Crossroads swims into the postseason

Two locals, a veteran, and a prodigy qualify for USGA Open Final

MAGNOLIA LAFLEUR
Special to the Daily Press

The Southern California Golf Association (SCGA) in association with the United States Golf Association (USGA) held a U.S. open local qualifying competition at the Brentwood Country Club on May 16 where five So Cal golfers inked their way closer to qualifying for the U.S. Open Golf Championship.

Golfers, Brendan Gonzalez from Orange County, Logan Lanier from Calabasas, Michael Feuerstein from La Jolla, Jaden Soong from Burbank and Danny Wax from Pacific Palisades beat out 74 other golfers to qualify for the USGA open final qualifier on June 5 at Hillcrest Country Club in Los Angeles.

Fan favorite at the Brentwood Country Club was their very own member and once PGA professional golf player Danny Wax who currently holds a course record at the club. Several members of the

Schools to name new superintendent on June 1

GRACE INEZ ADAMS
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education has selected a finalist for new Superintendent,” said Pinsker. “The school board will formally vote and announce at the school board meeting on June 1, 2023.”

The SMMUSD Board recently conducted candidate interviews and the June 1 announcement will come about six months after former SMMUSD superintendent Ben Drati announced in November 2022 that he would be leaving the district at the beginning of 2023.

The Board appointed Mark Kelly as interim superintendent and hired the executive search firm Leadership Associates to head up the process.

Leadership Associates is the same firm the board used to hire Drati and the SMMUSD superintendent before him. Because of this, board members have said they feel confident the firm and the process they are facilitating will help them

SEE SCHOOL BOARD PAGE 6

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ChatGPT chief says artificial intelligence should be regulated by a US or global agency

MATT O'BRIEN
AP Technology Writer

The head of the artificial intelligence company that makes ChatGPT told Congress on Tuesday that government intervention will be critical to mitigating the risks of increasingly powerful AI systems.

"As this technology advances, we understand that people are anxious about how it could change the way we live. We are too," OpenAI CEO Sam Altman said at a Senate hearing.

Altman proposed the formation of a U.S. or global agency that would license the most powerful AI systems and have the authority to "take that license away and ensure compliance with safety standards."

His San Francisco-based startup rocketed to public attention after it released ChatGPT late last year. ChatGPT is a free chatbot tool that answers questions with convincingly human-like responses.

What started out as a panic among educators about ChatGPT’s use to cheat on homework assignments has expanded to broader concerns about the ability of the latest crop of “generative AI” tools to mislead people, spread falsehoods, violate copyright protections and upend some jobs.

And while there’s no immediate sign Congress will craft sweeping new AI rules, as European lawmakers are doing, the societal concerns brought Altman and other tech CEOs to the White House earlier this month and have led U.S. agencies to promise to crack down on harmful AI products that break existing civil rights and consumer protection laws.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal, the Connecticut Democrat who chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee’s subcommittee on privacy, technology and the law, opened the hearing with a recorded speech that sounded like the senator, but was actually a voice clone trained on Blumenthal’s floor speeches and reciting a speech written by ChatGPT after he asked the chatbot to compose his opening remarks.

The result was impressive, said Blumenthal, but he added, “What if I had asked it, and what if it had provided, an endorsement of Vladimir Putin’s leadership?”

Blumenthal said AI companies ought to be required to test their systems and disclose known risks before releasing them, and expressed particular concern about how future AI systems could destabilize the job market.

Pressed on his own worst fear about AI, Altman mostly avoided specifics, except to say that the industry could cause “significant harm to the world” and that “if this technology goes wrong, it can go quite wrong.”

But he later proposed that a new regulatory agency should impose safeguards that would block AI models that could “self-replicate and self-infiltrate into the wild” — hinting at futuristic concerns about advanced AI systems that could manipulate humans into ceding control.

Co-founded by Altman in 2015 with backing from tech billionaire Elon Musk, OpenAI has evolved from a nonprofit research lab with a safety-focused mission into a business. Its other popular AI products including the image-maker DALL-E. Microsoft has invested billions of dollars into the startup and has integrated its technology into its own products, including its search engine Bing.

Altman is also planning to embark on a worldwide tour this month to national capitals and major cities across six continents to talk about the technology with policymakers and the public. On the eve of his Senate testimony, he dined with dozens of U.S. lawmakers, several of whom told CNBC they were impressed by his comments.

Also testifying were IBM’s chief privacy and trust officer, Christina Montgomery, and Gary Marcus, a professor emeritus at New York University who was among a group of AI experts who called on OpenAI and other tech firms to pause their development of more powerful AI models for six months to give society more time to consider the risks.

The letter was a response to the March release of OpenAI’s latest model, GPT-4, described as more powerful than ChatGPT.

"As this technology advances, we understand that people are anxious about how it could change the way we live. We are too."

- Sam Altman OpenAI CEO

SEE CHATGPT PAGE 8
3 judges who chipped away abortion rights to hear federal abortion pill appeal

KEVIN MCGILL
Associated Press

Three conservative appeals court judges, each with a history of supporting restrictions on abortion, will hear arguments May 17 on whether a widely used abortion drug should remain available.

The case involves a regulatory issue — whether the Food and Drug Administration’s approval of mifepristone, and subsequent actions making it easier to obtain, must be rolled back. The appellate hearing follows an April ruling by a federal judge in Texas, who ordered a hold on federal approval of mifepristone in a decision that overruled decades of scientific approval. His ruling was stayed pending appeal. The case was allotted to a panel made up of Jennifer Walker Elrod, James Ho and Cory Wilson.

The three judges of the New Orleans-based 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals won’t rule immediately. Their decision, whatever it is, is also unlikely to have an immediate effect pending an expected appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Here’s a look at who the judges are and their track records.

JENNIFER WALKER ELROD

Nominated to the court in 2007 by Republican President George W. Bush, Elrod was among several 5th Circuit judges allowing Texas to temporarily ban abortions as the coronavirus pandemic took hold in early 2020.

Elrod also was co-author of the opinion when the full 5th Circuit upheld in 2021 a Texas law outlawing an abortion method commonly used to end second-trimester pregnancies.

That same year, she wrote for a panel that refused to order Louisiana to issue a long-stalled license for a Planned Parenthood abortion clinic in New Orleans, saying “there is no free-standing federal right to receive an abortion-clinic license.”

In the Texas case involving pandemic restrictions, she was part of a panel allowing what amounted to a ban on abortions — including medication abortions — by classifying them as non-essential procedures legally postponed under an order by Gov. Greg Abbott. The 2020 order was in effect for about a month.

Elrod was in favor of decisions upholding Texas and Louisiana laws requiring doctors at abortion clinics to have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals — a move abortion rights advocates said would force some clinics to close.

When the full court narrowly refused to let Louisiana officials cut off Medicaid funding for Planned Parenthood facilities in the state, Elrod voted the dissent.

Elrod also boasts a high profile in 5th Circuit decisions on regulatory issues. One, if upheld by the Supreme Court, could limit the authority of the Securities and Exchange Commission to impose hefty fees and fines. Another, eventually struck by the Supreme Court, held that the “individual mandate” in former President Barack Obama’s signature health care law had been rendered unconstitutional by congressional action.

JAMES HO

A former Texas solicitor general, Ho is the first Asian-American to serve on the 5th Circuit and is a former clerk for Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. He was nominated to the 5th Circuit in 2017 by Republican President Donald Trump. His opposition to abortion and abortion rights was clear early in his tenure, including referring to abortion as a “moral tragedy” in one 2018 opinion.

In 2019, he wrote a 15-page grudging concurrence in a ruling that said a Mississippi abortion ban had to be struck down under then-existing court precedent. “Nothing in the text or original understanding of the Constitution establishes a right to an abortion,” he wrote.

He went on to cite “the racial history of abortion advocacy as a tool of the eugenics movement.” He harshly criticized a lower court for declining to consider arguments that a fetus can feel pain, and for displaying “an alarming disrespect for the millions of Americans who believe that abortion is the immoral, tragic, and violent taking of innocent human life.”

That opinion was written in the case the Supreme Court ultimately used to overturn Roe v. Wade.

CORY WILSON

Nominated to the federal appeals court in 2020 by Trump, Wilson is a former Mississippi appeals court judge who had a strong anti-abortion record when he served in the Mississippi House from January 2016 to February 2019 as a Republican. Abortion rights supporters opposed his confirmation to the federal appeals court. They noted he had expressed support for “complete and immediate reversal” of the Roe v. Wade decision in a questionnaire from Mississippi Right to Life’s political action committee.

Wilson voted for anti-abortion measures in 2016, including one to stop Medicaid funding to Planned Parenthood facilities in the state — a measure rejected in court. In 2018 he voted for the Mississippi law that ultimately led to the demise of Roe v. Wade in 2022. The law prohibited most abortions after 15 weeks.

At the 5th Circuit, Wilson joined Elrod, Ho and a majority of the full court in 2021 in upholding a Texas law outlawing an abortion method commonly used to end second-trimester pregnancies. He had voted for a similar law in the Mississippi Legislature.

Senior Texas Republican Greg Abbott and his fellow Republican Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton have supported the ability of state legislators to regulate abortion providers, including a measure rejected in court. In 2018 he voted for the Mississippi law that ultimately led to the demise of Roe v. Wade in 2022. The law prohibited most abortions after 15 weeks.

At the 5th Circuit, Wilson joined Elrod, Ho and a majority of the full court in 2021 in upholding a Texas law outlawing an abortion method commonly used to end second-trimester pregnancies. He had voted for a similar law in the Mississippi Legislature.

3rd Annual Rick Crocker 5K Walk-Run On May 18

Santa Monica Police Activities League (PAL) presents the “3rd Annual Rick Crocker 5K” Walk-Run, which will be held on May 18th.

The event will take place at the Santa Monica Pier, with the first wave starting at 9:00 am. Both walk and run categories will be available, with registered participants receiving a T-shirt.

The course will wind through the Santa Monica Pier and along the oceanfront, providing participants with beautiful views of the ocean and the city. Following the race, there will be a DJ performance, and food and beverage vendors will be available.

The event is open to the public, and participants are encouraged to dress in their favorite theme attire. Prizes will be awarded to the top finishers in each category.

Register online at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/3rd-annual-rick-crocker-5k-walk-run-challenge-tickets-576421591497

For more information, please contact pal@santamonicapal.gov.
How the American Dream convinces people loneliness is normal

TED ANTHONY
AP National Writer

At the end of “The Searchers,” one of John Wayne's most renowned Westerns, a kidnapped girl has been rescued and a family reunited. As the closing music swells, Wayne’s character looks around at his kin — people who have other people to lean on — and then walks off toward the dusty West Texas horizon, lonesome and alone.

It’s a classic example of a fundamental American tall tale — that of a nation built on notions of individualism, a male-dominated story filled with loners and “rugged individualists” who suck it up, do what needs to be done, ride off into the sunset and like it that way.

In reality, loneliness in America can be deadly. This month, U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy declared it an American epidemic, saying that it takes as deadly a toll as smoking upon the population of the United States. “Millions of people in America are struggling in the shadows,” he said, “and that’s not right.”

He cited some potent forces: the gradual withering of longstanding institutions, decreased engagement with churches, the fraying bonds of extended families. When you add recent stressors — the rise of social media and virtual life, post-9/11 polarization and the way COVID-19 interrupted existence — the challenge becomes even more stark.

People are lonely the world over. But as far back as the early 19th century, when the word “loneliness” began to be used in its current context in American life, some were already asking the question: Do the contours of American society — that emphasis on individualism, that spreading out with impunity over a vast, sometimes outsized landscape — encourage isolation and alienation?

OR IS THAT, LIKE OTHER CHUNKS OF THE AMERICAN STORY, A PREMISE BUILT ON MYTHS?

Alexis de Tocqueville, watching the country as an outsider while writing “Democracy in America” in the mid-1800s, wondered whether, “as social conditions become more equal,” Americans and people like them would be inclined to reject the teachings of deep community that had pervaded Old World aristocracies for centuries. “They acquire the habit of always considering themselves as standing alone, and they are apt to imagine that their whole destiny is in their own hands,” he wrote. “Thus not only does democracy make every man forget his ancestors, but it ... throws him back forever upon himself alone, and threatens in the end to confine him entirely within the solitude of his own heart.”

This has been a recurring thread in how Americans perceive themselves. In the age before democracy, for better and for worse, “People weren't lonely. They were tied up in a web of connections. And in many countries that's more true than it was in the United States,” says Colin Woodard, director of the Nationhood Lab at the Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy. “There's this idea that going out into those vast spaces and connecting with the wilderness and escaping the past was precisely what made us Americans,” Woodard says.

Yet many frontier myths skip over how important community has been in the settling and growth of the nation. Some of the biggest stories of cooperation — the rise of municipal organizations and trade unions, the New Deal programs that helped drag many Americans out of the Depression in the 1930s, war efforts from the Civil War to World War II — sometimes get lost in the fervor for character-driven stories of individualism.

Those omissions continue. Fueled in part by pandemic distrust, a latter-day strain of individual-over-community sentiment often paired with invocations of liberty and freedom occupies a significant chunk of the national conversation these days — to the point where advocacy about community thinking is sometimes met with accusations of socialism.

Let's not consign Americans to be the heirs of a built-in loneliness gene, though. A new generation is insisting that mental health be part of the national conversation, and many voices — among them women and people of color — are increasingly offering new alternatives to the old myths.

WHAT'S MORE, THE VERY PLACE WHERE THE DISCUSSION ABOUT LONELINESS IS BEING HELD TODAY — IN THE OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL, A PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEE — SUGGESTS THAT OTHER PATHS ARE POSSIBLE.

The ways Americans perceive themselves as solitary (whether or not it’s true) can be seen in their art.

One of the nation's early art movements, the mid-19th-century Hudson River School, made people tiny parts of outsized landscapes, implying both that the land dwarfed humans and that they were being summoned to tame it. From that, you can draw a line straight to Hollywood and director John Ford's Westerns, which used vast landscapes to isolate and motivate humans for the purposes of telling big stories. Same with music, where both the blues and the “high lonesome sound” helped shape later genres.

In the suburbs, Betty Friedan's groundbreaking “The Feminine Mystique” helped give voice to a generation of lonely women. In the city, Edward Hopper’s work — like the iconic “Nighthawks” — channeled urban loneliness. At around the same time, the emergence of film noir — crime and decay in the American city its frequent subject — helped shape the figure of the lonely man alone in a crowd who might be a protagonist, might be an antagonist, might be both.

Today, loneliness plays out on streaming
COMMUNITY NEWS

Los Angeles

Man Sentenced for BB Gun Attacks on California Planned Parenthood Clinic

A man who waged a year-long series of BB gun attacks on a Southern California Planned Parenthood clinic was sentenced to 2 1/2 years in federal prison.

Richard Royden Chamberlin, 53, was sentenced Monday in Los Angeles federal court, the U.S. attorney's office said in a statement.

At least 11 attacks targeted a Planned Parenthood facility in Pasadena between June 2020 and May 2021. No one was hurt but a person waiting outside for a patient was nearly struck, staff was terrified and the building was damaged, prosecutors said.

Pasadena police stopped Chamberlin after a May 7, 2021, attack and found he had eight BB guns and a backpack containing a loaded .22-caliber pistol.

The U.S. attorney's office said that Chamberlin, who was convicted in Arizona in 2012 of felony attempted transportation of a narcotic for sale, subsequently tried to sell or transfer ownership of other firearms. A search of his home found thousands of rounds of ammunition, gun powder, a dozen BB guns, and other weapons-related items.

Chamberlin pleaded guilty in December 2022 to one count of violating the federal Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act and one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition.

SUBMITTED BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

Citywide

Willie Nelson’s 90th Birthday Concerts Getting a Theatrical Release

If you missed out on Willie Nelson’s 90th birthday concerts last month in Los Angeles, you can see all the special performances honoring the 12-time Grammy winner in a limited theatrical run.

“Long Story Short: Willie Nelson 90” will be shown in theaters on June 11, with an encore presentation on June 13 and 14. Recorded at the Hollywood Bowl over two nights in April, the concert film will include performances by Nelson, Keith Richards, Neil Young, George Strait, Miranda Lambert, Snoop Dogg and many more.

Nelson, who was also inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame this year, is having a banner year as a nonagenarian. He was honored with an educational endowedowment at the University of Texas’ LBJ School of Public Affairs and will have a new book about his songwriting called “Energy Follows Thought: The Stories Behind My Songs,” coming out on Oct. 31 through William Morrow.

The Texas actor, activist and songwriter penned hits like “Crazy,” “Funny How Times Slips Away” and “On the Road Again” over his seven-decade career, as well as co-founded Farm Aid.

Tickets for the concert film, presented by Blackbird Presents, Joe Hand Promotions and Nelson’s manager Mark Rothbaum, go on sale today at willienelson90experience.com

SUBMITTED BY KRISTIN M. HALL, AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER
ON APRIL 30 AT 2 P.M.

Officers responded to a “Lewd Conduct” call near Parking Structure 5 in the Downtown area. The comments of the call stated a male subject was exposing himself in public. Officers located a subject matching the description provided by the reporting party walking through the structure. Brian Nicholas Izquierdo was arrested for loitering in the parking structure, possession of a stolen Apple Watch, possession of drug paraphernalia and a failure to properly register as a sex offender. Izquierdo remains in police custody awaiting a May 26th court appearance.

SCHOOL BOARD
FROM PAGE 1

to find a candidate that meets the district’s needs.

A new Superintendent will arrive as the District works to finalize an agreement with Malibu over splitting the district.

The two sides greed to a “Term Sheet” in October of last year that outlines a framework to accomplish formation of an independent Malibu Unified School District and Santa Monica Unified School District.

While both parties initially wanted to finalize some details of the agreement by April 15, they have stumbled over details and negotiations are ongoing. Despite the delay, both groups say they are committed to the deal and finalizing the key terms soon.

As the search has continued in recent months, community input has been solicited via an online survey and meetings with various stakeholder groups.

A new superintendent is expected to start work by the beginning of July of this year, just ahead of the 2023-2024 school year.

The SMMUSD Board has a meeting tonight, May 17, and while the Superintendent search is not part of the discussion, the agenda is packed with other items.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT DATA

SMMUSD staff present data on student achievement to the board throughout the school year to show how students in the district have performed on a variety of assessments and also predict how they will perform in the future and identify areas for improvement.

This week’s presentation is the final one of this school year and includes data from spring diagnostic assessments.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Over the last several years, SMMUSD has been working on better training staff to identify and address bias and racism within educational systems and to develop a strategy “designed to encourage reexamining the current system by all constituents involved — interested staff, administration, school board, and parents — in shaping the system and making the necessary changes through the lens of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).”

Staff will present on the district’s progress towards this goal as well as share upcoming plans and initiatives including an educational campaign and new approaches to teaching English language learners and changes to the structure and order of high school science classes.

TITLE I PROGRAMS

After being pulled from a previous meeting agenda on May 4, the board is scheduled to discuss Title I programs in the district and decide whether to approve a waiver for John Adams Middle School (JAMS) that would allow the school to continue operating a Schoolwide Program using its Title I funding.

Title I funding is given to schools with a high percentage of low-income students. In SMMUSD, this is determined by the number of students who qualify for Free and Reduced Meals (FRM) and there are two types of programs that schools can put Title I funding towards.

One option is the Schoolwide Program which is aimed at improving overall achievement at a school, which schools are eligible for if 40% or more of enrolled students are considered low income. The other, Targeted Assistance programs, is for schools with 35% or more low income students and focuses the funds solely on eligible students under Title I criteria.

While JAMS falls just short of the 40% threshold needed for the Schoolwide Program, with a 38.5% poverty rate, SMMUSD staff are recommending that the board allow the school to continue with the program, stating that they “believe it is in the best interest of our students.”

OTHER ITEMS

Board members will also review the district’s budget, hear a presentation on SMMUSD’s AVID program and discuss an expenditure plan relating to the Arts, Music, and Instructional Materials (AMIM) Discretionary Block Grant established by a state bill passed last year to allocate funding to school districts to help obtain educational materials and operate programs in certain subject areas. More details will be provided at the meeting.

The board will also vote to approve the job descriptions for several new positions including a Board Certified Behavior Analyst to work in the Special Education Department and a Facility Fiscal Manager in the Business Services Division to help manage and oversee maintenance related budgets as well as provide fiscal leadership.

Numerous award agreements for the many construction and maintenance projects in the district including roof repairs and renovations will also be voted on. To view the full agenda and for more information on specific items visit: https://smbli.eboardsolutions.com/SB_Meetings/ViewMeeting, agenda=2023-05-17-MID-20656

The public portion of the meeting begins at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday May 17, 2023 at the District Administrative Offices at 1711 Fourth Street and will also be available via Zoom.

grace@smdp.com

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737
Los Angeles

County Board Backs Tax Credits to Keep TV and Film Jobs in L.A.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has unanimously approved a motion co-authored by Supervisors Kathryn Barger and Lindsey P. Horvath that formally conveys their support to Governor Newsom for an extension of the current California Film Tax Credit for another five years.

Administered by the California Film Commission, the tax credit program provides economic relief to a variety of film and television companies who produce their projects in California. The current $1.55 billion tax relief program will expire on June 30, 2025.

“I believe in doing everything possible to keep jobs anchored in Los Angeles,” said Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath, Third District. “Easing the tax liabilities of film and television companies both large and small is a significant carrot that keeps them from moving their production out of state where it may be cheaper to film. We have an amazing production infrastructure here and we must seize every opportunity to protect and support it.”

“Los Angeles is the global capital of the creative economy, in no small part because of the entertainment industry. As more states create programs to attract film production, we must continue to incentivize filming in our state and in Los Angeles County,” said Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath, Third District. “Production creates jobs that provide a living wage with low barriers to entry, and continues the magic of the creative economy in Los Angeles. I fully support incentivizing keeping these jobs here at home, and expanding opportunities for diverse communities to become more equitably represented in this industry.”

Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell mentioned during the Board’s policy discussion that there should also be a Board focus on how entertainment industry studios are working to create an equitable workforce pipeline that adds diversity among its employees.

Supervisor Barger replied affirmatively, stating “We certainly have a lot of work to do when it comes to hiring and diversity. We must capitalize and promote the local talent available in our communities who can be significantly uplifted by these types of stable and well-paying jobs.”

Los Angeles

County Property Values Near $2 Trillion

After what can be characterized as a tumultuous year in the real estate market, Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang announced the May 15 forecast for the 2023 Assessment Roll. The Assessor reported to the Board of Supervisors that taxable property values are anticipated to increase approximately 5% over 2022, marking 13 years of continuous growth.

The May forecast projects the anticipated growth rate for the annual Assessment Roll, which closes in early July. The forecast is an important tool for local governments as they prepare their annual budgets in anticipation of property tax revenues. The annual Assessment Roll is the inventory for all taxable property in the County and can provide insight into the state of the real estate market and the local economy.

To access the 2023 forecast, go to https://assessor.lacounty.gov/news-information/assessmentroll

“It has been a challenging couple of years as the local and national economies respond to a variety of factors, including COVID. But our analysis indicates property value growth for the 13th consecutive year. This is good news for property owners and for local government, which depends on property taxes to pay for vital public services,” Assessor Prang said. “However, the real estate market in 2022 began more robustly than it ended, and the sluggish market is likely to continue through this year.”

Although the housing market did cool considerably since 2021, home median sales prices (MSP) remained strong through much of the year, reaching a record high exceeding $900,000. The strength of the single-family residential market through the first two quarters of 2022 is projected to produce a significant increase in transfer assessments. Property transfers are anticipated to add more than $63 billion to the Assessment Roll.

After what can be characterized as a tumultuous year in the real estate market, Los Angeles County property values are anticipated to increase approximately 5% over 2022, marking 13 years of continuous growth.

The nearly $2 trillion estimated total net value translates into about $20 billion in property tax dollars for vital public services such as public education, first responders and healthcare workers, as well as other County services. Assessments are based on the value of property on January 1, 2023.

SUBMITTED BY STEPHEN R. WHITMORE, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

WALK & PLAY L.A.

May 20, 2023 • Santa Monica Pier

Join us for a fun and entertaining day creating hope and building healthier futures for the young patients at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles.

Register Today!
Use code WALK to receive $10 off registration.
Visit WalkandPlayLA.org
GOLF
FROM PAGE 1

club came to support Wax along with his family including his best friend from college Brandon and his Santa Monica high-school sweetheart and wife Toni.

"I'm so excited for him," Toni said, "I had complete faith that he would make it through."

"It's always fun to watch him compete," Brandon said, "he's one of the best players I've ever seen in my life, but it's also nerve-racking watching one of your best friends go out there and give it their all. He's an amazing human being so all I want to do is see him succeed."

Wax's victory didn't come without a hiccup, on the seventh hole he scored a triple bogey which nearly kept him out of the top five. Nevertheless, Wax persevered and tied with Soong to secure his place in the final 5.

"I felt like I played really well except for one hole," Wax said, "And all I told myself was to keep my chin up, eyes on the horizon, focus on the next hole."

"I felt good about today, I shot exactly what I wanted to out there and have had fun and have learned from the experience," Jaden Soong said. Playing since he was 13-years-old, Wax said when he faces difficulties in the game, he's able to look back and utilize the different experiences in his golf career. "I am able to tap into that and channel that kind of focus and use my imagination but also it's breath, you've got to really focus on your breath in those situations."

Jaden Soong, also a fan favorite as a 13-year-old 7th-grade prodigy and rising star from Thomas Starr King Middle School, competed in his very first U.S open qualifier.

"I felt good about today, I shot exactly what I wanted to out there and have had fun and have learned from the experience," Jaden said. "I'm glad all my hard work is paying off."

Missing school for the competition, Jaden who was accompanied by his parents Sandra and Chris Soong - said he prepared for the competition by watching Tiger Woods greatest open shots. His biggest inspiration however, was a personal video captured in 2018 of Kobe Bryant by his father at a corporate Laker event where Kobe stressed the importance of working hard and practicing saying - "If you want to be great, if you want to feel what excellence feels like, you have to put in the work!"

Training four-times a week at the Brookside Golf Course, with his putting coach, fitness coach and a swing coach, Chris said the investment and dedication had "paid off." "I'm kind of still stunned," said Chris, "we're used to playing against kids from 12 to 19-years-old, but when you're playing against full grown men it's something else, it's amazing to see how he did today."

"I was very nervous today, but we had no expectations and are so proud of him," Sandra said, "I mean he picked up a club when he was 2-years-old so it's all very natural for him. We are very happy for him."

After the playoff, both Wax and Soong were met with a flood of handshakes from club members and fans who were happy to see a rising star and a comeback golfer make the final rounds.

There are currently 9,693 golfers competing for 530 spots that will eventually be whittled down to 52 golfers competing at the 123rd U.S. Open championship, at The Los Angeles Country Club on Jun. 15 to Jun. 18 - the first time the event will be held in Los Angeles since 1948.

"For something like this, it can feel like a pipe dream," Chris said, "But you gotta dream big and go big."

CHATGPT
FROM PAGE 2

The panel’s ranking Republican, Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri, said the technology has big implications for elections, jobs and national security. He said Tuesday’s hearing marked “a critical first step towards understanding what Congress should do.”

A number of tech industry leaders have said they welcome some form of AI oversight but have cautioned against what they see as overly heavy-handed rules. Altman and Marcus both called for an AI-focused regulator, preferably an international one, with Altman citing the precedent of the U.N’s nuclear agency and Marcus comparing it to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. But IBM’s Montgomery instead asked Congress to take a “precision regulation” approach.

“We think that AI should be regulated at the point of risk, essentially,” Montgomery said, by establishing rules that govern the deployment of specific uses of AI rather than the technology itself.
**TODAY’S BIRTHDAY (May 17)**

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your reward for doing a stellar job? Now you’re expected to do it faster, cheaper and in greater quantities. This hardly seems fair or logical, but you’ll be rewarded when you go forward anyway.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). When you get tired, should you push through or ease up? The latter idea is what you most need; it will be productive to let the pressure off and rest a while. New insights will come to you when you’re refreshed.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The new you is waiting in the future, thinking, “Where are you? When will you get here?” A friend or coach will provide the right push to speed along your transformation. It’s not always going to be comfortable, but it will be worth it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Everyone doesn’t have to get with your program for you to feel good about what you’re doing. You readily accept that you’re not in control of everything and you enjoy seeing the various approaches people take when they feel free to explore.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your life is not a solo act. Even when you are doing things alone, you’re never really alone. You are always collaborating with the universe. In today’s collaboration, create and let the universe lead.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You’re easy to open up to. You sometimes learn more about people than you wanted to know. Don’t be deterred by the complexities of the human experience. Some of the best things in life are messy and, nonetheless, worth figuring out.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It’s a struggle to be cheerful when there’s so much about a situation that needs work. But you’ll search for, and find, the silver lining. Optimism will give you the energy to finish a job.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Take inventory. Know what you have and what you need. The accounting will prevent you from missing opportunities, buying too much, or making other mistakes related to a lack of awareness.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). With your relentless worth ethic, you’re destined for greatness. And when complacency creeps in, you’ll soar even higher as you think of ways to get the job done smarter, faster and with less effort.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Unanticipated obstacles fall in the path. It’s beyond your control, but you can control your commitment to managing what comes no matter what. You’ll overcome hurdles with a simple command from you to you: jump!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Success may be the ultimate revenge, and you’ll certainly get there, but in the meantime, you’d like justice. What would that look like? There are many forms it could take, some of which would be healing for all.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Today you live like this is your party. You pick the menus and music. The invite list is yours too. You’ll make the fun, feel-good choices. You’ll be delighted by who shows up to celebrate.

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**SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY’S SUDOKU**

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**SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY’S CROSSWORD**

**Newscross Day Crossword**

1. “Excuse me, but...”
2. Antiques
3. Conversation
4. Underneath
5. “All you can ___”
6. Honda’s upscale auto
7. Egyptian capital
8. Small fabric remnant
9. Say something you shouldn’t
10. Impeccable glance
11. Courageous
12. Brief in using words
13. Government-issued ID
14. With 45 Across, sufficient quantity for everybody
15. Erase, as computer files
16. Old-style “Sweet!”
17. Baby bear
18. Untrustworthy person
19. Grand State (Arizona nickname)
20. See 34 Across
21. British battleship initials
22. Follows, as rules
23. Bar barrels
24. Slang suffix for switch
25. Platform for Apple phones
26. Making an attempt
27. Choreographer Alley
28. Verse of praise
29. School course to breeze through
30. Hoped-for negotiation results
31. Anticipate with fear
32. Hearing, touch, or sight
33. Hgt. above sea level
34. Authors, as an article
35. Basic principles
36. Messy pile
37. Novelist Wiesel
38. Ethical obligation
39. Nation south of Ecuador
40. Fishhook attachment
41. Pub seats
42. Sample of food
43. Take place
44. Happy cat’s sound
45. Teheran’s country
46. Top of a mushroom
47. Left dreamland
48. Solemn pledge
49. Make a meal for
50. Park seating
51. Early morning hr.
52. Amounts borrowed
53. And others, for short
54. Cheek cosmetic
55. Musical transition
56. Attacked by a bee
57. Has to have
58. Hair gel or wet tar
59. Make a blunder
60. Be alert
61. Young fellow
62. Halfway to tomorrow
63. Everest’s continent
64. Capital of Colombia
65. Lesser of two
66. Remove soapuds from
67. Was indebted to
68. Great joy
69. Leash of tennis
70. Personal hero
71. Canvas shelter
72. “OK, got it”
73. Seacrest or Gosling
74. Young fellows
75. Computer screen pop-ups

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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
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 25 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5847

South of Sydney

UNITKCODDAPORTS
MTSAOCERIHPASA
BAYSURFLAGOONHR
GNITUOSVAGNUBSM
EESSTEELWORKSEII
HEALLAOMLACBTFW
TNALNGNSUERACS
WDHUBAOPRBGTU
OWLLOOWKRAVARRN
RAYORRAEBMAOTNN
GNDACRBSBHLMHY
KIOLOAPTAESULBE
EDENOAPICIRULEO
FAGOLFKEICDRBAY
NRIEDPTSBODYVE

Bait Capes Kioloa Sapphire
Bars Care Lagoon Coast
Bathe Clean Lake Steelworks
Bays Cold Mogo Sunny
Bega Cool Nature Surf
Berry Currarong Nowra Swim
Boats Eden Outing Tans
Bombo Fish Paddock Unit
Broulee Golf Pambula Valley
Bunga Growth Ports Whales
Bush Jobs Red Pt. Wonboyn
Calm Kiah Rest

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY’S WORDS PUZZLE.
The not so great outdoors
What’s Up Westside
out and about in Santa Monica

**WEDNESDAY | MAY 17**

**FUTURE OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

We all have ideas, so the city is holding three Ideas Exchange events in May. They’re part of an initiative called Future of Behavioral Health to address the causes and consequences of mental health and substance use disorder-related issues. Denver-based IntimUS Health is organizing the sessions and helping the city envision future steps to serve those in crisis and impacted community members. Hear best practices from national leaders and share the solutions you’d like to see. Annenberg Community Beach House

**THURSDAY | MAY 18**

**WESTSIDE LAUGH PARTY STAND-UP COMEDY**

Westside’s Laugh Party is a monthly standup show produced by Dennis Gubbins featuring the best comics from around the country with surprise drop-ins by the likes of Tig Notaro, Zach Galifianakis, Ali Wong, Demetri Martin, Damons Wayans and many others! The proceeds for each show are donated to a local charity... so there is that too! Come on out and laugh! Who knows who will show up this month... party! Purchase tickets at westsidecomedy.com 1322-A 3rd St Promenade. A stands for Alley. Santa Monica, CA

**SUNSET VIBES SILENT DISCO @ SANTA MONICA COME FOR THE SUNSET... STAY FOR THE VIBES!**

Eat, Drink and Dance... under the stars, perched above the beautiful Pacific Ocean on the World Famous Santa Monica Pier! It’s Local’s Night at the Santa Monica Pier! Join us every THIRD THURSDAY of the month as the Pier celebrates the Community of Santa Monica. Gather your friends and family and head down to the Pier for amazing entertainment including youth activities, a car show, local DJs and bands, art exhibits, and our newly announced Sunset Vibes Silent Disco @ The Santa Monica Pier! Santa Monica Pier: 200 Santa Monica Pier Santa Monica, CA 90401 https://www.eeeeatscon.com/los-angeles

**SUNDAY | MAY 21**

**DAY FOR ART AND WELL-BEING**

Beach Culture celebrates Mental Health Awareness Month. Nurture the self and feed the collective soul with a day of creation and contemplation focused on well-being, health, and healing! Free day of communal artmaking, workshops, labyrinth walk and meditation led by cutting-edge community-based artists, performers, spiritualists and mental health advocates. Stay tuned for more information. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Highway. Santa Monica, CA 90402

**FRIDAY | MAY 19**

**JAZZ VOCAL ENSEMBLE RECITAL**

Andreas Preponis, Director. SMC’s award-winning jazz vocal ensemble blends its voices in a program of jazz repertoire specifically arranged for four-part harmony. Free with any Student I.D. The Broad Stage Performing Arts Center

**SATURDAY | MAY 20**

**HOT BUTTERED RUM**

Hot Buttered Rum, a spiced-up, left-coast string band, is the branchchild of uniquely gifted musicians who weave their love of bluegrass, folk, jazz and soul into a riveting stream of Americana. String bass and five-alarm fiddle merge with guitar, banjo, mandolin,drums and keyboards to frame the voices of its two contracting writers, fueling a dance party with roots in Appalachia and its branches in California. It’s a sound that’s as tough to describe as it is easy to love. The Venice West 1717 Lincoln Blvd Venice, CA 90321 https://www.ticketweb.com/event/hot-buttered-rum-the-venice-west-tickets/1287125

**WALK AND PLAY LA**

Children’s Hospital Los Angeles is thrilled to host its seventh annual Walk and Play LA. This year’s event will be held in person at the Santa Monica Pier, hosted by two CHLA Trustees: boxing legend Sugar Ray Leonard and the host of the Ellen K Morning Show on KOST 103.5 FM, Ellen K! Join us for a day of fun and entertainment creating hope and building healthier futures for our young patients. Pacific Park at the Santa Monica Pier 380 Santa Monica Pier, Santa Monica, California 90401 https://secure1.chla.org/site/SPageServer?pagename=walk_play_landing

**THE INPATIATION’S EEEEATSCON LOS ANGELES PRESENTED BY CHASE SAPHIREE**

EEEATSCON is a different kind of food experience built in the spirit of a music festival, but with restaurants as the headliners. The event will feature food from more than 20 incredible restaurants from around Los Angeles and across the U.S. EEEEATSCON Los Angeles will also offer exciting programming including conversations with writer and comedian Ali Wong, and a food and culture-focused discussion curated by Jon Gray of Ghetto Gastro, with more announcements to come. The Barker Hangar 3021 Airport Ave. Santa Monica, CA 90405 https://www.eeeeatscon.com/los-angeles

**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 prior winning numbers are available at California Lottery retailer. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

**SURF REPORT**

**THURSDAY FAIR**

**SURF:** 3-5ft Want to head

**WEATHER**

**Wednesday:** Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny.

**Wednesday Night:** Patchy fog. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 59. South wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Thursday:** Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 70.

**Thursday Night:** Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 59.

**Date**

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

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**WATER TEMP: 61.5**

**FRIDAY FAIR TO GOOD**

**SURF:** 3-4ft+ Waist to shoulder

**THURSDAY FAIR**

**SURF:** 3-5ft Want to head

Wind looks more favorable. Strong blend of SSW/S swells trend up through the day as NW swell mix trends down. Will want structure for decent shape (read:point,etc.)

Solid SSW swell set to top out with the largest surf of this long run. Not expecting to have enough NW energy in the mix to help with shape at the beachbreaks. Gonna need some structure to have a decent chance at an open corner.

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**solid SSW swell set to top out with the largest surf of this long run. Not expecting to have enough NW energy in the mix to help with shape at the beachbreaks. Gonna need some structure to have a decent chance at an open corner.**

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**ADVERTISE WITH US TODAY!**

Santa Monica Daily Press
SaMo PRIDE Festival
June 3 | 11am–4pm