smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

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From Samohi to the world stage, Navy veteran offers perspective on Ukraine





Courtesy photos

NAVY: Bob Wells is part of a local Navy family who has become an internationally recognized security expert.

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

Is Santa Monica in danger of a nuclear strike from Russia? Not likely.

But the ongoing war in Ukraine does have implications for our small town, from our ability to help ease a catastrophic humanitarian crisis in Europe to the potential for "irregular warfare" like hacked Internet or jumbled cell signals. That's according to national security expert and retired Naval Captain Bob Wells, Samohi class of 1972, who recently talked with the Daily Press about the current situation in Ukraine and how his upbringing in Santa Monica set the stage for his adventurous life.

"Growing up in Santa Monica, it was a great town, and a great time that I grew up during — that period," Wells said.

Wells went from Samohi to Santa Monica College, where he studied political science, before earning his bachelor's degree from UCLA. Then he joined the U.S. Navy, where he served for 30 years, including during the Iran–Iraq War in the 1980s, in a maritime task force during the Bosnian War of the 1990s and during Operation Enduring Freedom (post-9/11), commanding the Lake Champlain, a guided missile cruiser.

On assignment with the Navy, Wells attended MIT as a Navy fellow

SEE **WELLS** PAGE 2

Vote for your Most Loved finalists



Courtesy image

MOST LOVED: Finalists have been revealed for the 2020 Most Loved contest and voting is now open to choose your favorite businesses. Santa Monica's contest has two rounds with residents first nominating businesses and the top five finalists competing for the title. Voting is open through March 31 at www.smdp.com/ml22.

Rent Control Board seeks new powers with potential City Charter Amendment

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

When residents receive their November ballots they'll see a mix of candidates, state and county propositions and potentially a City Charter amendment. Commissioners of the Rent Control Board would certainly like to see it there as they seek changes to their powers that they believe would allow them to be a stronger voice in fighting the affordable housing crisis.

Of greatest significance is a new proposed requirement to have an annual registration of all non-rent controlled units in the City. This would collect information on the occupancy status and commencement date of the current tenancy, rent prices, reason for prior tenants' vacancy, the water/utility metering status of the unit, the amenities provided with the tenancy, and any changes in ownership.

The Rent Control Board currently receives all of this information for rent controlled units whenever a unit is vacated and re-rented. This registry aids the Board in its enforcement of rent control laws and understanding of rental rates and trends within the City. As the Board seeks to be a voice for affordable housing in the city, commissioners are interested in having a deeper understanding of the overall rental landscape in Santa Monica.

"Although we still have tenant protections in place in the county, there are significant issues where landlords are continuing to go around or creatively skirt some of the rules and of course this isn't intended to target anyone in particular, but it's intended to address the power dynamic that we have in the landlord-tenant relationship and also make sure that we're protecting the stability of our housing stock in Santa Monica," said Commissioner Caroline Torosis in a March 10 meeting.

Many nearby cities with rent control or rent stabilization policies—such as the cities of Los Angeles, West Hollywood and Beverly Hills—require an annual or new tenancy triggered registration of controlled units. Culver City currently goes beyond this and also requires an annual registration of market rate rentals.

"Because we are one of the first rent control jurisdictions, we see ourselves in Santa Monica as champions on this issue and trailblazing for the rest of the state and yet a lot of other jurisdictions with some form of rent control, rent stabilization already require a registration system," said Torosis.

The other key change that Rent Control Commissioners are seeking to the City Charter is a revision of the rules surrounding owner occupancy of controlled units. Currently, owners who seek to evict a rent controlled tenant in order

SEE **RENT CONTROL** PAGE 11

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WELLS

FROM PAGE 1

and went on to serve in the White House as a special adviser on national security affairs for the Office of the Vice President under Dick Cheney.

Now retired from the Navy, Wells is an international business consultant and adjunct professor, a published author and an expert on foreign affairs, appearing on networks like Fox News and the BBC to weigh in on conflicts and current events.

Most recently, Wells has appeared on Fox News to share his knowledge of Russia's nuclear arms and shed light on Putin's war in Ukraine, which has been raging for nearly three weeks after Russian soldiers invaded the country on Feb. 24.





Courtesy photos

ADVICE: As a Navy officer, Wells was assigned to provide advice to the White House.

U.S. STRATEGY IN UKRAINE

Speaking to the Daily Press on Friday, March 11, Wells said he believed the Biden administration should "do more" and "be more imaginative" when it came to both the security assistance and refugee support offered during the current war. According to Wells, the United States should focus on offering additional weaponry as well as food and emergency supplies to the millions of Ukrainians fighting for their country. He pointed to the Truman Doctrine of 1947, which was an effort to contain communism by offering political and military support for Greece and Turkey, which were located on the Soviet border, as well as the Berlin Airlift, which provided resources like food and fuel to those in West Berlin.

"We have a duty to protect and help Ukraine protect the population. We should open and continue the security assistance to support the Ukrainians. I like what President Biden is doing with regard to the economic attrition that has been undertaken," Wells said. "I don't think it will provoke; I think the United States has other methods and back channels as well as direct communication with the Russians to communicate our intent. I don't think it'll provoke a broader conflict."

When asked if he felt the United States should have accepted an offer of war planes from Poland to send to Ukraine, Wells said Biden should have.

"I think obviously, the President's been very careful," Wells said. "He's getting counsel from the Secretary of Defense. However, this is a war of aggression. This takes extraordinary measures by the world community, not just the United States, to deal with Mr. Putin and Russia."

As to whether such a move would prompt an escalation by Russia, Wells said that was not likely.

"I think it'll take more than planes to provoke Putin," Wells said. "This is a war. He is a very clever, particular leader." When it came to Putin announcing he was putting Russian nuclear weapons on alert, Wells said that was particularly in reference to Ukraine, not Western allies or other nations.

More than anything else, Wells stressed he did not believe the Ukraine war would be over any time soon.

"This is a long, slow burning fuse that will not end with the capitulation of Kyiv, or the Russians declaring any type of victory," Wells said, adding that Putin may have a "Pyrrhic victory" in Ukraine, essentially meaning he could win the war but at a greater cost than the war itself was worth.

THREATS AT HOME

Any owner of a world map can see Russia's relative proximity to Los Angeles — and, by extension, Santa Monica — but Wells said there was virtually no possibility of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) hitting his hometown.

Firstly, the United States and its allies track indications and warnings of potential nuclear threats, which would show if there was an escalation — "a stepping up of nuclear readiness" — in Russia, which there has not been. Secondly, an ICBM would be fired over the North Pole, and the United States' strategic nuclear defense would intercept it. Thirdly, and most crucially, Wells said, "it's a zero sum, lose-lose proposition." Putin knows if he strikes the U.S., Moscow will be immediately hit. So, no need to dig a shelter in your backyard.

"I think any type of threat to my hometown of Santa Monica would be principally irregular warfare," Wells said. He said that would most likely come in the form of cyber attacks on infrastructure like water, oil pipelines or the electricity grid.

When it comes to developing "hard targets" — meaning, building up defense against irregular warfare — Wells said U.S. Homeland Security and the U.S. Armed Forces are already working on it.

"You have a level of readiness, as they call it, and I think people should rest assured that we do have pre-planned responses and we have dedicated professionals in government and in the private sector that do have courses of action," Wells said. "Those types of threats occur — they happen every day." So far, the U.S. has been successful in deflecting such attacks, but we need to "step up our game" as threats continue to come in from Russia.

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

"This is the greatest humanitarian crisis since World War II," Wells said in describing the millions of refugees flooding out of Ukraine and into neighboring countries like Poland, Slovakia and Romania. "It has a lot of similarities with the German invasion of Poland [in 1939] — the German attempt to pretty much exterminate the Jews in Eastern Europe. If you look at what the Russians are doing, indeed, they are creating this humanitarian crisis. As the Ukrainians have talked about it, it really is a cultural genocide against the Ukrainian people."

Wells said he was reminded of similar tragedies; not only the Holocaust but the more recent humanitarian atrocities of the Syrian civil war and the genocide in Darfur.

For Santa Monica residents who have resources, Wells said there are plenty of international aid organizations worthy of financial support including the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and UN World Food Programme, as well as nonprofits like the Red Cross and Samaritan's Purse, which Wells said his family has given money to since the start of the war in Ukraine.

"So, for Santa Monicans, if you could do your part, a little bit goes a long way," Wells said, adding, "Pray, have a moral empathy for a common humanity of the people of Ukraine — they're great people."

LIFE IN SANTA MONICA

Wells grew up in Santa Monica in the 1960s and '70s, fishing off the Pier with his dad and grandpa, playing trumpet in the Santa Monica College Corsairs band and watching Apollo 11 land on the moon using technology partially developed by his friends' parents at Douglas Aircraft, just a few blocks up the road from where he lived at Pico Boulevard and 23rd Street.

"It was the home of Douglas Aircraft, which is the home of the DC-3," Wells said in a recent conversation with the Daily Press. "Growing up, they had the space program, so you had Douglas manufacturing components for the Mercury, the Gemini and Apollo [space missions], and we used to watch the planes take off." Wells said some of his classmates had moms and dads who worked at Douglas Aircraft or Rand Corporation, while other classmates were the kids of movie stars in Malibu, all attending class together at Samohi. Wells was the son of a Korean War vet who served in the Navy and the grandson of a battleship sailor who had been stationed in San Pedro.

"There's a lot of Navy salt in my blood," Wells remarked. There's also a fair bit of Santa Monica salt in his blood: Wells' grandparents were married in Santa Monica and his father was a school principal for the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. Wells attended Will Rogers Elementary, John Adams Middle School and Samohi, graduating in 1972.

Wells described the Santa Monica of the late '60s and early '70s as a combination of a beach town and an aerospace hub during the era of the space race; it was a thrilling time to live in Santa Monica and it set the foundation for his life to come.

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DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 257 CALLS ON MARCH 13

Loud Music 100Blk California Ave 12:24 a.m.
Party Complaint 800Blk Hill St 12:36 a.m.
Public Intoxication 100Blk California Ave 12:41 a.m.
Death Investigation 1900Blk Cloverfield Blvd 1:05 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1500Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 1:38 a.m.
Party Complaint 1900Blk 12th St 3:06 a.m.
Loud Music 2600Blk Main St 3:07 a.m.
Rape Now 3000Blk Goldsmith St 3:31 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 400Blk Pier Ave 3:36 a.m.
Party Complaint 24th St / Montana Ave 4:09 a.m.
Battery Ocean Ave / Broadway 4:44 a.m.
Silent Burglar Alarm 200Blk 26th St 5:43 a.m.
Encampment 2400Blk Wilshire Blvd 6:14 a.m.
Loitering 1300Blk 7th St 6:21 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Now 1300Blk 7th St 6:46 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1200Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 7:32 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 200Blk San Vicente Blvd 7:52 a.m.
Smoking Violation 2900Blk Ocean Park Blvd 8:14 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 900Blk 21st St 8:17 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 200Blk Montana Ave 8:17 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1400Blk Ocean Ave 8:50 a.m.
Construction Noise 2300Blk Oak St 9:01 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 2000Blk 6th St 9:04 a.m.
General Parking Problem 3300Blk Barnard Way 9:16 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Lincoln Blvd / Ocean Park Blvd 9:37 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 400Blk The Beach 9:38 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1300Blk Washington Ave 9:47 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 3300Blk Barnard Way 9:51 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 200Blk The Beach 10:11 a.m.
Construction Noise 2300Blk Oak St 10:16 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 400Blk The Beach 10:23 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 100Blk The Beach 10:37 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 1500Blk 9th St 10:37 a.m.
Construction Noise 500Blk 15th St 10:38 a.m.
Construction Noise 2300Blk Oak St 11:18 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1000Blk 12th St 11:48 a.m.
Petty Theft 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 11:53 a.m.
Battery Now 1100Blk The Beach 12:11 p.m.
Assault Report 600Blk Hollister Ave 12:11 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1400Blk Olympic Blvd 12:22 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1700Blk The Beach 12:27 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1100Blk Princeton St 12:37 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 100Blk Fraser Ave 12:40 p.m.
Assault 800Blk Ocean Ave 12:55 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries Stanford St / Colorado Ave 12:59 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 1100Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 1:04 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 800Blk 12th St 1:29 p.m.
Warrant Suspect Pick Up 400Blk N. Rexford Drive 1:41 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1500Blk 6th St 1:42 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1300Blk Wilshire Blvd 1:45 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 2600Blk Barnard Way 1:48 p.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 200Blk Idaho Ave 1:49 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1200Blk Ocean Ave 2:09 p.m.
Loud Music 600Blk Hill St 2:26 p.m.
Assault Report 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 3:08 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 900Blk Lincoln Blvd 3:24 p.m.
Speeding Ocean Ave / Santa Monica Blvd 3:35 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 900Blk 11th St 3:59 p.m.
Critical Missing Person 300Blk Olympic Dr 4:04 p.m.
Found Person 300Blk Santa Monica Pier 4:11 p.m.
Speeding 2800Blk Neilson Way 4:17 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 800Blk San Vicente Blvd 4:18 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Cloverfield Blvd / Michigan Ave 4:52 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 200Blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:58 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 700Blk 25th St 5:04 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 16th St / Montana Ave 5:12 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 400Blk Arizona Ave 5:19 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 21st St / Ocean Park Blvd 5:21 p.m.
Speeding 1700Blk Blk Of The Beach 5:23 p.m.
Speeding 2800Blk The Beach 5:23 p.m.
Speeding Ocean Ave / Olympic Dr 5:35 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Ocean Ave / Pico Blvd 5:42 p.m.
Lewd Activity 2400Blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:43 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1300Blk 4th St 5:59 p.m.
Battery 1300Blk 3rd Street Prom 6:21 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 1300Blk Wilshire Blvd 6:24 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 500Blk Olympic Blvd W 6:26 p.m.
Battery Report 10th St / Montana Ave 6:30 p.m.
Child Abuse 1500Blk 2nd St 6:54 p.m.
Battery 300Blk Santa Monica Pier 6:55 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Now 700Blk Montana Ave 8:07 p.m.
Vehicle Cite & Tow (Parking Problem) 1100Blk Idaho Ave 8:46 p.m.
Runaway 200Blk Mills St 8:50 p.m.
Petty Theft 400Blk Arizona Ave 9:11 p.m.
Armed Robbery 1500Blk Palisades Park 9:25 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Now 2500Blk Main St 9:29 p.m.
Petty Theft 3rd Street Prom / Santa Monica Blvd 9:46 p.m.
Speeding 2100Blk Delaware Ave 9:48 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1100Blk Pico Blvd 10:04 p.m.
Loud Music 2800Blk The Beach 10:06 p.m.
Petty Theft 1300Blk 5th St 10:26 p.m.
Overdose 1700Blk Stewart St 10:50 p.m.
Loud Music Barnard Way / Fraser Ave 11:11 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 800Blk Ocean Ave 11:58 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 39 CALLS ON MARCH 13

EMS 1500Blk 2nd St 6:55 p.m.
EMS 2nd St / Santa Monica Blvd 12:11 a.m.
EMS 100Blk Pier Ave 12:46 a.m.
EMS 1700Blk 17th St 1:06 a.m.
EMS 1000Blk Berkeley St 1:20 a.m.
EMS 1900Blk Cloverfield Blvd 1:26 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 3:10 a.m.
EMS 2700Blk Main St 3:28 a.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Broadway 4:57 a.m.
EMS 1100Blk 3rd St 6:51 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 8:44 a.m.
EMS 1500Blk 5th St 10:19 a.m.
EMS 1200Blk 4th St 10:41 a.m.
EMS 1000Blk Grant St 10:44 a.m.
EMS 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 11:30 a.m.
EMS 2700Blk Neilson Way 12:52 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 2900Blk Colorado Ave 12:59 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 1:23 p.m.
Flooded Condition Stanford St / Colorado Ave 1:27 p.m.
EMS 2200Blk 23rd St 1:49 p.m.
EMS 2400Blk Main St 1:52 p.m.
EMS 2800Blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:08 p.m.
EMS 1400Blk 16th St 2:12 p.m.
EMS 2400Blk Main St 2:37 p.m.
EMS 1100Blk 7th St 2:46 p.m.
EMS 3rd Street Prom / Broadway 2:48 p.m.
EMS 300Blk Santa Monica Pl 3:11 p.m.
EMS 1000Blk 16th St 3:43 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1600Blk Lincoln Blvd 3:51 p.m.
EMS 1100Blk 12th St 5:06 p.m.
Flooded Condition 1500Blk Pico Blvd 5:07 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 1500Blk Montana Ave 5:12 p.m.
EMS 21st St / Ocean Park Blvd 5:21 p.m.
EMS 700Blk Pier Ave 6:57 p.m.
EMS 500Blk San Vicente Blvd 8:20 p.m.
EMS 500Blk Olympic Blvd W 8:57 p.m.
EMS 1700Blk Stewart St 10:50 p.m.
EMS 1900Blk 22nd St 11:38 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk Euclid St 11:58 p.m.

CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

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

ON MARCH 13 AT APPROXIMATELY 5 P.M.

SMPD officers observed a Ford Explorer recklessly driving in the 2000 block of the beach bike path at a high rate of speed. Dozens of pedestrians and bicyclist had to move/jump out of the way to avoid being struck. With hundreds of individuals on the path, officers alerted all within harm's way with their lights and sirens. The officers were able to stop the vehicle at about the 1600 block of the beach bicycle path. The suspected DUI driver was taken into custody before anyone was hurt. The suspect, Jaime Cruz Ibarra, a 62-year-old male from Compton was booked for DUI, Reckless Driving and Driving on Bicycle Lane.

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California aims to limit health care costs with new office

ADAM BEAM
Associated Press

Frustrated by how much they were paying for health care, two groups of California workers sued one of the nation's largest hospital systems. One group secured a half-billion-dollar settlement. The other lost in court.

Both cases took nearly a decade to resolve, highlighting the difficulty patients and their employers often face when trying to corral the ever-increasing costs of health care.

Now, instead of relying on the market or the courts to keep health care prices in check, California Gov. Gavin Newsom wants to order the state's hospitals, doctors' offices and insurance companies to keep their costs below a certain level. If they don't, the state could impose a hefty fine.

That's the goal of the proposed Office of Health Care Affordability, part of Newsom's $286.4 billion budget proposal. At least four other states — Massachusetts, Maryland, Rhode Island and Oregon — have similar offices. But none is as comprehensive as the one proposed in California. The big difference: California would be more willing to punish companies that charge too much.

"If we could get everybody to voluntarily really look at the way they are managing health care, they would have done it by now," said Jim Wood, a Democratic member of the state Legislature who supports the proposal. "We're seeing health care costs rise at twice the rate of inflation for the last seven years, and that is simply unsustainable."

When it comes to health care prices, patients and their employers have little negotiating power. Patients often don't know how much a procedure or treatment will cost until after it's done. A flurry of hospital mergers and acquisitions have diluted competition in the marketplace, making it easier for providers to raise rates.

The impact on consumers has been stark. Between 2002 and 2017, monthly health insurance premiums in California for people who get health coverage through their employer increased 249% — or more than six times the rate of general inflation, according to an analysis by the California Health Care Foundation, a nonprofit working for universal health care coverage.

Last year, about half of Californians said they skipped or delayed some type of health care because they couldn't afford it, according to a survey by the foundation.

The Democratic Party's progressive wing has been trying to tackle this problem by urging the Legislature to adopt a European-style health care system, where taxpayers pay for most things and private insurance is relegated to a supporting role for elective procedures.

But Newsom, while campaigning for a so-called "single-payer" health care system when he first ran for governor in 2018, has instead spent much of his first term trying to set up the Office of Health Care Affordability. Since the biggest barrier to a single-payer system is money — one estimate says California spends $517 billion per year on health care — Newsom sees this office as a way to rein in costs before asking taxpayers to fund all of it.

"This elevates a very important, what I like to call, 'single-payer principle,' which is take control of costs and create a great deal of transparency on what consumers are getting," said Dr. Mark Ghaly, Newsom's secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency.

Patients and their employers have been seeking relief from high health care prices in the courts, most notably in a pair of high-profile lawsuits against Sutter Health, which operates 24 hospitals in Northern California. The company settled one lawsuit with a group of workers in 2019, which also included a court-approved monitor to make sure the company keeps its prices in check. A federal jury ruled against the other group of workers last week.

Health care advocates say the two lawsuits highlight the need for the Office of Health Care Affordability, which will "try to deal with the issue holistically rather than to just chase after one market failure after another," said Anthony Wright, executive director of Health Access, California, a consumer advocacy group.

Sutter Health spokeswoman Amy Thoma Tan said the company is "relentlessly committed to affordability," saying the hospital system has held its increases to health plans "to the low single digits" for the past eight years.

Setting up the office will be tricky. The office would gather lots of data from across the health care industry. Some of that data would be public, but a lot of it would remain private to protect some proprietary information companies want to keep secret. An eight-member board, made up of experts appointed by the governor and lawmakers, would then set cost targets for each geographic region of the state.

The California Hospital Association worries the office won't be able to distinguish between "good spending," like that on mental health care, from "bad spending," like duplicated medical records or overly complex paperwork. Plus, it says 45% of California hospitals are already operating at a loss, with another 15% barely breaking even.

"Caution is needed in attempting to create affordability by simply capping spending," said Jan Emerson-Shea, the association's spokeswoman. "That does nothing to address the actual cost of care."

The California Medical Association, which represents doctors, said health care costs remain too high, and there is an ongoing need to address affordability. But Dr. Robert E. Wailes, its president, worried the proposal could unintentionally drive up prices by causing more health care providers to merge. He said the group will work to ensure the proposal "targets entities that are responsible for the most significant cost

SEE **HEALTH CARE** PAGE 6

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AWARD WINNER
AWARD WINNER
WINNER

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Trojans try to recapture glory, make strides against UCLA

ERIC OLSON
AP Sports Writer

Southern California, the blueblood baseball program that hasn't been much of a factor nationally for two decades, is showing signs of re-emerging.

The Trojans are coming off their first series win at UCLA since 2016 and are out to an 11-3 start, their best since the 2015 team opened with 12 straight wins.

"We probably haven't earned the respect or had the respect we're trying to earn, so when you come in and play a team that just came off a big series last week... We feel like we're trying to earn respect and when we do stuff like that, we feel we're getting it," third-year coach Jason Gill said.

UCLA entered the Pac-12 opening series ranked as high as No. 15 and had beaten then-No. 1 Texas a week earlier at an event in Houston.

The Trojans won 7-4 Friday and bounced back from a 2-1 loss Saturday to win 6-3 on Sunday. They made their first appearance of the season in the national rankings at No. 25 by Baseball America and Collegiate Baseball newspaper.

Rhylan Thomas and Tyresse Turner each had five hits in the series and Garret Guillemette had four hits, including a home run to stake the Trojans to an early 5-0 lead Sunday.

USC has held up despite being without No. 1 starting pitcher Isaac Esqueda for two weeks because of injury. Charlie Hurley allowed two runs over seven innings on Sunday, and relievers Carson Lambert and Matt Keating combined to allow three runs over seven innings in the series.

"Those are our go-to guys," Gill said, "and they know it and I think they enjoy the fact they're going to get the ball."

USC, which has won an NCAA-best 12 national championships but none since 1998, has struggled to regain its traction the past two decades.

The Trojans haven't been back to the College World Series since 2001 or won a conference title since 2002. Not counting the pandemic-shortened 2020 season, they haven't had a winning record since 2015, which also was the last time they've appeared in the NCAA Tournament.

They were picked eighth in the Pac-12 preseason poll and get no breather before a weekend home series against California. On Tuesday, they host Connecticut (11-2), which is coming off a series win at Pepperdine.

IN THE POLLS

The rankings are jumbled with Texas, which had been the consensus No. 1 team, losing four of its past six games, including two of three at South Carolina.

Mississippi (13-2) is No. 1 by D1Baseball.com, Notre Dame (11-1) by Baseball America and Vanderbilt (13-2) by Collegiate Baseball newspaper.

The Nos. 2 and 3 teams are Texas (13-4) and Arkansas (11-3) by D1Baseball, Ole Miss and Oregon State (11-2) by Baseball America and Tennessee (15-1) and Oregon State by Collegiate Baseball.

SWINGING SUSAC

Daniel Susac became the first Arizona player in 24 years to hit two home runs in an inning, going deep twice in a nine-run first in the Wildcats' 13-5, series-clinching win over California. Susac, an All-American last season, is batting .416 with three homers, 11 doubles and 23 RBIs in 16 games.

HALL BALL

Seton Hall pulled one of the surprises of the weekend with its 6-4 win at Florida on Sunday, the Pirates' first victory after 12 losses to start the season. The Pirates hadn't beaten a Power Five team since a 10-2 win over Illinois on Feb. 15, 2020.

THAT TOOK A WHILE

Charlotte played its longest game in terms of time elapsed in its 9-7, 12-inning loss to Appalachian State on Sunday. The game lasted 5 hours, 41 minutes.

The 49ers thought they had it won in the ninth on a play at the plate, but the umpire called obstruction on catcher Kaden Hopson and the tying run counted. Andrew Greckel drove in the go-ahead run for App State in the 12th.

NO MERCY MERCER

Mercer outscored Saint Peter's 54-4 in a three-game sweep and is off to the best start in program history at 15-1.

The Bears from the Southern Conference own wins over Florida State and Georgia Tech and will face a big challenge this week when they travel to South Florida, which made it to super regionals last season.



SMMUSD
SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District of Los Angeles County (SMMUSD) will receive sealed bids from contractors holding a type **"B"** license, on the following: **Bid #22.10.M – DSA #03-121527 and #03-121916 – Modular Village Relocation Project at Malibu Middle High School.** This scope of work is estimated to be between **$500,000.00 - $600,000.00** and includes relocation of (5) existing modular classroom units and (1) restroom unit from the former Juan Cabrillo Elementary School campus to two locations on the adjacent Malibu Middle High School campus and other associated improvements per bidding documents. All bids must be submitted electronically as per the instructions included in the bidding documents on or before 4/19/22 no later than 2:00 PM. All General Contractors and Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (M/E/P) Subcontractors must be pre-qualified for this project per bidding documents. To view the projects bidding documents, please visit ARC Southern California public plan room www.crplanwell.com and reference the project Bid #.

Prequalification Due Date & Instructions for Application Submission: All applications are due no later than 4/5/22 - Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District has contracted with Colbi Technologies, Inc. to provide a web-based process for prequalification called QualityBidders. To submit an application at no cost please visit www.qualitybidders.com. Once you have been approved, you will receive an email indicating your approval expiration date and approval limit. The Districts approved contractors listing can be obtained via the FIP website at https://www.smmusd.org/domain/4172.

Mandatory Job Walk: 3/29/22 @ 10:30am

Job Walk location: Former Juan Cabrillo Elementary School located in Malibu, CA – All Attending Contractors MUST meet the District representatives at the front of the Administration Building located at, 30237 Morning View Drive, Malibu, CA 90265. Bidders will be escorted onto the campus from that location. Due to COVID-19 all attending contractors must not have a temperature (temperatures will be taken), bring and wear face masks at all times while on the site and adhere to social distancing safety requirements during the meeting or they will be asked to leave the property.

Electronic Bid Submittal Deadline: 4/19/22 at 2:00pm

Any further questions or clarifications to this bidding opportunity, please contact Sheere Bishop-Griego at smbishop@smmusd.org directly. In addition, any pre-qualification support issues relative to Colbi Technologies, Inc., website or for technical support please contact support@qualityBidders.com directly.

DENTAL Insurance

Medicare does not cover dental care[1]. That means if you need dental work done, it can cost you hundreds or even thousands of dollars out of your own pocket.

Get Dental Insurance from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. It helps cover over 350 procedures – from cleanings and fillings to crowns and dentures.

- **See any dentist you want**, but save more with one in our network
- No deductible, **no annual maximum**
- **Immediate coverage** for preventive care



Call to get your FREE Information Kit
1-855-323-7468
dental50plus.com/santamonica

[1] "Medicare & You," Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2020
Includes the Participating (in GA: Designated) Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Product not available in all states. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, LA, NY; call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for similar offer. Certificate C250A (ID: C250E; PA: C250Q); Insurance Policy P150 (GA: P150GA; NY: P150NY; OK: P1500K; TN: P150TN); Rider kinds B438/B439 (GA: B439B).
6255







What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Our Dry Future – Leaders Lack Vision

We live in a desert that was turned into a green space, but the desert is fighting back. The drought in California and throughout the southwest is a major environmental issue. Santa Monica has been proactive in replacing thirsty plants with drought-tolerant ones, we've built systems to capture water, use greywater and on the whole we're conscious of public water consumption.

It's not enough.

The fact is that the southwest is drying up. We are undergoing desertification in combination with the unrestricted growth that is being pushed by our public officials who are beholden to special interests. While the State dictates to the local officials how many more residential units we are mandated to build to accommodate population growth, they are ignoring the profound costs that those new bodies are incurring.

Special interests have put forth and funded new rules on development that are having a limited impact today, but I believe will have a profound impact on our state over the next two decades. As developers are allowed to build more densely we will have an increase in our traffic congestion, in our overburdened public works and infrastructure, and in the strain that is put on our environment.

As Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg noted on 60 Minutes this past Sunday we've essentially not performed major maintenance on our infrastructure since the Eisenhower administration. Anderson Cooper noted that our political leaders have generally preferred to start new projects, rather than crow about bringing in the money for maintenance, and Secretary Buttigieg agreed with him.

In our little pocket of the world, one need only look to the boondoggle that is the high-speed train that is being built from Bakersfield to Fresno. It's already billions of dollars over budget and no one who draws a conscious breath can honestly claim that it is ever going to come close to the original budget. Has any public project ever come in on time and on budget, let alone under budget?

Rather than take the billions of dollars that are being spent on an essentially unnecessary train, and repairing the systems and public works that we have in place, the money is routed to corporations that will then pay lobbyists to guarantee that the money keeps coming from the legislators that they are paying to put in office.

Now the counter-argument to all of this is that all that money is circulating and is helping to keep blue-collar workers employed, and they, in turn, pay their rent, buy their trucks and feed their children while paying hefty taxes that are used to pay for more public works. Money is the lubricant that keeps our state economy moving, but it does seem to me that while we are spending on development and packing the people into small cities like Santa Monica, we are forgetting that important elements of life, like water, need to be considered.

Rather than build that silly train thing, why aren't we spending that money on improving our reservoir system? Why not be building new reservoirs so that we can make better use of the rain that we do get? The northern half of the state is both underpopulated, and the primary source of our winter snowpack. It seems to me that we could develop a deeper, more robust reservoir system in Northern California that serves the tremendous needs across the state, from the agricultural needs of the central valley to the residential demands of the southern six counties.

The water table of the central valley is dropping to record lows, lands are imploding, and the Nestle water company continues to make profits. I know that we need to work with industry to provide clean drinking water, but once the wells run dry, Nestle will move on to a new source, much like a parasite does when the host dies. The problem for us is that we are the host.

We have to find new and better ways to provide for the population that is still increasing every day in our state. So long as development continues, and it will, we have to address the long-term costs and needs of our people. The failure of our leadership to think beyond election cycles will be our undoing, for the planet operates in terms of centuries and millennia.

I believe our shortsighted leaders will be remembered more for their deficiencies than their visions of the future.

David Pisarra is a Los Angeles Divorce and Child Custody Lawyer specializing in Father's and Men's Rights with the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or 310/664-9969. You can follow him on Twitter @ davidpisarra

HEALTH CARE

FROM PAGE 4

increases."

The proposal is still a long way from becoming law, as lawmakers, consumer advocates and health care lobbyists all negotiate over how the office would work. Wood, the Democratic Assembly member, said the health industry is lobbying hard to exempt their various interests.

"Nobody wants to take responsibility or own their role in the problem," Wood said. "The biggest hurdle is people trying to find a way to get out of it. And what we're trying to do is keep everybody in it."

Russia keeps up attacks in Ukraine as two sides hold talks

YURAS KARMANAU
Associated Press

Russia and Ukraine kept a fragile diplomatic path open with a new round of talks Monday even as Moscow's forces pounded away at Kyiv and other cities across the country in a punishing bombardment the Red Cross said has created "nothing short of a nightmare" for civilians.

Meanwhile, a convoy of 160 civilian cars left the encircled port city of Mariupol along a designated humanitarian route, the city council reported, in a rare glimmer of hope a week and a half into the lethal siege that has pulverized homes and other buildings and left people desperate for food, water, heat and medicine.

The latest negotiations, held via video conference, were the fourth round involving higher-level officials from the two countries and the first in a week. The talks ended without a breakthrough after several hours, with an aide to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy saying the negotiators took "a technical pause" and planned to meet again Tuesday.

The two sides had expressed some optimism in the past few days. Mykhailo Podolyak, the aide to Zelenskyy, tweeted that the negotiators would discuss "peace, ceasefire, immediate withdrawal of troops & security guarantees."

Previous discussions, held in person in Belarus, produced no lasting humanitarian routes or agreements to end the fighting.

In Washington, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said at a briefing Monday that while the Biden administration supports Ukraine's participation in the talks with Russia, Russian President Vladimir Putin would have to show signs of de-escalating in order to demonstrate good faith.

"And what we're really looking for is evidence of that, and we're not seeing any evidence at this point that President Putin is doing anything to stop the onslaught or de-escalate," she said.

Overall, nearly all of the Russian military offensives remained stalled after making little progress over the weekend, according to a senior U.S. defense official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the Pentagon's assessment. Russian troops were still about 15 kilometers (9 miles) from the center of Kyiv, the official said.

The official said that Russian forces have launched more than 900 missiles but that Ukraine's airspace is still contested, with Russia not achieving total air superiority.

Overnight, air raid alerts sounded in cities and towns around the country, from near the Russian border in the east to the Carpathian Mountains in the west, and fighting continued on the outskirts of Kyiv. Ukrainian officials said Russian forces shelled several suburbs of the capital.

Ukrainian authorities said two people were killed when the Russians struck an airplane factory in Kyiv, sparking a large fire. The Antonov factory is Ukraine's largest aircraft plant and produces many of the world's biggest cargo planes.

Russian artillery fire also hit a nine-story apartment building in the northern Obolonskyi district of the city, killing two more people, authorities said.

And a Russian airstrike near a Ukrainian checkpoint caused extensive damage to a downtown Kyiv neighborhood, killing one person, Ukraine's emergency agency said.

Kateryna Lot said she was in her apartment as her child did homework when they heard a loud explosion and ran to take shelter.

"The child became hysterical. Our windows and the balcony were shattered. Part of the floor fell down," she said. "It was very, very scary."

In an area outside Kyiv, Fox News reporter Benjamin Hall was injured while reporting and was hospitalized, the network said.

In Russia, the live main evening news program on state television was briefly interrupted by a woman who walked into the studio holding a poster against the war. The OVD-Info website that monitors political arrests said she was a Channel 1 employee who taken into police custody.

A town councilor for Brovary, east of Kyiv, was killed in fighting there, officials said. Shells also fell on the Kyiv suburbs of Irpin, Bucha and Hostomel, which have seen some of the worst fighting in Russia's stalled attempt to take the capital, local authorities said.

Airstrikes were reported across the country, including the southern city of Mykolaiv, and the northern city of Chernihiv, where heat was knocked out to most of the town. Explosions also reverberated overnight around the Russian-occupied Black Sea port of Kherson.

Nine people were killed in a rocket attack on a TV tower in the western village of Antopol, according to the region's governor.

In the eastern city of Kharkiv, firefighters doused the smoldering remains of a four-story residential building. It was unclear whether there were casualties.

In the southern city of Mariupol, where the war has produced some of the greatest suffering, the city council didn't say how many people were in the convoy of cars headed westward for the city of Zaporizhzhia. But it said a cease-fire along the route appeared to be holding.

Previous attempts to evacuate civilians and deliver humanitarian aid to the city of 430,000 were thwarted by continuing fighting.

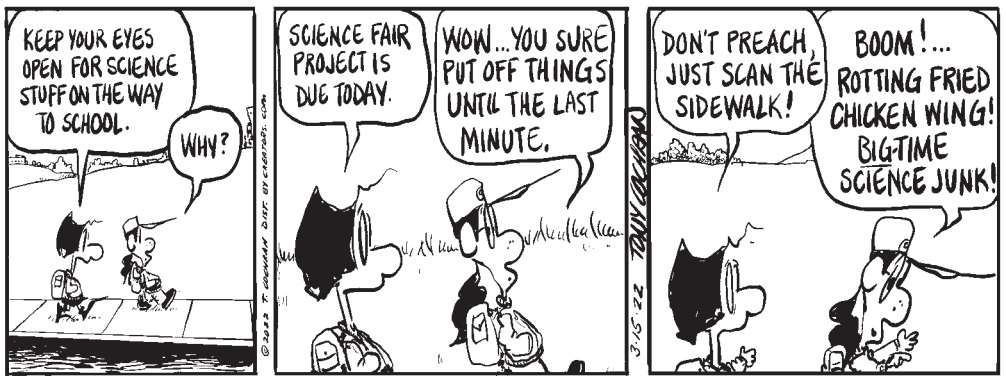
Ukraine's military said it repelled an attempt Monday to take control of Mariupol by Russian forces, who were forced to retreat. Satellite images from Maxar Technologies

SEE **UKRAINE** PAGE 11



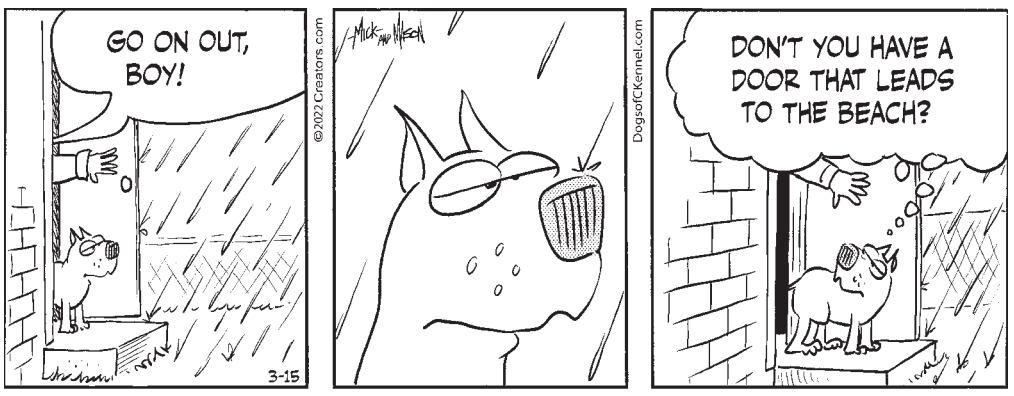
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



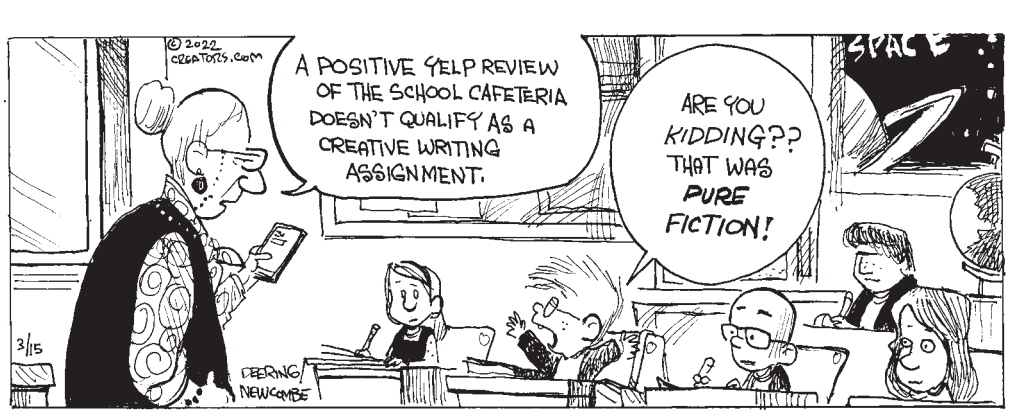
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



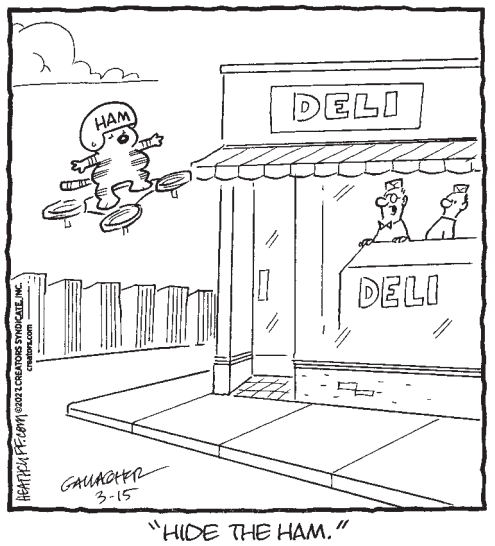
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

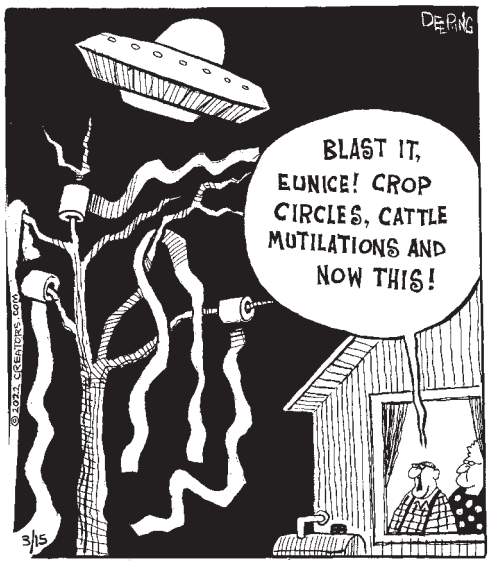
By PETER GALLAGHER



"HIDE THE HAM."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 59.5°

TUESDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Thigh to stomach
Small SSW swell lingers. Could see a nice build in fresh NW swell late in the day as old NW energy falls off. Look for the morning high tide to slow many breaks.

WEDNESDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 3-5ft Waist to head
NW swell may top out for the week but conditions are in question. Morning high tide will slow many breaks -- afternoon has the best tide window of the day but you'll need wind blockage.

WEATHER

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 69. East northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 55. West southwest wind around 10 mph.
Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 76. North northeast wind 10 to 15 mph.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2022/03/15	Tue	02:16 AM	1.74	L
2022/03/15	Tue	08:15 AM	5.31	H
2022/03/15	Tue	3:09 PM	-0.61	L
2022/03/15	Tue	9:29 PM	4.11	H
2022/03/16	Wed	02:48 AM	1.32	L
2022/03/16	Wed	08:50 AM	5.47	H
2022/03/16	Wed	3:33 PM	-0.63	L
2022/03/16	Wed	9:49 PM	4.38	H
2022/03/17	Thu	03:22 AM	0.92	L
2022/03/17	Thu	09:24 AM	5.47	H
2022/03/17	Thu	3:57 PM	-0.53	L
2022/03/17	Thu	10:10 PM	4.67	H
2022/03/18	Fri	03:58 AM	0.56	L
2022/03/18	Fri	10:00 AM	5.29	H
2022/03/18	Fri	4:22 PM	-0.28	L
2022/03/18	Fri	10:34 PM	4.95	H
2022/03/19	Sat	04:38 AM	0.26	L
2022/03/19	Sat	10:39 AM	4.93	H
2022/03/19	Sat	4:48 PM	0.09	L
2022/03/19	Sat	11:02 PM	5.17	H
2022/03/20	Sun	05:22 AM	0.06	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERball
Draw Date: 3/12
19 20 37 39 61
Power#: 8
Jackpot: 124 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 3/11
24 28 39 44 66
Mega#: 25
Jackpot: 22 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 3/12
11 14 17 19 43
Mega#: 13
Jackpot: 25 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 3/13
4 7 14 16 34

Daily 3
Draw Date: 3/13
EVENING: 7 6 4
Draw Date: 3/13
MIDDAY: 1 4 5

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 3/13
1st: 12 - Lucky Charms
2nd: 01 - Gold Rush
3rd: 07 - Eureka
Race Time: 1:41.67

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

WISE & Healthy Aging
(310) 394-9871

Adult Day Service Center
Your trusted source for adult day care for your loved one. Let us give you the break you need.

Somos Amigos
"Somos Amigos" (we are friends) is our Spanish Language Program offering mental stimulation, exercise-strength training and recreation.

Let Us Help You Address Early Memory Loss
A Program of WISE & Healthy Aging
WISE Minds
A Veterans Benefit!

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (MARCH 15)

The riches of your soul sparkle as you employ your super-talent for empathy. You somehow relate to people whose lives are unlike yours, which leads you to a deeper understanding of the world and of yourself. You'll finally get something you've wanted for years. You don't have to be afraid of power. You can handle this. Aries and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 33, 2, 9 and 17.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Changes in your environment trigger unexpected responses. It's nice to be surprised. This twist could be just the spice that makes a relationship suddenly more interesting.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Stars smile on you as you approach an ordinary interest with extraordinary passion. Be reasonable with your expectations. No one requires you to be an expert right out of the gate.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You have a reputation for recognizing and nurturing talent. People follow you down the unfamiliar path because they believe you'll lead them to a safe place.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're doing your best to pull off a beautiful presentation. Someone is trying to rush you along, but you need time to get the details right. Make a case for the pacing that feels right to you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When people want something but aren't saying what it is, you can feel as though the unspoken has an actual weight. You're charming and will be able to tease out the information.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You won't back down or give in. Others aren't aware of this, so they will try to persuade you with logical arguments, emotional appeals and other means. You will be impressed at how hard they try.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). As much as you would like to think you're an emotionally independent person, your mood has influence, and you are also susceptible to catching vibes. It's crucial to surround yourself with positive people.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It doesn't matter what comes your way today. You've seen it before, or at least something similar, so you won't flinch. You know this is for the best and highest good, so you'll handle it as a winner.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You have the right to change your mind. Don't be afraid to do so repeatedly until you feel comfortable with your choice. Seek input from those who have been where you're at.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Like a spoonful of medicine, you've gone through something recently that was as unpleasant as it was good for you. The good news is that it worked, and you are on your way to healing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Others around you will be nervous. Because of your strong sense of empathy, you'll feel it, too. You'll want to alleviate the feeling, but the best approach is to simply experience it for what it has to teach you and then let it go.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Obstacles in your path may seem immovable, but that's only because someone is bluffing. Call the bluff. You'll find the "immovable" can be cleared without too much fuss.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

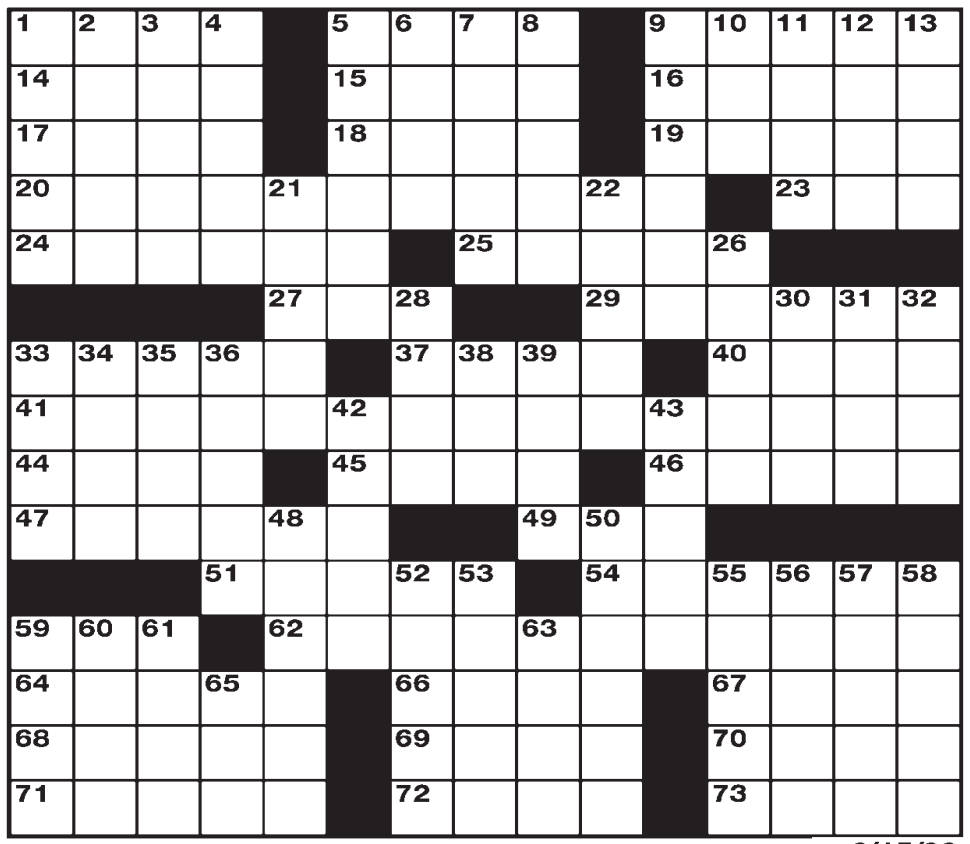
			8			6		4
		3		5	7	9		
8		6					3	7
	3			2				
6		8				5		2
				7			8	
2	9					4		3
		4	1	6		7		
5		7			3			

Newsday Crossword

TALE TRIO by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Gets married
5 __ and crafts
9 Take a nap
14 Shakespeare's river
15 Any city with a harbor
16 Use a loom
17 State with Des Moines
18 Lion's sound
19 Taking a cruise
20 Material to knit with
23 Make a mistake
24 Tattle about
25 Sugary
27 "School of thought" suffix
29 Rented
33 "Gimme a break!"
37 Prefix meaning "all"
40 "Not guilty," e.g.
41 Destination for a direct deposit
44 Misplaced
45 Play friskily
46 Ham __ (sandwich order)
47 Chant heard at the Olympics
49 Segment of history
51 Swindler's victim
54 Draw out, as a response
59 Used to be
62 Upstairs area of a home
64 From Dublin or Killarney
66 Scent
67 Spill (over)
68 Taco chip dip
69 Greek cheese
70 Second to __ (the best)
71 Black hardwood
72 Went by plane
73 Approximately

DOWN
1 What a belt encircles
2 Bring to mind
3 Wooden rod
4 Slow-moving mollusk
5 Protective coverings for cooks
6 Top of a building
7 Meal holders in cafeterias
8 Scarecrow's stuffing
9 Southern river of song
10 Allow
11 Make simpler
12 At any time
13 Bartlett or Bosc
21 Computer printer problem
22 Artifact of the past
26 Touch lightly, as a shoulder
28 A third of tri-
30 Speak unclearly
31 Wee, informally
32 Palm tree fruit
33 Rights org.
34 ". . . but __ counting?"
35 Flat-topped hill
36 Misbehave
38 Studio with a lion mascot
39 Back of the neck
42 Very angry
43 Barbecue briquettes
48 Strut about
50 Sketch again
52 Sneer (at)
53 Alpine song
55 "__ big deal"
56 Hue
57 Smooths with steam, as a shirt
58 Universal donor's blood group
59 Using good judgment
60 Typical Saudi
61 Farm storage tower
63 Brief memo
65 Nine-digit ID



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What's Up Westside
out and about in Santa Monica

TUESDAY | MARCH 15

MYSTERY BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION
Join a community-led discussion of an exciting mystery novel each month. Currently held on Zoom. Email library@santamonica.gov to join. 7 - 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY | MARCH 16

MONTANA AVENUE BRANCH BOOK GROUP
Join a community-led monthly book club, centered in the Montana neighborhood. This group currently meets via Zoom. Email library@santamonica.gov for the link. 7 - 8 p.m.

TEENS, TWEENS & THEIR DIGITAL LIVES
Learn tips and tools for guiding middle and high school students through digital challenges, from the complexities of social media to navigating online drama. This 4-week workshop series, using a Common Sense Media curriculum, is designed for parents and caregivers of youths ages 11 & up. Attendees will receive free books on the topics discussed. Register at bit.ly/YouthProgramSignUps. Pico Branch Library. 6:30 - 8 p.m.

STORYTIME: SANTA MONICA POLICE CHIEF RAMON BATISTA
Santa Monica Police Chief Ramon Batista reads to us at a special story time! Ages 2 & up. Space is limited. To register, email https://bit.ly/YouthProgramSignUps. Main Library, 11 - 11:30 a.m.

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET
Arizona Ave. (between 2nd & 4th)
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION
The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce and the Organization of Women Leaders (OWL) host the annual inspirational networking celebration in honor of International Women's Day and Women's History Month. This motivational and fun event gathers the top women business leaders from around Santa Monica. Each year, "Owlies" are honored in relation to the Women's Day theme for their commitment to the community. 7 p.m. $10 https://members.smchamber.com/events/details/international-women-s-day-18570

FYP COMEDY SHOW
For You Page Comedy: Bringing TikTok's "For You" Page to Life. TikTok's algorithm is famous for knowing your sense of humor almost better than you- giving you the exact content you want to see. FYP Comedy show brings you that experience in person. LA's most viral comics all on one stage. 10:30 p.m. $15. M.I.'s Westside Comedy Theater. https://web.ovationtix.com/trs/pe.c/11000937.

THURSDAY | MARCH 17

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

FRIDAY | MARCH 18

TOURS OF THE MARION DAVIES GUEST HOUSE
Santa Monica Conservancy docents share the rich history of the Beach House site from the 1920s onward. Free 20-minute visits docent tours are available on a walk-up basis, for groups of up to six people on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 12 - 2 p.m. Just head to the Marion Davies Guest House where you will be greeted by a docent. Please note masks are required while indoors. Schedule subject to change, check the website calendar or call 310-458-4904 to confirm dates and hours. Annenberg Community Beach House.

SATURDAY | MARCH 19

NOTABLE BOOKS DISCUSSION GROUP
A community-led book club, focusing on books which have won major prizes or are otherwise notable. Contact jeff.schwartz@santamonica.gov for the Zoom link. 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) CONVERSATION, HIGH
Santa Monica Public Library hosts an ongoing series of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors. Classes are free and students must be 18 years or older to attend. Enrollment is through the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Adult Education Center, located at 2510 Lincoln Blvd., Room 203, Santa Monica, CA, 90405. Visit smmusd.asapconnected.com or contact Olga Saucedo at osaucedo@smmusd.org or (310) 664-6222, ext.76203 to enroll. Classes will begin in a virtual format. If live classes become possible, they will take place at the Pico Branch Library, 2100 Pico Blvd. 12 - 3 p.m.

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

FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 21 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5419

Analyse this

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

Alert	Clean	Funny	Meddlesome
Aloof	Cold	Grumpy	Neat
Angry	Crabby	Happy	Nervous
Artful	Crisp	Highs	Paranoid
Authoritarian	Cute	Intelligent	Rash
Bigot	Daft	Irresponsible	Scared
Bossy	Deep	Kind	Staid
Busy	Dope	Lazy	Tidy
Calm	Flippant	Loving	True
Chummy	Fraught	Lows	Wise

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Close to most amenities

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RENT CONTROL

FROM PAGE 1

to occupy a unit must occupy that unit for at least one year prior to re-renting it. In order to deter landlords from using owner occupancy rules as a means to evict tenants and eventually increase rental rates, the Board is seeking to increase this requirement to three years.

The other two changes commissioners are seeking relate to the election process.

Commissioners would like to extend term limits from two terms to three terms in alignment with current City Council term limits. Commissioners would also like to drop the requirement to hold an election when there are only as many candidates as open Board positions. Commissioners see this as a cost saving measure that could potentially preserve upwards of $60,000 for the Board's annual budget.

Prior to each of these suggestions being passed on to City Council for consideration on the November ballot, commissioners will hold a public hearing to solicit residents' input.

"These items are all a big deal and we don't undertake this very often. As a board the last time was in 2010," said Commissioner Anastasia Foster.

The Board aims to submit recommendations to Council by June to ensure there is time to make any necessary tweaks in response to councilmember comments before Council's early August deadline to submit local ballot measures to the County.

Clara@smdp.com

UKRAINE

FROM PAGE 7

showed fires burning across the city, with many high-rise apartment buildings heavily damaged or destroyed.

The Kremlin-backed leader of the Russian region of Chechnya said on a messaging app that Chechen fighters were spearheading the offensive on Mariupol.

Robert Mardini, director-general of the International Committee of the Red Cross, said the war has become "nothing short of a nightmare" for those living in besieged cities, and he pleaded for safe corridors for civilians to leave and humanitarian aid to be brought in.

"The situation cannot, cannot continue like this," he said. "History is watching what is happening in Mariupol and other cities."

A pregnant woman who became a symbol of Ukraine's suffering when she was photographed being carried from a bombed maternity hospital in Mariupol last week has died along with her baby, The Associated Press has learned.

Mariupol residents including Natalia Koldash rushed to shelter inside a building Sunday as an unidentified plane passed overhead.

"We have no information at all," Koldash said. "We know nothing. It looks like we are living in a deep forest."

Associated Press video showed debris from a damaged residential building and another building that a young man named Dima described as an elementary school.

"There was no military at this school," he said. "It's unclear why it was hit."

The Russian military said 20 civilians in the separatist-controlled city of Donetsk in eastern Ukraine were killed by a ballistic missile launched by Ukrainian forces. The claim could not be independently verified.

The U.N. has recorded at least 596 civilian deaths since Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, though it believes the true toll is much higher. Millions more have fled their homes, with more than 2.8 million crossing into Poland and other neighboring countries in what the U.N. has called Europe's biggest refugee crisis since World War II.

"All day crying from the pain of having to part with loved ones, with my husband, my parents," 33-year-old refugee Alexandra Beltuygova said in the Polish border town of Przemysl after fleeing the industrial Ukrainian city of Dnipro.

"I understand that we may not see them. I wish this war would end," she said.

Russia's military is bigger and better equipped than Ukraine's, but its troops have faced stiffer-than-expected resistance, bolstered by arms supplied by the West.

During a meeting in Rome with a senior Chinese diplomat, U.S. national security adviser Jake Sullivan warned China against helping Russia.

Two administration officials, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive information, said China had signaled to Moscow that it would be willing to provide both military support in Ukraine and financial backing to help stave off effects of Western sanctions, which include a fourth set of EU sanctions announced late Monday.

The Kremlin has denied asking China for military equipment to use in Ukraine.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that "Russia has its own potential to continue the operation" and that it was "unfolding in accordance with the plan and will be completed on time and in full."

The war expanded Sunday when Russian missiles pounded a military training base in western Ukraine, close to the Polish border, that previously served as a crucial hub for cooperation between Ukraine and NATO.

The attack killed 35 people, Ukrainian officials said, and raised fears that NATO could be drawn into direct conflict with Russia.

The senior U.S. defense official said the base was not being used at the time as a shipment site for U.S. military supplies to Ukraine.

Associated Press writer Lolita C. Baldor in Washington and AP journalists from around the world contributed to this report.

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- Server

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Legal Notices

A meeting of the shareholders of Tascon, Inc., a Texas corporation,will be held at 10 a.m. (CST) on April 7, 2022, at: Jackson Walker LLP1401 McKinney St., Suite 1900Houston, TX 77010. All shareholders are hereby noticed of such meeting and invited to intend. Those with legitimate inquiries may contact:tascon@jw.com(713) 752-4585

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covid19.ca.gov

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All Promise program students are eligible to receive a free chromebook while supplies last.

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If you qualify for the California College Promise Grant, you'll receive book vouchers for the first and second year: $500 for fall semester, $100 for winter session, $500 for spring semester, and $100 for summer session.

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- You will take 12 units or more per semester.
- You are a California resident or an AB 540 student.
- You submit FAFSA or Dream Act application by start of the first term of your first year and by start of the first term of your second year.

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