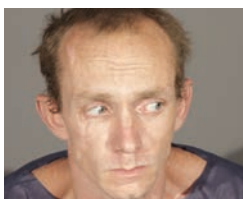
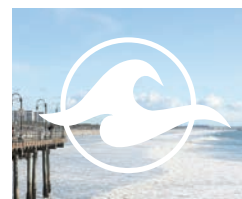




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WEDNESDAY
03.30.22

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 Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 21 Issue 114

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Council supports music education but opposes initiative limiting local taxes at last meeting

CLARA HARTER
 SMDP Staff Writer

The 2022 California election is likely to be packed with ballot initiatives, and as the late April signature gathering deadline approaches, City Council is taking a formal stance on potential measures.

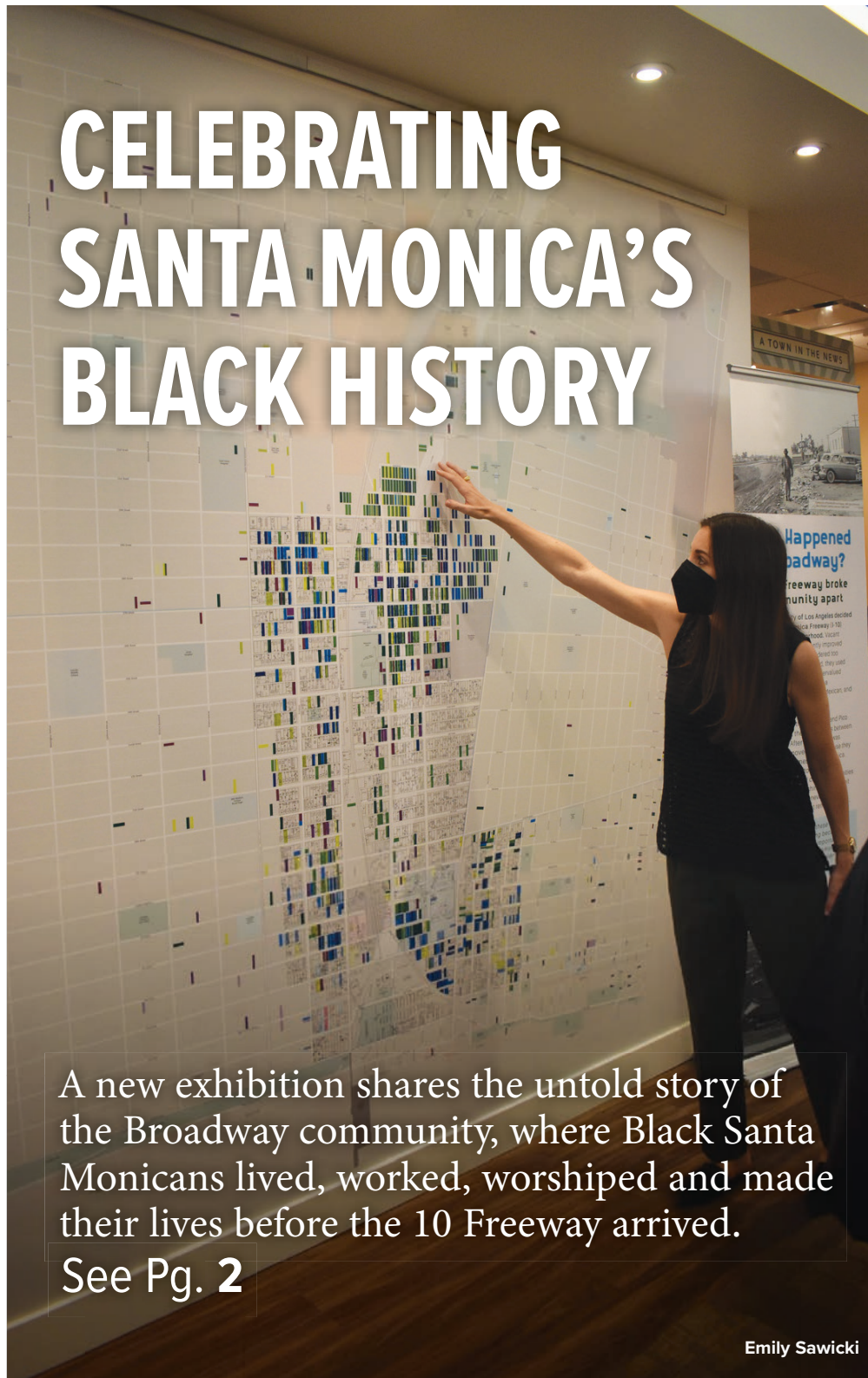
In a March 22 meeting City Councilmembers brought forward two measures for endorsement and opposition. The first, which Council unanimously opposed, would limit the ability of cities to raise taxes via local ballot initiatives, while the second, which Council unanimously supported, would increase funding for music and arts in public schools.

Mayor Sue Himmelrich, Councilmember Oscar de la Torre and Councilmember Kristin McCowan requested the discussion of the Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act, a proposed ballot initiative co-sponsored by the California Business Roundtable.

This initiative would make it harder for local governments to raise local taxes via a ballot measure. While currently general revenue raising measures require majority support and taxes used for a specific purpose require two-thirds support, this initiative would raise the bar to two-thirds support for all local revenue raising measures. It would also require that all tax initiatives have a sunset date and would prevent local governments from putting a tax raising measure on the same ballot as a tax advisory measure. Advisory measures allow citizens to have a voice in where their local tax money is spent.

"In my view this measure is being put on (the ballot) to prevent us from deciding how we spend our own money (and) instead giving more power to our state officials and business interests," said Mayor Sue Himmelrich.

SEE ELECTION PAGE 11



A new exhibition shares the untold story of the Broadway community, where Black Santa Monicans lived, worked, worshiped and made their lives before the 10 Freeway arrived.

See Pg. 2

Emily Sawicki

LASD investigating suspicious death of Malibu security guard

EMILY SAWICKI
 SMDP Staff Writer

LA County Sheriff's Department Homicide detectives are investigating circumstances surrounding the suspicious death of a security guard at the Trancas Country Market shopping center, located not far from Zuma Beach in northern Malibu.

The victim, discovered Tuesday morning, was identified as the overnight security guard at the upscale shopping center, which includes boutique shops, an independent organic grocery store and a Starbucks, among other tenants. In a social media post, the City of Malibu indicated the guard was found near Trancas Canyon Nursery, a garden shop located toward the back of the shopping center along Trancas Canyon Road.

No further information about the victim's identity was immediately made available.

The LA County Sheriff's Department (LASD) Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff's Station received a "person down call" around 7 a.m. on Tuesday, March 29, according to the station's watch sergeant, who spoke briefly to the Daily Press Tuesday. LASD homicide detectives assigned to the case did not respond to an interview request on Tuesday afternoon.

When deputies arrived, they located the security guard, described as "a white male victim, approximately 58-years old," with obvious blunt force trauma to his upper torso, according to an LASD statement. "LA County Fire Department Paramedics arrived to the location, treated, and ultimately pronounced the victim deceased at the scene."

LA County Fire PIO Craig Little confirmed an LA County Fire engine and squad vehicle were called out to the shopping center at 7:12 a.m. Tuesday to assist sheriff's deputies on scene at the time, but could not

SEE HOMICIDE PAGE 6



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Broadway To Freeway: Life and Times of a Vibrant Community

EMILY SAWICKI

SMDP Staff Writer

There's always more than meets the eye in Santa Monica, a community with a deep and sometimes complex history often overshadowed by swaying palm trees and upscale eateries. But the folks at the Santa Monica History Museum (SMHM) are on a mission to show locals and visitors alike a new perspective on their beloved small town.

After a two-year closure, the small but mighty museum reopens on Friday with a new temporary exhibition, *Broadway To Freeway: Life and Times of a Vibrant Community*, highlighting Santa Monica's historic Broadway neighborhood, a thriving African American and Mexican American community that was bisected and eventually destroyed after the creation of the Santa Monica (I-10) Freeway in the late 1950s.

The freeway razed many city blocks of houses, as well as dividing the residential area from the Broadway business district. It also led to the closure of Garfield School, which most of the children of color in Santa Monica attended.

According to SMHM archivist and exhibit curator Sara Crown, for most of those families, leaving Santa Monica meant never returning.

“Even at that time, Santa Monica was considered expensive, and so if you lost your home here, it was very difficult,

Crown said. “Housing was limited; we also see that post World War II with the Japanese Americans who were forced to leave. Almost none of them were able to return to the city because there was a housing shortage at the time.”

So, the exhibition seeks to breathe life into the oral histories and remaining ephemera from the once-vibrant Broadway neighborhood.

“A lot of times people go up and down the streets here in Santa Monica, and they might see the same buildings or the same businesses, but they don't always know that previously, there was something there before it,” Carolyn Edwards, co-founder of the nonprofit Quinn Research Center, said. “And it would be nice for people to be able to relate to those spots here in Santa Monica, and to know the actual history, so that when they go up and down the streets now they will be able to see it in a different light and a different context.”

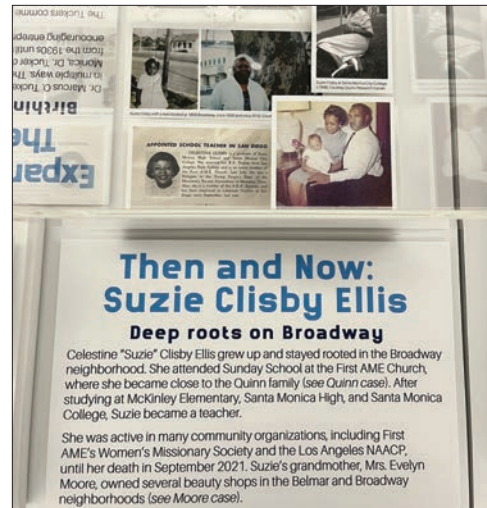
Edwards, who grew up in Santa Monica and continues to have deep roots in the community, including active involvement



MUSEUM: The Santa Monica History Museum has reopened with a new exhibit.

with the First AME Church (which was originally located at 20th Street and Broadway), founded the Quinn Research Center along with her husband Bill, in tribute to her late uncle, prominent Santa Monica community member and educator Dr. Alfred T. Quinn.

It was largely through Quinn's legacy, including an extensive collection of historical artifacts, that SMHM and the Quinn Research Center were able to create the current exhibition, which features photographs, journal entries, newspaper clippings and even a song about the old



Emily Sawicki and Courtesy photos

Broadway neighborhood, primarily located between 13th and 20th streets.

SMHM shut down due to the pandemic. Then came the summer of 2020 and the murder of George Floyd, ushering in a national reckoning over race and racism in America. Crown said those conversations were happening among SMHM staff as well, leading to the formation of a diversity, equity and inclusion committee to discuss ways to refocus the museum's perspective on communities of color.

Crown said that, as a small museum, SMHM usually relies on donated photos and

artifacts, or community members coming to them with stories. Because of that, curators have rarely focused their lens on marginalized or underrepresented communities.

“We haven't done an exhibition that specifically focuses on a community of color in Santa Monica,” Crown said. “We've talked about it in the past, but we have not done it. So, this is really exciting for us and we hope that people will enjoy it and feel welcome when they come here.”

Edwards said the portion of the exhibition about Garfield Elementary was of particular interest to her. One corner of the exhibit space is dedicated to photos and placards about the school.

Due to precise zoning, according to the gallery description, Garfield Elementary was designed to educate the majority of children of color and recent immigrants living in Santa Monica in the early 20th century — kids of Mexican, Chinese, Japanese, Russian, Italian and African American heritage. That way, white “American” children in the community could attend majority-white elementary schools.

It was there that Quinn was hired as the city's first African American teacher, at a time when nearly three-quarters of students at the school were African American. Garfield is also where Edwards went to school and, as her neighborhood gathering place for children, where she spent many summer days playing with friends.

“My sisters and I used to frequent the playground during the summer between nine and three o'clock, and that was a big part of our lives,” Edwards said. “My mother would pack us a lunch and we'd spend the whole day there.” At Garfield, kids could get hot dogs and watch movies, learn square dancing, and rent toys, puzzles, and books from a bungalow on the property.

“There were just a lot of enjoyable planned activities for young people to do rather than just having idle time,” Edwards said.

Garfield School, shuttered in 1958, was located at 16th Street and Colorado, the site now occupied by school district headquarters.

Bill, who didn't grow up in Santa Monica but who first came to the city in the 1950s, said two photos in the exhibition really spoke to him: picturing one of the Broadway community's elders, the late Celestine Clisby Ellis, whom everyone knew as Miss Suzie. The first photo shows Miss Suzie at about three years old in 1930, posing in front of a young tree at 18th and Broadway; the second photo, taken 80 years later in 2010, shows Miss Suzie in front of the now-monumental tree trunk — a testament to the deep roots of the African American community that once lived and owned businesses along that stretch of Broadway.

“Eventually, if things go like we planned for it to go, I would like to put some kind of plaque in her honor with her name on that tree, naming it her tree,” Bill said.

You can see the photos of Miss Suzie, read about Garfield School and learn much more about the Broadway neighborhood at the Santa Monica History Museum, reopening Friday, April 1. New hours will be Thursday from 3-8 p.m. and Friday through Sunday from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free admission will be offered for the months of April and May.

emily@smdp.com



DAILY POLICE LOGS

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 243 CALLS ON MARCH 28

72 Hour Psychiatric Hold Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 12:07 a.m.
 Fight 5th St / Broadway 12:50 a.m.
 Attempt Suicide 1900Blk Cloverfield Blvd 1:13 a.m.
 Audible Burglar Alarm 3000Blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:50 a.m.
 Audible Burglar Alarm 500Blk Wilshire Blvd 1:58 a.m.
 Audible Burglar Alarm 2200Blk 21st St 2:18 a.m.
 Audible Burglar Alarm 1300Blk Wilshire Blvd 2:41 a.m.
 Malicious Mischief Just Occurred 1300Blk Wilshire Blvd 2:50 a.m.
 Public Intoxication 500Blk 11th St 3:16 a.m.
 Attempt Burglary Just Occurred 5th St / Ocean Park Blvd 3:17 a.m.
 Trespassing 1400Blk Ocean Ave 4:26 a.m.
 Person With A Gun 1500Blk 2nd St 5:37 a.m.
 Trespassing 600Blk 9th St 6:32 a.m.
 Audible Burglar Alarm 1000Blk 24th St 6:56 a.m.
 Critical Missing Person 1800Blk Michigan Ave 7:33 a.m.
 Trespassing 2200Blk 24th St 7:41 a.m.
 General Parking Problem 400Blk San Vicente Blvd 7:47 a.m.
 Malicious Mischief Report 1700Blk Delaware Ave 7:52 a.m.
 Traffic Hazard 1500Blk Lincoln Blvd 8:00 a.m.
 Audible Burglar Alarm 1200Blk Montana Ave 8:07 a.m.
 Trespassing 1300Blk 15th St 8:21 a.m.
 Trespassing 1300Blk Palisades Beach rd 8:24 a.m.
 Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1400Blk California Ave 8:26 a.m.
 Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 4th St / Broadway 8:33 a.m.
 Violation Of Posted Sign 1200Blk 2nd St 8:37 a.m.
 Prowler Just Left 500Blk Montana Ave 8:48 a.m.
 Juvenile Annoying Investigation 1700Blk 21st St 8:52 a.m.
 General Parking Problem 100Blk Wilshire Blvd 8:52 a.m.
 Grand Theft Auto Report 900Blk 21st St 8:59 a.m.
 Audible Burglar Alarm 2600Blk 32nd St 9:07 a.m.
 Audible Burglar Alarm 100Blk Ocean Park Blvd 9:12 a.m.
 Trespassing 2700Blk Ocean Park Blvd 9:17 a.m.
 Defrauding Innkeeper In Progress 400Blk Colorado Ave 9:20 a.m.
 Vehicle Blocking Driveway 700Blk Cedar St 9:44 a.m.
 Out Of Order Traffic Signals 11th St / Broadway 10:08 a.m.
 Petty Theft Now 1100Blk 3rd St 10:09 a.m.
 Audible Burglar Alarm 2400Blk Washington Ave 10:10 a.m.
 Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1800Blk Lincoln Blvd 10:22 a.m.
 Burglary Report 800Blk 25th St 10:37 a.m.
 Petty Theft Report 800Blk 14th St 10:40 a.m.
 Burglary Report 2600Blk 4th St 10:51 a.m.
 Traffic Collision With Injuries 1700Blk Wilshire Blvd 11:02 a.m.
 Trespassing 1200Blk 3rd Street Prom 11:07 a.m.
 Keep The Peace 1400Blk Euclid St 11:08 a.m.
 Audible Burglar Alarm 1400Blk Ocean Ave 11:15 a.m.
 Traffic Miscellaneous Report 2900Blk Broadway 11:31 a.m.
 Vehicle Parked In Alley 100Blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:34 a.m.
 Found Property 1100Blk 17th St 11:52 a.m.
 Petty Theft Report 1300Blk Palisades Park 12:10 p.m.
 Burglary Report 2000Blk Delaware Ave 12:16 p.m.
 Trespassing 600Blk Broadway 12:35 p.m.
 Red Zone Violation 600Blk Ozone St 12:46 p.m.
 Traffic Collision With Injuries 22nd St / Pico Blvd 12:48 p.m.
 Trespassing 1100Blk Lincoln Blvd 12:50 p.m.

Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 1800Blk 7th St 1:31 p.m.
 Trespassing 800Blk 12th St 1:51 p.m.
 Trespassing 800Blk 10th St 2:19 p.m.
 Out Of Order Traffic Signals 11th St / Olympic Blvd E 2:33 p.m.
 Vehicle Parked In Alley 1500Blk Montana Ave 2:41 p.m.
 Assault Just Occurred 1500Blk Montana Ave 2:45 p.m.
 Audible Burglar Alarm 1400Blk 7th St 2:49 p.m.
 Vehicle Parked In Alley 1700Blk Ocean Ave 2:50 p.m.
 Public Burglary Report 2000Blk Ocean Ave 3:14 p.m.
 Grand Theft Report 900Blk 19th St 3:14 p.m.
 Petty Theft Report 800Blk 14th St 3:15 p.m.
 Trespassing 1300Blk 15th St 3:32 p.m.
 Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 1200Blk 11th St 3:33 p.m.
 Traffic/Vehicle Stop Lincoln Blvd / Santa Monica Blvd 3:37 p.m.
 Petty Theft Now 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 3:42 p.m.
 Loud Music 800Blk Ocean Ave 3:42 p.m.
 Petty Theft Report 900Blk Euclid St 4:19 p.m.
 Petty Theft Report 1500Blk Berkeley St 4:23 p.m.
 Petty Theft Now 2600Blk Lincoln Blvd 4:26 p.m.
 Trespassing 400Blk Broadway 4:36 p.m.
 Vehicle With Excessive Parking Violations 2600Blk Highland Ave 4:57 p.m.
 Death Investigation 1400Blk Lincoln Blvd 5:02 p.m.
 72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2200Blk Pico Blvd 5:09 p.m.
 Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 900Blk 7th St 5:23 p.m.
 General Parking Problem Highland Ave / Raymond Ave 5:26 p.m.
 Petty Theft Report 2300Blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:29 p.m.
 Trespassing 800Blk 10th St 5:35 p.m.
 Trespassing 2200Blk Lincoln Blvd 5:37 p.m.
 Audible Burglar Alarm 1300Blk 3rd Street Prom 5:43 p.m.
 Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 2900Blk 31st St 5:56 p.m.
 Petty Theft Report 200Blk Broadway 6:01 p.m.
 Construction Noise 1300Blk Oak St 6:04 p.m.
 Petty Theft Report 1100Blk Lincoln Blvd 6:11 p.m.
 Petty Theft Report 800Blk 12th St 6:14 p.m.
 Person Down Appian Way / Pico Blvd 6:18 p.m.
 Death Investigation 2300Blk Wilshire Blvd 6:39 p.m.
 Petty Theft Report 2000Blk Olympic Blvd 7:19 p.m.
 Petty Theft Report 800Blk 12th St 7:27 p.m.
 Person With A Gun 2400Blk Pico Blvd 8:10 p.m.
 Petty Theft Report 2100Blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:12 p.m.
 Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1900Blk Centinela Ave 8:17 p.m.
 Found Property 2900Blk Main St 8:17 p.m.
 Trespassing 800Blk 10th St 8:25 p.m.
 Traffic/Vehicle Stop 1700Blk Appian Way 8:34 p.m.
 Trespassing 1200Blk 19th St 8:49 p.m.
 Unknown Trouble 800Blk Bay St 8:53 p.m.
 Traffic Collision - No Injuries Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 8:59 p.m.
 Trespassing 2900Blk 4th St 9:12 p.m.
 Indecent Exposure Now 20th St / Santa Monica Blvd 9:43 p.m.
 Armed Robbery Just Occurred Cloverfield Blvd / Michigan Ave 9:52 p.m.
 Red Zone Violation 2200Blk Wilshire Blvd 9:54 p.m.
 Petty Theft Report 700Blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:58 p.m.
 Trespassing 800Blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:00 p.m.
 Armed Robbery Just Occurred 1600Blk Cloverfield Blvd 10:07 p.m.
 Trespassing 300Blk Pico Blvd 10:16 p.m.
 Loud Music 1900Blk 14th St 10:16 p.m.
 Assault Just Occurred 300Blk Ocean Ave 11:21 p.m.
 Trespassing 1800Blk Wilshire Blvd 11:35 p.m.




DAILY FIRE LOGS

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 37 CALLS ON MARCH 24

EMS 4th St / Ocean Park Blvd 1:19 a.m.
 EMS 1100Blk 7th St 3:22 a.m.
 EMS 1800Blk 9th St 4:28 a.m.
 Automatic Alarm 600Blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:57 a.m.
 EMS 1000Blk 20th St 7:14 a.m.
 Broken Water Main 2500Blk 5th St 7:18 a.m.
 EMS 1900Blk Pico Blvd 9:08 a.m.
 EMS 1800Blk 34th St 9:38 a.m.
 Wires Down 600Blk Grant St 10:29 a.m.
 EMS 1400Blk 14th St 10:41 a.m.
 Automatic Alarm 3000Blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:46 a.m.
 Automatic Alarm 800Blk 9th St 10:52 a.m.
 Traffic Collision With Injury 1700Blk Wilshire Blvd 11:02 a.m.
 Automatic Alarm 900Blk Wilshire Blvd 11:10 a.m.
 EMS Franklin St / Bristol St 11:18 a.m.
 Traffic Collision With Injury 22nd St / Pico Blvd 12:48 p.m.
 EMS 2800Blk Pico Blvd 1:02 p.m.
 EMS 2400Blk Wilshire Blvd 1:05 p.m.
 Odor Of Natural Gas 500Blk Montana Ave 1:43

p.m.
 EMS 2000Blk Arizona Ave 2:07 p.m.
 EMS 1400Blk Lincoln Blvd 5:02 p.m.
 Automatic Alarm 1400Blk 7th St 5:34 p.m.
 Haz Mat - Level 1 3300Blk Donald Douglas Loop N 6:21 p.m.
 EMS 2300Blk Wilshire Blvd 6:40 p.m.
 EMS 1600Blk 4th St 6:54 p.m.
 EMS 500Blk Olympic Blvd W 7:02 p.m.
 Electrical Fire - No Fire Visible 1500Blk Centinela Ave 8:35 p.m.
 EMS 1600Blk Arizona Ave 8:45 p.m.
 EMS 900Blk 10th St 8:49 p.m.
 EMS 300Blk Pico Blvd 9:55 p.m.
 Carbon Monoxide Alarm 800Blk Pearl St 10:13 p.m.
 EMS 20th St / Interstate 10 10:31 p.m.
 EMS 2500Blk Michigan Ave 10:40 p.m.
 EMS 700Blk Broadway 10:52 p.m.
 Automatic Alarm 1100Blk Lincoln Blvd 11:15 p.m.
 EMS 300Blk Pico Blvd 11:22 p.m.
 EMS 2100Blk 6th St 11:54 p.m.



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

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

RFP: # 312 CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION MATERIALS PROCESSING AND RECYCLING SERVICES

- **Submission Deadline is May 4, 2022 at 5:00 PM Pacific Time.**

RFP: # 313 LANDFILL SERVICES

- **Submission Deadline is May 4, 2022 at 5:00 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 OpenGov (<https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca>) There is no charge for the RFP package.



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Post-covid reopenings reach City hall



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Women's Final Four teams survived wild tourney amid parity

PAT EATON-ROBB

AP Sports Writer

There was a time, not that many years ago, when predicting the women's NCAA Tournament champion seemed relatively easy.

UConn or Tennessee or Baylor or maybe Stanford, depending on the year.

But this year is not a year like that.

South Carolina (33-2) goes to the Final Four in Minneapolis as the favorite. But defending champion Stanford (32-3), Louisville (29-4) and UConn (29-5) have all been there before — many times, actually — though each had to fight this season to get back to the top as parity in women's basketball continues to surge.

"It doesn't mean that a team can't be dominant, doesn't mean that you can't have several teams that are dominant," South Carolina coach Dawn Staley said. "It just means that there are stories that come along throughout our season that beg to be heard about."

No. 2 seeds Baylor and Iowa were eliminated before the Sweet 16. Florida Gulf Coast, a 12-seed, upset fifth-seeded Virginia Tech in the opening round. Creighton, a 10-seed, made it to a regional final.

Since Breanna Stewart led UConn to its fourth straight national title as a senior in 2016 there have been four different women's champions and there was even discussion this season whether the Huskies' dynasty has taken a step back while others have caught up. The last two title games have each been decided by a single point.

"Our game is growing," said Louisville coach Jeff Walz, whose team is in its fourth Final Four. "So it's just not one school where everybody goes, one program where everybody goes. Now players are branching out. Other universities like ourselves are investing in women's basketball. I think as that continues throughout the country, you're going to see more and more programs evolve and continue to get better. That's really what it's all about."

The early rounds again featured their share of blowouts. There have been 12 games decided by 30 or more points in this tournament, compared to just four on the men's side.

But, there were plenty of upsets and close games, including Monday's classic that saw No. 2 seed UConn outlast top-seed North Carolina State in double overtime. It was the first time a game that late in the tournament has had multiple periods of extra time.

"It was just an amazing basketball game and it was a great showcase for our sport," UConn coach Geno Auriemma said.

The men's tournament has been something of a thriller, too. Saint Peter's captured

everyone's attention as the first 15-seed to reach the Elite Eight, sparking a discussion of growing parity even as four juggernaut programs reached the semifinals.

"The way this tournament has gone, too, it's amazing that that's happened," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said Tuesday, noting the veteran players stacked on some of the tourney teams. "It's the oldest that college basketball has ever been. And so as a result of that, it's going to be tougher to win."

On the women's side, there have been 23 games in the tournament so far decided by single digits, 13 by five points or fewer. Six of those games involved the Final Four teams.

“

I know we've got three of the four one seeds are playing in the Final Four, but up to that point, how many great games have we had?

Walz said. "How many upsets have we had? That's what's making our game that much better and that much more exciting."

Fans have noticed. Twitter and other social media sites exploded during the UConn-NC State game Monday, with numerous pro athletes among those sending out messages about the game and the quality of women's basketball in general.

"I think people have been really starved for great women's basketball," Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer said. "I think that the games have been so exciting. The coverage, the crowds have been great. (The Final Four) is going to be really a great opportunity, a great platform for the women on our team and the game itself to be showcased."

AP sports writers Eric Olsen and Aaron Beard contributed to this report.

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Audit: Lax oversight, fraud within California hospice system

CHRISTOPHER WEBER

Associated Press

California's lax oversight of its hospice system has led to widespread fraud within the rapidly growing industry of end-of-life care, potentially putting patients at risk of harm in their final days, according to a state audit made public Tuesday.

The report concludes the California Department of Public Health isn't rigorous enough in vetting hospice facilities applying for state licenses and then doesn't adequately follow-up on investigations of suspected fraud, Michael Tilden, the acting state auditor, wrote in a letter to Gov. Gavin Newsom and California legislators.

"Without regulations to guide its oversight, its initial licensing site visits and ongoing monitoring do not adequately safeguard patient care or prevent fraud. Its investigation of complaints involving hospice agencies is often incomplete and slow, which increases the risk that patients may receive substandard care or that hospice agencies may engage in fraudulent activity," Tilden wrote.

In addition, Public Health and the California Department of Health Care Services do not coordinate with each other to comprehensively assess fraud risks, according to the audit.

The number of hospice facilities in Los Angeles County has shot up since 2010, the report said, without a proportional need

in the county for end-of-life care. Some patients were discharged after receiving hospice services for long periods of time, clear indications of potential fraud, according to the audit.

Auditors uncovered "excessive geographic clustering" of facilities, including a single building in the Van Nuys neighborhood of Los Angeles that had more than 150 licensed hospice and home health agencies — "a number that exceeds the structure's apparent physical capacity," the report said.

Los Angeles County has 818 hospice agencies, 45 times as many as in the entire states of New York or Florida, officials said.

In the past the majority of hospice services were provided by nonprofit organizations. The recent wave of growth is almost exclusively in for-profit companies that bill state and federal programs, auditors said.

"These indicators strongly suggest that a network or networks of individual perpetrators in Los Angeles County are engaging in a large and organized effort to defraud the Medicare and Medi-Cal hospice programs," Tilden wrote. "Such fraud places at risk the extremely vulnerable population of hospice patients."

Auditors uncovered indicators of fraudulent billing to Medicare and Medi-Cal for services rendered to ineligible patients or services not provided at all. This type of fraud

SEE HOSPICE PAGE 11

March Madness: What to watch for in a stacked Final Four

JOHN MARSHALL

AP Basketball Writer

March Madness has taken a power turn as it turns to the Final Four. No more plucky underdogs, much as we enjoyed the run by Saint Peter's. No more double-digit seeds looking for upsets.

This year's Final Four is Duke and Carolina, Kansas and Villanova, four powerhouses looking to add another national championship to their formidable resumes.

Blue bloods in the Big Easy. It could be an all-time weekend of games and we've got a rundown of what to look for:

TEAMS

Kansas. The lone No. 1 seed left in the bracket may be Bill Self's best chance to add an elusive second national championship to the one he and the Jayhawks won in 2008.

Duke. You may have heard: Coach K in his final NCAA Tournament. A walk-off national title would be the perfect ending to a Hall of Fame career that includes the most wins in NCAA history.

Villanova. Another year, another Wildcats trip to the Final Four. Losing Justin Moore to a torn Achilles tendon is tough, but never count out a Jay Wright team.

North Carolina. Hubert Davis took the reins from Roy Williams and continued the Tar Heels down the championship path. He could follow Bill Guthridge by winning a

national title in his first season after following a legend.

STAR PLAYERS

Paolo Banchero, Duke. Offense, defense, clutch plays — the 6-foot-10 freshman can do it all. No wonder he's projected as a possible top-3 pick in the NBA draft.

Ochai Agbaji, Kansas. The first-team All-American may be the best athlete in the Final Four — and that's saying something in this bracket.

Armando Bacot, North Carolina. Will block your shot, then dunk in your face. Dominating at both ends.

Collin Gillespie, Villanova. Heady, steady, clutch and experienced. The perfect floor leader for one of the game's most efficient teams.

KEY PLAYERS

Mark Williams, Duke. Scoring over the 7-1 sophomore in the lane is an accomplishment. Getting dunked on by him is almost inevitable.

Christian Braun, Kansas. The sharpshooter is perfect for Self's high pick-and-roll offense. Surprisingly good finisher at the rim.

Caleb Love, North Carolina. The athletic freshman can score in bunches and loves big moments. He had 30 points, including two late 3-pointers in 37 seconds in the Tar Heels' Sweet 16 win over the Bruins.

SEE NCAA PAGE 11



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CRIME BRIEFS

Citywide

Robbery / Carjacking Arrest

On March 28, 2022, at approximately 9:50 p.m., Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) Officers responded to investigate a robbery that occurred at the 76 Gas Station (1776 Cloverfield). Officers met with the victim who told them that he was pumping gas when a male approached him, threatened him with violence while demanding his car. The suspect then went into the victim's vehicle, however, was unable to start it because the key was not in the ignition. The suspect then grabbed the victim's cellular phone and fled. The victim provided SMPD Officers with the description of the suspect.

At approximately 10:05 p.m., Police Dispatch received a call of an unrelated robbery that just occurred in the parking lot of the Ralphs Market (1644 Cloverfield Blvd). Officers met with the victim who told them that she was seated in her vehicle when a man opened her car door, threatened her with violence, before grabbing her and attempting to forcibly remove her from the car. During the struggle, he ripped the victim's cellular phone out of her hand and fled. The suspect in this incident matched the description of the suspect in the first incident.

An SMPD Officer observed a male matching the suspect's description in the area of 21st St. and Pennsylvania Ave. When the male saw police, he jumped over a fence onto the embankment of the west-bound I10 Freeway. A perimeter was quickly established and the male, identified as Jabari Osiah Merritt, a 22-year-old male experiencing homelessness, was taken into custody by assisting officers. The victims on both incidents identified Merritt as the male that robbed them. SMPD Officers located the stolen cellular phones abandoned in the embankment.

Merritt was booked for Robbery, Attempt Carjacking and Resist/Obstruct/Delay Arrest.

Anyone with any additional information pertaining to this incident is strongly encouraged to contact Detective Pollnow at 310-458-8455 or the Watch Commander (24 hours) at 310-458-8426.

SUBMITTED BY LIEUTENANT RUDY FLORES



Courtesy photo

JABARI OSIAH MERRITT

Citywide

Residential Burglary Filing

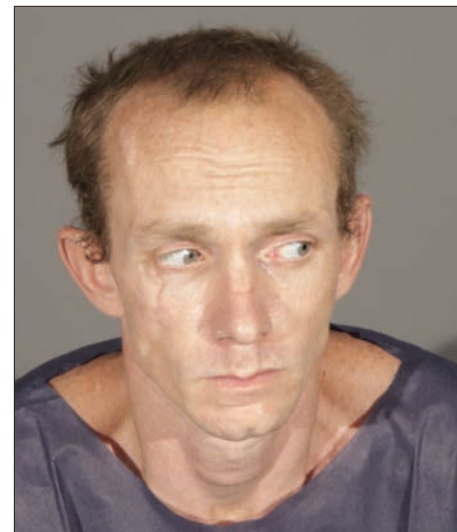
On March 28, the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office filed one count of 459 PC – Burglary against Raymond Harry Purnell, a 36-year-old male experiencing homelessness.

On March 24, at about 6:20 p.m., Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) Officers responded to a Hot Prowl Burglary at a residence in the 1800 block of Warwick Ave. The resident told responding officers that she came home and confronted an unknown male standing in her living-room area, while holding a stick. She provided officers a detailed description of the suspect. Officers searched the residence with negative results. They discovered the house was ransacked and located the window the suspect used to enter the residence.

A neighbor witnessed a male matching the same description of the suspect, jump off the roof, and run away from the residence. When he observed uniformed SMPD officers, he directed them to the suspect's last known direction of travel. Patrol officers detained a male matching the suspect's description, around 34th St. and Exposition Blvd. The victim resident and witness both identified Raymond H. Purnell as the suspect found inside the residence then seen running away. Purnell was arrested and transported to the Santa Monica Police Jail. Officers located miscellaneous cards belonging to one of the residents, on Purnell's person.

Anyone with any additional information pertaining to this incident is strongly encouraged to contact Detective Chabot at 310-458-2201 ext. 6679 or the Watch Commander (24 hours) at 310-458-8426.

SUBMITTED BY LIEUTENANT RUDY FLORES



Courtesy photo

RAYMOND H. PURNELL

HOMICIDE

FROM PAGE 1

provide further details about the condition of the victim. A McCormick ambulance was also called to the center.

Malibu High Principal Patrick Miller tweeted: "We have been in communication with Lost Hills Sheriff Station. School is continuing with normal operation at this time with no known threat or concern to our school community."

Spokespeople for the Trancas Country Market did not provide comment by Daily Press deadline Tuesday.

Anyone with information about the suspicious death was encouraged to contact the LASD Homicide Bureau at 323.890.5500.

Anonymous tips can be reported to LASD "Crime Stoppers" at 800.222.8477, via the P3 Tips smartphone app or by using the website lacrimestoppers.org.

emily@smdp.com

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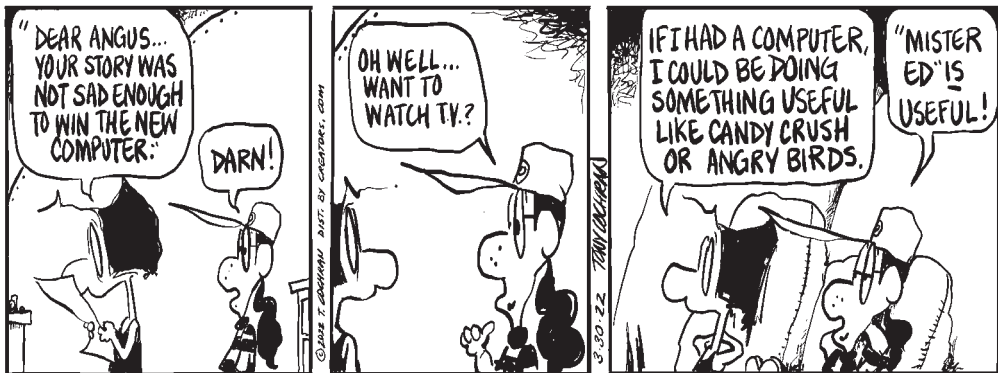
*May be subject to health screening, face coverings, social distancing, proof of COVID-19 vaccination and/or proof of negative COVID-19 test. Requirements vary by community in accordance with state or local directives or recommendations by the CDC. Please contact us for details.

625000 FF

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Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



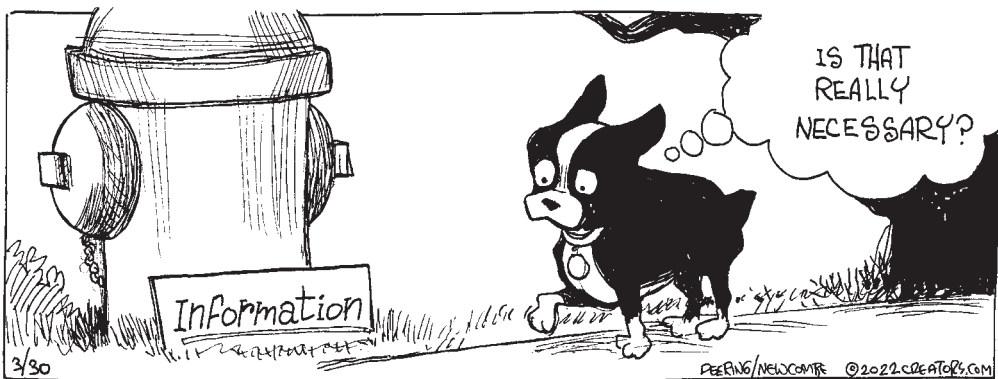
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



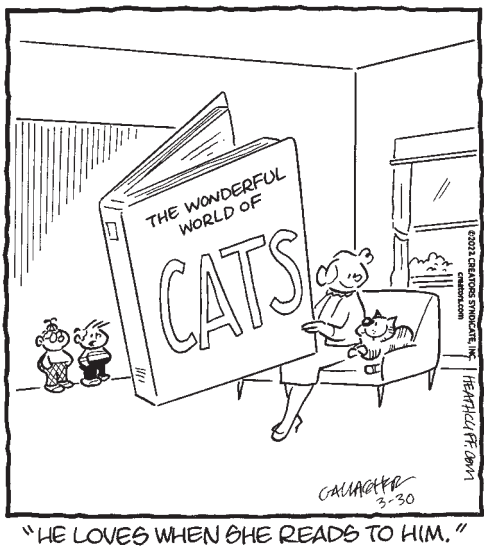
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



SURF REPORT

WATER TEMP: 59.0

WEDNESDAY
FAIR | SURF: 2-3ft+ Thigh to stomach | NW swell mix down from the start of the week. New SSW swell creeps up. Early high tide slows many breaks. Wind looks to improve for the PM tide push, at least for the points.

THURSDAY
POOR TO FAIR | SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist | Watching for fresh WNW swell to come up through the day with new SSW on the rise as well. Wind looking light for now, deep mid-morning high tide to work around.

WEATHER

Wednesday: Cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 63.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 54.
Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 63.
Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 54.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2022/03/30	Wed	02:50 AM	0.74	L
2022/03/30	Wed	08:51 AM	5.45	H
2022/03/30	Wed	3:19 PM	-0.67	L
2022/03/30	Wed	9:33 PM	5.01	H
2022/03/31	Thu	03:30 AM	0.33	L
2022/03/31	Thu	09:32 AM	5.22	H
2022/03/31	Thu	3:48 PM	-0.30	L
2022/03/31	Thu	9:59 PM	5.21	H
2022/04/01	Fri	04:09 AM	0.06	L
2022/04/01	Fri	10:11 AM	4.84	H
2022/04/01	Fri	4:14 PM	0.15	L
2022/04/01	Fri	10:24 PM	5.31	H
2022/04/02	Sat	04:47 AM	-0.08	L
2022/04/02	Sat	10:51 AM	4.37	H
2022/04/02	Sat	4:38 PM	0.66	L
2022/04/02	Sat	10:49 PM	5.30	H
2022/04/03	Sun	05:26 AM	-0.09	L
2022/04/03	Sun	11:34 AM	3.85	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>

Draw Date: 3/28
11 18 39 58 62
Power#: 3
Jackpot: 206 M

Draw Date: 3/28
12 17 21 22 28

Draw Date: 3/25
3 13 42 51 58
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 60 M

Draw Date: 3/28
EVENING: 8 8 0
Draw Date: 3/28
MIDDAY: 7 2 6

Draw Date: 3/26
4 6 14 28 35
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 29 M

Draw Date: 3/28
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 12 - Lucky Charms
3rd: 11 - Money Bags
Race Time: 1:41.95

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 30)

For seven weeks, the cosmic birthday gifts keep coming. A mood lift, a status bump, an excellent friend and exciting tickets are all part of it. You'll have the means to buy what you've long wanted at the end of the summer. Love has much to teach you with lessons about the nature of fun, vulnerability and following your bliss. Leo and Vigo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 16, 2, 3, 18 and 31.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). No one is born strong. Strength is merely weakness handled proactively. The knowledge or belief that you're lacking in some way is an invitation to the new you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). When you love someone, you want to be there through the entire story, including the high-stakes, tense parts and the slow parts, too. You'll prove your loyalty today.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Too much of the same thing is recipe for boredom that's pretty easy to avoid if you're thinking ahead. So, the first order of business is to think ahead. Today gives a healthy appetite for adventure and a low tolerance for tedium.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). People have funny ways of showing you they like you. Some reveal their interest through negging, teasing and challenging. Some copy you or hide compliments in a reprimand. It's all love, though — if you take it that way.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You don't have to do anything to connect with the natural rhythms of life because they are in you, and you are in them. You can relax. No extra work is needed to get in sync beyond accepting that you already are.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When it's light, love makes you feel creative, happier and more energetic. When it's not, you get the opportunity to be strong for someone else, which shows you just how strong you really are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's natural for humans to do what other humans are doing. Peer pressure is only a problem when your peers are a bad influence. With good people around you, it's safe to go with the flow.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll get what you want, but you currently don't have the luxury of choosing the delivery style. Some things, especially very rare things, only come one way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Just like everyone else, you have qualities you'd prefer to hide, deny or fix. Consider that your reasoning around these qualities may be outdated or distorted. There's power in total self-acceptance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You will resolve contradictions — not perfectly, but well enough to get things unstuck and moving along. There's a certain amount of illogic and inconsistency you can live with between now and the next stop.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The devil is in the details. Each individual step is doable, but when you add them all up, the enormity of this task becomes very real to you. Nonetheless, you can handle it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The body can't help but give in to the passage of time, but the mind often hovers around the same age for a good part of the experience. You used to seem old for your age; now you seem young for it.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

WEST	SLUMP	ANTE
RULE	TONER	BEAM
ARIA	ANISE	HALT
POPPING	THE	CORK
ODD	NOR	
HAITI	MAG	DRAFT
OLD	OPENUP	ELLA
SLAMMING	THE	DOOR
TORE	GOES	IN
STEEL	TRY	SOFTY
KEG	OUR	
BANGING	THE	DRUM
RAVE	RELAY	EASE
IRIS	TRICE	ACES
BEDS	HOBOS	LESS

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

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

Newsday Crossword

NOT FOR SHIRTS by Jerry Clarkson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Town square
- 6 Throat-clearing sound
- 10 Finishes up
- 14 Yearn for
- 15 Head, in France
- 16 Halifax, ___ Scotia
- 17 Taken an oath
- 18 Young Spanish woman: Abbr.
- 19 Dozen at a trial
- 20 Clock radio features
- 23 Coffee alternative
- 24 Young fellow
- 25 Stick around
- 29 Junk email
- 31 "We ___ to please"
- 34 Clock radio feature
- 35 Army truant: Abbr.
- 36 No longer in town
- 37 Table game at a bar
- 40 Wall St. debuts
- 41 Coop females
- 42 Short memos
- 43 Family room
- 44 Ration (out)
- 45 The Milky Way, for example
- 46 Weep audibly
- 47 ___ Miz
- 48 Paper holders for LPs
- 55 Hard-to-please actress
- 56 Corn Belt state
- 57 Tennis star Rafael
- 59 Software customer
- 60 Percussion instrument

DOWN

- 1 HP laptops
- 2 Stormy weather systems
- 3 Bard of ___ (Shakespeare)
- 4 Very low number
- 5 Never
- 6 Far from shore
- 7 Thyme or basil
- 8 Rebuke from Caesar
- 9 Sphere served with spaghetti
- 10 Like to do
- 61 Author of *Goosebumps* books
- 62 Declare untrue
- 63 Watson of Potter films
- 64 Lauder of lipstick

- 11 "Thyme" or "basil"
- 12 Cable service devices
- 13 Verbalize
- 21 Meditative Buddhist sect
- 22 Fictional Sawyer
- 25 Quick
- 26 Run off to wed
- 27 Georgia city
- 28 Boats like Noah's
- 29 Beasts in a sty
- 30 Officeholders, for short
- 31 Major blood vessel
- 32 Back-of-book listing
- 33 Untidy
- 35 Assist in a crime
- 36 London lockup
- 38 Traditional bouquet tosser

- 39 Sort of
- 44 Bovine greeting
- 45 "That's amazing!"
- 46 Frightening
- 47 Camel's South American cousin
- 48 Move higher
- 49 Get ___ (exact revenge)
- 50 Where some sophs sleep
- 51 Done laps in a pool
- 52 Winery tubs
- 53 Modify, as a manuscript
- 54 Clear-headed
- 55 Nonfunctioning firecracker
- 58 Harper who wrote . . . *Mockingbird*

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
14						15					16				
17						18					19				
	20					21				22					
					23				24						
25	26	27	28				29	30				31	32	33	
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43							44					45			
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		48	49						50	51			52	53	54
55												57			58
59												61			
62												64			



What's Up
Westside
out and about in Santa Monica

WEDNESDAY | MARCH 30

TEENS, TWEENS & THEIR DIGITAL LIVES

Learn tips and tools for guiding middle and high school students through digital challenges, from the complexities of social media to navigating online drama. This 4-week workshop series, using a Common Sense Media curriculum, is designed for parents and caregivers of youths ages 11 & up. Light refreshment will be provided, and attendees will receive free books on the topics discussed. Register at bit.ly/YouthProgramSignUps. Pico Branch Library. 6:30 - 8 p.m.

COURTYARD & SPLASH PAD OPEN

The Annenberg Community Beach House gated area, including the courtyard and splash pad, are open to the public daily. Please note, from September - May hours are subject to change with short notice. Check the Beach House website calendar or call 310-458-4904 to confirm.

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

Arizona Ave. (between 2nd & 4th)
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

THURSDAY | MARCH 31

GALLERY OPEN

Open daily on a walk-up basis, no reservations or admission fee required. Schedule subject to change with short notice, check calendar or call (310) 458-4904 to confirm. 9 - 4 p.m.

SCIENCE! THE SHOW

Join organizers for their first live science and comedy show in two years as they tackle the biggest question you didn't know you needed answered: Where does food come from? Mi's Westside Comedy Theater. 1323-A ("A" stands for alley) Third Street Promenade. \$20. 8 - 10 p.m. Tickets available online at <https://web.ovationtix.com/trs/pe.c/10996463>.

FRIDAY | APRIL 1

APRIL FOOLS DAY

Be prepared

SATURDAY | APRIL 2

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

Arizona Ave. (between 2nd & 4th)
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

PICO FARMERS MARKET

Pico Blvd. & Cloverfield Blvd.
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

OCEAN PARK BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Join a community-led discussion of books

chosen by the group. Contact jeff.schwartz@santamonica.gov for the Zoom link. 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

MAKE & TAKE WITH MAD SCIENCE: COTTON CANDY

Ever wonder how that fluffy cotton candy is made? Taste the science behind the magical transformation of solid sugar crystals into spun floss. Space is limited. Ages 7-13. Register: bit.ly/YouthProgramSignUps. 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. / Main Library, Central Courtyard

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH: ONLINE CHALLENGE

April is National Poetry Month. Inspired by Amanda Gorman's historic inaugural performance, we're celebrating young poets everywhere this month. Poetry can motivate us to find beauty, hope, and power, no matter what we encounter. Read, watch, and listen to poets' work through activities and log your reading to earn badges all month long. For grades K-12. Register: smp1.beanstack.org

SUNDAY | APRIL 3

MAIN STREET FARMERS MARKET

2640 Main Street.
8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

MONDAY | APRIL 4

SNOOZER'S STORYTIME ADVENTURES

Checkers Library TV presents Snoozer's Storytime Adventures, a virtual series that brings children's books to life with an uplifting story, craft, and song. Access the program here: youtube.com/user/SantaMonicaPL/playlists. 12 - 12:30 p.m.

SANTA MONICA AIRPORT COMMISSION MEETING

The Airport Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the City Council in all matters pertaining to the Municipal Airport and to aviation matters generally to the extent that they affect the City. 6 p.m.

DISABILITIES COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

This is a virtual meeting. Please visit the Commission's webpage for instructions on how to join the meeting: <https://www.smgov.net/portals/AccessibleSM/agendas.aspx>. 6:30 p.m.

PARENTING WHILE BLACK: RECLAIMING, CENTERING, AND AFFIRMING OUR JOY IN RAISING BLACK CHILDREN

This webinar series offers a safe and welcoming space to join and engage in powerful conversations for and by Black families. Moderated by Eurnestine Brown, Ph.D., Director of Relational Equity and Belonging at the Brazelton Touchpoints Center. Register: <https://bit.ly/3p00Wk1>. Mondays, April 4 & 18 / 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 5434

Back of beyond

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

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------|-----------|---------|
| Amble | Emmet | Long | Scrub |
| Arid | Empty | Madura | Simpson |
| Bedourie | Emus | Miners | Snaps |
| Bear | Finke | cottages | Snow |
| Borden | Fire | Mungkarta | Sports |
| Boss | Flood | National | Storm |
| Bush | Fuel | parks | Surf |
| Camp | Grim | Nests | Sweat |
| Cedar | Heed | Rain | Track |
| Cold | Hope | Rice | Vast |
| Crow | Kings | Risk | Wolfram |
| Dirty | Canyon | Ruins | Street |
| Distances | Lead | Salt | Zinc |

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

Aussie originals

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

ELECTION

FROM PAGE 1

Santa Monica has passed local revenue raising measures several times in recent elections. In 2020, residents passed Measure SM, a property transfer tax increase that generates an additional estimated \$3 million per year for essential city services such as homelessness services, public safety, small business recovery and tenant protections. In 2016, residents voted in favor of Measure GSH, which authorized the City to impose an additional 0.5 percent sales tax with revenue deposited into the City's general fund.

Staff are currently researching potential Santa Monica revenue raising measures for the November ballot, including a potential parcel tax focused on restoring library services.

Following the unanimous opposition to the Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act, Councilmembers turned to the Arts and Music in Schools Funding Guarantee Accountability Act. This measure was brought forward for discussion by Councilmembers Lana Negrete, Kristin McCowan and Phil Brock.

This statewide ballot initiative was put together by former LAUSD superintendent Austin Beutner and would raise an estimated \$800 million to support arts and music education funding for schools with limited programming. The funding would not come through a tax increase, but through an allocation from the state's general fund.

"I think we're lucky in the City of Santa Monica to see that in our public schools arts programming is pretty amazing, but (only) one in five public schools in California are able to experience something close to what we have. This measure is going to provide additional funding for arts and music education, without raising taxes, for all public schools in California," said Negrete, adding that this will help public school students become better qualified for many of the creative job opportunities available locally.

Both initiatives are still in the signature gathering phase, but should either qualify for the ballot, an official letter will be sent to the California Attorney General registering Council's respective support or opposition.

Clara@smdp.com

HOSPICE

FROM PAGE 5

can be lucrative, auditors said. For example, a hospice agency that bills for 20 patients at the most common rate can collect about \$122,000 a month.

Last month, 16 people were charged in San Bernardino County with defrauding the California Medi-Cal and federal Medicare systems of more than \$4.2 million by enrolling people who were not terminally ill into hospice care. Many of the patients told investigators that they were enrolled in hospice care without their knowledge or understanding of what hospice is, state prosecutors said.

Auditors noted that Public Health approved licenses for some for-profit facilities even after becoming aware of potential problems, essentially enabling "operators who are possibly fraudulent to continue functioning, placing patients at serious risk of not receiving appropriate care."

The auditor recommended that the state

Legislature require the agencies to create a task force to investigate and prosecute fraud and abuse by hospice providers. Lawmakers should also revise state law to authorize regulators to fine hospice agencies that don't comply with licensing requirements, the report said.

Tomás J. Aragón, director of the Department of Public Health, said his agency agrees with the majority of the audit's findings. "Public Health will continue its efforts to develop regulations for hospice agencies and facilities and if the Legislature provides Public Health with authority to promulgate emergency regulations, we will transform our efforts to meet that mandate," Aragón wrote in a detailed letter to Tilden.

A moratorium on new licenses for hospice agencies went into effect Jan. 1 and will remain for 365 days after the audit report's publication date, "to spur attention and action to improve what many stakeholders, including hospice providers themselves, agree is a regulatory system in need of reform," auditors wrote.

FanDuel Sportsbook: Duke plus-160, Kansas plus-180, Villanova plus-450, North Carolina plus-500.

Final Four game odds: Kansas minus-4.5 vs. Villanova; Duke minus-4 vs. North Carolina.

Over/under: Kansas-Villanova 151 points, Duke-North Carolina 132.5.

NUMBERS

3 — Hall of Fame coaches in the Final Four: Krzyzewski, Self and Wright.

17 — Combined national championships. Each team has won at least three, a first for the Final Four.

21 — Final Fours for North Carolina, an NCAA record.

61 — Combined Final Four appearances for Duke, North Carolina, Kansas and Villanova.

83 — Villanova's free-throw shooting percentage, on pace to break Harvard's NCAA record of 82.2% set in 1994.

NCAA

FROM PAGE 5

Caleb Daniels, Villanova. The New Orleans native is headed home and will need to be a difference maker with Moore out. He has the tools.

THE GAMES

Villanova vs. Kansas, 6:09 p.m. ET Saturday (TBS). The Jayhawks have the depth advantage, particularly with Moore's injury. The Wildcats are uber efficient, powerfully built and never back down. Nothing will be easy about this big-time match-up.

Duke vs. North Carolina, 8:49 p.m. ET Saturday (TBS). The Tobacco Road rivals have met 257 times. This will be their first in the NCAA Tournament and Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski's final game against the Tar Heels. Not sure it gets any better than this.

ODDS

Odds to win the national title, according to

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Burnett, Amanda Burnett This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 01/26/22. NOTICE: 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 14411et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish, 2/7/22, 2/14/22, 2/21/22, 2/28/22, 03/23, 3/30/22, 04/06/22, 04/13/22

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Sr. Financial Analyst sought by Snap Inc. in Santa Monica, CA (Hybrid work permitted - may work remotely when not reporting into Snap Santa Monica, CA office.) Financial planning, analysis and key decision supp. Masters or for. eq. + 3 yrs exp. OR Bachelors or for. eq. + 5 yrs exp. req. Resumes: apply2snap@snap.com. Ref. Job Code #SFA-0322-PL. EOE.

Roku, Inc. in Santa Monica, CA seeks Senior Data Scientist (multiple openings). Form. & apply mathematical modeling & other optimiz. methods to dev. & interpret info. that assists mngmnt. with dec. making, pol. form., or other managerial functions. 2 days/wk telecom'g may be available. Reqs incl. MS or fgn equiv in CS, Engg Mngmnt, Finance, Math., Econ., or rel, or BS + 3 yrs rel exp. Email resume to resumes@roku.com. Must ref job code 85666 in subject line to be considered.

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Happy National Doctors' Day!

We  our docs