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Plus Crossword.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 76 | THURSDAY 3/6/25 | smdp.com

Cratering customer levels and ballooning legal costs blast a $33 million hole in the city budget



Scott Snowden

BUSINESS: A lack of visitors, and workers, is wreaking havoc with the local economy.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Santa Monica's once thriving but now embattled economy is being held together by tax increases and hope for a better future due to a trifecta of economic hurdles.

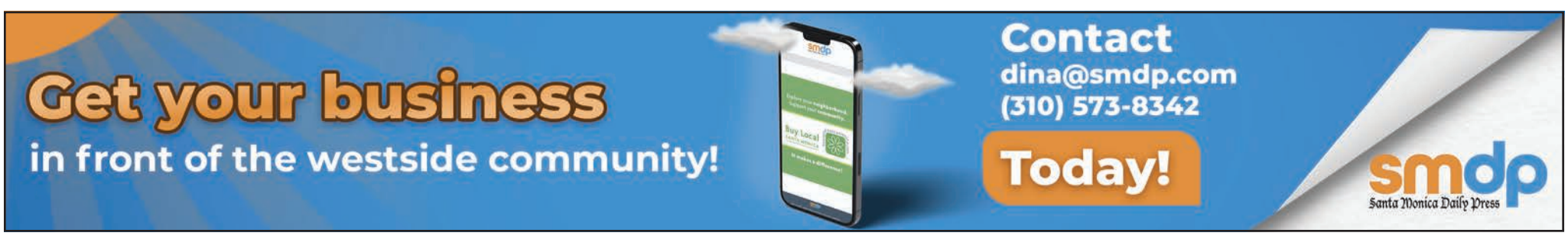
When Council meets on Saturday for their annual budget work session, they will have to address a combination of legal liabilities, lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, wildfire impacts, changing work habits and broader economic trends as they try to right the ship.

According to the staff report released last week, the news is dire. Despite the passage of new tax measures, the city continues to operate with a structural deficit, requiring the allocation of an additional $33.2 million from General Fund reserves over the next five years to balance the budget.

Ongoing legal liabilities stemming from settlements related to a former employee and the California Voting Rights Act case further strain the city's financial resources. While the city has already spent $230 million on the Eric Uller settlement, more claims are in the works and the unresolved legal liabilities are of "unknown magnitude." The ongoing fight over voting rights in the city continues to work its way through the courts with a possible second trial occurring this year.

The city's once robust tourism industry continues to suffer and an exodus of corporate

SEE **BUDGET** PAGE 5



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Stalker threatens to kill YouTubers on the Pier



Courtesy photo

SUSPECT: The unidentified man threatened a group of women on the Pier.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

A trio of female internet celebrities were harassed on the Santa Monica Pier this week during a late night live stream event.

Emily Schunk, Rachell Hoffstetter and Brittany Watts were all broadcasting as part of a marathon stream highlighting female content creators when they came to the Pier at about 9 p.m. on March 2.

As they walked down the Pier Bridge, a man in a gray sweatshirt approached them to ask for a photo. The women take a selfie and then continue onto the Pier. About 30 minutes later, the same man, now wearing a Hawaiian shirt, is caught on camera sitting in a crouched position near the group. He tries to interact with the women before asking for a phone number from Schunk who declines. As the women moves towards the food vendors at the entrance to Pacific Park, the man becomes aggressive and threatens to fight them. When the victims call for a security guard to help, the suspect can be heard saying "I'll kill you right now" while he rushes toward the group.

The camera cuts out from the stream at that point but Hoffstetter and Watts elaborated on the encounter the next day saying they had to seek refuge in a nearby store and were scared to leave as they were unsure where the suspect was.

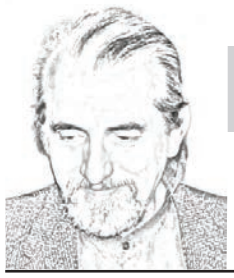
The two said police arrived about 15 minutes after they entered the store and that they will be filing police reports to follow up.

"I think when we went in the store, he backed off because we were with a lot of people. And so we don't know where he was. We didn't know where he went, and we had to beg the workers to hide us, because they kept trying to tell us that we, it's not their fault, but they kept trying to get us to go back around where it happened, and saying that he was gone, but we said we didn't know he was gonna come back," said Hoffstetter.

> It's easy to say what you would have done in the situation, but when you were having your life threatened and you were in flight or fight, we are not gonna wait around to see what he had in his pocket
>
> - Rachell Hoffstetter

The women said that while they knew something like this could happen to anyone,

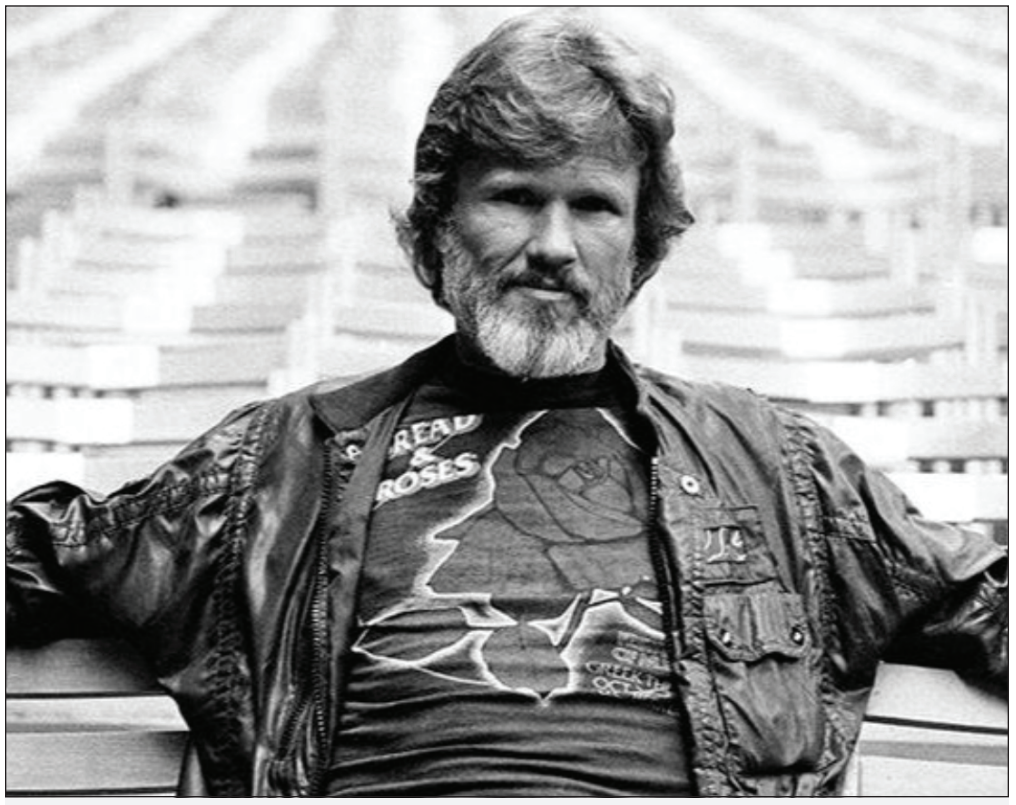
SEE **YOUTUBERS** PAGE 6



OPINION **NOTEWORTHY**

Charles Andrews | Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Wolfgang, Kris, Gustav, Neil



Courtesy Photo

KRIS: Poetry set to music will be performed at the Ruskin Theater.

ROCKIN' IN THE FREE WORLD

Like he's still 19 with something to prove, but 84 with his idealism and activism intact, like few other "rock stars." Neil Young just announced he will kick off his summer European tour with a free concert in the Ukraine. That sends a strong message, and is also courting danger. A lot more risky than Bob Hope in Viet Nam. I'm waiting for other artists to step up. All of them. Now. Thank you, Sheryl Crow, for donating the sale of your Tesla to NPR, double message there.

THE DEFTONES

Booked for two nights (3/5, 6) at the 18,000 seat Forum? I'm a little surprised, having seen them in so many small clubs, but, good for them.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

Tonight! - GUSTAV + ANNA with DUDAMEL, LA PHIL – You want drama? In the final weekend of the Mahler Grooves Festival, Gustavo Dudamel explores the tumultuous relationship of Gustav and Alma Mahler through their music. Their marriage was, at best, "complex," marked by affairs, an age gap, diminishment, and the death of a child. Alma was a composer in her own right whose career took a back seat at Gustav's request. At a particularly rocky moment in their relationship, Gustav finally encouraged her to publish "Five Songs" that are brought to life here by mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke. Next Dudamel leads Mahler's "Fifth Symphony," which progresses from mourning to triumph, inspired in no small part by Gustav meeting and becoming enchanted by Alma. Within the grand gesture is the Adagietto that was intended as a love letter. I recently saw the performance of Mahler's "Seventh" and the final movement was an explosion that elicited the longest standing ovation I have ever seen at Disney. Dudamel is leaving us and he is perhaps the greatest conductor of Mahler on the planet. You can't miss this. Thurs, Fri, Sat 8 p.m., Sun 2 p.m.,Walt Disney Concert Hall, LA, $159-299.

MOZART'S "COSI FAN TUTTE," LA OPERA – There's no question that Wolfgang A. was one of the greatest, most inspired composers of all time. His music will live forever. He loved operas and wrote 22 of them (10 while still a teenager). Most experts name "Figaro," "Don Giovanni" and this one as his three best. I have been going to LA Opera productions for nearly 10 years, and have been knocked out every time. My advice: get your tickets now. Sat 8 p.m., Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, LA, $49-400.

LIBRARY GIRL, "For the Good Times - A Tribute to Kris Kristofferson" — Founder, curator and producer of the invaluable spoken word series LG, now in its 16th year at our own Ruskin Group Theatre, is a lifelong music freak. That's a good thing. She married Steve Hochman a few years ago, a prominent music journalist. Another good thing. No surprise, nearly every one of Susan's monthly LG performances has for its prompt or theme something to do with music. In my book, a really good

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 5



Surf report WATER TEMP: **55.6**

THURSDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: Knee to thigh 1-2FT

Nice round of off-season SSW swell,(better than being modeled), plus some NW swell. Wind sketchy. We've been watching a quality storm heavily outperform model guidance in the central South Pacific. That delivers a nice round of pre-season SSW swell through Friday. The wind/conditions outlook for Thursday is not good at this point, with rising WNW flow due through the day. Stay tuned.

FRIDAY
FAIR
SURF: Thigh to stomach 2-3FT+

Peaky swell mix and at least a shot at better conditions after Thursday's blow-through of NW flow. Blend of SSW swell and WNW swell for widespread fun size surf, while top combo breaks west of Dume do better. Possible early morning leftover lump, then improving conditions expected rest of the morning. Afternoon onshores looking mainly manageable.

Weather

Thursday: A slight chance of showers, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 10am. Partly sunny, with a high near 56.
Thursday Night: A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 10pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 44.
Friday: Sunny, with a high near 59. North wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 15 mph.
Friday Night: Clear, with a low around 44.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2025/03/06	Thu	01:31 AM	5.09	H
2025/03/06	Thu	09:55 AM	0.09	L
2025/03/07	Fri	03:01 AM	4.92	H
2025/03/07	Fri	11:21 AM	-0.28	L
2025/03/07	Fri	6:57 PM	3.24	H
2025/03/07	Fri	10:24 PM	2.85	L
2025/03/08	Sat	04:32 AM	4.98	H
2025/03/08	Sat	12:21 PM	-0.62	L
2025/03/08	Sat	7:23 PM	3.60	H
2025/03/08	Sat	11:48 PM	2.47	L
2025/03/09	Sun	06:43 AM	5.20	H
2025/03/09	Sun	2:05 PM	-0.82	L
2025/03/09	Sun	8:47 PM	3.90	H
2025/03/10	Mon	01:42 AM	2.00	L
2025/03/10	Mon	07:37 AM	5.40	H

Daily Lottery

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

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 3/3
18 20 50 52 56
Power#: 20
Jackpot: 295 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 3/4
14 19 47 52 70
Mega#: 6
Jackpot: 233 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 3/1
1 18 26 32 44
Mega#: 9
Jackpot: 30 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 3/4
14 18 20 22 32

Daily 3
Draw Date: 3/4
EVENING: 1 7 1
Draw Date: 3/4
MIDDAY: 8 0 4

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 3/4
1st: 12 - Lucky Charms
2nd: 06 - Whirl Win
3rd: 05 - California Classic
Race Time: 1:49.83

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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.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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or email **cindy@smdp.com**

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

Summons

Summons (Citacion Judicial) Sum-100CASE NUMBER(Número del Caso):23STCV20137 NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): RELIANT LIFE SHARES, LLC, a California limited liability company;and DOES 1-50, inclusiveYOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): Scott Grady , an individualNOTICE! You have been sued.The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copyserved on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear yourcase. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California CourtsOnline Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask thecourt clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property maybe taken without further warning from the court.There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorneyreferral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locatethese nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center(www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees andcosts on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información acontinuación.Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en estacorte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estaren el formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta.Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en labiblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte quele dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podráquitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio deremisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de unPrograma de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services,(www.lawhelp california.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o elcolegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobrecualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene quepagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.The name and address of the court are (El nombre y dirección de la corte son)—Los Angeles County Superior Court 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:(El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado,es):Melinda Jane Steuer, 1107 2nd Street, Suite 230, Sacramento, CA 95814 | (T)(916) 930-0045Date (Fecha) 05/05/2023 David W Slayton Executive Officer/ Clerk of Court Clerk By (Secretario Por) R.PerezDeputy (Asistente) /s/

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AROUND TOWN

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Spring Forward Events

SMDP's Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town includes The Spring Juniper Market on the Promenade, food and wine events at Blue Plate Oysterette, Wally's, AJA Vineyards, and Baja Cantina, and much more!

Live Talks - An Evening with Ione Skye: Gen X icon Ione Skye bares all in SAY EVERYTHING, an achingly vulnerable coming-of-age memoir about chasing fame, desire, and true love in the shadow of her famous, absent father. Thursday, March 6, 8:00p.m., New Roads School, 3131 Olympic Blvd. https://livetalksla.org/events/ione-skye/

Juniper Market: Discover unique treasures from local vendors and indulge in delicious treats in the heart of the city. Whether you're looking for handmade crafts or simply want to soak up the vibrant atmosphere, Juniper Market is the place to be. Saturday, March 8, 10a.m. - 6p.m., 3rd St. Promenade https://downtownsm.com/events-calendar/8996/juniper-market



Courtesy image

WEEKEND: A gift market will coincide with the Farmers Market.

Venice Surf Association Women on Waves Event: Celebrate International Women's Day at the Venice pier for with breathwork, yoga and movement. Saturday March 8, 8:00a.m. https://www.venicepaparazzi.com/2025/03/02/vsa_ww/

Baja Cantina 50th Anniversary Party: Celebrate its Grand Reopening with tequila, wine, and live music as we kick off this milestone in style. Saturday, March 8, 4:00 - 8:00p.m., 311 Washington Blvd, Marina Del Rey https://partiful.com/e/27apjHoX9oaAWkDNUXIm

RUBBERBAND: Second Chances at the Broadstage: Artistic Director Victor Quijada's innovative choreographic blends the raw dynamic of hip-hop/break with the purity of classical formalism. This is inspired by Quijada's experience as a first-generation Mexican American in LA, exploring themes of identity and homeland, and inviting the audience to delve deep inside themselves, reflecting on origin, belonging and displacement, between universal questions and intimate, personal thoughts. Saturday and Sunday, March 8 - 9, 1310 11th St. https://broadstage.org/tickets-shows/calendar/rubberband/

A Glass Half Full 40+ Singles Wine Tasting Event: AJA Vineyards is hosting their first 40+ singles event, designed for those who see life with a glass half full mindset. Wednesday, March 12, 7:00p.m., 1417 2nd St. https://www.tickpick.com/organizer/event/soso-club-presents-a-glass-half-full-40-927656072537923011

ONGOING: "Two Bit Circus" Pop-Up; LiteBrite Experience; Binge Fringe Festival (2/25 - 3/30)

WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

Abbot Kinney First Friday Food Truck Fest: About two dozen food trucks are expected to line the street for the monthly event. Friday, March 7, starting at 5:00p.m. https://www.abbotkinneyblvd.com/

Wally's Santa Monica Pouring for a Purpose Charity Silent Auction and Tasting: The event celebrates California's finest wineries while raising funds for the California Fire Foundation Disaster Relief Fund. The event brings together more than 30 of the most prestigious names in wine, including Opus One, Duckhorn, Silver Oak, and Trefethen. $500. Saturday, March 8, 4 – 7p.m. https://www.wallywine.com/pouring-for-a-purpose-charity-silent-auction-and-tasting-236669

Blue Plate Oysterette Community Dinner Series: Join us for a gourmet dinner at sunset for $25. Enjoy a chef-curated meal, mingle with your Santa Monica neighbors, and soak in the sunset from our communal table. This first dinner will feature salmon piccata with broccolini and orzo. Monday, March 10, 4 - 6p.m., 1355 Ocean Ave. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bpo-community-dinner-series-tickets-1256940495859

SEE **AROUND TOWN** PAGE 6

BUDGET

FROM PAGE 1

businesses have driven the daytime population to 60% of pre-pandemic levels. The lack of people has in turn hit local businesses and key revenue streams like sales tax, parking fees, and hotel taxes. Those impacts were magnified recently due to the nearby wildfires that have disrupted the region's workforce and spending habits.

The report also acknowledges pending problems driven by national politics. According to a UCLA Anderson forecast the region could see high inflation, wage pressures and be subject to a national decline in GDP due to factors like tariffs and mass deportations issued by the Trump administration. The city is also grappling with uncertainty surrounding federal funding for key transit and housing projects like the Pier Bridge replacement.

Staff said current spending is largely supported by recent tax increases and one time spending. However, the report is optimistic about the future.

To address the problems, staff is advocating for maintaining flat departmental operating budgets, except for negotiated labor increases, and refraining from adding new expenditures.

The report says new cuts are not in the immediate future as they could jeopardize vital city services or make it more difficult to implement programs that will generate more revenue down the line.

In the long term, the plan is to stimulate economic growth. The report proposes the formation of an Economic Development Ad Hoc Subcommittee. This subcommittee would collaborate with the Community Development Department and an interdepartmental task force to devise both short- and long-term economic development strategies. Key areas of focus would include promoting Santa Monica as an attractive investment destination, engaging with public and private partners, and streamlining processes for opening and expanding businesses.

The budget workshop will also address the city's legislative platforms at both the federal and state levels. These platforms guide the city's advocacy efforts, ensuring that its policy priorities are understood by policymakers.

The special City Council meeting will be held on Saturday, March 8 at 9 a.m. in the Main Library Multi-Purpose Room, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

editor@smdp.com

NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 3

thing. But this Sunday she is going full on in her honoring the unforgettable poetry of Kris Kristofferson, by presenting it as it should be heard, with music. Besides readers like Paua Batson, Darell Larson, and Susan and Steve. There is always a live music segment to LG but this time, a cornucopia, from the likes of Dan Navarro, Bliss Bowen with Marty Rifkin,Willie Aron and Milo Binder, JD Hinton, John McDuffie with Lynn Coulter, and Sandy Rogers. Where else can you get a show like this, for 20 bucks that includes free parking and free dessert? Sun 7 p.m., Ruskin Group Theatre, Santa Monica, $20.

HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES – You can go to the Cinema Bar any Monday night, 9-11:30, for more than a decade now, and hear these hot players run through Django Reinhart-style '30s jazz. This amazing ensemble is a treasure. Mon 9 p.m., Cinema Bar, Culver City, free.

MIDORI – You put up with fires, earthquakes, impossible traffic and godknows what else to live here. So why wouldn't you get off your couch, spend what you would pay for two lunches, and go hear one of the world's greatest violinists? I mean, really. Next Thurs, 8 p.m., Walt Disney Concert Hall, LA, $59-131.

RECOMMENDED:

TOLEDO DIAMOND – His decades-long Sunday night residency at Santa Monica's Harvelle's, the oldest blues bar in LA (almost a century!), is a treasure that you shouldn't assume will always be there. Toledo choreographs (literally) a truly unique show, a blend of '50s hipster jazz and his dancing dames and a most modern smokin' hot band that gets better all the time. Every Sunday 9:30 p.m., Harvelle's, Santa Monica, $12

COMING ATTRACTIONS (also recommended): GUSTAV + ANNA with DUDAMEL, Disney Hall, 3/6; MOZART'S "COSI FAN TUTTE," LA OPERA, Dorothy Chandler, 3/8, 16, 19; LIBRARY GIRL, Ruskin, 3/9; TOLEDO DIAMOND, Harvelle's, 3/9, 16; HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES, Cinema Bar, 3/10, 17; MIDORI, Disney Hall, 3/13; JASON ISBELL, Disney Hall, 3/14; YOUNG DUBLINERS, Fonda, 3/17.

DOWN THE ROAD (also recommended): TOLEDO DIAMOND, Harvelle's, 3/23, 30, 4/6, 13, 20, 27; HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES, Cinema Bar, 3/24, 31, 4/7, 14, 21, 28, 5/5, 12. 19, 26; MOZART'S "COSI FAN TUTTE," LA OPERA, Dorothy Chandler, 3/22, 27, 30; LA FOLK FESTIVAL/ EMMYLOU HARRIS, Bellwether, 3/22; FRANZ FERDINAND, Wiltern, 3/29; TONY GILKYSON & RICK SHEA, CINDY LEE BERRYHILL, McCabe's, 4/6; POPAGANZA, Pacific Opera Project, Ebell, 4/7; LIBRARY GIRL, Ruskin, 4/13, 5/11, 6/8, 7/13, 8/10, 9/14, 10/12, 11/9, 12/14; PUSSY RIOT, Lodge Room, 4/20; ALBERT LEE, McCabe's, 4/26; LUCKY STARS, Broadstage, 4/26; PATRICE RUSHEN, Disney, 5/2; BEETHOVEN with ESA-PEKKA, Disney, 5/2, 3, 4; JACK WHITE, Hwd Palladium, 5/12, 13; JOHN BATISTE, Disney, 5/19; GERSHWIN, "Also Sprach Z," LA PHIL, Disney, 5/23, 24; LOVE, Echo, 5/31; PAUL SIMON, Disney, 7/7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16; ALISON KRAUS, UNION STATION, Greek, 7/13; FATHER JOHN MISTY, LUCINDA WILLIAMS, Greek, 7/25; TEDESCHI TRUCKS BAND, Greek, 8/13; NEIL YOUNG, Hwd Bowl, 9/15; NINE INCH NAILS, Kia Forum, 9/18, 19.

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 3,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 39 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Not even Kauai. Send love and/or hate mail to: therealmrmusic@gmail.com

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

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THURSDAY | MARCH 6

OAKWOOD ROOTS FARMERS AND WELLNESS MARKET
11 a.m. - 6 p.m. 685 Westminster Ave., Venice. Oakwood Roots Venice Farmers' and Wellness Market is a hub for local foods, wellness classes, and holistic healing. This is part of a larger effort to revitalize the abandoned parking lots across the street from the park into a community hub, in partnership with Community Corporation of Santa Monica and Hoopbus.

TECH & TASKS
2 - 4 p.m. Tutoring Center, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 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.

HOUSING COMMISSION
6:15 p.m. City Council Chambers, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. 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.

AN EVENING WITH IONE SKYE
8 - 9:15 p.m. The Ann and Jerry Moss Theater, 3131 Olympic Blvd. Actress and painter Ione Skye, known for her roles in "Say Anything" and more, discusses her memoir "Say Everything." Ticket plus signed copy of the book $50. To purchase, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-evening-with-ione-skye-tickets-1242367307059.

FRIDAY | MARCH 7

VASTHY AND FRIENDS
4 - 5 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St. An interactive family musical for kids 4-10. Free tickets, free goody bags for the kids. For more information, visit santamonicaplahyouse.com.

SHABBAT DINNER AT THE BEACH
5:30 p.m. Shul on the Beach, 505 Ocean Front Walk. Watch the sunset over the ocean and embrace the warmth of Shabbat. Join Shabbat Across America and the Shul on the Beach Community along with fellow Jewish professionals, for a joyous evening filled with delicious food, fine wine, uplifting conversation, heartfelt singing, and inspiring Torah insights. Tickets $39-$44, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/shabbat-dinner-at-the-beach-with-shabbat-across-america-tickets-1254160370429?aff=oddtdtcreator.

SATURDAY | MARCH 8

BARE ROOT FRUIT TREE WORKSHOP
9 - 11 a.m. Main Street Community Garden, 2318 Main St. Join this very special workshop about how to grow Bare Root Fruit Trees successfully and to celebrate Women's History Month. Daniela Roveda, UC Master Gardener and co-leader for the Master Gardeners' Orchard Team, will focus on planting, regular care, pruning and other tips you need to know to grow Bare Root Fruit Trees successfully. The program includes Bare Root Tree giveaways, those interested can visit: https://www.santamonica.gov/events/4wdh5wvs-n1e8p444m83ttjqjmb/202503080900.



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YOUTUBERS

FROM PAGE 2

they never expected it to happen to them. They said the suspect was clearly stalking them as he had some of their other videos playing on his phone at the time of the incident. The pair said the shock of being charged by a crazed man was still fresh in their minds.

"It's easy to say what you would have done in the situation, but when you were having your life threatened and you were in flight or fight, we are not gonna wait around to see what he had in his pocket," said Hoffstetter. "You're just gonna run because there's a guy saying he's gonna kill you ..."

According to the Santa Monica Police Department, officers were dispatched to the call at about 8:59 p.m. and arrived at 9:15 p.m. to find the group at the Pacific Park security office.

"Officers contacted those involved, assisted them with an escort to help ensure their safety, and conducted an area search for the individual. The suspect was not located at the time," he said. "We are aware of video footage circulating online related to the incident and are reviewing the information that has been shared publicly."

He said a crime report was taken and that officers are investigating.

The Santa Monica incident was one of two occurring on the same night targeting female internet stars. Kaitlyn Siragusa posted that she'd been robbed at gunpoint, also on March 2, by thieves targeting her crypto accounts and said she may have shot one of her assailants.

The two cases have prompted an outpouring of support and prompted calls from other online celebrities for women to increase their security when out and about.

editor@smdp.com

AROUND TOWN

FROM PAGE 4

Holey Grail Donuts Launches New Coconut Carrot Cake Donut Collab w/ James Beard Foundation + Kismet Team: The new carrot cake donut for Women's History Month is fried to order and topped with coconut flakes, carrot drizzle, cake spice, and a cream cheese glaze. 20% of sales will benefit the James Beard Foundation's Climate Solutions for Restaurant Survival campaign and Family First Foundation Altadena. https://holeygraildonuts.com/

Lodestar Whiskey & Socalo Restaurant Team Up for Women's History Month Cocktail: The women-run distillery and the women-run restaurant are serving a new cocktail called the Safe Passage to celebrate Women's History Month. https://www.instagram.com/p/DGrX51PSU5u/

Two Main St. Spots Make The Infatuation's The Hit List of New LA Restaurants To Try Right Now: The high-end Seline and the Not No Bar both get lauded. "Not No Bar is proof that when you mix good cocktails, good pizza, and good music, people will show up in droves." "Even if your brain can't retain the detailed descriptions accompanying each dish (because the internet fried it), a night at Seline is unforgettable." https://www.theinfatuation.com/los-angeles/guides/best-new-los-angeles-restaurants-hit-list

Companion on Lincoln Gets Glowing Review from The Infatuation: Once upon a time, Lincoln Blvd. was two straight miles of body shops. Now there's fiery Thai food, famous fried chicken, and single-origin cafes. During the day, Companion is more of a coffee shop, with bring-your-laptop-and-pretend-to-work energy we appreciate. At night, the cheery, wood-raftered dining room fills with millennial friend dates drinking orange wine, eating decent thin-crust pizza, and saying things like, "We should really do this more often!" 1700 Lincoln Blvd., Venice https://www.theinfatuation.com/los-angeles/reviews/companion



Courtesy image
FOOD: The community dinner will be on Monday.

Further Afield: Natural History Museum First Friday: The event includes DJ sets in the nature garden, pop-up sound experiences throughout the museum, plus a discussion on the science behind healing sounds. First Fridays run 5 to 10 p.m. Tickets are $25. https://nhm.org/first-fridays

Looking Ahead: Santa Monica Film Festival (3/15); SoCal Museum Free-For-All (3/16); LA Marathon (3/16); Venice Fest (3/22)

If there's something you think is worth highlighting, you can reach out directly to me at sean@smdp.com and let me know if you have any feedback on Around Town: Spring Forward Events

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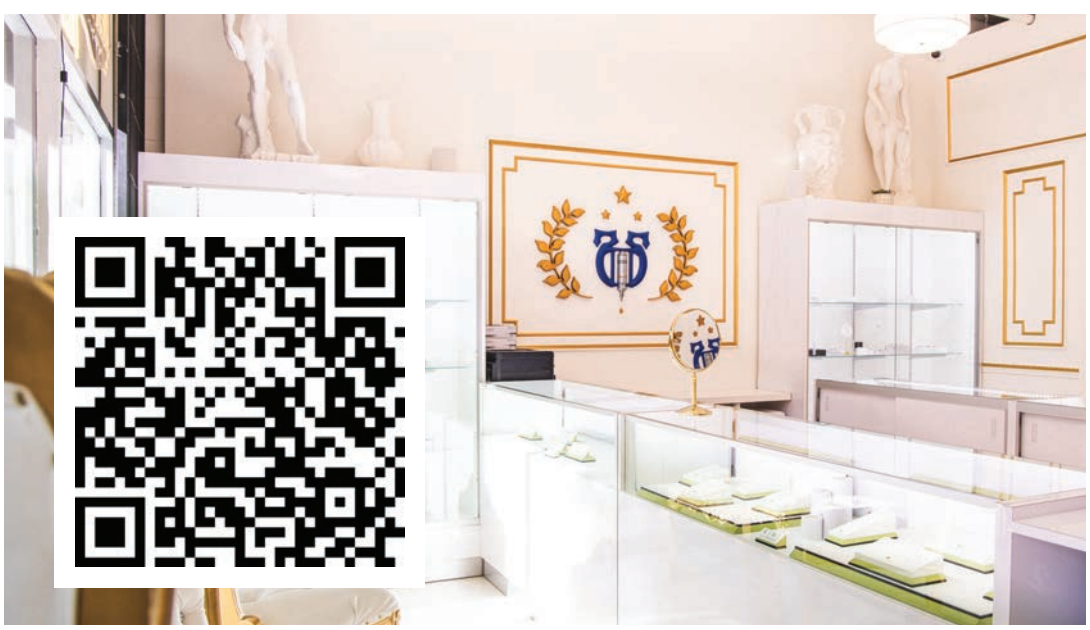
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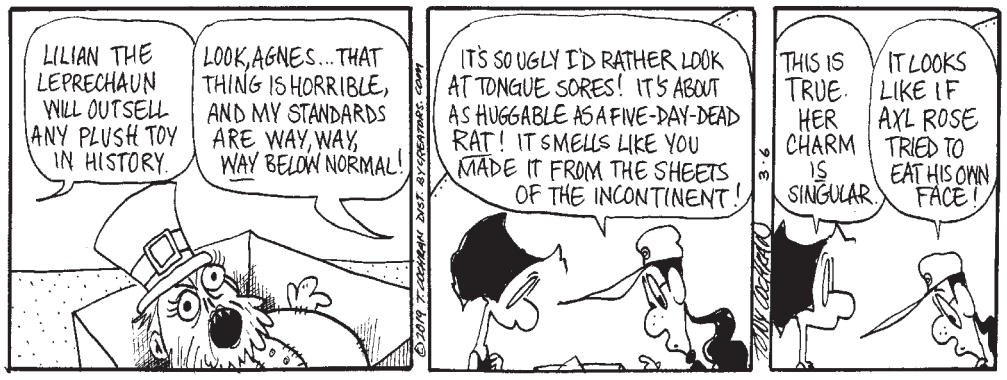




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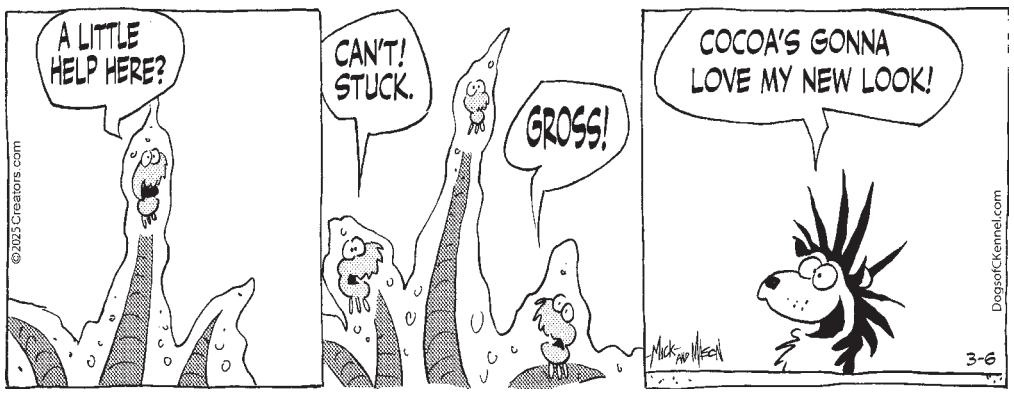
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



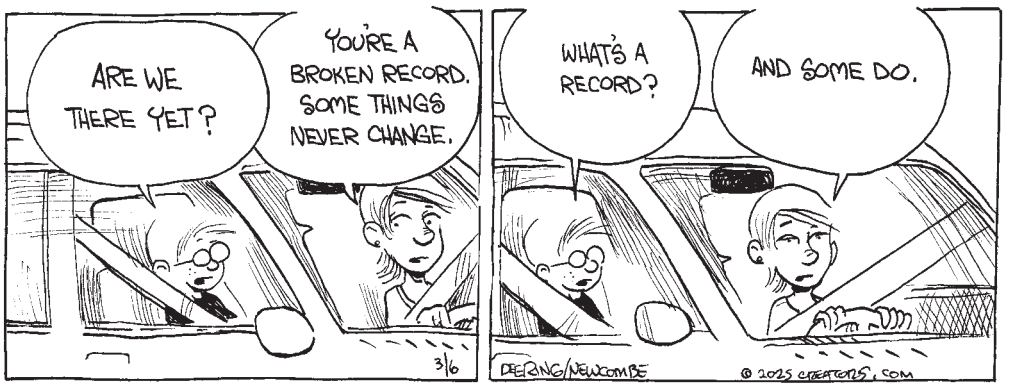
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

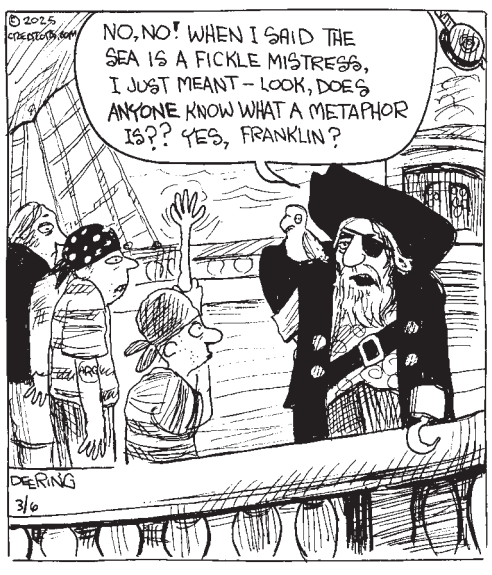
By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE LIKES TO EAT FROM A PRISON TRAY."

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 6506

Fourteenth of February

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

Adore	Confetti	Eros	Party
Amorous	Couple	Flirt	Pink
Angel	Crazy	Fondness	Poem
Be mine	Crush	Forget-me-nots	Presents
Beau	Dear		Reception
Bouquet	Decorate	Gift	Romantic
Candy	Delight	Girlfriend	Suitor
Card	Dinner	Hugs	Tulips
Champagne	Doves	Kiss	
Cherub	Embrace	Like	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 6)

Your energy, emotion and intention ripple outward and find their match, drawing kindred spirits and unexpected opportunities. Learning, reading and traveling expand your mind, sharpening your intuition in ways that change how you move through the world. More highlights: Friendly competition fuels your ambition, someone invests in your creation, a shared spotlight makes a love bond. Scorpio and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 17, 26, 31 and 45.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). True self-support comes from tuning into your own enjoyment, rhythms, attractions and annoyances, rather than seeking validation from the outside. Loving yourself is distinct from loving how others love you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You could say more, but why should you when saying less will do just that? Simplicity is power. You'll be concise, allowing space for deeper understanding and inviting others to fill in the gaps.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Someone you once guided now holds insight for you. This is a testament to your ability to nurture growth -- your wisdom doesn't just echo, it evolves. Stay open; their perspective carries the very lesson you didn't know you needed.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Moods reflect and amplify one another. By being intentional with your tone and presence, you can shape the atmosphere and connections you create. A cheery tone will invite harmony and draw in lightness and warmth from those around you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). A simple misunderstanding could alter the course ahead. If uncertainty lingers, don't assume -- ask. Words shape fate, and clarity is key. The right conversation now could make all the difference in what unfolds next.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Sometimes relationships can be more of a loop in your mind than something that's actually happening. Emotions can be habits. Habits are not people. Habits can be broken. The more you invest in your real, tangible life, the less space emotional habit loops will take up.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Wanting well is an art. You may know something isn't good for you, but your heart wants it anyway. Zoom out to look at your history with certain emotions: anger, passion, longing and more. Let your mind work on puzzles of the past; your heart will catch up soon.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Some feel big by surrounding themselves with people who will obey, flatter and comfort them -- not your style. You will seek to be inspired, pushed and challenged by those with equal and/or superior skills.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You've got so much on your plate and you're still pushing forward with intention, even when your mind is preoccupied with certain persistent, draining thoughts. Feel the weight of it, reflect on what you need to let go of and trust that you will. It takes time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You create your own definition of success and revise it along your journey, knowing that it's not about getting things perfect; it's about keeping the momentum going. Detours give you a better lay of the land. Wrong turns are learning curves.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). New connections gravitate toward you, drawn in by your reliability and integrity. You don't give your word; you prove it. Keep showing up as you do, and solid characters will build a team around you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The life you want is unfolding, step by step, in ways both seen and unseen. Every effort, every risk, every moment of trust in yourself is bringing you closer. Keep moving forward; you're already on the path.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

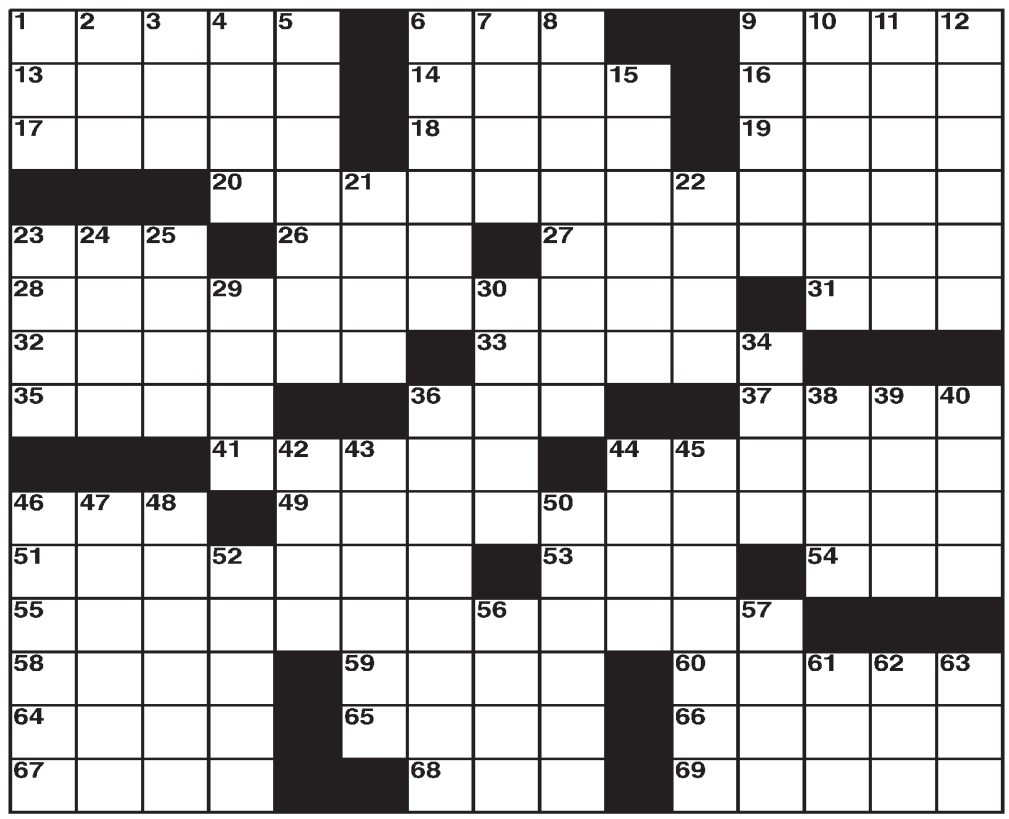
REWARDING STARTS by Guilherme Gilioli
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Eels in sushi bars
6 Scale notes
9 Be bested
13 Make a skillful change
14 Wilson who married Hanks
16 Small six-footers
17 Time periods
18 Words often said while groggy
19 Fortitude
20 Eminent British portraitist
23 Give a little
26 Activity record
27 Confession start
28 Small cream puff
31 Mock-laugh syllable
32 Tenor tourer Bocelli
33 Crumble away
35 Tango dancer's accessory
36 SEALs' service
37 Barbecue bistro offering
41 "__ knew that!"
44 Novelist Allende
46 Part of a karate uniform
49 Resolution
51 Paganini, by birth
53 Sports page column header
54 Place for polish
55 Vanishing act surprise
58 Ending like -ling
59 Worshiped Egyptian weaver
60 Toys brought to the beach
64 Declined gradually
65 University of Alaska campus
66 Bit of luck
67 Spots
68 *Simpsons* neighbor
69 Meddlesome person

DOWN

1 Elevates
2 Defeat narrowly
3 Director DuVernay
4 Percussion instrument
5 Dramatic denial
6 Decorative border
7 Projects' purposes
8 Difficult to move
9 Spanish lakes
10 Spate
11 Mark of infamy
12 Book before Job
15 Twin of Artemis
21 Trivial amount
22 Saxophonist purchase
23 Exchange quips
24 River near the Leaning Tower
25 Pantheon figures
29 Ending like -less
30 Amber, for instance
34 Obi-Wan after Alec
36 Irrationality
38 "Sure, sure"
39 Monterrey money
40 Besides that
42 Executive Branch exec
43 Enter with care
44 Novel ID
45 Don't desert
46 She-devil
47 Car named for a crawler
48 Deadlocked
50 Cleared off
52 Punditry in print
56 Coleridge creation
57 James Joyce's homeland
61 Half a score
62 Have a s'more
63 Calypso derivative



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