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THURSDAY
04.08.21
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Puppy Hour







Courtesy photos

DOGS: NOMA residents responded in force this week when locals felt a family of dogs were in danger. Residents called Animal Control to report a man abusing a dog in a van and upon inspection, several residents reported a litter of puppies locked in the closed vehicle. Officers responded and eventually made contact with the vehicle owner who was convinced to surrender the litter to officials.

Recall efforts hit signature snag

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Efforts to recall members of the school board appear to have been derailed due to a lack of signatures on their initial paperwork.

A group of voters filed Notices of Intention to Circulate Recall Petitions targeting Jon Kean, Laurie Lieberman, Maria Leon Vazquez and Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein last week. That paperwork includes the reasons for the recall and signatures from registered voters.

Petitioners submitted 20 signatures per petition but County officials have determined valid petitions must have 30 or 100 signatures depending on the individual being recalled.

Attorney Joseph Pertel raised the question with county officials in letters sent on behalf of Lieberman, Vazquez, Kean and Tahvildaran-Jesswein.

In its response, the Registrar's office said it had sent proponents a recall guide document (available online at https://lavote.net/publications) and that according to election code the minimum number of signatures required is 10 or equal to the number of signatures required to have been filed on the nomination paper of the officer sought to be recalled, whichever is higher. That threshold for Lieberman and Tahvildaran-Jesswein is 100 as that was the number required for nomination when they were elected in 2018. However, the nomination requirements were reduced in the 2020 race due to pandemic and only 30 signatures are required to recall Kean or Vazquez.

While elections are administered by the Santa Monica City Clerk, recalls are run through the county.

SEE **RECALL** PAGE 11

Knife wielding man arrested on Pico

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

A man with a knife disrupted traffic for a brief period on Pico Blvd. Wednesday morning.

According to SMPD, officers responded to The Manor (1905 Pico) at about 7:55 a.m. for a report of a former resident entering the building to argue with a current resident.

The Manor is an Adult Residential Facility, licensed by the State of California, which provides room, board, care and supervision since the 1960's for persons with mental illness, and for those with developmental disabilities.

According to a statement from SMPD, James Latham pulled a small pocket knife and brandished it at the victim before fleeing the scene. Police were called to the property and made contact with Latham who was described as uncooperative.

"Department of Mental Health (DMH) and Crisis Negotiation Team Representatives were on scene, and made several attempts to make the suspect comply. The street was shut down for the safety of the suspect and public. He was then taken into custody without further incident," said Lt. Rudy Flores.

According to Flores, Latham was charged with criminal threats, brandishing a weapon and resisting arrest.

editor@smdp.com

Metro continues exploring completely fareless system

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Metro buses and trains could be free to all riders one day, according to leaders of the transportation agency who are exploring the feasibility of a completely fareless system.

A task force approved last September by the Metro Board of Directors kickstarted the efforts and earlier this month, CEO Phillip Washington met with local residents, riders and other stakeholders to discuss a pilot program, expected to launch in January 2022, that would eventually allow low income and K-12 students an opportunity to ride at no cost.

Nearly three-quarters of Metro riders are low or extremely low-income, which is the largest percentage of low income riders in the country, Washington noted, which is a large reason why he and his peers are exploring the possibility.

"I believe we have a moral obligation to LA County residents to pursue a federalist system and help our region recover from the pandemic and the effects of the lack of affordability in terms of housing," Washington said as he detailed how the elimination of fares would put money back in the pockets of those who need it the most while also promoting social equity and expanding economic opportunities. "We know that housing and transportation are

SEE **METRO** PAGE 6

Will the Oscars be a 'who cares' moment as ratings dive?

LEANNE ITALIE
AP Entertainment Writer

George Bradley used to love watching the Academy Awards. The 28-year-old Brit now living in San Diego would stay up late back home just to tune in.

Though he's now in the right time zone, he's just not interested, and that's due primarily to the pandemic.

"The rising dominance of the streaming services has taken the gloss off the Oscars for me," he said. "You just don't get the same warm fuzzy feeling from when you recognize a movie from the silver screen."

Whether you watch out of love, because you love to hate or have given up like Bradley, awards shows have suffered since the coronavirus shuttered theaters and shut down live performances. But the ratings slide for awards nights began well before Covid-19 took over.

For much of this century, the Oscars drew 35 million to 45 million viewers, often just behind the Super Bowl. Last year, just before the pandemic was declared, the hostless telecast on ABC was seen by its smallest audience ever, 23.6 million viewers, down 20 percent from the year before.

The pandemic-era Golden Globes a little more than a year later plummeted to 6.9 million viewers, down 64% from last year and barely besting 2008, the year a writer's strike forced NBC to air a news conference announcing winners. Last year, pre-lockdown, the show had 18.4 million viewers, according to the Nielsen company.

In March, Grammy producers avoided the Zoom awkwardness of other awards shows and staged performances by some of the industry's biggest stars — to no avail. The CBS telecast reached 9.2 million viewers, both television and streaming, the lowest number on record and a 51% drop from 2020, Nielsen said.

John Bennardo, 52, in Boca Raton, Florida, is a film buff, film school graduate and screenwriter, and runs a videography business for mostly corporate clients. This year is a no-go for the Oscars.

"I love the movies and aspire to be on that very Oscars stage receiving my own award some day," he said. "I watch each year and take it in, enter contests where I try to pick winners and try to see all the films. But something has changed for this year."

For starters, he hasn't seen a single film nominated in any category.

"Maybe I'll watch 'Zach Snyder's Justice League' instead. It might be shorter," Bennardo joked about the Oscars show.

Like other awards shows, the Oscars telecast was pushed back due to pandemic restrictions and safety concerns. The show had been postponed three times before in history, but never so far in advance. Organizers last June scheduled it for April 25, as opposed to its usual slot in February or early March.

Count that among other driving forces behind Oscars fatigue. Another, according to former fans of the show, is having to watch nominated movies on small screens and keeping up with when and where they are available on streaming and on-demand services. It's been one big blur to some.

Priscilla Visintine, 62, in St. Louis, Missouri, used to live for watching the Academy Awards. She attended watch parties every year, usually dressed all the way up for the occasion.

"Definitely the shuttering of the theaters created my lack of interest this year," she said. "I didn't get any sense of Oscar buzz."

Not all diehards have given up their favorite awards show.

In Knoxville, Tennessee, 50-year-old Jennifer Rice and her 22-year-old son, Jordan, have for years raced to watch as many nominated films as possible. In years past, it was their "February Madness," she said, and they kept charts to document their predictions. She even got to attend the Oscars in 2019 through her work for a beauty company at the time.

"My other two children, ages 25 and 19, have no interest in the Oscars. It's just something special for Jordan and I," Rice said. "The Oscars actually push us to watch movies that we may have never picked. I'm not as excited this year, but we're still trying to watch everything before the awards ceremony."

As real-life hardship has intensified for many viewers, from food insecurity and job disruption to the isolation of lockdowns and parenting struggles, awards shows offer less escapism and razzle-dazzle than in the past, often relying on pre-taped performances and Zoom boxes for nominees. In addition, data shows little interest among younger generations for appointment television in general.

Lifelong lover of movies and a filmmaker himself, 22-year-old Pierre Subeh of Orlando, Florida, stopped watching the Oscars in 2019.

"We can barely stay put for a 15-second TikTok. How are we expected to sit through a dragged out, four-hour awards ceremony filled with ads and outdated offensive jokes? We're living in the time of content curation. We need algorithms to figure out what we want to watch and to show us the best of the best," he said.

As a Muslim, Middle Eastern immigrant, Subeh also sees little inclusion of his culture in mainstream film, let alone on the Oscars stage.

"We're only mentioned when Aladdin is brought up. I don't feel motivated to gather up my family on a Sunday to sit through a four-hour award ceremony that never has any sort of mention about our culture and religion. Yet as Muslims, we make up roughly 25% of the world population," he said.

Jon Niccum, 55, in Lawrence, Kansas, teaches screenwriting at the University of Kansas. He's a filmmaker, went to film school

SEE **OSCARS** PAGE 11

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 240 CALLS ON APRIL 6

Indecent Exposure Now 2700blk Neilson Way 12:31 a.m.
Party Complaint 2000blk Ocean Ave 12:53 a.m.
Living In A Vehicle 400blk Georgina Ave 12:54 a.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon Just Occurred 1900blk Pico Blvd 12:57 a.m.
Prowler 500blk Lincoln Blvd 1:33 a.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 1400blk 17th St 4:41 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1200blk Wilshire Blvd 5:37 a.m.
Battery Just Occurred 600blk Wilshire Blvd 5:48 a.m.
Encampment 1500blk Palisades Park 6:01 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 6:43 a.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 100blk Santa Monica Pl 6:50 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2100blk 10th St 7:10 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 300blk Olympic Dr 7:17 a.m.
Encampment 2400blk Virginia Ave 7:21 a.m.
Construction Noise 800blk Princeton St 7:23 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1000blk Ocean Ave 7:24 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 900blk Ocean Ave 7:36 a.m.
Stalking Report 1300blk 2nd St 7:42 a.m.
Encampment 200blk Wilshire Blvd 7:58 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 900blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:25 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 2400blk 33rd St 8:33 a.m.
Bike Theft Report 100blk Santa Monica Pl 8:55 a.m.
General Parking Problem 300blk Olympic Dr 9:00 a.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 1400blk Wilshire Blvd 9:04 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 9:07 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 800blk Ashland Ave 9:07 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 1700blk Lincoln Blvd 9:14 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 900blk 15th St 9:26 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 9:39 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 2500blk Wilshire Blvd 9:47 a.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 2400blk Ocean Front Walk 9:53 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1100blk Yale St 9:54 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2900blk Wilshire Blvd 9:54 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 2400blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:58 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1300blk Wilshire Blvd 10:02 a.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 2100blk Wilshire Blvd 10:06 a.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 2100blk Wilshire Blvd 10:16 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 3100blk Pearl St 10:18 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 800blk 6th St 10:24 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1000blk 6th St 10:29 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1000blk Ocean Ave 10:34 a.m.
General Parking Problem 600blk Wilshire Blvd 10:39 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1400blk 4th St 10:53 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1700blk Montana Ave 11:06 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1300blk Montana Ave 11:09 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 2600blk 33rd St 11:30 a.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 300blk Civic Center Dr 11:38 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Cloverfield Blvd / Olympic Blvd 11:42 a.m.
Panic Alarm 2100blk Wilshire Blvd 11:43 a.m.
Found Property 300blk Olympic Dr 12:07 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 500blk Olympic Blvd W 12:23 p.m.
Fraud Report 1500blk 6th St 12:31 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 2500blk 29th St 12:34 p.m.
General Parking Problem 2000blk Wilshire Blvd 12:40 p.m.
Found Person 2900blk Arizona Ave 12:43 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1300blk 4th St 1:09 p.m.
Bike Theft Report 2300blk 16th St 1:10 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1500blk Montana Ave 1:15 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1400blk Lincoln Blvd 1:19 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 100blk Santa Monica Pl 1:20 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Just Occurred 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 1:37 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 1:37 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Stanford St / Pennsylvania Ave 1:54 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 20th St / Santa Monica Blvd 2:02 p.m.
Violation Of Temporary No Parking Signs 1500blk 11th St 2:26 p.m.
Found Property 300blk Olympic Dr 2:27 p.m.
Found Senile Person 700blk Broadway 2:46 p.m.
Encampment 2100blk 20th St 2:47 p.m.
Fraud Report 1500blk 7th St 3:01 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 2900blk 28th St 3:06 p.m.
Armed Robbery Just Occurred 200blk California Ave 3:10 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 1700blk Ocean Ave 3:22 p.m.
Found Property 300blk Olympic Dr 3:26 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 800blk Euclid St 3:30 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 2600blk Lincoln Blvd 3:37 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries City Prop Involved Lincoln Blvd / Ocean Park Blvd 3:37 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1900blk Wilshire Blvd 3:44 p.m.
Bike Theft Report 600blk Marine St 3:57 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 2600blk The Beach 4:29 p.m.
Battery Now Cloverfield Blvd / Olympic Blvd 4:31 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 100blk Marguerita Ave 4:33 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1300blk 4th St 4:54 p.m.
Critical Missing Person 1300blk 17th St 4:58 p.m.

Discarded masks litter beaches worldwide, threaten sea life

WAYNE PARRY
Associated Press

To the usual list of foul trash left behind or washed up on beaches around the world, add these: masks and gloves used by people to avoid the coronavirus and then discarded on the sand.

In the past year, volunteers picking up trash on beaches from the Jersey Shore to California, the United Kingdom and Hong Kong have been finding discarded personal protective equipment.

The latest example came Wednesday when New Jersey's Clean Ocean Action environmental group released its annual tally of trash plucked from the state's shorelines. In addition to the plastics, cigarette butts and food wrappers that sully the sand each year, the group's volunteers removed 1,113 masks and other pieces of virus-related protective gear from New Jersey beaches last fall.

"Used correctly PPE saves lives; disposed of incorrectly it kills marine life," said Cindy Zipf, the group's executive director. "PPE litter is a gross result of the pandemic, and 100% avoidable. Use PPE properly, then dispose of it properly in a trash can. It's not hard and it's the least we can do for this marvel of a planet we all live on, not to mention ourselves."

Discarded masks and gloves started showing up on beaches not long after the virus began circulating widely last year, and continued to appear as quarantine-weary people sought an escape at the beach.

In the second half of 2020, more than 107,000 items of PPE were collected by volunteers around the world according to the Ocean Conservancy group — a figure its members believe is a vast undercount of the year's true totals.

It reported last month that 94% of its cleanup events found discarded PPE, with masks accounting for 80% of the total.

In Northern California, the Pacific Beach Coalition recently noticed a dramatic increase in discarded PPE on beaches in and around the city of Pacifica, south of San Francisco. A clean-up day in San Diego netted 413 latex gloves and more than 700 single-use surgical masks.

During the International Coastal Cleanup last September, more than 62,000 items of PPE were collected by volunteers in 76 countries.

In Scotland, discarded PPE was found on nearly a quarter of the beaches cleaned last fall by the Marine Conservation Society.

And masks began showing up on Hong Kong beaches in March 2020, in the early days of the pandemic.

The masks are made of materials that will not break down easily; by some estimates it could take 450 years for one to decompose in the environment.

Conservationists have reported sea birds becoming entangled in the ear straps of face masks, and they worry that marine life could eat masks or gloves, mistaking it for food, and suffer serious or fatal consequences.

Beyond the PPE, Clean Ocean Action's beach sweeps also came up with some unusual items, including a back scrubber; a home pregnancy test (results unknown); a bong; a check for $81; a foam tombstone; a parking ticket; a New Orleans Saints flag; eight pumpkins; and a wooden pig's head.

The group's spring 2021 beach sweeps will be held April 17 at locations up and down the Jersey Shore.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 19 CALLS ON APRIL 6

EMS 1900blk Pico Blvd 1:08 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1700blk 12th St 2:16 a.m.
EMS 1900blk Frank St 2:27 a.m.
EMS 3100blk Neilson Way 8:29 a.m.
EMS 500blk Olympic Blvd W 8:36 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 10:51 a.m.
Public Assist 1300blk Oak St 11:21 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury Cloverfield Blvd / Olympic Blvd 11:42 a.m.
EMS 900blk 7th St 12:12 p.m.
EMS 2200blk California Ave 12:52 p.m.
Lockout W/Ems Component 2600blk Ocean Park Blvd 1:01 p.m.
EMS 1400blk Lincoln Blvd 1:32 p.m.
EMS 1400blk 14th St 4:35 p.m.
Structure Fire 1000blk 11th St 4:40 p.m.
EMS 1900blk 6th St 5:42 p.m.
EMS 1500blk Franklin St 6:57 p.m.
EMS 800blk Ocean Ave 8:09 p.m.
Carbon Monoxide Alarm 1600blk Idaho Ave 10:31 p.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 800blk Pacific St 11:33 p.m.

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS
CALLING FOR BIDS
DISTRICT: SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BID: 041321SH
TITLE: KCRW BRIARCREST ELECTRICAL PROJECT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named California Community College District, acting by and through its Board of Trustees, hereinafter "the District" will receive up to, but not later than the below-stated date and time, sealed Bid Proposals for the Contract for the Work of the Project generally described as: KCRW BRIARCREST ELECTRICAL PROJECT.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE BID PROPOSALS: All Bid Proposals shall be submitted on forms furnished by the District. Bid Proposals must conform with, and be responsive to, the Bid and Contract Documents, copies of which may be obtained from the District as set forth above. Only Bid Proposals submitted to the District at or prior to the date and time set forth shall be considered.

MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK: April 21, 2021 @ 10am Sharp; No late arrivals.

CONTRACT DAYS: 60 DAYS

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the District bidding website at: https://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=13721#.

The Contractor is required to have a C-10; CADIR license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the District's Request for Bids.

Substitute Security- In accordance with the provisions of California Public Contract Code §22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the District to ensure performance under this contract.

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[1] "Medicare & You," Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2020
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WINNER

Noteworthy

By Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Life Stories, 12 X 12



Courtesy image

RECORDS: A record collection can be a worthwhile life's work.

ONE MAN'S DISCARD

Can be another man's treasure. Ergo, a gazillion thriving second hand (thrift) stores. I love thrift stores. Rather, I love what I get out of them, which is every sharp shirt, slacks and jacket in my closet. Truthfully, oddly, they drive me crazy, because I have not mastered them. They have mastered and mindmucked me. The avalanche of choices and decisions buries me. About five minutes in. My wife, however, has thrift store radar and will stride across a new store straight to a rack in the back, reach in and quickly pull out a perfect designer blouse or shirt, for three bucks.

On those rare occasions when I do get roped in to a personal appearance, in that first five minutes, before meltdown, I usually look for the LP section, perhaps paw through it a little, and then throw in the towel. I'm quickly reminded of what I know from experience: there's no treasure here. No vinyl version of a pair of Manolo Blahniks, or even Nikes. Not even "Louie, Louie," let alone Louis Vuitton.

If I did come across, say, a Lazar Berman disc, on Melodiya (of course! a recent Russian immigrant discard), my initial excitement would surely evaporate as I slid the record out of its sleeve to discover it apparently was used to steady a short table leg on a busy Russian restaurant floor. Or, maybe, anchored some cat's scratching post. No prodigious piano pounding from the bear man Lazar in those bins, only pianos by Billy Joel or Elton John, and I never even bought those new.

I LIKE MY VINYL

Like I likes my wimmens — cherished, handled with great care, held only around the edges, still in a beautiful package, like brand new on the inside, and quiet. Heh heh hehheh heh! (I guar-an-tee there will be at least one reader who won't appreciate the joke, and be feministically ballistic. Not my fault! -- Popeye took over my soul as I wrote that. He was created in Santa Monica, you know.)

Seriously, I was always a fanatic about the condition of my LPs. In my single dad days only my son was trusted to put one on the turntable. Girlfriends could possibly qualify after a six-month training period.

For years, the first time I played a record I listened through headphones, pretty loud, and if there was a pop, click, tic or hiss, no matter how quiet, that lasted more than one revolution, the disc went back to the store for exchange. Defective. Oh yeah, they loved to see me coming at the returns counter of local music stores. But most of them understood and respected my high fidelity standards. It got a lot easier when I started working in those stores. "Wow, Charles," the manager would note, innocently, "looks like we have a ton of returns this week..."

So all these decades later, in my ongoing pandemic-fueled crusade to go through every one of those dozens of jam-packed boxes of... stuff, filled with 95 percent junk, mostly expired paper, but 5 percent crucial life mementos, I have come across a few stashed boxes of albums. Dear God — there may be more. I recently wound up with 141 classical discs and 41 rock-soul-country albums that had to go. They were not... part of the 1800.

THE 1800

I accumulated more than 7,000 albums by the time I moved here from New Mexico in 1980. I can't begin to tell you how much fun it is to move that many really heavy boxes of LPs. More than once. But my son Chris could have told you, in no uncertain terms. Even though he was also a music fanatic and loved having them around.

Over the years in the LA area The 7,000 were joined by more than 5,000 CDs. And then the terabytes of external hard drives began to accumulate. If you think this is insane, in a condo of less than 1,000 square feet, you have to remember there was a time when not every single song ever recorded was available for play, at that moment when you really needed it, from some platform

SEE **STORIES** PAGE 6

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.

Woods was driving almost 90 mph when he crashed SUV near LA

STEFANIE DAZIO
Associated Press

Tiger Woods was driving nearly 90 mph — twice the posted speed limit — on a downhill stretch of road when he lost control of an SUV and crashed in a wreck that seriously injured the golf superstar, authorities said Wednesday.

Sheriff Alex Villanueva blamed the Feb. 23 crash outside Los Angeles solely on excessive speed and Woods' loss of control behind the wheel. The athlete will not face any citations for his third high-profile collision in 11 years.

"The primary causal factor for this traffic collision was driving at a speed unsafe for the road conditions and the inability to negotiate the curve of the roadway," the sheriff told a news conference.

Woods was driving 84 to 87 mph (135 to 140 kph) in an area with a speed limit of 45 mph (72 kph), Villanueva said.

The stretch of road is known for wrecks and drivers who frequently hit high speeds. Due to the steepness of the terrain, a runaway truck escape lane is available just beyond where Woods crashed.

There was no evidence that the golfer tried to brake, and investigators believe Woods may have inadvertently stepped on the accelerator instead of the brake pedal in a panic, said sheriff's Capt. James Powers, who oversees the sheriff's station closest to the crash site.

Woods was wearing a seat belt at the time, and the vehicle's airbags deployed. He told deputies that he had not taken medication or consumed alcohol before the crash, sheriff's officials said.

"Those questions were asked and answered," Powers said.

Detectives did not seek search warrants for blood samples, which could have been screened for drugs or alcohol, or his cellphone. Authorities said there was no evidence of impairment or of distracted driving, so they did not have probable cause to get warrants. Investigators did search the SUV's data recorder, known as a black box, which revealed the vehicle's speed.

On Twitter, Woods thanked the people who called 911, as well as the first responders who pulled him out of the wreck and transported him to the hospital.

"I will continue to focus on my recovery and family, and thank everyone for the overwhelming support and encouragement I've received throughout this very difficult time," Woods wrote in a statement.

Documents show that Woods told deputies he did not know how the crash occurred and did not remember driving. At the time of the wreck, Woods was recovering from a fifth back surgery, which took place two months earlier.

Woods, who is originally from the Los Angeles area, had been back home to host his PGA tournament, the Genesis Invitational at Riviera Country Club, when the crash happened.

He was driving an SUV loaned to him by the tournament when he struck a raised median in Rolling Hills Estates, just outside Los Angeles. The SUV crossed through two oncoming lanes and uprooted a tree, striking it at 75 mph (120 kph).

Jonathan Cherney, an accident reconstruction expert and retired Irvine, California, police detective, said the sheriff did not explain a fundamental part of the case: Why was Woods driving so fast?

"To just blanket it with an unsafe speed violation is the easy way out," said Cherney, who walked the crash site. "We still are missing the key factors that kind of explain why or how this whole sequence of events began."

Cherney questioned whether Woods may have fallen unconscious at some point, citing the lack of evidence of braking, steering or anything else to suggest the driver was "aware of what's going on or attempting to avoid the crash." He also said investigators had enough probable cause to seek blood samples.

Woods is in Florida recovering from multiple surgeries, including a lengthy procedure for shattered tibia and fibula bones in his lower right leg in multiple locations. Those were stabilized with a rod in his tibia. Additional injuries to the bones in his foot and ankle required screws and pins.

The 45-year-old athlete has never gone an entire year without playing, dating back to his first PGA Tour event as a 16-year-old in high school. He had hoped to play this year in the Masters tournament, which begins Thursday.

Rory McIlroy, a four-time major golf champion who lives near Woods in Florida, said he visited him on March 21.

"Spent a couple hours with him, which was nice. It was good to see him," McIlroy said Tuesday from the Masters. "It was good to see him in decent spirits. When you hear of these things and you look at the car and you see the crash, you think he's going to be in a hospital bed for six months. But he was actually doing better than that."

In the weeks after the crash, the sheriff called it "purely an accident" and said there was no evidence of impairment. Villanueva faced criticism for labeling the crash an accident before the investigation had concluded and pushed back Wednesday against allegations of special treatment for the golf star.

"That is absolutely false," he said.

Last week, Villanueva said investigators had determined the cause of the crash but would not reveal it. He claimed he needed permission from Woods to do so. The sheriff said Wednesday that Woods — who has a yacht named Privacy — had approved the release of the investigation's findings.

Villanueva also declined to release footage from deputies' body cameras, citing the athlete's privacy.

This is the third time Woods has been involved in a vehicle investigation.

The most notorious example was when his SUV ran over a fire hydrant and hit a tree early on the morning after Thanksgiving in

SEE **CRASHED** PAGE 11

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STORIES

FROM PAGE 4

or another. No, if that voice inside insisted you had to hear your favorite Richie Havens album, or Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, Gene Clark or Ofra Haza or Lazar Berman, and nothing else would do, it was so satisfying to know you could walk over to the right place in the library and pluck it out. Funny how technology can make a life's work irrelevant. Actually, not funny at all, dammit, but whatcha gonna do?

Here's what. You go tearfully, but with discipline and courage, through The 7000 and you weed out

THE ONES YOU CAN POSSIBLY LIVE WITHOUT

And you sell them. For peanuts. Because you're right between the windows where Japanese buyers were paying insane dollars to satisfy their yen for every American LP (even though the quality, the clarity, separation and noiselessness of their albums is so superior to ours), and when the hipsters discovered vinyl as a means to enhance their sorry status by surrounding themselves at home with carefully curated LPs. God bless 'em, but I had already let too many go for a quarter or two. Timing is everything.

So I had whittled it down to only the albums I could not bear to live without. And that final number was 1800. Most people have never had anywhere close to that number of PVC friends and confidants to make them smile and ease their pain, so I guess I am fortunate. But every so often I want to play album x and I go to where it should be, where it was, and there is an empty space. An empty space in my heart, to match the hole in the center of that LP.

THEY NEEDED A GOOD HOME

That near-pristine vinyl, those 141 plus 41, and I did find the right person for the 141 classical, and we had a really good time shooting the breeze about divas and dirigeants we have known, and music and life. I got to watch a friend go treasure hunting in my backyard, and it was rewarding for both of us. Stay tuned! Names revealed! Gossip dished! Tunes hummed! Scores settled! Details to follow.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY !!!

Today! To my dear wife and life partner Diane Michelle. You have brought so much joy through music into my life, and Chirs's and Nicole's, and countless thousands, that you can rest assured that you have used your talents to the utmost. The world became a far better place on that certain April 8. Thank you for always giving, "All of Me."

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 3,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 34 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

METRO

FROM PAGE 1

the two biggest expenses for households. So, imagine if we could eliminate one of those expenses."

No other large transit system in the world has gone entirely fareless, Washington said, but the prospective 18-month pilot program would prove useful in determining how to proceed to a completely fareless transit system for all riders in the future.

Doreen Morrissey, who has worked to bring the fareless system initiative to reality, highlighted Metro low farebox recovery is about 13% of its operating costs.

"And while that's not an insignificant amount, it does raise the question of what does it cost to collect fares?" she said when Santa Monica residents and college students had an opportunity to phone in with questions.

"The study, right now, is very much a work in progress, and we're still ironing out a lot of the details," Morrissey added. "But, as a project team, we're really committed to bringing a firm proposal to the Metro board and that will be this May."

The leading concept is an 18-month pilot that would provide free rides on Metro buses and rails for low income riders beginning next January 2022. From there, it would expand to all K-12 students, starting in August until June 30, 2023.

"And at the conclusion, we would bring our findings to the Metro Board in order to assess whether the pilot should be expanded to a fully fareless system in the future," Morrissey said.

Metro will also evaluate local, state and federal funding opportunities, including reprioritizing Metro pods to replace farebox revenue. And thanks to callers like former Santa Monica City Councilmember Denny Zane and Yasamin Hatefi, a member of Santa Monica College's Associated Student Board, the task force will also consider allowing community college students to use the system for free as well.

"I think, as we've heard tonight, even from Santa Monica, that we know that fareless transit attracts people to transit, and that's a great thing — that's our business. We want people to use public transit, whether you have a car or not," Morrissey said. "We know that it's good for our communities, it's good for our economy, and it's good for our environment."

Metro Board of Director Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker thanked everybody for their work throughout the last few months as she discussed how the program will save riders money during a period of economic stability and allow for more reliable and streamlined services.

"I want to share," Dupont-Walker added, "that we all believe this is a long overdue idea that many have championed."

Brennon@smdp.com

SMMUSD
SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING-MEASURE R PARCEL TAX

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Education of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District will conduct a public hearing on the matter of the 2021-22 Special Parcel Tax (Measure R) regarding applying a Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) adjustment. The public hearing will be held on May 6, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District Board Room at 1651 16th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404 – OR – As per Executive Order N-29-20 from Governor Newsom, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education meeting may be in a virtual/teleconferencing environment via Zoom. The purpose of the Governor's executive order is to control the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) and to reduce and minimize the risk of infection by "limiting attendance at public assemblies, conferences, or other mass events." The Governor's executive order on March 12, 2020, already waived the requirement for a majority of board members to physically participate in a public board meeting at the same location. Refer to SMMUSD website https://www.smmusd.org/domain/2977 for the most up to date meeting announcement. Subsequent to the public hearing on May 6, 2021 at the regularly scheduled meeting, it is the intention of the Board of Education to adopt a resolution to levy the tax at the rate of $439.41 per parcel, which includes a 1.0% CPI adjustment. The CPI-U for Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, base year 1982-84=100, from February, 2020 through February, 2021, was used to calculate the adjustment. Measure R 2021-22 Senior Exemption applications forms are available on SMMUSD District website. New applicants must complete, sign and return exemption application by June 30, 2021. Those who received the senior exemption the prior year and continue to meet the eligibility criteria, will be automatically exempted for the upcoming year. For additional information, visit https://www.smmusd.org/Page/3905.

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New California homeless database aims to help policymakers

JANIE HAR
Associated Press

A new California data warehouse system unveiled Wednesday should help policymakers better understand and address the issue of homelessness in a state that has the most unhoused people in the country, officials said.

This is the first time the information has been collected at a state level, according to the state's homeless coordinating and financing council. The announcement comes two months after a state audit that criticized California for an approach so fragmented and incomplete as to possibly hinder efforts to get people into stable housing.

More than 160,000 people experiencing homelessness live in California, according to a 2020 point in time count. That includes about half the country's estimated 211,000 residents living unsheltered on the streets or in vehicles. Affordable housing is so scarce that even when a person exits homelessness, several more people lose housing and authorities say they can't keep up.

The state collected information from California's 44 "continuums of care," which are regional organizations that receive money from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to battle homelessness. Previously, the information had been separate with no way of knowing for sure the scope of the problem much beyond a homeless count mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

One of the findings, officials said, was that more than 90,000 people found housing in 2020.

"This is sort of a first of a kind for us to be able to have that information," said Lourdes M. Castro Ramírez, secretary for business, consumer services and housing. She said the information will allow them to target best practices, discover which interventions are most effective and where public money should go.

The Homeless Data Integration System, expected to go live Wednesday afternoon, is rudimentary but it is expected to grow, providing the ability for deeper analysis, officials said. The accounting, tax and wealth management firm Plante Moran developed the system for $1.2 million, officials said.

The data, which includes four years' worth of information, shows that nearly 250,000 people sought services last year; of that, 117,000 people are still awaiting help while nearly 92,000 people found housing.

It also shows that the number of people being served more than doubled, from 14,000 in 2017 to 32,000 in 2020. The database will include demographic information.

Gov. Gavin Newsom, a Democrat, has made homelessness a priority, dedicating his 2020 state of the state address to the subject. He pushed to house homeless people in motel rooms during the pandemic, and his administration is assisting local efforts to refurbish motels and other buildings for housing.

"You can't fix what you can't measure and having a statewide data system will help us determine what's working and what isn't," he said in a prepared statement.

The February audit criticized the state for failing to track spending, saying it had identified at least nine state agencies spending $13 billion through 41 programs to address homelessness in the past three years. But without tracking, the auditor said it's difficult to identify duplications or even to find out what works or doesn't work.

The state is still working to track spending.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

LA to pay $1.6M to settle suits alleging police wrongdoing

Los Angeles will pay nearly $1.6 million to settle three lawsuits involving alleged wrongdoing by the city's police department, a newspaper reported.

The City Council voted 12-1 Wednesday to approve the payouts, which include $1.15 million for the shooting of a man from a police helicopter, according to the Los Angeles Times.

The Los Angeles Police Department and the city attorney's office declined to comment on the settlements, which allow the city to resolve the claims without admitting liability.

Two of the lawsuits stemmed from fatal shootings by police.

In one case, the mother of Anthony Soderberg sued over the killing of her son, who was shot to death by SWAT members after an armed standoff at a home he had broken into.

Police fired dozens of rounds at Soderberg, including some from a SWAT helicopter, which was a first in LAPD history.

The Police Commission found that officers opened fire on Soderberg when they were not in imminent danger or were too far away to distinguish a threat.

Soderberg's family argued that police knew he was "a mentally ill and/or mentally disabled person with no intention to harm anyone."

A Times analysis of city records found that over the past 5½ years, Los Angeles has paid out more than $245 million to resolve legal claims involving police.

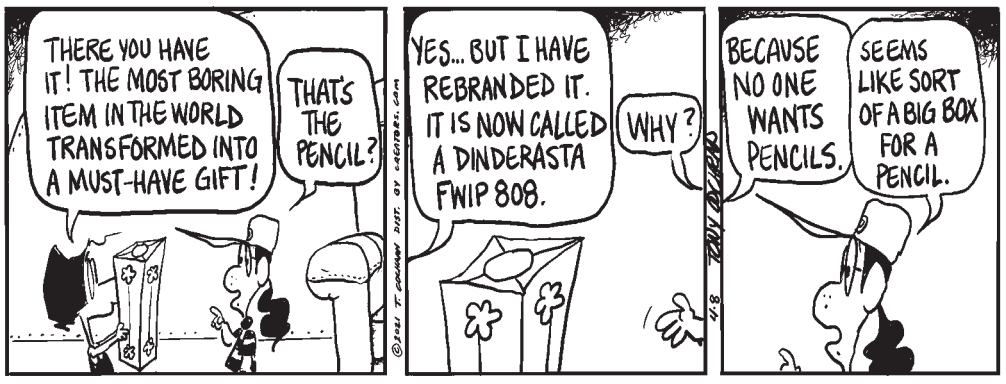
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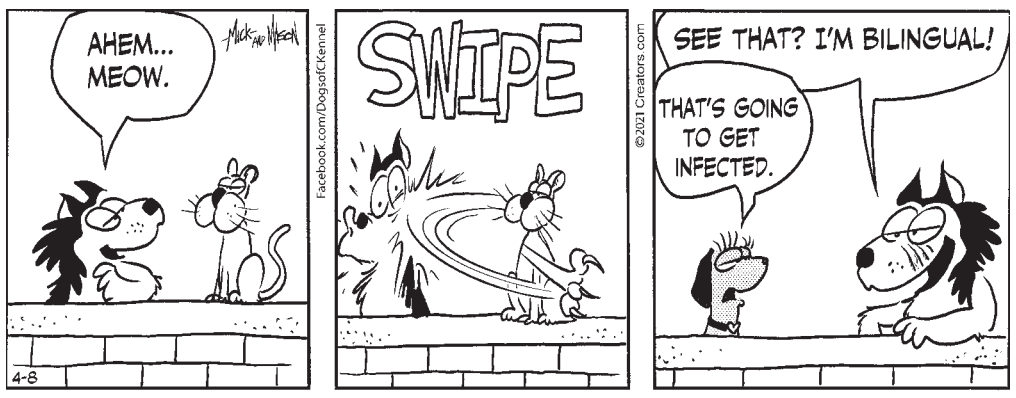
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



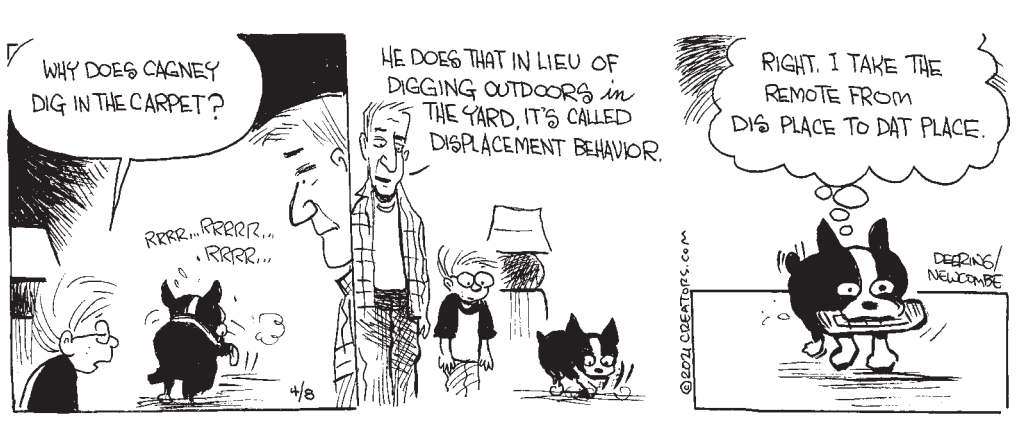
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

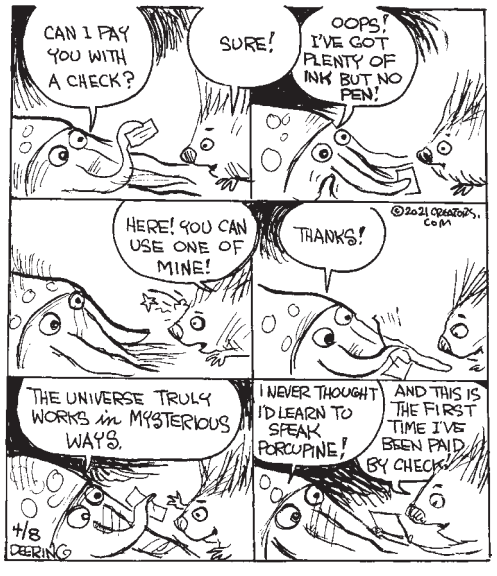
By PETER GALLAGHER



"WE'RE IN NEED OF YOUR SERVICES."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 58.8°

THURSDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
AM wind/conditions best for west facing zones. A little more SSW swell and uptick in NW windswell make for fairly peaky shape at the beachbreaks. Probably still worth a surf.

FRIDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Few peaks out west. SSW swell tops out and NW windswell picks up a notch through the day.

WEATHER

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 66.
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 48. North wind 10 to 15 mph.
Friday: Sunny, with a high near 67.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2021/04/08	Thu	02:07 AM	1.33	L
2021/04/08	Thu	07:58 AM	4.92	H
2021/04/08	Thu	2:32 PM	-0.41	L
2021/04/08	Thu	8:53 PM	4.64	H
2021/04/09	Fri	02:43 AM	0.91	L
2021/04/09	Fri	08:39 AM	4.88	H
2021/04/09	Fri	3:00 PM	-0.18	L
2021/04/09	Fri	9:15 PM	4.83	H
2021/04/10	Sat	03:17 AM	0.56	L
2021/04/10	Sat	09:15 AM	4.74	H
2021/04/10	Sat	3:24 PM	0.12	L
2021/04/10	Sat	9:36 PM	4.99	H
2021/04/11	Sun	03:48 AM	0.29	L
2021/04/11	Sun	09:49 AM	4.50	H
2021/04/11	Sun	3:46 PM	0.47	L
2021/04/11	Sun	9:56 PM	5.11	H
2021/04/12	Mon	04:20 AM	0.10	L
2021/04/12	Mon	10:24 AM	4.21	H
2021/04/12	Mon	4:07 PM	0.83	L
2021/04/12	Mon	10:16 PM	5.16	H
2021/04/13	Tue	04:53 AM	-0.01	L

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERball calottery
Draw Date: 4/3
1 12 17 39 53
Power#: 5
Jackpot: 43 M

MEGA MILLIONS calottery
Draw Date: 4/6
1 19 20 32 42
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 201 M

SuperLotto PLUS calottery
Draw Date: 4/3
1 7 8 31 38
Mega#: 16
Jackpot: 35 M

Fantasy 5 calottery
Draw Date: 4/6
2 16 21 37 38

Daily 3 calottery
Draw Date: 4/6
EVENING: 3 4 1

Draw Date: 4/6
MIDDAY: 3 7 5

Daily Derby calottery
Draw Date: 4/6
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 12 - Lucky Charms
3rd: 10 - Solid Gold
Race Time: 1:43.60

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (APRIL 8)

Two things make this year's opportunities stellar. First off, you proactively create many of them. And secondly, you actually follow through. You and your team will take home an award. You'll do something creative with the bonus money. Finally, in June, the words you want to hear from the one you want to say them. Gemini and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 49, 2, 28 and 11.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Insecurity sometimes causes people to claim skills and competencies beyond the scope of what they've earned. You'll overlook these exaggerations and other faults in the name of social grace.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're constantly challenging your own thinking along moral and ethical lines. What you consider to be a minimal act of kindness goes above and beyond what others would do.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've been unaware of the subtle pressures around you that were influencing you to be one way and not another. But something happens today to wake you up and help you better understand the dynamics affecting you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You want to feel another person's pain so they won't have to. Scientists, spiritual gurus and co-dependent experts agree that it's not possible. But can they prove it? Your solution may be counterintuitive or ill-advised, but it's yours.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The thing has been broken for a while now -- like a vehicle that won't take you where you want to go. Still, there's hope. Tinker. Keep jiggling the parts and poking around for the problem. You'll hear the whir of this engine yet!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). As soon as you think you cannot do a thing, that's when you must embark. This isn't really about proving yourself wrong. In fact, you may be quite right. Failure may be inevitable. Even so, who will you become by trying?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Because you're such a hard worker, you sometimes get right to work whether or not that's what the situation needs. Today, there's a good chance that what's really needed is more awareness, which can prevent wrong action.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Conversational skill will have little to do with saying things the right way. Choose a relatable topic where interests are likely aligned and let that do the work for you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll pay more attention to your thoughts, partly because they are so loud today and opaquely color your moods. Some of these thoughts need to be taken on, reasoned with and calmed down.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Discipline is follow-through. Whether you are in charge of making the rules for children, employees or yourself, you have to follow through with what you said you'd do or it's not going to work.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Stress reduction starts with noticing the actualities of the moment. Thoughts are the biggest problem source. Culprits like, "This all has to be done immediately," can be dismissed as untruths.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your way of relaxing is different from those around you and that's just the nature of relaxation. One size doesn't fit all. Even twins will have different ways of reaching a place of calm. Ask yourself what you need, and then provide it.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

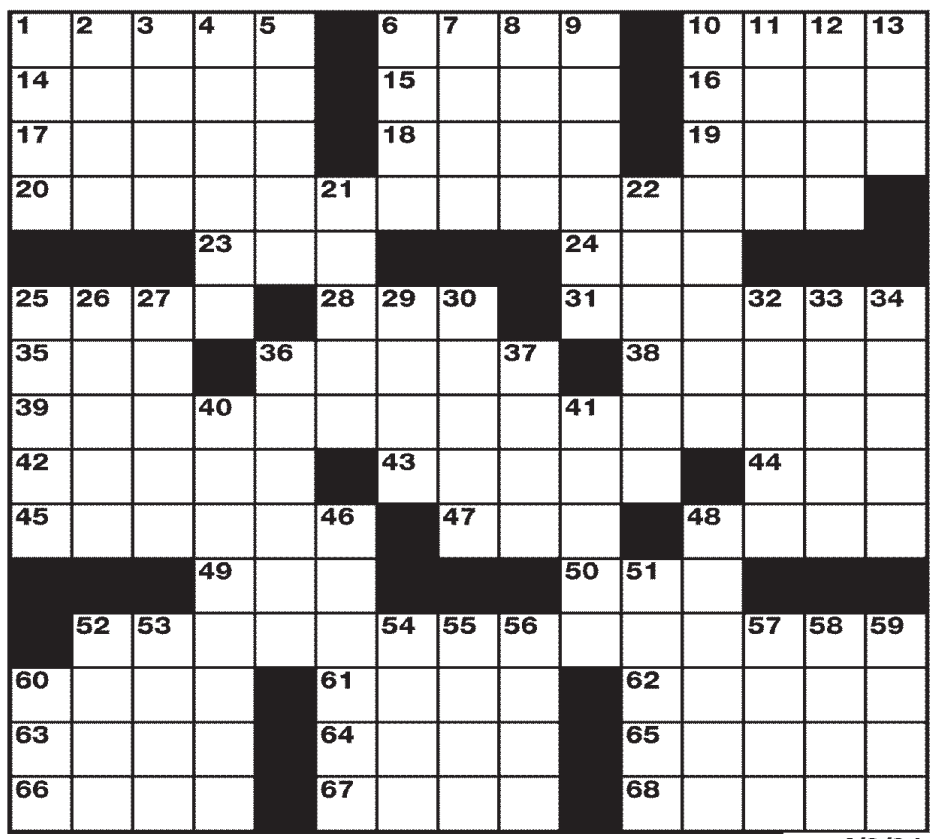
	1		7	8		5		2
3		4						
	2			1	9			4
2	9		4		1	6		
	4			9			5	
		7	6		3		8	9
4			2	7			9	
						7		6
8		2		3	6		4	

Newsday Crossword

FAMOUS LAST WORDS by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 What Iranians speak
6 Creator of Marge and 24 Across
10 Fruit category
14 Restaurants serving stacks
15 US Open finals stadium
16 Object of adoration
17 Hydropower source
18 Part of GSUSA
19 Dairy aisle display
20 Oscar film about a mathematician
23 Have in one's grasp
24 Toon bartender
25 Curved entryway
28 Sorority letter
31 Big name in American literature
35 Opposite of paleo-
36 Slow cooker creations
38 Put forth
39 Check out quickly
42 Makeup mishap
43 Artistry
44 Eternally, in poetry
45 High-heels holder
47 Agency concerned with MPG
48 "Excellence in Sports" award
49 Palermo possessive
50 Atom with a charge
52 Query of concern
60 Burn a bit
61 Travel plan
62 Plumbing or welding
63 Sway gently
64 As a consequence
65 Had no use for
66 Rattles on
67 Not as intense
68 Goes across

DOWN
1 World Cup org.
2 Fictional whaler
3 Portrayal
4 Flashy impression
5 Put forth
6 New Testament trio
7 "In your dreams!"
8 Via, briefly
9 "I'm all ears!"
10 Olive stuffing
11 Valhalla host
12 Shape to suit
13 Bull with antlers
21 Oral exam focus
22 Tasty bit
25 Uneasy feeling
26 French Champagne city
27 Long for
29 Casual tops
30 Came alive
32 Spots for icicles
33 High-priced
34 Washcloth fabric
36 Narrow passage
37 Delicate cut
40 Sets aside
41 Allege
46 Soft shade
48 Lure into trouble
51 Trial declarations
52 "Not so fast!"
53 Remove rashly
54 Pulled asunder
55 Warm greetings
56 Winged matchmaker
57 "Later!"
58 What Nod was east of
59 Much lipstick
60 Loud outburst



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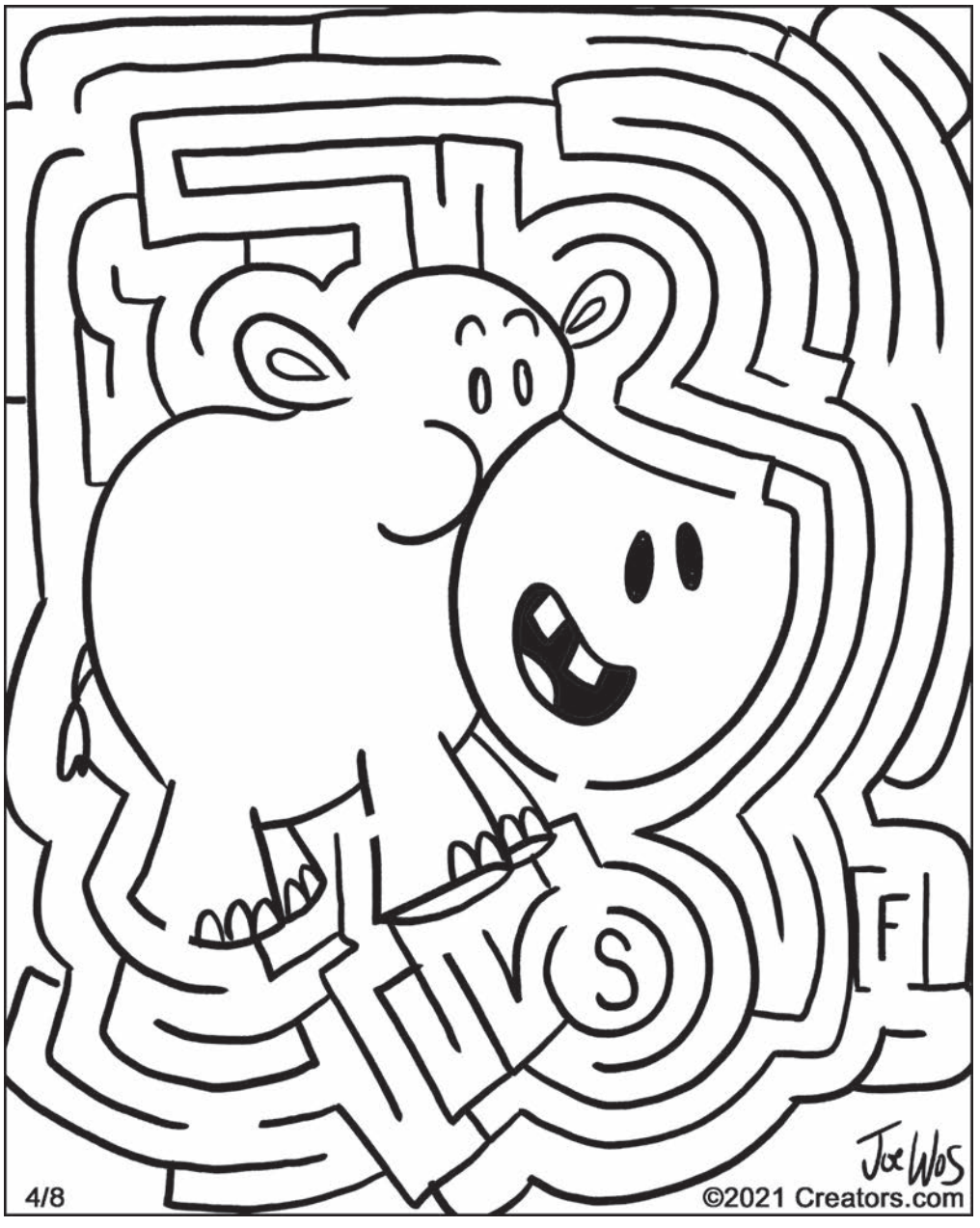
Binary Puzzle

Each cell should contain a zero or a one. No more than two similar numbers below or next to each other are allowed. Each row and each column is unique and contains as many zeros as ones.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

I	I	O	I	O	I	O	I	O	O	I	O
I	O	O	I	O	O	I	O	I	I	O	I
O	I	I	O	I	O	I	I	O	O	I	O
I	O	O	I	O	I	O	O	I	I	O	I
O	I	I	O	I	O	O	I	O	O	I	I
I	O	O	I	O	I	I	O	I	O	I	O
O	O	I	I	O	I	I	O	O	I	O	I
O	I	O	O	I	O	O	I	I	O	I	I
I	O	I	O	I	O	I	I	O	I	O	O
O	O	I	I	O	I	O	O	I	O	I	I
I	I	O	O	I	O	I	O	I	I	O	O
O	I	I	O	I	I	O	I	O	I	O	O

							O		O		
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	O		O		O					O	I
O											
		O	O			I					O
O								O			
	O		O			I	I			O	O
O	I	I			O					O	O



"The City of Bell spectacle is what happens to communities without their own old-fashioned, diligent news coverage." - Terry Francke, Journalist

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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 22 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5077

Around Canberra

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

Acton	Deakin	Lake	Page
Aims	Ferry	Left	Reid
Ainslie	Festival	Library	Rivett
Anzac	Flynn	Lyons	Russell
Parade	Fraser	Mawson	Scenic
Burley	Frost	Melba	Tables
Griffin	Hall	Members	Torrens
Cafe	Hawker	Mist	Walks
Carp	Holt	Monash	Woden
Cold	Hughes	Neat	
Curtin	Isaacs	Open	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
They're out to get you

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SANTA ANA

Man who placed wife's body in front of kids guilty of murder

A Southern California man who killed his wife and propped up her body on a sofa as her children opened Christmas presents was convicted Wednesday of second-degree murder.

William Wallace, 39, of Anaheim could face 15 years to life in prison when he is sentenced in June, the Orange County district attorney's office said in a statement.

Za'Zell Preston, 26, was taking college classes in hopes of becoming a domestic violence counselor when she was fatally beaten on Dec. 24 or early Dec. 25 in 2011 by Wallace, who already had served jail time for beating her, the statement said.

Prosecutors said the couple had gone to a neighbor's Christmas Eve party, and a neighbor described hearing an argument later that night.

The next morning, according to the prosecution, Wallace dragged his wife's body from the bedroom to the living room couch, placed sunglasses on her and told the children: "Mommy ruined Christmas, she got drunk and ruined Christmas."

He then had them open their Christmas presents, authorities said.

Wallace's attorney argued that Preston died from injuries after she drunkenly tripped and fell into a glass table, shattering it.

Preston was slumped over on the couch when paramedics arrived. She left a 7-week-old son and two daughters from a previous relationship, who were then 3 and 8 years old.

"A young mother finally losing her life after years of violence at the hands of her husband is a heart-wrenching tragedy," District Attorney Todd Spitzer said in the statement. "That heartbreak is only exacerbated by the fact that her children witnessed much of the violence and were forced to celebrate Christmas in the presence of their dead mother. That is not a Christmas memory any child should be forced to have."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONG BEACH

Long Beach Convention Center to be migrant shelter

Officials in Long Beach voted Tuesday to temporarily house as many as 1,000 unaccompanied migrant children at the city's convention center.

The City Council unanimously approved a plan to work with the federal government to establish a shelter at the sprawling facility.

The contract with the federal government would start within days and end Aug. 2 at the latest. Mayor Robert Garcia said children – who wouldn't necessarily be housed all at once – could begin arriving within a week or two.

The children will receive three meals a day, medical and health evaluations, recreational opportunities and educational services.

Convention centers in Dallas and San Diego have already been converted to emergency shelters for unaccompanied minors who had been housed in overcrowded U.S. Border Patrol facilities.

Border authorities encountered more than 9,000 children without a parent in February, the highest single month since May 2019, when more than 11,000 unaccompanied minors came to the border.

After being processed by the Border Patrol, they are transferred to Health and Human Services. Eventually they will be released to a sponsor, usually a parent or close relative.

"It's important for us that this is focused on family reunification," Garcia said.

Also Tuesday, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted to ask federal authorities for permission to have its child services department find local relatives or foster families for unaccompanied minors housed in federal immigration facilities, the Long Beach Press-Telegram reported.

"With Long Beach moving forward," Supervisor Kathryn Barger said, "time is of the essence for us to provide all the support we can."

Unlike adults in many situations, all unaccompanied minors are allowed to stay in the U.S. That dynamic has prompted many parents to either send kids on the journey to America alone, or get to the border and let them go the rest of the way. Most end up at least temporarily in shelters that are currently way beyond capacity.

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RECALL

FROM PAGE 1

"Generally, the RR/CC acts as the 'elections official' in the case of the recall of elective officers of a school district. (Elc. Code 11020(a).) This situation is somewhat unique in that the City Clerk is the elections official for the general municipal election of the members of the SMMUSD BOE per the City's Charter (City Charter, art. IX-Board of Education), but is not acting in that role for the recall of the same officers," said the letter.

The Recall campaign said they had followed instructions from the county and had yet to receive any notification from the county but if their petitions were in error, they would gather the additional signatures and resubmit.

"It doesn't come as a surprise that the people behind the recall failed to follow the law with respect to signature requirements," said Laurie Lieberman. "After all, these same people filed recall statements with the County last week that contain malicious lies and demonstrable falsehoods. The people behind the recall are not interested in the law or the truth or in making our schools better. They are only interested in power and are willing to be reckless and destructive of our institutions and our public servants in its pursuit."

Kean said he was unsurprised by the situation.

"SMMUSD and it's board members are extremely busy preparing our schools for a return to in person instruction, coordinating efforts to have an inequitable Malibu unification petition rejected, and creating strategies to address learning loss," he said. "Once the recall petitioners follow the proper procedures we will add debunking their lies and outing the true forces behind the recall effort to our list of issues to tackle."

In response to past comments made about the campaign, the proponents posted a response on their Facebook page.

"True to form, and also consistent with the recall petition, the first response from the four failed School Board Members to being recalled was not about substance," said the post. "Instead, the failed four attacked parents for asserting their legal rights. Their go-to tactic is to isolate community members as villains instead of defending their own position. The failed four are attempting to characterize the proponents as stupid, unaware, and controlled by some powerful force of naysayers. They are unable to come to terms with the fact that more and more of the community simply does not approve of the job they are doing and we can't afford to wait until the next election to do something about it."

editor@smdp.com

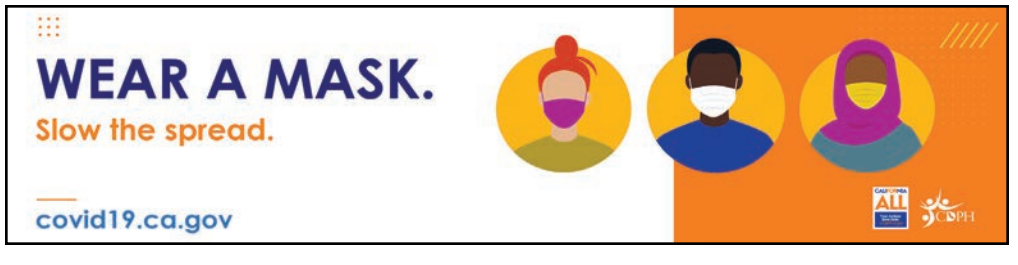
CRASHED

FROM PAGE 5

2009. That crash was the start of shocking revelations that he had been cheating on his wife with multiple women. He was cited for careless driving and fined $164. Woods also lost major corporate sponsorships, went to a rehabilitation clinic in Mississippi and did not return to golf for five months.

In May 2017, Florida police found him asleep behind the wheel of a car parked awkwardly on the side of the road. He was arrested on a DUI charge and said later he had an unexpected reaction to prescription medicine for his back pain. Woods pleaded guilty to reckless driving and checked into a clinic to get help with prescription medication and a sleep disorder.

Associated Press Golf Writer Doug Ferguson in Augusta, Georgia, contributed to this report.



OSCARS

FROM PAGE 2

and has worked as a film critic. He and his wife host an annual Oscar party, with 30 guests at its heyday, including a betting pool on winners for money and prizes. It will be family-only this year due to the pandemic, but the betting is on.

And watching all the top films at home? For the most part, he said, "It was less satisfying." Less satisfying enough to dump the Oscars telecast?

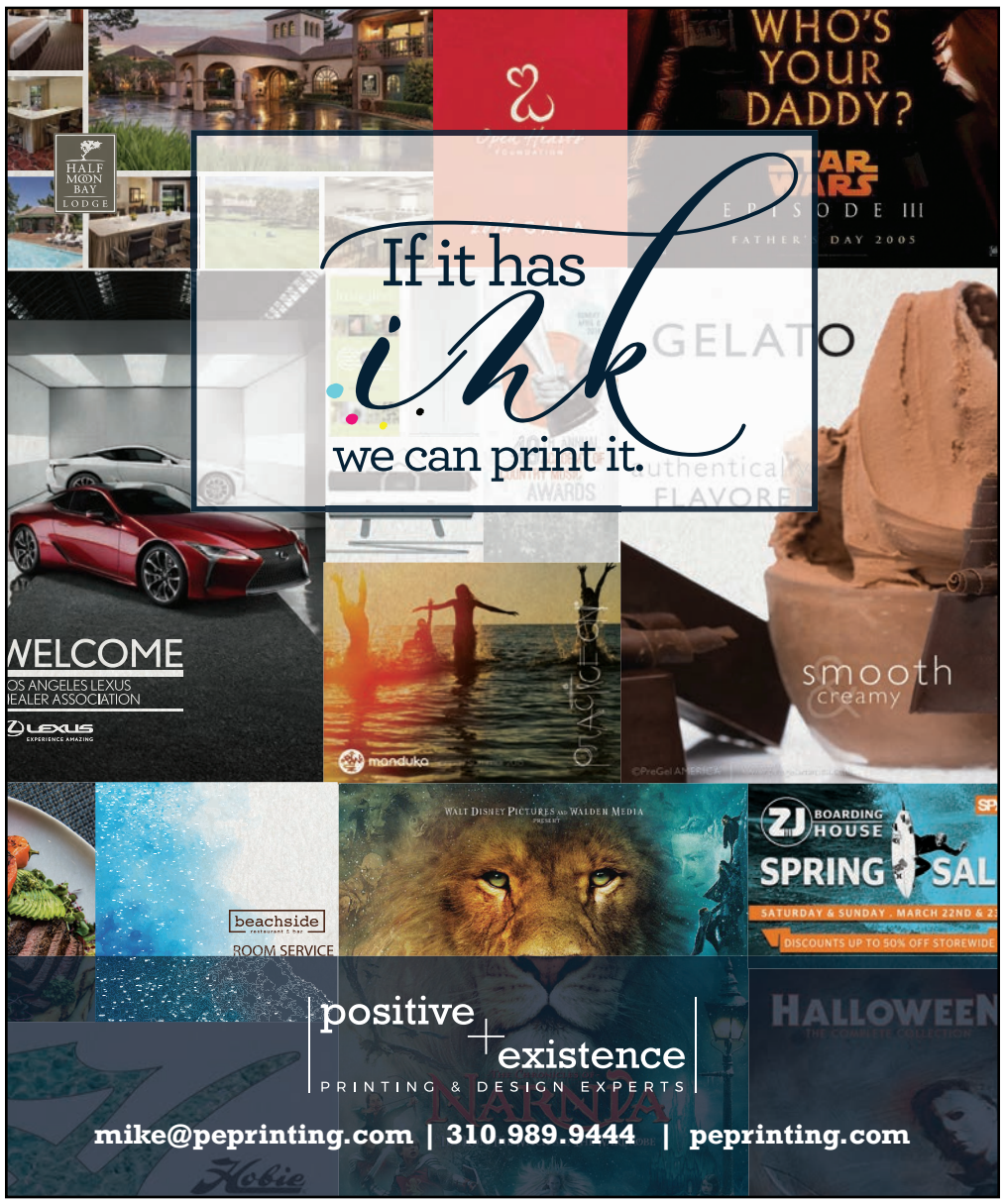
"I haven't missed an Oscars since 45 years ago. I'll watch every single minute of it," Niccum said.

In Medford, New Jersey, 65-year-old Deb Madison will also be watching, as she has since she was a kid and her mom first took her to the movies.

In 2018, while on an RV road trip with her husband, she made him bike into town with her in Carlsbad, New Mexico, to find a spot to watch. The ride back was in pitch darkness. Another year, when she was working reception at a huge party in Philadelphia on Oscars night, the coordinators laid cable and provided her with a tiny TV hidden under the welcome desk so she could tune in.

This year, trying to keep up with nominees from home has stifled her excitement, Madison said.

"I'm a sucker for the red carpet and the gowns and, `Oh my god, I can't believe she wore that.' Another thing is, I don't particularly need to see these actors in their home environments," she said with a laugh. "This year, if I missed it, it wouldn't be tragic. Nobody would need to lay cable this year. But I still love the movies."


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