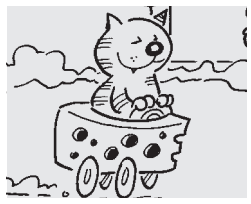


2
Retail report
Spending increased.



5
Unemployment
Claims rise but remain low.



10
Comics
Plus puzzles.

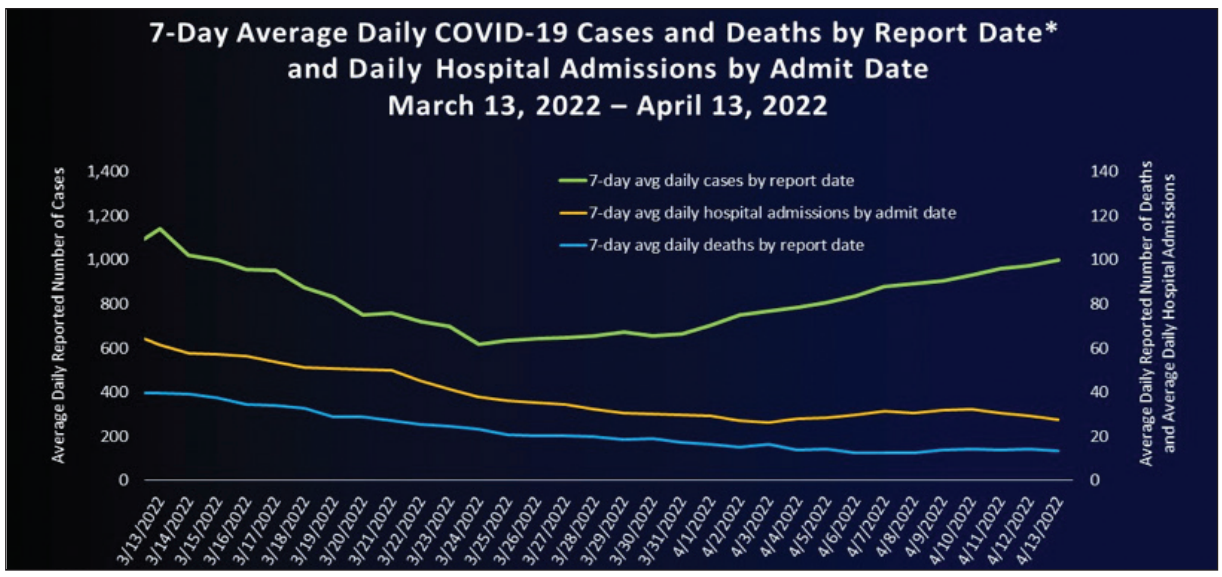
FRIDAY
04.15.22

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County eases COVID quarantine rules



Courtesy image

COUNTS: While cases are creeping up, other measurements remain stable and are not prompting alarm.

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

COVID-19 cases are once again on the rise in L.A. County, but according to Public Health Director Dr. Barbara Ferrer no new masking rules or restrictions are in the works.

"We're not seeing exponential growth in cases, we're seeing sort of steady small increases, somewhere between 2 percent to 3 percent rise everyday in cases. You know, at some point, this will become more concerning if it doesn't level off and our hope is that it does level off," said Ferrer in an April 14 media briefing.

As of April 12, the County's the seven day average case rate is 960, which marks a 23 percent increase

SEE **COVID** PAGE 7

Two Democrats vie for Bloom's Assembly seat

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

Two Democratic Party candidates are vying for the vacant seat representing Santa Monica (and inland communities like West Hollywood, Hollywood and Beverly Hills) in Sacramento come this fall: newly-drawn Assembly District 51, roughly replacing current AD-50, now represented by the retiring Richard Bloom.

One of the candidates, Rich Chavez Zbur, has racked up a hefty swath of endorsements — everyone from CA Governor Gavin Newsom to U.S. Representative Ted Lieu and many hundreds of other politicians, unions, political organizations and community leaders. Zbur is an environmental lawyer and LGBTQ+ advocate.

The other candidate is a relative unknown. Louis Abramson, who holds a PhD in astrophysics and works for UCLA, has gathered his own endorsements, albeit fewer and more obscure, including a number of community organizers and more than a couple astronomers.

One endorsement that neither of the candidates has yet secured is that of the Santa Monica Democratic Club (SMDC), which has been hosting a series of forums to meet candidates ahead of announcing its endorsements later this month. So far this year, the SMDC has hosted Democratic candidates for LA County Sheriff and LA County Supervisor.

On Wednesday, the club invited

SEE **ASSEMBLY DEBATE** PAGE 6

City unions calls for wage increase



Emily Sawicki

UNION: Scores of union members representing Teamsters Local 911 – City of Santa Monica Trades & Maintenance Bargaining Unit rallied outside Santa Monica City Hall on Wednesday for a large, visible meeting to receive updates on current contract negotiations. Teamsters Local 911 represents more than 350 Santa Monica City employees from various sectors including the fire department, custodians, facilities services, park maintenance, wastewater, transit maintenance, beach maintenance and more than a dozen other departments.

More than 200 members took part in the outdoor meeting, led by Teamsters Local 911 Vice President/Chief Negotiator Carlos Rubio, according to estimates provided by the union.

"Throughout the morning members stopped by and received updates regarding the current negotiations for essential workers who have worked throughout the pandemic ensuring the City continued to run and rise to the level of expectation of the worst pandemic in 100 years," Rubio wrote in an emailed statement regarding the Wednesday meeting. "Our members were in the front lines performing their duties and putting themselves at risk of contracting COVID-19 and other hazards. With the current costs of housing, fuel, food, and utilities our members deserve a strong contract that recognizes them for the services they provide for the world renowned City of Santa Monica and we will not accept the minimum."

Wage increases for Teamsters Local 911 members have been frozen during the pandemic, Rubio wrote. While he did not directly threaten a strike, Rubio's letter added that members are "determined to make sure we do not continue to lose ground," adding, "our actions will escalate because we are left with no other choice."



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Retail sales rise 0.5% in March amid soaring inflation

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
The Associated Press

Retail sales rose modestly in March, but higher prices for food, gasoline and other basics took a big share of consumers' wallets.

Retail sales increased 0.5% after registering a revised 0.8% increase from January to February, reported the U.S. Commerce Department Thursday. Spending has been fueled by wage gains, solid hiring and more money in banking accounts. January's increase of 4.9% was the biggest jump in spending since March 2021, when American households received a final federal stimulus check of $1,400. But soaring prices on everything, particularly at the gas pump, are making shoppers choosier about how they spend their money.

> "Inflation is not going away, but it will likely stop getting worse and that means less of a headwind for spending.

Excluding an 8.9% increase at gas stations, overall retail sales slipped 0.3% last month.

Overall, the retail sales picture was mixed, but shoppers still showed resilience in spending, economists said. Business at general merchandise stores was up 5.4%, while sales at clothing stores rose 2.6%. Restaurants had a 1% increase. But online sales dropped 6.4%, while auto sales were down 1.9% as auto companies faced a vehicle shortage. Major retailers will be issuing quarterly earnings reports next month, which will give a fuller picture of the state of the consumer.

"They are spending selectively this month, and the gasoline price spike from the Russian-Ukraine war was where most of the expenditures were made," said Christopher S. Rupkey, chief economist at research firm FWDBONDS LLC.

But he added, "Inflation is not going away, but it will likely stop getting worse and that means less of a headwind for spending."

Neil Saunders, managing director at GlobalData Retail, agreed that shoppers are nervous about inflation. He added that online purchases are taking a hit because he believes they're

SEE **RETAIL** PAGE 4



SMDP Photo

STORES: Online sales dropped recently but general merchandise increased.



DAILY POLICE LOGS

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 274 CALLS ON APRIL 13

Sexual Assault 300Blk Santa Monica Blvd 12:10 a.m.
Loud Music 1800Blk 9th St 1:10 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1900Blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:12 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 2400Blk Lincoln Blvd 5:14 a.m.
Encampment 3100Blk Main St 5:19 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1900Blk Santa Monica Blvd 5:22 a.m.
General Parking Problem 1300Blk 2nd St 6:06 a.m.
Rape Report 1700Blk 17th St 6:48 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1300Blk Pico Blvd 6:50 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1000Blk 9th St 6:52 a.m.
Scar Investigation 2200Blk 20th St 7:15 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 900Blk 17th St 7:29 a.m.
Fire Request Police 3000Blk Pico Blvd 7:42 a.m.
Auto Burglary Now 9th St / Santa Monica Blvd 7:54 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 1500Blk Ocean Ave 8:19 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1300Blk 14th St 8:21 a.m.
Encampment 1600Blk The Beach 8:27 a.m.
Assault Now 1700Blk Wilshire Blvd 8:40 a.m.
Civil Dispute 2300Blk 6th St 9:01 a.m.
Encampment 1100Blk Palisades Park 9:03 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2400Blk Pico Blvd 9:10 a.m.
Critical Missing Person 300Blk Olympic Dr 9:25 a.m.
Fraud Report Unknown 10:00 a.m.
Encampment 500Blk Colorado Ave 10:03 a.m.
Found Property 300Blk Olympic Dr 10:15 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 900Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 10:32 a.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 2nd St / Wilshire Blvd 10:35 a.m.
Construction Noise 1100Blk 12th St 10:41 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1000Blk Euclid St 11:05 a.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 600Blk 20th St 11:19 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1000Blk Euclid St 11:25 a.m.
Encampment 1400Blk California Ave 11:40 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1000Blk Euclid St 11:46 a.m.
Loud Music 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 11:48 a.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 1100Blk 26th St 11:56 a.m.
Red Zone Violation 100Blk Strand St 11:57 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 700Blk 19th St 11:58 a.m.
Burglary Report 1100Blk Pico Blvd 12:20 p.m.
Public Intoxication 1000Blk 12th St 12:25 p.m.
Out Of Order Traffic Signals 4th St / Olympic Blvd W 12:27 p.m.
Encampment 2100Blk Ocean Ave 12:29 p.m.
Red Zone Violation 7th St / Idaho Ave 12:44 p.m.
General Parking Problem 00Blk Bay St 12:47 p.m.
Auto Burglary Now 1600Blk Ocean Front Walk 12:51 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 300Blk Santa Monica Pier 1:04 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1200Blk 3rd Street Prom 1:14 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 400Blk Expo Line 1:16 p.m.
Oversize Vehicle Violation 1500Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 1:48 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 200Blk 25th St 1:52 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1500Blk 5th St 1:59 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 300Blk 16th St 2:13 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1500Blk Stanford St 2:24 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1500Blk Pacific Coast Hwy 2:26 p.m.
Expired Registration 1100Blk 3rd St 2:50 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries Main St / Hill St 3:04 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1600Blk Appian Way 3:09 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 2200Blk Colorado Ave 3:10 p.m.
Bike Theft Report 1700Blk Ocean Front Walk 3:17 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 2000Blk Ocean Ave 3:27 p.m.
Animal Related Incident Ocean Ave / Palisades Ave 3:35 p.m.
Found Property 300Blk Olympic Dr 3:41 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 6th St / Wilshire Blvd 3:45 p.m.
Expired Registration 2700Blk 11th St 4:06 p.m.
Drinking In Public 900Blk Wilshire Blvd 4:09 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 900Blk 4th St 4:11 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 800Blk 18th St 4:35 p.m.
Found Property 200Blk Hollister Ave 4:50 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 800Blk Wilshire Blvd 4:52 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1000Blk Hill St 4:56 p.m.
Out Of Order Traffic Signals 4th St / Colorado Ave 4:58 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 2300Blk 34th St 5:01 p.m.
Construction Noise 800Blk 16th St 5:08 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 800Blk 9th St 5:31 p.m.
Found Senile Person 1700Blk 4th St 5:38 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 2000Blk Ocean Ave 5:43 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 1300Blk 3rd Street Prom 5:57 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 20th St / Broadway 6:11 p.m.
Loud Music 600Blk Hill St 6:18 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 3000Blk 3rd St 6:25 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 2500Blk 24th St 6:39 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 900Blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:46 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 900Blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:47 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 7th St / Broadway 6:48 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 2000Blk Lincoln Blvd 6:50 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 900Blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:00 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1400Blk Ocean Ave 7:00 p.m.
Fraud Report 300Blk Olympic Dr 7:08 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1400Blk Olympic Blvd 7:10 p.m.
Encampment 1200Blk 6th St 7:25 p.m.
Burglary Report 1100Blk Pico Blvd 7:30 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 100Blk Pier Ave 7:40 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1400Blk 2nd St 7:41 p.m.
Bike Theft Report 200Blk Colorado Ave 7:47 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1300Blk Grant St 8:00 p.m.
Party Complaint 3100Blk The Beach 8:05 p.m.
Found Property 2900Blk Wilshire Blvd 8:12 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Just Occurred 1800Blk 20th St 8:18 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2400Blk 32nd St 8:26 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Now 300Blk Pico Blvd 8:27 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Euclid St / Wilshire Blvd 8:43 p.m.
Panic Alarm 300Blk Santa Monica Pl 8:46 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 1700Blk Franklin St 8:56 p.m.
Family Disturbance 100Blk Wilshire Blvd 8:56 p.m.
Overdose 1200Blk 9th St 9:17 p.m.
Rape Report 2700Blk Barnard Way 11:29 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOGS

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 37 CALLS ON APRIL 13

EMS 2700Blk Barnard Way 12:09 a.m.
EMS 700Blk Strand St 1:01 a.m.
EMS 400Blk Broadway 1:49 a.m.
EMS 500Blk Colorado Ave 2:24 a.m.
Odor Investigation 1800Blk 7th St 3:13 a.m.
EMS 500Blk Wilshire Blvd 6:41 a.m.
EMS 1400Blk Ocean Ave 7:04 a.m.
Flooded Condition 3000Blk Pico Blvd 7:28 a.m.
EMS 6th St / Santa Monica Blvd 9:15 a.m.
EMS 1100Blk 6th St 9:59 a.m.
EMS 1200Blk Pearl St 10:15 a.m.
EMS 4th St / Marine St 11:20 a.m.
EMS 1800Blk 9th St 11:27 a.m.
EMS 2500Blk Main St 12:00 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 2100Blk Wilshire Blvd 12:13 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 14th St 12:16 p.m.
EMS 200Blk Hollister Ave 12:44 p.m.
EMS 16th St / Ocean Park Blvd 1:59 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1300Blk 3rd Street Prom 2:21 p.m.
EMS 1500Blk Ocean Ave 3:46 p.m.
EMS 500Blk Ocean Ave 4:44 p.m.
EMS 500Blk Ocean Ave 4:46 p.m.
EMS 2300Blk Wilshire Blvd 5:34 p.m.
EMS 500Blk Ocean Ave 6:14 p.m.
Public Assist 4th St / Olympic Blvd E 6:52 p.m.
EMS 400Blk Wilshire Blvd 7:05 p.m.
EMS 2100Blk Ocean Ave 7:06 p.m.
Broken Water Main 800Blk 17th St 7:42 p.m.
EMS 16th St / Santa Monica Blvd 7:47 p.m.
EMS 2300Blk Main St 8:13 p.m.
EMS 1600Blk Wilshire Blvd 8:17 p.m.
EMS 2500Blk Main St 8:37 p.m.
EMS Highland Ave / Marine St 9:08 p.m.
EMS 2300Blk Oak St 9:38 p.m.
Wires Down 700Blk Lincoln Blvd 9:41 p.m.
EMS 800Blk 5th St 10:50 p.m.
EMS 1500Blk 4th St 11:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Citywide

LA Animal Services Offers Pet Safety Tips To Help Keep Pets Safe This Easter

As Angelenos prepare to celebrate the Easter holiday this weekend, the decorations, Easter baskets full of candy, chocolate, and toys, may be harmful to our furry family members.

To help keep you and your four-legged friends safe, LA Animal Services is offering the following tips:

The Easter basket. Our pets often see these festive décor as something to eat or play with. Colorful eggs, plastic grass, chocolate, and candy can be toxic to pets if they are accidentally eaten. To keep pets safe, place baskets filled with goodies out of reach. If you plan on doing an egg hunt with children, keep pets indoors and away from plastic eggs.

Beware of festive flowers and plants. Easter lilies are one of the most dangerous plants you can have around your pet, especially cats. Call your veterinarian immediately if you see your cat licking the flower.

Keep alcohol and people's food away from pets. We have a tendency to share our meals with our pets, which often results in overindulgence. Even when we don't purposely include them, our dog or cat can sneak a bite of food from the kitchen counter, trash, or the dining room table. Dogs and cats can suffer very serious and sometimes fatal consequences from consuming too much rich and fatty foods, yeast dough, chocolate, grapes, raisins, and from just plain overeating. Instead of giving your companion animal leftovers, stop by a pet store and purchase a special treat, made especially for them.

Don't buy animals as impulsive gifts for giving. Although bunnies and baby chicks are cute, they should not be given as Easter gifts. Bunnies and chicks are pets who require special feedings and care, and their needs should be fully researched before bringing one home.

By keeping these safety precautions in mind, the holiday weekend can be an enjoyable and safe one for you and your furry family members.

For more information on how to keep pets safe, visit: laanimalservices.com/keeping-your-pets-safe

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WINNER

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Homeschooling surge continues despite schools reopening

CAROLYN THOMPSON
Associated Press

The coronavirus pandemic ushered in what may be the most rapid rise in homeschooling the U.S. has ever seen. Two years later, even after schools reopened and vaccines became widely available, many parents have chosen to continue directing their children's educations themselves.

Homeschooling numbers this year dipped from last year's all-time high, but are still significantly above pre-pandemic levels, according to data obtained and analyzed by The Associated Press.

Families that may have turned to homeschooling as an alternative to hastily assembled remote learning plans have stuck with it — reasons include health concerns, disagreement with school policies and a desire to keep what has worked for their children.

In 18 states that shared data through the current school year, the number of homeschooling students increased by 63% in the 2020-2021 school year, then fell by only 17% in the 2021-2022 school year.

Around 3% of U.S. students were homeschooled before the pandemic-induced surge, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The rising numbers have cut into public school enrollment in ways that affect future funding and renewed debates over how closely homeschooling should be regulated. What remains unknown is whether this year's small decrease signals a step toward pre-pandemic levels — or a sign that homeschooling is becoming more mainstream.

Linda McCarthy, a suburban Buffalo mother of two, says her children are never going back to traditional school.

Unimpressed with the lessons offered remotely when schools abruptly closed their doors in spring 2020, she began homeschooling her then fifth- and seventh-grade children that fall. McCarthy, who had been working as a teacher's aide, said she knew she could do better herself. She said her children have thrived with lessons tailored to their interests, learning styles and schedules.

"There's no more homework 'til the wee hours of the morning, no more tears because we couldn't get things done," McCarthy said.

Once a relatively rare practice chosen most often for reasons related to instruction on religion, homeschooling grew rapidly in popularity following the turn of the century before leveled off at around 3.3%, or about 2 million students, in the years before the pandemic, according to the Census. Surveys have indicated factors including dissatisfaction with neighborhood schools, concerns about school environment and the appeal of customizing an education.

In the absence of federal guidelines, there is little uniformity in reporting requirements. Some states, including Connecticut and Nevada, require little or no information from parents, while New York, Massachusetts and some others require parents to submit instruction plans and comply with assessment rules.

The new surge in homeschooling numbers has led state legislatures around the country to consider measures either to ease regulations on homeschool families or impose new ones — debates have gone on for years. Proponents of more oversight point to the potential for undetected cases of child abuse and neglect while others argue for less in the name of parental rights.

> "My kids have a lot of questions about different things. I'm like, 'Didn't you learn that in school?' They're like, 'No.'"
> — Laine Bradley

All of the 28 state education departments that provided homeschooling data to the AP reported that homeschooling spiked in 2020-21, when fears of infection kept many school buildings closed. Of the 18 states whose enrollment data included the current school year, all but one state said homeschooling declined from the previous year but remained well above pre-pandemic levels. (The exception, South Dakota, recently changed the way it collects data).

Minnesota, for example, reported that 27,801 students are being homeschooled now, compared to 30,955 during the last school year. Before the pandemic, homeschool figures were around 20,000 or less.

Black families make up many of the homeschool converts. The proportion of Black families homeschooling their children increased by five times, from 3.3% to 16.1%, from spring 2020 to the fall, while the proportion about doubled across other groups, according to U.S. Census surveys.

Raleigh, North Carolina, mother Laine Bradley said the school system's shortcomings became more evident to families like hers when remote learning began.

"I think a lot of Black families realized that when we had to go to remote learning, they realized exactly what was being taught. And a lot of that doesn't involve us," said Bradley, who decided to homeschool her 7-, 10- and 11-year-old children. "My kids have a lot of questions about different things. I'm like, 'Didn't you learn that in school?' They're like, 'No.'"

Bradley, who works in financial services, converted her dining room into a classroom and rearranged her work schedule to take over her children's education, adding lessons on financial literacy, Black history and Caribbean history important to her heritage.

"I can incorporate things that I feel like they should know," she said. Her husband, Vince, who retired from the Air Force last year, steps in at times. The couple also have a 14-month-old. They plan to continue homeschooling for as long as their children want it. Her social media posts about her experience have drawn so much interest that Bradley recently created an online community called Black Moms Do Homeschool to share resources and experiences.

Boston University researcher Andrew Bacher-Hicks said data showed that while homeschool rates rose across the board during the last school year, the increase was greater in school districts that reverted to in-person learning, perhaps before some parents were ready to send their children back.

He said the same health concerns that drove those increases are likely behind the continued elevated rates, despite additional upheaval in schools as parents and policy-makers debate issues surrounding race and gender and which books should be in libraries.

"It's really hard to disentangle those two things because all of this is kind of happening at the same time," he said. "But my guess would be that a large part of the decisions to exit from the system do have to do with COVID-related issues as opposed to political issues, because those things come up frequently and we've never seen an increase in homeschooling rates like this before."

He said parents also may be concerned about the quality of education delivered by schools that have had to rely heavily on substitute teachers amid pandemic-caused staffing shortages.

McCarthy, the mom from suburban Buffalo, said it was a combination of everything, with the pandemic compounding the misgivings she had already held about the public school system, including her philosophical differences over the need for vaccine and mask mandates and academic priorities.

The pandemic, she said, "was kind of — they say the straw that broke the camel's back — but the camel's back was probably already broken."

"There are kids that don't know basic English structure but they want to push other things on children, and it can be blatant but it can be, and mostly is, very subtle, very, very subtle," McCarthy said. "So we were ready to pull them and will never send them back to traditional school. It's just not a fit for us."

"It's just a whole new world that is a much better world for us," she said.

RETAIL

FROM PAGE 2

more discretionary and easy to cut back. He also thinks the pullback online could be a consequence of shoppers assessing higher delivery charges.

The retail report covers only about a third of overall consumer spending and doesn't include services such as haircuts, hotel stays and plane tickets, areas that have been rebounding from the depths of the pandemic.

Retailers are closely monitoring Russia's war with Ukraine and how it could weigh on shoppers' confidence but also worsen inflation. The conflict has already limited supplies of wheat, vegetable oils, and electronic components like chips. It's pushed up fertilizer prices that were already high, made scarce supplies even harder to find and squeezed farmers, especially those in the developing world. In addition to the Russian invasion, rising COVID-19 cases and renewed restrictions in China could worsen supply chain issues.

The Labor Department said Tuesday that its consumer price index jumped 8.5% in March from 12 months earlier, the sharpest year-over-year increase since 1981. Prices have been pushed up by bottlenecked supply chains, robust consumer demand and disruptions to global food and energy markets worsened by the war. From February to March, inflation rose 1.2%, the biggest month-to-month jump since 2005. Gasoline prices drove more than half that increase.

According to AAA, the average price of a gallon of gasoline — $4.07 — is up 42% from a year ago, though it's dipped in the past couple of weeks.

The March inflation numbers were the first to fully capture the surge in gasoline prices that followed Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24. Moscow's attacks have triggered far-reaching Western sanctions against the Russian economy.

The acceleration of inflation is happening in an otherwise strong economy. In March, employers added a robust 431,000 jobs — the 11th straight month in which they've added at least 400,000. For 2021, they added 6.7 million jobs, the most in any year on record. In addition, job openings are near record highs, layoffs are at their lowest point since 1968 and the unemployment rate is just above a half-century low.

Matt Shay, CEO of National Retail Federation, the nation's largest retail trade group, said that "consumers are adapting and shopping smarter for themselves and their families." He believes the strength of the consumer can carry the economy through this economic uncertainty if policy makers implement measured policies and "don't overreact to current conditions."

NRF said the challenge for the Federal Reserve is to cool off demand without pushing the economy into a dramatic slowdown.

To protect themselves against any consumer spending downturn, retailers are cutting back on expenses, while taking a measured approach to ordering merchandise as well as adding surcharges.

Amazon announced on Wednesday that it will add a 5% " fuel and inflation surcharge " to fees it charges third-party sellers who use the e-commerce giant's fulfillment services. The Seattle-based company said on its website that the added fees, which take effect April 28, are "subject to change" and will apply to both apparel and non-apparel items.

Gary Friedman, CEO of upscale furniture chain RH, formerly known as Restoration Hardware, told analysts in late March that the company has seen consumer demand weakening in the company's first quarter, which started in late January, that coincided with Russia's war with Ukraine.

"I don't think anybody really understands how high prices are going to go everywhere, in restaurants, in cars, in everything," Friedman said. "If you're going into a very difficult unpredictable time, you just got to be super flexible. You've got to be able to improvise, adapt, overcome, and kind of be ready for anything."

US jobless claims rise but remain near a half-century low

PAUL WISEMAN
AP Economics Writer

The number of people seeking unemployment benefits ticked up last week but remained at a historically low level, reflecting a robust U.S. labor market with near record-high job openings and few layoffs.

Jobless claims rose by 18,000 to 185,000, the Labor Department said Thursday, after nearly touching the lowest level since 1968 in the previous week. The four-week average of claims, which levels out week-to-week ups and downs, edged up from 170,000 to 172,000.

"Claims are still at very low levels, underscoring historically tight labor market conditions," said Nancy Vanden Houten, lead U.S. economist at Oxford Economics. "We expect initial claims to remain below (200,000) in the weeks ahead, as employers, who continue to struggle to attract and retain workers, will keep layoffs to a minimum."

Two years after the coronavirus pandemic sent the economy into a brief but devastating recession, American workers are enjoying extraordinary job security. Weekly applications for unemployment aid, a proxy for layoffs, have remained consistently below the pre-pandemic level of 225,000.

Last year, employers added a record 6.7 million jobs, and they've added an average of 560,000 more each month so far in 2022. The unemployment rate, which soared to 14.7% in April 2020 in the depths of the COVID-19 recession, is now just 3.6%, barely above the lowest point in 50 years. And there is a record proportion of 1.7 job openings for every unemployed American.

> "We expect initial claims to remain below (200,000) in the weeks ahead, as employers, who continue to struggle to attract and retain workers, will keep layoffs to a minimum.

The resilience of the job market and the overall U.S. economy is striking in light of a still-destructive pandemic, the economic consequences of Russia's war against Ukraine and the highest consumer inflation in 40 years.

Fewer than 1.48 million Americans were collecting traditional unemployment benefits in the week of April 2.



SMDP Photo

JOBS: Stores across Santa Monica are continuing to hire new employees.

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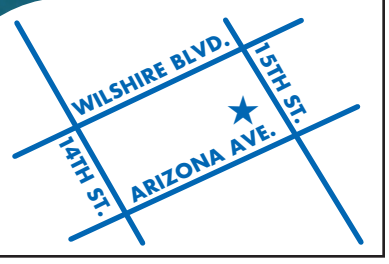
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ASSEMBLY DEBATE

FROM PAGE 1

Zbur and Abramson to a debate on local issues ranging from homelessness and housing development to policing, transit, climate action and more.

Beyond key regional issues, many Santa Monica voters — especially left-leaning Democrats who make up a large portion of the city's voting block — are concerned about the city's waning relevance on the regional stage. Currently, a Santa Monican (Sheila Kuehl) holds one of the most powerful local seats in the country, representing Los Angeles County's Third Supervisorial District; another Santa Monican (Richard Bloom) represents most of LA's westside in the CA State Assembly.

With no local contenders for either vacancy, SMDC President Jon Katz has been asking candidates "why you think you'd be the best candidate to reflect our Santa Monica values."

"I have a record of already representing Santa Monica values," Zbur responded Wednesday, highlighting his work on marriage equality, minimum wage increases, health care for undocumented workers and criminal justice reform, amid a range of Democratic talking points.

Abramson said he has had his "boots on the ground" working to combat homelessness as a volunteer in Hollywood, where he lives.

"Santa Monica has great public transportation; you have great buses, great bike infrastructure," Abramson said. "I am walking with literature to make sure LA has that same infrastructure."

The two candidates shared many views, including on diversity and LGBTQ+ rights.

When it came to combating climate change, Zbur emphasized moving away from fossil fuels and toward clean energy including offshore wind farms and additional vehicle charging stations, saying, "We need to electrify everywhere."

Abramson zeroed in on transit, which he said was the No. 1 carbon emitter in the state, and bemoaned the current system that makes residents reliant on personal vehicle use.

"The more public transit there is, the more people take it, and right now, a lot of people don't take public transit because of the wait times," Abramson said.

When it comes to homelessness, Zbur said most issues stem from the fact that homelessness is a larger issue than any one town, but right now the only ways to combat it are coming from municipalities.

"One of the problems that we actually have is the fact that this is, in some sense, a regional, state and a national problem, and we're expecting local jurisdictions that don't have the tools to address it, and they, you know, they have incentives to basically move unhoused people from one jurisdiction to another," Zbur said. "We really need to think about the government structures here. I think we just need to admit that LAHSA [Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority] is a failure, and we need to work with the Governor and the new Mayor, to have a regional strategy where we've got accountability and goals." Zbur added that he thinks the State should sponsor an AmeriCorps type volunteer program to help fight homelessness.

Ambramson said he felt key elements to fighting homelessness were preventing residents from falling into homelessness and providing affordable housing and wraparound services for people with serious mental illness.



Courtesy photos

CANDIDATES: Zbur and Abramson are vying to replace Bloom this year.

"I really want to stress that I am a volunteer that does homeless services — that should not ever happen," Abramson said. "I really do believe that we need to get more people involved in doing this, but I want to move away from laying this on the shoulders of volunteers. We need massive amounts more outreach personnel, and we need a lot more interim housing to get to their clients."

When asked about housing targets in Santa Monica's rejected housing element, Zbur said he would need to speak to local elected officials to get their take on revised targets, but added, "Generally, though, I think that, you know, we need to have aggressive targets in jurisdictions and if we don't have aggressive targets, we're not going to actually build the housing that we need."

For his part, the scientist Abramson said he was not prepared to answer the question without knowing more about the physical constraints of the areas being developed, including plumbing and electricity.

"In an absolute number sense, I'm not prepared to answer the question because I don't know the physics behind it," Abramson said. "Once I learned that, I'd be happy to [respond], but again, this is how I balance these issues."

SMDC plans to make its endorsements for the June primary during its April 27 meeting, which will also include a judicial candidate forum and an update from CA Senator Ben Allen.

emily@smdp.com



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COVID

FROM PAGE 1

from the 783 average recorded the prior week. However, this is nowhere in the ballpark of the over 40,000 seven day case rates recorded at the peak of the Omicron surge.

According to Ferrer, the modest uptick in cases is likely due to the increased circulation of the slightly more contagious subvariant Omicron BA.2. As of the week that ended in March 26, this subvariant accounted for 67 percent of the sequenced specimens. This number is likely an underestimation as the data is two weeks old.

Ferrer also announced a change to isolation requirements. Per the new County order, people who have come in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and are asymptomatic will no longer be required to quarantine. They will still be required to wear a mask when indoors around others for ten days after exposure and test within three to five days after exposure. Should they test positive they must immediately quarantine.

As cases continue to trickle upwards, Ferrer encouraged residents to get their booster shot, or if applicable, their second booster.

"As spring is a time for renewal, it makes a lot of sense to both give thanks and take an opportunity to recommit to staying healthy and keeping those around us healthy. With the recent rise in COVID cases, if you're planning to gather or travel for upcoming spring holidays, please again take note of your personal risk and the risk of others you'll be around," said Ferrer. "This is a good time to make sure you're up to date with your vaccines or to start that series."

As of April 10, 74 percent of residents 65 and older received at least one booster dose and 12 percent have already received their second booster. For adults 50 to 64, 65 percent received their first booster dose and 7 percent received their second.

Ferrer said that the reinstatement of new masking guidelines is not on the horizon for LA County and that the decision to do so would be based on the CDC's transmission levels. LA County currently remains in the CDC's low ranking of community spread.

> My hope is that we're able to keep this increase very small — Barbara Ferrer

"My hope is that we're able to keep this increase very small and that we continue to make progress with getting more people vaccinated and boosted and put ourselves in much better shape for whatever can be a future challenge with either a new variant of concern or a sub variant of Omicron that actually becomes problematic," said Ferrer.

Clara@smdp.com

LA Mayor Garcetti says goodbye with next role unclear

MICHAEL R. BLOOD
AP Political Writer

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti delivered what amounted to a farewell speech to his city Thursday at a time when it's not clear when, or where, he's going.

The two-term Democrat delivered his final State of the City address as his nomination by President Joe Biden to become U.S. ambassador to India appears imperiled in the Senate. A vote has been delayed by an investigation into sexual harassment allegations against a former Garcetti top adviser.

The nomination has languished since July and it's not known when a vote will take place, if at all. If Garcetti remains at City Hall, his term runs through the end of the year.

The speech — at turns optimistic, nostalgic, defensive and emotional — marked a capstone of sorts for Garcetti's two decades at City Hall, nearly half as mayor.

He approaches the end of his term with the city struggling with an unchecked homeless crisis that has spread into virtually every neighborhood, rising crime and housing prices that are out of reach for many working-class families.

He appeared to choke up when thanking his family for being with him "every step of the way" and after expressing gratitude to colleagues for their support through the "toughest of times."

> If Garcetti remains at City Hall, his term runs through the end of the year

At another point, he warned that without more affordable housing and shelter for the homeless "the California dream will be an old chapter in a distant history book."

Last month, the top Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, Chuck Grassley of Iowa, said in a statement he has received "numerous credible allegations" that Garcetti was aware of sexual harassment of city employees committed by his former adviser and close friend Rick Jacobs, but did nothing to stop the misconduct. His office is investigating.

Garcetti has denied witnessing or being told of any inappropriate behavior by Jacobs.

SEE **GARCETTI** PAGE 8

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GARCETTI

FROM PAGE 7

A lawsuit against the city charges that Jacobs frequently sexually harassed one of the mayor's police bodyguards while Garcetti ignored it or laughed it off. Jacobs has called the allegations against him "pure fiction."

The annual speech is directed at City Council and marks the start of budget season, when a new spending plan is proposed and reviewed. But this year it took on a strongly personal tone, as Garcetti reflected on his years of public service. He argued he wasn't thinking much about his legacy, but the speech appeared to be an attempt to define it.

The mayor said the pandemic-wounded city was roaring back to life, but he also acknowledged that soaring home prices were choking off opportunity for the next generation. He promised to do more on crime, but did not specify how much he would spend at the police department in the coming year.

Though driving through LA is typically an obstacle course of cracked and rutted roads, Garcetti asserted more streets were in good condition compared to when he took office. He delivered the speech on a bridge being built near downtown to highlight coming transit improvements, but the city's notorious gridlock perseveres.

Homeless encampments, typically surrounded by mounds of trash, dot city streets and freeway off-ramps, but Garcetti said he would hire hundreds of new sanitation works to clear debris. He argued progress was being made, but candidates hoping to replace him as mayor describe the situation as a crisis, with more than 40,000 people living on the streets.

He challenged his successor to continue building housing to make homelessness "a distant memory in LA." And he urged the next mayor to follow his lead on global warming to erase the city's carbon footprint.

"Los Angeles, I can't wait to see what's next," he said.

COMMUNITY NEWS

DETROIT

Tesla issues 2nd recall for obstructing pedestrian warning

Tesla is recalling nearly 595,000 vehicles in the U.S., most for a second time, because a "Boombox" function can play sounds over an external speaker and obscure audible warnings for pedestrians.

The electric car company says in government documents that the new recall will disable "Boombox" if owners are using a feature that lets them "summon" the vehicles at low speeds. The first recall in February disabled "Boombox" if the Teslas are in drive, neutral or reverse.

Both recalls will be done with online software updates.

The new recall covers certain 2020 through 2022 Model Y, X, and S vehicles, as well as the 2017 through 2022 Model 3. It was disclosed Thursday in documents posted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

"Boombox" allowed drivers to play preset or custom sounds while the vehicles are moving. This violated federal safety standards that require pedestrian warning noises for electric cars, which make little noise when in motion.

The February recall came after the safety agency opened an investigation into the issue.

NHTSA said that in 2010, Congress required electric and hybrid vehicles to make pedestrian warning noises. The law required agency rules to stop manufacturers from allowing anyone other than an automaker or dealer to modify the pedestrian alert sounds,

Also Thursday, NHTSA posted documents showing that Tesla is recalling more than 7,000 Model X SUVs from the 2021 and 2022 because the side curtain air bags may not inflate as intended in a crash when the windows are lowered.

Owners will be notified in early June, and service centers will replace the left and right front-row side air bags. The problem was discovered in tests done by Tesla.

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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
SANTA MONICA
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
Pursuant to AB361

DATE/TIME: Monday, April 18, 2022, 7:00 PM

LOCATION: In an effort to reduce the risk of spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19), members of the Architectural Review Board and City Staff will participate via teleconference. The public may join the teleconference via https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/pcpfuktt dialing in at +1 (415) 466-7000 (US) PIN: 9352702 #.

PROPERTIES:

- 22ARB-0038: 1736 22nd Street: School Building
- 22ARB-0059: 1242 20th Street: Commercial Building
- 22ARB-0051: 1807 Broadway: Mixed-Use

More information is available online at https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Architectural-Review-Board/ or at (310) 458-8341 (en espanol tambien).

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Those wishing to give written public comment shall email comments to planningcomment@smgov.net. Comments received **prior to 12 p.m.** on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Architectural Review Board prior to the meeting and posted online. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

Public comment can also be made by phone during the meeting by calling 1-408-740-7256 (Meeting ID: 383087565 and Passcode: 5356 followed by #) when the caller queue opens for the item on which you wish to comment. Remarks from the public will be limited to 2 minutes per item. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment.

For disability-related accommodations, please contact 310-458-8701 or TTY 310-450-8696 a minimum of 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 15)

You'll be publicly praised -- an event that makes such an impression, it alters the course of your work. Relationship building culminates in a lucrative deal. Though you're very strategic in some areas of life, when it comes to love, all game goes out the window. You simply give everything and joy spills everywhere. Pisces and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 2, 14, 38 and 17.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Fun is contagious, but it's also subjective. Your success will depend on your ability to read the room. If you're not in the room, as in an email or text situation, humor is a risk. The level of risk is commensurate with the payoff.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your fantasy life is going strong. As for these castles in the air -- maybe you can't live in them, but some of the ideas are practical enough to apply once you touch back down to earth.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your mood: ambitious. You'll push yourself. Because going after the larger experiences of life takes a great deal of focus and energy, it will require you to cut out distractions and bring your lower appetites into control.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Unless you are a DJ or a children's party character, it's probably not your job to make the people around you happy. So why not go where (SET ITAL) you're (END ITAL) the happiest? Only you know the way.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Life gets messy. The unexpected bumps, spills and overlaps are clues that we are, indeed, alive. Your mettle will be tested, and you'll get the opportunity to tidy up, compartmentalize and prove just how cool you can be.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). New projects gather steam. The work is really just beginning, but encouraging early results are a glimpse of what you'll get if you keep this up for the long haul.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The stage is set for rivalries to play out. Emotions run hot, alliances have been formed and the stakes are high. Even so, it's not too late for mediation, negotiation and peaceful deal-making.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Shared creativity is a bond. Writing can unite people. Art can flirt with your eyeballs. A song can pierce you straight through and connect you with invisible thread to the others who hear and love it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). As for the burdens laid on you by society, there's always a way around it. If you can't see it from where you stand, seek a perspective shift. Reading, travel and interviewing others are all valid ways to get there.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). If no one asks a question, nothing gets done. And if people keep asking questions, nothing gets done. Progress is asking the right question at the right time and getting answers before you move on to the next question.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You know what it's like to be the one who loves more, sacrifices greater and maximizes small returns. But don't worry; this will not be your destiny forever. Prepare for huge love.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You will somehow be able to see things as your loved one does and though you may not entirely agree, your understanding of the other point of view will lift the relationship to a new level of ease.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

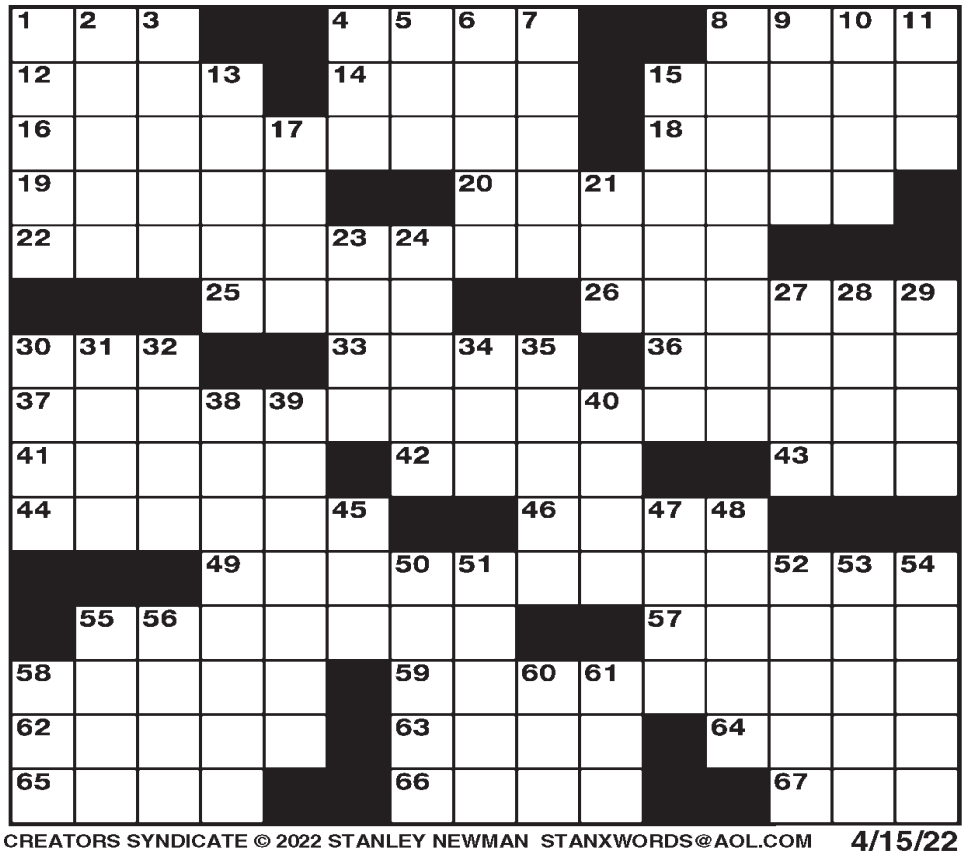
SEE 58 DOWN by Steve Faiella
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Hapless victim
4 Customize
8 Showing thoughtfulness
12 Part of some hammers
14 Seal hunter that swims
15 Verbally
16 Sound investments
18 Breakfast dishes
19 Rink feats
20 Endless
22 FIRST COURSE
25 Ares' mom
26 Counties like Cornwall
30 Poker variety
33 Small offshoot
36 Watchdog breed
37 MAIN COURSE
41 Marsh dweller
42 Not great
43 Reindeer cousin
44 Hole in your shoe
46 Forest Service's agcy.
49 DESSERT
55 Ceremonial cup
57 Shout of surprise
58 "Don't look back" pitching great
59 Report for class
62 Really stoked
63 Utopian setting
64 Blacken a bit
65 *Friends* fellow
66 Reason for an erratum
67 Youngest of an Alcott quartet

DOWN

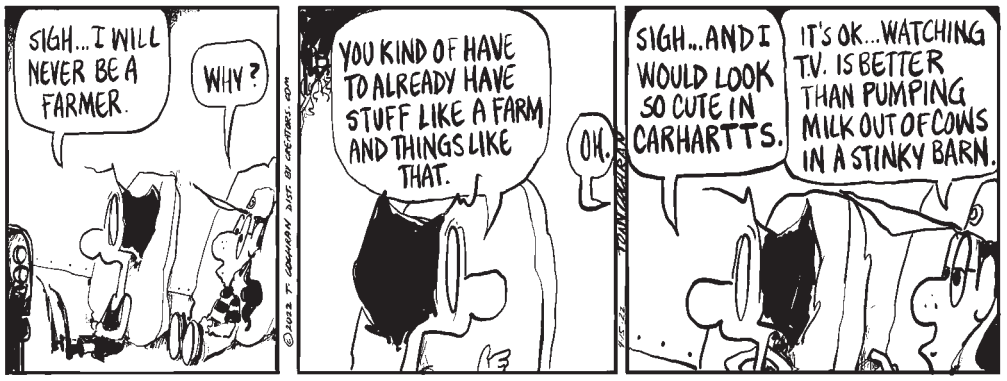
1 Jettison
2 Siri alternative
3 One in the lead
4 46 Across' URL ender
5 The Bard's preposition
6 Parts of parcels
7 Ska fan, perhaps
8 Yukon region
9 Heart of the Corn Belt
10 Valueless
11 Mouth mirror user: Abbr.
13 Christian Bale, by birth
15 Mid-Genesis VIP
17 Part of a chain
21 Lines like the London Overground
23 Inspiration for de la Renta designs
24 Sounds an orator abhors
27 Head up
28 Footnotation
29 Went under
30 Have smarts
31 What ricotta is made from
32 Euro predecessors
34 Rent the Runway milestone of '21
35 Get a fuel fill
38 Early Picasso works
39 Showed subservience
40 Santa __ , CA (where Schulz drew *Peanuts*)
45 "Enough said," for short
47 Pollock "brushstroke"
48 Company with a wise quacker
50 Small choir
51 Worthy of assistance
52 Socially dominant
53 Skyscraper support
54 Robe material
55 Guerrilla garb
56 Shorts supports
58 __ FOR THE COURSE (title of puzzle)
60 One crunch or press
61 Letters associated with 6



CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2022 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 4/15/22

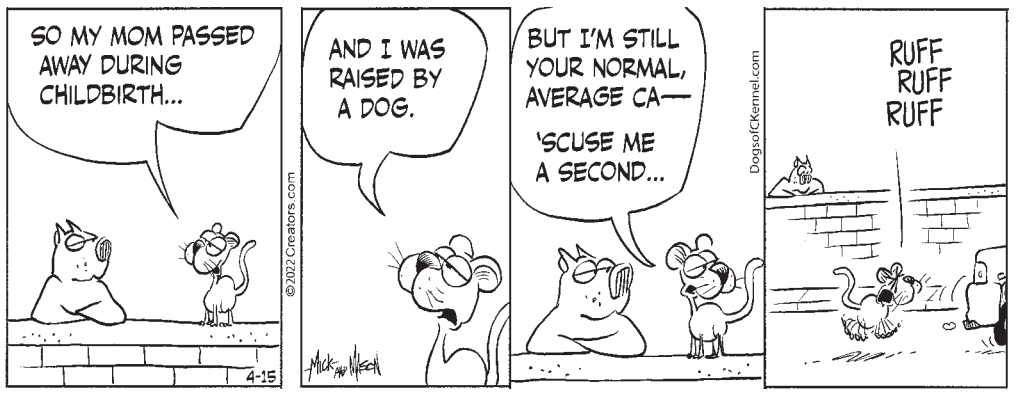
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



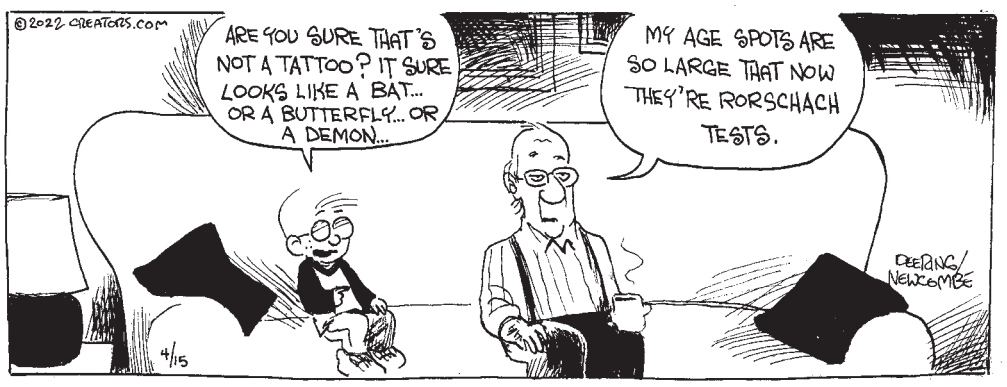
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



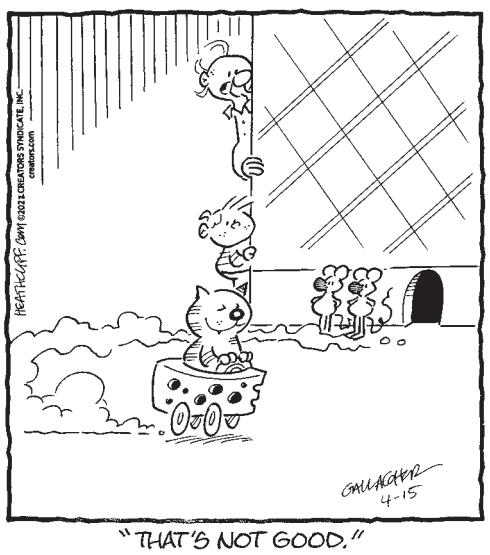
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"THAT'S NOT GOOD."

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 23 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5450

Brisbane and more

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

Ascot
Banyo
Barge
Bunour
Bush
Cape Moreton
Carina
City
Close
Cooparoo
Deception Bay
Dugong
East
Ecosystem
Ferry
Gumdale
Ironside
Ithaca
Logan
Lota
Lutwyche
Manly
North
Nundah
Pier
Red Hill
Reefs
Road
Rocklea
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FRIDAY | APRIL 15

SEA SICK BY ALANNA MITCHELL
Award-winning journalist Alanna Mitchell is a master storyteller, and this power is center stage in her mesmerizing solo show, Sea Sick. Culled from her work with leading ocean scientists and infused with her innate ability to lure an audience in, Sea Sick tells Mitchell's most important story: her journey to the bottom of the ocean, the demons she discovered there and, most importantly, her hope for the future. 8 - 9:30 p.m. $35. https://thebroadstage.org/performances/2021-22/theatre/seasick

SATURDAY | APRIL 16

TOURS OF THE MARION DAVIES GUEST HOUSE
Award-winning journalist Alanna Mitchell is a master storyteller, and this power is center stage in her mesmerizing solo show, Sea Sick. Culled from her work with leading ocean scientists and infused with her innate ability to lure an audience in, Sea Sick tells Mitchell's most important story: her journey to the bottom of the ocean, the demons she discovered there and, most importantly, her hope for the future. $35. Broad Stage, 9:30 p.m. 1310 11th St. https://thebroadstage.org/

NOTABLE FICTION DISCUSSION GROUP
The Heart of the Matter by Graham Greene
11 a.m. to 12 p.m. A classic tragic novel of love and duty in a colonial setting. To register: library@santamonica.gov.

WELLNESS & WAVES
Whether you're looking to reset after a long and busy week, or are just wanting to get your sweat on, Wellness & Waves is here for you. Join us for a free yoga workout that includes good vibes, ocean breezes and epic views. Come elevate your practice by connecting with nature, and meditating with the sunshine. 9:30 a.m. Register at https://www.santamonicapier.org/wellnessandwaves.

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

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

SUNDAY | APRIL 17

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

MONDAY | APRIL 18

MAIN LIBRARY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
Join a community-led discussion of books selected by the group. This month's selection is A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win World War II by Sonia Pernell. Contact jeff.schwartz@santamonica.gov for the Zoom link. 7 - 8:30 p.m.

SNOOZER'S STORYTIME ADVENTURES
Checkers Library TV presents Snoozer's Storytime Adventures, a virtual series that brings children's books to life with an uplifting story, craft, and song. Access the program here: youtube.com/user/SantaMonicaPL/playlists. 12 - 12:30 p.m.

TAKE & MAKE KIT: POETRY AND BUTTERFLIES
This kit includes supplies and instructions for two crafts: a butterfly suncatcher for Spring, and a construction paper windsock featuring a poem for National Poetry Month. Pick up at the Main Library Youth Services desk, Pico, or Montana Branches. While supplies last. For ages 3 & up.

TUESDAY | APRIL 19

STORYTIME: IN THE GARDEN
10:30 to 11:00 a.m. / Montana Ave Branch Library, Patio. Listen to stories about gardening and start your own little seedling. Space is limited. For Ages 2 & up. Register: bit.ly/YouthProgramSignUps

WEDNESDAY | APRIL 20

MONTANA AVENUE BRANCH BOOK GROUP
Join a community-led monthly book club, centered in the Montana neighborhood. This group currently meets via Zoom. Email library@santamonica.gov for the link. 7 - 8:30 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA PLANNING COMMISSION
5:30 p.m. The public can only attend this meeting via live stream at: CITY TV: Cable Channel 16
LIVE STREAM: https://www.youtube.com/user/Citytv16santamonica or https://www.smgov.net/video
TELECONFERENCE: https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/yxzgxrep
DIAL-IN NUMBER: 1 (415) 466-7000 (US), PIN 5199209 #

THURSDAY | APRIL 21

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FOR TEENS
Celebrate Financial Literacy Month with a workshop from Youthful Savings on entrepreneurship and financial responsibility for teens. Participants will learn how to earn, save, and invest money, meet local youth entrepreneur Gabriela 'Bibi" Paniagua, CEO of Bibi's Tye Die Creations, and gain free access to Youthful Savings Learning Marketplace all month in honor of financial literacy month. 6 - 7:15 p.m. Pico Branch Library

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



SURF REPORT

WATER TEMP: **55.6**

FRIDAY *POOR TO FAIR*	**SURF:** 2-3ft+ Thigh to stomach	SSW swell eases, blending with modest NW swell mix. Clean morning for all with westerly onshores in the afternoon that will keep the tucked away points in play.
SATURDAY *POOR TO FAIR*	**SURF:** 2-3ft Thigh to waist	Smaller mix of SSW and NW swells to work with. Models coming into agreement on westerly wind picking up pretty quick, likely going to need to get over to the points if you miss the dawn patrol.

WEATHER

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 64. East northeast wind 5 to 15 mph.
Friday Night: Increasing clouds, with a low around 55. West southwest wind 5 to 15 mph.
Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 64. West southwest wind 5 to 15 mph.
Saturday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 54.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2022/04/15	Fri	03:08 AM	0.22	L
2022/04/15	Fri	09:09 AM	4.82	H
2022/04/15	Fri	3:11 PM	0.12	L
2022/04/15	Fri	9:25 PM	5.41	H
2022/04/16	Sat	03:47 AM	-0.29	L
2022/04/16	Sat	09:51 AM	4.64	H
2022/04/16	Sat	3:38 PM	0.43	L
2022/04/16	Sat	9:52 PM	5.74	H
2022/04/17	Sun	04:30 AM	-0.68	L
2022/04/17	Sun	10:37 AM	4.32	H
2022/04/17	Sun	4:07 PM	0.83	L
2022/04/17	Sun	10:22 PM	5.96	H
2022/04/18	Mon	05:16 AM	-0.90	L
2022/04/18	Mon	11:29 AM	3.89	H
2022/04/18	Mon	4:38 PM	1.28	L
2022/04/18	Mon	10:57 PM	6.00	H
2022/04/19	Tue	06:08 AM	-0.93	L
2022/04/19	Tue	12:31 PM	3.44	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: 4/13
14 16 41 63 68
Power#: 26
Jackpot: 325 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 4/12
2 8 14 20 31
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 20 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 4/13
8 10 14 17 40
Mega#: 19
Jackpot: 34 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 4/13
4 12 17 18 22

Daily 3
Draw Date: 4/13
EVENING: 6 0 7
Draw Date: 4/13
MIDDAY: 7 0 7

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 4/13
1st: 12 - Lucky Charms
2nd: 06 - Whirl Win
3rd: 02 - Lucky Star
Race Time: 1:43.60

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