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Gas spike



Emily Sawicki

$6: California gas prices are far above the national average and local prices have topped $6 at some locations including the Mobil station at Santa Monica & Lincoln. For more information on the price surge, see pages 2 & 4.

Superintendent recommends schools lift mask mandate Monday

The final decision will come from the School Board, which will hold a special meeting on March 9.

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

Following state guidance and the desire of just about half of teachers, parents and students who responded to a School District survey last week, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) Superintendent Ben Drati will recommend schools stop requiring masks indoors beginning Monday, March 14.

The recommendation will go before the SMMUSD School Board during a special meeting on March 9, which will include a public hearing.

Local school officials are working on "off-ramping" COVID-19 protocols as Los Angeles County exits the omicron virus surge this month, in the words of State Senator and former School Board Member Ben Allen. Allen spoke during a health symposium organized by the District on Monday, March 7, days after the State of California lifted its school mask mandates, followed by a lifting of countywide regulations.

"From where I sit, I hear from everyone — everyone involved with the District — students, parents and staff. And it takes all three of those groups to have a successful learning experience," Drati said. "And if people are scared, nervous for their safety or have concerns, we can't have a smooth and rewarding education that they should have." Drati said the news of statewide mask mandates lifting was alarming for some people and cause for celebration for others, which is why

SEE **HEALTH** PAGE 7

New medspa Dripology seeks to prove that IV therapy is for far more than hangovers

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

When clients walk into Dripology's new Santa Monica clinic the collection of neon artwork, plush furniture and framed photography may make them feel like they have stumbled into an artist's loft and not an IV therapy center. According to Founder and CEO Hamed Afshari, that's exactly the point.

"In psychology, even in medicine, they say art is very healing," said Afshari. "People are afraid of needles, people are scared of blood and have all of these reservations to this type of stuff, so anything that can help you relax is something we focus on."

In addition to the soothing effects of the artistic treatment rooms, Dripology offers several other complimentary services to ease and enhance their client's treatment. There is music, a foot massager, a Normatec leg compressor and even a meditative virtual reality headset. It's all part of Afshari's intention to have people think of IV therapy less as a novelty tool for curing a hangover and more as a holistic wellness experience.



Clara Harter

OPEN: Hamed and Amin Afshari of Dripology want to create a holistic wellness experience.

The idea for the business first came to him when he was working as a nurse in the ICU of the MD Anderson Cancer Center and saw the transformative effect that IV

SEE **OPENING** PAGE 6

Convicted Santa Monica rapist enters sanity phase of trial

JAMIE PAIGE
Special to the Daily Press

A Los Angeles jury that found 42-year-old Dylan James Jensen guilty on seven counts that included rape, sodomy and sexual battery will now decide if he was insane when committing the acts.

Jensen was homeless when he broke into a 68-year-old woman's apartment at the border of Venice and Santa Monica and raped her at knifepoint on the early morning of June 4, 2018.

Jensen's' attorney will have to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Jenson meets the definition of

SEE **TRIAL** PAGE 4



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US strikes harder at Putin, banning all Russian oil imports

ZEKE MILLER, MIKE BALSAMO AND JOSH BOAK
Associated Press

Striking harder at Russia's economy, President Joe Biden on Tuesday ordered a ban on Russian oil imports in retaliation for Vladimir Putin's onslaught in Ukraine. The major trade action, responding to the pleas of Ukraine's embattled leader, thrust the U.S. out front as Western nations seek to halt Putin's invasion.

Americans will feel pain, too – at the gas pump – Biden acknowledged, declaring, "Defending freedom is going to cost."

The imports have been a glaring omission in the massive sanctions put in place on Russia over the invasion. Energy exports have kept a steady stream of cash flowing to Russia despite otherwise severe restrictions on its financial sector.

"We will not be part of subsidizing Putin's war," Biden said, calling the new action a "powerful blow" against Russia's ability to fund the ongoing offensive.

Biden said the U.S. was acting in close consultation with European allies, who are more dependent on Russian energy supplies and who he acknowledged may not be able to join in immediately. The announcement marked the latest Biden attempt at cutting off Russia from much of the global economy and ensuring that the Ukraine invasion is a strategic loss for Putin, even if he manages to seize territory.

"Ukraine will never be a victory for Putin," Biden said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in a tweet praised Biden's action: "Thankful for US and @POTUS personal leadership in striking in the heart of Putin's war machine and banning oil, gas and coal from US market. Encourage other countries and leaders to follow."

The European Union this week will commit to phasing out its reliance on Russia for energy needs as soon as possible, but filling the void without crippling EU economies will likely take some time. The U.K., which is no longer part of the EU, announced Tuesday that oil and oil products from Russia will be phased out by the end of the year.

Unlike the U.S., which is a major oil and gas producer, Europe relies on imports for 90% of its gas and 97% of its oil products. Russia supplies 40% of Europe's gas and a quarter of its oil. The U.S. does not import Russian natural gas.

The issue of oil sanctions has created a conflict for the president between political interests at home and efforts to impose costs on Russia. Though Russian oil makes up only a small part of U.S. imports, Biden has said he was reluctant to ban it, cutting into supplies here and pushing gasoline prices higher.

Inflation is at a 40-year peak, fueled in large part by gas prices, and that could hurt Biden heading into the November midterm elections.

"Putin's war is already hurting American families at the gas pump," Biden said, adding, "I'm going to do everything I can to minimize Putin's price hike here at home."

Gas prices have been rising for weeks due to the conflict and in anticipation of potential sanctions on the Russian energy sector. The average price for a gallon of gasoline in the U.S. hit a record $4.17 Tuesday, rising by 10 cents in one day, and up 55 cents since last week, according to auto club AAA.

Biden said it was understandable that prices were rising, but cautioned the U.S. energy industry against "excessive price increases" and exploiting consumers.

Even before the U.S. ban many Western energy companies including ExxonMobil and BP moved to cut ties with the Russia and limit imports. Shell, which purchased a shipment of Russian oil this weekend, apologized for the move on Tuesday amid international criticism and pledged to halt further purchases of Russian energy supplies. Preliminary data from the U.S. Energy Department shows imports of Russian crude dropped to zero in the last week in February.

In 2021, the U.S. imported roughly 245 million barrels of crude oil and petroleum products from Russia — a one-year increase of 24%, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

"It's an important step to show Russia that energy is on the table," said Max Bergmann, a former State Department official who is now a senior fellow at the Democratic-leaning Center for American Progress.

Bergmann said it wasn't surprising that the U.S. was able to take this step before European nations, which are more dependent on Russian energy.

"All of this is being done in coordination, even if the steps are not symmetrical," he said. "We are talking to them constantly."

The White House said the ban on new purchases was effective immediately but the administration was allowing a 45-day "wind down" for continued delivery under existing contracts.

The news of Biden's decision Tuesday was first reported by Bloomberg.

The White House announcement comes amid bipartisan pressure on Capitol Hill to ban Russian energy and impose other economic costs.

Last week, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi gave a big boost when she declared, "Ban it."

On Monday, Democrats on the powerful Ways & Means Committee posted, then removed, an announcement on a bipartisan bill to ban Russian oil imports and slap further trade sanctions on the country, according to an aide, because of pushback from the White House to acting before Biden had made his decision.

"President Biden is finally doing what members of Congress have been pushing for all along," Sen John Barrasso, R-Wyo., and a member of party leadership, said Tuesday. "His decision to ban Russian oil is a much-needed step to kill Putin's cash cow."

Said Jason Furman, a Harvard professor and former economic adviser to President Barack Obama: "The United States economy can fully handle any of the challenges associated with higher oil prices. But it will bring some challenges. We're going to have higher prices at the pump, and there's no way around that."

SEE **BAN** PAGE 11

EXPLAINER: What does a US ban on Russian oil accomplish?

CATHY BUSSEWITZ AND MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

With Russia intensifying its war on Ukraine, killing civilians and triggering a mass refugee crisis, President Joe Biden on Tuesday announced a U.S. ban on imported Russian oil. Critics of Russia have said that sanctioning its energy exports would be the best — perhaps only — way to force Moscow to pull back.

A full embargo would be most effective if it included European allies, which are also desperate to stop the violence in Ukraine and the danger Moscow poses to the continent. Yet it's far from clear that all of Europe would take part in an embargo, though Britain announced Tuesday that it would phase out Russian oil imports by year's end.

Unlike the United States, Europe is deeply reliant on energy it imports from Russia, the world's second-largest crude oil exporter behind Saudi Arabia. While the U.S. could replace the relatively small amount of fuel it receives from Moscow, Europe could not, at least not anytime soon.

What's more, any curbs on Russian oil exports could send already skyrocketing oil and gasoline prices ever higher on both continents and further squeeze consumers, businesses, financial markets and the global economy.

Here is a deeper look:

WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH A U.S. BAN ON RUSSIAN OIL?

With gasoline prices in the U.S. surging ever higher, the Biden administration has faced growing pressure to impose further sanctions on Russia, including a ban on oil imports.

For now, a broad U.S.-European ban appears elusive. On Monday, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz made clear that his country, Europe's largest consumer of Russian energy, has no plans to join in any ban. In response, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman hinted that the U.S. could act alone or with a smaller group of allies.

"Not every country has done exactly the same thing," Sherman said, "but we have all reached a threshold that is necessary to impose the severe costs that we have all agreed to."

DOES THE U.S. BAN ON RUSSIAN OIL HURT MOSCOW?

The impact on Russia would likely be minimal. The United States imports a small share of Russia's oil exports and doesn't buy any of its natural gas.

Last year, roughly 8% of U.S. imports of oil and petroleum products came from Russia. Together, the imports totaled the equivalent of 245 million barrels in 2021, which was roughly 672,000 barrels of oil and petroleum products a day. But imports of Russian oil have been declining rapidly as buyers shunned the fuel.

Because the amount of oil the U.S. imports from Russia is modest, Russia could potentially sell that oil elsewhere, perhaps in China or India. Still, it would probably have to sell it at a steep discount, because fewer and fewer buyers are accepting Russian oil.

If Russia were eventually shut off from the global market, rogue countries such as Iran and Venezuela might be "welcomed back" as sources of oil, said Claudio Galimberti, an analyst at Rystad Energy. Such additional sources could, in turn, potentially stabilize prices.

A team of Biden administration officials were in Venezuela over the weekend to discuss energy and other issues, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said. She said officials discussed a range of issues, including energy security.

"By eliminating some of the demand, we're forcing the price of Russian oil down, and that does reduce revenue to Russia," said Kevin Book, managing director at Clearview Energy Partners. "In theory, it is a way of reducing how much Russia earns on every barrel it sells, maybe not by a lot, but by some. The most important question is whether there's going to be more pressure on the other side of the Atlantic."

HOW COULD A RUSSIAN OIL BAN AFFECT PRICES?

News of the U.S. oil ban sent gasoline prices surging, with a gallon of regular selling for an average of $4.17 Tuesday.

A month ago, oil was selling for about $90 a barrel. Now, prices are surging close to $130 a barrel as buyers shun Russian crude. Refiners had already feared being left with oil they couldn't resell if sanctions were imposed.

Shell said Tuesday that it would stop buying Russian oil and natural gas and shut down its service stations, aviation fuels and other operations there, days after Ukraine's foreign minister criticized the energy giant for continuing to buy Russian oil.

Energy analysts warn that prices could go as high to $160 or even $200 a barrel if buyers continue shunning Russian crude. That trend could send U.S. gasoline prices past $5 a gallon, a scenario Biden and other political figures are desperate to avoid.

"A U.S. embargo on Russian oil is very politically attractive right now," said Morgan Bazilian, director of the Payne Institute at the Colorado School of Mines. Still, the same politicians now supporting the ban "will come back and hammer Biden if U.S. gasoline prices rise further as a result," he said.

ARE RUSSIAN IMPORTS ALREADY FALLING?

The U.S. oil industry has said it shares the goal of reducing reliance on foreign energy sources and is committed to working with the Biden administration and Congress. Even without sanctions, some U.S. refiners have severed contracts with Russian companies. Imports of Russian crude oil and products have tumbled.

"Our industry has taken significant and meaningful steps to unwind relationships" with Russia and voluntarily limit Russian imports, said Frank Macchiarola, senior vice president of the American Petroleum Institute, the oil and gas industry's largest lobbying group.

Preliminary data from the U.S. Energy Department shows that imports of Russian crude dropped to zero in the last week in

SEE **OIL** PAGE 11

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 276 CALLS ON MARCH 7

72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 800Blk 3rd St 12:03 a.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon 1500Blk 4th St 1:16 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 00Blk Pico Blvd 2:31 a.m.
Encampment 1100Blk Lincoln Blvd 5:47 a.m.
Traffic Hazard 1000Blk 7th St 6:25 a.m.
Found Property 300Blk Olympic Dr 6:34 a.m.
Encampment 300Blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:00 a.m.
Petty Theft 1600Blk Sunset Ave 7:40 a.m.
Expired Registration 100Blk Washington Ave 7:46 a.m.
Fraud 1700Blk Ocean Ave 7:55 a.m.
Burglary 200Blk San Vicente Blvd 7:57 a.m.
Encampment 1600Blk Ocean Ave 8:11 a.m.
Fraud 1300Blk Ocean Ave 8:22 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 1100Blk Stanford St 8:26 a.m.
Auto Burglary 1500Blk Franklin St 8:31 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1400Blk 4th St 8:33 a.m.
Encampment 1300Blk Palisades Beach rd 8:46 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1100Blk Broadway 8:50 a.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 1200Blk Lincoln Blvd 8:51 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 300Blk Olympic Dr 8:58 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1200Blk Princeton St 9:03 a.m.
Expired Registration 1200Blk 15th St 9:41 a.m.
Found Property 1400Blk 4th St 9:43 a.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 2100Blk 7th St 9:54 a.m.
Loud Music 2000Blk Ocean Ave 10:00 a.m.
Fraud 2500Blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:01 a.m.
Encampment 300Blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:17 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 700Blk Raymond Ave 10:17 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1100Blk 3rd St 10:23 a.m.
Vandalism Euclid St / Ocean Park Blvd 10:24 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1300Blk The Beach 10:52 a.m.
Burglary 1100Blk Marine St 10:56 a.m.
Vandalism 300Blk Ashland Ave 11:02 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 200Blk Bay St 11:17 a.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 2900Blk Main St 11:23 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2400Blk 30th St 11:40 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1100Blk 16th St 11:43 a.m.
Battery 1300Blk Santa Monica Blvd 11:49 a.m.
Expired Registration 600Blk 9th St 12:13 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1200Blk 2nd St 12:22 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1500Blk Ocean Ave 12:43 p.m.
Valet Zone Violation 1500Blk Ocean Ave 12:46 p.m.
Traffic Hazard 20th St / Santa Monica Blvd 1:08 p.m.
Battery 1100Blk Lincoln Blvd 1:22 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1900Blk Pico Blvd 1:26 p.m.
Animal Related Incident Beverley Ave / Ocean Park Blvd 1:33 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1100Blk Yale St 1:34 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1200Blk 23rd St 1:47 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1500Blk Harvard St 1:49 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1400Blk 10th St 1:53 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 400Blk Ashland Ave 1:57 p.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 400Blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:00 p.m.
General Parking Problem 900Blk Ocean Ave 2:02 p.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 400Blk San Vicente Blvd 2:03 p.m.
Expired Registration 1300Blk 9th St 2:11 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 200Blk Santa Monica Pier 2:12 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1400Blk Broadway 2:19 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 2500Blk Michigan Ave 2:27 p.m.
Missing Person 300Blk Olympic Dr 2:31 p.m.
Found Property 300Blk Olympic Dr 2:52 p.m.
Petty Theft 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 3:10 p.m.
Petty Theft 1500Blk California Ave 3:11 p.m.
Traffic Hazard Lincoln Blvd / Colorado Ave 3:22 p.m.
Identity Theft 1700Blk Cloverfield Blvd 3:26 p.m.
Expired Registration 2400Blk Michigan Ave 3:46 p.m.
Assault 2700Blk Santa Monica Blvd 3:48 p.m.
Indecent Exposure 1300Blk 16th St 3:56 p.m.
Overdose 1500Blk 4th St 4:11 p.m.
Burglary 900Blk Ocean Ave 4:42 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 800Blk 3rd St 5:03 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1200Blk 18th St 5:05 p.m.
Expired Registration 1500Blk 10th St 5:21 p.m.
Panic Alarm 2200Blk La Mesa Dr 5:23 p.m.
Indecent Exposure 2700Blk 3rd St 5:41 p.m.
Indecent Exposure 2900Blk Exposition Blvd 5:45 p.m.
General Parking Problem 1700Blk Ocean Ave 5:49 p.m.
Auto Burglary 100Blk Hill St 5:52 p.m.
Theft Suspect In Custody 200Blk Broadway 6:11 p.m.
Traffic Hazard Main St / Marine St 6:24 p.m.
Found Property 1200Blk Palisades Park 6:43 p.m.
Domestic Violence 1900Blk 20th St 6:55 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 2300Blk Main St 7:06 p.m.
Burglary Now 1400Blk 7th St 7:10 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 2nd St / California Ave 8:03 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 10th St / Broadway 8:11 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 10th St / Broadway 8:12 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Princeton St / Wilshire Blvd 8:20 p.m.
Person With A Gun 2000Blk Ocean Ave 8:30 p.m.
Hit And Run Felony Investigation 6th St / Santa Monica Blvd 8:33 p.m.
Violation Of Posted Sign 2100Blk Lincoln Blvd 9:14 p.m.
Burglary 11th St / Arizona Ave 9:36 p.m.
Burglary 1200Blk 3rd Street Prom 9:44 p.m.
Battery 600Blk 11th St 10:30 p.m.
Loud Music 2000Blk Ocean Ave 10:51 p.m.
Loud Music 2000Blk Ocean Ave 11:02 p.m.
Loud Music 2600Blk 6th St 11:11 p.m.
Health & Safety Code Violation 17th St / Santa Monica Blvd 11:18 p.m.
Construction Noise 700Blk Montana Ave 11:59 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 44 CALLS ON MARCH 7

EMS 3rd Street Prom / Arizona Ave 12:06 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1200Blk 5th St 12:28 a.m.
EMS 1500Blk 4th St 1:16 a.m.
EMS Ocean Ave / Santa Monica Blvd 1:34 a.m.
Haz Mat - Level 1 1500Blk 4th St 3:49 a.m.
EMS 2300Blk 30th St 4:19 a.m.
Carbon Monoxide Alarm 900Blk 19th St 4:23 a.m.
EMS 1200Blk 6th St 5:30 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 200Blk Arizona Ave 6:36 a.m.
EMS 2100Blk Oak St 6:47 a.m.
EMS 2100Blk Oak St 6:51 a.m.
EMS 1200Blk 12th St 8:13 a.m.
EMS 1100Blk 4th St 8:44 a.m.
EMS 1500Blk Euclid St 9:02 a.m.
EMS 2000Blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:20 a.m.
EMS 1600Blk 5th St 9:41 a.m.
Wires Down 900Blk 5th St 10:53 a.m.
EMS 3100Blk Lincoln Blvd 11:14 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 17th St 11:35 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 12:23 p.m.
EMS 1900Blk Pico Blvd 12:39 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk Ozone Ave 2:14 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk Arizona Ave 2:25 p.m.
EMS 1500Blk Harvard St 2:27 p.m.
EMS 1200Blk Montana Ave 2:54 p.m.
EMS 1000Blk 18th St 4:06 p.m.
EMS 1500Blk 4th St 4:12 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 600Blk Euclid St 4:29 p.m.
EMS 300Blk Marguerita Ave 5:00 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk Arizona Ave 5:43 p.m.
EMS 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 5:53 p.m.
EMS 2500Blk 20th St 5:57 p.m.
EMS 2500Blk Main St 6:04 p.m.
EMS 1200Blk Montana Ave 6:22 p.m.
EMS 2600Blk Main St 6:46 p.m.
EMS 900Blk 2nd St 7:00 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 800Blk Colorado Ave 7:25 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1200Blk 15th St 7:27 p.m.
Smoke Investigation 1700Blk Main St 7:51 p.m.
EMS 1100Blk 7th St 8:14 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 1400Blk 2nd St 8:29 p.m.
EMS 900Blk 2nd St 8:48 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk Olympic Blvd 9:16 p.m.
EMS 800Blk 6th St 10:58 p.m.

CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ON FEB. 25 AT 5:30 P.M.

Officers were dispatched to the AM/PM located at 332 Pico Blvd. Based on the information relayed from dispatchers to the officers, an individual, later identified as DeAndre Turner entered the location and stole a beanie from a rack in the store. Upon exiting, he began screaming unintelligible words at other patrons in the parking lot. When asked by staff to leave the property, Turner reportedly became aggressive but ultimately compiled. Moments later, Turner returned with a large knife in hand, but was deterred by staff wielding pepper spray. Turner was located nearby, arrested and transported to the Santa Monica Jail. He remains in police custody pending a March 14 court appearance.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be opened and posted for:

BID #4421 TOWING SERVICES FOR BUS AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS

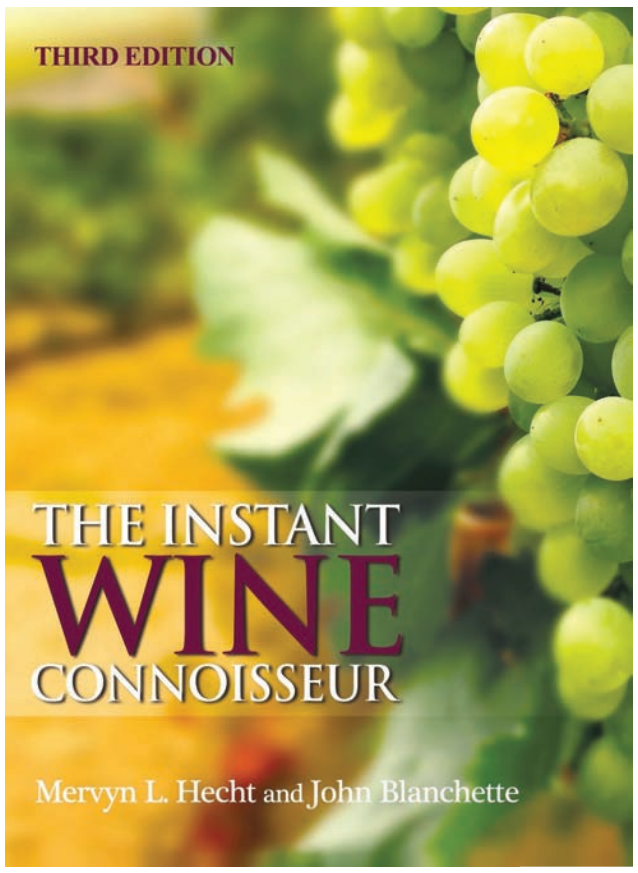
Submission Deadline is March 24, 2022 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the City's Online Vendor Portal. The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: ProcureNow (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

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★★★★★ A light-hearted fun read.
★★★★★ Well written, particularly useful, instantly accessible.
★★★★★ ...Hecht has a joyful eye and fabulous taste



Daily Press Food &Wine Columnist Merv Hecht takes you on an delightful tour of the world of wine. A fun way to increase your appreciation and knowledge of wine.

available at amazon

Q&A: Forecasters say gasoline prices likely to remain high

DAVID KOENIG
AP Business Writer

Gasoline prices have smashed a 2008 record and are likely to head even higher, further fueling inflation and hitting consumers and businesses that are still coming to grips with the pandemic.

The national average topped $4.17 a gallon on Tuesday, according to auto club AAA, and several states on each coast could soon join California in the $5-and-up club.

Prices at the pump have been rising for more than a year, and analysts expect further increases after President Joe Biden announced that the United States will ban imports of Russian oil to punish Russia more severely for invading Ukraine.

As painful as this week's prices are, they are still not the highest that Americans have paid when you consider inflation. In today's dollars, that 2008 record of $4.10 a gallon would be equal to about $5.24.

A look at how we got here, and what it means for American households:

WHEN DID PRICES START RISING?

After averaging $2.69 a gallon in 2019, U.S. gasoline prices collapsed as COVID-19 forced offices and businesses to close in early 2020. By late April 2020, a gallon sold for under $1.90. Prices have mostly risen since then, as demand for energy rebounded, global production failed to keep pace, and inventories shrank.

WHY ARE PRICES SO HIGH?

It boils down to supply and demand. The world consumes nearly 100 million barrels of oil a day on average. Producers cut spending on exploration and production during the pandemic, and they have been slow to ramp back up. Some producers say they face labor and parts shortages.

The benchmark price for U.S. oil was around $125 a barrel in afternoon trading Tuesday, while the international standard, Brent crude, was above $130. Of course, consumers didn't mind when crude was below $20 at the start of the pandemic.

"Oil companies don't set the market prices; people do, by filling up their tanks," says Patrick De Haan, petroleum analyst for GasBuddy, which tracks gasoline prices around the U.S.

HOW MUCH IS DUE TO RUSSIA'S WAR?

Analysts say that nearly the entire rise of the last week — about 55 cents a gallon nationwide, on average — can be linked to anticipation that eventually western countries would ban Russian crude, further shrinking their already tight supplies.

"The U.S. doesn't need Russian oil per se, but the world and particularly Europe are dependent on it," says Tom Kloza, an analyst for the Oil Price Information Service.

According to government figures, the U.S. imported 245 million barrels of oil from Russia last year, or 8% of all U.S. oil imports. That is less than the United States imported from Canada or Mexico but more than it took from Saudi Arabia.

WHEN WILL PRICES EASE?

Normally fuel prices rise in spring and summer, as Americans drive and fly more. Demand could also get a boost as countries continue to shed their COVID-19 restrictions. Those trends suggest that pump prices are heading higher, with demand continuing to outstrip supply.

"It's not going to be a good summer for motorists," De Haan says.

TRIAL

FROM PAGE 1

insane when committing the crimes to prove an insanity defense.

In California law, the legal defense of insanity means that you cannot be found guilty of a crime if you were legally insane when you committed it.

Under California's insanity defense, you are considered legally insane if you either did not understand the nature of your criminal act, or did not understand that what you were doing was morally wrong. Drug-related mental conditions cannot be used in an insanity defense.

During the first phase of the trial, jurors heard testimony from a Los Angeles County psychiatrist who had treated Jensen for his prolonged addiction to methamphetamines and depression.

On Monday, the prosecuting attorneys highlighted that although new expert witnesses will be called during the sanity phase of the trial, there was video evidence to show Jenson was interacting normally after the rape–including "trying to cover up what he had just done."

If the verdict or finding is that Jenson was sane when the rape happened, the court can then sentence Jensen as provided by law.

If the verdict or finding is that the defendant was insane at the time of the rape, the court will direct that the defendant be committed to the State Department of State Hospitals, or the court can order the defendant placed on outpatient status.

Published in partnership with the Westside Current.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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AWARD WINNER
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Curious City

Charles Andrews
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Let's Call B.S.

YOU DIDN'T GIVE IT MUCH THOUGHT

(In this metaphor) – when several neighbors heard a loud knock on their door, late at night, and were taken away and arrested. For littering.

Yes, the notion that littering was the linchpin problem facing this fast-deteriorating planet, had gained a lot of traction. (A lot of people are not good at thinking things through for themselves, especially things that come from a source they want to believe.) Very quickly, many were repeating it, few were questioning it, and those who did were mocked, shamed for not wanting to save the planet. Many politicians pushed the idea, in stentorian tones.

You never littered, so… someone else's concern.

But then, in a rare unconscious moment, you flipped a gum wrapper out your car window, and someone reported you.

Days after your arrest, the state legislature decided, California being always a leader, especially in environmental matters, that the only way to stamp out that dangerous littering scourge was to exact the most severe penalty. The death penalty.

So now, here you are, standing on a scaffold, and as they put a hood over your head and a rope around your neck, you wonder – what are my options?

Yes, it is a little late for that.

IS THAT WHERE WE STAND NOW?

As residents of the city of Santa Monica, with monstrously tall and wide (and ugly) buildings being approved, spawning fortune-making progeny for a few but draining the wealth and soul out for the many.

Am I going overboard? Some would laugh, yes, but many here would shed a tear at the harsh reality. Things have changed rapidly and many are in mild shock over the huge project going in at Lincoln and Ocean Park, following the Vons and the inching-skyward Great Wall of Lincoln.

Why is this happening, so quickly, now? Money, great big huge piles of money, and don't let anyone tell you differently. How? Thank Sacramento, for radical recent legislation like SB 9 and 10 that removes so much local control from every city over their own zoning, all in the name of that made-up housing shortage. But the string of developer-friendly bills has been trickling from the north for years. It's just gotten bolder lately, using homelessness and a made-up housing crisis as the social causes that no caring person could dispute.

Of course, my opening metaphor was exaggerated, even kind of silly sounding. But reality is catching up. Developers already had a pretty free rein from some local politicians who helped them PAC in the density, but now it has been codified. Our options are being removed, by law. The new laws are particularly onerous, but we've seen this trickle south from Sacramento for years.

DON'T SWALLOW THAT LINE

Is it hopeless now? It's never hopeless! If the Ukrainians can risk their lives to fight the Russian army, I think we can fight for Santa Monica.

But we spend too much time fighting the wrong battles. It's not an accident. It's an old, old tactic, used by everyone from Vlad Putin to local "advocates" for the homeless. Frame the dispute in sympathetic, humanitarian, liberal progressive terms, that makes anyone who opposes you look like the bad guy.

Sometimes, the folks "on the other side" really do believe the nonsense they're spouting, but don't be ashamed, don't be distracted. Call them on it, and reframe the debate.

I will never forget the angry, moving speech delivered through tears by Emma Gonzales, one of the Parkland students who survived, shortly after that horrific day of carnage. She called out a string of platitudes and excuses as to why nothing could be done about the endless string of mass shootings we suffer in this country, and each time the crowd roared with her: "We call BS!"

It's true, I believe. You will never win the argument and make change if you are going round and round about some distraction. Putin is doing it now, with baloney about Nazis and "genocide in the Eastern provinces" (but not a shred of evidence). The GOP are masters at it, and are blaming this war on Biden because he stopped the Keystone Pipeline and is buying that hoax about climate change. Gov. Newsom is jerking our chains about a housing crisis. Don't get caught up in thinking they really believe it and it is just a difference of opinion. If they do believe it, they bought someone else's BS, or are being used as a pawn for their good intentions. No matter what, just don't accept the BS. Call it out.

SOME LOCAL EXAMPLES

"We must build many, many more housing units, to get the price down to affordable. Supply and demand." I CALL BS! Supply and demand is irrelevant in places like Santa Monica that are so desirable to so many. More new market rate units, to get that handful of "affordable" units as incentive, just raises the price on everything, including existing stock. Ask any local real estate agent. If anyone even mentions S&D in that debate, I can't help but laugh.

"We need to execute our entire master plan for new buildings at Samohi, for the best learning opportunities for our students for the future." I CALL BS! Bond measures now totaling well over a billion dollars in the last few years, can ONLY be used for buildings. Maybe we need to pay more attention to great teachers inside those buildings. And maybe we didn't need to demolish the historic History Building (WPA), the original Samohi on the hill, since the final accounting revealed they had one new building too many in that plan. Why? Declining enrollment was not disclosed until a parent discovered it. Every preservation expert and two thorough professional studies recommended preserving that building. It would have made a great library. Transparency and listening to constituents seems always the right way to go.

SEE **CURIOUS CITY** PAGE 11

City of Santa Monica

**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL
VIA TELECONFERENCE
Pursuant to AB361**

SUBJECT: **Proposed Extension of Interim Zoning Regulations Extending Timelines for Expiration of Planning Permits Due to Unavoidable Delays Caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic and to Further Economic Recovery Efforts**

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to introduce and adopt an Emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance extending interim zoning regulations established by Emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance Number 2688 (CCS) until December 31, 2022.

The interim zoning regulations amend Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 9.37.070 to codify the extension of timeframes for permits issued pursuant to the City's Zoning Ordinance that were previously established by emergency order due to unavoidable delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The interim zoning regulations also extend eligibility for such timeframe extensions through December 31, 2022 and allow for flexibility in requesting certain additional extensions to permit timeframes to further the City's economic recovery efforts. Specifically, the interim zoning regulations extend by two years deadlines to exercise and continuously pursue the rights granted under planning entitlements, permits, and approvals issued and still active between March 13, 2020 and December 31, 2022 and for applications received between March 13, 2020 and December 31, 2022. Such projects may also request a first time extension or other extension pursuant to SMMC Section 9.37.090(C)(1) and 9.37.090(C)(2) at any time at least 30 days prior to the expiration of the permit.

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2022, AT 6:30 P.M.**

LOCATION: In an effort to reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19), only members of the City Council and City Staff will participate in person at City Hall. Members of the public may participate via telephone. The meeting will be broadcast on CityTV Channel 16 and streamed on the City's website as normal at https://www.youtube.com/user/Citytv16santamonica or https://www.smgov.net/video. Members of the public may also dial in to listen to the meeting per the phone number that will be published on the meeting agenda.

HOW TO COMMENT

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Written public comment can be submitted via email to councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov. Written public comment submitted before 2:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be available for online viewing. Please note the agenda item number in the subject line of your written comments.

If you want to speak on a particular agenda item, please call (310) 312-8173 once the caller queue for the agenda item opens. Please note that the caller queue for each agenda item will not open until just before the item is called and will close after the first five public comments (from other callers) are heard.

Please see the March 22, 2022 City Council Agenda for more detailed instructions.

Address your comments to: City Clerk
Re: Permit Extensions IZO

MORE INFORMATION

If you want more information about this project, please contact Jing Yeo at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at jing.yeo@santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL

Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

SEND YOUR TIPS TO THE EDITOR

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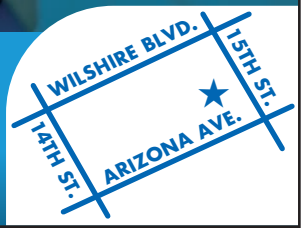
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OPENING

FROM PAGE 1

vitamins had on patients' immunity, energy, hydration and recovery. He realized that many health-minded individuals and people in high intensity careers would be interested in reaping some of these benefits. In January of 2019 he launched Dripology as a concierge service and its nurses began delivering drips in people's homes all across Los Angeles and later in New York City.

The Santa Monica clinic opened at 1411 7th St. Ste 120 in February, and is Dripology's first in-person drip spa.

"We took a lot of time trying to figure out where we wanted to put our first brick and mortar and Santa Monica came up as far as the healthy lifestyle; people call it the yoga capital of the world, there seems to be a gym on every corner, so that healthy wellness side was there," said Afshari.

While Dripology does offer a popular "hangover cure" style detox drip, the majority of their customer demand is for health focused drips. Currently their top service is the immunity drip that is both preventative against illness and therapeutic for people experiencing cold or flu like symptoms. It includes Vitamin C to fight infections, a B-complex to aid energy production and create new healthy cells, Zinc to reduce recovery-time, Lysine to detoxify and Taurine to optimize muscle functionality.

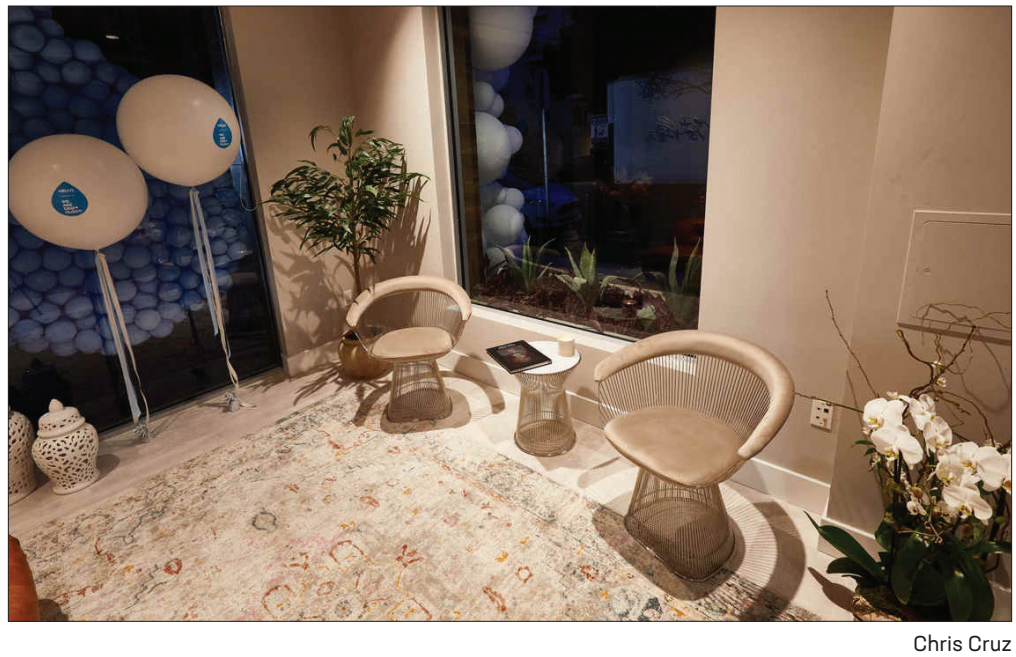
Another client favorite is the beauty drip, which uses a blend of Magnesium Chloride, B-complex, Glutathione, Lysine and IV fluid to reduce wrinkles and blemishes; rehydrate, brighten and tighten skin; and prevent or treat cold sores.

In addition to their health-focused branding, Dripology wants to be distinguished from other IV therapy providers by their high standard of medical care. Their protocols were designed with recommendations by The American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine and every treatment is performed by a licensed Registered Nurse.

"Whenever you think of getting an IV, we want you to think of Dripology and of responsible knowledgeable professionals and quality treatments, because all those things can be missing from other IV places" said President and COO Amin Afshari. "Even though we have an aesthetic vibe, we stick to the medical and safe side of everything."

Clara@smdp.com





Chris Cruz

DRIPOLOGY: The services are provided by a registered nurse.

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HEALTH

FROM PAGE 1

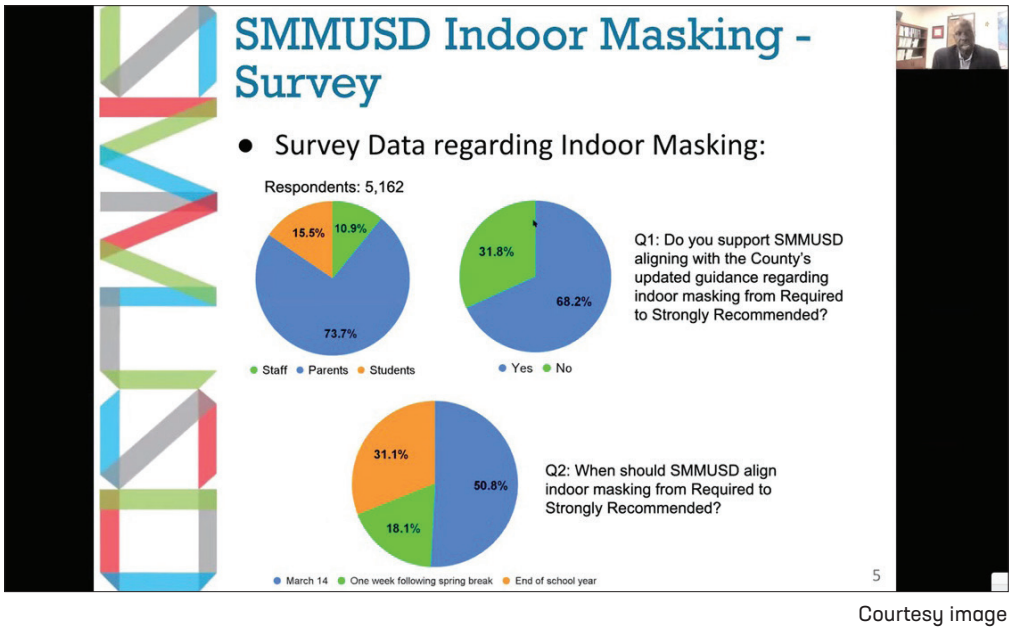
he decided to host the seminar to get everyone on the same page.

Of roughly 5,200 community members surveyed by the District in the short window between the state's announcement and Monday's seminar, the majority — 68.2 percent — indicated they would "support SMMUSD aligning with the County's updated guidance regarding indoor masking from Required to Strongly Recommended." However, a much narrower majority — 50.8 percent — said they wanted mask mandates lifted on March 14, which is as early as LA County recommendations allowed. Roughly a quarter of those who responded — 31.1 percent — said the District should lift mandatory masking at the end of the 2021-22 school year. The remaining 18.1 percent of respondents split the difference, saying the SMMUSD should require masks until one week following spring break: April 25.

As of Tuesday, SMMUSD staff were not able to provide data that showed how responses varied between parents, teachers and students surveyed. Nearly three-quarters of respondents were parents, while 15.5 percent were students and about 11 percent were staff.

Allen, who moderated the seminar, asked if independent study was an option for parents and students who did not feel comfortable attending class with no mask mandate in place.

Drati said it was, but said the District would be "in trouble" if all 31.1 percent of survey respondents who said they wanted masks in place through the end of the school year moved to independent study.



Courtesy image

MASK: SMMUSD is debating when to lift mask mandates for local students.

"'I'm trying my best to try to tell people that we got this, that things are going to be safe, and if there's that much of a concern, then they can still continue to wear a mask, but the ability to go to independent study is still there," Drati said, later adding, "If we get a whole host of students, for example, let's say that 31 percent — the ones that said they wanted masking to go through the end of the year — if 31 percent of them say, 'I want to go to independent study,' then yes, we're in trouble. That's an issue we've got to deal with."

Also present in the seminar were health experts including Dr. Nava Yeganeh, a pediatric infectious disease physician currently serving as the medical director for Vaccine Preventable Disease Control at LACDPH and associate professor of Preventative Medicine at UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine.

Yeganeh said the lifting of mask mandates in LA County is not necessarily a permanent move.

"At the County, we are really tracking things that we think are early indicators of another surge," Yeganeh said. "We do think that there will be future surges of COVID-19. So, unfortunately, we can't say with great certainty that masks, you know, are a thing of the past. We do think that there will be some times when we'll have high concern for a surge and, at that point, we might recommend masks more strongly."

Later in the seminar, Allen asked about the potential for bullying of mask wearers or pressure to remove masks that kids may feel in the classroom.

Drati said he and other administrators would continue to wear masks around school campuses to help encourage indoor mask wearing.

Yeganeh also responded to the question, saying it was important to note masks are always an option: "I would like to focus on the message that no mask mandate does not mean no mask."

Drati said the District would continue its robust weekly testing protocols, which he hoped would bring comfort to students, parents and teachers who were uncomfortable with the move.

"I think, as you can see, what I'm recommending is going to make a whole host of families insecure about the situation," Drati acknowledged. "I think the testing will help people feel secure about knowing what's happening on our sites, that we are actually watchful."

The mask mandate will be discussed at the Wednesday, March 9, special school board meeting, which can be streamed on Zoom at 870 2887 3647 ; passcode: 404138 ; call-in number: 669.900.6833, or watched live on Channel 3.

emily@smdp.com



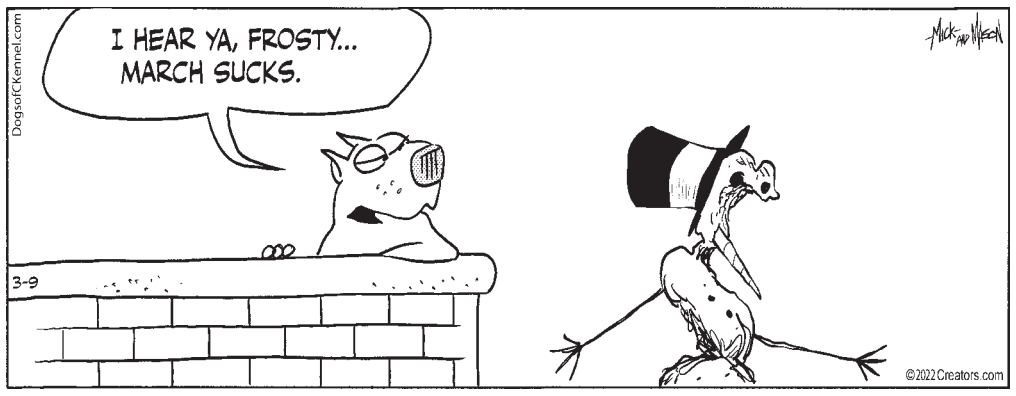
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



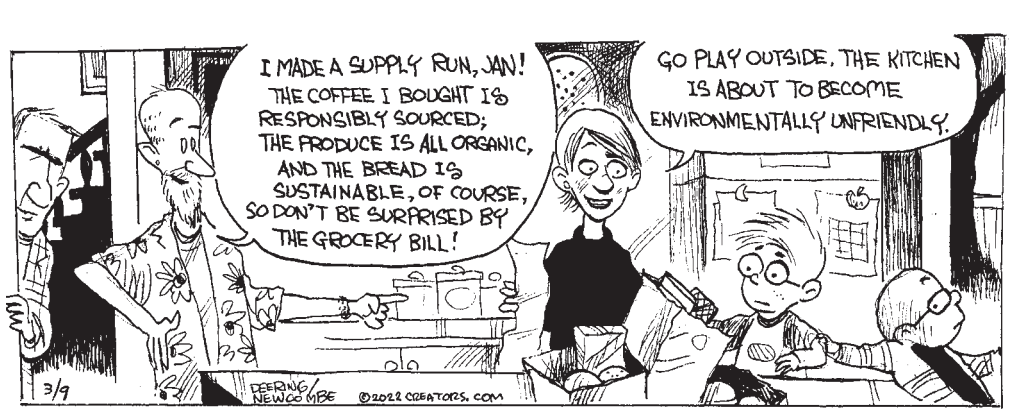
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



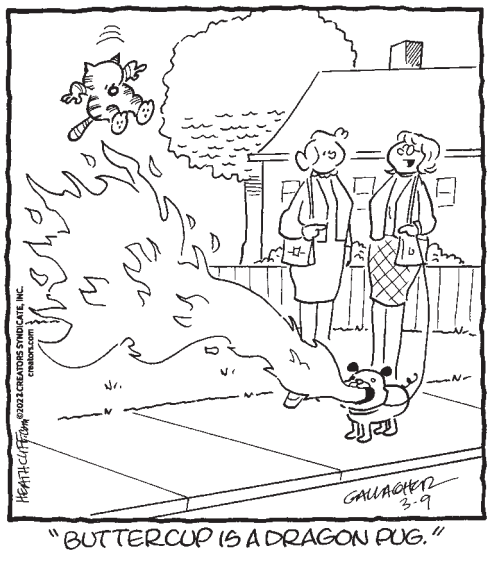
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"BUTTERCUP IS A DRAGON PUG."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 58.1°

WEDNESDAY - **POOR** - SURF: 1-2ft Knee to thigh
Trace NW swell.

THURSDAY - **POOR** - SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist
Small bump in NW swell. Big spread on the models with respect to local winds for the morning -- stay tuned.

WEATHER

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 61. East southeast wind 5 to 15 mph.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 10pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 53.
Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 64. Breezy, with a north wind 10 to 20 mph.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2022/03/09	Wed	12:54 AM	4.26	H
2022/03/09	Wed	09:28 AM	1.05	L
2022/03/10	Thu	02:04 AM	4.05	H
2022/03/10	Thu	11:09 AM	0.74	L
2022/03/11	Fri	03:46 AM	4.06	H
2022/03/11	Fri	12:07 PM	0.35	L
2022/03/11	Fri	7:45 PM	3.28	H
2022/03/11	Fri	11:19 PM	2.92	L
2022/03/12	Sat	05:03 AM	4.31	H
2022/03/12	Sat	12:46 PM	0.00	L
2022/03/12	Sat	7:48 PM	3.47	H
2022/03/13	Sun	12:09 AM	2.56	L
2022/03/13	Sun	06:57 AM	4.67	H
2022/03/13	Sun	2:17 PM	-0.28	L
2022/03/13	Sun	8:59 PM	3.65	H
2022/03/14	Mon	01:44 AM	2.16	L
2022/03/14	Mon	07:39 AM	5.03	H
2022/03/14	Mon	2:44 PM	-0.49	L
2022/03/14	Mon	9:13 PM	3.86	H
2022/03/15	Tue	02:16 AM	1.74	L
2022/03/15	Tue	08:15 AM	5.31	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL calottery
Draw Date: 3/7
10 43 55 59 67
Power#: 2
Jackpot: 99 M

MEGA MILLIONS calottery
Draw Date: 3/4
11 19 28 46 47
Mega#: 5
Jackpot: 126 M

SuperLotto PLUS calottery
Draw Date: 3/5
5 7 13 36 44
Mega#: 16
Jackpot: 23 M

Fantasy 5 calottery
Draw Date: 3/7
3 13 24 34 36

Daily 3 calottery
Draw Date: 3/7
EVENING: 2 1 2
Draw Date: 3/7
MIDDAY: 8 4 1

Daily Derby calottery
Draw Date: 3/7
1st: 10 - Solid Gold
2nd: 11 - Money Bags
3rd: 07 - Eureka
Race Time: 1:45.65

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (MARCH 9)

Your specialty this year is delighting people. You'll build on past work to create what no one is expecting. You'll be paid well for taking on some unusual responsibilities. Fun dates and travel will be summer highlights. Your empathy and compassion attract quality people. Together, you'll make a difference in the world. Sagittarius and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 12, 44, 8, 18 and 20.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll see the end of a struggle. This could pertain to something you do for money versus something you do for love. Neither side of your conflict will be a clear winner, but the situation will resolve.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Time bends. When you're waiting, the minutes stretch through eternity. When you're in the flow, time blurs. And in your dreams, time is irrelevant. As you master this day, you'll seem to have control over the flow of time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You may pretend you don't know something because it helps the other person save face, or focus your attention on what others need even though it's silly. In the end, diplomacy benefits you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Today there's a whimsical world playing inside your head, while the outside world is rather routine. Your creativity will grow as you try to reconcile these two experiences.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You know money doesn't buy happiness, but that doesn't make you satisfied with less money. So, you'll do emotional work for personal fulfillment and professional work for dollars.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your critical thinking skills are on point. You'll make keen observations and articulate them well. This benefits you best when strategically paired with the spirit of diplomacy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You know what it's like to say the wrong thing at the wrong moment, so you react with compassion when someone else makes this mistake. The goodwill you generate helping someone save face is karma in the bank.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Fear is energy; it is therefore directable. Fear can give you the fuel to run, think fast or fight. If you know where you'll run to, what problem you'll solve or what's worth fighting, you'll have a good place to direct the energy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The tools used to create will be a focus. But don't be fooled; the tools do not make the creation. Creativity is in the head and heart. Fancy, expensive tools can actually work against the art.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're confident in your abilities, but a loved one is even more so, talking you up behind your back and paving the way for your next opportunity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A conversation has stretched on and on and will continue to do so until someone walks away. Since no agreement will be reached, you must decide whether the conversation is intrinsically rewarding to stick with.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's a decision to make about a relationship. It's not something you'll make together. Think about what you want and what you won't have and make some plans about what you'll do when and if your boundaries are crossed.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

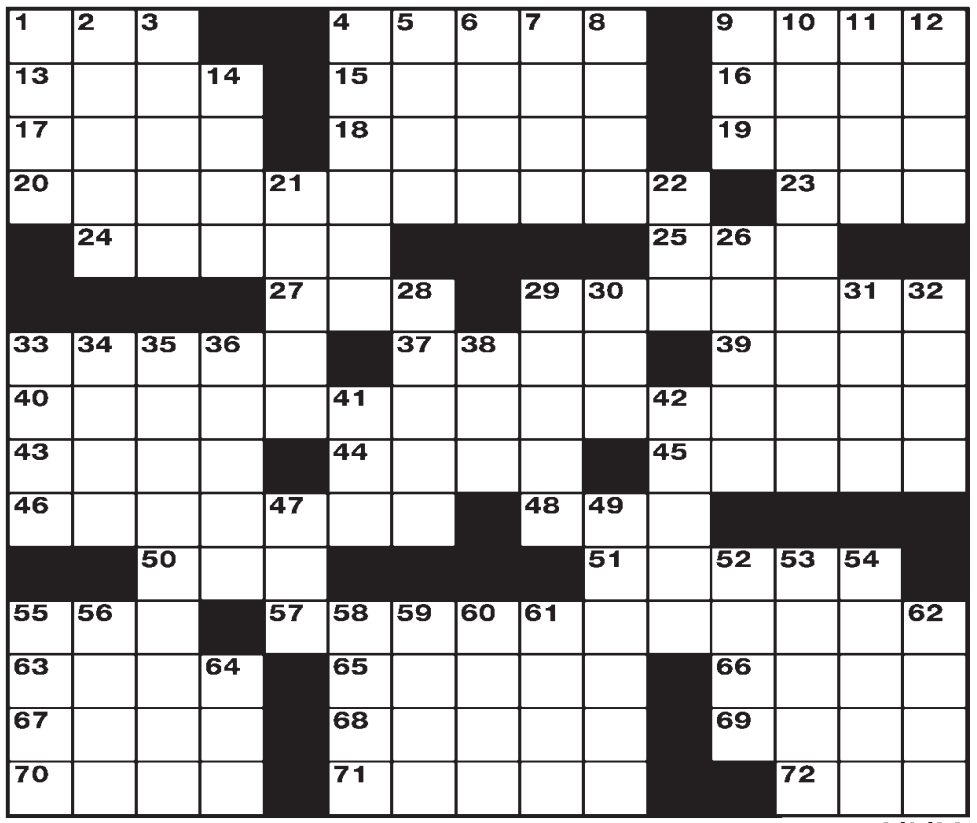
	6		2		1			5
	2	5	3					9
8					7			
	7	6				4		
			6		8			
		9				5	7	
			7					2
9					3	6	5	
2			8		6		1	

Newsday Crossword

NOTHING AT ALL by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Donkey
4 Flash of light
9 Up to a task
13 Barbershop powder
15 Unconfirmed report
16 Frame of mind
17 Triple-decker cookie
18 Video game pioneer
19 Skin opening
20 Post office wall postings
23 Boyfriend of Barbie
24 Author Harriet Beecher __
25 Nonprescription: Abbr.
27 On the __ (fleeing)
29 Pop singer Barry
33 Plundered
37 Improves, as cheese
39 Big brass horn
40 Biblical directive for communities
43 Notion
44 Share a border with
45 Back-to-zero button
46 Upscale German auto
48 Place for a mud bath
50 Young socialite
51 Drama with divas
55 Race down slopes
57 Knee-bending exercise
63 Musical closing
65 With no illumination
66 Palo __ (Silicon Valley city)
67 Self-storage rental
68 Like very much
69 (Had) observed
70 Chess player's "I win"
71 Lavished affection (on)
72 Low in humidity

DOWN
1 All of the dictionary
2 New Delhi garments
3 Had a nap
4 Top quality, as eggs
5 Guitar ancestor
6 Mosque leader
7 ". . . borrower __ lender be"
8 Excursion
9 Sound booster for music
10 Readers' get-togethers
11 Legendary wisdom
12 Old Testament paradise
14 Designer Chanel
21 Hooting hatchling
22 Boy in the family
26 10% donation
28 "It's possible"
29 Swim team events
30 "Just __ suspected!"
31 Wind quintet instrument
32 Bump on a toad
33 Minor mistake
34 Chore-list heading
35 Took things too far
36 Tenant's document
38 African antelope
41 Derisive laugh
42 Sales meeting chart
47 Eye-logo network
49 Planted, as a houseplant
52 Significant times
53 Was the boss
54 Starlike flower
55 Soapy residue
56 Hawaii coffee region
58 Campus courtyard
59 Repair, as damage
60 Quite often
61 Roller on the road
62 Broadway award
64 Was fed



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What's Up Westside

out and about in Santa Monica

WEDNESDAY | MARCH 9

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET
Arizona Ave. (between 2nd & 4th)
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

THURSDAY | MARCH 10

ROCK N COMEDY
Carefully Curated Comedy Show at Rock N Pies in Santa Monica on the second Thursday of the every month. 8:30pm doors open and the show starts at 9pm. $10 online $15 at door. Comedians from NBC, Netflix, Amazon Prime, BET and more. Use code PIES for half off tickets while they last. 1120 Wilshire Blvd.

STORYTIME AT CAYTON'S MUSEUM
Join us for fun stories, songs, and fingerplays and, after storytime, enjoy the museum for FREE! Registration is required. Register here: https://bit.ly/SMPLCayton 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. 395 Santa Monica Pl Suite 374 Level 3

FRIDAY | MARCH 11

ALICE BEASLEY QUILTS EXHIBITION
The California Heritage Museum is pleased to present a 30 year retrospective by Oakland quilt artist Alice Beasley. Quilt artist Alice Beasley has been making quilts since 1988. Fabric is her chosen medium of expression through which she creates realistic portraits of people and objects. The exhibition will open on Friday, March 11th and conclude on Sunday, June 12th , 2022, open Wednesday to Sunday from 11am to 4pm. There will be a MEET THE ARTIST event on Saturday, March 12 from 2 to 5 p.m.

TOURS OF THE MARION DAVIES GUEST HOUSE
Santa Monica Conservancy docents share the rich history of the Beach House site from the 1920s onward. Free 20-minute visits docent tours are available on a walk-up basis, for groups of up to six people on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 12 – 2 p.m. Just head to the Marion Davies Guest House where you will be greeted by a docent. Please note masks are required while indoors. Schedule subject to change, check the website calendar or call 310-458-4904 to confirm dates and hours. Annenberg Community Beach House.

SATURDAY | MARCH 12

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET
Arizona Ave. (between 2nd & 4th)
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

PICO FARMERS MARKET
Pico Blvd. & Cloverfield Blvd.
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

LEON CYCLE SANTA MONICA GRAND OPENING
Leon Cycle will have food, drinks, music, free swag and we will be raffling off a free E-Bike at its grand opening celebration. Leon Cycle has a lounge with a complimentary espresso machine and offers demo bikes for test rides. The store is pet and kid friendly.

DOWNTOWN SANTA MONICA WALKING TOUR
Discover downtown Santa Monica's architecture, history and culture with one of our highly engaging docents. See where Jim Morrison played his first show and visit the lavish Art Deco hotel that housed a speakeasy during Prohibition. Tours are free for members and $10 for the general public. The reservation link is smc.givecloud.co/dwt. The walking tour covers about 6 blocks in 2 hours and begins at the city's first landmark, the 1875 Rapp Saloon. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. 1436 2nd St.

SUNDAY | MARCH 13

ORCHESTRA SANTA MONICA CONCERT
Orchestra Santa Monica is bringing the full symphony orchestra to perform in the heart of Santa Monica. Led by Music Director Roger Kalia, the orchestra will perform Shostakovich's Symphony No. 9 and the Brahms Violin Concerto (soloist Nathan Cole). The concert will open with Seven O'Clock Shout, written by Valerie Coleman to honor front line workers. 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Broad Stage, 1310 11th St.

MAIN STREET FARMERS MARKET
2640 Main St.
8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

MONDAY | MARCH 14

MINUTE-TO-WIN-IT MONDAYS
Competitors have just one minute to complete the challenge, with each week bringing a different challenge. Play solo or with friends and family! Top 10 times posted weekly. For families. Speed Eraser Competitors get 1 minute to bounce 10 pencils into a mug. Each pencil needs to be bounced off the eraser portion and into a mug. Main Library. Register at https://bit.ly/YouthProgramSignUps.

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

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 5413

Under construction

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

Abut
Batten
Beam
Beds
Buyer
Cosy
Deck
Desk
Dirty
Dome
Drips
Extras
Fence
Fibro
Hearth
Huge
Impressive
Indoor
Jamb
Joint
Kitchen
Ladder
Lock
Mitre
Oven
Owner
Pools
Refrigerator
Rent
Roof
Rugs
Rural
Safety
Sash
Semi
Septic system
Sill
Smoko
Soap
Space
Style
Tacks
Tedious
Tidy
Tiles
Tudor
Units
Vase
Wiring

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Trends come and go

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BAN

FROM PAGE 2

Pelosi said the House would go forward with a vote Tuesday on legislation to ban the Russian oil imports, impose trade costs on Russia and expand sanctions authority against Russians for attacks on civilians in Ukraine.

Before the invasion, Russian oil and gas made up more than a third of government revenues. Global energy prices have surged after the invasion and have continued to rise despite coordinated releases of strategic reserves, making Russian exports even more lucrative.

As a consequence of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the U.S. and international partners have sanctioned Russia's largest banks, its central bank and finance ministry, and moved to block certain financial institutions from the SWIFT messaging system for international payments.

But the rules issued by the Treasury Department allow Russian energy transactions to keep going through non-sanctioned banks that are not based in the U.S. in an effort to minimize any disruptions to the global energy markets.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz has said he opposes a European ban on Russian energy imports and that there's no other way to meet the European Union's needs for motor fuel, heat and electricity, and industrial use. Vice Chancellor Robert Habeck said Tuesday that when he visited Washington last week, U.S. officials acknowledged Europe was in a different situation.

"They told me in the talks that they will neither demand nor ask that Germany do the same. But I would extrapolate from that for us, and for me, that we need as soon as possible to create the possibility to take similar measures."

While Russian oil makes up a small amount of overall U.S. energy imports, the U.S. could replace Russian crude with imports from other oil-rich nations, but that could prove politically problematic.

Key U.S. senators are warning the Biden administration from seeking any oil import deal from the Nicolas Maduro regime in Venezuela.

"The Biden administration's efforts to unify the entire world against a murderous tyrant in Moscow should not be undercut by propping up a dictator under investigation for crimes against humanity in Caracas," said Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, in a statement late Monday. "The democratic aspirations of the Venezuelan people, much like the resolve and courage of the people of Ukraine, are worth much more than a few thousand barrels of oil."

AP writers Matthew Daly, Lisa Mascaro and Chris Megerian contributed.

OIL

FROM PAGE 2

February.

WILL EUROPE GO ALONG?

A ban on Russian oil and natural gas would be painful for Europe. Russia provides about 40% of Europe's natural gas for home heating, electricity and industry uses and about a quarter of Europe's oil. European officials are seeking ways to reduce their dependence, but it will take time.

Britain's business secretary, Kwasi Kwarteng, said his country will use the rest of the year to phase out its imports of oil and petroleum products to "give the market, businesses and supply chains more than enough time to replace Russian imports," which account for 8% of U.K. demand.

Germany's economy minister, Robert Habeck, on Tuesday defended the European decision so far to exempt Russian energy from sanctions.

"The sanctions have been chosen deliberately so that they impact the Russian economy and the Putin regime seriously, but they also have been chosen deliberately so that we as an economy and a nation can keep them up for a long time," Habeck said. "Ill-considered behavior could lead to exactly the opposite."

"We have maneuvered ourselves into an ever-greater dependency on fossil energy imports from Russia in the last 20 years," Habeck said. "That is not a good state of affairs."

Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak of Russia underscored that urgency, saying Moscow would have "every right" to halt natural gas shipments to Europe through the Nord Stream 1 pipeline to retaliate against Germany for halting the parallel Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which wasn't yet operating. Novak added that "we have not taken this decision" and that "no one would benefit from this." His statement marked a shift from Russia's earlier assurances that it had no intention of cutting off gas to Europe.

Oil is easier to replace than natural gas. Other countries could increase production of oil and ship it to Europe. But much oil would have to be replaced, and this would drive up prices even more because the oil would likely have to travel farther.

Replacing the natural gas that Russia provides to Europe is likely impossible in the short term. Most of the natural gas Russia provides to Europe travels through pipelines. To replace it, Europe would mostly import liquefied natural gas, known as LNG. The continent doesn't have enough pipelines to distribute gas from coastal import facilities to farther reaches of the continent.

In January, two-thirds of American LNG exports went to Europe, according to S&P Global Platts.

While U.S. oil and gas producers could drill for more natural gas, its export facilities are already operating at capacity. Expanding those facilities would take years and billions of dollars.

Daly reported from Washington. AP writer Geir Moulson contributed from Berlin and AP writer Aamer Madhani contributed from Washington.

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION
Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

CURIOUS CITY

FROM PAGE 5

"The only way we can get the affordable housing we so desperately need is to demand that developers include it." I CALL BS! For so many reasons, that is perhaps the worst, least efficient way to do it. Sure works great for developers, though.

"1000 page agendas" - "No assistants for ridiculously overworked City Council members" - "Council meetings that go from 5:30 p.m. to 3 a.m." - "Insufficient training for newly elected members, to a highly complex and demanding job" - and much more. I CALL BS!

"Your City Council is going to spend many millions of dollars to fight district elections, a terrible, terrible thing (because it weakens our ability to be re-elected), we're hiring an outside law firm to represent us, one of the most expensive in the world, but we won't tell you how much it is costing you." I CALL BS! but this is only one of seemingly endless instances of fiscal waste by our Council and our School Board. Shall we mention the half a billion dollar pension time bomb we've done little to address?

Charles Andrews has lived in Santa Monica for 36 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
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or email cindy@smdp.com

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