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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 84 THURSDAY 3/14/24 smdp.com

Closing time: local departures reflect national trend



Lisa Matthews

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN: Closures that were among favorites for many city residents suggest that while new businesses are slowly returning, there still remains some way to go.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

The covered windows and doors and the removal of almost every piece of evidence that suggested a mighty outdoor lifestyle outlet once stood at the now-shuttered site of the Santa Monica branch of REI remind residents that there's still a long way to go before our city has fully returned to the halcyon retail heyday of yesteryear.

What retailer is worthy of such an amazing venue? Located in the heart of Downtown, the two-story, 32,000 square foot site could be used for something really spectacular. Plus it would be really nice if whoever fills it also services those outdoor lifestyle needs, since we're lucky enough to live in a part of the world where hiking, camping, climbing and appreciation of all things nature are available in abundance.

Sadly though, REI wasn't the only store to have recently closed locally and in fact, store closures were a trend nationally.

According to the National Retail Federation, plans to close stores soared to 4,070 last year, more than double the 1,680 closures in 2022. While U.S. retailers announced plans to open 5,890 new stores, that number is a decrease from the 7,860 announced openings in 2022.

According to the NRF, this shift reflects a tougher consumer environment after two strong years aided by pandemic-related stimulus and savings. Despite a healthy

SEE **CLOSURES** PAGE 11



Brushstrokes for BroadStage as theater celebrates Picasso

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

One of Santa Monica's premier theaters will be transformed into a 1957 French studio this weekend, as one great artist slips into the role of celebrating another.

On Friday and Saturday at the BroadStage, beginning at 7:30 p.m., writer and performer Herbert Sigüenza will take hold of a paintbrush to portray Pablo Picasso in "A Weekend with Pablo Picasso," a one-man show based on the legend's writings and philosophy. The production from L.A. Theatre Works has been a longstanding love letter from Sigüenza, who has played Picasso since writing the original play in 2010.

"Ever since I was a small kid, I've had the gift of drawing," Sigüenza said. "I've always been an artist ... so (Picasso is) kind of a hero. I've always looked up to him as far as his amount of work, the quality of the work that he put out ... ever since I was a young actor, I wanted to do this play."

The young actor eventually evolved into a founding member of the performance group Culture Clash, which has created a series of plays based off oral histories of immigrant residents. For this weekend, however, Sigüenza will go back to the Picasso role to "capture the time" of the artist in the 1950s. Relying on materials such as the photographic book "The Private World of Pablo Picasso," Sigüenza combines his love of visual artistry with his stage talents to dive into Picasso's later years, with the show revolving around Picasso having to create multiple paintings and vases over one weekend.



Photo Courtesy BroadStage

PICASSO: Herbert Sigüenza will step into the role of Pablo Picasso this weekend at the BroadStage.

"He was already a well-established artist, he was a millionaire, he didn't really need to do art anymore," Sigüenza said of the period piece. "And yet he did, because he was just an artist 24/7. I think that's the message of the play, (that) we all have creativity in us."

Picasso's messages weren't just constrained to creative musings, as Sigüenza also espouses the artist's writings and philosophy, saying the show is 80% Picasso's words with 20% of his own interpretations. Sigüenza called Picasso a "humanist" who receives a bad reputation nowadays for his misogyny, saying it is unfair to judge his life through the contemporary lens because most of Picasso's peers also had troubling histories with women.

Sigüenza also touches on Picasso's political views, as the artist became a member of the Communist Party in the 1940s. However, Picasso grew frustrated with the Soviet invasion of Hungary in 1956, which Sigüenza said draws parallels to Russia's current attempted conquest in Ukraine.

"They invaded a sovereign country, and (Picasso) was very upset at Russia about that invasion, and he denounced it ... this play has a lot of political relevancy right now ... innocent people being bombed, talk about invasions by Russia, all the things that are happening right now were definitely happening in the last century," Sigüenza said.

The stage show has evolved over the past decade, with the BroadStage performance acting as a new staging with no sets, no props, just Picasso and his "students" in the audience. All the artistic visuals seen during the show are created by Sigüenza in real-time, making for an interactive, immersive experience.

"The (show was made) so that people really listen to the words," Sigüenza said. "The script is really profound and really says a lot about positivity, about love, war, peace, all these things (that) are kind of relevant right now. I think this is just a really nice, profound piece for the times."

Tickets for the show range from $35-65. For more information about "A Weekend with Pablo Picasso," visit broadstage.org.

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Silent suitors to engage in humorous dating escapade at Morgan-Wixson



Photo Courtesy Allison Goldberg

COMEDY: Four male suitors will be put through various comedy scenarios to impress a bachelorette during Allison Goldberg's "Love Isn't Blind" show at the Morgan-Wixson Theatre Saturday evening.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

A curious shift in singles' dating behavior will be embraced at the Morgan-Wixson Theatre Saturday night, as the desire for in-person communication is transformed into a unique comedic experience.

Starting at 8 p.m., host Allison Goldberg brings her show "Love Isn't Blind" to the theater, combining comedy and dating opportunities for the singles in attendance, along with one potentially lucky bachelorette. During the show, a chosen bachelorette and a friend will judge four different male suitors in a number of scenarios, with the catch being that the men cannot speak for most of the proceedings.

A noted theater kid growing up, Goldberg made the cross-country move from New York City to Los Angeles with experimentation in mind, creating shows like "How to Break Up by Text," where the comedian breaks down a breakup scenario over the phone. The show was recently picked up by Audible, and "Love Isn't Blind" is her latest endeavor to merge mingling with humor.

"I feel like post-pandemic, people want excuses to meet each other in real life, and then I think that coupled with (dating) app fatigue, (the show) creates an environment where people are really excited to go to something like this," Goldberg said. "I really just wanted to create something rowdy and interactive."

Audience members receive color-coded wristbands upon entry based on relationship status or sexual orientation, with those in relationships tasked with being a "wingperson" for the single attendees. The evening encourages interactions between singles, both during the show and during after-parties, with Saturday's after-party location to be determined.

When the show begins, the bachelorette and her friend are introduced to the silent suitors via a "yes or no" question round where the men are blindfolded and can only use a thumbs up or thumbs down to communicate. After one of the four is eliminated, the next round becomes more off-the-wall via a "crafty" component (such as the men writing haikus about a potential date), Goldberg calling the contestants' mothers live, and the host searching through various facets of the mens' phones. The host noted that she is respecting any boundaries the contestants bring to her beforehand about their phones, and that the show isn't intended as a "roast" session, as she is complementary of those brave enough to interact.

During the final round, the last two men have two minutes to finally speak, with the winner and the bachelorette set off on an "immediate date" during after-party proceedings. Goldberg has facilitated many dates, including two singles who met at "Love Isn't Blind" and eventually became engaged.

Forcing herself to "get back out there" after the COVID-19 pandemic, Goldberg has opened herself up to a whole new community via the show, and dispensed advice for comedians carving their own path like she did.

"There's a million standup shows, and they could be amazing, but there's so many of them," Goldberg said, "So I just think people (want) something different ... I almost encourage working backwards and thinking of, could you sell this? What is the format that you could sell? Because if you really want to have a sustainable career ... think about how you're different."

To purchase tickets to the Morgan-Wixson show, visit loveisntblind.co.

thomas@smdp.com



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **58.8**

THURSDAY
POOR
SURF: 2-3ft
Thigh to waist

Rideable surf continues off steep-angled NW swell. Selective new S/SSE swell creeps in through the day. Santa Ana winds to setup breezy offshore NE flow — favored areas offshore all day.

FRIDAY
POOR
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Modest surf as selective S/SSE swell tops out, NW swell mix eases through the day. Few peaks west of Dume. AM offshore flow may continue as pattern bringing Santa Ana's on Thursday weakens.

Weather

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 75. North northeast wind 10 to 15 mph becoming northwest in the afternoon.
Thursday Night: Clear, with a low around 55. Northwest wind 10 to 15 mph becoming north northeast after midnight.
Friday: Sunny, with a high near 70. North northeast wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south southwest in the afternoon.
Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 51.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2024/03/14	Thu	12:22 AM	5.58	H
2024/03/14	Thu	07:21 AM	-0.10	L
2024/03/14	Thu	1:36 PM	3.18	H
2024/03/14	Thu	6:26 PM	1.66	L
2024/03/15	Fri	01:06 AM	5.29	H
2024/03/15	Fri	08:40 AM	0.15	L
2024/03/15	Fri	3:29 PM	2.66	H
2024/03/15	Fri	6:53 PM	2.30	L
2024/03/16	Sat	02:03 AM	4.89	H
2024/03/16	Sat	10:26 AM	0.21	L
2024/03/17	Sun	03:28 AM	4.54	H
2024/03/17	Sun	11:59 AM	0.02	L
2024/03/17	Sun	7:56 PM	3.27	H
2024/03/17	Sun	11:18 PM	2.99	L
2024/03/18	Mon	05:08 AM	4.47	H
2024/03/18	Mon	1:03 PM	-0.23	L
2024/03/18	Mon	8:17 PM	3.58	H
2024/03/19	Tue	12:43 AM	2.62	L

Daily Lottery

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

Powerball
Draw Date: 3/11
1 3 7 16 66
Power#: 5
Jackpot: 559 M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 3/12
2 16 31 57 64
Mega#: 24
Jackpot: 792 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 3/9
4 7 13 22 46
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 17 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 3/12
1 9 28 29 30

Daily 3
Draw Date: 3/12
EVENING: 0 5 8
Draw Date: 3/12
MIDDAY: 4 3 4

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 3/12
1st: 04 - Big Ben
2nd: 01 - Gold Rush
3rd: 06 - Whirl Win
Race Time: 1:48.49

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Classifieds

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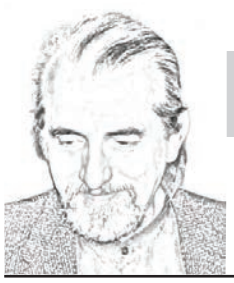
CLASSIFICATIONS					
Announcements	Pets	Apartments/Condos	Real Estate Loans	Attorney Services	Wealth and Success
Creative	Boats	Rent	Storage Space	Business	Lost and Found
Employment	Jewelry	Houses for Rent	Vehicles for Sale	Opportunities	Personals
For Sale	Wanted	Roommates	Massage	Yard Sales	Psychic
Furniture	Travel	Commercial Lease	Services	Health and Beauty	Obituaries
	Vacation Rentals	Real Estate	Computer Services	Fitness	Tutoring

Summons

Summons (Family Law) FL-110(Derecho familiar) CASE NUMBER(Número del Caso):24STFL01364NOTICE TO RESPONDENT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): NOEL RUIZ YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO HAN DEMANDANDO LEA LA INFORMACIÓN A CONTINUACIÓN Y EN LA PÁGINA SIGUIENTE) PETITIONER'S NAME IS (NOMBRE DEL DEMANDANTE): MICHELLE RIVER You have 30 calendar days after this Summons andPetition are served on you to file a Response (form FL-120) at the court and have a copy served on thepetitioner. A letter, phone call, or court appearancewill not protect you.If you do not file your Response on time, the courtmay make orders affecting your marriage or domesticpartnership, your property, and custody of yourchildren. You may be ordered to pay support andattorney fees and costsFor legal advice, contact a lawyer immediately. Gethelp finding a lawyer at the California Courts OnlineSelf-Help Center (www.lawhelpca.org), at theCalifornia Legal Services website (www lawheloca.orol,or by contacting your local county bar association.NOTICE–RESTRAINING ORDERS ARE ON PAGE 2:These restraining orders are effective against bothspouses or domestic partners until the petition isdismissed, a judgment is entered, or the court makesfurther orders They are enforceable anywhere inCalifornia by any law enforcement officer who hasreceived or seen a copy of them.FEE WAIVER: If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask theclerk for a fee waiver form. The court may order you to pay back all or part of the fees and costs that the court waived for you or the other party.Tiene 30 días de calendario después de haber recibido la entrega legal de esta Citación y Petición para presenter una Respuesta (formula no FL-120 ante la corte y efectuarentrega legal de una copia al demandante. Una carta o llamada telefónica o una audiencia de la corte no basta para protegerlo. Si no presenta su Respuesta a tiempo, la corte puede dar Órdenes que afecten su matrimonio o persia de hecho, susbienes y la custodia de sus hijos. Le corte también le puedeordenar que pague manutención, y honorarios y costos legales. Para asesoramiento legal, póngase en contacto de inmediato con un abogado. Puede obtener información para encontrar unabogado en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California((www.lawhelpca.org), en el sitio web de los Servicios Legales de California (www lawheloca orat o poniéndose en contacto con el colegio de abogados de su condado.AVISO–LAS ÓRDENES DE RESTRICCIÓN SEENCUENTRAN EN LA PÁGINA 2. Las órdenes de restricción están en vigencia en cuanto a ambos cónyuges o miembros de la persia de hecho hasta que se despida la petición, se emita unfallo o la corte de otras órdenes. Cualquier agencia del orden público que haya recibido o visto Una copia de estas órdenespuede hacerlas seater en cualquier lugar de California. ??EXENCIÓN DE CUOTAS Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario un formulario de exención de cuotas. La corte puede ordenar que usted pague, ya sea en parte o por completo, las cuotas y costos de la corte previamente exentos a petición de usted o de la otra parte.The name and address of the court are (El nombre y direcci6n de la corte son)iLOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT – STANLEY MOSK COURTHOUSE111 N HILL STREETLOS ANGELES, CA 90012The name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's attorney, or the petitioner without anattorney, are: (El nombre, direcci6n y número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o deldemandante si no tiene abogado, son)iMICHELLE RIVERA, 1144 5TH ST., APT. 110, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403, PHONE:310-628-9085Date (Fecha) 2/08/2024 Clerk By (Secretario Por) David W. SlaytonDeputy (Asistente) /s/L.Murillo

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OPINION **NOTEWORTHY**

Charles Andrews | Send comments to editor@smdp.com

LA has a heart of glass

JACKSON BROWNE showed up at McCabe's last weekend to take the stage for one song, a duet with his friend Terry Reid, and what have they chosen? Woody Guthrie's "Deportee." So timely. And it is moments like these, happening often at McCabe's, for which I moved to LA 40 years ago.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

Tonight - "HIGHWAY 1, USA"/"THE DWARF," LA OPERA – Not "La Traviata" or "Turandot" so I can't speak from the experience of having seen them, but while you are waiting for those two, in April and May, this should satisfy your soul for big voices, great acting, big sets and fine music. I can say this: in seven years of seeing almost everything our LA Opera has produced, I have never been disappointed. And this production has racked a few rave reviews, including LA Times and NY Times. Thurs 7:30 p.m., Sun 2 p.m.,, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, LA, $14-259..

SOUTHSIDE SLIM – SOUTHSIDE SLIM – Oh boy, oh boy, Southside is sliding back into town, coming north to us only so often and it is always an event not to be missed. His career history is intertwined with my other favorite local bluesman, Ray Bailey, who years ago mentored young Hank (Side) and directed him towards the rockier side of the blues. Good move Ray, because today Southside is no gentle blues crooner and picker – he rocks it hard on both guitar and vocals. On tour he has brought festival crowds to their feet cheering. When he ran into hard times he prevailed upon his father to let him live in his South LA trucking company yard and he woodshedded at least six hours a day perfecting his understanding and playing of the blues by listening carefully to the masters. Then he would trot off at night to the original Babe's & Ricky's on Central Avenue, and the Safari Club and various backyard juke joints in the neighborhood. He knew he was in the right place at the right time and that education has resulted in the hard-rockin' bluesman you can cheer for yourself, right here in Santa Monica. Fri 9:30 p.m., Harvelle's. Santa Monica, $10.

HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES – You can go to the Cinema Bar any Monday, 9 - 11:30, for more than a decade now, and hear these hot players run through Django Reinhart-style '30s jazz. They should have copies of their new album "Nova" there for sale. This amazing ensemble is a treasure, just over the border from SM. Mon 9 p.m., Cinema Bar, Culver City, no cover.

RECOMMENDED:

"BOB MARLEY: ONE LOVE" – I can recommend this based on the story it tells and the trailers I've seen, and the fact that none of my hardcore reggae friends has trashed it. But none have raved, either. It does cover only a small period in his short life, when Jamaica was going through an election noted for guns and violence. Attackers broke into Marley's compound and tried to assassinate him and his family, and... well, you'll have to see for yourself. Marley was one of the most popular performers the world has ever seen, and was considered also a political and religious leader, even a prophet by many. AMC Santa Monica 7, 1310 Third Street Promenade, today through next Thurs, check theaters for showtimes, prices.



Courtesy photo

SKATE: Roller skating? PHILIP GLASS? Of course!

GLASSSKATES: A Moving Celebration of PHILIP GLASS – What fun! Strap on your wheels and glide to Glass and his collaborators and "inheritors," as Moonlight Rollerway in the Valley blocks off two hours for a different kind of musical inspiration. It's sold out, but maybe someone will twist an ankle and you'll get on the floor. Glass, 85, will not be rolling, but the Bob Baker Marionettes will. Sun 5 to 7 p.m., Moonlight Rollerway, Glendale, free.

PHILIP GLASS, COMPLETE ETUDES 1-20 – You're either a big Philip Glass fan, or you look for the exit after five minutes. I've been a fan of certain electronic music for decades, from Isao Tomita and Ryuichi Sakamoto to Tangerine Dream and Kraftwerk (coming to Disney Hall in May, for nine concerts), Terry Riley and Laurie Anderson. I saw Lothar & the Hand People in a basement dive in Philly in'67, and I have LPs by both Walter and Wendy Carlos. The best of it is hypnotic and complex at the same time, and Glass, celebrating 85, has gone from wunderkind weirdo to lionized legend. It is a rare opportunity to hear all his etudes at one concert, and even more rare to be able to roller skate to them, as you can do on Sunday afternoon (see above). Don't you just love LA? Tues 8 p.m.,Walt Disney Concert Hall, LA, sold out.

"IT'S ONLY A SHOW" – Famous character and comedic actor Charles Nelson Reilly and Paul Linke were

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 8

AROUND TOWN

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

St. Paddy's Weekend



Courtesy photo

SHAMROCK: Pacific Park's Ferris wheel is lit to celebrate the St. Patrick's Day occasion in Santa Monica.

SMDP's Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town includes lots of St. Paddy's Weekend happenings, a Montana Ave. Wellness Walk, Triple Beam Pizza pop-up, and much more!

The Music of Tom Petty by The Heart Wreckers: Run down your dream of enjoying Petty's music in a small, fun setting at The Venice West. $19.50 Friday, March 15, 8p.m. @ 1717 Lincoln Blvd. https://www.ticketweb.com/event/the-music-of-tom-petty-the-venice-west-tickets/13452673

Montana Ave. Wellness Walk: Expect a day of outdoor works, clinics, healthy bites & sips, painting classes, mental health practices and special promotions for businesses on Montana Ave. Saturday, March 16. https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/montana-ave-wellness-walk-3154009

Women's History Month Author Talk - The Women Who Made Early Disneyland: "Hear about the amazing women who contributed to the success of early Disneyland at a Women's History Month Author Talk: The Women Who Made Early Disneyland with Cindy Mediavilla and Kelsey Knox." Saturday, March 16, 3p.m. @ Main Library 601 Santa Monica Blvd. More details here.

Love Isn't Blind: In this dating experiment, men compete on stage for one lucky bachelorette, with the little caveat that the men can't speak. Through a series of games - which includes calling the boys' moms and unlocking their phones - we narrow it down to two men. Finally, we hear their voices, and the lucky winning man is sent with our bachelorette to the bar for an immediate date. $25 - $30. Saturday, March 16, 7p.m. @ Morgan Wixson Theatre, 2627 Pico Blvd. https://loveisntblind.co

St Patty's Weekend Pub Crawls: There are a couple options for getting your green on this weekend between the "Lucky's St. Patrick's Day Pub Crawl" @ Barney's Beanery, Britannia Pub, Cabo Cantina, Jameson's Irish Pub, Nameless Bar, and Lanea, and the "St. Paddy's Saturday Pub Crawl Party" @ Barney's Beanery, Ashland Hill, Venice Whaler and more. Both are Saturday March 16.

St. Paddy's @ The Library Alehouse: Enjoy a delicious homemade corned beef stew or Reuben and a creamy pint of Guinness while you soak in the wailing skirl of bagpipes. Live bagpipe performances take place at 1pm and 8pm on Sunday, March 17. https://libraryalehouse.com/

St Patty's @ Jameson's Pub: "Jameson's has all the Irish whiskey, prime rib, and Reubens you could want." 11:00am – 2:00am on Sunday, March 17.

St Paddy's @ Margaret O'Leary: 17% off all full-priced menu items Saturday, March 16 and Sunday, March 17.

St Patty's @ Ye Olde King's Head: Enjoy St. Patrick's Day with corned beef & cabbage, Irish Stew, Green Beer, bagpipers, DJs and lots of shenanigans at this classic Irish bar all weekend from Saturday, March 16 at 10am to Sunday, March 17 at 2am.

St Paddy's @ Tavern on Main: Wear your best green garb and share your Irish spirit with $5 Corned Beef Sliders, $8 Reeces Pieces Irish Coffee and Beer and Irish $10 Whiskey shot March 16 & 17.

WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

Triple Beam Pizza & Vamos Vamos Popup Collaboration: As Triple Beam gears up to open this Spring on Main St, they have teamed up with another Main St. staple to do a recurring popup every Sunday in March from 4-8p.m. using their portable pizza oven so people don't have to wait for the brick and mortar locations to get their pie fix. 2917 Main St.

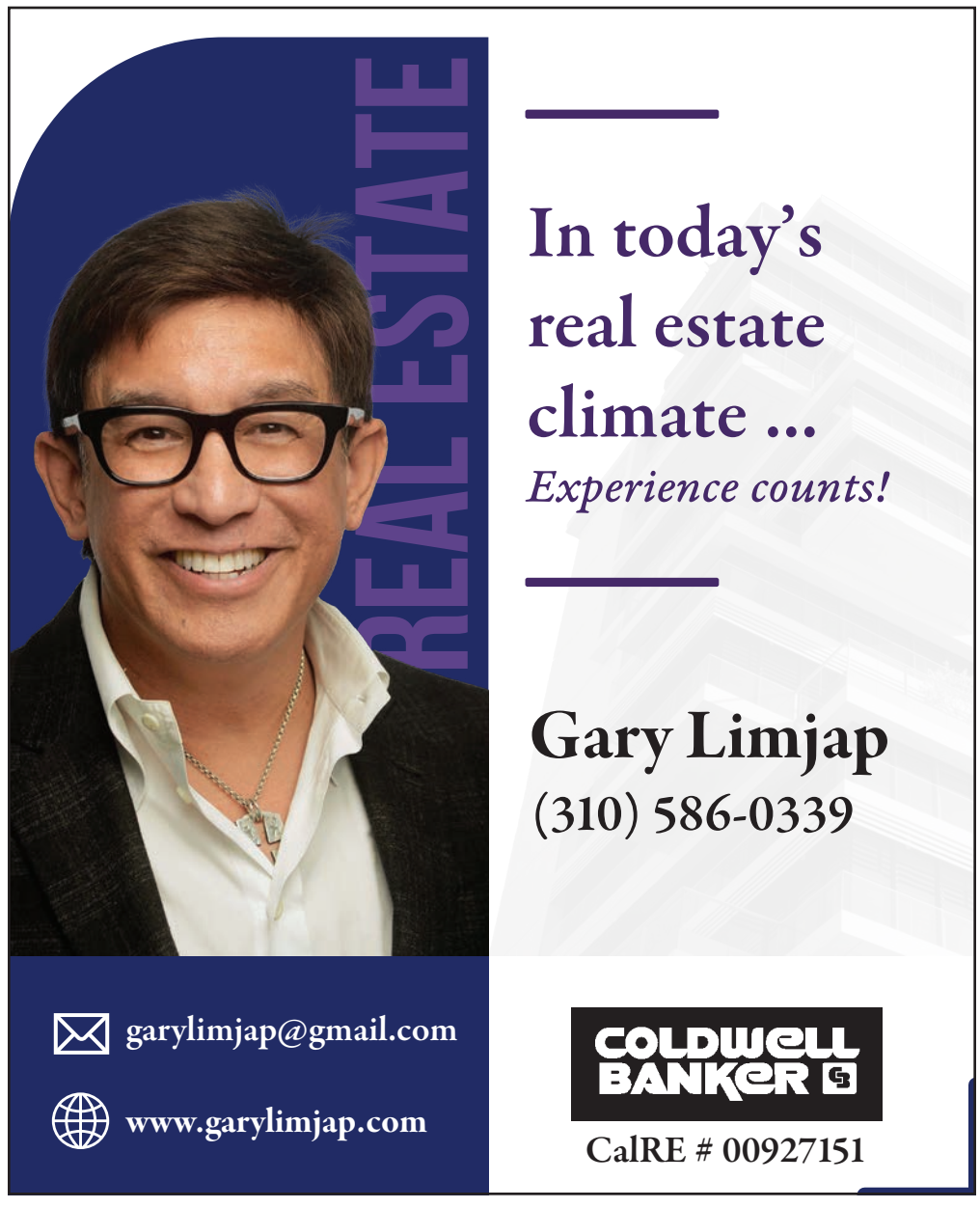
"Find LA's Best New Fried Chicken Steps Away From the Ocean in Venice": Si! Mon gets a rave review from EaterLA stating "Every Angeleno needs to taste chef José Olmedo Carles Rojas's Panamanian fried chicken." 60 N Venice Blvd. https://la.eater.com/2024/3/6/24091461/best-fried-chicken-los-angeles-si-mon-venice-panamanian-restaurant

The Infatuation Lists Xuntos as One of "The Best Spanish Restaurants In LA": They state "Xuntos is home to the best tapas experience in LA and is one of the places we'd insist on for a fun, off-the-cuff dinner in downtown Santa Monica." 516 Santa Monica Blvd. https://www.theinfatuation.com/los-angeles/guides/the-best-spanish-restaurants-in-la

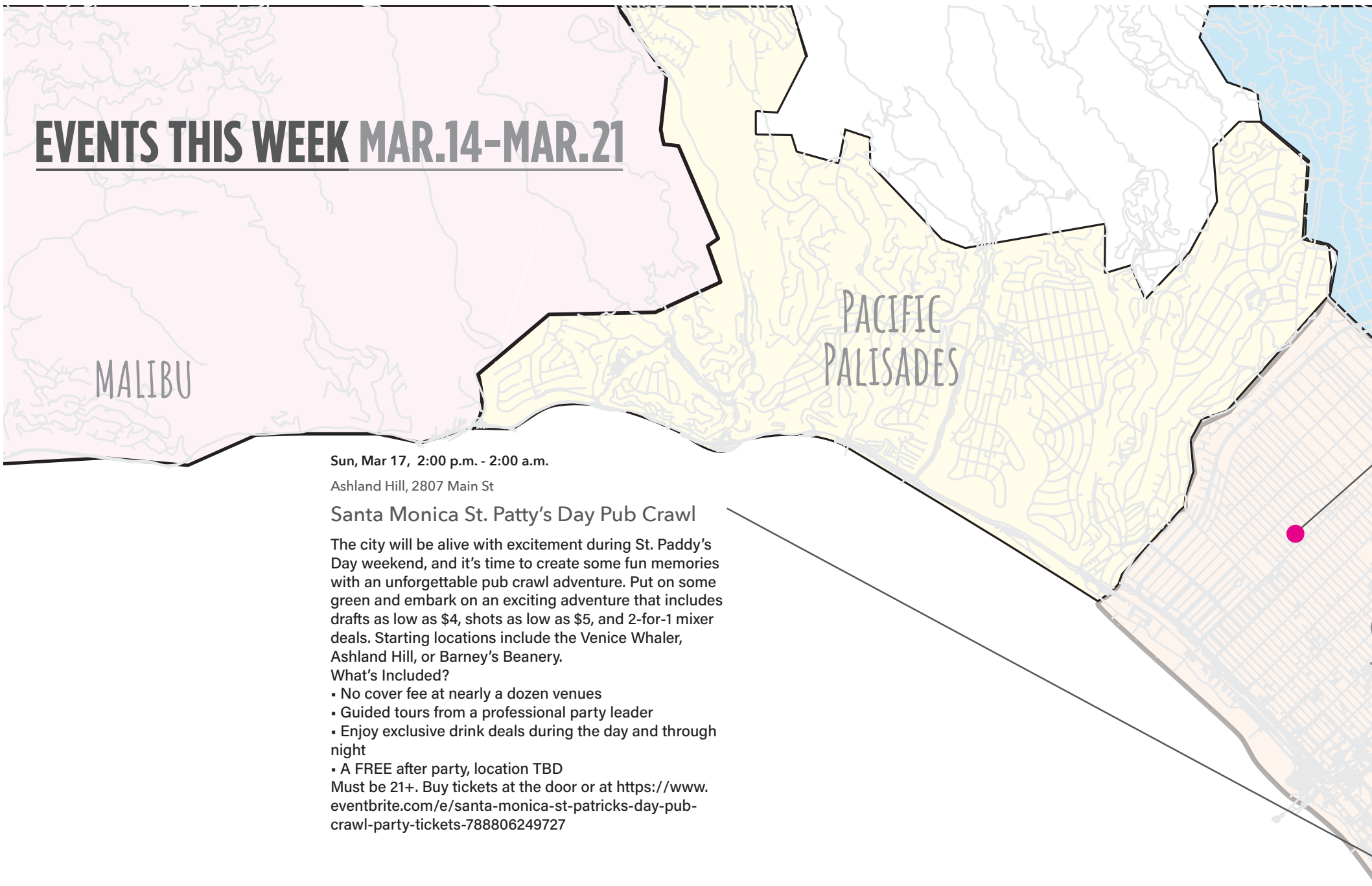
Further Afield: Rolling Loud California - The world's largest hip-hop festival is headlined by an impressive trio of Nicki Minaj, Post Malone, and Future x Metro Boomin, along with a huge lineup of rap A-listers, rising stars, and special performances. March 15-17 @ SoFi Stadium. https://www.rollingloudca.com/

Looking Ahead Around Town: Pier Locals Night (3/21), Museums Annual Free-For-All (3/23), The Other Art Fair (4/4-7), CicLAvia West LA (4/21)

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: St. Paddy's Weekend



EVENTS THIS WEEK MAR.14-MAR.21



Sun, Mar 17, 2:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.

Ashland Hill, 2807 Main St

Santa Monica St. Patty's Day Pub Crawl

The city will be alive with excitement during St. Paddy's Day weekend, and it's time to create some fun memories with an unforgettable pub crawl adventure. Put on some green and embark on an exciting adventure that includes drafts as low as $4, shots as low as $5, and 2-for-1 mixer deals. Starting locations include the Venice Whaler, Ashland Hill, or Barney's Beanery.
What's Included?
- No cover fee at nearly a dozen venues
- Guided tours from a professional party leader
- Enjoy exclusive drink deals during the day and through night
- A FREE after party, location TBD

Must be 21+. Buy tickets at the door or at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/santa-monica-st-patricks-day-pub-crawl-party-tickets-788806249727

Sun, March 17, 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

The Waterfront Venice, 205 Ocean Front Walk

Chaotic Singles Party: St. Patrick's Day

Enjoy cocktails and a beachfront view while meeting other singles at an all-day event at the Waterfront Restaurant in Venice. Must be single and 21+. Attire is casual. Includes a variety of games and activities, delicious cocktails, and lots of singles.
Tickets can be purchased for $35 at the door or at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/chaotic-singles-party-st-patricks-day-tickets-847611387477

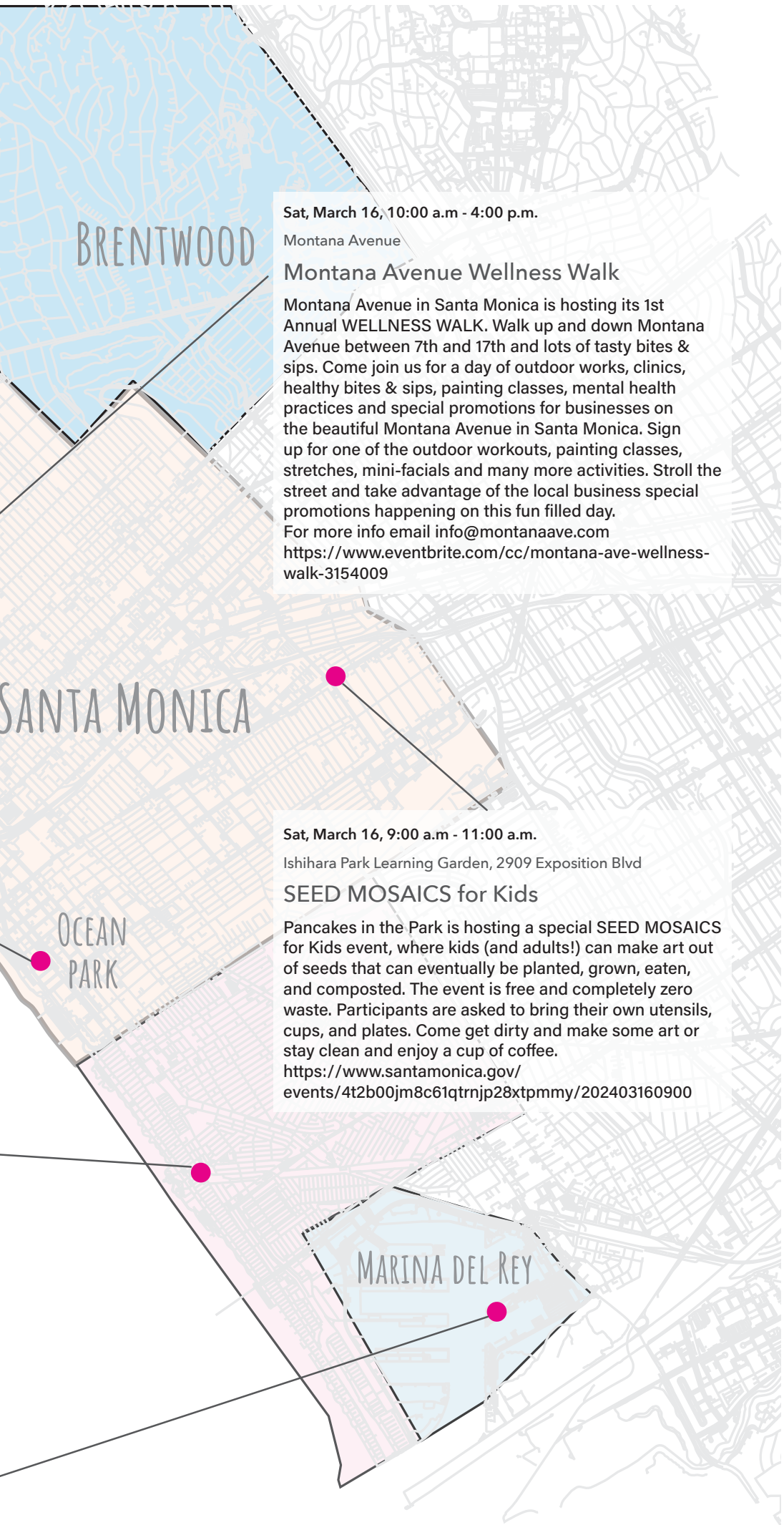
Check out more events at: smdp.com/events

Friday, March 15, 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m

Burton Chace Park, 13650 Mindanao Way

Sandy Brushes

Beginning drawing and watercolor art class with Cammie Richardson. Free on Fridays. Limited to 15 participants, registration required via email to chacepark@bh.lacounty.gov. https://beaches.lacounty.gov/events-calendar/



Sat, March 16, 10:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m.

Montana Avenue

Montana Avenue Wellness Walk

Montana Avenue in Santa Monica is hosting its 1st Annual WELLNESS WALK. Walk up and down Montana Avenue between 7th and 17th and lots of tasty bites & sips. Come join us for a day of outdoor works, clinics, healthy bites & sips, painting classes, mental health practices and special promotions for businesses on the beautiful Montana Avenue in Santa Monica. Sign up for one of the outdoor workouts, painting classes, stretches, mini-facials and many more activities. Stroll the street and take advantage of the local business special promotions happening on this fun filled day.
For more info email info@montanaave.com
https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/montana-ave-wellness-walk-3154009

Sat, March 16, 9:00 a.m - 11:00 a.m.

Ishihara Park Learning Garden, 2909 Exposition Blvd

SEED MOSAICS for Kids

Pancakes in the Park is hosting a special SEED MOSAICS for Kids event, where kids (and adults!) can make art out of seeds that can eventually be planted, grown, eaten, and composted. The event is free and completely zero waste. Participants are asked to bring their own utensils, cups, and plates. Come get dirty and make some art or stay clean and enjoy a cup of coffee.
https://www.santamonica.gov/events/4t2b00jm8c61qtrnjp28xtpmmy/202403160900



THURSDAY | MARCH 14

SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
The Library Board meets the second Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Main Library, Administrative Conference Room, 601 Santa Monica Public Library. The public is welcome to attend. Current and past agendas and minutes are available on smpl.org.

RENT CONTROL BOARD MEETING
The Rent Control Board meets to conduct business associated with the Rent Control Charter Amendment and Regulations. Begins at 7 p.m. at Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St.

LIVE STAND-UP COMEDY
Long Time No See brings comedians from Netflix, SNL, Comedy Central and more to the Westside Comedy Theater, 1323-A 3rd St., beginning at 8:30 p.m. Seating for the event is first come, first serve. General admission tickets $25, can be purchased at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/live-stand-up-comedy-tickets-811879723107.

VOLTA COLLECTIVE: COLLIDING BODIES
You are invited to attend and participate in our exciting FREE series of lectures and master classes. See smc.edu/dance or call 310-434-3467 for more information. Seating is strictly on a first-arrival basis. Presentations subject to change or cancellation without notice. Volta Collective will lead a class that explores highly physical and acrobatic partnering in a safe and grounded way. Telling stories through connection to another body uses rebound, theatricality, and gesture. Session will introduce Volta's phrasework and repertory, with a focus on how to manage and balance personal and partner weights in unusual contexts. The ensemble — passionate about presenting dance in accessible, nontraditional spaces and often collaborating with artists across mediums — has presented work in dance festivals and other events in the US and abroad.

FRIDAY | MARCH 15

CELEBRATING DAVID BOWIE W/ADRIAN BELEW & SPECIAL GUESTS @ APOGEE STUDIO
6 - 11 p.m. Apogee Electronics Corporation, 1715 Berkeley Street. an unforgettable live in studio recording of CELEBRATING DAVID BOWIE with multiple Grammy winning Let's Dance engineer/mixer BOB CLEARMOUNTAIN. This once in a lifetime in-person event will take place at Bob's APOGEE STUDIO in Santa Monica. Get ready to immerse yourself in the mesmerizing music of DAVID BOWIE up close & personal as performed by CELEBRATING DAVID BOWIE featuring legendary guitarist ADRIAN BELEW (David Bowie, King Crimson, NIN, Talking Heads, Zappa), JESSE HUGHES (Eagles Of Death Metal), LADY BLACKBIRD, TY TAYLOR (Vintage Trouble), ART ALEXAKIS (Everclear), LISA LOEB, SCROTE, ALEX GREENWALD (Phantom Planet), SCROTE, DAVID POE, & more. $100-$400. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/celebrating-david-bowie-wadrian-belew-special-guests-apogee-studio-tickets-808451689767

MOON LANDINGS: SO FAR
ORGANIZED BY THE SMC PLANETARIUM
Lecturer Sarah Vincent. The U.S. and its Apollo missions are not the only lunar landing success stories, but only five countries have actually managed to do it. Virtual 8 - 9 p.m. https://www.smc.edu/calendar/index.php#event-details/57f695a9-5aa1-43b3-8527-dc415aeb30d7

20 QUESTIONS TRIVIA @ TRIP
Free admission. Prizes for the top five teams. 20 Questions Trivia is like no other trivia show, because you're a part of the show. Wrong answers count for partial credit if they're funny. Every week the show has a theme, and all the questions and/or answers revolve around that theme. That makes it possible to figure out the answer even if you don't know it. And every question is followed by a song, which is usually an additional clue to the correct answer. Trip Santa Monica 2101 Lincoln Blvd. 7 - 9 p.m.

SATURDAY | MARCH 16

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AUTHOR TALK
3 - 4 p.m. Santa Monica Public Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Co-authors Cindy Mediavilla and Kelsey Knox discuss the often-overlooked women whose contributions were instrumental to the success of early Disneyland, from legendary artist Mary Blair to Tiny Kline, who at age 71 became the first Tinker Bell to fly over the park! A book sale and signing follows.

NOTABLE FICTION BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Join a community-led discussion of award-winning current and classic fiction, held via Zoom. Contact library@santamonica.gov for the link. Trust by Hernan Diaz

MONTANA AVENUE WELLNESS WALK
Montana Avenue in Santa Monica is hosting its first-annual Wellness Walk between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. between 7th and 17th St. Join for a day of outdoor workouts, clinics, healthy bits & sips, painting classes, mental health practices and special promotions for businesses.

UC MASTER GARDENERS AT PICO FARMERS MARKET
Visit with UC Master Gardeners at the Saturday Pico Farmers Market from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The booth is filled with free advice on how to care for plants, how to troubleshoot a gardening problem, and much more. Free seeds and seedlings are available on a limited basis. The Pico Farmers Market is located in Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave.

ST. PADDY'S PUB CRAWL PARTY
VIP Nightlife presents a St. Paddy's Holiday Weekend Happy Hour Pub Crawl, beginning at 2 p.m. Registration for the specially-guided bar tour takes place at three starting locations, Barney's Beanery at 1351 3rd Street Promenade, Ashland Hill at 2807 Main Street and Venice Whaler at 10 Washington Blvd., Venice. Drink specials as low as $4 drafts, two-for-one mixed drinks and $5 shots. Free after-party to be announced. Tickets can be purchased at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/santa-monica-st-paddys-saturday-pub-crawl-party-tickets-788801114367.

NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 4

decades-long friends and collaborators. Linke crafted Reilly's acclaimed solo play, "Save It for the Stage," a production later immortalized on film as "The Life of Reilly!" "Show" is a tribute to Reilly, created and performed by Paul Linke. Together they took Reilly's life stories around the country, and now it lands at our airport. Linke, known for his roles in "CHiPs," "Judging Amy," and the solo show "Time Flies When You're Alive," calls this "an evening of heart, humor and the enduring spirit of a true mentor." The other recent one-man show I saw at Ruskin was simply great, and since this one has been held over several times, I think we'd all better get on over this Saturday. Only one more performance after that. Sat 5 p.m., Ruskin Group Theatre, SM airport, $20-30.

TOLEDO DIAMOND – Unique, riveting, first class act. There's nothing like it, it is high performance art and great decadent fun. Degeneracy is rarely so well disciplined. And the band is smokin'! Don't. Miss. Toledo Diamond. Sun 9:30 p.m., Harvelle's, Santa Monica, $12.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: "IT'S ONLY A SHOW," Ruskin Theatre, 3/23; TOLEDO DIAMOND, Harvelle's, 3/24, 31, 4/7, 14, 21, 28; HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES, Cinema Bar, 3/25; ESA-PEKKA SALONEN, SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY, 3/22; SOUTHSIDE SLIM, Harvelle's, 3/23; LOS STRAIGHTJACKETS, McCabe's, 3/24; SLEATER-KINNEY, Wiltern, 3/28, Belasco, 3/29; YO YO MA, KATHRYN SCOTT, Disney Hall, 4/3; SPRINGSTEEN, Kia Forum, 4/4, 7; ETHAN IVERSON TRIO with PETER ERSKINE, DAREK OLES, Sam First, 4/5; "LA TRAVIATA," LA Opera, 4/6, 14, 18, 21, 24, 27; DONALD HARRISON, Jazz Bakery, 4/7; SAINT-SAENS, ORGAN SYMPHONY, LA PHIL, Disney Hall, 4/12, 13, 14; LIBRARY GIRL, Ruskin Theatre, 4/14; MAVIS STAPLES 85TH BD, YouTube Theater, 4/18; ALBERT LEE, McCabe's, 4/19; HERBIE HANCOCK, Disney Hall, 4/20; ACADEMY OF ST. MARTIN IN THE FIELDS, The Soraya, 4/21; RHIANNON GIDDENS, Theatre at Ace Hotel, 4/25; JACkY TERRASSON TRIO, Jazz Bakery, 5/5; KRAFTWERK, Disney Hall, 5/21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30; JOHN MCEUEN, McCabe's, 5/24; CHRIS STAPLETON, Hollywood Bowl, 6/26, 27; ROLLING STONES, SoFi Stadium, 7/10, 13.

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

City of Santa Monica

COURTESY NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT: **Recommendation to the City Council on Adoption of Amendments to Santa Monica Municipal Code Chapter 9.22, Density Bonus, for Compliance with Updates to State Density Bonus Law Adopted by Assembly Bill 1287.**

A public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission to consider adoption of a resolution recommending to the City Council that the Council adopt amendments to Santa Monica Municipal Code Chapter 9.22, Density Bonus, for compliance with updates to State Density Bonus Law applicable to housing projects as set forth in Assembly Bill 1287. This notice is being provided only as a courtesy as the Planning Commission continued this item from the March 6, 2024 hearing.

DATE/TIME: **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024 AT 6:00 PM**

LOCATION: City Council Chamber, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Members of the public unable to attend a meeting but wishing to comment on an item(s) listed on the agenda may submit written comments prior to the public hearing via email to planningcomment@santamonica.gov or via mail to the address listed below. Comments received prior to 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Planning Commission prior to the meeting and posted online. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

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

Address your comments to: **Jing Yeo, AICP, Planning Manager**
Re: AB 1287 Implementation

VIA E-MAIL: planningcomment@santamonica.gov
VIA MAIL: City Planning Division
1685 Main Street, Mail Stop 28
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION

If you want more information regarding implementation of AB 1287, please e-mail housingupdates@santamontica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (866) 311-7266 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate languages provided the request is received 72 hours prior to the meeting. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL

Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-2201 ext. 5547.

Two decades of music tradition shared during Elemental anniversary concert





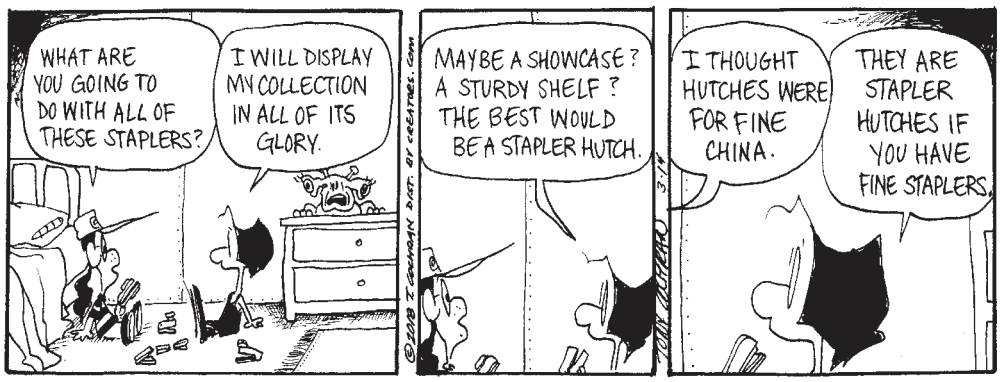


Photos by Angel Origgi

MUSIC: A tradition of youth music education has hit the 20-year mark in Santa Monica, as Elemental Music's wide range of student performers hit the Barnum Hall stage at Samohi March 9 for a 20th Anniversary Celebration Concert. The showcase featured 300 musicians from Santa Monica and Westside LA, performing in ensembles for classical guitar, string orchestra, choir, concert band and full orchestra. All of Elemental's choir programs came together for the show, with 100 students ages 5-10 singing on stage. A joint performance between Elemental Strings and Elemental Band featured 51 string and band students playing as a full orchestra for the first time. Another combined performance was between 45 string, wind and brass players aged 11-13, the program's Academy Philharmonic, joining with award-winning Ballet Folklórico Flor de Mayo. Santa Monica Mayor Phil Brock joined the program to present a commendation in honor of Elemental's 20th anniversary season. More than 600 students receive instruction through Elemental during a typical school year, with the program also providing scholarships through its Scholarship Lesson Program. For more information, visit elementalmusic.org.

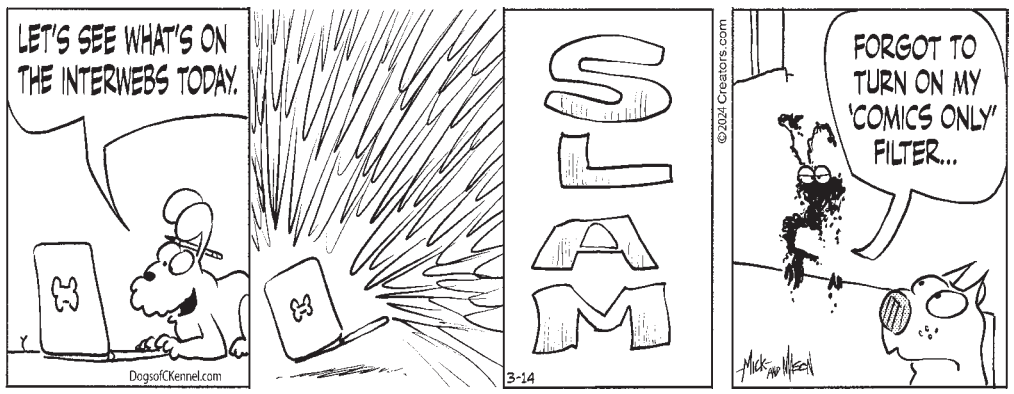
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



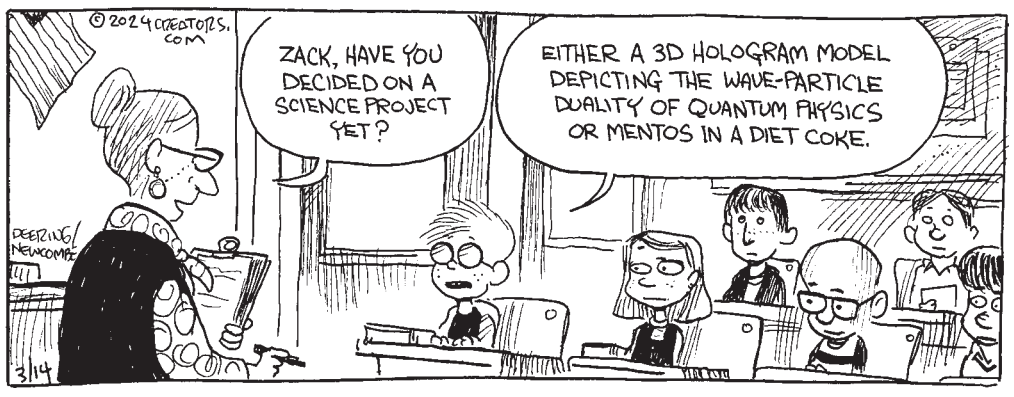
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

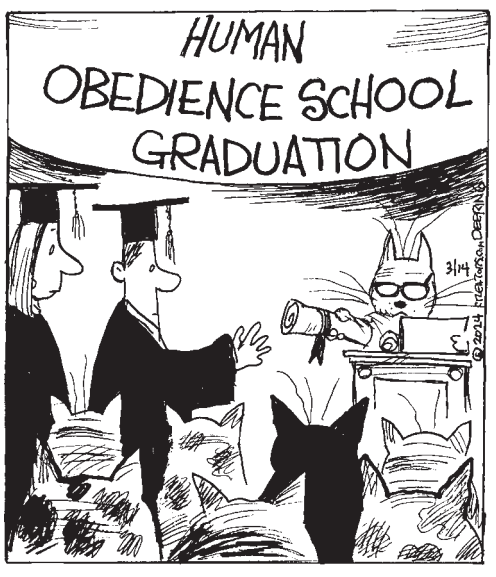
By PETER GALLAGHER



"YOU MUST SOLVE HIS RIDDLE TO ENTER."

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6149

Destination Darwin

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

Air raids
Arid
Bait
Batik
Big wet
Boab
Cafes
Camp
Chasm
Climb
Crabs
Dangers
Dingo
Distance
Elliott
Ferry
Fire
Flora
Grit
Heat
Holes
Huge
Indigenous
Inlet
Jabiru
Link
Lobster
North
Pearls
Plane
Pots
Prawns
Rest
Robinson
Rods
Scrub
Skycity Casino
Snake Bay
Storms
Swim
Tiwi
Tough
Trip
Vast
Warm

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
South East Queensland foodbowl

Covering the city by the bay since 2001.
To advertise, email cindy@smdp.com or call 310.458.7737
smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 14)

You'll give and receive unwavering support and a level of care that contributes to truly exceptional relationships. Work presents a steep challenge, then through a combination of tenacity and keen problem solving you will build it into exactly what you want. More highlights: an exciting contract, glamorous publicity and a team win you'll celebrate for years. Gemini and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 16, 20, 21 and 35.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Every relationship comes with its own learning curve. When you like someone, you're motivated to figure out how things work best for both of you. You set your expectations low and remain open, curious and playful.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You sense who is rooting for you. Some friends are too competitive to do this properly. It doesn't mean they are against you, but they don't belong in the inner circle among the safe people who have your best interest at heart.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). How much you like a person and how you feel about yourself when you're with them may be two different vibes entirely. Sustainable relationships depend on a harmony between your level of admiration and your comfort level.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). On days when the sun is out and the mood is right, it's so easy to focus on the happy things. It's the other days — the days when it takes intention and a bit of discipline — that build your attitude and your ability to keep the joy flowing through your world.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). To pause and check yourself before your next move will take self-awareness and give good fortune. It may also help to ask more questions before rendering your decision.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You will influence the reactions of others, but of course people's emotions and responses are complex. Don't internalize excessive responsibility for things beyond your control.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Moods are elevations. If you're in an emotional pit, the only way to see a big sunny sky is to put your face where it is. But if you're on the mountain top, it's nothing but sky everywhere. Help yourself by going where it's easy to see the sunshine.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Some relationships are give and take; others are give and give. You'll thrive in both because you're so flexible, creative and full. Even take and take relationships could work for the time if there's enough of the commodity in question.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You bring gifts wherever you go. Your presence alone is a gift because you're aware of the people around you and what they need and want. When you know that your attention is a gift, you bestow it differently.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll wrangle your thoughts and organize your mind, sometimes by sitting down to make lists, plans and journal entries, other times by cleaning, driving and walking. You're aligning yourself and becoming more powerful as you go.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). More than anyone else in the entire world, you know what it's like to be you. It doesn't mean you always know what you want or need, but you can certainly feel what is working for you in the moment. Believe your instinct.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Insight shines through your conversations. You'll help everyone get clarity on the goals and how to work together, and in doing so you'll better understand what's really going on for you, too.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

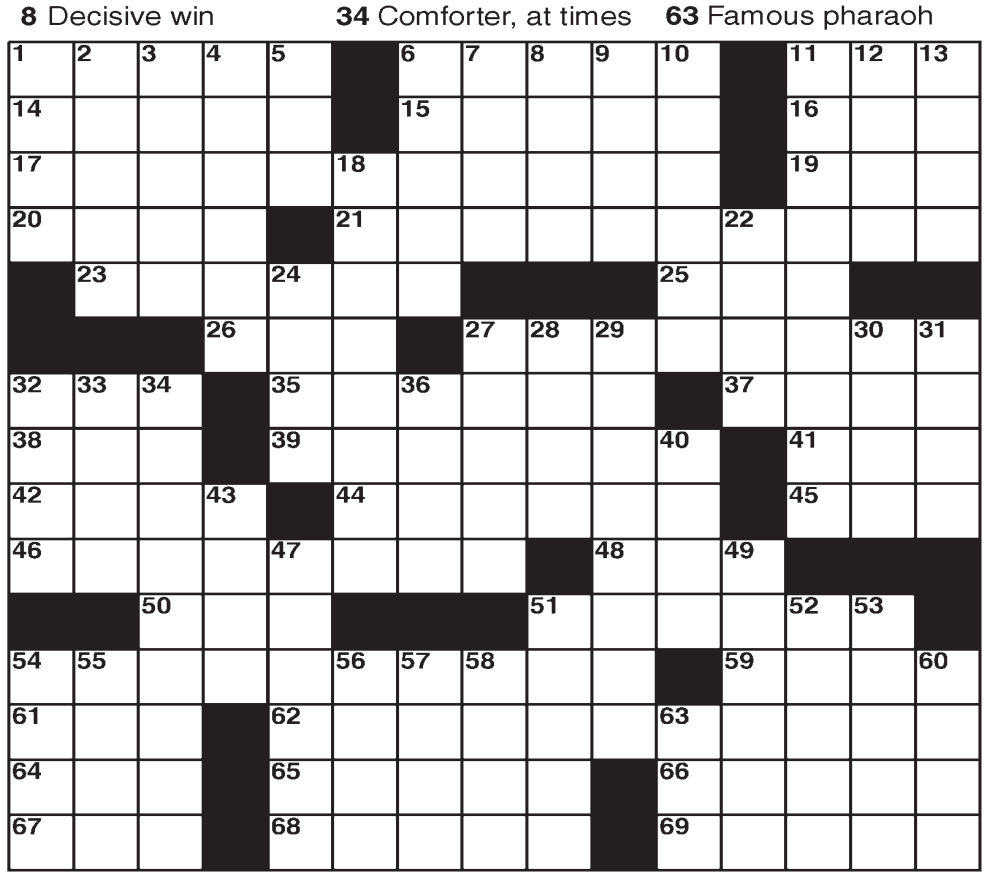
UPPER ANIMALS by Winston Emmons
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Leeway
6 West Indies native
11 Rapper hosts
14 Stomach, for example
15 Show humility
16 NHL's Coyotes, in brief
17 . . . in a source metaphor
19 Happy brother
20 Skip
21 . . . on a sweater
23 Covent Garden productions
25 Nearing depletion
26 Didn't play
27 Termite eater
32 PD advisory
35 *Nation alpine*
37 Stratford's river
38 Souvenir with four holes
39 . . . for an Iowan
41 Ivy Leaguer
42 Wagering consideration
44 Listeners to an Antony oration
45 Nailed down
46 South Florida bay
48 Wagering location
50 One to hang with
51 Scolded severely
54 . . . at a Buffett concert
59 Mardi __
61 Vexation
62 . . . at a fabric store
64 GHWB once ran it
65 Nickname that sounds like two letters
66 Disproportionate
67 Woeful
68 Supporting timbers
69 Abounds

DOWN

1 District near Piccadilly
2 TV teaser
3 Get __ (calm down)
4 Social strata
5 Compass point
6 Sartre contemporary
7 Ending for origin
8 Decisive win
9 Global: Abbr.
10 Observed
11 Caused a stir
12 Swamp critter
13 Home with a bug
18 Park art
22 Nero's "new"
24 Incautious
27 Info desk sign
28 ". . . against __ of troubles"
29 Kitchen wrap brand
30 Stage work
31 Work with two needles
32 Minimal progress
33 Salon service
34 Comforter, at times
36 "You got beat"
40 Are, to Bolívar
43 Potter's lightning bolt
47 Luau exchanges
49 Far back
51 Loses luster
52 Lose gradually
53 Single fact
54 Selfies, for instance
55 Something heard in 23 Across
56 Legal wrong
57 Central African native
58 City west of Tulsa
60 Cows and sows
63 Famous pharaoh



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PAL Poker Night







Photo credit: Ed Burns

PAL: Santa Monica PAL hosted its 5th annual Poker Tournament on Saturday March 2, 2024 at the Moose Lodge. The sold out event raised funds for PAL's enrichment and after-school programs. Congratulations to the 2024 tournament champion, Ben Jenkins, and to all the winners at the final table.

CLOSURES

FROM PAGE 1

labor market with low unemployment and wage growth, inflation ate into discretionary income, leading to a shift in spending from goods to services.

The Federation said some marginal retailers, previously supported by stimulus and landlord concessions during the pandemic, faced financial struggles. Retail bankruptcies tripled in 2023, including high-profile names like Rite Aid, Bed Bath & Beyond, and Party City. Dollar stores, off-price retailers, discounters, and warehouse clubs continued to dominate new store openings.

Store closures were widespread across retail, with companies like Bed Bath & Beyond, Tuesday Morning, and Walgreens shuttering significant numbers of locations. Foot Locker and Rite Aid also announced substantial closure plans.

In Santa Monica, there has been a wave of closures across several retail zones including but not limited to the downtown area such as:

Interactive Cafe. What was once a sleek spot for organic juice blends, kombucha tea and honey shots along with build-your-own bowls at 215 Broadway has closed. There's no news about what will fill this space or if the business is moving to a new location.

The Craftsman Bar and Kitchen. The vibe here was described as gastropub plates and microbrews paired up in a rustic-chic setting by the sea with DJs and live music, but this restaurant at 119 Broadway has also closed. Again, there's no news about what will fill this space or if the business is moving to a new location.

Champs Sports. The sports equipment store at 1248 on the 3rd Street Promenade has shuttered. However, this is a retail chain, so it just means you'll have to travel to Culver City should you want to pay a visit.

Bearfruit Jewelry. A favorite for many residents offering "well made jewelry at a moderate price" located at 395 Santa Monica Place shopping mall has closed. This is a small chain of retail outlets and currently the last two remaining are at Huntington Beach and Denver International Airport. There's no news yet about whether or not another California branch will open.

Cult cafe. The one-of-a-kind airy, easygoing coffee shop that also offered pastries, burgers and sandwiches at 1460 on the 3rd Street Promenade has shuttered. "Due to a noticeable decline in business activity in our area and public safety concerns, we have made the difficult decision to close our doors," said the restaurant on social media. However, its sister outlet, Lanea, a Mexican craft cocktail bar at 217 Broadway remains open.

Lotus Dim Sum Dumpling House. The website lists this outlet as "temporary closed" so we'll just have to wait and see if this extremely popular eatery at 326 Wilshire Blvd ever opens again.

Philz Coffee. The popular coffee shop at 525 Santa Monica Blvd has a sign up informing customers that it's closing in April. This is also a chain, with a number of outlets in the area, including Beverly Hills, Culver City, Hollywood and El Segundo. Moreover, their beans can be ordered online.

Del Frisco's Grille. The steakhouse with arguably one of the most central locations in the city — 1551 Ocean Ave, virtually opposite the pier — has gone…and will be replaced by another steakhouse, Fogo de Chão. But Del Frisco's is a chain, so if you're really picky about your porterhouse, there's another outlet in Irvine.

Notable recent closures outside DTSM include:

El Torito. Santa Monica's long-standing Mexican restaurant at 3360 Ocean Park Blvd, has closed. Signage has been removed from the site and a sign posted in the doorway directs customers to visit locations in Marina Del Rey and Hawthorne.

Kalaveras. Also leaving the Mexican food business is Kalaveras. The eatery opened opposite the beloved El Cholo in 2022, but abandoned the space earlier this year. The location was previously home to Belcampo and no word on what might replace it.

LA Draught. This quaint dive bar at 3021 Lincoln Blvd has recently announced on social media that after four years it's set to close at the end of the month. "You helped us navigate a global pandemic and survive even though we opened 30 days before. Customers became employees, customers became friends, and everyone became family," the post says. It also says that the bar is closing "due to circumstances out of our control" and suggests that "LA Draught isn't saying goodbye forever" so, fingers crossed.

"We have to be optimistic," Mayor Phil Brock told the Daily Press. "Santa Monica has weathered so many storms in the past. And there are so many factors. Rent is still an issue after Covid and of course we've had security concerns. But, I think we have a handle on that now, we just need to let everyone know that."

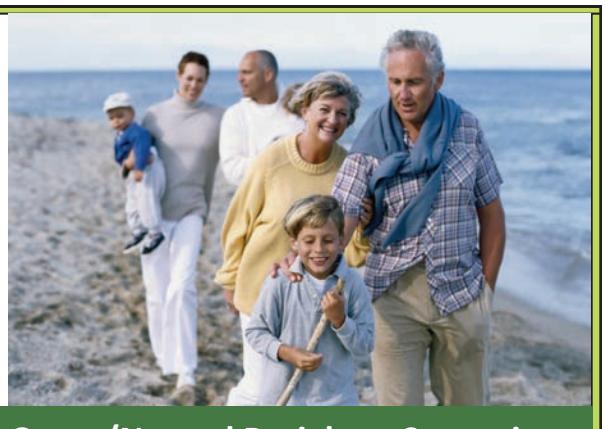
"Now we have to convince residents that it's cleaner and safer and merchants too, if all they hear is doom and gloom, then it's harder to persuade them to invest here. Plus of course, shopping habits have changed … I can't lie, we still have issues and not all of the issues are of our making. And they're hard to solve. But we can weather this storm too," Brock said.

DTSM CEO Andrew Thomas also struck an optimistic tone.

"To me, the story about Downtown Santa Monica isn't the businesses that come and go. This is a natural evolution occurring in every downtown," he said. "I think our story is what is already happening in Downtown Santa Monica. Over $1B is currently invested in hotels, including the Ocean Avenue Project. 2,300 units of housing are either under construction, approved, or pending approval Downtown. We recently had an office building sell (1540 2nd Street) for $86.7M (77,000 sf). On top of this, the City is simplifying zoning and permitting rules to invite even more investment Downtown. I'm very optimistic about the future of Downtown, and I think the investment speaks for itself."

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