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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 29 TUESDAY 12/26/23 smdp.com

Council to explore increased parking tax to fund road safety efforts



SMDP Photo

PARKING: The parking facility tax is currently set at 10 percent but could increase after council asked staff to conduct more research on the idea.

MATTHEW HALL
SMDP Editor

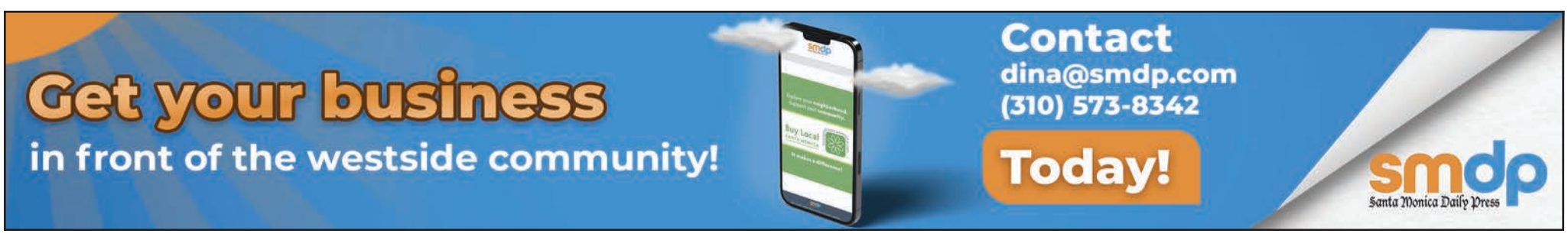
In response to growing concerns over traffic safety following the recent death of a cyclist in the Wilmont neighborhood, Council has begun exploring an increase to the parking facility tax to potentially fund a variety of road safety programs.

At their Dec. 19 meeting, council voted 6-0 (Councilman Oscar de la Torre was absent) tasked the city manager and city attorney with assessing the potential impact of the proposed tax increase and engaging in discussions with the California Coastal Commission. Additionally, they will conduct polls and community consultations to gather input before presenting a comprehensive plan to the council at a later date.

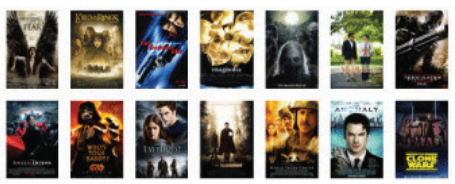
The City has charged a 10% tax on parking since 1993. Last year the tax generated $11,370,000. According to the City, the revenue from parking sources was among the hardest hit City revenue sources during the pandemic with revenues dropping by almost 40%. Officials said they don't expect parking revenues to reach pre-pandemic levels until 2024/25.

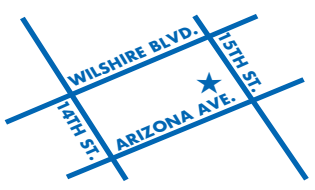
Councilmembers Jesse Zwick, Gleam Davis and Caroline Torosis asked for the discussion to "restore the Safe Routes to School program and fund safety-enhancing street infrastructure to protect children, elderly and disabled residents, hire additional school crossing guards and traffic enforcement officers, and address deferred maintenance needs of the City's downtown parking structures."

SEE **TAX** PAGE 4



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School revenues trail expenses due to spending on benefits and consultants

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Expenses are outpacing revenue at the local school district but rollover money from previous budget cycles is keeping the district in the black.

In an update presented to the board this month, staff said the district's unrestricted general fund expenditures increased by $2,505,839, while revenues were bolstered by $1,531,179, between the adopted budget on July 1 and the first interim period ending October 31. While the district was down about $974,660, the projected fund balance jumped from $21,920,011 in July to $28,176,109 in October due to more than $7 million added to the 2023-24 beginning fund balance from the 2022-23 school year's ending fund balance.

Aside from the year end transfer, revenue in the first interim budget increased by $48,000 from other local revenues, such as increases from the Malibu Fundraising Entity and the Santa Monica Education Foundation. A $1,483,179 decrease in local general fund contributions to special education and routine restricted maintenance account also served as a revenue increase.

The main reason for jump in expenditures was an increase in both statutory benefits (by $134,403) and employee health benefits (by $1,953,873). SMMUSD Assistant Superintendent Melody Canady said hike was actually good news as it was only an 8% rise in benefit costs as opposed to a 20% increase that the district would have paid if it had stayed with its previous insurance system.

Another expenditure increase came from services and operating costs, including a $715,000 increase in consultants for the district. Consultancy expenses included $100,000 set aside for a middle school sports athletics coordinator, $353,212 for public school arts districtwide, and $141,000 for children youth and family collaborative tutoring for homeless and foster youth under student services. Canady said the consultants were all deemed necessary in district endeavors.

"The community might ask what consultants do we have … they're all things that are needed, they're not anything (where) somebody just went out and said 'I want (Joe Schmo) to come in here and talk to us about this and that'," Canady added.

Expenditures were still on the top of mind for board members such as Jon Kean, who remarked that spending should be "openly addressed" with the community and that the board should continue to "justify" what the district is using its revenues for.

"To me, the number one job of this board is to make sure we have a responsible budget … I'd love more budget conversations," Kean said, who requested that the board should have more conversations going forward on budgetary matters.

For the restricted general fund (money that can only be used for specific projects), revenues increased by $7,584,140 and expenditures jumped by $6,273,217; leading to an increased fund balance from the changes of $1,310,923. The increase was once again due to the 2022-23 ending fund balance being added to the 2023-24 beginning balance.

The district received a $5,048,982 increase in state projected revenue and States CARES Act COVID-19 funding, including a $1.6 million increase in the Arts Music & Instructional Materials Discretionary Block Grant and a $1.1 million increase in Educator Effectiveness. Over $2.8 million was increased in federal revenue funding, while more than $1.1 million was added from projected revenue from PTA, Booster Club and gifts for carry over balances. The largest expenditure increase was over $4.1 million in books and supplies, along with "learning recovery items" from COVID-19 per a Board-adopted resolution.

> "To me, the number one job of this board is to make sure we have a responsible budget … I'd love more budget conversations"
> - Jon Kean

Director of Fiscal Services Gerardo Cruz gave the board a deeper look into ending fund balances, also known as the reserve balance, which lags behind comparatively to the statewide district average. Factoring in a $6,705,744 deficit in the current school year, as well as a $5,202,073 audit restatement and adjustments from the 2022-23 budget, the district's ending fund balance is at $22,974,036 for the December interim period. Taking out a mandatory 3% reserve for economic uncertainties, the district has $16,662,423 on hand as reserve for up to two months of general fund expenses. The current reserve, equal to 10.95% of total general fund expenditures, is well behind the approximately 25% reserve that basic aid districts like SMMUSD should possess. A proper two-month reserve for the district would be $26.8 million, with the dwindling district reserve explained by a jump in salary schedules as well as the expenditures.

Ultimately, the interim report was considered a "positive certification," which means the district will be able to meet its obligations in the current fiscal year, as well as two subsequent years.

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City Hall will continue purchasing its vehicles from outside the city

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Following a slightly deeper dive into the issue, Council voted unanimously to authorize the City to enter into agreements with Alabama-based Altec Industries, Watsonville-based National Auto Fleet Group and Folsom Lake Ford to purchase vehicles for the City.

Recently appointed Mayor Phil Brock had item 5B pulled from the Consent Calendar during Tuesday's Council meeting so he could inquire as to why the City was purchasing vehicles from suppliers based in Northern California and 2,000 miles away in Birmingham, AL.

Stelios Makrides, Chief Operating Officer for the City of Santa Monica Public Works took to the podium to explain.

"Following the Pandemic and the recent strikes with UAW (United Auto Workers) employees, we've seen a significant shortage of vehicles, especially when it comes to Ford," Makrides said.

"We buy Ford exclusively for all our utility vehicles … We've been buying from Folsom through a statewide competitive bid in the state of California since forever. So the last purchases were done in 2015, 2017 and in 2018." Makrides said that, in essence, it is a process of competitive bidding and not through any kind of favored suppliers and that it is undertaken through the state of California services.

"We get the advantage of competitive prices that our local dealerships don't have and they don't have the police interceptors that we buy. That is why we buy from them," he said.

Brock was about to move the item when Councilmember Caroline Torosis chimed in with a question, "How does the replacement of these vehicles align with the city's sustainability goals and our commitment to reducing our carbon footprint?"

Makrides explained how every city has similar regulations regarding this, but he believes Santa Monica is ahead of the curve.

"We're always looking for alternative vehicles. When it comes to police interceptors or PIUs (Police Interceptor Utility), those are regular gasoline-powered vehicles and there is not an alternative, viable solution to our needs right now. If there's an alternative vehicle that could serve our needs then we would consider it."

> "Following the Pandemic and the recent strikes with UAW (United Auto Workers) employees, we've seen a significant shortage of vehicles, especially when it comes to Ford
> - Stelios Makrides, Chief Operating Officer

The Santa Monica Police Department currently uses a 2018 specially-designed Ford Police Interceptor Utility vehicle with six-speed automatic transmission, ballistic reinforced bodywork, a 3.7-liter direct-injection V6 engine offering a per-gallon mileage of 23 city / 24 highway or 24 combined and a top speed of approximately 131 mph.

Makrides confirmed the City's commitment to accelerating any purchase of electric vehicles to the extent feasible for the City's service needs.

The motion was made by Brock and seconded by Councilmember Christine Parra and was passed unanimously 6-0 as Councilmember Oscar de la Torre was absent.

scott.snowden@smdp.com





Surf report

WATER TEMP: **64.4**

TUESDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Potential for modest scale NW swell to linger. Morning winds look favorable, but a deep 6.5' early morning high tide will not be.

WEDNESDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Steep-angled NW swell mix continues, offers a few small waves across the region. Other regions have better size. Deep high tide in the morning will be an issue for most spots.

Weather

Tuesday: Patchy fog. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 68.
Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 51.
Wednesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 67.
Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 59.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2023/12/26	Tue	01:42 AM	2.34	L
2023/12/26	Tue	08:01 AM	6.44	H
2023/12/26	Tue	3:28 PM	-1.19	L
2023/12/26	Tue	10:07 PM	3.65	H
2023/12/27	Wed	02:21 AM	2.42	L
2023/12/27	Wed	08:36 AM	6.31	H
2023/12/27	Wed	4:05 PM	-1.07	L
2023/12/27	Wed	10:47 PM	3.62	H
2023/12/28	Thu	02:58 AM	2.48	L
2023/12/28	Thu	09:12 AM	6.09	H
2023/12/28	Thu	4:42 PM	-0.86	L
2023/12/28	Thu	11:28 PM	3.58	H
2023/12/29	Fri	03:36 AM	2.54	L
2023/12/29	Fri	09:47 AM	5.78	H
2023/12/29	Fri	5:18 PM	-0.58	L
2023/12/30	Sat	12:08 AM	3.56	H
2023/12/30	Sat	04:17 AM	2.62	L
2023/12/30	Sat	10:23 AM	5.39	H
2023/12/30	Sat	5:53 PM	-0.24	L
2023/12/31	Sun	12:50 AM	3.57	H

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POWERBALL
Draw Date: 12/20
27 35 41 56 60
Power#: 16
Jackpot: 620 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/19
17 26 50 58 61
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 57 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 12/20
6 7 10 40 44
Mega#: 6
Jackpot: 8 M

Fantasy5
Draw Date: 12/20
15 18 21 27 28

Daily 3
Draw Date: 12/20
EVENING: 5 0 4
Draw Date: 12/20
MIDDAY: 1 5 0

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 12/20
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 08 - Gorgeous George
3rd: 05 - California Classic
Race Time: 1:45.06

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Santa Monica Daily Press

2023 in other words: AI might be the term of the year, but consider these far-flung contenders

CARA ANNA
Associated Press

Many sentiments are universal. Many words are not. As 2023 ends, The Associated Press reached out to colleagues around the world for terms that emerged this year and seized or crystalized the popular mood.

Some were newsy, some cultural. A couple were kind of delightful. Whatever the language, the emotions came through. Some might consider AI, or artificial intelligence, as "the" word of 2023, while Merriam-Webster went with "authentic " and Oxford University Press named "rizz," a riff on charisma.

We wanted to share diverse examples of what folks in Germany call a "gefluegeltes Wort," or "word with wings."

PASSWORD CHILD: AUSTRALIA

The Macquarie Dictionary in Australia has named a "word of the month" all year. One was "cozzie livs," slang for cost of living. Another was "murder noodle" for snake, both cute and accurate in a country that's home to the world's most venomous one.

But we're going with "password child," which families anywhere can appreciate. It refers to a child seen as favored over siblings because their name is used in parents' passwords.

- Rod McGuirk in Canberra, Australia

KITAWARAMBA: KENYA (KISWAHILI) IT WILL COME BACK TO HAUNT YOU

This was uttered by Kenyan pastor Paul Mackenzie, who was accused of leading a starvation doomsday cult that led to the deaths of more than 400 people.

He said it as people confronted him while he waited to be driven to court. The unfamiliar word appeared to be a threat, and it quickly took on a life of its own. Kenyans used it to warn others that something bad may happen to them for their actions.

The word captured the mood with the rising cost of living. With every new economic policy by President William Ruto's administration, some Kenyans say the related term "kimeturamba" — that electing him has come back to haunt them.

- Carlos Mureithi in Nairobi, Kenya

BWA KALE: HAITI (CREOLE) PEELED WOOD

This became a death cry against violent gangs in Haiti this year. Civilians chanted the phrase as they pursued suspected criminals. The vigilante movement has killed more than 300 suspected gang members, according to the United Nations.

The term had long been used in Haitian street slang to insinuate male dominance and power. Now it has spread overseas, with a video on social media showing a group of Latino soccer fans — it was not clear from what country — chanting "Bwa kale!" after their team beat an opponent.

Some businesses even use the phrase to promote their wares. One restaurant featured a "bwa kale" special: a hamburger skewered by a stick with two small chunks of meat on top. It came with a side of nachos and three bottles of Prestige, a local beer.

- Danica Coto in San Juan, Puerto Rico

SPY BALLOON: UNITED STATES

Perhaps no other term this year defined the growing wariness between the world's two largest economies. It began, movie-like, with Americans noticing a mysterious white orb in the sky. Some watched as fighter jets circled and shot down the balloon that for days had wandered across the continental United States.

"I did not anticipate waking up to be in a 'Top Gun' movie today," one witness said.

China rejected allegations of surveillance and insisted that balloon and others were purely for civilian purposes. It never used the term 侦探气球 (zhen tan qi qiu), or spy balloon, and instead used 气象气球 (qi xiang qi qiu), meaning "weather balloon."

KUNINGI: SOUTH AFRICA (ISIZULU) IT'S A LOT

This word gained popularity among South Africans to express frustration over multiple controversies occurring at the same time.

In 2023, some South Africans wondered if they could handle much more. They faced record electricity outages. The government was under fire for its close relationship with Russia. Soaring incidents of crime included a daring prison escape by a convicted murderer who faked his death.

On days that seemed too much, "kuningi" captured how overwhelmed South Africans could become.

- Mogomotsi Magome in Johannesburg

C'EST LA HESS: FRANCE (FRENCH) IT'S A BUMMER

Young people insist on keeping the French language plastic despite efforts, backed by law, to preserve it from foreign encroachment.

"C'est la hess" speaks to the multiculturalism of France even as some views continued to harden this year against immigration, shown by the steady progression of the far right.

The phrase is among dozens of words and expressions derived from Arabic, which those under 25 in France have made their own. France has the biggest Muslim population in Western Europe and a long history of immigration from former colonies in North Africa.

- John Leicester in Paris

税 (zei): Japan (Japanese) Taxes

In a closely watched event on Tuesday, the top Buddhist monk at the Kiyomizu Temple in Kyoto used a brush to write the kanji character of the year on the temple balcony.

The Japanese public chose "zei" to best represent 2023 amid speculation about tax hikes to fund the country's military buildup.

Under the latest national security strategy, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's government is pursuing a five-year plan to double Japan's annual defense spending to about 10 trillion yen ($69 billion). That would make the country the world's No. 3 military spender after the United States and China.

- Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo

THE NONES: GLOBAL: NONBELIEVERS

In many countries, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of people who are nonbelievers or unaffiliated with any organized religion. They have become known as the "nones" — atheists, agnostics, or nothing in particular — and they comprise 30% or more of the adult population in the United States and Canada, as well as numerous European countries. Japan, Israel and Uruguay are among other nations where large numbers of people are secular.

In a recent package of stories, The Associated Press Religion Team took an in-depth look at how this phenomenon is playing out in several places.

- David Crary in New York

山道猴子 (shan dao hou zi): Taiwan (Mandarin) Mountain roadmonkey

This first emerged as a grumbling way to refer to riders who treated Taiwan's winding mountain roads as a racetrack. But the term became a popular shorthand for young people's economic pressures in August, when a YouTube user dropped a 20-minute film called the "Life of a Mountain Roadmonkey." It touched a nerve, attracting nearly 7 million views.

The "roadmonkey" is a motorcyclist who tries to become an Instagram influencer. He lends his girlfriend money to upgrade her bike, but she cheats on him and leaves him. In debt, he works overtime to rebuild his savings, becoming isolated from friends. Ultimately, he dies in a crash.

His story touched off a discussion about the low wages and long hours for many in Taiwan, where housing and traditional "success" are often out of reach.

- Huizhong Wu in Taipei, Taiwan

BHARAT: INDIA (SANSKRIT) INDIA

When a dinner invitation sent to guests of the G20 meeting in India featured the word "Bharat," the immediate question for many was whether the country of more than 1.4 billion people would now be called by its ancient Sanskrit name.

Many saw "Bharat" as a political move by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist government. The word resonated with Modi's supporters, who argued it would salvage the country from the taint of colonialism. But Muslims and other minority groups felt even more uncomfortable.

The name has now been used at various international forums. But there has been no formal announcement of a name change.

- Sheikh Saaliq in New Delhi

QUOICOUBEH! FRANCE (FRENCH) WHO KNOWS?

This word became super popular with French teenagers this year. They use it to annoy their elders, and it doesn't have a real meaning. It's simple: A teen says something inaudible, hoping that parents or teachers will answer "Quoi?" or "What?" The response : "Quoicoubeh!"

Its origins remain mysterious, although Radio France suggested it was inspired by a play on words from Ivory Coast, where some respond "quoicou" to a person saying "quoi." An AP journalist in Ivory Coast, however, said that "unfortunately," he had never heard of this.

In any case, a word open to interpretation seems like a good way to enter 2024 and whatever lies ahead.

- Samuel Petrequin in Paris

TAX

FROM PAGE 1

The request comes as road safety has emerged as a hot topic locally. Tania Mooser died at 19th and Idaho in October and Paul Postel survived a crash at the same place albeit with four broken and two bruised ribs. That intersection, like many in the neighborhood, was a two-way stop sign, not a four way stop and the incidents prompted a conversion to a four-way stop alongside other efforts.

In supporting the proposal, resident Andrew Allison said current streets force parents to make choices about how to safely transport their children that pits short but dangerous bike trips against even shorter car rides.

"I'm writing in support of Item 16D. I'm grateful for your recent action in the wake of the tragedy on Idaho Avenue. My in-laws, who live on that corner, have reported that the new stop sign has transformed the street," he wrote in a letter. "Cars no longer cut through the intersection at high speed. Anxiety about crossing the street — and anxiety on behalf of others approaching the intersection — has dissipated. It is evidence of how quickly we can improve safety and well-being if we simply act to implement practices that have been proven to work elsewhere in our community and around the world. The improvement at Idaho and 19th is also a reminder of how much more we have the power to do — of how many more trips in our community still bring anxiety and risk for pedestrian, cyclists, and drivers. Item 16D will help us mitigate those needless risks before other tragedies occur."

Councilman Zwick said the city should do more but was constrained by a lack of funding citing a reduction in staff dedicated to transportation efforts.

"There's a number of factors that make it hard to move quickly but one of the biggest right now for us is simply one of resources," he said.

Councilwoman Torosis said the tax was an elegant solution to fund important programs.

"I think that we have all stated that 'safety first' right? We want to ensure that we have safe streets that are bikable that are walkable, that folk that our most vulnerable populations, our children, our seniors or disabled populations are able to safely get to and from their destinations."

Mayor Brock said he'd support the study but said he was hesitant about raising taxes.

"So a lot of the needs from bike rodeos to all the other things that are needed can be accomplished through our existing financial resources," he said. "I'm going to repeat again that I'm very hesitant to keep dipping into residents' pockets who are already impacted by many other things and visitors' pockets. I don't want people to have to pay $15 or $20 to go to the beach. It is a public resource. It is a state owned resource."

Zwick said he was aware of the concern over overall cost but said the impact on individuals parking in the city would be negligible but the combined funding for programs would be significant.

Baldur's Gate, The Legend of Zelda and Cocoon shine brightest in a stellar year for video games

LOU KESTEN
Associated Press

It's been a terrific year for video games. Developers hit their stride on the PlayStation 5 and Xbox X/S consoles, unleashing massive adventures big enough to satisfy gamers for weeks. The Switch is at the end of its lifespan, but Nintendo debuted two spectacular games on its way out. And indie studios held up their end, delivering distinctive takes on classic genres.

Here are the top 10 games of 2023, as chosen by Associated Press writer Lou Kesten.

1. BALDUR'S GATE III

Role-playing games were particularly ambitious this year, and none was more rewarding than this epic from Belgium's Larian Studios. The main plot — you have a deadly parasite in your brain, and you need to get it out — is compelling enough, but your trek through the Forgotten Realms introduces a lively cast of characters and a cornucopia of fascinating side missions. It's as close to the Dungeons & Dragons tabletop game as you can get digitally, and it's a blast.

2. THE LEGEND OF ZELDA: TEARS OF THE KINGDOM

Nearly 40 years in, Nintendo keeps finding new ways to present the heroic Link and his eternal battle against evil. His most powerful new skill this time is Ultrahand, which allows him to build a seemingly endless variety of outlandish vehicles to traverse the sprawling land of Hyrule. Add in the usual assortment of devilish dungeons and brain-busting puzzles, and you can spend 100-some hours just goofing around before tackling its emotionally moving climax.

3. COCOON

Feel like you're carrying the weight of the world? That's literally the burden of the beetle at the center of this masterpiece from Annapurna Interactive. Thing is, each of those spheres gives you a special power (which I won't spoil), and you can jump inside each world and explore. By the time you're moving worlds within worlds, your mind's fully blown. Designer Jeppe Carlsen is known for the bleak cult classics Inside and Limbo, and while he's in a more forgiving mood here, Cocoon is just as thought-provoking.

4. CYBERPUNK 2077: PHANTOM LIBERTY

The 2020 release of Cyberpunk was, frankly, a mess, but Poland's CD Projekt Red has devoted an extraordinary amount of effort to turning it into the game fans had hoped for. This year's expansion makes it all worthwhile. It begins as an "Escape from New York" riff — the president's plane crashes in an urban hellhole — and evolves into a brutal take on technology, global politics and corporate voracity. Yes, Keanu Reeves is back — and you get to hang out with Idris Elba too!

5. SUPER MARIO BROS. WONDER

Nintendo's most iconic character returns to the 2D, side-scrolling, running-and-jumping antics that made him famous. Mario has some new powers: He can drill through the ground, trap enemies in bubbles and even turn into an elephant. But the real highlight of each level is the Wonder Flower, which can transform the whole environment in an entirely different challenge. SMBW feels like the designers took every wacky idea they've had over the decades and stuffed them all into one game, and it's hilarious.

6. CHANTS OF SENNAAR

This puzzler from French indie Rundisc is built around a distinctive mechanic: translating foreign languages. Your mission is to explore an edifice inspired by the Tower of Babel, but you're not going anywhere until you can make sense of the enigmatic signs and cryptic speech of each level's inhabitants. It's almost relaxing, but I felt thrilled every time I managed to crack a new code. And the overarching goal — trying to find common ground with people you don't understand — is inspiring.

7. SEA OF STARS

The 1990s are regarded as the golden age of role-playing games, and the folks at Canada's Sabotage Studio are obviously fans. Their latest throwback is the tale of two young warriors who can harness the powers of the moon and sun as they fight monsters summoned by a wicked alchemist. The graphics and gameplay evoke 16-bit classics like Chrono Trigger and Xenogears, the characters are thoroughly charming, and the story takes some surprising twists. While it works as homage, SoS has enough original ideas to make an old formula fresh.

8. MARVEL'S SPIDER-MAN 2

The Marvel Cinematic Universe may be limping, but Sony and Insomniac Games apparently didn't get the memo. Their latest comic-book romp soars, with two Spideys — Peter Parker and Miles Morales — web-slinging their way between the skyscrapers of Manhattan and beyond. It's beautifully paced, alternating low-key personal episodes with high-octane brawls against flamboyant supervillains. It's the ideal antidote to superhero fatigue.

9. SHADOW GAMBIT: THE CURSED CREW

Afia, the swashbuckler at the center of this pirate caper from Germany's Mimimi Games, has a problem: She's dead, with a big old sword sticking right through her torso. But she's not about to let that stop her from reassembling the crew of the ghost ship Red Marley and wreaking havoc on the high seas. Each of the sailors has a mystical power — Afia can teleport, for example, while the ship's carpenter can drag people to hell. The result is an addictive series of tactical challenges with a bracing dose of black comedy.

10. STARFIELD

Bethesda Softworks tries to cram decades of science fiction — from "2001: A Space Odyssey" to "Blade Runner" to "Everything Everywhere All at Once" — into its newest RPG. It doesn't always work: You can't build an entire galaxy without some stops being a little dull. But Starfield's sheer ambition is arresting, and there's enough of Bethesda's well-honed storytelling finesse to make the journey worthwhile. Given the studio's history with The Elder Scrolls and Fallout, here's hoping it becomes the foundation (another classic SF reference!) of another successful franchise.





Classifieds

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAMECase No. 23SMCP00592 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Vijay Subbaraman VenkaTesh for Change of NameTO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:Petitioner or Attorney: Vijay Subbaraman VenkaTesh a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Vijay Subbaraman VenkaTesh to ViJay VenkaTesh The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 1/5/2023 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: – The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA - COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 1725 Main Street Santa Monica, CA 90401A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAMECase No. 23SMC00586Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Ethel Elizabeth Cox for Change of Name TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:Petitioner or Attorney: Ethel Elizabeth Cox filed a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Ethel Elizabeth Cox to Ethel Eichelberger Cox The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 01/05/2024 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: - The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA - COUNTY

Name Change

OF LOS ANGELES 1725 Main Street Santa Monica, CA 90401A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAMECase No. 23SMCP00644 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Gael Macdougall for Change of NameTO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:Petitioner or Attorney: Gael Louise Macdougall a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Gael Louise Macdougall to Gael Louise Loewy The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 02/16/2024 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: – The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA - COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 1725 Main Street Santa Monica, CA 90401A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAMECase No. 23GDCP00240 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Richard Jackson Jacinto for Change of NameTO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:Petitioner or Attorney: Richard Jackson Jacinto a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Richard Jackson Jacinto to Jax Jackson Jacinto The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 02/22/2024 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: E Room: 279 The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA - COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Glendale Court House 600 E Broadway A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.

Name Change

to Jax Jackson Jacinto The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 02/22/2024 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: E Room: 279 The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA - COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Glendale Court House 600 E Broadway A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 23GDCP00240 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles Petition of Richard Jackson Jacinto for Change of Name TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Richard Jackson Jacinto a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Richard Jackson Jacinto to Jax Jackson Jacinto. The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 02/22/2024 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: E Room: 279 The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA - COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Glendale Court House 600 E Broadway A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm
LOCATION 1640 5th Street, Suite 218, Santa Monica, CA 90401



TUESDAY | DECEMBER 26

SOCIAL SERVICE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY PROVIDENCE ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM
Help with family nutrition and health care access is resuming at Virginia Avenue Park thanks to Providence St. John's Community Health Program. Trained community health workers will be available to meet in person with community members at the Park Center Building in Virginia Avenue Park. The first Tuesday of the month 11:30 am to 7 pm and 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Tuesdays from 9:30 am to 5 pm. The trained Providence St. John's staff can assist with enrollment in CalFresh, the state of California's food subsidy program created to improve the nutrition of families through access to healthy foods. Staff can also help navigate enrollment or questions for MediCal and Medicare. If you have questions about whether you qualify for benefits or if you need help completing enrollment forms, you can make an appointment by calling 310.458.8688. Drop-ins are also welcome. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave.

SMARTY PANTS STORYTIME - IN-PERSON PROGRAM
Let's get ready for school! Enjoy books, songs, rhymes, and movement while learning school readiness skills and having fun. For ages 2 - 5 with their parent. 11:00am - 11:30am. Lloyd Taber-Marina del Rey Library - Meeting Room

READ TO A DOG - IN-PERSON PROGRAM
Practice your reading skills by reading aloud to a trained therapy dog and volunteer handler from the BARK Reading Dogs group! 2 - 3 p.m. Lloyd Taber-Marina del Rey Library - Meeting Room.

WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 27

SAMO NIGHT | WEDNESDAYS ON ICE
Get ready to make waves for SaMo Night as they celebrate everything Santa Monica! A community night dedicated to the people who make our city so special . Ice at Santa Monica, presented by Netflix, invites guests to join Wednesdays on Ice themed skate nights during the 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. sessions throughout the season. For more information on each themed night, visit iceatsantamonica.com.

COME SING WITH THE BAND - LIVE BAND KARAOKE
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. New Band!! New Experience!! Come in Sign up SING! Harvelle's Santa Monica, 1432 4th St, $10.

KARAOKE NIGHT PARTY AT TAVERN ON MAIN
Sing a song, sing it loud and sing it strong at Tavern on Main's Karaoke Night Party, every Monday and Wednesday night from 9pm to 1am. Tavern on Main 2907 Main St, Santa Monica, https://www.tavernonmainsm.com/events

ODD SQUARD CAR CLUB COFFEE CRUISE
The Odd Squad Car Club Coffee Cruise meets every Wednesday night from 7-11 PM at The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf on Venice Blvd in Los Angeles. Free for vehicle entry, free to attend. The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, 9829 Venice Blvd, https://carsandcoffeeevents.com/event/odd-squard-car-club-coffee-cruise/2023-12-27/

THURSDAY | DECEMBER 28

THE GRINNS, THE HAYDS, FOXTIDE
This event is 21 and over. Any ticket holder unable to present valid identification indicating that they are at least 21 years of age will not be admitted to this event, and will not be eligible for a refund. The Venice West, 1717 Lincoln Blvd, 8 p.m. $15.

OJB BLUES!
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. OJB (Oscar Jesus Bugarin) Born on Sunset Blvd, a Southern California native and child prodigy, picking up a 6-string at 6/7 years old, and brought up by a Mexican family with a long history of musical and artistic talent. Harvelle's Santa Monica 1432 4th St, 9:30 p.m. $10.

FRIDAY | DECEMBER 29

5 BANDS FOR 5 BUCKS
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. Harvelle's Santa Monica, 1432 4th St.

FRIDAY NIGHT JAMS AT TAVERN ON MAIN
Start those weekend vibes buzzing with hot tunes by a roster of rotating DJs at Tavern on Main. This is a 21+ event with no cover charge. Enjoy lively music, great drinks and the best food. Tavern on Main, 2907 Main St, 9 - 10:30 p.m.

SATURDAY | DECEMBER 30

HAPPY NOON YEAR'S STORYTIME
Make some noise for the new year at a storytime that ends with a practice countdown at noon! For ages 2 - 5. Santa Monica Public Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 11:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

PRESERVATION RESOURCE CENTER: SHOTGUN HOUSE TOUR
Stop by for a free tour! Explore the last intact shotgun house in Santa Monica, which now serves as an award-winning Preservation Resource Center for our community. Discover the journey of this tenacious little house, which was saved from demolition and moved - on wheels - three times before becoming a model for adaptive reuse. Tours are available on a walk-up basis. Santa Monica Preservation Resource Center, 2520 2nd St, 12 - 2 p.m.

COCOMELON PARTY TIME
A play-based party experience where kids can dance, sing, play & explore the world of CoComelon. Tickets include a meet & greet with CoComelon friends! Children under 12 months are free. Santa Monica Place, 395 Santa Monica Pl, 10 - 11 a.m. $33 - $38.



November 1 - December 31

Together we can end hunger this holiday season by donating non-perishable foods.

Make a donation today!

DROP OFF LOCATIONS

Visitor Information Center
2427 Main Street
Mon-Fri: 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Sat & Sun: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Parking validation and curbside drop off available
Simply text 424-443-8830

Le Merigot Santa Monica
1740 Ocean Avenue
Daily: 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

Santa MoniCARES
TOURISM SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY
cares@santamonica.com
santamonicares.org



GENTLY LOVED
CLOTHING DRIVE

Santa MoniCARES is in Need of Gently Loved Business Attire

The way you dress can change the way you feel! Help someone build the confidence they need going into a job interview. Santa MoniCARES, in partnership with the Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows, is collecting **new or gently loved business clothing** to benefit **Chrysalis, changing lives through jobs.**

Donate through December 31st

Pier Shop & Visitor Center
200 Santa Monica Pier

Main Street Visitor Center*
2427 Main St

Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows**
101 Wilshire Blvd

Santa MoniCARES
TOURISM SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY
cares@santamonica.com
santamonicares.org

**CURBSIDE DROPOFF at Main Street, text 424-443-8830 at least 15 minutes ahead of arrival*

***Through December 24th, drop off gently used clothing or canned goods in oversized gift boxes under the historic Moreton Bay Fig Tree*

Classifieds

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2023255436 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 11/29/23.The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Hayden Planning 13101 W Washington Blvd #401 Los Angeles, CA 90066Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Robert Matthew Hayden 13101 W Washington Blvd #401 Los Angeles, CA 90066If corporation or LLC- Print State of Incorporation/Organization: This Business is conducted by: An Individual The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 01/2016 Registrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: Robert Matthew Hayden Title: Owner Robert Matthew Hayden This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/29/2023NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS 12/05/23,12/12/23, 12/19/23, 12/6/23

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2023257885 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 12/1/23.The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Arrive West LA 1759 Beloit Ave Los Angeles, CA 90025 Mailing Address 2082 Michelson Drive 4th FL Irvine,CA 92612Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON The full name of the registrant(s) is/are CP5 1759 Beloit., LLC 2082 Michelson Drive 4th FL Irvine,CA 92612If corporation or LLC- Print State of Incorporation/Organization: This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 11/2023 Registrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: CP5 1759 Beloit., LLC Title: Vice President Michael B Earl This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/1/2023NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS 12/05/23,12/12/23, 12/19/23, 12/26/23

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2023257891 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 12/1/23.The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Arrive Seaside I 1548 6th St Santa Monica, CA 90401 Mailing Address 2082 Michelson Drive 4th FL Irvine,CA 92612Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON The full name of the registrant(s) is/are CP6 1548 6th ST., LLC 2082 Michelson Drive 4th FL Irvine,CA 92612If corporation or LLC- Print State of Incorporation/Organization: DEThis Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 11/2023 Registrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: CP6 1548 6th ST., LLC Title: Vice President Michael B Earl This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/29/2023NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS 12/05/23,12/12/23, 12/19/23, 12/26/23

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2023257885 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 12/1/23.The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Arrive Seaside II 1539 4th St Santa Monica, CA 90401 Mailing Address 2082 Michelson Drive 4th FL Irvine,CA 92612Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON The full name of the registrant(s) is/are CP6 1539 4th ST., LLC 2082 Michelson Drive 4th FL Irvine,CA 92612If corporation or LLC- Print State of Incorporation/Organization: DEThis Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 11/2023 Registrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: CP6 1539 4th ST., LLC Title: Vice President Michael B Earl This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/1/2023NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS 12/05/23,12/12/23, 12/19/23, 12/26/23

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2023227607 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 10/20/23.The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Adage Studios 1920 Hillhurst Ave #207 Los Angeles, CA 90027Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Arielle Ackerman 1920 Hillhurst Ave #207 Los Angeles, CA 90027If corporation or LLC- Print State of Incorporation/Organization: This Business is conducted by: Am Individual The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 10/2023 Registrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: Arielle Ackerman Title: Owner Arielle Ackerman This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/1/2023NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS 12/04/23,12/11/23, 12/18/23, 12/26/23

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2023247350 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 11/15/23. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Calyx Peak 925 Wilshire Unit B Santa Monica, CA 90401Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON The full name of the registrant(s) is/are CPC Compassion Inc 1628 Cravens Lane Carpenteria, CA 93013If corporation or LLC- Print State of Incorporation/Organization: CAThis Business is conducted by: A Corporation The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A Registrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: CPC Compassion Inc Title: Secretary Howard Keum This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/15/2023NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS 12/04/23,12/11/23, 12/18/23, 12/26/23

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2023261526 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 12/06/23. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Social Proof Agency 2677 Centinela Ave Unit 105 Santa Monica, CA 90405Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Robyn Nissim 2677 Centinela Ave Unit 105 Santa Monica, CA 90405If corporation or LLC- Print State of Incorporation/Organization: This Business is conducted by: An Individual The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/ARegistrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: Robyn Nissim Title: Owner Robyn Nissim This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/06/2023NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS11/13/23 11/20/23,11/27/23, 01,02,23

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAMECase No. 23SMCP00581 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Kamilla Vaksman for Change of NameTO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:Petitioner or Attorney: Kamilla Vaksman a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Kamilla Vaksman to Kamilla Gafurzjanova The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 12/29/2023 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: – The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA - COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 1725 Main Street Santa Monica, CA 90401A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.

CALL TODAY
AND PLACE YOUR
CLASSIFIED
office **(310) 458-7737**
Santa Monica Daily Press

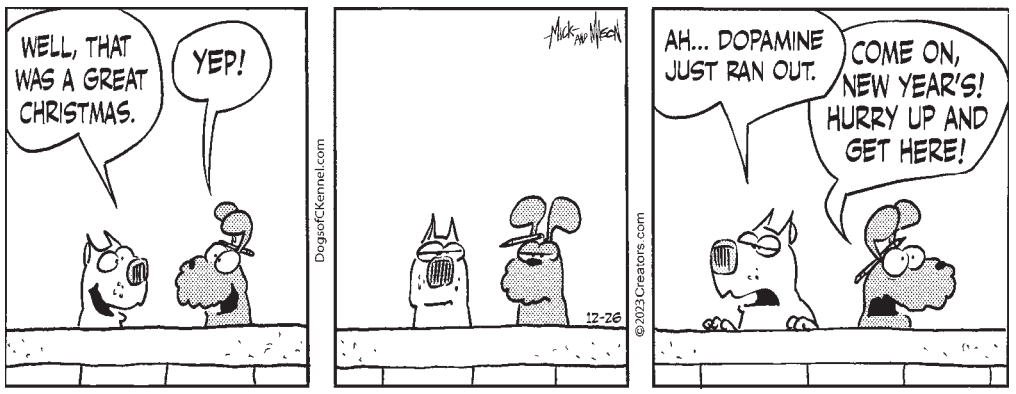
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



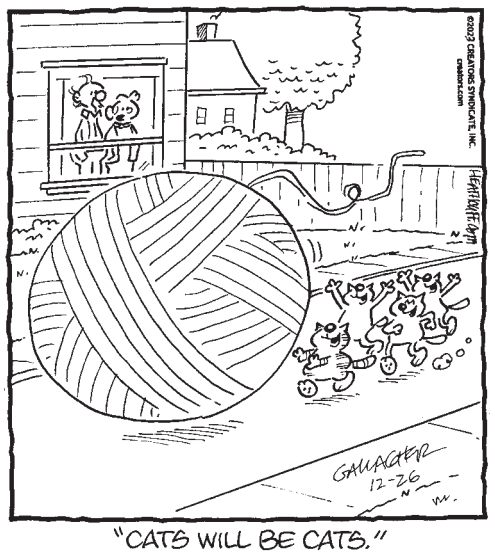
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"CATS WILL BE CATS."

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6070

A bloke's domain

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

Air hockey
Axes
Biscuit joiner
Busy
Charger
Crowbar
Dirt
Dish
Drill
Dust
Esky
Fertiliser
Gloves
Grease gun
Grout
Hoist
Hooks
Hose
Junk
Kero
Kits
Knife
Lamp
Motorcycle
Nuts and bolts
Oily
Pick
Plane
Pots
Racks
Rags
Rope
Safety
Saws
Smells
Sofa
Stakes
String
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Tools
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SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
It's too hot to work outside

Covering the city by the bay since 2001.
To advertise, email cindy@smdp.com or call 310.458.7737
smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 26)

Just trying to help someone out, you'll make a magic-laced agreement and your path is forever altered in a wonderful way. You'll repeat a health-focused action that becomes a habit, and then a lifestyle that gives you the result you've long wished for. More highlights: Research and education lead to more money. Gemini and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 2, 22, 21 and 8.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're in a dance between two powerful forces. You do not have to succumb to either but will veer closer to one, and then later to the other, creating your own path of interesting swirls and zigzags.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Delays around finance and logistics will figure in, but it's nothing major. Think of this as a soft test of character — an opportunity for patience, humor and ultimately moments of connection that could not happen in any other timing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's easier for you to have fun once your responsibilities are covered. Get help with it. Also, don't write off the distractions as superfluous. Later, you may consider these diversions to be the main road.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Blame, especially self-blame, is not useful. It steals focus from doing what it takes to fix a situation. While it might be helpful to remember what worked and didn't before, do this with your feet moving ever-forward.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You always take the time to be with those you care about when you know they are in need. It's even more special when you give your attention to loved ones, knowing they don't need a thing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's a storm rolling in, figuratively speaking. You are safe and sound inside and so there's nothing to fear, only something to experience in awe — the theatrics of sky drama, electric clouds and the thunderous scene unfolding.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Of course, different kinds of sharing are appropriate for different situations, and sometimes the boundaries are blurred around the edges. It's better to err on the side of restraint and radiate warmth from a distance.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The theme is: an unlikely pairing. You'll see it on plates, in couples, business arrangements and in other forms throughout the day. You never can quite tell how things will fit together until you really do bring them together.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's exciting to take things in a new direction. Even if this route doesn't prove fruitful, there's something good about the change, which will invigorate a relationship and give you a different and very helpful perspective.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Even though you really do know what's good for a loved one, sometimes they just have to figure things out for themselves. You'll exert your influence with the perfect balance of respect. A little attention goes a long way.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You respect the efforts of those around you, regardless of what kind of result they bring because, after all, there's only so much people can actually control. Your grace contributes to the best possible outcomes.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Instead of fretting over every small decision, you'll pause to set your mind on a particular course, and this large decision about which journey you are on will handle every small choice along the way.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

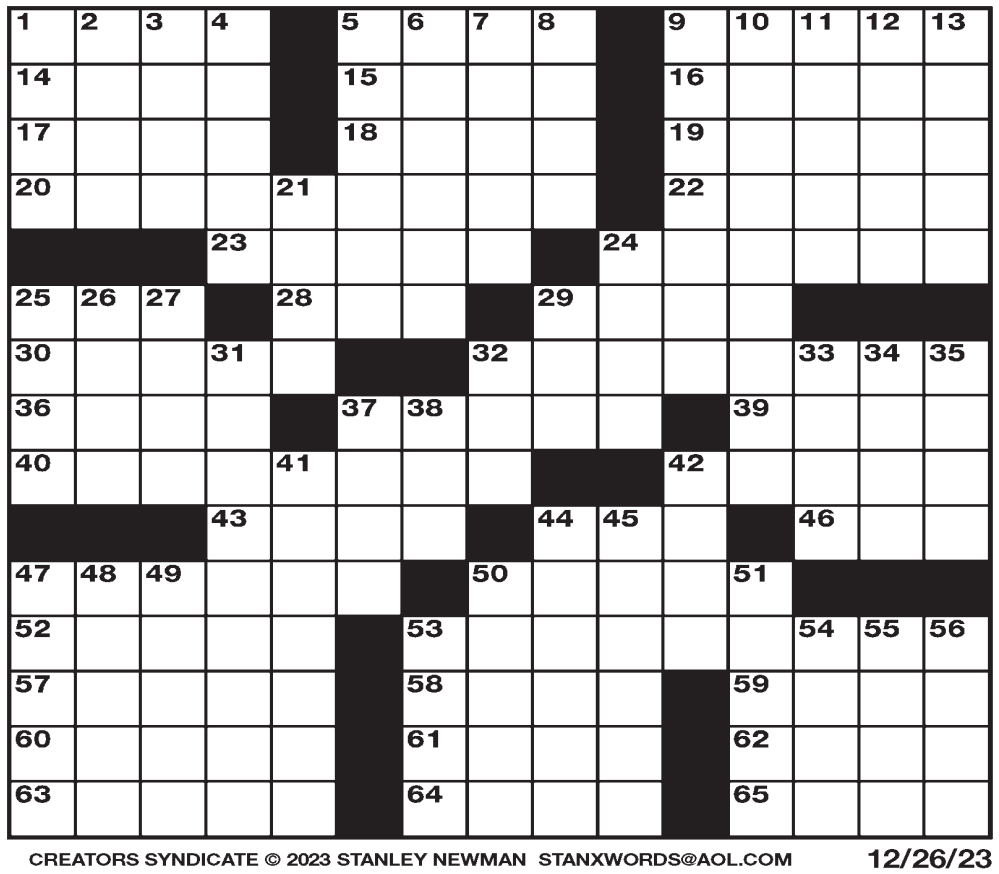
DOUBLE DOUBLES by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Gator relative
5 Mope around
9 Vow under oath
14 "__ we go again!"
15 Joint above the shin
16 Rich layer cake
17 Home for Adam and Eve
18 Apex
19 Tree's underground growths
20 Furniture to rest your legs on
22 __ Bauer (clothing brand)
23 Back of a ship
24 Product imperfection
25 "It's cold!"
28 Noah's ship
29 Countrywide: Abbr.
30 Be a monarch
32 Bleeped out
36 Helpful facts, for short
37 Sharp, as eyesight
39 Full of grease
40 Car driver
42 Language of a novel
43 Local sandwich shop
44 Unhappy spectator's shout
46 TV actor Danson
47 Biblical poems
50 Religious doctrine
52 "Are not!" comeback
53 Guaranteed to work
57 Helicopter blade
58 Skywalker of *Star Wars*
59 Wise advisor
60 Difficult journeys
61 China's continent
62 Software purchaser
63 Sound judgment
64 Red vegetable
65 Handicrafts website

DOWN

1 Gourmet cook
2 Make over, as a kitchen
3 Creme-filled cookie
4 Pennies
5 Ice hockey player
6 Open, as a wine bottle
7 __ meringue pie
8 Ship's spine
9 City's roads
10 Oak or maple surface to walk on
11 Wear away
12 House's high storage room
13 Adjust, as an alarm clock
21 Lee of Marvel Comics fame
24 Copenhagen native
25 Hat's edge
26 Nevada city
27 Disagreement
29 Take-home pay
31 Attractive appearance
32 Shorten, as with scissors
33 Barrel of laughs
34 Otherwise
35 Altered the color of
37 Feels unwell
38 CBS police franchise
41 Deep regret
42 Ceremonial splendor
44 Person taking bets
45 Eye rudely
47 Components
48 Gooey campfire treat
49 When a coffee break may start
50 Extinguish, as a fire
51 Bicker
53 Exerciser's excess weight
54 Remove from power
55 Rocks from a mine
56 Strong rage



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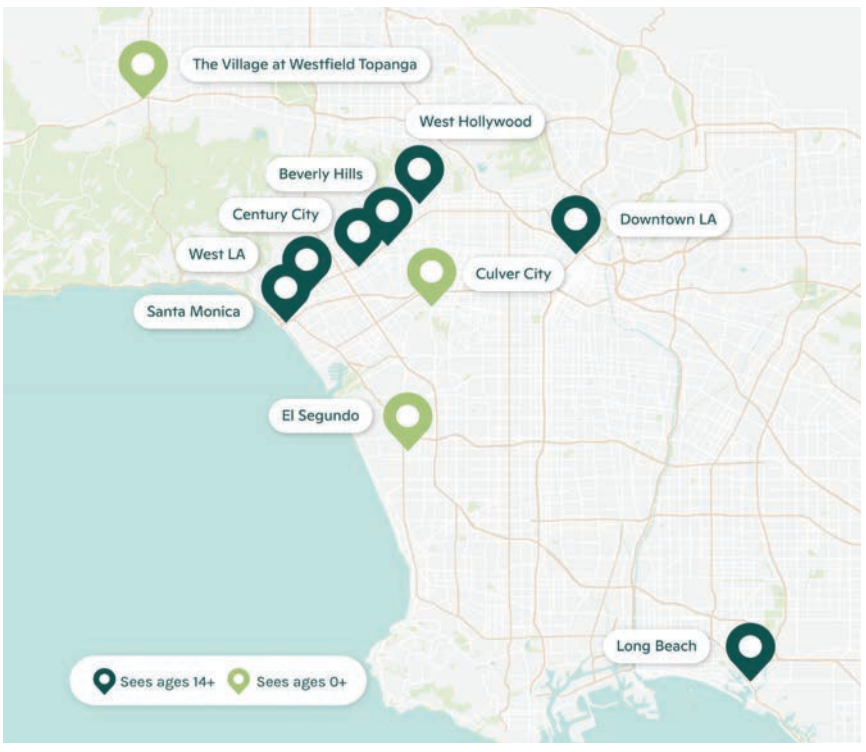
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