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2 **Consumer Confidence**
At a 12-year low.

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At the CDC.

4 **Death Penalty**
Returns to Los Angeles.

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Declining due to EV's.

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Montana Ave finally welcomes Ultimate Performance personalized gym experience

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Global personal training company Ultimate Performance has expanded its footprint in Los Angeles with the opening of a new private gym in Santa Monica.

The new outlet is located at 732-734 Montana Avenue, the space the Medley pharmacy once occupied, before it closed in February 2023. Despite acquiring the space some time ago, it only opened on Friday after being delayed by the permitting process with the City of Santa Monica.

"I think we've had [that space] for a long time, over a year ... maybe a year and a half. The build out didn't take that long, but the permitting, as per the city of Santa Monica, is a different beast. So that was really the thing that slowed us down," says Emily Schofield, Los Angeles Regional Manager.

This new outlet joins another new opening in Century City, marking the company's third and fourth locations in the city. Ultimate Performance already operates gyms in Brentwood and West Hollywood. In fact, the Brentwood gym was the company's very first foray into the US in 2018.

SEE **GYM** PAGE 7

SMASH takes basketball finale





Courtesy photos

CHAMPS: Friday saw a contentious battle for first place in the Boys & Girls Club intra-district 4th/5th Grade Girls Basketball Final. A "hybrid" team consisting of six SMASH students and two Roosevelt Elementary students clawed their way to victory against a conglomerate team from the Mar Vista Gardens Boys & Girls Club and McKinley Elementary.

SMASH, while undefeated last season, saw their only two losses this regular season to the Mar Vista/McKinley Team. As the playoffs progressed, the SMASH/Roosevelt and MarVista/McKinley teams barreled towards this inevitable, third matchup.

In a shocking turn of play SMASH/Roosevelt's aggressive, defense-oriented strategy lead to Mar Vista's first (and final) defeat. These games, often with scores in the high 20s to mid 30s, saw a 13-8 final score. But this low score belies the 40 minutes of rim-to-rim action and tenacious play put on display by these 4th and 5th grade athletes. (Left to Right, Front to Back) Nalina Chopra, Margaux Uspensky-Parkhideh, Lyra Booher, Nora Funke, Lara Huffman, Camila Villegas, Nova Toscano, Maria. Coaches Martin Garber & Armon Freeman

Search for City Manager goes public with recent job posting

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The City of Santa Monica's search for a City Manager hit the internet this week with the official job posting for the position landing on job boards.

The high-profile position seeks a "bold, innovative and transformational" leader to guide the coastal city's future and implement the City Council's vision for economic opportunity, housing stability, and neighborhood safety. The posting offers an annual salary of $410,604 plus benefits.

According to the recruitment brochure, the ideal candidate will have expertise in managing large, politically complex organizations. The new City Manager will oversee an executive team including an Assistant City Manager, a Deputy City Manager, and eleven department directors, while managing the city's substantial $765 million budget for fiscal year 2025.

The official brochure says the position requires a leader who can prioritize inclusive economic growth while maintaining fiscal stability, modernizing land use policies, enhancing public infrastructure, and ensuring safe

SEE **CITY MANAGER** PAGE 11



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Consumer confidence is sliding as Americans' view of their financial futures slumps to a 12-year low

U.S. consumer confidence continued its sharp 2025 decline as Americans' views about their financial futures slumped to a 12-year low, driven by rising anxiety over tariffs and inflation.

> Consumers' optimism about future income — which had held up quite strongly in the past few months — largely vanished, suggesting worries about the economy and labor market have started to spread into consumers' assessments of their personal situations
>
> - Stephanie Guichard, senior economist at The Conference Board

The Conference Board reported Tuesday that its consumer confidence index fell 7.2 points in March to 92.9, the fourth straight monthly decline and its lowest reading since January of 2021. The reading was short of analysts expectations for a reading of 94.5, according to a survey by FactSet.

The business group found that the measure of Americans' short-term expectations for income, business and the job market fell 9.6 points to 65.2.

That's the lowest reading in 12 years and well below the threshold of 80, which the Conference Board says can signal a potential recession in the near future. The proportion of U.S. consumers anticipating a recession remains at a nine-month high, the board reported.

"Consumers' optimism about future income — which had held up quite strongly in the past few months — largely vanished, suggesting worries about the economy and labor market have started to spread into consumers' assessments of their personal situations," said Stephanie Guichard, senior economist at The Conference Board.

The administration of President Donald Trump has largely played down the souring mood among Americans, saying it doesn't necessarily reflect what's happening in the actual economy. This argument is similar to what officials in former President Joe Biden's administration said as high inflation suppressed consumer confidence without undermining growth.

"I just don't think that there's been a very strong correlation between the confidence data and actual consumer spending in recent years," Stephen Miran, the chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, told CNBC on Tuesday. "You go out in the street, people are going about their lives, you know, they're getting their paychecks, they're spending their paychecks, the economy is marching on ahead."

Yet some of the nation's biggest retailers, who have noted a shift in consumer behavior, are telling a different story.

Walmart has thrived with Americans trying to offset higher prices by seeking bargains. Late last month, however, the nation's largest retailer slashed its profit forecast for this year. Its sales outlook was also conservative and the company does not include the potential impact of tariffs in its expectations for 2025.

Target's sales and profit slipped during the crucial holiday quarter, and the company predicted that there would be "meaningful pressure" on its profits to start the year in part because of tariffs on Mexico, Canada and China.

Macy's, Best Buy, Abercrombie & Fitch, Dollar General and others also have grown cautious about their expectations for 2025, with many citing "economic uncertainty."

The board's survey showed that purchasing plans for both homes and cars declined. However, in somewhat of a surprise given respondents' anxiety about the future, intentions to buy big-ticket items like appliances increased. The board said that could reflect a desire to buy before the tariffs kick in, leading to price increases.

While inflation has retreated from the highs during the post-pandemic rebound, it has remained above the Federal Reserve's 2% target. Those still-elevated prices, combined with the announced tariffs on many imported goods, have Americans feeling sour about spending as concerns about the economy mount.

Consumers had appeared increasingly confident heading into the year-end holidays and spent generously. One month later, however, in January, U.S. retail sales fell sharply, though cold weather shared some of the blame.

Earlier this month, the government reported that Americans stepped up their spending in February after the sharp early year pullback, but only tepidly.

The board reported Tuesday that consumers' view of current conditions decreased 3.6 points to 134.5.

The consumer confidence index measures both Americans' assessment of current economic conditions and their outlook for the next six months.

Consumer spending accounts for about two-thirds of U.S. economic activity and is closely watched by economists for signs about how the American consumer is feeling.

MATT OTT Associated Press. Associated Press reporter Josh Boak contributed to this report.



5 high-level CDC officials are leaving in the latest turmoil for the public health agency

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was rocked by five high-level departures on Tuesday in the latest turmoil for the nation's top public health agency.

The departures were announced at a meeting of agency senior leaders. The Atlanta-based CDC has two dozen centers and offices. The heads of five of them are stepping down, and that follows three other departures in recent weeks. This means close to a third of the agency's top management is leaving or left recently.

The departures — described as retirements — were not announced publicly. The Associated Press confirmed the news with two CDC officials who were not authorized to discuss it and spoke on condition of anonymity.

> "The challenges for these individuals to do their jobs on a daily basis must be enormous"
>
> - Jason Schwartz

The announcements come a day after the White House announced it is nominating Susan Monarez to be CDC director. But it's not clear how much, if any, influence that had on the leaders' decision to leave. The Trump administration earlier this month withdrew its nomination of former Florida congressman Dr. David Weldon just before a Senate hearing.

CDC employees — including the organization's leaders — have been bracing themselves for moves by the Trump administration to lay off staff and possibly dramatically reorganize the agency. White House officials are reviewing a work force reduction proposal for CDC and other federal health agencies that was submitted earlier this month. Its contents have not been disclosed.

"The challenges for these individuals to do their jobs on a daily basis must be enormous," said Jason Schwartz, a Yale University health policy researcher who studies government health agencies. "The future of CDC is under threat, by any measure. It's understandable why individuals may decide to move on rather than see the agency diminished in its works, and its resources, and its ability to do its job."

But losing a number of experienced leaders is clearly an additional blow to an already besieged agency, Schwartz added.

The latest departures include:

— Leslie Ann Dauphin, who oversees the Public Health Infrastructure Center and its more than 500 employees. That center coordinates CDC funding, strategy, and technical assistance to state, local and territorial health departments.

— Dr. Karen Remley, who heads the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities. At the beginning of the year, the center had more than 220 full-time employees.

— Sam Posner, who heads the Office of Science. More than 100 CDC employees work on research and science policy, and publish the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

— Debra Lubar, who runs the 65-person Office of Policy, Performance and Evaluation.

— Leandris Liburd, head of the Office of Health Equity, with about 40 employees. Liburd took the role in 2020, as part of an effort to address the COVID-19 pandemic's disproportionate death toll on Black, Hispanic and Native Americans.

Adding to that: Kevin Griffis, head of CDC's office of communications, left last week. Robin Bailey, the agency's chief operating officer, left late last month. So did Dr. Nirav Shah, a former CDC principal deputy director who last year was the agency's primary voice about an evolving bird flu epidemic in animals that has also sickened at least 70 people in the U.S.

The CDC, with a core budget of more than $9 billion, is charged with protecting Americans from disease outbreaks and other public health threats. At the beginning of this year, it had more than 13,000 employees, and nearly 13,000 other contract workers.

At least 550 probationary employees were laid off in February, although those layoffs were challenged in lawsuits and two federal judges ordered that the employees be reinstated. According to some of the laid off employees, that hasn't happened yet, although the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has – following court orders – extended their administrative leave pay.

"It would be foolhardy to predict what the CDC will look like" in a few months, let alone a couple of years, Schwartz said. But it's understandable why senior leaders "might not want to sign up for that," he added.

By MIKE STOBBE AP Medical Writer. The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Science and Educational Media Group and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737



Weather

Wednesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 64.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 54. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 63. Light and variable wind becoming southwest.
Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 53.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)	High/Low
2025/03/26	Wed	01:38 AM	1.57		L
2025/03/26	Wed	07:39 AM	5.38		H
2025/03/26	Wed	2:27 PM	-0.79		L
2025/03/26	Wed	8:46 PM	4.49		H
2025/03/27	Thu	02:21 AM	0.86		L
2025/03/27	Thu	08:25 AM	5.54		H
2025/03/27	Thu	2:57 PM	-0.74		L
2025/03/27	Thu	9:10 PM	5.01		H
2025/03/28	Fri	03:05 AM	0.19		L
2025/03/28	Fri	09:10 AM	5.48		H
2025/03/28	Fri	3:27 PM	-0.51		L
2025/03/28	Fri	9:38 PM	5.50		H
2025/03/29	Sat	03:50 AM	-0.39		L
2025/03/29	Sat	09:56 AM	5.19		H
2025/03/29	Sat	3:57 PM	-0.11		L
2025/03/29	Sat	10:08 PM	5.88		H
2025/03/30	Sun	04:37 AM	-0.78		L
2025/03/30	Sun	10:45 AM	4.70		H
2025/03/30	Sun	4:28 PM	0.41		L
2025/03/30	Sun	10:42 PM	6.10		H
2025/03/31	Mon	05:28 AM	-0.94		L
2025/03/31	Mon	11:40 AM	4.08		H
2025/03/31	Mon	5:01 PM	0.99		L
2025/03/31	Mon	11:20 PM	6.09		H
2025/04/01	Tue	06:24 AM	-0.87		L
2025/04/01	Tue	12:45 PM	3.45		H
2025/04/01	Tue	5:34 PM	1.58		L
2025/04/02	Wed	12:02 AM	5.86		H
2025/04/02	Wed	07:28 AM	-0.62		L
2025/04/02	Wed	2:09 PM	2.94		H
2025/04/02	Wed	6:09 PM	2.15		L
2025/04/03	Thu	12:54 AM	5.45		H
2025/04/03	Thu	08:49 AM	-0.33		L
2025/04/03	Thu	4:24 PM	2.82		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: 3/24
6 23 35 36 47
Power#: 12
Jackpot: 484 M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 3/21
15 22 31 52 57
Mega#: 2
Jackpot: 344 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 3/22
9 24 27 33 40
Mega#: 19
Jackpot: 12 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 3/24
1 3 12 14 18

Daily 3
Draw Date: 3/24
EVENING: 4 7 3
Draw Date: 3/24
MIDDAY: 3 2 6

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 3/24
1st: 08 - Gorgeous George
2nd: 11 - Money Bags
3rd: 12 - Lucky Charms
Race Time: 1:41.83

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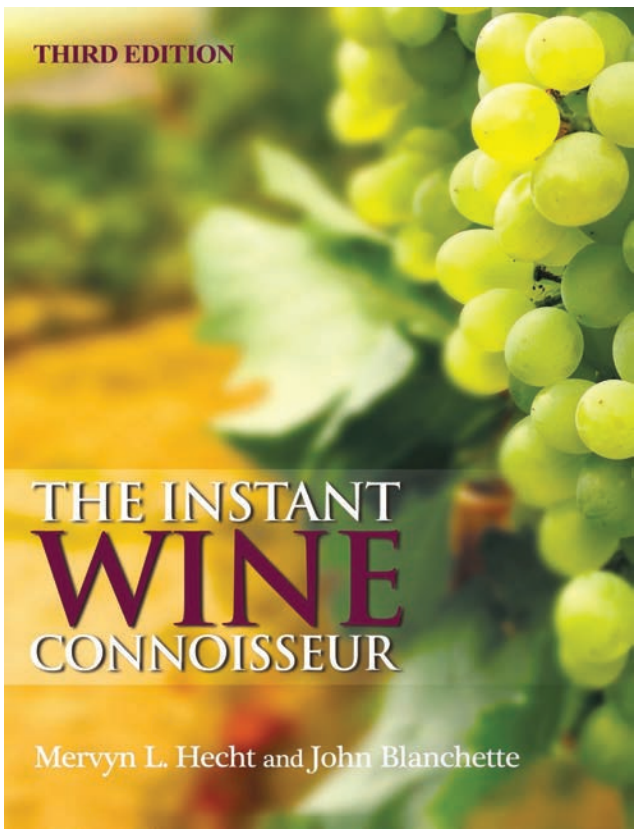
WINNER

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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★★★★★ ...Hecht has a joyful eye and fabulous taste



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DA Hochman reinstates the death penalty in LA County

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan J. Hochman has reinstated the death penalty as a prosecutorial option in murder cases with special circumstances, ending the previous administration's blanket prohibition on capital punishment.

The policy change, effective immediately, will allow prosecutors to seek the death penalty in what Hochman described as "exceedingly rare cases" and only after "extensive and comprehensive review." The announcement marks a significant shift in one of the nation's largest district attorney's offices.

> I remain unwaveringly committed to the comprehensive and thorough evaluation of every special circumstance murder case prosecuted in Los Angeles County
>
> - Nathan J. Hochman, Los Angeles County District Attorney

"I remain unwaveringly committed to the comprehensive and thorough evaluation of every special circumstance murder case prosecuted in Los Angeles County," Hochman said in a statement announcing the policy change.

The new approach replaces what Hochman called an "extreme and categorical policy" from the previous administration that had forbidden prosecutors from seeking capital punishment in any case, regardless of circumstances.

Under the revised guidelines, defense attorneys will receive "enhanced opportunities" to present mitigating information about defendants to the Special Circumstances Committee and the district attorney when capital punishment is under consideration. The policy also mandates that views of murder victims' survivors be "sought and considered" before final determinations.

The district attorney's office indicated that in most cases, it would inform courts early in proceedings that it would pursue life imprisonment without parole rather than death. Additionally, the standard for charging in potential death penalty cases has been raised from "probable cause" to "beyond a reasonable doubt" at all stages of review.

The announcement drew immediate condemnation from Los Angeles County Public Defender Ricardo Garcia, who called the decision "a step backward for LA County."

"The death penalty is a cruel and irreversible punishment that is racially biased, and ineffective as a deterrent," Garcia said. "The death penalty doubles down on a system that has disproportionately harmed the poor and communities of color."

Garcia also criticized the policy's financial implications, saying that "the death penalty comes at a great cost to taxpayers with no impact to public safety."

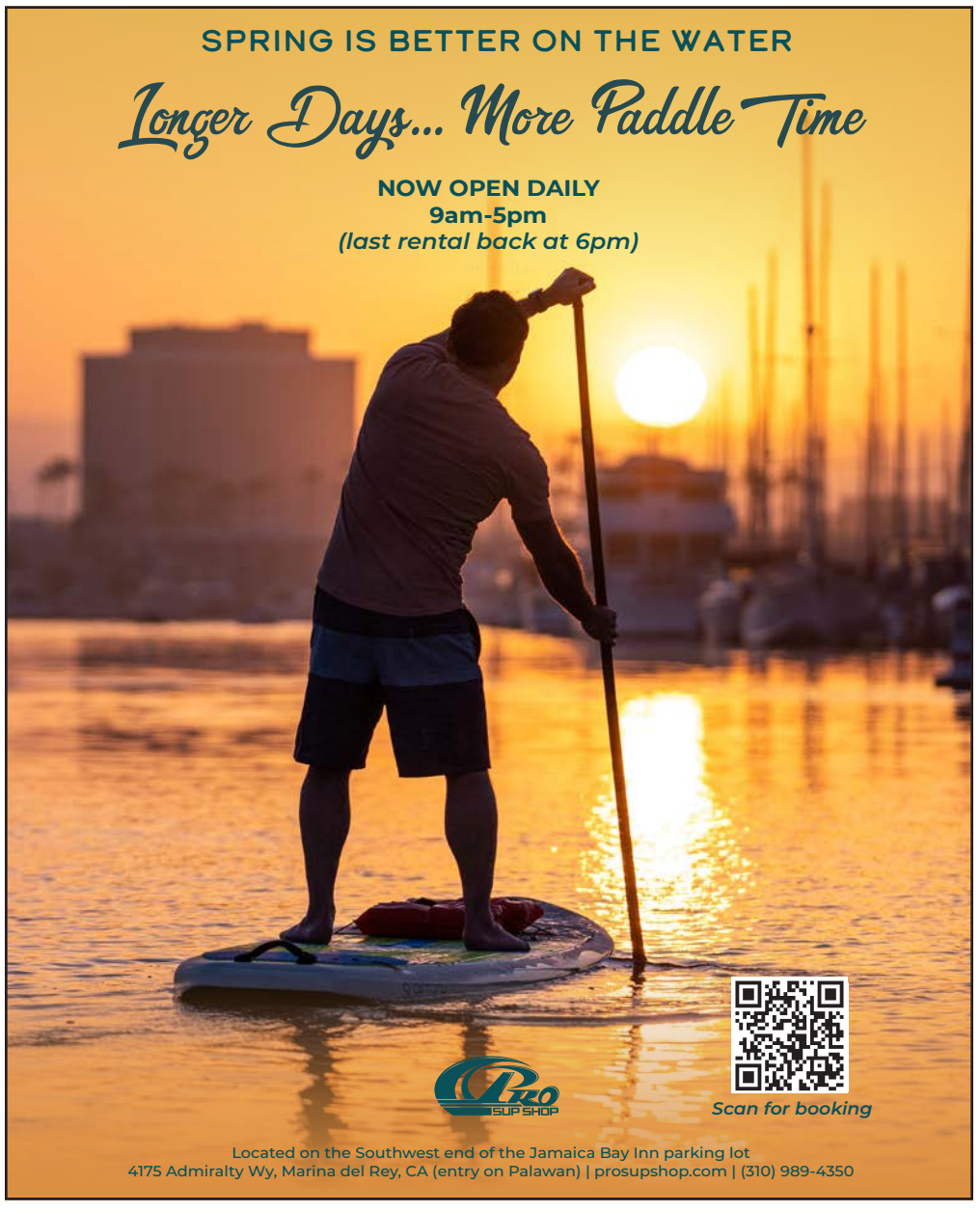
The reinstatement comes amid ongoing national debate about capital punishment. Twenty-three states have abolished the death penalty, while 27 states still maintain it as a legal punishment. California, which has the largest death row population in the country, has not executed an inmate since 2006 due to legal challenges to its execution protocols.

Critics of capital punishment point to studies showing racial disparities in its application and documented cases of wrongful convictions, while supporters argue it provides justice for the most heinous crimes and closure for victims' families.

Hochman said his decision represents a middle ground between complete prohibition and aggressive pursuit, acknowledging what he called "an evolving determination that the death penalty should be restricted to the most egregious sets of circumstances."

The District Attorney's Office has not yet identified which specific types of murder cases might qualify for death penalty consideration under the new framework.

editor@smdp.com



GET IT DAILY...

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

If zero-emission cars cut gasoline sales and tax revenue, how will California replace them?



Photo by Camille Cohen for CalMatters

CAR: A Hyundai Ioniq 6 at an Electrify America charging station in Oakland on Feb. 27, 2024.

When California motorists fill their tanks, they are often paying the nation's highest gas prices, an average of $4.65 a gallon currently and about $1.50 above the national average.

One component of California's high gas prices is the state's gas tax, which ranges between 60 and 70 cents a gallon and is also the nation's highest. The 10-cent range reflects differences on how indirect levies for climate change policies are calculated.

Eight years ago, the Legislature and then-Gov. Jerry Brown enacted a big increase in gas taxes and license fees that raises more than $5 billion a year for rehabilitation and maintenance. However, Californians drive nearly a billion miles a day, and conditions of the state's more than 400,000 lane-miles of highways, streets and roads remain among the nation's worst — 49th among the states, according to a recent study by a libertarian think tank.

The interplay of gas prices, gas taxes and roadway conditions is a perennial political football.

Gov. Gavin Newsom periodically blames greedy oil companies for high prices while refiners cite the state's unique smog-fighting fuel recipes, a tangled regulatory climate and California's overall high costs of doing business. Republicans accuse Newsom of grandstanding and have proposed to reduce taxes as a way of easing prices, to no avail. The 2017 tax and fee package survived a GOP-backed effort to repeal it via a ballot measure the following year.

Last month, the Legislature's majority Democrats blocked a Republican-sponsored bill that would have halted expansion of the low carbon fuel program that, they said, would raise gas prices by as much as 65 cents a gallon.

So, in a nutshell, that's the state of the political infighting over gas prices, but what of the future?

The state wants to ban the sale of gas-powered cars by 2035 as a major step toward converting the 30-plus million vehicles on the state's roads to electricity or hydrogen power, thereby eliminating the largest single source of emissions affecting climate while erasing gas purchases and gallonage-based tax revenues.

A few days after the Assembly blocked the GOP effort to freeze the low carbon fuel program, the Legislature's two transportation committees delved into the effects of reduced gas purchases and gas tax revenues.

Tanisha Taylor, executive director of the state Transportation Commission, told legislators that maintaining the system — including certain transit services — would cost $758 billion over the next 10 years,

SEE **GUEST COMMENTARY** PAGE 11

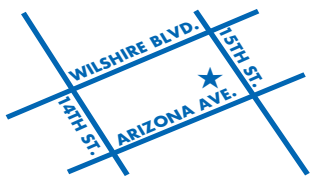
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*Prices paying in card

Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have fallen 2.3 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $4.57/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 15.4 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 41.5 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has decreased 0.9 cents in the last week and stands at $3.549 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at $3.89/g while the most expensive was $5.39/g, a difference of $1.50/g. The lowest price in the state was $3.30/g while the highest was $8.09/g, a difference of $4.79/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 6.3 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $3.08/g. The national average is down 1.6 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 42.5 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Wellness Walk





Photos by Fran Lyness

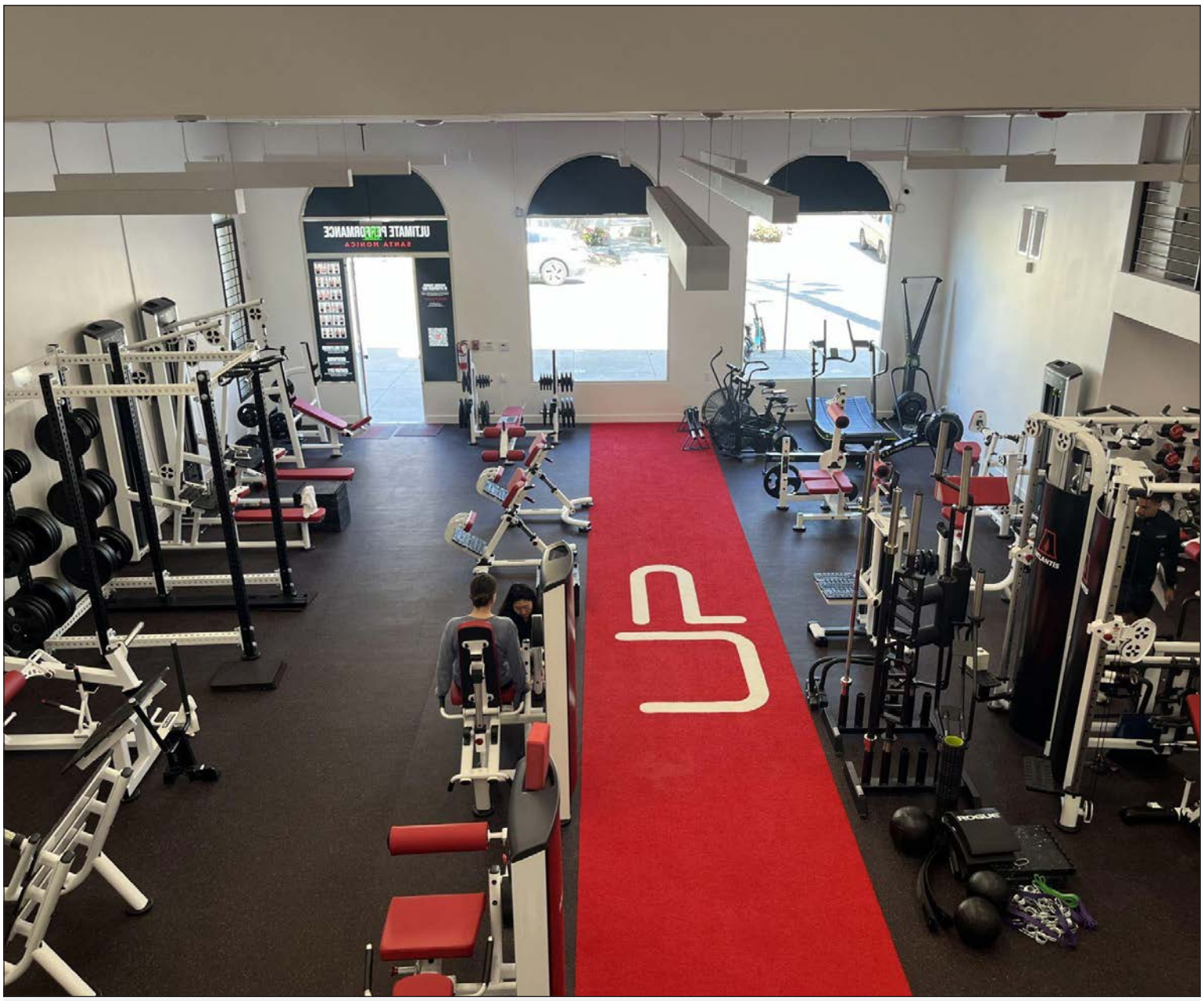
PEET'S: Montana Ave celebrated all things healthy last week with their annual Wellness Walk. Participating businesses, including Peet's Coffee, hosted tables along the street with giveaways and information.

GYM

FROM PAGE 1

Founded in London in 2009, Ultimate Performance has grown into an international fitness brand with 27 locations across eight countries, including the United States, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, Australia and Singapore.

> We typically operate in fairly affluent areas because our program is designed for people that usually have intensive careers and they want a program that's just like, maximum results, minimum time, right? That's our kind of, our slogan
>
> - Emily Schofield



Ultimate Performance

WANNA GET PHYSICAL: There's no waiting to use cardio machines or weights in this gym as a highly personalized experience awaits.

"We typically operate in fairly affluent areas because our program is designed for people that usually have intensive careers and they want a program that's just like, maximum results, minimum time, right? That's our kind of, our slogan," Schofield said.

This is not a gym where one simply walks in and starts working out. By signing up, sessions are arranged so that you're under constant, one-on-one supervision from a personal trainer. Hence, there are never more than a handful of gym goers inside and there is never any wait time for any of the machines. Moreover, the instruction goes beyond the four walls of the gym itself as nutritional and dietary guidance is also included and advice on "lifestyle adjustment" in order to achieve personal fitness goals.

"We work very closely with our clients on and off the gym floor to make that happen," Schofield says, adding, "Usually, the client comes in for a consultation and they talk to us about what their goals are and what they're looking to achieve. We then pair them with a trainer that we feel like is the right fit for them … and then we facilitate and coordinate that between the client and the trainer to a [determined] schedule with us."

Continuing the somewhat specialized format, one doesn't purchase an annual membership or anything like that, the instruction comes in the form of a package of sessions, each lasting one hour. The smallest package on offer is 18 sessions.

Ultimate Performance emphasizes client results over volume, compensating trainers based on outcomes rather than the number of sessions delivered and the company reports its average client trains 2.7 hours per week.

The new gyms are outfitted with custom fitness equipment, including Watson Pro dumbbells and Atlantis machines, and are designed to reflect what the company calls its "next generation" of facilities. There are also plans to expand into the adjacent space formerly occupied by Menchie's Frozen Yogurt.

"We've just put out advertising over the windows and we intend to build out that space. We just wanted to get the pharmacy space done first, and then could start working on that space," Schofield says.

The company has worked with several high-profile clients, including actors Glen Powell, Olivia Colman, and Lamorne Morris. It also plans to expand its North American footprint, with eyes on opening 20 gyms in the US in the next five years.

Schofield says they have plans to continue opening outlets in the region.

"We're probably going to expand more through California and through Los Angeles, but we haven't got any actual sites confirmed yet," she says.

Check out ultimateperformance.com for more information.

scott.snowden@smdp.com





Santa Monica Daily Press
Classifieds

FOR QUOTES PLEASE CALL 310-573-8074
or email cindy@smdp.com

CLASSIFICATIONS					
Announcements	Pets	Apartments/Condos	Real Estate Loans	Attorney Services	Wealth and Success
Creative	Boats	Rent	Storage Space	Business	Lost and Found
Employment	Jewelry	Houses for Rent	Vehicles for Sale	Opportunities	Personals
For Sale	Wanted	Roommates	Massage	Yard Sales	Psychic
Furniture	Travel	Commercial Lease	Services	Health and Beauty	Obituaries
	Vacation Rentals	Real Estate	Computer Services	Fitness	Tutoring

Name Change

Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No.25SMCP00107 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles Petition of Candace Sue Blanch Canady for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Candace Sue Canady with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Candace Sue Blanch Canady to Candice Sue Canady. 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 04/18/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept:K Room: - The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Courthouse 7512 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

Name Change

Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No.25SMCP00121 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Nicole Lauture for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Nicole Lauture with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Nicole St.Pleur Lauture to Nicole St.Pleur Nehring . 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 04/25/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: _ The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 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

BIOTECH/SCIENCES.
Kite Pharma Inc., a biopharmaceutical company, has openings in Santa Monica, CA for QC Microbiologist I (QCM01): Perform microbiological testing of raw material, in process, final product, validation related, and critical utility samples. Annual salary range for this position is $74,200 to $110,760; and Director, HEOR (DHEOR03): Serve as Global Health Economics & Outcomes Research (HEOR) lead for the multiple myeloma (MM) asset and work with Arcellx and our Kite cross-functional team in developing and executing the HEOR strategy for the asset. Annual salary range for this position is $248,859.55 to $283,800.00. For all positions listed, compensation will vary depending on experience and qualifications, and for benefits visit: https://www.kitepharma.com/careers/culture-and-benefits. Ref. code and email resume to globalmobilityservices@gilead.com.

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



The US Postal Service has been struggling for years. Now Trump's talking about privatizing it

The U.S. Postal Service is facing an uncertain future after the resignation this week of Postmaster General Louis DeJoy and the suggestion by President Donald Trump and Elon Musk, who heads the Department of Government Efficiency, that the mail service could be privatized.

Unions representing postal workers have balked at the idea of privatization, staging protests across the country.

While they support modernization efforts, including those initiated by DeJoy, union leaders warned that allowing private corporations to run the U.S. mail will ultimately harm everyday citizens, especially the estimated 51 million people living in rural areas who depend on the Postal Service.

"It's a terrible idea for everyone that we serve," National Association of Letter Carriers President Brian L. Renfroe said during a panel discussion at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday.

What happens next may depend on who becomes the next postmaster general. The U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors, an independent establishment of the executive branch that oversees the Postal Service, has retained a global consulting firm to conduct a search for the 76th postmaster general and CEO.

USPS currently employs about 640,000 workers tasked with making deliveries from inner cities to rural areas and even far-flung islands.

Trump and Musk look to make big changes to the USPS

In February, Trump said he may put the U.S. Postal Service under the control of the Commerce Department in what would be an executive branch takeover of the agency, which has operated as an independent entity since 1970.

"We want to have a post office that works well and doesn't lose massive amounts of money," Trump said during the swearing-in ceremony for Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick. "We're thinking about doing that. And it'll be a form of a merger, but it'll remain the Postal Service, and I think it'll operate a lot better."

While he didn't say anything about privatization at the event, the president has voiced support for the idea in the past. In December, he suggested privatizing the service given the competition it faces from Amazon, UPS, FedEx and others.

"It's an idea a lot of people have had for a long time. We're looking at it," the president said.

Musk, meanwhile, voiced support this month at a tech conference for privatizing the Postal Service, saying, "We should privatize anything that can reasonably be privatized," the New York Times reported.

Postal workers protest, warn Americans may lose a beloved service

Across the country, postal workers have been staging protests in recent days, many chanting "U.S. mail not for sale," and some holding signs that read: "The post office belongs to the people, not billionaires," a reference to Musk.

Renfroe said the goal of the protests is to make the American public aware that drastic changes are being considered for the Postal Service.

"Our message is: 'No.' Private business is interested in doing things that are profitable, as they should be," he said." But that is the distinction between private business and what we are, a public service, where we serve everyone, everywhere, no matter where they live, for the same price every day."

How did the USPS end up in such a bad financial position?

Since a reorganization in 1970, the USPS has been largely self-funded. The bulk of its annual $78.5 billion budget comes from customer fees, according to the Congressional Research Service. Congress provides a relatively small annual appropriation — about $50 million in fiscal year 2023 — to subsidize free and reduced-cost mail services.

Amid challenges that include the decline in profitable first-class mail and the cost of retiree benefits, the Postal Service accumulated $87 billion in losses from 2007 to 2020. However, the service reported a $144 million profit last quarter, attributing it to DeJoy's 10-year plan to modernize operations and stem losses. The service had reported a net loss of $2.1 billion for the same quarter last year.

> Our network of physical locations, retail locations ... our delivery network, puts us in a position to do so many different things
>
> - Brian L. Renfroe, National Association of Letter Carriers President

"By steadily improving our product portfolio, we are increasing our competitive position in the shipping marketplace," DeJoy said in a written statement February accompanying the first quarter results for Fiscal Year 2025.

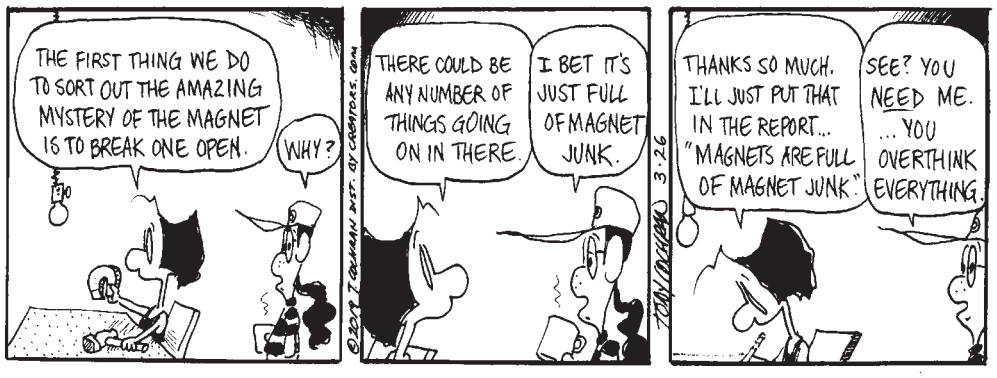
Union leaders said Wednesday that they hope the next postmaster general sticks with the modernization plan and considers harnessing the Postal Service to provide other services to the public, including basic banking, electric vehicle charging and even U.S. Census work.

"Our network of physical locations, retail locations ... our delivery network, puts us in a position to do so many different things," Renfroe said.

By SUSAN HAIGH Associated Press

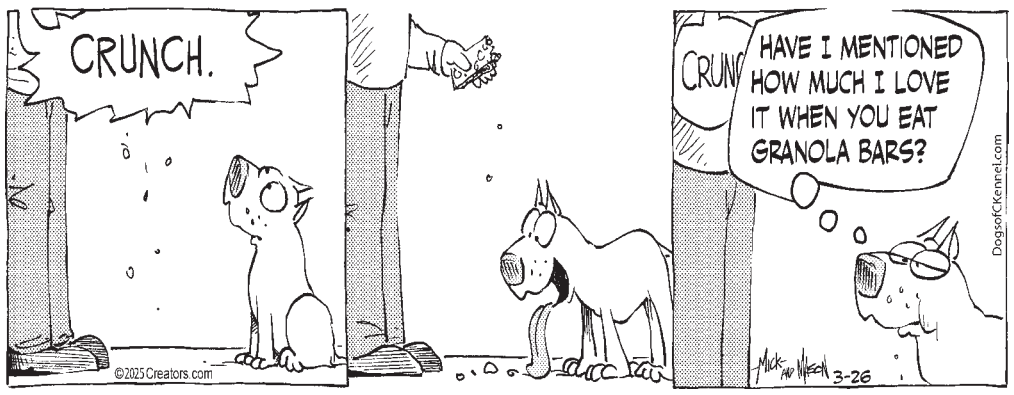
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"TURNING INSECURITY INTO GOLD."

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 26 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6526

My Grandma's house

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

Attic
Auction
Bric-a-brac
Broken
Cast iron
Chairs
Chip
Cost
Craft
Cups
Desk
Dolls
English oak
Exhibit
Expensive
Found
Gold
Ivory
Lamps
Mid-century
Museum
Organs
Ornate
Paint
Pots
Precious
Quilt
Rust
Sideboard
Silver
Solid
Spoon
Table
Trinkets
Trunks
Urns
Value
Wall

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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 26)

Because you're determined to flesh out your idea, you'll make something monumental, something you can look back on with pride. The process won't always be easy, but the result will be a work of lasting impact. The relationship sector gets a major glow-up. A major reunion, a victorious breakthrough and a new source of joy that feels like it was made just for you. Virgo and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 11, 13, 50, 34 and 16.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll create the boundaries and routines that give you the foundation to thrive in your own unique way. Productivity will rise. Your time is coming. This is just the beginning.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Emotional labor sustains relationships, but when unevenly distributed, it becomes an unseen burden. Encourage everyone to contribute. It will prevent one person from carrying too much and fostering resentment.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). If you're toiling away in a Cinderella situation, surrounded by the spoiled and ungrateful, your sweat and tears aren't helping. Don't wait for mice, birds or royalty to rescue you. Break free -- the real fairy tale begins when you take the first step.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Weakness becomes strength when it forces you to adapt in ways that others wouldn't. When a limitation makes you more creative, more empathetic, or more resilient, it stops being a drawback and starts shaping something powerful within you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Mystery is working in your favor today. There's power in leaving things unsaid. Keep them curious by sharing just enough, but never everything. Let them lean in. People are drawn to what they can't quite grasp.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You may not feel like you're influencing much, but this is because you don't know what's in the hearts and minds of others and aren't aware of how they see you. While others may be caught in the noise, your presence, which is stronger than ever, will quietly make a difference.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Boredom arises when something stands in the way of your curiosity. But once that restriction is lifted, the door will open to the knowledge or experience you've been yearning for. The answers you seek will be there waiting for you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There are teachers in the usual places when you need them, though today's best education emerges from your situation. You're paying attention to the way the world is working and that is a lesson in and of itself. Every encounter is an opportunity to learn.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The chemical flood brought on by anger is a drug, though not all are addicted. The topic comes up today. You'll witness various styles and welcome opportunities to understand people based on how they work through frustration, irritation or anger.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Rest is fuel, water is medicine, and taking care of yourself isn't a luxury -- it's foundational. It's hard to chase big dreams when you're running on fumes. Clarity, resilience, and joy come easier when your body has what it needs.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You listen well and figure out what people need. Because you're sensing at a deep level, sometimes people are not even aware they have the sort of needs you address. They feel seen and valued in your presence.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Fear signals that you're on the verge of something important. Your fear is rooted in the awareness that stepping into discomfort is what will unlock deeper layers of your potential and lead to growth.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

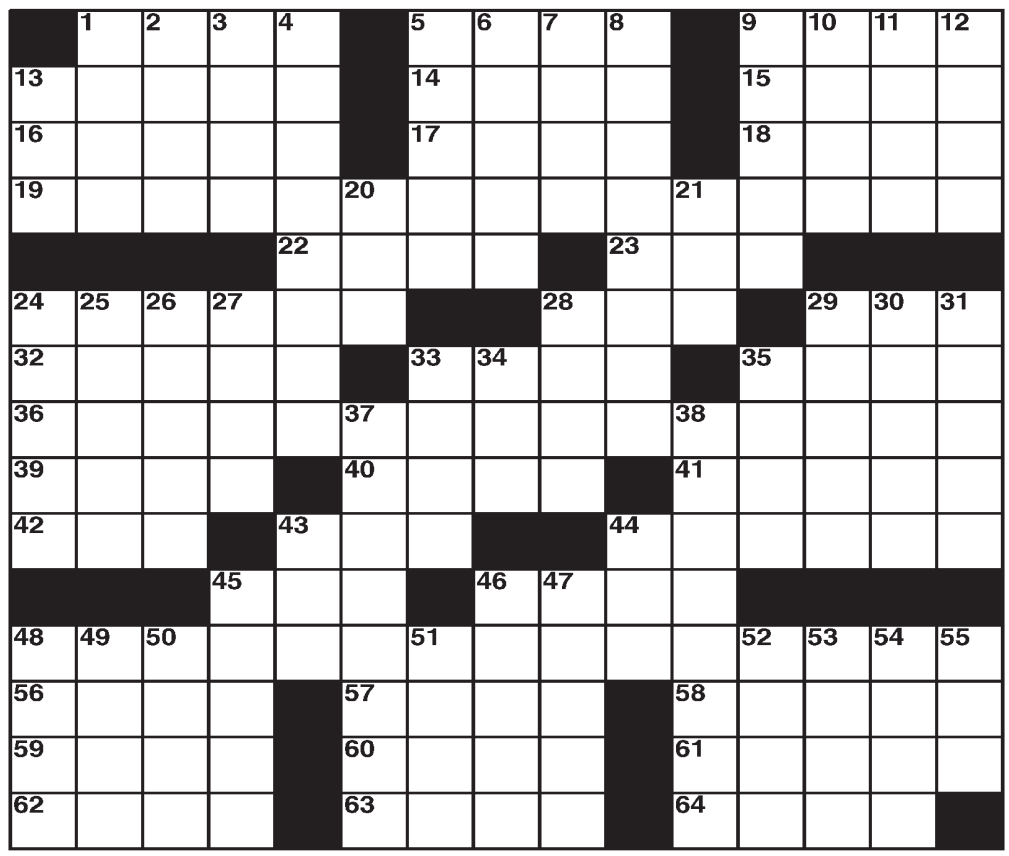
TRAINING DAY by Guilherme Gilioli
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Swallow suddenly
5 Thick carpet
9 Soup-cooking vessels
13 Discussion group
14 Office message
15 Money in Italy
16 Lauder of makeup
17 Three-decker cookie
18 Largest continent
19 Vocal group leader
22 __ Fifth Avenue (retail chain)
23 NNW opposite
24 Dined at a restaurant
28 "Now I get it!"
29 Baby beagle
32 Charity contributor
33 Folded Mexican food
35 Hesitant denial
36 Making excellent progress
39 Buzzing insects
40 Fencing blade
41 Come next
42 Make a mistake
43 Multiyear savings accts.
44 Updates, as a clock
45 Buddy
46 Wet forecast
48 DNA researcher
56 Mine extracts
57 Main idea
58 Needing a bath
59 Shopping trip sheet
60 Detest
61 Kept chilled, as wine
62 __ up (admit the truth)
63 Soft throw
64 Walesa of Poland

DOWN

1 Swordplay injury
2 "Do __ others..."
3 Rude look
4 Enjoyment
5 Art class attire
6 Submarine sandwiches
7 Prayer's conclusion
8 Compliment to an archer
9 Nobel Prize category
10 Remove from power
11 Performing threesome
12 Fly high
13 Chest muscle, for short
20 Back muscle, for short
21 Letters on Forever Stamps
24 Southwestern building brick
25 Powder in a printer
26 Go onstage
27 __ and aahs
28 Muscle soreness
29 Step of a project
30 Not shortened
31 Finger jabs
33 Helpful pointers
34 Historic time
35 Large coffee dispensers
37 Traffic stopper
38 Performer admired by adolescents
43 Lynx or leopard
44 Prearrange illegally
45 Bothersome people
46 Relaxes for a bit
47 Poker hand fees
48 Sport with clubs and greens
49 Cleveland's lake
50 Loch __ monster
51 Italian farewell
52 Highest digit in sudoku
53 Guitarist Clapton
54 Engrave deeply
55 Whole wheat alternative



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03/26/25

MORE OF STAN'S CROSSWORDS! Play FREE from Stan's archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords

CITY MANAGER

FROM PAGE 1

housing options for all residents. Strong community engagement skills and the ability to leverage strategic partnerships with diverse stakeholders are also emphasized in the job description.

Applications are being accepted through April 17, with a two-round interview process scheduled for May. The first round of virtual interviews will take place on May 3, followed by in-person interviews on May 15.

The search comes following the departure of David White, who served as City Manager for just over three years before announcing his resignation in December. White, who joined Santa Monica in October 2021 is returning to Berkeley where he previously worked as Deputy City Manager.

While the search for a permanent replacement proceeds, Elaine Polachek has been appointed as interim City Manager. Polachek brings nearly two decades of experience with the city of Santa Monica, having previously served in various roles including Assistant City Manager from 2010-2017.

Polachek first joined the city in 2000 as open space manager before serving as director of the Department of Community Maintenance, deputy city manager, interim city manager, and then assistant city manager/chief operating officer. After leaving the city, she worked as interim executive vice president at Santa Monica College for two years before founding Kings Road Consulting, a government, community, and legislative affairs consulting firm, in 2020.

Polachek rejoined the city on February 3 to assist with the transition ahead of White's departure and began as full-time interim city manager on February 21, with a salary of $197.41 per hour.

To oversee the recruitment process, the City Council has established a temporary ad hoc committee consisting of Councilmember Dan Hall, Mayor Pro Tem Caroline Torosis, and Councilmember Barry Snell.

editor@smdp.com

GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 5

but the state can count on only $541 billion in revenues, given the decline in gas sales.

The committee is exploring, not for the first time, whether the gas tax should be replaced by some other form of taxation that would require zero-emission car owners, who now pay only a small fee, to shoulder their share of roadway costs.

"It is a problem," said Lori Wilson, a Suisun City Democrat who chairs the Assembly Transportation Committee. "And while the gas tax has been a critical funding source for transportation improvements, it is becoming less effective as a user-based revenue mechanism. We need to explore new solutions that ensure transportation funding is fair and sustainable."

WHAT MIGHT THOSE ALTERNATIVES BE?

A mileage fee is one being kicked around in political and academic circles, but administering it would require some way of monitoring when cars are being used, which raises privacy issues. Another alternative might be tolls that are common in some states and California imposes on some bridges, but the state has generally been toll-averse.

Whatever it might be, the politics of implementing some new revenue source will be as thorny as the gas tax has been for the last 102 years. Californians are very sensitive about things that affect their time behind the wheel.

By Dan Walters. This article was originally published by CalMatters.





WEDNESDAY | MARCH 26

COMPUTER CLASS - YOUR ONLINE LIBRARY

10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Computer Training Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Discover all the amazing and free digital resources available at your library.

THURSDAY | MARCH 27

LA LAW LIBRARY OFFICE HOURS

2 - 6 p.m. Lobby, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. A LA Law Library legal research specialist helps patrons find answers to legal questions, learn about the law, or prepare to go to court. Legal research specialists are not attorneys and cannot provide legal advice, help fill out forms, or interpret the law.

FRIDAY | MARCH 28

AUTHOR EVENT! REBECCA MINKOFF DISCUSSES FEARLESS

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Zibby's Bookshop is excited to welcome Rebecca Minkoff as she discusses Fearless: The New Rules for Unlocking Creativity, Courage, and Success. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/author-event-rebecca-minkoff-discusses-fearless/15302749/2025-03-28T18

SATURDAY | MARCH 29

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH FILM SCREENING

11 a.m. - 2 p.m. MLK Jr. Auditorium, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Celebrate Women's History Month with a screening of "Fly Like a Girl" followed by a panel discussion with Women in Aviation International (WAI) Greater Los Angeles Chapter Treasurer Ashley Hawley, WAI Co-Events Chair Liraz Bershadsky, and Aerospace Engineer and Chief Product Officer at Airspace Experience Technologies Dr. Anita Sengupta.

TEEN MOVIE

3 - 5 p.m. Youth Activity Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Join for a 90's themed movie night watching the Shakespeare-inspired teen movie "10 Things I Hate About You." 90s attire is encouraged. Snacks and beverages will be provided. For ages 13 - 18. Supported by the Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library.

SUNDAY | MARCH 30

GREASE

2 - 4 p.m. SMC Theater Arts Complex Main Stage, 1900 Pico Blvd. Organized by the SMC Theater Arts Department, "Grease" tells the story of a summer romance that may cross clique lines. Tickets $30, $25 seniors, $18 for SMC students, faculty and staff. Buy tickets at smc.edu/tickets or by calling 310-434-4165.

JUNIE B JONES IS NOT A CROOK

11:00 a.m. Morgan-Wixson Theater 2627 Pico Blvd. $12.00 to $15.00—Children under 12, $12. 12 and up $15. Something terrible happened to Junie B. Jones at school today! Someone stole her new furry mittens! So when Junie B. finds a wonderful pen of many colors, she should be allowed to keep it, right? Because finders keepers, losers weepers. Right? And guess what? The new boy in kindergarten is the handsomest! Based on the best-selling book series by Barbara Park, this hilarious and heartfelt tale navigates the life of a kindergartner, fairness and friendship. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/junie-b-jones-is-not-a-crook/15251079/2025-03-30T11

FLOW INTO SPRING: BEACH PILATES

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Lifeguard Tower 28. Flow into Spring with a 45 min Pilates workout experience on the beach led by Flow Pilates Club. Grab your comfiest workout set or sweats and be ready to work your core and connect with an amazing community. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/flow-into-spring-beach-pilates/15302750/2025-03-30T09

VENICE ELECTRIC LIGHT PARADE - SUNDAYS AT SUNSET

7:12 p.m. Windward Plaza 1501 Ocean Front Walk Venice. Join the Magic of the Venice Electric Light Parade Every Sunday Night! Looking for a unique and vibrant way to end your weekend? The Venice Electric Light Parade (VELP) is here to light up your Sunday evenings! Founded by Marcus Gladney, this family-friendly weekly event celebrates community, creativity, and safe cycling. Bring your LED-lit bicycle and join us for an unforgettable ride along the iconic Venice Beach. Details: When: Every Sunday evening. Meet 45 minutes before sunset. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/venice-electric-light-parade-sundays-at-sunset/14970341/2025-03-30T19

MONDAY | MARCH 31

SMC JAZZ ENSEMBLE

7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center 1310 11th St. $10; free with any student I.D. Frederick Keith Fiddmont, Conductor. Jazz is alive and well at SMC! Come enjoy jazz ensemble arrangements from the masters of the idiom, special guest performances, and new works from aspiring composers and arrangers. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/smc-jazz-ensemble/15093592/2025-03-31T19

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