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TUESDAY
04.04.23

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 22 Issue 117

smdp.com

Ribbon-cutting marks the official reopening of the revamped Georgian

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

A sizable crowd gathered on Ocean Avenue yesterday morning for the ribbon-cutting ceremony that marked the official reopening of the refurbished Georgian Hotel.

Arguably the city's most notable architectural contribution to Santa Monica's ocean-facing skyline, the Georgian Hotel had only been partially open since February and before that it had been completely closed for renovations and construction work since October 2022.

Jon Blanchard, owner and manager of the Georgian, said, "I'd been trying to acquire this particular hotel for about 13 years, from back when we first started our company." The company he's referring to is Blvd Hospitality, the same company responsible for developing the Ace Hotel and the Soho Warehouse, both in downtown Los Angeles.

"We were very fortunate that in the summer of 2020, after a long pursuit, the previous ownership group decided that it was time to sell and so we stepped in and acquired it at the end of 2020," Blanchard says. "And we've spent the last two plus years in development, design and we started construction in March of '22. And now, here we are."

Assembled dignitaries included Mayor Gleam Davis, Mayor Pro Tempore Lana Negrete, Councilmembers Phil Brock and City Manager David White. However, what made this particular

SEE **GEORGIAN HOTEL** PAGE 6



Scott Snowden

OPEN: Nicolo Rusconi, Cofounder and President of Blvd Hospitality, Jon Blanchard, Founder and CEO of BLVD Hospitality, Mayor Gleam Davis, Mayor Pro Tempore Lana Negrete and Councilmember Phil Brock.

Residents and their dog use pool to escape apartment fire

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

A local family and their pet dog escaped an apartment fire on Sunday by jumping into their pool.

According to the Santa Monica Fire Department, multiple emergency calls were placed at about 10:40 a.m. on Sunday, April 2 for a structure fire at 1011 4th Street in the Wilmont Neighborhood.

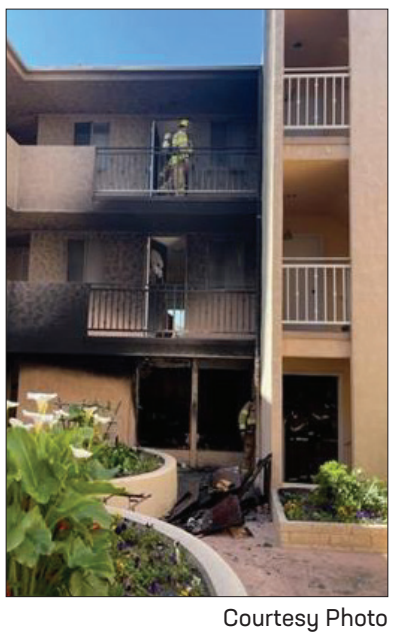
Firefighters found a well-developed fire in a first floor unit of the three-story building.

"Firefighters aggressively attacked the fire while simultaneously searching adjacent units to ensure no occupants were trapped," said SMFD in a statement. "Three residents and one dog were forced to jump into the swimming pool to escape the fire prior to the fire departments arrival."

Firefighters brought the fire under control within 20 minutes and were able to put it out before it spread to any additional units.

"Due to the size and complexity of the apartment complex and the potential for fire spread and trapped occupants, SMFD requested resources from LAFD to assist along with assistance from Santa Monica Public Safety Communications, Santa Monica Police, Building & Safety, and McCormick Ambulance," said the statement. "Thankfully, there were no injuries to residents or first responders, and no residents were displaced. The cause of the fire is under investigation by SMFD investigators."

editor@smdp.com



Courtesy Photo

FIRE: There were no injuries in the weekend fire.

Supervisors pull proposal to depopulate main jail

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

A proposal to depopulate the County's main jail facility has been pulled from the County Supervisors agenda following significant pushback.

The plan, spearheaded by County Supervisor Hilda Solis, asked to declare the state of mental health services and overcrowding at the facility a humanitarian crisis. It would have prioritized reducing the number of individuals entering the system and released some inmates. Supervisor Lindsay Horvath had joined the proposal as a cosponsor but discussion was pulled from the agenda after a surge in community interest in the idea.

In a statement, Solis said the county justice system is subject to numerous layers of oversight that are expensive and basic compliance with regulations is becoming difficult as the population grows. She said no one agency can unilaterally close the jail but the County has a responsibility to act.

"I introduced the motion on 'Los Angeles County to Take Actionable Next Steps to Depopulate and Decarcerate the Los Angeles County Jails' as a way to strike a balance with both justice-involved advocates and public safety representatives. Additionally, with the federal consent decrees and settlement agreements, including a potential receivership from the State, I felt this move was necessary," she said.

Solis said she proposed an increase in electronic monitoring

SEE **JAIL** PAGE 6



California may change its mental health funding. Why that might cut some services

KRISTEN HWANG
Special to the Daily Press

For the second time in as many years, Gov. Gavin Newsom is pushing for major reform of California's mental health system, this time by overhauling the way counties spend mental health dollars and placing a bond measure before voters to build more psychiatric beds.

County behavioral health advocates and local service providers fear programs will be cut, and, much like the controversial CARE Courts legislation — which passed last year and allows individuals to petition a court to force seriously mentally ill people into treatment and housing — say Newsom's initial announcement came as a shock.

"We listened to the press conference just like you," said Christine Stoner-Mertz, executive director of the California Alliance of Child and Family Services, which represents organizations that provide child welfare, foster care, juvenile justice and youth behavioral health services.

The proposal is being pitched as a solution to the state's ballooning homelessness crisis, but experts doubt it will make any kind of meaningful dent. No one has published bill language for the proposal, but Newsom unveiled two major changes during his March state-of-the-state tour:

> It's unacceptable what we're dealing with at scale now in the state of California
>
> - Gov. Gavin Newsom

Divert 30% of existing Mental Health Services Act money toward housing people living on the streets who are severely mentally ill;

Use a bond measure to generate between $3 billion and $5 billion for 6,000 residential psychiatric treatment beds.

Voters passed the Mental Health Services Act nearly two decades ago as a ballot initiative that levied a 1% tax on state millionaires to fund local mental health programs. Substantial changes to the act are subject to voter approval because it originally passed as a ballot measure in 2004.

The proposal aims to reprioritize a significant portion of the state's existing behavioral health system to focus on what Newsom characterized as the state's "most acute challenge," which is the number of homeless people with mental illness and substance use disorders. Only about 20% of California's approximately 172,000 homeless people have a severe mental illness, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, but the issue plays an outsized role in state politics.

"It's unacceptable what we're dealing with at scale now in the state of California," Newsom said. "We have to address and come to grips with the reality of mental health in this state and our nation."

Newsom, who made reducing homelessness a key part of his gubernatorial campaign in 2018, is contending with the reality of homelessness increasing by nearly 32% in the past four years. Though he has called out counties for not acting aggressively enough and dedicated nearly $10 billion to address the problem, he has also faced harsh bi-partisan criticism for what many view as a political stunt in threatening to withhold money from counties and failing to significantly increase the state's housing stock.

Newsom's proposal is backed by several lawmakers, including former Assemblymember and current Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg, who co-authored the original act, and Sen. Susan Talamantes Eggman, a Democrat from Stockton who co-authored the CARE Court legislation and who has staked the remainder of her term on advancing mental health changes.

Those who do the on-the-ground mental health work in the state, however, say they have major concerns about such a large system shake-up. The focus on housing and the need for more behavioral health treatment beds is welcome, Stoner-Mertz said, but shouldn't detract from the current workforce crisis and other problems exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"One-third is a big chunk of money," Stoner-Mertz said. "The question in our minds is what is the approach and process to solving some of these problems. We would welcome greater partnership around that."

WHAT THE MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING PROPOSAL WOULD CHANGE

On Wednesday, state officials revealed new details about the proposal. It changes the categories counties would be required to invest in, focusing most of the money on homeless adults. Counties would be required to spend 30%, or roughly $1 billion annually, of their Mental Health Services Act dollars on housing homeless people with serious mental illness or drug addiction. They would also direct 35% of the funds to full-service partnerships for these individuals, which include clinical treatment and social supports co-designed by the client and the program.

The remaining 35% could be used for a combination of existing programs like mental health prevention and early intervention, infrastructure and workforce investments, although officials made it clear that workforce would be a priority. Innovation grants that have historically been part of the program do not have any dedicated funds. The proposal also opens the door to using the money for people who struggle with addiction but don't have additional mental health needs.

In contrast, current regulations give counties broad flexibility in using the money. A minimum of 38% must be spent on full-service partnerships, although counties can spend up to 70% on these services. (Full-service partnerships are intensive wraparound services designed to do "whatever it takes" to meet the client's long-term needs. They can include things like 24/7 case management, clinical treatment, and housing.) About 19% is reserved for prevention and early intervention programs, much of which focuses on children, and 5% for innovation. Some counties choose to use a portion of the funds for workforce and infrastructure needs.

There are some concerns about whether counties have historically met minimum spending requirements, particularly for full-service partnerships, but there's no question that the money has become an integral part of the state's behavioral health system, making up nearly one-third of all spending. Last year the tax generated about $3.8 billion. Newsom's proposal introduces standardized accountability measures and reduces the amount of money counties are allowed to keep in reserves.

In addition, language will be placed on the 2024 ballot asking for a general obligation bond to pay for 6,000 psychiatric and substance abuse treatment beds. These beds would serve approximately 10,000 people annually, according to a fact sheet from Newsom's office, by providing long-term residential treatment. An undetermined portion of the bond funds would be used to house homeless veterans.

For many mental health organizations, the bond to increase residential care capacity is much easier to swallow than prescriptive changes to how mental health dollars are spent. The state faces a shortage of more than 7,700 adult psychiatric beds, according to a 2021 RAND report commissioned by the County Behavioral Health Directors Association.

"We really appreciate the administration looking at the report that we did, and the focus on building out infrastructure is wonderful," said Michelle Doty Cabrera, executive director of the County Behavioral Health Directors Association. "But we continue to need the same kind of focus on workforce and funding for services ongoing."

At the same time that Newsom is advancing this proposal, his January budget delays $1.1 billion in other behavioral health investments over the next two years, including money intended to increase treatment capacity for adults and kids in crisis, and money for workforce development.

WHAT ARE THE PRIMARY CONCERNS?

There's no telling how exactly existing mental health priorities will get reallocated, but cuts are nearly inevitable given how heavily counties rely on the dollars. The money is "braided into the fabric of all things in our safety net," Doty Cabrera said.

But some of the most pressing questions come from those who work with children and families. Currently, at least half of the money earmarked for prevention and early intervention must be used for children and young adults.

"This is the only protection from our perspective that is actually going to keep a focus on young people and keep a focus on more upstream services," said Adrienne Shilton, director of public policy for the nonprofit California Alliance of Child and Family Services.

That money is potentially on the chopping block under the new proposal, as are innovation grants that have catalyzed multi-county programs to improve services for communities of color and LGBTQ folks.

Historically, Medi-Cal — the state's public health insurance program for extremely low-income residents — has not covered behavioral health prevention programs, which is where the Mental Health Services Act becomes important. The money was intended to allow counties the greatest amount of flexibility in meeting local needs, particularly when other funding streams came with restrictions, said Toby Ewing,

> It is designed to be a counterpoint to historic restrictions that were in place for Medi-Cal
>
> - Toby Ewing, executive director of the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission

executive director of the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission.

"It is designed to be a counterpoint to historic restrictions that were in place for Medi-Cal," Ewing said.

At the same time that the money gives counties the ability to provide services beyond Medi-Cal, they also use qualifying program expenses to draw down matching Medi-Cal federal funds, effectively expanding local mental health programs. Collectively, counties use about half of the money on services that qualify for matching federal dollars, Doty Cabrera said.

With about $1 billion earmarked for housing, which the federal government will not pay for, the mental health system may face between $500 million and $1 billion in lost federal revenue, Shilton said, if Newsom's proposal is approved.

Dr. Mark Ghaly, state secretary for Health

SEE **MENTAL HEALTH** PAGE 8

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Newsom wins feud with oil industry – or did he?

BY DAN WALTERS

So, the third time was the charm for Gov. Gavin Newsom's crusade to punish oil companies for what he described as price-gouging – sort of.

Newsom spent six months vilifying the oil industry after retail gasoline prices surged last year to as much as $2.60 a gallon over the national average, and initially proposed a tax on windfall profits.

However, that didn't wash with enough Democrats in the Legislature to pass, since new taxes require a two-thirds vote. Newsom then exchanged the tax for penalties, but while they would have required only a simple-majority vote, legislators were also cool to deciding what profit margins would be allowed.

Finally – and almost in desperation – Newsom cut a deal that would dump the whole issue onto the California Energy Commission to gather data about refinery operations, establish a reasonable profit allowance and assess penalties for exceeding it.

> Finally, we're in a position to look our constituents in the eye and say we now have a better understanding of why you're being taken advantage of
>
> - Gov. Gavin Newsom

"Finally, we're in a position to look our constituents in the eye and say we now have a better understanding of why you're being taken advantage of," Newsom said last week as he signed the bill. "There's a new sheriff in town in California, where we brought Big Oil to their knees. And I'm proud of this state."

It was a characteristic bit of hyperbole on Newsom's part. It will take months, and perhaps years, before the energy commission takes any action to set profit margins, much less enforce them.

"Nothing is going to happen in the short term," Newsom acknowledged. "Gas prices are not going to drop immediately."

Industry officials indicated that they would sue if they consider some of the proposed regulations too onerous, which could tie things up indefinitely.

"We need to wait and see what becomes of this," a spokeswoman for the Western States Petroleum Association said.

Another caveat: The legislation is aimed at regulating "gross gasoline refining margins." However, the state's foremost expert on the subject, Severin Borenstein of UC Berkeley's Energy Institute, told legislators at a hearing for Newsom's second version of the crackdown that most of the sharp hikes in retail prices occurred as gasoline was being moved from wholesalers to the retail level. Thus, limiting profits on refining might not have a major effect on retail prices.

Finally, the last few passages of the legislation, which got almost no media attention, indicate that the energy commission will not only regulate refinery profits but must strive to ensure the industry's ability to supply enough fuel over the next few decades for a "reliable, safe, equitable, and affordable transition away from petroleum fuels" to battery-powered vehicles.

That could be the trickiest aspect of the whole issue, and one with the greatest potential impact on the motoring public.

The new law essentially transforms the refining industry into a public utility, much like the suppliers of electricity and natural gas. That means not only attempting to regulate prices but making sure the industry earns enough money to keep it in business for two or three decades, while some Californians continue to drive gasoline- and diesel-powered vehicles.

Newsom has banned the sale of such vehicles after 2035, but that doesn't mean they will suddenly disappear. Moreover, the technology to replace diesel-fueled trucks that carry freight into and out of the state is still in its infancy, and residents of other states seeking to drive into California will expect that they can fuel their cars.

How will California regulate petroleum fuel prices while simultaneously trying to both eliminate refiners and make sure they continue to produce enough fuel to meet demand indefinitely?

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Proposals for:

Engineering Design Services for Water Reservoir Upgrades and Improvements Project
Project No. SP2679

The City of Santa Monica is inviting proposals from firms interested in providing professional engineering services for the, Engineering Design Services for Water Reservoir Upgrades and Improvements Project

The purpose of the RFP is to select the most qualified consultant to professional engineering services to design structural rehabilitation, seismic retrofit and mechanical improvements to the City's four existing potable water reservoirs of the subject project.

RFP questions to be submitted to **via ProcureNow**, no later than 3:00p.m. on April 25, 2023

Proposers shall upload RFP via ProcureNow, no later than 3:00 p.m. **on May 15, 2023 Size of the electronic proposal shall not exceed 10 MB.**

RFP Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca.

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The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 8,200 on weekdays and 8,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

PUBLISHED BY NEWLON ROUGE, LLC

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City of Santa Monica

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Government Code Section 40804, the City of Santa Monica is required to publish a summary of its Annual Report of Financial Transactions submitted to the State Controller's Office. The following table presents the Summary and Statistics form of that report for the City's fiscal year ended June 30, 2022. The figures below were derived from the City's financial statements, in conformity with the format prescribed by the State Controller's Office. For detailed audited financial information, please refer to the City's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). The City's current year ACFR, as well as prior year ACFRs and other financial reports, are available online at: https://finance.smgov.net/budgets-reports/annual#/ or a copy of the current year ACFR can be viewed by appointment in the City Clerk's Office, 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica. For further information, please contact the Finance Department at (310) 458-8281.

Fiscal Year 2022
Summary

	Governmental Funds	Proprietary Funds
Revenues	502,486,572	286,019,438 (a)
Expenditures/Expenses	463,648,778	226,179,695
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under)Expenditures	38,837,794	–
Income (Loss) Before Capital Contributions, Transfers, and Special and Extraordinary Items	–	59,839,743
Other Financing Sources (Uses)	63,872,493 (b)	–
Capital Contributions	–	16,080,850
Proprietary Fund Transfers In (Out)	–	8,622,274 (b)
Special and Extraordinary Items	(60,276,172) (c)	5,554,811 (c)
Change in Fund Balance/Net Position	42,434,115	90,097,678
Fund Balance/Net Position (Deficit), Beginning of Fiscal Year	510,864,102	482,200,215
Prior Period and Other Adjustments	977,291 (d)	7,148,598 (d)
Fund Balance/Net Position (Deficit), End of Fiscal Year	554,275,508	579,446,491

Statistics

Current Transient Occupancy Tax Rate	14%
Effective Date of Current Transient Occupancy Tax Rate	1/1/2005
Current Utility User Tax Rate	10%
Appropriations Limit	2 ,535,966,926
Total Annual Appropriations Subject to the Limit	2 59,250,259

(a) $54.9 million of settlement funds reported in the Proprietary Fund revenue line in the State Controller's Office report was reported as a Special Item in the City's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). See footnote (c).

(b) Other financing sources in governmental funds and proprietary fund transfers in/out represent interfund transfers among funds to subsidize the cost of operations and bond proceeds.

(c) Extraordinary Item includes the write off of loans between the Airport Fund and the General Fund per an FAA ruling. A settlement amount of $54.9 million was recorded as a Special Item in the Governmental Funds, but not Proprietary Funds. This was included as a Special Item in the ACFR. See footnote (a).

(d) Prior period adjustments required for the implementation of GASB Statement No. 87 Leases , the recording of a capital asset upon confirmation of City ownership, and an adjustment to recycling revenue.

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$90 cream and $10 toothpaste: Companies target big spenders

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP Retail Writer

Companies from toothpaste makers to even discounters are adding more premium items like designer body creams and services as they reach out to wealthier shoppers who are still spending freely even in the face of higher inflation and a volatile economic environment.

Think $10 toothpastes and $90 creams on supermarket shelves.

Retailers and consumer product companies felt justified in raising prices to offset higher costs from gnarled supply chains and Russia's war in Ukraine last year. But as those financial pressures ease, some are looking for new ways to pump up sales and profits by focusing on premium items amid an overall sales slowdown.

> If you want to hedge against the economic challenges, you hedge your bets by chasing after the upper income
>
> - Marshal Cohen chief industry adviser at market research firm Circana

"If you want to hedge against the economic challenges, you hedge your bets by chasing after the upper income," said Marshal Cohen, chief industry adviser at market research firm Circana.

Many companies that normally cater to middle-income shoppers are unleashing a bevy of premium items in an attempt to grab consumers with more money to spare. But that could leave fewer options for consumers with less money to spare.

Walmart, for instance, features high-end $90 creams in its beauty aisles at select stores. Ketchup maker Heinz released a line of chef-inspired condiments called Heinz 57, including a 11.25-ounce container of infused honey with black truffle that costs roughly $7. Last year, Colgate-Palmolive made some waves by announcing its $10 three-ounce stain remover toothpaste, its first in the U.S. at this price, noting that premium products were essential to raising prices.

Meanwhile, Five Below — a chain known for selling toys and other impulse items for $5 and below — is creating a new store-within-a-store prototype: Five Beyond, which sells items at $6 and higher. Last year, the Philadelphia chain converted 250 of its 1,300 stores to include its higher-priced section and plans to expand that conversion to another 400 stores this year.

Five Below CEO Joel Anderson told analysts on a call in January that those who buy Five Beyond items spend more than twice as much as those who buy only Five Below items.

Some like Chipolte Mexican Grill have even publicized they are not pursuing discount-loving shoppers. The restaurant chain has been frank over the past year about how its price increases have scared off lower-income consumers. Last fall, it introduced Garlic Guajillo Steak, a limited-time offering that was pricier than regular steak.

In a conference call with investors in February, Chipotle Chairman and CEO Brian Niccol said the chain — which raised prices by 13.5% in its most recent quarter — is seeing higher-income customers visit more often.

"We made the decision not to go chasing people with discounts," Niccol said. "That's not what our brand is and that's not what we're going to do."

Critics like Rakeen Mabud, chief economist at left-leaning The Groundwork Collaborative, believe such moves will only increasingly shut out the less economically fortunate.

"As products get more expensive and companies are focused more on the wealthier segments of our population or our consumers, everyday people are increasingly underserved and increasingly unable to afford the products they need," Mabud said.

When AMC Entertainment, the world's largest cinema chain, announced in February it was rolling out a new three-tier pricing system at all its locations by year end that would require customers to pay more for better seats, actor Elijah Wood — best known for his portrayal of Frodo Baggins in "The Lord of the Rings" film trilogy — blasted the move on Twitter.

"The movie theater is and always has been a sacred democratic space for all and this new initiative by AMCTheatres would essentially penalize people for lower income and reward for higher income," he wrote.

The gap between the haves and have nots has only gotten wider during the pandemic.

Households with annual income of more than $156,000 make up 20.7% of the U.S. population, according to research firm GlobalData. However, they accounted for around 38.3% of all retail spending last year, up from 37.5% in 2021. Excluding food and other essentials, those shoppers in that bracket accounted for 41.7% of spending last year, up from 39.5% in 2021.

On the other end of the spectrum are lower-income households who are spending down the savings accumulated during the pandemic at a faster rate than anyone else. Households with incomes below $50,000 have depleted their savings by about half from a peak reached when the last stimulus check was sent in March 2021, according to data from the Bank of America Institute. Households with income above $250,000 have reduced

SEE **PRICE** PAGE 6

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

How community solar could revolutionize clean energy access in California

Community solar is finally about to have its moment in the sun.

Signed into law last year, Assembly Bill 2316 requires the California Public Utilities Commission to assess new community renewable energy program proposals with a focus on serving low-income customers. This will make solar power an option for all residents, not just wealthier homeowners.

Community solar allows families to subscribe to a project through a community solar provider. Customers will receive a community solar credit on their utility bill, saving them money on their energy bills. The customer's participation in the community solar program supports the development and operation of a community solar project that provides energy to the grid. Projects are generally connected to the distribution grid and are typically located on underutilized land.

While California has the most rooftop solar installations in the country, solar energy is still out of reach for many residents. This includes the 44% of Californians who rent their homes, homeowners whose roofs are unable to host solar panels, or those who don't have the resources to finance a rooftop solar system.

For these families, community solar is an important path to reducing energy bills and participating in the clean energy economy.

Under the new law, the CPUC is responsible for designing new programs so that all Californians can access solar energy and the state can maximize the significant federal dollars becoming available.

Under the Inflation Reduction Act, California can take advantage of federal tax incentives to bolster the growth of community solar and provide every household with clean, low-cost energy. The federal funds became available in February, and since other states already have viable community solar programs, California regulators must prioritize creating a fair and workable community solar program and have it in place as early as possible to fully take advantage of the additional incentives.

While this must be done quickly, it cannot be done in haste. California must ensure the program is structured in a way that allows it to thrive and equitably serve residents.

As regulators at the CPUC begin crafting the rules governing the new programs, past mistakes that made previous attempts at community solar unaffordable and unattractive to most residents must not be repeated.

The California Energy Commission should also set aside a portion of the $1 billion designated for distributed energy resources to provide greater bill savings to low-income and disadvantaged communities. These funds could also provide incentives for projects that are owned and led by these communities.

If California wants to provide energy savings to households and receive its share of the federal tax credits that will be made available in 2023, it must act with urgency. And it must do so in the face of stiff opposition. Utilities like PG&E and other fossil fuel interests view community solar programs as a threat and will do anything to pressure the CPUC to squash the programs or set them up to fail.

In other states, utilities and fossil fuel interests have successfully lobbied regulators and policymakers to adopt policies that limit the reach and effectiveness of community solar. This playbook includes imposing significant fees on community solar subscribers or putting arbitrary statewide caps on the amount of electricity that can be produced by community solar programs.

The stakes are too high to allow the same in California. Compared to the median household, those at or below twice the federal poverty level spend 3.5 times more of their household budget on electricity. With inflationary pressures leading to a surge in energy prices, power bills have become an increasingly larger burden for California families. Many families are forced to make dire choices about their basic needs, such as paying either an electricity bill or buying groceries with their limited income.

Under the Inflation Reduction Act, certain community solar projects that benefit low- and moderate-income communities can qualify for as much as a 40% or 50% tax credit. This is an unprecedented incentive to help enhance California's solar footprint. This funding, paired with other federal and state dollars, will help California reach the goals laid out by AB 2316 – if regulators can create the framework for new state programs in 2023.

California has the potential to create one of the largest and most equitable community solar programs in the country. The CPUC needs to swiftly and effectively develop policies supporting the success of community solar. This is the only way to seize on the incredible opportunity to bring the benefits of clean energy to every Californian.

Guest Commentary written by: Alexis Sutterman is the energy equity program manager at the California Environmental Justice Alliance. Assemblyman Chris Ward, a San Diego Democrat, represents the 78th Assembly District. He is the Assistant Majority Leader in the Assembly.

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City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

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

BID #4451 BATTERIES FOR HEAVY-DUTY TRANSIT BUSES AND FIRE APPARATUS

Submission Deadline is April 19, 2023 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

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

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

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

BID #4445 CITYWIDE MICROFLEX GLOVES

Submission Deadline is April 17, 2023 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

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

GEORGIAN HOTEL

FROM PAGE 1

ribbon cutting ceremony refreshing was having Edgar Perez and Virginia Carmelo represent the Gabrielino-Tongva native American tribe.

Perez, while battling against the background noise of day-to-day Ocean Ave traffic, provided a condensed-but-captivating summary on the history of Santa Monica and how it came to be before Carmelo performed a traditional sage blessing that cleansed the air, the land and the water and bestowed good health and good fortune on the historic hotel, which also celebrates its 90th anniversary this year.

Fans of Italian cuisine — who are currently enjoying a localized renaissance further fueled by Bar Monette opening later this week — will be thrilled to hear that the Georgian is opting for a Italian themed menu, albeit a generalized one. The dining experience is under the direction of Chef David Almany, who joins from upscale eatery Osteria Mozza on Melrose Ave under Chef Nancy Silverton for almost a decade.

Australian Jerom Morris will manage the bar and Kristin Olszewski will serve as Wine Director, both will feature Italian themed offerings.

"The food that you'll see is more like an Amalfi Coast style, so a little bit of pasta, but not too heavy and no pizza. We want a coastal feel, because we're right by the ocean, so lots of sea food," Jerom Morris, bar manager and beverage director says.

"I wanted to include a lot of aperitifs, Amaro for example, and that very European culture to the experience. We'll be rotating the cocktail menu seasonally and there will be a lot of pairing from the chef, incorporating garnishes and infusions and flavors, keeping the concept very Italian, with rare and raw ingredients, natural flavors, simplicity and elegance."

scott.snowden@smdp.com



Scott Snowden

CEREMONY: Virginia Carmelo, representing the Gabrielino-Tongva native American tribe, performed a traditional sage blessing.

PRICE

FROM PAGE 4

their larger savings by just about 15%.

Low and middle-income shoppers have also been hurt by the Federal Reserve's inflation-fighting campaign to hike interest rates that have made using a credit card or getting an auto loan more expensive. But the Fed's efforts could be easing as its favored inflation gauge slowed sharply last month, while consumer spending rose modestly, according to reports by the Commerce Department released Friday.

Luxury retailer Neiman Marcus is doubling down with special services and exclusive offerings for its multi-millionaire shoppers who shop an average of 25 times a year and spend upwards of $27,000 annually. For example, the store recently teamed up with designer fashion brand Brunello Cucinelli to have a fashion show at a local ranch outside of Dallas for its top customer.

Neiman Marcus emphasized it's hardly ignoring the rest of the customer spectrum, but it noted that given a volatile economic environment it pays to invest more in its most loyal shoppers, specifically the top 2% who drive roughly 40% of its total sales.

Chief Executive for American Express Stephen J. Squeri told analysts in an earnings call in January that the company is limiting its focus to wealthier applicants.

"That premium customer base, while not immune to economic downturn, certainly right now is spending on through," he said.

Associated Press staff writers Chris Rugaber and Paul Wiseman in Washington and Dee-Ann Durbin in Detroit contributed to this report.

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

JAIL

FROM PAGE 1

over incarceration, reduced or eliminated bail for many inmates, transfer of inmates to state facilities where appropriate and increased compassionate release for medically fragile inmates.

> "This board has taken steps to divert people from our jails safely, but Men's Central Jail continues to overcrowded and dangerous for both our inmates and our deputies
>
> - Janice Hahn Supervisor

"Nonetheless, since the motion was published, my office has received concerns from a variety of stakeholders — those who feel the motion is not doing enough and those who feel it is doing too much. To that end, I will be referring the motion back to my office so that I can continue to gather input from all stakeholders. We must help balance the needs of public safety while also getting into compliance with our federal obligations. And in that process, I ask that County departments and agencies help us with meeting the need of our most vulnerable," she said.

Some of those concerns came from her fellow supervisors.

"This board has taken steps to divert people from our jails safely, but Men's Central Jail continues to overcrowded and dangerous for both our inmates and our deputies," said Supervisor Janice Hahn. "That being said, I have concerns with this proposal and its potential impact on public safety, and I cannot support it. Any plan to reduce the population of our jails needs to be decided in partnership with law enforcement, our deputy district attorneys, and our courts. I understand that my colleague plans to pull this item from the agenda and I think that is the right decision."

Supervisor Kathryn Barger also said she planned to vote against the motion.

The Los Angeles Association of Deputy District Attorneys is among the critics of the proposal.

"The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' motion to gut parts of the criminal justice system without input from stakeholders is dangerous and reckless. The authors sought no advice from those who know and understand public safety issues. The proposal sought to lower the jail population without addressing the root causes of crime or protecting the public. This catch-and-release program comes without any plan or infrastructure to protect the community from violent criminals apprehended by law enforcement. It creates no lockdown facilities for the mentally ill. It benefits no one except career criminals," said Eric Siddall, Vice President of the LAADD.

The California Contract Cities Association (CCCA) also expressed concern over the proposal saying the action had the potential to adversely impact public safety in Los Angeles County.

"CCCA has learned the item will be pulled from the April 4th agenda and applauds this action as a step in the right direction to give impacted communities and stakeholders an opportunity to engage in conversations on how to mitigate risks to public safety and to provide adequate rehabilitative services to those in need," they said.

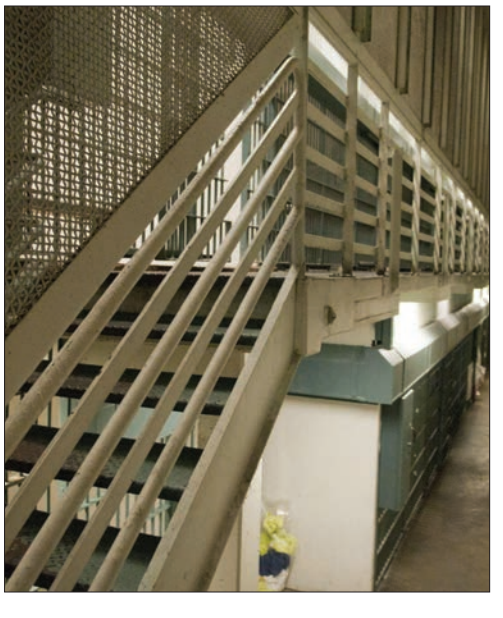
The facility houses inmates who were arrested in one of 45 agencies, including the Santa Monica Police Department and local officials said they welcomed the delay as it will give them more time to provide input.

"As the Chief of the City of Santa Monica and a member of the LA County Chiefs Association, Chief Batista is thankful and relieved that the Board of Supervisors has reconsidered the motion," said SMPD in a statement. "Our collective hope is that local area law enforcement officials and members of all LA County communities, including residents and business owners in Santa Monica affected by the potential of the county system emptying their cells, will have an opportunity to work together in this complicated matter."

The main jail has been a source of growing controversy for years with critics saying the facility lacks basic safety systems and is overwhelmed by a mental health crisis among inmates. Judicial reform activists have protested at Supervisor's meetings in recent weeks asking for the facility to be completely closed and there have been significant concerns about other parts of the judicial system, including the county's probation services.

Solis made no mention of a timeline for reintroducing the measure.

editor@smdp.com



Courtesy photo

JAIL: The mens' facility has been a source of controversy.

Members of Congress on TikTok defend app's reach to voters

FARNOUSH AMIRI
Associated Press

Rep. Jeff Jackson of North Carolina has used it to explain the complex fight over raising the debt limit. Rep. Robert Garcia of California has used it to engage with members of the LGBTQ+ community. And Sen. Bob Casey of Pennsylvania has used it to give an overview of Election Day results.

As pressure against TikTok mounts in Washington, the more than two dozen members of Congress — all Democrats — who are active on the social media platform are being pushed by their colleagues to stop using it. Many defend their presence on the platform, saying they have a responsibility as public officials to meet Americans where they are — and more than 150 million are on TikTok.

"I'm sensitive to the ban and recognize some of the security implications. But there is no more robust and expeditious way to reach young people in the United States of America than TikTok," Democratic Rep. Dean Phillips of Minnesota told The Associated Press.

Yet the lawmakers active on TikTok remain a distinct minority. Most in Congress are in favor of limiting the app, forcing a sale to remove connections to China or even banning it outright. The U.S. armed forces and more than half of U.S. states have already banned the app from official devices, as has the federal government. Similar bans have been imposed in Denmark, Canada, Great Britain and New Zealand, as well as the European Union.

Criticism of TikTok reached a new level last week as CEO Shou Zi Chew testified for more than six hours at a contentious hearing in the House. Lawmakers grilled Chew about the implications of the app for America's national security and the effect on the mental health of its users. And the tough questions came from both sides of the aisle, as Republicans and Democrats alike pressed Chew about TikTok's content moderation practices, its ability to shield American data from Beijing and its spying on journalists.

"I've got to hand it to you," said Rep. August Pfluger, R-Texas, as members questioned Chew over data security and harmful content. "You've actually done something that in the last three to four years has not happened except for the exception of maybe (Russian President) Vladimir Putin. You have unified Republicans and Democrats."

While the hearing made plain that lawmakers view TikTok as a threat, their lack of first-hand experience with the app was apparent at times. Some made inaccurate and head-scratching comments, seemingly not understanding how TikTok connects to a home Wi-Fi router or how it moderates illicit content.

Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Wis., who is active on the app and opposes a nationwide ban, called the hearing "cringeworthy."

"It was just so painful to watch," he told the AP on Friday. "And it just shows the real problem is Congress doesn't have a lot of expertise, whether it be social media or, for that matter, more importantly, technology."

Garcia, who said he uses TikTok more as a consumer, said most of his colleagues who are proposing a nationwide ban told him they had never used the app. "It gets hard to understand if you're not actually on it," the freshman Democrat said. "And at the end of the day, a lot of TikTok is harmless people dancing and funny videos."

"It's also incredibly rich educational content, and learning how to bake and learning about the political process," he said.

Rep. Jamaal Bowman, D-N.Y., who has more than 180,000 followers on the app, held a news conference with TikTok influencers before the hearing. He accused Republicans of pushing a ban on TikTok for political reasons.

"There are 150 million people on TikTok and we are more connected to them than Republicans are," Bowman said. "So for them, it's all about fear-mongering and power. It's not TikTok, because, again, we've looked the other way and allowed Facebook and other platforms to do similar things."

Critics of TikTok in Congress say their opposition is rooted in national security, not politics. TikTok is a wholly owned subsidiary of Chinese technology firm ByteDance Ltd., which appoints its executives. They worry Chinese authorities could force ByteDance to hand over TikTok data on American users, effectively turning the app into a data-mining operation for a foreign power. The company insists it is taking steps to make sure that can never happen.

"The basic approach that we're following is to make it physically impossible for any government, including the Chinese government, to get access to U.S. user data," general counsel Erich Andersen said during an interview with the AP on Friday at a cybersecurity conference in California.

TikTok has been emphasizing a $1.5 billion proposal to store all U.S. user data on servers owned and maintained by the software giant Oracle. Access to U.S. data would be managed by U.S. employees through a separate entity run independently of ByteDance and monitored by outside observers.

Republican Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina took the unusual step of releasing a public statement urging all members of Congress to stop using TikTok, including from his home state — seemingly a jab at Jackson, who is one of the more active members with more than 1.8 million followers.

"I was just saying if we're having a discussion about TikTok then I think we ought to at least reduce the pull factor by elected officials who can simply come off of it," Tillis said this week, when asked about his statement. "I don't have a TikTok account. So that was an easy separation for me."

Loud warnings about TikTok have also been coming from President Joe Biden's administration. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and FBI Director Christopher Wray have told Congress in recent weeks that TikTok is a national security threat. Blinken told lawmakers the threat "should be ended one way or another."

But some members are unconvinced.

"It's like turning your cell phone off on an airplane. You're supposed to do. And if it

SEE TIKTOK PAGE 8

smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

City calendar



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•CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS •AND MORE!



MENTAL HEALTH

FROM PAGE 2

and Human Services, disagrees with the assumption that these changes mean cuts will happen. The administration's team has heard the same concerns in stakeholder meetings following the announcement and will work with counties "to try to maintain as much as we possibly can with them," Ghaly said.

"There is no reason why we won't be able to do a lot on the prevention and early intervention side," Ghaly said.

He also notes that this proposal can't be considered alone. It is part of a larger strategy to improve mental health services in the state, which includes sweeping changes to Medi-Cal, a children's behavioral health initiative and investments in crisis response. One piece of the puzzle seeks permission from the federal government to use Medi-Cal dollars on housing, which would allow counties to still draw down a significant portion of matching funds.

> "All of these things come together, build on each other, and I would like to say catalyze one another to promote the transformation"
> - Dr. Mark Ghaly

"All of these things come together, build on each other, and I would like to say catalyze one another to promote the transformation," Ghaly said. "This is, in my mind, government doing well."

WILL THIS HELP HOMELESSNESS? NOT REALLY.

The proposal has been couched as a solution to California's explosive homelessness problem, which consistently tops the list of voter issues.

"We're fooling ourselves that if we don't address that fundamental need that we can turn this thing around," Newsom said during his press conference, backed by more than a half dozen officials who detailed homeless issues from state, county, city and personal perspectives.

But the public perception that California's homelessness crisis is caused by psychiatric emergencies and drug addiction is a false one. Rather, decades of politicians upholding restrictive zoning laws and obstructive environmental policies have pushed California to the bottom of affordable housing rankings and are the primary drivers of homelessness in the state. Other factors, like changes to the state's criminal justice system, also contribute. Dr. Margot Kushel, director of the UC San Francisco Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative, said no amount of spending on mental health will improve the state's overall homelessness problem.

Still, she and other medical professionals who work primarily with unhoused people say the most vulnerable people on the streets are those with untreated mental illness, and prioritizing housing is the most important thing the state can do for that population's physical and mental health. People living without shelter also face dismal health outcomes, and discharging a patient back to the street is a recipe for swift deterioration.

Even local and county behavioral health groups that have raised concerns about the proposal acknowledge the need for more housing for their clients, but they fear an inversion of the current problem — housing without services — will result.

"My concern is robbing Peter to pay Paul," said Debbie Manners, president and CEO of Sycamores, a Los Angeles behavioral health and child welfare agency. Sycamores serves about 500 children and families daily through its school-based mental health program. Two years ago the state allocated $4.4 billion to a Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative, but it's a one-time investment.

"I'm not sure how that will fill in the gap. I don't think it will fill the gap," Manners said.

Unfortunately, limited funding is the reality of this year's budget cycle, with the Legislative Analyst's Office projecting a $24 billion deficit.

"You don't want to pit one need for money against another, and I get that," Kushel said. "On the other hand, it isn't really possible to serve this population without their having housing."

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

TIKTOK

FROM PAGE 7

was super dangerous, I don't think we will be allowed to have the phone on the plane," Rep. Greg Landsman, D-Ohio, said Wednesday, "So if it was super dangerous for members of Congress to have this app on their phone, you have to imagine the administration or our government would say absolutely not, you can't have it on a government phone."

Concerns about what kind of content Americans encounter online, or how their data is collected by technology companies, also aren't new. Congress has been wanting to curtail the amount of data tech companies collect on consumers through a national privacy law, but those efforts have stalled repeatedly over the years.

Supporters of TikTok on Capitol Hill are urging their colleagues to educate themselves about social media as a whole so Congress can pass legislation that deals with broader issues of data privacy, instead of hyper-focusing on a ban of TikTok, which could risk political backlash and a court fight over the reach of the First Amendment.

"We are uninformed and misinformed. We don't even understand how social media works. We don't know anything about data brokers and how data brokers sell our data to foreign countries and foreign companies right now," Bowman said. "So ban TikTok tomorrow, this stuff is still going to be happening."

Associated Press writer Haleluya Hadero in Sausalito, California, contributed to this report.

WWE no longer just a family affair as it joins with UFC

MICHELLE CHAPMAN
AP Business Writer

WWE is saying goodbye to existing as a family-run business as it joins with the company that runs Ultimate Fighting Championship to create a $21.4 billion sports entertainment company.

The deal announced Monday between Endeavor and World Wrestling Entertainment, on the heels of its biggest event of the year, catapults WWE into a new era after spending decades under the control of the McMahon family.

Vince McMahon purchased Capitol Wrestling from his father in 1982, and took the regional wrestling business to a national audience with stars such as Andre the Giant, Hulk Hogan, "Stone Cold" Steve Austin, John Cena and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson. The company, which changed its name to World Wrestling Federation and later World Wrestling Entertainment, hosted its first WrestleMania in 1985.

> "It's the right time to do the right thing. And it's the next evolution of WWE"
> - Vince McMahon

McMahon, in an interview with CNBC, addressed doubts among some WWE fans and industry experts that he would ever make a deal for the business. "It's the right time to do the right thing. And it's the next evolution of WWE," he said.

In a presentation after the deal was announced, the WWE and Endeavor said that they will cross promote to drive brand awareness and deepen penetration of their overlapping fan base, more than 700 million UFC fans and 1.2 billion WWE fans worldwide.

Ties already exist talent wise between WWE and UFC, with stars such as Brock Lesnar and Ronda Rousey crossing over between the two organizations.

A new publicly traded company will house the UFC and WWE brands, with Endeavor Group Holdings Inc. taking a 51% controlling interest in the new company. Existing WWE shareholders will hold a 49% stake.

The companies put the enterprise value of UFC at $12.1 billion and WWE's value at $9.3 billion.

The new business, which does not yet have a name, will be lead by Endeavor CEO Ari Emanuel. McMahon, executive chairman at WWE, will serve in the same role at the new company. Dana White will continue as president of UFC and Nick Khan will be president at WWE.

"Together, we will be a $21+ billion live sports and entertainment powerhouse with a collective fanbase of more than a billion people and an exciting growth opportunity," McMahon said in a prepared statement Monday.

He also provided some idea of where the focus of the new company will be, saying that it will look to maximize the value of combined media rights, enhance sponsorship monetization, develop new forms of content and pursue other strategic mergers and acquisitions to further bolster their brands.

Confirmation that WWE is being sold comes after McMahon, a majority shareholder of WWE, returned to the company in January and said that it could be on the block with viewership continuing to rise.

Rumors swirled about who would possibly be interested in buying WWE, with Endeavor, Disney, Fox, Comcast, Amazon and Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund all in the mix.

McMahon said on CNBC that there were several buyers interested in WWE, but that combining with Endeavor is the right move.

"It makes all the sense in the world for all these synergies that we have to extract all of the value that we can out of the marketplace," he explained.

Media industry analysts viewed WWE as an attractive target given its global reach and loyal fanbase.

The company held its marquee event, WrestleMania, over the weekend. The two-day spectacular, held at SoFi Stadium in California, topped the existing global viewership record by 28% on the first night. On the second night, it beat the existing global viewership record by 33%. Merchandise sales for WrestleMania 39 climbed 20% from a year earlier. Last year, WWE booked revenue of $1.3 billion.

The company is also a social media powerhouse. It surpassed 16 billion social video views in the final quarter of last year. It has nearly 94 million YouTube subscribers and has more than 20 million followers on TikTok. Its female wrestlers comprise five out of the top 15 most followed female athletes in the world, across Facebook, Twitter & Instagram, led by Rousey with 36.1 million followers.

WWE had more than 7.5 billion digital and social media views in January and February of this year, up 15% from the same time frame a year ago. And WrestleMania 39 had more than 500 million views and 11 million hours of video consumed over the two days of the event, a 42% increase over last year.

The new company plans to trade on the New York Stock Exchange under the "TKO" ticker symbol. Its board will have 11 members, with six being appointed by Endeavor and five being appointed by WWE.

"We like the assets of UFC and also WWE in a world where linear TV is losing market share to streaming, thus live sport content is in high demand," wrote Jeffries analyst Randal Konik said in a note to clients.

The transaction, which was approved by the boards of Endeavor and WWE, is targeted to close in the second half of the year. It still needs regulatory approval.

Shares of World Wrestling Entertainment Inc., based in Stamford, Connecticut, are up 33% this year, but fell nearly 4% in Monday afternoon trading. Shares of Endeavor, based in Beverly Hills, California, slipped more than 7%.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 4)

It's your year of endearment. The sweet actions of others warm your heart. Your way of being in the world has others pulling you in closer. Bonds become tighter and more reliable. You'll grow your skills on challenging work. More highlights: a fun makeover of an environment, a completely random stroke of financial luck and an age-old excellent decision finally paying off for you. Leo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 4, 33, 19 and 17.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The past is done and the future will come. You're able to stay in the now for longer and longer — a discipline that enhances your experiences. You will be aware of the energy exchange of interactions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you're not happy in your role, your work will suffer and so will you. What would it take to make yourself more comfortable? Getting to a better place is a matter of executing one small action at a time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll deal with drama in a fair and impartial manner. You will respond based on what seems right. You're able to keep your personal preferences out of the equation. This is why people trust you and ask for your input.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Today, you'll get moving and stay in motion. Don't worry about progress. Assume it's all progress. Every step is headed somewhere. The only difference between a step forward and a step back is the intended destination.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Growing up involves experimentation and mistakes — lots of mistakes. You expect this and you're not too hard on yourself when what you're trying falls flat. With patience, you'll figure out what works for you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're headed toward an impasse. Disagreement makes progress impossible. The deadlock has something to teach. It's an opportunity to decide what's worth fighting for. Eventually, you'll discover what's immobile — the obstacle in your path or your attitude.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Negativity is literally saying no. We feel moody and glum about the circumstances we reject. The way to resolve negative feelings is to say yes to them. Acceptance is the starting line to happiness.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You don't base your self-worth on the money you earn, but it still feels good to make a significant contribution to the things that matter to you. Tonight features comfortable conversation about nothing much; the noise is reassuring.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll absorb the day's lessons. And though you can learn through cautionary examples and aspirational models alike, the very best way, if you have time for it, will be learning from your own experience.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Most people are poor judges of what will make them happy, so the pursuit of happiness usually doesn't bring about the desired result. Go deeper into what interests you and you'll accidentally land in a joyful place.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). What you want is important not only to you. Loved ones want to see you content, too, and they'll help you however they can if you ask. Tonight, you can avoid bad timing with good observing.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Optimism wanes. This dip in mood is a gift. It will lead you to learn where your energy is going. If someone or something is siphoning your vitality, you'll handle it, and then brightness returns.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

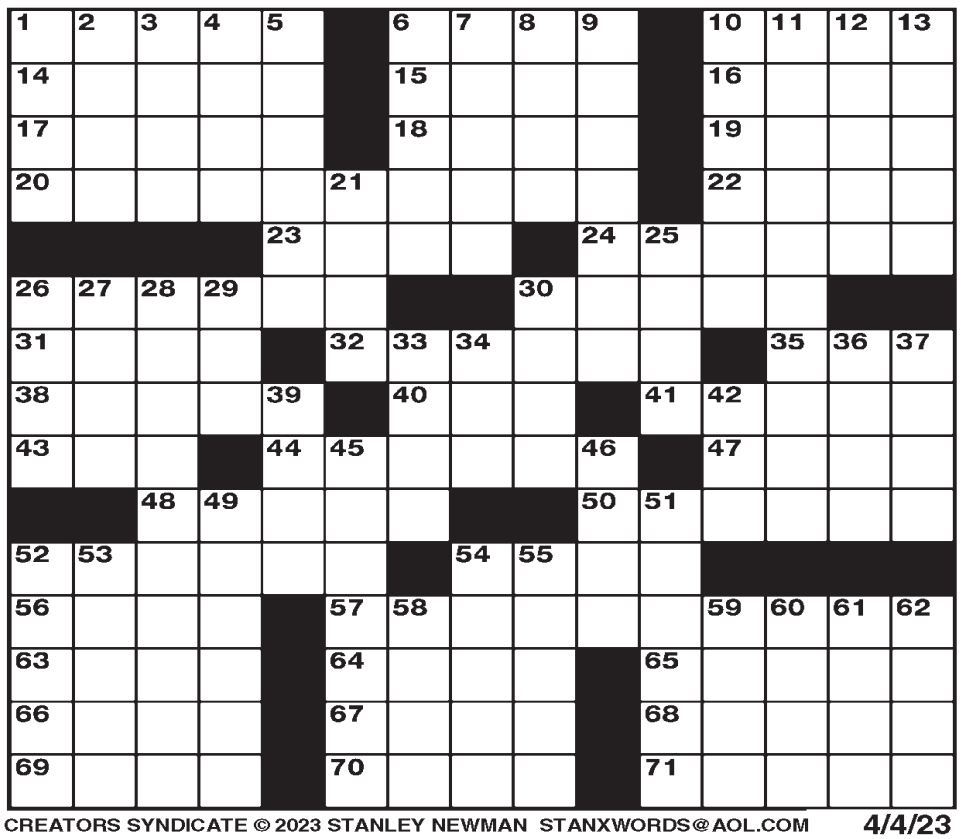
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8								2
				1	5		8	3
4	5			9		6		
		8						
3	6		8	5			7	

Newsday Crossword

TWO'S DAY by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Golden-haired man
6 Chimps and gorillas
10 Shoe worn in snow
14 Settle, as a debt
15 Four-star review
16 Karenina of fiction
17 One more time
18 Operatic solo
19 Beef and potatoes meal
20 Two-__ (currency picturing Jefferson)
22 Avoid socially
23 Fail to notice
24 Needing a nap
26 Attach, as with sticky cellophane
30 Salesperson's target total
31 Ridesharing rival of Lyft
32 Gatherings of people
35 Occupational suffix for novel
38 White part of a Santa costume
40 Yes, in France
41 Stun gun
43 UFO passengers
44 Takes over by force
47 Nile queen's nickname
48 Having no skill
50 Show up for
52 Memorable
54 "This __ sudden!"
56 Cash borrowed
57 Two __ (unsolicited opinion)
63 Play a trick on
64 *Othello* villain
65 Abrasive powder
66 "__ pronounce you . . ."
67 Affirm as true
68 Reinforced, as winter jackets
69 Predicted takeoff hrs.
70 Allows
71 Stir up, as a fire

DOWN
1 Actor Pitt
2 Toy bricks brand
3 Whitish gemstone
4 Hammer's target
5 Very energetic worker
6 Most Saudis
7 Eiffel Tower city
8 Diabolical
9 Makes airtight
10 Short-legged hound
11 Two__ (theatergoer's ticket request)
12 Ahead by a point
13 Yellowish-brown lion color
21 Finger jewelry
25 Misplaced
26 Toothpaste holder
27 Assist in wrongdoing
28 Two __ (identical pair)
29 Goof up
30 Witty remark
33 Decisive defeat
34 ". . . that __ flag was still there"
36 Laid eyes on
37 Walked heavily
39 Tune for two
42 Perform a role
45 Out of the ordinary
46 Talk back to
49 "Haven't gotten an update"
51 After-bath linens
52 Any song from long ago
53 Abundant source
54 Gold bar
55 Stores away
58 Roof overhang
59 Leave out
60 Nevada casino city
61 Difficult journey
62 Jekyll's alter ego

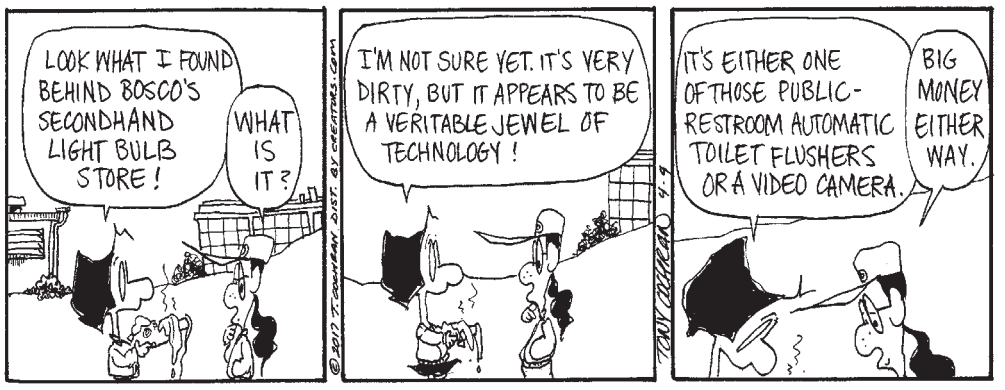


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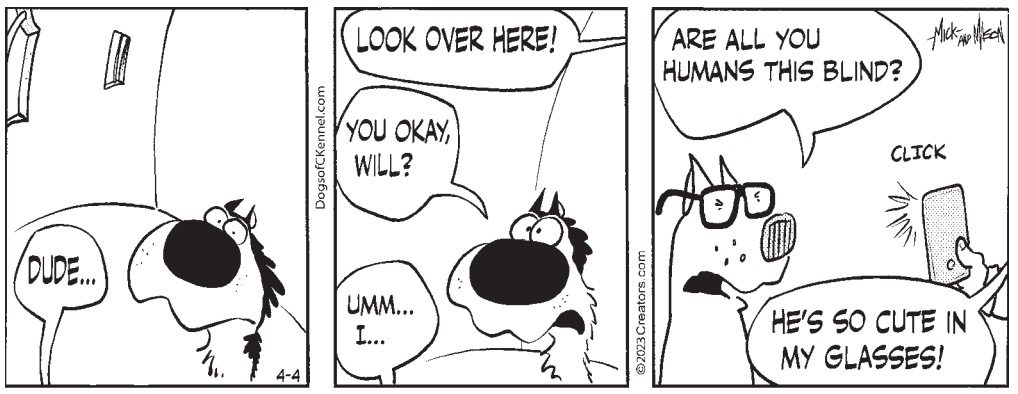
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



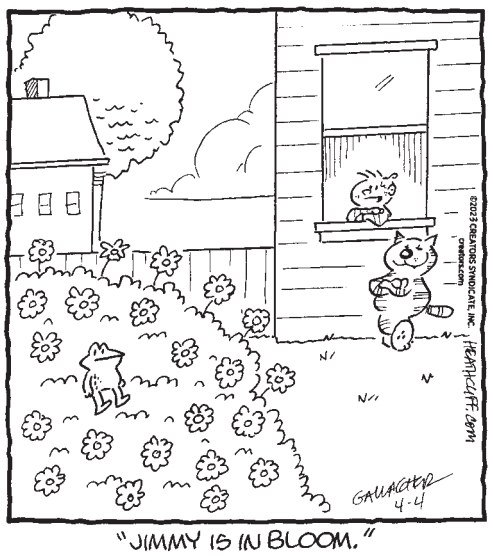
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

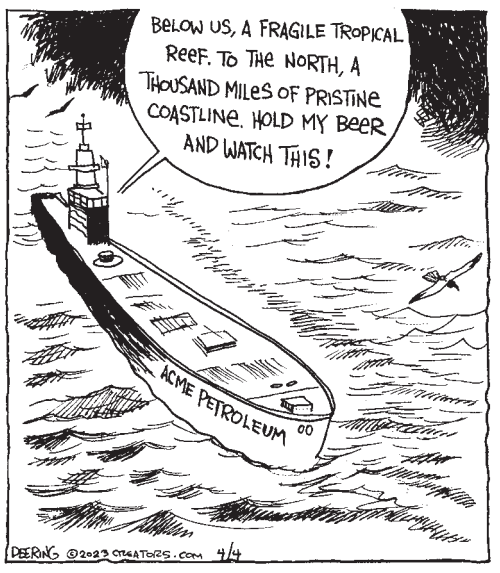
By PETER GALLAGHER



"JIMMY IS IN BLOOM."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 16 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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Currency and measurements

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

Acre	Dinar	Link	Real
Advantage	Fahrenheit	Lira	Rods
Baht	Feet	Litre	Ruble
Bank	Florin	Notes	Scale
Bars	Foot	Numbers	Speed
Cash	Gain	Ounce	System
Cedi	Gram	Peck	Tens
Cent	Hectare	Perch	Thermometer
Clear	Hundredweight	Pixel	Time
Coins	Kroner	Poles	Tonne
Cubed	Kuna	Purse	Unit
Dalasi	Lari	Quart	Yard

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What's Up Westside

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TUESDAY | APRIL 4

NEAL BRENNAN & FRIENDS AT WESTSIDE COMEDY THEATER

Come check out Neal Brennan (Emmy nominated director, writer, actor, and comedian, and co-creator of Chappelle's Show) and his famous friends working out new material. Past special guests include: Dave Chappelle, Russell Peters, Natasha Leggero, Mario Joyner, George Wallace, David Alan Grier, Pete Holmes, Ali Wong, Judd Apatow and more!

WEDNESDAY | APRIL 5

TRIVIA NIGHT AT THE BUNGALOW

Meet at The Bungalow at Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows every Wednesday for Trivia Night. Test your knowledge, enjoy the food and fare and win over $500 worth of prizes every week. Bring friends and family for an epic showdown. See you there! The Bungalow 101 Wilshire Blvd Santa Monica, CA 90401

THURSDAY | APRIL 6

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Government Affairs Committee meets monthly to discuss legislative and public policy issues of importance to Chamber members, and recommend any positions on those issues to be taken by the Board of Directors. https://members.smchamber.com/events/details/government-affairs-committee-04-06-2023-18627

FRIDAY | APRIL 7

LET THE CROWS COME

Evoking mythography and ancestry, Ashwini Ramaswamy's Let the Crows Come uses the metaphor of crows as messengers for the living and guides for the departed. In a series of solos/trios, the Indian dance form Bharatanatyam is deconstructed and recontextualized with collaborators Alanna Morris and Berit Ahlgren. The Broad Stage 1310 11th St. Santa Monica, California 90401

SATURDAY | APRIL 8

SEA STAR FEEDING

Come learn about the diet of our local sea stars and help serve them their favorite lunch. Visitors to Heal the Bay Aquarium can help assist aquarium staff as they feed the sea stars in our Tide Pool Touch Tanks, every Saturday at 1pm and 3pm. Heal the Bay Aquarium 1600 Ocean Front Walk, Santa Monica, CA https://healthebay.org/event/sea-star-feeding-saturday-2023-04-08/

SUNDAY | APRIL 9

LADERA HEARTS PRESENTS : CULT CLASSICS

Ladera Hearts Presents: Cult Classics - A monthly celebration of the most groundbreaking R&B and Hip Hop albums of all time. Experience them played top to bottom in the club April album of the month: @mariah Carey - The emancipation of Mimi Sounds by @rosegawd hosted by @creat1ve & @kylethevirgo Doors at 6 pm $5 presale, $10 at-the-door. Townhouse Venice 52 Windward Ave Venice, CA

AL FRESCO EASTER BRUNCH

Brunch al fresco alongside sweeping views at Calabra's breezy rooftop oasis this Easter. From festive specials to brunch favorites, indulge in seasonally-inspired fare and garden-fresh cocktails. Calabra 700 Wilshire Blvd, Santa Monica, CA 90401. For Reservations visit https://www.opentable.com/

MONDAY | APRIL 10

DROP-IN PLAYTIME

Come enjoy a weekly drop-in playtime at the library for creative play with LEGO-style bricks, traditional building blocks, and board books. Venice - Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library 501 S. Venice Boulevard, Venice, CA

TUESDAY | APRIL 11

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council is made up of seven members elected at-large for staggered four-year terms. Every two years, after each election, the City Council selects one of its members to serve as Mayor and another to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore. The City Council also sits as the following bodies for the City of Santa Monica: Housing Authority ,Parking Authority, Public, Financing, Redevelopment Successor Agency and Audit Subcommittee. The City Council meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month starting at 5:30 P.M., in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California.

WEDNESDAY | APRIL 12

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL - MOORPARK COLLEGE

Games held at SMC Pavilion. Admission: Free for SMC students (with current ID); $5 for adults & teens age 13 & up; $3 for seniors age 55 & up & youth ages 3 to 12; free for kids under 3.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FOOD TRUCKS

Located one block from the beach, in beautiful Santa Monica, in the driveway/parking lot of the California Heritage Museum at 2612 Main Street (on the corner of Main Street and Ocean Park Boulevard). Available are a variety of 4 or more Food Trucks, each hosting a different type of cuisine. Each week sample fish tacos, lobster rolls, sliders, sushi, Korean BBQ, and more.... trucks representing every possible nationality and cuisine are chosen each week. For additional information, please contact the California Heritage Museum's staff directly by emailing the museum at: mail@californiaheritagemuseum.org or calling (310) 392-8537.

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



SURF REPORT

WATER TEMP: **56.1**

TUESDAY *POOR TO FAIR*	**SURF:**	2-3ft Thigh to waist	Northerly wind for cleaner conditions at south facing spots as NW swell mix looks to trail off through the day. Smaller S swell leftovers linger. Morning offers a window for the small wave gear.
WEDNESDAY *POOR TO FAIR*	**SURF:**	2-3ft Thigh to waist	Smaller leftovers from the NW stay rideable on a bigger board. Northerly wind continues.

WEATHER

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 60. North wind around 15 mph becoming west in the afternoon.
Tuesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 46. Breezy, with a west wind 10 to 20 mph.
Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 63. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 50.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2023/04/04	Tue	03:05 AM	0.76	L
2023/04/04	Tue	09:04 AM	4.81	H
2023/04/04	Tue	3:19 PM	0.08	L
2023/04/04	Tue	9:32 PM	4.82	H
2023/04/05	Wed	03:37 AM	0.38	L
2023/04/05	Wed	09:37 AM	4.66	H
2023/04/05	Wed	3:40 PM	0.31	L
2023/04/05	Wed	9:52 PM	5.09	H
2023/04/06	Thu	04:12 AM	0.06	L
2023/04/06	Thu	10:13 AM	4.40	H
2023/04/06	Thu	4:01 PM	0.63	L
2023/04/06	Thu	10:14 PM	5.30	H
2023/04/07	Fri	04:49 AM	-0.17	L
2023/04/07	Fri	10:52 AM	4.04	H
2023/04/07	Fri	4:23 PM	1.00	L
2023/04/07	Fri	10:38 PM	5.44	H
2023/04/08	Sat	05:30 AM	-0.30	L
2023/04/08	Sat	11:38 AM	3.60	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: 4/1
11 19 21 29 52
Power#: 17
Jackpot: 159 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 3/31
16 26 27 42 61
Mega#: 23
Jackpot: 385 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 4/1
2 9 11 13 46
Mega#: 9
Jackpot: 47 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 4/2
9 10 18 29 32

Daily 3
Draw Date: 4/2
EVENING: 2 0 2
Draw Date: 4/2
MIDDAY: 6 5 9

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 4/2
1st: 08 - Gorgeous George
2nd: 07 - Eureka
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:47.80

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