3
Economy questions
Are we in a recession?

4
New Covid strain
With a new symptom

5
Crime Watch
Gazing into danger

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Metro rider violently beaten by eight teenagers at Santa Monica station

MAGNOLIA LAFLEUR
Special to the Daily Press

Eric Lewis has been taking Metro's Expo train from Downtown Los Angeles to his job in Santa Monica everyday undisturbed for the past three years until April 19 at 11:15 a.m. when he was attacked and violently beaten by eight juvenile males.

Lewis said it all began when some of the young men began delaying the train by preventing the doors from closing near the last stop. The suspects were taking pictures causing commuters on the packed train, including himself, to plead with the boys to "stop holding the doors open, get back on the train, we're going to be late, we got to get to work."



Scott Snowden

ASSAULT: A group of teens attacked a man at the train station sending him to the hospital.

When the boys joined their other friends, Lewis said they zeroed in on him as he was seated near their group and began to taunt, harass and throw items at him. Flustered yet calm about the situation, Lewis said, no matter what occurred, he kept his head down looking at his phone as they neared the last stop.

"I could tell they were trying to provoke something out of me. When we get to the last stop, I knew I'm not going to be the first one off this train, so I wait, I'm going to be the last because wherever they're going I'm going opposite," Lewis said. "I'm no idiot, I'm not going to pick a fight with anyone, we hardly even interacted in any way, I don't understand what would have

SEE **ASSAULT** PAGE 8

Council votes unanimously to incorporate gender neutral restrooms in all applicable new builds

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

The City Council has voted unanimously to adopt an ordinance, and associated design standards, requiring that multi-stall, gender neutral public restrooms be incorporated in all newly constructed buildings for which a complete building permit application is submitted to the City on or after July 1, 2023.

The 6-0 vote, with Councilwoman Lana Negrete absent, followed a round of intense public comment triggered by statements from several councilmembers that had questioned the safety or usability of gender neutral bathrooms.

Councilmembers Phil Brock, Oscar de la Torre and Lana Negrete were all quoted in an online news story prior to the debate that triggered significant outrage. Negrete, who was out of town, released a statement saying she had been grossly misquoted and that the news story presented her opinions in a highly distorted way.

"I support gender neutral bathrooms, period," she said in her statement.

Brock said his past statements were uninformed but during the discussion he raised questions regarding the safety, cleanliness, legality and environmental impact of the proposal.

"I am always and always have

SEE **COUNCIL** PAGE 7



Courtesy Photo

BATHROOMS: Council passed a new rule.

Punishment or prevention: California debates fentanyl crisis

TRÂN NGUYỄN
Associated Press

Pamela Smith remembers vividly the last time she saw her only son alive.

It was 3:18 a.m. on July 3, 2016, in Fresno, California, and 22-year-old Jackson Smith was lying motionless on a table in an emergency room while a nurse performed chest compressions. Earlier that night, he had taken an oxycodone pill laced with fentanyl, and then he stopped breathing. Within seconds of his mother entering the emergency room, he died.

Since then, Smith has dedicated her life to fighting the fentanyl crisis. This year, that has meant advocating for some of the more than 30 bills introduced in the California Legislature to address the issue.

But a number of those bills have since stalled, caught in a philosophical dispute between lawmakers about the best way to address a crisis that is killing roughly 110 people in the state each week. About half of the proposals focus on public safety measures, such as punishing drug dealers with longer prison sentences, while the others aim to increase accessibility to fentanyl overdose treatments, and to create education and prevention programs.

The bills focusing on public safety measures were at risk of

SEE **FENTANYL** PAGE 6


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Harris faces new test of political skills in 2024 campaign

CHRIS MEGERIAN
Associated Press

She swaggered, she jabbed, she inspired. She even joked.

Anyone looking for a glimpse of what Vice President Kamala Harris could bring to the campaign trail would have found it this week at Howard University, where she headlined a rally for reproductive rights. After two years of tightly scripted, uneven performances that often dismayed Democrats and cheered Republicans, Harris is looser, more forceful and more willing to speak off the cuff following her trip to Africa a month ago.

"That is the vice president that America is going to get a chance to get to know for the first time," said Laphonza Butler, a former adviser to Harris who leads EMILY's List.

Now Harris, the first woman and person of color in her position, will be put to the test as President Joe Biden seeks a second term. Although vice presidents are rarely decisive in reelection efforts, Harris is poised to be an exception. Not only is she leading the charge on Democrats' most potent issue, the battle over abortion rights, she's the running mate for the oldest president in history, increasing scrutiny over whether she's ready to step into the top job if necessary.

It's an issue that Nikki Haley, a former South Carolina governor who is seeking the Republican presidential nomination, raised on Wednesday in an interview with Fox News.

"If you vote for Joe Biden, you really are counting on a President Harris," Haley said. "Because the idea that he would make it until 86 years old" — the age Biden would be at the end of a second term — "is not something that I think is likely."

> "Vice presidential candidates, if they're going to make a difference, they're going to make it at the margin"
>
> - Joel Goldstein, a historian of the vice presidency

Harris' mission until Election Day will be energizing the voters that Democrats most need — specifically women, people of color and young people — while sustaining what will likely be an unrelenting barrage of Republican attacks.

"Vice presidential candidates, if they're going to make a difference, they're going to make it at the margin," said Joel Goldstein, a historian of the vice presidency. "But if you look at our recent history, a lot of our presidential elections have been decided at the margins."

Harris' appearance at her alma mater Howard University on Tuesday night, the same day that Biden announced his reelection bid, was a first look of how she'll approach the campaign. Her focus on abortion echoed her message during the midterm elections, but was even more barbed than usual as she targeted "extremists" she accused of taking away people's rights.

"Don't get in our way because if you do, we're going to stand up, we're going to organize and we're going to speak up and we're going to say we're not having that, we're not playing that!" Harris said.

Addressing herself to "so-called leaders" who want to restrict abortion, Harris told them to "open your medicine cabinet in the privacy of your bathroom, in the privacy of your home. I wonder what's sitting up in there."

The crowd roared with laughter. "You don't want me getting in your business, do you?" she said.

Harris linked efforts to restrict abortion to Republican attempts to tighten rules for voting and limit what can be taught in schools.

"Understand what's at play," she said. "You can't sleep on this."

Cornell Belcher, a Democratic pollster, said Harris is "probably better positioned to connect with, in an authentic way, that critical emerging cohort of the American electorate that we are absolutely positively dependent on to win a majority."

Not everyone has felt that way, and she's faced chatter from the sidelines over whether Biden should replace her as vice president. She consistently polls worse than Biden, whose own numbers are underwater.

In an AP-NORC poll conducted in January, 43% of U.S. adults had a favorable opinion of Biden, and 36% said the same about Harris. Among Democrats, Biden was at 78% and Harris was at 67%, while 10% said they didn't know enough about Harris to have an opinion.

However, Harris featured prominently in Biden's announcement video — walking alongside the president, embracing first lady Jill Biden, taking a selfie with a supporter and more.

Biden's campaign website is topped by the names "Biden Harris," and a pop-up

SEE **HARRIS** PAGE 8



How will we know if the US economy is in a recession?

CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

The government's report Thursday that the economy grew at a 1.1% annual rate last quarter signaled that one of the most-anticipated recessions in recent U.S. history has yet to arrive. Many economists, though, still expect a recession to hit as soon as the current April-June quarter — or soon thereafter.

The economy's expansion in the first three months of the year was driven mostly by healthy consumer spending, yet shoppers turned more cautious toward the end of the quarter. Businesses also cut their spending on equipment, a trend that has continued.

The list of obstacles the economy faces keeps growing. The Federal Reserve has raised its benchmark interest rate nine times in the past year to the highest level in 17 years, thereby elevating the cost of borrowing for consumers and businesses. Inflation has eased slowly but steadily in response. Yet price increases are still persistently high.

And last month the collapse of two large banks resulted in a whole new threat: A pullback in lending by the financial system that could weaken growth even further. A report on business conditions by the Fed this month found that banks were tightening credit to preserve capital, which makes it harder for companies to borrow and expand. Fed economists are forecasting a "mild recession" for later this year.

Still, there are reasons to expect that a recession, if it does come, will prove to be a comparatively mild one. Many employers, having struggled to hire after huge layoffs during the pandemic, may decide to retain most of their workforces even in a shrinking economy.

Six months of economic decline are a long-held informal definition of a recession. Yet nothing is simple in a post-pandemic economy in which growth was negative in the first half of last year but the job market remained robust, with ultra-low unemployment and healthy levels of hiring.

The economy's direction has confounded the Fed's policymakers and many private economists ever since growth screeched to a halt in March 2020, when COVID-19 struck and 22 million Americans were suddenly thrown out of work.

Fed officials have made clear they're willing to tip the economy into a recession if necessary to defeat high inflation, and most economists believe them.

So what is the likelihood of a recession? Here are some questions and answers:

WHY DO MANY ECONOMISTS FORESEE A RECESSION?

They expect the Fed's aggressive rate hikes and high inflation to overwhelm consumers and businesses, forcing them to significantly slow their spending and investment. Businesses will likely also have to cut jobs, causing spending to fall further.

Consumers have so far proved resilient in the face of higher rates and rising prices. Still, there are signs that their sturdiness is starting to crack.

Retail sales have dropped for two straight months. The Fed's so-called beige book, a collection of anecdotal reports from businesses around the country, shows that retailers are increasingly seeing consumers resist higher prices.

Credit card debt is also rising, evidence that Americans are having to borrow more to maintain their spending levels, a trend that probably isn't sustainable.

WHAT WOULD BE SOME SIGNS THAT A RECESSION MIGHT HAVE BEGUN?

The clearest signal would be a steady rise in job losses and a surge in unemployment. Claudia Sahm, an economist and former Fed staff member, has noted that since World War II, an increase in the unemployment rate of a half-percentage point over several months has always signaled the start of a recession.

Many economists monitor the number of people who seek unemployment benefits each week, a gauge that indicates whether layoffs are worsening. Weekly applications for jobless aid have been creeping higher as a range of companies, from Facebook's parent company Meta to the industrial conglomerate 3M to the ride-hailing company Lyft, have announced layoffs.

Still, employers added a solid 236,000 jobs in March, and the unemployment rate slipped to 3.5%, near a half-century low, from 3.6%.

ANY OTHER SIGNALS TO WATCH FOR?

Economists monitor changes in the interest payments, or yields, on different bonds for a recession signal known as an "inverted yield curve." This occurs when the yield on the 10-year Treasury falls below the yield on a short-term Treasury, like the three-month T-bill. That is unusual. Normally, longer-term bonds pay investors a richer yield in exchange for tying up their money for a longer period.

Inverted yield curves generally mean that investors foresee a recession that will compel the Fed to slash rates. Inverted curves often predate recessions. Still, it can take 18 to 24 months for a downturn to arrive after the yield curve inverts.

Ever since last July, the yield on the two-year Treasury note has exceeded the 10-year yield, suggesting that markets expect a recession soon. And the three-month yield has also risen far above the 10-year, an inversion that has an even better track record at predicting recessions.

WHO DECIDES WHEN A RECESSION HAS STARTED?

Recessions are officially declared by the obscure-sounding National Bureau of Economic Research, a group of economists whose Business Cycle Dating Committee defines a recession as "a significant decline in economic activity that is spread across the economy and lasts more than a few months."

The committee considers trends in hiring. It also assesses many other data points, including gauges of income, employment, inflation-adjusted spending, retail sales and factory output. It assigns heavy weight to a measure of inflation-adjusted income that excludes government support payments like Social Security.

Yet the NBER typically doesn't declare a recession until well after one has begun, sometimes for up to a year.

DOES HIGH INFLATION TYPICALLY LEAD TO A RECESSION?

Not always. Inflation reached 4.7% in 2006 — at that point the highest level in 15 years — without causing a downturn. (The 2008-2009 recession that followed was caused by the bursting of the housing bubble).

But when inflation gets as high as it did last year — it reached a 40-year peak of 9.1% in June — a recession becomes increasingly likely.

That's for two reasons: First, the Fed will sharply raise borrowing costs when inflation gets that high. Higher rates then drag down the economy as consumers become less able to afford homes, cars and other major purchases.

High inflation also distorts the economy on its own. Consumer spending, adjusted for inflation, weakens. And businesses grow uncertain about the economic outlook. Many of them pull back on their expansion plans and stop hiring. This can lead to higher unemployment as some people choose to leave jobs and aren't replaced.

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 sealed bids for the:

Street Lighting Modernization Program – Package 3
SP2598

Bids will only be accepted through the CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL, ProcureNow or https://secure.procurenow.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 ProcureNow immediately after bid close time.

MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK: N/A

PROJECT ESTIMATE: $1,200,000
CONTRACT DAYS: 180 Calendar Days
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $1,250 Per Calendar Day

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca. The Contractor is required to have an **Class A or C-10** 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.

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Sustainable Quality Awards WINNER

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COMMUNITY NEWS

RIVERSIDE

$2.3B Awarded in Sex Abuse Lawsuit That Named Mormon Church

A woman who was molested for years by her stepfather has been awarded $2.28 billion by a California jury in a lawsuit that also implicated her mother and the local Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in which both parents were active, her attorneys announced.

The panel in Riverside County Superior Court awarded damages Tuesday to a woman described in court papers only as Jane Doe, who said she was sexually assaulted by her stepfather from age 5 until she was 14, according to an announcement by the law firm of Gary A. Dordick.

The lawsuit alleged that beginning in the 1980s, the stepfather sexually abused the girl. The assaults took place at their Lake Elsinore home and at events, meetings, and property of the local Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the lawsuit said.

"These ongoing acts of abuse brought Plaintiff to the brink of suicide," according to the lawsuit.

In addition to the stepfather, the negligence and sexual abuse suit also named the church and the woman's mother. It alleged that the woman repeatedly told church officials, including local bishops, about the sexual abuse but that they failed to report it to law enforcement in violation of church policy and also used "intimidation and shaming tactics" to keep her from telling anyone outside the church.

The AP is not naming the stepfather nor the mother to shield the identity of the victim. An email to the stepfather's attorney seeking comment wasn't returned.

The stepfather was arrested in 1997 after Jane Doe told her high school basketball coach about the abuse, the suit said. He pleaded guilty to committing lewd acts with a child under age 14 and spent three years in state prison, according to the lawsuit.

While denying wrongdoing, the church settled its part of the lawsuit for $1 million in December, and the woman's mother settled for $200,000 in February, according to the woman's lawyers.

The stepfather failed to appear at trial on the first day of jury selection and withdrew his answer to the lawsuit rather than face a warrant for his arrest, and "accordingly, his attorney was not able to participate in the trial," the law firm said in an email.

SUBMITTED BY

LOS ANGELES

Ex-UCLA Gynecologist Sentenced to 11 Years in Sex Abuse Case

A former gynecologist at the University of California, Los Angeles was sentenced Wednesday to 11 years in prison for sexually abusing female patients, in a criminal trial that came after the university system made nearly $700 million in lawsuit payouts connected to the case.

Dr. James Heaps, 66, has been in custody since a jury convicted him in October of three counts of sexual battery by fraud and two counts of sexual penetration of two patients.

After sentencing Heaps, Judge Michael D. Carter ordered him to register as a sex offender, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office said.

Heaps, a longtime UCLA campus gynecologist, had pleaded not guilty to 21 felony counts in the sexual assaults of seven women between 2009 and 2018. The jury found him not guilty of seven of the 21 counts and was deadlocked on the remaining charges.

Heaps was indicted in 2021 on multiple counts each of sexual battery by fraud, sexual exploitation of a patient and sexual penetration of an unconscious person by fraudulent representation.

In the wake of the scandal that erupted in 2019 following the doctor's arrest, UCLA agreed to pay nearly $700 million in lawsuit settlements to hundreds of Heaps' patients — a record amount by a public university amid a wave of sexual misconduct scandals by campus doctors in recent years.

UCLA patients said Heaps groped them, made suggestive comments or conducted unnecessarily invasive exams during his 35-year career. Women who brought the lawsuits said the university ignored their complaints and deliberately concealed abuse that happened for decades during examinations at the UCLA student health center, the Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center or in Heaps' campus office.

Heaps continued to practice until his retirement in June 2018.

SUBMITTED BY

leap healthy meals

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

THE LEARNING ENRICHMENT AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM (**leap**) REQUESTS PROPOSALS (RFP) TO SERVE BOTH SUMMER AND AFTERSCHOOL MEALS FROM JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JULY 1, 2024 TO OVER 30 SITES SERVING 25-200 STUDENTS EACH DAY THROUGHOUT LOS ANGELES, THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, AND SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY. ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS MAY BE PROVIDED IN THE RFP. ONCE AWARDED, THIS RFP CAN BE RENEWED UP TO FOUR TIMES FOR A RENEWAL PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS EACH.

PROPOSALS WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM APRIL 25 2023 UNTIL MAY 18, 2023 AT 4:00PM AT 6060 W. MANCHESTER AVE. SUITE 203, LOS ANGELES, CA 90045. THE BID OPENING WILL BE MADE PUBLIC AT THIS DATE AND TIME. ALL MEALS OF EACH TYPE MUST MEET THE MINIMUM STANDARDS SET BY THE USDA FOR THE SFSP AND CACFP MEALS OF THAT TYPE.

leap IS REQUESTING BOTH HOT AND COLD PRE-PACKAGED MEALS, INCLUDING MILK, MEAL DELIVERY AND SERVICE MUST BE AVAILABLE DAILY (MONDAY THRU FRIDAY).
THIS CONTRACT WILL BE AWARDED TO THE RESPONSIBLE BIDDER THAT POSSESSES THE POTENTIAL ABILITY TO PERFOM SUCCESSFULLY UNDER THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE RFP, PRICE AND OTHER FACTORS CONSIDERED PER THE RFPs SCORING RUBRIC (INCLUDED IN THE RFP).

ONLY SEALED BIDS MAY BE ACCEPTED.

Countywide

With New COVID-19 Strain Confirmed in Los Angeles County, Residents Advised to Be Aware of Symptoms, Take Precautions

With the first cases of the newest Omicron strain confirmed in Los Angeles County, residents are being asked to be aware of possible new COVID-19 symptoms, which include conjunctivitis, more commonly known as "pink eye," and take the same sensible COVID precautions to help avoid infection from the new and likely more communicable XBB.1.16 strain, also known as "Arcturus."

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) has confirmed three reported cases of the new strain. However, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) predicts that XBB.1.16 currently accounts for 8% of COVID-19 cases in California and 10% nationally.

Local reporting is delayed due to the time it takes for samples to be sequenced after reported to Public Health. The CDC has advanced models that predict the levels at which each strain is currently circulating.

Observational data suggests that people infected with XBB.1.16 may be more likely to experience conjunctivitis as a symptom of their COVID infection, along with more traditional COVID symptoms, such as fever, cough and shortness of breath. Conjunctivitis can be painful and itchy, highly contagious and, if left untreated, can cause damage to the cornea. Historically, conjunctivitis was reported in 1-3% of COVID-19 cases.

Given limited data, it is too early to know with certainty if XBB.1.16 is truly associated with higher rates of conjunctivitis, amid an already active allergy season in Southern California. However, residents should be aware that itchy, watery or red eyes may be a sign of a COVID-19 infection and these symptoms should not be simply dismissed as a result of pollen or seasonal allergies, especially if someone more vulnerable to severe illness could be exposed. At-home COVID-19 testing is an important tool to use to rule out possible COVID-19. And because untreated conjunctivitis can cause eye damage, those who suspect conjunctivitis should speak with their health care provider.

Free COVID-19 at-home tests can still be picked up at libraries and community sites across Los Angeles County and at Public Health vaccination sites or ordered through the federal government. Additionally, insurance policies are still required to reimburse each member for up to eight COVID-19 tests per month. Information is available at ph.lacounty.gov/COVIDtests.

Because XBB.1.16 is a descendant of the Omicron variant, current vaccines and therapeutics are highly likely to remain protective and able to ward off severe illness. The fact that we are seeing new strains, with possibly new and different symptoms, tells us that COVID continues to evolve and the way we think about our protections should reflect what we know.

As XBB.1.16 has a mutation that results in greater potential for infection, older adults and individuals with underlying health conditions may want to take extra precautions to avoid infection, including making sure they have received a bivalent booster, frequent hand washing, avoiding touching their eyes and face, staying home when sick and testing. Those at higher risk of severe illness may also want to consider masking in crowded places.

> "To those who have lost a loved one to COVID-19, I extend my heartfelt sympathies. May their memories bring you comfort
> - Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed., Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Public Health is offering bivalent vaccines and boosters to eligible residents at no cost, regardless of their insurance or immigration status, at hundreds of locations throughout Los Angeles County. Vaccination locations and appointments can be found at VaccinateLACounty.com or VacunateLosAngeles.com (en español) or by calling 1-833-540-0473.

For residents who have difficulties leaving their home, Public Health offers free in-home COVID-19 vaccine and booster appointments. Appointments may be booked at ph.lacounty.gov/vaxathome or by calling the Public Health COVID-19 Call Center at 1-833-540-0473.

"To those who have lost a loved one to COVID-19, I extend my heartfelt sympathies. May their memories bring you comfort," said Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed., Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. "Los Angeles County remains in a strong position to reduce risks associated with this virus. Although we are facing the reality of a new Omicron strain gaining dominance and it is not yet possible to predict the impact, I am confident that the tools available to us, including vaccines, therapeutics and testing, can limit bad outcomes. Because this new Omicron strain is still COVID, we know what works and what common-sense precautions make a difference. Public Health will continue to provide resources and updated information so that the knowledge we have can inform decisions that maximize our protections."

The weekly reported case count for COVID-19 decreased slightly to 2,659 compared to 3,114 last week. However, the small increase in wastewater concentrations of SARS-COV-2 this week, may reflect the beginning of more spread associated with a new strain of Omicron. The 7-day average number of COVID hospitalizations is 275 this week, a decrease from 328 last week, likely reflecting the effectiveness of vaccines, boosters and therapeutics in reducing severe illness. Reported weekly deaths increased slightly from 44 last week to 54 this week.

Los Angeles County remains in the CDC's Low COVID-19 Community Level for the 15th consecutive week. This includes a weekly reported case rate of 26 new cases per 100,000 people. The 7-day total for new COVID-19 hospital admissions per 100,000 people is currently 2.9. And the 7-day average of the proportion of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients is now 1.6%.

As of Tuesday, April 25, there have been a total of 36,199 deaths in Los Angeles County.

SUBMITTED BY

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California investors care about environmental, social risks. It has little to do with politics

The words "environmental, social and governance," or ESG for short, have been embroiled in a polarizing storm of political rhetoric. These simple words are nothing to fear and should not be fodder for political posturing or gamesmanship.

In fact, they are most appropriately looked at through an investment lens to identify risks that are not typically presented in a company's financial statements or annual reports.

The current furor over ESG is largely positioned along ideological and political lines. That's plain wrong, and why President Joe Biden's recent veto of a congressional resolution that would tie the hands of investors was the prudent action to take.

ESG risks are long-term business risks. CEOs actively consider these factors and hire business consultants to analyze and help mitigate them – similar to other risks they face. Companies and investors must focus on long-term survival and success. The ever-growing body of scientific, industry and academic evidence supporting the material impact that ESG factors have on sustainable investment returns requires fiduciaries – those who must act in the best interests of their members or clients – to consider them.

The question not being asked enough: should investors who own shares of, or purchase bonds from, public companies get information and data on long-term corporate risks?

Investors can decide what to do with the data. The companies are public. They are funding their balance sheets with other people's money. Their investors have a right to fully understand the risks.

Today, investors get audited year-end data but very little information about future risks and prospects. Company annual reports are required by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission to include analysis of long-term business risks. These risks are not labeled as ESG, but there is a direct link to those categories.

Federal agencies have strongly supported corporate disclosure, and ESG factors are closely aligned. With increased regulation, for example, investors need to understand a company's waste volumes and mitigation. Is it water waste, physical waste or gaseous waste? These are environmental risks. What about a company's workforce and turnover? That is a social risk. And statistics on CEO pay and succession planning? That's a governance risk.

This is information about a company's future that helps stock and bond investors make educated decisions. We're talking about prudent disclosure, not partisan politics.

Trustees of other people's money, especially their retirement savings, should consider all information and data. That is the very definition of fiduciary duty. If a company doesn't want to disclose this information, they should not use other people's money. Their option is to be privately owned.

The disclosure and measurement of long-term business risk should be supported, no matter what initials are used to describe it.

As investors with an ownership stake in the long-term health of corporate America, we strongly urge action to support increasing corporate disclosure, such as President Biden's decision to veto Congress' joint resolution to nullify the Department of Labor's rule allowing investors to consider ESG factors in decision making.

Maintaining a diverse investment portfolio is critical. U.S. investors need the flexibility necessary to adapt their strategy to the latest available data. Tying the hands of investors would create a competitive disadvantage.

It is imperative for CalSTRS, our peers in California and other states, and the companies in which we invest, to consider ESG risks in all business decisions. Denying our 1 million members the opportunity to fully understand our investments and plan for the long term is just plain wrong.

This article was originally published by CalMatters. Christopher Ailman is the chief investment officer of CalSTRS, which has over $300 billion in assets and is a multi-generational investor.

CRIME WATCH

Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ON APRIL 9 AT 6:05 PM

Officers arrested Nicholas Eggen for theft. Per the victim, Eggen had stolen their duffle bag while they were gazing off into the distance at the ocean. Upon realizing that Eggen had their bag, the victim gave chase and was able to recover their items. Eggen was issued a citation for theft with a promise to appear in court on July 10, 2023.

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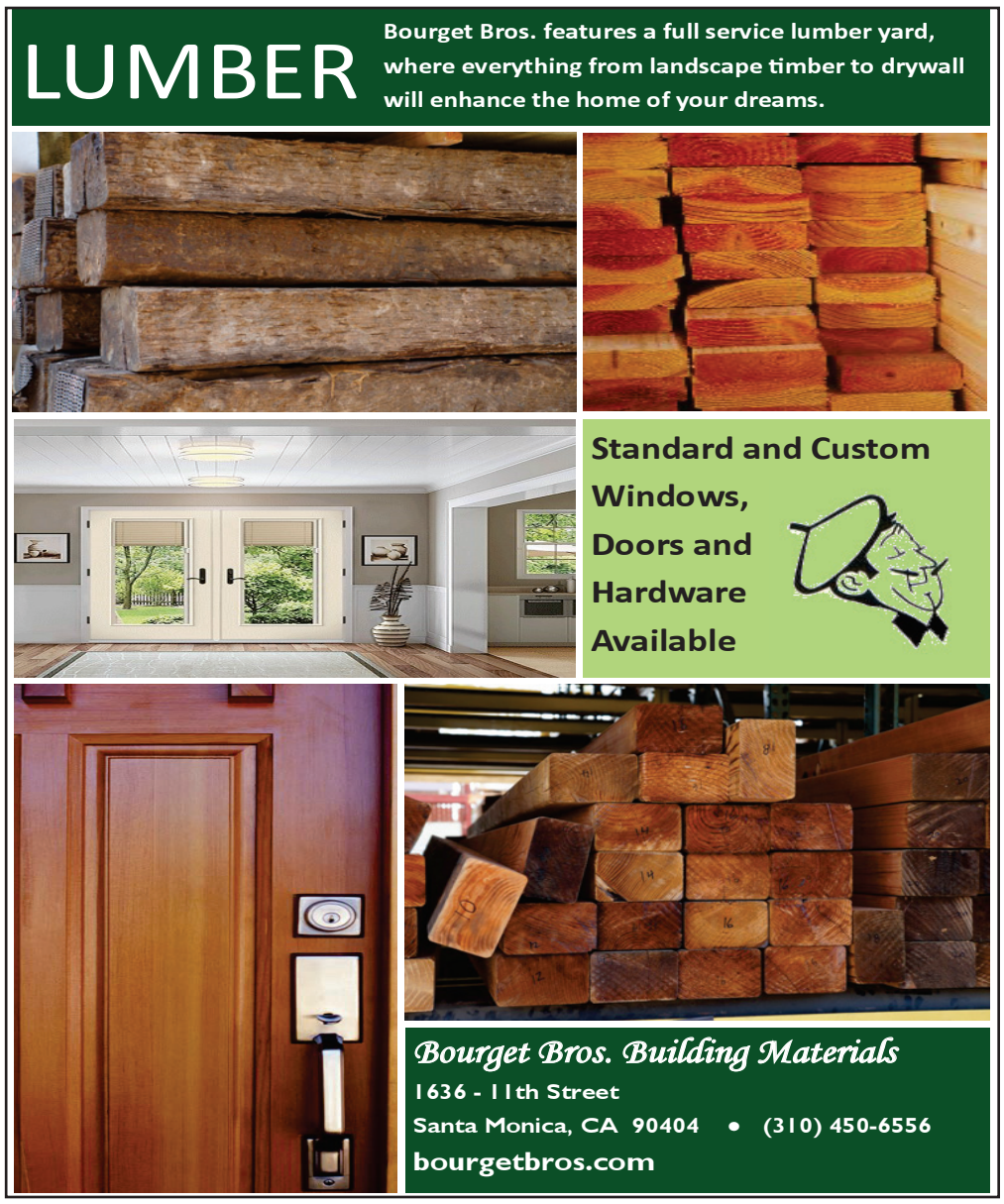
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FENTANYL

FROM PAGE 1

getting lost until Smith and dozens of other protesters converged on the state Capitol last week demanding they be heard. Six of those bills, including four that would increase fentanyl penalties, will get a public hearing on Thursday.

"(Drug dealers) need to know that if they are caught with this poison, they are going to spend a great deal of time in our jails and prisons because that's where they belong," Smith said.

Imposing tougher prison sentences on fentanyl dealers has been the common strategy for lawmakers across the U.S., including those in Democratic-controlled legislatures such as California, Oregon and Nevada. The tactic has drawn fierce opposition from harm reduction advocates, who say criminalizing the drug issue has historically backfired and worsened the crisis.

> "We really do need to get to the root of that (by) cutting off the supply and then reducing, if not eliminating, the demand. We got to do both"
>
> - Jones-Sawyer

In California, it has divided the Democratic caucus that controls a majority of votes. Republicans and moderate Democrats are pushing for stronger prison sentences for fentanyl dealers, while others are wary to advance policies that would lengthen criminal sentences and incarcerate more people.

"It's good for politics and publicity, but it really doesn't get to the root of the problem of drug addiction," said Assemblymember Reggie Jones-Sawyer, a Democrat and chair of the Assembly Public Safety Committee, who called bills that increase prison sentences "a Republican playbook."

Democratic Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris, of Orange County, said the crisis goes beyond party lines. She authored a bill that would increase prison sentences for those who sell fentanyl on social media.

"This is not a red state crisis or a blue state crisis. This is an American crisis and it's certainly a California crisis," she said.

That tension boiled over last week. In March, Jones-Sawyer announced he was delaying hearings of at least seven fentanyl-related bills that would increase prison sentences, calling them a "Band-Aid approach" to the problem. But after law enforcement, prosecutors and families of fentanyl overdose victims protested, Democratic leadership in the Assembly ordered a special hearing for six of them.

The issue is personal for Jones-Sawyer. He said he lost his uncle to heroin, an opioid similar to fentanyl, and a cousin to crack cocaine. He witnessed how public policies during the crack cocaine epidemic in the 1980s resulted in the mass incarceration of communities of color, noting it did not solve the drug issue.

"We really do need to get to the root of that (by) cutting off the supply and then reducing, if not eliminating, the demand. We got to do both," Jones-Sawyer said.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine. Fentanyl overdoses accounted for one in five deaths among young people in California between the ages of 15 and 24 last year. Across the nation, drug overdoses have claimed more than 100,000 deaths annually since 2020, with about two-thirds of them fentanyl-related.

The current overdose crisis is deadlier than any the U.S. has ever seen. It's one reason why California Gov. Gavin Newsom, a Democrat, proposed more than $90 million in new spending to combat the fentanyl crisis. Last week, he directed the California Highway Patrol and National Guard to help San Francisco battle its fentanyl crisis.

Newsom has not publicly supported any fentanyl-related legislation.

Fentanyl public safety measures may face an uphill battle in California's Senate. Earlier this week, the Senate Public Safety Committee shelved a bipartisan bill by Democratic Sen. Tom Umberg that would require courts to warn those convicted of selling fentanyl that they could be charged with murder if someone they sold to dies in an overdose. The bill, modeled after the state's DUI advisory, may make it easier for prosecutors to convict repeat offenders, as the warning could serve as evidence that a person is aware of the risk of selling fentanyl.

Public health experts are calling on lawmakers to reject bills that would impose harsher prison sentences for fentanyl convictions. Ricky Bluthenthal, a professor of preventive medicine at the University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine, said stronger fentanyl penalties could deter people from calling 911 for help due to fear of being arrested.

"Increasing penalties will likely result in more deaths," he said at a Tuesday news briefing ahead of the special hearing, adding that stronger prison sentences have had little impact on the drug abuse issue historically.

Other bills that would make overdose reversal medication more accessible and increase education on fentanyl have received early support in legislative committee hearings, including one, authored by Democratic Sen. Dave Cortese. It would require K-12 schools to create a protocol for student opioid overdoses as part of a safety plan. The bill, called "Melanie's Law," is named after 15-year-old Melanie Ramos, who died from a suspected fentanyl overdose at a Hollywood school.

Smith, who's planning to testify during Thursday's hearing, said she's hopeful that lawmakers will advance the public safety bills.

"We just have to come together and solve this issue, because we're losing a generation," she said. "And I don't want to see anybody, any other parents, go through the pain that I go through every day."

COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

been in favor of gender neutral restrooms," he said. "However, I'm also in favor of women, children, and those of any religious persuasion, having privacy."

De la Torre likened the debate to that of racial justice said he felt it was important to give voice to questions brought forward as sometimes feelings of discomfort are part of the process.

"There are still, you know, feelings, concerns, misinformation, you can call it, but people have these feelings, and it's real, you know, and it takes time for policies and, and people to get accustomed to the change," he said.

However he said he fully supported the item and appreciated the testimony from the public.

Public speakers were overwhelmingly in favor of the idea.

Tim Defuria said he agreed with the speakers who were upset at the comments and asked Councilmembers to think about the impact of their statements on the community.

"Imagine you have to use the restroom, but you're in a building that does not have a restroom labeled with your gender. Imagine that you have to face fear embarrassment, or ridicule whenever you enter public restroom. I'm here for my nine year old niece who recently came out as transgender and often feels this way," he said.

Defuria was one of several speakers who said non-gendered stalls help a variety of users.

"Providing access to a private, non gendered stall can reduce or even eliminate these burdens. all gender restrooms are facilities that anyone can use regardless of gender," he said. "They'd benefit many people, including transgender and gender diverse individuals, people who require the use of a caregiver of a different gender, or parents with children of a different gender."

The Council's action follows its direction to prioritize, as part of its 2021 State Legislative Platform, policy decisions and regulatory matters that "support legislation that mandates gender neutral multi-stall bathrooms." In response to this directive, Santa Monica, along with the City of West Hollywood, co-sponsored California Senate Bill 1194 ("SB 1194"), authored by Senator Ben Allen, which provided the authority for cities to establish requirements for new and renovated public toilet facilities to serve all gender identities. SB 1194 was signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom in September, 2022.

"It shouldn't come as news to anyone that Santa Monica has been on the forefront of LGBTQ inclusion for many decades going as far back for me as I know, as being an early adopter domestic partnership long before the state adopting a formal policy and marriage equality even seemed a possibility," Christopher Smith, Chief of Staff for the City Manager's Office and the City's LGBTQ+ liaison to the community, said. "And that long term commitment and consistent commitment has driven our work within the organization and within the community."

Councilwoman Caroline Torosis said she appreciated the public support but hadn't expected the level of pushback received.

"I'm quite frankly shocked and a little bit saddened at the number of public emails that I've received kind of citing and recycling some of these transphobic tropes," she said.

Councilwoman Christine Parra said she strongly supported the concept and has family within the LGBTQ community.

"And I appreciate the community members that reached out to me right away, to talk to share and to educate me, because that's we that's who we are. That's Santa Monica. We are an inclusive community, and that's why this item got brought forward," she said.

Councilman Jesse Zwick said he was initially uninformed on the topic but had expected it to be noncontroversial if people had done any research that showed gender-neutral bathrooms to be safe and beneficial.

"Everyone is entitled to a feeling. And yet, you know, as elected officials, we need to be governed by facts. And I just want to again, thank the community for coming out and helping educate all of us and the greater community," he said.

Mayor Gleam Davis said the issue was one of civil rights and suggested officials who didn't know about the subject should refrain from making ill-informed public comments in advance of the discussions.

"Nobody should feel unwelcome or denied access when in need of a restroom," said Mayor Gleam Davis. "I'm thrilled that we are making strides to better serve people of all genders and gender identities, individuals that require the assistance of a caregiver of a different gender, and parents with children of different genders."

Key elements of the design standards in the proposed ordinance:

- The entrance to the restroom shall not have a door that will obstruct visual security.
- Stalls will be replaced with private water closets enclosed on all sides by partitions.
- The door to each water closet shall have a lock controlled by the occupant.
- Sinks may be located within the water closet or in an adjacent common area.
- Urinals shall be in an area visually separated from the remainder of the facility.
- Substitution of a water closet for each urinal shall be permitted provided the number of fixtures installed complies with the minimum number required.

The ordinance does not require improvements to existing public restrooms, but does include a provision allowing the voluntary retrofit of existing public restroom facilities.

While in-person comment was vastly in favor of the proposal, there were critics who questioned various elements of gender neutral bathrooms.

Tracie Garacochea, wheelchair user, marathon athlete and WCMX competitor, told the *Daily Press*, she had concerns over hygiene.

"The gender neutral restrooms have been a nightmare for those of us that use a wheelchair," she says. "Take my personal experience: I enter the restroom to find a urine soaked floor near the toilet. My wheels on my chair will now get wet and when I transfer to the toilet, my shoes as well. It's very difficult to avoid. And if someone has left the seat up? This has very rarely happened to me in a ladies room and I have only seen one gender neutral restroom with a urinal."

The California Plumbing Code requires a minimum number of urinals based on the use and occupancy of a space. The City's proposed gender neutral public restroom ordinance allows urinals to be substituted with toilets to comply with this requirement. However, exclusion of urinals is not obligatory and overall compliance with the number of required fixtures is ultimately a design choice.

The motion was made by Councilmember Phil Brock, seconded by Councilmember Oscar de la Torre and passed six to zero, Mayor pro Tempore Lana Negrete was absent.

scott.snowden@smdp.com



HARRIS

FROM PAGE 2

fundraising solicitation includes a picture of the two leaders smiling together. Biden's Twitter account shared the same photo on Tuesday night, adding the caption "in this together."

"I was really put off by all the prognostication about whether she was a drag on the ticket," said Mini Timmaraju, the president of NARAL Pro-Choice America. "She's the biggest asset."

Harris' portfolio as vice president changed with last year's Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 case that legalized abortion nationwide. Although she had previously been assigned thorny issues with little political upside, such as stemming migration from Central America, Harris swiftly embraced a new role as the administration's most ardent defender of reproductive rights.

When a copy of the decision was leaked, Harris reviewed it with a small circle of aides in a West Wing office. "How dare they?" she kept repeating, according to a member of her staff at the time who requested anonymity to discuss the private conversation.

The phrase was swiftly included in a previously scheduled speech that night. Outrage over abortion helped Democrats limit their losses in the midterm elections, and the party expects it to remain a focus for voters.

"It's going to be a major mobilizing issue," said Celinda Lake, a Democratic pollster who has worked with Biden. "Republicans keep doing things to keep the issue alive."

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, a likely candidate for the Republican presidential nomination, recently signed a state ban on abortions after six weeks. Women would have more time to get an abortion in cases involving rape or incest, but they would need to provide documentation such as a restraining order or police report.

Erin Perrine, a spokesperson for Never Back Down, a super PAC supporting DeSantis, scoffed at the idea that Harris would be helpful to Biden's reelection chances.

"She's not a good messenger," she said. "She is prone to not only stepping on the message, but putting out word salad answers, and then when she gets uncomfortable, getting into a laughing fit."

Judging by the poll numbers, Perrine said "you have two people that Democrats don't want running for president and vice president."

Former President Donald Trump, who is running for another term, suggested in a recent interview with Newsmax that running mates will ultimately be irrelevant in the campaign.

"There's never been a vice president that's done anything for the election. In other words, they vote for the one person," he said. "I don't think vice presidents have any impact at all on the vote."

However, Trump said, "It's such an important position. If something happens, that's going to be your president."

Democrats rely on Black women in elections, and Harris' support was evident during a February event at Georgia Tech University in Atlanta. Although the vice president had come to talk about the administration's energy policy, the crowd was eager to discuss their support for her as a barrier-breaking woman.

> "There's never been a vice president that's done anything for the election. In other words, they vote for the one person
>
> - Donald Trump President

"In her own way, as a female, as an African American, she is stepping out," said Camille Zeigler, a 65-year-old retired educator. "What's happening is she's not stepping out in the way that society wants her to step out."

Zeigler said people want to put Harris in a box as "an angry Black woman or a mad Black woman or a Black woman with an attitude."

Instead, Zeigler said, Harris answers with "grace" and "poise," providing "a model for other African American women."

Beverly Rice, a 65-year-old who runs a nonprofit focused on literacy, celebrated Harris' ascension after a history of Black women being close to power — but not holding it.

"It's about time," she said. "We've been building America forever."

Associated Press writers Bill Barrow in Atlanta, and Hannah Fingerhut in Washington contributed to this report.



ASSAULT

FROM PAGE 1

caused them focus in on me."

When the train stopped, the boys turned left on the platform - the direct way to leave the train - so Lewis decided to take the emergency exit in the opposite direction. As he exited the train, he felt a "whack" on the back and turned around to see one of the boys swinging his skateboard.

"The first thing out of my mouth was 'did you just hit me with your skateboard?'" Lewis said.

At that point the rest of the group started yelling at Lewis who grabbed his phone saying that he was going to call the cops. Lewis said that as he started to dial, the teens jumped on him screaming insults and racial slurs as they tried to take his phone from him.

The next thing Lewis remembers is being in the middle of the street, on the ground braced for what he says he "knew what was coming."

"I just remember getting beat," Lewis recalled, "and being hit well over 50 times."

Lewis said that as they continued to beat him he asked them to stop repeatedly but the teens did not relent and continued their assault with their fists, skateboards, and feet while one reached into his vest and eventually grabbed his phone.

While being beaten by the teens, Lewis recalls seeing around 20 people on both sides of the street watching the occurrence without interfering to help.

Lewis said that seemingly out of nowhere the teens stopped hitting him so he got up and frantically looked around spotting a Marriott Courtyard Hotel security guard standing there so Lewis walked up to him and stood besides in hopes of getting protection.

"The whole thing felt like forever," Lewis said, "I think the amount of people watching may have made them stop as well as they lost their zest for it."

Lewis said that he vaguely remembers someone saying that they had called the police as all the teens were still nearby with three still antagonizing him. Checking the street and his pockets for his phone, Lewis began to look for his things including his backpack that had his work clothes when the "leader" of the group confronted Lewis again.

"I looked at him and said 'I just want my phone back, give me my phone back,'" Lewis said.

That's when Lewis said the teen raised his hands above his head with his skateboard and slammed down over his head one final time as hard as he could, causing Lewis to stumble backward.

"You just cracked my skull," Lewis said as blood began to rush down his face.

The teen then turned around still antagonizing Lewis and ran away with the rest of the group.

As soon as the boys left Lewis sat down on the sidewalk, dizzy and leaned forward so that the blood from the gash in the middle of his forehead near his hairline would not flow into his face but into the sidewalk where a puddle of blood began to form.

"There was so much blood, that when the police arrived, I saw someone come scrubbing and trying to bleach it away," Lewis.

Two Santa Monica Police Department officers arrived at the scene and Lewis said he was shown an image from which he was able to pick out two of the teens.

When the ambulance arrived, the paramedic asked Lewis if he wanted to go to the hospital.

Confused by the question, Lewis did not answer and said the police had encouraged him to go to the hospital so he was taken to St. John's Hospital in Santa Monica where he arrived at the emergency room around 12:30 p.m.



Courtesy photo

INJURY: Lewis was assaulted on the train.

Lewis suffered a deep laceration to his scalp requiring eight staples, as well as a cracked rib, multiple abrasions on his back, arms and shoulders, and a concussion that he was told was the cause of his light sensitivity, dizziness, headaches, word comprehension and nausea.

While in the hospital, an officer showed Lewis that they had found his phone smashed in several pieces.

"I remember being shocked when the police officer showed me my phone and said 'we found your phone, they said you dropped it.' I stared at him confused because the way he said it was like it was a matter of fact that the guys that assaulted me had told them nothing happened, the phone was just randomly dropped," he said. "It really upset me."

Released from the hospital later that day, Lewis said he vaguely remembers the exact details of how he got home but does remember relying on the train as he had nobody's phone number memorized to help him and no phone to call anyone.

According to the Santa Monica Police Department, the case falls under the jurisdiction of the LA County Sheriff's Department as the assault started in their jurisdiction on METRO property. However, SMPD officers were the first to arrive and it was SMPD who arrested the suspects after locating them with the help of their tactical drone.

All suspects were identified as juveniles from Los Angeles but only two have been charged with assault at this time. Per County rules regarding juveniles accused of committing crimes, all suspects were issued citations and released to their parents.

"To not charge every single person that was there and act like solely two people did this is maddening. It was all of the teens that chased me, surrounding me preventing me from leaving, intimidating me and they all assaulted me. Each one of them played a part."

Published in partnership with the Westside Current.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 28)

You sensed the wonder that was coming, but now you'll get the proof of feedback: People will tell you how you improve their lives and make things beautiful. Benjamin Franklin said, "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." And you'll educate yourself in such a manner as to reap outsized benefits. More highlights: You'll add to a collection, weekends of fun and silliness and the thrill of watching love grow where there used to be a void. Aries and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 19, 4, 32, 5 and 15.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Novelty may very well be a basic human need and not one to ignore today. Your mind keeps wandering, a sign that maybe what you're doing isn't all that interesting to you right now. What can you change up?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You are a resource to many, though it's hard to be completely accessible to one's own self. Even when the answers are to be found within, it's a hard place to look for things. For starters, it's not well lit. Ask a friend to uphold the flashlight of objectivity.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Rapport builds with agreement, but also with a certain degree of disagreement. Interacting with a clone seems like it would be fun for a time, but ultimately people thrive on the very same personality differences that cause friction.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The results you're getting will turn a few heads. Your work will be noticed and even highlighted before your peers. Take it in stride — gracious but low-key — so as not to arouse envy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Don't be surprised if by midday you're already dreaming of putting on your pajamas. A cozy Friday will seem massively appealing and if you don't make it out at all tonight, you won't miss out on a thing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The journey without reflects the journey within and vice versa, although they can take an awful long time to catch up with each other. Just know that whatever you're working on or experiencing, it will eventually come together, every last bit of it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're very close to finding the lucrative niche that will pay you for the unique expression of your talent. You just need to ask more questions. At the intersection of their need and your gifts, there is a goldmine.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). If it works, it works. For today, accept it without question. You'll have time to go back and figure it out later, but there's an opportunity in the balance. If you hesitate, you might miss it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll be caught up in heartfelt giving, even if all you are giving is a smile, a listening ear or a respectful presence. The value of things is not to be underestimated. You never know the last time another person felt the warmth of acceptance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). However much you want to break down the process and analyze it in depth, leave that for a day when you have more time. Today, you're wise to go with the flow with what's working for as long as it does.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're happy to do more and consume less. The satisfaction of learning and the joy of accomplishment is so fulfilling that it diminishes the need to accumulate cheap, transient pleasures.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Connections are gold. However many people you know, you always have room for more. You'll add to your contact list this weekend. Ask to be introduced because people might not think of it on their own.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

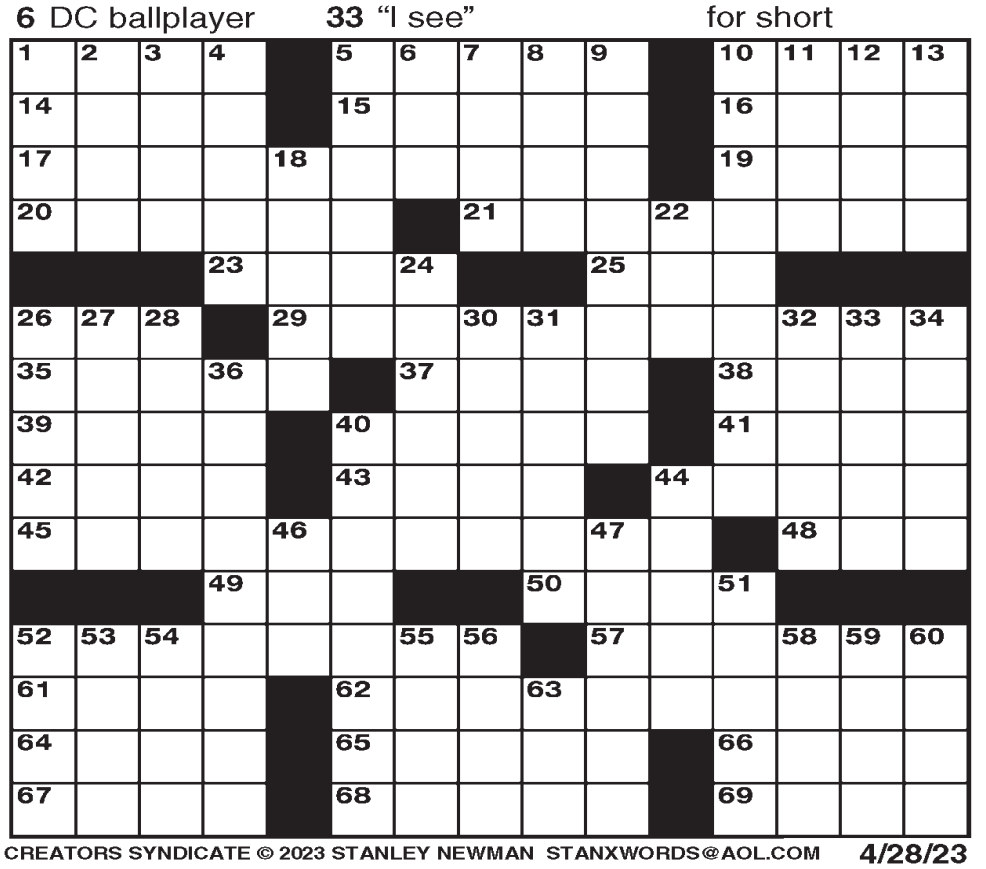
EASTERN BORDERS by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 A matter of fit
5 Covert acquisition
10 Brand of foam blasters
14 Norse god
15 Book of Ruth figure
16 Toyota logo element
17 Interior design nicety
19 Underwater name of Verne and Pixar
20 "Me too!"
21 Span
23 Doesn't get to play
25 Swing in a ring
26 Workout venue
29 Cracker topper
35 No longer cool
37 Beyoncé voice role in the *Lion King* remake
38 Sounds from a barn
39 Besides that
40 Element next to carbon
41 Cook's collection
42 Requisite
43 Insubstantial bookmarks
44 Airy courtyards
45 Pandemonium
48 Sloppy spot
49 Pick for a job
50 Doesn't zip it
52 __ succeed (make every effort)
57 Rejoices rudely
61 Actor Schreiber
62 Trapeze artist's trick
64 George I's predecessor
65 Set free
66 Opera that opens in Memphis
67 Honey bunch
68 Chilean bread
69 Curtail

DOWN

1 Barnyard beasts
2 "Peculiar" prefix
3 Element next to copper
4 Turn out to be
5 Connected to
6 DC ballplayer
7 Fraud, for instance
8 Mideast leader
9 Stew morsel
10 Eligible for overtime
11 Unceasingly
12 Barrels into
13 Solid sheet
18 In readiness
22 Verbal commitment
24 Spanish title
26 Tuckered out
27 Neo- opposite
28 Good quality
30 Too soon
31 Partially melted
32 Metaphor for opportunities
33 "I see"
34 Thought provoker
36 Sleep aids
40 Increased some
44 Copious
46 Washroom, in brief
47 Scouts honored
51 Some convertibles
52 Something cut from a quarry
53 Antler point
54 Artist Magritte
55 Voice-training topic
56 Means of escape
58 Dismounted
59 Twice-daily riser
60 Email folder
63 Science major, for short

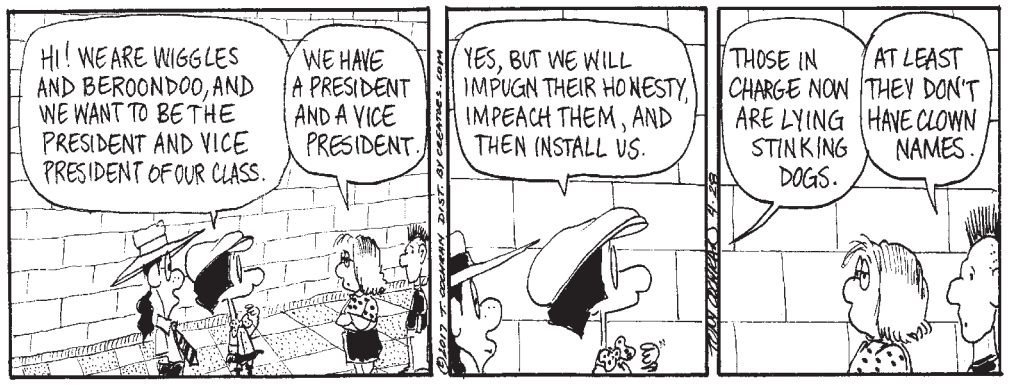


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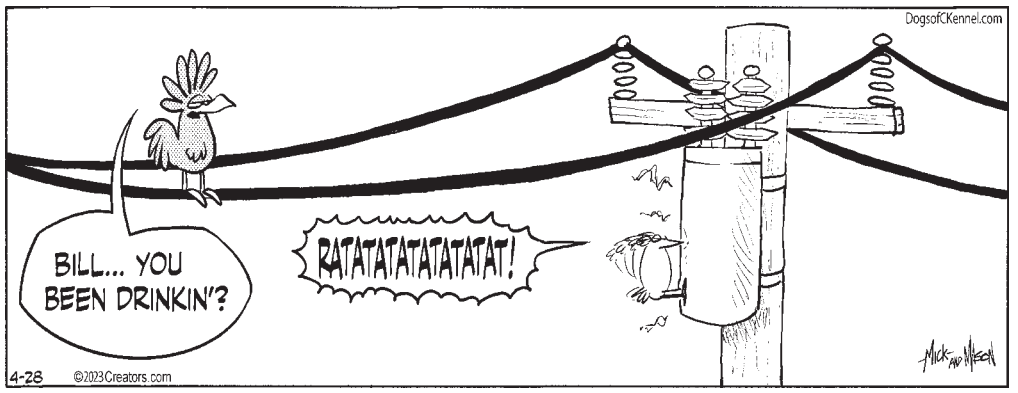
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



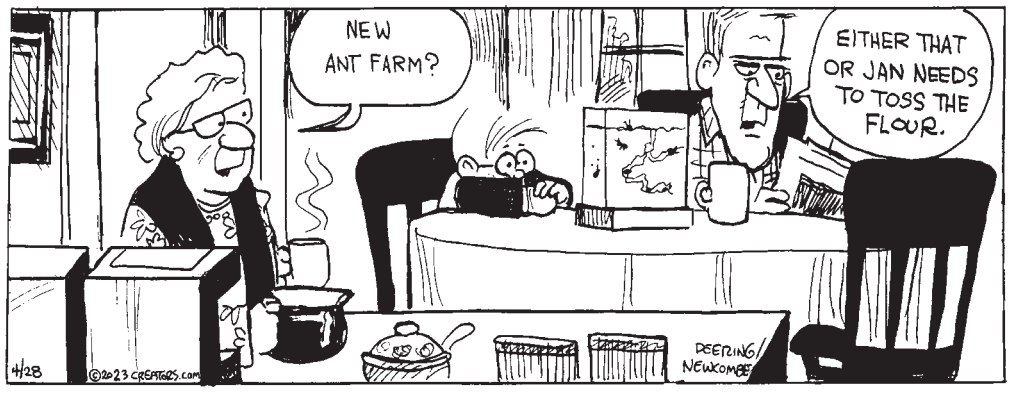
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

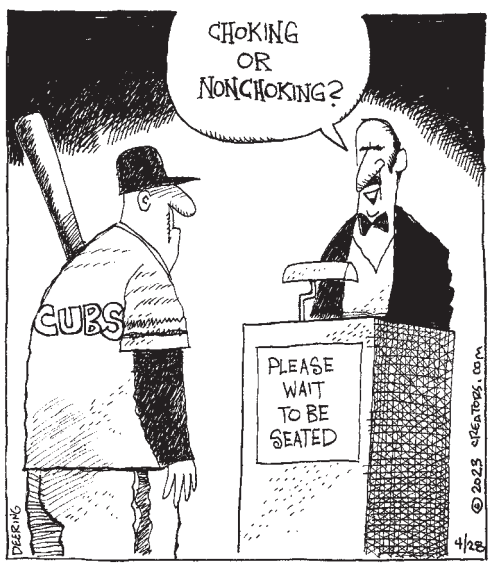
By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE HEARD ME CALL THEM 'THROW PILLOWS.'"

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 17 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5828

It's Christmas again

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

Atmosphere	Eggnog	Music	Singing
Aunt	Elves	North Pole	Sleep
Beach	Grace	Nuts	Sock
Beer	Guest	Ornaments	Stay
Cake	Happy	Phone	Summer
Cards	Heat	Plans	Swim
Celebrate	Holy	Pool	Tarts
Charity	Ices	Pork	Tinsel
Crib	Image	Relaxation	Turkey
Days	Lobster	Rich	Uncle
Dinner	Lord	Santa	
Drink	Mass	Seafood	

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What's Up Westside

out and about in Santa Monica

FRIDAY | APRIL 28

EMBROIDERY- YOUTH ENRICHMENT
The Enrichment Program at Virginia Avenue Park is a component of the Virginia Avenue Park After School program. The Enrichment program is comprised of Artists in Residence who are hired to teach enrichment classes to the youth in our program. These programs are high quality and teach the youth with a hands-on approach. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave.

SATURDAY | APRIL 29

WOMENS HEALTH & WELLNESS GALA
A gala event focused on womens' health and wellness featuring: food, music and dancing renown broadcast journalist master of ceremony guest dignitary speaker business awards to 5 entrepreneurial women charity fundraiser with donations to women's resources Submit your award nominees. Santa Monica Pier 200 Santa Monica Pier, Ste A. (310) 458-8901

SUNDAY | APRIL 30

CONNECTIONS FOR CHILDREN: BETSY AWARDS & FUNDRAISER
Every year, Connections for Children hosts a fundraising event honoring early childhood champions. The Betsy Awards are named after nationally renowned early childhood pioneer Betsy Hiteshew, who helped found Connections for Children in 1976. This year, we plan to posthumously honor long-time Chamber member Iao Katagiri and Baby2Baby-who was instrumental in helping Connections for Children provide diapers, wipes, and other essential items to hundreds of child care providers during the pandemic. The event will include a seated luncheon and awards program, along with live music. All funds raised will benefit Connections for Children. Santa Monica College 1900 Pico Blvd. https://members.smchamber.com/events/details/connections-for-children-betsy-awards-fundraiser-19254

MONDAY | MAY 1

20 QUESTIONS TRIVIA @ O'BRIEN'S
20 Questions Trivia is like no other trivia show, because you're a part of the show. Wrong answers count for partial credit if they're funny. Every week the show has a theme, and all the questions and/or answers revolve around that theme. That makes it possible to figure out the answer even if you don't know it. And every question is followed by a song, which is usually an additional clue to the correct answer. O'Brien's Irlsh Pub & Restaurant 2226 Wilshire Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 310-829-5303

TUESDAY | MAY 2

DEADENDIA BOOK LAUNCH WITH AUTHOR HAMISH STEELE
Join us for a release day book launch event with Eisner Award-winning author Hamish Steele for the deluxe editions of his DeadEndia graphic novels. Main Library. 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

WEDNESDAY | MAY 3

GEEKS WHO DRINK TRIVIA NIGHT AT NOSTALGIA BAR AND LOUNGE
Modeled after pub quizzes in Ireland and the U.K., Geeks Who Drink is an authentic homegrown trivia quiz. It's a great way to drink with friends, without burning brain cells. And it's where useless knowledge means everything. Nostalgia Bar and Lounge 1326 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica, CA

THURSDAY | MAY 4

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
The Government Affairs Committee meets monthly to discuss legislative and public policy issues of importance to Chamber members, and recommend any positions on those issues to be taken by the Board of Directors. https://members.smchamber.com/events/details/government-affairs-committee-05-04-2023-18628

FRIDAY | MAY 5

SMC APPLIED MUSIC SHOWCASE
Jimmy Cheesman, Director. Don't miss this fantastic concert performed by some of SMC's most gifted music students! The eclectic program includes solo and group performances in a broad variety of styles. 7:30 - 9:30 pm. SMC Performing Arts Center The Broad Stage

SATURDAY | MAY 6

GLOBAL MOTION SMC WORLD DANCE COMPANY GUEST ARTIST: ASHWINI RAMASWAMY
Raquel Ramirez and Sri Susilowati, Artistic Directors. Come experience the excitement and learn about other cultures through performances by SMC dancers showcasing world dance styles https://www.smc.edu/calendar/index.php#event-details/6de7de6e-3215-4c5b-99ca-2637cc4e1171.

SUNDAY | MAY 7

SHARK FEEDING
Feast on a little knowledge while our swell sharks, horn sharks, and round stingrays chow down. Come and watch the Aquarium staff feed these important keystone species and learn about the part sharks play in marine ecosystems, every Sunday at 1 pm and 3 pm. Location Heal the Bay Aquarium, 1600 Ocean Front Walk Santa Monica, CA

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



SURF REPORT

WATER TEMP: **58.1**

FRIDAY *FAIR TO GOOD*	**SURF:** 3-4ft Waist to chest	Larger round of SSW swell is up a peg from Thursday. Wind is looking pretty favorable at this point with some fun waves on offer for the points — beachbreaks out west likely have more walled up surf to work with.
SATURDAY *FAIR TO GOOD*	**SURF:** 3-5ft Waist to head	Wind is looking OK at this point. Possible S/SE flow at some point in the morning looks likely, though. Summer focal points will be the call, even if there is a little texture.

WEATHER

Friday: Areas of dense fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 58.
Saturday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 71.
Saturday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 60.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2023/04/28	Fri	04:26 AM	3.80	H
2023/04/28	Fri	12:06 PM	0.35	L
2023/04/28	Fri	7:21 PM	3.74	H
2023/04/29	Sat	12:28 AM	2.52	L
2023/04/29	Sat	05:42 AM	3.87	H
2023/04/29	Sat	12:44 PM	0.33	L
2023/04/29	Sat	7:35 PM	4.01	H
2023/04/30	Sun	01:08 AM	1.98	L
2023/04/30	Sun	06:38 AM	3.99	H
2023/04/30	Sun	1:14 PM	0.37	L
2023/04/30	Sun	7:50 PM	4.32	H
2023/05/01	Mon	01:43 AM	1.42	L
2023/05/01	Mon	07:25 AM	4.08	H
2023/05/01	Mon	1:39 PM	0.47	L
2023/05/01	Mon	8:06 PM	4.67	H
2023/05/02	Tue	02:16 AM	0.85	L
2023/05/02	Tue	08:07 AM	4.12	H
2023/05/02	Tue	2:03 PM	0.62	L

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: 4/26
2 15 30 35 49
Power#: 6
Jackpot: 51 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 4/25
8 29 46 47 48
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: 38 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 4/26
4 7 11 23 46
Mega#: 8
Jackpot: 54 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 4/26
13 15 22 26 33

Daily 3
Draw Date: 4/26
EVENING: 0 9 8
Draw Date: 4/26
MIDDAY: 2 6 6

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 4/26
1st: 04 - Big Ben
2nd: 03 - Hot Shot
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:46.33

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VERDI'S

Otello

CONDUCTED BY JAMES CONLON





He's a heroic leader and a loving husband. But Otello has one flaw: jealousy. When his fellow soldier Iago hatches a scheme to frame Otello's wife Desdemona for infidelity, it's enough to unleash a dangerous downward spiral. Tenor Russell Thomas stars in Verdi's Shakespearean tragedy.



OPERA AT THE BEACH

Pack a picnic and lawn chairs for opera outdoors, as *Otello* is broadcast live in high def from the stage of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion to the Santa Monica Pier

LA OPERA

CHRISTOPHER KOELSCH
SEBASTIAN PAUL AND MARYBELLE MUSCO PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

JAMES CONLON
RICHARD SEAVER MUSIC DIRECTOR

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY Horvath THIRD DISTRICT

FREE AND OPEN TO ALL AGES

SATURDAY, MAY 13

GATES OPEN AT 5:30PM • OPERA STARTS AT 7:30PM

200 SANTA MONICA PIER, SANTA MONICA CA 90401

RSVP AT LAOPERA.ORG/OperaAtTheBeach