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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 85 THE WEEKENDER 3/15-3/17 smdp.com

Lawsuits undermine Neil Shekhter's once grand real estate empire



MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Neil Shekhter, who was once the city's most prolific and controversial developer, has lost control over another three local properties as part of an ongoing inability to repay bank loans.

According to The Real Deal, Shekhter recently lost ownership of 1007 Lincoln Boulevard, 1038 10th Street and 1516 Stanford Street to Bank of Southern California as part of foreclosure proceedings.

The transfer of property is a result of a lawsuit filed by Bank of Southern California over a $16.2M loan covering the three parcels which according to the bank has never been repaid.

Bank of Southern California brought the case against several members of the Shekhter family and their associated businesses concerning a defaulted business loan agreement. The loan agreement, executed in September of 2022, involved a principal sum of $16,200,000. To secure the loan, the borrower provided a deed of trust and an assignment of rents, which encompassed the three local parcels of real estate.

According to the plaintiff, the borrower defaulted on the loan agreement by failing to make the required monthly payments. Additionally representatives for Shekhter allegedly confirmed their intention not to rectify the missed payment or contribute further funds toward the property in a phone conversation with the bank.

As of September 19, 2023, Shekhter and the other borrowers owed the bank a principal sum of $14,379,511.30, along with accrued interest, late charges, costs, and legal expenses, as outlined in the loan documents. The loan agreement also stipulates that the borrowers are responsible for the plaintiff's reasonable attorney fees incurred in enforcing the agreement.

The bank is also making a fraud allegation, claiming the defendants lied on their loan application and that the bank would have never made the initial loan had they known the truth.

The bank alleges the purpose of the $16.2 million loan was for refinancing and property renovations. Specifically the cash was to be used to pay off a previous loan, secure tenant buyouts and remodel the properties as a means to secure higher rents.

However, the bank claims there were plans in place to convert the properties into affordable housing.

"Indeed, absent Borrower taking such steps (i.e., buyouts and renovations, as represented by Borrower),

SEE **SHEKHTER** PAGE 10



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Santa Monica makes month matter with CHLA business specials



Photo by Thomas Leffler

CHLA: The special Make March Matter donut at Randy's Donuts on Wilshire Blvd. is just one of the many specials as part of Children's Hospital Los Angeles' Make March Matter campaign.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

A unique win-win scenario for Santa Monica customers and the greater Los Angeles area continues through the month of March, helping fill the stomachs of locals and the hearts of children in need.

This year marks the ninth annual Make March Matter campaign, run by Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) to benefit the comprehensive pediatric programs aiding infants, children and teenagers. Throughout the month, businesses in Santa Monica, Venice and the Westside have pledged their support to the campaign, making donations off of sales and introducing specialty items like interesting food and drink selections. The specials raise money for the hospital's Children's Fund, which CHLA Vice President of Development and Corporate Partnerships Dawn Wilcox said allows the East Hollywood location to "meet the greatest needs" of patients, since the hospital is a nonprofit endeavor.

"We have a large percentage of our population that doesn't have any insurance or is on a government-sponsored program, and the reimbursement of those programs isn't sufficient for actually covering the costs," Wilcox said. "So philanthropy and the community is what helps us bridge that gap."

Wilcox was the mastermind behind the campaign, inspired by CHLA's butterfly logo to consider a springtime charitable partnership that touches on themes of hope and renewal. With 40 businesses signing up for the inaugural Make March Matter, that number has doubled in the years since the initial grassroots effort.

"It's just been so meaningful to me to see how the community has adopted this campaign as their own, and people come up with their own creative ideas, their own way to promote … it's making a difference," Wilcox

> We have a large percentage of our population that doesn't have any insurance or is on a government-sponsored program, and the reimbursement of those programs isn't sufficient for actually covering the costs
> - Dawn Wilcox, CHLA Vice President of Development and Corporate Partnerships

SEE CHLA PAGE 12





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School board spotlights co-teaching collaborations



Photo by Thomas Leffler

CO-TEACHING: Franklin Elementary School Transitional Kindergarten general education teacher Danielle Eden speaks to a class she co-teaches with special education instructor Nell Canon.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's Board of Education took a look into the district's co-teaching collaborations during its March 7 meeting, receiving a presentation from a host of co-teaching contributors about their routines and the successes of the program.

In the district, co-teaching takes place when two teachers, a general education teacher and a specialized academic instruction teacher, collaborate to implement instruction in an inclusive general education class for students who are placed per their individualized education plans. The presentation from gen-ed and special education partners dispelled the myth that co-teaching classes are special education-only, as the program encompasses gen-ed classes on the elementary, middle and high school levels.

Currently, co-teaching is a part of campus life at McKinley Elementary School, Franklin Elementary School, Will Rogers Learning Community, Webster Elementary School, Lincoln Child Development Center, John Adams Middle School, Lincoln Middle School and Samohi.

"(The two teachers) do their planning together ... they deliver the curriculum together, they do their grading and assessment, they communicate with parents and they work with all the students in the classroom, (both) special education (students) and gen-ed," said Samohi Special Education Coordinator Hilda Solis.

Collaborations take on a variety of co-teaching arrangements, including "One Teach, One Assist" where one teacher acts as a primary speaker while the other teacher assists and supports students by monitoring work, addressing behaviors and answering questions. One example of this arrangement is seen with Franklin Elementary School's recently-implemented Transitional Kindergarten classes, run by gen-ed teacher Danielle Eden and special education instructor Nell Canon.

> (The two teachers) do their planning together ... they deliver the curriculum together, they do their grading and assessment, they communicate with parents and they work with all the students in the classroom, (both) special education (students) and gen-ed
> - Hilda Solis, Samohi Special Education Coordinator

"You get to use each other's strengths and build off of that, so I don't have to be really strong at everything ... we kind of play off of what we're good at, and then we can kind of go from there, and you also learn a lot from the other person," Canon said.

Other types of co-teaching include "One Teach, One Observe," where one teacher is the primary instructor and the other assists by gathering observational data on student learning, as well as "Station Teaching" that divides classes into smaller groups and

SEE **CO-TEACHING** PAGE 12



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **57.6**

FRIDAY
POOR
SURF: 2-3ft
Thigh to waist

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.

SATURDAY
FAIR
SURF: 2-3ft
Thigh to waist

Possible new, long period NW swell to move in through the day as S/SSE swell fades. Decent/lower tide most of the morning.

Weather

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 68. North northeast wind 10 to 15 mph becoming south in the afternoon.
Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 51. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming east northeast in the evening.
Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 65. East northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southwest in the afternoon.
Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 50.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2024/03/19	Tue	06:23 AM	4.63	H
2024/03/19	Tue	1:48 PM	-0.39	L
2024/03/19	Tue	8:37 PM	3.81	H
2024/03/20	Wed	01:32 AM	2.18	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: 3/13
21 29 54 59 62
Power#: 4
Jackpot: 600 M

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

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 3/13
5 8 15 43 46
Mega#: 25
Jackpot: 18 M

FANTASY 5
Draw Date: 3/13
18 23 24 28 39

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 3/13
EVENING: 0 2 7
Draw Date: 3/13
MIDDAY: 2 2 2

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 3/13
1st: 08 - Gorgeous George
2nd: 04 - Big Ben
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:46.99

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Santa Monica Daily Press

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION

SUBJECT: To Inform Development of the FY 2024-25 Action Plan for use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership Act (HOME) funds

Notice is hereby given that the City of Santa Monica will hold a public hearing to receive community input to inform the development of the 2024-25 Annual Action Plan, which is due to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at least 45 days prior to the beginning of the new program year. The Annual Action Plan delineates the City's specific projects and activities for one-year use of CDBG and HOME funds to address the City's housing and community development high-priority needs as specified in the Council-adopted 2020-24 Consolidated Plan, which can be viewed at: https://www.santamonica.gov/community-development-block-grant-and-home-investment-partnership-programs

DATE/TIME: THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024 AT 6:00 PM
Check agenda at www.smgov.net/rpc prior to meeting to confirm start time

The agenda will also be posted at the Santa Monica Institute (SMI) room, located at 330 Olympic Drive in Santa Monica at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. The agenda is subject to change up to 72 hours prior to a regular meeting and 24 hours prior to a special meeting. Please check the agenda prior to the meeting for changes.

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

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Oral public comment can be given in person on the day of the meeting. Members of the public unable to attend in person, but wishing to provide comment are strongly encouraged to submit written comments via email to RecreationAndArts@santamonica.gov. Written public comment submitted before 12:00 pm on the day of the meeting will be available for online viewing. Please note the agenda item number in the subject line of your written comments. All written comments shall be made part of the public record and will be included in the final 2024-25 Annual Action Plan submission to HUD.

ACCOMODATIONS
The agenda is available in alternate formats upon request. The City Council Chambers is wheelchair accessible. If you require any special disability related accommodations (i.e. sign language interpreting, access to an amplified sound system, etc.), please contact RecreationAndArts@santamonica.gov at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.
Translation service available upon request. Please contact the RecreationAndArts@santamonica.gov at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.
Transportation Information: City of Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines and the Metro Expo Line serve City Hall. Parking is available on Main Street, Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

ESPAÑOL Esto es un aviso de audiencia pública para invitar a cualquier parte interesada a participar en la preparación del Plan de Acción Anual del Año Fiscal 2024-25. Si necesita más información, por favor llame a Ivy Chang en la División de Servicios Humanos al número (310) 458-8701.

Santa Monica Daily Press
Classifieds

Help Wanted

Market Research Analyst: Bachelor in Marketing, Business Administration or related. Monitor and forecast marketing and sales trends. Job Location: El Monte, CA. Resume to:rickeyli@asakausa.com, or to Limestone General Contractor, 9451 Telstar Ave. El Monte CA 91731, Attn: HR. Salary offered: $47,195 per year.

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HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm
LOCATION 1640 5th Street, Suite 218, Santa Monica, CA 90401

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Shady business owners can hide behind LLCs. California should make their identities public



CalMatters

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

SUZANNE DERSHOWITZ

In 2018, when I was a lawyer in the Oakland City Attorney's Office, a code enforcement inspector walked into my office and said, "I have to tell you about something that keeps me up at night."

It was a heartbreaking story. Families with young children, pregnant women and largely low-income immigrants who spoke little to no English were enduring extraordinarily unsafe living conditions. They were renting dangerous units in a converted warehouse near the Oakland airport with no heat, no hot water, major leaks and serious fire hazards.

The building was so unsafe it was ultimately condemned.

It took over a year to uncover the full extent of the problem, investigating a landlord who owned numerous unsafe properties in Oakland through different companies, including Dodg Corporation and others. We discovered the neglect was actually a business model: For years, the property owners profited from renting uninhabitable units to dozens of working families desperate to find an affordable home during an unprecedented housing crisis.

Our investigation ultimately led to a 2019 lawsuit to hold this landlord accountable for subjecting people to grave health and safety risks at six different rental properties.

Government attorneys have access to a lot of information, but the lack of transparency in corporate ownership hampered the investigation. It was a monumental task to determine the reach of this local real estate empire by linking all of the companies. We were finally able to determine that one family, led by Baljit Singh Mann and Surinder Mann, owned 130 properties in Oakland through a web of limited liability companies and corporate entities, which we discovered only after studying hundreds of city code enforcement records and connecting the dots.

In 2021, the case against the Manns went to trial and the court ordered them to pay the city nearly $4 million in civil penalties. As an attorney for the local government team, funded by taxpayer dollars, I alone spent hundreds of hours investigating this case.

Even though LLCs must register with the Secretary of State, they are not required to provide the names of the individuals who control the LLC – the "beneficial owners." This presents challenges for the public and for agencies tasked with protecting public health and safety, preventing businesses from cheating their workers, and enforcing a wide range of laws.

The lack of accessible LLC ownership information should not give bad actors cover to shield themselves from liability and profit from predatory business models. That's why state Sen. María Elena Durazo authored Senate Bill 1201 to require LLCs and other corporate entities to make beneficial ownership information public.

Enforcement agencies have limited resources to catch the worst actors, who hide behind these opaque ownership structures to then oppress community members with the least power. Identifying the most flagrant violators of local and state law is critical to advancing justice for

SEE **GUEST COMMENTARY** PAGE 12

HOA HOMEFRONT

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Reader Questions – Must our manager attend the board meeting?

KELLY G. RICHARDSON, ESQ. CCAL

Dear Kelly: Is it legal for the board of a community to host a meeting without including representation from the HOA's management? A.L., (manager), Laguna Hills

Dear A.L.: There is nothing in the law that specifically requires the HOA's manager to attend any particular board meeting. Normally the management contract dictates when the manager is obligated to attend. However, if the board for any reason deems the presence of management to be unnecessary, a meeting can be announced without management being invited. Some practical problems can arise, as most HOAs rely on their manager to handle the administrative part of board meetings and often to keep the minutes of those meetings. However, the absence of management does not render the meeting illegal if the HOA board follows the Open Meeting Act and bylaws in the announcing and conducting of the board meeting. Thanks, Kelly

Dear Kelly: What are the procedures for changing property management companies? Does the Davis-Stirling Act prohibit board members from discussing the management company in private and arriving at a decision to give the current management company notice? Or must the discussion be carried out in an open meeting in the presence of the company with which the board is dissatisfied? W.E., Carlsbad

Mr. Richardson: My board president recently announced the board would address in executive session my request to review the association manager's performance, although he admitted this was not about formation of the management company contract. I believe it should be an open session item. Is any director generally entitled to violate a practice of keeping in executive session what's discussed in executive session when topics, not authorized by Civil Code 4935 to be in executive session, are discussed and decided on? Does a director's duty of loyalty to support the majority, and to NOT reveal, outside executive session, differences of opinion, discussions, and decisions made there, apply ONLY to those topics NOT listed by Civil Code 4935? E.T., Yorba Linda.

Dear W.E. and E.T.: Discussing vendor performance is not a topic allowed by Civil Code Section 4935(a) to be in closed session. However, this does not mean the board must discuss management with management present. The board can simply schedule a board meeting and not ask management to attend. Similarly, if the board decides to change management companies, this can and should be discussed in an open board meeting, which the current management is not asked to attend. Discussing a possible change of vendors is not "formation of contracts," although many lawyers and managers erroneously deem anything regarding contracts to be in closed session. This is an erroneous reading of the phrase "formation of contracts" (one of the allowable closed session topics under Civil Code Section 4935(a)). Decisions to terminate a vendor and to hire a replacement vendor are both open session topics. The formation of the contract is negotiating the contract terms. Clearly, any counter-offer or negotiating strategy as to the cost, level of service, or other key terms should be discussed in a closed session to preserve the HOA's position in the negotiations.

No director, not even the president, can ignore the law. The duties of loyalty and confidentiality do not extend to matters which are improperly in closed session.

Best regards, Kelly

Kelly G. Richardson, Esq. is a Fellow of the College of Community Association Lawyers and Partner of Richardson Ober LLP, a California law firm known for community association advice. Submit potential column questions to kelly@roattorneys.com. Past columns at www.HOAHomefront.com. All rights reserved®.



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.



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Lawmakers want to help California be happy

LYNN LA
Special to the Daily Press

Can California legislate its way to happiness?

Former Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon is committed to trying, though he puts his own happiness at only two out of 10 (ask him again after November, he told CalMatters).

After being forced to hand over his leadership post last summer, the Lakewood Democrat became the chairperson of the newly formed Select Committee on Happiness and Public Policy Outcomes, telling Politico last October that lawmakers "don't take happiness seriously."

At the committee's first meeting today, Rendon said he was inspired to take on the topic after watching the 2011 documentary "Happy" 14 times in a two-day period. This committee is at least 11 years in the making, he said.

Roko Belic, the filmmaker and first witness in the three-hour hearing, said from his visits to 14 countries, the keys to happiness are nurturing strong interpersonal and communal relationships; leading a life that includes meaning, play or novelty; and a sense of gratitude. Other experts also mentioned economic stability (but not necessarily economic wealth); a connection to the environment; and resilience.

HOW HAPPY ARE CALIFORNIANS?

Mark Baldassare, the Public Policy Institute of California's survey director, cited the organization's September 2023 survey, which found 58% of Californian adults said they were "pretty happy," 16% "very happy" and 26% "not too happy." But with the number of "not too happy" Californians growing, Baldassare suggested that legislators should "pay attention" to younger adults and lower-income residents who were less happy than others.

California comes in seventh for the happiest U.S. state according to WalletHub, and three of its cities appear in the top five happiest, with Fremont topping the list overall. Fremont Mayor Lily Mei was invited to the hearing and touted the city's "vibrant" cultural community, economic opportunities and inclusivity.

SO HOW TO GET TO A HAPPIER PLACE?

In addition to abstract theories that were tossed around — including nods to Buddhism, Aristotle and Maslow — panelists floated some potential policy solutions. These ranged from the very ambitious (universal healthcare) to the more minor (increasing urban green spaces).

And while Rendon told CalMatters that not all ways to boost happiness would be a "government directive," a country that ranks high in happiness with a strong social safety net "pretty much jives with my political ideology."

The hearing was, for the most part, optimistic. Panelists espoused how increasing happiness benefited the greater good: Happy people live longer, are healthier, more successful at work and are more likely to volunteer.

> "You don't have kids walking into schools with guns to shoot people if they're happy, you know?
>
> - Pilar Schiavo, Assemblymember

But at times, the grave consequences of an unhappy public came to the forefront — particularly when legislators spoke about the "ripple effects" on mental health, depression and crime.

Said Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo, a Santa Clarita Valley Democrat and committee member: "You don't have kids walking into schools with guns to shoot people if they're happy, you know?"

This article was originally published by CalMatters.



Photo by Fred Greaves for CalMatters

HAPPINESS: Assemblymember Anthony Rendon, chair of the Select Committee On Happiness And Public Policy Outcomes listens to a speaker during an informational hearing at the California Capitol in Sacramento March 12, 2024.

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Give St. Patrick's Day the green light this year

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Almost everyone aches to have some link with Ireland. Even if your wife's friend's therapist's tennis partner has a cat with a distant cousin in Dublin, that's more than enough. It's a weird phenomena, but a wonderful one to be sure, to be sure.

And why not. The country itself is stunningly beautiful, its identity is unique and long-established and elements of the culture can be found just about everywhere. In the USA, many of the working class settlers that migrated across the Pond ended up establishing much of the commonplace infrastructure that we take for granted today. Cities up and down the East Coast still cling to their Irish connections and we celebrate these every March, on St. Patrick's Day.

On March 17, anyone with even the most tenuous of Irish connections and just about everyone else as well, finds an excuse to drink a pint of stout, wear whatever green clothing you might own and generally just sing, dance and make merry. In Chicago of course, the river is temporarily dyed green and a huge parade is held.

Despite being 5,115 miles away from Santa Monica, you can still find a taste of Ireland here in our sun-drenched city. Because unlike any other culture in the whole wide world, every single city on the planet has an Irish bar. In fact, when astronauts finally visit Mars, chances are they'll find an Irish pub there, somewhere.



Scott Snowden

IRISH: St. Patrick's Day is alive and well at Santa Monica Irish pubs like O'Briens.

Each Irish bar is like a teeny-tiny oasis; a safe haven where you know exactly what to expect inside. And if you've ever found yourself in a foreign country, far, far away, with a less-than-fluent grasp of the local language, spying an Irish bar on the horizon means you can probably find a little taste of something familiar.

Santa Monica has two Irish pubs and a sports bar that's Irish in name only: O'Briens Irish Pub (2226 Wilshire Blvd), Sonny McLean's Irish Pub (2615 Wilshire Blvd) plus Jameson's Pub (2702 Main St). Thankfully, they all survived the pandemic, because not every bar or restaurant did.

Both Sonny McLean's, O'Briens will have live music, dancing, traditional Irish food and drinks together with gazebos for the outdoor dining and patio areas, should the heaven's decide to open at any time on Friday.

"It seems to get bigger every year," Jimmy Stone, bartender at O'Briens said, adding, "Since we got the patios outside, we seem to draw an even bigger crowd every year. We have an outdoor bar that we're going to be installing, so it should be a fun night. It feels like Christmas around these parts."

"This isn't our first rodeo," laughs Grant Woods, owner of Sonny McLean's Irish Pub. "We've set up the back patio with a beer trailer and a bar and we'll open at 8am and then if it stays the same as usual, it'll be nice and comfortable until early afternoon. And then the mayhem breaks out."

Woods says that they have a group of local teenagers performing traditional Irish dancing plus live music from a local band. Both Sonny McLean's and O'Briens will be serving a St Patrick's Day menu that contains, among old school favorites like wings and burgers, other customary dishes like corned beef and cabbage, bangers and mash and shepherd's pie. Jameson's is more of a standard issue sports bar — with an insane number of

SEE **ST PATRICK'S DAY** PAGE 10

I was going to take it to the grave.
They don't talk about the abused girls.
I don't want my family to know.
I'm terrified they'll claim I'm lying.
Sexually abused by Eric Uller of PAL?
We understand why you've stayed silent.
I felt guilty for "allowing" it.
I felt shame.
I thought I was the only one.
I didn't want to be perceived as gay.



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Malibu

Paci
Palisa

SANTA MONICA

$1,698,000

937 12th St #101,
Santa Monica, CA 90403

3 BR 2 BA, 1,550 Sq Ft

Listed by Gary Limjap, DRE #00927151
Coldwell Banker Realty garylimjap@gmail.com



SANTA MONICA

$1,375,000

1021 12th St #305,
Santa Monica, CA 90403

3 BR 2 BA, 1,522 Sq Ft

Listed by Trevor Levin, Nourmand & Associates-BW
Bought with James Hunt, RE/MAX Estate Properties

SANTA MONICA

$2,179,000

1007 Ocean Ave #203,
Santa Monica, CA 90403

3 BR 2.5 BA, 2,010 Sq Ft

Listed by Diane Forbes Halliburton, DRE #01839884, Compass
Listed by Randy Forbes, DRE #01066294, Compass

MARINA DEL REY

$1,485,000

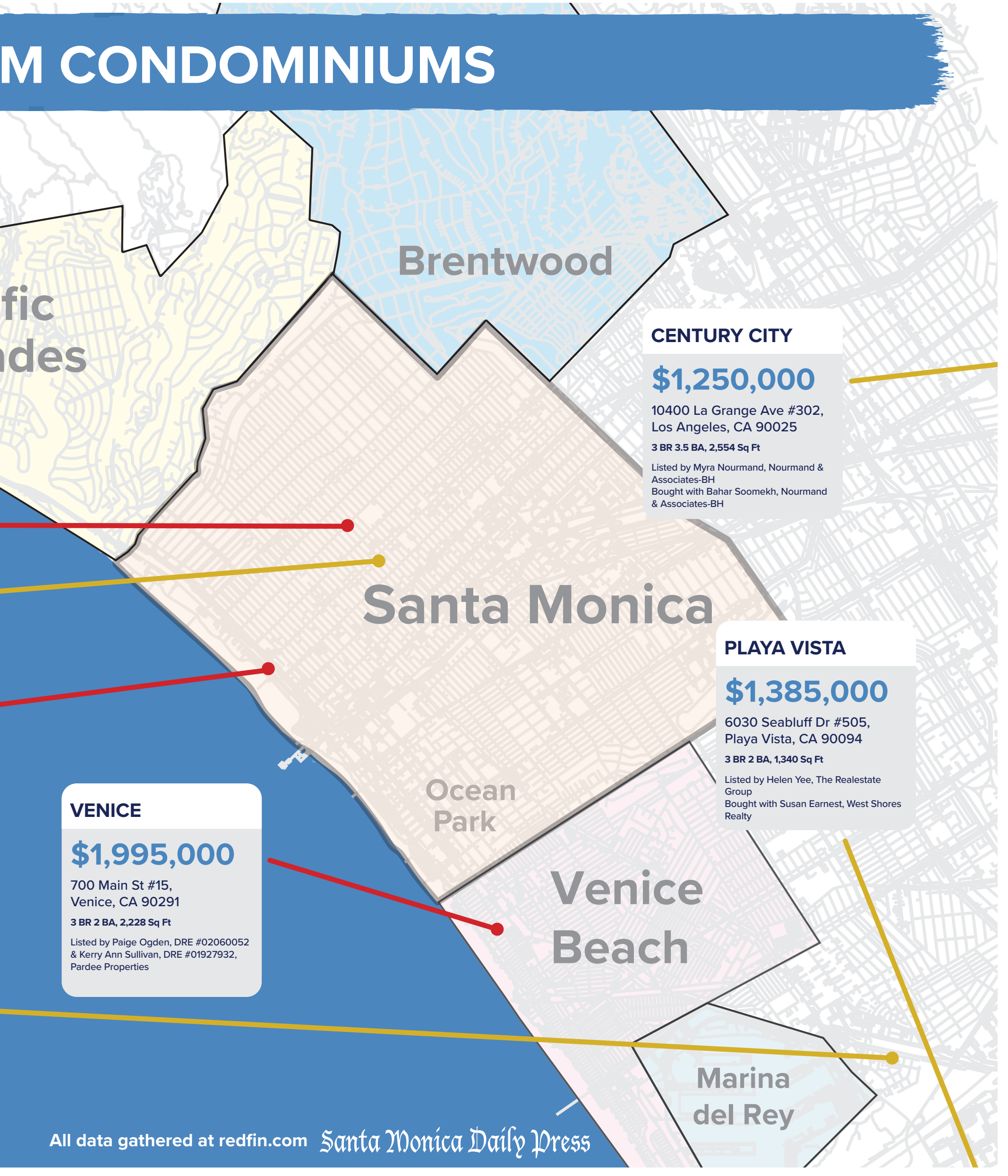
13210 Admiral Ave Unit F,
Marina Del Rey, CA 90292

3 BR 2.5 BA, 1,974 Sq Ft

Listed by Jesse Weinberg
Bought with Gregory Masi, Compass

● SOLD ● FOR SALE

M CONDOMINIUMS



CENTURY CITY

$1,250,000

10400 La Grange Ave #302,
Los Angeles, CA 90025

3 BR 3.5 BA, 2,554 Sq Ft

Listed by Myra Nourmand, Nourmand & Associates-BH
Bought with Bahar Soomekh, Nourmand & Associates-BH

PLAYA VISTA

$1,385,000

6030 Seabluff Dr #505,
Playa Vista, CA 90094

3 BR 2 BA, 1,340 Sq Ft

Listed by Helen Yee, The Realestate Group
Bought with Susan Earnest, West Shores Realty

VENICE

$1,995,000

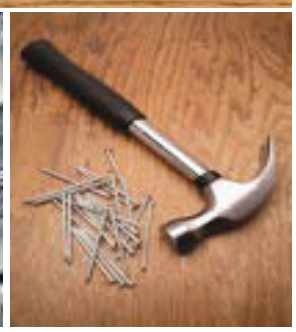
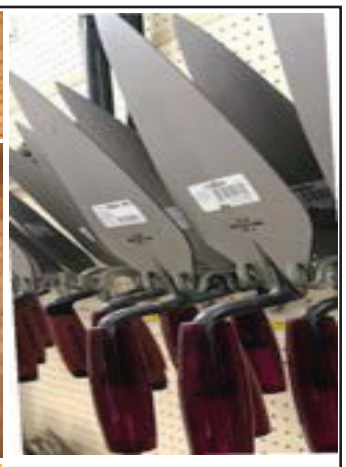
700 Main St #15,
Venice, CA 90291

3 BR 2 BA, 2,228 Sq Ft

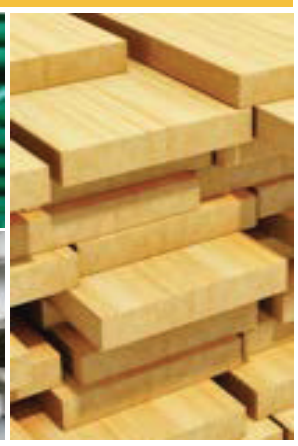
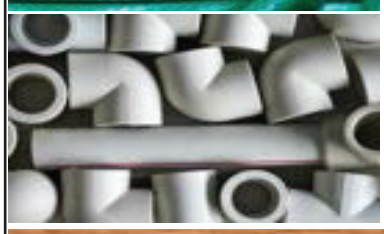
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SHEKHTER

FROM PAGE 1

it would make no financial sense for Plaintiff to make the Loan," said the lawsuit.

In the lawsuit, the bank claims it became aware of the proposed plans when the three properties were included in a settlement with the City over the Builder's Remedy projects and plans for the specific sites were released, including affordable housing units.

"In other words, as early as three days after entering into the Loan Documents and securing an over $16 million loan from Plaintiff, including with the express purpose to renovate and stabilize the Real Property for higher market rents, Borrower applied to the City to convert the properties to very low to moderate-income households, contrary to Borrower's stated intentions. Plaintiff would not have made the Loan to Plaintiff had it known of Borrower's real intentions," said the lawsuit.

The plaintiff asserts that there were no meaningful efforts towards property renovations despite receiving funds specifically earmarked for that purpose and that at least one unit was allegedly leased out at below-market rates to friends of the family.

While the current case is the latest in a series of legal setbacks for Shekhter and his companies, it's not the first nor may it be the last.

In 2018, San Francisco based SPI Holdings took control of nine local properties that were once part of a joint venture between Neil Shekhter/NMS Capital Partners and a subsidiary hedge fund AEW. The original partnership included a monetary investment by AEW but the two sides disagreed on the terms that would allow Shekhter to repay that investment and buyout AEW. Shekhter tried to repay AEW its $60 million investment plus interest and take sole ownership of the properties. AEW refused the buyout money and NMS filed a lawsuit over the ownership of the properties. In December of 2016 a judge said Shekhter forged contracts, lied and destroyed evidence in the lawsuit over the buyout. The judge gave AEW full control of the properties and the hedge fund quickly sold them to San Francisco developer SPI Holdings for about $430 million.

Since that time, Shekhter and companies he is associated with have tangled with other business partners, banks and government entities.

Santa Monica has tussled with Shekhter and affiliated parties over accusations of illegal evictions, improper rental practices, construction standards and most recently over the Builder's Remedy system.

Shekhter was the primary developer to capitalize on Santa Monica's failure to adopt rules compliant with state standards that resulted in a carte blanche for developers to bypass local zoning rules. That situation resulted in a settlement that withdrew the vast majority of supersized projects in exchange for enhancements to a few specific buildings and was referenced in the Bank of Southern California lawsuit for clustering affordable housing into the properties that were supposed to be refurbished.

Shekhter was once the boogeyman for residents opposed to development and while his Builder's Remedy projects generated widespread angst among locals, other companies have largely eclipsed him in the public eye as most of the current construction is tied to newer developers like Cypress Equity.

Outside Santa Monica, Shekhter has lost about half of his total holdings or about 1,000 total housing units. About 20% of those were sold to other companies but the bulk were transferred to various investors to avoid foreclosure and wipe out about a billion dollars worth of debt.

Despite the resolution of those cases, others persist. As recently as last month, a court ruled against him in a $3M case with another lender, Preferred Bank.

editor@smdp.com

ST PATRICK'S DAY

FROM PAGE 7

televisions screens — and significantly less of an Irish pub, so it's business as usual.

The day before St Patrick's Day this year, Saturday March 16, will see the last three games of this year's Six Nations rugby tournament. So, by the time Sunday rolls around, Ireland will know if they've won the title. The Green Machine seemed all but unstoppable...until last Saturday, when England beat them by one point, in the final minute in what was undoubtedly the most nail biting game in this year's already gripping competition.

Ireland play Scotland on Saturday and they have to win, but Scotland's performance, much like Italy's, is improving every single year. Second placed England play France... but without their legendary Scrum Half, Antoine Dupont, they're suffering.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

Easter 2024

The Joy We Share

PALM SUNDAY - MARCH 24

10 a.m. In-Person and Online Worship
The day we celebrate Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, with the waving of palms and loud Hosannas!

11 a.m. Palm Sunday Celebration - Brunch/Easter Bunny/Egg Hunt
Following worship, come for a Palm Sunday celebration, hosted by Children and Family Ministries. Featuring brunch, an Easter Egg hunt, games and crafts, a family photo opp, and a visit from the Easter Bunny! Fun for all ages!

GOOD FRIDAY - MARCH 29

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Walk the First UMC Labyrinth / Chapel Open for Prayers
Walking the labyrinth on Good Friday allows your feet and your heart to contemplate Jesus' journey to the cross. With every step, Jesus' step. With every turn a new opportunity to contemplate Jesus' humanity, divinity, acceptance, and commitment to loving humanity. The First UMC Chapel will also be open for prayers.

EASTER SUNDAY - MARCH 31

6:30 a.m. Palisades Park - Easter Sunrise Service
Join us at Palisades Park (Washington Ave. & Ocean Ave.) for an informal outdoor service at the park, with Holy Communion. Bring fresh flowers for the cross, and a lawn chair or blankets. Hot coffee served.

10 a.m. In-Person and Online Worship in the First UMC Sanctuary
Traditional Family Service, with Choir, Organ, Brass, Easter Flowers, and Alleluias!

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www.santamonicaumc.org
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Local legends cook up a delicious transformation at Socalo

ANTOINETTE DAMICO
SMDP Intern



Shilah Montiel

RESTAURANT: Mary Sue Milliken and Susan Feninger stand in front of SOCALO, their second restaurant in Santa Monica.

Five years ago, a derelict IHOP languished on the corner of 20th and Santa Monica Boulevard. Today, it's unrecognizable as SOCALO beams with a vibrant ambiance and tantalizing Mexican flavors, courtesy of iconic Santa Monica culinary duo, Chefs Mary Sue Milliken and Susan Feninger.

"We were intrigued with the idea where we have such a history in Santa Monica. We love the neighborhood and we love the Santa Monicans that we've been feeding since they were having their birthday, their five year old birthday parties at Border Grill, and now they have their own five year olds," said Milliken.

The landlord of what is now the Gateway Hotel approached the chefs back in 2018 about transforming the desolate IHOP into a more approachable and modern restaurant for the neighborhood that would add to the appeal of the new hotel. The longtime duo was ecstatic to start fresh with a new place, and a new approach.

"It's a little bit off the beaten track. We like those locations that nobody can find. But I think with the hospital and all the post-production places that were around, we [thought] that doing the kind of lunch service that we do here would be interesting for this area, and we'd never done that before," said Feninger.

Having worked together for almost 40 years, Feninger and Milliken have used their shared French culinary training to develop a variety of restaurants in Santa Monica, Las Vegas, and Pasadena, including the Border Grill, which opened its first location here in 1984. Each restaurant shares a strong attention to detail and time, but differs in the unique ways they are inspired by their particular cuisine and local communities.

"We wanted it to be an opportunity for us to kind of move in a little bit different direction than Border Grill. And that's what we do together pretty well is we evolve. We're constantly evolving our partnership and evolving our ideas about food and … what do neighborhoods want these days," said Milliken.

That different direction was to create a more nuanced type of taco joint, featuring a modern twist on Mexican cuisine made with local ingredients. At SOCALO, which combines the abbreviation for Southern California, and the Spanish term for a town square "zocalo," customers can gather for a high-quality meal with an upbeat ambiance. They offer counter-service tacos for lunch, perfect for those stopping in on a work day, and full service dining for dinner, which includes craft beers, wines, tequilas, and mezcals, all sourced directly from Mexico. Most dishes feature produce sourced directly from the Santa Monica Farmers Market.

To steer the restaurant in a different direction, Milliken and Feninger brought in a new face, Chef Enrique Soltero, to work alongside their long-time Chef Raul Plascencia as the heads of the kitchen. "This is very unusual because usually we have chefs that have worked for us for many, many, many years… It's a new team and we're excited about that because they bring new ideas," said Feninger.

Those new ideas include more paired wine dinners, possible beer tastings, and enhanced catering. Milliken and Feninger have introduced a small private room that they hope to make more available for parties and private events, which features hilarious and striking murals of dogs made by Milliken's son, Clark Oswald.

The owners could have never predicted the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic, which hit mere months after opening in late 2019. Thanks to their long history together in the food industry, Feninger and Milliken felt assured in their ability to rise above, having survived during the 1992 LA riots and the 1994 Northridge earthquake. They got down to work, transitioning solely to take-out and meal kits, and eventually opening an outdoor patio which they now plan to keep post-pandemic.

"I'm happy with SOCALO and where we are. I feel like we've done a really good job of, of getting through the pandemic … We see more new faces… I went to yoga the other day at Yoga Changes, and three of the ladies [were] like, 'that's my favorite restaurant!"' said Milliken.

Part of what keeps the business alive is not simply the inventive Mexican cuisine, but the strength of a partnership that has lasted longer than most marriages. Having known each other for almost 50 years, Milliken and Feninger are exemplary in their ability to navigate each other's strengths and weaknesses to the benefit of both their business and their friendship.

"It's been a long, slow building of trust and allowing each other to have more and more space. And now it's just like we're two old sisters that have been hanging out together for 50 years," said Milliken.

Walking into SOCALO, it's impossible to not feel the positive energy the ladies have put towards the food, and each other.

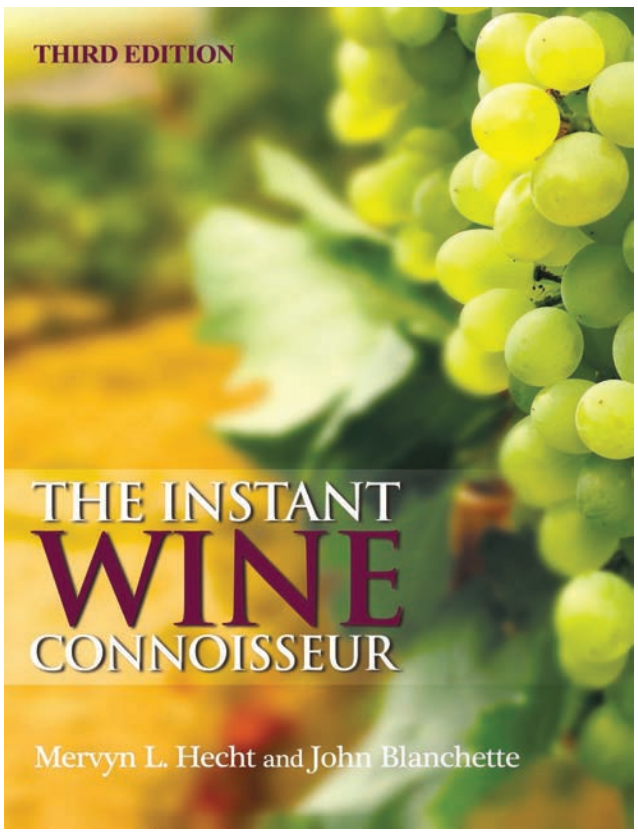
"I think our strengths are really, they're really in sync and it makes the difficult times …" started Feninger "... so much more bearable. It's so much more fun to have somebody to fail with," interjects Milliken.

For more information check out the restaurant's website at https://www.socalo.com/

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★★★★★ ...Hecht has a joyful eye and fabulous taste



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CHLA

FROM PAGE 2

added.

Santa Monica has gotten in on the creativity, ranging from new partners to ones that have been with CHLA since the start. Returning champions of the children's charity include top national partners like Panda Express, who take donations alongside purchases throughout March, as well as local eateries like Cobi's, which will donate a portion of proceeds from Toasted Coconut Vanilla Ice Cream Sandwich purchases to CHLA.

Other eatery endeavors are a $1 donation from Sweetfin for every guava lemonade bought, a portion of proceeds donated from special BBQ Chicken Pizza orders at Prince Street Pizza, and a 25% donation for each special edition Make March Matter donut bought at Randy's Donuts.

After the food and drink, locals can get active during Make March Matter with two Santa Monica events. At the Proper Hotel, a portion of sales and management fees from yoga classes will be donated to CHLA. Meanwhile, the Third Street Promenade's latest athletic haven PicklePop will be hosting a charity pickleball tournament on March 23 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

With about 80 partners in all, plus the ability to create a donation page through the Make March Matter website, Wilcox has had a lot to keep track of and does so by seeing the impacts of the campaign personally.

"I think what keeps us all so inspired every day is the mission of CHLA," Wilcox said. "Once you've even just walked through our lobby, and you've seen the patients and families, you see the impact. That's a big reason why I came (here) is because I realized I get to be up close to the impact of all the effort ... sometimes people don't ever see where (the funds go) ... and I can just see it every day. I see it walking through the hospital, and I see it when a patient interacts with a therapy dog, or when a volunteer hands out a can of Play Doh, and a child smiles even though maybe they had a challenging day. You know, it's just beautiful, and that's what keeps us motivated and inspired and keeps us wanting to do more."

For more information and to find out about more offers, visit MakeMarchMatter.org.

thomas@smdp.com

CO-TEACHING

FROM PAGE 3

"Parallel Teaching" which divides a class in half to instruct on the same material. Co-teachers grade students on a 4-point scale which was noted as a "strong assessment of growth."

"When you think about that there are two teachers in the classroom, what a wonderful opportunity for one of the two teachers to be able to take some time with that child and (talk about the lesson) ... the teacher might end up with more information than they want, but maybe some pretty necessary information," Solis said of "One Teach, One Observe."

For early learning classrooms like the Transitional Kindergarten and preschool programs, a day in the life of a co-teacher often includes support beyond curriculum, such as social-emotional and behavioral learning support.

"I think the general expectation of preschool and early childhood is that we teach them ABC and 1-2-3 and all these basic skills, but in the collaborative, we also really focus on learning how to learn," said McKinley Elementary teacher Rachel Land. "It's hard to learn letters if you don't know how to sit on the rug, so we learn how to sit, how to transition, how to be a student in general."

At Samohi, the pair of gen-ed instructor Roshni Mejia and special education teacher Jason Daglis alternate between co-teaching methods depending on the day, the lesson and the "vibe" of the students. A unique part of the puzzle for Samohi classes is what's called "executive functioning lessons," setting up students on how to compose emails and different workforce-related skills.

"What's great about (co-teaching) is that if someone is presenting information and not everyone understands what's being discussed, it's always helpful to have another perspective in class," Daglis said.

Moving forward, co-teaching units will be looking to tackle challenges like finding ample planning time, finding the perfect teaching partners, and solving the inequity of co-teaching classes at different school sites.

In response, the board was thankful for the presentation, expressing their desire to take a field trip and observe future co-teaching sessions on campuses.

"It really means a lot for you to come into this space and just share that journey, because it's important for people to see the hard work that you're doing," District Superintendent Dr. Antonio Shelton said.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 4

every Californian. Requiring corporations to disclose the name of each person who exercises substantial control over the business would provide a level of transparency necessary for accountability.

It would make it easier to enforce existing laws to protect the people who live and work in our communities across the state, increase government efficiency and ultimately save taxpayer dollars.

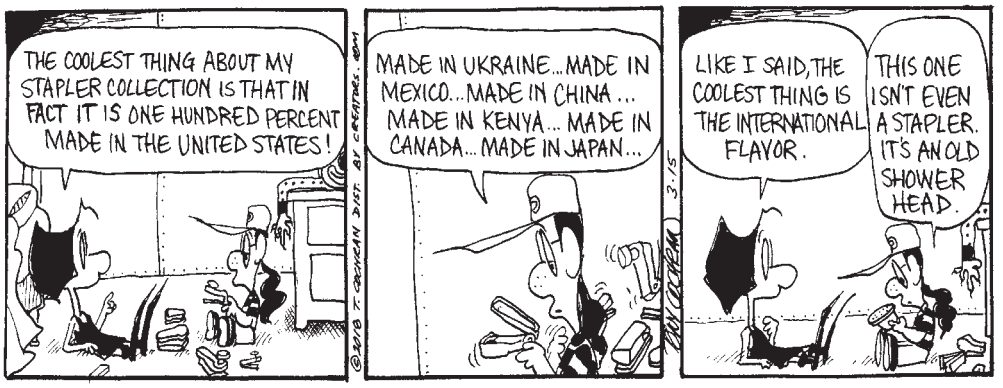
SB 1201 will not only allow for more robust enforcement of our laws but it will also give the public access to much-needed information. Understanding where corporate power and wealth is concentrated will help inform policy choices to create a California where everyone can thrive.

It will also give everyone the information they need to enforce their rights. While the most egregious cases rise require enforcement by local and state governments, shining a light on the people doing business in California is good for everyone who calls the state home. The public needs the legislature to pass SB 1201 this year because accountability cannot wait.

Suzanne Dershowitz is a senior staff attorney at Public Advocates. She previously served as housing policy attorney for Legal Aid of Sonoma County and was a Neighborhood Law Corps attorney at the Oakland City Attorney's Office. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

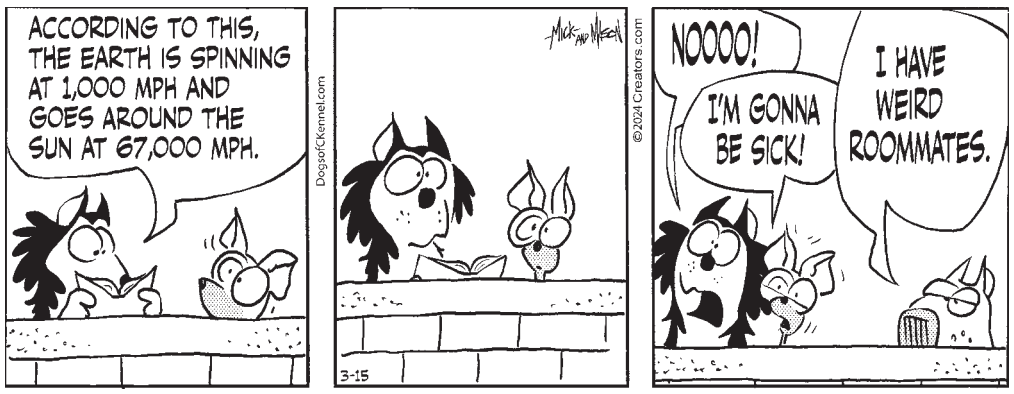
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



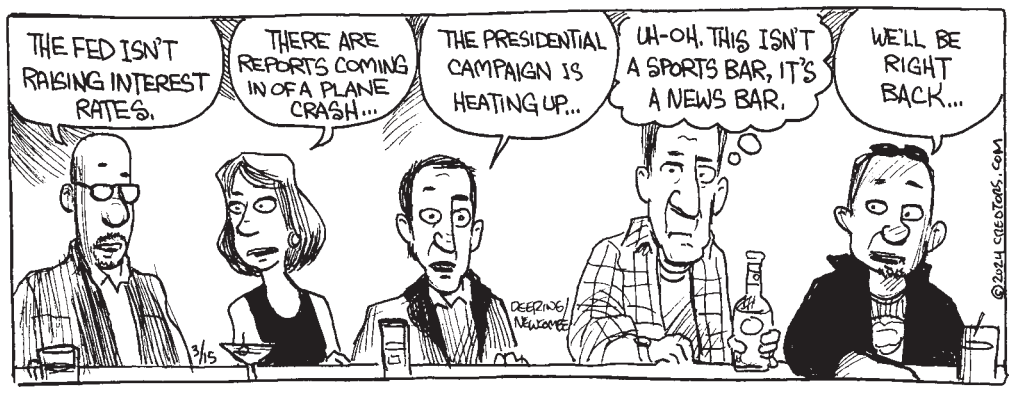
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE'S ALSO GOT A CUTE AND CUDDLY SIDE."

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

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Relaxing in Bali

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

Ache	Excitement	Neck	Renew
Arms	Face	Nerves	Rocks
Bars	Immerse	Novel	Skin
Bath	Java	Oils	Smile
Body board	Knead	Pool	Snooze
Bogan	Kuta	Pressure	Soap
Book	Laugh	Radio	Stop
Calm	Lips	Rain	Tai chi
Candles	Loaf	Rejuvenate	Therapy
Clubs	Masseur	Relax	Towel
Enhance	Muslim	Rice	Unwind
Escape	Napping	paddies	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 15)

Your much-admired ability to communicate openly and listen attentively will be put to use in a powerful position. You'll be heroic in the name of love, especially for your general love of people. More highlights: You'll have two financial wins that are sheer luck, and more that are hard-earned. A lifestyle upgrade and other improvements will elevate your family. Scorpio and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 5, 3, 12 and 18.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You make your moves with the best intentions, and without expectation or anticipation of a positive response. Remarkable outcomes can arise from a bit of audaciousness.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). In a sense you feel like you're in a preexistent state, preparing to step into a role or become another version of yourself. Just know that even though you are learning, you're still as whole and complete as any version of yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There's no risk that makes you see yourself better today than risking rejection. Being on your own side is being on the side of learning, not being on the side of perfection, power, ego or winning. You'll tune your offering based on feedback.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). To put your heart on the line usually takes courage. Now it just takes math. When you see that what's there to gain is extremely valuable, rare and worth the risk, you can't back down from the challenge.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Attraction is the principle by which the planets orbit and the people, too. You'll find the social circle more interesting for the aspects, angles and intersections. Knowing and seeing what people like will be exciting.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Once you choose, let go of the other options. Trust yourself. Regret, rumination, comparison and the like can only slow your progress or put a damper on your joy. But to celebrate your choice the whole way will give you power.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). If you spend too much time trying to meet someone's impossible needs, you'll forget who you are. Instead, build up your own self-worth. There's no need to spend any time at all in a toxic situation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Learn the style of others. Stay aware of patterns, habits and the like. If one person is playing a game, the others, who are not playing a game, are still unwittingly in a game.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You have a special energy that people want to be around. It extends to your belongings. You may have trouble getting someone to return what was borrowed from you. No one will want to give up the special energy infused in your things.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When you put yourself or your work on the line, you risk rejection. Ultimately, this is the risk that will make you see yourself better. And seeing yourself allows you to align with the needs of those around you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll show your feelings, maybe not on purpose. It's what happens when you're willing to feel what comes up. Don't worry too much about it today. They'll wash over you fast. Furthermore, someone special will connect with your open heart — not who you were expecting.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You have a natural ability to create harmony and understanding in your relationships. Your diplomacy and empathy make you a true relationship expert today.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

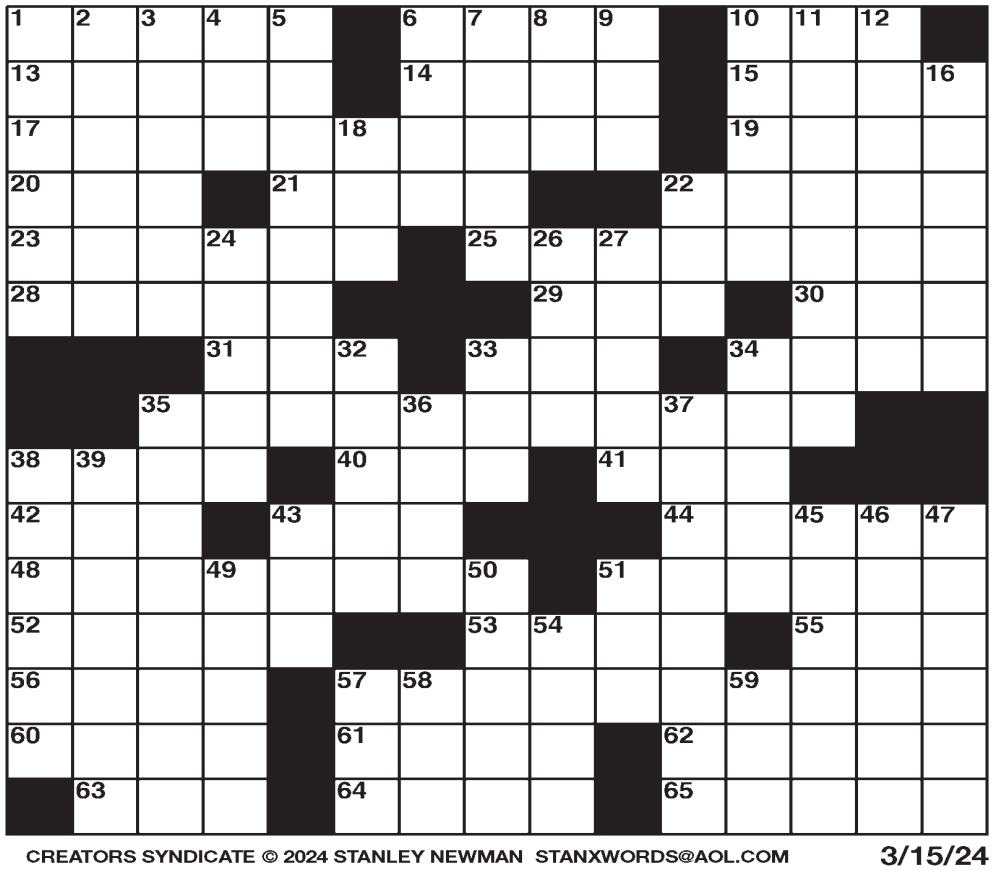
ROCK AND ROLE by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Thing with a thread
6 Chills
10 Self-service till
13 Piece of a zipper
14 Hardly headstrong
15 One with a driving licence
17 Gary Busey (1978)
19 Wait patiently
20 Center starter
21 Soap shape
22 Jefferson portraitist
23 Canine care coverage
25 Cate Blanchett, essentially (2007)
28 City north of Cologne
29 Smucker spread
30 Clinicians' designations
31 Suffix for carbon
33 Jim portrayer in *The Doors*
34 Name associated with 5 Down
35 John Cusack (2014)
38 Major rds.
40 __ Goose (Donald Duck cousin)
41 Underhanded
42 Bit of an aurora
43 Sixth-century center
44 "King of Country Music"
48 Kristen Stewart (2010)
51 Big name in Cajun cuisine
52 Choir contingent
53 Certain selfie device
55 NHL's Ducks, for short
56 What you're looking at now
57 Angela Bassett (1993)
60 *Show Boat* composer
61 Garden ornaments
62 Dissonance
63 *Game of Thrones* patriarch
64 Sheltered waters
65 Shelley's pal

DOWN

1 Canonized English monk
2 Kinds of cars
3 Multiple Louvre works
4 SFO info
5 "Over the Rainbow" conclusion
6 "Everything's cool"
7 Tabloid topic
8 Common Japanese pizza topping
9 Plane domain
10 Convent complex
11 Shakedown cruise, e.g.
12 Nation's interior
16 Very little
18 Falstaff pal
22 Graphical file format
24 Pulls apart
26 City near Santa Barbara
27 10 Across output
32 Bird on 27 Down
33 Bugs from Bavaria
34 *Finnegans Wake* author
35 Inherently
36 *Coucher de soleil* follower
37 Sure thing
38 Waylay, in a way
39 15 Across' winter wear
43 Party VIPs
45 Muse of astronomy
46 Ultimate
47 Emergency signals
49 Incessantly
50 How toy pianos sound
51 Erode
54 High-altitude shortcut
57 Rhyme trio's vessel
58 Rollover candidate
59 Common Swedish pizza topping



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



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.

TREE HUT IN BLOOM TOUR

Viral self-care brand Tree Hut is celebrating its spring In Bloom collection and new launches at Santa Monica Place, 395 Santa Monica Pl., from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Join the brand for prizes, treats, a Photo Booth and more to learn about the latest offerings from Tree Hut. For more information, contact sgabriele@coynepr.com.

DOWNTOWN SANTA MONICA WALKING TOUR

Discover the architectural gems and rich history of Downtown Santa Monica, beginning at Hostelling International Santa Monica, 1436 2nd St., at 10 a.m. Visit a 12-story Art Deco office tower, the British pub where Jim Morrison played his first show, the city's best example of a Queen Anne Victorian home, a lavish hotel that housed a speakeasy during Prohibition and more. Tours are approximately 2 hours and cover 6 blocks. Reservations suggested. Open to all ages. Tickets $10. For more information, visit: https://smc.givecloud.co/dwt.

FARM HOUSE ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY

Farm House day parties are back for St. Patrick's Day weekend, starting at 4 p.m. at The Cook's Garden Venice, 1033 Abbot Kinney Blvd., Venice. Celebrate the start of day party season with house music and wood-fired pizza from star chef Michael Fiorelli, previously of Olivetta in West Hollywood and Love & Salt in Manhattan Beach. Official after party at Gin Rummy in Venice beginning at 10 p.m. Free before 5 p.m. with RSVP, $20 at the door after 5 p.m. Guaranteed anytime entry online pre-sale for $10. To purchase tickets, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/farm-house-st-patricks-day-party-tickets-851269238207.

SUNDAY | MARCH 17

REPAIR CAFE

Bring items for repair at the Repair Cafe held at Marine Park, 1406 Marine St., from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Event open to anyone, not just Santa Monica residents. Items available for repair include small appliances, electronics, jewelry, clothing and guitars for stringing (please provide your own strings). Volunteers will be standing by to handle small repairs. Please be prepared to wait for volunteer availability and repairs.

VENICE OCEANARIUM POP-UP

The weekly Venice Oceanarium pop-up Marine Science exhibit draws thousands of locals and visitors. The oceanographic display includes rare specimens, shark jaws and historical artifacts. Be a citizen scientists and help gather ocean data from water testing kits. Observe grains of sand and seawater samples under microscopes. Read ocean-inspired poetry, draw and learn about the sea life just beneath the pier. Begins at 11 a.m. at the Venice Fishing Pier.

SMC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Join Santa Monica College Symphony Orchestra Director Mercedes Juan Musotto and Concertmaster Andrea Sanderson for a SMC Symphony Orchestra concert accompanying the 2024 SMC Concerto and Aria Competition winners, featuring SMC student and community soloists of all ages. Begins at 4 p.m. at the SMC Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th St. Tickets $10, free with any student ID. For more information, visit smc.edu/calendar/tickets.

MONDAY | MARCH 18

SANTA MONICA ARTS COMMISSION

City art and culture programs are guided by the 9-member Santa Monica Arts Commission, which was formally established in 1982 to ensure a regular and ongoing assessment of art programs in the City. Appointed by the Santa Monica City Council, Arts Commissioners advise the Council on matters of policy, and strive to encourage the flow of art into the City and stimulate art activity here. Meeting begins in the Santa Monica Public Library Community Meeting Room, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., at 6:30 p.m.

POOL TOURNAMENT

Arbor Venice takes over Tavern on Main, 2907 Main St, hosting a Monday night pool tournament beginning at 6:30 p.m. In addition to the tournament, there will be Arbor Venice's skateboard and snowboard footage on screens, as well as the Monday $9 burger and beer special. No charge to enter or play. For more, visit tavernonmainsm.com.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

The Architectural Review Board established in 1974, acts "to preserve existing areas of natural beauty, cultural importance and assure that buildings, structures, signs or other developments are in good taste, good design, harmonious with surrounding developments, and in general contribute to the preservation of Santa Monica's reputation as a place of beauty, spaciousness and quality." Meeting begins in City Council Chambers at Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St., at 7 p.m.

VIRGINIA AVE PARK ADVISORY BOARD

The Virginia Avenue Park Advisory Board (VAPAB) serves as an advisory body to the Recreation and Parks Commission and the Director of Housing and Human Services Department. Meeting begins at Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave., at 7 p.m.

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Commission on Sustainability, Environmental Justice and the Environment shall act in an advisory capacity on sustainability, environmental programs and policy issues. The Commission closely monitors the Santa Monica's Sustainable City Plan and advises the Council on plan implementation. The Commission on Sustainability, Environment Justice, and the environment is an expert panel made up of seven (7) members selected by the City Council with 4 year terms. Meeting begins at Civic Center Parking Structure, 333 Civic Center Dr., at 7 p.m.

TUESDAY | MARCH 19

SOCAL WELLNESS SUMMIT

The 10th Annual SoCal Wellness Summit will be hosted at the Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Hwy., beginning at 9:30 a.m. Each year explores hot topics in women's wellness and family health in a retreat-like atmosphere with experiences and unique activations. This year, hot topics include clean beauty, mental health, innovation in health tech and wellness, nutrition, family health, biohacking, pro-aging, fitness and more. Tickets are all access and include all sessions, workouts, services, light brunch and gifting stations. Come early for limited edition giveaways. Individual tickets $55. To purchase, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/10th-annual-socal-wellness-summit-presented-by-socalmoms-registration-805289611907.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council is made up of seven members elected at-large for staggered four-year terms. Every two years, after each election, the City Council selects one of its members to serve as Mayor and another to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore. Meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers at Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St.

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

Campus Events 2024

SPRING & SUMMER



Photo by Ed Gandara

Exciting events happening at SMC!

Santa Monica College has a lively lineup of events scheduled, so mark your calendar!

- **Dance Performances & Master Classes**
- **Intercollegiate Athletic Competitions**
- **Literary Talks & Readings**
- **Music Concerts**
- **Planetarium Shows**
- ***Santa Monica Review* Issue Launch Party**
- **Theatre Arts Performances**
- **And Much More!**

Visit **smc.edu/events** for more information.

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

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