

# Is more stolen land on its way home?

Santa Monica weighs reparations for 1950s property seizure from a Black businessman.

ERIKA D. SMITH

With polls continuing to show the public's deep dislike of reparations, it's easy to forget that it was only



three years ago that elected officials were all in, pointing to what many had quietly thought would be a one-off as a model for righting the wrongs of systemic racism.

Easy to forget, that is, unless you are Kavon Ward.

The founder of Where Is My Land was present when Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a bill relinquishing government control of Bruce's Beach, the property that once belonged to Willa and Charles Bruce and had been a popular lodge and dance hall for Black beachgoers in the 1900s before the city of Manhattan Beach seized it through eminent domain.

Newsom argued that what California was doing, improbably returning land to the Bruce family to keep or sell, could be — and, indeed, should be — replicated. Many publicly nodded their heads with hope. Many more shook their heads in doubt, privately. But as it turns out, the governor was actually on to something.

Last week, the Santa Monica City Council voted to consider giving back land or otherwise compensating the descendants of Silas White. The Black businessman tried to open a club for Black beachgoers in the late 1950s, in the then-segregated city, but was thwarted by an unfair use of eminent domain.

More steps remain before the Whites can officially join the Bruces, starting with council members approving the recom-

[See Smith, A10]

## Big Sur tourism is put on hiatus

As many get stranded, Caltrans closes a portion of Highway 1 that was falling into the ocean. CALIFORNIA, B1

## Disney's future hangs in balance

The company's shareholder vote has evolved into a contentious referendum on CEO Bob Iger. BUSINESS, A6

## Dodgers' Betts sharpens focus

All-star's adjustment to his shortstop position has helped him get off to a strong start offensively. SPORTS, B10

## Weather

Sunny. L.A. Basin: 73/53. B6

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BRIAN VANDER BRUG Los Angeles Times

A JOGGER and palm trees are reflected in a standing pool of rainwater along the beach path after a storm on Sunday in Santa Monica.

# Sick of rain? But wait, there's more



BRIAN VANDER BRUG Los Angeles Times

A LONE COTTONWOOD near the shoreline of a revived Owens Lake. Precipitation has been slightly above average so far this year, and no part of California is currently in drought conditions.

# Saving up for those non-rainy days

## Large snowpack and full reservoirs boost state's water supplies

BY IAN JAMES

California's mountains are covered with snow, reservoirs are mostly filled and hills across the state are sprouting green grass and wildflowers after the latest round of soaking storms.

The snowpack across the Sierra Nevada now stands at 105% of average for this time of year, and state officials will provide an update on conditions Tuesday when they conduct their April snow survey, which is typically when the snowpack reaches its peak.

The state's major reservoirs are

at 116% of average levels and are set to rise further as snowmelt streams in.

After a second wet winter, the state is heading into spring and summer with boosted water supplies.

"It puts us in very good shape," [See Saving, A5]

## Back-to-back water years are wettest for L.A. since late 1800s, and a new system looms off the coast.

BY GRACE TOOHEY AND HAYLEY SMITH

After a comparatively dry fall in Southern California, there was a point last December when it seemed like the fears of a strong, wet El Niño winter may have been overblown.

So much for that.

In a matter of weeks, a succession of powerful storms flipped the script, dumping a stream of record-setting, intense rainfall across California, much of it on the state's southwestern region.

That wet pattern has continued as winter has given way to spring, with this past weekend's storm dumping up to 4 inches of rain in some areas — pushing Los Angeles to a new two-year rain total not seen since the late 1800s and forestalling any hope for a quick end to the rainy season.

As of Monday morning, downtown Los Angeles had received 52.46 inches of rain in the latest two water years, the second-highest amount in recorded history. The only other two-year October-through-September period — the period for the so-called water year — that saw more rain was from 1888 through 1890, according to the National Weather Service.

"When you consider the records since 1877 in downtown L.A. ... the [See Storms, A5]



KIM NEWMONEY

SNEHAL DESAI, left, the new artistic director of Center Theatre Group, with Meghan Pressman, CTG's managing director/CEO, in the Ahmanson Theatre.

# Mark Taper Forum to reopen soonish

Probably winter. Maybe fall. Center Theatre Group works to forge a future for all three of its venues.

CHARLES McNULTY THEATER CRITIC

From the outside, Center Theatre Group headquarters, a nondescript building across the street from the Music Center, is spectacularly unimpressive, the kind of place your mind wouldn't even register as existing. But inside, the buzz of

puzzle-solving energy might make you think you've stumbled onto the set of "Oppenheimer."

CTG Managing Director and Chief Executive Meghan Pressman and Artistic Director Snehal Desai aren't cracking nuclear codes. But they are working out a theatrical Rubik's Cube that is harder than ever to solve.

An announcement is coming in the next few weeks about the new CTG season, and the big news is that the Mark Taper Forum, which suspended programming last summer amid a spiraling budget crisis, will be back in business (likely by [See Taper, A7])



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