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Samohi students sign for college athletics

MAGGIE MARKS

SMDP Intern

Three Santa Monica High School athletes 'signed' to continue their athletic endeavors in college on National Signing Day.

These student-athletes were celebrated with the entire athletic program and the athletes' families during a brief on-campus ceremony. Brielle Minor chose to continue her basketball endeavors at Cal State Fullerton, Aaron Smollins will play baseball at Rollins College, and Jamie Browning will play volleyball at Springfield College.

Traditionally occurring on the first Wednesday of February, National Signing Day is when high school athletes start to sign National Letters of Intent (NLI), legally binding the student to their college's athletic program. Starting in the 1960s, the NLI was developed by college athletic conferences to simplify the signing process. Then, the signing process was much messier, with colleges handing out offers to students well into their senior year, without anything concrete. Now, National Signing Day marks the end of the recruitment process, as well as providing the student with a scholarship for the first year of college. After the first year, the college must let the student know if they will be renewing the scholarship.

For many, this is a monumental moment. Students are reaping the rewards of their efforts devoted to the sport and many students say the day feels very rewarding.

"I'm excited to compete at the highest level. It has always been

SEE SIGNING DAY PAGE 6

Samohi music awards



BANDS: 41 local students were recognized recently for their achievements in music. See page 6 for more information.

Courtesy Photo

Council moves to create post pandemic recovery fund of \$100,000 for small businesses

SCOTT SNOWDEN

SMDP Staff Writer

The City Council has approved the motion to explore a post pandemic recovery fund of at least \$100,000 for Santa Monica's small businesses at the request of Councilmember Caroline Torosis and Mayor Pro Tem Lana Negrete.

The notion was first put forward at the Council meeting on January 24 and discussion continued – and concluded – in the meeting held on Tuesday, February 14.

"The pandemic has been hard on our small business community in Santa Monica," said Councilwoman Torosis. "We also know that it's been increasingly hard for small

businesses to stay grow and thrive in the city."

She said businesses owned by women or people of color have been hit even harder as they often face systemic barriers to resources and that city should look for ways to support the small business

SEE SMALL BUSINESS PAGE 7

Civic meetings return to in-person participation

MATTHEW HALL

Daily Press Editor

Santa Monica's civic meetings will universally return to in-person participation on March 1 following the expiration of the statewide COVID-19 Emergency Order.

While the City Council has operated in person since April of last year, the City's boards and commissions have remained virtual. However, that option will be unavailable once the emergency order ends.

"When the State order sunsets, COVID-19 will no longer be a valid basis for public bodies to hold meetings virtually under AB 361, adopted by the State Legislature to provide more flexibility for public bodies to facilitate virtual meetings during the pandemic," said the city in a Thursday announcement. "Thus, all public bodies will return to holding public meetings in accordance with the Brown Act. The Brown Act does allow for public bodies to hold meetings via teleconference however certain stipulations apply."

Live meetings will require public comment to be in-person or submitted in writing prior to the meeting. As was the case in pre-pandemic times, individuals who need accommodation for a disability or language interpretation services can contact city staff 72 hours in advance of a meeting.

While council previously debated hybrid meetings, cost and staffing limitations prevented the city from adopting a mixed model.

SEE CIVIC MEETINGS PAGE 7



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California homelessness: Where are the state's billions going? Here's the new, best answer

BEN CHRISTOPHER

Special to the Daily Press

In Sacramento, there's a word that keeps popping up during discussions about the state's homelessness crisis: "accountability."

Gov. Gavin Newsom has scolded cities and counties for failing to get more people off the street, hundreds of millions in state spending notwithstanding. "Californians demand accountability and results, not settling for the status quo," the governor said last November.

Republicans in the Legislature have called for an audit of the state's homelessness spending. Democrats are still absorbing the last one from 2021, but many want to see the state's money come with strings attached. This week, Assemblymember Luz Rivas, an Arleta Democrat, introduced a bill that would demand "tangible results" from local governments before they receive homelessness grants — mirroring an idea from the governor's own budget proposal.

The increasingly bipartisan chorus points to two stark, seemingly contradictory trends: The state keeps spending more to address the crisis, and the crisis keeps getting worse. So where, they ask, is all the money going?

On Wednesday, California lawmakers got something that resembles an answer.

The state's Interagency Council on Homelessness, a state body tasked with overseeing the state's homelessness strategy and divvying up funding to local governments,

issued a report detailing just how much the state has spent on the crisis between 2018 and 2021 — and what it's gotten in return.

The answer to those questions, according to the report: The state has spent nearly \$10 billion and provided services to more than 571,000 people, each year helping more people than the last.

And despite all that, at the end of year three, the majority of those more than half a million Californians still didn't end up with a roof over their heads. The number of unsheltered Californians continues to swell.

Presented at a three-hour joint committee hearing in the Assembly, the report has sent housing policy experts across the state into a twitter. Services for the homeless are so disjointed — split among nine state agencies, hundreds of county and municipal governments, nonprofits and charitable organizations — the 253-page document may be the first statistical birds-eye view of the state's many-tentacled efforts.

But it also shows just how intractable the problem is.

"One of the largest challenges facing the state is the inflow of new people into homelessness, even as efforts to help people experiencing homelessness expand," the report reads.

What the report did not address is how the state can spend its money more effectively.



Photo by Teun Voeten/Sipa USA

TENT: Los Angeles is facing a humanitarian crisis it has never seen before as homelessness and drug abuse grow.

SEE HOMELESSNESS PAGE 8

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Advocates chronicle LA's Virgin of Guadalupe street art

ALEJANDRA MOLINA

Religion News Service

There's nothing that Oscar Rodriguez Zapata enjoys more than going out for a drive to explore Los Angeles' vast neighborhoods in search of the Virgin of Guadalupe.

He packs his Nikon Z6 II and a Fujifilm X100V and photographs murals, landscapes, storefronts and people across the city's Historic South Central and Eastside to South Bay. Street vendors, lowriders and the L.A. skyline are among his favorite subjects.

But his biggest L.A. muse is the Virgin of Guadalupe, said Zapata. Murals, mosaics and other artwork depicting the brown-skinned virgin and patron saint of Mexico grace the walls of laundromats, liquor stores, mini markets, churches, bakeries, taquerias and tire shops.

“

Whenever you see a virgencita you feel safe. You know that your people, your gente, your raza are around

- Oscar Rodriguez Zapata

”

“Whenever you see a virgencita you feel safe. You know that your people, your gente, your raza are around,” said Zapata, 35, who, though raised Catholic, identifies as nonreligious. “It makes you feel welcome.”

January marked 10 years since he began documenting images of Guadalupe, at first on his phone for his own pleasure, but eventually taking his hobby more seriously, particularly as he noticed more and more Guadalupe images were vanishing. In late 2017, he created an Instagram profile devoted to his photos of Guadalupe murals in order to preserve them. He now has more than 6,000 followers.

Zapata focuses on examples of the Virgin on dilapidated buildings in need of a fresh coat of paint or the more intricate and colorful ones that take up entire wall space, as they risk succumbing to gentrification and displacement of Latino communities in L.A.

The Virgin Mary, he said, “is much more than a religious symbol.”

“It's part of the community and part of who we are,” Zapata said.

Our Lady of Guadalupe is celebrated in

many Catholic parishes across Southern California on her feast day, Dec. 12, marking the appearance of Mary to St. Juan Diego, an Indigenous man, near Mexico City in 1531. But Guadalupe finds her way into shrines and murals in Latino neighborhoods year-round, and chroniclers like Zapata document her to pay homage to the culture, faith and traditions of their L.A. neighbors.

Across Los Angeles, images of the Virgin are believed to thwart vandalism and act as “protector(s) of small immigrant-owned businesses,” according to journalist Sam Quinones' 2016 book of photographs of murals of the saint, “The Virgin of the American Dream.”

Quinones has seen business owners commission Virgin Mary artworks on their storefronts as “purely a commercial transaction,” he told an audience last April at “Guadalupe: Holy Art in the Streets of Los Angeles,” an event hosted by the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at the University of Southern California.

He spoke of Palestinian and Indian merchants who have put Guadalupe on their walls, with one man saying her image was meant “to show people that I'm with them ... that I'm not some foreigner guy,” Quinones recalled.

Neither Catholic nor religious, Quinones — a reporter who has covered crime and gangs in the United States and Mexico — said he sees the Virgin as “softening the harshness of life,” recalling that he has witnessed how people turned to her in the midst of violence. Once he started photographing her, he said, he became obsessed, turning his head every time he drove by a neighborhood market to see if he would spot a Guadalupe.

Between his reporting in Mexico and documenting Guadalupe in L.A., Quinones understood that images of the Virgin Mary served as a guiding force for undocumented Mexican immigrants “to find a way in this new world.”

“All you've got are your guts, your wits and the Virgin of Guadalupe,” he said.

Brenda Perez created the Restorative Justice for the Arts project to help restore and preserve what she calls “windows into the spiritual landscape” of L.A. A doctoral candidate in psychology, Perez has researched how sacred Indigenous symbols and community art can help heal trauma and resist discrimination.

“When murals with her image are whitewashed, it's a sacrilegious act,” Perez said, recalling a Virgin Mary image on a liquor store wall that was recently painted over. “That's something that everyone must respect because it's a culture.”

Nichole Flores, an associate professor of religious studies at the University of Virginia, said religious and political leaders must work to preserve public art, including murals of the Virgin of Guadalupe, that, she said, “shapes and grounds certain communities.”

Images of Guadalupe, whether embodied in elaborate public murals or displayed on taco trucks, sanctify spaces and “invite us to think about how we can relate with each other across our differences,” said Flores, author of “The Aesthetics of Solidarity: Our Lady of Guadalupe and American Democracy.”

Flores has explored how Guadalupe images shape Chicano communities in

Denver, Colorado, where residents have used Guadalupe to stand against gentrification in their neighborhoods.

She recalled asking Denver-based Chicano artist Carlos Fresquez about the significance of his Guadalupe artwork on the side of a liquor store. To the artist, the image was simply a way “to give a sense of place,” Flores said, adding that wherever Guadalupe is, “you will know that Mexicans, Mexican Americans, Chicanos are present there.”

Illustrating her is a way of saying, “Our people are present here,” Flores said. Painting over or covering Guadalupe artwork, “feels like an affront to our dignity and personhood.”

Growing up in the L.A. County city of Paramount, Nydia Mora, a youth librarian with a background in urban planning, said the Virgin of Guadalupe “was everywhere all the time.”

“I just grew fascinated by the creativity that she inspired in people — the creation of these amazing, beautiful, unique murals,” said Mora, 33.

In 2012, as she was wrapping up her undergraduate degree at Cal Poly Pomona, Mora began to capture Guadalupe street art, thinking of creating a coffee table book for her Catholic mother “to show an appreciation for our culture.” An Instagram account where she posts her photos of “artistic expressions of devotion in LA” has amassed more than 13,000 followers. Mora has also put together a Google map of her Virgin of Guadalupe sightings.

One of her more striking images shows a

statue of the Virgin atop a bollard at a mini market parking lot in Compton. The shrine is embellished with votive candles and vases filled with flowers propped against the post.

Her photographs are scheduled to appear later this year at a museum on the grounds of Forest Lawn Memorial Park, a cemetery in the city of Glendale.

Mora, who grew up culturally Catholic but is not religious, said Guadalupe represents what she cherishes the most: “My mom, my culture and my cities.”

“To see her (Guadalupe) in the streets of Los Angeles, that's a form of pride for myself,” she said.

Zapata agrees. On a recent Saturday in January, he drove to Boyle Heights in the city's Eastside to shoot a spray-painted image of Mary on the side of Valerio Family Barbershop.

George Valerio, part owner of the shop, said he commissioned the mural to pay homage to his family's Catholic faith and to growing up Mexican in the San Gabriel Valley city of El Monte.

Before heading out, Zapata marked the street and specific neighborhood where Guadalupe was featured. Simply captioning the location of the photo with ‘Los Angeles’ doesn't fully capture its essence, Zapata said.

“I want to represent the people in the community,” he said.

This article was produced under a grant from Fieldstead and Company, Inc. supporting journalistic exploration of the ways faith traditions inspire artistic creativity.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

El Segundo

Fowl-free: McDonald's debuts plant-based McNuggets

McDonald's McNuggets are going fowl-free.

The Chicago-based fast food giant is introducing plant-based McNuggets next week. Germany will be the first market to get them.

McPlant Nuggets — made from peas, corn and wheat with a tempura batter — are the second product McDonald's has co-developed with Beyond Meat, an El Segundo, California-based maker of plant-based meats. McDonald's has been selling a McPlant burger since 2021.

McDonald's said the nationwide nugget rollout to more than 1,400 restaurants in Germany follows a limited-time test at nine restaurants in the Stuttgart area in August. McDonald's will also start selling the McPlant burger in Germany next week.

Availability of the McPlant nuggets and burger in future markets will depend on customer demand, McDonald's said.

European customers have generally been more receptive to McDonald's plant-based meat products than those in the U.S. The McPlant burger is now a permanent menu item in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Austria and the Netherlands. Last month, McDonald's rolled out the Double McPlant burger in the U.K. and Ireland.

But in the U.S., McDonald's ended a test of the McPlant burger last summer without announcing any future plans for its sale.

Beyond Meat began selling plant-based chicken in U.S. groceries in 2021. It has also co-developed plant-based tenders and nuggets with other chains, including KFC and Panda Express.

SUBMITTED BY DEE-ANN DURBIN, AP BUSINESS WRITER



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

SANTA MONICA
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
Pursuant to AB361

DATE/TIME: Tuesday February 21, 2023, 7:00 PM

LOCATION: In an effort to reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19), members of the Architectural Review Board and City Staff will participate via teleconference. The public may join the teleconference via <https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/syvuqykd> dialing in at +1 (415) 466-7000 (US) PIN: 2746042 #.

PROJECT REVIEW:

905 Centinela Avenue: 23ARB-0006 - to review the placement and massing for the construction of a new 2-story, single family residence with an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU), with surface and garage parking within the R1 (Single Unit Density) zoning district.

PRELIMINARY REVIEW:

1215 19th Street - Building and Landscape Design for a, six story, 34-unit 100% affordable housing project.

1620 Euclid Street - Building and Landscape Design for a Tier 2, three-story creative office building consisting of a 47,391 SF office space with subterranean parking garage.

700 Santa Monica Boulevard - Building and Landscape Design for a Tier 2, five story, 60-unit mixed-use project with 3,900 SF of ground floor commercial space.

3122 Nebraska Avenue - Building and Landscape Design for a Tier 2, four-story creative office building with three levels of below grade parking.

More information is available online at <https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Architectural-Review-Board/> or at (310) 458-8341 (en espanol tambien).

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Those wishing to give written public comment shall email comments to planningcomment@santamonica.gov. Comments received **prior to 12 p.m.** on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Architectural Review Board prior to the meeting and posted online. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

Public comment can also be made by phone during the meeting by calling 1-408-740-7256 (Meeting ID: 592631538 and Passcode: 2318 followed by #) when the caller queue opens for the item on which you wish to comment. Remarks from the public will be limited to 2 minutes per item. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment.

For disability-related accommodations, please contact 310-458-8701 or TTY 310-450-8696 a minimum of 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request.

California debates what to do with water from recent storms

ADAM BEAM

Associated Press

Weeks after powerful storms dumped 32 trillion gallons of rain and snow on California, state officials and environmental groups in the drought-ravaged state are grappling with what to do with all of that water.

State rules say when it rains and snows a lot in California, much of that water must stay in the rivers to act as a conveyor belt to carry tens of thousands of endangered baby salmon into the Pacific Ocean.

But this week, California Gov. Gavin Newsom asked state regulators to temporarily change those rules. He says the drought has been so severe it would be foolish to let all of that water flow into the ocean and that there's plenty of water for the state to take more than the rules allow while still protecting threatened fish species.

If Newsom gets his way, the state would stop about 300,000 acre feet (370 million cubic meters) of water from flowing through the rivers. One acre foot of water is generally enough water to supply two households for one year.

“

This governor is the most anti-environmental governor, with respect to endangered species and California water, that we've had in my lifetime

- Jon Rosenfield, senior scientist for the San Francisco Baykeeper

Environmental group say pulling that much water out of the rivers would be a death sentence for the salmon and other threatened fish species that depend on strong, cool flows in the rivers to survive. They're furious with Newsom, whom they view as a hypocrite for touting himself as a champion of the environment while disregarding the laws designed to protect it.

“This governor is the most anti-environmental governor, with respect to endangered species and California water, that we've had in my lifetime,” said Jon Rosenfield, senior scientist for the San Francisco Baykeeper, an environmental group that focuses on the San Francisco Bay and its watershed.

It's one of the oldest disputes in California, a state that for more than a century has manipulated the natural flow of rivers and streams to transform the Central Valley into one of the most fertile stretches of farmland on Earth while also supplying some of the nation's most populous coastal cities.

Those demands have threatened the delicate environmental balance of the San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta, one of the largest estuaries in the country. That has put multiple fish species at risk, including the Delta smelt, longfin smelt, Central Valley steelhead, spring-run Chinook salmon, winter-run Chinook salmon and the green sturgeon, according to Rosenfield.

Those rules protect more than just fish, including host of other rare and endangered species while also benefiting commercial and recreational fishing and other recreational pursuits.

The Newsom administration says a changing climate requires new rules. Historically, rain has been spread fairly evenly through the winter months. More water is typically left in the rivers when it rains because there's an assumption that more rain will follow.

That's not happening now. Scientists say climate change is contributing to so-called “weather whiplash,” when periods of intense rain are followed by extreme dryness. Newsom fears California's intense January storms will be followed by an unusually dry spring.

That makes it more difficult to manage the state's sparse water supply, especially “this early in the season before we've really had a sense of exactly how the water year is going to turn out,” said Karla Nemeth, director of the California Department of Water Resources.

Jennifer Pierre, general manager for the State Water Contractors — a nonprofit association representing 27 public water agencies — said the proposed rule changes are an “appropriate action to help realign California's water management decision making with the latest and most relevant science and the current hydrology.”

“California is still recovering from years of drought and water cutbacks,” she said. “We must be nimble in ensuring responsible water management for both water supply and the environment.”

If the state doesn't change the rules, Nemeth warned that would mean the state has far less water to make available in the spring and summer for farmers and major cities such as Los Angeles.

Nemeth said there's plenty of water in the rivers to support fish, though the Newsom administration acknowledged in its proposal that it could lead to more deaths of baby salmon. The state would monitor the fish and “quickly respond,” if needed. For example, Nemeth said if state officials detect fish near the pumps in the river, they can turn the pumps down so as not to harm them.

“That's protective enough of the species,” she said.

Environmental groups argue that the administration's plan for fish is not enough. Last year, the survival of winter-run Chinook salmon in the Sacramento River was the

Who draws the lines? A big push for independent local redistricting

SAMEEA KAMAL

Special to the Daily Press

In damning audio leaked last fall, three Los Angeles City Councilmembers made a bevy of racist comments about Black, Jewish, Armenian and Oaxacan people. Then the conversation turned to how they could get the city's redistricting commission, which they appointed, to draw council maps that would allow them to stay in office.

"If we can slice and dice this baby up to cut you off where you think that favorable people are in ... I'm all for that," Nury Martinez, who resigned after the leak, said at one point. "I just need to know what I'm working with, with this map."

The council adopted a map that disregarded suggestions from the advisory commission and that kept resource-rich Exposition Park out of the one Black-majority district.

Across California, new districts were drawn after the 2020 Census, as they are every 10 years, to make sure that every congressional, legislative and local district has about the same number of people. But who is grouped together in a district can empower or disenfranchise a community. And until 2010, on both the state and local levels, the mapping was done by elected officials themselves, often behind closed doors.

Backed by good government groups, voters created an independent state commission and new requirements for local jurisdictions. But fresh off redistricting in which not just officials in Los Angeles, but in cities and counties around the state, failed to solicit community feedback or incorporate it into the actual maps, those groups and lawmakers are trying again to expand local independent redistricting.

Today, Assemblymember Isaac Bryan, a Democrat from Culver City, is introducing a bill to require jurisdictions with populations of 300,000 or more to form fully independent redistricting commissions. That's in addition to a bushel of bills calling for independent redistricting in specific jurisdictions, including Los Angeles and Orange and Sacramento counties.

"We've seen the fallout from the crisis around the redistricting process in the city of Los Angeles, and the concerns that have emerged across the state," Bryan said. "The people of California have the right to a fair, independent redistricting process that recognizes community concerns and uplifts community voices."

Some cities and counties have already set up such commissions, including Long Beach, San Francisco and Los Angeles County. Last year, a bill to require independent commissions for all counties with more than 400,000 residents passed the Legislature, but was vetoed by Gov. Gavin Newsom, who said that while the commissions were "an important tool in preventing gerrymandering," local jurisdictions were already authorized to create them. He added that the measure would require counties to be reimbursed, and therefore should go through the budget process instead.

Santa Monica resident and State Senator Ben Allen who authored last year's bill and has worked closely with Bryan on the new one, said the proposed legislation works in flexibility for local governments, unlike past efforts.

"It's part of why I prefer this approach, which is ultimately about trying to give (local



Photo by Pablo Unzueta for CalMatters

REDISTRICT: Long Beach residents from different districts participate in a commission meeting held at city hall, denouncing some of the proposed redistricting maps.

jurisdictions) more discretion," Allen told CalMatters. "I think there's real merit to providing parameters for how this ought to be done and then allowing local communities to do what's best for them."

Incorporating local flexibility may help ward off challenges that have come to past efforts. California's Constitution allows charter cities including Los Angeles to control their own affairs.

The bill follows a report commissioned by California Common Cause, the Southern and Northern California chapters of the ACLU, the League of Women Voters of California and Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Asian Law Caucus. The report studied redistricting in about 100 cities and counties and found "widespread gerrymandering" — but not as much in places with independent commissions.

"We found across the board, no matter how a jurisdiction had set up their independent redistricting commission, it resulted in a more participatory process — respecting communities and neighborhoods," said Laurel Brodzinsky, legislative director with California Common Cause.

The report identified some of the biggest issues across the state: Advisory commissions in which members acted as proxies for elected officials who appointed them; boards that held only the bare minimum of public meetings; and others that did not incorporate any community feedback into the maps.

Bryan's bill would require counties, cities, school districts and community college districts to set up their own independent commissions by March 1, 2030 — in time to draw maps after the next Census. The structure would be modeled after some parts of the statewide commission: members selected from qualified applicants who then select the rest, and minimum requirements

for public input and outreach. But unlike the state commission, there wouldn't be requirements on party representation or citizenship for commission membership.

If a city, county, school or community college district is unable to set up an independent commission, the bill lists back-up options, including a panel of retired judges, or an ethics commission.

"The redistricting process is such an important part of our democracy. It really does play such an important role in determining who gets elected," Allen said. "We feel good that we'll get it to a place where the governor feels comfortable."

Local control on maps

The statewide and local bills this session follow three laws passed last year that created independent commissions in Riverside, Kern and Fresno counties.

SB 52, introduced by Democratic Sen. María Elena Durazo of Los Angeles, seeks to create an independent commission for the city of Los Angeles. It's not the first time independent redistricting has been debated in Los Angeles — but the promise is never kept, Durazo said. The audio leak motivated her to introduce it as her first bill this session, but she also noted that redistricting impacts how state money is distributed.

"That's what elevates it from being a local city concern to a statewide concern — when billions and billions of dollars are distributed to the city of Los Angeles with the hopes that it's going to be fairly used in the city," she said. "And then you get districts that are made not on the basis of what's a community of interest. They're made on the basis of 'Can I get reelected?'"

Durazo said she's willing to work with other legislators on a statewide effort. "I just want to make sure that we fix the problem," she said.

The bill for Sacramento County, introduced by new Democratic state Sen. Angelique Ashby, would apply to the Board of Supervisors, which oversees tax collection, land management and distributes state and federal funds.

"The county did hold hearings, but elected officials drew the lines themselves, which just really isn't a best practices model and left certain communities feeling unheard," said Ashby, a former member of the Sacramento City Council, which has an independent commission that helped diversify geographic representation by creating a second seat in the fast-growing Natomas area.

Ashby's bill includes some parameters such as barring commissioners who have run for office in the previous decade, or who have other conflicts of interest. Like Durazo, Ashby said she'd be willing to fold her bill into a larger statewide effort, but wanted to introduce SB 314 to get the conversation started.

"I've been at the local level and have lived through both not having a commission and having a commission, so I think I'm a pretty decent spokesperson for that effort," she said, "Sacramento can just be a good leader in this discussion across the state of California."

There's also AB 34, introduced by Democratic Assemblymember Avelino Valencia of Anaheim, which would require an independent commission to draw districts for the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

Valencia said his bill's intent is to help avoid partisan conflicts or favoritism in district maps.

"I don't believe politicians should be in charge of drawing their own districts," Valencia said. "Having a degree of separation between the redistricting process and elected

COMMUNITY NEWS

Citywide

SMMUSD Music Students Named to California All State and Honor Choir, Orchestra and Band

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) has congratulated the 41 Santa Monica students who were named to the All State and Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association (SCSBOA) Honor Choir, Orchestra and Band, and to the 2023 California All State Music Education Conference (CASMEC).

"We want to congratulate the students from John Adams Middle School (JAMS), Lincoln Middle School and Santa Monica High School (Samohi) who successfully auditioned after such a challenging time during the pandemic, as well as their teachers for continuing to provide an outstanding music education that inspired their students," said Tom Whaley, SMMUSD Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator.

For music students, being named "All State" or "Honor" is an outstanding achievement and a true testament of their skills. Earning "All State" is considered the highest honor, representative of the entire state, while earning "Honor" is representative of regional levels. Both levels require impeccable skills and a rigorous application process. Additionally, it is possible to be named, both, "All State" and "Honor."

In order to be named All State and Honor, music students must submit recordings of required scales and solos to their directors. The directors then submit recordings to the appropriate state level music organization. After submission, the recordings are judged by an anonymous panel of adjudicators. Only the finest students are selected All State and Honor and are invited to CASMEC.

"Auditioning for these honor groups means that these students are going beyond the classroom and working individually for the opportunity to represent Samohi at the local and state level," said Kevin McKeown, Samohi Director of Bands. "I am so proud of all of them, including my own child who is participating in both ensembles. It's such a special accomplishment and something that our SMMUSD community can get behind and cheer for."

Attending CASMEC gives music students the opportunity to perform with the other students and work with nationally known guest conductors. Music educators also have the chance to attend CASMEC, as an opportunity to gain professional development and to support their students who are performing.

"The reason for the success of our music students is because of our outstanding music teachers and support from our district leadership, board, Santa Monica Education Foundation and community," said Whaley.

SMMUSD consistently sends among the highest number of participants of any school district to CASMEC and is very proud of its outstanding music program, educators and students.

Additionally, McKeown received the 2023 SCSBOA outstanding veteran teacher award, Angela Woo, Director of Instrumental Music and Chair of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts at JAMS, was this year's guest conductor of the High School Orchestra and John Beasley, Samohi '77, was the guest conductor of the SCSBOA High School Jazz Band.

For a full list of the SMMUSD All-State and Honor Choir, Orchestra and Band, visit: <https://bit.ly/AllStateHonorsList2023>.

WRITTEN BY DIANA BOUCHAAYA, COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST



CRIME WATCH

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

ON FEBRUARY 2 AT APPROXIMATELY 12:50 A.M.

SMPD officers noticed a lone vehicle near the 1100 block of Idaho Avenue driving at a low rate of speed. Due to the increase in catalytic converter thefts regionally, officers observed the vehicle for some time, from a distance, before seeing it stop near a Black Toyota Prius. An occupant from the vehicle exited the rear and crawled underneath. They emerged shortly without taking the catalytic converter and drove away. A traffic stop was conducted on the vehicle shortly thereafter. Officers located what was believed to be nitrous oxide and balloons used for inhaling fumes to produce a euphoric feeling, as known as huffing. The four occupants of the vehicle were arrested and issued citations for Possession of Nitrous Oxide with Intent to Inhale.

ON FEBRUARY 2, AT APPROXIMATELY 2:15 P.M.

SMPD Officers responded to the 2400 block of Pico Blvd to Rite Aid regarding a theft investigation. During their investigation, they learned that an employee of the store saw a male place a large number of items in a bag and exit the store. The employee followed the individual in her vehicle to the area of Pico and Barrington where officers responded and located Christopher Fewell, a 51 year old male, also accused of stealing cosmetics and other items from the store on previous events. Fewell was arrested and transported to the Santa Monica Jail for grand theft.

SIGNING DAY

FROM PAGE 1

my dream to play D1 and now that it is actually happening I'm extremely excited for what's to come," said Minor. "For me, it just provided an opportunity to be excited for my accomplishments and my future alongside all of my friends and family."

Getting recruited for a sport is a long and grueling process, with multiple steps over a long period of time.

"I started communicating with colleges early in my junior year. I sent out videos, I emailed, my coaches talked to the colleges I was interested in... At the time I was actually being recruited for softball and basketball so I still wasn't sure what my decision was gonna be. For me, I made my decision to push for basketball when I got to attend an open gym with the players and coaches at CSUF. I am a super competitive person so getting to see D1 basketball and play firsthand really inspired me to get even better so I could play at that level and compete and be an asset. I ended up getting offered around 4-5 months after that at a practice for my high school team with all my teammates," said Minor.

There are many deciding factors to consider when choosing a college. Student-athletes can struggle with this decision during the recruitment process, but sports and majors

can help narrow down one's choices.

"I knew CSUF was right for me because I really like the campus and its facilities and the location. I also considered my major which is kinesiology and considering CSUF has a good kinesiology program it wasn't a hard decision for me," said Minor. "For me, I didn't have my heart specifically set on a type of college or place or anything when I started my recruiting. So finding a college that fit me wasn't too difficult because I was open to any opportunity. What determines the right college for me is the environment and people on campus for the most part."

Part of the appeal of playing a sport in college is being able to have more freedom with your schedule, unlike in high school.

Minor said, "I think it will definitely be different. With not having set classes for six hours every day and going straight to practice, and morning workouts, and having to be more independent, it will definitely be different but I am excited."

After playing a sport in college, many people including Minor hope to go pro.

"I think most people want to play Pro and would if they had the opportunity. Even though it may be a bit unrealistic for me I would love to," said Minor. "In the future, I hope to see more recognition for girls basketball in general."



Courtesy photo

SIGNING DAY: Three students signed up with colleges during National Signing Day.

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CIVIC MEETINGS

FROM PAGE 1

“While COVID transmission is low, there is an understanding that this seasonal fluctuation has simply become our new normal and the general public is fully aware of how to protect themselves and others,” said the city’s statement. “The Santa Monica community is encouraged to be up to date on their COVID-19 vaccinations, including a bivalent booster, and follow current LA County Department of Public Health face mask guidance.”

The County currently requires a mask in health care facilities, places that require it on their own (like schools or private worksites), if you have COVID or if you are a close contact of someone with COVID. Masks are strongly recommended in indoor settings if you are at risk for severe illness, on public transport or in transit hubs.

During her weekly briefing, Barbara Ferrer, Director of the LA County Department of Public Health said that with the lifting of emergency declarations, her office remains focused on ensuring easy access to vaccines, testing and therapeutics as they are the tools that will continue to make it safer for everyone to engage in activities.

“I know that for many COVID is no longer top of mind and this is actually a good

thing,” she said. “I also appreciate for others, especially those who are more vulnerable or living with long COVID there remains a need for accurate information, access to live-saving resources and community support for their special needs.”

Ferrer said mask rules in some settings, such as health care facilities, may persist beyond the COVID pandemic as they are tools to prevent other communicable diseases but those decisions will be made as needed.

“As I look forward, relieved that COVID causes less devastation, I see a couple of things as essential in allowing us to reduce the harms that are caused by this virus,” she said. “First the easiest way to reduce the risk of getting seriously ill from COVID is to be up to date on our vaccine coverage. This means that the millions of people in LA county who have not been vaccinated since August of last year, especially for residents over 65, they should go ahead and get the bivalent booster, and second if you think you have COVID-19, please take steps to limit your exposure to others.”

For more information or to find the schedule of board and commission meetings, visit santamonica.gov/departments/city-clerks-office or www.santamonica.gov/events.

editor@smdp.com

“
I know that for many COVID is no longer top of mind and this is actually a good thing

- Barbara Ferrer, Director of the LA County Department of Public Health

”

SMALL BUSINESS

FROM PAGE 1

community’s recovery.

“The pandemic also exacerbated a rising commercial vacancies, especially in and along retail corridors,” she said. “And so we are actually trying to get Santa Monica back to 100 percent pre-pandemic levels.”

The staff report for the item said that as

“
The pandemic also exacerbated a rising commercial vacancies, especially in and along retail corridors

- Caroline Torosis Councilmember

businesses move into new spaces, re-open, or renovate their facades to attract new clientele, these improvements will lead to more foot traffic and increased consumer spending will facilitate economic recovery for the city.

“The City of Santa Monica should support these businesses who have historically had high barriers to accessing capital. The establishment of a Small Business Assistance and Tenant Improvement Fund will immediately serve to fill empty storefronts within our city by

providing gap financing for commercial space improvements, the Fund will support wealth generation for business owners, and potentially give lower capacity businesses access to construction management services to assist with project needs such as space planning, selecting a general contractor, and managing the buildout process,” said the report.

Negrete said her family business was able to use this kind of funding to expand to a second location in Culver City and it was important for Santa Monica to establish a program as other kinds of aid are drying up.

“But I will say as somebody who opened a second location in Culver City, we were the recipient of a Community Capital grant in order to update the facade of our business and it was literally the only reason we were able to open there and it led to us being able to have a second location and I hope that this Council supports this because it has been a huge struggle for many small businesses,” she said.

Mayor Glean Davis asked for the analysis of a potential program to include the potential to fund relocation fees if a business were displaced and to look at existing grants that may be available, but unknown to local businesses.

“There is a lot of money at the federal level specifically for economic development, so [we need] to direct staff to look at those resources as a source,” she said.

The motion was passed unanimously and staff will return on an as-yet unspecified date with a more comprehensive report on where these funds will come from, civil, regional or federal sources for example and how they will be dispersed.

scott.snowden@smdp.com



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RAIN

FROM PAGE 4

lowest on record, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Once state officials see fish near the pumps, that means many more have already been swept away, said John McManus, president of the Golden State Salmon Association.

Most of the state's reservoirs — including the two biggest ones at Oroville and Shasta

— are at or near their historic averages. Plus, the amount of snow in the mountains is nearly double what it has been historically for this time of year. That's why McManus says Newsom is acting too soon to change the rules to store more water.

"The only real emergency that we're facing is the collapse of our salmon runs in California and the family income jobs all up and down the coast and inland California tied to our salmon fishery," he said.

REDISTRICT

FROM PAGE 5

officials is a good thing for democracy."

If the statewide bill passes, it would grandfather in existing local redistricting commissions so that they don't have to start over.

Allen, a principal co-author, said other legislators could move ahead with their bills if there are specific issues in a county.

Brodzinsky, of California Common Cause, said the multiple bills show that the Legislature understands the value of independent redistricting. "It's really showing this movement that a more comprehensive approach is needed versus this piecemeal approach."

A back-up plan

If the statewide bill fails, Bryan has another that would at least address some gaps in the current system.

Bryan, chairperson of the Assembly's elections committee, has introduced AB 764,

which would reform the 2019 FAIR Maps Act that outlines some redistricting requirements for cities and counties, regardless of who draws the maps.

Advocates have said that the FAIR Maps Act is unclear on whether incumbency is allowed to be considered after all other criteria are met, or not at all.

The law did give citizens one tool for accountability: After the 2020 map-drawing: residents of Riverside and San Luis Obispo counties sued over alleged violations, such as lack of transparency and not providing Spanish translation services.

Language for AB 764 is still in the works, but it would prohibit considering incumbency, clarify the priority order for mapping criteria and standardize public engagement requirements.

The two bills, Brodzinsky said, "are really two parts to the same puzzle of improving redistricting."

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

HOMELESSNESS

FROM PAGE 2

Nor was it asked to. The report comes at the request of the Legislature, which included an ask in its 2021 budget for a "comprehensive view of the homelessness response system," not an audit nor a list of recommendations.

But it may provide lawmakers, service providers and advocates with some helpful hints about what's working, what isn't and for whom.

"We've sent people to the moon," said Oakland Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, a Democrat who chairs the Assembly's housing committee. "We can solve homelessness in California."

Here are four takeaways from the homelessness assessment:

1. CALIFORNIA HAS BEEN SPENDING A LOT TO REMEDY HOMELESSNESS — MOSTLY ON HOUSING

Between 2018 and 2021, the state spent \$9.6 billion trying to move the needle on homelessness.

Many Californians will be able to relate: The bulk of the spending, \$5.5 billion in this case, went to the cost of housing.

That includes everything from building new units to preserving old ones, converting unused hotel rooms during the pandemic into temporary housing, building shelters, and setting up permanent supportive housing facilities that provide a long-term subsidized place to stay along with other on-site social services.

According to the report, the state produced or kept online 58,714 affordable housing units in the three year period, and added 17,000 new shelter beds.

Some of that spending has been more likely to lead people out of homelessness than others. Of the more than 75,000 people placed into permanent supportive housing of some kind, for example, only 8% wound up back on the street within six months.

Conversely, for those who left a state funded program to live with a family member or a friend, the rate of those who were homeless again within six months doubled. And for those who left for a rental with only a temporary subsidy, that rate of return to homelessness was 23%.

For some legislators and advocates, the figures underscored the importance of building more housing above all other interventions.

"Shelters are very expensive to build; they're very expensive to operate," said Emily Halcon, the director of Sacramento County's Department of Homeless Services and Housing. "What we know is a real solution is housing."

But building more housing — particularly with subsidized rents or other wrap-around services — is expensive. That's in part why some homelessness and housing advocates say the 10-figure sum that the state has spread across the three years of the assessment isn't even close to enough. A report from the Corporation for Supportive Housing and the California Housing Partnership at the end of last year put the price tag of "solving" homelessness in California at \$8.1 billion every year for more than a decade.

2. A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE BEEN HOUSED — BUT MOST HAVE NOT

The report tracked more than half a million Californians who, over the three year period, made use of at least one of the services that the state funds, as recorded in a new state database.

The good news: More than 40% ended up in housing — supportive, subsidized or otherwise.

The bad news: The majority didn't, or the state lost track of their whereabouts.

Nearly 17% were, at the end of the period, still in a shelter or temporary housing of some other kind or had exited whatever program they were enrolled in "into homelessness." Another quarter fell out of the system entirely, their "destination" unknown.

Assemblymember Corey Jackson, a Democrat from Perris who chairs the Assembly Human Services committee, asked about the 17% who return to homelessness, which he called a "red flag" in the data.

"We need to remember that this is the emergency response system, if you will," responded Dhakshike Wickrema, the deputy secretary of California's Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency. "What more can we be doing which is outside the homeless system? It's like when you go to the emergency room — what could the primary care physician have done to prevent the acute diabetes?"

3. THE BURDEN OF HOMELESSNESS IS NOT EQUALLY DISTRIBUTED

Drawing on the most recent "point-in-time" survey, which provides a blurry snapshot of how many people are living outside on a given night, the report emphasizes the stark racial and ethnic disparities that exist across the state's unsheltered population. Black people made up roughly 30% of the people counted on the street, more than five times their share of the state population. Indigenous Californians likewise were overrepresented five-fold.

And though Latino Californians were underrepresented, between 2015 and 2020, their numbers in surveys of the unsheltered increased by 65%, the fastest growing ethnic or racial group.

4. NOT ALL HOMELESSNESS LOOKS THE SAME

When politicians or talking heads use the word "homelessness," it's often meant to evoke a particular person experiencing a particular set of problems: someone asleep on the sidewalk, unbathed, suffering from acute mental illness, addiction, physical disability or some combination of the three.

That's the most visible version of the state's homelessness crisis, but as the new figures show, it isn't the most common one.

According to the report, 1 in 5 people who enrolled in state-funded homelessness programs were considered "chronically homeless" — unsheltered for at least a year while living with a complicating health issue.

But more than three times as many — two-thirds of all who sought state-funded services for homelessness — were people who hadn't popped up in the system for at least two years, if ever.

These might be families evicted and temporarily residing in a car, someone couch surfing while gathering the money for a rental deposit, or people who got their own apartment only to get slammed with an unexpected car payment and find themselves back in a shelter.

Acknowledging that continuum matters — not just for the sake of accuracy, said Assemblymember Wendy Carillo, a Los Angeles Democrat, but because different paths into homelessness might be best met with different pathways out.

"Whether it's someone living in their vehicle, being evicted from their home, someone experiencing chronic homelessness for decades, living on the streets of Skid Row for many, many years, all of these things are different," she said. "They need to have different solutions."

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

Classifieds

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**CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

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

- **RFP: #346 PARK ATTENDANT SERVICES**
- **Submission Deadline Is March 17, 2023, at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL**. The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is ProcureNow (<https://secure.procurennow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca>). There is no charge for the RFP package.



TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Feb. 17)

You'll be met by bright-eyed smiles and the spark of connection in like minds. Knowing that influence matters immensely, you're more careful with what comes into your life, from news to friends to food. You'll be inspired by noble qualities then embody them. You're offered a sense of belonging and offer it to others in return. Taurus and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 44, 21, 10 and 13.



HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You do not have a sheltered view of the world. You have been in the mix of it, and you know the frailty of the human condition. You do not desire a pristine version of reality, but to find peace in the one you know.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Sensitivities are up. Handle it practically. For instance, snacks for the irritably hungry, efficiency for the rushed, reasonable expectations set for children and those who act like them, mindfulness of tone for all.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll start the work before you feel like starting. Once the creativity kicks in you can do no wrong. The messes are not mistakes; rather, they are building materials, remixes or problems to be solved.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're not getting what you want out of a situation. You now have the option of leaving, changing what you want or recalibrating. In any case, getting distance from the scene will be key to making the right decision for you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You feel stumped, but it's a better place to be than thinking you know it all. You'll find solace in the things that have no ultimate answers, like love, beauty and other things with value that linger in unresolve.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your domestic life is in a state of flux, and consequently so are you... until you get out of the house. You will notice immediately that you seem to be someone different — someone who will calm and solve all.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You may discover that you have been right all along, only to understand that you were also wrong for most of it, and the contradictory foolishness of attempting to stay on either side of the equation is straight-up pointless.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You are careful in love and relationships. You pace things well, knowing that if things happen too fast, you might miss the cues that let you know how everyone is feeling. You'll manage expectations as you go.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). In the noisy world, the way to be heard is to be distinct so others can differentiate your voice from the others. Remind yourself and everyone else what makes you unique and look for new ways to highlight it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You are handed a piece of the puzzle, though you're not sure where it goes. You will tune into the shape of it and try to fit it here and there to no avail. No need to force it. The space will soon open for the perfect fit.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Some renounce earthly indulgences to loosen the bodily attachment to the physical world and free the true self. It won't work for you today. Denying pleasure will mute instead of liberate you. So, enjoy fully what can.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Love is wanting to be the best version of yourself for the other person. You'll have the sensation of interests quite naturally aligning as you slowly become entirely invested in each other's success.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

FRONT-AND-BACK SEATS by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Ticked (off)
- 5 Early name in *Who's Who in the Bible*
- 9 Roof support
- 13 Boring thing
- 14 Scoundrel
- 15 Sort of shaft
- 16 Go to a chess club meeting, say
- 19 Pastime played in squares
- 20 Sub ___ (covertly)
- 21 Night spot
- 22 Pull up stakes, so to speak
- 24 Guy known for his dishes
- 26 Succeeded, with "off"
- 29 Fairly short 50 Across
- 33 Disney brown bouncer
- 34 NYC cultural center
- 35 Albertan iceman
- 36 USDT branch
- 37 Final request for a volunteer
- 40 Eggs: Lat.
- 41 Grilling candidate
- 43 Certain beachwear
- 44 Many ranges
- 45 How some prizefights are offered
- 48 Combustible assemblage
- 49 Flummoxed
- 50 Track numbers
- 52 Boring thing
- 54 See 5 Down
- 56 Simple shelter
- 60 Filled confection

- 63 How something sounds
- 64 "No, really?"
- 65 Plenteous
- 66 Spice rack staple
- 67 What some dolls do
- 68 Exam for some srs.

DOWN

- 1 Apparel painted by Degas
- 2 Exclamation from Dr. Watson
- 3 Friend of 33 Across
- 4 Pintail parent
- 5 With 54 Across, Jazz Age style
- 6 Combatant circa 1900
- 7 Ryder Cup team

- 8 Rent payer
- 9 Victorian dismissal
- 10 Study of life beyond Earth
- 11 Coating for latex gloves
- 12 Pull together
- 13 3 Down, e.g.
- 17 Inventor using steam engines
- 18 Petco purchases
- 23 "This isn't good!"
- 25 *Monarque mâle*
- 26 Cheltenham chip
- 27 Essential outbound vessel
- 28 Have a stroll
- 30 Spiritual leader
- 31 At no point
- 32 Strike out
- 34 Copes

- 38 It's sold in crumbs for piecrusts
- 39 Waste time
- 42 Chosen well
- 46 Land on a lake
- 47 Empty out
- 48 Book after Job
- 51 Something stuck on
- 52 Variety show program
- 53 "You're way ahead of me!"
- 55 Big name in escalators
- 57 County bordering Sonoma
- 58 Be inclined
- 59 Pac-12 rival of Wash.
- 61 Hard part of physics
- 62 It means "most"

	1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14					15				
16						17					18				
19								20				21			
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66						67					68				

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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



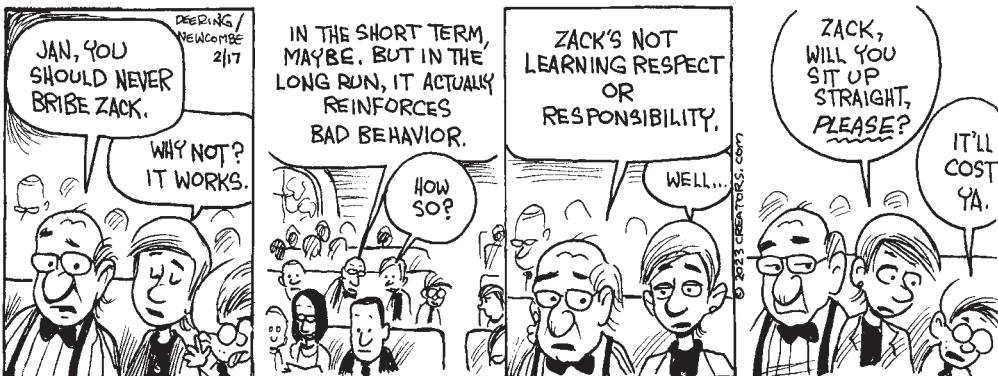
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE

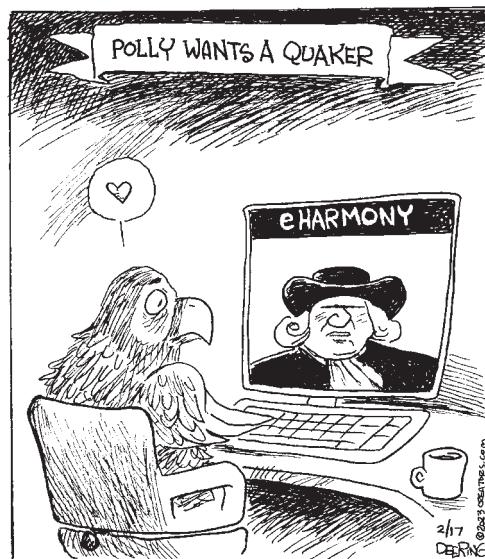
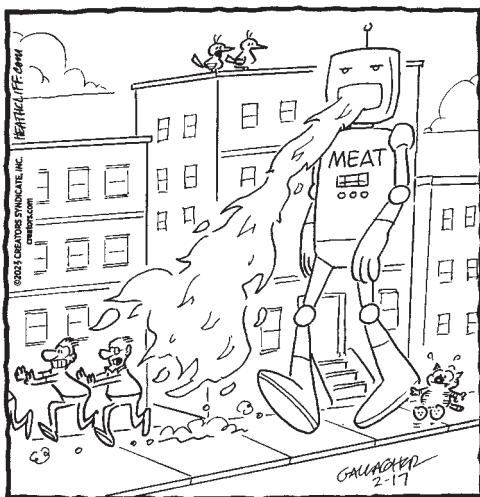


Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER

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

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The red centre

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

- | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Arid | Drums | Hope | Scrub |
| Bats | Dust | Hotel | Storm |
| Beer | Emus | Lakes | Surf |
| Bore | Fishing | Landmark | Tank |
| Boss | Fuel | Nation | The bush |
| Bunda | Gold | North | Thorny |
| Canoe | Grit | Outback | devil |
| Cart | Guide | Pacific | Tour |
| Celsius | Heat | Rain | Tree |
| Cooroy | Heed | Rice | Uluru |
| Crops | Hike | Risk | Vast |
| Cyclones | Holidays | Ruins | View |
| Desert | Home | Salt | West |

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

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What's Up Westside

out and about in Santa Monica

FRIDAY | FEBRUARY 17

FRIEZE LOS ANGELES AT SANTA MONICA AIRPORT

Visit one of Los Angeles' biggest art event for their fourth edition, Frieze LA! Frieze Los Angeles largely focuses on contemporary art and celebrates the exceptionally dynamic culture of Los Angeles and its global contributions to the visual arts. Featuring more than 120 galleries from 22 countries, view one of the largest collections of 20th century art and enjoy savory bites, delicious drink and more. Positioned in the Southeast corner of the airfield, the fair will take place over multiple sites across the property, with a focus on the signature Frieze bespoke tent, built and designed by Kulapat Yantrasast's WHY studio. 3026 Airport Ave Santa Monica.

SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 18

NOTABLE FICTION BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION: THREE STORIES BY CLAIRE KEEGAN

Explore three of this contemporary Irish author's most celebrated short works: "Antarctica," "Foster," and "Small Things Like These." Contact library@santamonica.gov for the link. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. / Zoom

CHECK OUT A HUMAN BOOK

The Human Library returns to SMPL! Check out a human book for a one-on-one, 30-minute conversation that challenges stereotypes and prejudices. Human books available for check out will be announced soon. 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Pico Branch, The Annex

PHOTO FORWARD LOS ANGELES

Photographic Arts Council Los Angeles is pleased to present its inaugural photography fair, Photo Forward Los Angeles, taking place on Saturday, February 18, through Sunday, February 19, 2023 in Santa Monica. This free art fair will feature both vintage and contemporary works, offering an expansive exhibition of photography, books, and ephemera, presented by exhibitors established in their field. Works presented are priced in a range for beginning to advanced collectors. Danziger Gallery (B1), Bergamot Station Arts Center, 2525 Michigan Avenue, Santa Monica, CA 90404.

HOPE FOR OUR FUTURE ABOUNDS!

With the world in such dire straits, despair is understandable. But Dick Larson will share signs that astonishing positive changes are happening under the radar of mainstream media. We're actually moving into a new and better future—a time of transformation few expect. Hear the evidence at his free presentation (with pics!) Saturday, February 18, 2:30 pm, at Pico Branch Library, The Annex Community Meeting Facility, 2201 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica.

CITRUS CARE WORKSHOP AND PRUNING DEMONSTRATION

Ishihara Park Learning Garden - 2909 Exposition Blvd, Santa Monica
Join the UCCE Master Gardener Orchard Team, led by Herb Machleder for an Urban Citrus Orchard Care Workshop with special attention to prevention, recognition and management of Citrus Greening Disease. We will discuss tool maintenance, fertilizing and much more. Kids activities and garden pancakes to keep everyone involved. Register for your spot at: www.eventbrite.com/e/citrus-care-workshop-and-pruning-demonstration-tickets-523984430537

SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 19

18TH STREET SPECIAL ACTIVATIONS

Frieze Los Angeles is coming to Santa Monica! To celebrate the occasion, 18th Street Arts Center will be activating both their Olympic and Airport Campuses February 16-19 with adjusted hours, special in-gallery performances, and more. 18th Street Art Center, 1639 18th St, Santa Monica, California 90404. 18thstreet.org/frieze/

KIDICAL MASS: A MULTI-GENERATIONAL BIKE RIDE

Kidical Mass is a fun, safe group bike ride for all ages, families with kids to seniors. The ride is meant to be comfortable for riders just starting out and biking on city streets for the first time. The ride doesn't shy away from traffic; a ride like this is meant to help all participants develop skills and comfort for riding in the city by having a group to ride with. Other activities include gardening class and community garden tours. Plus, there's free pancakes!, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at Ishihara Park 2909 Exposition Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 90404

MARDI GRAS AT THE FARMERS MARKET

Bring your Mardi Gras masks and get ready to boogie thru the market! Cabeza de la Vaca Folklorico kids dance and Face painting will be available, too. 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at Downtown Farmers' Market Arizona Ave. and 2nd St. Santa Monica CA Santa Monica, CA 90401

WHALE OF A WEEKEND

Pacific Gray Whales are coming! Every year pacific gray whales migrate right by Santa Monica's coastline and Heal the Bay Aquarium at the Santa Monica Pier is getting ready for them. Join Heal the Bay Aquarium to catch a glimpse and learn more about these amazing ocean mammals! Aquarium visitors can feel the heft of a whale rib, check out bristly baleen, and learn more interesting facts about these gentle giants at the Aquarium through story time, audio interactives, and fun crafts. Aquarium naturalists will staff a wildlife observation station at the west end of the Santa Monica Pier. Those who stop by are welcome to spy for whales through binoculars and field guides will identify local birds and marine life. Santa Monica Pier Aquarium 1600 Ocean Front Walk.



SURF REPORT

WATER TEMP: 55.4

FRIDAY
FAIR | SURF: 2-3ft+
Thigh to stomach

Smaller NW swell mix continues along with some S swell. Potential for offshore wind to continue in the morning, favoring the west facing zones.

SATURDAY
POOR TO FAIR | SURF: 2-3ft
Thigh to waist

Refresh of NW swell mix. Wind/conditions outlook likely to change.



WEATHER

Friday: Partly sunny, with a high near 65. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 47.

Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 65.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 47.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2023/02/17	Fri	12:06 AM	2.31	L
2023/02/17	Fri	06:26 AM	6.21	H
2023/02/17	Fri	1:50 PM	-1.55	L
2023/02/17	Fri	8:22 PM	3.84	H
2023/02/18	Sat	01:02 AM	1.84	L
2023/02/18	Sat	07:18 AM	6.61	H
2023/02/18	Sat	2:29 PM	-1.80	L
2023/02/18	Sat	8:52 PM	4.17	H
2023/02/19	Sun	01:52 AM	1.37	L
2023/02/19	Sun	08:05 AM	6.76	H
2023/02/19	Sun	3:06 PM	-1.79	L
2023/02/19	Sun	9:24 PM	4.49	H
2023/02/20	Mon	02:41 AM	0.96	L
2023/02/20	Mon	08:51 AM	6.62	H
2023/02/20	Mon	3:42 PM	-1.54	L
2023/02/20	Mon	9:58 PM	4.76	H
2023/02/21	Tue	03:30 AM	0.68	L
2023/02/21	Tue	09:36 AM	6.17	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: 2/15
31 32 54 60 63
Power#: 12
Jackpot: 73 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/15
25 28 30 37 39

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 2/14
23 24 35 40 43
Mega#: 1
Jackpot: 84 M

Daily 3
Draw Date: 2/15
EVENING: 1 5 0
Draw Date: 2/15
MIDDAY: 4 6 3

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 2/15
10 11 15 38 47
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: 34 M

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 2/15
1st: 07 - Eureka
2nd: 05 - California Classic
3rd: 02 - Lucky Star
Race Time: 1:46.93

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Trying to figure out your home's value? Here are the things Zillow won't tell you about:



Winston Cenac

310.963.9300
winston@bulldogrealtors.com
DRE#01218663

1. The view.
2. Extra square footage the last appraiser missed.
3. The power transmission station down the block - that may or may not cause cancer.
4. The neighbor who came home to find a homeless man rummaging through her fridge.

These things affect your home's value. Zillow can't tell you.
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