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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Barnes & Noble set for summer 2024 opening, but Din Tai Fung could be 2025



Scott Snowden

BOOKWORM: The long-awaited book behemoth Barnes & Noble will be opening soon, we just have to patient for a little while longer.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Contrary to some frivolous posting on social media, both the eagerly-awaited Din Tai Fung restaurant and the Barnes & Noble bookstore are still on course to open outlets in Downtown Santa Monica.

Julia Ladd, Vice President Property Management, Macerich confirmed to the Daily Press that Din Tai Fung received their building permit mid April and pre-construction work is underway. Sadly, though, the current forecast

SEE **BARNES & NOBLE** PAGE 11

Homeless man arrested after threats against tourist and Legion patrolman



Scott Snowden

THREAT: Following the serious nature of the threats, SMPD responded and acted swiftly to ensure this busy tourist area was safe.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

A section of the northbound lane of Ocean Avenue, opposite the Pier entrance, was shut down for approximately 45 minutes today as officers from the Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) reacted swiftly to a homeless man acting in a severely irrational and threatening manner.

This particular intersection, at Ocean and Colorado Avenues, is arguably the busiest in the city as thousands of tourists make their way to and from the Pier and Pacific Park each and every day.

According to a witness, at about 11 a.m., while on the monthly Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. (DTSM) safety walk, the team consisting of DTSM Operations personnel, Legion Security, DTSM

SEE **HOMELESS** PAGE 7

Tourism summit highlights importance of international visitors amid post-pandemic recovery

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

A mix of successes and challenges for Santa Monica's tourism industry has left officials in a mindset of "tentative optimism" looking into 2024 and beyond.

On May 2, local leaders gathered at Hotel Casa Del Mar for the 15th annual Santa Monica Travel & Tourism Summit, featuring an unveiling of the 2023 Tourism Economic and Fiscal Impact summary report for the city. The report tracked the ongoing recovery of Santa Monica's travel industry coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, and touched on statistics like visitor spending, job creation and generated tax revenues.

In 2023, Santa Monica had 4,637,700 visitors, which was a 12.8% decrease from the 2022 total of 5,320,500. While this also meant total visitor days were down from 2022, a 9% decrease, the average length of visitor stay was up from 1.4 days in 2022 to 1.46 days in 2023.

Visitor spending was deemed another challenge, as the city was unable to hit the billion-dollar mark, with visitors spending $938.1 million in total last year, a 2.5% drop from 2022. However, a positive was that per capita daily visitor spending was $138.21, a rise of nearly $10 from the year prior. One reasoning provided behind the softer retail spending was a higher pricing for hotels and lodging, which has gouged visitor budgets that may have been spent elsewhere.

International visitors, called a "silver lining" due to longer stays and spending more money in town, did just that as the 1.12 million visitors spent $366.6 million, up over 11% from 2022. The international number buoyed a weaker United States domestic visitor market, as U.S. visitor volume to Santa Monica was 3.5 million in 2023, down 16.1% from 2022.

One highlight from the report comes from more than $62 million going directly into the City's general fund from the Transient Occupancy Tax, up 5.6% from 2022. Contributions from the tax, supported entirely by overnight hotel guests, plays a key role in funding city services like the Santa Monica Police Department, the Santa Monica Fire Department and school systems.

Despite some lagging numbers, Santa Monica Travel & Tourism President and CEO Misti Kerns stated that there is much to look forward to, including the upcoming Sandbourne Santa Monica and

SEE **TOURISM** PAGE 6



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SQA ceremony honors environmental stewardship amongst business community



Photo Courtesy Justin Han Photography

SQA: Representatives of the 2024 Sustainable Quality Award winning businesses gathered at the Annenberg Community Beach House to accept the honors.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Local business achievements in environmental stewardship, social responsibility and economic development were celebrated this past week during the 2024 Sustainable Quality Awards (SQA) ceremony.

The event, held at the Annenberg Community Beach House, featured several business leaders accepting their awards in the sustainability categories. SQA winners were announced in April, with the partnership between the City of Santa Monica and environmental education nonprofit Sustainable Works honoring six businesses in all.

Sustainable Works Co-Executive Director Susy Borlido said that past and present winners have done everything from facility retrofits and purchasing changes to switches to energy-efficient equipment and taking advantage of available city green rebate programs.

"Our city, our residents and visitors (and) our business community are demonstrating the value of investing in sustainable practices," Borlido said.

The Grand Prize Winner for 2024 was clothing store Patagonia Santa Monica, while five other businesses took home recognition in separate categories. Since the first SQA ceremony in 1995, 173 local businesses have received over 230 awards for their environmental stewardship.

"These businesses are demonstrating a basic fact, and that is that best practices and environmental protection, economic viability and social equity are mutually dependent," said City of Santa Monica Chief Sustainability Officer Shannon Parry said. "We are inspired by their actions and even more so, we are grateful for their leadership."

Accepting an Excellence in Social Responsibility honor was Physical Therapyworks, while Angeles Investment Advisors and Yoga-urt accepted Excellence in Economic Development awards. Yoga-urt also received an honor in Excellence in Stewardship of the Environment.

Angeles was commended for having a B Corp Certification, a designation that a business is demonstrating a "high social and environmental performance" and something that was noted as "very uncommon" for the investment industry. The company's Senior Managing Director, Sapna Shah, said that they always ask clients about their best sustainable practices, and seek to share best practices within the investment industry.

"We sought to be as mindful as possible in terms of how we engage in local community ... (and) also with our clients ... we care very much about their sustainability goals that they're seeking to accomplish through their investments," Shah said.

Also receiving Excellence in Stewardship of the Environment were Avocado Green Mattress and HGA Architects. Avocado was also commended for B Corp Certification status and actions such as avoiding toxic flame retardants and using organic materials in their products. HGA Senior Sustainability Specialist Sierra Dennis stated that the architectural firm mobilizes an internal sustainability network to "shape a positive future through design."

"HGA is aligned with this award's principles in our design work and our culture," Dennis said.

To learn more about the Sustainable Quality Awards and view past winners, visit sqa.secure-platform.com/a/.

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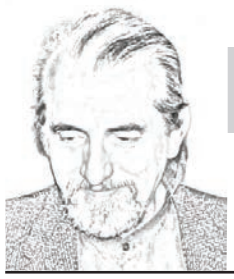


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OPINION | CURIOUS CITY

Charles Andrews | Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Some Wolves Nice, Some Don't Fly

M E O W WOLF!

I'm sure the decision was made long ago to make LA the next location for the world-renowned unique so-much-fun art experience that is Meow Wolf, but it was announced all over the front of the LA Times Calendar section Monday morning, and I am thrilled to pieces. The Santa Fe art collective that created it began in 2008, and opened their first permanent installation/experience there in 2014, with a boost of $2.7M from longtime Santa Fe resident George R. R. Martin, author of the novels that became the insanely popular "Game of Thrones."

The first thing I did after seeing the headlines was let out a yelp of delight. The second thing I did was send a text to Mayor Phil Brock to tell him the news, knowing that he has advocated for years, long before his election to City Council, for Santa Monica to brand itself as a city of the arts. That has been my clarion call for years, too.

On a trip to New Mexico ALL my friends there said, you've GOT to go to Meow Wolf. I have yet to hear or read of anyone who spent time inside that alternative reality who didn't like it. A. Lot.

I bent Brock's text ear with what I knew and my first hand experience. I suggested he contact the MW decision makers immediately and do a selling job for locating in Santa Monica. He noted what I did in the article, that they already had a couple of Westside locations in negotiation, but I said, you never know what happens tomorrow. Brock agreed and said he would try to reach them.

There are a passel of reasons why this would be a bonanza for Santa Monica, but I won't go into them now, nor will I say any more about Meow Wolf. You can look it up but it is hard to put into words or even pictures.

I'm sure if the miracle happened that they did decide on Santa Monica, and found an appropriate building, that some voices would call out that it could have been "affordable housing." That's the world we're in now.



Courtesy Photo

WELCOME TO FLORIDA: A story involving a German Shepherd is told in this week's "Curious City" column.

"HAVE I GOT A STORY FOR YOU"

Remember last week when I teased you with that, and gave you the most salacious high-/low lights, and then didn't deliver? Now my credibility is suspect. Did I really run out of space, or only throw that in to get you to read the rest of the column? Now I have to tell the story. Some of these things may have happened to you, big airport, big delays, bad hotel, but I doubt there is anyone who got this particular whole enchilada.

If there is any moral to be derived, I guess it is that we everyday people are always at the mercy of corporations and their bottom line. In this case, the airlines, specifically American Airlines, whose group profit for 2023 was $882M. Hire a few more customer people, will you, while you bounce us between two gates (in different counties, I think – maybe different countries) and three planes and god-knows how many crew changes, during a grueling late night seven hour delay, until 1 a.m. It's just a little annoying to approach a group of uniformed employees, in front of computer screens with all the information, and be told you have to hike to their central "customer service" desk, to stand in line for an hour and 20 minutes, only to get no useful information.

HERE'S THAT ENTICING PARAGRAPH AGAIN

A true story. A scary story. It happened to me, not long ago. It involves going to the Ron DeMented state of Florida (scared yet?), a German Shepherd the size of a small horse, an ill-tempered desk clerk the size of a small house, a lawyer named Pickles, an airline which has perfected the terrible art of torture, an

SEE **CURIOUS CITY** PAGE 7



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **56.8**

WEDNESDAY
FAIR
SURF: 2-3ft+ Thigh to stomach

AM wind best west of Dume as decent shot of long period SSW swell builds to a peak. Still enough NW energy for an occ. corner but structure helps in the shape department. Summer points 3-4'+, combo magnets out west 4-5'.

THURSDAY
FAIR
SURF: 2-3ft+ Thigh to stomach

AM wind trending more favorable and the afternoon/evening might be in play. SSW swell from Wednesday backs down through the day with small NW energy in the mix. Might be just enough for a few open corners.

Weather

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 70. East northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southwest in the morning.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 57. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 69. East wind 5 to 10 mph.
Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 55.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2024/05/08	Wed	04:23 AM	-1.41	L
2024/05/08	Wed	10:43 AM	3.89	H
2024/05/08	Wed	3:37 PM	1.49	L
2024/05/08	Wed	9:55 PM	6.54	H
2024/05/09	Thu	05:11 AM	-1.44	L
2024/05/09	Thu	11:40 AM	3.61	H
2024/05/09	Thu	4:13 PM	1.90	L
2024/05/09	Thu	10:33 PM	6.31	H
2024/05/10	Fri	06:01 AM	-1.25	L
2024/05/10	Fri	12:44 PM	3.36	H
2024/05/10	Fri	4:52 PM	2.29	L
2024/05/10	Fri	11:14 PM	5.91	H
2024/05/11	Sat	06:53 AM	-0.90	L
2024/05/11	Sat	1:57 PM	3.21	H
2024/05/11	Sat	5:35 PM	2.64	L
2024/05/11	Sat	11:59 PM	5.39	H
2024/05/12	Sun	07:51 AM	-0.49	L
2024/05/12	Sun	3:27 PM	3.21	H

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POWERBALL
Draw Date: 5/6
7 23 24 56 60
Power#: 25
Jackpot: 20 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 5/3
6 13 15 53 56
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 306 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 5/4
5 12 24 32 43
Mega#: 5
Jackpot: 33 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 5/6
8 10 18 24 27

Daily 3
Draw Date: 5/6
EVENING: 3 6 1
Draw Date: 5/6
MIDDAY: 1 7 9

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 5/6
1st: 08 - Gorgeous George
2nd: 03 - Hot Shot
3rd: 02 - Lucky Star
Race Time: 1:40.35

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

Notice of Trustee Sale

T.S. No.: 240119029 Notice of Trustee's Sale Loan No.: 21110315-4 Order No. 95528636 APN: 4274-019-001 Property Address: 1958 20th Street Santa Monica, CA 90404 You Are In Default Under A Deed Of Trust Dated 10/15/2021. Unless You Take Action To Protect Your Property, It May Be Sold At A Public Sale. If You Need An Explanation Of The Nature Of The Proceeding Against You, You Should Contact A Lawyer. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, cashier's check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a cashier's check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. No cashier's checks older than 60 days from the day of sale will be accepted. Trustor: George V Capital, Inc., a Delaware corporation Duly Appointed Trustee: Del Toro Loan Servicing, Inc. Recorded 10/22/2021 as Instrument No. 20211591441 in book , page of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California, Date of Sale: 5/22/2024 at 11:00 AM Place of Sale: Behind the fountain located in Civic Center Plaza, 400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona, CA Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: $2,404,869.97 Street Address or other common designation of real property: 1958 20th Street Santa Monica, CA 90404 A.P.N.: 4274-019-001 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. 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Disney's streaming business turns a profit in first financial report since challenge to Iger

MICHELLE CHAPMAN
Associated Press

The Walt Disney Co. swung to a loss in its second quarter because of restructuring and impairment charges, but its adjusted profit topped expectations and its streaming business turned a profit. Theme parks also continued to do well and the company boosted its outlook for the year.

While Disney said Tuesday that it foresees its overall streaming business softening in the current quarter due to its platform in India, Disney+Hotstar, it expects its combined streaming businesses to be profitable in the fourth quarter and to be a meaningful future growth driver for the company, with further improvements in profitability in fiscal 2025.

The direct-to-consumer business, which includes Disney+ and Hulu, posted quarterly operating income of $47 million compared with a loss of $587 million a year earlier. Revenue rose 13% to $5.64 billion.

For the combined streaming businesses, which includes Disney+, Hulu and ESPN+, second-quarter operating loss shrunk to $18 million from $659 million, while revenue improved to $6.19 billion from $5.51 billion.

Disney+ core subscribers climbed by more than 6% in the second quarter.

Yet the improved picture for Disney on streaming arrives with its cable business in decline. That segment saw revenue slide 8% in the most recent quarter.

"Looking at our company as a whole, it's clear that the turnaround and growth initiatives we set in motion last year have continued to yield positive results," CEO Bob Iger said in a prepared statement.

Speaking during Disney's conference call, Iger said that the company plans to add an ESPN tab to Disney+ by the end of the year, a maneuver that was previously made with Hulu. This will give U.S. subscribers access to some live sports and studio programming within the Disney+ app.

ESPN, Fox and Warner Bros. Discovery announced plans in February to launch a sports streaming platform in the fall that will include offerings from at least 15 networks and all four major professional sports leagues.

Iger also said that next month the company will start cracking down on password sharing for its streaming service in some markets, and will expand that crackdown globally in September.

While Disney has quality streaming content, Iger said that the company must now focus on building out its technology, similar to what rivals like Netflix have been doing. Those actions, including the password crackdown, are expected to improve profits.

It's the first financial report since shareholders rebuffed efforts by activist investor Nelson Peltz to claim seats on the company board last month, standing firmly behind Iger as he tries to energize the company after a rough stretch.

Thomas Monteiro, senior analyst at Investing.com, said that some Disney investors may have been expecting more from the quarterly report, but that "the company has tilted its operation back to its core business model, which is more conservative by nature."

Monteiro was focused on the company's efforts to turn its streaming division profitable.

"The big surprise of the day came on the streaming front, which finally managed to bring profits - way ahead of predictions - amid Hollywood's massive strike period," Monteiro said. "This indicates that perhaps the more global, low-production-cost Netflix-like model is probably the way to go in an operation that needs to rethink its growth expectations as a whole."

Revenue at Disney's domestic theme parks rose 7%, while its theme parks overseas reported a 29% increase.

But Disney acknowledged wrestling with higher costs at its theme parks during the quarter due to inflation.

The company said that there was increased spending by guests at Walt Disney World due to higher ticket prices, while Disneyland guests boosted their spending due to an increase in ticket prices and hotel room rates.

Overseas, Hong Kong Disneyland benefited from the opening of World of Frozen, a section of the park that includes rides based on the popular "Frozen" movies, in November.

Similar to many tourist destinations, Disney is continuing to adjust to post-pandemic travel.

"While consumers continue to travel in record numbers, and we are still seeing healthy demand, we are seeing some evidence of a global moderation from peak post Covid travel," Chief Financial Officer Hugh Johnston said during the call.

For the period ended March 30, Disney lost $20 million, or a penny per share. That compares with a profit of $1.27 billion, or 69 cents per share, a year ago.

Restructuring and impairment charges surged to $2.05 billion from $152 million in the prior-year period.

Adjusted earnings, which stripped out the charges and other items, were $1.21 per share, easily beating the $1.12 per share that analysts polled by Zacks Investment Research predicted.

Disney said that due to its second-quarter performance, it now has a full-year adjusted earnings per share growth target of 25%. It previously predicted growth of at least 20%.

The Burbank, California, company's revenue rose to $22.08 billion from $21.82 billion a year earlier, but was slightly lower than Wall Street estimates of $22.13 billion.

Content sales and licensing revenue tumbled 40% because Disney didn't release any significant movie titles during the second quarter as compared with the prior-year period, which included the release of "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania." The year-ago results were also helped by the ongoing performance of "Avatar: The Way of Water," which was released in December 2022.

Shares fell more than 10% Tuesday.

In February The Walt Disney Co. said that it was making "significant cost reductions" and reduced its selling, general and other operations expenses by $500 million in its first quarter. The company cut thousands of jobs in 2023.

In March allies of Gov. Ron DeSantis and Disney reached a settlement agreement in a state court fight over how Walt Disney World is developed in the future following the takeover of the theme park resort's government by the Florida governor.

Last month character performers at Disneyland in California and the union organizing them, Actors' Equity Association, said they had filed a petition for union recognition.

SMC, Chamber continue bold talent program with biotech, cloud computing focuses

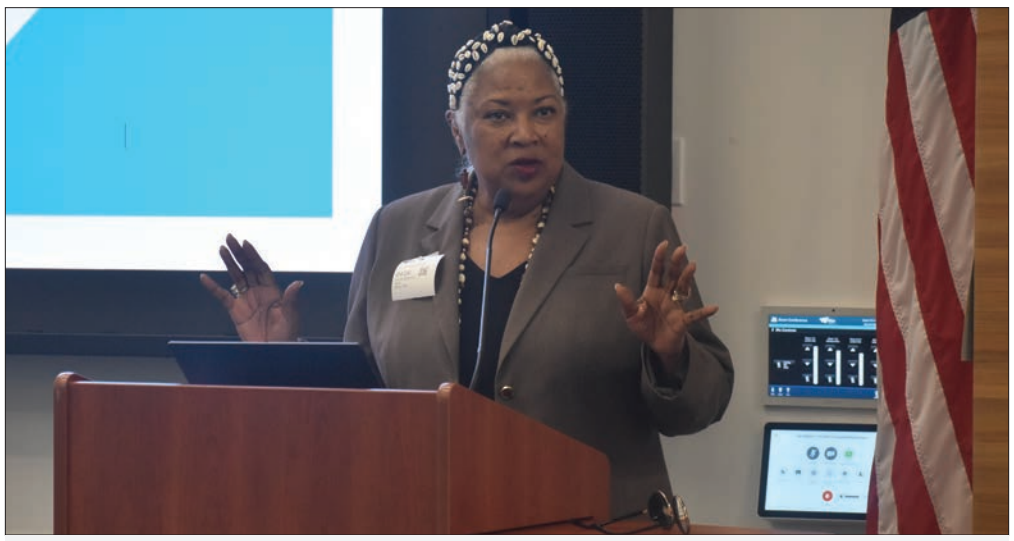


Photo by Thomas Leffler

SMC: Santa Monica College President Dr. Kathryn E. Jeffery discussed the importance of the college's biotechnology program at a Chamber Talent Connect event April 26.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica has continued its tradition of involvement in cutting-edge industries, with local education and business leaders partnering to ensure the city remains forward-thinking in its attention to these ambitious sectors.

On April 26, Santa Monica College (SMC) and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce furthered its Chamber Talent Connect program, which builds partnerships for SMC students and Santa Monica businesses, by hosting an event focused on the biotechnology industry. The following week, the program focused on the sector of cloud computing, data science and artificial intelligence.

At the biotechnology event, hosted at the Kite Gilead campus adjacent to Bergamot Station Arts Center, Kite and SMC faculty discussed opportunities for SMC students in the ambitious industry, including a chance for students to engage with Kite's revolutionary cell therapy aimed to treat and potentially cure cancer.

Kite Gilead Vice President Kent Detwieler and Senior Director of Process Development Semsi Ensari walked attendees through the company's CAR-T cell therapy process, which collects a patient's white blood cells to isolate and activate T cells, engineering the cells with the CAR gene used to selectively target and kill cancer cells. Kite's first CAR T-cell therapy was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2017, and its second was approved in 2020, making Kite the first company to gain FDA approval for two such therapies. As of 2024, more than 20,000 clinical and commercial patients have been treated by the process.

"Our motto is focused on the cure, so when we're talking about curing cancer, people get a little finicky about that, because how much data do you need to show that it's cured?," Detwieler said. "But we have really good data, up to five years of people who are completely cancer-free after taking our treatment."

SMC's biotechnology program was created with companies like Kite in mind, made with the awareness that the industry is struggling to find highly-skilled technicians to support its rapid growth. The curriculum, which starts with the entry-level Biol 30 "Fundamentals of Biotechnology 1" course, has been validated by industry partners and has been funded by the National Science Foundation and the W. M. Keck Foundation.

"We are excited to help develop a pipeline of what we believe will be exceptionally talented students who will be ready to grow in your organizations … these innovations (are) cutting edge with the inspiring, audacious goal to cure cancer," SMC President Dr. Kathryn E. Jeffery said of the pathway.

Along with the inspiring research, the biotechnology industry has been an economic boon for Santa Monica. City Economic Development Manager Jennifer Taylor noted at the event that the healthcare sector, of which biotechnology is a large part, employs over 10,000 in the city, equating to about 12% of the Santa Monica workforce.

Taylor added that the city has a "deep commitment" to the sector, with the sector producing an employee payroll of approximately $180 million per quarter to support the local economy. Kite, a city tenant, has added to the sector by employing over 1,000 across its Santa Monica-based global headquarters and global research and development and clinical manufacturing center.

The cloud computing, data science and artificial intelligence event on May 3 was held on SMC's main campus and featured speakers along with workshops for interested students. Keynote addresses were given by Crancer Group Founder Sherman Crancer and Amazon Web Services (AWS) AI ML Technical Program Manager Myra Roldan.

SMC and AWS collaboratively designed the Cloud Computing Certificate curriculum for the California Cloud Workforce Project, a consortium of 19 Los Angeles County community college and sister high schools. The curriculum aims to equip students with cloud skills necessary for careers in the technology industry. The college's cloud computing program, which begins with the CS 3 "Introduction to Computer Systems" course, provides students with skills like technical principles of hardware and software requirements to run systems in the cloud.

thomas@smdp.com

GAS PRICES IN SANTA MONICA

76	1776 Cloverfield Blvd	$5.38
SHELL	1802 Cloverfield Blvd	$5.60
CHEVRON	1819 Cloverfield Blvd	$5.80
MOBIL	731 Santa Monica Blvd	$5.90
LINCOLN BLVD CAR WASH	1624 Lincoln Blvd	$5.59
WORLD	1801 Lincoln Blvd	$5.24
SHELL	1866 Lincoln Blvd	$5.49
SPEEDWAY EXPRESS	2555 Lincoln Blvd	$5.19
CHEVRON	1732 Lincoln Blvd	$5.49
ARCO	332 Pico Blvd	$5.49
SINCLAIR	1944 Pico Blvd	$5.39
CHEVRON	1330 Santa Monica Blvd	$5.49
CHEVRON	1348 Pico Blvd	$5.69
CHEVRON	432 Wilshire Blvd	$5.50

*Prices paying in card

Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have fallen 4.2 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $5.26/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 3.2 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 48.9 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has dropped 3.4 cents in the last week and stands at $3.94 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at $4.59/g yesterday while the most expensive was $6.57/g, a difference of $1.98/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was $4.29/g while the highest was $8.35/g, a difference of $4.06/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 1 cent per gallon in the last week, averaging $3.62/g today. The national average is up 2.7 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 11.1 cents per gallon higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Santa Monica Daily Press



TOURISM

FROM PAGE 1

Regent Santa Monica Beach hotel openings, as well as new cultural experiences like the return of Cirque du Soleil to the Santa Monica Pier in October.

"The notion of tentative optimism encapsulates our collective mindset - a balance between hope for brighter days ahead and a pragmatic understanding of the hurdles we still face," Kerns said. "The past few years have been a testament to our industry's ability to weather storms, adapt to changing landscapes and emerge stronger and more resilient."

A keynote address at the summit was given by Visit California President and CEO Carolina Beteta, who also received the Jeff King Tourism Champion of the Year award at the event. Beteta stated that 2023 visitors to California as a whole improved on 2022, finally passing pre-pandemic thresholds, and added that tax revenue generated $12.7 billion for the state and added about 65,000 new jobs.

Beteta also shared new marketing ideas from Visit California, wanting messaging to embody the core components of the state being playful and open minded. She noted that this includes marketing towards the international market, with the state having an opportunity for a surge of international travelers over the next two years.

"We really do set up for inspiration, looking at casting that net far and wide and getting people to think about California, because if they're not thinking about California on a global basis, they'll never make it to Santa Monica, so that's really our job," Beteta said.

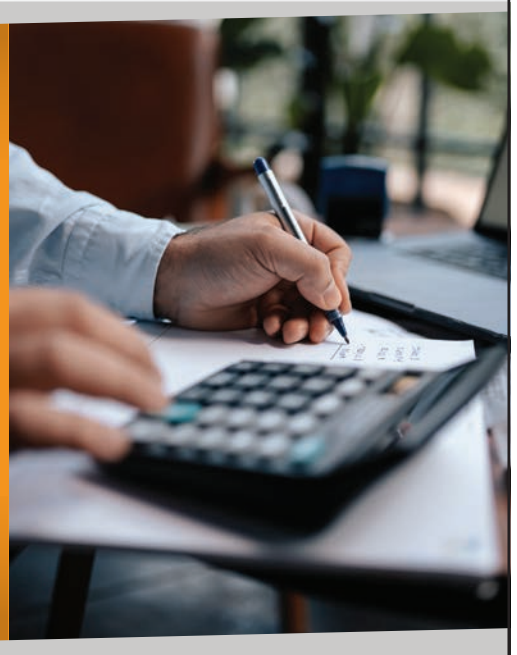
In addition to Beteta's award, Shore Hotel Front Desk Supervisor Ramon Jimenez-Bravo was awarded the Thelma Parks Tourism Spirit Award for his "exceptional service in the hospitality industry," being given a $1,000 scholarship and a Santa Monica "staycation" provided by Travel & Tourism and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The award wasn't the only commendation for the Shore, as the hotel was noted as having been named the number-one hotel in the United States by TripAdvisor's 2024 Best of the Best Traveler's Choice Awards.

The event also included an international market panel featuring Travel & Tourism representatives from Australia/New Zealand, Canada, France, Germany and the United Kingdom/Ireland; as well as recognition for Travel & Tourism's Board of Directors Chair Neil Carrey. Video messages were sent in by City Manager David White and Mayor Phil Brock, with the mayor thanking the Travel & Tourism team for a "continued investment in our great city and for everything you to do keep Santa Monica (an) unmatched place to visit."

Along with praise for local hotels and restaurants, Brock also complemented the local arts scene as a tourist attraction, including the weekly Downtown Santa Monica walking tours and the recent introduction of Anne Carmack as the city's Poet Laureate.

"I know more than anyone how important (tourist) investment and the resulting momentum is to our economic recovery, and especially our resiliency, (and) we will continue to celebrate our economic growth and to enhance the cultural viability of our community," Brock said.

thomas@smdp.com

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• BOOKKEEPING
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Classifieds

Petition to Admin Estate

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OFKRISTIE M. MCCLURECASE NO. 24STPB04775To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise beinterested in the will or estate, or both, of KRISTIE M. MCCLUREA PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by MORGAN A. MCCLURE in the Superior Court ofCalifornia, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that MORGAN A. MCCLURE be appointed aspersonal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administrationof Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions withoutobtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personalrepresentative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waivednotice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will begranted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause whythe court should not grant the authority.A HEARING on the petition will be held on MAY 31, 2024 at 8:30 A.M. in Dept.: "5" located at:111 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA Central DistrictIF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state yourobjections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be inperson or by your attorney.IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claimwith the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within thelater of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personalrepresentative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days fromthe date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the CaliforniaProbate Code.OTHER CALIFORNIA statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You maywant to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, youmay file with the court a formal Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of aninventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in ProbateCode section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.ALISHA J. WALKER, SB# 283350Attorney for PetitionerTHE LAW OFFICE OF ALISHA J. WALKER4326 Atlantic AvenueLong Beach, CA 90807PNSB# 107413Published in: Santa Monica Daily PressPub Dates: May, 7, 8, 14, 2024

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm LOCATION 1640 5th Street, Suite 218, Santa Monica, CA 90401

CURIOUS CITY

FROM PAGE 3

Uber ride the cost of the rental car we had reserved but could not get, and finally, apparent victory celebrated with a fine dinner and good Scotch (The Macallan, at half the price you would pay in LA, so of course I had to have two).

This involves my good friend Joey (not his real name) and a property in Florida. Joey and I have been great friends since our grown kids were in diapers. He has been successful in real estate since he was 19, nearly half a century. While hardly a saint in some areas, he is also one of the most honest and moral people I have ever known. His word, at least to me, is gold. I asked him years ago to keep an eye out for a deal I could be involved in, for little or no up front investment, and little or no risk. Finally he found something, in Florida. No investment, all I would have to do is sign some papers and occasionally get them notarized, and if it sold, I would get a small percentage.

Years went by and I gave up on it. Then it looked like there would be a foreclosure. Oh well. But then things got weird and it looked like Joey could recover the property, but he needed my participation. Even while I was on vacation. Very annoying, disruptive to my life, for more than a year. But then it got much worse: I would have to fly with him to Florida to give a deposition. But it meant hundreds of thousands for Joey. I couldn't say no.

8 1/2 HRS IN DALLAS - FT. WORTH AIRPORT

In those oh-so-comfortable chairs. Where we spent little time, because we were trying to get the earliest flight out, but... American Airlines gave us nothing but grief. You can get on the stand-by list for the earlier flight, but you will have to give up your reservation on the other flight. That doesn't make sense.

But here's what you need to know about DFW airport. It is beyond huge. So huge they have a train that circles the top of the airport. But that train stopped working, while we were on it, dumping us miles from our gate. The next six hours were exhausting. Miles of shuffling, to try to get out of there, with no help from American Airlines, only roadblocks and indifference. Pete Buttigieg, good job but there is more to be done.

Even the search for a decent meal took hours. McDonald's? 7-11? Chick-fil-A? Please. Finally, in a far corner of DFW, we found a good BBQ joint. The Brit at the next table recounted a similar search over miles to find something decent. Dinner, finally, at 11 p.m.

Our original flight, 6 p.m, took off at 1 a.m., getting us into Jacksonville at 5 a.m., too early to claim our rental car. So we took an Uber, the same cost for one trip as our rental car for a day, to our reserved hotel. Joey hopped out to get things squared away, but came back with this report: they gave away our room but are trying to find another one. I have to warn you – the lobby is full of some pretty rough characters. This was a decent hotel chain but it looked like they were hosting a crackhead convention. One guy didn't have a nose, just a black cavity. Eww.

I DIDN'T NOTICE THEM AT FIRST

Because I was cautiously making my way around the huge black and brown German Shepherd stretched out in front of the entrance. I've seen smaller horses. The desk clerk might have outweighed Shaq, and had the demeanor of a pissed-off Putin. Joey surmised that she could beat up every dirtbag in the lobby, and that's why they were behaving. When she finally gave us our card-key, we went upstairs to find it didn't work. We also found a hallway with peeling paint and a carpet that had not been cleaned for at least 50 years. Joey left me there to go get a key that worked, and I expected him to say, if I'm not back in 10 minutes, run for your life.

It was a long 20 minutes, leaving me to imagine what might run out of the room when we did get the door open. But we never tried the new card key. Joey said, let's get out of here, I think we might be in danger. Go where, though, at 6 a.m., in a spread out industrial area? But I guess a merciful God decided he had put us through enough, and right across the street was a Hampton Inn (part of Hilton), with a sparkling clean room with two huge beds, a sumptuous breakfast buffet, and not a single person who looked like they would kill us for pocket change.

Joey and our lawyer said I did great. Keep your answers short, and truthful. Although it went longer than anyone expected, more than three hours, there were really only two important questions. Mr. Andrews, have you ever seen the gentleman sitting across the table from you? – who claimed he bought our company from me for $5,000 cash, sealed with my (forged) signature. And, Mr. Andrews, have you ever in your life been to Tallahassee? – where said gentleman claimed he met me to file the transaction. No, and no.

I was born in Florida, Ft. Lauderdale, left when I was one (I was very smart from an early age), and if I never go there again it will be too soon.

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

HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 1

Outreach and members of the SMPD encountered an individual exhibiting anti-social behavior.

According to the witness, "When the team engaged the individual, he became agitated and threatening. The individual picked up a knife and held it in an offensive manner saying he was willing and would kill them, asking for dares.

"Police with the team requested assistance as the individual became more agitated. The individual threw a piece of metal at a young tourist. Several police units arrived, blocking off the area, ordering the individual to put down the weapon. After a standoff, police took the individual down and into custody," the witness told the Daily Press.

The subject was being charged under the California Penal Code 422 for threats against the security officer and outreach professional. The road was cleared quickly and the normal flow of busy traffic resumed.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

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IN-PERSON COMMUNITY MEETING

Date: Wednesday, May 22nd, 2024

Time: 6pm doors open; 6:15pm presentation starts

Location: St. Anne Church (Parish Hall)
2011 Colorado Ave, Santa Monica

OR

ONLINE COMMUNITY MEETING

Date: Thursday, May 23rd, 2024

Time: 6pm virtual meeting opens; 6:15pm presentation starts

Location: The meeting will be recorded and a Zoom link can be found here: hchcsantamonica.org/event/meeting-2-virtual

Comments and questions can be submitted until May 31, 2024 at hchcsantamonica.org/event/meeting-1-in-person/

Please Register to Attend a Meeting
www.hchcsantamonica.org SMAH@hollywoodhousing.org
(866)-601-3490



Santa Monica CHAMBER of COMMERCE

TOAST OF SANTA MONICA

June 20th, 2024
5:00 p.m.

Fairmont Miramar Hotel and Bungalows
Santa Monica, CA

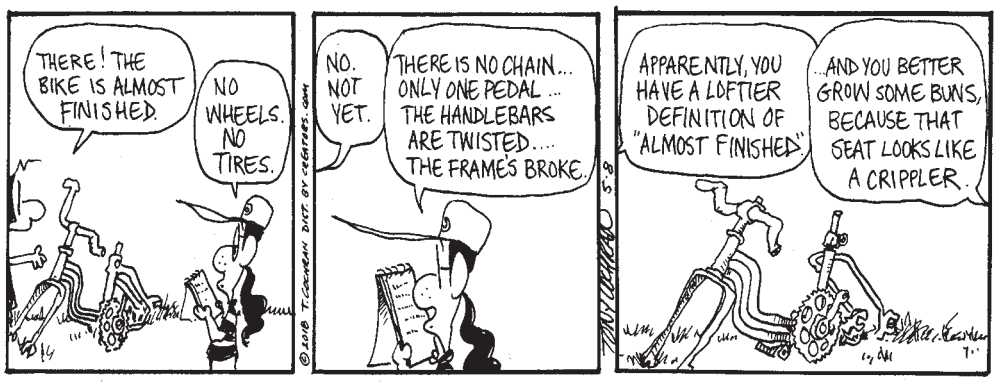


Keynote speaker
Rick Caruso

Sponsorship opportunities + special table pricing contact:
Judy.Kruger@Smchamber.com

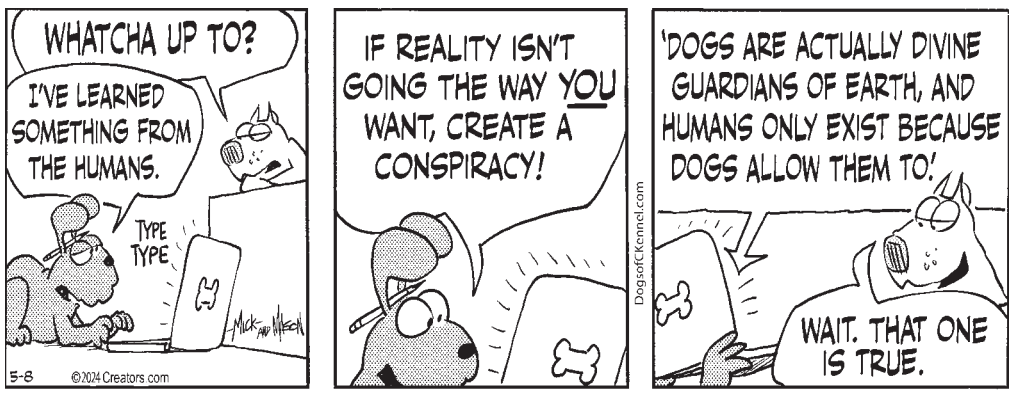
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



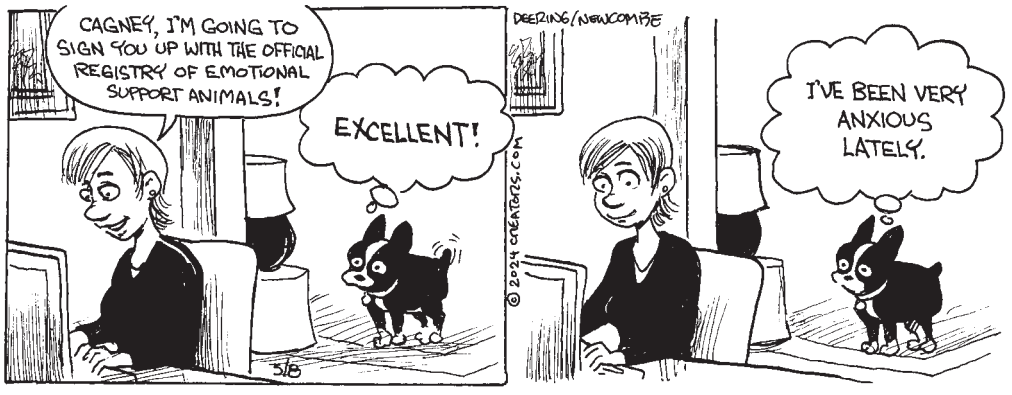
Dogs of C-Kennel

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 23 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6204

Weekend markets

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

Arts
Axes
Bike
Books
Burner
Cage
Cakes
Cash
Chai
Chips
Chutney
City
Conversation
Doors
Drinks
Eggs
Electrical
Ferns
Find
Fishing tackle
Food
Fruit
Games
Hats
Herbs
Incense
Jams
Junk
Knives
Ladder
Novels
Pets
Pies
Produce
Radios
Records
Shoes
Skis
Slices
Soap
Spend
Sunglasses
Teas
Tools
Tyres

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

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 8)

You'll take on the golden vision, and intense powers of focus will rocket your project. The team that gathers around you will bring fun to work. Strategic adventures and relationships will create ease for you. More highlights: an exhilarating project, a liberation from the old scene, and self-development strides that give you new confidence and purpose. Capricorn and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 8, 14, 45 and 11.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You bring a certain X factor to your work. It's too soon to name it, and it can't be easily described, but everyone seems to be able to identify it. Just ask around. What you learn will speak to how your work is distinguishable from others.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's dangerous to assume you've arrived at a correct conclusion. It's better to stay aware and assume that no answer is 100% correct. The bumps and blocks are obstacles that bring people together.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Those who pretend to be something they're not are only stopping themselves from becoming who they were meant to be. Your talent for truth shines now. Your honesty encourages others to be honest, too.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You know who you like and trust. As for the one who does nothing to help you, is that person really an ally? Put relationships to the test. Who feels compelled to lift you? Who wants to be as useful to you as you are to them?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll get a surge of creative fuel midday that you can use to drum up some fun with another creative person. Let playfulness rule and there will be practical applications for what you come up with, too.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your intuitive prowess reaches new heights. Trust your instincts; they will guide you to perceive the underlying truth of matters, benefiting not only yourself but also those around you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It is good that you are so wary of anyone trying too hard to sell you. When their idea or product is something you want and will use, you don't need to be sold on it. Seek the natural fit, the easy match, the soft sell.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's fun to edit yourself because even you can admire the strength in what you did right and want to keep. You'll cut the superfluous, amplify the essentials and highlight the fun parts. All this polish is only possible because you had the courage to put it all out there.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The more you create, do and present, the more there is to criticize. But you'd rather learn from your mistakes than never know how good you can get. You'll bravely lob your ideas to the world to see what comes back.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll have an excellent time with a role, especially when you dress the part. You'll have even more fun when you also consider the atmosphere. Create the set, change the lighting, add a soundtrack - the details make it beautiful.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll be asked to take on a responsibility. There's a light and a heavy version of this. Try on the former and consider the latter after you get an appreciation and understanding of the full range of options.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll be paid to do a job, but the dollar amount means very little to you when compared to the difference you make in the lives of others. Once you discover your purpose for action, it is its own reward.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

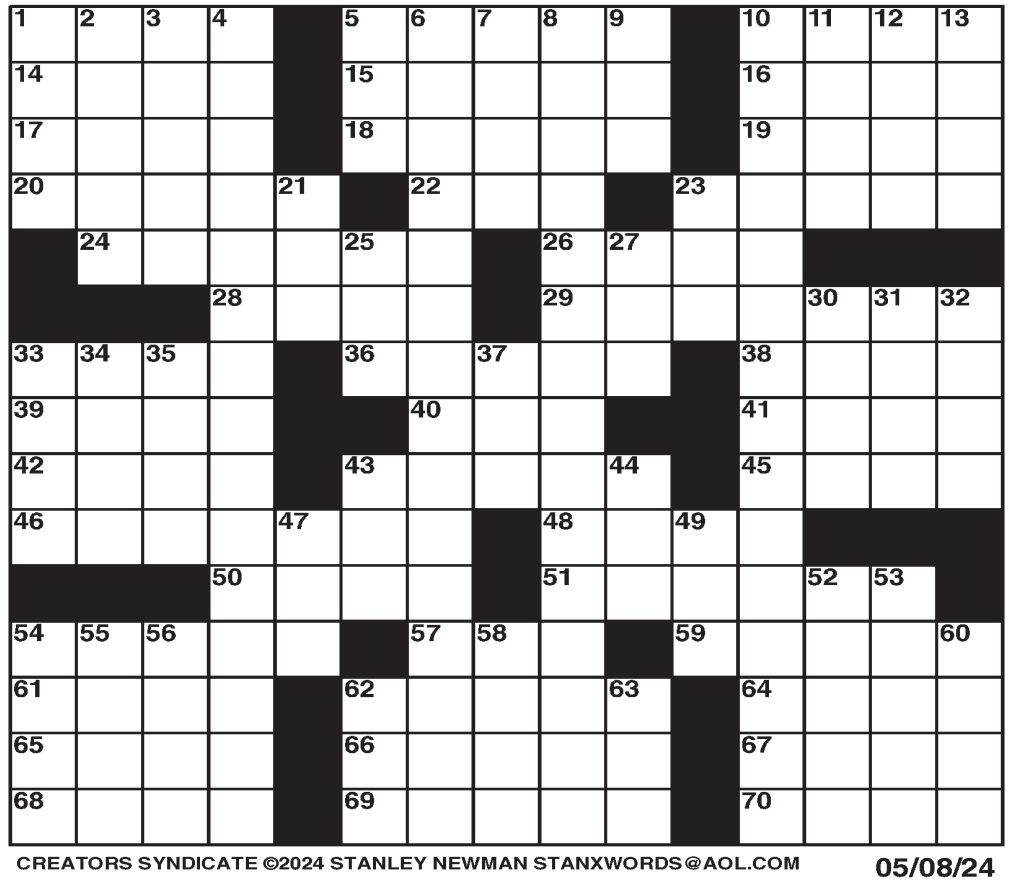
IN THE ZONE by Steve Faiella
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Karate blow
5 Apple desktops
10 Engrave with acid
14 Italy's capital, to Italians
15 French painter Claude
16 Vicinity
17 Actor Baldwin
18 Cloudless forecast
19 Condiment in a shaker
20 Make a start
22 Tennis court divider
23 Fashion sense
24 Least hazardous
26 Tug-of-war cord
28 Notion
29 Bestowed, as a trophy
33 Long heroic tale
36 Supermarket path
38 Unclothed statue
39 Falls behind
40 Nothing at all
41 Intend (to)
42 Pretzel shape
43 New England fish serving
45 Shade trees
46 German apple pastry
48 Given a signal on stage
50 Princess of India
51 Goes off-script
54 Unclear, as a memory
57 Wrestling surface
59 Bet-matching comment in poker
61 Stare at
62 Come to __ (start bubbling)
64 Scandinavian furniture chain
65 Creme-filled cookie
66 Italian salami city
67 Require
68 Typical high schooler
69 Current fashion
70 See in the distance

DOWN

1 Lobster relative
2 Golf course's 18
3 Last Greek letter
4 California caviar source
5 Online note exchanges, for short
6 Person headed for the summit
7 Diarist __ Frank
8 Convenient meeting spot for all
9 Pigpen
10 Health practice that includes acupuncture
11 Cafeteria's plate holder
12 Mobile phone
13 Dislike very much
21 Homer Simpson neighbor
23 Relaxing retreat
25 Large body of water
27 Have debts
30 Fencing contest
31 Dutch cheese
32 Bear's lairs
33 Large antlered animals
34 Huff and puff
35 Frankenstein's assistant
37 Knight's title
43 Any of a DC 100
44 Defective firecracker
47 24-hour period
49 Yale student
52 Makes cookies or cakes
53 Take a nap
54 What a shoe surrounds
55 Fairy tale villain
56 Great joy
58 First-rate
60 Well-mannered woman
62 Author's negotiator: Abbr.
63 Young boy



CREATORS SYNDICATE ©2024 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM

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BARNES & NOBLE

FROM PAGE 1

for an opening date is "by January 2025" according to a representative.

Signage at the site says "Opening 2024," so one can only surmise it's going to be some point in-between.

In March of last year, the Daily Press reported that the celebrated restaurant chain Din Tai Fung had announced it was set to open a whopping 10,615 square foot, indoor/outdoor location with ocean views on the third level food court of Santa Monica Place shopping mall.

Din Tai Fung is a Chinese restaurant specializing in Xiao Long Bao, or soup dumplings. The chain currently has one outlet in Las Vegas, five in Washington state and seven dotted around Southern California, plus another 160 or so locations in 12 other countries worldwide. With a menu that now includes steamed buns, house-made noodles and vegan dishes, the brand has won many awards and accolades.

A spokesperson for Macerich confirmed that the Arte Museum was still planning a "50,000 square foot immersive, digital art destination," despite being first announced in January 2023, but no details were available of when that might arrive. However, it seems highly unlikely to be this year.

In addition, the long-awaited Barnes & Noble is also still on track to open in 2024, hopefully by the end of June or the beginning of July, according to Janine Flanigan, Sr. Director Store Planning and Design, Barnes & Noble, Inc.

The opening was confirmed in July of last year following rumors, cryptic window signs and social media posts. Barnes & Noble previously occupied the large space on the northeast corner of the Promenade bordering Wilshire. The two story location served locals and visitors alike for 22 years before closing in January of 2018. The space at 1318 Third Street has been largely vacant since and it was formerly the site of Athleta women's sportswear store.

When asked why the opening of the new store was taking so long, Flanigan would only say, "We are still in the permitting process." However, she did clarify that reports of problems with the supply of building materials were incorrect and there had never been an issue. "We've been fine on our building supplies. There's, you know, an HVAC issue here or there, but no, we haven't had any issues with [this] building."

With the closure last year of Hi De Ho Comics on Lincoln Blvd, Downtown Santa Monica has sadly found itself in a literary vacuum for some time. Flanigan also notes that in the last 10 or 15 years, they've noticed the "downtrending of books."

Consequently, the book behemoth started adding items like DVDs and Blu-Rays and even vinyl to its shelves. Needless to say, this has proved extremely popular as consumers have begun to realize the value of owning actual physical media of their favorite movies and not being utterly at the mercy of streaming networks.

"I don't know if it was self-inflicted … but in the last five years with James Daunt's leadership after Elliott Advisors took over, it really has been spectacular. And just a fantastic change for what we were seeing the prior 10 years," she said.

In June 2019, Barnes & Noble was acquired by UK-based Elliott Advisors that also owns the British bookstore chain Waterstones.

"We're looking at the summer, so right now we're scheduled to open probably at the end of June," Flanigan says.

While not as big as the Barnes & Noble store in The Grove, there are plans to hold book signings and other special events, but ones that are more suitable to the slightly smaller store footprint.

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Help Wanted

Fin. Quant Analyst: Energy Sector (Santa Monica, CA) Evaluate Infra.: Assess feasibility, profit., Analyze Oil & Gas Inv.:Predict trends., Support Oil Ops: Optimize prod., Mng Hedging, Portfolios: Implement strats., Review Renew. EnergyProj.: Assess viability. Evaluate Solar & Battery Systems: Analyze perf. Assess Water Infra. Props.: Project sustainability.Build Fin. Models: Predict perf. Generate Inv. Ideas: Analyze data, $69,992. EDUC: MS in Energy/Global Affairs, Spec. inEnergy Policy/rltd + 18 mos. Exp. in Job /Oil & Gas Analyst. Send CV: Grade 6 Oil, 1223 Wilshire Blvd., Ste 1050, SantaMonica, CA 90403

Help Wanted

Manager, Data Engineering sought by GoodRx, Inc. in Santa Monica, CA.: implement systems to catch bugs and monitordata quality. Salary: $139,235 - $271,000 per year. Telecom. allowed. Email resumes: jobs@goodrx.com. Job Code:CA0324CY.

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WEDNESDAY | MAY 8

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

The largest grower-only Certified Farmers Market in Southern California and a favorite for local chefs. Enjoy Santa Monica's downtown farmers market from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. between 4th St. and Ocean Ave. Widely considered to be among the best on the west coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheese, delicious foods, live music and more.

THINK PINK 2024

The Irene Dunne Guild will hold its 18th annual Think Pink for Women's Wellness, a fundraiser for Saint John's Health Center, at the Upper Bel Air Bay Club in Pacific Palisades from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Think Pink is an event that focuses on health education and awareness for women and their families. The Irene Dunne Guild, a support group of Saint John's Health Center Foundation, raises funds for nursing scholarships and new medical equipment. Tickets are $195 per person, to purchase visit irenedunneguild.org.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS NEWCOMERS MEETING

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

PLANNING COMMISSION

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

THURSDAY | MAY 9

SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

The Library Board meets at 6 p.m. at the Ocean Park Branch Library Main Reading Room, 2601 Main St. The public is welcome to attend. Current and past agendas and minutes are available on small.org. For special disability accommodations, please contact Library Administration at 310-458-8600.

DISCO QUEEN

LouLou Rooftop Restaurant and Lounge, 395 Santa Monica Place #300, hosts the hottest new disco and drag party on the Westside beginning at 6 p.m. Disco Queen pays homage to Disco Queen nights in Paris filled with disco balls, smooth grooves and over-the-top talent. The top drag queens on the planet will host the hottest night out with resident DJ ARA playing classic disco hits. The launch event will feature a special performance by RuPaul's Drag Race veteran and Emmy-nominated actor Willam. For more information, visit loulousantamonica.com.

14TH ANNUAL WAVE AWARDS

The 14th Annual WAVE Awards is presented by the Venice Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, and celebrates the hard work and dedication of local educators. The theme for this year's awards is "Inspiring Unity," embracing the challenging and emotional climate faced by teachers and students. Honored teachers have demonstrated a balanced approach to meeting students' needs through inclusive and emotionally engaging ats in the classroom. Begins at 6 p.m. at Westside Vineyard, 3838 S Centinela Ave. Dinner, wine and refreshments will be provided. Tickets are $75, to purchase visit: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/sp2grcs.

HEAL THE BAY IN-PERSON VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Take the first step toward helping Heal the Bay work for safe, healthy, clean coastal waters and watersheds. Come to an in-person volunteer orientation at Heal the Bay Aquarium, 1600 Ocean Front Walk, starting at 6:30 p.m. Learn about volunteer programs, additional ways to help the environment, and be the first to know when specific trainings are scheduled. Benefits of volunteering with Heal the Bay include building professional and personal skills and becoming a confident advocate for the environment. To register, visit: https://healthebay.org/event/in-person-volunteer-orientation-at-heal-the-bay-aquarium-8/.

RENT CONTROL BOARD MEETING

The Rent Control Board meets to conduct business associated with the Rent Control Charter Amendment and Regulations. Meeting begins at 7 p.m. at Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St.

FRIDAY | MAY 10

MOVIES FRIDAYS ON THE PROMENADE

Join Movie Fridays on the Third Street Promenade for a screening of "Mamma Mia!" on the 1200 block of the Promenade between Arizona and Wilshire. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., movie will start at 7:30 p.m. No advance registration is required and all ages are welcome. Picnicking is allowed, alcoholic beverages prohibited. Dogs are welcome. Tall chairs are not allowed. For more information, call 310-393-8355.

VENICE FAMILY CLINIC ART WALK AND AUCTION

The 45th annual Venice Family Clinic Art Walk and Auction will entail an art gallery and online auction to celebrate the growth of the Los Angeles arts scene and of Venice Family Clinic, a non-profit community health center that provides quality health to people in need. The art exhibition will showcase the works of over 150 artists who are exclusively Los Angeles-based, including: Ed Ruscha, Larry Bell, Ed Moses, Arthur Jafa, Alison Saar, Kenny Scharf, Jordan Wolfson, Patrisse Cullors, Sayre Gomez, Paul Mpagi Sepuya, Alfonso Gonzalez Jr., Jeremy Shockley, Analia Saban, Nancy Evans and many more. Legendary sculptor Fred Eversley will be honored as the Signature Artist. Proceeds from art sales will help fund Venice Family Clinic's comprehensive health services. Runs from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 910 Abbot Kinney, Venice. For more information, email justine@ssmandl.com.


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