2 **Aviation Innovation**
Speakers at the airport.

3 **Drag Disco**
At the mall.

4 **Repealing Prop. 47**
Would be a mistake.

5 **Cross-town rivalry**
Standout softball game.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 88 WEDNESDAY 3/20/24 smdp.com

Trio's technique, sensibility sizzles at Santa Monica school



Photo by Thomas Leffler

COOKING: The Gourmandise School at Santa Monica Place is run by three partners in the culinary trade (L-R): Claire Hutchens, Clémence De Lutz and Sabrina Ironside.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Some say cooking is an art form, others say it's a sweet science. Regardless of opinion, one local institution handles both with its full plate of classes and camaraderie.

Prominently featured on the third floor of Santa Monica Place, The Gourmandise School welcomes everyone from basic bakers to culinary connoisseurs, leading the way on everything edible through foundational skill training and meal preparation courses. Now approaching its 13th anniversary, the mall mainstay is under the care of three female leaders, including co-owner and founding chef Clémence De Lutz.

The chef grew up in the food world, but didn't begin her true journey until fully entrenched in the entertainment industry at 20th Century Studios, then known as 20th Century Fox. De Lutz noted that she didn't think the "very serendipitous process" would end with opening a cooking school, but the metamorphosis was already at hand.

"I started selling cookies from my cubicle, and then I transitioned into selling pastries, and then (transitioned) into teaching about making pastries, and I was approached to open up something rather than renting space all over town," De Lutz said.

Beginning with Gourmandise Desserts, she eventually began teaching at Culver City's Surfas Supply Store, spending the next six years in many small-kitchen settings before opening the school in 2011 alongside Hadley Hughes. When Hughes stepped away from the business in 2015, an old 20th Century friend stepped in as a new partner, that being former executive Sabrina Ironside. After over two decades in the world of film, television and licensing; Ironside saw a chance to apply her craft to growing Gourmandise, what she deemed an "exciting and interesting" change of pace as General Manager.

Blending into De Lutz's food knowledge and Ironside's marketing and operations background was the third major piece of the Gourmandise puzzle, a teaching assistant-turned-Vice President of Operations Claire Hutchens. She started as an assistant and receptionist for De Lutz as a college student, cultivating a work ethic that has grown to include overseeing 45 staff members.

SEE **COOKING** PAGE 8



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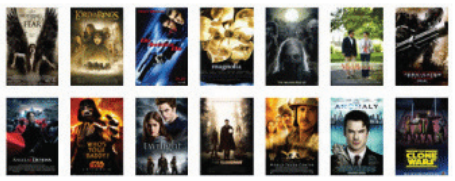


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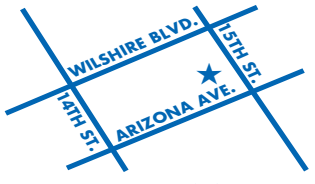
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Archer VTOL "air taxi" headlines first of monthly Aviation Innovation series of talks



Archer Aviation

AVIATION: It seems like tomorrow's technology is here today, otherwise giant corporations would not be investing so much capital.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

In the first of a new, monthly series of talks being held inside the amazing Museum of Flying at Santa Monica Airport, the SVP of Marketing for Archer Aviation, Miles Rogers, spoke to a gathered crowd about the topic on the tip of every propellerhead's tongue, the electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) "air taxi."

Following the announcement only a month ago that Archer Aviation was partnering with Atlantic Aviation to begin the development of electric aircraft infrastructure at Atlantic's existing assets — including Santa Monica Municipal Airport (SMO) — a great deal of interest has been expressed by both aviation aficionados and curious residents alike.

"It's becoming tougher and tougher to get around. The more I talk to people, the more they tell me [how] they've just sat in traffic for hours ... One of the big visions for our company is really unlocking the skies for everyone and giving them their time back," Rogers said. "Imagine that two hour drive or that 90 minute drive is now seven or eight minutes on a sustainable aircraft that plugs in like a Tesla. And that's the future."

San Jose-based Archer has been developing eVTOL aircraft since 2018 and Texas-based Atlantic is a leading fixed-base operator network and aviation services provider. With their combined resources, they aim to establish an air taxi service that utilizes existing assets at specific locations.

"We live in three dimensions, but we only seem to get around in two. The UN predicts that by 2050, 75% of the world's population are going to be in cities and that's going to be a problem, especially if you look at a city like New York, it's impossible to get around, even at times that are considered non peak times," Rogers said, adding, "The first route that we've announced and we've partnered with United is from downtown Manhattan to Newark Airport."

United Airlines has purchased a billion dollars worth of Archer-built aircraft and they've invested in the company three times already.

Initial routes will be "trunk" routes from airport to city center, as there is known demand and strong willingness to pay. The first of these routes was announced in 2022 in partnership with United Airlines on the East Coast. Once the primary trunk routes have been established, "branch" routes will be developed to connect to surrounding communities.

> It's becoming tougher and tougher to get around. The more I talk to people, the more they tell me [how] they've just sat in traffic for hours ... One of the big visions for our company is really unlocking the skies for everyone and giving them their time back
> - Miles Rogers

Using a trip from Santa Monica to Malibu

SEE **AVIATION** PAGE 11

Drag disco dances again with weekly LouLou showcase



Photo Courtesy LouLou

LOULOU: Disco and drag parties will be happening weekly at LouLou in Santa Monica Place, featuring resident DJ ARA spinning disco's greatest hits.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Featuring lavish costumes and performers with a flair for the stage, disco and drag parties have become a true Los Angeles staple, an experience that is finally making its way to the Westside this week.

Launching on Thursday at 6 p.m., LouLou Rooftop Restaurant and Lounge at Santa Monica Place will be the new home for "Disco Queen" nights, a tradition that pays homage to the historic Paris disco nightlife and Los Angeles' strong drag show community. The new weekly occurrence will blend the Mediterranean menu of LouLou with a party featuring disco balls, a resident DJ and the world's top drag queens.

LouLou Co-Owner Erik Chol stated that the event is part of the restaurant's philosophy of "experience the Joie de vivre," celebrating life with a "mix of sophisticated food, unique cocktails, and singing and dancing with friends and family." Chol noted that "Disco Queen" nights will bring back the "magic of the 70s ambiance."

"(We're) going back to the 70s disco spirit, when nobody (cared) if you were gay, straight, black, white, rich or poor," Chol said. "The most important point was to bring a positive energy to create a unique festive and unforgettable experience."

The launch event will bring the energy right away with a special performance by Morgan McMichaels, who has become a fan-favorite through appearances on the worldwide smash hit "RuPaul's Drag Race." McMichaels was connected to Chol through an agent, and got excited for the chance to build the drag show legacy in Santa Monica.

"This drag-disco party is so important for many reasons," McMichaels said. "The first being LouLou being an open-minded and inclusive business that accepts everyone for who they are and want to bring joy. The second, giving the people of Santa Monica a safe space to have a great time with no limitations or expectations. It's so crucial to our community to know they have a place to be themselves and dance to great music in

> "(We're) going back to the 70s disco spirit, when nobody (cared) if you were gay, straight, black, white, rich or poor
> - Erik Chol

SEE **LOULOU** PAGE 6



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **60.1**

WEDNESDAY
FAIR
SURF: 2-3ft
Thigh to waist

Surf is on the smaller side overall but there should be some occasional rideable waves as the AM high tide drops. Steep-angled NW swell backs down as some small new SW/SSW swell shows a little better. Watching the AM wind.

THURSDAY
FAIR
SURF: 3-4ft
Waist to chest

Tough through the AM high tide, gets a little better (more rideable) as it drops. Mainly small, long period SW/SSW swell on tap.

Weather

Wednesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 67.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 54. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 66. East wind 5 to 10 mph.
Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 53..

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2024/03/20	Wed	01:32 AM	2.18	L
2024/03/20	Wed	07:18 AM	4.84	H
2024/03/20	Wed	2:22 PM	-0.45	L
2024/03/20	Wed	8:55 PM	3.99	H
2024/03/21	Thu	02:08 AM	1.76	L
2024/03/21	Thu	07:59 AM	4.99	H
2024/03/21	Thu	2:49 PM	-0.41	L
2024/03/21	Thu	9:12 PM	4.16	H
2024/03/22	Fri	02:38 AM	1.37	L
2024/03/22	Fri	08:34 AM	5.04	H
2024/03/22	Fri	3:12 PM	-0.28	L
2024/03/22	Fri	9:28 PM	4.34	H
2024/03/23	Sat	03:07 AM	1.02	L
2024/03/23	Sat	09:05 AM	4.99	H
2024/03/23	Sat	3:32 PM	-0.10	L
2024/03/23	Sat	9:44 PM	4.54	H
2024/03/24	Sun	03:36 AM	0.72	L
2024/03/24	Sun	09:35 AM	4.82	H

Daily Lottery

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: 3/18
10 17 20 39 44
Power#: 16
Jackpot: 687 M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 3/15
13 25 50 51 66
Mega#: 6
Jackpot: 893 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 3/16
9 12 29 32 38
Mega#: 26
Jackpot: 19 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 3/18
2 16 23 29 36

Daily 3
Draw Date: 3/18
EVENING: 2 6 1
Draw Date: 3/18
MIDDAY: 3 0 8

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 3/18
1st: 06 - Whirl Win
2nd: 10 - Solid Gold
3rd: 12 - Lucky Charms
Race Time: 1:41.54

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Santa Monica Daily Press

City of Santa Monica

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please take notice that at its regular meeting of March 14, 2024, the Santa Monica Rent Control Board amended regulation Chapter 3, 3301, **Vacancy Rent Increase** to comply with changes to state law and Chapter 9, 9011, **Buyout Offers; Disclosure of Tenant Rights** to conform to Santa Monica Municipal Code section 4.57.020.

These changes will become effective by promulgation the day after publication in the newspaper.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

CITY OF SANTA MONICA IS NOW ONLY ACCEPTING ELECTRONIC BID SUBMITTALS

Notice is hereby given that electronic proposals for **Bid No. SP2711** shall be received to **furnish and deliver General Lighting and Electrical Supplies,** per terms, conditions and specifications. Bids will be electronically opened at **3:00 pm (Pacific Time) on Friday, April 12, 2024** viewable on the City's e-Procurement Portal, OpenGov Procurement at https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca.

Vendor Queries Due: Questions must be submitted online in the "Q&A" tab. The City will only accept or respond to questions submitted through the online vendor portal. Questions regarding this bid are due Friday, March 29, 2024 no later than 3:00 pm Pacific Time.

Bid Package: *Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the City's e-Procurement Portal.*

Electronic Submissions: *Submissions will only be accepted through the City's e-Procurement Portal, OpenGov Procurement at https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca. They must be received by the specified date and bid opening time.*

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 24SMCP00073 VECP00032 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles Petition of David Harrison Cleaner for Change of Name TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: David Harrison Cleaner a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: David Harrison Cleaner to David Harrison Kleiner The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 04/05/2024 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: - The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA - COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Santa Monica Courthouse 1725 Main St Santa Monica, CA 90401 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.

Help Wanted

TikTok Inc., **Editorial Lead** (Mult. Pos.) Culver City, CA. Dev. & execute TikTok's Editorial strategy through innovative promotional projects, partnered campaigns, & community-first initiatives. Salary range: $104,711.11 - $188,522.22/year. To apply & info. On benefits offered visit: https://careers.tiktok.com & type Job ID: A23119 in search bar. Contact lpresumes@tiktok.com if you have difficulty applying.

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED HERE

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm
LOCATION 1640 5th Street, Suite 218, Santa Monica, CA 90401

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Repealing Prop. 47 is a misguided battle cry. It won't make California safer

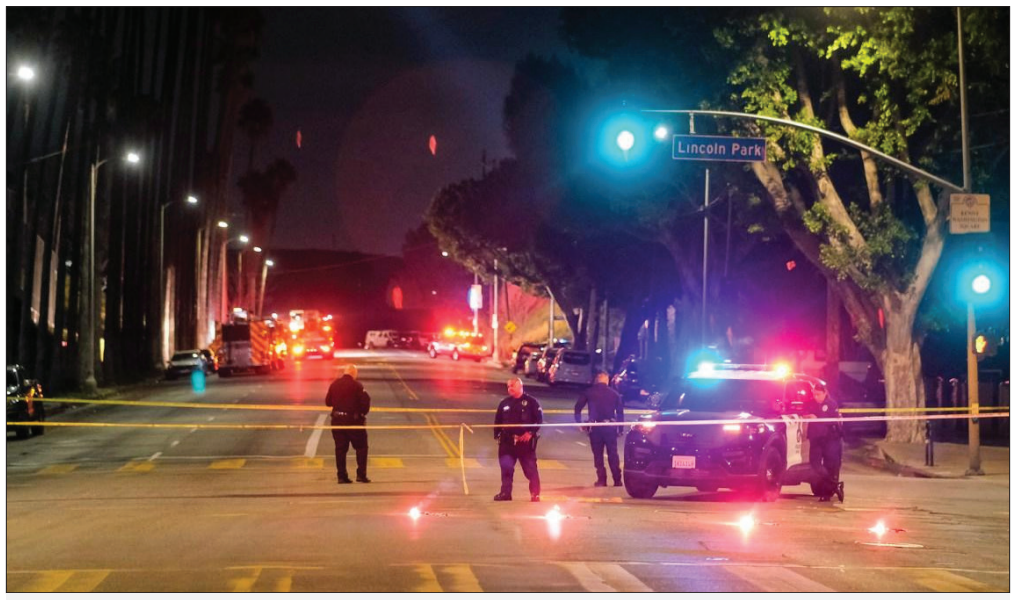


Photo by Ringo H.W. Chiu, AP Photo

CRIME: Police officers stand guard near a crime scene in Los Angeles on March 8, 2023.

LANAISHA EDWARDS

Fourteen years ago, my younger brother, Vinnie Edwards, was fatally shot as he left football practice at his college. Six years later, another brother, Vaughn Edwards, was also murdered. He was shot in his car in a random attack while leaving a Juneteenth celebration with his pregnant girlfriend and daughter.

Vinnie was 24 when he died; Vaughn was 28.

Their deaths were the sorts of violent endings that are tragically common in poor, under-serviced neighborhoods across the greater Los Angeles area. When I was growing up, I lost count of the number of funerals I attended.

I know the pain of victimhood as intimately as can be known, and the craving for justice – and even revenge – after a loved one has been murdered. But I also know – as do so many crime victims – that revenge doesn't make communities safer, and that simply locking up more impoverished young men and women is a recipe for failure.

I shudder when politicians, district attorneys and law enforcement officials respond to rising rates of shoplifting and other petty theft by reviving the "lock-'em-up-and-throw-away-the-key" mentality of the 1980s and '90s – as many are now doing and by demanding a repeal of Proposition 47. After all, it wasn't long ago that misguided policies such as Three Strikes and You're Out led to the incarceration of so many people that California's prisons were at one point operating at 200% of their capacity.

The resulting conditions were so appalling that eventually federal courts stepped in and mandated California significantly reduce its prison population to avoid a perpetuation of "cruel and unusual" conditions barred by the Constitution.

Ultimately, if we want to break the cycles of senseless violence and crime that took two of my brothers and led so many Californians to live in fear today, we have to do the hard work of investing in violence intervention programs, in Trauma Recovery Centers, in job training and education for youth, in mental health and substance abuse treatment services, and in the broader ecosystem of community well-being.

Prop. 47, which reclassified some of the lowest-level, nonviolent crimes as misdemeanors, reduced the amount of time people convicted of such crimes would spend behind bars, and reinvested the hundreds of millions of dollars in savings by setting up TRCs and other services. Despite the naysayers' critiques, in reality the result has been a resounding success, lowering recidivism and providing a range of supportive services to those who desperately need it.

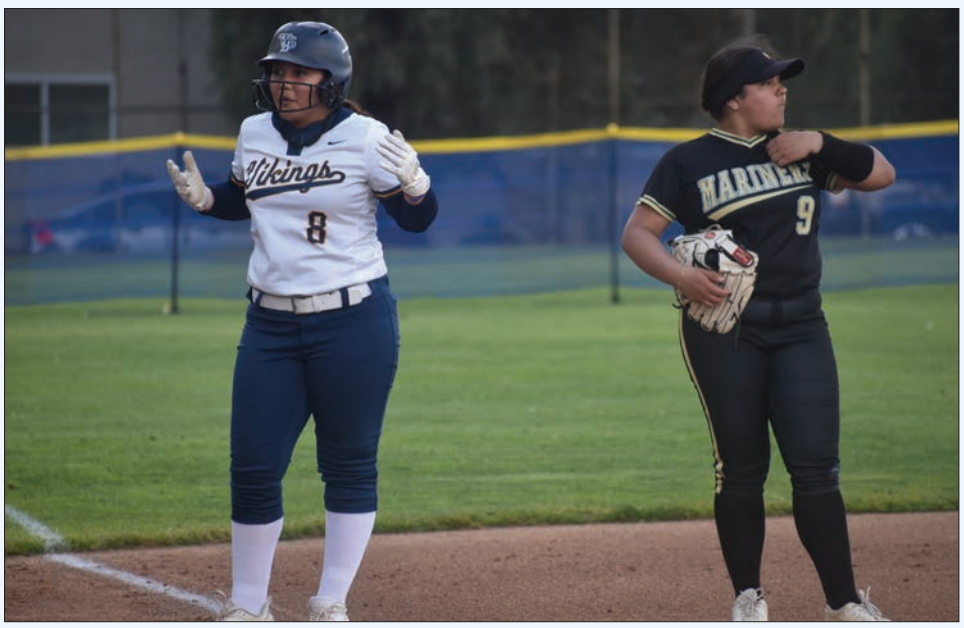
Approached in a calm, rational manner, the headline-making wave of shoplifting and other property crimes would suggest the need for more recovery centers, more substance abuse treatment facilities and more mental health services, not less. Instead, the political battle cry of the moment is to repeal Prop. 47 and, in doing so, dam up the flow of funds for supportive services that head off crime before it gets out of hand. We could end up reverting back to supposedly "tough" policies that failed to tackle the root causes of criminal activity.

I have three young sons and I worry about them constantly. Like millions of Californians, I simply want my children to be safe. I know that, with certain politicians and media narratives stoking public fears around crime, it's easy to blame reforms for the woes of the moment.

But that blame game won't make me or my sons safer – nor will it protect our communities.

LaNaisha Edwards is the California member engagement associate for Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice, the nation's largest network of survivors of crime. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

Lady Vikings win wire-to-wire in intracity matchup







Photos by Thomas Leffler

SOFTBALL: An intracity clash took place Monday, as the Santa Monica Lady Vikings softball squad defeated the Saint Monica Lady Mariners 8-1 at Samohi. The Lady Vikings jumped out to an early lead with a 4-run first inning, holding onto the advantage throughout. Samohi pitcher Drew Vudmaska and the Lady Vikings defense blanked the Lady Mariners for six innings until Saint Monica's Bella Harnandez scored a seventh-inning run to stop the shutout. Vudmaska, Samohi's designated pitcher, only gave up two hits in the afternoon contest, striking out 10 Saint Monica batters. Vudmaska also brought in two RBIs, while Sakura Krohn and Brooke Meshekow both flashed the bat with respective doubles. Samohi is now 9-8-1 on the season, while Saint Monica sits at 3-6-1.

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COURTESY NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

SUBJECT: 23ENT-0164 (MINOR USE PERMIT)
1700 Ocean Avenue
APPLICANT: Network Connex, on behalf of T-Mobile West, LLC
PROPERTY OWNER: DTRS Santa Monica LLC

A public hearing will be held by the Zoning Administrator to consider the following request:

The applicant requests the approval of a Minor Use Permit (MUP) to allow for the installation of a wireless telecommunications facility with a total of three (3) antennas and ancillary antenna equipment located behind three (3), 10'-high rooftop antenna screening enclosures, measured from the finished roof surface, with each measuring approximately 15' x 4' in area. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.32.040(A), the Zoning Administrator may approve a Minor Use Permit for a new wireless telecommunications facility if all the findings described in SMMC Section 9.32.060(B) can be made. This item was continued from the March 12, 2024, Zoning Administrator public hearing.

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024, AT 10:30 AM**

LOCATION: City Council Chamber, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Members of the public unable to attend a meeting but wishing to comment on an item(s) listed on the agenda may submit written comments prior to the public hearing via email to planningcomment@santamonica.gov or via mail to the address listed below. Comments received prior to 5:30 P.M. the day before the meeting will be distributed to the Zoning Administrator prior to the meeting and posted online. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

You may also comment in-person at the Zoning Administrator hearing. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment.

Address your comments to: **Liku Abera, Associate Planner**
Re: 23ENT-0164

VIA E-MAIL: planningcomment@santamonica.gov
VIA MAIL: City Planning Division
1685 Main Street, Mail Stop 28
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Liku Abera by e-mail at Liku.Abera@santamonica.gov. The Zoning Ordinance is available on the City's web site at www.santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (866) 311-7266 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate languages provided that the request is made with 72 hours of the meeting. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

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) 458-2201 ext. 5547.

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LIONS ROAR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The sun has been shining brightly and with daylight savings time going into effect, quite a few people have begun their spring cleaning. The number of emails asking if the Santa Monica Pacific Palisades (SMPP) Lions Club takes used eyeglasses, has increased as it does each spring.

Ever since Helen Keller inspired Lions Clubs International (LCI) and challenged us "to become knights of the blind" in 1925, we've helped combat vision impairment and blindness. With this same conviction, Lions have also been dedicated to providing medical care and education to help prevent hearing loss.

The way our SMPP Lions Club contributes to LCI goals is through our collection of gently used eyeglasses, sunglasses, eyeglass cases and used hearing aids. With nine drop-off locations throughout Santa Monica and the Pacific Palisades, we are happy you want to help thousands of people throughout, Southern California, Mexico and the Philippines experience better vision. You can always find our latest drop off locations by going to https://e-clubhouse.org/sites/santamonica/page-6.php.

All eyeglasses we collect are taken to a facility in Banning where Lions volunteers clean, repair, sort by refraction, and package them to be distributed and shipped to their final destinations. The hearing aids are also cleaned, given new batteries and sorted and shipped as well.

Coming up next for the SMPP Lions is the annual Arts & Literacy Festival at Virginia Avenue Park, on Saturday, April 27th, from 10 AM – 2 PM. With the theme, The Robots Are Here, we will be helping preschool age children assemble simple robots. You can join our volunteers for a 3-hour shift in the morning or afternoon, just let us know by sending an email to smpplionsclub@gmail.com. This is a great chance for middle and high school students to earn community service hours, helping children with craft projects and handing out stickers.

Our new meeting schedule continues with monthly dinner meetings on the 4th Wednesday of each month for March, April, and May. All meetings continue to be at 6 p.m. and are held at the SM Elks Lodge. If you are interested in possibly becoming a member or joining us in any of our community activities, please contact Kingsley at 310-454-2960 or smpplionsclub@gmail.com. You can also learn more about us from our Facebook, Instagram and website.

Submitted by Susan DeRemer

LOULOU

FROM PAGE 3

such a spectacular place."

McMichaels also hosts parties in West Hollywood, the center of LA's drag community, but the performer states that LouLou events are going to make "the experience something you have not seen before."

"There really is no comparison between (LouLou) and any other gig in West Hollywood because LouLou is doing something so different ... it is a pure fabulous moment ... a venue like LouLou that doesn't discriminate and accepts everyone is such a rare thing," McMichaels said.

For those who haven't made the trip before, McMichaels says that the one piece of advice is to "have no expectations," as each disco and drag party has its own unique feel and performers. After McMichaels' performance on Thursday, LouLou will have other special guests, such as actor, podcaster and author Willam on March 28.

The weekly show is an addition to LouLou's 2024 spring schedule, which also includes the new "All Day Happy Hour" with 50% off the bar's drink menu from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Chol said that the restaurant "wanted to offer something for everyone" and that "those with late night shifts and morning shifts" will be able to enjoy happy hour "no matter what time they get off work."

For more information about "Disco Queen" nights and LouLou's 2024 spring schedule, visit loulousantamonica.com.

thomas@smdp.com



Photo Courtesy LouLou

LOULOU: The spring 2024 schedule at LouLou in Santa Monica Place includes "Disco Queen" nights and the new "All Day Happy Hour."

Pumps bump up in March as summer-blend transition begins



Photo by Thomas Leffler

GAS PRICES: Drivers have been feeling impacts at the gas pump throughout March, both in Santa Monica and throughout Los Angeles.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica residents are feeling more of a guzzle of their funds at the gas pump this month, and a seasonal switchover may be the root of the increase.

According to the national source for gas station prices, GasBuddy, average gasoline prices in Los Angeles are 17 cents per gallon higher in March than in February, and the average price of gas in the metro ($4.25 per gallon) is seven cents greater than March 2023. GasBuddy's national average, compiled from over 150,000 gas stations, is $3.44 per gallon, up 18.7 cents from February.

Santa Monica pumps were impacted on similar levels to the Los Angeles and national averages. Per GasBuddy prices and Daily Press reporting, out of 13 Santa Monica gas stations covered in the weekly Daily Press gas prices graphic, 10 of them are up at least nine cents per gallon from February 13 to March 19. Several of the stations have reported growth as high as 40 cents per gallon for regular gas.

For GasBuddy head of petroleum analysis Patrick De Haan, the reason "is the season," with February and especially March representing an upswing in prices due to several factors.

"Gasoline demand is rising as more Americans are getting out, combined with the summer gasoline switchover, which is well underway, and continued refinery maintenance," De Haan said.

> Gasoline demand is rising as more Americans are getting out, combined with the summer gasoline switchover, which is well underway, and continued refinery maintenance
> - Patrick De Haan

According to transportation advocacy group NACS, gasoline prices have increased about 50 cents from the beginning of February through mid-May since 2000, starting with February refinery maintenance.

Maintenance periods, also known as a "turnaround," are often scheduled during the first months of the year, a periodic total or partial shutdown of a refinery process to perform maintenance, repair operations, and testing of materials and equipment. Roughly 25% of American refineries are in turnaround each year. One such maintenance process this year occurred at a BP refinery in Whiting, Indiana, which had an electrical failure in February but is now back to normal operations.

"This madness should slow down in the next few weeks as we've seen positive data that refinery output is starting to increase, a sign that the peak of maintenance season could be behind us," De Haan said.

The March rise in prices is also due to the beginning of transition periods from winter-blend to summer-blend production. Gasoline blends during the summer months differ from the winter, particularly with Reid vapor

SEE **GAS** PAGE 11

GAS PRICES IN SANTA MONICA

76	1776 Cloverfield Blvd	$4.94
SHELL	1802 Cloverfield Blvd	$5.17
CHEVRON	1819 Cloverfield Blvd	$4.97
MOBIL	731 Santa Monica Blvd	$5.70
LINCOLN BLVD CAR WASH	1624 Lincoln Blvd	$4.99
WORLD	1801 Lincoln Blvd	$4.79
SHELL	1866 Lincoln Blvd	$5.19
SPEEDWAY EXPRESS	2555 Lincoln Blvd	$4.79
CHEVRON	1732 Lincoln Blvd	$5.19
ARCO	332 Pico Blvd	$5.09
SINCLAIR	1944 Pico Blvd	$4.99
CHEVRON	1330 Santa Monica Blvd	$5.10
CHEVRON	1348 Pico Blvd	$5.20
CHEVRON	432 Wilshire Blvd	$5.40

*Prices paying in card

Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have fallen 1.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $4.92/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 17.0 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 7.5 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has declined 2.2 cents in the last week and stands at $4.00 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at $4.25/g while the most expensive was $6.09/g, a difference of $1.84/g. The lowest price in the state was $0.49/g while the highest was $6.79/g, a difference of $6.30/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 4.4 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $3.44/g today. The national average is up 18.7 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 1.6 cents per gallon higher 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

COOKING

FROM PAGE 1

"This school has influenced everything about my life ... I love teaching people about food, and that cooking is supposed to be fun and enjoyable, that you can do it at home, and also imparting wisdom about ... the nature of food, and what holistic cooking looks like, and using whole ingredients in here ... and creating something beautiful and delicious from them," Hutchens said.

For De Lutz, teaching the beauty of food is to bring cooking back to "the basics" of ingredient-based endeavors and building a learning environment akin to absorbing knowledge from a family member as a child. Aside from cuisine courses like Thai cooking or fresh pasta making, Gourmandise teaches the technique of the trade, including how to properly use a knife and tips for food pyramid staples like beef and eggs.

"It's incredibly hands-on, it's not demonstration style learning here ... you're learning all the things that are kind of missing, context-wise, in a recipe," De Lutz added. "You might look at a really well-written, detailed recipe and it's (a lot), so that's where we bridge the gap. We're really here to teach people how to do things well (and) understand the science behind it and the alchemy of cooking."

The teachers themselves add their own flavor of positivity and support, standing out due to their specialties and their attention level to every student. Each class at Gourmandise begins with a specialty chef greeting every person and gauging their skill level, working with groups according to their food IQ.

"To be a good teacher, you have to (have) a special kind of person ... be somebody who listens, who's watching the class, who can lead the class, and (who) can nurture them and look at the different skill levels," Ironside said. "I think that's really important. We look for people who can have a strong background in (their) specialty, and then also have the personality to be a teacher as well."



Photo Courtesy The Gourmandise School

COOKING: A wide range of classes at The Gourmandise School feature specialty chefs guiding all skill levels through new techniques.

A unique mix of skill and sensibility has kept Gourmandise thriving, shifting from a smaller kitchen space at the mall to its current abode while staying alive during the COVID-19 pandemic any way it could. De Lutz said they took advantage of everything from government grants and delivering ingredient boxes to beginning virtual cooking classes for companies that began to work remotely. The corporate team-building side of the business has been a giant boon with a return to in-person classes, adding another exciting component to the main ladies' lives.

"Getting people out of the office and into the kitchen, they work in groups and they have to work together to create a delicious meal that they end up sitting down and eating together," Hutchens said. "People's (personalities) come out and they're like 'no, add more spice, add more chili flakes,' and (other) people (say) 'oh my gosh, no, you're crazy.' So all of these bonds are formed when people are working together and (they) have an environment (to) sit down and enjoy what they've created."

Gourmandise gives back to the business world with the largest corporations and smaller, local partners alike, particularly with area farmers at Santa Monica's Downtown Farmers Market. Along with the rest of the school's ingredients being locally-sourced and sustainable, De Lutz and her team take their fresh produce from the farmer's market, now to the point where they make orders ahead of time.

For De Lutz, starting from the source is more than just a statement on cooking, its a way to shift buying habits back into the hands of local vendors.

"All of these small things that we do talk about in class, (it's) because we want people to know what a big difference it makes when you make small changes in your daily habits for your community around you, and for the greater world's community," De Lutz said. "And just more local, fresh, seasonal ingredients just makes your food taste better."

The farmers market environment also serves as an example of the female bonds the trio has made in Santa Monica, which Hutchens (born and raised in the city) says is a community with "a lot of female empowerment." De Lutz added that it's "a little bit like a badge of honor" to be successful in the male-dominated cooking landscape.

"When we watch the farmers market with all the other chefs, there is such a strong tie with other female business owners that look out for each other, to call each other like, 'did you hear about egg prices?'" De Lutz said. "I think there's been a really strong undercurrent of female business owners in the food community in the last 15 years that have created an incredible network."

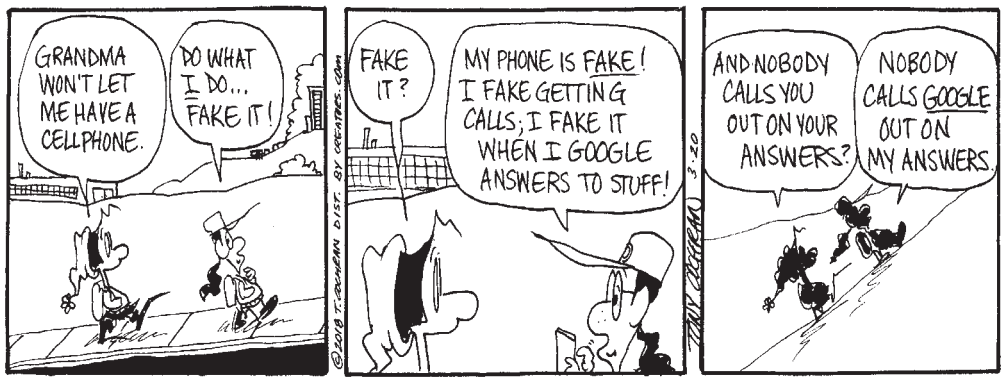
For more information about the Gourmandise School and a full class schedule, visit thegourmandiseschool.com.

thomas@smdp.com



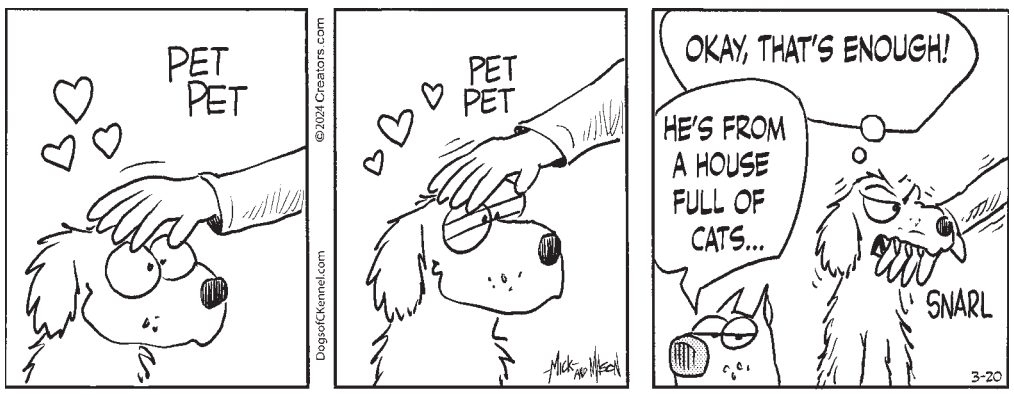
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"I THINK WE KNOW WHO HIS FAVORITE IS."

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.

© australianwordgames.com.au 6155

Learner driver

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

Amps	Fail	Lines	Slow
Bikes	Fear	Motor	Speedometer
Bonnet	Flat	Novice	Sprocket
Brake	Free	Offences	Stop
Broken	Fuel	Oil	Sump
Bush	Highway	Pass	Tank
Caps	Hill	Pins	Tappets
Casualty	Horn	Plug	Test
Clutch	Idle	Points	Tools
Cope	Jams	Prang	Tyre
Descent	Journey	Road	Valve
Diff	Keen	Roof	View
Exhaust	Lift	Safety	Volts

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
What's your favourite?

Covering the city by the bay since 2001.
To advertise, email cindy@smdp.com or call 310.458.7737
smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 20)

You're talented, hardworking and, in the season ahead, also super lucky. You'll stay in a state of readiness and make good on a succession of opportunities. More highlights: New connections enrich your personal life, open professional doors and pay you, too. You'll upgrade aspects of your lifestyle that activate your most vital self. Libra and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 16, 2, 20 and 11.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your every move is one of gratitude. In a sense, even your ambition will be an acknowledgment, as you are building on what you already have. The appreciation you feel will compound and attract more of the good stuff.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). When you were younger, you imagined your adult self doing what you now do daily. And though it's now commonplace, the childhood wonder is still in there somewhere. Let that child be impressed by you. You're impressive.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Love changes things. The love for one person makes you more loving to all. Every bit of love flowing from your heart improves relationships and ripples out to the population at large.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Cultural exploration leads to spiritual connection. Whether celebrating traditions from distant lands or convening in a serene gathering at a sacred place, you'll be drawn to the exotic and unfamiliar.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). What's the least you could do? It's not a question for the lazy today, rather it's for the wise souls who realize that trying too hard often has an effect opposite of what's intended. Do enough to be effective and no more.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You don't know someone until you see how they are under different circumstances. In the spirit of inclusion, you extend your trust anyway and, over time, learn what you can expect from a person.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You've told your story many times and in different ways, too, because you're learning to cater to your audience. The ability to read a room and give them what you think they need and want will make you money.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You may disagree, but you don't disrespect. You're open to hearing other points of view, even ones you'll probably never agree with, because compassion doesn't require agreement; it requires empathy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your mind is working on all cylinders to solve a complex problem. While the thought process is layered, ultimately, the solution will be simple, elegant, inexpensive and effective.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You know yourself from the inside out, but you know other people from the outside in. This is just one more reason not to make comparisons. Unless you're comparing reversible jackets, the logic falls apart.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Responsibility gives structure to your time. It seems like this would limit your freedom, but it actually works in the opposite way, helping you feel a sense of urgency to prioritize the things that make you feel most vital.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Follow the instructions and you'll get the expected result. Add a twist or break a rule and you'll get a unique result, and the immense satisfaction of knowing it's all yours.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

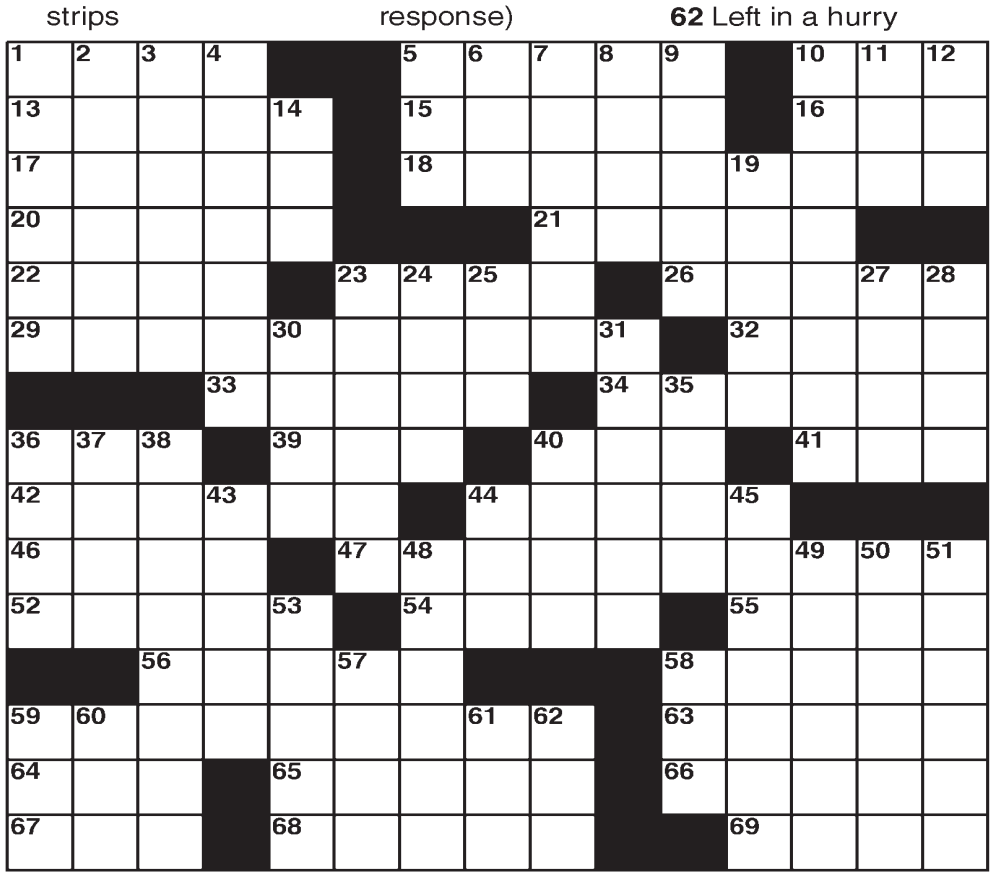
RATING PEOPLE by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Just slightly
5 Minor ailments
10 That guy's
13 Connection points
15 Common computer font
16 Hooting bird
17 San Antonio shrine
18 Guy's performance Oscar
20 Within the rules
21 Soak in the tub
22 Father of Thor
23 Furry red Muppet
26 Store transactions
29 Faithful pal
32 Shaving mishap
33 Fire truck sound
34 Casual restaurant
36 Neighbor of OH and KY
39 Young boy
40 __-CIO
41 Regret doing
42 Football headgear
44 Attach with a rope
46 Norwegian capital
47 Ordinary guy
52 Sunflower stem
54 Sunrise direction
55 Chinese disk instrument
56 Animal dens
58 Aviator
59 Person not noted for sportsmanship
63 Thick, as fog
64 Bird in a coop
65 Last Greek letter
66 Score great on a test
67 Angry state
68 Stylist's workplace
69 Three, in Spain

DOWN

1 Not digital, as watches
2 Ohio city
3 Slow tempo
4 Insists upon
5 Car with a meter
6 Mine output
7 Portuguese capital
8 Statistics
9 Window blind strips
10 Mr. Hilton or Mr. Marriott
11 Battle of __ Jima
12 Professional's camera: Abbr.
14 Note after fa
19 Gregorian music
23 List of misprints
24 Told a whopper
25 Fellows
27 Light beige
28 __ terrier (Scottish dog)
30 Manicure tool
31 Sports team's loss
35 Like a bump on __
36 "__ there?" (knock response)
37 Three-piece suit part
38 Without assistance
40 Broadcasts
43 Grinding tooth
44 Breakfast brew
45 Pay no attention to
48 Yacht or pot
49 Person in many clubs
50 Infant's bodysuit
51 White marsh birds
53 Metric weights
57 Capital of Italia
58 Vitamin regulator: Abbr.
59 __ Beta Kappa
60 "__ the ramparts. . ."
61 Sense of self
62 Left in a hurry



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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

AVIATION

FROM PAGE 2

for example, which is approximately a 12 mile flight, is a journey that could take anywhere up to and over an hour. According to Archer Aviation, flying by an air taxi could cover that same route in about five minutes and cost each passenger roughly between $30 and $40, which is less than what a rideshare vehicle would more than likely cost.

Uber actually explored a very similar idea with a concept called Uber Elevate, but it abandoned that in December 2020. One of the co-founders of that project, Nikhil Goel, is now Chief Commercial Officer at Archer Aviation. He was also once a systems engineer at NASA.

"What they found was people don't like helicopters. They're noisy. They're extremely expensive, and people didn't like having them around the cities. And I think Nikhil took a lot of those sorts of lessons and brought them over to Archer," Rogers said.

The crowd was also able to look over a scale model of the VTOL aircraft that will be used, what Archer Aviation calls the Midnight. Powered by six independent battery packs, each supporting a pair of electric engines, it's capable of flying up to 100 miles at speeds of up to 150 mph and optimized for regular 20-50 mile urban trips.

It's designed to accommodate a certified pilot and comfortably fit up to four passengers and luggage and typically flies at about 1500 feet. Plus the Midnight can perform back-to-back, 20 mile flights with only 12 minutes of charge time in between. It is 6,500 lbs fully loaded and 5,500 lbs without payload, but many of the details regarding the battery technology, including their weight, are a closely guarded secret.

Rogers said that battery technology seems "to get about 6 to 8% better every year" and in January of this year, Archer Aviation entered into a collaboration with NASA to focus on achieving the highest levels of battery cell safety and efficiency for what's referred to as Advanced Air Mobility systems.

Archer Aviation hopes that they can begin their "air taxi" service in under two years, before the end of 2025.

The Aviation Innovation Series is a monthly lecture series that offers opportunities for aviation professionals and businesses to provide insight into the development of aircraft systems, technology and all things aviation.

> What they found was people don't like helicopters. They're noisy. They're extremely expensive, and people didn't like having them around the cities. And I think Nikhil took a lot of those sorts of lessons and brought them over to Archer
> - Miles Rogers

"We put together the series to help inform Santa Monicans about our city's incredible innovation heritage and the exciting technologies that are arriving soon. We have an opportunity to inspire the next generation to build creative solutions to sustainably connect our communities and the world," said event organizer Ben Marcus, adding, "We'll be moving the events around [in the future] amongst various venues in the city in order to reach as many members of our community as possible."

scott.snowden@smdp.com

GAS

FROM PAGE 7

pressure. In the winter months, fuels have a higher Reid vapor pressure to evaporate more easily, letting cars start in colder weather.

However, this blend of gas leads to increased emissions and smog formation during the summer, leading to a transition to summer-blend. The summer-blend fuel production process is elongated, which combined with a lower overall yield of gasoline per barrel of oil, means this fuel adds to the national cost.

Gas trends echo consumer prices rising nationwide, with the U.S. Department of Labor reporting that consumer prices rose 0.4% from January to February. The persistent issue of inflation has continued into 2024, with items such as food and energy prices, air fares and clothing prices joining gas in increasing prices.

"It's a disappointment, but not a disaster," U.S. economist at asset manager AB Eric Winograd told the Associated Press. "The underlying details are more encouraging than the top-line number, which was boosted by a few volatile categories - the type of prices that tend not to repeat month-to-month."

thomas@smdp.com

GET IT DAILY...



WEDNESDAY | MARCH 20

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

The largest grower-only Certified Farmers Market in Southern California and a favorite for local chefs. Enjoy Santa Monica's downtown farmers market from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. between 4th St. and Ocean Ave. Widely considered to be among the best on the west coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheese, delicious foods, live music and more.

FREE SCREENING OF VULNERABLE INNOCENCE

A free screening of the award winning documentary "Vulnerable Innocence" will take place on Wednesday, March 20. The 45 minute film focuses on how easily children are sexually exploited online and a digital defense strategy to prevent it. Immediately following the film, FOX 11 News journalist Hal Eisner will moderate a discussion and audience Q & A with the film's director, a panel of prevention experts and a 27-year old survivor who was enticed online and sexually assaulted in the real world. The FREE event will take place on March 20 at 7pm at the Laemmle Monica Film Center, located at 1332 2nd Street. Tickets can be reserved at https://vilaemmle.eventbrite.com

FREE WALK-IN LEGAL CLINIC

Santa Monica residents can meet one-on-one with a lawyer from Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles to help with housing issues. Runs from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Virginia Avenue Park's Park Center, 2200 Virginia Ave. Immediate assistance is available by calling LAFLA directly at 800-399-4529 or visit lafla.org/gethelp.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS NEWCOMERS MEETING

Overeaters Anonymous is a Fellowship of individuals who, through shared experience, strength, and hope, are recovering from compulsive overeating. We welcome everyone who wants to stop eating compulsively. There are no dues or fees for members; we are self-supporting through our own contributions, neither soliciting nor accepting outside donations. Begins at 5:45 p.m. at Colorado Center Community Room, 2500 Broadway. For more information, contact Becky at itspossibleLAW@gmail.com.

L.A. TECH HAPPY HOUR

Startup Coil will be hosting a special L.A. Tech Happy Hour event at FoundrHaus, 1421 Abbot Kinney Boulevard, enjoying the sunset from the rooftop overlooking Abbot Kinney beginning at 6 p.m. Mingle by the bar on the patio. Refreshments are included with your entry ticket. Early Bird Tickets until day of $20. General admission tickets $30. To reserve a spot, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/la-tech-happy-hour-venice-beach-registration-842821871907.

2024 PERSIAN NEW YEAR PARTY

Join Iranian American Lawyers Association for the 2024 Persian New Year Party at 1212 Santa Monica, 1212 3rd Street Promenade, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Get ready for a night filled with delicious food, lively music and great company. Don't miss out on a fantastic opportunity to immerse yourself in Persian culture and traditions. Come dressed in your best attire. Tickets $75. To purchase, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/iala-2024-persian-new-year-party-tickets-857470345887.

THURSDAY | MARCH 21

LOCALS' NIGHT

Locals' Night on the Santa Monica Pier continues its monthly series of curated entertainment for locals, by locals. Activities begin at 3:30 p.m. with a Books & Cookies storytime in the Merry Go-Round Building. Other activities include Disco Renegade's Silent Disco from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., a Classic Car Show, and performances by Olivia Prado, Manny B. & DJ Survive and Blu & Exile.

BYSTANDER INTERVENTION TRAINING

Explore what it means to be an active and empowered bystander in this 60-minute introduction to bystander intervention by LMU Cares. Learn tools to help keep your community safe and disrupt hateful behavior when you encounter it. Begins at 6 p.m. in the Santa Monica Main Library Multipurpose Room, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

DISCO QUEEN

LouLou Rooftop Restaurant and Lounge, 395 Santa Monica Place #300, hosts the hottest new disco and drag party on the Westside beginning at 6 p.m. Disco Queen pays homage to Disco Queen nights in Paris filled with disco balls, smooth grooves and over-the-top talent. The top drag queens on the planet will host the hottest night out with resident DJ ARA playing classic disco hits. The launch event will feature a special performance by RuPaul's Drag Race fan favorite Morgan McMichaels. For more information, visit loulousantamonica.com.

BOOK LAUNCH PARTY

Zibby's Bookshop, 1113 Montana Ave., will host an in-person book launch party for Zibby Owens as she celebrates the launch of her debut novel "Blank," beginning at 6 p.m. Libby will be joined in conversation by Alexandra Potter, author of "Confessions Of A Forty-Something F**K Up." A copy of "Blank" is included in the price of each ticket. Tickets $20. To purchase, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/book-launch-party-zibby-owens-with-alexandra-potter-tickets-782188064557.

EINSTEIN!

The Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St., will host "Einstein! - Celebrating 100 Years of General Relativity," starring writer and performer Jack Fry who shares insight into Albert Einstein's early life. Begins at 7:30 p.m., please arrive 15 minutes early. Tickets $50, VIP tickets with early entrance and pick of seats $75. To purchase, visit: https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/6236607

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

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