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Newsom's climate budget would slash funds that protect coast

JULIE CART
CalMatters

Gov. Gavin Newsom's proposed budget would cut funding for coastal resilience projects almost in half, eliminating more than half a billion dollars of state funds this year that would help protect the coast against rising seas and climate change.

The cuts are part of Newsom's proposed $6 billion in reductions to California's climate change programs in response to a projected $22.5 billion statewide deficit.

California's coastal resilience programs provide funding for local governments to prepare coastal plans and pay for some projects that protect beaches, homes and infrastructure at risk from rising sea levels. Greenhouse gases are responsible for warming the planet, which melts ice and causes sea levels to rise.

Newsom's proposal would budget $734 million for coastal resilience, a cut of 43% or $561 million compared to 2021 and 2022, according to the Legislative Analyst's Office.

Some lawmakers told CalMatters that they are concerned about Newsom's proposal to gut the programs that help coastal towns prepare for climate change and flooding, which already has damaged some communities.

Sen. Josh Becker, who chairs the Senate's budget subcommittee, called the cuts "highly concerning," especially because they are excessive compared to the cuts applied to other state programs.

"Most programs received 10% cuts," Becker, a Democrat from San Mateo, said in an interview. "I'm very concerned about it, given the timing that we are experiencing these floods. My county is among the most endangered in the state for

SEE **COAST** PAGE 7

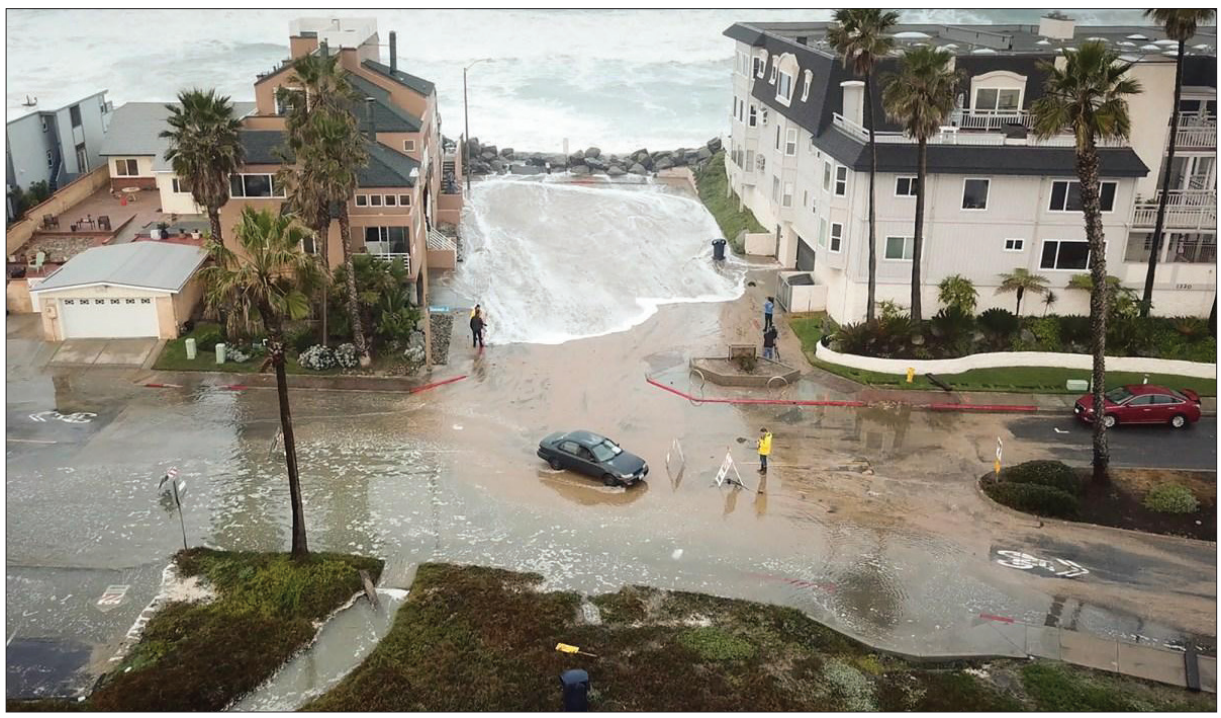


Photo via Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego

FLOOD: The aftermath of an ocean surge in Imperial Beach, California. Rising seas boost tides and imperil the city's coastline.

New Councilmembers reflect on early priorities

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Next week marks the first 100 days in office for both Caroline Torosis and Jesse Zwick and here they share some of the challenges, concerns and criticisms on some of the biggest issues currently facing Council.

Torosis hails from Northern California and spent a year studying in Paris before returning to the state to undertake a bachelor's degree at UCLA in political science combining it with French language, literature and culture. Upon

SEE **COUNCILMEMBERS** PAGE 8





Courtesy Photos

COUNCILMEMBERS: Caroline Torosis and Jesse Zwick are the newest members of the council.

Former city staff oppose hiring more city staff

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

When Council meets on Saturday to debate budget priorities for the year, they will be asked to create a new internal city department to facilitate efforts to fight homelessness but two former department heads say the proposal is wasteful and unnecessary.

Staff said new sources of funding are about to roll in and the city's current organizational structure is ill equipped to capitalize on that money.

The proposal under discussion this weekend anticipates two new voter approved sources of revenue to fund homelessness and housing resources: Measures CS and GS.

Measure CS increased the taxes paid by overnight tourists and is estimated to generate between $4-5M per year. City Hall wants to use that money to address the impacts of homelessness and to enhance public safety.

Specific proposals include expanding outreach teams beyond the Downtown and beach areas, redesigning local shelters to allow for non-urgent behavioral health admissions, expanding SMPD's Homeless Liaison Program, making temporary security services Downtown permanent, increased investment in cleaning, increased

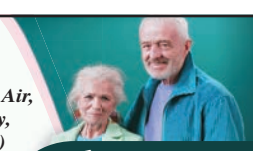
SEE **BUDGET** PAGE 6

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Slap fighting: The next big thing, or unsporting stupidity?

MARK ANDERSON
AP Sports Writer

The competitors stand rigidly upright with their hands behind their backs, waiting to absorb a brutal slap to the face.

When the open-handed blow is delivered, there's a sharp report and the reaction can be dramatic. Some fighters barely move, while others stumble backward or fall to the floor. Some are knocked out.

UFC President Dana White is selling slap fighting as the next big thing in combat sports, putting his money and the resources of one of the world's foremost mixed martial arts organizations behind the Power Slap League. The Nevada Athletic Commission has sanctioned the league for competitions in Las Vegas.

"It's a home run," said White, who is among several UFC officials involved in the league.

Some slap-fighting beatdowns have gone viral, including a video from eastern Europe showing a man who continues to compete even as half of his face swells to seemingly twice its size. Such exposure has led to questions about the safety of slap fighting, particularly the risk of chronic traumatic encephalopathy, or CTE, a degenerative brain disease believed to be caused by repeated blows to the head. A former chairman of the commission, which regulates combat sports in Nevada, says approving the league was a mistake.

Chris Nowinski, cofounder and CEO of the Concussion Legacy Foundation, agrees, calling slap fighting "one of the stupidest things you can do."

> "I think it's definitely overblown with the topics of CTE and the damage that we're taking"
> - Ryan Phillips, a Power Slap League fighter

"There's nothing fun, there's nothing interesting and there's nothing sporting," Nowinski said. "They're trying to dress up a really stupid activity to try to make money."

White and the competitors remain unfazed, comparing commentary on slapping to the negative reaction the UFC faced in its infancy more than 20 years ago.

"I think it's definitely overblown with the topics of CTE and the damage that we're taking," said Ryan Phillips, a Power Slap League fighter. "I think a lot of people still just don't understand that it's still a slap."

Concerns about concussions leading to CTE, which can cause violent mood swings, depression and memory loss, aren't confined to combat sports. The disease has shown up in the brains of former rugby players, and the NFL and college football have taken steps to cut down on blows to the head by changing rules regarding tackling and other hits. CTE can only be detected during an autopsy.

Despite the naysayers, White said he believes slap fighting will follow a similar trajectory to mixed martial arts, which the late Sen. John McCain referred to as "human cockfighting" in 1996, when the UFC didn't have weight classes or many rules. McCain's criticism helped force the organization to become more structured, leading to its widespread acceptance.

White said the ratings of the TBS reality show "Power Slap: Road to the Title" bear out the early popularity of what to many is still a curiosity.

White said he realized there could be a market for the sport in the U.S. when he clocked the millions of YouTube views of slap fighting videos from eastern Europe in 2017 and 2018. The videos were often poorly produced, the slap matches unregulated. White became convinced that fights with written rules and shot with professional video equipment could convert many internet viewers into dedicated, paying fans.

The Nevada commission gave slap fighting some much needed legitimacy when it unanimously sanctioned the sport in October and a month later awarded White a license to promote it.

But White's enterprise was hampered when he was captured on video slapping his wife on New Year's Eve. White apologized, but has acknowledged it damaged efforts to get the league off the ground. White is no newcomer to controversy: Former UFC fighters Kajan Johnson and Clarence Dollaway filed a lawsuit in 2021 against Endeavor, the organization's parent company, alleging that UFC takes an inordinate share of the profits.

But White is charging ahead.

Three qualifying events have taken place at the UFC Apex in Las Vegas, ahead of the March 11 telecast on the streaming platform Rumble in which champions will be crowned in four weight classes.

Power Slap fights are typically three to five rounds. The fighters take turns hitting each other in the face with an open hand, and those on the receiving end stand with their hands behind their backs. A fighter has up to 60 seconds to recover and respond after receiving a blow. Fighters can earn up to 10 points based on the effectiveness of the slap and the defender's reaction.

SEE **SLAP** PAGE 7



Pau Gasol gets emotional as Lakers retire his No. 16 jersey

GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

When Pau Gasol joined the Los Angeles Lakers just over 15 years ago, the Spanish 7-footer banished his ego, redoubled his work ethic and immediately turned this team into contenders who eventually became champions.

Gasol and Kobe Bryant did it all together, and their numbers now hang side by side in the Lakers' arena.

The Lakers retired Gasol's No. 16 jersey Tuesday night, honoring the genteel big man who spent the best seasons of his 18-year NBA career with Bryant in Los Angeles. The Lakers reached three straight NBA Finals after Gasol's arrival in February 2008, winning championships in 2009 and 2010.

> I think I've done as good as I could to really embrace it and savor it, but tonight really exceeds any dream or expectation that I've had
> - Pau Gasol

"I think I've done as good as I could to really embrace it and savor it, but tonight really exceeds any dream or expectation that I've had," Gasol said before the game while wearing one championship ring on each hand. "It means so much, and obviously with Kobe up there, it just adds something meaningful and powerful and sad and happy and painful and joyful. It's a lot of things."

Gasol's banner was unveiled during a halftime ceremony that began with Bryant's widow, Vanessa, introducing a video in which an excited Kobe said he was looking forward to the day when Gasol gave a speech at center court during his jersey retirement. Gasol choked up while watching the video and standing in that exact spot, wiping tears from his eyes before he spoke to the crowd.

"I'm just overwhelmed to see the faces here, all of you," Gasol said. "It's been my honor to wear this jersey, to play for this franchise and to help this team. ... I would have never in a million years believed a day like this could come. It just tells you to never say never. Just push yourself every day to be the best that you can be."

Gasol's versatile game complemented Bryant's scoring prowess perfectly when Gasol decided to be a supporting player to a fellow superstar, and the two also formed a deep off-court friendship that endured to Bryant's death in 2020.

Gasol thanked Vanessa Bryant during his speech: "Love you, sister. I'm proud to be your brother, and proud to be an uncle to your girls."

This 17-time NBA champion franchise typically only retires the numbers of players in the Hall of Fame, and Gasol is a first-time finalist for the honor this year with a strong chance of making the cut. Gasol made three of his six career All-Star teams during his time with Los Angeles while averaging 17.7 points and 9.9 rebounds per game.

"The excitement, the anticipation, the honor received, it's just so big that it's been hard to really take it in," Gasol said. "I have to keep reminding myself that it's a celebration. It's great. It's lovely. It's just great that you can experience this in your life."

The 42-year-old Gasol said he struggled to sleep over the past few days while he thought about the enormity of the Lakers' gesture amid the still-strong memories of his years on the West Coast. The team scheduled the ceremony for halftime of the Lakers' game against the Memphis Grizzlies.

Gasol chose Tuesday night for his Lakers jersey retirement for a very good reason: He played his first seven NBA seasons with the Grizzlies, his first team after he moved stateside in 2001.

Memphis traded Gasol to the Lakers in February 2008, and the deal transformed both franchises: While Gasol and Bryant immediately formed a dominant partnership, Memphis got a package that included Gasol's younger brother, Marc, who went on to have 11 largely excellent seasons with the Grizz.

Gasol's parents, his brothers Marc and Adrià, Vanessa Bryant and Lakers owner Jeanie Buss joined Gasol and his wife on the court.

Gasol was only the second Spanish player in NBA history and the first to win a ring, and he believes his long, successful career contributed to erasing the stereotype of the "soft" European player. Gasol noted that three Europeans now are arguably the top three players in the league: Giannis Antetokounmpo, Nikola Jokic and Luka Doncic.

"I'm proud to see that," Gasol said. "That inspires not only European kids, but players across the world. Give yourself a chance if you really want it. It's been great to see the game grow globally."

Gasol's jersey represents the 13th number retired by the Lakers honoring 12 players. Bryant's early-career No. 8 and late-career No. 24 are both retired.

City of Santa Monica

PUBLIC NOTICE OF A SPECIAL MEETING FOR THE SANTA MONICA GROUNDWATER BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

This is a Notice that the Santa Monica Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), which is composed of the cities of Santa Monica, Culver City, Beverly Hills, and Los Angeles through its Department of Water and Power, and the County of Los Angeles, is holding a Special Public Meeting on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 1:00 PM at City Hall East, to discuss proposed well installation procedures under the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (open session) and pending litigation (closed session). City Hall East is located at 1685 Main Street in Santa Monica and the entrance to City Hall East is located on Olympic Boulevard next to (west from) the Public Safety Building at 333 Olympic Drive, Santa Monica, CA, 90401. Parking for City Hall East is located at Civic Center Parking Structure located at 333 Civic Center Drive, Santa Monica, CA 90401, across Olympic Blvd from City Hall East.

Materials and information about the meeting may be obtained at the GSA website: https://www.santamonica.gov/gsp

Please contact Dr. Lisette A. Gold (Lisette.Gold@santamonica.gov) for questions or comments on this Notice or any of its contents.

INSIDE
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PODCAST
smdp.com/pod
ALSO AVAILABLE ON

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Jack Neworth,
David Pisarra.

CIRCULATION
Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com

Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Grace Inez Adams
grace@smdp.com

Scott Snowden
scott.snowden@smdp.com

DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

MARKETING MANAGER
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

Cristina Rios
cristina@smdp.com

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

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City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be opened and posted for:

BID #4449 Testing, Maintenance, & Repair of Underground Fuel Storage Tanks

Submission Deadline is April 14, 2023 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: OpenGov (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS
CALLING FOR PROPOSALS
DISTRICT: SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
RFP: 030923SH
TITLE: SMCCD Cloud Security Camera Upgrade Project

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named California Community College District, acting by and through its Board of Trustees, hereinafter "the District" will receive up to, but not later than the below-stated date and time, sealed Bid Proposals for the Contract for the Work of the Project generally described as: SMCCD Cloud Security Camera Upgrade Project.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE BID PROPOSALS: All Bid Proposals shall be submitted on forms furnished by the District. Bid Proposals must conform with, and be responsive to, the Bid and Contract Documents, copies of which may be obtained from the District as set forth above. Only Bid Proposals submitted to the District at or prior to the date and time set forth shall be considered.

MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK: MARCH 22, 2023 AT 1 PM SHARP; NO LATE ARRIVALS

BIDDER'S ATTENDANCE AT THE JOB WALK IS MANDATORY. COVID 19 PROTOCOLS IN EFFECT; SOCIAL DISTANCING, FACE COVERING OVER NOSE AND MOUTH REQUIRED. SIGN-IN IS REQUIRED. LATE ARRIVALS NOT PERMITTED. BIDDERS ARE TO MEET OUTSIDE OF THE MEDIA CENTER BUILDING, ON PEARL STREET, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405. THE BID PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY A BIDDER WHOSE REPRESENTATIVE(S) DID NOT ATTEND THE ENTIRETY OF THE MANDATORY JOB WALK WILL BE REJECTED BY THE DISTRICT AS BEING NON-RESPONSIVE.

PROJECT ESTIMATE: $1,205,000.00

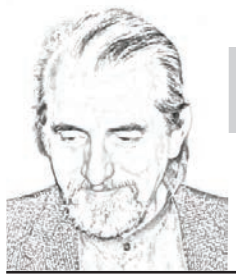
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE BID PROPOSALS: APRIL 5, 2023 @ 2PM electronically via PlanetBids. All Bid Proposals shall be submitted on forms furnished by the District. Bid Proposals must conform with, and be responsive to, the Bid and Contract Documents, copies of which may be obtained from the District as set forth above. Only Bid Proposals submitted to the District at or prior to the date and time set forth shall be considered.

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the District bidding website at: https://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=13721#.
The Contractor is required to have a C-7 license, CADIR at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the District's Request for Bids.

Substitute Security- In accordance with the provisions of California Public Contract Code §22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the District to ensure performance under this contract.

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OPINION **NOTEWORTHY**

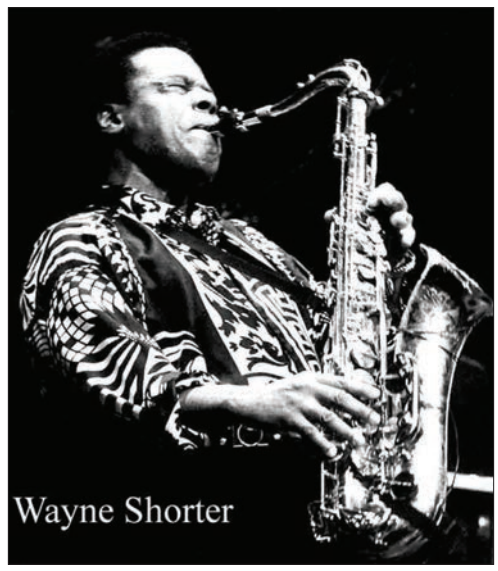
Charles Andrews | Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Masters Depart, But Music Is Forever

R.I.P. DAVID LINDLEY, WAYNE SHORTER

There is bop that honked convention, and then there was Wayne Shorter, whose alto and tenor saxes always oozed groundbreaking, beautiful melody. His genius was early on recognized by the master musicians as he moved from Art Blakey to Miles Davis to Weather Report (co-founder). His influential career spanned eight decades. He will be sorely missed.

David Lindley was never really part of a band (OK, Kaleidoscope) until he formed El Rayo-X, but everyone wanted him to sit in with theirs, especially in the studio, because the man could play virtually anything with strings like he had devoted his whole life to that instrument. He rose to prominence with Jackson Browne, but played with so many: Dylan, Dolly, Ry, Zevon, Rickie Lee, Bruce, Curtis Mayfield, Bonnie Raitt, Terry Reid, Leonard Cohen, Crosby-Nash, James Taylor, Linda Ronstadt, Sugarcane Harris, Rod Stewart, Henry Kaiser, Hani Naser. I saw him a few times, most memorably at McCabe's. One in a million. His slide guitar was a voice. Listen to "Mercury Blues" and try to sit still. That great band in the sky just got the missing piece.



Courtesy photo

JAZZ: A jazz giant

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

ACADEMY OF ST. MARTIN IN THE FIELDS with mandolinist AVI AVITAL – When I checked this Wednesday there was only one lone seat left, way in the back. Why? Because this is one of the most magnificent orchestras anywhere in the world, chamber or otherwise, I've seen them a few times, even going back to founder Sir Neville Mariner, and they were always thrilling. A perfect machine, of creative expression. Maybe some tickets will be turned in. Sat 7:30 p.m., Broad Stage, Santa Monica, $100.

THE HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES – Hot Club's brand of virtuoso, sometimes breakneck Django-style 1930s gypsy swing jazz is found nowhere else and even if it was, it couldn't possibly be this good. It's a show worth 50 bucks cover, and worth waiting a year for. These guys are masters, individually and collectively. You will find it hard to stop smiling all night. Mon 9 p.m., Cinema Bar, Culver City, no cover.

EM – is back! Well, she was gone only last Tuesday because the Damn Well Please Organ Trio very musically and energetically took over the joint with its annual Fat Tuesday Mardi Gras show. So come see what you've been missing, one of the most talented and versatile artists in this town. Tues 9:30 p.m., Harvelle's, $10.

RECOMMENDED:

TODAY! - BOB MARLEY ONE LOVE EXPERIENCE – Here's why I recommend this exhibit that I have not yet seen. A lot of Americans still don't get this, but Bob Marley was one of the greatest performers and musicians (no, not his guitar, his compelling, hypnotic, otherworldly vocal instrument)... ever. And his Wailers were musically phenomenal, and his songwriting ranks with the very best. He was also, not incidentally, a powerful spiritual and political leader worldwide Silverlake's Roger Steffens, the world's foremost authority on Marley, if not reggae itself, is leading tours every weekend at 1 and 3, and he would not do that if it wasn't up to snuff. He does caution that this covers only "the Island (record label) years," but that's what most people are familiar with. Thurs-Sun-Wed 11 a.m. - 8 p.m., Fri-Sat 11 a.m. -10 p.m., Mon-Tues 11 a.m. -5:30 p.m., Ovation Hollywood, $20-70.

TONIGHT! - RICK SHEA & The Losin' End – Always worth catching this SoCal country troubadour and his talented sidemen, plus tonight a guest set by Jeff Turmes. Thurs 8 - 10:30 p.m., Cinema Bar, Culver City, no cover.

TONIGHT! - JANE'S ADDICTION – My, my, of the several times I have seen JA I don't think I paid even as much as $12.50 (see ticket prices below). But that tells you it has been a few years and goshknows what they are up to now, those rascals. It's always hard to know if they are even still together. ("1985–1991, 1997, 2001–2004, 2008–present.") Interesting tour: Reno and Vegas before LA, then five dates in Argentina, Chile and Brazil, including three Lollapaloozas (JA/frontman Perry Ferrell invented Lollapalooza), then off to Down Under. The original lineup is finally back together and they are a rock and roll force. When they are not addicted. Ferrell is 63! But the other players are still kids in their mid-50s. Worth catching. You may not get another chance, Thurs 7 p.m Hollywood Palladium, $91-1,250.

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 8

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Will new California law curb pay-to-play in local governments?

BY DAN WALTERS

A wave of corruption scandals has washed over California's local governments in recent years, particularly in Southern California.

Bribery and self-dealing is so common among small cities in Los Angeles County that the speaker of the state Assembly, Anthony Rendon, has described the area he represents as a "corridor of corruption."

Last month, Jose Huizar, a member of the Los Angeles City Council for 15 years, pleaded guilty to federal charges of racketeering and tax evasion for extorting at least $1.5 million in bribes from developers of real estate projects.

This week, another former Los Angeles councilman, Mark Ridley-Thomas, went on trial in federal court for allegedly, as a county supervisor, routing contracts to the University of Southern California in return for benefits for his son, former assemblyman Sebastian Ridley-Thomas, including a $100,000 grant to the son's nonprofit corporation.

Out-and-out bribery violates both state and federal law and quite a few local officials, both elected and appointed, and some state legislators have been prosecuted.

Just below blatant tit-for-tat bribery, legally speaking, is another layer known colloquially as "pay-to-play." Those seeking beneficial acts from political figures, such as trash hauling contracts or development permits, understand that they need to make campaign contributions to increase their chances of success.

In the 1980s, the Legislature enacted laws to curb campaign contributions to elected officials who sit on state boards. They were inspired by allegations that local government officials sitting on the California Coastal Commission were being showered with campaign money from property developers.

Last year, state Sen. Steve Glazer, an Orinda Democrat who once was the city's mayor, carried a bill to expand the 1980s laws to local governments. Senate Bill 1439 was backed by political reform groups and sailed through the Legislature without a single negative vote or formal opposition.

The new law went into effect on Jan. 1, essentially prohibiting contributions of more than $250 to any local elected official from anyone seeking contracts, permits or licenses from the board or council on which the official serves. It would be retroactive, requiring the official who received such contributions in the past to give the money back.

Last month, a coalition of business groups and a few elected officials sued to overturn the law, saying it "is overbroad and violates the constitutional rights of thousands of contributors and local elected officials."

> "We have become numb to the legal corruption that has enveloped our democracy
> - Sen. Steve Glazer

"We have become numb to the legal corruption that has enveloped our democracy," Glazer said this week in response. "Pay-to-play is antithetical to an honest and ethical government, and it should be rooted out and killed like a cancer that has affected the body politic."

While the situation Glazer seeks to address is a real one, his new law could ensnare an official who innocently accepted a campaign contribution, and perhaps spent it to get elected, only to learn months later that his vote would affect a contributor.

That said, one obvious flaw is that it applies to a very narrow set of official acts. It would not, for example, affect a local government's contract with its workers' union, due to specific exemption in the original 1980s laws. Yet, unions are among the most active favor-seeking interest groups.

Also, the law would not apply to legislators or other state-level politicians, including the governor. They rake in immense amounts of campaign money from interest groups seeking to affect their decisions but, unlike local officials, are not required to avoid votes on issues affecting their contributors, including state employee unions.

If the law is good for the local goose, it should also be good for the state gander.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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From marketing to design, brands adopt AI tools despite risk

MATT O'BRIEN AND HALELUYA HADERO
AP Technology Writers

Even if you haven't tried artificial intelligence tools that can write essays and poems or conjure new images on command, chances are the companies that make your household products are already starting to do so.

Mattel has put the AI image generator DALL-E to work by having it come up with ideas for new Hot Wheels toy cars. Used vehicle seller CarMax is summarizing thousands of customer reviews with the same "generative" AI technology that powers the popular chatbot ChatGPT.

Meanwhile, Snapchat is bringing a chatbot to its messaging service. And the grocery delivery company Instacart is integrating ChatGPT to answer customers' food questions.

Coca-Cola plans to use generative AI to help create new marketing content. And while the company hasn't detailed exactly how it plans to deploy the technology, the move reflects the growing pressure on businesses to harness tools that many of their employees and consumers are already trying on their own.

"We must embrace the risks," said Coca-Cola CEO James Quincey in a recent video announcing a partnership with startup OpenAI — maker of both DALL-E and ChatGPT — through an alliance led by the consulting firm Bain. "We need to embrace those risks intelligently, experiment, build on those experiments, drive scale, but not taking those risks is a hopeless point of view to start from."

Indeed, some AI experts warn that businesses should carefully consider potential harms to customers, society and their own reputations before rushing to embrace ChatGPT and similar products in the workplace.

"I want people to think deeply before deploying this technology," said Claire Leibowicz of The Partnership on AI, a nonprofit group founded and sponsored by the major tech providers that recently released a set of recommendations for companies producing AI-generated synthetic imagery, audio and other media. "They should play around and tinker, but we should also think, what purpose are these tools serving in the first place?"

Some companies have been experimenting with AI for a while. Mattel revealed its use of OpenAI's image generator in October as a client of Microsoft, which has a partnership with OpenAI that enables it to integrate its technology into Microsoft's cloud computing platform.

But it wasn't until the November 30 release of OpenAI's ChatGPT, a free public tool, that widespread interest in generative AI tools began seeping into workplaces and executive suites.

"ChatGPT really sort of brought it home how powerful they were," said Eric Boyd, a Microsoft executive who leads its AI platform. "That's changed the conversation in a lot of people's minds where they really get it on a deeper level. My kids use it and my parents use it."

There is reason for caution, however. While text generators like ChatGPT and Microsoft's Bing chatbot can make the process of writing emails, presentations and marketing pitches faster and easier, they also have a tendency to confidently present misinformation as fact. Image generators trained on a huge trove of digital art and photography have raised copyright concerns from the original creators of those works.

"For companies that are really in the creative industry, if they want to make sure that they have copyright protection for those models, that's still an open question," said attorney Anna Gressel of the law firm Debevoise & Plimpton, which advises businesses on how to use AI.

> "For companies that are really in the creative industry, if they want to make sure that they have copyright protection for those models, that's still an open question"
> - Anna Gressel

A safer use has been thinking of the tools as a brainstorming "thought partner" that won't produce the final product, Gressel said.

"It helps create mock ups that then are going to be turned by a human into something that is more concrete," she said.

And that also helps ensure that humans don't get replaced by AI. Forrester analyst Rowan Curran said the tools should speed up some of the "nitty-gritty" of office tasks — much like previous innovations such as word processors and spell checkers — rather than putting people out of work, as some fear.

"Ultimately it's part of the workflow," Curran said. "It's not like we're talking about having a large language model just generate an entire marketing campaign and have that launch without expert senior marketers and all kinds of other controls."

For consumer-facing chatbots getting integrated into smartphone apps, it gets a little trickier, Curran said, with a need for guardrails around technology that can respond to users' questions in unexpected ways.

Public awareness fueled growing competition between cloud computing providers Microsoft, Amazon and Google,

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BUDGET

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enforcement of home-sharing rules and work on a Homelessness Strategic Plan (HSP).

Measure GS increases taxes paid on the sale of property over $8 million. Staff said estimating annual revenue is difficult and ranges from $16 - 123M using sales data from the past decade. Revenue is already earmarked for specific uses including payments to local schools, homeless prevention programs and construction of deed-restricted affordable housing.

While the law has been challenged in court, it has not been suspended and went into effect on March 1 of this year.

City staff have said the work needed to develop the HSP, which is the necessary first step to executing on the other priorities, requires additional staff and/or more focus from existing staff than is currently possible.

"To move quickly on preliminary implementation work surrounding Measure GS, as this tax will take time to generate resources and given the anticipated workload surrounding its implementation, staff is proposing a new organizational structure to create capacity for this work and formation and support of an oversight committee, that aligns with the implementation of the HSP."

To free up time and resources, staff are proposing to split the Community Services Department (CSD) into a Housing and Human Services Department and a Recreation/Culture Department.

"Because we have ambitious goals to create housing, and Measures CS and GS have created an historic, once-in-a lifetime infusion of new resources and community expectations, a new organizational structure is being proposed to focus leadership and expedite implementation of these dedicated resources," said the agenda.

However, two former department heads are opposed to the idea of a new department. Andy Agle (former Director of Community Services and Housing and Economic Development) and Karen Ginsberg (former Director of Community and Cultural Services) sent a letter recently saying the proposal is flawed because it requires hiring more top-level staff.

"Creating two departments would require creating a new, expensive department director position, as well as an executive assistant to provide administrative support for the new director," said the letter. "An additional position providing budget and operational support for the new director would also likely be necessary. At minimum, salaries and benefits for the new positions would cost the City several hundred thousand dollars per year.

The proposal would add more high-paid administrative staff at a time when the City has been unable to restore many key services that were reduced due to pandemic-related budget cuts. Notable examples of the City's continuing challenges include severely reduced after-school programs for low-income youth and significantly reduced hours and services at public libraries."

The pair say the new Recreation and Culture Department would essentially be funded through housing resources and is ultimately unnecessary.

"The synergies between Recreation, Culture, and Human Services in one department benefit the community and should be retained. We have combined experience of leading the City's recreation and culture efforts for over a decade. With this experience, we can firmly state that while both Community Recreation and Cultural Affairs are essential City divisions that provide key community services, the workload of the two divisions does not warrant a separate department, especially when a high-paid director and support staff would be needed. We do not believe that running such a department would be a full-time job, creating a situation where a director would be looking for things to fill their time. Given the City's fragile financial state, this is simply a poor investment of funds," they said.

Council will hold its Special Meeting on Saturday, March 11 at 9 a.m. in the Main Library, Multi-Purpose Room, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Following the in-person meeting, an audio recording of the meeting will posted to the City's YouTube Channel and santamonica.gov.

editor@smdp.com





Courtesy Photos

RESIDENTS: Andy Agle and Karen Ginsberg are now private citizens but they are both former department heads in the City of Santa Monica and oppose a new plan to expand top-level staff in the city.

COAST

FROM PAGE 1

sea level rise."

Becker said he hopes to restore some of the money, possibly by finding federal funds to backfill some programs.

"These are dramatic cuts to something we agreed upon, and I'm going to try to get it back," he said.

Newsom's budget, released on Jan. 10, is not final, with revisions due in May.

Experts say there's a lot at stake if sea level rise and coastal projects are not addressed now. Last month the state Department of Transportation, Caltrans, released a draft management plan estimating that it needs nearly $15 billion over the next ten years to protect bridges and roads from sea level rise.

A 2020 report by the Legislative Analyst's Office projects more than $20 billion worth of California property will be at risk or underwater by 2050 without planning and funding. "Waiting too long to initiate adaptation efforts likely will make responding effectively more difficult and costly.... The next decade represents a crucial time period for taking action to prepare for" sea level rise," the report says.

Much of the funding on the chopping block is in the form of grants to local governments to fund projects and planning. Among the proposed cuts is $64 million for cities to prepare extensive management plans to prepare for sea level rise.

Chris Helmer, director of environmental and natural resources for the city of Imperial Beach, said "if the state cuts adaptation projects, that would be a concern."

The city received about $200,000 to prepare a draft sea level rise plan, he said. It also has a grant pending with the Ocean Protection Council for another project to protect the city from encroaching seas.

"If there's no money, that's a major concern for us," Helmer said. This winter's storm exacerbated already massive flooding issues, he said. Waves broke on city streets, sand was driven well past the beach and rocks were thrown through residents' windows. The cleanup took two months.

Up the coast in Ventura, the storms also undermined beachfront infrastructure and proved the value of a project at Surfers' Point, partially funded by a $1.6 million state grant, that relocated a parking lot and bike path away from the water and protected the beach with a "living shoreline."

The second phase of that project is contingent on a $16.2 million grant application with the state. The timeline to begin is this winter.

Cody Stults, the city's associate engineer, said he is optimistic that the grant funding would survive the cuts, but added that there is no way the city could afford to pay for the next phase of the Surfers' Point project.

"If we can't get the money, I can almost guarantee that the work will not be going through this winter," he said.

Among the statewide programs with deep proposed cuts are protecting the coast from climate change, with a 65% cut; adapting infrastructure to sea level rise, a 74% cut; and implementing SB 1, a 63% cut.

SB 1 provides funding for much of the state's sea level rise response. The author, Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins, said the threat is more urgent now than when the 2021 law passed.

"The intent of SB 1 was to empower communities to work to find solutions at the local level to address sea level rise in partnership with the state," the San Diego Democrat said in a statement to CalMatters. "While we are facing challenging times, the past decade of responsible budgeting has prepared the state to withstand a downturn without devastating cuts to critical programs."

In testimony before the legislature last week, Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot characterized the governor's proposed cuts as "surgical." When pressed to explain how the administration prioritized programs that would be trimmed, he said the focus was on addressing "clear and present danger." He identified wildfire and water projects as posing a direct and immediate threat to Californians.

Environmentalists said the governor's proposal to cut climate funding is shortsighted: Rising seas are often described as a "slow moving disaster," as the most devastating impacts are projected to show up in coming decades.

"Sea level rise is here," said Laura Walsh, California policy manager for Surfrider Foundation. While wildfires are a "huge deal and we don't want to compare sob stories, at this particular moment, living on the coast feels like an emergency. This is not belt-tightening, this is drowning," she said.

Newsom proposed the cuts right when California was lashed with a damaging series of atmospheric rivers, flooding and high surf, which was proof enough that sea level rise is harming the state now, said Donne Brownsey, chair of the California Coastal Commission.

Brownsey didn't criticize the governor's proposed cuts, but said she hoped they would be re-evaluated because coastal programs are critical to addressing an imminent crisis.

"What we saw in January was the trailer for the movie. That's the way it's going to roll," she said. "We're hopeful that given what happened — all the flooding and damage up and down the coastline — we are hoping there will be a reevaluation of these programs. It's not a future problem. It's today."

Brownsey and others noted that past budgets have been generous, but also that their programs are increasingly under pressure.

"We still have unprecedented amounts of funding to make these investments. The state is committed," said Jenn Eckerle, deputy secretary for oceans and coastal policy and executive director of the state's Ocean Protection Council. "But we also know impacts are happening now and we know they are only going to get more extreme over time. We also recognize that failure to invest in planning now can lead to significant costs later."

Crowfoot told the budget panel that state agencies have been scouring federal programs for money to backfill any state funding losses. About $4 billion in new federal money is set aside for coastal resilience projects.

The Newsom administration floated the idea of a general obligation bond to make up for the cuts, and a "trigger" provision that would restore funding if the revenue picture brightens.

But Rachel Ehlers of the Legislative Analyst's Office told the Senate subcommittee that expecting revenues to rebound is "optimistic." She said there is a strong chance that the deficit will grow.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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 FEBRUARY 26

SMPD officers were flagged down near the 1600 Block of Main Street regarding the theft of an e-scooter. The victim relayed to the officers on scene that he rented multiple scooters for his family in Venice. Shortly thereafter the family rode to the Santa Monica Pier where they left the scooters unattended. While they did not lock the scooters, they maintained possession of the keys. A bystander alerted the family that two of the scooters had been stolen. While one member of the family was able to retrieve one of the two scooters from the suspect, he was able to get away with the last outstanding scooter. Officers located the suspect, 46 year old Mario Rojas, near Rand with a scooter matching the description of the one that had been stolen. He was arrested by SMPD officers, charged with receiving stolen equipment and violating a valid stay-away order for the Pier. Rojas remains in police custody pending a March 6th court appearance.

SLAP

FROM PAGE 2

Fights can end in a decision, knockout, technical knockout or disqualification, such as for an illegal slap. All slaps are subject to video review. Each event has two referees and three judges.

Also present are a supervising doctor and a physician or physician's assistant, plus three EMTs and three ambulances. White has touted the safety record of the UFC, but has not talked specifically about injuries in the Power Slap League.

White says slap fighting is safer than boxing or mixed martial arts because each contestant usually takes only three blows per bout. In boxing, White said, that number could be 400 or more, and that doesn't include the shots taken during sparring. There is no sparring in slap fighting, he noted.

Nowinski of the concussion foundation said while there may be no sparring in practice sessions, that doesn't mean it doesn't happen elsewhere. He said comparing boxing to power slapping is misleading because slap fighters take a full blow each time.

"You can slip (boxing) punches," Nowinski said. But in slap fighting "you're taking out everything that's interesting to watch and everything sporting (from boxing) and just doing the brain damage part."

Nowinski said slap fighters don't make enough money to justify the risk. The Power Slap League wouldn't disclose how much it pays fighters, but said in a statement that participants are compensated for every match and can also earn "appearance fees" and "additional discretionary bonuses."

Stephen J. Cloobeck, who was chairman of the state commission when it sanctioned slap fighting, said White and former UFC CEO Lorenzo Fertitta sold him on the legitimacy of the sport.

"I made a mistake," Cloobeck said. "I'm not happy about it."

The commission recently approved amended rules to better define what constitutes a legal slap in an effort to minimize serious injuries.

"The No. 1 thing is the health and safety of the fighter," commission Chairman Anthony Marnell III said at a Feb 15 meeting. "Always has been, always will be."

But he went on to say: "It seems like there is a market for this, whether you like it or not."

Phillips, the slap fighter, said participants can defend themselves without losing points, such as rolling away before the hand makes impact.

And the fighters know if they lose the coin toss and get slapped first, it will hurt.

"I know what's coming," fighter Vernon Cathey said. "I'm tensing up. There's a lot of stuff I can do to protect myself."

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be opened and posted for:

BID #4450 Water & Wastewater Supplies and Parts

Submission Deadline is April 5, 2023 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: OpenGov (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

SMMUSD
SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

BID NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the SMMUSD invites sealed proposals for: **BID #23.11– Chromebooks.** All proposals must be electronically submitted via Secure BIDs at https://colbisecurebids.com/o/smmusd/chromebook on or before: **March 24, 2023 by 2:00 P.M.** BID forms and specifications may be obtained in the link provided within this notice.

NOTEWORTHY

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LA PHIL, MEHTA CONDUCTS "SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE" – We still have Mehta here, 16 years the conductor of the LA Phil, and while this ain't Mahler (which he conducted, the 3rd, magnificently last week), a "Symphonie Fantastique" ain't too shabby. Fri, Sat 8 p.m., Sun 2 p.m., Walt Disney Concert Hall, $40-216.

"PICASSO AT THE LAPIN AGILE" – I always knew there was magic at the Ruskin stage, but this time they launched a show with two hours' notice, on a night last week that was pouring rain, and already shows are selling out. On the other hand their reputation for excellence certainly precedes them, and they have had few shows in the last few COVID years. It also doesn't hurt that this is an absurdist comedy about Einstein hanging with Picasso in a Paris cafe when they were both "relatively" unknown, and it was written by Steve Martin. Fri, Sat 8 p.m., Sun 2 p.m., Ruskin Group Theatre, Santa Monica Airport, $20-35.

LIBRARY GIRL – Do you realize how difficult it is to put together a themed spoken word performance, featuring many talents both wordy and musicy, every month for going on 13 years? And we don't even have to leave Santa Monica to dig it. Thank you Susan Hayden. This month: book launch of "Pandemic Soul Music" by S.A. Griffin. Sun 7 p.m., Ruskin Group Theatre, Santa Monica Airport, $20, includes taco truck at 6, and dessert.

TOLEDO DIAMOND – Unique, riveting, first class act. There's nothing like it, it is high performance art and great fun. Degeneracy is rarely so well disciplined. Sun 9:30 p.m., Harvelle's, Santa Monica, $12.

BONNIE RAITT – It was thrilling to see this perennial multi-faceted music luminary recognized at the recent Grammys for "Song of the Year," and what an amazing, heartbreaking, hopeful song it is, "Just Like That." I cried the first t5ime I listened to the story. Despite having such a superlative catalog of songs she's written, I have never seen anyone more genuinely stunned at having won. Probably because of the ethereal nature of the song. Go see her as a nuanced, knockout singer and outstanding guitar player, especially slide. Tues 8 p.m., Terrace Theater, Long Beach, $92-200.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: RUSKIN GROUP THEATRE, "PICASSO AT THE LAPIN AGILE,"3/17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 31, 4/1, 2; TOLEDO DIAMOND, Harvelle's, 3/19, 26, 4/2, 9, 16, 23, 30; HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES, Cinema Bar, 3/20, 27, 4/3, 10, 17, 24; EM, Harvelle's, 3/21, 28, 4/4, 11, 18, 25; LA PHIL, SIBELIUS, TCHAIKOVSKY, Disney Hall, 3/30, 31; DEAD CAN DANCE, Greek Theatre, 4/1; HERBIE HANCOCK, Disney Hall, 4/2; MUSE, Crypto.com Arena, 4/6; LA PHIL, SIBELIUS, BRAHMS, 4/7, 8; LIBRARY GIRL, Ruskin Theatre, 4/9; RICK SHEA, Cinema Bar, 4/13; BLONDIE, Greek Theatre, 4/19; IGGY POP, Regent, 4/20, Palladium 4/27; WILLIE NELSON 90, Hollywood Bowl, 4/29, 30.

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 37 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

AI

FROM PAGE 6

which sell their services to big organizations and have the massive computing power needed to train and operate AI models. Microsoft announced earlier this year it was investing billions more dollars into its partnership with OpenAI, though it also competes with the startup as a direct provider of AI tools.

Google, which pioneered advancements in generative AI but has been cautious about introducing them to the public, is now playing catch up to capture its commercial possibilities including an upcoming Bard chatbot. Facebook parent Meta, another AI research leader, builds similar technology but doesn't sell it to businesses in the same way as its big tech peers.

Amazon has taken a more muted tone, but makes its ambitions clear through its partnerships — most recently an expanded collaboration between its cloud computing division AWS and the startup Hugging Face, maker of a ChatGPT rival called Bloom.

Hugging Face decided to double down on its Amazon partnership after seeing the explosion of demand for generative AI products, said Clement Delangue, the startup's co-founder and CEO. But Delangue contrasted his approach with competitors such as OpenAI, which doesn't disclose its code and datasets.

Hugging Face hosts a platform that allows developers to share open-source AI models for text, image and audio tools, which can lay the foundation for building different products. That transparency is "really important because that's the way for regulators, for example, to understand these models and be able to regulate," he said.

It is also a way for "underrepresented people to understand where the biases can be (and) how the models have been trained," so that the bias can be mitigated, Delangue said.

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COUNCILMEMBERS

FROM PAGE 1

graduating, she took a Juris Doctor degree at Washington University in St. Louis, MO, and is currently Senior Policy Adviser for Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell.

"We have a $44 billion budget, 10 million people and 110,000 employees that we oversee and I specifically work on economic and workforce development and that's something very close to my heart," she said.

Zwick comes from the Santa Monica area, but studied on the far side of the country, graduating from Harvard University in Cambridge, MA, in 2009 with a bachelor's degree in social and political science. Following some time spent as a budding political journalist in Washington DC, he returned to Southern California and continues to write in a number of different capacities.

"I had a hankering to start also applying some of my writing creatively," he said. "I'd already been writing screenplays and having grown up in Los Angeles, that wasn't a foreign world to me."

Both came across as quite casual regarding their small-scale centenary, a probationary period, if you will. But do they think they've passed?

"I hope so," Zwick laughed. "I've devoted myself to learning the ropes. And try not to step on too many toes in the meantime. And I feel on a personal level, like the enormity that is the scale of the city and all of its operations and departments is becoming known and understandable to me. So for me, that's, I think, a good first step when it comes to settling in."

"For sure," Torosis said. "I've spent quite a bit of time working and meeting with city staff, I've been trying to push us in a more efficient, effective direction. I don't take 'let's wait and see' for an answer, we need results.

"What's going to be really important to me, in moving forward, is ensuring that we have a baseline set of metrics that we are measuring ourselves against. It's great to say that we have priorities, but if we're not able to establish what success looks like and measure that, that work and that progress, to me, is all for naught."

Without a doubt, one of the biggest issues currently facing the City is the homelessness crisis and the Council voted unanimously to declare a local emergency during the Feb. 14 meeting. This means Santa Monica joined other local jurisdictions, including the City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, Culver City and the City of Long Beach in announcing that more is needed to prevent and address homelessness.

"Well, I would say that homelessness is definitely a crisis but we did not need to declare a state of emergency in Santa Monica to prove that this was a priority," Torosis said.

"I don't think that Santa Monica has done an effective job of working with LA Homeless Services Authority, or working with our surrounding cities, or working with the City of LA and the county because we can't be expected to house every single person experiencing homelessness in Santa Monica.

"What we can do is realize that if you take folk off the street, if you're able to get someone to agree to go into some sort of interim housing, there needs to be temporary housing on the other side of that," Torosis said.

Approximately 69,000 people are homeless in Los Angeles County of which 42,000 are in the City of Los Angeles. Moreover, according to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, approximately 207 people a day are re-housed at the same time as 227 people become homeless. That means that more people are becoming homeless every single day.

"Is the city trying hard to do something about the crisis? I would say 'yes.' Is there more that could be done? Always. I think climate change and homelessness are the two largest crises that we're facing here in Southern California," Zwick said.

"We asked ourselves that question when other cities began declaring a state of emergency. What does that mean and would that allow us to do more? And I think, generally speaking, that's often been something that's been wielded rhetorically to make it seem like we're doing more.

"One of the things it does is it kind of does away with some of the civil service requirements … So I think there are ways that by declaring a state of emergency, we can push through a little of that inertia to at least make these processes go faster, Zwick said.

While not quite as significant as the homelessness crisis, another sizable issue facing the City of Santa Monica is the argument swirling around the airport. Following the City Council's vote to move ahead with the process of planning for a future park where the Santa Monica Airport is currently located, the issue of what to do with the 227 acre site has once again been propelled into public scrutiny. At the stroke of midnight on December 31, 2028, the form and function of this substantial swath of land could significantly change.

Zwick expressed support in developing the site and said, "It's such a rare opportunity for a city and a prosperous part of town where real estate values are so high to have a blank canvas; 227 acres that we can decide the best public use for. My stance is that we should close the airport. That's the first debate that seems relatively settled, but won't fully be until 2028. There are plenty of people who would love to keep it open."

"Well, we still have to vote to close the airport and if we want to develop anything other than a park and cultural fair space, we need to take that back to the voters. So right now, I am committed to following the will of the voters when we think about this long term planning," Torosis said.

"You know, we need to get this right, we need to engage all of our stakeholders and that doesn't just mean our residents. And I think there is precedent for a great park. I think we're park poor in Santa Monica. And what that looks like, remains to be seen. Do we put a bigger museum there? Do we put something similar to the Hollywood Bowl? Do we put a cultural fair space there or more recreation space?

"It needs to be inviting and welcoming and inclusive. At the moment the site's very separate from the rest of the city and I think it needs to flow into the local community. It needs to be a place not only for residents, but a place for the entire surrounding area to come and enjoy. And I do believe that that's possible."

scott.snowden@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 9)

Your critical thinking skills are on point and will advance you along a path professionally and intellectually. Your keen and well-articulated observations land you in a group of like minds working on a cause. Creatively this year represents a high for you and you'll travel for projects too. More highlights: You'll hit a special number you've been aiming for, a wedding party is featured and a large dispersal. Scorpio and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 4, 44, 31 and 16.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll get through the day as you would a math quiz, one problem at a time. But this one doesn't have to be completed in one hour or one day. You have plenty of time. Do what you can, take breaks and credit yourself for the effort along the way.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Seek the assistance of people with more experience and follow their advice. It will help to have a mentor to keep you on track with goals, offer an outsider's view, point out pitfalls and provide resources.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Perhaps everyone is the star of their own show, though you'd rather not take all the focus. You're comfortable turning this story into an ensemble piece, then taking a seat in the audience to watch it play out. You'll have luck with this tactic today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're partly motivated by self-interest, though it's only one small consideration of the many reasons for doing a thing, which include duty, curiosity and a vague, underlying feeling that you have a destiny to fulfill. The more you show up and do the work, the more confident you become.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll perform well despite your mixed feelings about certain aspects of the work. No situation is perfect, but you can't go wrong doing the best you can with what you have. There are days when it helps to ask "why?" But today it's better to dive in and get it done without philosophizing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The most exciting thing you can do is a piece of seemingly unglamorous work. Beautiful things are built with humble actions in service of a splendid cause. The task gets easier the more you do it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll finally have a breakthrough. It feels like a last-ditch effort, but it's the first effort that works. This is why you never give up. At any moment, the curtain can open into a whole new world.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Analyzing a relationship is like examining a snowflake, which melts in your hand as it is observed. The relationship thrives in the moment, in its natural environment. Thoughts you have after the fact are distorted by memory and perspective.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Though you don't always think of yourself as an adventurous person, someone else sees you approach and wishes to be as fearless as you. Tonight: what's right won't be convenient and what's convenient won't be right.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll get the special treatment. Someone will knock themselves out for the chance to see you smile. Acknowledge the behavior well both privately and publicly and you'll have more of this kind of fun in your future.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The people you are closest to are the ones who can bring up the deepest emotion in you. They may not mean to push your buttons, but your closeness means they are likely to brush up against at least one or two.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Someday is a day that never comes and today is the day that's always here. Think in terms of what you can do now. You'll make immediate improvements. What you think of as taking your energy will actually give you energy instead.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

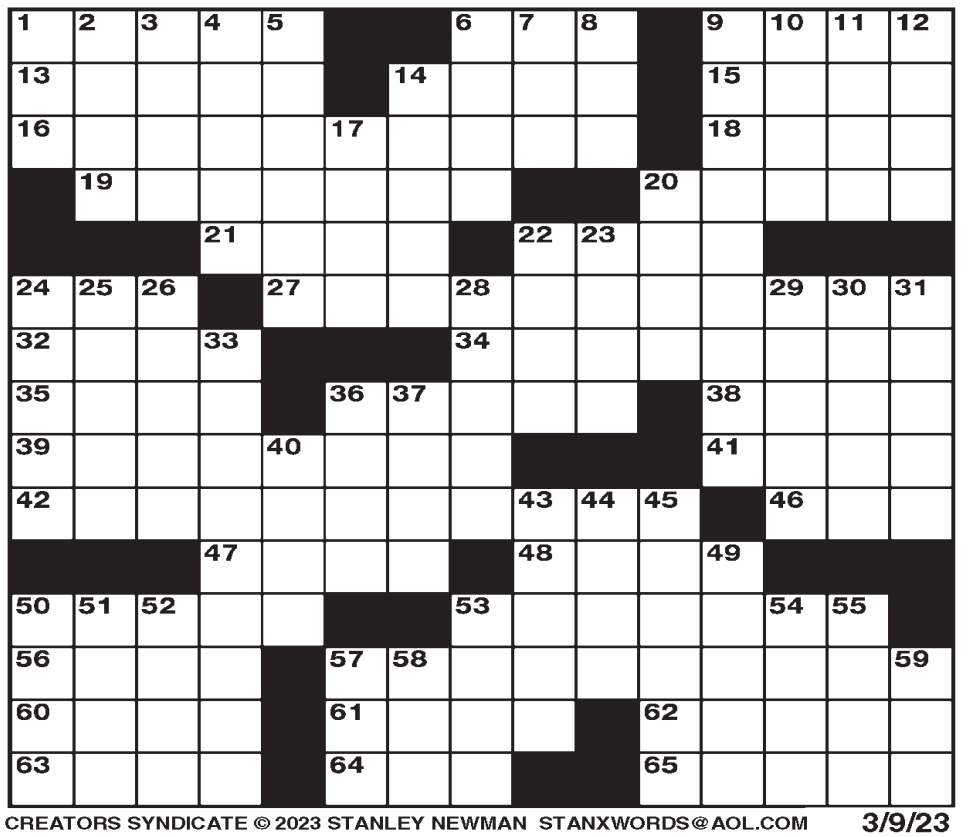
"BIG" IDEA by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Inaugural address orator of 2009
6 Question of comprehension
9 The enemy
13 Gives sparingly
14 First-rate
15 Star in Lyra
16 Certain salesperson's route
18 Points in favor
19 New member
20 Much-more-than-miffed feeling
21 Lack of clarity
22 Evacuation order
24 Much-more-than-miffed feeling
27 Appearance compliment
32 Jupiter alias
34 Cold-War concern
35 Valhalla VIP
36 "Big" theme of the puzzle
38 *Vino* region
39 Leave work
41 Deal effectively with
42 Just in time
46 Place for a trough
47 Routing abbr.
48 Urge to act
50 MLB postseason award
53 State of mind
56 Sicilian "Shalom!"
57 Figure in black magic
60 Bistro window posting
61 See 6 Down
62 Abs exercise
63 Unceasingly
64 Form a union
65 Peevish states

DOWN

1 Uncanny
2 Graceless one
3 Hand wash ingredient
4 Concertgoer's souvenirs
5 Off-track
6 With 61 Across, night fliers
7 Argentina article
8 What to call clippers
9 Something watched at home
10 Mrs. Zeus
11 Show biz grand slam
12 Pulverize
14 Airy farewell
17 Anise-flavored beverage
20 Galley vessels
22 More than miffed
23 __ *neanderthal-ensis*
24 One of the Epistles
25 Gig for a clown
26 Perrier alternative
28 Takes a bath, say
29 Cartoon mirages
30 Rather large band
31 Any Olympian
33 Erstwhile space shuttle
36 Part of a yard
37 "That's my cue!"
40 URL opener
43 Guest columns, often
44 111-year-old cookie
45 "Won't miss it"
49 Completely exhausted
50 Crowning point
51 Actor Schreiber
52 Giraffe feature
53 Toss your hand
54 "Wasn't me!"
55 Oversupply
57 Solemn assurance
58 Have payables
59 Audiophile collection

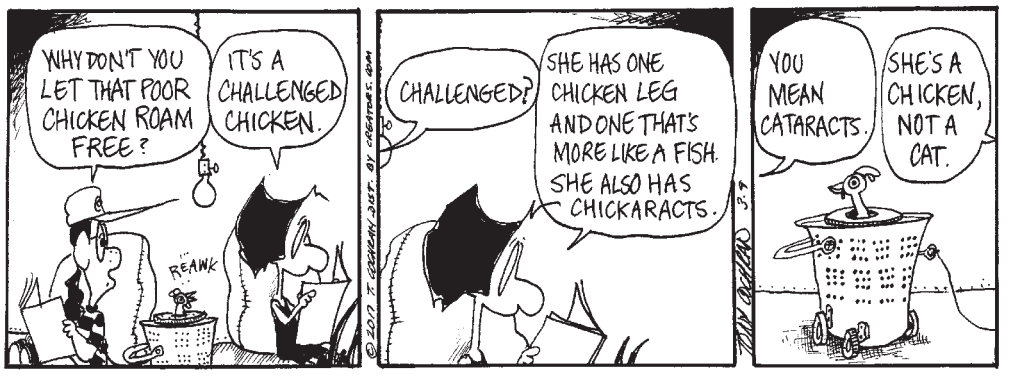


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MORE OF STAN'S CROSSWORDS! Play FREE from Stan's archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords

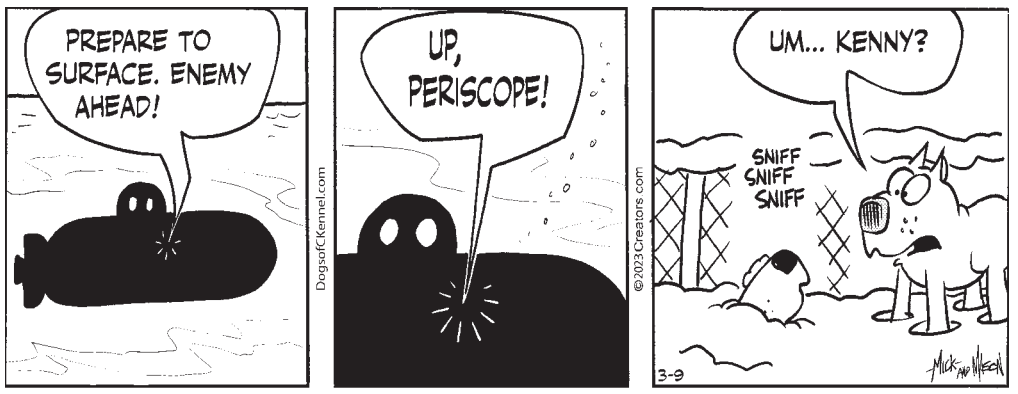
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



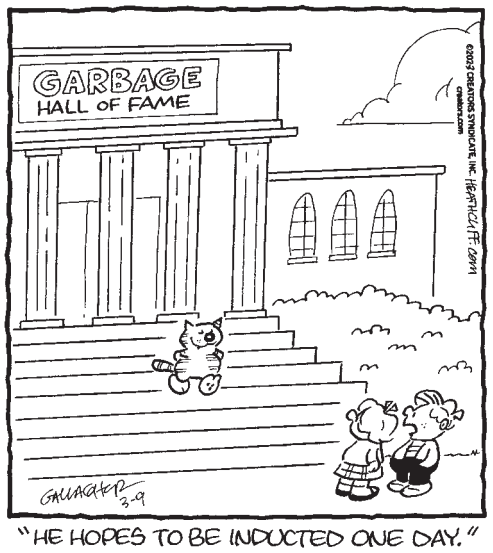
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE HOPES TO BE INDUCTED ONE DAY."

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 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5778

Lest we forget

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

Anzacs
Army
Arrows
Award
Badge
Base
Bomb
Bravery
Crete
Defend
Egypt
Enemy
Fears
Gamble
Germans
Greece
Grit
Guns
Hero
Ills
Injury
Iraq
Japanese
Jets
Kokoda
Lost
Malaya
Memorial
Mess
Nauru
Navy
New Guinea
Outspoken
Peers
RAAF
Rank
Rocket
Sabre
Safe
Staff
Stores
Technician
Tents
Train
Unit

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What's Up Westside

out and about in Santa Monica

THURSDAY | MARCH 9

RENT CONTROL BOARD MEETING
The Rent Control Board meets to conduct business associated with the Rent Control Charter Amendment and Regulations. City Hall, 7 p.m.

ROCK N COMEDY NIGHT
2nd Thursdays of the month/. $10. 8:30 door 9 p.m. show. Rock N Pies. 1120 Wilshire Blvd.

FRIDAY | MARCH 10

DISCO FRIDAYS
Silent Disco, Loud Moves From 7-10 p.m. on March 10, April 14, and May 12, grab your glowing headphones and party it up right on Third Street Promenade. Silent disco DJ's will curate three different channels with the perfect playlist to suit your vibe. Disco Fridays are free and all are welcome. Third Street Promenade.

BRIA SKONBERG
Making her BroadStage debut, trumpeter/vocalist Bria Skonberg is one of the "most versatile and imposing musicians of her generation" (The Wall Street Journal). Linking past and present with inventive arrangements from the traditional jazz repertoire, reinterpretations of contemporary classics, and original compositions, Ms. Skonberg performs all with genuine heart and dynamic flair. The Eli and Edythe Broad Stage 1310 11th St 7:30 p.m. $18 - $34.

THE SAD SHOW
Tragedy + Time + Stand-Up Comics + The Crow's Stage + Tears = Crap Your Pants Funny If you like dark comedy, join them on Friday, March 10 for the saddest comedy show ever. The Crow at Bergamot Station Arts Center, 2525 Michigan Ave. $20.

SATURDAY | MARCH 11

BLÜ EGYPTIAN
Blü Egyptian makes their debut at Trip in Santa Monica on Saturday, March 11. 9pm. Free. All ages. Get up n' get down in yo town. TRiP, 2101 Lincoln Blvd.

SUNDAY | MARCH 12

NORTH MISSISSIPPI ALLSTARS
This event is 21 and over. Any ticket holder unable to present valid identification indicating that they are at least 21 years of age will not be admitted to this event, and will not be eligible for a refund. The Venice West, 1717 Lincoln Blvd. 8 p.m. $45.

MONDAY | MARCH 13

LANDMARKS COMMISSION
Established in 1975, the mission of the Landmarks Commission is "To protect improvements and areas which represent the City's cultural, social, economic, political and architectural history; safeguard the City's historic, aesthetic and cultural heritage; and promote the use of landmarks and historic districts for the education, pleasure and welfare of the people. 7 p.m. City Hall.

TUESDAY | MARCH 14

CITY COUNCIL
The City Council is made up of seven members elected at-large for staggered four-year terms. 5:30 p.m. City Hall.

WEDNESDAY | MARCH 15

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.

THURSDAY | MARCH 16

AN EVENING OF CHRISTOPHER WHEELDON
Christopher Wheeldon is a major choreographer of our time. Los Angeles Ballet presents an evening of three iconic Wheeldon works exclusively at The Broad Stage in Santa Monica. The Eli and Edythe Broad Stage 1310 11th St Santa Monica, CA https://rb.gy/savlkd

WESTSIDE LAUGH PARTY STAND-UP COMEDY
Westside's Laugh Party is a monthly standup show produced by Dennis Gubbins featuring the best comics from around the country with surprise drop-ins by the likes of Tig Notaro, Zach Galifianakis, Ali Wong, Demetri Martin, Damons Wayans and many others! The proceeds for each show are donated to a local charity... so there is that too! Come on out and laugh! Who knows who will show up this month.... party! Purchase tickets at westsidecomedy.com

FRIDAY | MARCH 17

SANTA MONICA ST PATRICK'S DAY FRIDAY PUB CRAWL PARTY
Biggest Pub Crawl of them all: The World-Famous St. Patrick's Day Weekend PubCrawl Santa Monica Edition: $4 Drafts, 2-for-1 Mixers, $5 Shots Circle Bar 2926 Main St. Santa Monica, CA

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



SURF REPORT

WATER TEMP: **55.2**

THURSDAY *POOR TO FAIR*	**SURF:**	1-2ft Knee to thigh	Tiny, steep-angled NW swell mix and easing SSW swell.
FRIDAY *POOR TO FAIR*	**SURF:**	1-2ft Knee to thigh	Slower early morning. Watching for a new pulse of shorter to mid-period W swell to build in through the day. Fairly peaky for the beachbreaks west of Dume.

WEATHER

Thursday: Partly sunny, with a high near 60. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
Thursday Night: A 30 percent chance of rain after 4am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 51.
Friday: A 50 percent chance of rain. Cloudy, with a high near 58. East southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
Friday Night: A 50 percent chance of rain, mainly before 10pm. Cloudy, with a low around 54.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2023/03/09	Thu	04:00 AM	0.72	L
2023/03/09	Thu	09:56 AM	4.61	H
2023/03/09	Thu	4:08 PM	0.35	L
2023/03/09	Thu	10:24 PM	4.76	H
2023/03/10	Fri	04:39 AM	0.63	L
2023/03/10	Fri	10:33 AM	4.09	H
2023/03/10	Fri	4:27 PM	0.78	L
2023/03/10	Fri	10:49 PM	4.86	H
2023/03/11	Sat	05:25 AM	0.60	L
2023/03/11	Sat	11:18 AM	3.49	H
2023/03/11	Sat	4:46 PM	1.25	L
2023/03/11	Sat	11:18 PM	4.90	H
2023/03/12	Sun	07:20 AM	0.63	L
2023/03/12	Sun	1:19 PM	2.86	H
2023/03/12	Sun	6:04 PM	1.72	L
2023/03/13	Mon	12:56 AM	4.86	H
2023/03/13	Mon	08:40 AM	0.65	L
2023/03/13	Mon	3:11 PM	2.38	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: 3/6
2 13 29 58 69
Power#: 4
Jackpot: 31 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 3/7
15 22 25 28 69
Mega#: 21
Jackpot: 203 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 3/4
4 9 20 27 34
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 39 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 3/7
1 13 22 27 37

Daily 3
Draw Date: 3/7
EVENING: 2 0 3
Draw Date: 3/7
MIDDAY: 7 7 1

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 3/7
1st: 08 - Gorgeous George
2nd: 07 - Eureka
3rd: 05 - California Classic
Race Time: 1:41.79

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- Sheila Cordova, AIA
Chair of the Santa Monica College Design Technology Department

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

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