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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

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Reed Park protest highlights opposition to ongoing needle distribution program



Scott Snowden

PROTEST: Members of the community and members of City Council gathered at Reed Park on Tuesday to call for the removal of the "needle exchange program" from Santa Monica parks.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

A crowd of approximately 100 people gathered at Christine Emerson Reed Park on Tuesday afternoon to protest against the free needle distribution program in Downtown Santa Monica. Organized by the Santa Monica Coalition, the crowd assembled after a notice was distributed and posted online about a week or so ago.

The essence of the discussion revolves around a program whereby every week in the centrally located Reed Park, a transit van from the Venice Family Clinic distributes clean syringes, Narcan and fentanyl testing kits to anyone suffering from drug addiction.

The program operates in a number of parks in Santa Monica, but a significant cause of concern among critics is that St. Monica's school is directly opposite Reed Park, which incorporates publicly accessible basketball and tennis courts. Opponents of the current program say it not only affects the residents of the immediate area, but also young children who attend the nearby school.

Critics claim the program enables the continued use of drugs, draws more homeless to the city and makes parks unsafe, but researchers have linked syringe programs with a roughly 50% reduction in HIV and hepatitis C.

However, the source of this contention is that Los Angeles County originally initiated the program — without any consultation or input whatsoever from the City of Santa Monica — in a number of parks during the pandemic, including Palisades Park, Reed Park and Tongva Park.

Following an overdose death of a homeless person found in Palisades Park in July, 2022, then Mayor Sue Himmelrich called for a halt

SEE **REED PARK** PAGE 11



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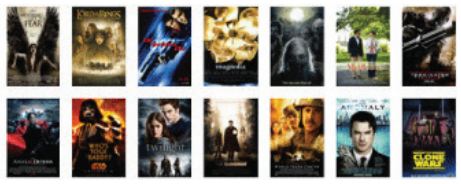
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Marina tourism continues rebound despite inflation challenge



Courtesy Photo

TOURISM: Marina del Rey's overnight visitor numbers surpassed pre-pandemic levels in 2023, despite the ongoing challenges of inflation on the tourism industry.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

The rebound of Los Angeles tourism coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic is represented by a top local destination, which has reported growth in tourist numbers and visitor spending over the past year despite economic uncertainties.

This month, the Marina del Rey Tourism Board released the 2023 Economic Impact of Tourism Study for the waterfront locale, which plays a pivotal role in Los Angeles tourism as a whole. The study showed that tourism in the Marina generated an estimated economic impact of $638 million in 2023, with overnight visitors surpassing pre-pandemic numbers. During the year, Marina del Rey hosted 551,726 overnight visitors, beating the 2019 total by 14 percent and gaining 3,014 visitors over the 2022 total.

Tourism Board CEO Janet Zaldua stated that it has been a "great opportunity" working in the Marina, which was designed by Los Angeles County to be a recreational destination with activities ranging from parasailing and other water sports to more quiet lounge atmospheres buoyed by local hotels.

"A lot of people refer to us as being a hidden gem," Zaldua said. "It's just got that small community resort feel, a little bit tucked away from the hustle and bustle, but we've still got amazing accommodations."

Overseeing one of the area's premiere local hotels, Marina del Rey Hotel General Manager Dan Zwim echoed the sentiment, stating that the locale was attractive for him to start conducting business in 2022.

"It's just such an awesome location," Zwim said. "It's central, close to the airport, close to the beaches, close to Venice and Santa Monica, yet (it's) a little bit quieter, so you can experience (everything) really easily, but then have a more serene surroundings when you're coming back for dinner (or) to relax at night."

> "It's really nice to have folks that just live in the LA area and feel welcome coming to Marina del Rey ... (they can) come for a visit or a staycation ... there's always some type of activity that's taking place
>
> - Janet Zaldua, Tourism Board CEO

The total measurable state and local tax revenues generated by visitor spending for Marina del Rey equated to approximately $62 million in 2023, which was a 4 percent increase from 2022. The locale's tourism sector supported just over 3,000 jobs, a 0.9 percent rise from the prior year.

Another increase was in the Transient Occupancy Tax procured by Marina's hotels, a 3 percent rise from 2022 to approximately

SEE **MARINA** PAGE 8

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Much of California's homeless population is stuck in cycles of substance use. These strategies can help



Photo by Jae C. Hong, AP Photo

HOMELESS: Recovering drug addicts Brian Shim comforts Annie An in the Kitchen area of Nanoom Christian Fellowship in Los Angeles. The church doubles as a drug rehab for Korean Americans.

KIMBERLY KNOPIK

I started using methamphetamine and PCP in the 1980s after surviving an abusive childhood, and continued to use them for more than 35 years. Throughout that time, I fell into homelessness and even spent 18 years in state prison.

This experience made it clear that, if we want to help people with substance use disorder, we must prioritize techniques to reduce harm and save lives.

I'm living proof that these strategies work.

In prison, I was diagnosed with bipolar disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health issues. Research indicates that mental illness may precede substance use disorders in many people. But, because I didn't receive the right mental health care or support, my life was a cycle of homelessness and stints in prison.

All of that could have been avoided with the right care.

It wasn't until I lost both of my parents in 2019 and fell down a dark hole that I finally surrendered and began educating myself on the disease that I had been battling my entire life.

To beat substance use disorder, you need to have the will and the right knowledge. You also need support from health care professionals – something I never received until I interacted with the penal system. It was only there that I received detox care that helped me get clean.

Unfortunately, my story is not unique. So many of our neighbors experiencing homelessness do not have access to the kind of care they need to overcome substance use disorder, which is almost always a significant barrier to finding stable employment or securing permanent housing.

This is a growing crisis, with the number of people who began experiencing homelessness growing nearly 7% between 2022 and 2023. Nearly 10,000 people became unhoused in California last year.

Without the proper support and care, their cycle will continue.

I've been clean for years, and now I'm spending my life helping others win their battles against the same disease I struggled with. I was once pulled out from a dark place. As a substance use disorder counselor for San Diego's largest homelessness services provider, I get to do the same for others.

In the seven months that I've worked at Father Joe's Villages, I've helped 43 people get into an intensive outpatient program, a residential program or a detox facility.

My life experience and my current

SEE **HOMELESS** PAGE 7



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **58.5**

WEDNESDAY
FAIR TO GOOD
SURF: 4-6ft
Chest to overhead

Day to target. Conditions looking OK for the morning. SSW swell builds further for summer magnets — likely the largest so far this (early) season. Not as much NW swell mixing in so shape favors the points/ reefs.

THURSDAY
FAIR TO GOOD
SURF: 5-7ft
Head to 2ft overhead

Another target day. Peaking SSW swell provides nice size, especially in the morning. A little slower on the high tide first thing, improving mid-morning. On S wind watch but it's looking to stay on the light side for the AM.

Weather

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 66. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south southwest in the afternoon.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 54. West wind 5 to 10 mph.
Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 65. East wind 5 to 10 mph.
Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 55.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2024/04/17	Wed	12:28 AM	2.50	L
2024/04/17	Wed	05:49 AM	4.12	H
2024/04/17	Wed	12:59 PM	0.04	L
2024/04/17	Wed	7:49 PM	4.00	H
2024/04/18	Thu	01:14 AM	1.99	L
2024/04/18	Thu	06:48 AM	4.22	H
2024/04/18	Thu	1:32 PM	0.11	L
2024/04/18	Thu	8:07 PM	4.24	H
2024/04/19	Fri	01:50 AM	1.49	L
2024/04/19	Fri	07:34 AM	4.29	H
2024/04/19	Fri	1:59 PM	0.25	L
2024/04/19	Fri	8:23 PM	4.50	H
2024/04/20	Sat	02:22 AM	1.02	L
2024/04/20	Sat	08:13 AM	4.29	H
2024/04/20	Sat	2:21 PM	0.44	L
2024/04/20	Sat	8:40 PM	4.76	H
2024/04/21	Sun	02:52 AM	0.58	L
2024/04/21	Sun	08:48 AM	4.21	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: 4/15
7 16 41 56 61
Power#: 23
Jackpot: 78 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 4/12
1 12 14 18 66
Mega#: 16
Jackpot: 148 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 4/13
7 13 22 33 38
Mega#: 3
Jackpot: 27 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 4/15
13 15 21 22 29

Daily 3
Draw Date: 4/15
EVENING: 3 9 0
Draw Date: 4/15
MIDDAY: 0 4 7

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 4/15
1st: 12 - Lucky Charms
2nd: 08 - Gorgeous George
3rd: 06 - Whirl Win
Race Time: 1:44.36

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Santa Monica Daily Press

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit electronic bids for the:

Treatment Plant Upgrades
SP2684

Base Bid:

Project 1: Equipping of 2 New Wells #21 & #22 (NO.7078)
Project 2: Replacement of Eight Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs) (NO.7139)

Alternate Bid:

Project 3: Perimeter Fence Replacement (NO.7131)
Project 4: New Safety Platforms Around 6 Pressure Filter Vessels (NO.7117)

Bids will only be accepted through the CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL, OpenGov Procurement or https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca. They must be received by the specified date and time. Late bids will not be accepted. Please allow sufficient time for uploading of documents. The bid opening will be electronic, all submitted bids will be viewable by the public via OpenGov Procurement immediately after bid close time.

MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK:

THESE SITES ARE NOT OPENED TO THE PUBLIC; THEY ARE ONLY ACCESSIBLE DURING THE TIMES PROVIDED BELOW

- **Charnock Treatment Plant**
  Address: 11375 Westminster Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90066
  Parking Info: No onsite parking available, use public street parking surrounding facility
  Meeting Location: Driveway off of Westminster Ave

  Dates: April 25th, 2024, 10:00am
  April 30th, 2024, 10:00am

- **Arcadia Treatment Plant**
  Address: 1228 S Bundy Dr, Los Angeles, CA 90025
  Parking Info: No onsite parking available, use public street parking surrounding facility
  Meeting: Driveway off of Bundy DR

  Dates: April 25th, 2024, 11:30am
  April 30th, 2024, 11:30am

For questions or concerns please contact Carlos Rosales, 310-628-9368

PROJECT ESTIMATE:
Preliminary Engineer's Estimate Base Bid: $5,600,000
Preliminary Engineer's Estimate Alternate Bid: $1,400,000

CONTRACT DAYS: 540 Calander Days
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $6,700 Per Calendar Day

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca. The Contractor is required to have an **A General Engineering License** at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California's high construction costs limit housing. A Supreme Court decision might help

DAN WALTERS

California's chronic inability to build enough housing – particularly for low-income families – has many causes, but a big one is its extremely high cost of construction.

Some costs are intrinsic and unavoidable, such as land acquisition and building materials. But some are artificial and could be lowered, especially those imposed by state and local governments. They include dictating the use of high-cost unionized construction labor, time-consuming environmental clearances, arbitrary design criteria and so-called "impact fees."

Collectively, these costs have the effect of minimizing the number of housing units that can be constructed for a given amount of investment – less bang for the buck.

Four years ago, the Los Angeles Times illustrated the syndrome by delving into a decade-long effort to construct a small apartment project for low-income residents of Solana Beach, an affluent coastal community in San Diego County.

What was proposed in 2009 as an 18-apartment project that would cost $413,913 per unit became – after 10 years of political and legal wrangling – a 10-apartment project costing more than $1 million a unit. It simply would not pencil out and was ultimately suspended.

Solana Beach was not an isolated example. Other projects costing $1-plus million per unit have surfaced, including one approved last week in Santa Monica, another upscale coastal community.

The 122-unit project, aimed at providing shelter for homeless people and built on city-owned land, will cost an estimated $123.1 million. It could become even costlier because of an extended development timeline: It's not expected to be built until 2030.

Development costs are particularly high in coastal communities, but even in interior areas building modest apartments for low-income residents easily tops $500,000 per unit, which is often costlier than single-family homes in those communities. It defies logic but that's the reality of housing in California.

As mentioned earlier, the many cost factors affecting housing in California also include impact fees.

While local governments had imposed some fees for decades, they began escalating sharply after voters in 1978 passed Proposition 13, the iconic property tax limit, to offset the loss of tax revenue.

A 2015 study found that California's fees, averaging $23,000 a unit, were the highest in the nation and four times the national average. Housing advocates have argued that reducing fees would increase production but local governments have zealously defended them.

Last week, as Santa Monica was approving the low-income housing project costing more than $1 million a unit, the U.S. Supreme Court was putting the brakes on California's impact fees. The court ruled unanimously that fees constitute an unconstitutional "taking" of private property without compensation unless based on actual costs.

The case came out of El Dorado County, which had imposed a $23,420 "traffic impact" fee on retiree George Sheetz, who wanted to place a manufactured home on his lot. Sheetz lost in state courts, which ruled that since the traffic fee was imposed by the county Board of Supervisors – rather than an administrative agency – it was a valid exercise of authority.

The Supreme Court, however, declared, "The Constitution provides no textual justification for saying that the existence or the scope of a state's power to expropriate private property without just compensation varies according to the branch of government effecting the expropriation."

Oddly, even though Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration has excoriated local governments for imposing arbitrary and costly conditions on housing projects, it supported El Dorado County's defense of traffic mitigation fees before the Supreme Court.

The ruling is a small step toward reducing some of the costs that make housing so expensive to build in California – a syndrome that, unless altered, will forever prevent the state from solving its housing dilemma.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Pacific Palisades

A Musical Interlude from Chamber Music Palisades

Join organizers on Wednesday, April 24 at 8 p.m. for the final performance of their 27th season. Enjoy an evening of varied chamber music with talented players from Los Angeles Philharmonic, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Los Angeles Opera, San Diego Symphony, and Santa Monica Symphony: Jonathan David (oboe), Sergio Coelho (clarinet), Judith Farmer (bassoon), Amy Jo Rhine (horn), and Chamber Music Palisades Artistic Director Susan Greenberg (flute). The concert also features the brilliant duo piano performers Bernadene Blaha and Kevin Fitz-Gerald, professors at USC. Alan Chapman (KUSC) will be the host for the evening, offering his fascinating program notes to enlighten our evening.

The program comes from around the world, with music by American, German, French, Italian, and Romanian composers. The adaptability and skill of their musicians will be on display in different configurations, featuring piano four hands, trios, woodwind quintet, and piano sextets. The performance is sponsored by the Sidney Stern Memorial Trust.

Tickets are available for $35 online at cmpalisades.org or at the door the evening of the concert at Saint Matthew's Parish, 1031 Bienveneda Avenue, Pacific Palisades. CMP offers free admission for full-time students with an ID.

SUBMITTED BY SUSAN GREENBERG

Countywide

Public Health Confirms Measles Case in Los Angeles County

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has been notified by the California Department of Public Health of one case of measles in a non-Los Angeles County resident who traveled throughout Los Angeles County from Saturday, March 30, 2024, to Sunday, April 1, 2024.

Individuals who were at the following locations during the dates and times below may be at risk of developing measles within 21 days from the exposure date.

Saturday, 3/30/24

Sheraton Gateway Hotel Gym — 6101 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045 (5:30 a.m. - 8 a.m.)

Denny's – 5535 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045 (time not yet determined)

Universal Studios – 100 Universal City Plaza, Universal City, CA 91608

Buca Di Beppo – 1000 Universal Studios Blvd, Universal City, CA 91608 (appx. 12 p.m.)

Cletus Chicken Shack in Universal Studies — 100 Universal City Plaza, Universal City, CA 91608 (appx. 4 p.m.)

Lard Lad Doughnuts and EC Food Truck in Universal Studios — 100 Universal City Plaza, Universal City, CA 91608 (time not yet determined)

Jeni's Splendid Ice Cream — 445 N. Beverly Dr., Beverly Hills, CA 90210 (time not yet determined)

Sheraton Gateway Hotel — 6101 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045

Sunday, 3/31/24

Sheraton Gateway Hotel Gym — 6101 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045 (5:30 a.m. -8 a.m.)

Jack in the Box—1127 W Manchester Blvd, Inglewood, CA 90301 (appx. 11:00 a.m.)

Santa Monica Pier—Santa Monica, CA 90401

Pier Gear — 380 Santa Monica Pier #1, Santa Monica, CA 90401 (time not yet determined)

El Torito Mexican Restaurant — 13715 Fiji Way, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292 (6:00 p.m. – 8 p.m.)

Sheraton Gateway Hotel — 6101 W Century Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045

Monday, 4/1/24

Sheraton Gateway Hotel — 6101 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045

Denny's – 5535 W Century Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045 (time not yet determined)

Additional locations where possible exposures may have occurred are being investigated.

People who were in the locations above should confirm if they have been vaccinated against measles. If they have not had measles in the past and have not yet obtained the measles vaccine, they are at risk of contracting measles if they have been exposed. Unimmunized persons or those with unknown immunization status who were at these sites during the date and times listed above are at risk of developing measles from 7 to 21 days after being exposed. Exposed individuals who have been free of symptoms for more than 21 days are no longer at risk.

"Measles is spread by air and by direct contact even before you know you have it and can lead to severe disease," said Muntu Davis, MD, MPH, Los Angeles County Health Officer. "Measles is highly contagious for those who are not immune to it. Initially causing fever, cough, red, watery eyes, and followed by a rash, it can result in serious complications for young children and vulnerable adults."

People who were in the locations above around the aforementioned times should:

Review their immunization and medical records to determine if they are protected against measles. People who have not had measles infection or received the measles immunization previously may not be protected from the measles virus and should talk with a health care provider about receiving measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) immunization.

Contact and notify their health care provider as soon as possible about a potential exposure if they are pregnant, an infant, have a weakened immune system and/or are unimmunized regardless of vaccination history.

Monitor themselves for illness with fever and/or an unexplained rash from 7 days to 21 days after their exposure (the time period when symptoms may develop)

If symptoms develop, stay at home, and avoid school, work and any large gatherings. Call a healthcare provider immediately. Do not enter a health care facility before calling them and making them aware of your measles exposure and symptoms. Public Health can assist health care providers in appropriately diagnosing and managing your care.

Common symptoms for measles include:

High fever (higher than 101° F)

Cough

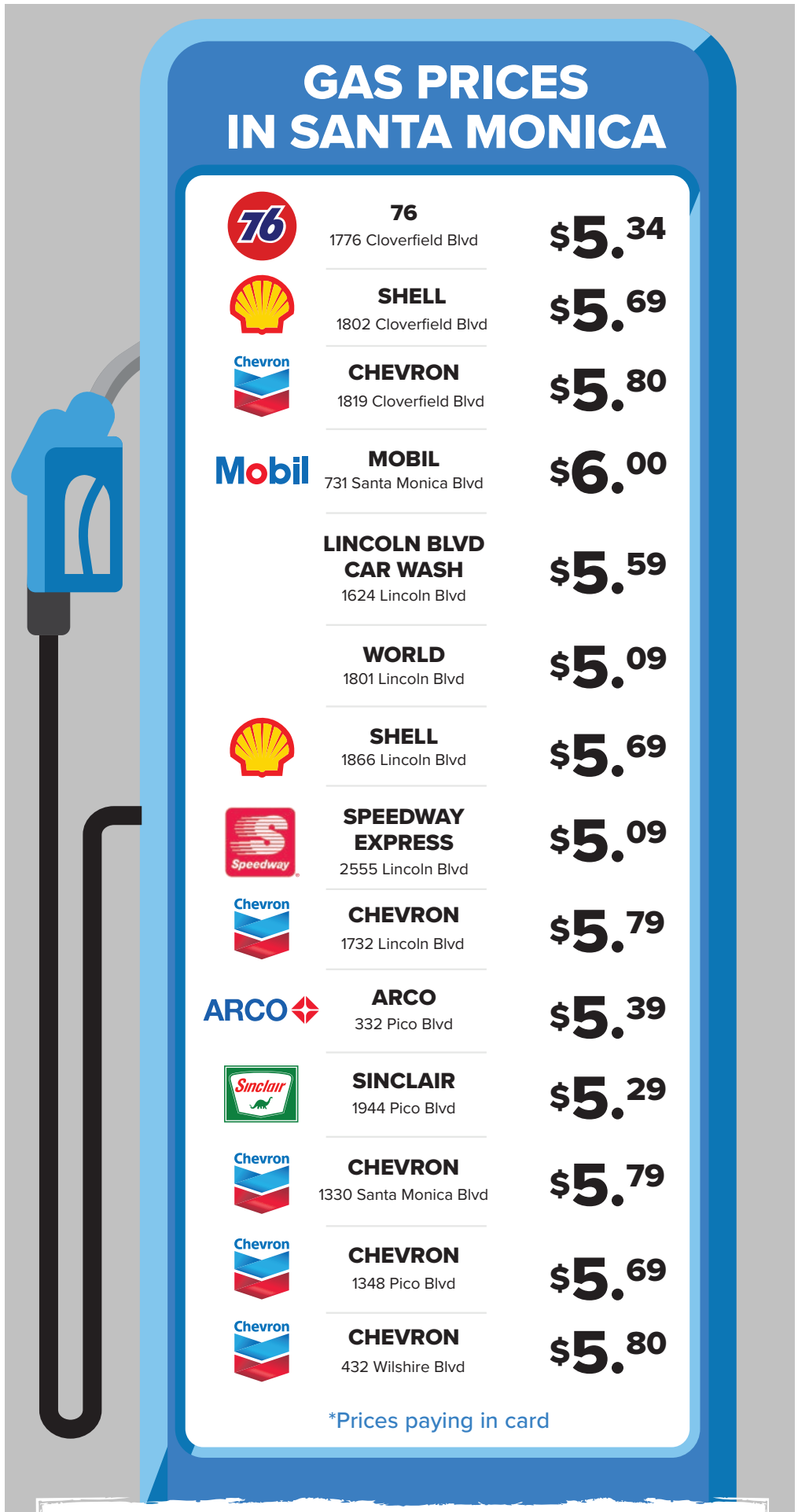
Runny nose

Red and watery eyes

Tiny white spots that may appear inside the mouth 2-3 days after symptoms begin.

Rash 3-5 days after other signs of illness. The "measles rash" typically starts at the face and then spreads down to the rest of the body.

SUBMITTED BY PUBLIC HEALTH



Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have risen 6.7 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $5.34/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 40.0 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 43.8 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel is down 1.2 cents in the last week and stands at $4.01 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at $4.59/g while the most expensive was $6.29/g, a difference of $1.70/g. The lowest price in the state was $4.34/g while the highest was $7.99/g, a difference of $3.65/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 3.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $3.60/g today. The national average is up 14.2 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 5.5 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Patagonia, other businesses honored for environmental stewardship

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

A longstanding honor has been bestowed onto Santa Monica's leaders in eco-friendly business practices, highlighting environmental caretakers across the city.

On April 8, the City of Santa Monica announced the winners of the 28th annual Sustainable Quality Awards, a partnership between the city and environmental education nonprofit Sustainable Works that recognizes sustainable economic development, social responsibility and stewardship of the environment. Patagonia Santa Monica on the Third Street Promenade was the grand prize winner, with five other local businesses receiving recognition in separate categories.

A household national name in clothing, Patagonia has been committed to environmental efforts in several ways. The company commits product donations to help environmental and community-based organizations with fundraising or engagement efforts, and partners with nonprofit groups aimed at long-term change through its Retail Grants Program.

The Santa Monica location has supported programs such as Stand Together Against Neighborhood Drilling Los Angeles (STAND-L.A.), which seeks to clean local air and fight climate change by ending oil drilling in Los Angeles neighborhoods. Even closer to home, Patagonia has also put resources towards the Friends of Ballona Wetlands nonprofit, aiming to restore and protect the wetlands of Playa Del Rey. On a worldwide scale, Patagonia has pledged 1 percent of sales to the preservation and restoration of the natural environment since 1985 through its "1% For The Planet" initiative.

> It really aligns with our company's goals of reducing our carbon footprint, using sustainable products in our buildings (and) in our design projects
>
> - Andrea Harmon

SEE **SUSTAINABILITY** PAGE 8



Photo by Thomas Leffler

SUSTAINABILITY: Clothing store Patagonia on the Third Street Promenade has been honored with a Sustainable Quality Award by the City.

Eric Uller sexually abused hundreds of children over almost 30 years while masquerading as a police officer at Santa Monica PAL.





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Biden's latest plan for student loan cancellation moves forward as a proposed regulation

COLLIN BINKLEY
AP Education Writer

President Joe Biden's latest plan for student loan cancellation is moving forward as a proposed regulation, offering him a fresh chance to deliver on a campaign promise and energize young voters ahead of the November election.

The Education Department on Tuesday filed paperwork for a new regulation that would deliver the cancellation that Biden announced last week. It still has to go through a 30-day public comment period and another review before it can be finalized.

It's a more targeted proposal than the one the U.S. Supreme Court struck down last year. The new plan uses a different legal basis and seeks to cancel or reduce loans for more than 25 million Americans.

Conservative opponents, who see it as an unfair burden for taxpayers who didn't attend college, have threatened to challenge it in court.

The Democratic president highlighted the plan during a trip to Wisconsin last week, saying it would provide "life-changing" relief. He laid out five categories of people who would be eligible for help.

The new paperwork filed by the Education Department includes four of those categories, while a separate proposal will be filed later addressing how people facing various kinds of hardship can get relief.

The broadest forgiveness category would help borrowers who owe more than they originally borrowed because of runaway interest. It would eliminate up to $20,000 in interest for anyone in that situation, while those with annual incomes below $120,000 and enrolled in income-driven repayment plans would get all their interest erased with no maximum limit. It would be done automatically.

Another category would cancel loans for people who have been paying back their undergraduate student loans for at least 20 years, and those who have been paying graduate loans at last 25 years.

It would automatically cancel loans for those who went to colleges or programs considered to have low financial value. Borrowers would be eligible for cancellation if they attended a program that leave graduates with earnings no better than those with a high school diploma, for example, or programs that leave graduates with large shares of debt compared with their incomes.

Borrowers who are eligible for other federal forgiveness programs but haven't applied would also get loans erased. Federal education officials would use existing data to identify those people and offer relief. It's intended to reach those who don't know about other programs or have been deterred by complicated application processes.

The proposal was hashed out over the course of several hearings as part of a federal rules process that gathers advice from outside experts. The plan was drafted with the help of students, college officials, state officials, borrower advocates and loan servicers.

During that process, advocates pushed for a fifth category of forgiveness for people who have different kinds of hardship that prevent them from being able to repay their loans. The Education Department said it's still working on the details of that rule, with a separate proposal to come "in the coming months."

The department said the hardship proposal will offer cancellation to borrowers who are at high risk of defaulting on their loans along with those who face other hardships, including high medical and caregiving expenses. That proposal will mirror one agreed upon by outside experts during the rulemaking process, the agency said.

It usually takes months for a proposed rule to be finalized, and months more before it can take effect. The Biden administration said it plans to start implementing some parts of the new proposal as soon as this fall, using the education secretary's authority to implement rules early in certain cases.

Republicans are staunchly opposed to any broad student loan cancellation, saying it's an unfair bailout for people who went to college.

"Where is the relief for the guy who didn't go to college but is working to pay off the loan on the truck he takes to work?" said Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-La., the ranking member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. "What about the woman who paid off her student loans but is now struggling to afford her mortgage? Instead the Biden administration is sticking these Americans with the bill of someone else's student debt.

Two coalitions of Republican states have sued the Biden administration to block a separate repayment plan that offers an accelerated path to loan forgiveness.

The White House says it's confident the new plan is on solid legal ground, saying the Higher Education Act gives the education secretary the power to waive student loans in certain cases.

The Associated Press' education coverage receives financial support from multiple private foundations. The AP is solely responsible for all content. Find the AP's standards for working with philanthropies, a list of supporters and funded coverage areas at AP.org.

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Promenade

Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. Unveils Spring Events on Third Street Promenade

Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. (DTSM, Inc.), has announced a lineup of events for the season. Celebrate the early days of spring with chess competitions, Conscious Markets, free outdoor movies, a Cinco de Mayo celebration and more on Third Street Promenade.

Following the success of its initial launch in 2023, DTSM, Inc. is partnering with the Santa Monica Bay Chess Club to host a Chess Tournament on Sunday, April 21 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The tournament marks the return of Chess Sundays, which will turn the 1200 block of the Third Street Promenade into an outdoor chess destination for the public to engage in weekly casual play every Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. through October, weather permitting. Participants can engage with new players and challenge multiple opponents. At the Chess Tournament, players can compete within a bracket format for a grand prize awarded to four winners across different skill levels. Chess Sundays are free to the public and open to all ages. Chess boards will be provided, though players are welcome to bring their own chess sets and timers.

The free outdoor film series, Movie Fridays, returns to the Promenade every second Friday of the month from April through June, featuring a lineup of musicals. Enjoy showings of Mamma Mia (singalong) on Friday, May 10 and Rent on Friday, June 14. Events begin at 6:30 p.m. with movies starting at 7:30 p.m.; all ages are welcome. All events include fun photo ops, complimentary popcorn and a DJ playing music before each film. Guests can bring along low chairs (tall chairs are not permitted), pillows, blankets and picnic essentials to relax with family, friends and even furry companions!

Spring programming at the Promenade also includes Conscious Markets on Saturdays, May 4 and June 1 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Hosted in partnership with Fit Girl Club LA, the markets feature a collection of elevated brands and sustainable products from over 30 local businesses dedicated to sustainability and self-care.

A Cinco de Mayo celebration will also be coming to Downtown Santa Monica, featuring live entertainment and outdoor dining along the 1200 block on Sunday, May 5. More details will be coming soon.

Admission to the Chess Tournament on Sunday, April 21 is $10. Advance registration is required via Eventbrite. Registration closes on Sunday, April 14 at 10 p.m. Participation is free for all following Chess Sunday events.

For all other events, no advanced registration is required, but guests may RSVP via the following links:
Conscious Market Series: DowntownSM.com/Conscious-Market-Series
Movie Fridays: Musicals!: DowntownSM.com/Movie-Fridays-Musicals

SUBMITTED BY BRANDON GAMEZ

HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 3

work have taught me that there are key strategies that can help our neighbors experiencing homelessness with substance use disorder get sober for good and move toward a life of hope. At Father Joe's, we use a harm reduction or minimization model, a set of evidence-based strategies that can help people struggling with addiction by meeting them where they are at.

Combined with wraparound services that can lead to securing permanent housing, this is a strategy that we know works.

This can involve mental, behavioral and physical health care, as well as strategies that allow for both safer use options and medication-assisted treatments. Last year, Father Joe's installed a vending machine with fentanyl test strips and naloxone, which can help reverse overdoses.

Although some aspects of harm reduction may seem counterintuitive, their purpose is to save lives. We cannot help people struggling with substance use disorder if they are dead. Since 2000, there have been upwards of 1 million deaths from drug overdoses in the U.S. If we can save a person from an overdose using critical medicine like naloxone, we can provide them the kind of care, support and services to help them overcome their substance use disorder for good.

If we truly want to help save lives, we need to prioritize and popularize life-saving strategies.

Kimberly Knopik is a counselor at Father Joe's Villages Transformative Recovery Services and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in social work at San Diego State University. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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MARINA

FROM PAGE 2

$15 million. Commonly known as the hotel bed tax, the seven hotels that fall within the Marina boundary partially fund tourist-attracting events and attractions. In Fiscal Year 2023-24, this funding brought programming such as fireworks celebrations on July 4th and New Year's Eve, as well as the summer season Beach Eats gourmet food truck series and Marina Movie Nights.

"It's really nice to have folks that just live in the LA area and feel welcome coming to Marina del Rey ... (they can) come for a visit or a staycation ... there's always some type of activity that's taking place," Zaldua said.

Direct visitor spending in 2023 was an estimated $409.7 million, an annual increase of 2.5 percent and a 27.4 percent rise from the pre-pandemic levels of 2019. However, these gains were mostly due to inflation costs, as inflation-adjusted growth since 2019 is equal to 7.5 percent.

Zaldua stated that businesses have been "absorbing the cost" of inflation, particularly hotels and restaurants having to deal with increased food and lodging costs, with "everyone" having to adjust. She added that a softer tourism start to 2024 has been a "little discouraging," pointing to the "unique" circumstances of inflation along with 2024 being an election year.

Being in the hospitality industry for 30 years, Zwim said there have always been ups and downs with inflation, but the past few years have been "the craziest" he's seen.

"From our standpoint, our supplies cost a lot more, our food products cost way, way more and (there's) pressure on wages and salaries increasing in the last couple of years (that) has really put a pinch on us," Zwim added.

> From our standpoint, our supplies cost a lot more, our food products cost way, way more and (there's) pressure on wages and salaries increasing in the last couple of years (that) has really put a pinch on us
>
> - Dan Zwim, Marina del Rey Hotel General Manager

For the Marina del Rey Hotel, adjustments have meant that Zwim and his staff have had to operate "more lean" where they can without impacting the guest experience. Changes for the hotel have included the implementation of QR codes for bar and pool ordering to decrease labor, as well as asking guests if they want housekeeping services or not to streamline that process. This month, the hotel intends to open a "Grab and Go" lobby cafe to aid visitors who don't want to break the bank at restaurants.

The rest of 2024 will be dedicated to fighting off the rising costs, as well as highlighting recently completed projects such as renovations to the Hilton Garden Inn, Jamaica Bay Inn and Sisley Spa at The Ritz-Carlton. For more information on Marina del Rey tourism and to view the full 2023 economic impact report, go to visitmdr.com.

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SUSTAINABILITY

FROM PAGE 6

Other local businesses receiving Sustainable Quality Awards were Angeles Investment Advisors for excellence in economic development, Avocado Green Mattress for excellence in stewardship of the environment, Physical Therapyworks for excellence in social responsibility and Yoga-urt for excellence in economic development and stewardship of the environment.

Another honor for excellence in stewardship of the environment went to HGA Architects, with Administrative Services Manager Andrea Harmon stating the HGA team was honored to be recognized by the city.

"It really aligns with our company's goals of reducing our carbon footprint, using sustainable products in our buildings (and) in our design projects," Harmon said. "We are thrilled to have won this and be a part of it."

HGA was recommended to apply for the award after hosting the city's "All Shades of Green" mixer event in December 2023, a process which Harmon said continues the process of commitment to sustainability in the firm's various projects. One local build, the John Adams Middle School (JAMS) performing arts center project, was designed with sustainability in mind, including the creation of an outdoor courtyard space due to the city's temperate climate, building a space for informal gathering and improvisational performance. The project earned HGA several honors, including an AIAILA Design Merit Award in the subject of education.

"We know that kids (were) going to be in there, so we (wanted) the upholstery on the seats, the wall coverings, the flooring, the paint, everything to be as (sustainable) as possible, so that we're not giving anyone any health concerns ... we also want the people who are doing the installation, the building itself, to be working with healthful materials ... we are striving for interior product that (is) as clean and good for the environment and the end users as possible," Harmon said.

In addition to a special trophy, award winning businesses will receive recognition by Santa Monica City Council members and community stakeholders at an awards ceremony, to be held May 1 at the Annenberg Community Beach House. Award recipients will also receive a highlighted presence in the Sustainable Santa Monica newsletter as well as on the city's Green Business Tours.

thomas@smdp.com

The Biden administration recruits 15 states to help enforce airline consumer laws

DAVID KOENIG
AP Airlines Writer

The Biden administration is enlisting the help of officials in 15 states to enforce consumer-protection laws covering airline travelers, a power that by law is limited to the federal government.

The U.S. Department of Transportation said Tuesday that the states, which include California, New York and Illinois, will help ensure that government enforcement activities keep up with a current boom in air travel.

Under an agreement announced by Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, state attorney general offices will be able to investigate complaints about airline service. If they believe an airline violated the law or is refusing to cooperate with investigators, the states could refer cases to the Transportation Department for enforcement.

> This is a partnership that will greatly improve DOT's capacity to hold airlines accountable and to protect passengers
>
> - Pete Buttigieg

In return, the Transportation Department, or DOT, will give the states access to its consumer-complaint system and train state employees about federal consumer laws covering airlines.

"This is a partnership that will greatly improve DOT's capacity to hold airlines accountable and to protect passengers," Buttigieg told reporters.

Buttigieg pointed to travelers whose flights are canceled and then must wait days for another flight or pay more to fly home on another airline. "Things like that are a violation of passenger rights, and we are seeing far too many cases of that," he said.

Other states whose officials signed the "memorandum of understanding" with the Transportation Department are: Colorado, Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Wisconsin, plus the District of Columbia, the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Buttigieg, a Democrat, repeatedly cast the agreement as bipartisan, but only two of the state officials who signed on are Republicans. Buttigieg indicated his department hopes to recruit more states.

Under U.S. law, the federal government alone regulates consumer-protection laws covering airlines. The carriers are not legally required to respond to state investigations.

Consumer advocates have pushed to expand enforcement power to the states. However, both the full House and a key Senate committee declined to include that proposal in pending legislation that covers the Federal Aviation Administration, part of the Transportation Department.

"During the pandemic, we actually got more complaints about airline traffic than any other topic, and it was frustrating" because the state had no authority to investigate the complaints, Colorado Attorney General Philip Weiser said.

Weiser argued that Congress should give states power to enforce airline consumer-protection laws, "but I have to say, we didn't wait for Congress to act."

Consumer groups praised the agreement while saying they would rather see Congress write into law the power of states to regulate consumer-protection rules.

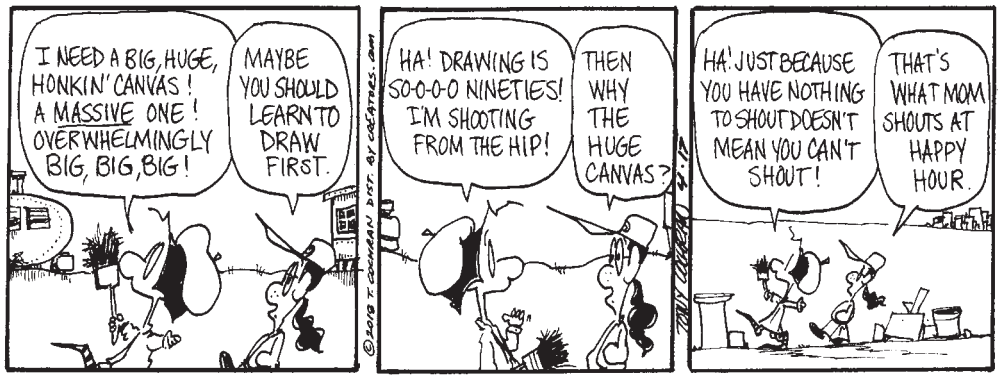
"This is the next best thing," said William McGee, an aviation expert at the American Economic Liberties Project, which opposes industry consolidation. "We don't look at this as a threat to DOT's authority. We look at it as the states assisting DOT, which doesn't have the staffing to handle all the complaints they get."

Airlines for America, a trade group representing the largest U.S. carriers, said it works with state and national groups "to constantly improve the customer experience for all passengers. We appreciate the role of state attorneys general and their work on behalf of consumers, and we look forward to continue working with them."

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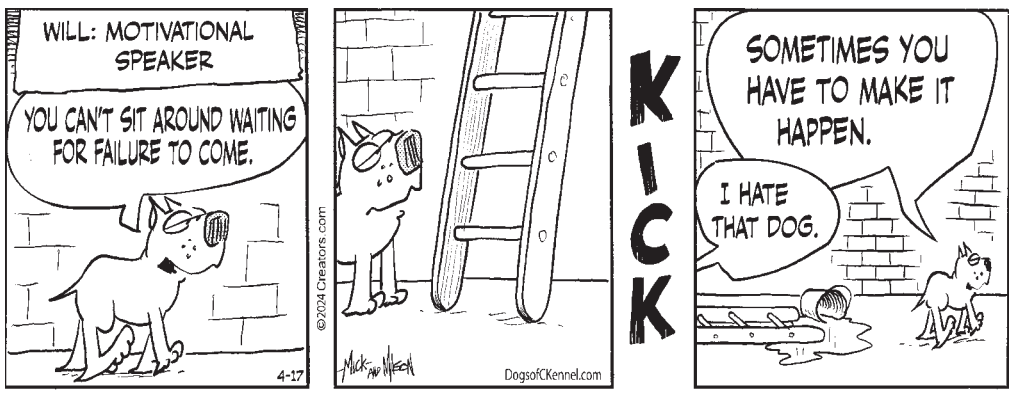
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



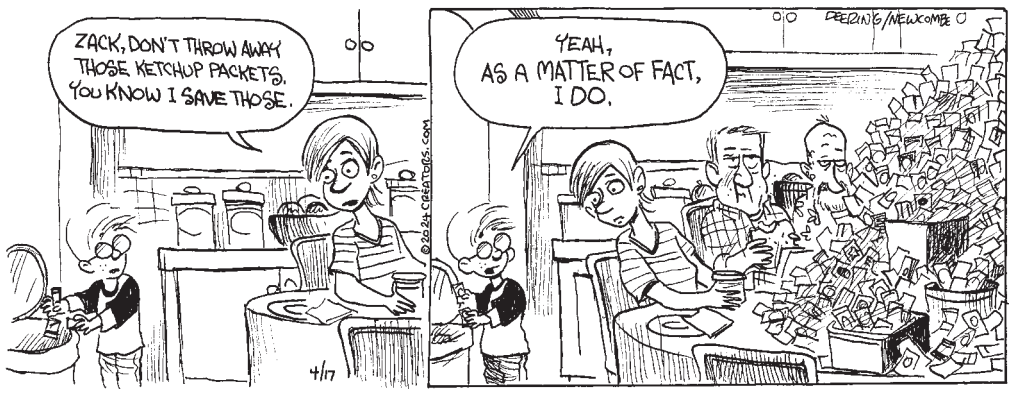
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



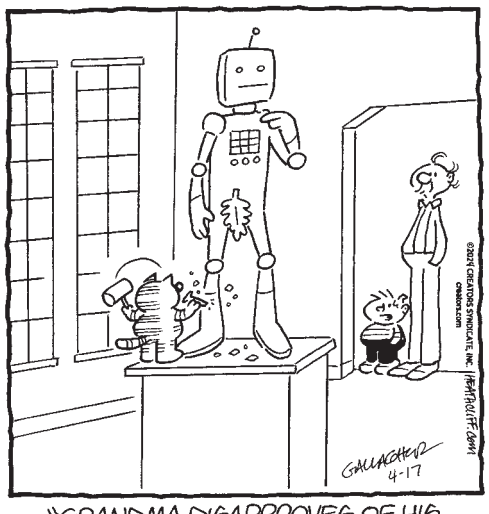
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

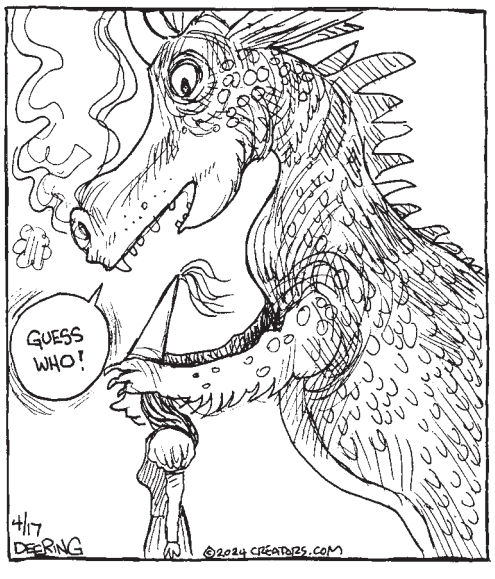
By PETER GALLAGHER



"GRANDMA DISAPPROVES OF HIS ROBOT NUDES."

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6183

Because I'm happy

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

Adore	Energized	In awe	Radiant
Aglow	Fine	Jolly	Rapture
Amused	Friendly	Joy	Relaxed
As happy as a clam	Gayety	Lap up	Savor
	Genial	Laugh	Sunny
Chat	Glad	Merry	Sweet
Cheery	Glee	Nice	Thrill
Chirpy	Good mood	Open	Triumph
Comfort	Grin	Peace	Untroubled
Content	Heaven	Perky	
Ecstasy	High	Play	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 17)

Being a lifelong learner pays off big time or you this year. You'll push the boundaries of what is possible. Your creativity is a multifaceted phenomenon shaped by personal attributes, a unique environment, fitting collaborations and new tools and processes. More highlights: a blank check, 10 sacred meetings and the fun of arriving in style. Gemini and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 17, 24, 13, 6 and 2.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Today's canvas is painted with unexpected warmth, like a stranger's smile that catches you off guard. Embrace the serendipitous moments that light your way.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). When you're stuck or the work is getting stale, take it into another medium. Having to paint it instead of add it, or cut it like a video instead of delivering it like a speech, will give you new insights.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Generosity is lovely, but fairness is divine. Stand up for what's right. Voicing an unpopular opinion is uncomfortable for most people. But some things are worth confronting. Respectful conversations will make a difference in the world.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Discipline flourishes in the spotlight of others' eyes. The public gym becomes a crucible of effort, and the office atmosphere breeds productivity unmatched by the solitude of home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When faced with a challenge, play the "what if?" game, and play it from both sides because winning has perils as well as losing, and losing has its own benefits, too. Tonight features a dance-like interaction and fancy footwork at that.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Power beckons with an unmistakable voice. This is how you know that money is not power, nor is beauty or high standing. Power may take a beautiful, lofty and wealthy form, but its currency lies solely in its application.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have an enormous set of options, so it's more important than ever to know the specific outcome that is most going to please you and yours. A more considered decision will be a better decision.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Trying to imitate someone else's joy is like wearing clothes out of season — a coat in summer is bound to cause discomfort, as are the sandals in the snow. Your own brand of happiness will align perfectly with your inner weather.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Steadfastness demands more than mere navigation; it requires constant recalibration. Adapt to the winds, verify your bearings, and adjust course as necessary.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). If you already know you'll get a particular result, you have to ask — is this project really enough for me? You're happiest when stretching, leaping and wondering how and where you're actually going to land.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Eccentric hobbies and peculiar pastimes are bound to raise eyebrows, but fear not, these are the gems that give your package sparkle and value. Oddities that set you apart will attract curiosity, proving your quirks are your greatest asset.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Give your information systems a makeover. From the contact list to the physical files, to the cobwebs of mind and memory, the decluttering you do will create a streamlined flow to success.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

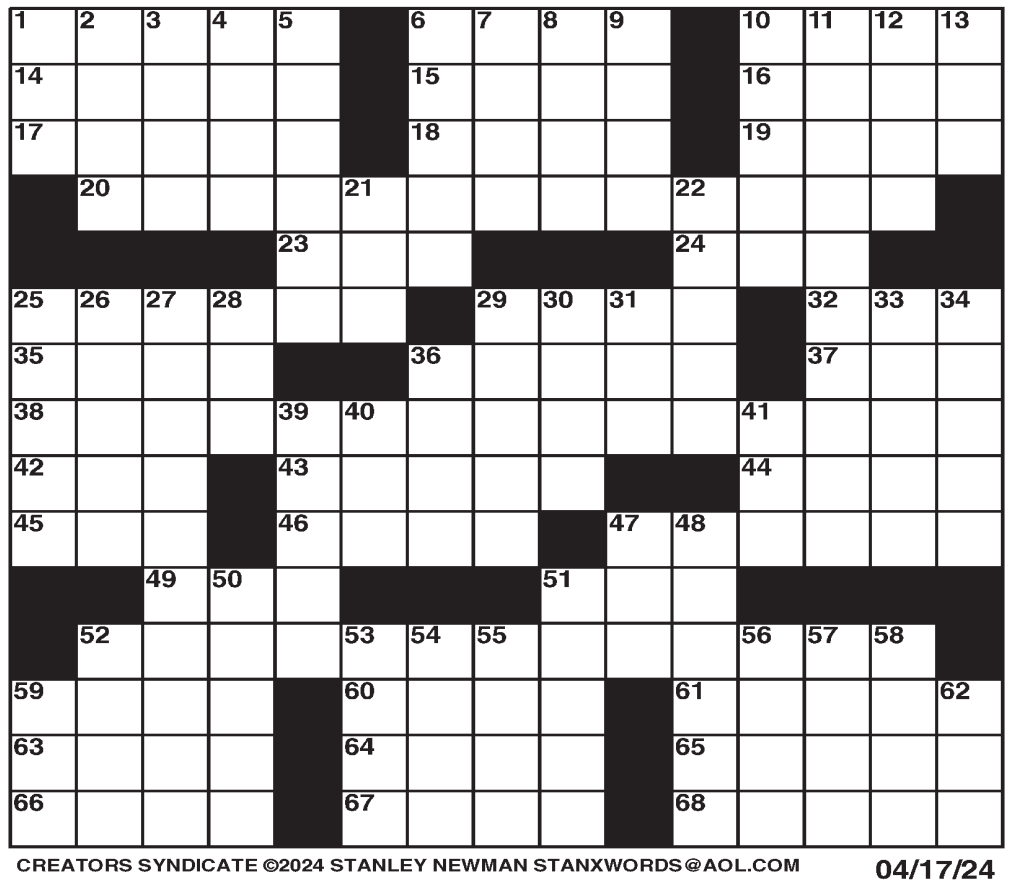
YOU BET by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Out of alignment
6 Medical remedy
10 Hard door knocks
14 Malicious emotion
15 Part of a molecule
16 Mysterious glow
17 Attach, as a shirt button
18 Coconut tree
19 Load, as cargo
20 Woo successfully
23 Tax agcy.
24 Dinghy implement
25 Capital of Greece
29 Beef and potatoes meal
32 Cable TV film channel
35 Crusty desserts
36 Seacoast
37 Baseball great Ripken
38 Words on an available billboard
42 Was ahead of everyone else
43 Country singer Rimes
44 Soprano's solo
45 Superlative suffix
46 Son of Marge and Homer
47 Expands, as a kitchen
49 Taunting shout
51 Go wrong
52 Act sincerely
59 Stadium level
60 Roof overhang
61 "Talk turkey" or "chicken out"
63 "What a pity"
64 At that time
65 Of the Vikings
66 Was a passenger
67 Centers of solar systems
68 Wintry precipitation

DOWN

1 Donkey
2 Eject, as a geyser
3 Fuzzy-skinned fruit
4 Prince William's prep school
5 Entered
6 Behind-the-back garments
7 Nevada neighbor
8 Casting director's offer
9 Actress Stone or Watson
10 Dreadlocks wearer, for short
11 Indy 500 competitors
12 MIT teacher
13 Tree surgeon's tool
21 Daily two-dozen: Abbr.
22 Used a 24-Across
25 Orchard product
26 Mosaic pieces
27 How two wrestlers battle
28 Window-closing PC key
29 Push out of the way
30 Unable to decide
31 Noteworthy period
33 Nintendo plumber
34 No longer dusty
36 Rise sharply
39 Mac-and-cheese morsel
40 Thumbs-up vote
41 Once owned
47 Cartoon bark
48 Sink holes
50 Carousel carving
51 Idyllic locales
52 Fodder storage structure
53 Catches on to
54 Island with a state capital
55 Cook-off appliance
56 Fan club's hero
57 Need a rest
58 Gardening conduit
59 Roofing material
62 Convened



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REED PARK

FROM PAGE 1

to the program and "immediately [move] this program to a service rich environment (preferably indoors) where individuals in need of substance abuse, mental health, and other services can coordinate and work directly with service providers" in a unanimous open letter sent to Los Angeles County officials in September of that year.

However, the program has remained in operation. Local officials have not been consulted nor do they have authority over the program prompting a lawsuit from Downtown property owner John Alle's over the legality of the program.

Santa Monica City Council had a heated debate regarding this just a few weeks ago and was divided on the best course of action. Ultimately, in a 4-3 decision, Councilmembers Christina Parra, Oscar de la Torre, Vice Mayor Lana Negrete and Mayor Phil Brock all voted to prepare and return a resolution expressing the City's disapproval of the County's implementation of the program. And those four councilmembers were all present at Reed Park on Tuesday morning.

Regarding that significant, seldom-seen and stubborn split, Brock said, "I have several council members who were never gung ho on providing the public safety that our residents want, need and deserve … All four of the councilmembers who were against the continuation of this program in our parks and near our schools … grew up in this community. I think that's one big difference. We know how this community can be … The fact that a block of councilmembers have a different view, that's absolutely their right. It's their right to disagree. I don't think it's their right to lessen the safety of all of our residents."

Jessica Rogers, who asked to be credited as Co-Founder of the Santa Monica Coalition, encouraged the crowd to chant slogans like "Gleam, Gleam, don't us down, fire this clown" and "David White has got to go, needles in the park, we say no" referring to City Manager David White. And in fact, criticism of White's ability and usefulness appeared to be an unmistakable, unifying theme.

Gleam Davis is one of three councilmembers who have voiced support for the current iteration of the program alongside Jesse Zwick and Caroline Torosis.

Professional-looking pre-prepared signs had slogans written on them, including "No More Needles In Our Parks, No More Crime After Dark" and "Public Safety Is A Human Right" and "Make Santa Monica Safe."

"I think it's unfortunate that a lot of issues today are becoming bipartisan issues, when they're just common sense issues," Negrete told the Daily Press, adding, "We put people in political groups or teams in order to get something through, right now there's four

> I think it's unfortunate that a lot of issues today are becoming bipartisan issues, when they're just common sense issues
>
> - Lana Negrete, Vice Mayor

of us, which is the majority that believed that this isn't the time, place or manner to distribute needles or practice harm reduction, and that the syringe exchange program is not being done effectively here."

The disagreement comes from two conflicting theories, the first is that homeless addicts should receive treatment in the park because that's where they are. The second is that the program in fact attracts them to the park and should be moved to a more secure location.

During the impassioned City Council meeting three weeks ago, Councilmember Zwick said it was a symptom, not a cause of the problem.

"People don't come to Reed Park for the one hour per week in which needles are distributed," he said. "Reduction comes to the park because that's where the people who need harm reduction are. If we put it somewhere where no one was, no one would get help."

That said, no one gathered in the park on Tuesday said they wanted to deny treatment to addicts. They just vehemently don't want it to be in Reed Park or any other park in the City of Santa Monica.

"People who live here want a different approach," De la Torre said. "We want our parks to be for recreation and for children to enjoy, not for people to be doing drugs … We want to change the approach. We support the needle exchange, if it's done in an indoor facility, in a clinic, for example, where people can receive other services and counseling, so that they can get off the drugs. Giving needles out in the park sends the wrong message, especially when we have a crisis [and] an epidemic of overdose deaths."

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City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed proposals for

- **RFP #409 LEGAL ONLINE RESEARCH SUBSCRIPTION**
- **Submission Deadline Is May 1, 2024 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is OpenGov (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for the RFP package.



WEDNESDAY | APRIL 17

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET
Enjoy the Santa Monica Downtown Farmers Market at Arizona Ave. and 2nd St. from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Widely considered to be among the best on the west coast, featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheeses, delicious foods, live music and more.

OCEAN PARK BRANCH OPEN HOUSE
The Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St., makes a splash with a special open house from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. The event kicks off at 11:30 a.m. with a pre-opening storytime for toddlers. At 4 p.m., Marc Griffiths presents an after-school family puppet show. Additional activities, crafts and treats for patrons of all ages will be available all day.

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

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

PLANNING COMMISSION
Established in 1946, the Planning Commission envisions Santa Monica as a city of wellbeing, sustainability, and equity, and seeks to balance the many needs and priorities within our community in accordance with the City's General Plan and Specific Plans. The Commission acts through open and civil discourse that is informed by public input, impartial analysis, and best practices in land use and planning. Begins at 6 p.m. in City Council Chambers at Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St.

THURSDAY | APRIL 18

VENICE JAPANESE AMERICAN MEMORIAL MONUMENT COMMEMORATION
The 7th Annual Commemoration of the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument will take place from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the northwest corner of Venice Blvd. and Lincoln Blvd. The 12th Annual fundraiser for the Memorial Monument Committee takes place at Hama Sushi Restaurant, 213 Windward Ave., Venice, from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tax-deductible donations for the monument can be sent to Venice Arts Council/VJAMM, P.O. Box 993, Venice CA 90294, checks payable to "VCH/VJAMM." For more information, visit venicejamm.org.

LOCALS' NIGHT
Join the Santa Monica Pier for a curated series for locals, by locals. Activities for this month's Locals' Night include a "Books & Cookies" storytime at the Merry Go-Round Building at 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., as well as a Classic Car Show on the Pier Parking Deck and an Art Mart from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Music performances by Par Avion, Dogtown Prophets, Brother T LoveJones, 1969, The Jane Fonda's, U.S. 99 Band, Captain Danger and The Strands.

FRIDAY | APRIL 19

VENICE COMMUNITY CLEANUP
Join the Venice Chamber of Commerce, Venice Community Cleanups, Alcott Center and Fat Sal's in cleaning up the Washington Area of Venice in celebration of Earth Day. Begins at 9 a.m. at Fat Sal's, 37 Washington Blvd., Marina del Rey. There will be a post clean-up demo on how to create Earth Day-themed art. To RSVP, visit: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/6jrumcj.

MARINA DEL REY BEAD & DESIGN
A bustling atmosphere of creativity, inspiration and great showing at Bead & Design takes place from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Marriott Marina del Rey, 4100 Admiralty Way. With over 150 artisans and tradespeople showcasing artisan supplies, jewelry, one-of-a-kind art wear and antiquities, this is a beautiful and interactive shopping experience that promises not to disappoint. Tickets $8 online, $10 at the door. For more information, visit beadanddesign.com.

PROJECT FEAR
Organized by the Santa Monica College Theatre Arts Department, "Project Fear (And all the Feels)" will take place at the Theatre Arts Complex Studio Stage at SMC at 7:30 p.m. The show tells the stories of middle school and high school kids about the fears and challenges they face during this time in history, presented in a doc-play that reflects the results of interviews with more than 50 teens from a range of cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. These teens, prompted to tell stories that were meaningful to them, covered a wide range of topics and concerns. Their words will be delivered onstage by student actors. Talkback with the playwright will take place after the performance. General admission tickets $20, Senior 62+ $18, SMC students/faculty/staff $15. Tickets can be purchased at smc.edu/tickets or by calling 310-434-3005.

SATURDAY | APRIL 20

EVERY DAY IS EARTH DAY
Ishihara Park Learning Garden, 2909 Exposition Blvd., celebrates Earth Month with a gaggle of activities at the monthly Pancakes in the Park Program. Investigate a Worm Bin, play a round of Garden Bingo, dig into an Owl Pellet or create some Leaf Art. Or just grab a cup of coffee and enjoy the company of our cadre of volunteers who have made this garden an example of bio intensive sustainable agriculture in our beautiful city. Open to the public and free for everyone starting at 9 a.m. Bring your own plates, cups and utensils.

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

START SMART

Summer at SMC

Classes start June 17
On-campus and online
smc.edu/summer

ON-CAMPUS AND ONLINE CLASSES



SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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