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Almost 10% of school roofs need repair or replacement

GRACE INEZ ADAMS
SMDP Staff Writer

After weeks of unprecedented storms and rainfall, the need for roof repair and replacement across Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's campuses has become increasingly clear, prompting the district to dedicate nearly $5.2 million for such work.

"Our aging SMMUSD buildings have failed to keep the water out of interior spaces at some of our facilities," SMMUSD Interim Superintendent Mark Kelly and Chief Operations Officer Carey Upton wrote in an update sent out to community members this week.

Kelly said that the district's facility team is currently working to fix over 110 leaks and that 2% of the district's 576 roofs need to be fully replaced while 7.4% need repair and restoration.

"We understand the concerns and distractions caused with these issues that we know have led some to worry about classroom air quality, mold, flooding and falling ceiling tiles," Kelly and Upton wrote. "As soon as issues are reported, our team of maintenance and operations staff, along with some outside contractors, begin to address the issues to determine what is required to fully remedy the problems."

They said that the extent of issues has stretched the facilities department thin. At a meeting of the Board of Education on March 29, Board President Maria Leon Vasquez said that because some of the issues have reached the point

SEE **WATER ISSUES** PAGE 7

Officials consider a return to regular safety briefings as thefts continue to plague retailers







Grace Adams

DTSM: Retail theft is a problem on the Promenade as it is across the nation.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Downtown retailers, like their counterparts nationwide, are concerned by persistent theft and representatives from downtown retail outlets, together with the proprietors of several bars and restaurants, gathered at the Downtown Santa Monica (DTSM) offices on the Third Street Promenade this week to talk about the issues faced with combating crime and the current homelessness crisis.

Jenna Grigsby, Chief Deputy City Attorney, acted as host and moderator and she was joined by Hayden Thomas, also from the City Attorney's Office and Lieutenant Robert D'Andrea of Santa Monica PD's Downtown Service Unit.

Owners, employees and in particular asset protection managers

SEE **DTSM** PAGE 6

Los Angeles Councilman found guilty of bribery and fraud

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A longtime Los Angeles politician was convicted Thursday on federal corruption charges in a scheme in which prosecutors said he promised to help steer a multimillion-dollar government contract to the University of Southern California if his son got a scholarship and a teaching job.

Suspended Democratic City Councilman Mark Ridley-Thomas — a former legislator, county supervisor and a fixture in local politics for decades — was found guilty in U.S. District Court of seven felonies, including conspiracy, bribery and fraud.

The jury's verdict marked a stunning fall for a once-commanding figure in Los Angeles County politics known for his involvement in civil rights and racial issues.

Marilyn Flynn, who was dean of USC's School of Social Work from 1997 to 2018, pleaded guilty last year to one count of bribery in the case. Prosecutors said that as part of the plot, she concocted a scheme to funnel $100,000 that Ridley-Thomas provided from campaign funds through the university to a nonprofit run by his son.

"When elected leaders engage in acts of corruption, our community suffers immense damage. Ridley-Thomas engaged in a corrupt conspiracy with a university dean to steer taxpayer-funded contracts

SEE **CONVICTION** PAGE 8



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‘Super disappointed’: Lawmakers want the University of California to enroll more Californians sooner

MIKHAIL ZINSHTEYN
Special to the Daily Press

“FRUSTRATING.”

One word, uttered under breath by a California lawmaker, captured a sentiment, at times boiling over into anger, among legislators struggling to get more California students into the University of California.

What Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, a Democrat from Sacramento, found frustrating Tuesday was the UC’s seeming refusal to adopt the same systemwide guaranteed admissions policy for transfer students that the California State University has. But it was one of several expressions of legislative aggravation over the UC’s — and to a lesser degree, the Cal State’s — struggles to educate more Californians during an Assembly budget subcommittee on education hearing.

There’s an emotional and fiscal component to lawmakers’ disappointment. As chairperson of the subcommittee, McCarty frequently references parents telling him about their children who graduate high school with GPAs above 4.0 but aren’t accepted to a UC of their choice. To try and get more Californians into the vaunted public university system, the Legislature has recently given or promised the UC:

$51.5 million last summer to enroll the equivalent of 4,700 more full-time California students by 2023-24 — up from about 196,000 in 2021-22;

$30 million to UC Berkeley, UCLA and UC San Diego — UC campuses with the most out-of-state students and among the lowest admissions rates — so that they collectively enroll 900 fewer nonresident students, who pay three times more tuition, and replace them with in-state students;

And agreed with the governor to grow the UC’s state funding — by about $215 million more in 2023-24 if things work out — part of which is supposed to cover the UC’s raising its undergraduate California enrollment by 1%.

From all that, the Legislative Analyst’s Office calculated UC should enroll the equivalent of 203,500 California students in 2023-24. But UC’s projections show it’ll only educate 199,800 — about 4,000 short.

And for 2022-23, the UC estimates it’ll enroll the equivalent of about 300 fewer California residents than it did in 2021-22.

Now, lawmakers are asking why the UC can publish press releases about the large volume of students who apply each year and yet cannot find enough slots for all those applicants — especially at the most selective campuses, UC Berkeley and UCLA.

“You just sound out of touch with, you know, the dreams and aspirations of kids who are trying to go to a dream school,” said Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi, a Democrat from Torrance, to the UC official taking the heat at Tuesday’s hearing, Seija Virtanen, associate director of state budget relations.

SEE **UCLA** PAGE 4



Cal Matters

UCLA: Lawmakers would like more California students enrolled in the UC system.



GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

We Rise in Support of Black Women's Fundamental Rights

KWANZA JONES AND SYLVIA GHAZARIAN

Everyone has the right to bodily autonomy – the right to make decisions about if, and when, to have a child, how to bring up a child, as well as a safe and sustainable environment to raise that child. As we celebrate Black History Month and Women's History Month, we also honor the reproductive justice movement, developed by Black feminists in the 1990s that continues to be led by communities of color today. At its core, reproductive justice seeks to ensure that ALL individuals have the freedom and resources to make decisions about their bodies, including the right to ACCESS safe and legal abortion, contraception, and pregnancy care. WRRAP follows this reproductive justice model and continues to work in marginalized communities across the US to provide abortion funding to providers on behalf of patients.

Kwanza Jones and WRRAP have been coming together to hold conversations about these rights and their implications for equity for years.

When SCOTUS overturned Roe, many of us who advocate for reproductive freedom and reproductive justice had already seen for years that Roe was never enough since it has always been difficult for people of color to access reproductive healthcare. The decision, and the ongoing attack on women's rights, including reproductive freedom, is reprehensible. It was like a gut punch. It did not go without the gamut of emotions for me, along with WRRAP – deep concern for communities, individuals, clinics, clinic staff, and doctors along with anger, tears, sadness, and disappointment.

We know that pregnancy and reproductive healthcare are particularly dangerous for Black people. This shows up in WRRAP's work every day and we see the barriers that people are facing in pregnancy, with unwanted pregnancy, and in the ability to travel for any care. This is work WRRAP has been committed to for over 30 years. In the US, Black people access abortion at 3.5 times more than white people and the Black maternal mortality rate is a national crisis. Pregnancy-related death rates among Blacks are 3-4 times more likely than among whites. In fact, the US has the highest rate of maternal mortality – more than any other developed country.

Abortion is healthcare and this fight for our bodily autonomy continues to be a human rights crisis. The reproductive justice framework addresses social and economic justice issues – like racial and economic disparities in access to healthcare and the intersectional experiences of marginalized communities. And, with the high rate of Black maternal mortality, these include systemic racism and discrimination in healthcare, lack of access to healthcare, and social issues such as poverty and lack of education.

Black maternal mortality requires us to address economic and environmental issues. The health of Black women is under constant attack including not being taken seriously by healthcare providers and our pain is often dismissed or misdiagnosed. In addition, not having access to culturally competent care negatively affects Black women during pregnancy and childbirth. My song, "Rise" is about being undeterred in promoting, protecting and defending our basic human rights, despite the setbacks that may occur. It's an anthem for people everywhere and organizations like WRRAP.

The US Government has a long history of dictating and coercing the reproductive health decisions of Black, Indigenous, and other people of color through policies that threaten vital health services. Working to eliminate the Hyde Amendment (which prohibits the use of federal funds to cover abortion except with life endangerment, rape, or incest and targets people with low income), increase Medicaid eligibility, acknowledge racism as a cause of health disparities, and address the disproportionate impact of the COVID pandemic on communities of color — all need to be at the forefront of immediate changes. We need to take action.

For anyone who knows, respects, cares for, cares about or loves ANY woman (friends, family, colleagues, siblings, daughters, aunties, and more) then you understand this is not only a women's issue to be fought by women only. It's about so much more. Our universal fundamental human rights must be guaranteed in law. It requires each of us to become politically active, since we can and need to elect leaders who support reproductive justice. After all, the midterm elections show that people have voiced their stand on not having individuals controlled and exploited. We can only achieve reproductive justice when ALL people have the resources, and economic, social, and political power to make decisions about all aspects of their lives including decisions about their bodies, families, and communities.

My song, "We Buildin'" celebrates the possibilities for prosperity in America, and the benefits of diversity in making the country better. As an indie artist, I make a conscious choice to use my voice and speak my truth without constraints. It's a truth that resonates with many. There is enough apathy and inaction. We don't have the luxury to do nothing. We don't have the luxury to not speak. All too often marginalized people and communities lack power, resources, and access; that is why I speak.

The restrictions on women's bodies, like the rollback of abortion and reproductive rights, are numerous, heartbreaking, and dangerous. That is why I join with WRRAP to look beyond Roe because this fight is Bigger Than Roe – it's about ensuring Black women, and all women, have the autonomy and resources to make decisions about their reproductive health and bodies. This includes the right to access safe and legal abortion, contraception, and pregnancy care.

We believe equality, equity and autonomy are fundamental rights. We believe every individual should have agency to make decisions about their own life and well-being.

We believe governments should not have control over a woman's body, as it violates their right to bodily autonomy and bodily integrity.

We believe women should not be relegated to second-class status or secondary supporting roles.

I, Kwanza Jones, and WRRAP, voice our resolve to continue our efforts to ensure women have control over their own lives and bodies free from government interference or societal oppression. We encourage others to join us in advancing equity and equality for girls, women, and for all.

Kwanza Jones is an American artist, investor, and multi-million dollar philanthropist who lives at the intersection of culture, community, and capital. Ms. Jones grew up in Washington, DC and currently resides in Los Angeles. Sylvia Ghazarian is Executive Director of the Women's Reproductive Rights Assistance Project (WRRAP), a non-profit abortion fund that provides urgently-needed financial assistance on a national level to those seeking abortion or emergency contraception. She is an active Council member on the California Future of Abortion Council and past Chair of The Commission on the Status of Women.

City of Santa Monica

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

- **RFP: #357 PROCUREMENT DIVERSITY EQUITY AND INCLUSION SERVICES**
- **Submission Deadline Is May 18, 2023, 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.

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: #358 COMPENSATION CONSULTING SERVICES**
- **Submission Deadline Is April 17, 2023, 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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UCLA

FROM PAGE 2

GROW AND TRUST

The UC wants to enroll more students — and technically has. Complicating the debate over enrollment is that the state's funding formula looks at full-time equivalent California residents. That's different from what the lay person thinks of enrollment: headcount, or the actual number of people taking classes. The UC's headcount of California undergraduates grew this year, but because those students are taking slightly fewer class units per term, the full-time equivalent enrollment dropped.

UC has a plan it shared with the committee:

> We would be super, super disappointed… if we came back a year from now, and we had the same (problem)
>
> - Kevin McCarty

encourage more students to take summer school and add more than 4,000 new full-time equivalent California undergraduates a year through 2026-27. That would add 17,300 full-time equivalent California undergrads, about 4,000 more than what lawmakers and Gov. Gavin Newsom wanted from UC.

The analyst's office recommended that the 2023-24 state budget — due in late June — cut between roughly $9 million and $60 million from UC for projecting it'll miss its enrollment targets this year and next. Lawmakers Tuesday didn't seem ready to do so, but they put the UC on notice.

"We would be super, super disappointed… if we came back a year from now, and we had the same (problem)," said McCarty. "And then at the same time, tens of thousands of Californians from all of our districts with 4.3 GPAs didn't get into the UC, even though their parents pay taxes."

That the UC and California State University — which expects to be about 5.6% short of its state enrollment target this year, better than the 7% deficit it projected in January — are struggling to add more students is an inversion of recent trends.

For the past few years, both systems enrolled more Californians than what the state paid them to educate. Now, it's lawmakers putting pressure on the state public universities to use the extra money they've already gotten.

McCarty's message to the UC and Cal State Tuesday was to grow as much as they can and trust that the state would reimburse the universities for exceeding their enrollment targets.

UC's Virtanen asked for that assurance in legislative writing.

"Campuses would feel far more comfortable making some additional offers of admittance knowing that if they're over by 50 or 100 students, they would get those funds the next year, and we wouldn't start building up unfunded enrollment," she told the subcommittee. The state pays the UC about $10,900 for every California undergraduate it enrolls.

Adding to the enrollment uncertainty at both the UC and Cal State is the hemorrhaging of students at California's community colleges, whose transfer students make up a large portion of undergraduates at the public universities. Though community college enrollment inched up this fall, it's still down 280,000 students compared to fall 2019 — a collapse blamed on the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the Tuesday hearing, the UC debuted what it thought could be a solution: A senior UC official outlined a plan to guarantee admissions to California community college students who complete the right set of courses and meet GPA requirements.

It's the first time the UC proposed a systemwide admissions guarantee; now such guarantees exist campus by campus and only at six UCs. Under the UC guaranteed admissions proposal, if a student isn't admitted to a campus of their choice, they would be redirected to UC Santa Cruz, UC Riverside or UC Merced.

But McCarty was unimpressed, faulting the plan because it wasn't identical to the transfer admissions guarantee at Cal State. Lawmakers and advocates have been urging all three public higher-education systems to create a single set of requirements across academic majors, such as an associate degree that guarantees admission, so that community college students could enter either a UC or Cal State.

"We should be using proven pathways rather than adding new pathways and creating additional confusion for students," said Molly Maguire, a policy director for the advocacy and research group Campaign for College Opportunity, during public comment at Tuesday's hearing.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

California may end travel ban to states with anti-LGBTQ laws

ADAM BEAM
Associated Press

When North Carolina in 2016 banned transgender people from using the bathroom of their gender identity in public buildings, California retaliated by banning state-funded travel to that state and any other state with laws it deemed discriminatory against LGBTQ people.

But seven years later, California now bans state-funded travel to nearly half of the country following a surge of anti-LGBTQ legislation in mostly Republican-led states.

The prohibition means sports teams at public colleges and universities have had to find other ways to pay for road games in states like Arizona and Utah. And it has complicated some of the state's other policy goals, like using state money to pay for people who live in other states to travel to California for abortions.

Wednesday, state Senate leader Toni Atkins announced legislation that would end the ban and replace it with an advertising campaign in those states that promotes acceptance and inclusion for the LGBTQ community. The bill would set up a fund to pay for the campaign, which would accept private donations and state funding — if any is available.

"I think polarization is not working," said Atkins, who is a lesbian. "We need to adjust our strategy. We know what we need to do, but we need to be able to be there to do it."

Overturning the ban could be difficult in the California Legislature, where 10% of lawmakers now identify as LGBTQ. Assemblymember Evan Low, a Democrat from Campbell who authored the travel ban in 2016, said he supports the advertising campaign but said "we shouldn't completely end California's state-funded travel ban without having an alternative action in combating discrimination."

"We can't back down, especially as a record amount of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation is being introduced," said Low, who is gay.

California's travel ban has been in effect since 2017. The state Attorney General keeps a list of states subject to the ban, a list that has grown quickly as several states have passed laws restricting doctors from providing gender-affirming care to minors and stopping transgender women and girls from participating in school sports consistent with their gender identity.

Today, the ban includes 23 states: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and West Virginia.

The law applies to state agencies, departments, boards, authorities and commissions — including the schools that are part of the University of California and the California State University systems.

That means schools like the University of California, Berkeley, can't use state money for their football teams to travel to away games in Arizona and Utah — schools it must play against because they are in the same athletic conference.

The San Diego State University men's basketball team will play in the Final Four on Saturday in Houston, a state that is on the no-travel list. The team got around the ban because the NCAA, not California taxpayers, is footing the bill for the team's travel. But the ban does mean the school can't schedule football games against teams in Texas, said Jamie McConeghy, senior associate athletic director of communications and media relations for San Diego State.

The law has a number of exceptions, including travel necessary to enforce California laws, meet contractual obligations or to obtain grant funding. It also allows travel for the protection of health and safety, which is why a state-funded security detail could travel with Gov. Gavin Newsom's family on a vacation to Montana last year.

But it has complicated some of the Democrats' policy goals in surprising ways. Last year, California agreed to spend $20 million to help women in other states travel to California for abortions in the aftermath of the U.S. Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade.

"We could help someone fly or travel to California, but when they had to go back to Texas or Florida or whatever any of those states, we actually couldn't legitimately spend money to send them home," Atkins said. "It starts to get complicated."

Atkins said she will formally introduce the legislation on Thursday, which must be vetted by lawmakers in both the state Senate and state Assembly before it could become law — a process that will take several months.

"When you disagree with someone, you should try to open their eyes to change hearts and minds, not pretend they don't exist," said Assemblymember Greg Wallis, a Republican from Bermuda Dunes. "I'm glad California is coming around to that approach."

Marc Stein, a history professor at San Francisco State University who is gay and does research on queer history, said he would want to hear from LGBTQ communities in other states before deciding whether he supports lifting the travel ban.

But Stein said he would like to see an exception made for social justice research. Shortly after California's travel ban took place, he said he had trouble booking a trip to North Carolina shortly after the travel ban took effect so he could research the case of a transgender woman who had been arrested for sodomy in the 1960s.

Stein said the university eventually found a way to fund his research, but said the barrier remains for other researchers, particularly students studying for advanced degrees.

"I think Ph.D. students in California are being discouraged from pursuing research projects that would require extensive trips to the list of states which is now almost half the country," he said.

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Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

Used car prices are surging. Here's why you should buy now

TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

Well, it was nice while it lasted.

For nearly a year, the average used vehicle in the United States had been edging toward affordable again for millions of people. The relief felt belated and relatively slight, but it was welcome nonetheless.

From an eye-watering peak of $31,400 in April of last year, the average price had dropped 14% to $27,125 early this month.

Now, with the supply of used vehicles failing to keep up with robust demand, prices are creeping up again, with signs pointing to further increases ahead. So many buyers have been priced out of the new-car market that fewer trade-ins are landing on dealer lots. Deepening the shortage, fewer used vehicles are coming off leases or being off-loaded by rental car companies.

Average list prices for used car have edged up by about $700 in the past month, and Alex Yurchenko, chief data officer for Black Book, which tracks prices, expects them to keep rising at least into summer.

"If you have to buy a used vehicle," he suggested, "right now would be a good time."

> "A used inexpensive car is now becoming more and more of a luxury"
> - Pete Catalano

Pete Catalano, a dealer in Independence, Missouri, near Kansas City, has been struggling to get his hands on enough affordably priced cars. Typically, Catalano and his daughter, who co-own Stadium Auto, would have about 50 vehicles on their used-car lot near Arrowhead Stadium. They now have only about half as many. Some of their rival dealers, Catalano said, enjoy a competitive advantage because they can afford to offer financing to buyers with poor credit.

Squeezed by higher prices for gasoline, groceries and utilities, many of Catalano's customers can't afford either new or late-model used vehicles. Some would-be buyers he knows are using tax refunds just to make ends meet instead of buying a needed car.

"A used inexpensive car is now becoming more and more of a luxury," Catalano said. "What the market wants right now is not available, and that's $3,000, $4,000 and $5,000 cars."

Behind the vehicle shortage and inflated prices is simple supply and demand. Much of the problem stems from the surging prices of new cars. In February, according to Edmunds, the average new vehicle in the United States sold for nearly $48,000 — beyond the reach of many consumers.

Though the supply of new vehicles has inched up, they remain relatively scarce and expensive. Automakers still lack sufficient computer chips to produce enough vehicles to meet demand, a lingering consequence of pandemic-related supply shortages. Sales of new vehicles last year were about 3 million below normal levels. Fewer new-car sales mean fewer trade-ins, which mean fewer used vehicles for sale.

With used prices rising again, analysts say buyers who can afford to do so should buy soon. Auto loan rates may continue rising this year as the Federal Reserve keeps raising interest rates.

On used lots these days, bargains are hard to find. Even after accounting for the price drops of the past year, the average used vehicle remains about 35% above where it was before the pandemic erupted three years ago. At that time, the average price was $20,425.

Once the government sent stimulus checks to most American households, demand for autos rose as many people spent their money. As they did, the supply of used vehicles fell and prices surged. By early last year, the average used-vehicle price was more than 50% above its pre-pandemic point.

Worsening the shortfall was a scarcity of affordable new vehicles. Automakers were using their tight supply of computer chips to build pricier and more profitable SUVs and pickups. They built fewer affordable new models — a trend that sent more buyers to used-car lots. The result was increased demand and higher prices for used vehicles.

All of which left people like Carol Rice struggling to find a decent affordable used vehicle. Rice, 65, endured a long period of frustration while shopping for a used small pickup for her farm near Carbondale, Kansas. For six months, she found little.

"I'm retired, and I can't afford to buy a new vehicle," she said. "There weren't that many used vehicles, and if there were used vehicles, they were quite expensive."

Last month, she finally found a 2003 Ford Ranger on Catalano's website that she liked and could afford. She bought it for $7,700. Though it's 20 years old and has 140,000 miles on it, the Ranger is in solid condition and has the all-wheel-drive that Rice wanted.

"It was a good-looking vehicle, and the price was right," she said.

In the immediate future, few analysts expect price declines for used vehicles. Catalano doesn't foresee any sustained price drops for perhaps the next year or two.

Others say it's hard to predict. Amy Gieffers, a senior vice president at Vroom, an online auto buying site, notes that some market forces could continue to keep supply down and prices up: Fewer trade-ins, less leasing, lower fleet sales by rental car companies.

On the other hand, she says, more expensive vehicles and higher loan rates could depress buyer demand. Eventually, dealers might be forced to cut prices.

SEE **CARS** PAGE 8

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EASTER AT FIRST UMC
APRIL 2: PALM SUNDAY
• Sanctuary Worship 10 a.m.
Waving of Palms and Loud Hosannas!
• Easter Hop-By 10:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.
Featuring an Easter scavenger hunt, games and crafts, a family photo opp, delicious treats and a visit from the Easter Bunny! Fun for all ages!
APRIL 7: GOOD FRIDAY
• Prayer Vigil 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
First UMC Chapel - Open all day to pray and "watch with Jesus."
• Good Friday Labyrinth Walk 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Simkins Hall - Walk the labyrinth in meditation or prayer
APRIL 9: EASTER SUNDAY
• Easter Sunrise Service 6:30 a.m.
Palisades Park (*Washington Ave. & Ocean Ave.)
*note new location - no longer at Santa Monica Blvd.
Informal outdoor service at the park, with Holy Communion. Bring fresh flowers for the cross, and a lawn chair or blankets. Hot coffee served.
• Easter Celebration Worship 10 a.m.
First UMC Sanctuary
Family Service, Choir, Organ, Flowers, and Alleluias! (nursery care provided)
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DTSM

FROM PAGE 1

from the likes of REI, Hollister, Abercrombie & Fitch and Ye Olde King's Head gathered after receiving a flyer from a community ambassador titled Retail Theft Diversion Meeting last week.

The problems faced are many, including theft and safety concerns.

Back in January, for instance, a homeless man first entered the high-end furniture store Design Within Reach on Santa Monica Blvd and Fourth Street wielding two large knives and locking the front door behind him, before eventually moving on to the T-Mobile store on the Promenade where officers from the Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) were able to apprehend him.

"We get a lot of homeless, looking for opportunities, coming in to steal whatever they can get," says Lisa Powers, manager of Ye Olde King's Head and the adjacent shop. "We had a woman who was with a big family, they were in the restaurant and someone stole her purse, right out of her bag, went straight to Nordstrom and spent five grand on it. That was only two weeks ago."

Powers spoke of how they had been forced to hire a security guard. "Now that's changed things a little bit, because now they see him, and he's a big guy. They see him and that puts them off, but then when he leaves, it all goes crap again."

The experience of local stores is mirrored nationwide. According to the National Retail Federation (NRF), retailers saw a 26.5% increase in theft incidents in 2021 with eight in 10 of the retailers surveyed reporting that the violence and aggression associated with crime incidents increased in the past year. NRF said the problem cost retailers nearly $100 billion in 2021.

"Retailers are devoting considerable resources to prevent the victimization of their employees, guests and organizations," said the Federation in their most recent National Security Survey. "They are boosting their budgets for loss prevention and technology, and 52.4% are increasing budgets specifically for capital and equipment. Retailers are implementing a variety of technological solutions, from artificial intelligence-based video analytics at point of sale/self-checkout to selfservice locking cases, autonomous security robots and license plate recognition."

The group said about a third of national retailers have established dedicated teams to help increase apprehension and prosecution of theft.

According to the California Highway Patrol, the problem of "retail crime" extends well beyond common shoplifting and often into organized criminal activity. CHP operates several regional retail theft task forces, including one in the Los Angeles area.

"Commercial burglary, vehicle burglary, identity theft, credit card fraud, forgery, and fencing (selling or distribution of) stolen property are part of a bigger picture that finance ongoing criminal operations," said CHP.

Locally, different stores have their own legal policies for how to deal with situations like these, with some being more effective than others. Stores can also have their own, very different set of problems to deal with, from simple theft, to people locking themselves inside in-store bathrooms for hours at a time to take drugs. However, participants at the meeting said if everyone within the downtown area can communicate and share resources, it's entirely possible some of these problems could be avoided, or at least reduced.

D'Andrea mentioned that in the past he had attempted to hold meetings on a weekly basis, but might try again to arrange similar meetings, but on a monthly or bimonthly frequency this time.

Lieutenant Erika Aklufi, from the SMPD told the Daily Press that the police department encourages business owners and their employees who have information about a crime that has been committed or may be committed to call the dispatch center.

"We also have a 24/7 non-emergency line (310-458-8491) that goes to the same personnel as 9-1-1. This is the best way to report issues in the community that are happening now, but that are more concerning than dangerous, such as thefts or disturbances inside or directly outside a store. This number can also be used to report incidents that have already occurred."

Matthew Hall contributed to this report.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Virginia Avenue Park

How Committed is SMMUSD to its Black Students?

Committee For Racial Justice (CRJ) will have an April 2 workshop entitled HOW COMMITTED IS SMMUSD TO ITS BLACK STUDENTS? What programs have been shown to be beneficial to the achievement of students who have been marginalized historically in educational systems?

Joining them will be Dr. Ben Drati, former District Superintendent of the SMMUSD, who brought new ideas into the Santa Monica/Malibu United School District. Through his own experience as an immigrant child from Uganda, he learned that "hidden assumptions" can either hurt or hinder students' accomplishments. Dr. Drati's introduction of social justice standards to undergird every educational discipline has moved SMMUSD toward more equity. He is now the newly appointed Superintendent of Bellflower United School District.

Another panelist, Dr. Joseph Eure, Assistant Principal at John Adams Middle School for the past nine years, will be able to share some of the programs at his school that are positively impacting Black students there. He has worked since 2001 as an educator, first as a teacher with Los Angeles USD. He has also worked as an Adjunct professor at the USC Rossier School of Education. In addition, Dr. Eure has co-authored a book "Courage to Change : The Parents' Playbook" – with Melvyn Miller, a native of Inglewood and former professional football player who is also the founder of Sudden Impact, a non-profit educational advocacy and sports development organization. Miller will be joining this panel also.

Come share in this important discussion and meet in person again if you are able – at 6 p.m. for refreshments and the program starting at 6:30 p.m.

Virginia Avenue Park Thelma Terry Bldg. 2200 Virginia Ave. Free Hybrid Workshop. The zoom registration link for April 2: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAvcu-qpjwpE9fy5_MY78ENZiHjouCAKYQT

For more information, call Joanne Berlin at 310-422-5431.

SUBMITTED BY JOANNE BERLIN

California reparations amount, if any, left to politicians

JANIE HAR
Associated Press

The leader of California's first-in-the-nation reparations task force on Wednesday said it won't take a stance on how much the state should compensate Black residents whom economists estimate may be owed more than $800 billion for decades of over-policing, disproportionate incarceration and housing discrimination.

The $800 billion is more than 2.5 times California's $300 billion annual budget and does not include a recommended $1 million per older Black resident for health disparities that have shortened their average life span. Nor does the figure count compensating people for property unjustly taken by the government or devaluing Black businesses, two other harms the task force says the state perpetuated.

"All forms of discrimination should be considered in reparations," Thomas Craemer, a public policy professor at the University of Connecticut, told the panel Wednesday. "The task force should feel free to go beyond our loss estimates, and determine what the right amount would be."

Black residents may not receive cash payments anytime soon, if ever, because the state Legislature and Gov. Gavin Newsom will ultimately decide whether any reparations are to be paid. The task force faces a July 1 deadline to recommend the forms of compensation to be awarded and who should receive it, along with other remedies to repair the harm.

> "My family came from the South because they were running for their lives, they were fearful of being lynched, just for voting
>
> - Charlton Curry of Sacramento, California

But the panel's chair, Kamilah Moore, said Wednesday it's up to the state Legislature to ascribe a restitution amount based on the methodology economists recommended, and which the task force approved on Wednesday.

"The task force is pretty much done regarding the compensation component. Our task was to create a methodology for calculation for various forms of compensation that correspond with our findings," she said in an e-mail.

For those who support reparations, the staggering $800 billion estimate underscores the long-lasting harm Black Americans have endured, even in a state that never officially endorsed slavery.

Several people who gave public comment Wednesday spoke of the urgent need to pay Black Americans for all that was taken from them.

"My family came from the South because they were running for their lives, they were fearful of being lynched, just for voting," said Charlton Curry of Sacramento, California, who discusses reparations on his Big C Sports podcast.

"Cash payments are necessary. Money talks," he said, noting that white people benefited from free U.S. government land through the 1862 Homestead Act, and Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II and Jewish Holocaust victims received reparations.

Critics pin their opposition partly on the fact that California was never a slave state and say current taxpayers should not be responsible for damage linked to events that germinated hundreds of years ago.

Bob Woodson, a prominent Black conservative, calls reparations impractical, controversial and counterproductive.

"No amount of money could ever 'make right' the evil of slavery, and it is insulting to suggest that it could," he said in an email to The Associated Press, adding that Black communities relied on faith and family to build thriving communities following slavery. "Some of these communities only began coming apart after we lost sight of these values, which also hold the key to these communities' restoration."

Financial redress is just one part of the package being considered. Other proposals include paying incarcerated inmates market value for their labor, establishing free wellness centers and planting more trees in Black communities, banning cash bail, and adopting a K-12 Black studies curriculum.

Reparations talks are stalled at the federal level, but the idea flourished in California as well as U.S. cities and counties following the death of George Floyd, a Black man, at the hands of Minneapolis police. Newsom signed legislation in 2020 creating the reparations task force.

An advisory committee in San Francisco has recommended $5 million payouts, as well as guaranteed income of at least $97,000 and personal debt forgiveness for qualifying individuals. Supervisors expressed general support, but stopped short of endorsing specific proposals. They'll take up the issue later this year.

U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris on Wednesday said from Ghana that she and President Joe Biden support a reparations study, but the president has so far sidestepped calls from advocates to create a federal commission.

The $800 billion estimate in California includes $246 billion to compensate eligible Black Californians whose neighborhoods were subjected to aggressive policing and prosecution in the "war on drugs" from 1970 to 2020. That would translate to nearly $125,000 for every person who qualifies, the consultants wrote.

The numbers are approximate, based on

SEE **REPARATIONS** PAGE 7

Flip 1st Ribbon Cutting



Courtesy Photo

NOW OPEN: The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce welcomed Flip 1st Gym at 1908 Lincoln Boulevard with a ribbon cutting on Tuesday, March 28.

WATER ISSUES

FROM PAGE 1

of becoming a safety concern, additional funding through bonds is available to remedy them.

"A lot of the issues, because of years of not really following up with some of the repairs, became safety issues..." she said. "That's why we have the bond, because the bonds that we passed, the construction bonds were there for safety for the campuses."

Approximately $4M for roof replacements will come from general obligation bonds, likely Measure SMS as well as Measure ES if funds are available, according to Upton. He said the remaining $1.2 million will be from Fund 25, which is used to bring facilities back up to standards. He added that roof replacements are capital expenditures with a 20 plus year warranty.

The district expects some of the work to be done next week during spring break and more during summer vacation. However, Leon noted that finding people to do the work that is needed is challenging due to high demand for such services.

"One of the main things, though, that people have to take into consideration is that we're not the only district, other districts are trying to use the same companies to do all this work so even if we are able to move it on our end to get purchase orders, to make sure we have money aligned... sometimes it's hard to go out and get companies to do the work because everybody is stretched out thin trying to do the same repairs," she said.

In addition to roof-related work, Kelly and Upton said staff are working on scheduling "proactive" interior and exterior inspections for bungalows on campuses, repairing damaged ramps and clearing out standing water and debris such as leaves.

"We strive to meet our goal of safe school environments throughout the district and have provided improvements, modernizations and plans for further improvement in the coming years at all of our schools," they wrote. "We appreciate your ongoing support and patience as our teams work through critical issues across the district as quickly as possible."

grace@smdp.com

REPARATIONS

FROM PAGE 6

modeling and population estimates. The economists also included $569 billion to make up for the discriminatory practice of redlining in housing loans. That would amount to about $223,000 per eligible resident from 1933 to 1977. The $569 billion is considered a maximum and assumes all 2.5 million Californians who identify as Black would be eligible.

But they won't all be. People must meet residency and other requirements for monetary compensation. They also must be descendants of enslaved and freed Black people in the U.S. as of the 19th century, which leaves out Black immigrants.

The task force on Wednesday also endorsed methodologies for devaluation of black businesses and unjust property takings. Those methodologies have no numbers due to a lack of data.



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Letter: Historic Downtown

Would it be possible to take a part of DTSM and create a Historic Santa Monica area? In this part of the city the height and facades of all the buildings and other structures could never be changed. The functions of the buildings could be changed. The area surrounding this in DTSM would not have any height restrictions at all to permit the new housing we are required to permit to be built. In a hundred years the new buildings that are in the area now would be historic early 23 century era buildings.

For a boundary I would suggest the center of Wilshire Boulevard on the northwest side, the southeast border of Santa Monica, the center of 4th Street on the northeast side and the southwest border of Santa Monica.

Arnold D. Sobol Santa Monica

CARS

FROM PAGE 5

"It's really complex right now," she said, "because you have some competing forces."

Both Yurchenko of Black Book and Charlie Chesbrough, a senior economist at Cox Automotive, say they expect used-vehicle prices to rise through summer before easing slightly as part of a normal late-year depreciation cycle.

At the start of this year, Chesbrough said, he thought higher loan rates would chase away buyers from both the new and used markets. Instead, robust demand from affluent buyers for pricey late-model used vehicles has strengthened sales in the United States.

Many of these buyers are paying cash to avoid higher interest rates. Edmunds.com says the average loan rate on a used vehicle is now 11.3%, up from 8.1% when the Fed started raising rates a year ago.

Because demand is intense and vehicle supplies short, Chesbrough doesn't foresee sales dropping even if the economy were to slide into a recession. Though many buyers with lower credit scores have left the market, sales remain solid.

With used-car inventories likely to remain crimped for the foreseeable future, Chesbrough doesn't expect prices to ever fall back to near their pre-pandemic levels

"We just haven't been creating enough personal transportation in the last couple of years," Chesbrough said.

CONVICTION

FROM PAGE 1

to the school in exchange for benefits for his son," U.S. Attorney Martin Estrada said in a statement.

Mark Ridley-Thomas, then a county supervisor, offered to support county contracts for USC's School of Social Work that could potentially bring the institution millions of dollars in new revenue in return for helping his son, Sebastian Ridley-Thomas, according to prosecutors. At the time, the school had a multimillion-dollar budget deficit.

Sebastian Ridley-Thomas was a state assemblyman who resigned the last day of 2017 while facing allegations that he made an unwanted sexual advance toward a Capitol staffer. The $100,000 went to his organization, known as the Policy, Research & Practice Initiative, prosecutors said.

The son later received a $26,000 graduate scholarship for 2018 and was offered a paid teaching position with a $50,000 salary, even though being a student and a teacher would violate school policy, authorities said.

The Los Angeles City Council suspended Mark Ridley-Thomas in October 2021, shortly after he was charged in the case.

Ridley-Thomas, who denied wrongdoing, left the courthouse after the verdict without speaking to reporters. A representative for his defense team told the Los Angeles Times that he would appeal.

He will be sentenced in August.

Flynn did not testify in the trial and previously pleaded guilty in her own case. Flynn's sentencing hearing is scheduled for June 26. Flynn faces a statutory maximum sentence of 10 years in federal prison. Prosecutors have agreed to recommend she satisfy her custodial term by way of home confinement and have agreed to seek a fine against her of no more than $150,000.

United States District Judge Dale S. Fischer scheduled an August 14 sentencing hearing, at which time Ridley-Thomas will face a statutory maximum sentence of five years in federal prison on the conspiracy count, up to 10 years in federal prison for the bribery count, and up to 20 years in federal prison for each honest services fraud count.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, a longtime friend and political ally, called the verdict a "sad day for Los Angeles."

USC wasn't accused of wrongdoing in the criminal case but it further tarnished the school's elite image, already battered by a series of scandals.

USC was one of the universities embroiled in an admissions cheating scandal in which wealthy parents sought to get their undeserving offspring into college by falsely portraying them as star athletes. Dozens of parents and athletic coaches nationwide were charged and more than 50 people were convicted in the "Operation Varsity Blues" case. They include TV actresses Felicity Huffman and Lori Loughlin, and Loughlin's fashion designer husband Mossimo Giannulli.

In 2021, USC agreed to an $852 million settlement with more than 700 women who accused the college's longtime campus gynecologist of sexual abuse. It was believed to be a record amount for such a lawsuit. When combined with an earlier settlement of a separate class-action suit, USC has agreed to pay out more than $1 billion for claims against Dr. George Tyndall, who worked at the school for nearly three decades.



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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 31)

Welcome to your year of spontaneity. You'll oft move on impulses as excellent as they are strong. Work shows three advancements, each more fascinating and fulfilling than the last. More highlights: regular meetings with hilarious company, wishes granted and the embrace of like minds working toward a collective goal. Leo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 5, 22, 17 and 40.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Narrow your choices, and then narrow them again. The fewer options you have, the more committed you'll feel to the one that's right for you. Once you decide, don't look back. The winning move is to go ever-forward in total confidence.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There are many emotional states that get confused for plans, but none so often as a feeling of hope. Put your hope aside for a moment while you plot out actionable steps and determine how you will measure the results.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The landscape of a relationship has changed so gradually the change was undetectable. With an open mind, this new territory will be fun to explore. Throw your assumptions out the window. There are discoveries to be made here.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). While it is possible to like a person and dislike their behavior, it is also tedious. It would be less draining to dislike both the person and what they do. Seek the company of people who do not cause you such inner turmoil.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). One person's accurate account is another person's harsh commentary. You steer clear of drama by being overly complimentary and optimistic. You choose the sunniest way of framing a situation. You'd rather err on the side of diplomacy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You sometimes wish the situation were more exciting, but at least it provides little distraction. This allows you to continue with a given action long enough to see results. Your powers of endurance will create the means for future excitements.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You can accept certain things on a poetic level even if you can't quite get there in other ways. Your philosophical bent gives you a way to embrace life and its vicissitudes whether or not things are turning in your preferred direction.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). In polite society, most people employ social filters. However, some people never learned to use them, and others seem incapable of determining when, where and how they should be used. Your tolerance will be called upon.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Each relationship is its own school. No relationship is a waste of time if you are learning from it. Tonight: the best way to make sure to have a wonderful time is to claim it as wonderful.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Maybe people cannot technically make one another happy, and nor can they give one another happiness. However, arranging an environment conducive to happiness is certainly possible, and will have a very high chance of fulfilling joyful intention.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You used to try and hide your quirks, but now they are part of your charm to wear with pride. Smoothness and grace are overrated. Just do it the way you want, and people will smile and laugh with you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Anyone can be nice under comfortable circumstances where expectations are being met. The true testament of character is how people behave when their expectations are not met and stress levels are escalated. Your patience gives you an advantage today.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

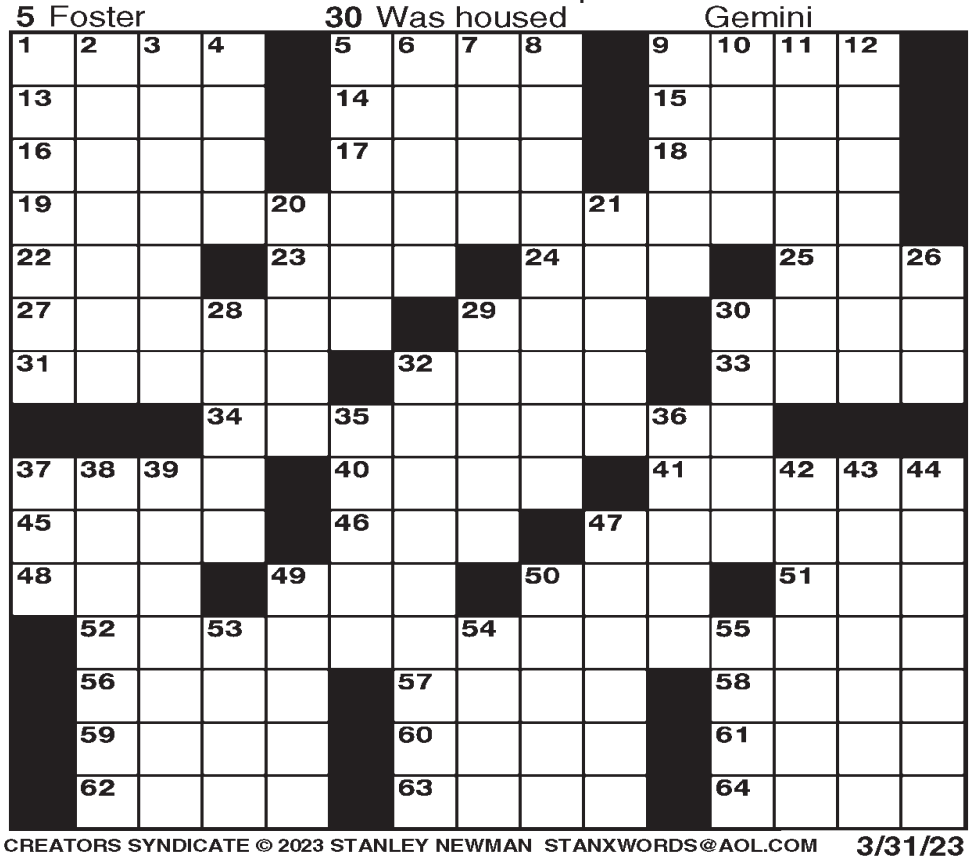
	6				9	7		1
	7						3	
9		2	7		1			8
				9		8		3
		9	3	5	7	6		
6		3		1				
1			9		5	3		2
	2						7	
8		7	4				6	

Newsday Crossword

HAM ON WRY by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 "Sorry"
5 Not a short-term tiff
9 First of all
13 Stuff in soups
14 Mindful of
15 Group of merchandise
16 Rounds to load
17 No humanitarian
18 Clamor
19 Start of a quote
22 Sand shade
23 Nation's extremities
24 Outlandishly
25 Suite parts, for short
27 Small sale of stock
29 Secretarial stat.
30 Coffee descriptor
31 Harvest from a forest
32 Monomaniacal mariner
33 Like false fruit
34 Middle of quote
37 Best New American Play award
40 K-12 supporters
41 Aquatic life
45 What powers *Star Wars* cannons
46 Sound asleep
47 Bad weather, briefly
48 U of T library letters
49 Figurative keeper of secrets
50 Start using
51 Whom Danny has written the most scores for
52 End of quote
56 Let pass
57 Victoria's deific equivalent
58 Where Aldous Huxley taught Orwell
59 Mulch material
60 French or Spanish 101 word
61 Long ago predator
62 What Torontonians fill their tanks with
63 Peripheral
64 Very little

DOWN
1 Electrical accessory
2 Fruity refresher
3 Source for vegan milk
4 Overflow, with "over"
5 Foster
6 Showbiz gossip show
7 Cartographic hexagon
8 Road warning
9 Granting that, for short
10 Rodeo Drive retailer
11 Toucher of France and Spain
12 Smucker pet food brand
20 TV president of the recent past
21 Slalom gold medalist at Calgary
26 __-fi (literary genre)
28 Facebook accumulation
29 "America the Beautiful" crop
30 Was housed
32 School stars
35 Mar
36 Rough-sounding
37 Contents of some cans
38 Source of quote
39 Not everyone gets them
42 Started something
43 Last of the contiguous 48
44 Any of 112 for *The Sopranos*
47 New Journalism writer
49 Brought on
50 Sounded disdainful
53 Minestrone morsels
54 Computer voice in *The Lego Batman Movie*
55 Mother of the Gemini

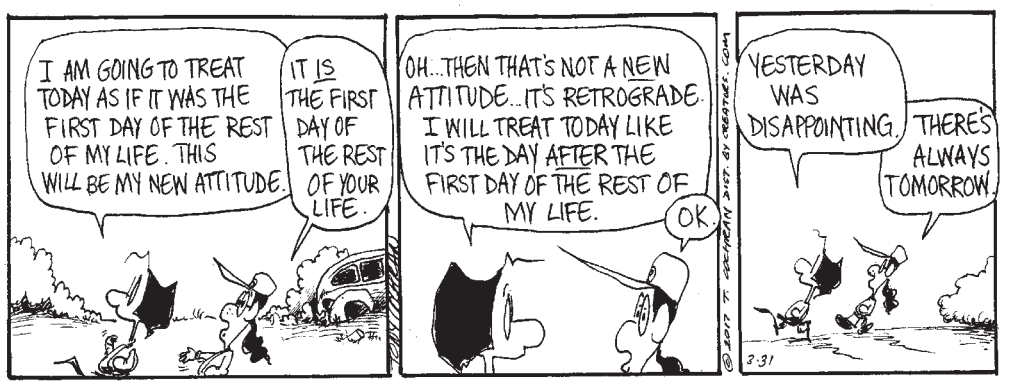


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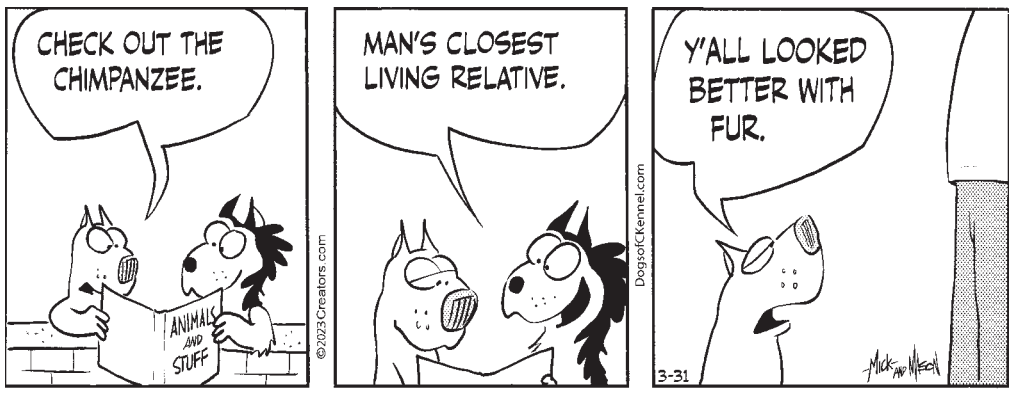
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

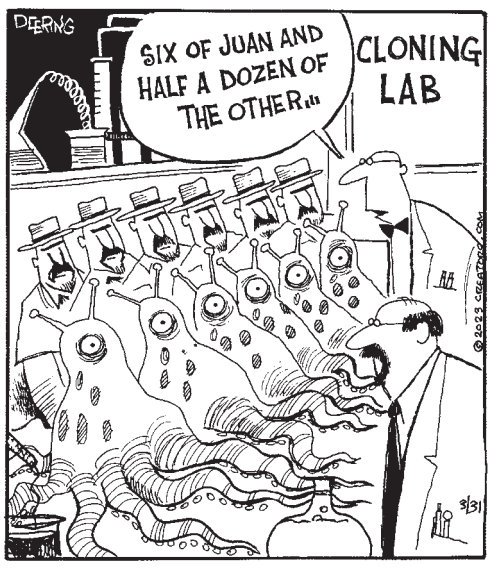
By PETER GALLAGHER



"EVERYONE'S HAD ENOUGH OF BROS."

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 5800

Music to my ears

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

Anvil	Drum	Noisy	Tempo
Aria	Duet	Notes	Tenor
Band	Electric	Oboe	Time
Bass sax	guitar	Opera	Tin whistle
Bell	Fife	Organ	Treble
Bones	Fingers	Piano	Tuba
Boom	Gong	Radio	Tune
Bows	Group	Recorder	Viola
Chanter	Harp	Stop	Wood
Cheng	Learner	Sustain	Zither
Choir	Lute	Tabor	
Disco	Lyre	Technique	

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FRIDAY | MARCH 31

LOBSTER & TRUFFLE FOR 2
Planning a cozy dinner night in? Pick up an indulgent 5 course lobster and truffle take-home dinner for 2 from Bazille (can also be enjoyed for dine in). Here's what you get: Lobster Bisque or Roma Tomato Basil Lobster Deviled Eggs Little Gem Caesar or Simple Salad Lobster & Truffle Gnocchi or Asparagus Gnocchi Flourless Chocolate Cake Santa Monica Place 395 Santa Monica Pl.

CANDLELIGHT: A TRIBUTE TO LAURYN HILL
6:30 p.m, Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club 1210 4th St Santa Monica, CA tickets available in https://feverup.com/m/119229

SATURDAY | APRIL 1

626 NIGHT MARKET MINI
Mini is back this Spring 2023! We're bringing the epic flavors of our giant flagship food festivals to the Westside: Downtown Santa Monica. Welcoming new and returning food lovers from the Westside to join us. This event series will take place near Third Street Promenade at Lot 27 and will be free-to-attend.

SUNDAY | APRIL 2

SMC WIND ENSEMBLE
Kevin McKeown, Conductor. The Spring Concert will feature traditional and new works for wind ensemble. Our annual "Pops" concert in June will highlight popular music from the Broadway stage to Hollywood movie scores.

MONDAY | APRIL 3

DUANE BETTS & PALMETTO MOTEL
In 2018, Betts released his debut, Sketches of American Music, and toured as a guest of the Devon Allman Project. At year's end Betts announced the formation of The Allman Betts Band, officially uniting with Allman, and with Berry D. Oakley, son of the late Allman Brothers Band founding bassist Berry Oakley. The group issued two albums- 2019's Down to the River and 2020's Bless Your Heart- before announcing its hiatus in 2022. Currently Betts is prepping a second solo album, furthering his impassioned six-string stories reflecting a life and a history steeped in blues, rock, and country music tradition. The Venice West 1717 Lincoln Blvd Venice. Tickets and Info https://rb.gy/eucewd

A NIGHT AND HIS DRUM
Join Marc El Khoury for a truly unique evening of exciting jams, including a few all-original songs and spoken word with his hand drum. Prepare to dance in your seats and be transported to a new world as Marc shares his first love — the drum that changed his life — a small Middle Eastern drum called the Doumbek. 7 p.m Santa Monica Playhouse 1211 4th Street

TUESDAY | APRIL 4

NEAL BRENNAN & FRIENDS AT WESTSIDE COMEDY THEATER
Come check out Neal Brennan (Emmy nominated director, writer, actor, and comedian, and co-creator of Chappelle's Show) and his famous friends working out new material. Past special guests include: Dave Chappelle, Russell Peters, Natasha Leggero, Mario Joyner, George Wallace, David Alan Grier, Pete Holmes, Ali Wong, Judd Apatow and more!

WEDNESDAY | APRIL 5

TRIVIA NIGHT AT THE BUNGALOW
Meet at The Bungalow at Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows every Wednesday for Trivia Night. Test your knowledge, enjoy the food and fare and win over $500 worth of prizes every week. Bring friends and family for an epic showdown. See you there! The Bungalow 101 Wilshire Blvd Santa Monica, CA 90401

THURSDAY | APRIL 6

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
The Government Affairs Committee meets monthly to discuss legislative and public policy issues of importance to Chamber members, and recommend any positions on those issues to be taken by the Board of Directors. https://members.smchamber.com/events/details/government-affairs-committee-04-06-2023-18627

FRIDAY | APRIL 7

LET THE CROWS COME
Evoking mythography and ancestry, Ashwini Ramaswamy's Let the Crows Come uses the metaphor of crows as messengers for the living and guides for the departed. In a series of solos/trios, the Indian dance form Bharatanatyam is deconstructed and recontextualized with collaborators Alanna Morris and Berit Ahlgren. The Broad Stage 1310 11th St. Santa Monica, California 90401

SATURDAY | APRIL 8

SEA STAR FEEDING
Come learn about the diet of our local sea stars and help serve them their favorite lunch. Visitors to Heal the Bay Aquarium can help assist aquarium staff as they feed the sea stars in our Tide Pool Touch Tanks, every Saturday at 1pm and 3pm. Heal the Bay Aquarium 1600 Ocean Front Walk, Santa Monica, CA https://healthebay.org/event/sea-star-feeding-saturday-2023-04-08/

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



SURF REPORT

WATER TEMP: **55.8**

FRIDAY *POOR TO FAIR*	**SURF:** 2-3ft Thigh to waist	Smaller NW swell mix leftovers as SSW swell tops out/holds. Not large but more composed with a small to locally fun little combo of swells. Cleanest in the morning.
SATURDAY *POOR TO FAIR*	**SURF:** 1-2ft Knee to thigh	Old NW and SSW swell drops. Reinforcing S swell moves in. Expect small but clean surf for the summer points as the tide drops through the morning. AM winds look light.

WEATHER

Friday: Partly sunny, with a high near 59. East northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 49. West wind 5 to 15 mph.
Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 64. North wind 5 to 15 mph.
Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 50.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2023/03/31	Fri	01:00 AM	2.53	L
2023/03/31	Fri	06:32 AM	4.32	H
2023/03/31	Fri	1:46 PM	-0.08	L
2023/03/31	Fri	8:31 PM	3.80	H
2023/04/01	Sat	01:35 AM	2.08	L
2023/04/01	Sat	07:19 AM	4.57	H
2023/04/01	Sat	2:14 PM	-0.16	L
2023/04/01	Sat	8:44 PM	4.01	H
2023/04/02	Sun	02:06 AM	1.62	L
2023/04/02	Sun	07:57 AM	4.76	H
2023/04/02	Sun	2:37 PM	-0.16	L
2023/04/02	Sun	8:58 PM	4.25	H
2023/04/03	Mon	02:35 AM	1.18	L
2023/04/03	Mon	08:31 AM	4.84	H
2023/04/03	Mon	2:58 PM	-0.08	L
2023/04/03	Mon	9:14 PM	4.53	H
2023/04/04	Tue	03:05 AM	0.76	L
2023/04/04	Tue	09:04 AM	4.81	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: 3/29
4 9 24 46 66
Power#: 7
Jackpot: 147 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 3/28
2 3 18 32 68
Mega#: 24
Jackpot: 355 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 3/29
7 9 12 21 39
Mega#: 26
Jackpot: 46 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 3/29
3 16 24 31 36

Daily 3
Draw Date: 3/29
EVENING: 3 3 4
Draw Date: 3/29
MIDDAY: 9 6 9

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 3/29
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 05 - California Classic
3rd: 11 - Money Bags
Race Time: 1:44.11

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City calendar

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A complete list of all the happenings in the **City of Santa Monica** and surrounding areas!

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FIND ALL EVENTS INCLUDING

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