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WEEKEND EDITION
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Curtain may fall on 50-year music business

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor



SMDP Photo

CLOSING?: The store has survived for five decades in Santa Monica but four burglaries in three years may be too much to overcome.

After decades of supporting musicians the coda is playing for the Santa Monica Music Center. The historic music store operated by Mayor Pro Tempore Lana Negrete and her family will not survive in its current format but just how it will change, or close, is still up in the air.

At best, the store will close its current location on Santa Monica Blvd and move to a smaller footprint somewhere else. At worst, the Santa Monica-based family business will exit the city altogether and run entirely out of their Culver City location.

Either way, the sour note is a direct result of losses incurred by the business due to theft and a weak, or nonexistent, safety net for small businesses.

The store was started 50 years ago by Negrete's father Chico Fernandez who had a dream of opening a practice space and photography studio for local musicians to jam, record, take lessons, shoot album covers and share music with the community.

The Music Center evolved over the years, with Chico's brother Victor introducing the now integral retail shop and Chico's daughter, Lana, founding a nonprofit based on Chico's values of community and sharing a love of music. The shop has also moved from its original storefront on Lincoln Blvd over to a larger space at 1901 Santa Monica Blvd.

While all stores deal with petty theft, the Music Center has experienced a wave of crime with four burglaries in three years.

Negrete said the store experienced little to no theft during most of its history. Its original location on Lincoln Blvd. included a heavy gate that prevented easy access and while the store did have one daylight robbery in its early days, the repeated, high value thefts are not something the business was prepared for, let alone the unexpected consequences of the losses.

The first of the recent wave of thefts were actually full looting during the riots of 2020 that spread from Downtown. The store was then burglarized in 2021 when thieves smashed a window and stole several guitars. Those instruments were actually part of Negrete's nonprofit music charity that operates out of the same location and while they were replaced through community donations, the location was broken into a second time just a few months later resulting in the replacements also being stolen alongside a lot of other inventory. This year, a thief broke into the store in May.

"The insurance companies will pay you for some of the loss that you can prove, but we didn't get everything, like loss of business and

SEE **MUSIC** PAGE 7

10th time's a charm for Planning Commission appointments

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

There are many cultural touchstones to reference the absurd or farcical. Maybe you have fond memories of Monty Python skits or Franz Kafka. Maybe you're under 60 and have Rick and Morty or Eric Andre as your frame of reference. Regardless, if you're local, the Santa Monica City Council's attempts to appoint people to boards and commissions is low-hanging fruit.

At the July 25 meeting, it took Council 10 rounds of voting to pick three individuals for the Planning Commission with multiple rounds of identical repeat voting highlighting stubborn differences in council factions.

Council has an unofficial

SEE **PLANNING** PAGE 7

United States price and wage increases slow further in the latest signs of cooling inflation

CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

Signs that inflation pressures in the United States are steadily easing emerged Friday in reports that consumer prices rose in June at their slowest pace in more than two years and that wage growth cooled last quarter.

Together, the figures provided the latest signs that the Federal Reserve's drive to tame inflation may succeed without triggering a recession, an outcome known as a "soft landing."

A price gauge closely monitored by the Fed rose just 3% in June from a year earlier. That was down from a 3.8% annual increase in May, though still above the Fed's 2% inflation target. On a monthly basis, prices rose 0.2% from May to June, up slightly from 0.1% the previous month.

Last month's sharp slowdown in year-over-year inflation largely reflected falling gas prices, as well as milder increases in grocery costs. With supply chains having largely healed from post-pandemic

SEE **INFLATION** PAGE 3



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When culture wars rip through California school boards, should the state intervene?



Photo by Anjali Sharif-Paul, The Sun/SCNG

BOARD: Parents, students, and staff of Chino Valley Unified School District hold up signs in favor of protecting LGBTQ+ policies at Don Antonio Lugo High School on June 15, 2023.

CAROLYN JONES
Special to the Daily Press

Last week's tussles between state officials and a pair of Southern California school boards may have died down, but they've thrown a spotlight on deeper tensions over who makes decisions for local schools — a rift that's likely to grow as the culture wars escalate.

Both incidents, which garnered national attention, centered on LGBTQ issues and the state's ability to rein in local boards that it says may have violated California's education and civil rights laws.

"We can expect to see more of this as these right-wing groups now follow a scripted playbook and there's a new level of organization," said Bruce Fuller, a UC Berkeley professor of education and public policy. "And certainly as long as we have an ambitious governor, we can expect to see these battles repeated."

Last week, Chino police escorted the state's top education official, Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, from a school board meeting after he urged the board to reject a plan he viewed as harmful LGBTQ students. The plan, based on a stalled Assembly bill, called for school staff to notify parents if a child identifies as a gender they weren't assigned at birth. The board ended up approving the proposal 4-1.

Earlier in the month, Gov. Gavin Newsom threatened to fine Temecula Valley Unified $1.5 million for rejecting a state-approved textbook that included a supplemental lesson on Harvey Milk, the former San Francisco supervisor who was assassinated in 1978. Newsom said the state would order the new textbooks on its own and bill the district. Last week, the board relented and agreed to purchase the new textbooks but review the material related to gay rights, replacing it with a curriculum that reflects "the board's commitment to exclude sexualized topics of instruction from the elementary school grade levels."

ENFORCING THE EDUCATION CODE

State officials have several enforcement options when they believe districts have run afoul of the education code. Those include fines, like the one Newsom threatened in Temecula Valley; publicly voicing disapproval, such as Thurmond's comments in Chino Valley; and investigation and litigation, which Attorney General Rob Bonta said he would pursue in Temecula Valley. The California Department of Education also has a complaint process, which anyone can use if they believe their district isn't complying with state law.

There's also legislation. Recently, Thurmond and Newsom have thrown their support behind AB 1078, which would raise the threshold for school districts to ban books, from a simple board majority to a two-thirds majority. The bill would also strengthen the FAIR Act, a state law that requires districts to include the contributions of African American, Native American, Mexican American, LGBTQ and other under-represented groups in history and social studies curriculum.

The bill's author, Democratic Assemblymember Corey Jackson of Moreno Valley, said legislation like AB 1078 is more important than ever as the state seeks tougher tools to punish districts that stray from civil rights laws.

"These culture wars are being used to generate anger to achieve political goals," Jackson said. "We have to close as many loopholes as possible."

The crux of the issue, Jackson said, is local control, the decade-old policy that gives school districts a large degree of autonomy in how they operate. Put forth by then-Gov. Jerry Brown, the Local Control Funding Formula was meant to decentralize state education, allowing districts to tailor their spending policies to the unique needs of their students.

In some cases, Jackson said, local control has gone too far.

"I know my history too well to have faith in local control," Jackson said. "If a school district discriminates against students, puts politics ahead of education, I honestly don't have any limits when it comes to limiting local control. ... Once you start creating a climate that is not welcoming to all students you're mandated to serve, districts need to know: "We are coming for you."

NUANCES OF LOCAL CONTROL

Under the previous funding system, schools received money through grants earmarked for

SEE **SCHOOL BOARD** PAGE 4

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INFLATION

FROM PAGE 1

disruptions, the costs of new and used cars, furniture and appliances also fell in June.

The cost of some services, though, continued to surge. Average prices of movie tickets rose 0.5% from May to June, and are up 6.2% from a year earlier. Veterinary services, up 0.5% last month, are 10.5% higher than a year ago. And restaurant meal prices increased 0.4% in June; they're up 7.1% from 12 months earlier.

A measure of "core" prices, which excludes volatile food and energy costs, did remain elevated even though it also eased last month. Economists track core prices because they are considered a better signal of where inflation is headed. Those still-high underlying inflation pressures are a key reason why the Fed raised its short-term interest rate Wednesday to a 22-year high.

Core prices were still 4.1% higher than they were a year ago, well above the Fed's target, though down from 4.6% in May. From May to June, core inflation was just 0.2%, down from 0.3% the previous month, an encouraging sign.

A separate report Friday from the Labor Department showed that a gauge of wages and salaries grew more slowly in the April-June quarter, suggesting that employers were feeling less pressure to boost pay as the job market cools.

Employee pay, excluding government workers, rose 1%, down from 1.2% in the first three months of 2023. Compared with a year earlier, wages and salaries grew 4.6%, down from 5.1% in the first quarter.

The Fed is closely watching the pay gauge, known as the employment cost index. Smaller wage increases should slow inflation over time, because companies are less likely to need to raise prices to cover their higher labor costs.

Taken together, Friday's data "will provide further support to the view that the economy is in the midst of a soft landing," said Kathy Bostjancic, chief economist at Nationwide. The softer wage data, she suggested, "will be welcomed by Fed officials."

Americans' average paychecks are still growing briskly, boosting their ability to spend and underscoring the economy's resiliency. The inflation report that the Commerce Department issued Friday showed that consumer spending jumped in June, despite two years of high inflation and 11 Fed rate hikes over 17 months. From May to June, consumer spending rose 0.5%, up from 0.2% the previous month.

"Better push out those recession forecasts by another quarter," Stephen Stanley, chief U.S. economist at investment bank Santander, wrote in a research note.

The inflation gauge that was issued Friday, called the personal consumption expenditures price index, is separate from the better-known consumer price index. Earlier this month, the government reported that the CPI rose 3% in June from 12 months earlier.

The Fed prefers the PCE index because it accounts for changes in how people shop when inflation jumps — when, for example, consumers shift away from pricey national brands in favor of cheaper store brands. And housing costs, which are among the biggest inflation drivers but many economists think aren't well-measured, carry about half the weight in the PCE than the CPI.

With inflation now steadily cooling, consumers are becoming more optimistic about the economy, a trend that could lead them to keep spending and driving growth.

On Friday, the University of Michigan reported that its consumer sentiment index rose in June to its highest level since October 2021, though it has still recovered only about half of the drop caused by the pandemic. And earlier this week, the Conference Board, a business research group, said its consumer confidence index rose this month to its highest point in two years.

The U.S. economy is in a hopeful but precarious place: A solid job market is bolstering hiring, lifting wages and keeping unemployment near a half-century low. Yet inflation is weakening rather than rising, as it typically does when unemployment is low. That suggests that the Fed may be able to achieve a soft landing.

The Fed's policymakers, though, are concerned that the steadily growing economy could help perpetuate inflation. This can occur as persistent consumer demand enables more companies to raise prices, thereby keeping inflation above the Fed's target and potentially causing the central bank to raise rates even higher.

The latest evidence of the economy's resilience came Thursday, when the government reported that it grew at a 2.4% annual rate in the April-June quarter — faster than analysts had forecast and an acceleration from a 2% growth rate in the first three months of the year.

At a news conference Wednesday, Chair Jerome Powell suggested that the Fed's benchmark short-term rate, now at about 5.3%, was high enough to restrain the overall economy and likely tame inflation over time. But Powell added that the Fed would need to see more evidence that inflation has been sustainably subdued before it would consider ending its rate hikes.

Powell declined to offer any signal of the central bank's likely next moves. In June, Fed officials had forecast two more rate hikes this year, including Wednesday's.

"I would say it is certainly possible that we would raise [rates] again at the September meeting, if the data warranted," Powell said Wednesday, "and I would also say it's possible that we would choose to hold steady at that meeting."

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CITY OF SANTA MONICA
ORDINANCE NUMBER 2752 (CCS)
(CITY COUNCIL SERIES)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA AMENDING SANTA MONICA MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 7.18.040 TO UPDATE WELL PROHIBITION REQUIREMENTS

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2752 (CCS) prepared by the Office of the City Attorney:

Ordinance Number 2752 (CCS) ("the Ordinance") amends Santa Monica Municipal Code section 7.18.040 to update existing well prohibition requirements. In 2014, the State legislature enacted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The City of Santa Monica is a co-member of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Santa Monica Groundwater Basin, along with co-members City of Culver City, City of Beverly Hills, City of Los Angeles, acting through the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and the County of Los Angeles. The GSA was formed to implement SGMA within the Santa Monica Groundwater Basin. The GSA adopted a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) in January 2022 to implement SGMA. The City of Santa Monica adopted Ordinance No. 2584 CCS, prohibiting the installation of groundwater wells in 2018, prior to the adoption of the GSP. This ordinance updates the 2018 ordinance to prohibit new or expanded wells unless the GSA approves, by unanimous consent, the new or expanded well consistent with the GSP.

The full text of the above Ordinance is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica. Phone: (310) 458-8211.

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SCHOOL BOARD

FROM PAGE 2

specific programs. Under local control, district funding comes through a formula based on how many low-income students, English learners and foster youth are enrolled. School boards, not the state, decide how to spend the money, allowing them a degree of autonomy they didn't have previously.

But some districts fear that with bills like Jackson's and other recent moves, the state might be taking back some of that control. Recently, the state has added several categorical grants and mandated programs and increased its interest in local school board matters, such as in Temecula Valley and Chino Valley. That's one reason the California School Boards Association has so far opposed Jackson's bill, saying it would pose an unnecessary hardship for the vast majority of school districts that comply with the law, and that the state already has adequate safeguards.

"We are greatly concerned with how [the bill] is drawn from the experience of two or three school districts to apply statewide," the association wrote to the chair of the Senate Education Committee, noting that California has nearly 1,000 school districts.

Troy Flint, the school board association's spokesperson, said districts are hoping that the trend does not continue, even as the culture wars intensify.

"There has been increased encroachment on local control from a budgetary, policy and administrative perspective," he said. "School districts and county offices of education believe that their knowledge base and relationships, as members of the community, are essential in developing and implementing policies that make sense for their particular student populations. So naturally, they are very protective of local control."

A spokesman for Newsom's office said that the governor is committed to local control, and the incident in Temecula Valley was an isolated, egregious example of a district flouting the law.

"Local control is not – and has never been – a license to willfully violate the law," said Ben Chida, the governor's chief deputy cabinet secretary and senior education policy advisor.

Steve Zimmer, California's deputy superintendent for student support services, reiterated the state's support for local control.

"The Superintendent and I are both former school board members. We believe strongly in local control. Local control is a core value of the California public education system," Zimmer said. "But there have to be checks and balances."

INCREASING VITRIOL

Regardless, school boards are likely to remain an epicenter of conflict, especially as the presidential election nears, said Julie Marsh, professor of education policy in the Rossier School of Education and the Sol Price School of Public Policy at the University of Southern California.

"I don't think it's going to die down. School boards have become a pawn in a broader national campaign," Marsh said. "All of this is bringing to a head a classic conflict in education — what's the role of the state? Local control has to be for everyone, but in some districts we're now seeing a need for guardrails."

She worries about the growing lack of civility and threats of violence. In his response to Temecula Valley, Newsom described three of the board members as "radicalized zealots" and "extremists." In Chino Valley, board President Sonja Shaw accused Thurmond of "proposing things that pervert children."

Some of the vitriol began during the pandemic, when angry parents in some parts of the state protested school closures, mask mandates and vaccines. For some parents, the anger grew to encompass how schools teach subjects related to race, sex and other culture war issues.

Capitalizing on some of the dissatisfaction, the state Republican party last year launched the "Parent Revolt" campaign, urging frustrated parents to run for their local school boards. Shaw, the Chino Valley board president, was elected as part of that wave.

Angry rhetoric undoubtedly plays a role in the high turnover rate among superintendents, and the fact that some school boards can't fill their vacancies, March said. It also deters members of the public from speaking out, for fear of threats or intimidation.

"This is not unique to California and it's not unique to school boards," she said. "We're very concerned about the extreme emotion, the tone, the polarization, the personal attacks. We need some kind of legislation to protect civility in public meetings."

Fuller agreed that the rhetoric can have a corrosive effect on schools and other institutions. While the governor and state superintendent were right to step in, perhaps they could have settled the conflict behind the scenes, instead of drawing more attention to the matter.

"They could have deployed their influence to expand understanding and engage people with whom they disagree. Instead they became antagonistic to gain political attention," Fuller said. "They could have settled the issue quietly, rather than spurring it on. There are compelling reasons for the state to intervene in some cases, but why not first try to negotiate an agreement."

Meanwhile, the battle over the rights of LGBTQ students is likely to continue. Zimmer said the state is looking at various options to pressure Chino Valley to overturn its policy related to LGBTQ students.

The state is also urging students in that district to seek help if they need it. The state's Department of Education offers numerous resources for LGBTQ students, families and schools.

"We're very clear that their dignity and humanity matters, and they have a right to a welcoming, safe school environment," Zimmer said. "Superintendent Thurmond stands behind them and will continue to fight for them."

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

Obama's first college is latest to end legacy admissions

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A California college where President Barack Obama started his undergraduate studies will no longer give special treatment to the children of alumni.

Occidental College, a private liberal arts school in Los Angeles, is the latest school to end legacy admissions in the wake of a Supreme Court decision removing race from college admissions decisions.

A campus letter from the school's president said an applicant's family ties to Occidental alumni "could be considered" in the past but had only "minimal impact" on decisions.

> "To ensure we are removing any potential barriers to access and opportunity, Occidental will no longer ask applicants about alumni relationships as part of the application
> - Harry J. Elam Jr. President

"Still, to ensure we are removing any potential barriers to access and opportunity, Occidental will no longer ask applicants about alumni relationships as part of the application," President Harry J. Elam Jr. said in a campus message on Wednesday. He cited the Supreme Court's decision.

The school of about 2,000 students is known for being the campus where Obama began his college career in 1979. Obama spent two years at Occidental before transferring to Columbia University. Obama gave his first political speech at the college in 1981, urging its leaders to divest from South Africa.

An Occidental spokesman said Obama was not a legacy student and his parents did not attend the school.

Colleges across the nation have faced mounting pressure to end legacy admissions following the Supreme Court's decision. Seen as an extra perk for the white and wealthy, opponents say it's no longer defensible without a counterbalance in affirmative action.

Occidental announced the change a week after Wesleyan University in Connecticut ended legacy admissions. An applicant's family connection to a Wesleyan graduate "indicates little about that applicant's ability to succeed at the university," the school's president wrote.

The U.S. Education Department is now investigating Harvard's use of the practice after a civil rights group filed a complaint alleging that legacy admissions are discriminatory and given an unfair boost to white students. The complaint from Lawyers for Civil Rights argues that students with legacy ties are up to seven times more likely to be admitted to Harvard, can make up nearly a third of a class and that about 70% are white.

Opponents have redoubled their efforts after the end of affirmative action. The NAACP has asked more than 1,500 colleges to end legacy admissions this month, and the group Ed Mobilizer revived a campaign urging alumni of 30 prestigious colleges to withhold donations until their schools end the practice.

Democrats in Congress reintroduced legislation Wednesday that would cut federal money from colleges that favor students based on their ties to alumni or donors. State legislators in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York have proposed similar bills after Colorado banned the practice at public universities in 2021.

Some colleges defend the practice, saying it builds an alumni community and encourages donations. It's unclear how many schools use the practice, but it's most common at the nation's wealthiest and most selective colleges.

Some colleges abandoned the policy long before the Supreme Court opinion, including Amherst College and Johns Hopkins University. Some other prestigious schools say they have never used it, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Occidental's shift was announced among other efforts to promote campus diversity. The school will also expand outreach to schools with higher concentrations of low-income students and will work to increase the number of students transferring from community colleges, the president said in his letter.

The Associated Press education team receives support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

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As illegal crossings drop, the legal challenges over Biden's US-Mexico border policies grow

ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press

Immigration advocates said Thursday that an online appointment system to seek asylum at the U.S. border with Mexico is out of reach for many migrants, in the latest legal challenge to the Biden administration's immigration agenda.

The lawsuit says the administration, often working with Mexican authorities, has physically blocked migrants from claiming asylum at land crossings with Mexico unless they have an appointment through the CBP One app. It says the app is "impossible" for those with inferior internet access, language difficulties or lack of technical know-how. Appointments are capped at 1,450 a day.

"CBP One essentially creates an electronic waitlist that restricts access to the U.S. asylum process to a limited number of privileged migrants," according to the lawsuit by advocacy groups Al Otro Lado and the Haitian Bridge Alliance and would-be asylum-seekers from Mexico, Haiti, Nicaragua and Russia who say they couldn't get appointments while waiting in Mexico.

More than 38,000 people were processed for entry using CBP One in June and more than 170,000 got appointments during the first six months of the year, U.S. Customs and Border Protection said last week.

CBP said late Thursday that use of the app has increased processing at land crossings to "historic levels," significantly expanding access to asylum and humanitarian protections. At the same time, the agency said it continues to serve people "who walk up to a port of entry without an appointment."

The lawsuit is the latest legal threat to the Biden administration's carrot-and-stick approach to the border that combines new avenues for legal entry, like CBP One, and shuts down routes to asylum for those who enter the country without government permission.

Officials say the approach is working, noting a sharp drop in illegal crossings since a rule took effect on May 11 that allows authorities to deny asylum to migrants who arrive at the border without applying on CBP One or seeking protection in another country they passed through. In June, authorities stopped migrants nearly 145,000 times, the lowest level since February 2021 and down 43% from December's peak.

But the lawsuits complicate President Joe Biden's efforts to introduce new policies.

"Litigation is, to a certain extent, dictating immigration policy along the border, also in the interior," Kathleen Bush-Joseph, an analyst at the Migration Policy Institute, a think tank, said.

A look at some of the other legal challenges and where they stand:

NEW ASYLUM LIMITS

The government is appealing a federal judge's decision to block the new asylum rule. U.S. District Judge Jon Tigar delayed his ruling from taking effect for two weeks. It may fall to an appeals court to decide whether to keep the rule in place during what may be a lengthy challenge.

Some legal observers don't expect a final resolution until 2025, probably in the Supreme Court.

MIGRANTS FROM CUBA, HAITI, NICARAGUA AND VENEZUELA

Another closely watched case challenges the administration's policy to grant parole for two years to up to 30,000 people a month from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela if they apply online with a financial sponsor and arrive at an airport. Texas is leading 21 states to argue that Biden overreached his authority, saying it "amounts to the creation of a new visa program that allows hundreds of thousands of aliens to enter the United States who otherwise have no basis for doing so."

A trial is scheduled Aug. 24 in Victoria, Texas, before U.S. District Judge Drew Tipton. Legal observers anticipate a decision in the fall.

Mexico says the policy was critical to it agreeing to take back people from those four countries who enter the U.S. illegally and are denied asylum.

RELEASING ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN THE U.S.

An appeals court could rule soon on the Biden administration's use of what is known as humanitarian parole, in which asylum-seekers are released in the U.S. while they pursue cases in immigration court.

U.S. District Judge T. Kent Wetherell II said in a March ruling prohibiting the practice that the administration "effectively turned the Southwest Border into a meaningless line in the sand."

The Border Patrol paroled 572,575 migrants last year, including a record-high 130,563 in December. The practice sharply subsided even before the administration lost a lawsuit by the state of Florida, but it wants the option in case Border Patrol stations become too overcrowded.

OTHER REPUBLICAN-LED CHALLENGES

Texas sued the administration in May to block Biden's policies, particularly the use of CBP One. "The Biden Administration's attempt to manage the southern border by app does not meet even the lowest expectation of competency and runs afoul of the laws Congress passed to regulate immigration," the lawsuit states.

Indiana and 17 other states sued the administration on similar grounds, saying in its federal lawsuit filed in North Dakota that new policies "will further degrade our nation's border security and make it even easier to illegally immigrate into the United States."

Neither case appears headed toward swift resolution.

FINDING A NEW DENTIST IS TOUGH!

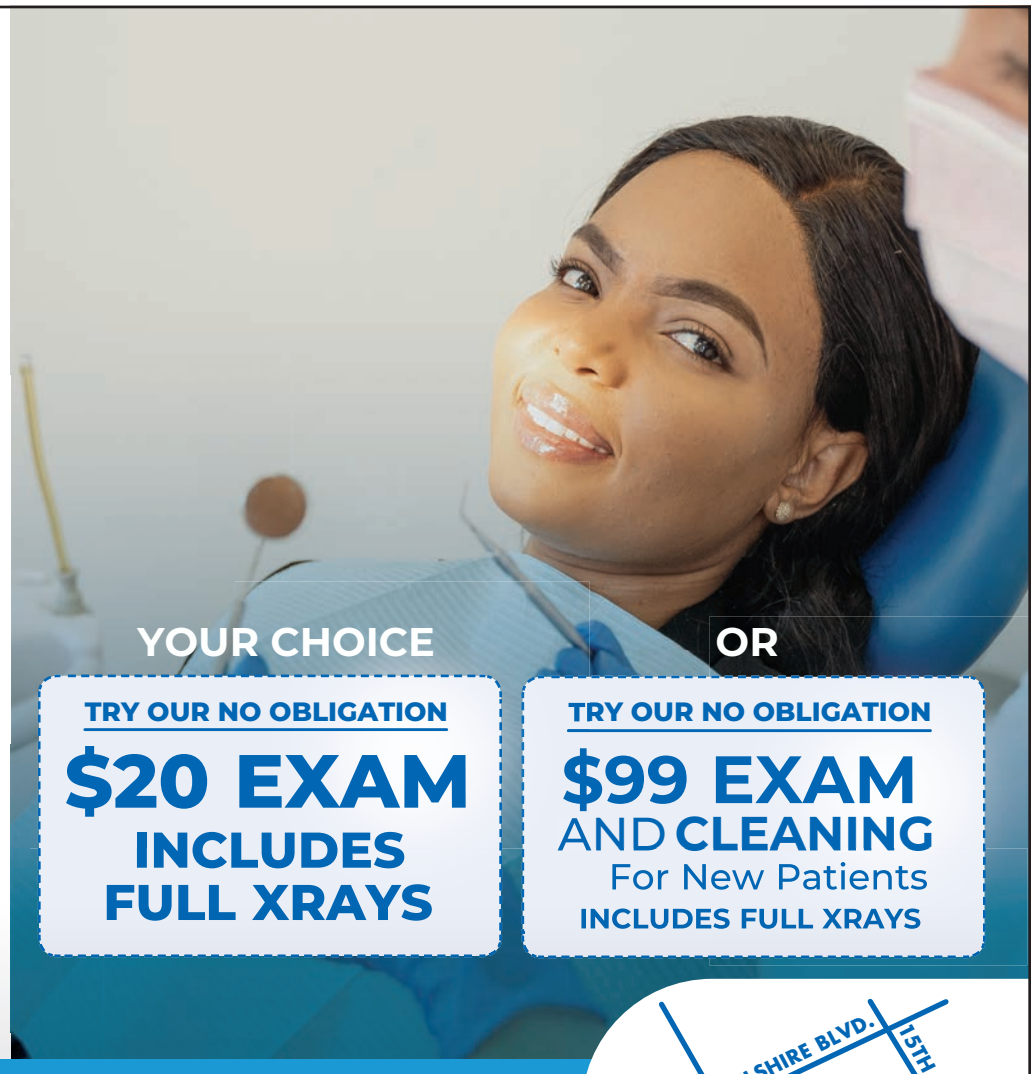
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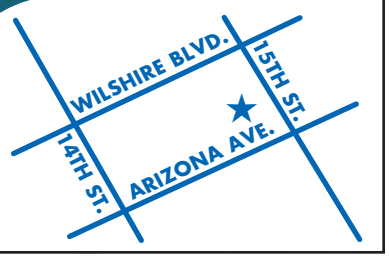
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Pop-up Ninja Turtle experience sells out on the Promenade

ARABELLA JOAQUIN
SMDP Intern

In light of the new Mutant Ninja Turtle coming to theaters on Aug. 2, a free *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle* (TMNT) pop-up experience has been installed on the Promenade as a welcoming premiere for the film.

"The Mutant Ninja Turtle pop-up is a really cool immersive experience that is fun and free for the entire family, kids and adults alike. Anybody who is a fan of the turtles, old and new, this is a way to reignite the nostalgia and also kind of form new fans. And it's a really fun way to get a sneak peek of the movie," said Carlie Richman.

The TMNT experience follows the very successful Barbie World installation at the nearby Santa Monica Place Mall and local officials have said that entertainment tie-in events like these could be part of the Promenades revitalization as they bring out visitors who then eat, shop or otherwise support nearby businesses.

Tickets for the experience quickly sold out in advance of the movie opening on Aug. 2 for both the family friendly daytime experience and the more intense "Ooze After Dark" version aimed at older audiences.





Arabella Joaquin
TMNT: The movie promotion opened on the Promenade this month and sold out for its limited time release. The interactive experience had a family friendly, all-ages experience during the day and a more intense version with louder music in the evenings targeted to an older audience.

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Schools lost track of homeless kids during the pandemic. Many face a steep path to recovery

CHEYANNE MUMPHREY
AP Education Writer

By the time Aaliyah Ibarra started second grade, her family had moved five times in four years in search of stable housing. As she was about to start a new school, her mother, Bridget Ibarra, saw how much it was affecting her education.

At 8 years old, her daughter did not know the alphabet.

"She was in second grade and couldn't tell me any of the letters. I would point them out and she didn't know," Bridget Ibarra said. "She would sing the song in order, but as soon as I mixed them up, she had no idea."

"I just didn't know what letters were which," says Aaliyah, now 9. "I know them now."

The family's struggles coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic that forced Aaliyah to begin her school experience online. Unfamiliar with a computer, Aaliyah was regularly kicked out of the virtual classroom, her mother said. Teachers complained she was not looking at the screen and took too many breaks.

Zoom school was especially difficult for Aaliyah because she was homeless — and like thousands of students nationally, her school didn't know.

Homeless students often fell through the cracks during the tumult of the pandemic, when many schools struggled to keep track of families with unstable housing. Not being identified as homeless meant students lost out on eligibility for crucial support such as transportation, free uniforms, laundry services and other help.

Years later, the effects have cascaded. As students nationwide have struggled to make up for missed learning, educators have lost critical time identifying who needs the most help. Schools are offering tutoring and counseling but now have limited time to spend federal pandemic relief money for homeless students, said Barbara Duffield, executive director of SchoolHouse Connection, a national homelessness organization.

"There is urgency because of the losses that have occurred over the pandemic — loss in learning, the gaps in attendance and the health crisis," she said. Many education leaders, Duffield said, don't even know about federal money earmarked for homeless students — and the programs expire next year.

The number of children identified as homeless by schools nationwide dropped by 21% from the 2018-2019 school year to the 2020-2021 school year, according to federal data. But the decrease, representing more than 288,000 students, likely includes many kids whose homelessness was unknown to schools. Federal counts of homeless people living on the street or in shelters also appeared to decrease in 2021 due to pandemic disruptions, but by 2022, those numbers shot up to the highest in a decade.

In Bridget Ibarra's case, she chose not to tell the school her kids were homeless — and she says teachers, disconnected from students by a screen, never asked. She was worried if officials knew the family was staying in a shelter, and the school was obliged by law to provide transportation, the family would face pressure to enroll in a different school that was closer.

She knew how hard the disruptions were on her kids.

"I know they didn't enjoy moving as often as we did. They would say things like, 'We're moving again? We just moved!'" Ibarra said.

"When I moved, I missed my friends and my teacher," Aaliyah said.

The stigma and fear associated with homelessness also can lead families not to tell anyone they lack secure housing, Duffield said.

"If we don't identify children proactively, we can't ensure that they have everything they need to be successful in school and even go to school," she said.

Before the pandemic, Ibarra and her two children moved in with her brother in Phoenix because she was having trouble making ends meet. Then her brother died unexpectedly. At the time, Ibarra was pregnant with her third child and couldn't afford the rent with what she earned working at a fast-food restaurant.

The family spent the next six months at Maggie's Place, a shelter in North Phoenix that caters to pregnant women. The four of them, including Aaliyah's infant brother, moved next to Homeward Bound, an apartment-like shelter for families, where they were living when the pandemic hit a few months before Aaliyah started kindergarten.

Aaliyah's school, David Crockett Elementary, stuck with online learning her entire kindergarten year. Aaliyah and her older brother, joined by several other children, spent most of their school days on computers in a mixed-grade makeshift classroom at the shelter.

"It was like she wasn't even in school," Ibarra said.

While the shelter helped the family meet their basic needs, Ibarra said she asked the school repeatedly for extra academic help for her daughter. She blamed the struggles partly on online learning, but she also felt the school was giving all their attention to Aaliyah's older brother because he already was designated as a special education student with an individualized education program, or IEP.

The principal, Sean Hannafin, said school officials met frequently with the children's mom. He said they offered the support they had available, but it was hard to determine online which students had needs that required intervention.

"The best thing we could do was take that data and flag them for when we returned in person, because you need a certain amount of time to observe a child in a classroom," he said. "The online setting is not the place to observe."

A federal law aimed at ensuring homeless students have equal access to education provides rights and services to children without a "fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence."

Many students aren't identified as homeless when their parents or guardians enroll them. At school, teachers, cafeteria staff, aides or bus drivers often notice other students whose well-being may need looking into. Students

SEE **HOMELESS KIDS** PAGE 8

MUSIC

FROM PAGE 1

certain structural damage and consignment replacement because they don't value used instruments. That was the whole issue for us. So we lost that money," she said.

The rash of thefts hit after the business, like all retail stores, had been severely impacted by the prolonged Covid-era closures with much of its reserves depleted to just stay afloat during lockdown.

The monetary losses alone are a challenge for a small family-owned business. Due to various deductibles and loopholes in insurance policies, the Music Center has had to spend about $90,000 out of pocket on repairs to its property. However, it's not just the one time loss that's jeopardizing the business, it's the way that loss is magnified overtime.

Because significant quantities of inventory were stolen, customers were simply unable to find the items they were looking for in the store. Those individuals took their business to the internet or big-box retailers depleting the cash flow needed to actually restock the items in the first place by about $250,000.

"Even with the pandemic, we could have opened up a little except all our equipment was stolen and our computers were smashed and our interior demolished. So we weren't open for those two months because we had to rebuild back a physical space. And that has been very hurtful, like, I didn't pay myself during that whole time when I paid my employees. So we never really fully recovered from that because even though people were signing up and trying to support us by buying a guitar and a keyboard, it was a short-lived thing. And then everybody moved on and went back to shopping on Amazon."

Inventory problems were exacerbated by various supply chain problems that emerged in the years following the pandemic.

"Then the production of musical instruments was deeply impacted because a lot of it comes from China," she said. "Now the shipping issues pushed us back so far that schools that purchased from us traditionally had to unfortunately not. They wanted to, but they were forced to buy from big box retailers because we can't buy as deep as them so we didn't have a back stock of everything they needed and that hurt us because there was like $147,000 loss of revenue that the schools normally would have purchased from us that we didn't get."

The store has found itself in a downward spiral with a lack of inventory causing lost sales that are in turn preventing it from fully restocking inventory. All the while potential customers are following larger retail trends and while they may come into the store to browse or ask questions, they ultimately choose to purchase from Amazon or other large corporate websites.

The problem has become a crisis now because the store's business cycle is cyclical with a dearth of institutional payments over the summer months.

Negrete said she's been frantically searching for a way to bridge the emerging chasm but she's realized much of the alleged government aid for small businesses is more mirage than money for a business like hers.

She said county agencies have sent her links to inappropriate aid programs, like a grant for minority-owned food businesses, or that when she has gone through several county processes, they have either not had money available, have had additional qualifications related to demographics or are more about offering advice than funding.

"I just went through a process and at the end, after I enter all my business information and financial information, they say they will evaluate applications including neighborhood characteristics, including unemployment rates and poverty rate. So if we don't have a high poverty and unemployment rate in Santa Monica, I'm excluded."

She said the way many programs operate actually segregates minority businesses. In her case, the business would probably survive and have access to significantly more resources if she were to close the Santa Monica location and move it to another part of Los Angeles, where the median income is lower.

"It's just an unintended consequence of us trying to create more opportunities in underserved communities and incorrectly defining community. Community and a census tract are two separate things," she said. "If you're trying to help people who come from a shared inequitable place in life, you're totally missing the mark … You're trying to create programs, I think to help people like me, and you're not helping us because you're looking at the community as based on where the physical business is located and not with respect to who the people are that are running the business.

So you are driving the generational gap wealth issue even farther and farther and farther because you're literally redlining small minority owned businesses. Making it so that minorities have to do business in the hood, where it may not be profitable for your business, to be able to obtain access to these programs — and makes it more difficult to actually do businesses in a city like Santa Monica that claims to want to diversify the local business community."

Traditional loans, if available, would only delay the fiscal crunch, she said, due to their high interest rates.

"I've done all that I can to be a good businesswoman, I accelerated all our debts and I thought I was doing the right thing, we're a triple A rated company. We paid rent during the pandemic, while people got free rent, I continued to pay my employees during our closure and sacrificed paying ourselves as owners often do.

"As a small business and checking off the boxes woman of color you might be eligible for a loan that's going to charge you an exorbitant amount of money along with fees that puts you in an even deeper hole. But if you're a wealthy person who's folded 10 businesses, taking advantage of PPP loans, has lawsuits filed against you pending, you can still get another bailout and another loan from the bank. No problem. Companies that have bankrupted and reformed get millions, no questions asked."

As a member of the City Council she said she's aware of the kind of programs Santa Monica has to offer and while she wouldn't take any city aid due to her position, it wouldn't actually help as the local programs are all too small to actually help a struggling business. She said that in all honesty, spending more time at work and less on the dais would have made some difference to her current situation, but she hopes that no matter what happens with the store in the near future, she wants to make sure the work she's done on Council reflects the struggle small business owners face.

"Serving on Council has definitely been a percentage of this happening because if I had focused more on my business I would have been able to do more, but I want to make sure that any policy that I'm working on at least can help someone else avoid this," she said. "I also feel anyone who hasn't had to make payroll shouldn't be making policy around economic recovery and small business programs."

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PLANNING

FROM PAGE 1

policy of delaying appointments to the city's various boards and commissions until all councilmembers are in attendance at a meeting. At least one councilmember was absent from the past two meetings prompting delays in completing 24 appointments this year.

Most appointments were straightforward and received little debate. However, the Planning Commission discussion descended into the local version of partisan politics almost immediately.

A total of seven residents (Thomas Ciszek, Deborah Cohen, Alexander J. Sinunu, Josh D. Hamilton, Mario Fonda-Bonardi, Nina Fresco and Jim Ries) applied for the three open positions.

Fonda-Bonardi, Fresco and Ries were all incumbents. However, those incumbents came with a set of complications. Fonda-Bonardi and Fresco were both applying for a third consecutive term and Council rules require those individuals to receive five votes as opposed to the normal four. Ries was actually applying for a fourth term but as he left the Commission for a time between terms two and three, he wasn't subject to the supermajority vote.

Several public speakers did express support for both Fonda-Bonardi and Fresco prior to the votes and Mayor Gleam Davis suggested the council start deliberations with a nomination of Jim Ries suggesting his candidacy may be easiest to resolve given the vote threshold required to reappoint the other incumbents.

> "It doesn't take a genius to figure out what's going to happen right now"
> - Mayor Pro Tem Lana Negrete

Mayor Pro Tem Lana Negrete responded by also nominating Hamilton. Ries emerged victorious with votes from Councilmembers Oscar de la Torre, Caroline Torosis, Christine Parra, Jesse Zwick and Gleam Davis.

Davis then renominated Hamilton and Phil Brock (who had voted for Hamilton in the first showdown) nominated Fresco.

Torosis, Zwick and Davis voted for Hamilton with Brock, Parra, de la Torre and Negrete backing Fresco, one vote short of the supermajority needed to reappoint her.

In the next round of voting Councilmember Zwick renominated Hamilton up against Fonda-Bonardi resulting in the same 3-4 split as the prior round and no winner.

Councilman Brock then immediately renominated Fonda-Bonardi only to have Torosis renominate Hamilton for a carbon copy of the prior vote.

Negrete immediately summarized the problem.

"It doesn't take a genius to figure out what's going to happen right now," she said. "So I just don't want to be here all night. But we can do this."

The result was indeed the same as the already taken vote.

Council chose to ride the roundabout another time pitting Hamilton against Fresco (again), Hamilton against Fonda-Bonardi (again) and in a change of pace, Hamilton against Fresco and Fonda-Bonardi to no avail.

In response to various questions suggesting the council was deadlocked, Mayor Davis reminded everyone that anyone can change their votes at any time and that voting would continue for the foreseeable future until a resolution to appointments was reached.

In the next round Councilman Brock quickly nominated Hamilton and no competing nominations were put forward. Hamilton received six votes and was appointed with Parra initially voting no. Parra later changed her vote to "yes" upon seeing the result as is an unofficial tradition on the Council to show support for the majority appointment.

With one seat left, Brock immediately nominated Fonda-Bonardi who was challenged by Davis nominating Fresco. Brock, Parra and de la Torre backed Fonda-Bonardi with the other councilmembers backing Fresco.

Without the five-votes needed to end the process, both Fonda-Bonardi and Fresco were immediately renominated, but in what became the final round of voting, de la Torre backed Fresco giving her the five votes needed to retain her seat.

Of the other appointments, most were made without controversy.

Geoffrey Neri was reappointed to the Airport Commission alongside Margaret Griffin. Edward Scott was the only applicant for the Architectural Review Board and was reappointed. Kathleen Benjamin was reappointed to the Arts Commission alongside Deepra Subramaniam and Michelle S. Edgar. Incumbents Dean Kubani and Susan Mearns were reappointed to the Commission on Sustainability, Environmental Justice and the Environment. There were no applicants for an open seat on the Disabilities Commission. Theresa Marasco was reappointed to the Housing Commission, but one seat was left open due to a lack of applicants who qualify for the seat. Alexis Hemphill-Elsea was reappointed to the Human Services Commission alongside Susan Einbinder. Antonio Spears was appointed to the Library Board.

Melanie Allen was reappointed to the Personnel Board.

Negrete made a stand to appoint Albin Gielicz to the Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission, but after several rounds of deadlocked voting without gaining a second vote for Gielicz she changed her vote resulting in Jaime Cruz and Derek Devermont being appointed. An open seat for youth was left unfilled due to a lack of applicants.

Ann Bowman was appointed to the Recreation and Parks Commission. Armando Martinez was reappointed to the Urban Forest Task Force with one position left absent due to a lack of qualified candidates.

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HOMELESS KIDS

FROM PAGE 6

may have unwashed clothes, or many late arrivals or absences.

But with children learning online, teachers and staff often didn't see those things.

Overall, the drop in the student homelessness count began before the pandemic, but it was much steeper in the first full school year after COVID-19 hit. The percentage of enrolled students identified as homeless in the U.S. dropped from 2.7% in 2018-2019 to 2.2% in 2020-2021.

Over that timeframe, Arizona had one of the biggest drops in the number of students identified as homeless, from about 21,000 to nearly 14,000. But there were signs many families were in distress. KateLynn Dean, who works at Homeward Bound, said the shelter saw huge numbers of families dealing with homelessness for the first time during the pandemic.

Eventually, Bridget Ibarra had to enroll Aaliyah in a different school.

After getting kicked out of low-income housing last year when their property owner sold the building, the family lived with Ibarra's mother before finding another low-income unit in Chandler, more than 20 miles (32 kilometers) east of Phoenix.

Once the family moved, enrolling in school was far from easy. Aaliyah missed the first three weeks of the school year last fall because of delays obtaining transcripts, and Ibarra insisted she not start the year without a plan to address her delays in reading and writing. Aaliyah spent that time playing and sitting around the house.

"Honestly, Aaliyah said she didn't care how long, because she didn't want to go to that school anyway," her mother said. She said Aaliyah missed her friends and was tired of moving.

At Aaliyah's new school, Frye Elementary, Principal Alexis Cruz Freeman saw for herself how hard it was to keep in touch with families when children were not in classrooms. Several students disappeared altogether. But she said families have started re-engaging with school. The state of Arizona reported more than 22,000 students were identified as homeless in the last school year — twice as many as the year before.

Ibarra said she tried to shield as much discomfort about their living situation from her kids as possible. It worked. Aaliyah doesn't remember much about the places they've stayed except the people that surrounded her family.

Aaliyah has gained ground academically at her new school, Cruz Freeman said. She still has trouble pronouncing and recognizing some words. But by the end of the school year, she was able to read a text and write four sentences based on its meaning. She is also performing at grade level in math.

The principal considers her a success story in part because of her mother's support.

"She was an advocate for her children, which is all that we can ever ask for," Cruz Freeman said.

Associated Press data journalist Sharon Lurye contributed to this report from New Orleans.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JULY 29)

The year is one long celebration of love in its many forms. Your devotion to an endeavor will define your lifestyle for several months at a time. You'll stick with things until they bear fruit. More highlights: The universe throws you for a loop intended to better your fortunes. You'll make a product, attract buyers and cash in. You'll often master the art of contentment. Capricorn and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 4, 37, 8 and 15.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Emotions can come over you at seemingly inopportune times, though keep in mind that this is just what makes life interesting. Also, a feeling doesn't have to be optimal, comfortable or even appropriate to be perfectly acceptable.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Dorothy had to land in Oz to appreciate everyone back home. Travel will do the same for you. Get your ticket to a magical place, or anyplace different really. Anticipating a trip will begin your appreciation process.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Even the most intellectual problem will benefit from some physicalization. Your brain is a body part too and needs circulation and hydration to be at its best. Engaging your body in the thought process will help you figure everything out.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Because you believe in yourself, the idea that your work has flaws is not a threat to your self-worth. Also, optimism does not preclude you from having a backup strategy. A plan B can actually give you more confidence.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You can leverage the special connection you share with your fellow fire signs (Aries and Sagittarius) to tick off an item on your wish list. Getting what you want will have a ripple effect, and others will have what they want too.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Take advantage of calm stretches. What needs doing? Handle the little details you won't have time for when the action picks up, like sharpening your tools or your skills. Also, the day will show you what you need to learn next.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Instead of listening to people tell you what they can do, observe the work they actually have done. In general, interactions will be lucky when you keep it short and leave them wanting more.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your day has a strange rhythm of fast action then odd lulls. In the blur of a quick pace, it's easy to overlook basic information like what exactly is expected of you. Keep checking in about that because it will change.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It is said that the squeaky wheel gets the grease, but it could also get thrown in the garbage bin, traded out for a wheel that spins quietly. Before complaining you will carefully assess whether you can fix a problem yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Even on days like today when you're not committed, obligated or in any way pressured to show up any place in particular, your energy and time are still sacred commodities. You'll spend them well, ever mindful of the good they can do.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Some silences are heavy, and others float, glow, gloat or grow. You read silence very well now and assign accurate meanings to the pauses, which communicate more than words.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Moods happen. People will erroneously assign reasons for them, but the circumstances are not to blame. Mood lifters that work consistently include exercise, sunshine and connecting with others, especially in a helping capacity.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

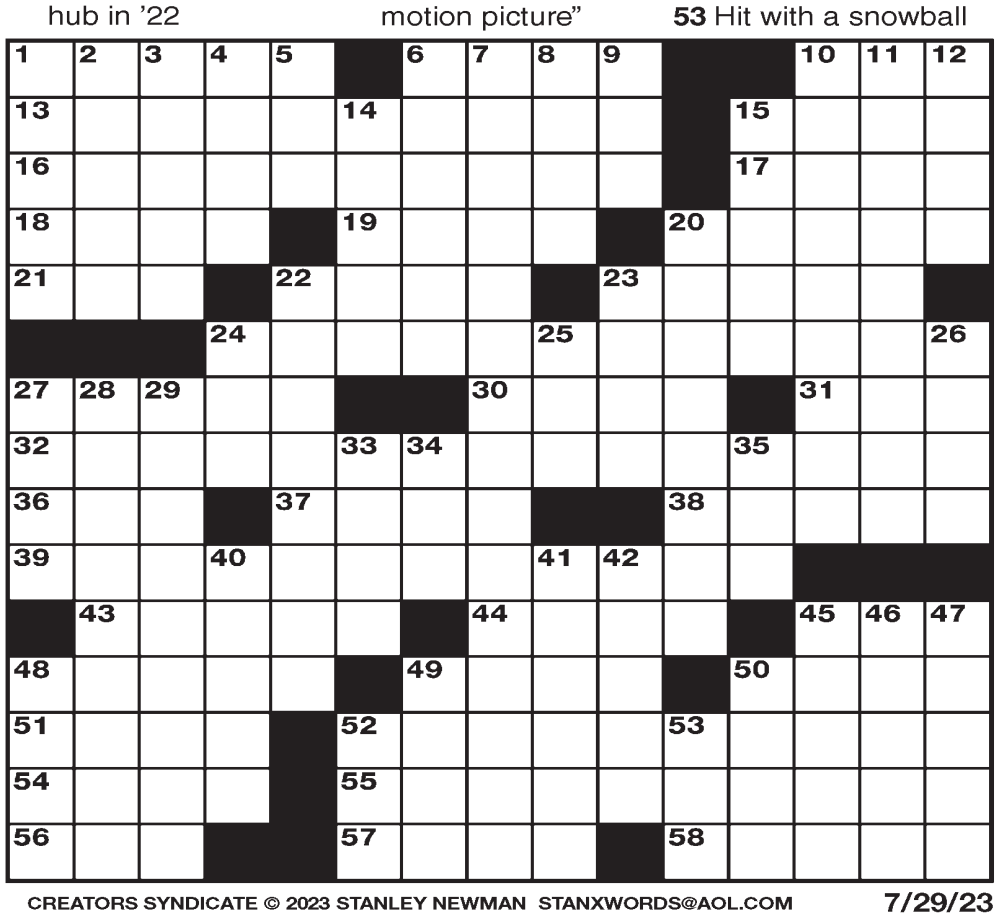
SATURDAY STUMPER by Matthew Sewell
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Lays back
6 Chart-topper returnee in 2022 (after 40 years)
10 It has a "What Can I Bring?" web page
13 More than a little
15 Shameless remark
16 It holds drafts all year
17 Effuse
18 Squirt
19 See 42 Down
20 Heralds
21 On target
22 Untold
23 Going quietly
24 Deals with, after delaying
27 Give out too soon
30 Sultana analogue
31 Get set
32 Excellent reception
36 Not necessarily precisely
37 Subject of a 2021 Supreme Court antitrust decision
38 Last surviving of AFT's Top 25 Female stars
39 Focus
43 Legacy of a sort
44 Very difficult to move
45 Metaphorical menial
48 She met King Abdullah in 1948
49 Words before an entrance
50 "Yeesh!"
51 Regard inappropriately
52 Mainstay of protein engineering
54 Thinks of unhappily
55 Steepness warning
56 As in
57 Tuft stuff
58 Striker's stances

DOWN

1 Scale model
2 Transcend
3 Type of invasive plant
4 Marcel's mighty
5 Evidence of unhappiness
6 They're in coffeehouses' dress codes
7 Nursery rhyme singers' evocations
8 Engendered
9 World's busiest hub in '22
10 Gave to receive
11 Summarized, say
12 Word on Battleship boxes
14 Touch lightly
15 Middle name of Breyer's successor
20 Stock market purchase
22 "Bitter" beverage
23 Conifer creation
24 Bert alternative
25 Less than rare
26 They may be pulling for you
27 Dress __
28 Literally, "boy's tutor"
29 What Disney called its "most dramatic motion picture"
33 Posturing
34 Stevenson's "nary a"
35 Much of the plot of *The Sting*
40 Chinchilla habitat
41 Online antagonizers
42 With 19 Across, compound connection
45 Chinwags
46 How lunch is often ordered
47 Spain's Oscars
48 Bite on the trail
49 Relishing
50 Not necessarily precisely
52 Faint
53 Hit with a snowball



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

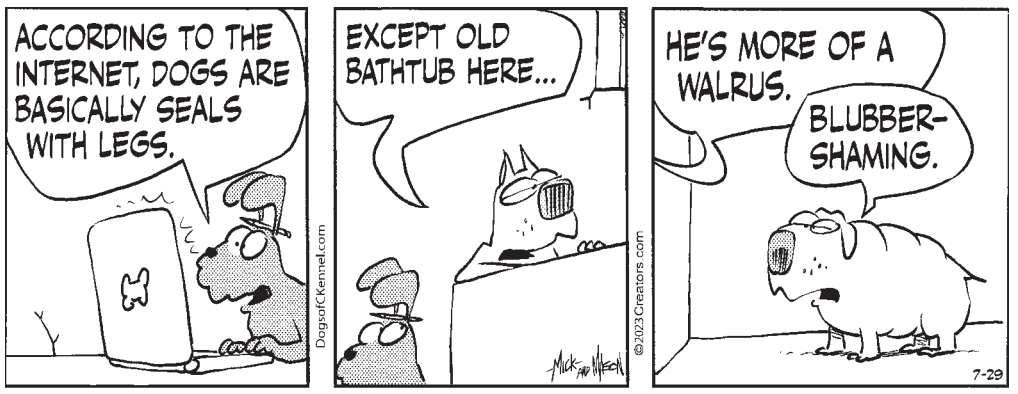
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



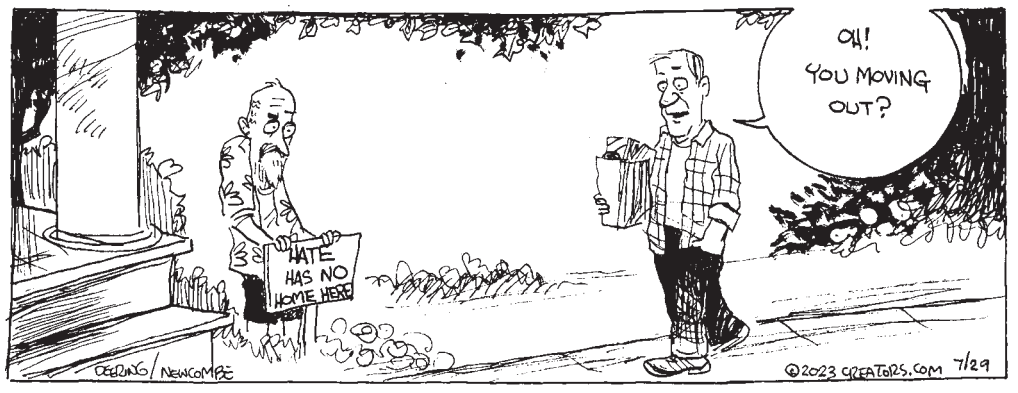
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"ANOTHER SATISFIED CUSTOMER."

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 5920

Early pioneers

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

Anger	Escape	Maps	Sheep
Axes	Exile	Mawson	Shot
Bass	Eyre	Mining	Spade
Bays	First Fleet	Moyes	Tasman
Bligh	Flynn	Navy	Todd
Boat	Free	Obey	Vote
Brave	Gentry	Oxley	Wall
Clash	Gold	Plan	Wars
Conditions	Hardy	Poor	Wheat
Crime	Hume	Return	Whip
Discovery	Hungry	Risks	Wylie
Endure	Imports	Settlers	

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SATURDAY | JULY 29

SANTA MONICA CONSERVANCY DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR
Saturdays at 10 am Free for members / $10 general public 1436 Second Street, Santa Monica Santa Monica Conservancy's Downtown Walking Tours are back! Discover downtown Santa Monica's architecture, history and culture with our team of highly-rated docents. From Art Deco to Victorian and Romanesque Revival, you'll explore the various styles that fill the streets of our city. https://www.downtownsm.com/events-calendar/8481/santa-monica-conservancy-downtown-walking-tour

SUNDAY | JULY 30

2023 YOUTH CHESS TOURNAMENT
In collaboration with the City of Santa Monica, Kiwanis is sponsoring the 2nd Annual Youth Chess Tournament at Virginia Avenue Park on Sunday July 30, 2023 from 9:00AM to 4:00PM. The tournament will be for Santa Monica area students in grades K through 12. Beginners and casual players- the event is not rated. 4 rounds (on hour limit) with a lunch break. Awards by category (grade/age/experience) Limited enrollment to first 50 applicants. Free entry includes lunch. Deadline to enroll is July 21, 2023. Sign up at: https://forms.office.com/g/aqDZgXiJpX For more information please call (310) 458-8688

NO LIMITS BELIEVE IT OR NOT!
No Limits for deaf children and families welcomes you to the theater production of Believe It Or Not! There is more laughter to come in this hilarious show starring children with hearing loss of all ages. 4 - 5 p.m. Illusion Magic Lounge, 1418 4th Street.

MONDAY | JULY 31

MONDAY CELLAR NIGHTS AT ESTER'S WINE SHOP & BAR
Monday Cellar Nights are 4-10 p.m. and are a really cool way to try a glass of something rare or fancy from a high-end collection, without committing to the whole bottle. 1314 Seventh Street, Santa Monica.

TUESDAY | AUGUST 1

THE NO CHASERS
Doors open at 8 PM. Show starts at 9:30PM. Online ticket sales end at 7 PM, tics available at the door after 8 PM. 2 drink minimum. The No Chasers" are hailed as one of the greatest cover groups around SoCal. Their charm is summed up in one sentence "All young people, playing old music". Though most of their set includes classics from the 50s - 70s, they can pull out goodies from all genres and decades, from Beatles to Pink Floyd and Elvis to Ed Sheeren. Harvelle's Santa Monica, 1432 4th St. https://santamonica.harvelles.com/shows/226979

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT WITH SMPD
the Santa Monica community is invited to join Police Chief Ramon Batista, the members of the Santa Monica Police Department along with other city divisions, plus thousands of communities nationwide to celebrate National Night Out (NNO). NNO is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie aimed at making the neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. NNO enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. SMPD's theme this year is "Everyone Can Be A Superhero". Grab your free cape, snap Instagram-worthy photos with your favorite Superhero and learn all about the amazing things the community members do every single day that make the Santa Monica community great. 5:30 - 8:30 p.m, 1685 Main Street, In front of City Hall.

WEDNESDAY | AUGUST 2

ANIMAL FEEDING DEMONSTRATIONS
Swim by and visit the Aquarium every Wednesday to observe local marine animals, and watch live feeding demonstrations by Aquarium staff. Wednesday Mealtimes: 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. https://healthebay.org/event/shark-feeding-2-2023-07-02/

THURSDAY | AUGUST 3

HOUSING COMMISSION
The Santa Monica Housing Commission is a city advisory body whose mission is to protect and improve the quality of life of all Santa Monicans by listening to input from city residents and staff, publicly deliberating, and providing recommendations to both the Santa Monica City Council and Santa Monica Housing Authority Board on issues related to housing in Santa Monica. The Santa Monica Housing Commission is committed to strengthening the social, economic, and cultural vitality and diversity of Santa Monica through habitable, fair, and equitable housing for all. 6:00 p.m - until concluded https://www.smgov.net/departments/clerk/boards.aspx?id=53687092551

FRIDAY | AUGUST 4

LAVENDER AND TRUFFLES ICE CREAM TASTING
Lavender and Truffles plant-based ice cream made with organic oatmilk is popping up at Cafe Demitase in Santa Monica. Rotating 6 flavors every week with FREE tastings of all flavors. Scoops and pints available for sale too! 6:30pm-9:30pm, Cafe Demitasse, 1149 3rd Street

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



SURF REPORT
WATER TEMP: **69.8**

SATURDAY *FAIR*	**SURF:**	2-3ft+ Thigh to stomach	Eyeing a fun little morning window. Clean, incoming tide early and few S Hemi lines rolling through as SSW swell continues with NW windswell mix blending in to help shape/consistency of rideable waves.
SUNDAY *POOR TO FAIR*	**SURF:**	2-3ft Thigh to waist	Similar to Saturday. Decent to maybe fun AM window as tide pushes in. Modest SSW swell lingers for a few decent waves for the longboards/small-wave gear.

WEATHER

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 78. East wind 5 to 10 mph.
Saturday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 67.
Sunday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 77.
Sunday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 67.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2023/07/29	Sat	02:02 AM	-0.23	L
2023/07/29	Sat	08:46 AM	3.46	H
2023/07/29	Sat	12:31 PM	2.73	L
2023/07/29	Sat	7:10 PM	6.40	H
2023/07/30	Sun	02:45 AM	-0.82	L
2023/07/30	Sun	09:22 AM	3.74	H
2023/07/30	Sun	1:31 PM	2.55	L
2023/07/30	Sun	8:00 PM	6.86	H
2023/07/31	Mon	03:27 AM	-1.24	L
2023/07/31	Mon	09:57 AM	3.99	H
2023/07/31	Mon	2:25 PM	2.28	L
2023/07/31	Mon	8:49 PM	7.18	H
2023/08/01	Tue	04:08 AM	-1.47	L
2023/08/01	Tue	10:33 AM	4.24	H
2023/08/01	Tue	3:17 PM	2.00	L
2023/08/01	Tue	9:35 PM	7.26	H
2023/08/02	Wed	04:48 AM	-1.45	L
2023/08/02	Wed	11:10 AM	4.48	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: 7/26
3 16 40 48 60
Power#: 14
Jackpot: 60 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 7/25
3 5 6 44 61
Mega#: 25
Jackpot: 940 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 7/26
10 12 14 40 47
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 80 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 7/27
2 6 22 26 30

Daily 3
Draw Date: 7/27
EVENING: 2 5 1
Draw Date: 7/27
MIDDAY: 0 4 8

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 7/27
1st: 11 - Money Bags
2nd: 04 - Big Ben
3rd: 12 - Lucky Charms
Race Time: 1:45.03

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