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Black Bear captured in the Santa Monica mountains



Courtesy photo

BB-12: BB-12 is the first black bear captured in the area.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Wildlife officials have captured a black bear in the Santa Monica Mountains.

While there have been bear sightings in the area before, the April 23 capture was the first time officials captured and collared a bear.

Named BB-12, the 210 pound black bear is estimated to be about 3-4 years old. He was given a full workup including an exam, body measurements, taking biological samples, attaching an ear tag and fitting a GPS collar.

According to the National Park Service a young black bear was spotted lumbering along Reino Road in Newbury Park last year. Since then, images of a bear have been seen on wildlife trail cameras in half of the Santa Monica Mountains - from Malibu Creek State Park to the range's western border in Point Mugu State Park. Biologists say BB-12 may be the same bear.

"He appears to be the only bear here in the Santa Monica Mountains, and he's likely been here for almost two years based on our remote camera data," said Jeff Sikich, the lead field biologist of the park's two-decade mountain lion study. "This seems to be our first resident bear in the 20 years we have conducted mountain lion research in the area. It will be interesting to see how he shares the landscape with our other resident large carnivores."

BB-12 was found in the western Santa Monica Mountains south of the 101 Freeway.

The nearest population of black bears is in the Santa Susana Mountains, north of the 118 Freeway near Santa Clarita. Bear sightings

SEE **BLACK BEAR** PAGE 6

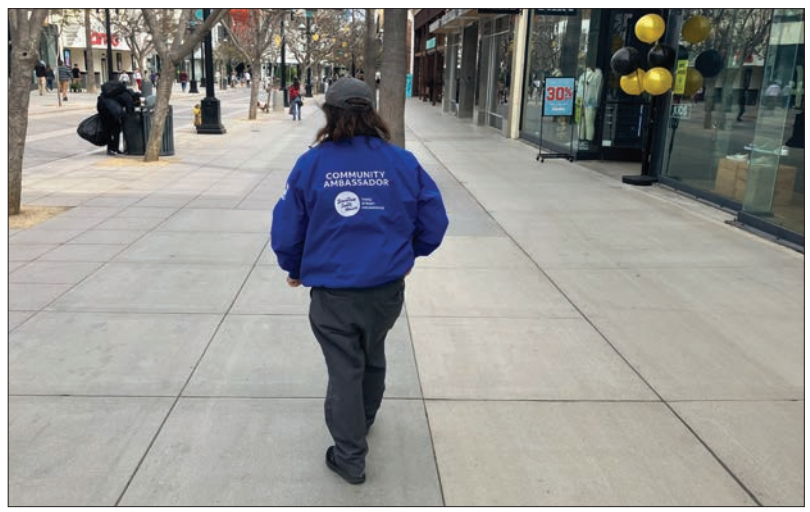
DTSM looking at options to replace ambassadors with security guards

GRACE INEZ ADAMS
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica's blue polo-clad community ambassadors could soon be replaced by private security guards as part of an initiative discussed by Downtown Santa Monica Inc. (DTSM) Board this week to address safety and crime-related concerns in the area.

At a special meeting on May 2, the board voted to approve moving forward with a proposal for DTSM to use the nearly $1.7 million currently funding the Ambassador Program to hire a private security company to help police patrol the

SEE **DTSM** PAGE 8



Scott Snowden

SECURITY: The current ambassador program could be replaced by more traditional security guards.

Coronation celebrations reach Santa Monica

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Santa Monica's Anglophile headquarters, Ye Olde King's Head and The Britannia Pub, will be celebrating the coronation of King Charles this weekend with several royal events.

Charles automatically ascended to the throne when Queen Elizabeth died Sept. 8, and he was officially proclaimed Britain's monarch two days later in an ascension ceremony.

Charles said he was "deeply aware of this great inheritance and of the duties and heavy responsibilities of sovereignty which have now passed to me."

The local business marked

SEE **CORONATION** PAGE 8



Scott Snowden

KINGS HEAD: The Downtown store is the city's coronation headquarters.





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5K Challenge
Thursday May 18 at 4:00pm

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Thursday, May 18 at 4:00pm

Where:
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Fed raises key rate but hints it may pause amid bank turmoil

CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

The Federal Reserve reinforced its fight against high inflation Wednesday by raising its key interest rate by a quarter-point to the highest level in 16 years. But the Fed also signaled that it may now pause its streak of 10 rate hikes, which have made borrowing for consumers and businesses steadily more expensive.

In a statement after its latest policy meeting, the Fed removed a sentence from its previous statement that had said "some additional" rate hikes might be needed. It replaced it with language that said it will weigh a range of factors in "determining the extent" to which future hikes might be needed.

Speaking at a news conference, Chair Jerome Powell said the Fed has yet to decide whether to suspend its rate hikes. But he pointed to the change in the statement's language as confirming at least that possibility. Powell said the Fed would continue to monitor the latest economic data in deciding whether to pause its hikes.

The Fed's rate increases since March 2022 have more than doubled mortgage rates, elevated the costs of auto loans, credit card borrowing and business loans and heightened the risk of a recession. Home sales have plunged as a result. The Fed's latest move, which raised its benchmark rate to roughly 5.1%, could further increase borrowing costs.

Still, in its statement and at Powell's news conference, the Fed made clear that it doesn't think its string of rate hikes have sufficiently cooled the economy, the job market and inflation. Inflation has dropped from a peak of 9.1% in June to 5% in March but remains well above the Fed's 2% target rate.

"Inflation pressures continue to run high, and the process of getting inflation back down to 2% has a long way to go," Powell said.

The surge in rates has contributed to the collapse of three large banks and turmoil in the banking industry. All three failed banks had bought long-term bonds that paid low rates and then rapidly lost value as the Fed sent rates higher.

The banking upheaval likely played a role in the Fed's decision Wednesday to consider a pause. Powell had said in March that a cutback in lending by banks, to shore up their finances, could act as the equivalent of a quarter-point rate hike in slowing the economy.

At his news conference, Powell said he believed conditions in the industry have improved since early March and that "the U.S. banking sector is sound and resilient." At the same time, he acknowledged that "the strains that emerged in the banking sector in early March appear to be resulting in even tighter credit conditions for households and businesses."

Fed economists have estimated that tighter credit resulting from the bank failures will contribute to a "mild recession" later this year, thereby raising the pressure on the central bank to suspend its rate hikes.

"A pause" in its rate hikes, said Ryan Sweet, chief U.S. economist at Oxford Economics, "would buy the Fed time to gauge how the recent stress in the banking system will weigh on the economy via tighter lending standards, which creates uncertainty in the outlook for growth and inflation."

"If there is any upside surprise to inflation," Sweet cautioned, the Fed "won't hesitate to resume hiking interest rates because they're determined to break inflation's back. As such, there is a risk that the pause is temporary."

Even if the Fed imposes no further rate hikes, many economists have said they expect the central bank to keep its benchmark rate at its peak for a prolonged period, likely through year's end.

The Fed is now also grappling with a standoff around the nation's borrowing limit, which caps how much debt the government can issue. Congressional Republicans are demanding steep spending cuts as the price of agreeing to lift the nation's borrowing cap.

The Fed's decision Wednesday came against an increasingly cloudy backdrop. The economy appears to be cooling, with consumer spending flat in February and March, indicating that many shoppers have grown cautious in the face of higher prices and borrowing costs. Manufacturing, too, is weakening.

Even the surprisingly resilient job market, which has kept the unemployment rate near 50-year lows for months, is showing cracks. Hiring has decelerated, job postings have declined and fewer people are quitting jobs for other, typically higher-paying positions.

The turmoil in the nation's banking sector, which re-erupted last weekend as regulators seized and sold off First Republic Bank, has intensified the pressure on the economy. It was the second-largest U.S. bank failure ever and the third major banking collapse in the past six weeks. Investors have grown anxious about whether other regional banks may suffer from similar problems.

Goldman Sachs estimates that a widespread pullback in bank lending could cut U.S. growth by 0.4 percentage point this year. That could be enough to cause a recession. In December, the Fed projected growth of just 0.5% in 2023.

Wall Street traders were also unnerved by this week's announcement from Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen that the nation could default on its debt as soon as June 1 unless Congress agrees to lift the debt limit, which caps how much the government can borrow. A first-ever default on the U.S. debt could potentially lead to a global financial crisis.

The Fed's latest rate hike comes as other major central banks are also tightening credit. European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde is expected to announce another interest rate increase Thursday, after inflation figures released Tuesday showed that price increases ticked up last month.

Consumer prices rose 7% in the 20 countries that use the euro currency in April from a year earlier, up from a 6.9% year-over-year increase in March.

In the United States, some major drivers of higher prices have stalled or started to reverse, causing slowdowns in overall inflation. The consumer price index rose 5% in March from a year earlier, sharply lower than its 9.1% peak in June.

The rise in rental costs has eased as more

SEE **INFLATION** PAGE 6

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California Supreme Court dismantles no-bid school construction contracts

BY DAN WALTERS

Last week, the California Supreme Court issued a unanimous decision in a very complex – but very important – case that had been percolating for more than a decade, dealing with how local school officials evade competitive bidding on construction projects.

The case began in 2010 when Fresno Unified School District persuaded its voters to approve a bond to build new schools and upgrade old ones. In 2011, the district sold more than $100 million in bonds from that issue and an earlier one, and in 2012 awarded a $36.7 million contract for a new middle school to Harris Construction Co.

The contract with Harris, which had been a major contributor to the bond issue campaign, was structured as a "lease-leaseback" deal in which the district leased the school site to Harris for a nominal sum, Harris built the school and the district then leased the completed facility from Harris.

"Lease-leaseback" arrangements have been common for years, providing a way for school systems to build new facilities without borrowing money themselves. Typically the "leaseback" runs for several decades, after which the district becomes the owner.

In the Harris project, however, Fresno Unified made payments to the contractor and once the school was completed in 2014, it used bond funds to immediately acquire ownership from Harris. Meanwhile, another contractor, Stephen Davis, had sued the district alleging that the Harris lease-leaseback deal was a subterfuge to avoid competitive bidding.

The district won two rulings from a local trial judge that the deal was legitimate, but both were overturned by a state appellate court and eventually Fresno Unified asked the state Supreme Court to determine whether the Harris deal was a legitimate contract protected under state law. Last week, the court declared that it was not, sending the case back down the legal ladder to determine what damages will be assessed.

San Diego attorney Kevin Carlin, who represents Davis and has carved out a niche career of challenging questionable school contracts, says that Harris Construction may be forced to pay back the $36.7 million it received for building Gaston Middle School.

The case has reverberated in other ways. The superintendent who approved the contract, Michael Hanson, was fired by the school board after the suit was filed. Critics cited Hanson's close personal relationship with Harris Construction's president, Michael Spencer, including the firm's sponsorship of a gala event to honor Hanson, and the hiring of Harris as a consultant before the contract was awarded.

The FBI launched an investigation, although nothing official came of it. However, when Davis started winning his case, it sent shudders through other school districts that had used lease-leaseback in the same questionable manner.

In 2015, just a week after an appellate court ruled against the Harris contract, a lawyer for affected companies, P. Randolph Finch, outlined a plan "to mitigate our losses" by seeking legislation to legitimize questionable contracts.

"We have clients with well over a half-billion dollars of current backlog," Finch wrote, "and another billion in completed projects, at risk on the Davis case. Consequently, we need a devoted industry effort to press these legislative changes."

Using a parliamentary loophole known as "gut-and-amend," a bill to absolve contractors of liability was drafted, but never enacted.

In 2004, the staff of the State Allocation Board, which parcels out school construction money, had described how lease-leaseback rules were being distorted, questioned the legality, and declared "the integrity of the use of general obligation bonds…must be above reproach," and suggested that the lease-leaseback law be clarified.

Officialdom ignored that warning but now the Supreme Court is telling school officials and contractors to play fair or suffer the consequences.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

GET IT DAILY...

What do striking Hollywood writers want? A look at demands

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The 11,500 members of the Writers Guild of America went on strike Tuesday after negotiations with Hollywood studios that began in March failed to result in an agreement. The guild has billed the issues behind the labor dispute as "an existential crisis." Writers say they're facing a host of new issues brought on by streaming and other recent technological shifts in the industry.

Here's a look at the demands behind the first Hollywood strike in 15 years, as the industry braces for a long hiatus:

INCREASED PAY

The guild is seeking higher compensation for writers across the board. Though there are more jobs available to WGA members than ever before because of the proliferation of streaming services, pay for most writers is down. Ten years ago, 33% of TV writers were paid the minimum rate. Now, according to the WGA, 49% are. Accounting for inflation, writer pay has declined 14% in the last five years. The median weekly writer-producer pay is down 23% over the last decade, with inflation factored in. Writers say many of their members aren't even making a living wage. They are also seeking increases for their pension plan and health fund.

BETTER RESIDUALS

For more than half a century, residuals have been a foundational way for writers to make money. But streaming has upended those payouts. Writers used to be handsomely compensated anytime their work went into syndication or was sold for overseas territories. Reruns meant a big payday. But now, series and films often simply land a streaming service and stay there. Streaming services also generally don't share viewership data with filmmakers and writers, meaning writers don't know how valuable their work has been. To replace backend residuals, the WGA is seeking more upfront fees.

STAFFING REQUIREMENTS

The union wants TV shows to staff a certain number of writers for a period of time. At issue is the rising practice of "mini rooms" where only a handful of writers are working on a series. Such writer rooms are often employed during development, before a show is greenlit. That means writers can be working on a series that doesn't get picked up for as much as a year after they worked on it, or not at all. The process has circumvented some of the protections WGA members have from being overworked and understaffed. The use of mini rooms accelerated during the pandemic, with writers often meeting by Zoom — a still commonplace practice.

SHORTER EXCLUSIVITY DEALS

Many of the rules around TV writing are also still based on a now increasingly outdated model. Writers might have once expected to spend almost a year working on a 22- to 25-episode season of broadcast TV. Now, the average season is much shorter. Popular shows like "Bridgerton" might have only eight episodes. Not only does that diminish writers' per-episode pay, it can limit them from working on other programs if they're tied to longer terms of exclusivity.

ASSURANCE ON AI

Writers are also increasingly concerned that producers will use artificial intelligence to write scripts or at least fill in the blanks on unfinished screenplays. The fast-advancing technology has potentially widespread ramifications for Hollywood, and, in some cases, may be a useful tool. But the WGA wants production companies to agree to safeguards around its usage.

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Undocumented students qualify for financial aid in California. Why aren't more of them using it?

When Deysi Mojica received her acceptance to UC Riverside, she was excited. Not only had she overcome her high school's lack of resources to help undocumented students like herself apply to college, but the university was offering a financial aid package that would make her college dream possible.

"Even though I am undocumented," said Mojica, now a first-year student, "the amount of money that they gave me was basically covering all my expenses."

> "What we know is we've got a lot of students that are willing and going through the process, but they're not getting the financial aid support
>
> - Marlene Garcia, executive director of the student aid commission

But an unexpected $13,000 charge from the university just before she was due to start classes quickly changed her excitement into confusion, leaving her wondering where the money she was awarded had gone. It was only after repeated calls to the financial aid office, Mojica said, that a helpful student assistant who was also undocumented gave her the information that saved her from dropping out: Her aid package was held up because a signature was missing from one of her application forms.

Like Mojica, many undocumented students lack accurate information about applying for financial aid or find the process intimidating. California has since 2011 allowed undocumented students to receive financial aid from the state and its public universities if they meet certain eligibility requirements. But students, advocates, and even the California Student Aid Commission itself say the aid application developed under a state law known as the California Dream Act is unnecessarily complex, not enough college staff are trained to advise students about it, and campus departments don't collaborate well when processing applications. As a result, they say, many undocumented students are missing out on aid for which they qualify.

Only 14% of undocumented students in California receive any form of financial aid to pursue higher education, according to a recent California Student Aid Commission report. Of the nearly 45,000 undocumented students who applied for financial aid for this past academic year, fewer than 30% ultimately enrolled in school and received aid.

"What we know is we've got a lot of students that are willing and going through the process, but they're not getting the financial aid support," said Marlene Garcia, executive director of the student aid commission. "I think that's a starting point to analyze that there is a problem here."

One of the problems Garcia cited: Verifying eligibility for the aid can be cumbersome and fear-inducing to undocumented students concerned about the risks of sharing their personal information.

California exempts undocumented students from paying nonresident tuition if they spent three years at, and received a degree, diploma or certificate from a California high school or community college. When those students want to apply for financial aid, they must also submit a document — also known as an AB540 affidavit — to the campus they plan to attend verifying they qualify for the exemption and promising to legalize their immigration status as soon as possible.

The student aid commission then randomly selects 20% of students for verification that the information they reported in their applications is accurate.

But individual campuses do the actual verifying, and there is no statewide standard.

California State University Chico and American River College, for example, accept a simple statement from students that they are eligible and only require extra documents if there is conflicting information in their applications, according to the student aid commission. But other campuses require much more information, such as W-2 forms, IRS tax transcripts, and/or household size information.

That's when some students fall through the cracks, said Sergio Belloso, a counselor at Santa Monica College's Dream Resource Center, which provides legal, mental health and financial aid counseling services for the college's undocumented students.

"Sometimes students just stop that process, because they're like, 'I don't want to give them my information,' " Belloso said.

> "Sometimes students just stop that process, because they're like, 'I don't want to give them my information
>
> - Sergio Belloso

The affidavit and financial aid application also must be sent to different departments on campus, often causing delays and confusion for students.

At Santa Monica College, the Dream Resource Center serves on average 200 undocumented students per semester, Belloso said. Although tuition at California community colleges is just $46 per credit hour, or free on some campuses, many students, regardless of immigration status, use financial aid to cover additional expenses such as textbooks, transportation, and living costs.

Belloso said he and other center staff spend a large portion of their time and resources on helping students get financial aid, including those who don't qualify for aid and in-state tuition. If other campus staff members were better trained to understand financial aid for undocumented students, the center would have more time to explore other aspects of its mission, such as providing legal help, he said.

Cristina Sanchez, who provides drop-in counseling to undocumented students at Solano College, said she started her job right after graduating from college with little more than an Excel spreadsheet with student contact information. As the sole, part-time staff member tasked with supporting about 200 undocumented students, Sanchez is also concerned the students she serves may not be getting the financial aid information they need.

"I was not given any training or anything like that, it was kind of like, 'Here you go,'" Sanchez said. "So it's been a lot of teaching myself or going out of my way to learn more, because I'm not undocumented."

Sanchez said a lot of times she is sending students to other counselors and financial aid officers, creating a game of hot potato and potential communication breakdowns between campus departments.

Strengthening campus centers for undocumented students could help such students persist and navigate financial aid difficulties, students and counselors said. Even though the staff at UC Riverside's Undocumented Student Programs couldn't fix Mojica's financial aid problem, she said, they welcomed her to campus, apologized for the difficulties she was having and even helped her find a work-study job doing social media for an undocumented student organization. Mojica said the support helped her feel like she belonged on campus.

"They were super welcoming. They spoke to my mom, started telling me about our (food) pantry and about the groceries. Although I didn't ask, they were already giving me so much information," said Mojica. "It had a big impact on me."

The center, which supports more than 600 students, one of the largest undocumented student populations among UC campuses, plans to hire a dedicated counselor to assist undocumented students with their financial aid applications.

Meanwhile, the student aid commission is working to tackle some of the issues in the Dream Act application process. It has recommended reducing the percentage of applications requiring verification and allowing Dream Act applicants to receive text message updates on the status of their aid.

The commission is also sponsoring Assembly Bill 1540, introduced by Los Angeles Democratic Assemblymember Mike Fong, which would allow undocumented students to fill out a single application for both their financial aid and residency. It's currently under consideration in the appropriations committee.

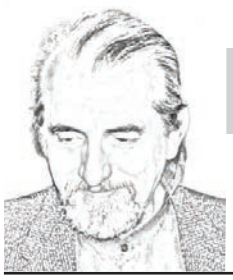
"We think that it should be intuitive. Students shouldn't have to go through a maze to figure out how to get financial aid," said Garcia. "The financial aid system should meet students where they're at more effectively."

Although both Sanchez and Belloso are excited to see a more streamlined application for students, Belloso feels there is still more that can be done to help undocumented students pursue higher education. He hopes campuses and the aid commission will collect and share campus-level data on how many undocumented students are applying for and receiving aid, so counselors like him can better support them. More financial aid training for other campus staff would also help, he said.

"Colleges may say 'The Dream program is there, undocumented students can get help,' but it doesn't mean that we're actually helping all the students," he said.

González is a fellow with the CalMatters College Journalism Network, a collaboration between CalMatters and student journalists from across California. This story and other higher education coverage are supported by the College Futures Foundation. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

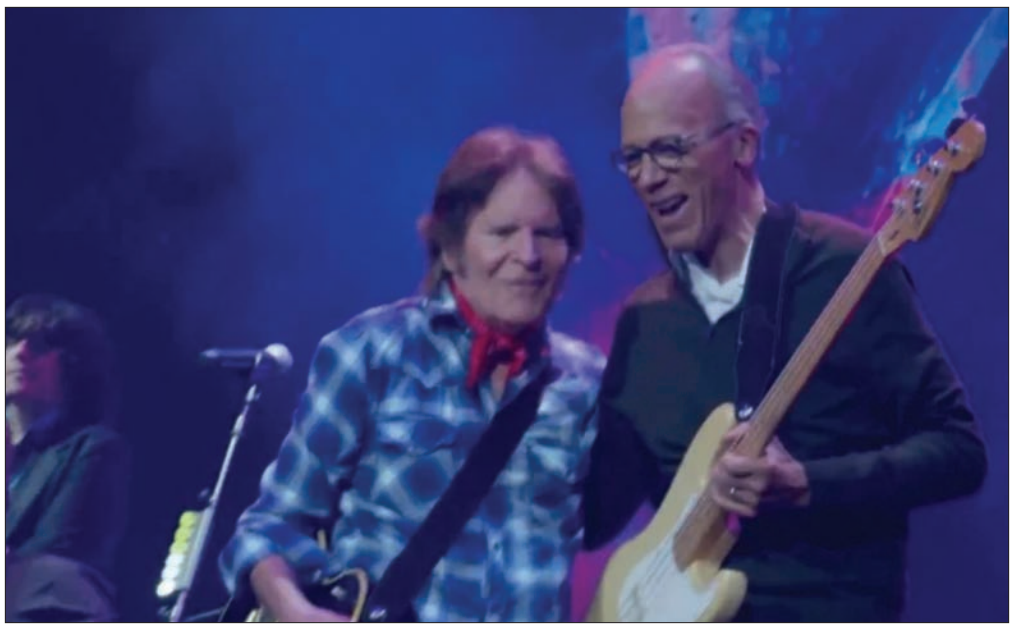
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OPINION **NOTEWORTHY**

Charles Andrews | Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Holt onto that dream



Courtesy photo

HOLT: FOGERTY, HOLT, Radio City Music Hall.

SOMEONE RECENTLY INQUIRED about my writing, wondering how politics and music could be combined. I had to explain that there are two different columns, but sometimes it can happen. Earlier in the week respected journalist LESTER HOLT, longtime NBC evening news anchor, did an interview with CCR founder JOHN FOGERTY, who claims to be a longtime fan of Holt's, on the occasion of finally gaining control and ownership of all his songs, an incredible catalog of American music, with a ridiculous number of hits. Holt is a bass player and he and Fogerty jammed in Holt's Manhattan office after they talked, then Fogerty invited him onstage to perform with him. "Proud Mary." Holt is very close to the vest, but he must have been over the moon hitting those famous notes.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

THE HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES – Hot Club's brand of virtuoso, sometimes breakneck Django-style 1930s gypsy swing jazz is found nowhere else and even if it was, it couldn't possibly be better than this. These guys are masters, individually and collectively. They manage to record and play high-profile gigs and still show up every Monday night here, for years. Aren't we lucky? Mon 9 p.m., Cinema Bar, Culver City, no cover.

RECOMMENDED:

TODAY! - BOB MARLEY ONE LOVE EXPERIENCE – Planning to finally catch this traveling exhibit about one of the most incredible performers ever, this weekend (the run has been extended), but my recommendation stands nonetheless. Silverlake's Roger Steffens, the world's foremost authority on Marley, if not reggae itself, is leading tours every weekend at 1 and 3, and he would not do that if it wasn't up to snuff. This covers only "the Island (record label) years," but that's what most people are familiar with. Better go ASAP. Thurs-Sun-Wed 11 a.m. - 8 p.m., Fri-Sat 11 a.m. -10 p.m., Mon-Tues 11 a.m. -5:30 p.m., Ovation Hollywood, $20-70.

LA PHIL, DVORAK, BRUCKNER – I dig most of what Dvořák wrote, but this violin concerto is royalty, straight out of the traditions and excellence of Beethoven and Brahms. And since we are in the "B"s, I will add to my anecdote of a couple columns ago about the two classical specialists we hired as clerks in the Odyssey Records store I assistant managed in Albuquerque in the late '70s, who first turned me on to Brahms (1st Symphony), then went a few LPs deeper and pulled out Bruckner's 7th, still considered his best. So this is going to be a great ride. Fri, Sat 8 p.m., Sun 2 p.m., Walt Disney Concert Hall, LA, $40-209.

"PICASSO AT THE LAPIN AGILE" – Read carefully. It's an "absurdist comedy." By the inarguably absurd comic Steve Martin. I laughed, but it is not intended to have you in stitches the entire time. It is the absurd and thought-provoking fantasy that Picasso and Einstein may have hung out together in a Paris cafe in the early 20th century, before either was famous. What might they have been like? Who else might have passed through? No one knows so Martin could go anywhere. One place he went was to make the "ordinary" women involved sound smarter than those two wise guys. People are diggin' this show – it's been extended through May 21. But some shows are selling out, so... Fri, Sat 8 p.m., Sun 2 p.m., Ruskin Group Theatre, Santa Monica Airport, $20-35.

LA CHILDREN'S CHORUS – Grammy winners, nearly 300 voices from six ensembles, material spanning four centuries from Bach to Sir Paul, Osuna to Purcell to Kodaly, Taiwan to Scotland to Korea Sun 7 p.m., Walt Disney Concert Hall, LA, $20-50.

TOLEDO DIAMOND – Unique, riveting, first class act. There's nothing like it, it is high performance art and great fun. Degeneracy is rarely so well disciplined. Could be the most memorable 12 bucks you ever spent. Sun 9:30 p.m., Harvelle's, Santa Monica, $12.

ZIGGY MARLEY – I'm tentative on this recommendation, but, Ziggy is more than just Bob and Rita's eldest, he's an eight-time Grammy winner, Emmy winner, activist, producer, musician, humanitarian – he has cut a singular path in the world, bringing the sounds of reggae together with funk, blues, rock and more, and he loves to make music for children, so who knows what he will be up to on the elite Disney stage, but it's worth the gamble.. Their track record on booking non-classical has been really good. Tues 8 p.m., Walt Disney Concert Hall, LA, $73-87.

LA PHIL, BEETHOVEN, STRAUSS – Ludwig's 4th Piano Concerto is, as you might guess, luscious and powerful, and the Strauss is from "Der Rosenkavalier" and is less sweet and cliched than some Strauss I don't care for (but there are waltzes here), and more heroic. Should be a great evening. Next Thurs 8 p.m., Walt Disney Concert Hall, LA, $70-190.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: BOB MARLEY ONE LOVE EXPERIENCE, Ovation Hollywood, 5/4-21; LA PHIL, BEETHOVEN, STRAUSS, 5/11, 13, 14; "PICASSO AT THE LAPIN AGILE," Ruskin Group Theatre, 5/12, 13, 14, 15; LA OPERA, "OTELLO," Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 5/13, 17, 20, 28; VAN MORRISON, Shrine Auditorium, 5/14, 15; LIBRARY GIRL, Ruskin Group Theatre, 5/14; TOLEDO DIAMOND, Harvelle's, 5/14, 21, 28; HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES, Cinema Bar, 5/15, 22, 29; EMMYLOU HARRIS, DWIGHT YOAKAM, Greek Theatre, 5/18; LA PHIL, SALONEN, BARTOK, STRAVINSKY, Disney Hall, 5/18, 19, 21; DUDAMEL, LA PHIL, "BEETHOVEN 7TH," Disney Hall, 5/25, 26, 27; DUDAMEL CONDUCTS MOZART, 6/1, 2, 3, 4.

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than , 3,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 37 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at Charles Andrews

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BLACK BEAR

FROM PAGE 1

further south are rare but have occurred over the years. However, officials said there's no evidence of a breeding population outside the Santa Susana group.

> As this bear gets older and is looking to mate, it might attempt to move back north and cross the freeway again
> - Jeff Sikich

"As this bear gets older and is looking to mate, it might attempt to move back north and cross the freeway again," Sikich said. "There is no evidence of an existing population here in the Santa Monica Mountains, and therefore likely no females. With the radio-collar, we can track its movements and hopefully know where it may attempt to cross the freeway. This can help us better understand habitat connectivity for wildlife in the area."

While the news of a bear follows the death of beloved local mountain lion P-22, officials said the two animals have no overlap. BB-12's habitat is about 30 miles away Griffith Park and the loss of the mountain lion likely had no impact on BB-12's crossing into the Santa Monica Mountain.

Officials said the bear likely crossed into the Simi Hills and then moved onto the Santa Susana Mountains or Los Padres National Forest.

Ana Beatriz Cholo with the National Park Service said bears and mountain lions are not replacing each other, or displacing each other, in terms of being present on the landscape.

"They overlap all over the place, basically all over the west," she said. "So something happening to mountain lions would not open up an area for bears somehow. Bears don't displace mountain lions overall. They can, and do, displace mountain lions from kills, but they broadly overlap all the time. We know that bears will sometimes steal mountain lion kills (deer for example). We don't know yet what will happen between this bear and mountain lions in the area, but we hope to find out."

Bears are omnivores and can live between 15 and 25 years. They will eat whatever is available, primarily fruits, nuts, roots, and insects. They will also eat small animals, up to and including deer, if they can get them, human food (such as in cars or at campsites), pet food, unsecured trash, and consume dead animals they find.

In the early 2000's, a bear carcass was discovered under a landslide in Malibu Creek State Park. In 2016, a bear was documented three times over three months on wildlife trail cameras in the central portion of the mountains but then never detected again.

Grizzly bears were native to the entire state but were killed off more than 100 years ago and black bears were later transported to the Southern California in the 1930s when about 30 bears from Yosemite National Park were relocated into the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains. From there, their population grew and expanded, biologists say.

The capture of a single bear is not cause for concern for hikers or walkers. The Park Service said black bears rarely become aggressive when encountered, and attacks on people are uncommon.

If you encounter a bear while hiking, keep a safe distance and slowly back away. Let the bear know you are there. Make yourself look bigger by lifting and waving your arms and making noise by yelling, clapping your hands, using noisemakers, or whistling. Do not run and do not make eye contact. Let the bear leave the area on its own. If a bear makes contact, fight back.

NPS biologists say they are excited to add this bear, as a new species, to its wildlife study in the Santa Monica Mountains. They expect it will help provide new insights on how wildlife utilizes this urban, fragmented landscape.

editor@smdp.com



Courtesy photo

BEAR: There is a bear population near Santa Clarita but they are rare in the local mountains.

Hate passwords? You're in luck - Google is sidelining them

DAVID HAMILTON
AP Business Writer

Good news for all the password-haters out there: Google has taken a big step toward making them an afterthought by adding "passkeys" as a more straightforward and secure way to log into its services.

Here's what you need to know:

WHAT ARE PASSKEYS?

Passkeys offer a safer alternative to passwords and texted confirmation codes. Users won't ever see them directly; instead, an online service like Gmail will use them to communicate directly with a trusted device such as your phone or computer to log you in.

All you'll have to do is verify your identity on the device using a PIN unlock code, biometrics such as your fingerprint or a face scan or a more sophisticated physical security dongle.

Google designed its passkeys to work with a variety of devices, so you can use them on iPhones, Macs and Windows computers as well as Google's own Android phones.

WHY ARE PASSKEYS NECESSARY?

Thanks to clever hackers and human fallibility, passwords are just too easy to steal or defeat. And making them more complex just opens the door to users defeating themselves.

For starters, many people choose passwords they can remember — and easy-to-recall passwords are also easy to hack. For years, analysis of hacked password caches found that the most common password in use was "password123." A more recent study by the password manager NordPass found that it's now just "password." This isn't fooling anyone.

Passwords are also frequently compromised in security breaches. Stronger passwords are more secure, but only if you choose ones that are unique, complex and non-obvious. And once you've settled on "erVex411$%" as your password, good luck remembering it.

In short, passwords put security and ease of use directly at odds. Software-based password managers, which can create and store complex passwords for you, are valuable tools that can improve security. But even password managers have a master password you need to protect, and that plunges you back into the swamp.

In addition to sidestepping all those problems, passkeys have one additional advantage over passwords. They're specific to particular websites, so scammer sites can't steal a passkey from a dating site and use it to raid your bank account.

HOW DO I START USING PASSKEYS?

First step is to enable them for your Google account. On any trusted phone or computer, open the browser and sign into your Google account. Then visit the page g.co/passkeys and click the option to "start using passkeys." Voila! The passkey feature is now activated for that account.

If you're on an Apple device, you'll first be prompted to set up the Keychain app if you're not already using it; it securely stores passwords and now passkeys as well.

Next step is to create the actual passkeys that will connect your trusted device. If you're using an Android phone that's already logged into your Google account, you're most of the way there; Android phones are automatically ready to use passkeys, though you still have enable the function first.

On the same Google account page noted above, look for the "Create a passkey" button. Pressing it will open a window and let you create a passkey either on your current device or on another device. There's no wrong choice; the system will simply notify you if that passkey already exists.

If you're on a PC that can't create a passkey, it will open a QR code that you can scan with the ordinary cameras on iPhones and Android devices. You may have to move the phone closer until the message "Set up passkey" appears on the image. Tap that and you're on your way.

AND THEN WHAT?

From that point on, signing into Google will only require you to enter your email address. If you've gotten passkeys set up properly, you'll simply get a message on your phone or other device asking you to for your fingerprint, your face or a PIN.

Of course, your password is still there. But if passkeys take off, odds are good you won't be needing it very much. You may even choose to delete it from your account someday.

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 14

39- year-old Nina Alejandro Schwuchow from Buena Park was arrested by SMPD for starting a fire on public property. She is accused of starting a fire with the intent of burning a nearby building. Witnesses provided statements along with video evidence implicating Schwuchow. She was issued a citation for violating Santa Monica Municipal Code 4.55.100(A) – make use of fire, BBQ stove outside city approved hearth.

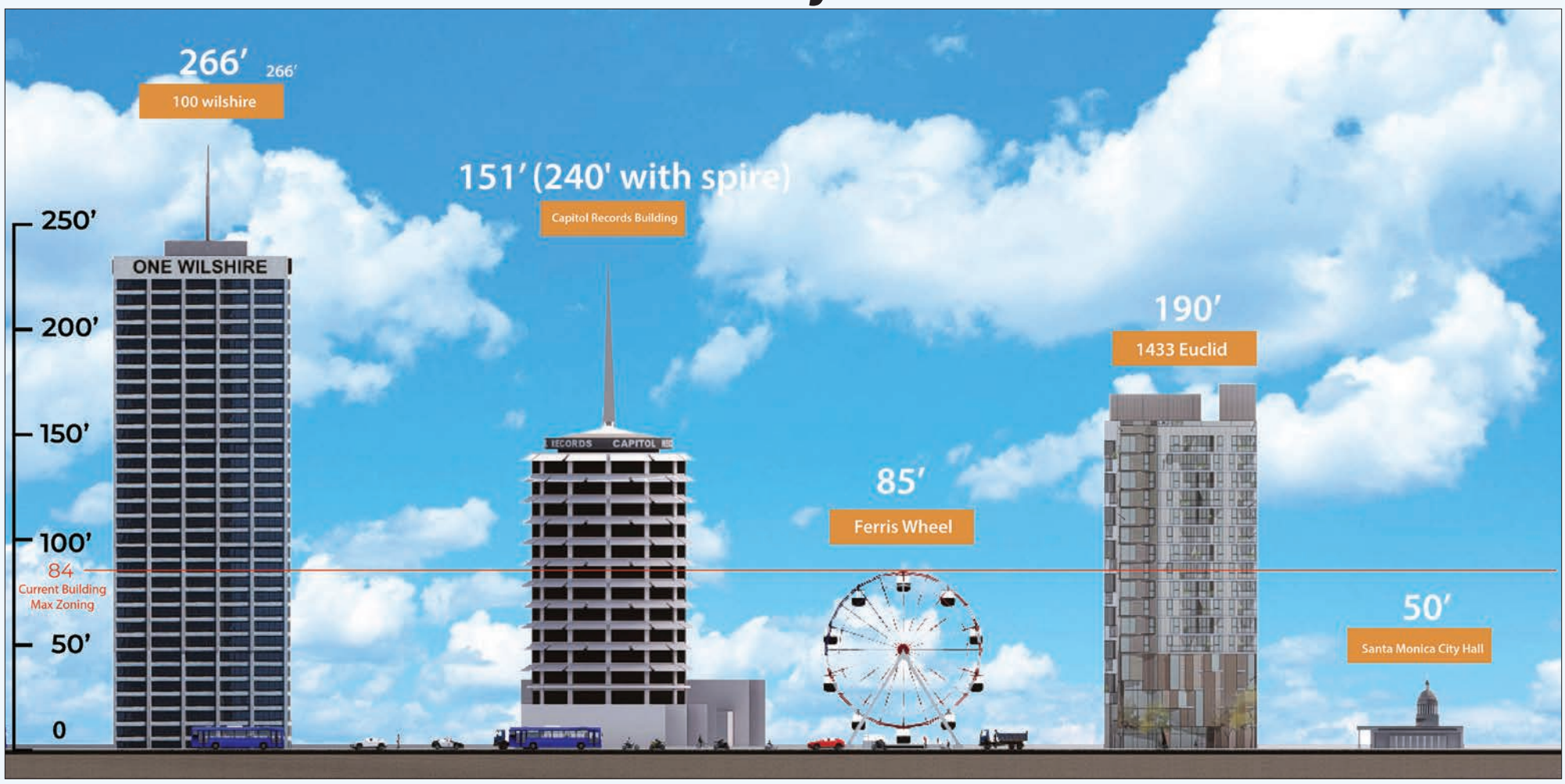
INFLATION

FROM PAGE 2

newly built apartments have come online. Gas and energy prices have fallen steadily. Food costs are moderating. Supply chain snarls are no longer blocking trade, thereby lowering the cost for new and used cars, furniture and appliances.

Still, while overall inflation has cooled, "core" inflation — which excludes volatile food and energy costs — has remained chronically high. According to the Fed's preferred measure, core prices rose 4.6% in March from a year earlier, scarcely better than the 4.7% it reached in July.

Builders Remedy: 1433 Euclid



SMDP Image

DEVELOPMENT: Santa Monica has received applications for 16 "Builders Remedy" projects. These projects are outside traditional city control and were put into the system due to the City's failure to adopt a compliant housing element. SMDP is highlighting each of the projects based on their applications to the city. The 207,379 square foot project at 1433 Euclid will contain 200 units in 18 floors. The project will have 40 affordable units and 108 parking spaces.

California companies pay higher taxes for unemployment debt

ADAM BEAM
Associated Press

One potential consequence of California's ballooning budget deficit: Higher taxes for businesses, with increases possible every year for the next decade.

Business owners pay a tax on each of their workers. The money goes into a fund that states use to pay unemployment benefits when people lose their jobs. During the coronavirus pandemic, so many people lost jobs that many of these funds ran out of money.

Twenty-two states borrowed from the federal government so they could keep paying unemployment benefits. Those states must pay that money back, plus interest. Most states have already done this. But California is one of five states that hasn't. The state owes $18.9 billion.

If California doesn't pay the money back, businesses have to do it through higher taxes. California was supposed to start paying off the debt this year with $1.5 billion — $1 billion toward the debt, plus another $500 million to help small businesses pay their increased taxes.

But that was before California had a $22.5 billion budget deficit. Now, Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom wants to cancel $1.25 billion of that spending to help cover the state's budget shortfall. That means businesses will have to pay an additional $21 per employee in federal unemployment insurance taxes this year. That tax will keep increasing by $21 every year over the next decade that the debt is not paid off.

It could take at least 10 years for businesses to pay off the debt, according to the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office. Meanwhile, the Newsom administration expects California will have a multibillion dollar budget deficit not just this year, but also in each of the next three years — meaning it's not likely the state will start paying off the debt anytime soon.

California could have paid off the debt, or at least a sizeable portion of it, in the past two years when it had a combined general fund budget surplus of $119.4 billion. But state officials didn't do that, to the frustration of business owners like Denise Duncan who are now stuck paying the higher tax.

The tax increase won't be a significant burden for Duncan this year because she only has two employees. But she said it angers her she's stuck paying for something that wasn't her fault after the government ordered many businesses to shut down during the pandemic.

"We're getting hit over the head with hammers every time we turn around with increased costs, whether it's gas doubling, whether it's insurance and utilities," said Duncan, owner of AT Industrial Products in Pomona. "They had a surplus. So why didn't they use it?"

One reason is simply the massive size of California's debt. As the nation's most populous state, California also has the largest economy and the most workers. It's $18.9 billion debt is more than twice as large as every other state.

Instead of paying off its unemployment debt, the Democrats in charge spent the money on other things. They gave $21.4 billion of it back to taxpayers, sending three rounds of stimulus checks to help people weather the pandemic and offset rising gas prices. The rest of it went to things like public schools, roads and bridges, health care and homelessness programs.

"The Governor's January budget proposal delays some longer-term debt payments to meet the state's more immediate needs," Newsom spokesman Alex Stack said. "Having said that, we're still allocating $250 million to pay down this debt, which will save businesses money."

Stack noted the governor will release an updated budget plan next week, adding, "he looks forward to working with the Legislature and stakeholders on state spending priorities."

Legislative Analyst Gabriel Petek, whose nonpartisan office advises the Legislature on budget issues, told lawmakers earlier this year that even if the state were to restore the $750 million payment toward the debt, it would not lower taxes for businesses because the tax rate only changes if the debt is paid in full.

"If the Legislature wanted to make this optional payment a couple of years down the road, it probably wouldn't have a material difference for those paying the tax," Petek said.

But the business community says paying at least part of the debt will show the state is serious about paying down the debt.

"Yeah, we have the biggest deficit. But you have to start paying it down somewhere," said Rob Lapsley, president of the California Business Roundtable. "It's just like it doesn't exist. I think they're just going to let employers pay it. They just intend to push through a hidden tax increase."

In spring budget hearings, Newsom administration officials said their plan was to hope that the federal government would forgive the debt. But Robert Moutrie, policy advocate for the California Chamber of Commerce, said the business community doesn't believe more federal aid will be coming froma divided Congress with Republicans controlling the House and Democrats, the Senate.

Democrats in the state Senate last week proposed raising taxes on 2,500 large corporations so the state could cut taxes 25% for 1.6 million business owners. State Sen. Nancy Skinner, a Democrat from Berkeley and chair of the Senate Budget Committee, said the proposal was not specifically in response to higher unemployment insurance taxes.

Still, Newsom opposes the Senate's plan. He will update his budget proposal next week.

CORONATION

FROM PAGE 1

the Queen's passing with a memorial table and memorabilia. At the time, the store saw an uptick in general interest for English newspapers and other commemorative items featuring the long-reigning monarch.

Christine McIntosh, Tea Coordinator for the restaurant said the coronation events have been in high demand.

"The phone hasn't stopped ..." she said. "Sure enough, everybody has confirmed so I'm excited, overwhelmed, but very excited."

While there is no legal requirement for a coronation and other European monarchies have done away with the ceremonies, the British royal family continues with the tradition tied to both the role as head of state and titular head of the Church of England as it is intended to show the king's authority was derived from God.

During the service conducted by the church's spiritual leader, the archbishop of Canterbury, Charles will be anointed with oil, receive the traditional symbols of the monarch — including the orb and scepter — and have the St. Edwards Crown placed on his head for the first time. Charles' wife, Camilla, will be crowned as queen consort.

With opinion polls showing support for the monarchy has weakened in recent years, this is the chance for Charles to seek and showcase the public's embrace.

Crowds are expected to line the streets to cheer the new king, and throngs will stand outside Buckingham Palace waiting for him to appear on the balcony after the procession.

While criticism of the crown was relatively muted in recent years out of respect for the queen and her decades of service to the country, there is likely to be much more discussion of whether Britain still needs this antiquated institution or if it should become a republic with an elected head of state.

For the vast majority, though, it will be an opportunity to celebrate being British — or show their support for an institution that is the subject of fascination for so many around the world.

Streets will be lined with union flags, spectators will dress in red, white and blue, and military jets will fly overhead streaming plumes of smoke in the national colors. The pomp and circumstance of the ceremony itself is also a reminder of a time when Britain was the most powerful nation in the world.

In Santa Monica, Ye Olde King's Head will host an exclusive Coronation Afternoon Tea on Friday, May 5 and Saturday, May 6 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Guests can enjoy a freshly brewed pot of tea and indulge in a sumptuous selection of tea sandwiches, freshly baked scones and pastries. To make the occasion even more special, each guest will receive a glass of bubbles or a special Pimm's cocktail to toast to the new monarch.

On Saturday, May 6, the festivities continue at Ye Olde King's Head's Coronation Celebration from 10:30 a.m. to 2 a.m. on Sunday, May 7. Guests are encouraged to don their best attire and toast to the new king with a pint of ale or a glass of champagne. Live entertainment, traditional British fare and replay showings of the London coronation continue into the evening, with a DJ performance playing favorite U.K. hits from 2 to 8 p.m., followed by a special performance from The Beatles Tribute Band at 8 p.m.

The Britannia Pub will host food and drink specials on Saturday, May 6 and Sunday, May 7 from noon to 6 p.m. Specials include sausage rolls, shepherd pies and roast dinners, plus $5 beer and mimosas. For more information, call (310) 451-1402.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.



DTSM

FROM PAGE 1

downtown.

The ambassadors have had a presence in Downtown Santa Monica since they were hired over 10 years ago through DTSM's contract with the company Block by Block. The services they provide have evolved over the years, including cleaning, maintenance and hospitality among others, however, DTSM Board Chair Eric Sedman, who presented the private security proposal, said they do not fulfill the current needs of the area.

"Where we are today is at a point in society where the ambassador program is not capable of dealing with the safety issues that we have and that has to be corrected," he said. "The City does not have the revenues to do what needs to be done within the city and they need our help and the police need our help."

Sedman said he had been in talks with Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) Chief Ramon Batista and that the department would be willing to oversee the program. At a previous DTSM meeting, Batista told the board that the downtown district is understaffed with only 11-12 officers patrolling the area when he said he would like to have at least 20. Sedman said he feels DTSM could step in to fill this gap.

"So what I'm saying here, by DTSM contracting for private security, is to be able to provide a supplemental multiplier for the police chief in his deployment of the downtown services unit," Sedman said. "So what would happen is all of the engagement, rationale, all of the manner in which they act on the street, everything that would be done would be dictated by Santa Monica Police... all we would be doing is saying essentially, we're funding the money, we're going to sign the contract, these are going to be your people, you're going to have the interface and they're going to be reporting directly to you [SMPD]."

Multiple local business owners spoke in favor of the plan, including Susie Romano, a Santa Monica property owner who is a resident of Beverly Hills said she has seen changes there since the City of Beverly Hills hired security company Covered 6 in late 2021 to help police patrol the area.

"Having this extra security is really important," Romano said at the meeting. "A, it makes the residents feel a little bit safer and the business owners, B, it's a deterrent for people to do things – there's still things going on in Beverly Hills, but it's definitely calmed down a little bit."

She said she would like to see a similar approach in Santa Monica.

"We cannot let this continue to see the vandalism, the feces, the needles, how do we expect people to want to come here and live here and pay property taxes and pay business taxes and want visitors to come? I mean, it's got to be cleaned up."

However, Santa Monica resident Jon Katz, who also spoke at the meeting, was opposed.

"I really spend a lot of time in the downtown area with my son, with my wife, with many guests who come in from out of town," he said. "We spend a lot of time on a promenade, we interact all the time with the Ambassadors Program and I feel very strongly that it is a good system for Santa Monica and the downtown area. I'm frankly more concerned about the safety risks that could come from private, potentially armed guards."

Board member Ericka Lesley also expressed reservations.

"I'm concerned about racial profiling. I'm concerned about anything where people are targeted on our downtown streets because of the color of their skin, or just because they look like they're homeless, or us [DTSM] being sued because somebody just looks like they don't belong here, these are the problems that we have with private security."

> "Would I love for the city to pay for this? Of course. Do I think that it's the private sector's responsibility to pay for security in the public space? I do not
>
> - Michele Aronson board member

While most board members expressed support for the plan, many said that they did not feel it falls within DTSM's responsibilities and that the City of Santa Monica should ultimately be the ones taking on the contract and footing the bill. Other cities, including Beverly Hills, fund private security programs directly.

However, it was widely acknowledged among board members that this is unlikely to happen in Santa Monica in the near future.

"Would I love for the city to pay for this? Of course. Do I think that it's the private sector's responsibility to pay for security in the public space? I do not," said board member Michele Aronson. "But I also know that we've been talking about this for at least six to nine months now and I do also believe that the City does not have the ability, today, to hire the additional security that it needs to create a safer environment downtown."

The Board voted to agree to fund the program for a limited time with the hope that the City will take it over in the future. In order to move forward, DTSM must amend its agreement with the City to include security services, which Deputy City Manager Anuj Gupta said he believed could happen as soon as June when the City Council is scheduled to review DTSM's budget.

The details of the plan, including the number of guards, to what extent they are armed and deployment schedules will then be discussed and determined.

grace@smdp.com

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 4)

Out with the old. This year comes to you like the sweetest air; you inhale life and aim yourself to fresh joy. Events occur to allow you to place high-quality attention on the things you want to develop, and life becomes much more to your liking. More highlights: relationships come with tickets to magic, adventure and discovery. Professional perks include swanky accommodations. Aries and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 5, 2, 21 and 12.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Rituals comfort, center and calm you. You can adopt a ritual if you want, but don't rule out the benefit of making up your own. It is likely that one day you'll realize many of your most beloved rituals are self-created.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Why do you think you admire some people so much? It's not really about their personhood, but what they represent. It's an area worth pondering, as it will teach you what you value and help you make a decision too.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Since you learned early on that displaying boredom is impolite, you've developed many ways of acting interested when you're not. But today you can be honest about your interest levels. This will bring about a realization, then a change.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll be ultrafocused on what you want, but that doesn't negate your appreciation for what you have. You're building on it. Just because the contractor puts in a skylight doesn't mean she doesn't appreciate the foundation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). They told you what to do and you considered it. Then you did what you wanted instead. It's this sort of rebel spirit backed with a passionate work ethic that will bring you meaningful wins.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your adventurous spirit is activated. You'll become aware of how much uncharted world there is for you to discover. There are those who know the territory, but as long as it's new to you, you'll feel like an intrepid explorer.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There's something holding you back. It's most likely a false belief or a rigid approach. It will help you to play pretend games with yourself. What would you say if you had to argue the opposite point of view?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Take the initiative to pursue new and exciting experiences. If you leave it up to others to plan things, you'll be setting yourself up to compromise when you could be having things just the way you like them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When you were younger you imagined adventures that would kick off your new life. Now you know better than to wait for anything. The maximum opportunity for pleasure, excitement and enjoyment is always now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The decision to start over is hard when you're many miles, weeks or dollars into a journey. But it's not how far you are from the destination that matters; it's how close you are to your own heart.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You don't feel ready to offer your trust. It takes a while to get to that point because you don't feel you know someone until you see how they are under different circumstances and over a period of time.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Aware that a mind encumbered by the chains of presumption and self-assured belief cannot readily absorb new knowledge, you eschew certainty and open yourself to the possibility of learning something novel and exciting.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

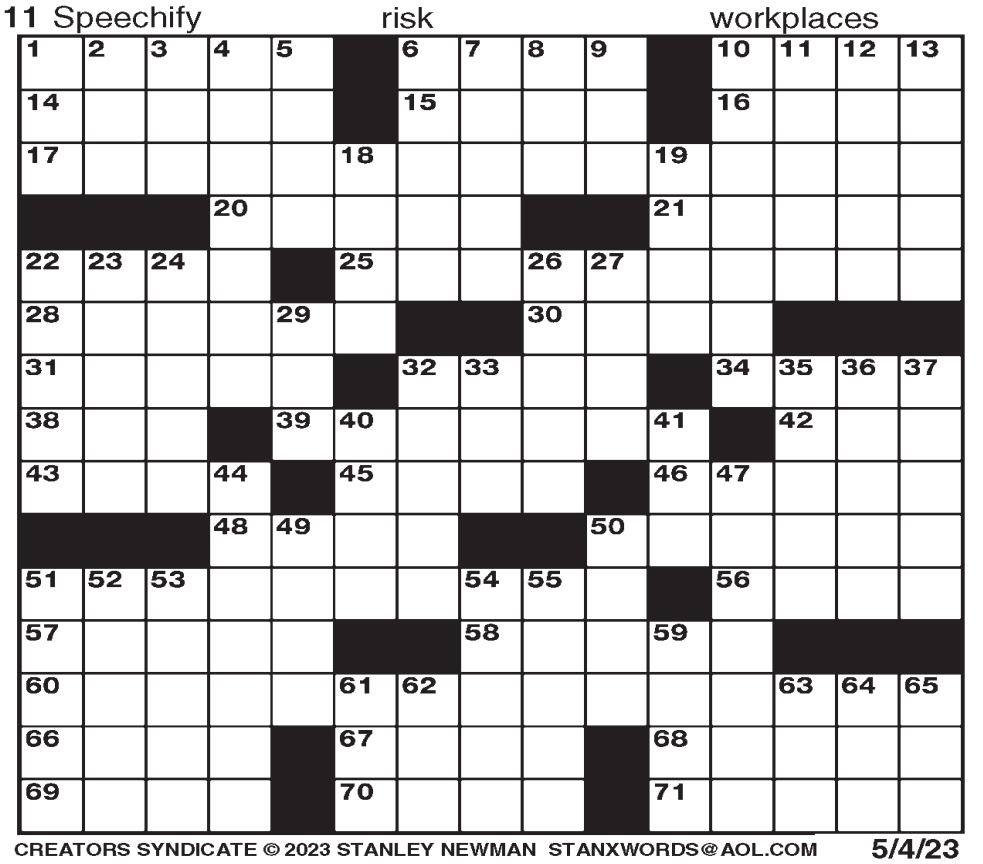
THINGS TO DRAW by Winston Emmons
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ACROSS

1 Ruminates
6 Collegiate sport
10 Sub ___ (covertly)
14 Most weighty NBA Hall of Famer
15 Mild oath
16 Very dry
17 Tourist's mailing
20 Colonial announcer
21 Tropical palm
22 USN rank
25 Gig for a movie extra
28 Mid-Atlantic state symbol
30 Longtime daytime TV host
31 Maestro from Japan
32 Arise (from)
34 Grating sound
38 Family member
39 Toiletries gift item
42 Profile, in brief
43 Risky biz
45 Locate visually
46 Certain selfie takers
48 About 25% of the UN
50 One of the Fab Four
51 Sign of confusion
56 Malicious look
57 Justice O'Connor successor
58 Office equipment agreement
60 Pay-scale framework
66 *How ___ Your Mother*
67 Zone
68 Bond pricing phrase
69 Zippo
70 Forenoon
71 Concludes a case

DOWN

1 Floor chore tool
2 Numerical prefix
3 Wine descriptor
4 Be forced to recant
5 Disparage
6 Oral encouragement
7 Printer's proof
8 Prefix for sphere
9 Yr. fractions
10 Wheels on a track
11 Speechify
12 Emergency signal
13 Confound
18 Paddy product
19 Half a fluid oz.
22 Concocts, with "up"
23 Former Postal Service mascot
24 Oscar winner as Annie
26 Take forcibly
27 Mint product
29 Workshop of a sort
32 Mid-March VIP
33 Poetic conjunction
35 Wind down
36 Advance laterally
37 Knotty problem
40 At the buyer's risk
41 Drapery holder
44 Bach work
47 Range of shades
49 Toffee bar brand
50 Steady fellow
51 Place for a yacht
52 Camel cousin
53 Wasn't oneself
54 Make different
55 Screened again
59 Lasting mark
61 Southern pie filling
62 Sellout notice
63 Brown fleet owner
64 Chinese zodiac animal
65 RNs' workplaces

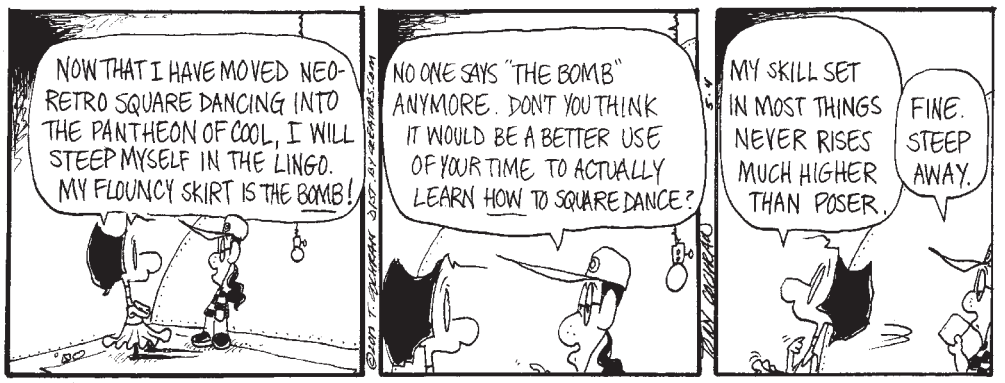


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MORE OF STAN'S CROSSWORDS! Play FREE from Stan's archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords

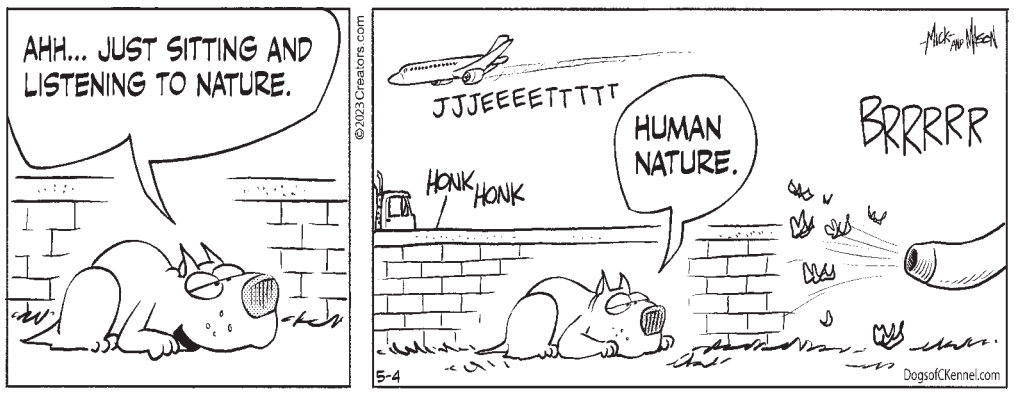
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



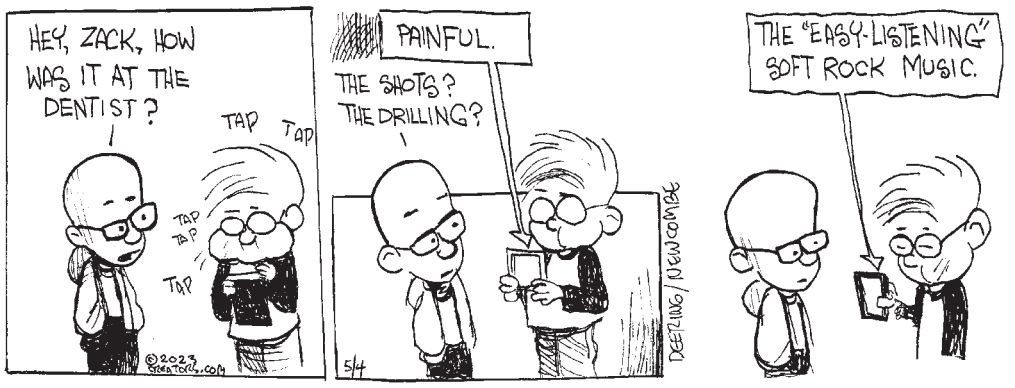
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



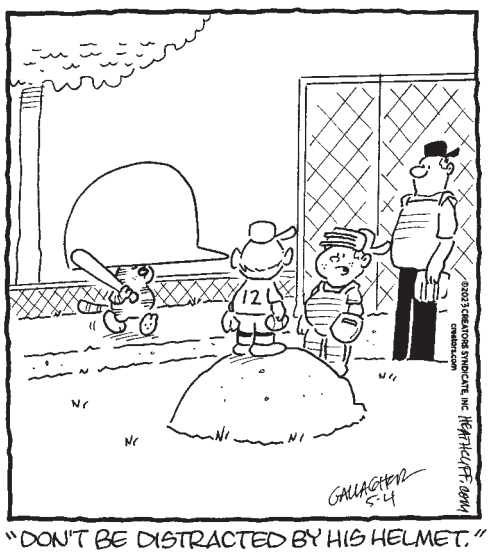
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



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 27 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5834

On the Darling Downs

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

Airport
Allora
Bull
Cattle
Cereals
Clifton
Coal
Coolmunda Dam
Crops
Dalby
Drought
Ewes
Farms
Feed
Field
Fresh
Fruit
Granite Belt
Heifer
Herd
Lake Broadwater
Lambs
Milk
Museum
Nanango
Nobby
Notice
Ram
Ripe
Scenic Rim
Sheep
South Burnett
Sown
Sunny
Tobacco
Wheat
Wineries

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What's Up Westside

out and about in Santa Monica

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

MONDAY | MAY 8

THE WAILERS : THE OFFICIAL BEACHLIFE AFTER PARTY

The band play a special set featuring incredible cuts from Bob Marley's formidable back catalogue along with a string of their greatest, classic hits. The Wailers are giving you a chance to be part of the legacy. Aston Barrett Jr, himself reggae royalty as son of the irrepressible 'Familyman', carries the flame for The Wailers in a show that is simply not to be missed. The Venice West, 1717 Lincoln Blvd. Venice, CA 90291 https://www.ticketweb.com/event/the-wailers-the-official-the-venice-west-tickets/12925965

HOLY GUACAMOLE RUN

Happy Cinco de Mayo! Come join us for a celebration like no other! Our run is the perfect way to continue the festivities, with a vibrant atmosphere and a route. Bring your friends and family and experience the excitement of this festive day. Register now and get ready to run! Get our shirt (or tech shirt upgrade), Finisher's Award, and access to our community of runners all around the world! Participants can choose to run 5K, 10K, or the 13.1 Half-Marathon. Palisades Park, Ocean Ave and Washington Ave. Santa Monica, CA 90401 https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/LosAngeles/HolyGuacamoleCincodeMayoRunLOSANGELES

TUESDAY | MAY 9

COUNCIL PROCLAMATION OF AAPI HERITAGE MONTH

Council Proclamation of AAPI Heritage Month: The City Council will present a proclamation declaring May as AAPI Heritage Month to Anna Wong, niece of the famous actress and former Santa Monica resident, Anna May Wong. Watch in person at City Hall or view the live stream on the City's YouTube channel. City Hall, 1685 Main Street. Santa Monica, CA 90401 https://www.youtube.com/user/Citytv16santamonica

WEDNESDAY | MAY 10

CLEAN BEACHES COMMITTEE MEETING

The mission of the Clean Beaches & Ocean Parcel Tax Citizens Oversight Committee is to uphold the mission of the City of Santa Monica Watershed Management Plan: to restore a healthier balance between the urban environment and the natural ecosystem, including the Santa Monica Bay, by reducing the pollution in urban runoff, reducing urban flooding, and increasing water conservation, recreation opportunities, open space, and wildlife and marine habitat. The Citizens Oversight Committee consists of five (5) residents of the City of Santa Monica. The Committee meets quarterly at 6:30 P.M. at the Civic Center Parking Structure, 330 Olympic Drive, 2nd floor Santa Monica Institute (SMI) Room, Santa Monica, California.

THURSDAY | MAY 11

ROCK N COMEDY NIGHT

8:30 at the door 9:00pm show starts. Comedians from Netflix, BET, Prime etc. Hosted by Reid Clark. raffles, prizes and giveaways. Rock N Pies 1120 Wilshire Blvd. Santa Monica, CA

FRIDAY | MAY 12

SMC OPERA THEATRE PRESENTS: ELIXIR OF LOVE BY GAETANO DONIZETTI

Janelle DeStefano and Mercedes Juan Musotto, Directors. SMC Opera Theatre joins forces with the SMC Symphony Orchestra to present a fully staged production of L'elisir d'amore, Donizetti's delightful comedy about a young man who buys an "Elixir of Love" from a traveling salesman to try to win the heart of his girl before she marries someone else. SMC Performing Arts Center The Broad Stage

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



SURF REPORT

WATER TEMP: **58.3**

THURSDAY *POOR TO FAIR*	**SURF:** 1-2ft Knee to thigh	Modest blend of southerly swells in the water with a bit of fresh NW energy expected to mix in. Could be a few little peaks around but consistency will likely be on the lower side. Decent tide push and favorable AM winds due.
FRIDAY *POOR TO FAIR*	**SURF:** 2-3ft Thigh to waist	Fresh SW/SSW swell creeps in through the day, but it's going to be pretty slow going. Small NW swell will also blend in. Summer points offer the best energy later in the day — will want to keep an eye on the wind.

WEATHER

Thursday: Rain and possibly a thunderstorm before 11am, then a chance of showers after 11am. High near 62.
Thursday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers after 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 54.
Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 60. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph increasing to 10 to 15 mph.
Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 52.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2023/05/04	Thu	03:23 AM	-0.20	L
2023/05/04	Thu	09:28 AM	4.00	H
2023/05/04	Thu	2:51 PM	1.09	L
2023/05/04	Thu	9:09 PM	5.72	H
2023/05/05	Fri	04:01 AM	-0.60	L
2023/05/05	Fri	10:11 AM	3.84	H
2023/05/05	Fri	3:17 PM	1.37	L
2023/05/05	Fri	9:35 PM	5.96	H
2023/05/06	Sat	04:41 AM	-0.88	L
2023/05/06	Sat	10:58 AM	3.62	H
2023/05/06	Sat	3:45 PM	1.68	L
2023/05/06	Sat	10:06 PM	6.07	H
2023/05/07	Sun	05:26 AM	-1.01	L
2023/05/07	Sun	11:53 AM	3.37	H
2023/05/07	Sun	4:16 PM	2.00	L
2023/05/07	Sun	10:42 PM	6.04	H
2023/05/08	Mon	06:17 AM	-0.98	L
2023/05/08	Mon	12:58 PM	3.14	H

DAILY LOTTERY

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 5/1
3 38 55 61 66
Power#: 1
Jackpot: 71 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 5/2
3 15 16 32 41
Mega#: 9
Jackpot: 68 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 4/29
6 16 27 46 47
Mega#: 9
Jackpot: 55 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 5/2
10 16 22 31 37

Daily 3
Draw Date: 5/2
EVENING: 4 3 9

Draw Date: 5/2
MIDDAY: 7 3 1

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 5/2
1st: 01 - Gold Rush
2nd: 03 - Hot Shot
3rd: 05 - California Classic
Race Time: 1:41.58

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The Art of Change

Embracing diverse voices and communities is crucial to a sustainable future. At Santa Monica College, we're redefining galleries as spaces where students use art as a doorway to social transformation. New artist-in-residency programs support and guide students and faculty alike as they collectively explore what an equitable future can look like.

Explore more at **smc.edu/barrettgallery**

"Art is transformative—it can help us think about identity, place and space."

- Emily Silver
Director, Santa Monica College Barrett Art Gallery

Photo caption: Emily Silver, artist Matika Wilbur, and SMC Art department chair Walter Meyer

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

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