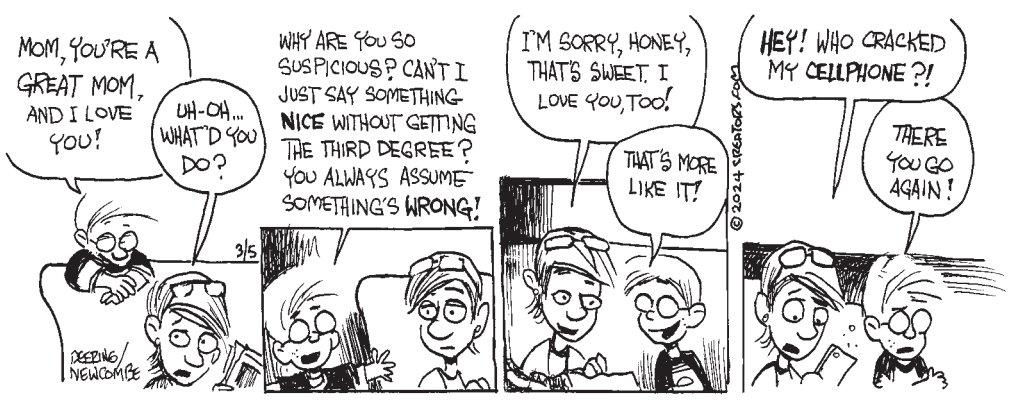
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



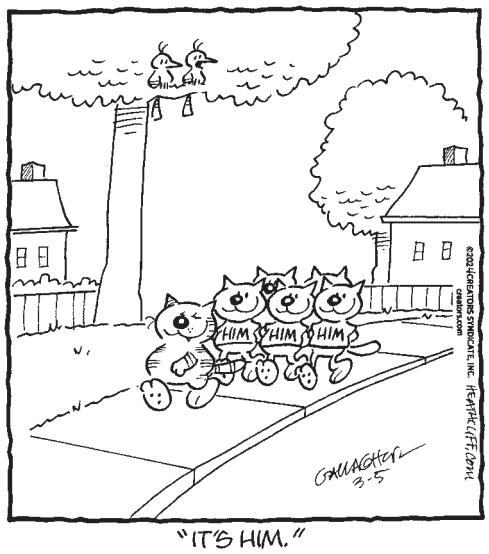
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"IT'S HIM."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6140

Council meeting

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

Action	Data	House	Responsibility
Argue	Deals	Laws	Role
Arrange	Dogs	Library	Share
Bins	Duties	Local	Shire
Board	Employment	News	Social
Boss	Enjoy	Office	Stadium
Chat	Ethics	Open	Talk
Civil	Fair	Plan	Town
Clash	Fees	Public	Treasurer
Close	Fund	Quorum	
Cohesive	Gallery	Ratepayer	
Cost	Games	Record	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

It's too hot to work outside

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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 5)

You claim a new mission that engages your talents and turns the year into a parade of adventures befitting of your lifestyle, but also incrementally altering of it in exciting and beneficial ways. More highlights: You'll hear meaningful words from the people who matter to you. You'll receive money that was long overdue. Capricorn and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 17, 9, 22 and 40.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Life is not scolding you. It may, however, be correcting you and helping you back onto the path that leads where you most want to go. There's work that goes into finding the right product for the market. You'll do the work and win.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The best things are made slowly and carefully. If that's how you feel your "thing" is being made, count yourself among the fortunate. This is going to turn out well for you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). In general, people find it easy to figure out how to love you because you love yourself, and this shows them the way. Any work you do to better understand who you are and what you like goes far toward improving your relationships all around.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You invite variety — in foods, places, experiences and, best of all, in people, because you can only learn new things from people who know and do things that are different from what you already know and do.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Find a new model. The one you're chasing isn't worthy. Whether this is business or personal, the answer is the same. A generic model is never going to encompass all you can do.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). To some, a relationship is an opportunity to give. To others, it's an opportunity to take. Try to stay aware of the balance, because as a giver you are vulnerable to being drained by takers without conscience.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Of course, you can't plan to be surprised because the plan eliminates the element of surprise. But, like a child who knowingly turns the crank of a jack-in-the-box, the anticipation still comes with a palpable thrill.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Thinking is work. It requires energy and takes effort. Even so, thought alone is not enough to bring things into reality. Air must be moved, too, through breath, words and action. The more air is moved, the more real a thing becomes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The person who dares to alter the power balance in relationships must be brave indeed. People hate this. Maybe change is necessary, and if so, go carefully. A power balance is nothing to take lightly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Curiosity can feel like a curse because the things you long to know create a yearning that feels unbearable at times. Even so, your life is made richer by the discoveries you've made that started with curiosity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The measuring systems that count are not standardized. Things like happiness, fairness, attractiveness and love are subject to individual systems of assessment. It's nice when they match up. When they don't, none is more valid, just more common.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your mind seems slanted toward the profound today, sliding into sincerity and seriousness. It will really help your mood to lighten things up with some humor, silliness and clowning around.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

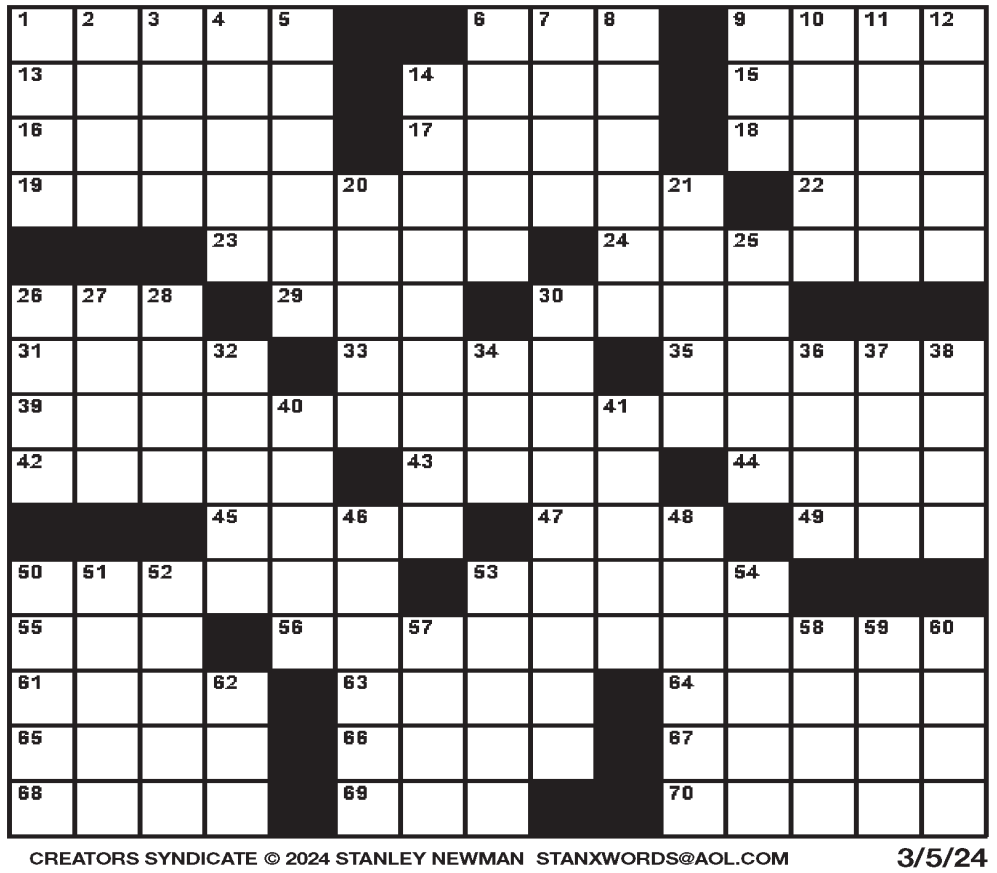
DON'T BUG ME by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Off-script remark
6 Airport safety agcy.
9 Cat's complaint
13 Multiroom hotel lodging
14 Minor fender dent
15 Session in a tub
16 "This ticks me off!"
17 __ about (approximately)
18 Wine region in Italy
19 Classroom contest
22 "Certainly!"
23 Coffee + hot milk
24 Set sail
26 Arabian Nights guy __ Baba
29 A thousand G's
30 Revered performer
31 Second to __ (the best)
33 Gotten a glimpse of
35 Elbow or ankle
39 Unsportsmanlike
42 Outstanding test grade
43 Great joy
44 Low-carb diet
45 "You never had __ good!"
47 Cashew or pistachio
49 African snake
50 Frozen treat on a stick
53 On a cruise
55 Beaver's project
56 High baseball hit rather far
61 Untruthful person
63 Child's possible punishment
64 Running free
65 A Great Lake
66 Flexible leg part
67 Cathedral instrument
68 Got cash for
69 "__ out!" (ump's shout)
70 Sparrows' homes

DOWN

1 Without a warranty
2 Unload, as trash
3 Green citrus fruit
4 Know-__ (smarty)
5 Chaotic scene
6 Hint of color
7 Snooty person
8 Saw eye-to-eye
9 Deg. in finance
10 Cinch of a school course
11 Furry river mammal
12 Egg-beating implement
14 "Hang on tight!"
20 "Who's there?" answer
21 Texter's image
25 Obstruct
26 Kendrick of films or Kournikova of tennis
27 Encircle
28 Worldwide: Abbr.
30 Reward for an action
32 Supply with gear
34 Snakelike fish
36 Scandinavian furniture chain
37 Basketball targets
38 Sports car roof
40 "So do we!"
41 Find a new purpose for
46 High-spirited
48 Tattle about
50 Does nothing
51 Egypt's capital
52 Computer message
53 Later on
54 Be gaga over
57 Voice inflection
58 Visibility reducers
59 Future atty.'s exam
60 Longings
62 Stoplight shade



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MORE OF STAN'S CROSSWORDS! Play FREE from Stan's archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords



TUESDAY | MARCH 5

FICTION BOOK CLUB
This lively group of avid readers meets on the first Tuesday of each month to discuss a work of fiction. Books selected for discussion can be new or old and come from a wide array of genres, styles, and authors. Upcoming selections include:
March 5: Christine Falls by Benjamin Black. Donald Bruce Kaufman - Brentwood Branch Library
11820 San Vicente Boulevard, Los Angeles, 1 p.m. https://www.lapl.org/whats-on/events/fiction-book-club-0

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS CLUB
Learn how to play Dungeons & Dragons, from crafting the perfect character to participating in an ongoing campaign. Materials provided. For ages 10-18. Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Avenue, 4:30 - 6 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY REFORM AND OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING
Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission Agenda
https://www.santamonica.gov/public-safety-reform-and-oversight-commission

LA MADE PRESENTS: MEDITATION TO REDUCE STRESS AND INCREASE JOY
This is a workshop/presentation on meditation/mindfulness. She will go over the history of meditation, the benefits of meditation (including neuroscience) in plain language, frequently asked questions regarding how to overcome barriers and intimidation factors, and how to know you are doing it "right." The class will practice 3 very different meditation types so participants can have the experience. This LA Made program was made possible with the generous support of the National Endowment for the Humanities. For ADA accommodations, call (213) 228-7430 at least 72 hours prior to the event. Venice - Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library, 501 S. Venice Boulevard. 1 p.m.

SOCIAL SERVICE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY PROVIDENCE ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM
Help with family nutrition and health care access is resuming at Virginia Avenue Park thanks to Providence St. John's Community Health Program. Trained community health workers will be available to meet in person with community members at the Park Center Building in Virginia Avenue Park. The first Tuesday of the month 11:30 am to 7 pm and 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Tuesdays from 9:30 am to 5 pm. The trained Providence St. John's staff can assist with enrollment in CalFresh, the state of California's food subsidy program created to improve the nutrition of families through access to healthy foods. Staff can also help navigate enrollment or questions for MediCal and Medicare. If you have questions about whether you qualify for benefits or if you need help completing enrollment forms, you can make an appointment by calling 310.458.8688. Drop-ins are also welcome. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave.

WEDNESDAY | MARCH 6

PLANNING COMMISSION
Established in 1946, the Planning Commission envisions Santa Monica as a city of wellbeing, sustainability, and equity, and seeks to balance the many needs and priorities within our community in accordance with the City's General Plan and Specific Plans. The Commission acts through open and civil discourse that is informed by public input, impartial analysis, and best practices in land use and planning. 6 p.m. Council Chambers, 1685 Main Street. https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Planning-Commission/

COME SING WITH THE BAND - LIVE BAND KARAOKE!!
Doors open at 8 PM. Show starts at 9:30PM. Online ticket sales end at 7 PM, tics available at the door after 8 PM. 2 drink minimum. New Band!! New Experience!! Come in Sign up SING! Harvelle's Santa Monica, 1432 4th St, $5 https://santamonica.harvelles.com/shows/249292

THURSDAY | MARCH 7

TECH & TASKS
Volunteer tutors provide help with reading documents or written tasks, using mobile devices, navigating government websites, filling out forms, using email, writing resumes, and more. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 2 - 4 p.m.

COMMUNITY INFO TABLE: JOB HUNTING WITH CHRYSALIS
Chrysalis reps provide free job resources and assistance. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 2 - 4 p.m.

HOUSING COMMISSION
The Santa Monica Housing Commission is a city advisory body whose mission is to protect and improve the quality of life of all Santa Monicans by listening to input from city residents and staff, publicly deliberating, and providing recommendations to both the Santa Monica City Council and Santa Monica Housing Authority Board on issues related to housing in Santa Monica. The Santa Monica Housing Commission is committed to strengthening the social, economic, and cultural vitality and diversity of Santa Monica through habitable, fair, and equitable housing for all. City Hall, 1685 Main Street, 6 p.m. https://www.smgov.net/departments/clerk/boards.aspx?id=53687092551

T. REX RISES
How did T. rex become the iconic apex predator of North America 66 million years ago? Paleontologist Dr. Lindsay Zanno is uncovering the answer. Each year she spends several months on expedition, scouring the badlands of western North America in search of clues. Along the way, she has discovered many new species—including some of the earliest predecessors of T. rex. Join Lindsay for a fascinating look at how a global climate crisis during the Cretaceous changed the course of evolution for this prehistoric tyrant and its ancestors. One hour prior to showtime, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County will join on The Plaza with fossil casts on display, and will be joined briefly by special guest, Hunter the T. rex - don't miss his appearance! Broad Stage, 1310 11th Street, 7:30 p.m. $55, https://broadstage.org/tickets-shows/calendar/nat-geo-live-t-rex-rises

FRIDAY | MARCH 8

THE GREAT OBSERVATORIES
Lecturer Sarah Vincent. Hubble Space Telescope (HST) is one of four space-based telescopes dubbed "The Great Observatories." Tonight's show looks at these pioneering instruments that gave us the first broad-spectrum look at space. 8 - 9 p.m. Free on Zoom. https://www.smc.edu/community/planetarium/

LA DOLLZ
Harvelle's Santa Monica, 1432 4th St,
Doors open at 8 PM. Show starts at 9:30PM. Online ticket sales end at 7 PM, tics available at the door after 8 PM. 2 drink minimum. All female, multi-instrumentalist, high-energy power group.Covering your fave top 40's rock, pop, alternative & more! Rocky Rose: Lead vocals, keyboards, keytar Ariel Bellvalaire: Lead vocals, electric guitar Kya Karine: Backing vocals, electric bass Jazzy Guevara: Lead vocals, Drums. $10, https://santamonica.harvelles.com/shows/251864

SATURDAY | MARCH 9

SEED STARTING EXTRAVAGANZA
Santa Monica celebrates 30 Years of Sustainability by starting seeds in preparation of Earth Day 2024.
They will be hosting a Seed Starting Party at the Main Street Community Garden with a goal to fill 150 6-packs with summer vegetable seeds on Saturday, March 9, from 9 - 11 a.m.
Anyone who is interested and willing can take home a 6-pack or a whole flat of them (6 6-packs) to nurture and grow at their own home.
Only catch is that they would like to have (most of) them returned to us next month to distribute into the community and/or plant at one of the Communal Gardens. Would you like to take part in the largest seedling starting party in Santa Monica History?
Main Street Community Garden, 2318 Main St., 9 - 11 a.m. https://www.santamonica.gov/events

COMPOST GIVEAWAY AT CITY YARDS
Join organizers for Resource Recovery and Recycling's quarterly compost giveaway on March 9 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at City Yards, 2500 Michigan Avenue. Please bring gloves and containers if you're picking up compost - a limited supply of bags are available. This is a self-service event so please be prepared to load your own compost. They're also giving away FREE food scrap pails. One per household while supplies last. This event is open to all Santa Monica residents with proof of residency.
Tips for a successful Compost Giveaway:
Please be prepared to load compost with your own gloves and containers.
Limited staff are available to assist seniors and those with disabilities
City Yards, 2500 Michigan Ave.

LA LOCAL GEMS CITY CRAWL
Join Tastemade for a Los Angeles city crawl around Santa Monica's idyllic Montana Avenue neighborhood. They'll be hitting a list of curated spots from Zibby's Bookshop to Bardonna, grabbing coffee and quick bite, and even taking a walk along the Santa Monica bluffs for picturesque ocean views. Spots are limited and come with plenty of goodies so grab your tickets and get ready to explore your own, the Tastemade way.
What's included?:
Food and drink credit at two locations
Reusable tote bag and cap
Some of our favorite local goodies
The guided tour
Print out map of the crawl
$65. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/la-local-gems-city-crawl-tickets-846544245627

MAKING MONSTERS WITH MARY DOODLES
11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Getty Villa, 17985 E Pacific Coast Hwy, Pacific Palisades. Turn a squiggle into a monster! Join illustrator and YouTube artist Mary Doodles for an all-ages monster-drawing workshop. Use drawing materials, inspiration from Getty Villa artworks, and your imagination to create scary, friendly, or silly monsters. This is a free, drop-in program, held in hour-long sessions three times throughout the day at 11:00 a.m., 1 p.m., and 2:30 p.m.
Get free tickets to the Getty Villa: https://www.getty.edu/visit/cal/events/makingmonsters_2024.html

SNAILFEST 2024
Heal the Bay Aquarium, 1600 Ocean Front Walk. This March, snails are making a scene at Heal the Bay Aquarium! Snailfest is gastropod-themed weekend on March 9-10, from 12 - 4 p.m. Celebrate terrestrial and aquatic snails and learn about these invertebrates' role in Los Angeles. Many land snail species native to Southern California are threatened with extinction because their natural habitat has been reduced or changed by human development. Some freshwater snails like the New Zealand Mud Snail can be very invasive to local habitats. You can learn more about local snail species by visiting the new Snail Science Lab at Heal the Bay Aquarium! Snailfest is included in price of Aquarium admission ($12). https://healthebay.org/event/snailfest-2024/

brighter blue

Moving Communities Forward

Help Us Improve big blue bus

Attend an upcoming public workshop and share your thoughts on how we can improve Big Blue Bus.

Virtual Workshop

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Zoom Meeting
→ Register at: **brighterbluebbb.com**

In-Person Workshop

Thursday, March 7, 2024 | 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Santa Monica Main Library
Multipurpose Room
→ Register at: **brighterbluebbb.com**