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Homelessness spikes 15% according to newly released data

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

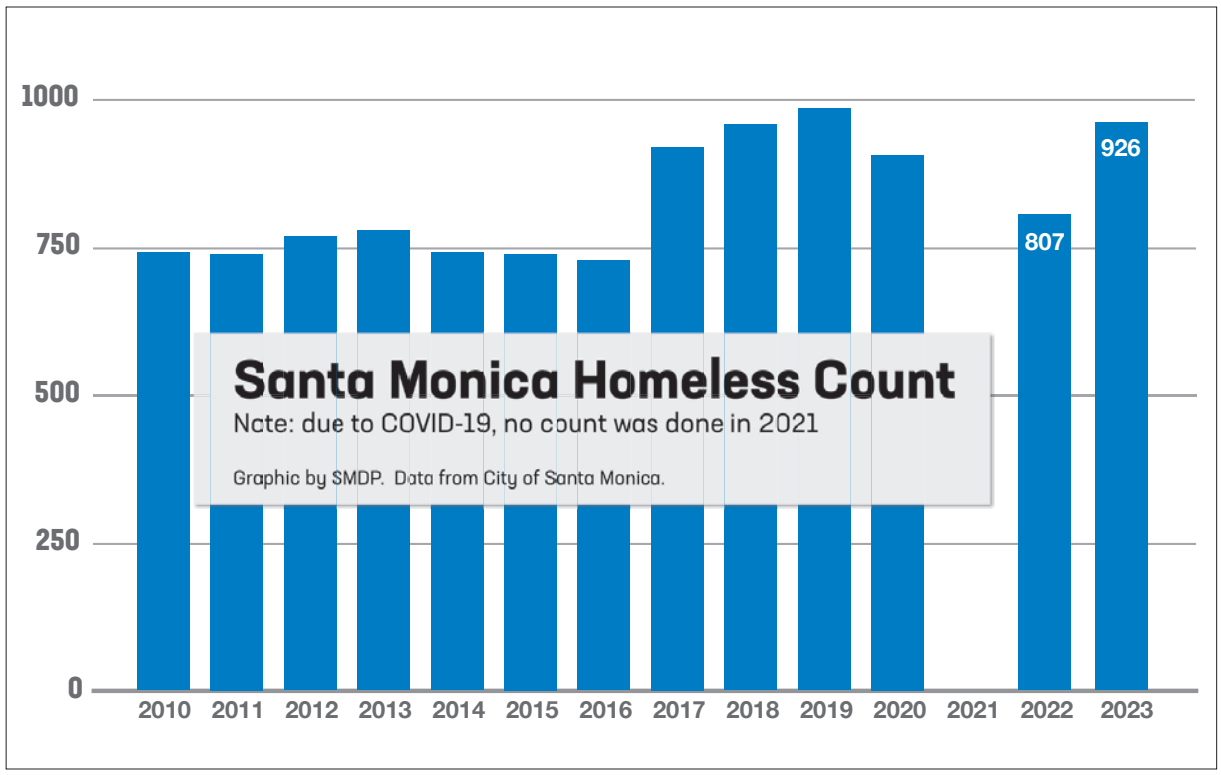
Homelessness in Santa Monica increased by 15 percent last year according to newly released numbers from the annual Homeless Count.

Volunteers found an additional 73 individuals on local streets and 46 inside (in shelters, motels, or jail) during the January count bringing the total to 926 this year. The results are a reversal from the 2022 count that reported an 11 percent decline from the year prior.

Municipalities conduct the volunteer driven count each year to tally the number of people who appear to be living outside, in cars, and in shelters. Similar efforts play out simultaneously across the region as part of the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, organized by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA).

The goal of the point-in-time count is to get a snapshot of the homeless population. By doing it across the region at the same time, officials hope to make it less likely to double count or miss individuals

SEE **HOMELESS** PAGE 6



SMDP Image

COUNT: This year's count is on par with pre-pandemic levels.

More electric vehicles charge into town as dedicated Hyundai EV dealership opens

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Celebrating its seventh location in Santa Monica, the LAcarGUY dealership has announced that the latest outlet will be the country's first standalone showroom focused specifically on Hyundai's all electric brand, called the Ioniq.

Hyundai Santa Monica will be located at a temporary location (1100 Santa Monica Blvd) through Summer 2023 and will move to its permanent future location at 801

SEE **HYUNDAI** PAGE 5



LAcarGUY

HYUNDAI: The new dealership is now open.

Sports brand Wilson defies Downtown downturn with new Promenade retail store

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

International sportswear manufacturer Wilson has expanded its scope of operations by opening a retail store on the Third Street Promenade. The 4,500 square feet space is Wilson's first brick-and-mortar location outside of Chicago and New York.

While arguably not quite as bombastic-a-brand as other sports equipment and activewear manufacturers, Wilson supplies the official ball of the National Basketball Association, together with the official ball of the NFL, the US Open, the French Open and is the brand of choice of catcher's mitts for many Major League Baseball players, clubs for professional golfers and so on.

"Our retail strategy is really led by community, by the athletic community and California is a really important athletic community," Gordon Devin, President of Wilson Sportswear, says.

"It's organic. We're a company that has evolved over 12 decades now. That wasn't a strategy, it wasn't

SEE **WILSON** PAGE 5


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How free trips for California legislators lead to bills

JEREMIA KIMELMAN AND ALEXEI KOSEFF
Special to the Daily Press

After touring Portland and Seattle in 2020 to research waste disposal, state Sen. Ben Allen, a Santa Monica Democrat, successfully carried a measure to restrict which plastics can bear the triangular arrow recycling symbol.

Because of a study trip to Japan in November, Assemblymember Devon Mathis, a Visalia Republican, introduced a bill this year, which failed in committee, that would have required the state to procure more electricity from nuclear power plants instead of natural gas facilities.

And inspired by a visit to Portugal two years ago to learn about offshore wind farms, Assemblymember Laura Friedman, a Glendale Democrat, is pursuing legislation this session to streamline the approval of electrical infrastructure projects such as new transmission lines.

"I came back and sat down with the utilities and said, 'What do I need to do so that it doesn't take you two to five years to upgrade a substation to be able to put in charging, for instance, or to bring clean energy?'" Friedman told CalMatters. "That came directly out of that trip."

All of these tours were organized and paid for by the California Foundation on the Environment and the Economy, a San Francisco-based nonprofit that for the past four decades has been taking legislators and other state officials on free trips to learn about policy issues — trips funded and attended by representatives of companies and interest groups with business before the state.

> "I came back and sat down with the utilities and said, 'What do I need to do so that it doesn't take you two to five years to upgrade a substation to be able to put in charging, for instance, or to bring clean energy?
>
> - Laura Friedman Assemblymember

The foundation's study tours and conferences — which take place everywhere from Napa to the Netherlands, Lake Tahoe to Iceland — are by far the biggest source of sponsored travel that lawmakers annually report. They accounted for about 40% of the nearly $1 million in trips that California legislators took in 2022, according to a CalMatters analysis of their statements of economic interest.

The foundation organizes several two-day policy conferences across California each year, but it gets more attention for its lengthier study trips to international destinations, including Mexico, Switzerland and France, Chile, Germany and the Czech Republic, Australia and Singapore over the past decade.

Last year, 32 of the state's 120 legislators, from both parties, attended at least one study trip or conference hosted by the foundation.

These events, which can cost tens of thousands of dollars per legislator for international trips, are funded through membership fees paid by CFEE's board of directors — 92 somewhat strange bedfellows, including major corporations, oil companies, environmental groups, construction trade unions, public utilities and water districts.

The foundation does not disclose how much it charges board members, though some have publicly shared figures in the tens of thousands of dollars. According to CFEE, no single member contributes more than 2% of its annual budget, which was about $2 million in 2019, the most recent tax record that is publicly available.

The trips serve as an influential tool for shaping policymaking at the state Capitol, with lawmakers returning from their far-flung travels with new perspectives and ideas on energy, the environment, water, transportation and housing. CFEE has tracked dozens of bills over the years that resulted directly from experiences on their trips, senior director of research and operations Wyatt Lundy told Waste Advantage magazine last fall. The foundation declined to share that list with CalMatters.

The sponsored travel also draws regular criticism for giving wealthy interest groups an intimate venue for relationship-building that is beyond the reach of most Californians.

"If I'm holding a seminar just to provide information and advocate for my policy views, I can do that without spending money," said Sean McMorris of California Common Cause, a nonprofit that advocates for governance in the public interest. "I can invite them to a webinar or a conference that I don't pay them to attend."

But legislators who attend defend the study tours as educational and serious-minded, with a balance of perspectives from across industries.

"Don't go on a CFEE trip if you don't want to see factories and infrastructure," Friedman said.

Jay Hansen, president and CEO of the foundation, declined an interview request. In an email, he stressed that the trips are not designed to pitch legislation, but rather to help lawmakers "better understand complex issues, witness best practices, and contemplate policy implications."

"CFEE does not create public policy; we do not craft bills or get involved in legislative

SEE **BILL TRAVEL** PAGE 8

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After the collapse of two California banks, what can the state do?

GRACE GEDYE
Special to the Daily Press

Two major California banks – Silicon Valley Bank and First Republic – have failed.

While some banking industry leaders have said the immediate crisis is over, stock prices for other regional banks, including PacWest and Western Alliance, dropped on Tuesday.

It's important for the financial system that people believe their money is safe, and banks failing in quick succession tends to erode confidence. So what's a state to do?

> "Unfortunately, there's not a lot that the state regulator can do that would change the risk dynamics that occurred, crippling Silicon Valley Bank
> - Todd Baker

"Unfortunately, there's not a lot that the state regulator can do that would change the risk dynamics that occurred, crippling Silicon Valley Bank," said Todd Baker, a senior fellow at the Richman Center for Business, Law, and Public Policy at Columbia University, who also testified to California lawmakers at a hearing about the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank.

The failures of Silicon Valley Bank and First Republic alone are not cause "for revolutionary changes in regulation," said Ross Levine, a banking and finance professor at UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business. Shareholders profited when the banks were taking on risk and were "wiped out" when interest rates went up, said Levine. But depositors at both banks saw very little disruption, Levine said.

"For example, I am a depositor at First Republic, and I have a mortgage from First Republic, and basically nothing changed from Friday to Monday," he said. "So, at some level things worked okay."

The type of risk that led to Silicon Valley Bank's demise is "the most basic type of risk in banking," said Levine, and it should have been "extremely obvious" to regulators. So, the main thing the situation calls for is not new rules but "competent regulatory agencies," said Levine.

In California, the regulatory agency in question is the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation, formerly known as the Department of Business Oversight. What was it doing during all this? And should it have done more to prevent these crises?

FOR NOW, IT'S NOT TALKING.

The department told CalMatters it's too busy to make someone available to answer questions for at least "a few weeks." The department will be issuing a report, likely by early next week, explaining its oversight and regulation of Silicon Valley Bank, including a look at how the state can "strengthen and update" its financial regulations. The department is led by Commissioner Clothilde Hewlett, who was appointed by Gov. Gavin Newsom.

WHO REGULATES BANKS?

In general, state and federal regulators — either the Federal Reserve or the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation depending on the bank — work together to supervise banks, which happens partly in the form of bank "exams."

That's where government workers go in and investigate a bank's solvency, management and more. Examiners look at things like the types of loans the bank has been making, to make sure that the bank is likely to get almost all of that money back, but also things like whether the bank has good cybersecurity measures in place. If they find problems, they can take a range of actions to make the bank to resolve them – everything from a resolution that the bank's board quietly adopts, to a public consent order or cease and desist, said Michael Stevens, president of the Graduate School of Banking at Colorado and a former bank examiner himself.

Different banks have different regulators depending on whether the bank has a state charter or a national charter — you can think of a bank charter as a kind of business license for a financial institution. Banks with a state charter are regulated by both California and the federal government. Silicon Valley Bank and First Republic both had state charters. Other banks, including Bank of America or JP Morgan Chase, have national charters and are regulated primarily by the federal government. Banks can choose which charter to seek. The different charters have pros and cons: Banks might choose to work with regulators who they believe have more expertise relevant to their business model; federal regulatory fees are more expensive.

California regulators were probably helping with examinations of First Republic and Silicon Valley Bank. "I'd be shocked if we end up learning that they were not involved," said Stevens.

State regulators also played a role in First Republic and Silicon Valley Bank's final hours. It was the Department of Financial Protection and Innovation that had the decision-making power to take possession of First Republic on Monday, which it likely did in close coordination with federal regulators. Then, they turned the bank over to the FDIC, which provides insurance for depositors. The FDIC promptly sold the bank to JP Morgan Chase, like a game of procedural hot potato.

WHAT CAN REGULATORS DO?

There are two things state regulators could do, said Columbia's Baker. One would be to require that state-chartered banks of a certain size have one or more people with risk management experience on the risk management committee of the bank's board. Already, banks are required to have a financial expert on their audit committee, or publicly explain why they don't.

> "Silicon Valley Bank had no outside directors who had any experience, really, in the banking business, and certainly not in the risk management business
> - Todd Baker

"Silicon Valley Bank had no outside directors who had any experience, really, in the banking business, and certainly not in the risk management business," he said.

Second, California regulators could put in place new rules surrounding bank executives' compensation, so that they are rewarded for prudent management, and are not incentivized to pursue risky strategies. Executive pay at Silicon Valley Bank rose as bank leaders pursued profits by buying risky assets.

A major federal financial regulation passed in the wake of 2008's Great Recession, the Dodd-Frank Act, directed federal agencies to make rules prohibiting executive compensation strategies that incentivized risky behavior, but those rules were never completed, said Baker.

States are disincentivized from putting in place rules that are drastically more restrictive or protective than federal rules because banks could theoretically sidestep those regulations by seeking a national bank charter instead.

But, said Baker, it's hard to argue with making sure a bank's board has expertise, and if California added new executive pay rules, it would probably need to be done in parallel with the federal government. Those moves wouldn't be likely to drive California banks away, since the federal regulators might tighten rules at the same time, he said.

More clarity should come soon. In addition to the report coming from California's Department of Financial Protection and Innovation, on Wednesday, May 10 the state Assembly and Senate banking committees will hold a joint hearing on Silicon Valley Bank's failure, and where regulations and supervision fell short.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Countywide

Board Advances New System for Mandated Reporting to Support Families and prevent Child Welfare Involvement

Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath has advanced a unanimously supported motion, co-authored by Chair Janice Hahn, to transition from a system of mandated reporting to mandated supporting. The motion directs Los Angeles County to join a growing movement, at the State and National level, to reform mandated reporting systems. The focus of the motion is to equip Mandated Reporters with new standards and training to ensure consistent, accurate, and equitable reporting; and to build out a network of community-based services to more appropriately meet the needs of children and families.

"Parents in Los Angeles deserve access to the services of our County without fear of punishment simply for seeking help. Moving to a 'mandated supporter' framework has the power to keep kids in loving homes by connecting families to essential resources like food, transportation, and medical care," said Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath. "I'm proud to support the foundational work of the Commission for Children and Families and the Department of Children and Families to build out a new system for reporting that prevents children who are not being harmed from entering the child welfare system when such action is not necessary nor in their best interest."

"Mandated reporting is meant to protect children, but we have seen how this system can have unintended consequences that make children and families more vulnerable – especially in communities of color," said Chair Janice Hahn, Fourth District. "This shift to mandated supporter is about getting any struggling family the help and support they need to keep kids safe, healthy, and out of the child welfare system."

In theory, mandatory reporting protects children from child abuse and neglect. In practice, mandated reporting results in the child welfare system's oversurveillance and traumatization of marginalized communities of color; potentially increases child and family vulnerability; and overburdens the system. The largest category of reports made to Los Angeles County's Child Abuse Hotline are from mandated reporters — professionals like teachers, law enforcement, and medical staff — who are required by law to report suspected child abuse or neglect. Only a fraction (16%) of the total reports made (82.5%) are determined to be substantiated. In many of these cases, connections to community-based services are the appropriate intervention.

"Our highest purpose is to work closely with parents, so that they may safely care for their own children," said Brandon T. Nichols, Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services. "This motion paves the way for a more effective system by which Los Angeles County communities may better support families experiencing difficult circumstances. It also will allow child welfares services to provide more intensive help in situations involving child abuse or severe neglect."

"Mandated reporting — in its current iteration — is a deeply flawed and ineffective policy response to our societal responsibility to ensure that children are not harmed," said Dr. Tamara N. Hunter, Executive Director of the LA County Commission for Children and Families. "In passing this motion, the Board has propelled the County toward our goal of transforming into a just and holistic child and family well-being system."

To transition to a mandated supporter system, the Board's motion directed the following:

The Commission for Children and Families, in partnership with the Department of Children and Family Services and Office of Child Protection, to rethink our current system, building up a system of community-based supports that families can be referred to instead of reporting them to the Hotline;

Standardized training for all mandatory supporters;

A review of Hotline data to help understand who is calling the Hotline and why to develop decision making processes to help mandated supporters make more accurate, consistent, and equitable decisions about whether to report to the Hotline or connect the family to community-based resources;

Development of further recommendations for the redesign of the front end of the County's child welfare system to align with the vision of reforming mandated reporting and building up community prevention networks; and

An exploration of sustainable funding.

A report will return to the Board in 180 days.

To learn more about this work and to get involved, please contact the Commission for Children and Families at ccfcommission@bos.lacounty.gov.

SUBMITTED BY CONSTANCE FARRELL, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Pico

Spiritual Jazz with Cosmic Vibrations at Pico Library

The Santa Monica Public Library's Soundwaves new music series presents iconic jazz vocalist Dwight Trible and his band Cosmic Vibrations on Saturday, May 6 at 3:30 p.m., at the Pico Annex in Virginia Avenue Park, 2201 Pico Blvd.

Trible first became known as the voice of Horace Tapscott's Pan-Afrikan People's Arkestra, performed with Pharoah Sanders, and appeared on Kamasi Washington's 2015 instant classic The Epic.

Cosmic Vibrations is an all-star band playing spontaneous music in the spiritual jazz tradition. Their debut album, Passages and Pathways appeared in 2020 on Spiritmuse Records. For this show, the instrumentalists will include Pablo Calogero on reeds, Andre Caporaso on guitar, Tony Green on bass, Christopher Garcia on percussion, and Breeze Smith on drums.

Soundwaves is a monthly performance series focused on noncommercial music, drawing on Los Angeles' long history of experimentation in rock, jazz, classical, and uncategorizable creative music, bringing the underground back to the westside. Visit soundwavesnewmusic.com for more information, including videos of many past shows.

Seating will be outdoors, weather permitting. Library events are free and open to the public. There are no tickets or reservations for Soundwaves. Free parking is available and the #7 Big Blue Bus stops at the park.

SUBMITTED BY JEFF SCHWARTZ

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION
Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Los Angeles mayors try to avoid public school issues. Easier said than done

BY JIM NEWTON

Karen Bass ran for mayor of Los Angeles mainly on her promise to address the city's vast and persistent problem of homelessness. And she knew that public safety would haunt her tenure – after historic declines in the 1990s, crime has been reasserting itself in recent years, and the city's police chief, Michel Moore, was up for reappointment just weeks after she took office.

But the first crisis she faced was not about housing or police. It was a strike by service workers at the Los Angeles Unified School District. When those workers walked out in March and teachers joined in solidarity, schools shut down, stranding students and parents across the city and beyond. The prospect of a prolonged standoff affected schools, of course, but also city residents. Bass stepped in to mediate.

It was a reminder of a question that has haunted every one of Bass' predecessors in the modern life of America's second-largest city: When – and how – should mayors get involved in the business of education?

Neophyte pundits of this city's politics and government like to call the Los Angeles chief executive a "weak mayor." That's not true, at least since the charter reform of the late 1990s gave explicit authority to the mayor to hire and fire department heads, as well as setting their budgets and managing the operations of the government.

What is true is that L.A. mayors, unlike their big-city counterparts in New York, Chicago and elsewhere, lack power over schools. And that can be a source of frustration, given how much of a city's sense of well-being turns on how well it serves students and their parents.

The result: With few exceptions, Los Angeles mayors get embroiled in education, with decidedly mixed results.

Los Angeles' longest-serving chief executive, Tom Bradley, was drawn into education when busing roiled the city's racial politics during the 1970s. Raphael Sonenshein, director of the Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs at Cal State Los Angeles and the pre-eminent historian of the Bradley era, noted that once Bradley engaged over busing, he remained attentive to educational issues. Among other things, Bradley secured funding for after-school programs, a way for him to assist children, families and schools without having any control over teaching or learning.

His successor, Richard Riordan, chomped at the bit to have more authority over schools. Chafing at his inability to oversee them directly, Riordan backed slates of candidates for school board and manifested his influence through them. He followed the unlikely lead of his Republican predecessor, Democratic Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, a onetime union organizer who aggressively sought to take over schools as well (he got a bill through the Legislature, only to see it tossed out in court). Villaraigosa then took over a smaller batch of schools and launched what one advisor called a "policy shop" for school reform out of the mayor's office.

Sonenshein referred to the work of Riordan and Villaraigosa as creating a "reform model" for mayors.

Mayor Eric Garcetti liked to avoid big initiatives – he preferred "back to basics." But he, too, intervened during labor disputes and weighed in politically, supporting school board candidates and backing an education parcel tax in 2019. The tax failed miserably, a reminder that mayors may covet influence but they don't always get it.

For her part, Bass has hardly positioned herself as an education mayor. In her recent State of the City address, Bass mentioned "safety" eight times and homelessness six times. She never uttered the word "education."

Even during the recent strike, Bass initially showed no particular enthusiasm for intervening. But, like so many of her predecessors, she found it difficult to resist wading in when the strike left children and parents in a lurch. Bass hosted a series of talks at City Hall East, across the street from her office, and broke the news when the deal was struck.

> "As mayor, I have no formal authority over our schools"
> - Karen Bass

"As mayor, I have no formal authority over our schools," Bass said in making the announcement, "but that will never stop me when it comes to fighting for our children and their families."

And there's the rub. If L.A. Unified could be trusted with this region's children, mayors would happily give it a wide berth. But LAUSD has a way of failing – its modern lineage of superintendents is an unbroken litany of disappointment – and its politics invariably favor teachers and administrators over students, thanks

SEE **LAUSD** PAGE 5

LAUSD

FROM PAGE 4

to the domineering role of the teachers union. That leaves residents, who are often both parents and voters, demanding that someone look out for the kids.

Case in point: Parents across the world have watched their children suffer from the effects of protracted school shutdowns during COVID – shutdowns that were necessary to protect public health but that also came at a cost in terms of learning and socialization. As the pandemic subsided, LAUSD officials proposed tacking on a few school days to make up for lost time. LAUSD staff fashioned a proposal to add days to the school year, which it called "a critical need for students."

Superintendent Austin Beutner favored the extra days, but teachers did not. The union opposed the proposal, the board fell into line and Beutner folded. However critical the need was for more education, LAUSD did not deliver.

That's the way of many California school districts: strong teachers, a strong union, a compliant board and a weak superintendent. Meanwhile, students suffer.

All of which makes it difficult to resist for mayors, who know that parental anger over schools can rapidly build. Angry parents don't distinguish between which officials have power and which do not.

Does that mean Bass will soon be clamoring for control of Los Angeles schools? Probably not, but it's almost certain that she will look for ways to influence them, if not by attempting to control them directly, at least by attempting to assist those who are disappointed by them.

The question, as Sonenshein noted, is how urgent that mission will appear to voters right now, at a time when so much attention is focused on homelessness and crime. The answer, if history is any guide, is that those issues will rise and fall, but mayors will find it difficult to let schools founder.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

WILSON

FROM PAGE 1

even created as a brand, per sé, if you think about it. It started life as a manufacturer of sporting equipment and it has evolved as a brand since then, which is very different to brands that are created now. So, I think, we've evolved into who we are."

The Santa Monica store, located at 1349 Third Street Promenade, features an in-store playtest area for consumers to trial products, including a basketball hoop, hitting wall and on-site racquet stringing. The new store also has an "Equipment Room," where shoppers can rent select products to playtest on their own outside of the store before purchasing. Customers will be able to leverage this unique program for sporting goods needs across tennis, pickleball, basketball, football, volleyball and more. Rental fees range from $5-$10 per day based on product, and all rental fees will be taken off the final price if purchased.

As Wilson is set to open its impressive inaugural west coast outlet, many stores, including big brands like T-Mobile, have opted to forsake the Promenade as thefts continue to plague retailers.

"It's a matter of 'when' and not 'if' the Promenade returns to its peak. And we were lucky enough to get this location and work with a really forward thinking landlord, who owns a lot of property on this street. And they know that it has to be a winner," says Devin.

"There are so many aspects of Santa Monica that make it unique. It's one of the best known destinations in America where every tourist wants to come to. Yes, it needs some cleaning up and I'm sure that's underway and I'm confident it will continue, but regardless, we're here because of the small communities that exist here. This is an epicenter and it gives us access to all of the amazing sports communities up and down the west coast."

This weekend — Friday May, 5 to Sunday May, 7 — staff at the shop will be hosting a community sport activations program on the actual Promenade, in front of the store. It will include a tennis pop- up experience, dunk competition and special guest appearances. Plus there will be little practice putting greens where you can discover to your horror quite how much work your short game needs.

scott.snowden@smdp.com



Wilson

DTSM: The new Santa Monica store located at 1349 Third Street Promenade.

HYUNDAI

FROM PAGE 1

Santa Monica Blvd sometime before October of this year.

"We're thrilled to add our seventh dealership to the city of Santa Monica and create a destination for environmentally conscious families and individuals to purchase some of the latest in hybrid and EV technology through the Hyundai brand," said LAcarGUY's CEO Mike Sullivan. "Our group has been a member of this community for nearly 60 years and we'll continue to be an integral part of it."

The auto industry is a staple for the local economy, generating over 25 percent of the city's sales tax revenue per quarter, according to the latest available data generated by the City of Santa Monica's Finance Department. Moreover, 16 of the top 25 sales tax producers in Santa Monica are associated with the auto industry.

"Santa Monica is a very progressive city," Sullivan says. "People here, mostly, welcome change, they like to change and they're willing to try new things and dare to be different."

According to the Department of Energy, California has the greatest number of electric vehicle registrations (over 500,000) making up approximately 39 percent nationwide. Florida has the second highest count, followed by Texas. Los Angeles also has the highest number of EV drivers (over 17,000), but the San Francisco Bay Area has the most charging stations.

"The opening of Hyundai Santa Monica, which includes a dedicated showroom for our Ioniq electric vehicle lineup, will help us continue to grow sales and market share in the always-important Southern California market," said Randy Parker, CEO, Hyundai Motor America in a statement. "Mike and his team have an impressive track record of delivering an outstanding customer experience that will benefit Hyundai shoppers and owners. As Hyundai aims to be a leader in electrification, this new dealership will help us better reach consumers in one of the largest electric vehicle markets in the country."

The stylish-looking Ioniq 6 starts around the $40,000 price point and offers a range of up to 360 miles, together with some impressive fast-charging features, making it probably the most direct competitor to the Tesla model 3.

Sullivan is a born and bred Santa Monica resident, "I'm almost second generation, but my father moved here when he was two and a half years old," he laughs. Sullivan supports numerous civic organizations, including Heal the Bay, Meals on Wheels West and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica. He's even competed in the Toyota Long Beach Grand Prix Celebrity Race.

He also prides himself on operating an environmentally-focused car dealership and has won numerous awards for its efforts. Additionally, its Audi Pacific dealership in Torrance is the only LEED Gold-certified Audi dealership in the US.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Citywide

Roosevelt Elementary Moms Plan Benefit Bake Sale for Fellow Mom Facing Paralysis

As Mother's Day approaches, a group of Roosevelt Elementary moms is planning a benefit bake sale on the corner of 15th Street and Montana Avenue on Sunday, May 7 from 2-4 p.m. to support a fellow Santa Monica mom experiencing paralysis after a life-threatening AVM (arteriovenous malformation) rupture. All proceeds from the sale will directly benefit Wilshire Montana resident Tereza Svarcova Bellodi, 34, who has been hospitalized for the last four months following her medical emergency, which has resulted in a diagnosis of quadriplegic. Bellodi has been separated from her 7 and 13-year-old sons, who attend Roosevelt and Lincoln, but will be reunited with them on May 6, when she is discharged from the rehabilitation center where she has been laboring to regain her mobility.

"I really wish I was home, in my bed, with Marko and Lucas cuddled up next to me," Bellodi posted to her Facebook page on April 15th. "I've had that image in my head all day today, and on many other days before that...and despite the difficulties of returning in this condition, I just can't wait."

The funds raised at this #TeamTerezaBellodi (https://www.instagram.com/teamterezabellodi/) event will go towards purchasing the $5,000 electric wheelchair Bellodi will need to best navigate her home and maximize her independence. While a Gofundme campaign has raised close to $17,000 (https://www.gofundme.com/f/lifesaving-surgery-for-tereza-svarcova), Bellodi is facing medical bills from her ICU stay alone that add up to double that amount, according to Gofundme organizer Gera Rozanova.

#TeamTerezaBellodi formed in February, when local attorney and mom Benny Roshan gathered a group of Roosevelt moms in a WhatsApp chat.

"Her boys are her world," said participant Valerie Amos. "When I found out that she was sick and had to be away from them for so long, I was compelled to help with anything I could to make her life easier so that she only needed to focus on her recovery–and getting back to her life as a mom."

Throughout the harrowing journey Bellodi has been through, her own mom, Brona Fanelle, has been at her daughter's and grandsons' side. In a recent video post to Facebook, Bellodi thanked her friends for their support, then added that she will spend "the rest of her life showing [her] family gratitude for how they have shown up."

SUBMITTED BY DARCY O'BRIEN-HOLT



Courtesy Photo

FUNDRAISER: A group of local moms are working to help their friend recover from a devestating diagnosis.

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HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 1

who move around. The number of people in shelters is also calculated on the same night for the same reason.

While the count is mandated by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, it also helps officials to gain a better idea of the number of people living in homelessness, trends among the population, and locations of concentration. This data is used to inform local and regional efforts to address homelessness and can affect how resources are allocated.

This year was the first count since January 2020 not impacted by COVID 19 restrictions. The 2021 count was canceled and the 2022 count was delayed and modified to reduce interaction. Last year's count was also criticized for obvious undercounts and officials implemented several improvements this year to account for technological failures or outlying results.

Regional results will not be available until later this year (sometime between June and September) but Santa Monica officials said COVID-19 pandemic impacted both the reduction last year and this year's increase.

City Manager David White said the 2022 count had a very minor change in the unsheltered population, just 1 percent, and the overall decrease was fueled by a reduction in shelter capacity due to spacing requirements. With the expiration of those restrictions, shelter capacity has increased and has been filled by more individuals. At the same time, some temporary shelter options in nearby areas have ended forcing more people into the streets.

"While local shelter capacity has increased since 2020 the regional motel shelter capacity that was implemented during the pandemic continues to wind down including the 50 room project Roomkey site in Venice," said White. "This regional demobilization may have contributed to an increase in demand on local shelters which increased by 22% and an increase in unsheltered homelessness which rose by 12%."

White said the city is gearing up to address the crisis. He cited additional voter approved funding (from Measure CS and GS) that will expand field services and create new homelessness prevention programs. The City will also create a new department to focus on homelessness.

He said the city is also working on specific actions like a redesign of the city's largest shelter to allow for 24/7 intakes, launch of a therapeutic transport van that can deploy calls regarding a mental health crisis, expanded prohibitions on sleeping in doorways and the eventual construction of a behavioral health center.

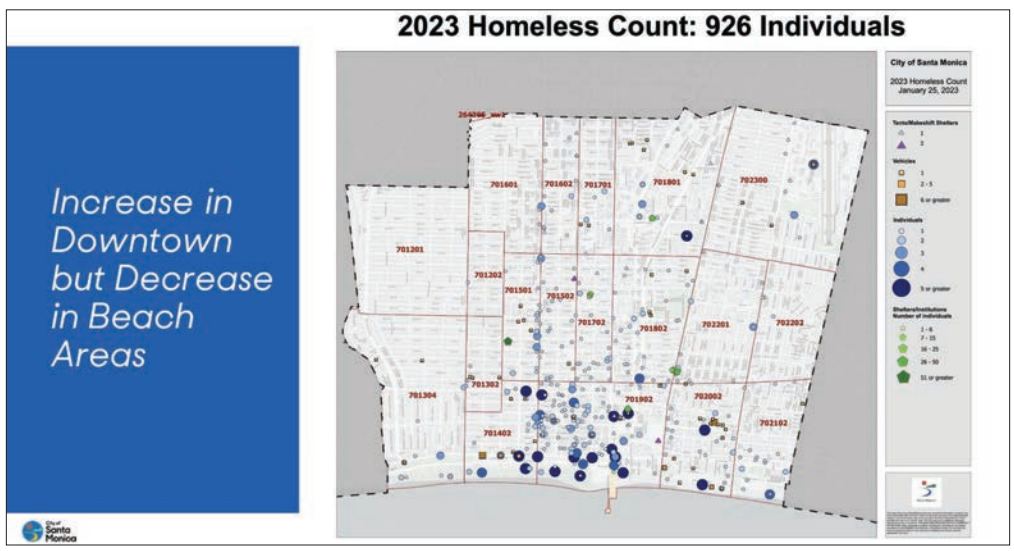
City Hall also declared a state of emergency over homelessness recently.

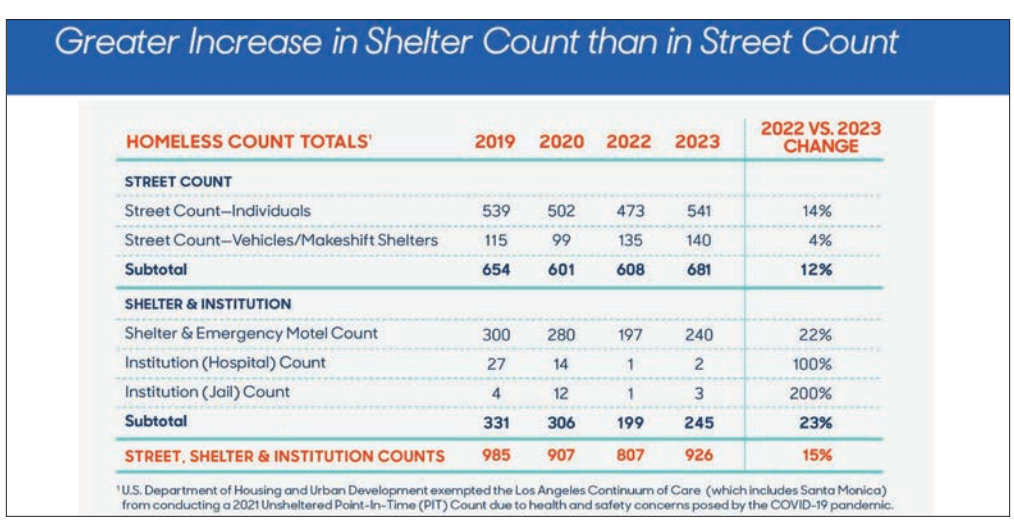
"The local emergency is enabling us to fast track and scale up our response is helping us cut red tape and get things done faster, like deploying field based teams and resources for people in mental health crisis," said White.

The Santa Monica count is just a count and does not include analysis of demographics such as mental health status, place of origin, cause of homelessness or length of time in the city. Some of that information may be released with the County results and local officials said what demographics they do have are limited to self reporting from individuals who accept services.

Council will hear a presentation on the report this Tuesday, May 9. Council meets at 5:30 p.m. for closed session and open session will start upon completion of the closed session items.

editor@smdp.com





HOMELESS COUNT TOTALS[1]	2019	2020	2022	2023	2022 VS. 2023 CHANGE
STREET COUNT					
Street Count–Individuals	539	502	473	541	14%
Street Count–Vehicles/Makeshift Shelters	115	99	135	140	4%
Subtotal	**654**	**601**	**608**	**681**	**12%**
SHELTER & INSTITUTION					
Shelter & Emergency Motel Count	300	280	197	240	22%
Institution (Hospital) Count	27	14	1	2	100%
Institution (Jail) Count	4	12	1	3	200%
Subtotal	**331**	**306**	**199**	**245**	**23%**
STREET, SHELTER & INSTITUTION COUNTS	**985**	**907**	**807**	**926**	**15%**

[1] U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development exempted the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (which includes Santa Monica) from conducting a 2021 Unsheltered Point-In-Time (PIT) Count due to health and safety concerns posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Courtesy photo

HOMELESS: The homeless population are clustered near the beach.

Waymo robotaxis make more inroads in Phoenix, San Francisco

MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Technology Writer

Self-driving car pioneer Waymo announced Thursday that its robotaxis will be able to carry passengers through most of the Phoenix area for the first time.

The company's cars will also start to pick up more volunteers for testing the autonomous vehicles traversing the more challenging conditions in San Francisco.

The expansion marks the next leg in an ambitious journey aimed at creating a safer and cheaper alternative to ride-hailing services that depend on humans.

The increased territory in the Phoenix area means Waymo's robotaxis will now pick up and drop off fare-paying passengers in an area spanning 180 square miles (466 square kilometers), doubling in size since late last year. Waymo's robotaxis now cover four times more territory than when they began giving rides to fare-paying passengers in the Phoenix area in late 2020.

"We are feeling tremendous wind at our backs," Saswat Panigrahi, Waymo's chief product officer, said in a briefing with reporters.

Waymo, which began as a secret project within Google more than a decade ago, is now hoping to carry that momentum into San Francisco, one of the most densely populated cities U.S. that is also renowned for hilly roads and frequent fog that can flummox driverless vehicles.

Although Waymo has encountered problems both with San Francisco's weather and unexpected stops that have blocked traffic, it's continuing to test its robotaxis throughout the city at all times of the day by providing free rides to its employees and volunteers selected from a waiting list to try the service.

"There are clearly additional learnings that we are responding to," Panigrahi said of the various problems that Waymo has encountered in San Francisco.

The Mountain View, California, company is seeking approval from California regulators so its robotaxis can start charging fares for rides — something Cruise, a rival driverless service owned by General Motors, has been doing since last June, but only in parts of San Francisco during nighttime hours.

Cruise also recently began giving free rides through most of San Francisco around the clock to volunteer passengers while waiting for state regulators to approve its application to collect fares for service anywhere in the city.

If and when Waymo and Cruise get regulatory approval, San Francisco will become the first U.S. city with two commercial robotaxi services competing against ride-hailing pioneers Uber and Lyft, as well as traditional taxis with humans behind the wheel.

As part of Thursday's announcement, Waymo said its robotaxis are providing an average of 10,000 weekly rides with no humans inside the vehicles other than passengers. Panigrahi said he expects Waymo's robotaxi fleet to be giving 100,000 weekly rides by the summer of 2024.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Samohi

SMMUSD and DanzAlianza to Host Folklórico Dance Festival - May 6-7, 2023

The Santa Monica-Malibu School District and DanzAlianza will be hosting "México Mágico" a folklórico dance festival on Saturday and Sunday, May 6-7, 2023, at Santa Monica High School, featuring more than 20 dance groups from throughout California, Colorado and Baja, California.

Among the performing groups, SMMUSD will be showcasing students enrolled in grades 3-5 currently attending bi-weekly classes at Edison Language Academy, McKinley, Roosevelt and Will Rogers elementary schools. These SMMUSD students will perform at 2 p.m. on May 6 inside historic Barnum Hall on the Samohi campus (600 Olympic Blvd., Santa Monica, Ca 90405). Parking is free on the Samohi campus.

The dance festival aims to create an atmosphere where groups and organizations feel united and appreciated as they experience the fantastic and beautiful dance performances.

For information about tickets, please visit: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd1NR1CqnVn-AOyr_OWvXsOkAM__WI_-jQDx53eN7WZW9je5mA/viewform

All district families will be provided free admission.

México Mágico is a project that fulfills part of the mission of cultural representation on both sides of the border. It gives the opportunity to groups and organizations that are willing to work together for the sake of education and representation on stage and our community.

The México Mágico Festival at Santa Monica High School under the direction of Julio C. Bustos, represents a collaboration between DanzAlianza and SMMUSD, folklórico organizations in Southern California with the support of Mexico's Secretary of Foreign Relations, through its several consulates throughout California. The coalition believes in developing projects that generate opportunities for the dance groups and their directors, whether it is on stage, in classrooms, workshops, or general guidance.

The festival will be held at Santa Monica High School's beautiful and historic Barnum Hall (Saturday, May 6, 2-3:30 p.m. (youth folklorico dancers from 10 different schools) 7-9:30 p.m.; (professional adult groups) and Greek Memorial Amphitheater featuring community folklorico groups on Sunday, May 7, beginning at 10 a.m. and ending at 3 p.m.

Parking: While attending México Mágico, you may park in the parking lot at Samohi through the Olympic entrance gate (600 Olympic Blvd. Santa Monica, Ca 90405). Parking in this lot will be FREE to México Mágico performers and patrons on Saturday, May 6 and Sunday, May 7.

SMMUSD is excited to announce that as an extra special addition to the Magico Mexico this year, Lalo Garcia, a well known Mexican visual artist will have his work displayed in the beautiful Roberts Art Gallery located right next door to Barnum. Please be sure to vist the gallery to view his beautiful art work. You can preview his work at: https://www.lalogarcia.com.

Vehicles with DP plates, placards or hangtags will find available parking spots to enter the Samohi campus via the Olympic and 6th St. gate.

SUBMITTED BY GAIL PINSKER



BILL TRAVEL

FROM PAGE 2

debates in or outside of the Capitol," Hansen wrote. "We hope that our work will lead to specific policy advances — but the process of making legislation will be a matter taken up by legislators."

UNIFYING POLITICAL FOES

Created in 1979 by labor economist Don Vial and former Gov. Pat Brown, among others, to focus on modernizing the state's economy and infrastructure, the California Foundation on the Environment and the Economy brings together people who might not normally be at the same political table.

Groups that spend a lot of time and money fighting each other often sit side by side — the vice chairpersons of the board are Catherine Reheis-Boyd, president of the Western States Petroleum Association, which represents the oil industry, and Katelyn Roedner Sutter, the California state director for the Environmental Defense Fund. Both declined interview requests, as did board secretary Curt Augustine, senior director of state affairs for the Alliance of Automotive Innovation.

In an email, Robert Balgenorth, a former president of the State Building and Construction Trades Council who serves as the chairperson of CFEE's board of directors, said the foundation proves "the value of bringing together a diverse set of leaders to explore best practices and solutions to some of California's most vexing environmental and economic challenges."

"I firmly believe California is well served by this approach," he wrote, "a mutual recognition that California succeeds when people, organizations, and political partisans look past their differences and come together with an open mind about our challenges and opportunities."

The organizations on the board do not plan the conferences or study trips — "CFEE staff is entrusted to organize and conduct all CFEE events independently of any single member, industry, policy direction or area of concern," Hansen wrote — but they do help shape the foundation's focus and send representatives to its events.

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District has been part of CFEE since 2009 and currently pays $38,000 for its annual membership. Laura Lewis, chief legal officer and general counsel for the community-owned utility, serves as the treasurer of the board and has participated in two study trips since joining in 2017.

"CFEE allows us the opportunity to engage in thoughtful dialogue with key stakeholders so that we can understand different perspectives and foster collaborative partnerships" as the utility pursues "an ambitious goal to eliminate carbon emissions from our power supply by 2030," Lewis wrote in an email. "It enables us to educate and align policymakers and other regional leaders on clean energy efforts that provide environmental benefits, drive inclusive economic development, and improve the quality of life for all."

LONG DAYS, PACKED SCHEDULES

The invitation-only foreign trips, which take place once or twice a year, feature packed schedules of presentations, panels, and on-site tours led by local officials and industry representatives. Days can start at "7 a.m. and you have to be on time until late at night," said Sen. Lena Gonzalez, a Long Beach Democrat who went to Iceland and Japan last year.

Attendees said they travel alongside the foundation's board members, with meals and bus rides often turning into deep policy discussions or even debates between opposing interests. There is also occasional sightseeing and limited free time that lawmakers said allows them to process what they've been learning about.

An agenda provided by CFEE for its most recent study trip to Denmark last month with 10 legislators showed receptions with the U.S. ambassador and Danish officials; tours of water treatment, heating and biogas facilities and an offshore wind farm; and a day of free time during the weeklong visit.

Trip delegations are deliberately diverse, Hansen said, drawing veteran and rookie lawmakers from across the political spectrum and the state, and about 15 to 20 board members from across industries, depending on the topic of the tour. While legislators must disclose when they accept sponsored travel, the foundation refuses to say which board members attend the trips.

Legislators said the trips are useful because they see projects and technology up close that they might not have access to in California, which can change their opinion on policy. Gonzalez revised her plans to extend the state's expiring clean transportation program because of what she saw in Japan, introducing a bill this year to prioritize funding for decarbonizing medium- and heavy-duty transportation sectors such as freight and shipping.

Friedman said she attended the trip to Portugal two years ago because she was working on a bill at the time promoting offshore wind energy and she wanted to see turbines in person.

"How can I tell communities that they should have this, how can I go out and try to streamline approvals, without knowing what the impacts are going to be physically?" she said.

Friedman, who leads the Assembly transportation committee, also went to Japan in November to learn more about how the country finances its world-famous bullet train. During her free time, she rode the public transit system and explored the train stations, with their shops and restaurants that draw even non-commuters. She said it gave her an "invaluable" understanding of why public transit is such a hub of civic life in Japan that she never could have learned from a PowerPoint presentation.

Mathis said the relationships he has forged — including with Democratic legislators and with officials in the Newsom administration whom he might otherwise not have met — have been the greatest benefit. His connection with California Transportation Secretary Toks Omishakin during the Japan trip last year recently came in handy as Mathis' Central Valley district flooded from heavy winter rainstorms.

"There was a bunch of high-speed rail dirt down there that we needed to get a hold of to set up an egress route," Mathis said. "I was able to call him from my cell phone. I sent him a little video like, 'Hey, bro, there's dirt behind me I need.' Right? And within three hours, things are moving."

Yet traveling alongside executives from groups that regularly lobby the Legislature, attendees are keenly aware they are not far removed from the routine advocacy of Sacramento. Someone in the room always has a particular perspective to share.

Gonzalez said she was surprised to be invited on the trips, despite being chairperson of the Senate transportation committee, in part because of previous legislative fights she has had with oil companies, several of which are on the board.

"Honestly, I don't know why they would invite someone like me," she said. "I think people would want to say, 'With this member, we want our return on investment,' right? And I don't know that I provide that in many senses."

THE APPEARANCE OF IMPROPER INFLUENCE

The opportunity for influence-peddling on foundation study trips has generated controversy for nearly as long as they have existed — decades of criticism from government transparency groups about privileged access to elected officials and journalistic investigations into what happens beyond the public eye. On occasion, they even filter into contentious campaigns, becoming a way for candidates to hit their opponents for ties to special interests.

Critics complain that the sponsored travel amounts to unofficial lobbying, with organizations able to buy precious time with elected officials that others cannot afford, on luxurious tours whose agendas they set.

Even if the goal is not a specific bill or regulation, attendees are building a familiarity that can serve them down the line, argues McMorris of California Common Cause.

"If a friend comes to you and asks for help, you're much more inclined to help them than a stranger," he said. "So now when you do want to sit down and ask for a favor from this politician, they're under no obligation to do the favor for you. But it's human nature, I think, for most of us to seriously listen to someone who is a friend or an acquaintance."

In at least one instance, the concerns turned out to be justified. During a 2013 trip to Poland hosted by CFEE, then-California Public Utilities Commission President Michael Peevey secretly met with an executive of Southern California Edison to discuss apportioning costs for the shutdown of the San Onofre nuclear power plant. Materials from the undisclosed meeting were discovered during a search of Peevey's home while he was under investigation by the state for improper communications with the utilities he regulated, though potential criminal charges were never brought.

The state auditor later dinged the utilities commission for allowing its board members to travel at the foundation's expense, creating "the appearance of improper influence" in its decisions.

A handful of changes over the years have tightened oversight of sponsored travel. In 2010, the California Fair Political Practices Commission approved a rule limiting the ability of third parties to directly pay for public officials' travel costs, though it continued to allow the general contributions to nonprofits that fund study trips. Five years later, then-Gov. Jerry Brown signed a bill requiring organizations that sponsor travel for elected officials to disclose their major donors and politicians to report the destinations of the trips they accept.

Then-Sen. Jerry Hill, a San Mateo Democrat who served in the Legislature from 2008 to 2020, carried the measure. He said he grew more concerned about sponsored travel after the PG&E pipeline explosion in his district in 2010, which led to a series of revelations about Peevey's close relationship and extensive travel with companies regulated by the public utilities commission.

"The coziness that's created by some of these trips" is "very palpable and really has a long-term effect," Hill said. "Some legislators, I found that they looked forward to that opportunity, whether it had educational value or not. It was a free trip, a junket. And that is where I think it's harmful, because then you look to the funders of those trips and become somewhat dependent on them."

He did not want to ban sponsored travel, however, and sought instead to increase transparency around funders and attendees because, Hill said, "I do believe there is some educational benefit derived from a trip or a conference."

WHO SHOULD PICK UP THE TAB?

Legislators who attend the foundation study tours point out that the groups that sponsor the trips also have access to them in Sacramento, whether by requesting meetings in their offices or at fundraisers. Allen said that, as a legislator, many of his daily conversations are with people who want something from him, be it advocates, constituents, unions or corporations.

"It's not like you're going and they have this secret agenda that they're going to brainwash you on," agreed Mathis, who argues that, away from the "bubble" of Sacramento, there are actually more in-depth and candid policy discussions than what can happen during committee hearings, with opponents who would not usually connect exposed to each other's viewpoints.

Mathis defended the presence of groups that have business before the Legislature because it allows attendees to learn from experts, ask tough questions and work through issues ahead of time before introducing bills. He said he encourages his Republican colleagues to attend the trips and events because it gives the minority party, which is often sidelined at the Capitol, a chance to have a say on important issues.

"If you want to attack me for being part of the discussion, how stupid is that? You don't want your legislator to be part of the discussion?" he said. "If you look at my legislative success record compared to other people who don't go on these things, I think it speaks volumes."

Several lawmakers said the study trips are so valuable, inspiring new perspectives on critical policy and bill ideas, that they should be a regular part of the legislative process, paid for by the state. This does happen on occasion, with working groups from the Senate or Assembly using taxpayer funds to travel abroad to study an issue.

"If we're running the fourth-largest economy in the world, we should be out in the world also, developing relationships with other nations," Friedman said. "It should be a required part of our job. I think the state should support it. We don't. You know, we have to turn to the private sector."

Gonzalez said it was "very unusual" that the trips are not publicly funded. She said she met officials in Iceland and Japan who "were kind of stunned, like, this is not government paid-for, and you've got all these industries here."

But not everyone is so sure. Allen said he does not believe taxpayers would approve of paying for legislators to travel across the world, even if it is to learn from best practices.

Mathis prefers that the trips continue to be privately funded, because it not only saves taxpayer money, but he said it also enables a more independent agenda with a greater diversity of perspectives included.

"So that's a bigger question for the public: Do you want us to spend tax dollars to go?" he said. "And then it's going to be based upon what the majority party wants you to see, versus a bigger conversation."

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 5)

Strong spirit, you'll be astonished by the primal power of your instincts. An achievement will fulfill you on many levels, but none so meaningful as the swell of confidence that comes from knowing what you're capable of. More highlights: majestic settings with fun people, steady income and increased vitality from establishing a practice. Pisces and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 11, 13, 50, 2 and 7.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). If communication is a dance, it's easy to fall out of step today. You could take it as a sign that you're not always meant to be in the chorus, kicking the same height as everyone else. You'll have more fun freestyling it solo.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Even though you're around familiars, don't get too comfortable. There are those who will start drama because they need the entertainment. Also, don't let your guard down around anyone who has reason to be envious of you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Being in normal mode feels neutral but returning to normal feels like a blessing. People don't realize they have inner peace until it gets disturbed. So, the upside of disturbance is that it helps you appreciate life as usual.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Love is not the only untamed force you'll be dealing with. Emotions, creativity and time itself will pose a challenge to your authority. Acknowledge the power of these entities and ingratiate yourself instead of fighting against them.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). As a person who "puts yourself out there" on a regular basis, you have great respect and affection for fellow risk-takers. There's little you dread more than having to say no to someone, but if anyone can soften the blow, it's you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Children don't have much of a choice who enters their life, but now you have the power over the doors of both your life and your heart. You'll exercise your role as gatekeeper to your own experiences.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). While much about the future is uncertain, when it comes to predicting how your loved one will behave, your guesses will be spot-on. You'll benefit from this knowledge. This is your reward for learning a person so well.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Desire can be a fleeting feeling fueled by attraction and chemistry. It can come and go based on superficial qualities like physical traits or status. Someone wants you, but you'll be more focused on who deserves you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You can feel when someone has your best interest at heart. Cherish those with good intent even when they get the move wrong. It's better than trusting those making all the right moves but with self-serving motives.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Winning doesn't make a person a winner, and losing doesn't make a person a loser. Suspect anyone who condemns another person's character in such a way, as the need to disparage or idealize is a sign of insecurity and small-mindedness.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You are committed to the growth and well-being of your crew, and you strive to have a positive impact on their lives. It doesn't always occur through help, kindness and encouragement. Today, the best thing you can offer is competition.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Often wishes start out as a slight and indistinct hunger that grows into a more specific kind of craving. You may not know what you're hoping for until you see someone else get it. Envy says, "that is also for me."

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

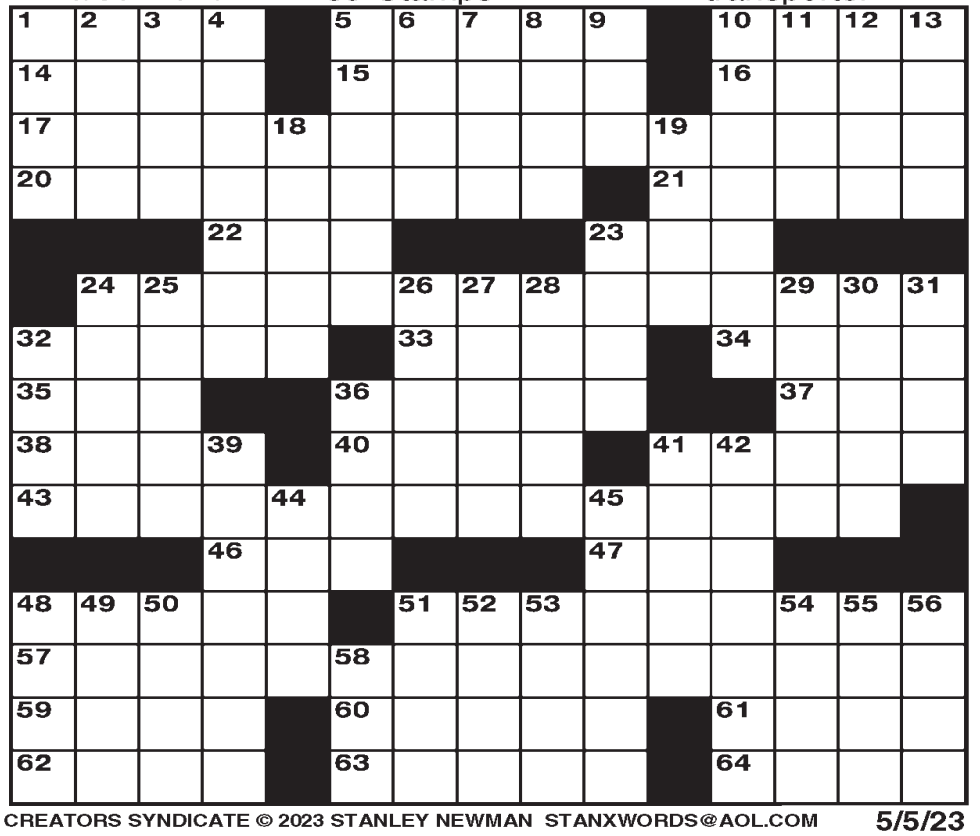
	6			5	9		1	3
						8		
		8		3			9	2
2	4		3	8				
6								5
				4	7		6	8
3	7			9		1		
		6						
8	1		6	7			2	

Newsday Crossword

INSPIRATIONAL by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Sharp sensation
5 Buzzing bunch
10 Slight
14 Frozen drink brand
15 Nation east of Jamaica
16 Lack of pressure
17 Inspiration encouragement
20 How some gowns are made
21 Mountainous Missouri county
22 Besides
23 Ending like -arian
24 With 43 Across, inspiration encouragement
32 Cast off restraint
33 Rookie gamer
34 Skillful
35 Saddler's tool
36 "Please? Please?"
37 Screening grp.
38 Big advance
40 Milton's "unlocks"
41 Speedy
43 See 24 Across
46 GPS reading
47 Fool
48 Greenhouse watering
51 "Just tell me!"
57 Inspiration encouragement
59 Bit of kindling
60 Army of the Potomac commander
61 Wave off
62 Dr. King's "dangerous force"
63 Polk preceder
64 Diamond accessory

DOWN
1 Quarries
2 Beethoven octet
3 Almost at
4 Receive inside info
5 Temple greeting
6 Carry on
7 Haughtiness
8 GPS readings
9 Palermo pronoun
10 Exploit with enthusiasm
11 Zilch
12 False friend
13 Snoot
18 Informal "What if . . .?"
19 Little people
23 "What'll __?"
24 Type of hair dryer
25 Kin of "kosher"
26 Online-purchase adjective
27 Lost cause
28 Request for elaboration
29 "Don't care if they do!"
30 Florist's inventory
31 *Le Dakota du Sud*, e.g.
32 Festive
36 Geological sample
39 Stamps
41 Threshing tool
42 Progressive
44 Where Rocky fought Ivan Drago
45 One who doesn't want to split
48 Unfounded story
49 It's between the Missouri and Mississippi
50 Be OK for
51 Carry out
52 Third-longest European river
53 Aquatic force
54 "Good one!"
55 "__ out?"
56 What a classic Corvette may have
58 State-certified transporter

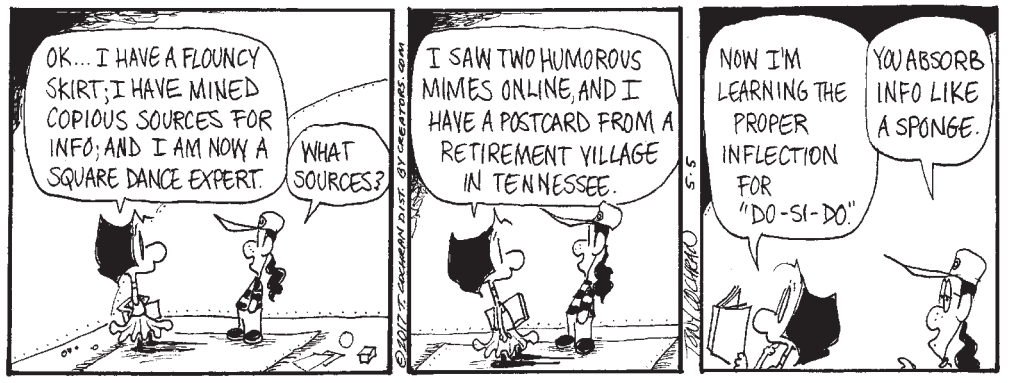


CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2023 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 5/5/23

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

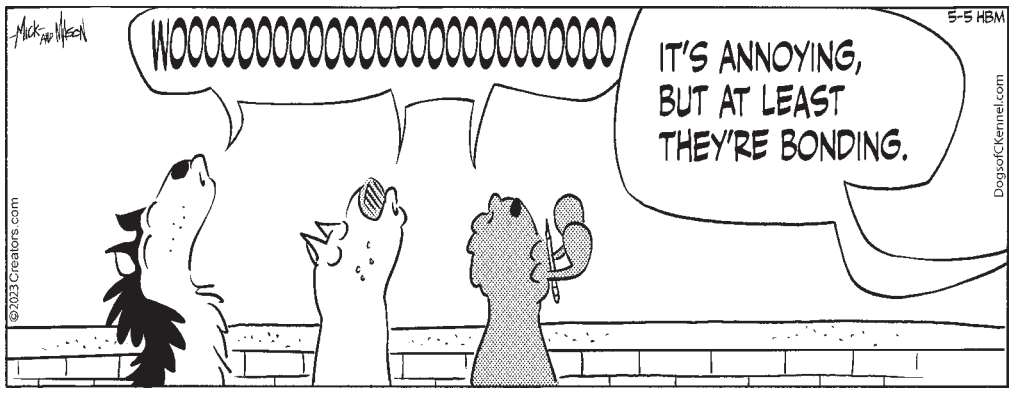
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



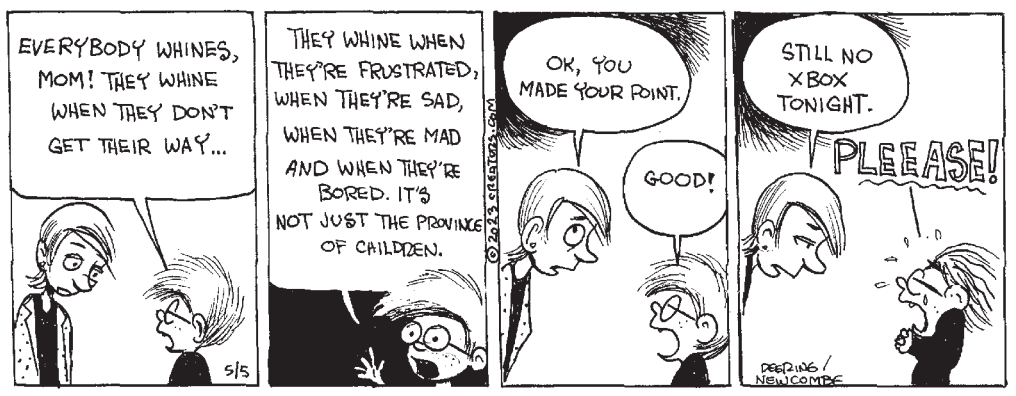
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

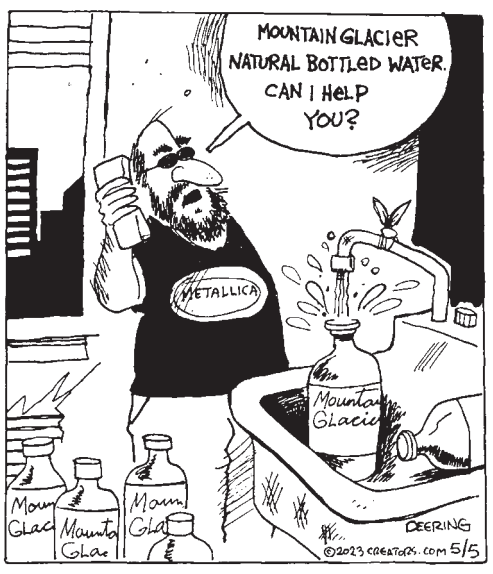
By PETER GALLAGHER



"I NEED ONE OF THOSE."

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 34 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5835

Wildflower state

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

Augusta	Flame peas	Perth
Bark	Harvey	Pods
Broome	Hovea	Pom poms
Buds	Lake Grace	Rain
Bunbury	Leaf	Scrub
Cassia	Life	Sturt
Coorow	Lilies	Swans
Cowslip orchid	Mallee	Toodyay
Derby	Myrtle	Trees
Drought	Onslow	Wave rock
Exmouth	Patersonia	Wyndham

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

What's Up Westside

out and about in Santa Monica

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

SATURDAY | MAY 13

BEACH WALK & SKETCH
Guided by a naturalist, join others in this peaceful pursuit to sketch our beautiful coastline. We'll provide the binoculars, drawing boards, pencils, and newsprint, or bring your own easy-to-carry sketching tools. Annenberg Community Beach House 415 Pacific Coast Highway. Santa Monica, CA 90402 https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beach-walk-sketch-tickets-586017583367

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



SURF REPORT

WATER TEMP: **60.6**

FRIDAY *POOR TO FAIR*	**SURF:** 2-3ft Thigh to waist	Small peaks for combo spots early. Fresh SW/SSW swell creeps in through the day, but it's going to be pretty slow going. Small NW swell blends in. Summer points offer the best energy later in the day — will want to keep an eye on the wind.
SATURDAY *POOR TO FAIR*	**SURF:** 3-4ft Waist to chest	Looking like lully but fun morning for summer points. A little more SSW swell moving in through the day, with light/favorable winds and a nice tide push in the morning. Moderate onshores due for the afternoon but the points are rideable.

WEATHER

Friday: A 20 percent chance of showers before 11am. Mostly sunny, with a high near 60.
Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 51. West southwest wind 10 to 15 mph.
Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 60. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
Saturday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 53.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2023/05/08	Mon	4:50 PM	2.31	L
2023/05/08	Mon	11:25 PM	5.85	H
2023/05/09	Tue	07:14 AM	-0.84	L
2023/05/09	Tue	2:19 PM	3.02	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: 5/3
21 26 30 45 47
Power#: 23
Jackpot: 87 M

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

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 5/3
17 20 21 24 44
Mega#: 26
Jackpot: 56 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 5/3
5 13 35 37 39

Daily 3
Draw Date: 5/3
EVENING: 7 3 0
Draw Date: 5/3
MIDDAY: 0 7 9

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 5/3
1st: 01 - Gold Rush
2nd: 06 - Whirl Win
3rd: 10 - Solid Gold
Race Time: 1:42.15

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Santa Monica Daily Press

JUICE CRAFTERS: ORGANIC, HEALTHY & FRESH





Juice Crafters is a juice bar that has quickly become a popular destination for health-conscious individuals in Los Angeles and Orange County. Founded by David Nia, the establishment's mission is to provide people with a delicious and nutritious way to fuel their bodies, promote healthy eating habits and achieve a longer, happier life.

As a firm believer in the power of healthy eating habits, Nia made it his mission to create a space where people could access high-quality, organic, and nutrient-rich food and beverages. The ingredients used at Juice Crafters are carefully sourced from local California farms, ensuring that they are fresh, healthy, and organic.

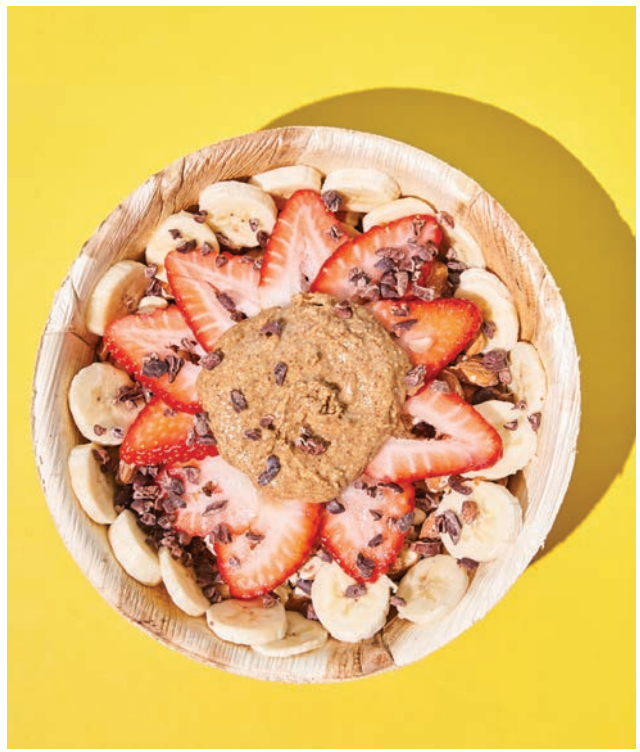
The juice bar offers a wide range of delicious, nutrient-packed beverages that are perfect for those on the go, or those looking for a quick, refreshing pick-me-up.

From classic green juices to acai bowls and smoothies, Juice Crafters has something to satisfy every taste bud and craving.

One of the unique features of Juice Crafters is that all ingredients are delivered fresh to each store daily. This ensures that every beverage is made with the freshest ingredients possible, providing customers with the highest possible nutritional value.

In addition to their juices, Juice Crafters also offers a selection of healthy snacks, including raw energy bars, chia pudding, and raw nuts. All of their snacks are made with high-quality ingredients and are designed to provide customers with a quick, nutritious energy boost.

What sets Juice Crafters apart is their commitment to promoting healthy eating habits and making healthy food accessible to everyone. The juice bar is not just a place to grab a quick drink but also a community that encourages people to make healthier choices and feel better about themselves.



Whether you're a regular or a first-time visitor, Juice Crafters is the perfect destination for anyone looking to enjoy a delicious and nutritious beverage or snack. So why not swing by and try one of their signature drinks, and experience the many benefits of healthy eating for yourself? @juicecrafters