Santa Monica’s sensational summer festival, Pier 360, is back

Rent Control Board limits rent increases to $67

Sick sea lions left stranded on local beaches
Child care providers demand raises from Gov. Newsom as California’s budget deadline looms

JEANNE KUANG
Special to the Daily Press

Gabriela Guerrero’s children are all grown and have moved out, but the former stay-at-home mom never stopped raising kids.

The children who attend her home daycare in El Centro, in Imperial County near the Mexico border, are as young as 3 months old. Some are the children of farmworkers who drop them off at Guerrero’s house before their shifts in the pre-dawn hours. Nearly all are from families poor enough to qualify for state subsidies.

"I want the families to go to work knowing that (their children are) well taken care of, and they’re being loved and fed correctly,” she said.

Guerrero’s labor of love barely earns her a living. After paying two assistants and other costs, she figures she takes home about $3 or $4 an hour. She takes on credit card debt to keep her business going.

For years family child care providers — the vast majority of them women of color — have said they don’t get paid enough by the state of California to cover the costs of their businesses. Their fight for better pay and benefits, a two-decades-old effort, is reaching a fever pitch in California’s capital this year.

They’re pressing Gov. Gavin Newsom to raise their pay, and they have the Legislature on their side. Lawmakers put $1 billion for raises in their version of a state budget that they passed last week. That funding remains one of the key differences between Newsom and the Legislature as they hammer out a budget deal before July 1 that accounts for an estimated $32 billion deficit.

The full cost of California child care

Newsom deemed the child care industry critical to getting parents back to work and recovering the state’s economy from the pandemic. He signed legislation in 2019 allowing home child care providers like Guerrero to unionize and bargain with the state over subsidized child care reimbursement rates. And the state has issued multiple rounds of temporary stipends to providers who lost revenue during the pandemic.

But the 40,000-member union representing the home-based providers says Newsom’s administration isn’t offering providers enough to keep them in business long term. The union’s current contract expires in less than two weeks, at the end of June.

Bargaining for a new one this year, the union has called for a 25% bump in reimbursement rates the state pays to providers who care for low-income families’ kids — and state funding for the union to set

SEE CHILD CARE PAGE 8

PROTEST: California Senate Majority Leader Eloise Gomez Reyes speaks to the crowd gathered for the Child Care Providers United Rally at the California State Capitol in Sacramento on June 15, 2023.

PHOTO BY JULIE A HOTZ FOR CALMATTERS


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In ‘Every Body,’ a galvanizing moment — and celebration — for the intersex community

JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

Like some 260,000 Americans, Sean Saifa Wall was born with significant intersex traits. The sex on the birth certificate was checked “ambiguous” and then crossed out.

Wall was instead labeled female on the document and, at the age of 13, after his mother was inaccurately warned of a cancerous threat, his testes were removed. Doctors told his parents to raise him as a girl, though Wall later developed masculine features and now identifies as a man.

“They literally stopped my development — I was starting to develop as male. And they stopped it right there and changed course. It was a hard left,” - Sean Saifa Wall

“I felt a little bit vulnerable because I said some stuff that most human beings don't need to share with the world in the way that we often need to expose ourselves,” Wall says.

For Weigel, Wall and Gallo, the screening was a deeply moving experience and a rare sense of togetherness. Weigel was there with guests, she says, from throughout her life, from elementary school to her professional career in Texas.

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Google backs creation of cybersecurity clinics with $20 million donation

GLENN GAMBOA
AP Business Writer

Free medical clinics and legal aid clinics, where college students and their instructors help their communities while also learning more about their professions, are now commonplace. Google hopes to add cybersecurity clinics to that list.

Google CEO Sundar Pichai pledged $20 million in donations on Thursday to support and expand the Consortium of Cybersecurity Clinics to introduce thousands of students to potential careers in cybersecurity, while also helping defend small government offices, rural hospitals and nonprofits from hacking.

Pichai said the new initiative addresses both the rising number of cyberattacks — up 38% globally in 2022 — and the lack of candidates trained to stop them.

Just as technology can create new threats, it can also help us fight them,” Pichai said, announcing the commitment at Google’s Washington offices. “Security was critical to the work I did early in my Google career, including when we built our Chrome browser. Today, it’s core to everything we do, and the current inflection point in AI is helping take our efforts to the next level.”

Making sure we protect and safeguard both the consumer services and the enterprise services we provide is foundational to the company, which is why we treat it as such,” Pichai told The Associated Press in an interview after the announcement. “We’ve been building security from the ground up for a long time and training to innovate and stay ahead.”

Google’s announcement had support from Congressional members on both sides of the aisle. Republican Rep. Jay Obernolte of California said addressing cyber threats is essential to the country’s economic competitiveness as well as national security. He added that China will likely produce twice as many computer science students with doctoral degrees this year than the United States.

“We need to incentivize students to pursue careers in fields like cybersecurity to reverse that trend,” he said. “We must embrace the idea of becoming lifelong learners.”

Rep. Joaquin Castro of Texas said Google’s initiative helps democratize cybersecurity, providing more employment opportunities and more protection to those not located in Silicon Valley.

“Small businesses literally can lose hundreds of thousands of dollars every year,” Castro said. “I’m grateful to Google for building on their commitment to support the growth of a workforce necessary to do everything from securing critical infrastructure in local communities to bolstering our national security.”

Pichai said there are currently more than 650,000 open cybersecurity jobs and there is a need for a diverse workforce to address the issue. “We have seen this in the past when we’ve gone to communities and open data centers in rural communities,” he said.

“It creates a spark. It inspires more people... These are catalyzing moments.”

Justice Steele, director of Google.org, the company’s philanthropic arm, said the initiative appealed to his team because it seeks projects where the funding can spawn change on multiple levels.

“It’s a challenge,” Steele said. “But there’s a huge opportunity here.”

Steele anticipates the cybersecurity clinics will have students help small organizations that lack their own technology departments with threat assessments and installing defenses.

“Those students get hands-on experience and they get to increase their marketability for all of these open jobs in cybersecurity,” Steele said. “We get to diversify the field of cybersecurity by training these students and we get to protect critical U.S. infrastructure.”

Ann Cleaveland, executive director of the Center for Long-Term Cybersecurity at the University of California, Berkeley, said the clinics can get people “over a sense of nihilism” about dealing with hackers. While many groups think there is nothing they can do against a state-supported hacker or ransomware attacks, the clinics can offer low-level solutions that can cut a large number of threats.

“Students can really help organizations overcome 80 to 90% of the problems and give them a much more resilient stance,” said Cleaveland, adding that the Consortium

A year after fall of Roe, 25 million women live in states with abortion bans or tighter restrictions

GEOFF MULVIHILL, KIMBERLEE KRUESI AND CLAIRE SAVAGE
Associated Press

One year ago, the U.S. Supreme Court resinded a five-decade-old right to abortion, prompting a seismic shift in debates about politics, values, freedom and fairness.

Twenty-five million women of childbearing age now live in states where the law makes abortions harder to get than they were before the ruling.

Decisions about the law are largely in the hands of state lawmakers and courts. Most Republican-led states have restricted abortion. Forty-four ban abortion in most cases at any point in pregnancy. Twenty Democratic-leaning states have protected access.

Here’s a look at what’s changed since the Dobbs vs. Jackson Women’s Health Organization ruling.

LAWS HAVE BEEN ENACTED IN 25 STATES TO BAN OR RESTRICT ABORTION ACCESS

Last summer, as women and medical providers began to navigate a landscape without legal protection for abortion, Nancy Davis’ doctors advised her to terminate her pregnancy because the fetus she was carrying was expected to die soon after birth.

But doctors in Louisiana, where Davis lived, would not provide the abortion due to a new law banning it throughout pregnancy in most cases.

At the same time, abortion opponents who worked for decades to abolish a practice they see as murder cheered the Supreme Court’s Dobbs ruling. Anti-abortion groups said the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that legalized abortion nationwide was undemocratic because it prevented states from enacting bans.

“The Dobbs decision was a democratic victory for life that generations fought for,” said E.V. Osment, a spokeswoman for Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, a major anti-abortion group.

While some states scrambled to pass new restrictions, others already had enacted laws that were designed to take effect if the court overturned Roe.

More than 25 million women ages 15 to 44, or about 2 in 5 nationally, now live in states where there are more restrictions on abortion access than there were before Dobbs.

Davis got help from a fund that raises money for women to travel for abortions and went to New York for a procedure. The whole experience was heartbreakingly, she said.

‘A mother’s love starts as soon as she knows she’s pregnant. That attachment starts instantly,’ she said. “There were days I couldn’t sleep. There were days I couldn’t eat.”

ABORTION ACCESS HAS BEEN PROTECTED IN 20 STATES

As some states restrict abortion, others are locked in access. In 25 states, abortion remains generally legal up to at least 24 weeks of pregnancy. Twenty of them have solidified abortion rights through constitutional amendments or laws.

CHOICES Center for Reproductive Health had for decades treated patients seeking abortions in Memphis, Tennessee. After Tennessee’s abortion ban kicked in last year, the clinic opened an outpost three hours away, in Carbondale, Illinois.

“They’re coming from Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas and even Texas,” said CEO Jennifer Pepper, “But now they’re having to travel much farther.”

THE NUMBER OF ABORTIONS IS NOT CLEAR

With lags and gaps in official reporting, the impact of the Dobbs ruling on the number of abortions is not clear.

A survey conducted for the Society of Family Planning, a nonprofit organization that promotes research and supports abortion access, has found that the number has fallen to nearly zero in states with bans and risen in neighboring states with fewer restrictions, and on balance the number of abortions declining. But the survey does not capture self-managed abortions outside the traditional medical system, usually done with a two-pill regimen.

Before the Dobbs ruling, pills were already the most common method of abortion in the U.S. Now, there are more networks to provide access to pills in states with abortion bans.

Some abortion opponents are calling for the abortion drug mifepristone to lose its government approval. The Supreme Court has preserved access for now.

LAWSUITS ABOUND

More than 50 lawsuits have been filed over abortion policy since the Dobbs ruling. Many challenges rely on arguments about the rights to personal autonomy or religious freedom. A Texas lawsuit alleges women were denied abortions even when their lives were at risk.

Bans or restrictions are on hold in at least six states while judges sort out their long-term fate. The only states where the top court has permanently rejected restrictions since the Dobbs ruling are Iowa and South Carolina.

CRIMINAL COURTS HAVE NOT BEEN BUSY WITH ABORTION CASES

There’s little evidence that doctors, women, or those who help them get abortions are being prosecuted.

The Mississippi attorney general’s office says no charges have been brought under a new law that calls for up to 10 years in prison for anyone who provides or attempts to provide an abortion in cases where it wasn’t to save the woman’s life or to end a pregnancy caused by rape or incest.

Progressive prosecutors across the country, including in states with bans, have said that they would not pursue abortion-related cases, or that they would make them a low priority.

ABORTION REMAINS A DOMINANT POLITICAL ISSUE

The political table has been reset, with Republicans entering a new election season...
Make Music Day

Photos by Fran Lyness

MUSIC: Santa Monica celebrated Make Music Day with performances around town including an afternoon of music in Palisades Park organized by NOMA neighborhood group.

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ABORTION
FROM PAGE 4

Weighing how to balance the interests of a base that wants the strictest bans possible against the desires of the broader electorate.

Polling has consistently found that most Americans think abortions should be available early in a pregnancy but that most also favor restrictions later in a pregnancy.

Last year, voters sided with abortion-rights advocates in all six states with abortion-related ballot measures. The issue was also a major factor in why Democrats performed better than expected in the 2022 elections.

It emerged as a key issue in the race for the 2024 GOP presidential nomination.

Scott Mulvihill reported from Cherry Hill, New Jersey, Kruesi from Nashville and Savage from Chicago. Emily Wagster Pettus in Jackson, Mississippi, contributed.
Microsoft, regulators tangle in court over fate of $69 billion deal that could reshape video gaming

MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Technology Writer

Federal regulators on Thursday launched a legal attack on Microsoft’s proposed $69 billion takeover of video game maker Activision Blizzard by depicting it as an anticompetitive weapon while Microsoft hailed the deal as a way to make popular games such as Call of Duty more widely available at cheaper prices.

Those were the dramatically contrasting pictures drawn by lawyers arguing before U.S. District Judge Jacqueline Scott Corley on the first of five days of scheduled hearings in San Francisco that are likely to make or break what would be the most expensive acquisition in technology history.

The U.S. Federal Trade Commission is trying to persuade Corley to issue an order that would prevent the takeover from being consummated before a more extended administrative trial begins August 2 in Washington. Meanwhile Microsoft is fighting to close the deal ahead of a July 18 deadline that would require paying a $3 billion breakup fee to Activision.

Microsoft struck the deal 17 months ago in hopes of expanding its video game imprint beyond its Xbox console, which has about half the market share of the longtime industry leader Sony and its PlayStation device.

But the FTC has been fighting hard to block a deal that it fears will enable Microsoft to make popular franchises such as Call of Duty and World of Warcraft exclusive to the Xbox and online subscription services that are becoming an increasingly bigger part of the $210 billion worldwide video game market — larger than the movie and music industries combined.

FTC lawyer James Weingarten told Corley the agency will show evidence that Microsoft will have a “myriad of strategies” to withhold popular games from PlayStation and rival subscription prices, degrade the quality of games on competing platforms and raise prices on games that have developed fiercely loyal audiences.

“Weingarten argued. “Having differentiated content is critical to selling more consoles and getting more subscribers.”

Microsoft lawyer Beth Wilkinson belittled the FTC’s argument as a “very naive” thesis that ignores the pressure the company’s gaming division will be under to deliver profit margins to justify the huge price being paid for Activision and the fierce backlash likely to happen among highly opinionated video game fans if a popular franchise such as Call of Duty was withheld from other platforms.

“They couldn’t face the wrath from the gamers,” Wilkinson argued. She also pointed to the lengthy commitment that Microsoft has already made to make Call of Duty available on Nintendo’s Switch console and a Nvidia gaming subscription service as evidence that the Activision deal would be “good news for consumers.”

Microsoft also tried to present evidence that Sony is trying to blow up the deal to preserve its giant lead in the console market. As part of that effort, Wilkinson displayed an email from Sony executive Jim Ryan shortly after the Activision deal was announced that indicated his confidence that Call of Duty would remain available on the PlayStation for many years to come. Ryan, the CEO of Sony Interactive Entertainment, wrote that even though he wished the deal hadn’t happened, he believed that Sony would be okay.

Several months after Ryan issued that reassuring email, Wilkinson said Sony emerged as the FTC’s “complainer in chief” about the Activision deal and so far hasn’t rebuffed Microsoft’s offer to make an ironclad commitment to keep Call of Duty on the PlayStation console. When Wilkinson tried to display some information about Microsoft’s offer, a Sony lawyer interrupted the proceedings to assert the document was confidential and it was taken off the screen.

A videotaped deposition of Ryan is expected to be played in court at some point in the proceedings. Both Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella and Activision Blizzard CEO Bobby Kotick are expected to testify in person before the proceedings are scheduled to conclude June 29.

Corley isn’t expected to rule until after the Independence Day holiday.

The hearings represent a major test of the FTC’s amped-up oversight of Big Tech under Chairperson Lina Khan, who has been outspoken about her belief that U.S. regulators were too lenient in past deals that helped increase the power of companies such as Amazon, Google and Facebook. The courtroom tussle with Microsoft comes six months after the FTC took Facebook owner Meta Platforms to court in Silicon Valley to try to stop a takeover of a virtual reality fitness company only to be rebuffed by the judge in that case.

Another major regulator, the U.K.’s Competition and Markets Authority, also has taken action to thwart Microsoft’s takeover.

Microsoft has lashed back against the British regulators standing in its way with an appeal of their decision, as well as voicing strong opposition to U.K. government officials.

AP Technology Writer Matt O’Brien contributed to this story.
Health. It can be fatal if consumed in high doses.

The algae occurs naturally, and episodes of domoic acid poisoning are not uncommon along the California coast, but the current outbreak is unusually severe.

Berman Kowalewska said the dead dolphin count is “definitely the most number of animals we’ve seen with a domoic acid event” in her 25 years of work.

Beached sea lions can appear disoriented and agitated, with symptoms such as head bobbing, foaming at the mouth, seizures and loss of motor skills. Beachgoers are being warned to stay away from stricken animals and to instead call rescue organizations.

The Marine Mammal Care Center (MMCC), which rescues and rehabilitates marine mammals along the coastline from Malibu to Seal Beach, has seen rescue numbers leap from none to more than 47 in two weeks and anticipates that the trend will continue.

“The Center is dealing with an enormous increase in reports of marine mammals in distress each day,” said John Warner, CEO of the Marine Mammal Care Center based in San Pedro. “We are doing the best we can to keep up with the intense pace, and, if history is any indication, we can expect to see anywhere from 75 to 150 animals in need of rescue over the next four to six weeks.”

He said it is important for the public to know that animals who have ingested domoic acid (DA) pose a very serious public health and safety risk.

Adult seals and sea lions with DA can present in unpredictable ways, including increased aggressiveness or lethargy and unresponsiveness. Please keep your distance from animals you see on the beach and immediately call us if you suspect an animal is in distress,” he said.

Treatment for animals with DA involves keeping animals hydrated with fluids given subcutaneously or orally, administering anti-seizure medication, and supporting them nutritionally. “Every current situation follows the same season and rescue organizations are dealing with many immature animals already. Dealing with the current event is likely to cost the non-profit Center more than $250,000.

The Channel Islands Marine & Wildlife Institute received more than 1,000 reports from June 8 through June 14, co-founder and managing director Ruth Dover told NOAA Fisheries.

NOAA Fisheries said ocean monitoring organizations found high concentrations of domoic acid from Orange County north to San Luis Obispo County, but especially in the Santa Barbara Channel off Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

Significant contributors to algae growth include nutrients flushed into the ocean by rain and winds that create an eddy effect in the channel and cause upwelling, Berman Kowalewska said.

“Anytime you’re bringing nutrients up from the deep, you’re going to have algae that feed on them, and that’s what we’re seeing now,” she said.

Fish such as anchovies feed on the algae, and marine mammals feed on the anchovies. “We are not misunderstanding that we have a lot of anchovies out there right now,” Berman Kowalewska said. “I think we just have this perfect storm condition going on right now.”

The Santa Monica Animal shelter doesn’t house sea life directly but instead works with the Marine Mammal Care Center but Lt. Erika Aklufi with the Santa Monica Police Department said local resources are totally overwhelmed at the moment.

“Unfortunately, because of the water conditions, they are unable to take in additional sea lions at this time,” she said. “Our animal control team is monitoring about six stranded sea lions on our beach, trying to keep people away from them as they wait for space to open up at the rescue. Please ask your readers to keep their distance and respect our animal friends.”

For more information on the Center, visit https://marinemammalcare.org/. Their rescue Hotline is 1 (800) 39-WHALE. Associated Press reporter John Antczak contributed to this report.

SEA LION
FROM PAGE 1

CHILD CARE
FROM PAGE 2

up a trust to issue retirement benefits.

Providers staged a rally with about 2,000 members and supporters at the Capitol last week and plan to set up camp outside the Governor’s Mansion this week.

“As a direct result of their action, providers are gaining ground in negotiations towards pay increases and basic benefits — but we have yet to see a fair and just contract offer from the state,” said Max Arias, chairperson of the Child Care Providers’ Union, in a statement. “There appears to be no interest in committing to ongoing rate increases or covering the full cost of care.”

Family or home-based providers care for 28% of children who attend licensed facilities in California. Parents also send children to daycare centers or state-funded preschools, or pay a family member or friend.

A STOPGAP MEASURE

To some advocates and members of the Legislature’s Caucus, even winning the raises would be only a stopgap measure to keep providers in business. The child care industry has experienced a slow recovery the past three year and still employs 5% fewer workers than it did before the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a recent study by the UC Berkeley Center for the Study of Child Care Employment.

They’re pushing the state to move faster to fundamentally overhaul the way it calculates reimbursement rates. Sen. Monique Limón, a Democrat from Santa Barbara, authored a bill this year directing the state to overhaul the rates and provide the $1 billion raise in the next several years.

The $1 billion in the Legislature’s budget “solves an immediate problem,” she said. “It doesn’t solve the full, 10-year problem.”

The state’s reimbursement rates are generally tied to how much providers charge in the private market — but because many child care providers lower their prices to meet what parents can afford, the rates have ended up artificially low, in a system that a state last year report describe as a “market failure.” That in turn results in chronic shortages of child care for parents.

That report, on child care funding in California, was commissioned by a working group that the state convened as part of its current contract with the child care union. In the report the national firm Prenatal to Five Fiscal Strategies, found California pays some daycare owners as little as a quarter of what the service costs.

A NEW MODEL

In the southern region of the state, where Guerrero lives, the firm estimated it costs a home-based provider like hers more than $39,000 a year to provide quality care for one infant or toddler. The state reimburses about $12,000.

The same report recommended the state adopt a new method for calculating reimbursement rates that is based on real costs like the ones the firm calculated, rather than surveys of daycare rates. It has drawn support from both business and labor; a letter by the advocacy group Children Now urged the state to implement the recommendations was signed this year by the Service Employees International Union and the California Chamber of Commerce.

No new payment method has been developed yet, though the state this year restarted the working group to advise on overhauling rates. Because the current rates are so low, a new model could be dramatically more expensive for the state. In some cases, providers may have to be paid three or four times what the state currently covers.

Advocates say it’s possible the state could come up with a new payment method that greatly, eventually, overhauls the plan, both the state Department of Finance and the Department of Social Services said the issue is being negotiated with the child care union.

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Eric Peterson, director of client services and policy at Bananas, an Oakland agency that helps families find child care and subsidies to pay for it, sat on the working group that commissioned the cost report. In nearly three decades in the field, Peterson said, pay for providers “has never been adequate.”

“Every report knows…we can’t pay the true cost of care in a year,” he said, “The intent is to acknowledge the true cost and find a schedule to get there.”

This article was originally published by CalMatters.
SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY’S SUDOKU

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.

ACROSS
1. Looks for water with a stick
7. “Not very” starter
11. Grow weary
16. Economically run
17. Deep-fried fare
19. Itinerary datum
20. Work against gravity
21. Slant of Gothic fiction
22. It’s not right
24. 56 Across western team
25. Deep-fried fare
28. Reason for sneezin’
30. Disoriented
31. Display derision
32. Occupational suffix
34. Venerable toy merchant initials
35. Deep-fried fare
39. Bylaw, in brief
42. kWh fractions
43. Award in the NATO alphabet
47. One of the first disciples
50. Setting of Auel novels
51. Deep-fried fare
54. Personal peculiarity
55. Without studio backing
56. What CBS covers in a Today show
57. What’s twisted in some tales
58. Camps north of Soho
59. Deep-fried fare

DOWNS
1. Swam back and forth
2. Fairway club
3. Digital audio datum
4. Little ismus
5. Common Amazon user
6. Become a mediator
7. Aerodynamic
8. Certain medical record
9. Something stored on a stand
10. One of the beetles
11. Occupation for Earp
12. Disneyland race-car ride
13. Customizes for
18. Not a fictional flick
23. Frat letter
25. Country on the equator
26. Appears ominously
27. What’s a little more than a pound these days
29. One of a 10 Down sextet
32. Pretended to be
33. Two after 23 Down
36. Debt
37. Scotch water
38. Language ender

Chant sounds
Superstar
Florid or frilly
GPS reading
Big name in astrophysics
Communicated manually
Swam back and forth
Fairway club
Digital audio datum
Little ismus
Common Amazon user
Become a mediator
Aerodynamic
Certain medical record
Something stored on a stand
One of the beetles
Occupation for Earp
Disneyland race-car ride
Customizes for
Not a fictional flick
Frat letter
Country on the equator
Appears ominously
What’s a little more than a pound these days
One of a 10 Down sextet
Pretended to be
Two after 23 Down
Debt
Scotch water
Language ender

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY’S CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1. Looks for water with a stick
7. “Not very” starter
11. Grow weary
16. Economically run
17. Deep-fried fare
19. Itinerary datum
20. Work against gravity
21. Slant of Gothic fiction
22. It’s not right
24. 56 Across western team
25. Deep-fried fare
28. Reason for sneezin’
30. Disoriented
31. Display derision
32. Occupational suffix
34. Venerable toy merchant initials
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39. Bylaw, in brief
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Appears ominously
What’s a little more than a pound these days
One of a 10 Down sextet
Pretended to be
Two after 23 Down
Debt
Scotch water
Language ender

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Sit back and absorb the story unfolding before you. Additionally, know that while it seems like it would be cool to get the insider’s scoop, without a solid understanding of the big picture, the details won’t matter.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It’s an honor to fit into certain groups but however admired the circle may be, you do not wish to match so well as to turn invisible. A simple fact becomes relevant: The only person who can make your mark is you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20). You’ve played the odds and had favorable results. Now you’re onto something so meaningful, you’ll forget about your chances of success altogether. There are some things worth doing whether you win or lose.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Optimism is faith plus sunshine. You’ll abandon good ideas for better ideas as you start to see new potentials on the horizon. Bring your imagination to today’s opportunities; you are creating the future.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You’ll try new things. It won’t be necessary to pay for this now. You can learn, eat, exercise and organize yourself quite well without buying anything new. Make your own plan. Trust in your executive function.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Knowing what you want out of life won’t be a problem. Wanting what’s good for you might be, though. It might help to see wanting as a process. You can always narrow down your choices and set appropriate goals later when things have calmed down.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You won’t be able to do your thing and their thing at the same time. So, who should go first? The first position isn’t always the best one. Good boundaries and careful time management are called for.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It’s quite natural for you to pass up the easy pickin’s and cheap thrills to play for higher stakes. Winning without challenge doesn’t feel like winning at all to you, so why put yourself through that process?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your loved ones may not give you a showy kind of attention, but stay attuned to the quieter ways they support you, accept and love you for who you are and generally let you be you. If this is not the case, seek a better support system.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your feelings are like the engine light of a car. One generalized alert could have hundreds of meanings from “get an oil change soon” to “pull over now.” With calm discernment, whatever the case may be, you’ll handle it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Good communication, mutual respect and reasonable expectations lay the foundation for good relationships. As for passionate relationships, all bets are off. No one knows what they’re doing in love, which will involve large margins of error.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You aim yourself well. You picture success and position yourself to head straight for it. Once you’ve established your desired trajectory, any other direction you go is a function of fear. Don’t let fear win. Steer straight.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Sit back and absorb the story unfolding before you. Additionally, know that while it seems like it would be cool to get the insider’s scoop, without a solid understanding of the big picture, the details won’t matter.
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN

Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART

Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE

Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING

FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 22 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5684

Train travel

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

Aisle
Explore
Luggage
Shunt
Arms
Fares
Motel
Speedy
Bega
Fast
Novel
Step
Bend
Flag
Orange
Stop
Berth
Gaze
Outpost
Sydney
Book
Guard
Pack
Time
Bump
Guyra
Peak hour
Trays
Cars
Haig
Rail
View
Comfortable
Idle
Roma
Wait
Depot
Inns
Safe
Winton
Diner
Katoomba
Save
York
Door
Lane
Scania
Driver
Loongana
Seats

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FRIDAY | JUNE 23

THE IRL SHOW
Finally, a pro-level stand-up comedy show for high school teens 13 and up. Catch comics from Comedy Central, HBO, and late night TV doing their best PG-13 material. Talk to the comics after the show to meet and learn from the best! Tickets: $10 with student ID, $15 general admission PLUS — COME EARLY! The Crow orders pizza for everyone and hosts a free teen open mic at 7 p.m., the hour before the show. Come by to try it out and get some feedback from a pro-comic! Or hang out and watch and support the mic. The Crow 2525 Michigan Avenue, Unit F4 Santa Monica, CA 90404

SAMO PRIDE SUNSET SWIM
Join organizers at Pride Sunset Swim and Happy Hour for the LGBTQIA+ community and allies. Enjoy a queer, safe, accessible, judgment-free space for every, and all bodies, with fabulous pool floats and ’mores at the historic Beach House pool. Outside food welcome, no glass, no alcohol. $10 Adult (age 18 – 59), $5 Senior Adult (age 60 & above). Half off with pool pass of the day 6 - 9 p.m.

SATURDAY | JUNE 24

SANTA MONICA PIER 360 BEACH FESTIVAL
Santa Monica Pier 360 Beach Festival celebrates the best of beach life with an awesome, FREE, all-ages festival! With ocean sports competitions, Polynesian dancing, a one-of-a-kind surf and skate history museum, live music, food and drinks, interactive games, sampling by some of your favorite brands and so much more. Pier 360 offers a peek into iconic SoCal beach culture and brings together thousands of guests for a day of good vibes. Whether you’re hanging with the family, competing on land or at sea or partying with your friends—Santa Monica Pier 360 Beach Festival has got it all! Santa Monica Pier 200 Santa Monica Pier Santa Monica, CA 90404

SAMO PRIDE SAPPhic ICONS: POETRY MASTERCLASS & WORKSHOP
In honor of SaMo Pride 2023, Santa Monica Cultural Affairs and the Annenberg Community Beach House engage local poets Joshua Jennifer Espinoza and Eileen Elizabeth Espinoza to present a 3-hour masterclass on the lives and work of essential figures in queer women’s literature. Annenberg Community Beach House 415 Pacific Coast Hwy Santa Monica, CA 90402

SUNDAY | JUNE 25

SUMMER SOLSTICE GODDESS ACTIVATION
This journey will include cacao medicine, guided group meditation, intention/goal setting, vocal activation practice, a variety of dance and movement to co-create with your inner child, journaling, and the use of high-vibrational music, crystals, and smudging tools to become spiritually ignited by your inner Goddess Life Force. Depart with inspired action steps to integrate daily rituals to transform your entire life. InfoMeSea 1812 Lincoln Blvd Santa Monica, 90404 https://www.eventbrite.com/e/summer-solstice-goddess-activation-tickets-643359394267

MONDAY | JUNE 26

AIRPORT COMMISSION
The Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the City Council in matters pertaining to the administration of Santa Monica Municipal Airport and other aviation matters affecting the City. The Airport Commission meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, except in August and December when the Commission is in recess. Santa Monica City Hall 1625 Main St. Santa Monica, CA 90401 City Council Chambers.

LOVEBUG & ME MUSIC
In this musical storytime for little ones, we’ll sing songs, dance and play along with LoveBug & Me Music! For ages 0-2. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica, 90404 https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lovebug-me-music!-for-ages-0-2-tickets-209131995177

DAILY LOTTERY
Draw Date: 6/21
Jackpot: 320 M
Mega#: 21
6 37 45 46 14
Power#: 14
15 30 35 41 17
Jackpot: 640 M

Surf Report

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WEATHER

FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2023

Mostly cloudy, with a high near 67. South wind 5 to 15 mph.

Surf really starts to drop off through the day ahead of a very slow southwest of waves. Minor blend of lefthower SSW and NW swells may offer just enough to push the small wave gear, groms, beginners. Cleanest window of the day likely early AM. Small blend of southerly swells on tap, looking like the tiniest day in a while. Morning wind looking okay but not great at this point with a decent tide first thing. Another small wave gear, groms, beginners kind of day.

DAILY PRESS

Surf Report

FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2023

Mostly sunny, with a high near 69. Southeast wind 5 to 15 mph.

Surf really starts to drop off through the day ahead of a very slow southwest of waves. Minor blend of lefthower SSW and NW swells may offer just enough to push the small wave gear, groms, beginners. Cleanest window of the day likely early AM. Small blend of southerly swells on tap, looking like the tiniest day in a while. Morning wind looking okay but not great at this point with a decent tide first thing. Another small wave gear, groms, beginners kind of day.

Surf Report

- **Surf**
  - **FRIDAY**
    - **FAIR**
      - **SURF:** 2-3ft
        - Thigh to waist
      - **WATER TEMP:** 64.8°F
    - **SATURDAY**
      - **FAIR**
        - **SURF:** 2-3ft
          - Thigh to waist

WEATHER

Friday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 67. South wind 5 to 15 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 69. Southeast wind 5 to 15 mph.

Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 58.

TODAY!

...
Avoid the 405 with 10 primary care offices

The doctor’s office tailor-made for Los Angeles.

One Medical makes it easy to get in-person primary care and 24/7 virtual care for your body and mind. Visit us in our comfortable, modern offices or right from your phone — our providers will make you feel seen, heard, and cared for.

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- 24/7 on-demand virtual care via message or video
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