2 **Now Open**
Ribbon Cuttings.

4 **Constitutional Change**
To fight homelessness.

5 **Gas Prices**
Where to fill the tank.

6 **Population growth**
In California.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 118 WEDNESDAY 5/1/24 smdp.com

City officially unveils first, fully-functional street-placed Wayfinder kiosk

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

The first Wayfinder kiosk has been officially unveiled on the southeastern corner of the Wilshire Blvd and 4th Street intersection and as the foam padding was removed, it instantly attracted a small crowd of passers by.

The announcement that this would be the site for the first fully-functioning, full-scale product came as a little bit of a surprise just two weeks ago and was then delayed a few days, but now it's up and running and is already proving popular.

According to officials, there is no cost to the City for the kiosk installation, rather the City will begin earning 50% of adjusted gross revenues as soon as the first kiosk goes live. A minimum annual guarantee of $5 million will become effective once all 25 kiosks in the first phase are operational.

"Initial advertising space is already sold out and we are optimistic that revenues will meet or exceed our expectations," Lauren Howland, Communications & Public Information Manager for the City of Santa Monica told the Daily Press.

Officially known as the Digital Wayfinding and Out-of-Home Advertising Kiosk Program, the initiative was first conceived in early 2020. Once some issues over who was going to be awarded the contract were resolved, a fully functioning prototype designed and built by BIG Outdoor in collaboration with IKE Smart City was made available for local residents to inspect, examine and evaluate last June.

Within minutes of the monolithic display being activated, passing pedestrians stopped and explored the user interface, looking up local events happening this week, for example. Sporadic "ooo's" and "ahh's" could be heard throughout the time spent at the site.

"It's been a while in the works and now the digital kiosks are here, which is great," remarked Albin Gielicz, community relations consultant for this project who was on-scene for the inaugural activation. "I'm very much

SEE **WAYFINDER KIOSK** PAGE 11



Scott Snowden

SIGN: While the program can accommodate up to 50 digital wayfinding signs, only 29 are currently scheduled for installation in the around the city and the first has come online at the corner of 4th and Wilshire.

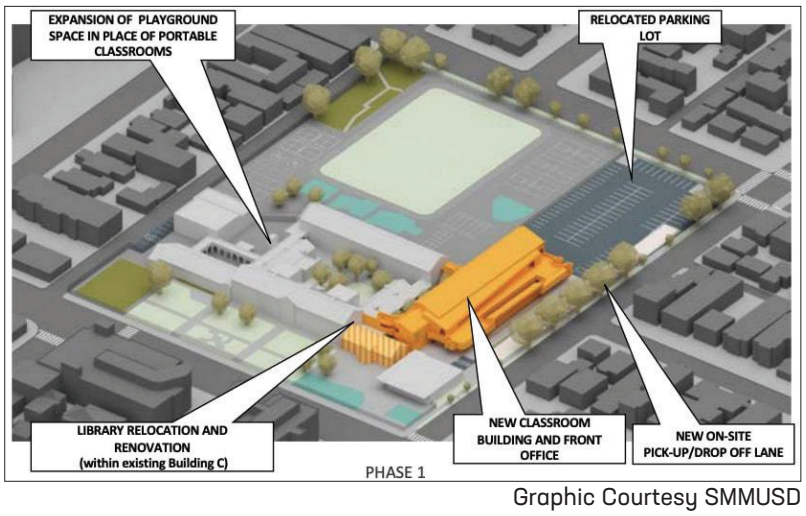
Board to address mitigation plan to remediate contaminated soil at McKinley site

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

An updated mitigation monitoring and reporting program for contaminated soils at the McKinley Elementary School campus master plan project site will be broached by the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education during Thursday's meeting.

At the meeting, the board will look to adopt Resolution 23-56, which is the approval of an Environmental Impact Report Addendum as well as the amended monitoring and reporting program. The purpose of the addendum is to

SEE **MCKINLEY** PAGE 11



Graphic Courtesy SMMUSD

MCKINLEY: The first phase of the McKinley Elementary School campus plan is slated to begin this summer after a new Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District resolution revising language in a mitigation plan for contaminated soils at the construction site.

State of play alive and well with new Venice experiences

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

The Zeno Space in Venice became a playground for the inner child in all of us this past weekend, as locals traded in the typical Saturday fare of bar-hopping or beach-going for a wholly unique experience.

Inside the event venue on April 27, people of all ages were connected to their childhood by competing in "marble runs," building contraptions to launch a marble as far as they could. The competition didn't just have playfulness on the mind, as the event under the Something New banner crafted by Venice local Sean Jordan had an extra goal, that being to break the Guinness World Record for the longest marble run in recorded history. While the groups inside Zeno Space didn't end up breaking the record, Jordan said that he succeeded in his mission to bring people together in the name of play.

"We didn't end up breaking the world record, but … the event was about so much more than that," Jordan said. "It was about having fun and being playful, and creating a space where people feel comfortable letting their inner child out."

Jordan's inspiration for crafting unique events came from seven years of working at Hulu managing live event portfolios, specifically music festivals such as Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival in Tennessee

SEE **MARBLE RUN** PAGE 7



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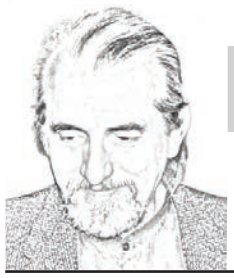




Photos by Thomas Leffler

NOW OPEN: Rejuvenation for both Santa Monica residents' bodies and homes were celebrated this past week as the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce welcomed one business while embracing another's rebrand. On April 24, the Chamber held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly-branded Rejuve scalp-hair headspa treatments location at 319 Wilshire Blvd. Owned by Jim Landis, the space well-known as Cha Spa introduced the Rejuve branding in order to promote a unique treatment arriving to Los Angeles from Japan and Korea. Known as the Rejuve scalp hair treatment, the process combines technology, specialized shampoos, conditioners and serums with the handiwork of aestheticians in a relaxing environment. The process removes dead skin oils for better appearance, resists dandruff for a cleaner looking and smelling head of hair, and lifts fascia making the face tighter and more youthful. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day. To contact the location, call 310-999-1223, or contact the location at 1132 Montana Ave at 310-999-2688. The following day, the Chamber cut the ribbon alongside Vicki Galvan at her House of Designs & Interiors at 2011 Pico Blvd. Galvan and her team of professional designers help to create functional and beautiful spaces, supporting both residential and commercial abodes. The location offers a wide variety of services, covering categories like kitchens, bathrooms, furnishings, decor, wallpaper and drapery. The store also sells items such as a selection of wallpapers and the latest in light fixture trends. House of Designs & Interiors can be contacted at 424-902-4885, and is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.

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OPINION **CURIOUS CITY**

Charles Andrews | Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Real solutions in DC? Or Vienna?



Courtesy photos

INSPIRATION: Councilmembers have been visiting different places to try to find solutions to local problems.

HAVE I GOT A STORY FOR YOU

A true story. A scary story. It happened to me, not long ago. It involves going to the Ron DeMented state of Florida (scared yet?), a German Shepherd the size of a small horse, an ill-tempered desk clerk the size of a small house, a lawyer named Pickles, an airline which has perfected the terrible art of torture (early reveal: American Airlines), an Uber ride the cost of the rental car we had reserved but could not get, and finally, apparent victory celebrated with a fine dinner and good Scotch (The Macallan, at half the price you would pay in LA, so of course I had to have two).

Those are most of the high- and low-lights but if you want to see how it all fits together, keep reading.

BUT FIRST, LET'S TALK ABOUT SANTA MONICA

If you took a true-life script across town to a Hollywood showrunner, about what goes on here, especially the politics, you'd have it thrown back in your lap with, give us something at least slightly believable.

I could write that script, but I couldn't piece one together from my CURIOUS CITY columns of the last 12 years, because I haven't touched on 10% of what goes down. Several reasons: even if I made every column about that, there wouldn't be enough space to cover even all the important stuff; I would have to attend or listen in on all the City Council meetings and no one can do that who isn't forced to (like brave SMDP reporters, who should receive combat pay for those grueling hours – no other paper covers Council like that); plus important commission meetings, plus interviewing key players on staff, and uncountable hours of research, phone calls and correspondence, with too many unsavory characters, and... sometimes I like to write about other things. Sometimes? No, almost always.

So I confess to being inadequate as a political reporter in Santa Monica. I know there are a number of people who are disappointed every time they turn to my column and it is not addressing those important issues, and the players involved. I offer heartfelt apologies to you all, and beg understanding and compassion. My ultimate goal is to get out of this gig with my sanity. I know, many of you are thinking, too late, man.

OK, so what is the most pressing issue facing Santa Monica? You might get several answers from residents. I always lean toward overdevelopment, but it has become less of a solvable problem because of Sacramento interference in local zoning decisions.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Then, I would go with safety, and I think a lot of residents would. Safety is supposed to be the first priority of any government, from city to state to federal. Some people here would pick "the homeless" as number one, but that has an enveloping issue of safety, doesn't it? Being unsheltered does not make you a threat to safety, but being a hard drug addict can, and the contingent of mentally ill who are a threat to others as well as themselves factors in.

Some like to talk about Santa Monica having the values of compassion. How compassionate is it to let people who cannot care for themselves live on the streets? Sorry, but I have found much of that "compassionate" talk to hide agendas that make someone money, or access to power.

We have had so much talk about homelessness here, and so much money spent (but unaccounted for), without making a dent in the problem. You want to know why? Because City Councils for decades, and so many other housing advocates, have told us that housing is the answer, we must get these people into housing and then they will be alright.

HOUSING IS THE SOLUTION! NO IT'S NOT

Nonsense. No, not nonsense. I call BS. The first time I heard, we must rely on developers to give us "affordable" housing as part of their large projects, that's the only way – I knew it didn't make sense. I smelled a rat. But even current

SEE **CURIOUS CITY** PAGE 8



Surf report WATER TEMP: **61.5**

WEDNESDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

AM southerly wind looks a touch dicier, might add some texture across the region. Expecting steep-angled NW swell mix to taper down through the day. Small SSW swell. Probably still rideable but trending slower.

THURSDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 1-2ft

Another day of primarily steep-angled NW swell mix. Small SSW swell. Probably rideable but not a whole lot going on.

Weather

Wednesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 65.
Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 55. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 69. Northeast wind 5 to 15 mph becoming southwest in the afternoon.
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 56.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)	High/Low
2024/05/01	Wed	02:59 AM	4.49		H
2024/05/01	Wed	11:03 AM	-0.21		L
2024/05/01	Wed	6:19 PM	3.67		H
2024/05/01	Wed	11:03 PM	2.70		L
2024/05/02	Thu	04:37 AM	4.42		H
2024/05/02	Thu	11:54 AM	-0.27		L
2024/05/02	Thu	6:45 PM	4.18		H
2024/05/03	Fri	12:16 AM	1.93		L
2024/05/03	Fri	05:55 AM	4.47		H
2024/05/03	Fri	12:37 PM	-0.21		L
2024/05/03	Fri	7:12 PM	4.76		H
2024/05/04	Sat	01:12 AM	1.05		L
2024/05/04	Sat	07:01 AM	4.51		H
2024/05/04	Sat	1:16 PM	-0.03		L
2024/05/04	Sat	7:42 PM	5.37		H
2024/05/05	Sun	02:02 AM	0.18		L
2024/05/05	Sun	08:01 AM	4.48		H
2024/05/05	Sun	1:52 PM	0.26		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: 4/29
11 38 47 67 69
Power#: 14
Jackpot: 178 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 4/26
15 23 53 57 61
Mega#: 9
Jackpot: 257 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 4/27
6 7 16 17 37
Mega#: 1
Jackpot: 31 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 4/29
2 12 18 26 28

Daily 3
Draw Date: 4/29
EVENING: 0 2 4
Draw Date: 4/29
MIDDAY: 9 4 7

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 4/29
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 02 - Lucky Star
3rd: 07 - Eureka
Race Time: 1:45.63

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

PUBLISHED BY NEWLON ROUGE, LLC

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

Notice of Trustee Sale

T.S. No.: 240119029 Notice of Trustee's Sale Loan No.: 21110315-4 Order No. 95528636 APN: 4274-019-001 Property Address: 1958 20th Street Santa Monica, CA 90404 You Are In Default Under A Deed Of Trust Dated 10/15/2021. Unless You Take Action To Protect Your Property, It May Be Sold At A Public Sale. If You Need An Explanation Of The Nature Of The Proceeding Against You, You Should Contact A Lawyer. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. No cashier's checks older than 60 days from the day of sale will be accepted. Trustor: George V Capital, Inc., a Delaware corporation Duly Appointed Trustee: Del Toro Loan Servicing, Inc. Recorded 10/22/2021 as Instrument No. 20211591441 in book , page of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California, Date of Sale: 5/22/2024 at 11:00 AM Place of Sale: Behind the fountain located in Civic Center Plaza, 400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona, CA Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: $2,404,869.97 Street Address or other common designation of real property: 1958 20th Street Santa Monica, CA 90404 A.P.N.: 4274-019-001 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. Notice To Potential Bidders: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. Notice To Property Owner: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (877) 440-4460 or visit this Internet Web site www.mkconsultantsinc.com, using the file number assigned to this case 240119029. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. Notice To Tenant: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (877) 440-4460, or visit this internet website site www.tlssales.info, using the file number assigned to this case 240119029 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. When submitting funds for a bid subject to Section 2924m, please make the funds payable to "Total Lender Solutions, Inc. Holding Account". If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Date: 4/24/2024 Del Toro Loan Servicing, Inc., by Total Lender Solutions, Inc., its authorized agent 10505 Sorrento Valley Road, Suite 125 San Diego, CA 92121 Phone: 866-535-3736 Sale Line: (877) 440-4460 By: Rachel Seropian, Trustee Sale Officer

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California needs constitutional change if it wants to get serious about homelessness

KIM REEDER

I'm fortunate I wasn't sexually assaulted while living on the streets of Los Angeles County. Many unhoused women are, and some repeatedly – though being attacked three times helped me qualify for a shelter bed.

On any given night in Los Angeles County, more than 22,300 women are homeless. When I was unhoused from 2020-2023, there were only eight women's shelters in the county, none of which were near me. All of them were at capacity.

With an underfunded homeless services sector and a growing number of Californians being pushed into homelessness, rationing help for only those deemed most vulnerable has become standard practice. Without a child, mental illness or addiction issues, it's difficult to qualify for needed assistance and services.

Everyone that's unhoused needs help but not everyone that's unhoused qualifies for help.

Unaccompanied women, an outdated term meaning women without dependent children, outnumber both unhoused veterans and unhoused youth combined, but lack specific programs or services geared to our needs – nor do we always have access to motel vouchers.

To say women are vulnerable when living on the streets is an understatement.

Based on my lived experience and concerns for the health, safety and welfare of all unhoused people, I advocate for housing as a constitutional human right and strongly support Assembly Constitutional Amendment 10, introduced by Assemblymember Matt Haney of San Francisco, the chair of the Legislative Renter's Caucus. ACA 10 would amend our state Constitution to make housing a human right and guarantee access to adequate housing so every Californian can live in security, peace and dignity.

Like renters, unhoused people have been reduced to a commodity. Being homeless to me – not having a place to call home – meant not having a place in society. I didn't feel like a citizen. Federal and state governments seemed like a third-world dictatorship rather than a representative democracy.

The unhoused are disenfranchised, marginalized and increasingly criminalized. As an unaccompanied woman, I felt like I was disposable. My basic human and civil rights were trampled, and I witnessed the same happen to other unhoused people, both women and men. The abuse for many, including me, came from the government contractors paid to assist the unhoused, who have no accountability to their clients.

When we make housing a constitutional right, we obligate state and local governments to amend and create policies that would protect, respect and fulfill that right. It would lead to greater investment in policies and funding to create and maintain housing that people can afford.

In a practical sense, it should mean that when people experience an emergency – like job loss, domestic violence, a financial or health crisis – there are more affordable housing options available for people to move into, rather than becoming unhoused and falling into a system that creates unsafe and unhealthy shelters for a limited few.

With more people becoming unhoused each day than are being housed, making housing a human right is an absolute necessity for California. It is imperative that we build the housing we need, expand homeless prevention, assist people when they are first displaced, and stop waiting until people are chronically homeless to help. We must insist that all levels of government work together to update our social safety net and that the state hold government contractors accountable by installing a legitimate grievance and fair hearing process for the unhoused.

I believe that all of us deserve a stable and decent place to call home. We need to move beyond rationing permanent housing, interim housing and services for unhoused people. Declaring housing as a constitutional and human right is an essential step in that direction.

The situation is too dire for anything less.

Kim Reeder serves on the community advisory board for the Urban Institute's Housing Justice project, and is a coalition member of Housing Now! California and Equal Rights for Every Neighbor. She is a member of Abundant Housing LA and the Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment.

GET IT DAILY...

US poised to ease restrictions on marijuana in historic shift, but it'll remain controlled substance

ZEKE MILLER, JOSHUA GOODMAN, JIM MUSTIAN AND LINDSAY WHITEHURST
Associated Press

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration will move to reclassify marijuana as a less dangerous drug, The Associated Press has learned, a historic shift to generations of American drug policy that could have wide ripple effects across the country.

The proposal, which still must be reviewed by the White House Office of Management and Budget, would recognize the medical uses of cannabis and acknowledge it has less potential for abuse than some of the nation's most dangerous drugs. However, it would not legalize marijuana outright for recreational use.

The agency's move, confirmed to the AP on Tuesday by five people familiar with the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive regulatory review, clears the last significant regulatory hurdle before the agency's biggest policy change in more than 50 years can take effect.

Once OMB signs off, the DEA will take public comment on the plan to move marijuana from its current classification as a Schedule I drug, alongside heroin and LSD. It moves pot to Schedule III, alongside ketamine and some anabolic steroids, following a recommendation from the federal Health and Human Services Department. After the public comment period and a review by an administrative judge, the agency would eventually publish the final rule.

The proposal will be formally signed by Attorney General Merrick Garland, whose agency has ultimate oversight of the DEA, according to another person familiar with the process who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations. Garland's signature throws the full weight of the Justice Department behind the move and appears to signal its importance to the Biden administration.

It comes after President Joe Biden called for a review of federal marijuana law in October 2022 and moved to pardon thousands of Americans convicted federally of simple possession of the drug. He has also called on governors and local leaders to take similar steps to erase marijuana convictions.

"Criminal records for marijuana use and possession have imposed needless barriers to employment, housing, and educational opportunities," Biden said in December. "Too many lives have been upended because of our failed approach to marijuana. It's time that we right these wrongs."

The election year announcement could help Biden, a Democrat, boost flagging support, particularly among younger voters.

Biden and a growing number of lawmakers from both major political parties have been pushing for the DEA decision as marijuana has become increasingly decriminalized and accepted, particularly by younger people. A Gallup poll last fall found 70% of adults support legalization, the highest level yet recorded by the polling firm and more than double the roughly 30% who backed it in 2000.

The DEA didn't respond to repeated requests for comment.

Schedule III drugs are still controlled substances and subject to rules and regulations, and people who traffic in them without permission could still face federal criminal prosecution.

Some critics argue the DEA shouldn't change course on marijuana, saying rescheduling isn't necessary and could lead to harmful side effects.

> But in terms of us getting clear to use our resources to combat other major drugs, that's a positive
>
> - Jack Riley

Jack Riley, a former deputy administrator of the DEA, said he had concerns about the proposed change because he thinks marijuana remains a possible "gateway drug," one that may lead to the use of other drugs.

"But in terms of us getting clear to use our resources to combat other major drugs, that's a positive," Riley said, noting that fentanyl alone accounts for more than 100,000 deaths in the U.S. a year.

On the other end of the spectrum, others argue marijuana should be treated the way alcohol is.

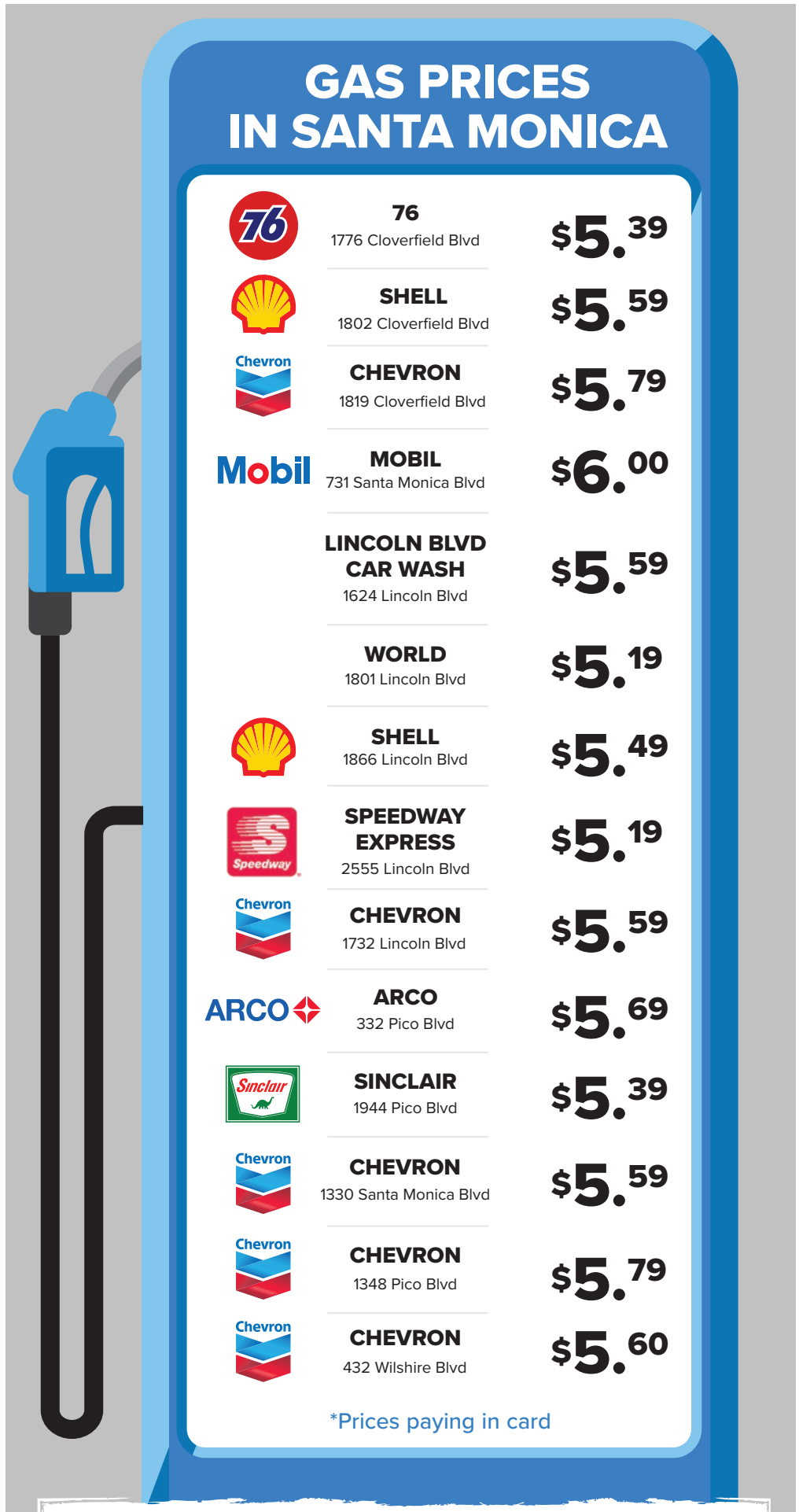
Last week, 21 Democrats led by Senate Majority Leader Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York sent a letter to DEA Administrator Anne Milgram and Attorney General Merrick Garland arguing marijuana should be dropped from the controlled-substances list and instead regulated like alcohol.

"It is time for the DEA to act," the lawmakers wrote. "Right now, the Administration has the opportunity to resolve more than 50 years of failed, racially discriminatory marijuana policy."

Federal drug policy has lagged behind many states in recent years, with 38 having already legalized medical marijuana and 24 legalizing its recreational use.

That's helped fuel fast growth in the marijuana industry, with an estimated

SEE **MARIJUANA** PAGE 8



Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have fallen 3.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $5.31/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 19.6 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 46.6 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has fallen 2.9 cents in the last week and stands at $3.98 per gallon.

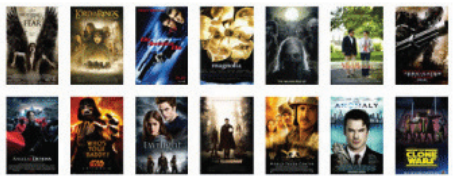
According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at $4.69/g while the most expensive was $6.29/g, a difference of $1.60/g. The lowest price in the state was $4.34/g while the highest was $8.55/g, a difference of $4.21/g.

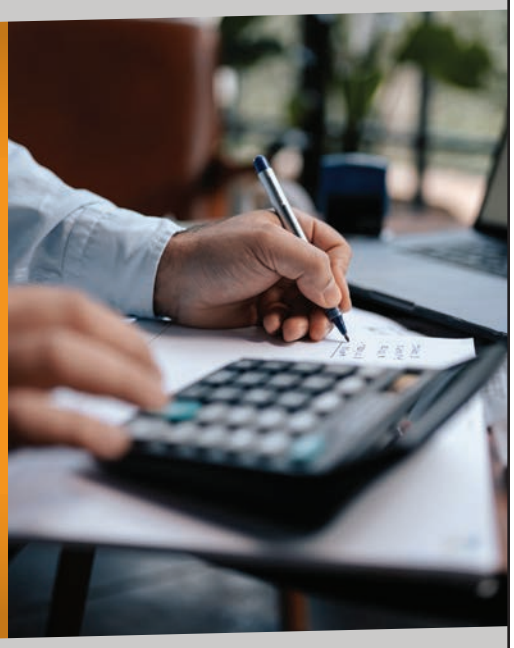
The national average price of gasoline has fallen 1.9 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $3.63/g today. The national average is up 8.4 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 4.3 cents per gallon higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

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California's population grew in 2023, halting 3 years of decline, state estimates

ADAM BEAM
Associated Press

The nation's most populous state is growing again, ending a trend of population decline that had dogged Gov. Gavin Newsom through much of his tenure.

California gained just over 67,000 people last year, the first increase since 2019, according to an estimate released Tuesday by the state Department of Finance.

After joining the United States in 1850 on the heels of a gold rush, California was a demographic marvel for its first 169 years — adding population every year as people flocked to the Golden State for its stunning terrain, weather and super-sized economy, which is larger than those of all but four countries.

That streak ended in 2020, when California lost population for the first time during a pivotal census year that led to the state losing a congressional seat. Newsom's partisan critics said the state's high cost of living, uncertain power supply, a housing and homelessness crisis and concerns about crime were partly to blame. For a two-year period, Californians moving to Texas made up the largest state-to-state movement in the U.S., according to U.S. Census data — a fact often shared by Republicans eager to slam Newsom.

But the Democratic governor, who is widely considered a future presidential candidate, had reason to celebrate Tuesday, as state estimates showed a return to the formula that has powered California's growth in recent years: A strong influx of legal international immigration, fewer deaths following the coronavirus pandemic and a reduction in the number of people leaving California for other states.

"People from across the nation and the globe are coming to the Golden State to pursue the California Dream and experience the success of the world's 5th largest economy," Newsom said in a news release.

Tuesday's estimate — representing a 0.17% growth rate — can hardly be called a surge. But state officials were confident that it signaled a return to more normal population patterns after years of pandemic disruption.

Legal immigration to California from other countries stalled during and just before the coronavirus pandemic amid a spate of travel restrictions and tightened rules under then-President Donald Trump. It rebounded last year, though, with a net gain of 114,200 people, which was nearly its pre-pandemic level.

State officials called it "a stable foundation for continued growth" — although that growth will likely be a lot smaller than it had been, said Eric McGhee, senior fellow for the Public Policy Institute of California.

"It's going to be better for the state in terms of its total population," McGhee said. "It would still, at this rate, not be enough to probably avoid losing more congressional districts in the 2030 census."

> People from across the nation and the globe are coming to the Golden State to pursue the California Dream and experience the success of the world's 5th largest economy
>
> - Gov. Gavin Newsom

More people still left California for other states in 2023 than moved to California from other states, but it was far less than previous years.

In 2021 — when coronavirus cases were still surging and more people were working remotely — California lost a net 355,648 people because of domestic migration. In 2023, that was down to 91,189. That's much closer to pre-pandemic trends, according to Walter Schwarm, chief demographer for the California Department of Finance.

"The governor bragging about that is sort of like the guy who lost thousands of dollars at the casino last night bragging about being up 20 bucks at the blackjack table," said James Gallagher, the Republican leader in the state Assembly. "I don't understand why the governor and the Democratic supermajority just continue to turn a blind eye to it. They sort of act like nothing's wrong when there is a lot wrong."

It's still expensive to live in California, where gas prices, utility bills and housing costs are among the highest in the country. The state's homelessness problem has only worsened despite billions of dollars that the Legislature has thrown at it. California is in the middle of consecutive multibillion-dollar budget deficits.

Newsom has been taking steps to address the state's cost of living. Last week, his administration voted to limit health care cost increases statewide by 3% each year to try and rein in the ever-increasing cost of

SEE POPULATION PAGE 8

MARBLE RUN

FROM PAGE 1

and Austin City Limits in the Texas capitol city. Seeing the power that live events had in bringing communities closer, Jordan took his know-how and transitioned into creating his own gatherings, beginning with a "random urge" to host a treasure hunt on the Westside in 2022. Gaining a considerable turnout for the one-off, Jordan began thinking about why the event worked, looking beyond just being a full-time treasure hunt crafter.

"I realized what made it so special wasn't that it was a treasure hunt, what made it so special was that we were sharing in this kind of first time super playful experience together, because it's not an opportunity that we get often, especially as we age, and so that inspired me then to host and design these kinds of brand new experiences that are super fun, playful social experiences on a more regular basis," Jordan said.

Taking the majority of 2023 to develop unique concepts, with his goal to either "spin" or "supercharge" a well-known event idea or "mashing it up with something else" to create something new, hence the branding.

After adventures such as "immersive trivia" where participants were themselves part of the answers, and a "Pinata Puzzle" event in January where locals bashed pinatas in hopes of finding the correct pieces to a puzzle, Jordan set his sights on the marble record attempt. Scouring the Guinness website for "what seemed reasonable" to try, he was accepted to try the marble runs by the organization with a laundry list of guidelines.

One such guideline was having either a Guinness-sponsored adjudicator or independent verifiers of the potential record. With the organization charging upwards of $16,000 to bring in an official judge, Jordan once again thought on his feet and hung outside the beaches of Venice with a sign to attract independent judges, eventually finding two people willing to be present at Zeno Space. After acquiring the necessary marble run sets and appropriate measurement materials, last weekend's event was a go, though the record was "harder than you'd think," a mammoth feat of over four-and-a-half feet of flying marble.

Putting together the event, Jordan said, was "leaping into the unknown" alongside his community members, with over 50 locals showing up for the task.

"It's been great to see the reception that it's received, but moreover, it's (been) transitioning my life into this," Jordan said of his endeavor. "I feel like I have had a lot more new experiences, which has made me a happier person, because the entire thesis behind this is that new experiences make us happy. They make us grow and they make us who we are and so honestly, inspiring new folks (to) have new experiences is super special to me."

> I realized what made it so special wasn't that it was a treasure hunt, what made it so special was that we were sharing in this kind of first time super playful experience together, because it's not an opportunity that we get often, especially as we age, and so that inspired me then to host and design these kinds of brand new experiences that are super fun, playful social experiences on a more regular basis
> - Sean Jordan

Realizing that residents are waiting longer and longer to have children, Jordan sensed a lack of time his peers spent in fun and child-like activities, prompting Something New to bring the play to LA.

"In Los Angeles, I think it's tough for us to come together as (a) community because so much of our lives is spent in our homes and our cars, and so there are only a few opportunities to come together ... but more importantly, I think that it's a big opportunity to address playfulness," Jordan said.

The next Something New event will take place on June 1, as Jordan will be partnering with Best Friends Animal Society of Los Angeles to present a "Brand-New Puppy Party." For more information, visit somethingnew.rsvp.

thomas@smdp.com



Courtesy Photo

MARBLE RUN: Locals in Venice unleashed their inner child on April 27, attempting to break a Guinness World Record for longest marble run at a Something New event at Zeno Space.



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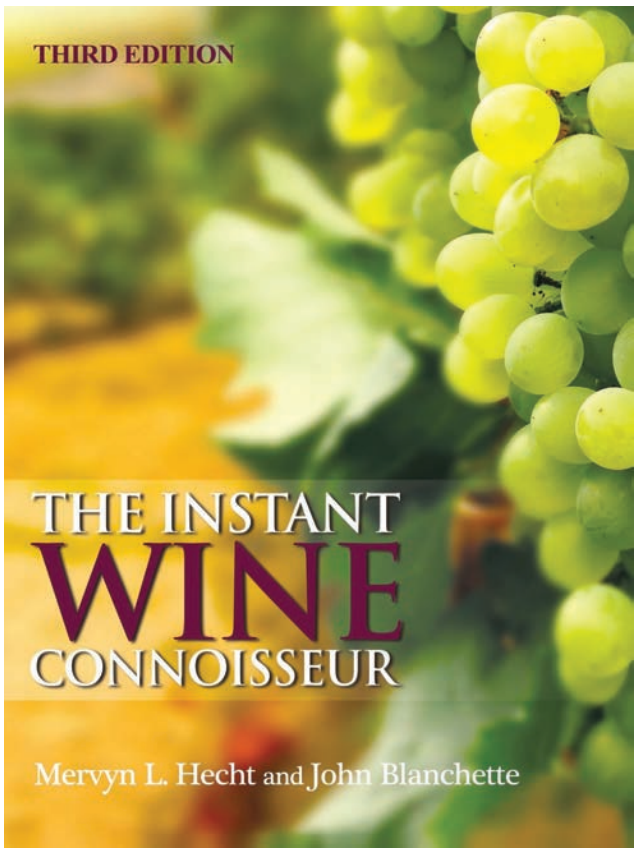
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CURIOUS CITY

FROM PAGE 3

Council members are still spouting that stuff. Like "trickle down economics," it has been debunked, still those who have some stake in seeing Santa Monica developed to the skies will throw that red meat out there, and the dumb dogs go for it.

You need services. Mental health, drug intervention, job counseling, child care – whatever is needed. But just housing alone is no answer at all, except for the groups who stand to profit by it. It's taken a long time and a lot of suffering, but some are finally understanding that solving this huge problem must come in small and personalized increments, not with the snap of a finger, here's your house.

As I mentioned, Sacramento has now reached down into cities' affairs to mandate that all this housing be built, in a state that is losing population big time. Often the large development projects get away with offering only 10% of their inventory as "affordable," so we wind up with thousands of market rate units that we don't need, and it raises the price of all existing housing. How's that for a solution?

OUR MAYOR IN D.C.

Phil Brock is in Washington as I write this, meeting with administration officials and a long list of congress members and senators, including Senate Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries. Brock is part of a contingent of mayors from across the country who have been invited to give their thoughts on solving homelessness, and, importantly, many are asking for funds, immediately available, to help solve their specific problems.

At the same time you had Council members Gleam Davis and Carolyn Torosis asking (then Torosis withdrawing the request) to attend an international conference on homelessness in Vienna. My research, and that of others who voiced their opposition, showed that Vienna's problems and solutions bear little relevance to Santa Monica. Vienna is an ancient European capital with a population of nearly two million, that instituted public housing programs a century ago, that are funded by the national government. That's great for Vienna but I don't think Austria is going to help out Santa Monica, CA. Not even if Arnold asks nicely. Washington D.C. seems like a better place to go. Davis has advocated for more housing for her many years on City Council, and my guess is she would be looking in Vienna for statistics and programs that would support the failed theories she has been supporting for years. At the time she and Torosis withdrew their request for travel, I don't remember seeing any defense of why it would be useful to Santa Monica. But maybe I missed that.

KNOW WHAT ELSE I MISSED?

The chance to tell my scary story! But I must, maybe next week or the week after. This is like those serials they used to show in movie theaters – come back next week for the rest of the story!

And no, I wasn't trying to trick you to read all the way to the end. But if you see that ploy again, it would be because it worked...

Charles Andrews has lived in Santa Monica for 38 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

MARIJUANA

FROM PAGE 5

worth of nearly $30 billion. Easing federal regulations could reduce the tax burden that can be 70% or more for businesses, according to industry groups. It could also make it easier to research marijuana, since it's very difficult to conduct authorized clinical studies on Schedule I substances.

The immediate effect of rescheduling on the nation's criminal justice system would likely be more muted, since federal prosecutions for simple possession have been fairly rare in recent years.

But loosening restrictions could carry a host of unintended consequences in the drug war and beyond.

Critics point out that as a Schedule III drug, marijuana would remain regulated by the DEA. That means the roughly 15,000 cannabis dispensaries in the U.S. would have to register with the DEA like regular pharmacies and fulfill strict reporting requirements, something that they are loath to do and that the DEA is ill equipped to handle.

Then there's the United States' international treaty obligations, chief among them the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, which requires the criminalization of cannabis. In 2016, during the Obama administration, the DEA cited the U.S.' international obligations and the findings of a federal court of appeals in Washington in denying a similar request to reschedule marijuana.

Goodman reported from Miami, Mustian from New Orleans. AP writer Colleen Long contributed.

POPULATION

FROM PAGE 6

medical expenses. On Monday, he announced a partnership to sell a generic version of Narcan — the drug that can save a person's life during an opioid overdose — at a 40% discount of the market rate.

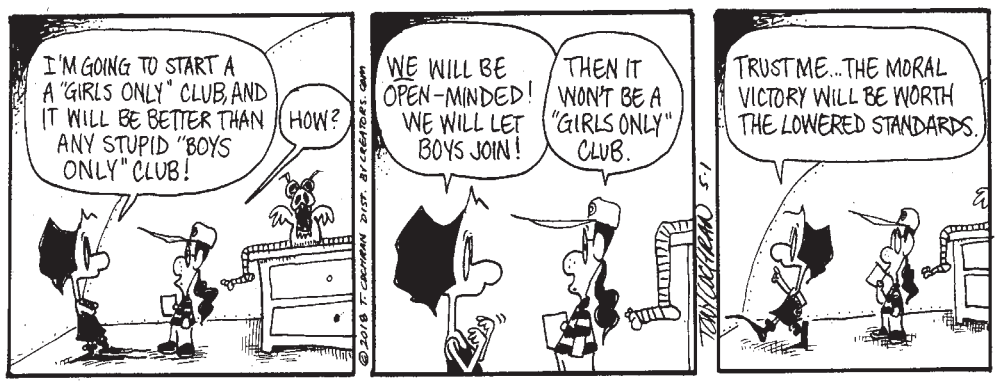
Population estimates are tricky, as they rely on a range of statistics while trying to make a good guess of how many people are in one place at one time. An estimate released in December by the U.S. Census Bureau said California's population fell by 75,000 residents in 2023.

But those estimates were targeting different points in time. The U.S. Census Bureau's estimate was for July 1, 2023. The California Department of Finance's estimate was for Jan. 1, 2024.

The state's estimate was based on a number of factors, including births and deaths, driver's license address changes, vehicle registration, and enrollment in the government-funded health insurance programs of Medicaid and Medicare.

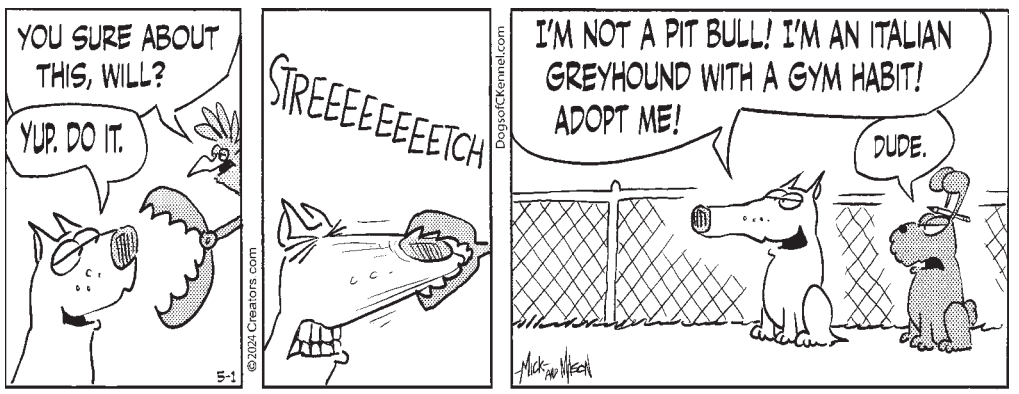
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

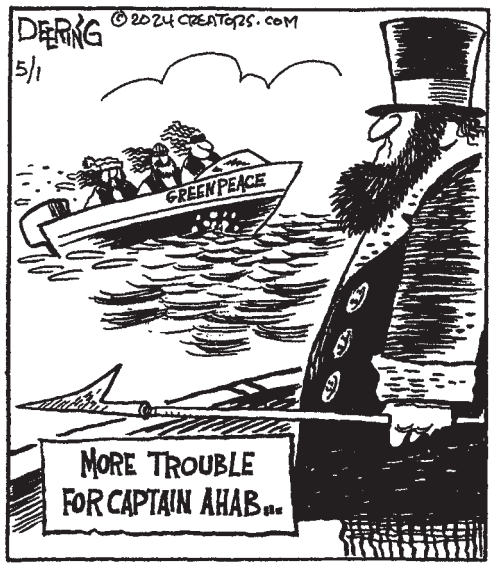
By PETER GALLAGHER



"ANOTHER NET BITES THE DUST."

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

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Isles for miles

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

Adrift	Dunk	Honeyeater	Pool
Aspen	Egret	Hook	Raine
Badu	Emita	Horn	Reef
Bays	Eyre	Idle	Relax
Calm	Family	Koalas	Rodd
Coast	Fire	Lady Elliot	Scuba
Coral	Fish	Laze	Shaw
Cottage	Fraser	Leeka	Suites
Dart	French	Lindeman	Sunny
Dawn	Gabo	Moon	Tracks
Daytrippers	Hats	Museum	Yorke
Dent	Hazy	Orpheus	
Doze	Heron	Peace	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 1)

Heaps of attention and affection is coming your way! Life shows up shiny and new for you, so you'll develop a fresh set of favorites — from people to interests and colleagues. More highlights: A project pays you well, allowing for upgrades. Family life brings a sense of pride and accomplishment. You'll witness remarkable events. You'll spend foreign money. Capricorn and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 5, 7, 32 and 15.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). In the intricate dance of relationships, trust is the bedrock upon which all else is built. Everything good springs from this silent agreement. You're creating something special by just by doing what you say you'll do.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Humans come together in life's little snags. It's in these moments of vulnerability and resilience that bonds are forged. So don't fret over problems or try to avoid them because they house the opportunity for connection.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Love transcends comprehension; it defies rational explanation and analysis. Instead of seeking to master its complexities, embrace its essence. You don't have to understand love, just give it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Each time you get happy, it becomes easier and easier to achieve the state. Every opportunity for joy is worth taking. Seize it. By doing this for you, you do it for anyone around you because your joy will lift others.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). What you learned from past relationships keeps helping you as you progress with different kinds of ties. This is why, in the school of life, you are teacher's pet. You demonstrate that the lessons are never lost on you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're comfortable in your skin, in your mind and in your being. It's a good look. People will be attracted to you today because they sense that some of the comfort you feel will rub off on them.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Maybe there's nothing new under the sun, but you will sure make it look new for your people, creating a remix with your signature style all over it. Said style is ever evolving. Have fun with it today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You assume each person is so unique you couldn't possibly know what they are thinking. Because you don't jump to conclusions, you will get to know a person better than those who are limited by their familiarity.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're still not sure what to think about an arrangement — a powerful place to be. Unhurried decision-making is best. Later, you'll look back and see this day as pivotal to your success. Ask questions, investigate and observe.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There are several situations that vie for your attention, many of them worthy of you, and yet there's only one you to go around. Instead of rushing toward the loudest problem, step back and decide what interests you the most.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). People have various roles in your life. Some play several parts at once. Others play a very narrow and specific role. And then there are those whose purpose keeps shifting. Embrace the changes. It's about to get more interesting.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's solace in a belief of self-sufficiency, even though it's not quite true. No matter how full your life is and how whole you feel on your own, you still need people. It's something to celebrate, really.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

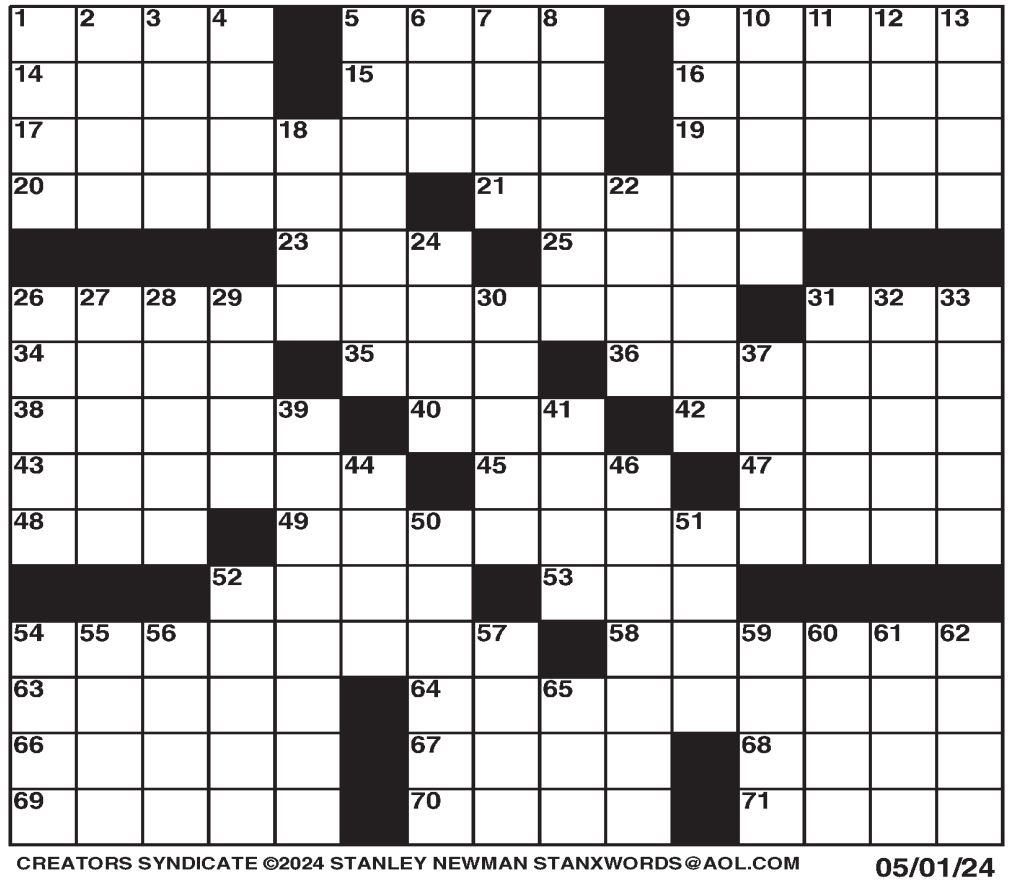
MAY DAY by Jerry Clarkson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Mountain lion
5 Soil-breaking tools
9 Is durable
14 Grand story
15 Dual-power, as an appliance
16 Initial comment, for short
17 With 64-Across, MAYo Clinic's headquarters
19 Rug discoloration
20 Prepares to be knighted
21 Rainy-day accounts
23 Height above sea level: Abbr.
25 Pub orders
26 Louisa MAY Alcott novel
31 Title for some wives
34 Clever thought
35 Drain of energy
36 Where a baseball team sits
38 Joyous, as Christmas
40 __ Lanka
42 Black-and-white "giant" bear
43 Country singer Dolly
45 "You've got mail" Web company
47 Proofreader's "don't delete"
48 Crafty
49 MAYtag kitchen appliances
52 Penny
53 Physician's org.
54 Like a lucky clover
58 Escaped from
63 Happen next
64 See 17-Across
66 Direct an auto
67 Novel's story line
68 7-Down dweller
69 Alphabetizes
70 Works with needle and thread
71 Fishing rod

DOWN

1 Fringe benefit, for short
2 Fully aware of
3 Rodents that squeak
4 Muscle soreness
5 Major inconveniences
6 Halloween mo.
7 Genesis paradise
8 Holler
9 "Pay attention"
10 Initial poker payments
11 Male deer
12 High school math class
13 Daughter's brothers
18 Israeli airline
22 Snow vehicle
24 "__ the night before Christmas..."
26 Walks unsteadily
27 Perfect example
28 Bathrobe fabric
29 Sour-tasting
30 Media mogul Winfrey
31 __ Carlo, Monaco
32 More impolite
33 Facts and figures
37 Deep cut
39 They sing in the Alps
41 Corn Belt state
44 Highest sudoku digit
46 Complains about
50 Postage purchases
51 Don't throw out
52 Salad dressing holder
54 __ up (admit the truth)
55 Not fooled by
56 Software customer
57 Manicurist's tool
59 Memo's "right away"
60 Bygone flightless bird
61 Footnote abbr.
62 University of Notre __
65 "Right away"



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WAYFINDER KIOSK

FROM PAGE 1

looking forward to working with all the community groups, non-profit organizations and businesses to ensure these become an invaluable resource for all residents, visitors and stakeholders in our city. A new era of information sharing has begun."

Solar panels were considered early on in the design process, but the surface area was deemed too small to provide enough power. However, apparently none of the kiosks will use city power.

"All the kiosks [coming to] the Promenade will connect to the City power vault, but have a separate meter. The remaining kiosks will use either a power source constructed by BIG Outdoor or will be connected to private power at a nearby business or property," Howland said.

"BIG Outdoor negotiated these agreements with the businesses/property owners, so the city was not involved and doesn't have details. These private power deals will help minimize construction and disturbances to the public right-of-way and speed up installation," she said.

The City's website (santamonica.gov/programs/digital-kiosks) illustrates the five-stage rollout plan and shows the location of each of 29 proposed sites with the Third Street Promenade being part of this first wave of rollouts.

"The existing directories [on the Promenade] will be demolished and replaced with the new kiosks. It was a priority for us to reduce existing street clutter wherever possible when siting and installing the kiosks," Howland said.

Very little, if anything at all, seems to have changed from the prototype test model. The device stands at approximately 8ft tall, with a 55-inch display and is made from what we're reassured is incredibly durable materials along with an "anti-graffiti" coating that will ensure any tagging by a wannabe street artist can be very easily removed.

Howland reassures that the emergency button won't be abused, saying, "The emergency phones function on VOIP (voice over internet protocol). It would be very difficult for someone to push the button on accident [sic]."

Regarding maintenance and inevitable repair, she says, "For the first few kiosks, BIG Outdoor has contracted with Block by Block to respond immediately to maintenance requests. Once they have 10-15 operational, BIG will have full-time maintenance staff in-house. All maintenance requests will go through BIG Outdoor. There is also a way to report maintenance issues on the kiosk itself."

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MCKINLEY

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revise a Removal Action Workplan (RAW) and measures to mitigate "potential significant impact" caused by soil containing "naturally occurring arsenic and subsurface soils" that were found to be contaminated with dry cleaning solvent vapors emanating from an adjacent dry cleaner location at 2441 Santa Monica Boulevard.

Previously, the district adopted a mitigation monitoring and reporting program for the potential for chemicals (particularly chlorinated solvent perchloroethylene) to have affected soils at the project site. The initial mitigation measure, "MM HAZ-2," was approved by the board in June of 2023 and specifically required the removal of the contaminants from the school by excavating and hauling away the contaminated soils to an authorized disposal site.

However, after the district sought the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to oversee investigation and remediation of the contamination, DTSC stated that it "would be appropriate" for the district to reuse the soil "so long as a mechanical barrier is maintained to separate school occupants from the soil," with the barrier consisting of concrete slabs and asphaltic pavement. The dry cleaning solvent vapors, DTSC added, could also be blocked from getting into the McKinley construction site through the use of a membrane and vapor extraction system beneath the new building, which is slated to be a two-story building with eight classrooms and a renovated front office. Both remedial methods are being separately reviewed and processed for approval.

To implement a RAW that does not dig up and haul away contaminated soils, MM HAZ-2 has been revised to include language adding that the district will be implementing a DTSC-approved cleanup selection document for "appropriate treatment of affected soils and soil vapor on-site." The revised MM HAZ 2, the district states, "does not reduce the effectiveness" of the mitigation plan and "would still not cause any significant environmental impact to occur."

"All recommendations in the cleanup selection, document regarding soil handling, treatment, and storage shall be implemented," the updated MM HAZ-2 states. "Soil vapors shall also be treated according to procedures outlined in the RAW."

Once the district confirms that the affected soils have been appropriately treated, contractor Placeworks will prepare a Removal Action Completion Report for DTSC that documents cleanup activities and presents analytical results for the confirmation samples, if required. The district will also prepare a long-term operation, maintenance, monitoring and reporting plan for DTSC "to ensure long-term effectiveness of the treatment system."

Perchloroethylene, or PCE, was banned for use at dry cleaners in California last year, though historical improper disposal caused the chemical and other contaminants to enter into groundwater and soil, with the potential to emerge as harmful vapors.

In addition to the new classroom building, poised to begin construction this summer, the McKinley project aims to result in 33 new classrooms ranging from kindergarten through fifth grade, as well as dedicated outdoor play areas for kindergarten students. The first phase of the project includes the two-story, 24,410 sq ft. classroom building, as well as library renovations, the removal of nine portable classrooms and the creation of a new on-site pick-up and drop off lane along Chelsea Avenue.

Visit https://www.smmusd.org for more information about the upcoming meeting.

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WEDNESDAY | MAY 1

TODDLER & PRESCHOOL STORYTIME

Enjoy stories, songs, and lots of fun with our children's librarian at our toddler and preschool storytime series! They will have two sessions at 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., capped at 25 children in each session in accordance with our room capacity. To attend, please request a free ticket from the Circulation Desk for each child in attendance on Wednesday morning after we open at 10 a.m. Both storytime sessions will be identical in content, and children may only attend one storytime session per day. Suggested ages: 18 months to 4 years. Donald Bruce Kaufman - Brentwood Branch Library, 11820 San Vicente Boulevard, Los Angeles.

BABY AND TODDLER STORYTIME

Generally on the first* Wednesday of the month. Lap-sit (or not!) storytime for babies and toddlers and their grown-ups to share together. For ages under 36 months, accompanied by a grownup. 10:15 a.m. Palisades Branch Library, 861 Alma Real Drive, Pacific Palisades.

READ WITH STAR VOLUNTEER BONNIE

Children are invited to share the joy of reading with our STAR volunteer, Bonnie. Take home a free book after reading with a STAR Volunteer three times. Donald Bruce Kaufman - Brentwood Branch Library, 11820 San Vicente Boulevard. 3 - 5 p.m.

GARDEN PARTY

Local Teens, including members of Teens Leading Change (TLC) in conjunction with Palisades Branch Teen Council, Pali High art and photography students, will be presenting their work to the community in May. A kick-off celebration will take place on May 1 from 4-6 pm in the Teen Area of the Palisades Library. TLC group will present their work and show off the finished native pollinator garden. Art work and photography will be on display in the Teen area and the community room. There will also be an Open House on Saturday May 4 from 11 am-1 pm in the Teen Area. Friends of the Palisades Library will provide refreshments in the Community Room on both days. Palisades Branch Library, 861 Alma Real Drive, Pacific Palisades, 4 - 6 p.m.

28TH ANNUAL SUSTAINABLE QUALITY AWARDS

Join organizers for the 28th Annual Sustainable Quality Awards on Wednesday, May 1st at the beautiful Annenberg Community Beach House for an evening celebrating business sustainability and excellence. Come network with like-minded individuals, enjoy delicious food, and applaud the winners of this prestigious award. Don't miss out on this opportunity to be inspired and connect with leaders in sustainable practices. Doors open 4:30 PM. The ceremony starts at 5:00 PM. Registration is required: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/28th-annual-sustainable-quality-awards-event-tickets-872996414777. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Highway.

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 1685 Main Street, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY | MAY 2

RENT CONTROL SEMINAR FOR PROPERTY OWNERS AND MANAGERS

Designed for owners and managers, this seminar will cover basics of the rent control law and your rights and responsibilities, how to use the CIVICS portal for online filing of registration forms, petitions and exemption applications and demonstrate filing a tenancy registration form. Begins at 10:30 a.m. at the Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. To sign up, visit: https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.

HOUSING COMMISSION

The Santa Monica Housing Commission is a city advisory body whose mission is to protect and improve the quality of life of all Santa Monicans by listening to input from city residents and staff, publicly deliberating, and providing recommendations to both the Santa Monica City Council and Santa Monica Housing Authority Board on issues related to housing in Santa Monica. Meeting starts at 6 p.m. at Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St.

FRIDAY | MAY 3

FUTURE FEST 2024

Presented by RPA, Ad 2 SoCal, AAF LA and COOP, Future Fest 2024 is a day-long career workshop for young professionals interested in advertising. Panels include an intro to RPA by Early Career Recruiter David Peña, a soft skills panel and speakers on topics like how to be creative in your role and finding the right career path. The event also includes networking, professional headshots, and resume reviews. Begins at 10 a.m. at RPA, 2525 Colorado Ave. Tickets $10, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/future-fest-2024-tickets-874156223797.

FIERCE FRIDAY/YALLWEST PREVIEW

Join the Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., in the Central Courtyard for a special Fierce Friday preview event to YALLWEST, the nation's biggest young adult book festival. Fierce Friday will feature more than 16 best-selling authors meeting fans and signing their books. Authors confirmed include Raquel Marie, Adalyn Grace, Aiden Thomas and Jordan Morris. The event is free, but tickets are required and can be received at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/friday-preview-events-fierce-friday-or-deadendia-launch-tickets-873448045617.

DYSTOPIA CINCO DE MAYO

It's been four years since Dystopia first reimagined the Latin nightclub experience with epic nights of reggaetón and unforgettable chaos. Now, Dystopia returns to where it all began, Senator Jones at 2020 Wilshire Blvd., for an electrifying Cinco de Mayo celebration. Trendy and fashionable outfits required, no shorts, jerseys or flip flops will be allowed. Event 21+ only, doors open at 10 a.m. General admission tickets $29. To purchase, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dystopia-cinco-de-mayo-tickets-888002227567.aspx.

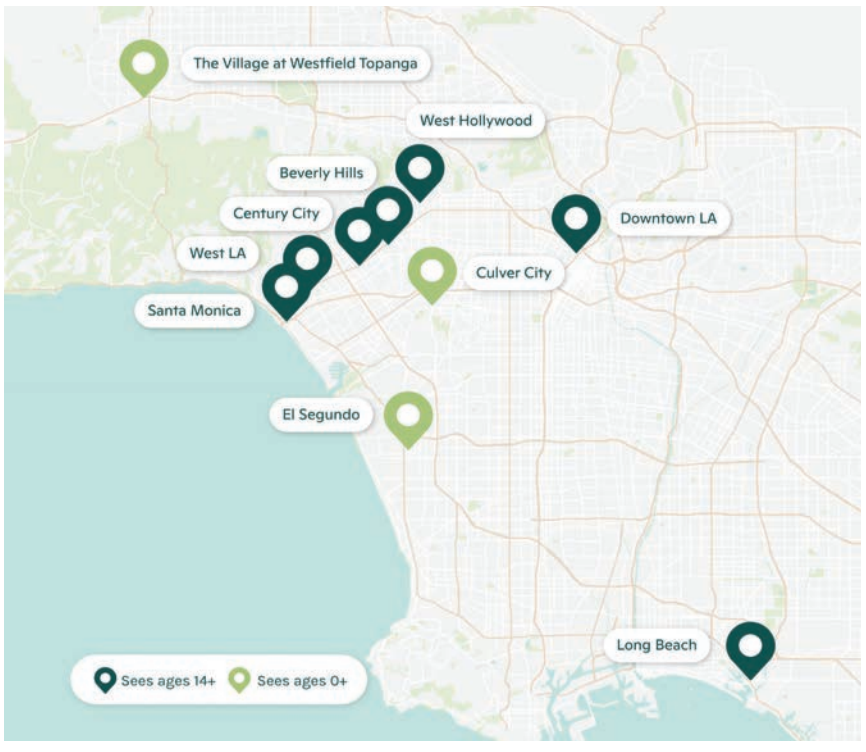
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