New Look!
The Santa Monica Daily Press has been redesigned starting with today's edition. While some elements may look different, all the features and content remain.

9
Horoscopes
Plus the crossword.

WEDNESDAY
03.16.22

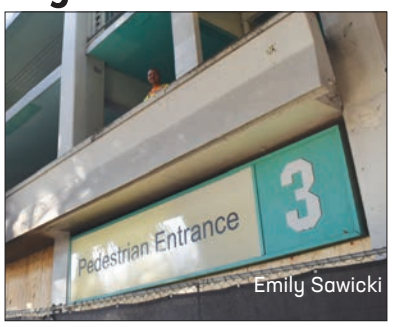
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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Demolition work begins on PS3



EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

The City of Santa Monica's planned demolition of Parking Structure 3, located on 4th Street between Santa Monica Boulevard and Arizona, was set to begin on Monday, March 14, following the

SEE **PS3** PAGE 4

New businesses bloom at Montana Ave Spring Fling

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

As flowers unfurl their petals and the chilly 60 degree winter days make way for the return of the 70s, Montana Avenue merchants are rolling out their goods and preparing for the return of the Spring Fling sidewalk sale this Saturday and Sunday.

What began as Covid era event designed to combine people's greater comfort with shopping outdoors and merchants' pressing need for revenue is now growing into a well loved community tradition. And while many

SEE **MONTANA** PAGE 5


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Stocks rally on Wall Street as oil prices keep falling

STAN CHOE AND ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writers

Technology companies led stocks broadly higher on Wall Street Tuesday, as oil prices slid sharply for the second day and inflation worries ebbed. The market rally came a day ahead of the Federal Reserve's highly anticipated interest rate policy update.

The S&P 500 rose 2.1%, ending a three-day losing streak, after a report showed inflation's rapid acceleration paused at the wholesale level last month. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 1.8% and the tech-heavy Nasdaq composite rose 2.9%.

The wilder action was in oil and Asian stock markets, where tightened anti-COVID measures in China are raising worries about demand for energy and about disruptions to manufacturing and global trade. Oil prices tumbled more than 6%, taking some pressure off the world's high inflation, and a barrel of U.S. crude fell below $97 after starting the week above $109. Stocks in Hong Kong sank more than 5% for a second straight day after the neighboring city of Shenzhen was ordered into a shutdown.

Renewed COVID-19 worries come on top of a lengthy list of concerns for markets, which have caused wild hour-to-hour swings in recent weeks. The war in Ukraine catapulted prices for oil, wheat and other commodities the region produces. That's raising the threat that already high inflation will persist and combine with a potentially stagnating economy.

Some cautious optimism about the latest round of talks between Russia and Ukraine may have helped put traders in a buying mood. Ukrainian presidential aide Ihor Zhovkva said discussions via video held by representatives of the two nations Tuesday were "more constructive," noting that Russia has stopped airing its demands for Ukraine to surrender.

"If ever so slight, at least there's still building optimism regarding Ukraine, combined with optimism regarding inflation, oil in particular, and optimism that the Fed will not be more hawkish than is already built into the market," said Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist at CFRA.

The S&P 500 rose 89.34 points to 4,262.45. The Dow gained 599.10 points to 33,544.34, and the Nasdaq rose 367.40 points to 12,948.62.

Smaller company stocks also gained ground. The Russell 2000 index rose 27.25 points, or 1.4%, to 1,968.97.

Central banks around the world are preparing to pull the plug on the support they poured into the global economy after the pandemic struck. The Fed began a two-day meeting on interest rates, and the wide expectation is that it will announce on Wednesday an increase of 0.25 percentage points to its key short-term rate.

That would be the first increase since 2018, pulling it off its record low of nearly zero, and likely the first in a series of rate hikes. The Fed is trying to slow the economy enough to tamp down the high inflation sweeping the country, but not so much as to trigger a recession.

Inflation is already at its highest level in generations, and the most recent numbers don't even include the surge in oil prices that occurred after Russia invaded Ukraine.

Data released Tuesday showed inflation was still very high at the wholesale level last month, but at least it wasn't accelerating. Producer prices were 10% higher in February from a year earlier, the same rate as in January. On a month-to-month basis, inflation rose 0.8% in February from January, versus forecasts for 0.9%. That's a slowdown from January's 1.2% month-over-month inflation.

So the numbers are still very high and will keep the Fed on track to raise rates on Wednesday, economists said, but at least they weren't worse than expected.

A separate survey by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York showed that manufacturing in the state declined for the first time since early in the pandemic. A weakening economy could make the Federal Reserve less aggressive about raising rates.

Treasury yields dipped immediately after the reports, then edged higher by afternoon. The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 2.15% from 2.14% late Monday. The two-year yield, which moves more on expectations for Fed policy changes, fell to 1.86% from 1.87%.

Also helping to pull down yields were the tumbling oil prices. A barrel of U.S. crude dropped 6.4% to settle at $96.44. It had briefly topped $130 last week when worries about disruptions to supplies because of the war in Ukraine were at their height. Brent crude, the international standard, fell 6.5% to settle at $99.91 per barrel.

A reprieve on fuel prices helped a wide variety of stocks, and the majority of companies in the S&P 500 were rising. Airlines led the way after several raised their forecasts for revenue this quarter. American Airlines, Delta Air Lines and United Airlines all soared 8% or more.

Tech and other high-growth stocks also recovered some of their earlier losses as Treasury yields fell. Higher interest rates can hurt such stocks more than others because they're seen as more expensive relative to their earnings.

In overseas stock markets, European indexes were down modestly. Stocks in Shanghai slumped 5% and Hong Kong's Hang Seng lost 5.7% despite the release of data showing strong increases in Chinese retail sales, industrial production and investment in January-February. It followed a decision by China's central bank not to ease interest rates to spur economic growth.

Shares in Hong Kong have sunk to near six-year lows after the neighboring city of Shenzhen was ordered into a shutdown to combat China's worst COVID-19 outbreak in two years.

"Fears continue to dog stock markets that lockdowns could spread, which would severely impact China's growth," Jeffrey Halley of Oanda said in a commentary.

In other developments, the London Metal Exchange said trading in nickel will resume Wednesday, just over a week after it was suspended when the price of the metal skyrocketed to over $100,000 per ton.

SEE **OIL** PAGE 4



DAILY POLICE LOGS

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 290 CALLS ON March 14

Public Intoxication 1200Blk 21st St 12:56 a.m.
Assault Just Occurred 300Blk Santa Monica Pier 2:24 a.m.
Loud Music 1100Blk 25th St 2:45 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 1400Blk Ocean Ave 4:32 a.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries Centinela Ave / Airport Ave 5:11 a.m.
Encampment 1100Blk The Beach 5:47 a.m.
Encampment 1800Blk Main St 6:27 a.m.
Construction Noise 1500Blk California Ave 6:47 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Barnard Way / Wadsworth Ave 7:10 a.m.
Attempt Burglary Just Occurred 1100Blk 7th St 7:13 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 1300Blk Berkeley St 7:44 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 2600Blk Ocean Park Blvd 7:57 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1500Blk Michigan Ave 8:26 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 2200Blk Virginia Ave 8:40 a.m.
Burglary Report 1500Blk 6th St 8:55 a.m.
Burglary Report 1700Blk Stewart St 9:03 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 400Blk 21st St 9:05 a.m.
Red Zone Violation 19th St / Washington Ave 9:08 a.m.
Found Property 1700Blk Ocean Front Walk 9:18 a.m.
Traffic Hazard Pacific Coast Hwy / California Incline 9:19 a.m.
Burglary Now 2900Blk Arizona Ave 9:23 a.m.
Found Property 3rd St / California Ave 9:26 a.m.
Missing Person 1000Blk 3rd St 9:36 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 900Blk 24th St 9:40 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 2nd St / Broadway 9:48 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1500Blk Hill St 9:56 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Cloverfield Blvd / Michigan Ave 10:19 a.m.
Encampment 2800Blk The Beach 10:24 a.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon Just Occurred 1300Blk 3rd Street Prom 10:28 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 2000Blk Ocean Ave 10:39 a.m.
Encampment 3400Blk Pico Blvd 10:44 a.m.
Fight 2900Blk The Beach 10:45 a.m.
Battery Report 1700Blk Main St 10:46 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1300Blk Stanford St 10:52 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1000Blk 2nd St 10:56 a.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1600Blk Ocean Ave 11:02 a.m.
Expired Registration 1400Blk Arizona Ave 11:06 a.m.
Strongarm Robbery Just Occurred 700Blk Broadway 11:13 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 500Blk Washington Ave 11:16 a.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 2400Blk Ocean Front Walk 11:19 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 200Blk Mills St 11:19 a.m.
Loud Music 2700Blk Barnard Way 11:43 a.m.
Lewd Activity 1550Blk Ocean Front Walk 11:45 a.m.
Expired Registration 1200Blk 16th St 11:47 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1500Blk 6th St 11:54 a.m.
Burglary Report 1300Blk 18th St 12:01 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 12:08 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1400Blk 2nd St 12:26 p.m.
Expired Registration 1600Blk Arizona Ave 12:29 p.m.
Encampment 1100Blk The Beach 12:31 p.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 800Blk 4th St 12:41 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 2500Blk Pico Blvd 12:41 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1700Blk Ocean Ave 12:47 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 100Blk Broadway 1:17 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 200Blk Broadway 1:27 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 800Blk Grant St 1:31 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 1100Blk 24th St 1:31 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 3200Blk Ocean Park Blvd 1:41 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 3rd Street Prom / Santa Monica Blvd 1:49 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 1200Blk Bay St 1:53 p.m.
Loitering 1200Blk 19th St 1:59 p.m.
Prowler Just Left 1800Blk California Ave 2:10 p.m.
Traffic/Vehicle Stop 5th St / Olympic Blvd W 2:11 p.m.
Expired Registration 1200Blk Euclid St 2:12 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 2400Blk Pico Blvd 2:19 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 700Blk Ashland Ave 2:28 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 1500Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 2:38 p.m.
Assault Just Occurred 3rd Street Prom / Santa Monica Blvd 2:44 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 14th St / Wilshire Blvd 2:51 p.m.
Burglary Now 1400Blk Lincoln Blvd 3:14 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2300Blk 28th St 3:20 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 200Blk Broadway 3:23 p.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 600Blk Idaho Ave 3:23 p.m.
Domestic Violence Now 4th St / Pacific St 3:28 p.m.
Traffic Hazard Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd W 3:41 p.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 600Blk Pico Blvd 3:59 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 1300Blk 2nd St 4:13 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 1300Blk 2nd St 4:13 p.m.
Battery Report 1300Blk 3rd Street Prom 4:27 p.m.
Fight 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 4:38 p.m.
Loud Music 600Blk Hill St 4:43 p.m.
Traffic Control Request - Level 1 4th St / Arizona Ave 4:51 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 2500Blk Lincoln Blvd 4:56 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 1200Blk 11th St 5:17 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1400Blk 5th St 5:21 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1300Blk 19th St 5:27 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 2600Blk Ocean Park Blvd 5:54 p.m.
Panic Alarm 1300Blk Montana Ave 6:06 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1900Blk 11th St 6:13 p.m.
Oversize Vehicle Violation 2700Blk 11th St 6:25 p.m.
Panic Alarm 1300Blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:34 p.m.
Defrauding Innkeeper Just Occurred 300Blk Santa Monica Pier 6:39 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1600Blk The Beach 6:53 p.m.
Encampment 3300Blk Barnard Way 7:01 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 400Blk Broadway 7:43 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 400Blk Broadway 7:43 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 1800Blk Lincoln Blvd 7:51 p.m.
Fraud Report 700Blk Marine St 7:54 p.m.
Person With A Gun 1000Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 8:01 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 900Blk Harvard St 8:05 p.m.
General Parking Problem Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 8:23 p.m.
Loud Music 600Blk Hill St 8:27 p.m.
Construction Noise 2500Blk Virginia Ave 8:40 p.m.
Oversize Vehicle Violation 2300Blk 28th St 10:25 p.m.
Loud Music 2500Blk Ocean Park Blvd 11:37 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOGS

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 44 CALLS ON MARCH 14

EMS 1300Blk Euclid St 12:36 a.m.
EMS 1100Blk 3rd St 1:09 a.m.
EMS Centinela Ave / Airport Ave 5:10 a.m.
EMS 1900Blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:12 a.m.
EMS 1100Blk 5th St 5:52 a.m.
EMS 20th St / Arizona Ave 7:54 a.m.
EMS 2000Blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:16 a.m.
EMS 23rd St / Ocean Park Blvd 10:01 a.m.
EMS 1600Blk Berkeley St 10:16 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2400Blk 16th St 10:18 a.m.
EMS 700Blk Pico Blvd 10:23 a.m.
EMS 1900Blk Colorado Ave 10:32 a.m.
EMS 2000Blk 4th St 10:35 a.m.
EMS 900Blk 2nd St 10:46 a.m.
EMS 300Blk Santa Monica Pl 10:47 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2300Blk Pearl St 11:31 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2600Blk Lincoln Blvd 12:01 p.m.
EMS 800Blk Pacific St 12:44 p.m.
EMS 700Blk Broadway 12:45 p.m.
EMS 500Blk Olympic Blvd W 1:23 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1300Blk 20th St 1:29 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk Arizona Ave 1:42 p.m.
EMS 1100Blk 7th St 2:01 p.m.
EMS 1000Blk Lincoln Blvd 2:19 p.m.
EMS 2400Blk Pico Blvd 2:40 p.m.
EMS 2100Blk Ocean Ave 2:52 p.m.
Trash/Dumpster Fire 1200Blk 3rd Street Prom 2:54 p.m.
EMS 2700Blk Neilson Way 3:06 p.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 1200Blk 3rd Street Prom 4:31 p.m.
EMS 1500Blk Ocean Ave 4:33 p.m.
EMS 1600Blk 5th St 5:01 p.m.
EMS 2500Blk Lincoln Blvd 5:36 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1300Blk 20th St 6:01 p.m.
EMS 2200Blk 23rd St 6:28 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 6th St 7:04 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 20th St 7:08 p.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 3300Blk Virginia Ave 7:48 p.m.
EMS 1400Blk 4th St 7:50 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1500Blk 5th St 7:50 p.m.
EMS 1100Blk 3rd St 8:07 p.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 2200Blk Virginia Ave 9:07 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1400Blk 21st St 9:51 p.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 1200Blk 4th St 10:20 p.m.
Structure Fire 1200Blk 3rd Street Prom 4:44 p.m.

CRIME WATCH

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

ON SUNDAY, MARCH 6 AT 12:40 A.M.

Santa Monica Police officers conducted a traffic stop on the 2600 block of 3rd St. Upon approaching the vehicle, Officers detected the odor of an alcoholic beverage. Simultaneously, an individual approached officers and stated the driver had crashed into his vehicle in Beverly Hills and he had followed the driver for several miles into Santa Monica. Officers conducted a series of field sobriety tests and ultimately determined the driver to be unfit to drive due to his current state. Beverly Hills PD Officers also responded to the traffic stop. Aiden Felipe Menses Lopez was cited for Driving Under the Influence and Hit & Run.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Downtown

Rep. Lieu Secures $2 Million in Federal Funds for Santa Monica Affordable Housing Project at Parking Structure 3 Site

On Tuesday, President Biden signed a $1.5 trillion omnibus spending package that includes $2 million to support the City's project to build a mixed-use affordable housing project on the current site of Parking Structure 3. The funding in the FY 2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act is part of a total of $11 million in Community Project Funding that Congressman Ted Lieu successfully secured for ten projects in his district. The allocation toward Santa Monica's project to produce affordable housing to alleviate the region's homelessness crisis represents the single largest share of these funds.

"The homelessness crisis in America is a national disgrace. We must do more to support individuals and families experiencing homelessness. I'm pleased that the local homelessness projects I advocated for have been included in the FY 2022 government spending package," Rep. Lieu said.

"This funding will go directly toward building housing and providing support for those experiencing homelessness in our district. I will continue to fight for our district in Congress to ensure we receive the federal funding we need to tackle this persistent challenge."

The effort to convert Parking Structure 3 to affordable housing began in 2019 when the City Council authorized the City's Housing Division to undertake a competitive selection process for development of a 100% affordable housing project on the site, to include a significant component of supportive housing. On January 12, 2022, City Council green lit an exclusive negotiation agreement to negotiate the terms and conditions with EAH, Inc. for the development of affordable housing on the site of Parking Structure 3.

"We continue to have the great fortune of working with Rep. Lieu who has steadfastly advocated for much-needed local funds to support priority projects like the conversion of Parking Structure 3 to affordable housing," said Mayor Sue Himmelrich. "We were thrilled to be included in the appropriations process and with the signing of the bill by President Biden, we are grateful for this welcome federal support."

In his press announcement, Rep. Lieu's office shared: The overall government funding package will help families with the rising costs of living, create American jobs, support the vulnerable, and work to help small businesses and restaurants that have faced difficulties over the past few years. Taken together, the funding for CA-33 and the funding increases for critical government programs will reverse decades of disinvestment in our communities and strengthen our nation."

SUBMITTED BY MIRANDA IGLESIAS, INTERIM PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

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City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed proposals for

RFP: #314 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER FEASABILITY STUDY

- **Submission Deadline Is May 10, 2022 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is ProcureNow (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for the RFP package.

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Sustainable Quality Awards
WINNER

White House: Biden will travel to Europe for Ukraine talks

AAMER MADHANI AND CHRIS MEGERIAN
Associated Press

President Joe Biden will travel to Europe next week for face-to-face talks with European leaders about the Russian invasion of Ukraine, White House press secretary Jen Psaki announced Tuesday.

Biden will meet with European leaders at an extraordinary NATO summit in Brussels on March 24. He will also attend a scheduled European Council summit, where efforts to impose sanctions and further humanitarian efforts are underway.

"While he's there, his goal is to meet in person face-to-face with his European counterparts and talk about, assess where we are at this point in the conflict in the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. We've been incredibly aligned to date," Psaki said. "That doesn't happen by accident. The president is a big believer in face-to-face diplomacy. So it's an opportunity to do exactly that."

The White House announced the president's travel shortly before Biden on Tuesday signed a bill providing $13.6 billion in additional military and humanitarian aid to Ukraine as part of a $1.5 trillion government spending measure.

Biden said at the bill signing ceremony that the U.S. was "moving urgently to further augment the support to the brave people of Ukraine, as they defend their country."

The trip follows Vice President Kamala Harris' visit to eastern flank NATO countries of Poland and Romania last week to discuss with leaders the growing refugee crisis in eastern Europe sparked by the Russian invasion and to underscore the Biden administration's support for NATO allies.

Poland's foreign minister Zbigniew Rau said Tuesday that a visit by Biden to Poland was "very probable" when he comes to Europe. More than 1.8 million Ukrainians have fled to Poland since the start of the war, according to the United Nations. More than 3 million people have fled Ukraine since Russian launched its invasion.

"It would be hard to imagine a better place for the United States and for the entire alliance to stress their position than the brightest link on the eastern flank, that Poland is," Rau told Polish state TVP INFO.

Psaki said she did not have additional details about whether Biden would visit Poland during the trip.

The White House's announcement of Biden's visit to Brussels came on the same day that leaders of Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovenia set out for Kyiv by train despite the security risks to show their support for Ukraine. It was a visit EU officials said was not sanctioned by other members of the 27-nation bloc.

Daniel Hamilton, a former deputy assistant secretary of state for European affairs, said Biden's trip to Europe comes as the White House looks to continue to maintain what's been a largely unified western opposition to Russia since the invasion.

"As the war continues, it's important that the president show he is not sitting comfortably across the Atlantic, but that he is part of the coalition meeting with European colleagues in Europe and that the United States is a European power," said Hamilton, non-resident fellow at Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank.

Associated Press writers Monika Scislowska and Tracy Brown contributed reporting.

PS3

FROM PAGE 1

close of a legal battle that had been waged by local business owners against the City and the California Coastal Commission.

As of Tuesday afternoon, no work had begun on the demolition, but a worker on site said it was expected to commence soon. The 50-year-old structure was being torn down to build a mixed-use affordable housing complex with underground parking. Demolition was estimated to last about six to seven months; work was scheduled for weekdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. with intermittent lane closures resulting in 4th Street periodically going down to one lane heading southbound. Pedestrian access was set to continue with scaffolding and an overhead cover.

See Page 3 for more information on new funding for the project.

emily@smdp.com

OIL

FROM PAGE 2

The announcement followed a notice from Tsingshan Holding Group, a Chinese metals giant, that it had struck a deal with its creditors on a "standstill arrangement" such that the banks would not make margin calls or close out their positions against the company while it is resolving its nickel margin and settlement requirements.

Russia is the world's No. 3 producer of nickel. Its price and that of many other commodities has surged on speculation over possible disruptions to supplies as Russia contends with widening economic sanctions following its invasion of Ukraine.

AP Business Writer Elaine Kurtenbach and Damian J. Troise contributed. Veiga reported from Los Angeles.

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters to the Editor can be submitted to letters@smdp.com. Receipt of a letter does not guarantee publication and all content is published at the discretion of the paper. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content. All submissions must include the author's name, address and phone number for the purposes of verification.

Poodles pop in popularity, but Labs still No. 1 US dog breed

JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press

Labrador retrievers are still tugging hardest on U.S. dog lovers' heartstrings, but poodles just strutted back into the American Kennel Club's top five most popular dog breeds for the first time in nearly a quarter-century.

The club's annual popularity rankings came out Tuesday, drawn from more than 800,000 purebred puppies and older pooches that joined the nation's oldest canine registry last year.

With 197 recognized breeds, the list ranges from such familiar furry faces as Labs — No. 1 for an unprecedented 31 straight years — to the newly added Biewer terrier (making a strong debut at #82) and unusual pups like the hairless Xoloitzcuintli (#119).

For dog fans, there's plenty to dig into (like a dachshund, #10) and point out (like a pointer, #120). So we've rounded up (like a border collie, #31) some highlights:

TOP 10

After Labs, the top 10 are: French bulldogs, golden retrievers, German shepherds, poodles, bulldogs, beagles, Rottweilers, German shorthaired pointers and dachshunds.

OODLES OF POODLES

Poodles reigned as top dog from 1960 to 1982 before falling off somewhat in popularity. But in the new statistics, they reclaimed the fifth spot for the first time since 1997. (The standard, miniature and toy sizes are all counted as one breed.)

With their proud stance and elaborate cut in the show ring, "they do have a reputation, in some circles, as just being froufrou," says longtime poodle owner and sometime breeder Page Hinds-Athan of Roswell, Georgia. "There's definitely more to them."

Poodles historically were water retrievers, and they remain athletic animals renowned for their smarts, not to mention their allergy-friendly coats. Hinds-Athan's poodles have made therapy visits in hospitals and compete in obedience. Other poodles work as guide dogs for the blind, hunt or compete in agility or other dog sports.

Their intelligence comes with some high expectations, Hinds-Athan says: In training, "if you're going to fuss at them, you'd better be really right. Because if you're not really fair with them, they remember it."

AND DOODLES?

Poodles also make up part of several popular hybrids, such as Labradoodles, maltipoos and sheepadoodles. The AKC, a governing body for many dog shows, doesn't currently recognize any of those as breeds. But AKC spokesperson Brandi Hunter says poodle-mix fans have made some inquiries about what recognition would involve.

One key requirement is articulating an ideal for the breed, in order to attain some consistency.

"The predictability is one of the things that draws people to purebred dogs," Hunter explains.

ON THE RARE SIDE

The rarest breed last year was the Norwegian lundehund, consistently sparse in the U.S. The smallish dogs boast extra toes and unusual flexibility that once helped them climb Norwegian cliffs to hunt puffins nesting in narrow crevices.

BREEDS ON THE RISE

The standings often don't change a lot from year to year, but they do over time. Eight breeds, from the low-lying Pembroke Welsh corgi (#11) to the towering great Dane (#17), have entered the top 25 since the start of the century.

Some have made Olympian leaps in popularity. French bulldogs, now #2 and a common sight from TV commercials to cosmopolitan streets, ranked a distant 71st in 2000. The cane corso, which wasn't recognized until 2010, has since climbed from 51st to 21st.

The imposing, mastiff-style cane corso goes back many centuries in rural Italy as a farm guardian that also pulled small carts and hunted wild boar. Its versatility endures, says Anthony Simonski, who has owned or bred corsi (that's the proper plural) that compete in agility, dock diving and other sports and have appeared in TV shows and music videos.

While the dogs are protective, "it's not about being mean — it's about understanding its job," says Simonski, of Acworth, Georgia.

Simonski has owned corsi since 1998 and is married to Cane Corso Association of America President Rebecca Simonski. He has mixed feelings about their growing popularity, feeling that it draws questionable breeders.

"There's a side of you going, 'Oh, my God, the cat's out of the bag.' But the real problem is what people are doing with that cat once it's out of the bag," he says.

DOG BREEDING DEBATED

Some animal-rights advocates say dog breeding itself is a problem. They argue that fanciers focus more on dogs' appearance than their health and that promoting purebreds ends up fueling puppy mills and stranding other dogs in shelters.

The AKC says it and its affiliated breed clubs champion and invest in dog health, including through an AKC-affiliated foundation. The club also maintains that properly done breeding has a purpose: to produce dogs with known traits, from size to sniffing ability, that fit different human needs and lifestyles.

New purebred registrations, which are voluntary, have increased by 45% in a decade, the club says.

Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

MONTANA

FROM PAGE 1

merchants are still struggling from the financial impacts of the pandemic, there is no denying the renewed sense of life on Montana nor the plethora of new businesses taking root.

In the last year several eateries have popped up including popular LA bagel chain Sam's Bagels, Japanese noodle joint Kai Ramen and cult favorite breakfast spot Salt's Cure. In December 2021, Santa Monica local Mayra Vazquez opened Buena Vida Tea Bar & Garden, which serves a variety of loose leaf teas and treats in its beautiful hidden patio space. Just last month the gourmet Los Feliz market McCall's Meat and Fish Co. opened a second location on Montana Ave.

While many retail stores left the street during the pandemic, several unique new stores have come to Montana, including shoe shop O'My Sole, beachwear boutique Last Resort and luxury candle store Saint Candles. Anyone looking to redecorate or spruce up their home will enjoy checking out the offerings at recently opened LoveSac furniture company, Casper Bedding, home goods store Goodies and flower shop Orchid Republic.

Many of these new businesses will be jumping in on the Spring Fling fun and offering a series of sales and package deals this weekend. Participating businesses can be identified by the bright pink balloons tied up outside their storefront, which have been generously donated by Montana Ave business Balloon Celebration.

Older businesses are also in need of some love as many merchants are now embarking upon the arduous process of paying back rent owed from earlier months of the pandemic. Many longtime Montana businesses will be hosting sales during Spring Fling weekend.

According to Heidi Dedrick, merchant outreach chair of the Montana Merchants Association, Splendid will be selling a range of 40 percent off clothes, Margaret O'Leary is offering a 60 percent off sale and Jane of Tarzana will be offering a 50 percent discount on a selection of customer favorite items. Dedrick also recommended people swing by Bardonna to celebrate spring, and the cafe's recently approved liquor license, with a mimosa or Bloody Mary.

Dedrick envisions Spring Fling as a family friendly way for locals to enjoy Montana Avenue all day. Residents can come buy a new outfit for spring, freshen up their home with new decor, and enjoy a sweet treat, drink or meal with friends. Children will also enjoy tracking down the new sculpture installations on ten different trees along the street, which is part of a collaborative project between the Montana Merchants Association and the City's Art of Recovery grant program.

Although they will not be open in time for the Spring Fling Sale, Dedrick said residents should come back soon for the launch of several exciting businesses. Perhaps one of the most eagerly anticipated openings is well known Valley sushi spot Brothers Sushi, which is in its final stages of health inspections. Other incoming stores include Brooklinen in the former Planet Blue storefront and a new electric bicycle shop in the former Chico's location.

Clara@smdp.com



Matthew Hall

TEA: Buena Vida Tea Garden is one of the new businesses open during the Spring Fling.

Doris Claudette Fitts

1943 – 2022

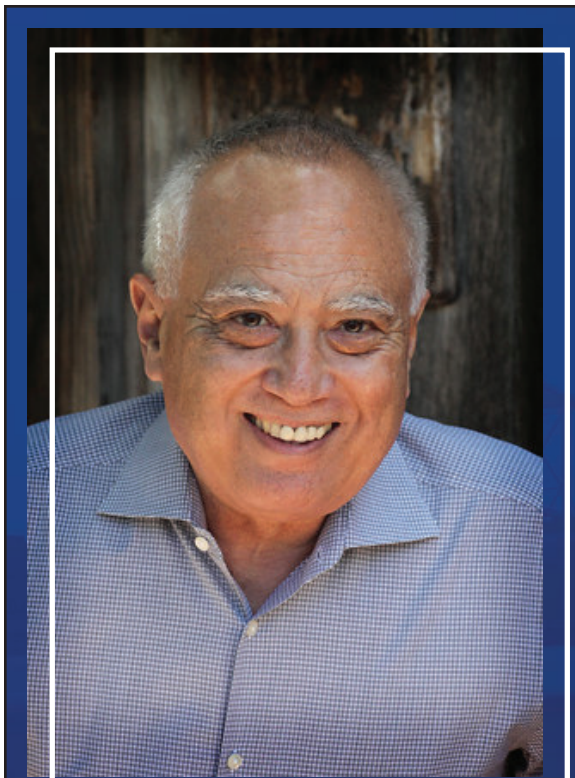


Doris Fitts, 78, of Santa Monica, passed away on March 7th at Providence St. John's Health Center, peacefully of natural causes.

She was born in Lewiston Maine on May 6th, 1943, the loving daughter of Adrien and Julie (Gravel) Caron. After graduating from Lewiston High School in 1961 she studied to become a registered nurse, and moved to California in the mid 1960s to pursue her career. She worked as a registered nurse at St. John's Hospital in Santa Monica until the mid 1980s.

She married her husband John Murray Fitts on July 26th, 1969, in Lewiston Maine. After her career in nursing, she worked alongside her husband in the family business, EOIS. She is survived by her three children, James, Thomas, and Julie; much loved grandchildren, Emily, Ava, Tyler, Mika, Emi, Parker and Misha; and her nieces and nephews including one whom she helped raise, Michele. She is preceded in death by her parents, loving husband John, her beloved sister Constance Belaire, and her nephew Tom Belaire.

Funeral Service at Woodlawn Cemetery in Santa Monica on Friday March 18th at 10am. Viewing on Thursday March 17th from 1pm-3pm. Woodlawn Cemetery: 1847 14th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404: (310) 458-8717.



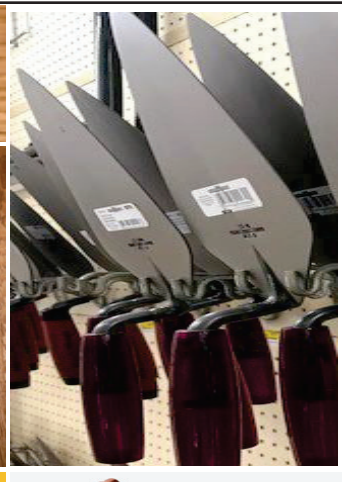
Abe Sassoon
Sales Director
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DRE#01389436

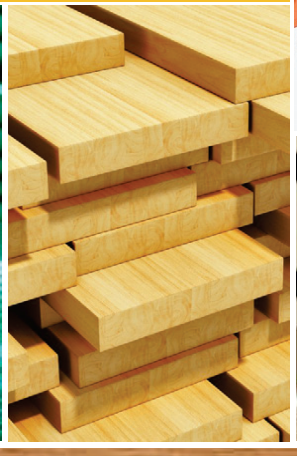
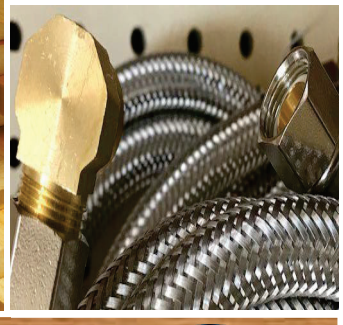
Years Ocean Park resident:	Favorite Ocean Park watering hole:	Favorite Ocean Park beach hangout:
29	Rick's Tavern on Main	Lifeguard Station #26

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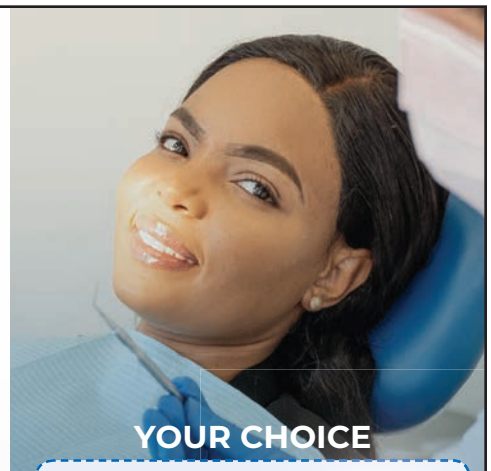
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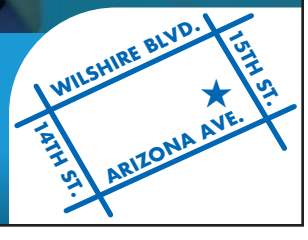
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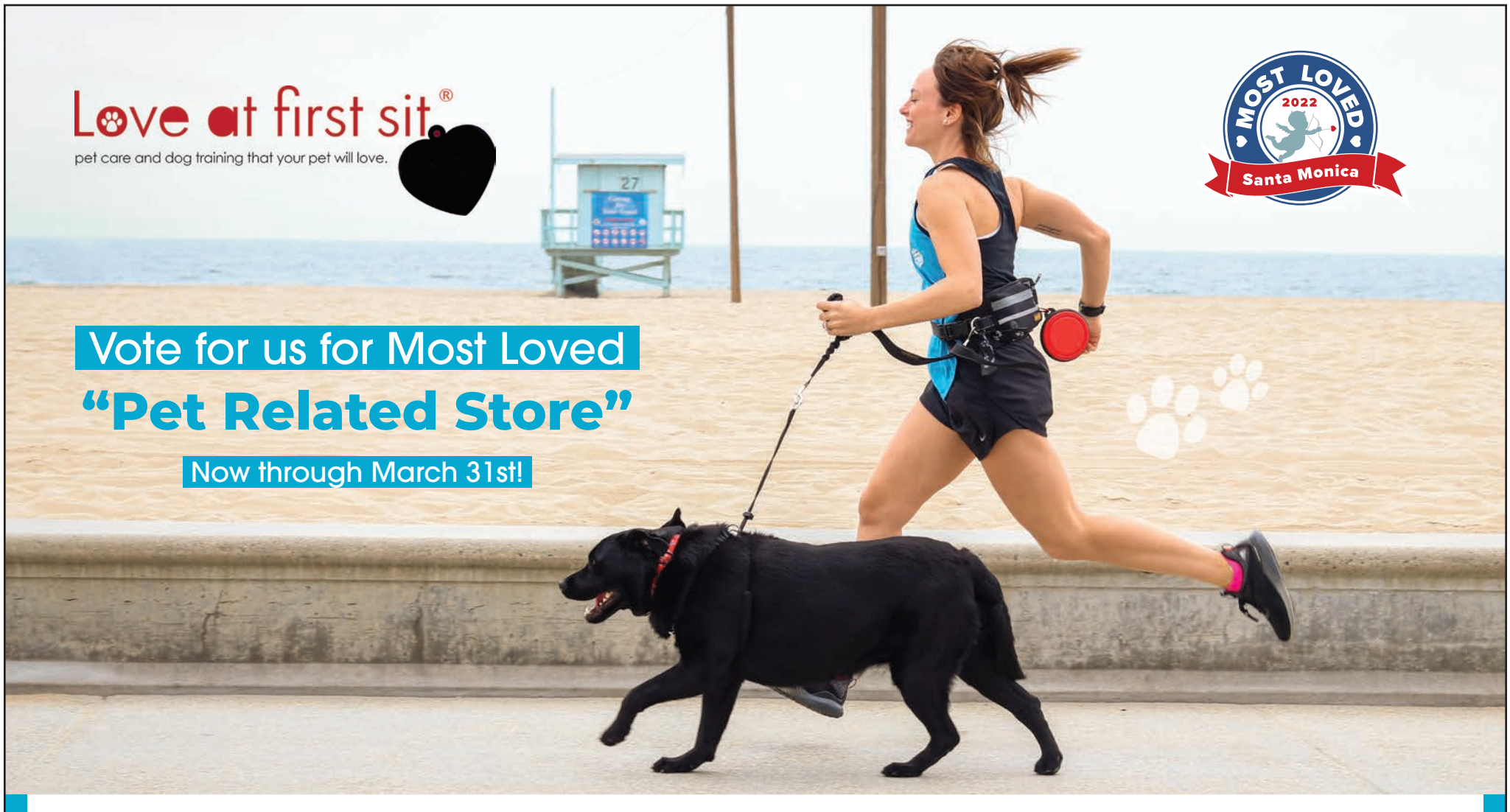


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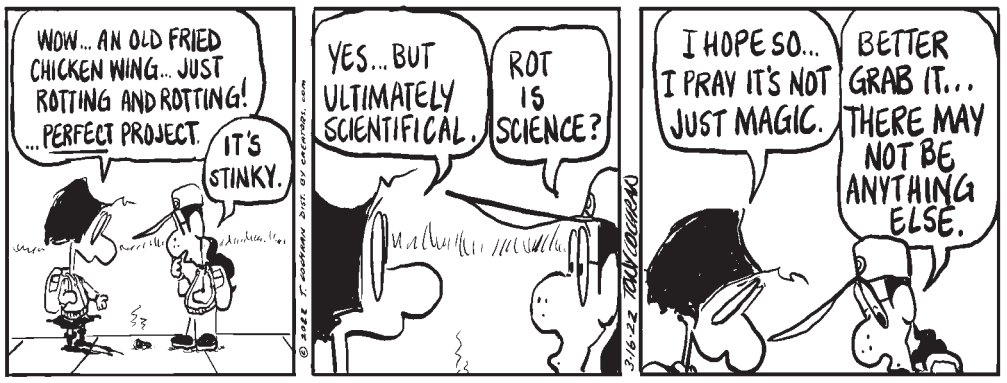



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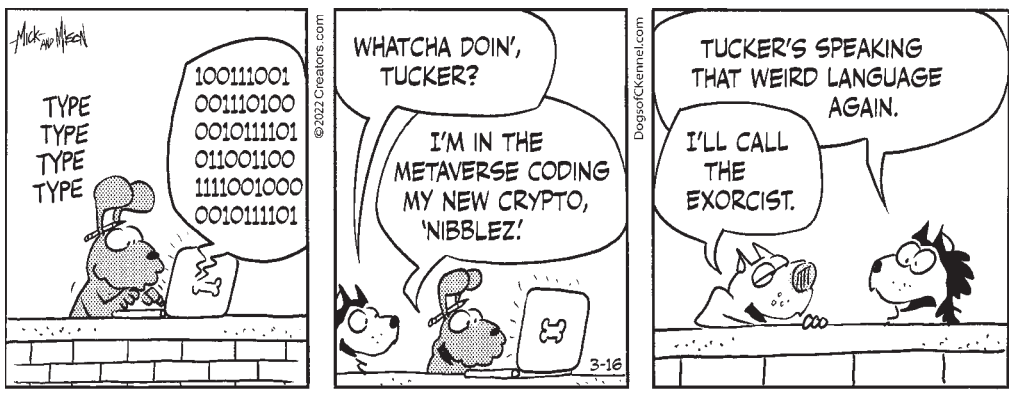
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



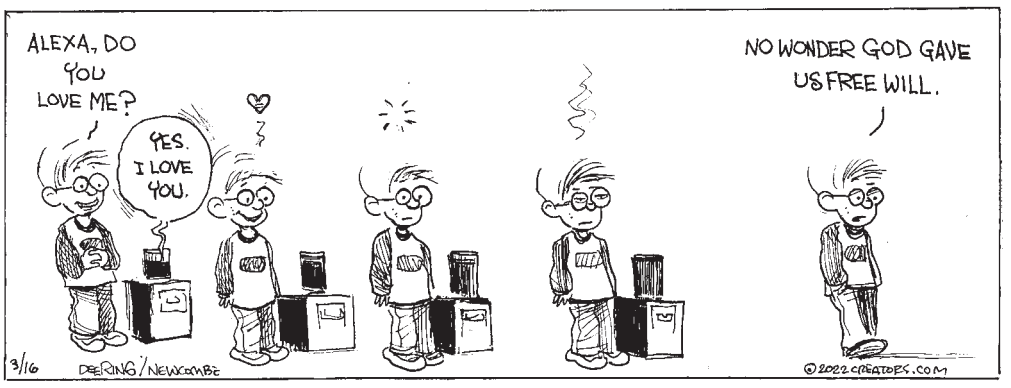
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



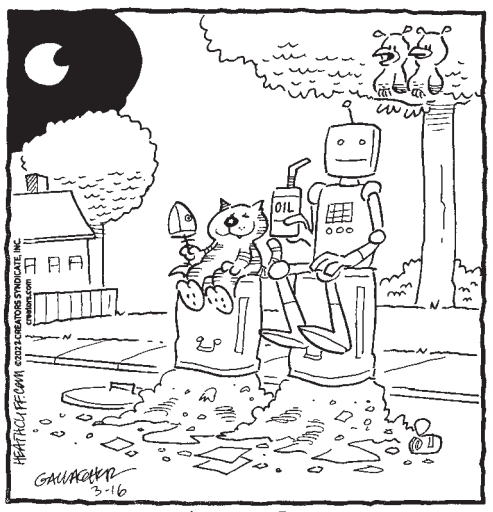
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



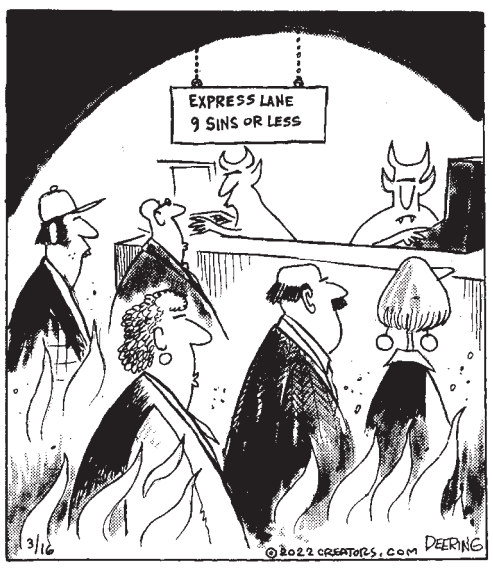
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF REPORT

WATER TEMP: **61.3**

WEDNESDAY *POOR TO FAIR*	**SURF:** 3-5ft Waist to head high	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.
THURSDAY *POOR TO FAIR*	**SURF:** 3-4ft Waist to chest	NW swell mix may ease a notch through the day but overall conditions look better. Most breaks remain best through the afternoon low tide window.

WEATHER

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 55. Northwest wind around 5 mph.
Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 66. Northeast wind around 5 mph.
Friday: Mostly clear, with a low around 55. Northwest wind around 5 mph.
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 66. Northeast wind around 5 mph.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2022/03/20	Sun	11:23 AM	4.41	H

DAILY LOTTERY

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

Powerball
Draw Date: 3/14
21 28 32 44 49
Power#: 6
Jackpot: 133 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: 3/14
6 13 27 30 38

Daily 3
Draw Date: 3/15
EVENING: 3 2 3
Draw Date: 3/13
MIDDAY: 1 4 5

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 3/14
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 11 - Money Bags
3rd: 10 - Solid Gold
Race Time: 1:47.66

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 16)

It's the teachers of the world who mold the future. You're such a person, whether or not teaching is your official role. Money comes easier to you between now and June. You'll reinvest with excellent results. A late-summer pivot has you finding your niche. You'll hone your strengths and ultimately come into your own. Leo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 3, 33, 14 and 16.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You are less reactive to the goings-on around you. This is by design. You see certain interactions as the means to an end. You keep your eye on the prize and avoid getting snagged into dramas of the ego.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're a giver and are very likely to feel more obligated than is appropriate today. Though you find it easy to serve others, it shouldn't be an automatic default for you to do so. Consider other roles as well.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A lot of life can be effectively processed with critical thinking, yet it is also possible for an overactive mind to ruin things. To examine every angle is tiring and unnecessary, so just choose one to appreciate.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). One definition of confidence is self-trust. It doesn't mean you trust yourself to be perfect. It means you know who you are and what you can do so you can relax into fully embodying those purposes.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). People talk -- that will be a good thing for you. You've been doing good things, and your reputation will get even better. The respect you earn will pave the way for smooth interactions in the future.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Compassion cannot be wielded in one direction like a laser. It's a kind of love that radiates spherically. You cannot have compassion with one person over the next or be loving with someone else but not with yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It is said that the truth doesn't blush. So perhaps it is the discrepancy between what we'd like people to think and the stark reality of the situation that is to blame for today's pink cheeks.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). While it will be frustrating to tackle a puzzle alone, you'll be amazed at what you can solve together. Shared goals will be quickly reached. It's lucky to celebrate before you move on to the next challenge.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll steer a relationship so gently your influence will be undetected. It's as though the fates are carrying the responsibility. You think about what you want a relationship to be like and drift toward that reality.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Whether or not you win the battle is beside the point. To play with valiant intentions and handle the struggle with grace is the real triumph. In the end, it's the fight that you'll remember.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Isaac Newton noted that objects in motion tend to stay in motion, and objects at rest tend to stay at rest. You'll tune into the nature of all the "objects" in your environment and adjust your expectations accordingly.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When you fear losing something, there's a temptation to hold it too tight. Instead, build bonds by weaving together shared interests and good feelings, then let those ties work for you.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

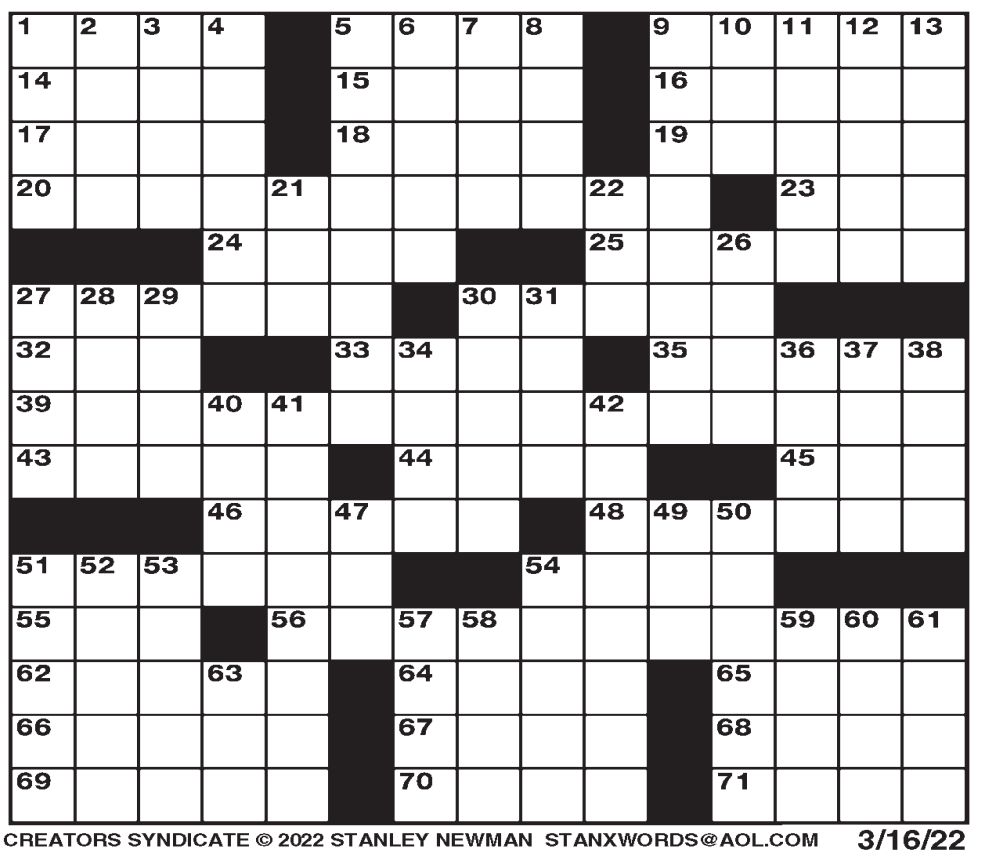
				6				2
	4	3		5		1		
	8				2			5
6		7					2	9
			7	2	5			
1	2					3		7
4			3				1	
		9		1		5	7	
3				7				

Newsday Crossword

CONDENSED VERSION by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Leopard's marking
5 Play's performers
9 Southeast Asia's __ Peninsula
14 Surface for a surfer
15 Baseball great Babe
16 White Rabbit's pursuer
17 Mountaintop
18 Bit of inspiration
19 Romulus' twin
20 Nonspeaking performer
23 Had for lunch
24 Yale students
25 Sounds from snakes
27 Out of view
30 Incredible bargain
32 Blogger's "I think"
33 On the road
35 "I beg to differ!"
39 White cake topping
43 For an additional cost
44 Realize, as profits
45 Actor Kilmer
46 Parts of molecules
48 Where Italy is
51 Taper off
54 Novelist Quindlen
55 "__ we there yet?"
56 One arguing over nothing
62 Somewhat, informally
64 Kotb of *Today*
65 High wind
66 Jigsaw's outer pieces
67 Group affecting gas prices
68 British prep school
69 Oboes and bassoons
70 Stood up
71 Food can flaw

DOWN
1 Make a trade
2 Biggest of the Three Bears
3 Pizzeria appliance
4 Sent a cell phone message to
5 Arsonist or forger
6 German cars
7 Mushroom stalk
8 Southeast Asian cuisine
9 *War of the Worlds* foes
10 Pub serving
11 Green beans
12 Sharp, as eyesight
13 Affirmations
21 Hispanic cheer
22 What ships are called
26 Mailbox hole
27 Honey factory
28 Giant screen movie format
29 "__ mention it!"
30 Boxes for valuables
31 Supermodel Banks
34 Less than hot
36 DVR system
37 Sound made by two fingers
38 Eye impolitely
40 S&L nest eggs
41 Slip given to tardy students
42 Single-slice-of-bread sandwich
47 A fifth of five
49 A fifth of *cinco*
50 In tatters
51 Light in a CD player
52 Diminish over time
53 Twill fabric
54 Subordinate staffers
57 Norse god of war
58 Relief map, for short
59 Corral entryway
60 Musk of SpaceX
61 Dollars spent for quarters
63 Danson of TV



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2022 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 3/16/22

What's Up Westside

out and about in Santa Monica

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.

SUNDAY | MARCH 20

COURTYARD & SPLASH PAD OPEN
The Annenberg Community Beach House gated area, including the courtyard and splash pad, are open to the public daily. Please note, from September - May hours are subject to change with short notice. Check the Beach House website calendar or call 310-458-4904 to confirm.

MONDAY | MARCH 21

MAIN LIBRARY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
Join a community-led discussion of books selected by the group. Contact jeff.schwartz@santamonica.gov for the Zoom link. 7 - 8:30 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 15 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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Just desserts

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

Addict	Cloying	Frog	Musk
Aero	Coat	Glutton	Nausea
Angelfood cake	Coconut rough	Hard	Pies
Blanket	Customer	Indulge	Robe
Bombe	Danish pastry	Jaffas	Soft
Bubble gum	Dessert	Jams	Sorbet
Buns	Donate	Kit Kat	Sugar
Care	Drum	Licorice	Syrup
Cash	Fete	Melt	Treat
Caution		Mints	TV mix
		Muffins	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Your personality traits

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Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

SMMUSD has big plans for the remaining $100 million facilities improvement budget, but costs have skyrocketed thanks to a 16-month delay

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

Grant Elementary could get a fully renovated library. Will Rogers could get a new two-story classroom building. Franklin could get a state-of-the-art "makerspace" for creative learning. The list of Santa Monica schools' campus improvements is long, but the money set aside for various projects isn't going as far as it used to.

In October 2020, the SMMUSD Facility District Advisory Committee gave these project recommendations and more to the School Board, in line with the District's overall vision for 21st century education. With about $98 million left over from 2018's Measure SMS school bond, the District has been working to put the money to work improving education at various school sites across the City.

But delays caused by COVID-19, coupled with wrangling over historic resources, has resulted in a 16-month delay in the projects, which in turn has seen estimated costs rise by 16 percent, according to District COO Carey Upton.

The latest estimates indicate at least one project that has been delayed could be deferred — pending School Board approval — until additional funding is secured: new preschool, transitional kindergarten (TK) and kindergarten classrooms and play areas at Roosevelt Elementary School.

"We are on schedule to begin construction at five sites Spring of 2023," Upon wrote in an email to the Daily Press — Grant, Will Rogers, Franklin, McKinley and John Adams Middle School (JAMS). "The Roosevelt project will be delayed and might be deferred until additional funding is obtained. This has not been decided by the Board. There might be other funds available to include a Roosevelt project, but we have to determine the campus plan and first project."

Upton mentioned the delays while discussing proposed projects during a recent facilities planning meeting/open house at Grant Elementary School on Thursday, March 10, in response to a question by a community member about timing of the upcoming projects.

"The original plan was to sort of do some [projects] starting one summer and some starting the other. We are hoping to get some of them starting this year and then [the] others, but COVID and our historic resources and other [factors] sort of delayed us," Upton said. "So, the plan right now is we're probably going to try to set a goal to commence in the summer of 2023." Upton added that the final decision on timing would be up to the School Board.

In February 2021, following community concern over demolition of the History Building at Samohi, the School Board ratified the District's first historical resources policy.

Historic resources specialists said it's not only community concern, but California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) regulations, that prompted the District to look closer at potential historic districts on campuses.

"There is a community concern — I think there's an advocacy in the community for historic resources — but we're specifically tasked to deal with environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act for historical resources," Paul Travis of Historic Resources Group said during a March 1 open house at Will Rogers Elementary. CEQA requires historical resources to be reviewed for any building projects.

The Measure SMS bond earned 72 percent of votes in Santa Monica, vastly overcoming the 55 percent of votes needed to pass. In total, Measure SMS added $485 million to the District's budget, earmarked to school facilities improvements.

Most of Measure SMS funds — nearly $400 million — have already been allocated toward unglamorous but necessary projects: updating furniture, adding safety and security measures like security cameras and upgraded fire alarms, and upgrading HVAC to add air conditioning to some schools. A portion of SMS funds also went toward constructing the new performing arts center at JAMS, as well as a portion of the funds needed for the Samohi Discovery Building and football field turf replacement.

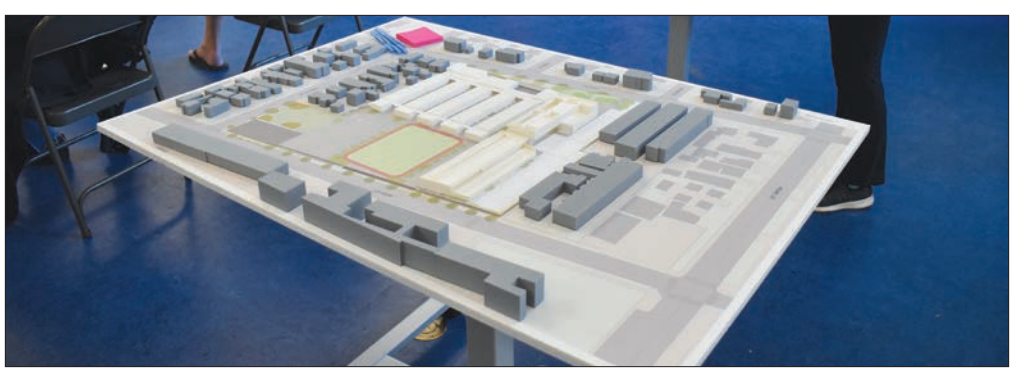
Upcoming plans include a renovated library, courtyard and pre-K/kindergarten at Grant Elementary; a new classroom building, field and playground at Will Rogers Elementary; a new makerspace, and renovated playfield and yard at Franklin Elementary; a new classroom/school support building at McKinley Elementary; and a renovated library with a new outdoor deck at JAMS.

Upton said the School Board was set to meet on Tuesday, March 22, for a special meeting focusing on facilities issues, including updates on current Samohi projects.

There are two additional future facility community meetings scheduled: one at Lincoln Middle School on Monday, April 25, and one at Roosevelt on Tuesday, April 26, each from 4-6 p.m.

There will also be discussion to move forward with campus plans at an upcoming regular School Board meeting in May of this year.

emily@smdp.com



Emily Sawicki

DESIGNS: SMMUSD has held a series of meetings recently to discuss plans for local schools.

Santa Monica Daily Press
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FOR QUOTES PLEASE CALL 310-573-8074
or email cindy@smdp.com

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