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INTO THE DEEP: EXPLORING OUR UNDISCOVERED OCEAN

AQUARIUM UNVEILS A NEW EXHIBITION



PHOTOS COURTESY MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM

Basket sea stars and more deep-sea species will be featured in the Monterey Bay Aquarium's new exhibit.

By **McKenzie Prillaman**
newsroom
[@montereyherald.com](https://twitter.com/montereyherald.com)

A dark, frigid world that is low in oxygen and high in acidity sounds like a hostile habitat to most. But these features are required for the strange yet beautiful animals living in the deepest, darkest corners of the ocean.

After more than five years of work, the Monterey Bay Aquarium has reconstructed this unique environment for deep-sea creatures like glowing jellies, giant isopods and fish with light-producing organs to call home. The newest exhibition, "Into the Deep: Exploring Our Undiscovered Ocean," cost \$15 million to develop and relied on a collaboration with experts at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute. It opens to the public on April 9.

"The deep sea is one of the least explored places on Earth," said Beth Redmond-Jones, vice president of exhibitions of the Monterey Bay Aquarium. "It's just an amazing and beautiful and mysterious place that we don't know much about. ... We thought it was really critical to share the beauty

and the aspects of the deep that are really amazing."

The aquarium has wanted to showcase the lifeforms thriving thousands of feet below sea level for years. It first accomplished this goal about a decade ago with a small, temporary exhibition called "Mysteries of the Deep."

"We always knew that we wanted to do a bigger exhibition," Redmond-Jones explained. "But there are a lot of things that had to be considered on the animal care side of things."

The water is a different world at these depths — it is freezing in temperature, high in acidity, low in oxygen and puts enormous physical pressure on animals. For "Into the Deep," aquarium staff only selected creatures that can survive at surface-level pressure. But the aquarium's applied water science team spent six years researching and developing methods to match the three other deep-sea factors, according to Kasie Regnier, director of applied water science of the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

Adjusting the seawater temperature is easy — the water is cooled with chill-



Sea angels and more deep-sea species will be on display in the Monterey Bay Aquarium's "Into the Deep" exhibition.

ers. Increasing acidity is fairly simple as well. The team adds carbon dioxide to the water, which ultimately releases hydrogen, making it acidic. Regnier says this practice is common in the aquarium industry.

Lowering oxygen levels, however, is an infinitely trickier task.

In the past, scientists bubbled nitrogen into the water to push oxygen out. But doing so saturates the water with too much gas, according to Regnier, which can harm jellies and other animals the aquarium wanted to display.

Instead, Regnier and her

team turned to a technique traditionally used in breweries to push gases in or out of liquids.

"Basically, there are these tubes with thousands of teeny tiny straws inside that are arranged in parallel," she explained. The straws are made of "very, very thin membranes that allow gas to get through them but not water."

The applied water science team pumps seawater through the tubes but outside the straws. At the same time, the staff members pump nitrogen inside the straws while also applying

AQUARIUM » PAGE 4

UKRAINE CRISIS

Russia extends 'military exercise'

By **Lori Hinnant and Jim Heintz**
The Associated Press

KYIV, UKRAINE » Russia on Sunday rescinded earlier pledges to pull tens of thousands of its troops back from Ukraine's northern border, in a move that U.S. leaders warned put Russia another step closer to launching an invasion of Ukraine. Russian President Vladimir Putin was silent on Ukraine's appeal for a cease-fire.

Russia's action extends what it said were military exercises, originally set to end Sunday, that brought a sizable contingent of Russian forces to Belarus, Ukraine's neighbor to the north. The presence of the Russian troops raised concern that they could be used to sweep down on the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, a city of about 3 million people less than a three-hour drive away.

U.S. President Joe Biden convened the National Security Council at the White House on Russia's military buildup around Ukraine. White House officials released no immediate details of their two-hour discussion.

Western leaders intensified warnings that Russia was poised to attack its neighbor, which is surrounded on three sides by at least 150,000

UKRAINE » PAGE 4

ECONOMY

Rents reach 'insane' levels across US with no end yet in sight

By **R.j. Rico**
The Associated Press

Krystal Guerra's Miami apartment has a tiny kitchen, cracked tiles, warped cabinets, no dishwasher and hardly any storage space.

But Guerra was fine with the apartment's shortcomings. It was all part of being a 32-year-old graduate student in South Florida, she reasoned, and she was happy to live there for a few more years as she finished her marketing degree.

That was until a new owner bought the property and told her he was raising the rent from \$1,550 to \$1,950, a 26% increase that Guerra said meant her rent would account for the majority of her take-home pay from the University of Miami.

"I thought that was insane," said Guerra, who decided to move out. "Am I supposed to stop

RENT » PAGE 5

EDUCATION
School systems pause diversity programs
Educators say they are feeling the impacts of deep ideological divides around issues of diversity and equity. **PAGE A5**

GREECE
Survivor found near island on burning ferry
Greek emergency workers rescued a Belarussian truck driver from a burning ferry off the island of Corfu. **PAGE A8**

EUROPE
Pompeii: Rebirth of Italy's dead city
The ancient city destroyed by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius is experiencing a kind of rebirth. **PAGE A7**

COVID-19
Don't know how to make a booster appointment?
Visit Monterey County Health Department webpage at <https://bit.ly/3qtjYU0> for links to schedules and registration.

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TODAY IN HISTORY

1437

James I, King of Scots, was assassinated; his 6-year-old son succeeded him as James II.

1885

The Washington Monument was dedicated.

1965

Minister and civil rights activist Malcolm X, 39, was shot to death inside Harlem's Audubon Ballroom in New York.

1975

Former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and former White House aides H.R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman were sentenced to 2 1/2 to 8 years in prison for their roles in the Watergate cover-up.

1992

Kristi Yamaguchi of the United States won the gold medal in ladies' figure skating at the Albertville Olympics; Midori Ito of Japan won the silver, Nancy Kerrigan of the U.S. the bronze.

2018

The Rev. Billy Graham, a confidant of presidents and the most widely heard Christian evangelist in history, died at his North Carolina home; he was 99.

2019

Teachers in Oakland went on strike in the latest in a wave of teacher activism that had included walkouts in Denver, Los Angeles and West Virginia.

Birthdays

Actor Kelsey Grammer is 67. Country singer Mary Chapin Carpenter is 64. Rock musician Tad Kinchla (Blues Traveler) is 49. Actor Elliot Page is 35.

Star report

Morris not ready for 'Punk Rock Retirement Home'

Keith Morris says he's not ready to stop performing. "We're standing at the gate of the Punk Rock Retirement Home. And we're thinking, 'Well, no, I don't want to go there yet. I'm not really willing to do that.'"

The Circle Jerks — featuring Morris, guitarist and fellow founding member Greg Hetson, bassist Zander Schloss and drummer Joey Castillo — perform Feb. 23 at the Catalyst in Santa Cruz, Feb. 25 at the Fillmore in San Francisco and Feb. 26 at the Ace of Spades in Sacramento.

Before forming the Circle Jerks in 1979, the vocalist helped found Black Flag in 1976.

— Jim Harrington, Bay Area News Group

LOTTERY

SATURDAY'S WINNING NUMBERS

Daily 3 Afternoon: 2, 7, 5

Daily 3 Evening: 0, 4, 5

Daily 4: 7, 7, 1, 6

Fantasy 5:

4, 7, 19, 22, 33

DAILY DERBY

1st: 11, Money Bags

2nd: 10, Solid Gold

3rd: 3, Hot Shot

Race time: 1:42.97

SUPER LOTTO PLUS

Saturday's drawing:

3, 12, 24, 30, 36

Mega number: 6

Wednesday's estimated

jackpot: \$19 million

MEGA MILLIONS

Friday's drawing:

6, 11, 50, 63, 68

Mega Number: 17

Tuesday's estimated

jackpot: \$75 million

POWERBALL

Saturday's drawing:

3, 10, 15, 33, 42

Powerball: 11

Today's estimated

jackpot: \$37 million



PHOTOS COURTESY MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM

Visitors will be able to touch a giant isopod at the Monterey Bay Aquarium's "Into the Deep" exhibition.

Aquarium

FROM PAGE 1

a vacuum, which pulls oxygen and other gases out of the passing seawater.

The aquarium proudly boasts this as the most sophisticated water treatment system the institution has ever designed.

Most of the animals in the new exhibition were plucked right from the underwater Monterey Canyon, which has a maximum depth of about 4,900 feet. The aquarium's animal care staff collaborated with the MBARI scientists to collect the deep-sea creatures.

MBARI's two remotely operated vehicles have mechanical arms that can carefully retrieve animals from the ocean. After capturing one, the ROV pilot slowly brings the creature up to the surface and places it in a special holding tank on one of MBARI's three research ships. When it docks, the animal is transferred to another tank at MBARI's facilities or the aquarium.

MBARI researchers have also reviewed the scientific content, rockwork and an-

imal models featured in the new exhibition.

"It's definitely taking the MBARI and MBA village to make this happen," Redmond-Jones said.

When visiting the new 10,000-square-foot exhibition, guests can see — and touch, in some cases — these curious deep-sea creatures, which include bloody-belly comb jellies, anglerfish, sea angels, giant spider crabs and more.

Guests can also learn about MBARI's ongoing research projects through videos and information panels, immerse themselves in a round room with a projected video of animals swimming around and explore the Monterey Canyon with a topographic map.

The largest and most intricate exhibit is a model of a juvenile sperm whale carcass on the ocean floor. Known as a whale fall, this habitat provides a rich source of food and draws in a community of other sea animals.

Overall, the Monterey Bay Aquarium staff hopes that guests leave the exhibition feeling awed and inspired by the mysterious, unexplored regions below the ocean's surface.

"We just want them to re-



A Brisingid sea star is among the deep-sea species featured in Monterey Bay Aquarium's new exhibition.

ally have some connection to the deep sea and understand that we really need to protect this place," said

Redmond-Jones. "There are some amazing creatures there, and we don't even know what all is there."

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Main Phone: 372-0755

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Publisher

Jim Gleim 707-453-8189
jgleim@bayareanewsgroup.com

Managing Editor

Dave Kellogg 726-4351
dkellogg@montereyherald.com

Circulation Director

Mardi Browning 706-3265
mbrowning@montereyherald.com

CIRCULATION

Services 646-1808
circservices@montereyherald.com

NEWSROOM

News 726-4351
mhcity@montereyherald.com

Sports 726-4351
sports@montereyherald.com

Business 726-4351
mhbusiness@montereyherald.com

Letters to the editor: 726-4351
mheditor@montereyherald.com

Website
online@montereyherald.com

Director of Operations & Advertising

Dana Arvig 726-4343
darvig@montereyherald.com

Advertising Support Manager

Lorraine Roque 726-4366
lroque@montereyherald.com

Chief Financial Officer

Steve Bressoud 707-553-6801
sbressoud@bayareanewsgroup.com

ADVERTISING

Classified 372-3322
classifiedads@montereyherald.com

Legals 726-4382
mhlegals@montereyherald.com

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darvig@montereyherald.com

Obituaries 726-4366
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Milestones 372-3322
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Write to us 2555 Garden Road, Suite J, Monterey, CA 93940
To become a carrier 726-4358

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Ukraine

FROM PAGE 1

Russian soldiers, warplanes and equipment.

Russia held nuclear drills Saturday as well as the conventional exercises in Belarus, and has ongoing naval drills off the coast in the Black Sea.

The United States and many European countries have charged for months that Russia is trying to create pretexts to invade. They have threatened massive, immediate sanctions if it does.

"We're talking about the potential for war in Europe," U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris said Sunday at a security conference in Munich, Germany. "It's been over 70 years, and through those 70 years ... there has been peace and security."

A top European Union official, Charles Michel, said: "The big question remains: Does the Kremlin want dialogue?"

"We cannot forever offer an olive branch while Russia conducts missile tests and continues to amass troops," said Michel, the president of the European Council.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called Saturday on Russian President Vladimir Putin to choose a place where the two leaders could meet to try to resolve the crisis and on Sunday appealed for a cease-fire on Twitter. Russia has denied plans to invade, but the Kremlin did not respond to Zelenskyy's offer to meet. It was Belarus — not Russia — that announced the extension of the drills.

NATO has estimated there are 30,000 Russian troops in Belarus.

After a call with French President Emmanuel Macron, Putin blamed Ukraine for the escalation at the contact line and NATO for "pumping modern weapons and ammunition"



EVGENIY MALOLETKA — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oleksandr Manha comforts his 4-year-old daughter Sofia as his wife Anastasia Manha, 23, lulls her 2-month-old son Mykyta, after alleged shelling by separatist forces in Novogrativka, eastern Ukraine, on Sunday where the family lives.

into Ukraine. The Kremlin statement mentioned a cease-fire only in passing and made no mention of Zelenskyy's call for a meeting.

In Kyiv, life continued seemingly as usual on a mild winter Sunday, with brunches and church services. Katerina Spanchak, who fled the separatist-occupied Lugansk region years ago, said she prayed for peace.

"We all love life, and we are all united by our love of life. We should appreciate it every day. That's why I think everything will be fine," Spanchak said outside services at St. Michael's monastery.

But in Lugansk, the area of eastern Ukraine where her parents still live, and neighboring Donetsk, separatist leaders ordered a full military mobilization and sent more civilians to Russia, which has issued about 700,000 passports to residents of the rebel-held territories. Claims that Russian citizens are being endangered might be used as justification for military action.

Officials in the separatist territories claimed Ukrainian forces launched several artillery attacks over the past day and that two civilians were killed during an unsuccessful assault on a village near the Russian

border. Ukraine's military said two soldiers died in firing from the separatist side on Saturday.

Ukraine's leader criticized the U.S. and other Western nations for holding back on new sanctions for Russia. Zelenskyy, in comments before the conference, also questioned the West's refusal to allow Ukraine to join NATO immediately. Putin has demanded that NATO reject Ukraine as a member.

U.S. President Joe Biden said late Friday that based on the latest American intelligence, he was now "convinced" that Putin has decided to invade Ukraine in coming days and assault the capital.

A U.S. military official said an estimated 40% to 50% of the ground forces surrounding Ukraine had moved into attack positions closer to the border. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal U.S. assessments, said the change had been underway for about a week and did not necessarily mean Putin was committed to an invasion.

Lines of communication between Moscow and the West remain open: Macron spoke with Putin on Sunday for nearly two hours before a 30-minute call with the Ukrainian president. U.S. Secretary of State Antony

Blinken and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov agreed to meet next week.

Blinken said Sunday the U.S. was still working every lever possible to try to dissuade Putin from invading Ukraine but said recent events, including the extension of the troops in Belarus and the increase in shelling along the contact line, showed Putin well underway in laying the pretexts and groundwork for invasion, in line with findings of U.S. intelligence and previous Russian territorial grabs. "So all of this, along with the false flag operations we've seen unfold over the weekend, tells us the playbook...is moving forward," the U.S. secretary of state told CNN.

"Up to the last minute, there is still an option for him to pull back," Blinken told NBC's Meet the Press. He said his offer to meet Lavrov in Europe in the coming days was conditioned on Russia not rolling into Ukraine beforehand.

Macron's office said both the Ukrainian and Russian leaders had agreed to work toward a diplomatic solution "in coming days and coming weeks."

Immediate worries focused on eastern Ukraine, where Ukrainian forces have been fighting the pro-Russian rebels since 2014 in a conflict that has killed some 14,000 people.

Ukraine and the separatist leaders traded accusations of escalation. Russia on Saturday said at least two shells fired from a government-held part of eastern Ukraine landed across the border, but Ukraine's foreign minister dismissed that as "a fake statement."

"When tension is escalated to the maximum, as it is now, for example, on the line of contact, then any spark, any unplanned incident or any minor planned provocation can lead to irreparable consequences," Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in an interview that aired Sunday on Russian state television.