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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

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Fresh food spot cuts into community with ceremony















Photos by Thomas Leffler

RABANO: Santa Monica's freshest food fare was on display Feb. 28, as the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce welcomed Rabano Handcrafted Food & Drinks to the community with a ribbon cutting ceremony. This is the restaurant's second location alongside a spot in Hermosa Beach, and everything is made with locally sourced ingredients. The company also partners with sustainable local farms and uses compostable packaging. Food items include a bevy of salads, burritos, sandwiches, burgers and bowls. On the drink side, Rabano has a selection of milk teas, shaken iced teas, fruit teas and frosty lattes. Joining the Chamber and Rabano owner Fernando Chong was Santa Monica Mayor Phil Brock, who wished prosperity on the new location. Rabano is located at 2507 Main Street and has soft opening hours of Tuesday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Friday-Sunday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, visit rabano.co.

Travel expenses detour Council's budget discussion

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Tuesday's City Council meeting took an unexpected twist when the seemingly administrative task of approving the 2023-24 Midyear Budget was derailed over travel allowances for councilmembers.

A proposal to increase travel allowances caused a rift among councilmembers, resulting in a number of counter-proposals, re-votes, and general confusion before landing on a proposal that doesn't technically increase travel spending but does increase the amount of money available to pay for travel.

The debate occurred at the tail end of an item that some suspected would be controversial, albeit for a different reason: salary increases for city staff.

While the former issue was mostly glossed over, it did not go ignored among Santa Monica residents.

Ericka Lesley, Chair for the Rent Control Board and DTSM Inc., board member, expressed these concerns succinctly by saying, "Simply put … there should not be raises for anybody. We need to rehire some of the 400 that were laid off pre-Covid. We need more people in our housing services

SEE **BUDGET REVIEW** PAGE 7

Federal requirements force cuts to SMMUSD physical education staff

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education approved of a shift in the district's physical education staffing at a special Feb. 27 meeting, reducing the number of physical activities specialists to stay compliant with federal program monitoring requirements.

Board members passed a resolution by a 5-2 vote in a reduction of particular kinds of classified services, in this case being the reduction of physical activities specialists by 6.75 full-time equivalent positions, equal to nine employees. The other part of

SEE **SMMUSD** PAGE 7



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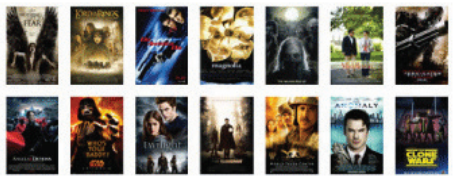
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Lady Mariners drop state tournament contest amid impressive season

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

A second straight trip to the CIF State Girls Basketball Championships ended in defeat for the Lady Mariners of Saint Monica, as the 2023-24 came to a close in a 59-46 loss to Francis Parker in the state tournament Feb. 27.

After advancing all the way to the regional semifinals of the Division V CIF bracket last year, the team retooled around first-year head coach Doug Kim, going 22-11 overall and achieving 20-plus victories for the second straight season. The back-to-back state tournament appearances, as well as back-to-back league championships (in the Santa Fe and Camino Real leagues), marked an impressive turnaround for the program that won just seven combined games between the 2017-18 and 2019-20 seasons.

The squad's 10-2 record in the Camino Real League pushed the Lady Mariners into the CIF Southern Section Division 3A tournament, where the team defeated Heritage Christian, Godinez Fundamental and Jordan en route to the semifinals, falling to St. Margaret's 49-41. Despite the defeat, the squad earned a bid into the state field as a 7-seed, losing the opening bout to Francis Parker. Subsequently, Francis Parker lost its next contest to Bakersfield Christian, a team that made it to the regional finals played on Tuesday night.

While the Lady Mariners are losing seniors Shadel French, Kaya Ghobrial and Andrea Colabella; the squad remains strong heading into next season, bringing back a host of contributors like starting forwards Melina Werhle and Kaylee McCruel, as well as starting guard Sydney Ghobrial.



Photo by Thomas Leffler
MARINERS: Sydney Ghobrial (#2) will be returning for her junior season after helping lead Saint Monica to a second consecutive CIF state tournament.

SAINT MONICA SCORES:
SAINT MONICA GIRLS BASKETBALL:
Tuesday, February 27:
Lady Mariners vs Francis Parker- 2024 CIF State Girls Basketball Championships Division III
Francis Parker win 59-46
Lady Mariners Final 2023-24 Record: 22-11 (10-2 Camino Real League)

SAINT MONICA BASEBALL:
Thursday, February 29:
Mariners vs Cathedral
Cathedral win 9-1
Mariners Record: 2-3 (0-1 Camino Real League)
Next Game: Friday at St. Anthony, 3:15 p.m.

SAINT MONICA SOFTBALL:
Tuesday, February 27:
Lady Mariners at Ramona Convent
Ramona Convent win 10-3
Batting/Baserunning:
Savanna Hernandez: 3-4, HR, R, 2 RBI, SB. Sophia Lopez: 1-3, 2B, R, RBI, K. Bella Urbina: 0-3. Bella Hernandez: 1-4. Ali Vogler: 0-3, BB, FC. Katrina Olmedo: 0-4, FC. Dylan Smith: 3-4. Annie Lu Rios: 0-3, K. Megan Garcia: 1-3, R, K
Pitching:
Bella Lopez: 3.0 IP, 5 H, 5 R, 4 ER, 9.33 ERA. Bella Urbina: L, 3.0 IP, 3 H, 5 R, 4 ER, 6 BB, K, 9.33 ERA
Thursday, February 29:
Lady Mariners at Saint Joseph
Saint Joseph win 18-0
Batting/Baserunning:
Bella Lopez: 1-2. Savanna Hernandez: 1-2, FC, SB. Sophia Lopez: 0-2, 2 K. Bella Hernandez: 0-2, K. Ali Vogler: 1-2. Katrina Olmedo: 0-1, HBP. Dylan Smith: 0-2, FC. Annie Lu Rios: 0-1, HBP, K. Megan Garcia: 0-1, HBP
Pitching:
Bella Lopez: 1.0 IP, 7 H, 5 R, 5 ER, 1 BB, 35.00 ERA. Bella Urbina: L, 0.2 IP, 4 H, 7 R, 7 ER, 4 BB, 1 K, 1 HBP 73.50 ERA. Katrina Olmedo: 2.1 IP, 4 H, 6 R, 4 ER, 1 BB, 2 HBP, 12.00 ERA
Monday, March 4:
Lady Mariners vs Duarte
Duarte win 19-8
Batting/Baserunning:
Bella Lopez: 0-3, RBI, FC. Savanna Hernandez: 1-3, R, RBI, BB. Sophia Lopez: 1-3, R, 2 K, SB
Bella Hernandez: 0-3. Ali Vogler: 3-3, HR, 2 R, 2 RBI. Katrina Olmedo: 1-2, HR, 2 R, RBI, K. Dylan Smith: 0-4. Annie Lu Rios: 1-2, 3 RBI, BB. Megan Garcia: 3-3, 2B, 2 R
Pitching:
Bella Lopez: 2.0 IP, 5 H, 5 R, 3 ER, 1 BB, 10.50 ERA. Bella Urbina: L, 3.0 IP, 10 H, 13 R, 11 ER, 3 BB, 1 HBP, 25.67 ERA
Lady Mariners Record: 2-4
Next Game: Wednesday at Santa Monica, 3:15 p.m.

SAINT MONICA BOYS VOLLEYBALL:
Tuesday, February 27:
Mariners at Providence
Providence win 3-0
Wednesday, February 28:
Mariners vs Crossroads

SEE **MARINERS** PAGE 11

California's fast food workers are getting a raise. But the labor-industry truce is fraying



Photo by Alisha Jucevic for CalMatters Credit: Alisha Jucevic For CalMatters

WORKERS: Fast food workers cheer "¡Si Se Pudo!" or "Yes, We Could!," before Gov. Gavin Newsom signs legislation supporting the rights of fast food workers and boosting wages to $20 an hour, starting in April of 2024, during a press conference at SEIU Local 721 in Los Angeles on Sept. 28, 2023.

JEANNE KUANG

Both sides billed the high-profile California fast food deal last year as a resolution to two years of escalating political tensions.

One of workers' biggest wins in the Legislature during "hot labor summer," the agreement in the session's final week resulted in a minimum wage hike for employees and some guarantees for companies. In exchange, the industry agreed to stop fighting the issue at the ballot box and lawmakers backed off on even stricter regulations.

But a month before the new wage — $20 an hour for workers at fast food chains with 60 or more locations nationally — goes into effect, the temporary truce is unraveling.

As the Legislature pushes through a bill exempting fast food restaurants in airports, hotels and convention centers, Republican lawmakers who had vehemently pushed back on the wage hike are calling for the deal to be investigated, after Bloomberg reported that Gov. Gavin Newsom pushed for a bakery exemption that benefited a donor who owns two dozen Panera locations in California.

On Thursday, Newsom's office denied the story and said their lawyers believe Panera and other chain bakeries aren't actually exempt — a decision that could lead numerous additional businesses to scramble to prepare for a wage hike. In a Bloomberg story Friday, billionaire Greg Flynn says he did not seek a special exemption, though he met with the governor's staff along with other restaurant owners to suggest a carve-out for "fast casual" restaurants. On Saturday, the California Restaurant Association weighed in, saying there was never any discussion of any brand seeking an exemption, including Panera. And in an interview with KNBC aired Sunday, Newsom, himself, called the report "absurd."

The Service Employees International Union, which pushed for the legislation, said it agreed with Newsom's reasoning. Senate Republican leader Brian Jones called for scrapping the fast food agreement altogether.

The renewed fights have moved to the local level, too.

Some franchise owners are cutting jobs in advance of the minimum wage increase, while workers have begun pushing for additional benefits in San Jose and Los Angeles, prompting businesses to gear up to lobby back.

Worker advocates are also pledging to push for job security measures once a first-in-the-nation fast food regulatory council (another part of the deal) is in place. On Friday, Newsom announced his seven appointees to the council, including Chairperson Nicholas Hardeman, chief of staff to state Senate leader emeritus Toni Atkins. The governor's other picks are a mix of franchisees, workers and others.

And some McDonald's franchise owners, who have complained they were frozen out from last year's deal-making, are retaliating against state lawmakers who supported it as they seek other public offices in Tuesday's primary. The new California Alliance of Family Owned Businesses PAC formed earlier this year as an offshoot of prior lobbying by owners of local McDonald's restaurants.

Its opening salvo: attack mailers against Assemblymembers Chris Holden, a Pasadena Democrat running for the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, and Kevin McCarty, a Sacramento Democrat running in a crowded primary for mayor.

"In order to protect our family businesses in California now and into the future, it has become clear that we must more actively

SEE **FAST FOOD** PAGE 8



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **59.5**

WEDNESDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

NW/SSW combo looking to ease down a bit further from Tuesday. Favorable wind for at least the AM, but not much size running. Onshore S wind for the PM.

THURSDAY
FAIR
SURF: 2-3ft
Thigh to waist

Jumbled NW swell mix picks up a notch from Wednesday but is still on the modest end of the scale. Watching wind forecast — stay tuned — may be OK in the AM, or may start out onshore.

Weather

Wednesday: A chance of rain and thunderstorms between 10am and 4pm, then rain and possibly a thunderstorm after 4pm.
Wednesday Night: Rain and possibly a thunderstorm before 10pm, then a slight chance of showers after 10pm.
Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 62. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 15 mph.
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 49.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2024/03/06	Wed	05:38 AM	5.42	H
2024/03/06	Wed	1:06 PM	-1.00	L
2024/03/06	Wed	7:45 PM	3.69	H
2024/03/07	Thu	12:22 AM	2.04	L
2024/03/07	Thu	06:32 AM	5.91	H
2024/03/07	Thu	1:42 PM	-1.33	L
2024/03/07	Thu	8:07 PM	4.09	H
2024/03/08	Fri	01:11 AM	1.41	L
2024/03/08	Fri	07:21 AM	6.24	H
2024/03/08	Fri	2:16 PM	-1.45	L
2024/03/08	Fri	8:33 PM	4.54	H
2024/03/09	Sat	01:58 AM	0.79	L
2024/03/09	Sat	08:07 AM	6.30	H
2024/03/09	Sat	2:49 PM	-1.33	L
2024/03/09	Sat	9:02 PM	4.97	H
2024/03/10	Sun	03:45 AM	0.27	L
2024/03/10	Sun	09:52 AM	6.05	H
2024/03/10	Sun	4:22 PM	-0.98	L

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Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 3/4
36 42 50 52 67
Power#: 26
Jackpot: 485 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 3/1
15 33 37 55 61
Mega#: 24
Jackpot: 650 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 3/2
1 7 12 40 41
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 15 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 3/4
13 19 20 27 34

Daily 3
Draw Date: 3/4
EVENING: 6 3 2
Draw Date: 3/4
MIDDAY: 4 0 0

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 3/4
1st: 11 - Money Bags
2nd: 02 - Lucky Star
3rd: 08 - Gorgeous George
Race Time: 1:40.62

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Santa Monica Daily Press

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Santa Monica is BROKE

Tuesday evening February 20th I attended the Santa Monica City Council's Audit Sub-Committee Meeting.

The Audit Subcommittee is not a City commission or board. It is supposed to provide an alternative way for employees, taxpayers or other citizens to confidentially report suspected illegal, improper, wasteful or fraudulent activity and provide periodic review and selection of external auditors.

It is supposed to act in an 'advisory' capacity and review all City audit reports, analyze their findings and consult with internal and external auditors on any irregularities and deficiencies contained in their reports. The Subcommittee is supposed to determine what corrective action should be recommended to the City Council, and report on the outcome of all audits and make recommendations. Two residents and three (3) Councilmembers, including Councilmember Christine Parra, former Mayor Gleam Davis and current Mayor Phil Brock, comprise the Audit Sub-Committee. City Manager David White and City Treasurer Oscar Santiago are supposed to be present and provide information on request.

What I saw and heard (and conversed about later with a few of the residents who were present) was astonishing. City Manager David White arrived late during Public Comment. Sub-committee Member Gleam Davis also arrived late, and avoided listening to any Public Comment.

STAGGERING Findings:

Within the Santa Monica Human Services Grant Program during the past year -

1) About $1.4 million of City-granted funds to The People Concern remain unaccounted for. $600,000 from their budget in Santa Monica operations was used for "travel," and food for the homeless was paid for by donations. The outside accounting firm the City of Santa Monica hired to conduct the overall audit, Moss Adams, was unable to reconcile their various budgets with their General Ledger.

In one case, $809,000 of grant-related expenditures could not be reconciled between their Fiscal Report and their General Ledger. Moss Adams was unable to reconcile The People Concern's Travel Budget and Fiscal Reporting with their General Ledger. John Maceri, the Executive Director of The People Concern, has not publicly commented on Santa Monica's Recommended Corrective Action made over a year ago.

2) Saint Joseph's Center (SJC) was unable to provide any documented support for 8 of 16 expenditures, and in another spot check, did not provide their methods for 3 of 14 allocated amounts, and was unable to provide any documented support for 9 of 13 expenditures (no timesheet, invoice, PO, or proof of payment).

3) CLARE Foundation was unable to provide any documented support for expenditures for grant-related operations.

4) Hospitality Training Academy (HTA) did not have documented approval for expenditures prior to disbursement for 4 of 15 items inspected.

5) Family Services of Santa Monica (FSSM) did not provide documented support indicating timesheet approvals for 5 of 10 samples collected by the City. In one instance, there was no supporting documentation provided (no PO, invoice, timesheet, proof of payment, etc.)

The controversial Moss Adams Report was reviewed and edited FIRST by CITY MANAGER DAVID WHITE and his STAFF, BEFORE being submitted to the Audit Sub-Committee, the City Council and the Public. Why?

6) The Fiscal Year 2023-24 approximate budget for Santa Monica is approximately $745 million, and the proposed budget for 2024-25 is $750.6 million.

There are + - 570 businesses in Santa Monica, employing + - 7,300 people in the retail sector, with an average quarterly payroll of $118.8 million (4% of the City's total). And 28% of sales were generated in Downtown Santa Monica, but that revenue has significantly decreased during the last 2 years with a continued 45% vacancy factor based on square footage.

7) The General Fund decreased last year by $63 million, the most important fund for Santa Monica, as it serves public safety salaries and services, including Police, Fire, Paramedics, and miscellaneous expenses. Safety concerns are at an all time high, as crime and open drug use, sales and assaults are on the rise.

Yet our City Council has underfunded the Police. Just 13% of the total budget is allocated for Police and Public Safety. Police funding is typically the largest spending area for cities. According to the California Department of Justice's Law Enforcement Personnel Survey, and the California Department of Finance Population Data through 2022, spending on Police usually accounts for over 15% of all city spending statewide. But not in Santa Monica.

8) Santa Monica's unfunded Pension Liability in 2022 was an alarming $265 million, expected to have increased by $8 million in 2023. The unfunded Pension Liability is growing at a faster rate than our City's General Fund.

City Manager David White, whose annual salary increased several months ago to over $400,000, commented that, "It will get worse in terms of payments the City needs to make for unfunded pensions."

9) The City's investments are managed by CALPERS, an agency in the California executive branch that manages pension and health benefits for California public employees and their families. Interest from a wide array of investments vary, and immediate past Mayor, now City Councilmember Gleam Davis stated, "There's nothing we can do about it."

Gleam Davis stated that the last presentation to the City Council on how CALPERS manages the City's funds and the allocation of interest, was in 2015. Nobody on the current City Council, except Gleam Davis, was on the Council in 2015. Yet there was no agreement from the Audit Sub-committee to recommend that Santa Monica's elected City Council listen to a presentation and possible dire effects, any time in the foreseeable future.

10) The City of Santa Monica has about 1,118 employees, and the revenue per employee ratio is $23,256. City of Santa Monica total annual employee revenue was $26 million in 2023.

11) Santa Monica has an approximate $265 million unfunded pension liability (2022) that has been unaddressed for years, and continues to grow. There was significant discussion over the issue with mention that CALPERS controls the City's investments. Annual returns vary. City Manager David White said he hoped it would be manageable in 20 or 30 years with a better economy.

12) The payments and legal fees for two of Santa Monica's ongoing lawsuits regarding "District Voting" and the sexual abuse case related to an employee of the Police Activities League, have passed over $300 million.

CONCLUSION: Santa Monica is BROKE; near financial insolvency because of wrong policies.

The point isn't that Santa Monica's City Manager, current Mayor and City Council Members involved are clueless. The point is that playing whack-a-mole with a bunch of competing interests and non-profits comes at the expense of our City, which is what should be most important.

There's been little evidence to suggest that our City Manager and new City Treasurer are committed to prioritizing the wellbeing of its residents. The City Council and its rotating Mayor need to shift their mindset. The City needs more bona fide sworn police officers; so called because such officers have arrest powers and are required to take an oath to defend the Constitution, carry out the law, maintain public order and ensure the safety and quality of life in our City.

The City's parks are full of drug dealers and users. More assaults, theft overdoses and deaths are occurring in Santa Monica's Parks, 3rd Street Promenade and Downtown, than being reported. This is because all parties are not always present when Police arrive, and businesses are afraid of becoming uninsurable if they report the rising theft in their stores.

Our City Manager, Mayor and City Council do not care, and do not pay attention to us residents and business owners. They do not care if their actions, or lack of, compromise the integrity of our product and brand. There's always an explanation.

There's also been little evidence to suggest that the Mayor, who sets the agenda for the City Council, and the City Council, are committed to prioritizing residents and businesses.

Our current leaders need to shift their mindset. Our City Manager and Mayor continue to recommend funding self-serving nonprofits and their executives and staff, without constraints or consequences, even when they see misappropriate expenditures and lost funds. Excuses continue to be made even when their product and ideas fail to meet City expectations.

Unfortunately, the Audit Sub-Committee Meeting, was not widely publicized, and meets infrequently. So very few people outside the Audit Sub-Committee, City Manager, City Staff and Mayor know or can possibly care about the continued negative behavior and impacts, and that's kind of the point.

Sadly, just two days later in the February 27th City Council Meeting, the City Budget items were approved unanimously by Council. The same non-profit agencies were again granted more funds. Nobody, including our City Treasurer in his report, addressed any of the discrepancies. City Council Members who attended the Audit Subcommittee Meeting ignored these issues, as did the remaining Council Members who cited the late hour, and voted in favor.

Our current City Manager, City Treasurer, Mayor and Councilmembers will transition and move on. But our children will be left with a huge deficit, funding their retirement.

Here is a link to Santa Monica's Audit Sub-committee.

https://santamonica.granicus.com/boards/w/6ff37e3e6f3d5678/boards/14397

John Alle

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that the City of Santa Monica has posted a list of unclaimed checks – any stale dated check older than three years as of **December 31, 2023** - and claim forms on the City's website at https://santamonica.gov/unclaimed-property-notice and at the following physical location: the Public Notices board in the City Hall Lobby. If said funds are not claimed by **April 22, 2024** these funds will become the property of the City of Santa Monica in accordance with California Government Code Sections 50050 – 50056. These funds may be released to the depositor, their heir, beneficiary or duly appointed representative provided a claim form has been completed with the required information detailed below and an original signature.

Required claim information includes name, address, phone number, tax identification number, amount of claim, and grounds on which claim is founded. Claims must be submitted to the Finance Department, Attn: Financial Operations, 1685 Main Street, Mail Stop 09, Santa Monica, CA. 90401 or by email to finance.mailbox@santamonica.gov. Once a claim is submitted; the Finance Department will determine the validity of the claim and if additional information is required to process the claim. The City of Santa Monicareserves the right to deny any claim that is submitted with incomplete or invalid information.

GAS PRICES IN SANTA MONICA

76	76 1776 Cloverfield Blvd	N/A
Shell	SHELL 1802 Cloverfield Blvd	$5.17
Chevron	CHEVRON 1819 Cloverfield Blvd	$4.97
Mobil	MOBIL 731 Santa Monica Blvd	$5.70
	LINCOLN BLVD CAR WASH 1624 Lincoln Blvd	$4.99
	WORLD 1801 Lincoln Blvd	$4.79
Shell	SHELL 1866 Lincoln Blvd	$5.29
Speedway	SPEEDWAY EXPRESS 2555 Lincoln Blvd	$4.79
Chevron	CHEVRON 1732 Lincoln Blvd	$5.19
ARCO	ARCO 332 Pico Blvd	$5.09
Sinclair	SINCLAIR 1944 Pico Blvd	$4.99
Chevron	CHEVRON 1330 Santa Monica Blvd	$5.30

*Prices paying in card

SMDP and GasBuddy

Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have risen 11.8 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $4.86/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 22.3 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 2.3 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has fallen 2.7 cents in the last week and stands at $4.03 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at $4.09/g while the most expensive was $6.04/g, a difference of $1.95/g. The lowest price in the state was $3.75/g while the highest was $6.79/g, a difference of $3.04/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 10.0 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $3.34/g today. The national average is up 22.0 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 3.2 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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MOST LOVED TOP 5 BUSINESSES

Voting period will begin **March 18th!**

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Voting Period
March 18th-31st

For any questions please contact **dina@smdp.com**

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IS IT WORTH IT?



In Santa Monica, it can be hard to find a nice, affordable place to eat for high school students on a budget. When trying to find a balance between a fast-food joint and a trendy restaurant that may get your (debit) card declined, the options are limited. We tried a few of Downtown Santa Monica's popular options that could serve as a restaurant of choice for a fun night out, while fitting the criteria of reasonably priced, and of course, delicious.

LUNCH ON A BUDGET: SAMOHI STUDENTS' BEST EATS.



SUNNY BLUE
9/10

Sunny Blue specializes in omusubi, a handheld Japanese stuffed rice ball wrapped in seaweed. They offer a wide variety of fillings in the families of meat, seafood and veggies—some of the most popular are the miso beef, sunny blue curry, tokyo tori and spicy salmon. The miso beef, my personal favorite, has the perfect savory flavor of tender beef and caramelized onions, cooked with miso sauce and dusted with furikake seasoning (salt, sugar, sesame seeds, and dried seaweed). At $4.95 each, Sunny Blue's omusubi are great for snacks, however, they aren't extremely filling. Sometimes the meat filling is skimpy, with the rice making up most of it, leaving you wanting more. While the perfect affordable option for a midday snack, the price adds up when getting a full meal–around three omusubi. I have wished for more when eating Sunny Blue, but I have undoubtedly never been dissatisfied.



HOLY GUACAMOLE
8/10

As their slogan is "tacos from heaven, hot sauce from hell," Holy Guacamole truly is a small bite of heaven. Cooked in a small kitchen visible to anyone ordering, the food is delicious and authentic. While their menu has the widest variety of the bunch, with burritos for dinner or breakfast, tacos, quesadillas and tamales, it is also the most expensive. You could easily get a filling meal with only a $20 bill in your pocket, but the prices verge on expensive. However, their prices have a wide enough range for it to be affordable—from a basic (yet delicious) option such as the bean and cheese burrito costing just under $10 to a "wet" carne asada burrito—stuffed with meat, rice, beans, tomato, onions, cilantro, and the added melted cheese, guacamole, mole sauce and sour cream (the wet option adding $4.75)—costing just under $20. Every order also comes with a small side of chips and salsa, but I find that the chips taste much better on some days than others. Pro tip: order your burrito extra crispy, it's a game-changer.



THAI VEGAN
7/10

Thai Vegan offers generous portions of flavorful, authentic, vegan Thai food. Contrary to the other restaurants, Thai Vegan's menu consists of more family-style food options. Most everything on the menu was between $10-13 however, making it hard for an individual to get multiple items for an affordable meal with variety. The $12 pad thai, plus the added soy beef (soy chicken, soy beef, or soy shrimp could be added to any order for $2.50), was enough to feed two-three people. Simultaneously sweet and savory, with just a bit spicy, the pad thai had a nice flavor, consisting of perfectly chewy noodles in tamarind sauce. Also mixed in was tofu, ground peanuts, and a variety of vegetables, such as carrots, broccoli, bean sprouts, and cabbage. The soy beef add-on wasn't necessary, as it was pretty similar to the tofu. The large quantity was great for the price, but I would have preferred a few different smaller portion options for the same price. Aside from the food, Thai Vegan has the nicest ambiance inside—its small space creating a homey atmosphere with its tasteful decorations and a few window-side seating options. They also sell various Thai snacks and jewelry in addition to their wide variety of entre options.



PAPI TACOS AND CHURROS
6/10

With its cheap, handheld options emulating Mexican street food, Papi Tacos and Churros is a decent option for good Mexican food. Their street size bites make for the perfect quick, on-the-go snack. The smaller options that can be mixed and matched for an affordable price include the $3.5 quesataco, $4.5 mulita, $5.5 quesadilla, and $3 consume, a 16-hour cooked beef broth served as a taco dip. There is not much variety on the menu though, as they offer only a couple meals, with only two types of meat, beef birria and pollo asado. Their most popular dish, the O.G. Plate, which had a taco, quesataco, mulita, quesadilla, as well as consume, seemed like a great deal for $16. However, the options were pretty much the same thing, with the same flavor, just in different forms of tortilla, meat, cheese. While the food was filling and good from a taste and price standpoint, it was also repetitive and somewhat boring.

by Sienna Bevan

SMMUSD

FROM PAGE 1

the resolution, the elimination of the Media Services Coordinator position held by Bill Wishart, was initially separated into its own action and postponed for discussion until Thursday's regularly-scheduled board meeting, but district staff said Tuesday that the board is not moving forward with the item. Board members Maria Leon-Vasquez and Alicia Mignano were the dissenting votes on the physical activities specialists resolution.

District Deputy Superintendent Dr. Mark Kelly explained why the resolution came before the board, stating that during the district's last comprehensive review of its federal programs in which the district receives title funding, the district was notified that it was out of compliance in the elementary school physical education (PE) program, as the program is not being run by certificated teachers in that area.

The federal program monitoring report from the California Department of Education for 2023-24, dated September 29, 2023, stated that following a review of staff teaching credentials at McKinley Elementary School, staff interviews and PE class observations, "it was evident that the individuals providing 'PE instruction' did not possess any teaching credentials or training specific to PE or developmentally appropriate activities for elementary students."

To remedy the noncompliance, the district would have to either hire single-subject credentialed PE teachers, or to have elementary teachers authorized to teach PE to their own students, with district staff recommending the former option. Recognizing that the specialists have been running PE programs for several years, Kelly noted that this was a "difficult" decision.

"I acknowledge and thank our (physical activity specialists) for their commitment," Kelly said. "We need to get our programs into compliance, this was a direction from the state, they continue to monitor us."

For the 2024-25 school year, the district is looking to fill five elementary PE openings, as well as retain seven of the physical activities specialists to support implementation, with the hiring plan still being worked on. District staff stated that this will impact all elementary school sites in some fashion. Kelly noted that the district does not anticipate reducing the amount of PE time at the elementary level, as that time coincides with approximately 125 minutes per school week of teacher preparation time within the classroom.

Thursday's board meeting agenda includes a notice of recommendation not to reemploy the classified employees for the 2024-25 school year, a communication step required by the classified layoff procedures. However, district staff told the Daily Press that each individual employee has met or will meet with the district's personnel commission to discuss other future opportunities. Kelly made mention of a Paraeducator-3 position as a potential role, since that position is in the same pay range as a physical activities specialist.

Board member Jon Kean stated that he values the employees, and asked Kelly about the path of a specialist to either become single-subject PE credentialed or to follow another path in the district. Kelly responded by saying the district isn't authorized to issue credentials, and that a specialist would have to join a credentialing program through the Los Angeles County Office of Education or a class at a local college. A credential can be obtained through having a Bachelor's Degree plus a fifth year of study in a credentialing program, and Kelly added that they can provide impacted employees with options and contacts about how to plan the credentialing process.

During public comment, Edison Language Academy physical activities specialist Fabian Leon Reyes said he was "surprised" by the resolution, and questioned the lack of communication with local stakeholders about the reduction.

"I have no idea what type of program we'll be running if (the board decides) to follow through with laying (us) off, but I have worked at (Los Angeles Unified School District) where they have no coaches … if you guys are so worried about the type of program we're running here as physical activities specialists, why are you laying us off?," Reyes said.

Several Edison Parent-Teacher Association members echoed support of the specialists, including President Kimberly Barholomew, who said PE positions are not "plug and play" and that PE itself is needed for social-emotional learning benefits. Edison PTA Financial Secretary Heidi Vega Aimonetti also lent her support, saying that having bilingual coaches was important to the PE program.

Much of the public comment was also in support of Wishart and his contributions in the district, including his role leading Samohi student group Running with Speakers, which handles technology duties for school events. Several of the Running with Speakers club members said that Wishart was an inspiration due to both his technical advice and creating a safe, inclusive environment. Wishart himself took to the podium during public comment, stating he was moved by the support and that his position is valuable to SMMUSD in regards to increasing demand for online event streaming.

"(Running With Speakers) saves the district thousands of dollars due to the hard work of these Samohi students … it's been my privilege to work and teach these amazing young people … I won't be with the district forever, no one is, however I would like the chance to facilitate a transition for the students in my care so that they can continue to have the opportunity to have actual work-based experience in a supportive and fun environment," Wishart said, with the group on hand erupting into applause after his remarks.

Thursday's board meeting will also discuss an approval of an employment agreement between the district and the Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services, officially moving district Director of Assessment Dr. Stacy Williamson into the position. The board will also read several resolutions, including recognizing March as Women's History Month, National Middle Level Education Month and Arts and Music in Our Schools Month.

thomas@smdp.com

BUDGET REVIEW

FROM PAGE 1

to relieve some of our overburdened and overwhelmed staff."

While the city is projecting a balanced budget with modest increases overtime, reserves remain well below pre-pandemic levels and future challenges preclude any new spending.

From the outset Santa Monica Finance Department Director Oscar Santiago stressed the uncertainty of the current economic state of affairs. "We should talk about the climate that we're operating under, which continues to be volatile and uncertain. We've done our best to consider these external issues in our forecast."

Santiago predicted tourism would return to pre-pandemic levels in under two years.

"Our tourism sector is recovering, but we have yet to see a strong return of business, group and international travel. Santa Monica Travel and Tourism projects stronger growth starting in mid 2024, and reaching peak 2019 levels by late 2025, early 2026," he said.

Both the pandemic and recent legal cases, in particular the Eric Uller settlement, have significantly impacted the City's budget, he said. "At the end of last fiscal year, we estimated the General Fund has lost over $170 million in revenues due to the pandemic. During this time, the city also paid over $229.8 million in settlements of sexual abuse claims," Santiago said.

Eventually, Councilmember Oscar de la Torre brought the subject of discussion back around to the issue of salaries asking, "[About] the resolution regarding the salary rates and the new classifications, we got some emails, residents concerned that some of these adjustments were potentially excessive, and I wanted to just clarify that our … organization [is] competitive?"

The only cities that Santiago could point to were West Hollywood and Beverly Hills, which he claimed were comparable. And that was the last mention of the matter.

Councilmember Gleam Davis made a motion to move the item and approve the FY 23-24 budget with one small, but significant amendment.

"One of the recommendations was that you increase the council travel budget by $14,000, which would be $2,000 per council member," Davis said, adding, "I propose that instead of increasing the travel budget by $14,000, we put that $14,000 back into the council discretionary fund, add $1,000 to it and give $5,000 to each Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) for them to do community building and promote local business."

Chaos ensued and the dais was divided into two distinct camps with neither side wanting to give an inch.

Four councilmembers (Christine Parra, Phil Brock, Lana Negrete and de la Torre) defended the increase to travel budgets while Davis, Jesse Zwick and Caroline Torosis voted to cut it.

A financial change relating to a budgetary item requires a supermajority of at least five votes to pass.

There were several variations on the vote all of which again resulted in deadlock along the same lines and Council remained paralyzed at 4-3 against removing the proposed travel budget increase.

Reiterating her point, Davis said, "As we all know, we had a robust discussion about our travel budget before the fiscal year began. And we all know what our travel budget was. Every time we spend a penny out of our travel budget, we all have these sheets that tell us how much money we have left.

Davis was alluding to an incident last year, when Brock and De la Torre asked for additional travel expenses for the year. In the City Council meeting of July 25, 2023, they asked for unused funds from the previous year's travel budget to be applied to any Councilmember who had already exceeded that year's travel budgets. Needless to say, this quickly became a political issue, since the matter had never arisen before.

"I just don't know why we would increase [that] budget, when we could use the money for other things, whether it's neighborhood groups [or] sending more kids [to events] I think the last thing we need to do is give our each of ourselves an additional $2,000 to fly around, or go to wherever it is we think we want to go to. I don't think that's a good expenditure," said Davis.

With the clock creeping towards midnight, Zwick made a new motion to put all $15,000 in the discretionary fund and decide where it goes at a later date. The motion passed unanimously 7-0.

While assigning the money to the discretionary fund took five votes, it will only require a simple majority of four votes to decide how the money is spent. The funds are not earmarked for any specific project and can be used for any purpose, including paying for travel.

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FAST FOOD

FROM PAGE 3

engage in politics across the state," Kerri Harper-Howie, an alliance board member and a McDonald's owner in Los Angeles County, said in a statement. "Politicians should know that if they agree to carry water for those who threaten our businesses, they will be opposed."

Holden authored the bill forming a fast food council and mandating the wage hike, while McCarty was one of many Democrats who voted for it. The PAC has spent more than $300,000 against each. McCarty's campaign manager Andrew Acosta said business owners are "trying to punish him for standing up for workers rights and higher wages."

The PAC is also spending in an Inland Empire Assembly primary and in favor of Assemblymember Tim Grayson's bid for the state Senate. Grayson, a Concord Democrat, voted in favor of the fast food deal last year.

The franchisee committee has spent more than $1.8 million so far this year. That's not much compared to the tens of millions of dollars fast food giants such as McDonald's and national industry groups poured into a campaign account for the effort to repeal the 2022 fast food law. The referendum was ultimately pulled from the ballot in last year's deal. But it indicates the increasing activity of franchise owners in state and local politics.

Marisol Sanchez, who owns 14 McDonald's restaurants in the High Desert north of San Bernardino and helps run her family's larger franchise business, said she never got involved in politics before last year. But when SEIU pushed a bill forcing fast food corporations to share liability for labor violations with franchise owners, Sanchez saw "the destruction of the franchise model, and basically … the destruction of my livelihood."

"It was a quick jumping into action," she said, which involved meeting with lawmakers and now, contributing to the PAC.

The joint liability bill ultimately became a bargaining chip to force a deal on the $20 wage. Sanchez said franchise owners were the "collateral damage." She attributes that in part to a prior lack of political organizing by franchise owners.

"We weren't communicating and organizing," she said. "I think we took for granted that the community understood that we were not all corporate-owned restaurants."

She said she's always tried to offer starting wages of $1 more than the minimum wage, and had been in the middle of an expansion in recent years, buoyed in part by more Californians moving inland during the COVID pandemic. But she's cutting back in advance of the wage hike, putting off a drive-thru remodel and slowing down hiring.

The union that pushed for the deal criticized the new PAC, but said it would be unsuccessful.

"It's shameful for these multi-billion dollar corporations to attack these pro-worker champions — and voters are going to see right through it," Arnulfo De La Cruz, president of SEIU Local 2015, said in a statement.

Restaurant giants and a handful of local franchise owners have also registered this year to lobby in San Jose, where the new Fast Food Workers Union is pursuing a city ordinance mandating employers provide paid time off, predictable scheduling and "know your rights" training.

The union in recent weeks accused one city council member, David Cohen, of reconsidering his support in response to industry influence. Several franchise owners this month contributed to a new PAC whose main spending so far has been to send $18,000 to another political action committee that has bought ads against Cohen's opponent in his re-election bid.

The contributions were first reported by San Jose Spotlight. Cohen's office did not respond to a request for comment, but he told Spotlight he hadn't withdrawn any support and was only considering if the proposed ordinance would work.

Fast food workers rally at the state Capitol in Sacramento on Aug. 31, 2023. Photo by Rahul Lal for CalMatters

Celeste Perez, a Burger King shift leader in San Jose who has been advocating for the ordinance, said she wants a firm commitment from council members and accused Cohen of shutting workers like her out after meeting with industry lobbyists.

Perez, 43, makes $17.75 an hour and said the wage hike to $20 in April was supposed to help her keep up with inflation. This year the restaurant cut her hours by five a week due to the upcoming wage increase and slow sales at the beginning of the year, she said, but she still has the same amount of work to do, and often deals with threatening customers.

She wants to afford to take a family vacation for the first time in seven or eight years, or at least attend her son's soccer games, she said. "It's really important for us to keep (moving) forward, not backward," she said. "I think $20 is only one step."

On Friday, the union called for a similar proposal in Los Angeles. Neither ordinance has been formally introduced yet.

As part of last year's deal, the state's new fast food council is prohibited from enacting new policies on time off and scheduling — and the deal prohibited cities from raising fast food wages beyond the new statewide minimum. But there's nothing to stop local governments from pursuing other regulations, which would further raise costs for operators.

The proposals and the bakery exemption controversy are likely to be more fuel for franchise owners to fight back.

Brian Hom, the owner of two Vitality Bowls health food restaurants in San Jose, said he's begun using his relationships with city council members to push back on the local proposal. He said he already sets employee schedules two weeks in advance, but is wary that a predictable scheduling requirement may prevent him from asking workers to come in last-minute if someone calls out sick.

Hom said he has the option to open a third store, but has declined to do so with the prospect of new requirements. He said he and other franchise owners are discussing with the company how much to raise prices in April, and is hoping that's enough to cover the wage increase without cutting staff or their hours.

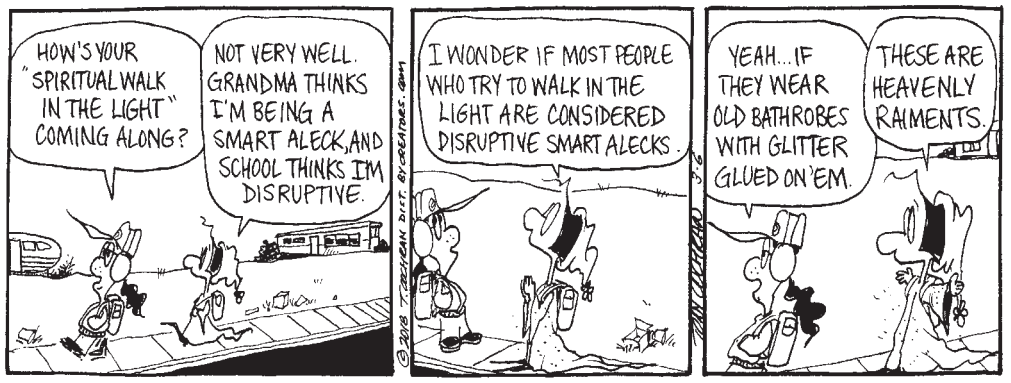
"Businesses are going to speak up," he said. "The $20 is already going to cause restaurants to close."

This article was originally published by CalMatters.



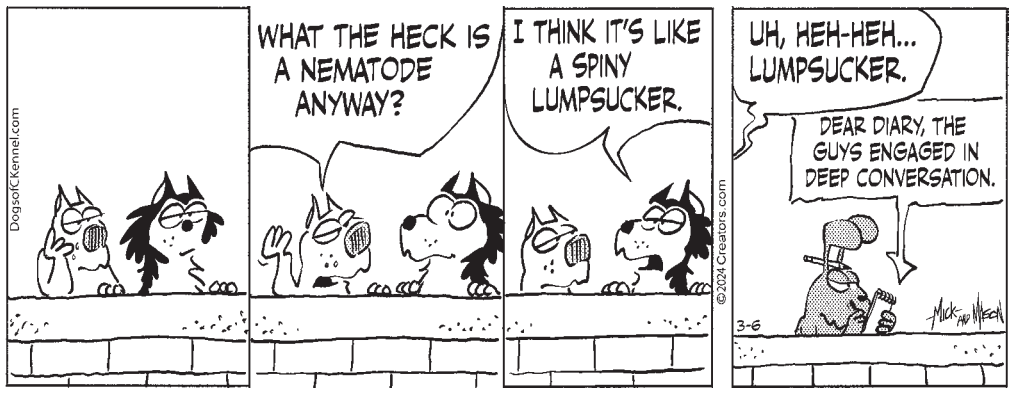
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



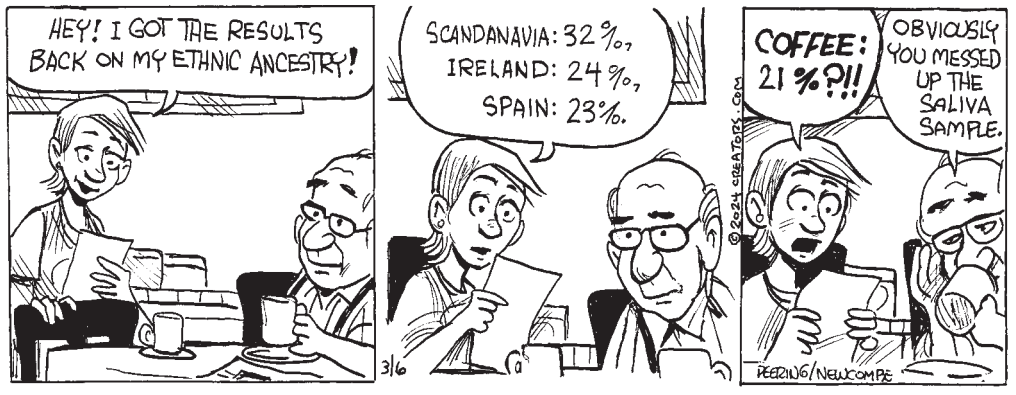
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



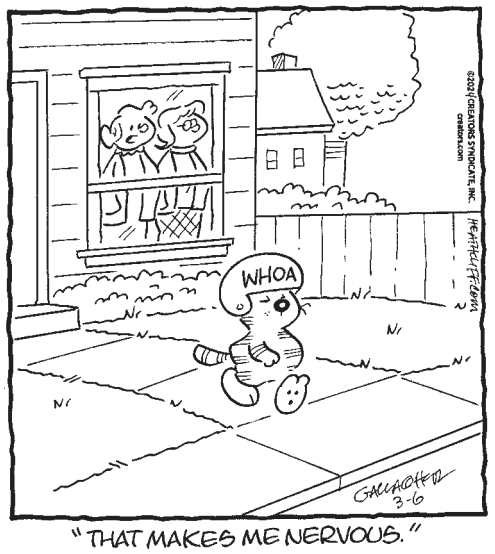
Zack Hill

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

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Countries and cities

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

Alaska	Doha	Lima	Prague
Andorra	Fiji	Madrid	Riga
Antarctica	Harare	Malta	Rome
Armenia	Honduras	Mexico	Russia
Bali	India	Minsk	Seoul
Belize	Iran	New York	Spain
Canada	Italy	Oamaru	Taiwan
Chad	Japan	Oman	Togo
Crete	Kenya	Onslow	Tonga
Cuba	Kiev	Peru	Vanuatu
Devon	Kyrgyzstan	Port Moresby	Vienna
Dili	Laos		Wales

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 6)

Success stories become the norm. This year is a tapestry of growth, woven with threads of resilience and positivity. More highlights: pure luck on four notable occasions, a health journey that transforms into a celebration of vitality and well-being, and the winds of change blowing you straight into a sweet professional situation. Libra and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 4, 44, 28 and 11.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your secret is only safe if you don't tell it. This is a good time to determine whether information ought to be secret or if it's better to air it. There are pros and cons to weigh here on the scale inside your heart.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Like everyone, you have need of peace, privacy, fun, sunshine, exercise, autonomy, friendship, adventure, intellectual stimulation, social time and so much more. Why you would ever feel guilty for meeting those needs is a mystery to get to the bottom of.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Paradoxically, people will think well of you precisely because you do not bend to the opinion of others. You live to your own code. If you are open to it, someone will confide in you. It's a sacred position.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Giving quality attention to others is easy for those strong in social skills such as empathy, curiosity and emotional awareness. Those who have such skills may take them for granted because they don't realize that not everyone is so gifted.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Like a kitten, sometimes your playfulness can come out in swipes. Knowing how far to go with the kidding is the essence of intimacy. It implies a special understanding of the other person's style and tolerances.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's your genuine and driving thirst for knowledge that makes you an excellent student in the classroom of life. You're not interested in memorizing what you need to know for life's various tests. Your quest is for true wisdom.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There's an ongoing battle between different facets of you, and if it were any other way, how boring life would be. And anyway, on days like today, it's not so much a battle as a comic tete-a-tete.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Some days, you're on top of the world. Other days, the world is on top of you. When the weight of it all is on your shoulders, just remember the world is also very round. Straighten and shake; it will roll off.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The obstacles may frustrate you, but don't be disheartened. Truly, these blocks will help you. You'll even be grateful you had to do the work to get around and over them. Thanks to the roadblocks, you'll get to a more fruitful path.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Infatuation is ripe with expectation. Love is more reality-based. Someone is dreaming of you. Of course, the "dream you" bears a resemblance to who you are in reality, but the operative question is, how close is the match?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Try and see relationships as whole and perfect, and suddenly, they are. Even the ones that don't work in a conventional way, that hobble along or jerk around with annoying stops and starts — what if they are all serving their purpose flawlessly?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll have a stream of ideas, but which ones are good enough to warrant action? Give it time. Don't act until you know. And don't worry, you'll know. The right idea seduces you, and you can't help but follow it to completion.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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		5			9	1		3
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8				4		6	2	

Newsday Crossword

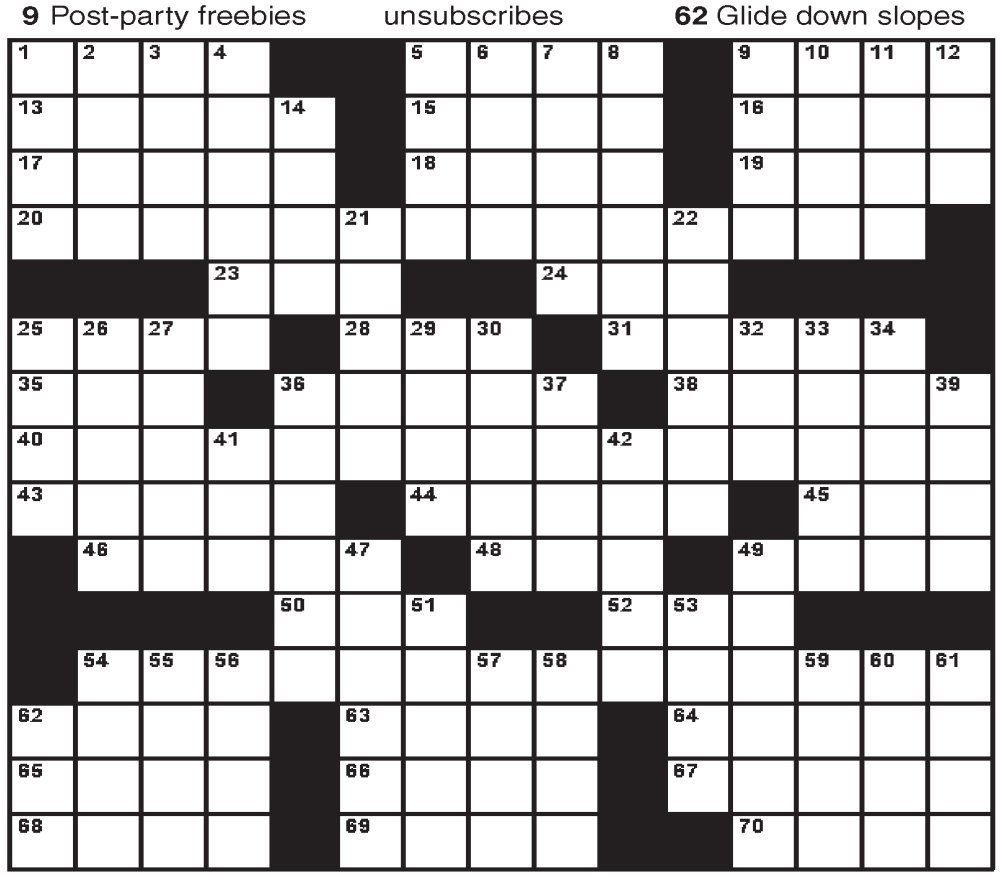
ROAD TRIP COSTS by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Historical periods
5 Shoestring
9 Playwright George Bernard ___
13 Bombards with snowballs
15 Egg-shaped
16 Worked on a loom
17 Being dragged
18 Halifax, ___ Scotia
19 Getting little rain
20 Performing very well
23 Swelled head
24 Feline zodiac sign
25 What fills a mitten
28 What fills a stocking
31 Sag
35 Surgeons' org.
36 AM/FM device
38 Money of India
40 Making an official complaint
43 Pungent burger topping
44 Walk inside
45 Potter pal Weasley
46 A dozen dozen
48 Baggage screening org.
49 Argentine home
50 Knack for music
52 USN noncom
54 Something to consider
62 Uttered
63 New Delhi's continent
64 Shopping adventure
65 Warm-hearted
66 Melon's exterior
67 Bequest recipients
68 Is vexing to
69 Tattooist's liquids
70 Dalmatian mark

DOWN

1 Cast-of-thousands film
2 City near Tahoe
3 Female singer
4 Built up, as a fire
5 Taking quite a while
6 Declare to be true
7 Be nitpicky
8 Jubilant
9 Post-party freebies
10 Israeli dance
11 Hertz competitor
12 Get married
14 Hearty gulp
21 Pitching great Ryan
22 Scary movie genre
25 Angelic ring
26 In the company of
27 Rock bottom
29 Border line
30 Goliath, for one
32 See 37 Down
33 Performance with arias
34 Mexican money
36 Removed suds from
37 With 32 Down, unsubscribes
39 Italian erupter
41 Sticky stuff
42 Get to
47 African wildlife tour
49 Two-door cars
51 Violin bow coating
53 Extra-fancy
54 Impartial
55 Pigsty cry
56 Racetrack stats
57 Skating venue
58 Tiny bits
59 Hold firmly
60 Silver Star recipient
61 Reason for cramming
62 Glide down slopes



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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

MARINERS

FROM PAGE 2

Crossroads win 3-0
Friday, March 1:
Mariners vs Grant
Grant win 2-0
Mariners vs Selma
Sylmar win 2-0
Saturday, March 2:
Mariners vs Birmingham
Birmingham win 2-0
Mariners vs Kennedy
Kennedy win 2-0
Mariners vs St. Bernard
Mariners win 1-0
Mariners vs Le Lycee
Mariners win 1-0
Mariners vs Poly
Poly win 1-0
Mariners Record: 3-8
Next Game: Thursday vs Math & Science College Preparatory, 5 p.m.

SAINT MONICA BOYS GOLF:
Monday, February 26:
Mariners at Don Bosco Tech
Mariners win 206-270
Wednesday, February 28:
Mariners vs La Salle
La Salle win 194-219
Next Matchup: Monday, March 11 at Bishop Amat, Time TBA

SAINT MONICA BOYS AND GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD:
Friday, March 1-Saturday, March 2:
Condor Invitational and Distance Carnival:
Mens 100 Meters Varsity Finals:
8- Elijah Wilson (Freshman), 12.25 seconds. 10- Evan Benet (Freshman), 12.59 seconds
Mens 100 Meters Freshman/Sophomore Finals:
11- Josh Granados (Sophomore), 14.47 seconds
Mens 400 Meters Varsity Finals:
31- Christopher Barnes (Freshman), 1:00.34. 33- Mason Collier (Junior), 1:00.71
Mens 400 Meters Freshman/Sophomore Finals:
11- Matthew Martinez (Freshman), 1:00.69
Mens 1,600 Meters Freshman/Sophomore Finals:
85- Nicco Osti (Sophomore), 5:37.49
Mens 110 Meter Hurdles Varsity Finals:
17- Anav Oommen (Senior), 20.86 seconds
Mens 4x100 Relay Varsity Finals:
9- Joshua Barnes (Senior), DeQuan Carter (Freshman), Anthony Mason (Freshman), Elijah Wilson (Freshman); 46.27 seconds. 18- Evan Benet (Freshman), Mason Collier (Junior), Christopher Barnes (Freshman), Bradley Cassier (Freshman); 48.55 seconds. 20- Dylan Valenzo (Sophomore), Luke Griffin (Junior), Martin Tate (Freshman), London Collins (Freshman); 49.29 seconds
Mens Shot Put Varsity Finals:
25- James Morva Jr. (Senior), 32-04.00. 49- Dino Hidalgo (Sophomore), 26-05.00
Mens Long Jump Varsity Finals:
32- Anthony Mason (Freshman), 15-10.00
Womens 800 Meters Freshman/Sophomore Finals:
54- Vivian Boubion (Sophomore), 3:13.41. 70- Ellie Perkins (Sophomore), 3:24.12. 74- Andrea Ayala (Sophomore), 3:32.84
Womens 1,600 Meters Freshman/Sophomore Finals:
67- Ellie Perkins (Sophomore), 7:13.20
Womens 100 Meter Hurdles Varsity Finals:
24- Macula Story (Junior), 27.26 seconds
Womens 4x100 Relay Varsity Finals:
15- Eva Farris (Sophomore), Chiara Falchi Mure (Junior), Serenity Furbert (Senior), Nina Meraz (Junior); 59.52 seconds
Next Meet: Wednesday, Camino Real League Meet, St. Paul High School, 3 p.m.

thomas@smdp.com



Photo by Thomas Leffler

MARINERS: Andrea Colabella (#5) played tough throughout her senior campaign, helping guide Saint Monica to its second consecutive CIF state tournament appearance.



WEDNESDAY | MARCH 6

PLANNING COMMISSION
Established in 1946, the Planning Commission envisions Santa Monica as a city of wellbeing, sustainability, and equity, and seeks to balance the many needs and priorities within our community in accordance with the City's General Plan and Specific Plans. The Commission acts through open and civil discourse that is informed by public input, impartial analysis, and best practices in land use and planning. 6 p.m. Council Chambers, 1685 Main Street. https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Planning-Commission/

COME SING WITH THE BAND - LIVE BAND KARAOKE!!
Doors open at 8 PM. Show starts at 9:30PM. Online ticket sales end at 7 PM, tics available at the door after 8 PM. 2 drink minimum. New Band!! New Experience!! Come in Sign up SING! Harvelle's Santa Monica, 1432 4th St, $5 https://santamonica.harvelles.com/shows/249292

THURSDAY | MARCH 7

TECH & TASKS
Volunteer tutors provide help with reading documents or written tasks, using mobile devices, navigating government websites, filling out forms, using email, writing resumes, and more. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 2 - 4 p.m.

COMMUNITY INFO TABLE: JOB HUNTING WITH CHRYSALIS
Chrysalis reps provide free job resources and assistance. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 2 - 4 p.m.

HOUSING COMMISSION
The Santa Monica Housing Commission is a city advisory body whose mission is to protect and improve the quality of life of all Santa Monicans by listening to input from city residents and staff, publicly deliberating, and providing recommendations to both the Santa Monica City Council and Santa Monica Housing Authority Board on issues related to housing in Santa Monica. The Santa Monica Housing Commission is committed to strengthening the social, economic, and cultural vitality and diversity of Santa Monica through habitable, fair, and equitable housing for all. City Hall, 1685 Main Street, 6 p.m. https://www.smgov.net/departments/clerk/boards.aspx?id=53687092551

T. REX RISES
How did T. rex become the iconic apex predator of North America 66 million years ago? Paleontologist Dr. Lindsay Zanno is uncovering the answer. Each year she spends several months on expedition, scouring the badlands of western North America in search of clues. Along the way, she has discovered many new species—including some of the earliest predecessors of T. rex. Join Lindsay for a fascinating look at how a global climate crisis during the Cretaceous changed the course of evolution for this prehistoric tyrant and its ancestors. One hour prior to showtime, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County will join on The Plaza with fossil casts on display, and will be joined briefly by special guest, Hunter the T. rex - don't miss his appearance! Broad Stage, 1310 11th Street, 7:30 p.m. $55, https://broadstage.org/tickets-shows/calendar/nat-geo-live-t-rex-rises

FRIDAY | MARCH 8

THE GREAT OBSERVATORIES
Lecturer Sarah Vincent. Hubble Space Telescope (HST) is one of four space-based telescopes dubbed "The Great Observatories." Tonight's show looks at these pioneering instruments that gave us the first broad-spectrum look at space. 8 - 9 p.m. Free on Zoom. https://www.smc.edu/community/planetarium/

LA DOLLZ
Harvelle's Santa Monica, 1432 4th St,
Doors open at 8 PM. Show starts at 9:30PM. Online ticket sales end at 7 PM, tics available at the door after 8 PM. 2 drink minimum. All female, multi-instrumentalist, high-energy power group. Covering your fave top 40's rock, pop, alternative & more! Rocky Rose: Lead vocals, keyboards, keytar Ariel Bellvalaire: Lead vocals, electric guitar Kya Karine: Backing vocals, electric bass Jazzy Guevara: Lead vocals, Drums. $10, https://santamonica.harvelles.com/shows/251864

SATURDAY | MARCH 9

SEED STARTING EXTRAVAGANZA
Santa Monica celebrates 30 Years of Sustainability by starting seeds in preparation of Earth Day 2024. They will be hosting a Seed Starting Party at the Main Street Community Garden with a goal to fill 150 6-packs with summer vegetable seeds on Saturday, March 9, from 9 - 11 a.m.
Anyone who is interested and willing can take home a 6-pack or a whole flat of them (6 6-packs) to nurture and grow at their own home.
Only catch is that they would like to have (most of) them returned to us next month to distribute into the community and/or plant at one of the Communal Gardens. Would you like to take part in the largest seedling starting party in Santa Monica History?
Main Street Community Garden, 2318 Main St., 9 - 11 a.m. https://www.santamonica.gov/events

COMPOST GIVEAWAY AT CITY YARDS
Join organizers for Resource Recovery and Recycling's quarterly compost giveaway on March 9 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at City Yards, 2500 Michigan Avenue. Please bring gloves and containers if you're picking up compost - a limited supply of bags are available. This is a self-service event so please be prepared to load your own compost. They're also giving away FREE food scrap pails. One per household while supplies last. This event is open to all Santa Monica residents with proof of residency.
Tips for a successful Compost Giveaway:
Please be prepared to load compost with your own gloves and containers. Limited staff are available to assist seniors and those with disabilities
City Yards, 2500 Michigan Ave.

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

Campus Events 2024

SPRING & SUMMER



Photo by Ed Gandara

Exciting events happening at SMC!

Santa Monica College has a lively lineup of events scheduled, so mark your calendar!

- **Dance Performances & Master Classes**
- **Intercollegiate Athletic Competitions**
- **Literary Talks & Readings**
- **Music Concerts**
- **Planetarium Shows**
- ***Santa Monica Review* Issue Launch Party**
- **Theatre Arts Performances**
- **And Much More!**

Visit **smc.edu/events** for more information.

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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