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Waters surrounding Santa Monica Pier ranked most polluted in California

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

According to environmental non-profit organization Heal the Bay's 2022-2023 Annual Beach & River Report, both Santa Monica Pier and Playa Blanca, on the southern city limits of Tijuana, tied for the top spot as both faced significant water quality challenges.

A crowd of reporters, photographers and television news crews gathered on the beach, just north of the Pier as the team from Heal the Bay, together with members of the Water Resources Management Team from the City of Santa Monica, gave a presentation and took questions.



Scott Snowden

BEACH: L-R Sunny Wang, Luke Ginger, Tracy Quinn, Alison Xunyi Wu and Frankie Orrala.

"We are fortunate to have beaches that are beautiful and clean most days of the year, but unfortunately, there are times and conditions when the water at the beach makes folks sick," said Tracy Quinn, President and CEO of Heal the Bay. "The fact is, our coastal waters are regularly contaminated with pollutants such as chemicals, trash and fecal matter, which are harmful to human health and the ocean ecosystem.

"To help maintain public safety, Heal the Bay created the Beach Report, which provides weekly and annual water quality grades based on bacterial pollution of more than 700 beaches from the state of Washington down to Tijuana, Mexico."

California beaches were impacted by 50 percent more precipitation during recent winter months than the last 10 years, along with an alarming 45 million gallons of sewage spilled, negatively affecting water quality along coastal

SEE **POLLUTED** PAGE 7

Los Angeles man arrested for shooting at vehicle

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

A Los Angeles man has been charged with attempted murder after shooting at an occupied vehicle last weekend.

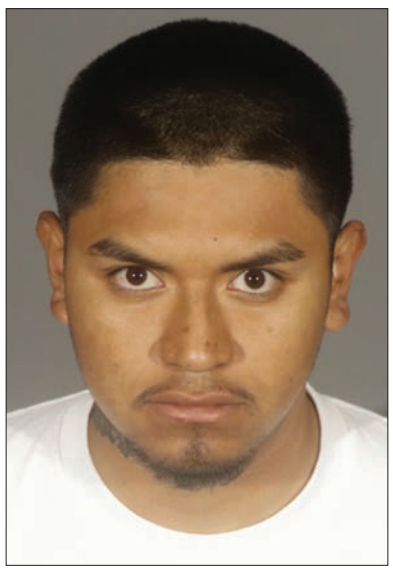
Freddy Martinez, an 18-year-old resident of Los Angeles, was charged with attempted murder, assault with a firearm and shooting at an occupied vehicle during his June 13 arraignment. He is currently being held at the county jail in lieu of $2.2 million bail.

According to the Santa Monica Police Department, the incident began on June 10 with a report of a fight near 32nd Street and Pearl.

The victim told officers he encountered a group of about ten people in the middle of the street who were yelling and blocking traffic. The victim honked at the group to get them to move which prompted several individuals to run towards the car demanding the victim get out. Instead, the victim reversed and heard several gunshots as he drove away. Officers located several shell casings near 32nd and Pearl and while the victim's vehicle was struck several times by bullets, the victim was not injured.

"The shooter hopped into a truck, and it left northbound on 32nd Street," said Lieutenant Erika R. Aklufi. "Another responding officer located the suspect vehicle and detained two adult males, one of them was Freddy Martinez, an 18-year-old resident of Los Angeles. Martinez was placed under arrest and booked for attempted homicide.

editor@smdp.com



Courtesy Photo

ARREST: Freddy Martinez has been charged with attempted murder.

Using music to fight mental illness at the Whole Minds concert

SIENNA BEVAN & MATTHEW HALL
SMDP Staff

It was way back in 1697 that the power of music was first recognized as having charms to soothe a savage breast, to soften rocks, or bend a knotted oak but in 2023 a local woman hopes it can also alleviate the suffering of children with mental illness.

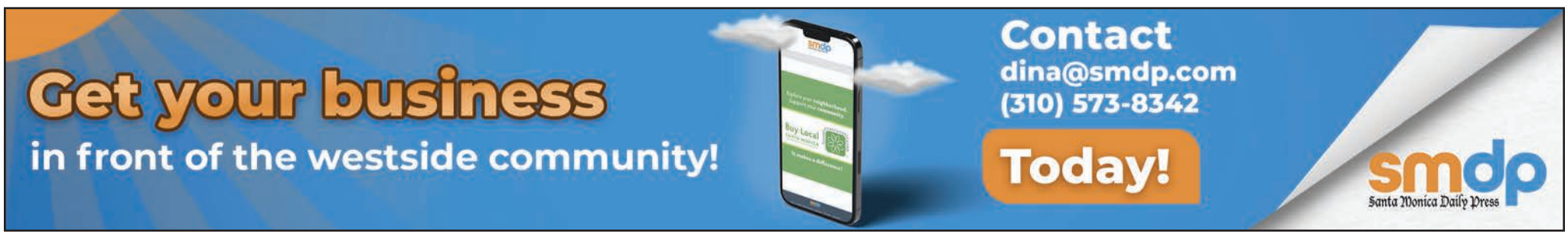
To that end, the "Whole Minds in Concert" will be held this weekend to help raise awareness and provide an opportunity for first-time singers, musicians and songwriters with talents that shine above a diagnosis of serious mental illness.

Anna Penido, the director of the event, hopes that by bringing the community together to discuss mental illness and celebrate musicians with mental illnesses, the event will reduce the stigma surrounding mental health, especially in teens.

"We are doing events to raise awareness about how music is important as a motivator to change the mental health system, you know, and help people in recovery," said Penido.

The event will be hosted by Dan Mackenzie, an Emmy nominated singer-songwriter, and will have a testimonial from Garret Shaw from National Alliance on Mental

SEE **MUSIC** PAGE 8



California professors test out AI in the classroom, even as cheating debate continues

ROCKY WALKER
Special to the Daily Press

This spring, as debates were raging on college campuses about the proper role of generative AI in higher education, Diablo Valley College adjunct professor Frako Loden created an assignment to see how students in her American Cinema class interacted with ChatGPT.

For their final opinion piece of the semester, they were to pick a discussion question about the 1950's movie "A Place in the Sun," insert it into ChatGPT as a prompt, and then grade the response themselves. The AI got key details of the plot wrong in some cases, Loden said.

In the film, for example, protagonist George takes his girlfriend to a lake and she falls in and accidentally drowns, but ChatGPT says that he purposely killed her there. "That may be a subtle point, but it really does figure at the end when you evaluate his character," said Loden, "ChatGPT kind of runs rough over that and suggests that he was planning it from the start and that he's an evil dude."

Loden's assignment illustrates not only the limitations of ChatGPT — Loden said she found in her own research that many details of movie plots it gives are not only false, but "ideologically loaded" and "maybe even racist" — but how professors are increasingly experimenting with its use in the classroom. California's public higher education systems have not yet created a formal policy regarding the use of generative AI, which can create images and text that are nearly indistinguishable from those made by humans. That leaves professors in the role of watchdog, preventing breaches of academic integrity. While some focus on cracking down on cheaters, a growing number have decided that the technology is here to stay, and are assigning work that seeks to convey to students the benefits of AI as a research tool while acknowledging its limitations and propensity for error.

"Faculty have to come to a decision, whether it's in California or nationwide. And the decision is, do you want to adopt?" said Tony Kashani, a professor of education at Antioch University who is writing a book about the use of AI in the classroom. "On campus there's a lot of contention about this."

When it comes to AI, technology has moved more quickly than ethics and policy, said Kashani. He said bots like ChatGPT show great promise as a "writing consultant" for students. "It's not often that students have a chance to sit down with a professor and have long discussions about how to go about this paper, that paper, how to approach research on this topic and that topic. But ChatGPT can do that for them, provided… they know how to use the right ethics, to use it as a tool and not a replacement for their work."

That's the approach taken by Stanford sociology professor David Grusky, whose syllabus for a recent public policy class allowed the use of AI-generated text in assignments under the stipulation they be cited in the same way a conversation with a human would be.

"It's a conversation that can be evoked at will. But it's not different in the content," said Grusky. "You still have to evaluate what someone says and whether or not it's sensible."



Courtesy Image

AI: Illustration generated via artificial intelligence program Midjourney, and finalized with Adobe Photoshop (Beta).

He believes that AI can help teach students to evaluate the quality of sources, serving academia well in the long term. "I believe our job typically in kind of the world of undergraduate instruction is to try to help people become more thoughtful, more rigorous, more analytic."

Stanford, after a push from professors, created a baseline policy forbidding the use of AI to aid in the completion of assignments unless otherwise allowed in a class syllabus. And some California college professors remain skeptical.

"I see it more of a problem than a benefit," said Santa Rosa Junior College history and political science instructor Johannes Van Gorp.

The advent of generative AI has increased the workload of instructors who seek to stop cheating, he said, especially since software that checks for AI-generated content is imperfect.

Van Gorp has adopted a policy forbidding the use of artificial intelligence in his classes, running nearly every assignment that gets turned in through three different AI checkers to build confidence in the results he gets.

"At first I was reporting (AI use) through the system, but it was so ubiquitous that I just started, as bad as it sounds, giving zeros on the assignments with a note: 'This is AI generated.'"

Still, Van Gorp said he has to acknowledge that "the world is shifting."

"Things like (the grammar-checking tool) Grammarly or whatnot, those are AI programs as well. And so where do you draw the line? And I'm not quite sure I've figured that one out. And certainly the institutions haven't."

California State University's Academic Senate, which represents faculty, passed a resolution in March calling for a working group on artificial intelligence in higher education, to be formed by the end of August. The working group would examine AI's limitations, opportunities for professional development of faculty, and how to ensure academic integrity, coordinating the university's response across campuses.

To make their point, faculty used ChatGPT to draft part of the resolution itself. "What level of academic dishonesty would this constitute on a CSU campus?" the writers asked, adding, "This resolution calls upon the CSU to consider how best to leverage this technology, understanding that AI will inevitably change the nature of education independent of any action the system takes."

Generative AI is out there and will be here in the future, said Academic Senate Chair Beth Steffel in an interview. "If we ignore it or try to ban it, it is probably to everyone's detriment."

Faculty at the California Community Colleges have also pledged to develop a framework that colleges can use to create policies on AI by spring 2024. The University of California has had an AI working group since 2020, which has in the past recommended the technology's use in counseling, student retention, admissions and even test proctoring, as well as calling for individual UC campuses to set up councils to oversee their use of AI.

A March survey by the college-ranking website BestColleges found that 43% of college students say they have experience using AI, such as Chat GPT, with 22% saying they've used it to complete exams or assignments.

"I imagine that number is going to grow," said Camille Crittenden, executive director at UC Berkeley's Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society and a member of the UC workgroup. "So the teachers might as well be involved in helping them to use it responsibly, figuring out how to actually double check citations and make sure that they're real."

As universities grapple with setting policy, professors are flocking to social media to vent and ask questions. Many of the conversations show a split between professors who want to integrate the use of AI and those who fear allowing it into the classroom.

"I just caught a student using ChatGPT to answer questions on online quizzes," one professor posted to Pandemic Pedagogy, a Facebook group made to assist faculty in navigating online teaching. "On my syllabus, I say that students' work must be their own and plagiarism will result in a failing grade, but I don't mention using these kinds of platforms…What should I do?"

(The Facebook group is invitation-only, but some posters gave CalMatters permission to cite their comments.)

Some wrote about the seeming futility of trying to catch cheaters, given the unreliability of software designed to flag AI-generated content.

"We should avoid assignments that try to 'harness' ChatGPT or other AI's," another commenter argued, adding that the services might not remain free of charge and could start returning answers that are shaped to benefit advertisers.

Elizabeth Blakey, an associate professor of journalism at Cal State Northridge, allowed master's students in her mass communications class to use ChatGPT to help draft research proposals. "It'll give you information, it'll give you names, maybe some ideas or vocabulary words that you didn't think of," she said in an interview. "And then you can take it from there and use your own creativity and your own further research to build on that."

She believes it helped reduce her students' anxiety about the tool and taught them a new skill they can take into the workforce.

Beatrice Barros, one of Blakey's students, said ChatGPT came in handy when she changed her project topic halfway through the semester but was nervous about not having enough time to complete it. Using the

SEE **AI** PAGE 8

Stove wars: Republican-controlled House takes up bills to protect gas stoves

MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

Venturing back into the nation's culture wars, the Republican-controlled House is taking up legislation that GOP lawmakers say would protect gas stoves from overzealous government regulators.

A bill approved Tuesday would prohibit use of federal funds to regulate gas stoves as a hazardous product, while a separate bill set for a vote Wednesday would block an Energy Department rule setting stricter energy efficiency standards for stovetops and ovens.

The White House said the administration "has been clear that it does not support any attempt to ban the use of gas stoves," but GOP lawmakers say rules on gas stoves represent classic government overreach.

"It's not a petty concern to the hard-working Americans who will be impacted," said Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla. "The last thing they need is to have the Biden administration's Green New Deal regulatory assault reach their kitchen appliances."

> "It's not a petty concern to the hard-working Americans who will be impacted"
> - Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla

The bill targeting regulation of gas stoves as hazardous was approved, 248-180.

President Joe Biden opposes both GOP bills as blocking "common-sense efforts to help Americans cut their energy bills," the White House said in a statement. Neither bill is expected to advance in the Democratic-controlled Senate.

The House bills were set for approval last week, but action was postponed after House conservatives staged a mini-revolt in retaliation for Speaker Kevin McCarthy's leadership on a measure to raise the debt ceiling. Led by outspoken members of the House Freedom Caucus, 11 Republicans broke with their party on an otherwise routine procedural vote that threw the House schedule into disarray for a full week.

McCarthy appeared to resolve the dispute late Monday after promising more meetings with GOP holdouts and seeking to reduce future federal spending.

Dozens of Democratic-controlled cities, including San Francisco and Berkeley, California, have moved to ban new buildings from using gas stoves as a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve indoor air quality . New York state approved a law last month banning natural gas stoves and furnaces in most new buildings.

Fears of a national ban grew after a member of the Consumer Product Safety Commission said in January that "any option is on the table" when it comes to regulating gas stoves, which have been linked to poor indoor air quality and health harms such as asthma. The remark prompted online images of the government dragging four-burner cooktops from homes, as social media users and GOP lawmakers vowed to defend the popular appliances.

Debate reignited after the Energy Department proposed a rule requiring both gas and electric stoves and cooktops to use more efficient designs and technologies.

The Energy Department rule, which has not yet been finalized, could ban about half of gas stove models currently sold in the United States as of 2027, according to an Energy Department analysis. The rule would apply only to sale of new appliances and would not affect stoves already in homes or businesses.

House Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Washington state, called the DOE plan "just the latest in a long line of power grabs by the radical left and Biden administration."

The rule is "not about public safety. It is about telling the American people the federal government knows best and will decide what kind of car they can drive, how they can heat their house and now how they're allowed to cook food for their families," McMorris Rodgers said.

Forcing Americans to switch to more expensive alternatives to natural gas will increase costs while disproportionately harming the poor and low-income families, she said.

Democrats called those concerns overheated.

"This is nothing more than a conspiracy theory cooked up to embroil Congress in culture wars that shed more heat than light on the issues facing our nation," said Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon, D-Pennsylvania.

"Contrary to the heated rhetoric from our colleagues across the aisle, the federal government has not proposed to remove appliances from Americans' homes," Scanlon said. The proposed Energy Department rule would save consumers up to $1.7 billion and cut down on emissions that are dangerous to children's health, she added.

The bill blocking regulation of unsafe gas stoves threatens the government's ability to identify and regulate appliances with design defects that could cause injury or death, Scanlon said, noting that the consumer safety panel recently recalled gas stove models that placed consumers at risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

SEE **GAS STOVE** PAGE 6

Los Angeles city councilman charged with embezzlement may face suspension

STEFANIE DAZIO AND MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press

The president of the Los Angeles City Council said he will file a motion Wednesday to suspend a councilman charged with embezzlement, perjury and other crimes in the latest corruption scandal among leadership of the nation's second-largest city.

Council President Paul Krekorian said he was shocked by the criminal complaint against Curren Price Jr., whom he referred to as "a friend and colleague" while stressing that the presumption of innocence is a bedrock principle of the U.S. Constitution.

Price, who has served on the council for a decade, faces five counts of embezzlement of government funds, three counts of perjury and two counts of conflict of interest, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced Tuesday.

In a letter to Krekorian, Price said he was stepping down from committee assignments and leadership responsibilities "while I navigate through the judicial system to defend my name."

Los Angeles government has been shaken by a series of scandals.

In March, former Democratic City Councilman Mark Ridley-Thomas — a one-time legislator, county supervisor and a fixture in local politics for decades — was found guilty in federal court of seven felonies, including conspiracy, bribery and fraud.

After an FBI investigation, two other former council members, Mitch Englander and Jose Huizar, pleaded guilty to federal corruption charges in recent years.

Last year, a racism scandal that broke public trust in Los Angeles government triggered the resignations in October of then-City Council President Nury Martinez and a powerful labor leader, Ron Herrera.

In the new case, Price is accused of having a financial interest in projects that he voted on as a council member, and having the city pay nearly $34,000 in medical benefits for his now-wife while he was still married to another woman, District Attorney George Gascón said in a statement.

Between 2019 and 2021, Price's wife allegedly received payments totaling more than $150,000 from developers before Price voted to approve projects, according to Gascón. Price also is accused of failing to disclose the money his wife received on government forms.

The criminal complaint said a consulting firm operated by Price's wife received a series of payments from companies incorporated or co-owned by Thomas Safran & Associates, GTM Holdings/Works and GTM Holdings, before Price voted to approve funding for the companies' projects. Emails seeking comment from those entities were not immediately returned Tuesday evening.

Price's attorney, David Willingham, declined to comment Tuesday, saying he had not seen a copy of the criminal complaint.

Krekorian pledged to undertake an orderly process that will include input from Price's district on how to proceed. He said the suspension motion will initially be referred to the council's rules committee.

"This will not be a process that will be rushed through as has happened in the past, because it is important that the council have an opportunity to discuss and debate all of the issues surrounding this," Krekorian said.

Price was first elected to the council in 2013. His district includes South Los Angeles and parts of downtown. His term is set to expire in 2026.

Associated Press writer John Antczak contributed to this report.

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WINNER

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THINGS TO DO

By Sean Besser

Welcome to SMDP's weekly column highlighting upcoming goings on in and around Santa Monica.

Your Juneteenth weekend starts here with the Annual Cardboard Yacht Regatta, Juneteenth Celebration at Virginia Avenue Park, food and drink highlights, and much more!

Annual Cardboard Yacht Regatta (Saturday, June 17, 9a.m.-2p.m.): "Kick off the 2023 Summer of Fun at the Annenberg Community Beach House with this annual event. More details here: https://santamonica.gov/press/2023/05/25/the-11th-annual-cardboard-yacht-regatta-kicks-off-the-2023-summer-of-fun-at-the-annenberg-community-beach-house

1. Juneteenth Celebration at Virginia Avenue Park (Saturday, June 17, 1-7p.m.): This year's theme is Coming Together in Appreciation, Reconciliation, and Commemoration. The free all ages event features an afternoon of music, unique food and craft vendors, a kid's activity area, a community stage, and local resources. More details and schedule of events here: https://santamonica.gov/press/2023/05/23/31st-annual-juneteenth-celebration-at-virginia-avenue-park

2. SaMo Pride Event - Drag Queen Storytime (Friday, June 16, 11a.m.-12p.m.): Drag Queen Storytime in front of the Marion Davies Guest House at the Annenberg Community Beach House. Guest of honor Pickle will lead an interactive story time designed to challenge gender stereotypes, encourage self-expression and promote diversity and inclusion. More details here: https://www.smpride.com/events/drag-queen-storytime

3. "Big Gay Bake Sale" (Saturday, June 17, 11a.m.-2p.m.): Compass Real Estate @ 1333 Montana Avenue is hosting the event and all proceeds will benefit the Los Angeles LGBT Center to help support LGBT individuals and families in Los Angeles and beyond. More details here: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/Big-Gay-Bake-Sale-Montana-Avenue-Pride-/12081298/2023-06-17T11

4. "Broadway to Freeway: Life and Times of a Vibrant Community" Opening @ Quinn Gallery (Saturday, June 17, 11a.m.-5p.m.): The exhibition tells the story of how residents built SaMo Broadway neighborhood into a flourishing community of color and how the Interstate 10 freeway destroyed it in the 1960s. More details here: https://santamonicahistory.org/exhibitions/quinn-gallery/

5. SMC Fashion Show (Friday, June 16 @ 7p.m.): SaMo College Fashion Program's annual student fashion show — LA Mode 2023 features a mix of casual, club, evening and avant garde capsule collections showcasing each designer's creative direction. More details here: https://www.smc.edu/calendar/tickets.php

6. Community Garden Summer Solstice Celebration (Saturday 9-11a.m.): The Ishihara Community Garden will also be helping people build solar ovens. More details here: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/Summer-Solstice-Celebration/12036638/2023-06-17T09

7. Rock 'n' Polo IV (Saturday, June 17, 1-5:30p.m.): Throw on your sun hats and bow ties! This fun-filled polo tournament will have live music, a performance by celebrity gymnast Nia Dennis, and gourmet food from the farm to table eatery, Farmesa. More details here: https://smdp.com/events/?start=2023-06-12#/details/Rock-n-Polo-IV/12039859/2023-06-17T13

WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

1. "Meet Coucou, Venice's New Cali-French Bistro": Resy published this article on the "newest resident ... on the stretch of Main St...suddenly popping with new and notable restaurant openings." https://blog.resy.com/2023/05/coucou-venices-new-cali-french-bistro/

2. Le Great Outdoor @ Bergamot Station Getting Great More Reviews: This Eater LA write up says "Santa Monica's Coolest New Restaurant Doesn't Need Marketing or Even Investors...with a red-hot wood grill and strong word-of-mouth hype, Santa Monica diners are passionate about Le Great Outdoor." https://la.eater.com/2023/6/12/23758183/le-great-outdoor-santa-monica-bergamot-station-grill-restaurant

3. EaterLA Calls "Reborn Georgian Hotel a Glittering Ode to Coastal Living": This write up goes inside the nearly 100-year-old Art Deco destination on Ocean Avenue, now with completely redone restaurant and bar spaces. https://la.eater.com/2023/4/12/23680727/georgian-hotel-santa-monica-art-deco-reopening-restaurants-bar-sunset-pacific-ocean-inside

4. Gin Rummy is a Tiki-Inspired Cocktail Lounge in Venice: This EaterLA report says "there's still a few things to eat, but ...this is basically a budding cocktail destination." https://la.eater.com/2023/5/31/23744100/gin-rummy-venice-cocktails-jared-meisler-danilo-kim-marcus-ragas

NEXT WEEKEND: Pier 360 Beach Festival & Venice Summer Fest

If there's something you think is worth highlighting, you can reach out directly to me at sean@smdp.com.

Despite serious legal threat, Trump turns day in court into a campaign event

MICHELLE L. PRICE
Associated Press

Donald Trump's four years in the White House, even on some of the most consequential days of his presidency, were punctuated by the spectacle and attempts at showmanship he cultivated from years as a tabloid fixture and reality star.

The former president's history-making appearance Tuesday as a criminal defendant in a Florida federal court was no different.

The former commander in chief, accused of being careless with some of the country's most sensitive secrets and obstructing authorities as they tried to recover critical documents, pleaded not guilty to 37 charges. But he treated the day like a campaign event, even as he faces serious threats to his political ambitions and his freedom.

Takeaways from Trump's day in federal court:

ALWAYS CAMPAIGNING

Despite the seriousness of the charges, Trump, ever the showman, sought to maximize any political benefits from the day. The Republican had encouraged supporters to show up at the federal courthouse — and hundreds did — while the 2024 presidential candidate fired off a few posts on his social media app, calling it a "WITCH HUNT" and "ONE OF THE SADDEST DAYS IN THE HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY."

After leaving the courthouse, his motorcade ferried him to an iconic Cuban restaurant in Miami, where he bowed his head with two pastors and a rabbi for a moment of prayer, shook hands with supporters and even managed to crack some smiles and jokes as he posed for photos, including one with UFC fighter Jorge Masvidal.

He initially kept a fairly grim expression as people in the restaurant began serenading him with "Happy Birthday," a day before his 77th birthday.

"Some birthday. Some birthday," he said. "We've got a government that is out of control."

Just like he did after his arraignment in New York, Trump planned a speech afterward from one of his golf clubs. He spoke Tuesday night from his Bedminster, New Jersey, resort, where he is spending the summer.

In a maundering speech, Trump grimaced and repeated his claims of the investigation being politically motivated, called prosecutors "thugs" and claimed he was so busy that he hadn't had time to go through all the boxes of documents and memorabilia he had kept. He also said that if elected president next year, he would appoint a special prosecutor to investigate President Joe Biden and his family.

The whirling drama surrounding Trump overshadowed most other news Tuesday. His GOP presidential rivals largely refrained from any campaign events of their own. One Republican competitor, Vivek Ramaswamy, sought to capitalize on the spectacle by showing up outside the courthouse to tell reporters that he was encouraging other 2024 candidates to commit to pardoning Trump if elected to the White House.

Former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, a Republican presidential candidate who has frequently criticized Trump, lamented in a CNN interview that candidates were not talking about issues but Trump and his legal challenges.

"It sucks a lot of energy out of the room," he said.

SMITH PERSONALLY OVERSEEING

Special counsel Jack Smith, who has been running the case for the Justice Department in Washington, appeared in the Miami courtroom Tuesday, sitting right behind federal prosecutors.

Smith's presence in the courtroom was notable and underscores the extent to which he has surfaced as the public face of the investigative team and its decision-making. He, not Attorney General Merrick Garland, was the one who announced the indictment Friday.

It's also striking given that the last special counsel who investigated Trump, Robert Mueller, steered clear of court appearances in cases brought by his team and never personally announced any of the indictments his prosecutors brought.

The two public appearances by Smith in under a week suggest he's likely to be a central protagonist in the historic saga of his investigation.

FROM NEW YORK TO FLORIDA

There was less visibility in the proceedings in Miami federal court than there had been in New York, where Trump appeared in state court and pleaded not guilty to charges related to hush money payments made during the 2016 presidential campaign.

In New York, journalists were allowed to film and photograph Trump inside the courthouse and photograph him in the courtroom before the arraignment began. In Miami federal court, journalists were barred from taking photos or video of Trump inside and were not allowed to have electronic devices, delaying the transmission of news to the public.

While only a handful of Trump supporters showed up to demonstrate in heavily Democratic New York during Trump's Manhattan appearance, the former president had urged supporters to turn out in Republican-leaning Florida.

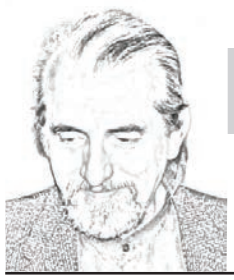
Some officials were concerned about the possibility of violence Tuesday, but it was largely calm outside the courthouse as hundreds of Trump supporters waved flags, some getting into occasional shouting matches with small groups of anti-Trump demonstrators.

TRUMP IN TRICKY SPOT WITH AIDES

The magistrate judge overseeing Trump's court appearance ruled that the former president can talk to his co-defendant, valet Walt Nauta, and potential witnesses about their jobs but not about the case.

That could be a problem for Trump, who is not known to hold back or refrain

SEE **TRUMP** PAGE 6



OPINION | NOTEWORTHY

Charles Andrews | Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Theatricum Botanicum is ... Still Back!!

50TH YEAR OF GREAT THEATRE! IN THE CANYON, IN THE WOODS! TAKE A BOW!

Why did I repeat (almost) my headline, and this subhed, from last week's NOTEWORTHY? Is it because no one but my editor will notice? Is it because returning from a trip on a Monday threw me off a day and I thought this was... the day before, and I am now pressed for time like no one since Ebenezer Scrooge? Mebbe.

Or is it because I have been writing for seven years about what a treasure this half century old theatre company is, and still, there are so many who have not yet discovered them, or know they are still active, or have even heard of them?

Or is it because Theatricum Botanicum has brought me such pleasure and edification over so many diverse performances over 20 years that I want everyone to know about it? – and go! Are you going to put it off another 50 years?



Courtesy photo

NOTEWORTHY: WHEN GIZZARD IS KING.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

THE HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES – from their website: "Hot Club's brand of virtuoso, Django-style 1930s gypsy swing jazz is found nowhere else and even if it were, it couldn't possibly be this good. These guys are masters, individually and collectively. You will find it hard to stop smiling all night. - Santa Monica Daily Press" And may I add, they manage to record and play high-profile gigs and still show up every Monday night here, for years. Aren't we lucky? Mon 9 p.m., Cinema Bar, Culver City, no cover.

RECOMMENDED:

LAST TWO PERFORMANCES! - Ruskin Group Theatre, "PICASSO AT THE LAPIN AGILE" – Read carefully. It's an "absurdist comedy." By the inarguably absurd comic Steve Martin. I laughed, but it is not intended to have you in stitches the entire time. It is the absurd and thought-provoking fantasy that Picasso and Einstein may have hung out together in a Paris cafe in the early 20th century, before either was famous. What might they have been like? Who else might have passed through? No one knows so Martin could go anywhere. One place he went was to make the "ordinary" women involved sound smarter than those two wise guys. People are diggin' this show and it was extended for a third time, but this is the end of the road. How do you want to spend the next few years answering your local friends' question, you saw that great Steve Martin play at the Ruskin, right...? Fri, Sat 8 p.m., Ruskin Group Theatre, Santa Monica Airport, $20-35.

ELVIS COSTELLO & THE ATTRACTIONS/IMPOSTERS, NICK LOWE, LOS STRAITJACKETS – I've always been a little iffy about the English Elvis, even while totally succumbing to his best songs – "Pump It Up" is a perfect rocker, possibly in my Top 10 singles of All Time in that category. I give him credit for his adventurous musical spirit (which also means you never know what you will get at his live shows - a string quartet?), and big, mysterious credit for somehow convincing the beautiful and immensely talented jazz singer-pianist Diana Krall to marry him. Almost 20 years now. Unlike another beauty and the beast show biz pairing, Lyle Lovett and Julia Roberts, which lasted only 21 months. Not making any judgment on their characters. And I love Lyle Lovett's music. Nick Lowe – of the great UK power pop quartet Rockpile, Brinsley Schwarz, producer, guitarist, bass, harmonica, piano, singer, songwriter ("Crawling from the Wreckage," "Cruel to be Kind," "I Knew the Bride," "I Love the Sound of Breaking Glass," "What's Wrong (with Peace, Love and Understanding)?" Many critically acclaimed solo albums, including "Jesus of Cool" (maybe to take the pressure off John Lennon's misunderstood remark). And opening, to make this a really diverse and terrific bill, Los Straitjackets, the Mexican-wrestler masked instrumental surf music band that is perhaps the best ever in that genre. Fri 7:30 p.m., Greek Theatre. LA, $30-180.

JACARANDA Benefit Concert, "Veranda By The Sea," - Music of Danielpour and Persian Classical Ensemble – I went to

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 8

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TRUMP

FROM PAGE 4

from talking about sensitive subjects and is facing charges in the documents case because prosecutors say he defied orders from a court.

Trump's attorney Todd Blanche noted that Nauta and potential witnesses are people with whom Trump interacts daily, whether at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida or his other clubs.

Demonstrating Nauta's continued loyalty to Trump, the personal aide traveled with the motorcade to and from the courthouse and stood by the former president's side during a stop at the Miami restaurant after the court appearance.

MORE TROUBLE BREWING

While the federal case over classified documents in Florida and the New York hush money case play out in court, Trump will have other legal worries on his mind.

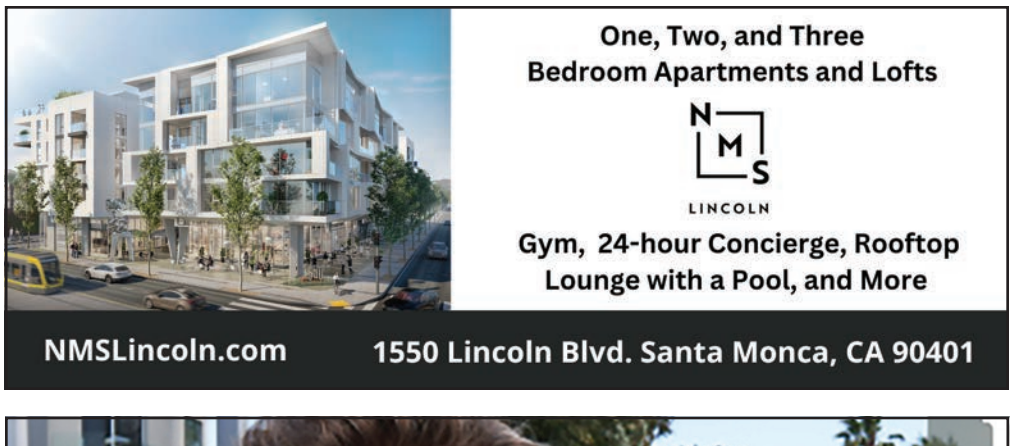
A separate Justice Department investigation — also led by special counsel Smith — into efforts by Trump and his allies to overturn the 2020 presidential election continues in Washington. A federal grand jury has heard from witnesses including Trump's former vice president, Mike Pence.

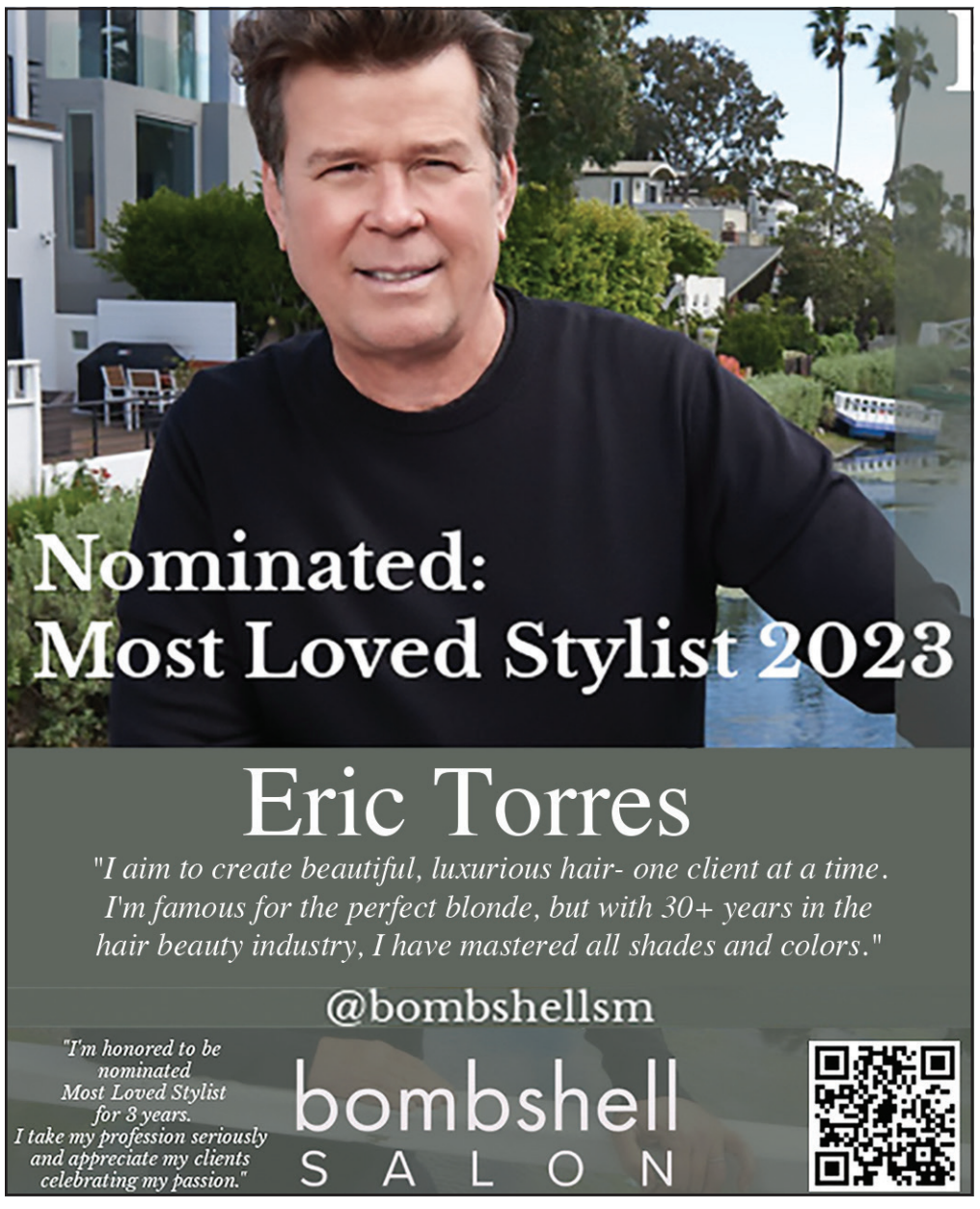
A probe in Georgia is examining Trump's efforts to interfere with his narrow loss in the state's 2020 election. Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis has suggested that any charges would come in August.

Trump also faces a civil trial in October in New York related to allegations he and his company misled banks and tax authorities over the values of their assets.

And on Tuesday, shortly after Trump appeared in court in Florida, a federal judge in New York ruled against him in a civil case for sexual abuse and defamation. The judge granted a request from a columnist who won a $5 million award against Trump to update a similar lawsuit to include his more recent public comments about her. She is seeking more than $10 million against him in the amended lawsuit.

Associated Press writer Eric Tucker in Washington contributed to this report.





Southern Baptists refuse to take back megachurch because it has women pastors

PETER SMITH AND DEEPA BHARATH
Associated Press

The Southern Baptist Convention has refused to welcome Saddleback Church back into its fold, rejecting an appeal by the California megachurch over its February ouster for having women pastors.

Southern Baptist church representatives at their annual meeting here also rejected a similar appeal by a smaller church, Fern Creek Baptist of Louisville, Kentucky, which is led by a woman pastor.

The results of the Tuesday votes were announced Wednesday morning on the concluding day of the two-day annual meeting here of the nation's largest Protestant denomination, whose statement of faith asserts that only qualified men can serve as pastors.

The convention hall packed with about 12,000 Southern Baptists was quiet after the announcement, appearing to have listened to the earlier urging by SBC President Bart Barber for them to show restraint.

> "I know sometimes there are churches where people wind up in biblical divorce"
> - Bart Barber SBC President

"I know sometimes there are churches where people wind up in biblical divorce," he said. "But we don't throw divorce parties at church. And whatever these results are, I'm asking you, behave like Christians."

Saddleback had been the denomination's second-largest congregation and until recently was widely touted as a success story amid larger Southern Baptist membership declines.

With the 9,437-1,212 vote, delegates rejected an appeal by Rick Warren, the retired founding pastor of Saddleback and author of the best-selling phenomenon, "The Purpose Driven Life." Warren had urged Baptists to agree to disagree "in order to share a common mission."

"Messengers voted for conformity and uniformity rather than unity. The only way you will have unity is to love diversity. We made this effort knowing we were not going to win," Warren said at a news conference after the results were announced.

Church representatives also voted 9,700-806 to deny an appeal by a smaller congregation, Fern Creek Baptist Church of Louisville, Kentucky, which has had a woman pastor for three decades but came under heightened scrutiny this year.

Warren and the Rev. Linda Barnes Popham, pastor of Fern Creek, made their final appeals to Southern Baptists here on Tuesday during the denomination's annual meeting.

Warren has been a lifelong Southern Baptist, and the church he founded being removed from the denomination was something he might have never expected even though he has pushed the boundaries for several years now, said Scott Thumma, a sociology of religion professor and director of the Hartford Institute for Religion Research.

"It's pretty clear (from his speech Tuesday) that Warren did not think the SBC was going to reinstate Saddleback," he said. "But, he's had a platform to say what being Baptist means, what the Scripture says about women in ministry, that Southern Baptists are under a big tent and what is means to exclude any congregation. This is all probably more symbolic."

Following the vote results, Warren issued a critique of the direction of the SBC that contributed to Saddleback's ejection.

"There are people who want to take the SBC back to the 1950s when white men ruled supreme and when the woman's place was in the home. There are others who want to take it back 500 years to the time of the Reformation," he said. "I say we need to take the church back to the first century. The church at its birth was the church at its best."

In February, the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee voted to oust the two congregations, along with three others that chose not to appeal, for having women pastors.

All Baptist churches are independent, so the convention can't tell them what to do, but it can decide which churches are "not in friendly cooperation," the official verbiage for an expulsion. The SBC's official statement of faith says the office of pastor is reserved for qualified men, but this is believed to be the first time the convention has expelled any churches over it.

Bharath reported from Los Angeles.

GAS STOVE

FROM PAGE 3

An Energy Department spokeswoman said the proposed rule is "intended for nothing more than increasing energy efficiency and promoting innovation, without sacrificing the reliability and performance that Americans have come to expect."

Eliminating the energy efficiency rule would "deny the American people the savings that come with having more efficient new appliances on the market when they choose to replace an existing appliance," the White House said, while approval of the other bill "would undermine science-based Consumer Product Safety Commission decision-making."

CRIME WATCH

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

ON MAY 29

SMPD officers responded to the 300 block of PCH for a fire in the bluffs. Upon their arrival, they located smoke and identified what appeared to be a homeless encampment in the nearby area. SMFD responded and extinguished the fire. An individual nearby admitted to attempting to cook eggs in a self-made fire pit. The occupant of the encampment was arrested for a violation of Municipal Code 4.08.095(a) – Public Camping and 4.55.100(A)MC for starting a public fire.

POLLUTED

FROM PAGE 1

waterways. While overall quality remains very good in dry weather, Bean Hollow State Beach in San Mateo County and the Point Loma Lighthouse in San Diego County were the only two beaches listed on the 2022-2023 Honor Roll, which shockingly was down from 50 in 2021.

Consequently, because of the significant amounts of rainfall, the Honor Roll was the shortest this past year than it has ever been.

This is the 33rd year that the annual report has been published, assigning "A-to-F" letter grades for 700 beaches from Washington State to Tijuana, Mexico – including 500 California beaches in the 2022-2023 report – based on levels of fecal-indicator bacterial pollution in the ocean measured by County health agencies.

The good news is 95 percent of the

> We're hoping that it'll be in full production mode by the end of June or early summer
>
> - Sunny Wang, Water Resources Manager for the City of Santa Monica

California beaches assessed in the report received an A or B grade during the summer of 2022 which is on par with the average. Even so, scientists remain deeply concerned about ocean water quality. Polluted waters pose a significant health risk to millions of people in California.

People who come in contact with water with a C grade or lower are at a greater risk of contracting illnesses such as stomach flu, ear infections, upper respiratory infections, and rashes. Beaches and rivers usually have poor water quality following a rain event. Less rain typically means that reduced amounts of pollutants, including bacteria, are flushed through storm drains and rivers into the ocean. Sewage spills pose increased health risks and trigger immediate beach closures, which should be heeded until public officials clear the area.

Lest we forget when an estimated 250,000 gallons of sewage spilled into the Los Angeles River and out into the waters of San Pedro Bay in April prompting beach closures up and down the Westside. Then only a week ago, 50,000 gallons of sewage once again resulted in the closure of Long Beach to swimmers and during the pandemic, in January 2021, when an anchored cargo ship snagged an offshore pipeline resulting in 25,000 gallons of crude oil spilling into the ocean near Huntington Beach.

"This past year was really bad from that perspective. There were a few events of seven to 10 million gallons spilling into the ocean across the state and those are the result of major infrastructure failures," Luke Ginger, Environmental Scientist at Heal the Bay, said.

"There was one a few years ago in the Tijuana area, where over a million gallons of raw sewage was discharged into the ocean [in February 2017]. So what's really needed there is investment. Probably at the federal level, we need funding for infrastructure, inspections, infrastructure repairs. Because a lot of those big spills are due to deteriorating infrastructure that just wasn't maintained properly."

According to Ginger, the City of Santa Monica has invested a lot in improving water quality. "They are capturing all of the runoff that was a big pollutant source for a long time. And now they're addressing the bird netting under the pier that has kind of deteriorated over time. So we're hopeful that it can improve. We see many piers across the state that have pretty good water quality, so I don't see why this one can't as well."

Santa Monica's state of the art Sustainable Water Infrastructure Project (SWIP), while promising to significantly increase the City's capacity to capture and reuse water, is still awaiting official activation with no timeline in place as testing and inspection continues.

"We're hoping that it'll be in full production mode by the end of June or early summer," said Sunny Wang, Water Resources Manager for the City of Santa Monica. "We're still going into the final testing phase of the regulator, given the first of its kind nature of these projects, there's just a lot of testing. Even the results from DDW [Division of Drinking Water] require further scrutiny before they're comfortable enough to give us the okay to send that water in the system."

The public can check out the updated water quality of their local freshwater recreation areas at healthebay.org/riverreportcard and ocean beaches at beachreportcard.org or by downloading the app on their smartphone.

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Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

AI chip race heats up as AMD introduces rival to Nvidia technology

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Advanced Micro Devices has revealed a new artificial intelligence chip in its race to compete with rival chipmaker Nvidia in supplying the foundation for a boom in AI-fueled business tools.

The semiconductor company, based in Santa Clara, California, described its new MI300X chip as "the world's most advanced accelerator for generative AI." It's expected to attract interest from big cloud providers such as Amazon or Microsoft, but AMD hasn't specified which cloud provider might use it.

CFRA senior equity analyst Angelo Zino predicted this month that AMD's MI300 processor "will see significant interest from cloud providers and vie with NVIDIA's Grace Hopper Superchip."

"AMD's stronger partnership with Microsoft should also drive upside, as it is reportedly cited to be developing a custom processor chip that Microsoft will use for AI workloads," Zino wrote.

AMD CEO Lisa Su demonstrated the new technology at a showcase event in San Francisco on Tuesday.

AMD joins a growing list of technology companies trying to take advantage of a broader interest from businesses looking for new AI tools that can analyze data, help make decisions and potentially replace some tasks currently performed by human workers. Much of the interest is on "generative AI" tools such as ChatGPT that can produce works of writing on command, as well as images, computer code and other media.

Nvidia, also based in Santa Clara, has carved itself a position as the lead provider of AI chips, a term that encompasses computing hardware that's specialized to handle workloads such as the "training" of AI systems on vast troves of data.

Nvidia, already one of the most valuable companies on the planet, joined the exclusive club of companies worth more than a trillion dollars shortly after forecasting a massive revenue boost thanks in part to chips made for use with artificial intelligence technology.

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AI

FROM PAGE 2

AI, she said, "helped me with the head start, like a motivation."

But she learned how to navigate what the AI gave her with skepticism. "Sometimes it was very, very wrong," she said. "It made me more aware that ChatGPT can sometimes trick you, maybe get you in trouble if you don't read content."

Her overall takeaway? "Sometimes it's better to do your homework."

Blakey's colleague David Blumenkrantz gave students in his visual communications class a choice about whether to use AI to design a magazine. They could write their magazine's proposal and premise, or have ChatGPT write it for them. AI-generated images could grace the magazine's cover, with students adding in the typeface and titles over it. The only stipulation: that students explain which parts were AI-generated and why.

About a third of the class chose to use AI for the assignment, he said.

Blumenkrantz said he is currently partnering with a Nairobi University in Kenya to build up their photojournalism program and that his 63-page curriculum was mostly compiled from AI-generated content. He gave ChatGPT prompts, changed the responses to go more in depth into each topic, and fact checked them, he said. He spent weeks making the curriculum, he said, when it would have taken months without the AI-generated research, a result he called "astonishing."

Jenae Cohn, the executive director of the UC Berkeley Center for Teaching & Learning, which helps professors design effective instruction, said she and her staff often hear from faculty like Blumenkrantz, who "want to understand better how to use AI in creative ways in their teaching."

"On the other end of the spectrum, we have a lot of questions about how students are using AI to cheat. There's a lot of concerns about academic integrity."

As for her own take, she said, "I don't think that AI is going to necessarily destroy education. I don't think it's going to revolutionize education, either. I think it's just going to sort of expand the toolbox of what's possible in our classrooms."

Walker is a fellow with the CalMatters College Journalism Network, a collaboration between CalMatters and student journalists from across California. This story and other higher education coverage are supported by the College Futures Foundation.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

MUSIC

FROM PAGE 1

Illness Westside LA. Shaw was previously hospitalized over twenty times with mental illnesses. Now working with NAMI WLA, his mission is to help others like him. It will also feature musicians and artists who have been diagnosed with serious mental illnesses, as well as SAMOHI theater students and the Latin Cuban Ensemble from the Santa Monica Youth Orchestra.

"The ultimate goal of this event is for more people to be aware and understand what is mental illness and we're going to show this from the point of view of people who have mental illness," she said. "So we have performers and we have guest speakers with lived experience, having their point of view so the public that never heard about it, they will know how a person with mental illness sees the world, experiences the world."

She said those experiences could help reduce the stigma and fear that people face due to inaccurate or harmful portrayals of mental illness in other places.

Penido came to advocacy after her sons developed serious mental illness. After years as a filmmaker, she devoted herself to the cause and founded the non-profit Whole Mind Symphony in 2021. Her ultimate mission is to provide a home for young musicians suffering from serious mental illness.

"These kids go through treatments and after they are discharged, they don't have a place where they can stay safely, and they can play their instruments and be motivated," she said.

She said music is an important tool to help people.

"Music creates purpose in the lives of people with mental illness," said Penido. "Music is a central part of rebuilding one one's brain, and also in the case of these performers, who were musicians before the illness, you know, it integrates their identity again, it gives them something to be grounded"

She said the event is important in our current era of pandemic-induced anxiety and social media harassment that has wreaked havoc on the emotional and mental health of youth. At the same time, she said society's focus on work and productivity neglects other needs that are vital to functioning human beings.

"The problem is that we're not giving enough attention to the emotions of people and people are pressured and they need a release, they need to go out and they need to have somebody to talk to," she said.

The event is targeted at teenagers and families of all mental health backgrounds are invited to attend. Information presented will include ways to help those suffering from mental illnesses, but also to ways to educate those without mental illnesses including the "L.E.A.P Method." Standing for listen, empathize, agree and partner, L.E.A.P is a method of communication used to reduce anxiety and depression. Communication with people suffering from mental illnesses is crucial in the road to recovery, building trust and respect within relationships.

The event will be held on Saturday, June 17 from 2 to 5 p.m. at JAMS Performing Arts Center (2425 16th St.). Everyone in attendance will receive a free raffle ticket for a chance to win a Jason Mraz concert ticket and musical instruments.

NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 5

almost every Jacaranda concert for years but got out of the "habit," and was never disappointed. Bemused, sometimes, perhaps perplexed, but always glad I went. That's because artistic director Patrick Scott has unique vision and the highest quality execution, and considers it part of their mission to open ears and minds to different ways of experiencing great music and compositional creativity, sometimes new but sometimes from old masters not often performed. They are a local treasure deserving of our support, and this is your chance. This Saturday there is the performance at 4, at a higher "benefit" support level, and an after party available to subscribers only (perfect time to become one). Sat 4 p.m. performance, $50, performance + after party 5:30, $250, after party only, subscribers only, $175, First Pres Church of SM.

THEATRICUM BOTANICUM: "MACBETH"' – As you can see from the column headline, and subhed, above, this is an event I am excited about. How can it ever get old watching outstanding actors right in front of you on a stage, doing the great works of the Bard plus plays from authors you may never have heard of – who blow your mind? First off – "Macbeth"? "Macbeth"! Go get your tickets right now, then write me a thank you note after the performance. Sat 7:30 p.m., Theatricum Botanicum, Topanga Canyon, $15-48.

THEATRICUM BOTANICUM: "A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM" – TB specializes in Shakespeare, and they do "Midsummer" every single season. Who doesn't love it? Sun 3:30 p.m., Theatricum Botanicum, Topanga Canyon, $15-48.

TOLEDO DIAMOND – Unique, riveting, first class act. There's nothing like it, it is high performance art and great fun. Degeneracy is rarely so well disciplined. Could be the most memorable 12 bucks you ever spent. Sun 9:30 p.m., Harvelle's, $12.

MAKE MUSIC DAY – It started decades ago in France, what a great idea: one day every year when musicians of all levels take to the streets, to make music for the whole world? Check with your particular neighborhood association to see what they have planned and where. Here's my grinchy gripe; that our City has never supported this the way LA and many other cities have. Instead they just throw a small amount of money at the neighborhood groups and say, you do it. No real support, or coordination. We could do so much better, and should. We are an arts city. Wed, various times, various locations throughout SM, free.

KING GIZZARD & THE LIZARD WIZARD – Hard to easily, accurately describe this unique six-piece Australian jam, space-rock band, but if I add "inventive," "intriguing," "great players," "forward thinking," "throwback," "cult status" – does that help any? They've been around 13 years and crank out an album every other month, it seems. I've seen them several times and love these guys. They are the real deal, though I don't know what deck they are playing from. Wed 7:30 p.m Hollywood Bowl, $29-69.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: "MACBETH" Theatricum Botanicum, 6/25, "A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM," Theatricum Botanicum, 6/25, TOLEDO DIAMOND, Harvelle's, 6/25; HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES, Cinema Bar, 6/26; JAKE SHIMABUKURO, Saban Theatre, 7/8; HAPPY TOGETHER TOUR with TURTLES, Little Anthony, others, Saban Theatre, 7/9; "QUEEN MARGARET'S VERSION OF SHAKESPEARE'S WAR OF THE ROSES," Theatricum Botanicum, 6/24;. LYLE LOVETT, Saban Theatre, 7/6; JASON ISBELL AND THE 400 UNIT, Greek Theatre, 7/14.

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 37 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com



Courtesy Image

MUSIC: The Whole Minds Concert will be held on June 17 at John Adams Middle School.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 15)

You're a genius at leading projects, using timelines and making things happen. You're even better at knowing the right thing to take on. More highlights: A niche interest will lead to a new hobby and like-minded friends. Your position at work will change three times and land somewhere dreamy. Harmony among siblings will lift and heal. Libra and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 40, 21, 5 and 8.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The truth comes in many forms, some hard, others easy... also warm, cold, bright or stark. Words have a way of clouding and twisting things today, so the truth will be better felt than articulated, better acted on than discussed.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You will cultivate enjoyment that's not necessarily connected to whatever is happening in your life and relationships. Others affect you, but you fulfill your own needs internally. Your emotional independence is something to celebrate.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your main aim today is to be useful, which leads to many beneficial outcomes. It's a modest goal, but the result will snowball and roll in pleasing directions you hadn't counted on. Bottom line: serving others will be an adventure.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The best thing that comes of working together isn't the work itself but the harmonious group dynamic — something to protect and cherish. It will all move fast today, and hiccups can be expected. Take action right away to fix issues as you go.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Don't worry about the clock. Yes, you have plenty to do and not very much time to do it. But when you can fully engage with the moment, it will stretch to accommodate and assist your efforts.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll be well-compensated for solving a small problem that affects many, or the big problem of a select few. Either way, your success directly correlates to your capacity to ease the pain of others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Enjoy the recognition that comes to you. These kinds of acknowledgments don't happen every day. The attention may feel strange, but let people give to you. Your simple, gracious "thank you" will be enough of a return.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll have uncanny luck. You'll wander into auspicious situations and spark charming communication. It's like you're asking the universe for a gift, and it can't resist your smiling eyes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You have a beautiful imagination, so the chasm between your expectations and real life can be harder to bridge. People's responses can disappoint. A powerful exercise: Whatever you want a person to say to you, say it to yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Some resource, like time, money or manpower, will become limited. This is a blessing in disguise. It's an opportunity to find more sustainable ways to handle the work. Forces are aligning to make you more creative.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's as though you're shopping in a foreign country without the proper tender and the price tags are confusing. What you want cannot be bought with your dollars, but you can have it if you exchange the right commodity.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's no time to think about where you went wrong because the shining opportunity at hand will need all your brainpower and positive energy. Whatever you did, it led you here to the place of stellar options for seizing the day.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

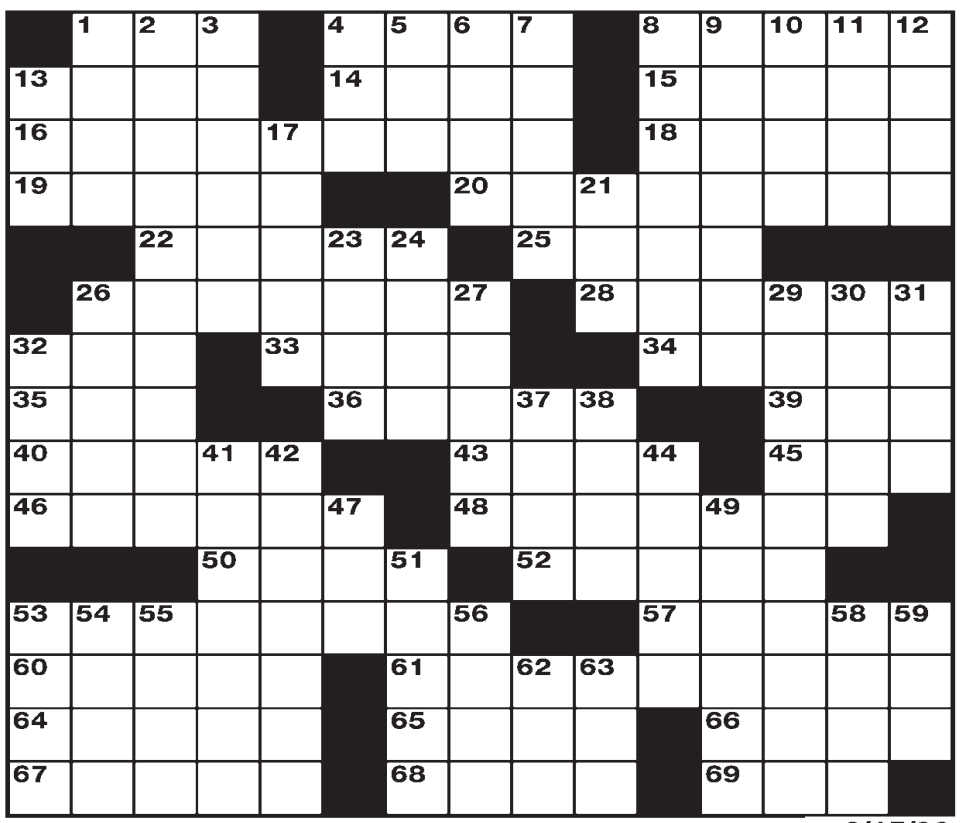
			9		8		3	
	1	7		3		2		4
9		5	2				1	
	7	1		9				6
	9		5		4		2	
5				6		9	4	
	8				3	5		9
2		9		8		1	7	
	6		1		9			

Newsday Crossword

UNCOMMON ANTONYMS
by Chris Gross & Joseph Schwartz
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 What Jacksons eject from
4 It's south of West Palm
8 You can count on them
13 Number of a score
14 Londoners' lavs
15 Makes public
16 Harmonious
18 Gym fixture
19 "Ye olde" settlement
20 Prone to sin
22 Dislodges
25 Deific thunderer
26 Be made public
28 "Would I ever!"
32 Young dude
33 Wrenched away
34 Artemis alias
35 DJIA tech company
36 Tidy
39 DJIA food chain
40 Mudguards, essentially
43 "It just vanished!"
45 Frat letters
46 Fundamental beliefs
48 Slushy drink brand
50 Tidal adjective
52 Keep on course
53 Happy
57 Wharton title character
60 Lights observed by psychics
61 On purpose
64 Phone payment app
65 Battleground of 1944
66 Naturalization ceremony ritual
67 City near Cologne
68 Scrutinized
69 PGA Tour measures

DOWN
1 Buck suffix
2 Oz visitor
3 1.5 liter measure
4 __-ray disc
5 Spooky sound
6 Grand success
7 Strong suit
8 Clear out
9 Rival of Captain Morgan
10 __ Republic of Egypt
11 Small compartment
12 "Aha!"
13 Don't procrastinate
17 Router button
21 Chinese tea
23 Snatched
24 Steady-handed
26 Elevator part
27 Teens in winter
29 Swimmer of the Atlantic
30 Timed precisely
31 Big bundles of bills
32 Work with weights
37 Veteran campaigners
38 Praise highly
41 Seuss or Twain
42 "Boss of the Plains" apparel
44 More generous
47 What fills Sonoran shakers
49 Plastic mouse or bone
51 Serene state
53 Was generous
54 Cries over
55 Coffee servers
56 When "INVASION" was on Page One
58 Little pests
59 High degree
62 Road fork shape
63 Last of all

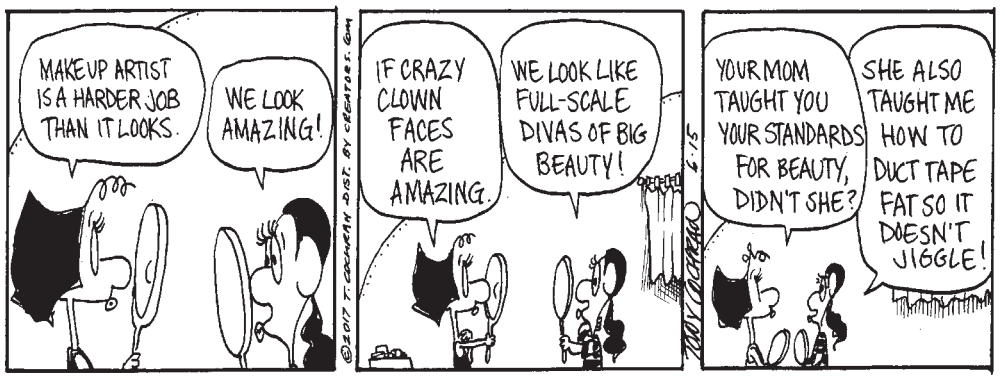


CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2023 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 6/15/23

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

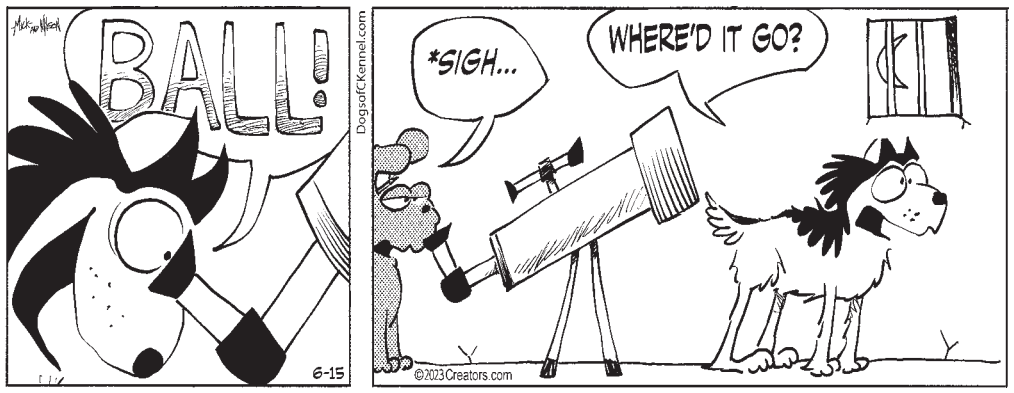
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



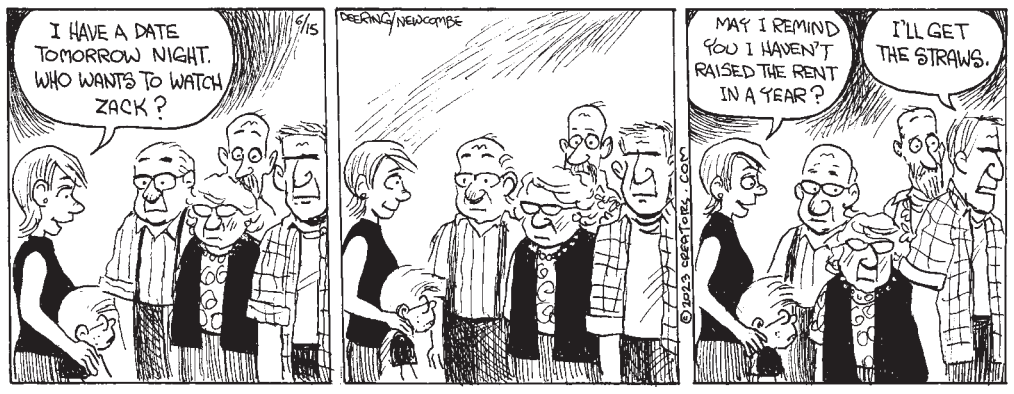
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"IT'S HIS 'SAVING THE WORLD' PERIOD."

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 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5876

Police at work

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

Altercations	Federal	Prevent	Supervise
Armed robbery	Fine	Prison	Taser
Baton	Fist	Protect	Tend
Boats	Foil	Radio	Test
Care	Guns	Raid	Thief
Crime	Help	Rescue	Threat
Custody	Laws	Ride	Trauma
Dogs	Local	Riot	Vice
Drivers	Obey	Roads	Warn
Drugs	Patrol	Rowdy	
Enforce	People	Settle	
	Power	Speed	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Aussie! Aussie! Aussie!

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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

What's Up Westside

out and about in Santa Monica

THURSDAY | JUNE 15

CHILDREN'S BUREAU OFFERING VIRTUAL ORIENTATIONS

Children's Bureau is seeking foster families and now offers two virtual ways for individuals and/or couples to learn how to help children in foster care while reunifying with birth families or how to provide legal permanency by adoption. If you or someone you know may be interested in learning more about foster care and adoption, a live English Zoom Orientation is scheduled for June 15 from 4 to 5 p.m. hosted by a Children's Bureau team member and a foster parent. For those who want to learn at their own pace about becoming a foster and/or fost-adopt parent, a PowerPoint orientation is also available. To R.S.V.P. for the live orientation or to request the PowerPoint orientation, please email Rfrecruitment@all4kids.org or call 800-730-3933, or visit https://www.all4kids.org/foster-care-and-adoption-inquiry-form/ to complete a quick inquiry form. A link to the meeting will be emailed to you.

FRIDAY | JUNE 16

SAMO PRIDE DRAG QUEEN STORYTIME

Celebrate Pride Month with Drag Queen Storytime! Our guest of honor, Pickle, will lead an interactive storytime designed to challenge restrictive gender stereotypes, encourage self-expression, and promote diversity and inclusion. Annenberg Community Beach House. 415 Pacific Coast Hwy. Santa Monica, CA 90402

SATURDAY | JUNE 17

SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

Ishihara Park Learning Garden, 2909 Exposition Blvd, Santa Monica 90404 Join us at the Ishihara Park Learning Garden as we celebrate the impending Summer Solstice by focusing our energy on the sun !! by building a SOLAR OVEN. What is a Solar Oven you may ask? Come and find out.

CARDBOARD YACHT REGATTA

Have you ever dreamed of setting sail across the waters in your very own yacht? Now you can build your own cardboard yacht and test its seaworthiness in a race across the Beach House Pool. Build a yacht using just corrugated cardboard and duct tape, decorate it, cross your fingers and hope you can make it to the other side. $20 to participate. Register online at https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/santamonicarecreation. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

UC MASTER GARDENERS AT PICO FARMERS MARKET

Visit with the UC Master Gardeners at the Saturday Pico Farmers Market. he booth is filled with free advice on how to care for plants, how to troubleshoot a gardening problem, and much more. Free seeds and seedlings are available on a limited basis. Market attendance is subject to change based on weather and holidays. 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

NOTHIN' BUT SAND BEACH CLEANUP

Join Heal the Bay for our June Nothin' But Sand Beach Cleanup. 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Register online at https://healthebay.org/event/nothin-but-sand-beach-cleanup-16/

31ST ANNUAL JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Join the City of Santa Monica and the Juneteenth Celebration Committee, Inc. for an afternoon of music, unique food and craft vendors, and local resources to celebrate the 31st annual Juneteenth on Saturday, June 17th, from 1 to 7 pm in Virginia Avenue Park under the theme of Coming Together in Appreciation, Reconciliation, and Commemoration! Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. 1 - 7 p.m.

SUNDAY | JUNE 18

CHESS SUNDAYS

Make your move! Chess players of all ages and levels are invited for weekly casual play on Third Street Promenade! Every Sunday through the summer, from 11am-3pm, play a game with a friend or meet a new one. Chess sets (including a few giant ones) will be provided, but you're welcome to bring your own! This event is a partnership between the Santa Monica Chess Club and Downtown Santa Monica, Inc.

MONDAY | JUNE 19

SANTA MONICA ARTS COMMISSION

The Arts Commission of the City of Santa Monica exists to ensure a regular and ongoing assessment of arts programs in the City, develop arts programs of innovative form, recognize and encourage the arts as a service of local government and enrich the lives of all citizens by exposure to art in its various forms. Civic Center Parking Structure. 333 Civic Center Dr. Santa Monica, CA

MAIN LIBRARY BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION

Join a community-led online discussion of a wide range of books, chosen by the members. To register, email library@santamonica.gov. Santa Monica Public Library 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Santa Monica, CA

TUESDAY | JUNE 20

DORADO 806 GROUP ART SHOW: FORAGE

A group show featuring 40+ emerging and established artists.. This is a themed exhibition titled "Forage", that explores the concept of foraging in all its forms. The theme revolves around the idea of seeking and gathering, foraging for inspiration and finding something new in the world around us, or the inner workings of the human mind. 806 Broadway. Santa Monica, CA 90401

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



SURF REPORT

WATER TEMP: **63.5**

THURSDAY *FAIR*	**SURF:** 2-3ft Thigh to waist	Old S swell fades as modest to locally fun round of SSW swell creeps in. Decent tide push first thing in the morning for the smaller wave gear with conditions looking nice at this point. Should be a few corners off the mix of swells.
FRIDAY *FAIR*	**SURF:** 2-3ft+ Thigh to stomach	Mix of old S and new SSW swells. Shaping up to be a fun mix of swells with a couple of decent corners in the mix from the spread in direction between both swells. AM wind looks light at this point with a nice early tide push.

WEATHER

Thursday: Cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny, with a high near 66.
Thursday Night: Increasing clouds, with a low around 58. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Friday: Partly sunny, with a high near 68. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to 10 to 15 mph.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 58.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2023/06/15	Thu	02:48 AM	-0.46	L
2023/06/15	Thu	09:07 AM	3.50	H
2023/06/15	Thu	1:39 PM	1.99	L
2023/06/15	Thu	8:06 PM	6.24	H
2023/06/16	Fri	03:28 AM	-0.77	L
2023/06/16	Fri	09:57 AM	3.52	H
2023/06/16	Fri	2:17 PM	2.24	L
2023/06/16	Fri	8:40 PM	6.28\	H
2023/06/17	Sat	04:07 AM	-0.90	L
2023/06/17	Sat	10:43 AM	3.53	H
2023/06/17	Sat	2:53 PM	2.42	L
2023/06/17	Sat	9:14 PM	6.22	H
2023/06/18	Sun	04:45 AM	-0.90	L
2023/06/18	Sun	11:27 AM	3.51	H
2023/06/18	Sun	3:29 PM	2.55	L
2023/06/18	Sun	9:48 PM	6.09	H
2023/06/19	Mon	05:22 AM	-0.78	L
2023/06/19	Mon	12:11 PM	3.48	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: 6/12
2 3 16 23 68
Power#: 7
Jackpot: 340 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 6/13
8 10 19 44 47
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 281 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 6/10
7 9 17 21 28
Mega#: 16
Jackpot: 67 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 6/13
5 10 16 19 30

Daily 3
Draw Date: 6/13
EVENING: 6 8 9

Draw Date: 6/13
MIDDAY: 7 8 6

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 6/13
1st: 05 - California Classic
2nd: 01 - Gold Rush
3rd: 08 - Gorgeous George
Race Time: 1:41.56

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Libraries Of The Future

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- Dr. Walter Butler
Director, SMC Library and Information Services

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