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Los Angeles Councilwoman targets "vanlord" industry

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Venice Councilwoman Traci Park is taking action to address the growing concern about "van lords" who rent out RVs to people experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles.

Park presented a motion on Tuesday seeking to tighten regulations on RV sales and leasing in public rights-of-way that would try to limit the number of vehicles on local streets.

While Santa Monica has a longstanding prohibition against public camping that includes living in vehicles, the van rental business has been a problem in Venice for years. The van rental concept, although once unprecedented, has gained attention as a makeshift solution in a region where exorbitant rents have left many struggling to make ends meet. Basic shelter at an affordable price presents an appealing alternative to sleeping on the streets or facing the challenges of overcrowded shelters.

However concerns have been raised by locals and community leaders. The presence of multiple vans, has led to disputes over limited parking spaces and sanitation issues particularly in the Ballona where van dwellers are accused of dumping waste into the ecologically sensitive wetland.

Efforts to address the problem have been limited so far. Organizations that provide safe

SEE **VANLORD** PAGE 8

SMPD celebrates promotions and new hires









Courtesy photo

SMPD: The Santa Monica Police Department welcomed four new officers and promoted five others at a Thursday ceremony. Erika Soto is the daughter of a former SMPD detective and while the ceremony usually involves friends and family presenting new officers with their badge, Soto will wear her father's badge for the first year of her service in recognition of her family's law enforcement tradition. Pictured are Sergeant Adam Buus and Sergeant Daniel Lariosat, Lieutenant Gerardo Leyva and Lieutenant Scott McGee, Captain Rudy Flores, Officers Andrew Castillo, Sergio Castillo, Curtis Corwin and Erika Soto. All the officers were welcomed and recognized by Chief Ramon Batista and Deputy Chief Darrick Jacob.

Scuffle highlights Santa Monica's role in culture war protests

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

A pair of dueling abortion protests last weekend forced police officers to physically separate the groups resulting in a small scuffle that highlights the Santa Monica Police Department's response to contentious gatherings.

Santa Monica has become a regular stop for regional protests tied to modern politics. The Downtown area (including the Pier, Promenade and Palisades Park) has hosted pro-Trump events, Ukrainian awareness events, protests against the Chinese government and most recently, an anti-abortion rally. Some of those events, specifically those with ties to right-wing causes, draw a local counter-protest contingent that can lead to conflict between the two groups.

Abortion rights groups have often centered on the Planned Parenthood facility downtown but last weekend a relatively small anti-abortion protest calling themselves Babies Lives Matter started in Palisades Park. A small group of pro-choice counter protesters also showed up and both sides used loudspeakers to shout at each other.

"They stayed separated for the most part, arguing back and forth," said Lieutenant Erika Aklufi. "As we were setting up a barricade, one of the counter protesters tried to jump the line and get over to the other side and agitate."

SMPD grabbed the individual,

SEE **PROTEST** PAGE 8



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Supreme Court avoids ruling on law shielding internet companies from being sued for what users post

MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

The Supreme Court on Thursday sided with Google, Twitter and Facebook in lawsuits seeking to hold them liable for terrorist attacks. But the justices sidestepped the big issue hovering over the cases, the federal law that shields social media companies from being sued over content posted by others.

The justices unanimously rejected a lawsuit alleging that the companies allowed their platforms to be used to aid and abet an attack at a Turkish nightclub that killed 39 people in 2017.

In the case of an American college student who was killed in an Islamic State terrorist attack in Paris in 2015, a unanimous court returned the case to a lower court, but said there appeared to be little, if anything, left of it.

The high court initially took up the Google case to decide whether the companies' legal shield for the social media posts of others, contained in a 1996 law known as Section 230, is too broad.

Instead, though, the court said it was not necessary to reach that issue because there is little tying Google to responsibility for the Paris attack.

"We therefore decline to address the application of Section 230 to a complaint that appears to state little, if any, plausible claim for relief," the court wrote in an unsigned opinion.

> The Court will eventually have to answer some important questions that it avoided in today's opinions. Questions about the scope of platforms' immunity under Section 230 are consequential and will certainly come up soon in other cases
> - Anna Diakun, staff attorney at the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University

The outcome is, at least for now, a victory for the tech industry, which predicted havoc on the internet if Google lost. But the high court remains free to take up the issue in a later case.

"The Court will eventually have to answer some important questions that it avoided in today's opinions. Questions about the scope of platforms' immunity under Section 230 are consequential and will certainly come up soon in other cases," Anna Diakun, staff attorney at the Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University, said in an emailed statement.

Google general counsel Halimah DeLaine Prado said an email that the company will "continue our work to safeguard free expression online, combat harmful content, and support businesses and creators who benefit from the internet."

A lawyer for the family of Nohemi Gonzalez, who was killed in Paris, expressed disappointment at the outcome, but pledged to fight on. "We lawyers see this decision as just another hurdle we need to navigate. It took decades to topple Big Tobacco, we'll eventually rein in reckless and greed driven Big Tech as well," Nitsana Darshan-Leitner wrote in an email.

The families of victims in both attacks asserted that the internet giants did not do enough to prevent their platforms from being used by extremist groups to radicalize and recruit people.

They sued under a federal law that allows Americans injured by a terrorist attack abroad to seek money damages in federal court.

The family of a victim in the bombing of the Reina nightclub in Istanbul claimed that the companies assisted in the growth of the Islamic State group, which claimed responsibility for the attack.

But writing for the court, Justice Clarence Thomas said the family's "claims fall far short of plausibly alleging that defendants aided and abetted the Reina attack."

In the Paris attack, Gonzalez' family raised similar claims against Google over her killing at a Paris bistro, in an assault also claimed by the Islamic State. That was one of several attacks on a June night in the French capital that left 130 people dead.

The family wants to sue Google for YouTube videos they said helped attract IS recruits and radicalize them. Google owns YouTube.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled that most of the claims were barred by the internet immunity law.

The Supreme Court's decision in October to review that ruling set off alarm at Google and other technology companies. "If we undo Section 230, that would break a lot of

SEE **SOCIAL MEDIA** PAGE 4



GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

What Californians can learn from the Hollywood writers' strike and the lack of urgency to end it

Two strikes, two different courses of action.

In March, the union representing support staff in the Los Angeles Unified School District walked off the job, triggering a shutdown of one of the nation's largest school systems. Six weeks later, the Writers Guild of America opened its strike against the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, bringing TV and movie production to a halt.

The school workers were out for three days. During that time, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass summoned representatives of the two sides to City Hall and pushed the negotiations along. On March 23, Bass announced that the two sides had reached an agreement. Schools reopened the next day.

When the writers announced their strike at the beginning of May, Bass issued a two-sentence statement, affirming the importance of the entertainment industry to Los Angeles and encouraging "all sides to come together around an agreement that protects our signature industry and the families it supports." Since then, the two sides have not even met, much less closed in on agreement.

The difference in the civic response is not because one strike matters to Los Angeles and one does not. Both affect core constituencies and the broader economy. But the way they are playing out says something about their places in the city's political and cultural landscape.

When school workers walk – and teachers join – schools shut down. Parents are left without a place to send their kids. And it's not a snow day. There's no hot chocolate and sledding. Parents demand quick action. Mayors – even though they are not responsible for schools – respond to pressure from worried parents and demand action.

When writers strike, the effects are global but incremental. The late-night comedy shows go dark. Movies and television shows stop production. It's obvious to a fan of Stephen Colbert anywhere on earth that something is amiss.

The local impact, however, is harder to discern, at least at first. Yes, thousands of writers put down their pens, but the deep effect of their strike is cumulative rather than instantaneous. It's in the sets that are shut down, the actors put out of work, the caterers and carpenters and dry cleaners whose livelihoods slowly dry up. And, further down the path, the stockbrokers and travel agents and hotel workers and real estate agents and on and on and on. Those people don't work for the entertainment industry, and they are not feeling it yet, but as savings are depleted and income falls, they will.

And it will hit hard. During the last writers' strike from November 2007 to February 2008, economists estimated that Los Angeles suffered more than $2 billion in lost output. A study by the Milken Institute, a nonpartisan think tank, calculated a drop of more than $800 million in retail sales alone. Some 38,000 jobs were lost – most of those outside of the entertainment industry.

This time, the impact is likely to be even greater, according to economists and others following events closely.

"This is a huge, huge problem," said Kevin Klowden, chief global strategist for the Milken Institute. The last strike helped push California into a recession before the rest of the nation followed, he added, and this one is shaping up to be longer and more damaging.

"It could affect 300,000 workers," said Todd Holmes, associate professor of entertainment media management at Cal State Northridge. Holmes, who predicted more than $3 billion in overall economic damage, added: "This is going to be a long fight."

That's because both sides have real reason for fear and obstinance. Producers still don't see a long-term revenue model for the business, and writers are painfully conscious of being squeezed out of sustainable jobs and into piecework.

And yet, the strike ambles along in L.A. Picket lines are sparsely populated and more festive than furious. Mainstream news coverage – in notable contrast to the school strike – is relatively thin.

In part, that's a media issue: The Los Angeles media is not what it was in 2008. But the strike's dynamics also contribute, as do changes in the entertainment industry.

Start with the industry's geography. Many writers are based in Los Angeles, but the productions that are affected by the strike are often far away – in New York or Atlanta or Canada, for instance. That affects the way politicians respond. It's hard to get the attention of the mayor of Los Angeles when dry cleaners start shutting down in Atlanta.

And there is the daunting problem of complexity, which discourages outsiders from getting involved. The strike by school workers had its complexities, of course – all protracted labor disputes do. But there are truly bewildering questions at work in the writers' strike.

Central to those are the effects of technology and new distribution models

SEE **GUEST COMMENTARY** PAGE 5

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Pretext stops are a vital crime prevention tool

BY LIEUTENANT CODY GREEN, POA CHAIRPERSON

Recently the Santa Monica Public Safety Oversight & Reform Commission (PSROC) was given a presentation by a staff member for State Senator Steven Bradford's office advocating for a change in the Santa Monica Police Department's policy as it relates to pretext stops.

A pretext stop occurs when a police officer enforces a traffic law, like a broken taillight, to investigate potentially more serious crimes. Police officers have been using pretext stops for decades because they are a proven and constitutionally affirmed policing technique that keeps the community safe. Simple traffic stops led to the arrest of serial killers Ted Bundy and Joel Rifkin, and Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh was arrested during a traffic stop that occurred for not displaying a license plate.

Critics of pretext stops claim that they disproportionally target people of color and that police officers use them to invade the privacy of those members of our community.

That kind of explicit racial profiling is wrong, should be condemned and has no place in the public safety profession.

The presentation given to the PSROC was based on a recent change to LAPD's policy. LAPD officers now must have a reason to suspect a more serious crime is afoot before initiating a pretext stop, and they are required to record their reasoning on body camera before the stop.

Senator Bradford's office pointed to initial data that indicated that since the policy change there has been an overall decline in stops and searches. Of course there has been, the bar for conducting them has been significantly raised. LAPD has essentially decided to let the "small stuff" go.

Here's what else happened according to the same data set the Senator's office cited, there were nearly 3,000 fewer seizures of illegal items in just five months. This included almost 1,700 fewer seizures of narcotics, like fentanyl, and 374 fewer guns taken off the streets compared to the year before.

Santa Monica Police Officers are highly trained to recognize suspicious activity. We also fully embrace the six pillars of 21st Century Policing, including receiving the latest anti-bias and de-escalation training. When we see a vehicle engaged in what we've been trained to recognize as suspicious activity and there is a code violation present, that gives us an opportunity to further investigate, we ought to be able to do that.

Santa Monica Police officers recognize the immense responsibility we have to keep the community safe and to do so in a fair and just manner without bias or animus. We urge our local policy makers and the members of the PSROC to keep responsible, proactive measures in place that ensure community safety. Any limiting of important investigative tools puts us all at risk.

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WINNER

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Pentagon leak suspect was warned multiple times about mishandling of classified information

ALANNA DURKIN RICHER
Associated Press

Superiors of the Massachusetts Air National Guard member charged with leaking highly classified military documents had raised concerns internally on multiple occasions about his handling or viewing of classified information, according to a court filing Wednesday.

Justice Department lawyers made the disclosure in a court paper urging a magistrate judge to keep Jack Teixeira behind bars while he awaits trial in the case stemming from the most consequential intelligence leak in years. The judge is expected to hear more arguments Friday on prosecutors' detention request and issue a ruling.

Teixeira is accused of sharing highly classified documents about top national security issues in a chatroom on Discord, a social media platform that started as a hangout for gamers. He has not yet entered a plea.

Prosecutors told the judge in their filing that Teixeira continued leaking documents even after he was admonished by superiors on two separate occasions last year over "concerning actions" he took related to classified information.

A September memo from the Air National Guard 102nd Intelligence Wing that prosecutors filed in court says Teixeira had been observed taking notes on classified intelligence information and putting the notes in his pocket. Teixeira was instructed at the time to no longer take notes in any form on classified intelligence information, the memo says.

Another memo from late October says a superior had been made aware that Teixeira was "potentially ignoring the cease-and-desist order on deep diving into intelligence information" given to him the month before. The memo says Teixeira attended a meeting and proceeded to ask "very specific questions." He was told again to focus on his job, not any "deep dives" into classified intelligence information.

Still, a third memo from February says Teixeira was again observed viewing information "that was not related to his primary duty and was related to the intelligence field." Teixeira "had previously been notified to focus on his own career duties and to not seek out intelligence products," the memo said.

"The Defendant even continued to share information with his online associates, defying these admonishments and taking further efforts to conceal his unlawful conduct," prosecutors wrote.

The revelations have raised questions about why military officials did not take further action and why Teixeira continued to have access to classified information after his superiors raised concerns.

Lawyers for Teixeira, who was arrested last month on charges under the Espionage Act, are urging the judge to release Teixeira to his father's home, noting that the man didn't flee when media outlets began publishing his name shortly before his April 13 arrest. His lawyer told the judge last month that Teixeira "will answer the charges" and "will be judged by his fellow citizens."

In their own court filing Wednesday, Teixeira's lawyers noted there have been many Espionage Act cases in which courts have approved release or the government did not seek to keep the person behind bars pretrial. They have also said there is no allegation that Teixeira ever intended for documents to be distributed widely.

But prosecutors said in their filing Wednesday that one of the servers on the social media platform he posted classified information to had at least 150 users at the time the information was shared and "now may have many more users that are actively seeking access to information."

"Among the individuals with whom the Defendant shared government information are a number of individuals who represented that they resided in other countries and who logged on to the social media platform using foreign IP addresses," prosecutors wrote.

In messages, Teixeira bragged about the scope of information he had access to, writing, "The information I give here is less than half of what's available," prosecutors said. He also acknowledged he wasn't supposed to be sharing the information, prosecutors said, writing in another message, "All of the s—- I've told you guys I'm not supposed to," according to the Justice Department's filing.

Magistrate Judge David Hennessy heard arguments from lawyers over detention late last month, but has yet to issue a ruling and scheduled a second hearing on the matter for Friday. In earlier court records, prosecutors revealed that Teixeira kept an arsenal of weapons before his arrest and has a history of violent and disturbing remarks.

The leaked documents appear to detail U.S. and NATO aid to Ukraine and U.S. intelligence assessments regarding U.S. allies that could strain ties with those nations. Some show real-time details from February and March of Ukraine's and Russia's battlefield positions and precise numbers of battlefield gear lost and newly flowing into Ukraine from its allies.

SOCIAL MEDIA

FROM PAGE 2

the internet tools," Kent Walker, Google's top lawyer, said.

Yelp, Reddit, Microsoft, Craigslist, Twitter and Facebook were among the companies warning that searches for jobs, restaurants and merchandise could be restricted if those social media platforms had to worry about being sued over the recommendations they provide and their users want.

Roosevelt visit



Courtesy Photo

ART: Artist, teacher and founder, Marcia Osterink, of Arts Attack, visited #Roosevelt ES Kindergarten classes to talk about art and visit the student art gallery pop-up in the school auditorium. Marcia was honored for her significant contributions in curriculum that supports teachers in art instruction. Principal Lynda Holeva was thrilled with the visit and strongly supports arts integration into curriculum beginning in the earliest years. Students asked Marcia questions about art, materials, her favorite artist and how she got started as an artist and art teacher. Students, parents and staff enjoyed studying student art showcased in the gallery.

GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 3

for entertainment. During the last strike, Apple and Amazon were not even participants, Klowden noted. Now, they are at the center of this bitter debate over the future profits from content.

That's because as streaming services become the dominant way of accessing programming, writers are understandably concerned that they will be lost in transition. Streaming revenues are hard to pinpoint, while the effect in the writing room has been swift (and accelerated by COVID).

Shows that once hired a group of writers to produce 24 or 25 episodes now hire for eight or 10, and writers no longer have the guarantee of being employed by a show for its full run. Writing, which once rewarded talent and hard work with job security, now often merely opens the door to one-off deals, with the result being that many writers can no longer count on it as a living.

Add to that the immense uncertainty that comes with the growing use of generative artificial intelligence. Will studios create draft scripts using AI and then attempt to reduce writers to "punch-up" work? It's easy – and horrifying – to imagine, but harder to draft contract language today that will assure human participation in script writing 10 years from now. Or five. Or one.

The combination of complexity, diffusion and delayed impact is enough to keep politicians out of the mix. It also may mean that this strike goes on for a very long time.

But if those dynamics thwart the efforts by strikers to drum up urgency, they do at least have the advantage of being, well, writers.

One picketer's sign last week made that point. Beneath the sign's telltale red-and-black banner, the enterprising contributor expressed his confidence in the cause: "Paulina Porizkova is dating a writer," he wrote. "We can do anything!"

Try getting AI to come up with that.

By Jim Newton. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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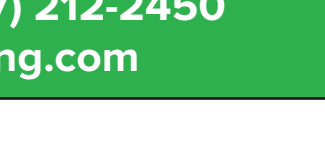
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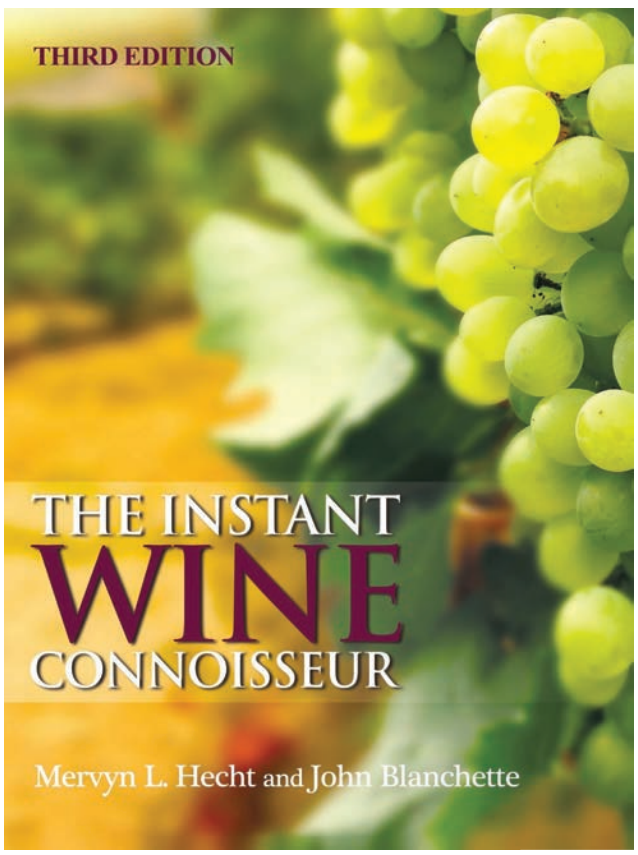
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CRIME WATCH

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

ON APRIL 30

SMPD officers located multiple individuals sleeping in the Civic Center Parking Structure. All subjects were advised against loitering in the structure. When officers returned later in the morning, one of the subjects was found lying on the ground surrounded by their belongings within one of the structure elevators. After refusing to leave as instructed, the individual was arrested for loitering in a city parking structure. During the arrest, officers located multiple credit cards belonging to others.

LIONS ROAR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com



Courtesy Photo

VOLUNTEERS: The photo includes, going left to right, Capt. James, Yoriko Fisher, Joanne and Kingsley Fife, Kathy Boole, Linda and Larry Levee.

As we speed towards Memorial Day and the beginning of summer, the Santa Monica Pacific Palisades Lions have faced a very full calendar, with a great mix of service projects, social events, interesting meetings, and a selection of our first grant recipients since the pandemic.

Starting off with our service activities, we celebrated National Arbor Day on April 26th, planting a tree at Hotchkiss Park. This project was in partnership with the Santa Monica City Forestry Dept. thanks to Matt Wells, City Public Landscape Manager and his team. Along the SMPP Lions, four other service clubs participated, the SM Rotary Club, SM Kiwanis Club, SM Breakfast Club and the SM Elks Club.

Three days later, on April 29th, the Lions were joining in the fun at the Santa Monica Art & Literacy Festival at Virginia Avenue Park. With a theme of "Under Construction," the Lion's booth provided parents an opportunity to take pictures of their children dressed in a construction vest and hard hat, framed by a collage of building tools. However, for the children the big draws were the spin for prize wheel and playing with Whiskers, our stuffed Lion mascot.

Just over a week later, at the beginning of May, we had an amazing Zoom call with our adopted sister Lions Club in Hamm, Germany. We used the opportunity to learn more about each other through our fundraising activities and service projects. Youth service is the primary focus of the Hamm Lions, with fundraising activities that include an auction and a week-long Christmas Fair with homemade goodies for sale.

That same weekend, a high-spirited group of SMPP Lions headed south to take part in the Venice Marina LAX Lions Annual Bingo Night. With cash prizes for each of the eight games of bingo, along with a long list of raffle prizes that included dinners to local restaurants, a TV, and hotel packages, plus a a great silent auction, there was something for everyone. Not to mention a great BBQ buffet.

Finally this year the SMPP Lions were able to offer grants to 11 local nonprofit organizations that are the heart of our community in education, health, social services and the environment. I will detail more about these organizations and their projects next month when I will also share our new club officers for the coming year.

If you are interested in possibly becoming a Lion or being our guest at a dinner meeting the second Wednesday of each month at the Elks Lodge, please contact Yoriko Fisher, at smpplionsclub@gmail.com or Kingsley Fife at 310-454-2960. They can email you a package of information and share our list of upcoming speakers.

Incredible shrinking lakes: Humans, climate change, diversion costs trillions of gallons annually

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

Climate change's hotter temperatures and society's diversion of water have been shrinking the world's lakes by trillions of gallons of water a year since the early 1990s, a new study finds.

A close examination of nearly 2,000 of the world's largest lakes found they are losing about 5.7 trillion gallons (21.5 trillion liters) a year. That means from 1992 to 2020, the world lost the equivalent of 17 Lake Meads, America's largest reservoir, in Nevada. It's also roughly equal to how much water the United States used in an entire year in 2015.

Even lakes in areas getting more rainfall are shriveling. That's because of both a thirstier atmosphere from warmer air sucking up more water in evaporation, and a thirsty society that is diverting water from lakes to agriculture, power plants and drinking supplies, according to a study in Thursday's journal Science.

Authors also cited a third reason they called more natural, with water shrinking because of rainfall pattern and river runoff changes, but even that may have a climate change component. That's the main cause for Iran's Lake Urmia to lose about 277 billion gallons (1.05 trillion liters) a year, the study said.

The declining lakes don't mean places are suddenly going to go without drinking water,

> More than half of the decline is primarily attributable to human consumption or indirect human signals through climate warming
>
> - Fangfang Yao, a climate scientist at the University of Colorado

but it may lead to more competition for lake water, which is also used in hydroelectric power and recreation such as boating, the study authors said.

"More than half of the decline is primarily attributable to human consumption or indirect human signals through climate warming," said study lead author Fangfang Yao, a climate scientist at the University of Colorado.

The diversion of water from lakes — a direct human cause of shrinkage — is probably larger and more noticeable because it is "very acute, very local and it has the capability of really changing the landscape," said co-author Ben Livneh, a University of Colorado hydrologist.

But the indirect human shrinking, from warmer air due to climate change, "is this global blanketing effect that kind of affects everything or more places," Livneh said. California's Mono Lake is a good example of this type of shrinking, Yao said.

Even areas that are getting wetter because of climate change are losing lake water because hotter air is sucking more moisture out of the lakes. And that means more water in the air, which can fall as rain or snow but "may end up falling as rain far away, outside the basin where it evaporated or even over the ocean," Livneh said in an email.

Yao, Livneh and colleagues used almost 30 years of satellite observation, climate data and computer simulation to figure out what's happening to lakes and found more than half of them have shrunk so much that it is statistically significant and not random.

In the United States, Lake Mead lost two-thirds of its water between 1992 and 2020, while the Great Salt Lake also shrank noticeably, Yao said. The Great Lakes dropped considerably from 1992 to 2013 then plateaued and then increased.

Another problem is that lakes are filling with sediment or dirt from upstream rivers.

Scientists have long known about the problems of climate change, diversion and sedimentation, "however the complete quantification of water storage variations for large lakes that Yao and colleagues provide is new" and it creates "a much more complete picture" than past research has, said University of North Carolina hydrology professor Tamlin Pavelsky, who wasn't part of the study.

"I'm generally most worried about lakes that are ecologically important and in populated areas without a lot of other good sources of water," Pavelsky said in an email. "Lake Urmia in Iran, the Dead Sea, the Salton Sea ... these are all worrisome."

It's likely to get worse as society looks for more water and more reservoirs with a growing population and a warmer Earth, said UCLA climate hydrologist Park Williams, who wasn't part of the study.



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6255

VANLORD

FROM PAGE 1

parking locations have limited capacity and are often unable to accommodate the kind of non-operational vans that are being repurposed as makeshift housing.

"These practices capitalize on the vulnerability of our homeless community, reduce available parking, and create significant life safety issues," Park said.

The proposed amendment would add RVs to the list of vehicles prohibited from conducting business in public rights-of-way and affirm RV lessors' responsibility to adhere to state codes related to health, safety, and vehicle operation.

Park emphasized the importance of safety standards, stating that the state codes are in place to ensure they are met. The motion also calls for the creation of an escalating fine structure to impose penalties on vehicle owners that correspond to administrative code enforcement citations.

The need for tighter regulations is highlighted by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's 2022 Point-In-Time Count, which shows that approximately 6,500 individuals are living in 4,000 RVs across the city, a 40% increase since 2018. This group now comprises 22% of the city's total unsheltered homeless population.

Park's proposal seeks to close loopholes and identify necessary regulations to ensure the safety and well-being of the homeless community while addressing the issues of reduced parking and public safety. Her motion is a step towards ensuring a safer and more secure environment for the homeless population in Los Angeles.

> "These practices capitalize on the vulnerability of our homeless community, reduce available parking, and create significant life safety issues
>
> - Traci Park Venice Councilwoman

Published in partnership with the Westside Current.

PROTEST

FROM PAGE 1

who then fell, and moved him back to his side. While the conflict was heated with the pro-choice contingent challenging SMPD's efforts to put up a barricade, the event was free of significant violence and while one individual was temporarily detained, it did not result in any arrests.

Lt. Aklufi said despite the intensity of the protest, the end result was within the scope of their plan due to SMPD's ability to escalate its response to protests to include physical barriers or its mounted unit.

"These are advertised generally by putting the stuff out on social media so we know when they're coming and can reach out to organizers and keep them contained a little bit. And we can staff up if we need to. If we know about it, we will generally have the horses here and then they can patrol the parks or beaches if they end up getting deployed."

Prior to the pandemic, SMPD successfully managed crowds at events like the beach concerts and at past protests. However, the department's response to the massive protest and subsequent riot in 2020 drew significant criticism. Much of the concern centered on the tactics used to control the crowd and the department's level of preparedness.

Following that incident, the department underwent staffing changes, including the resignation of then Chief Cynthia Renaud, hiring of current Chief Ramon Batista and acquisition of new equipment. While not directly related to the retooling post-riot, the department has also expanded resources for its equestrian unit.

Aklufi said the current wave of protests started in the lead up to the last election and while the city's protest activity has been slow recently, she said the area has become a rallying point for both sides following the Supreme Court decision to overturn the Roe V. Wade decision.

> "We never know what the attitude is going to be, we try and be ready for anything and scale it up or scale it down at the time
>
> - Erika Aklufi, Lieutenant

She said the protests are usually peaceful with little more than some marching, however, SMPD prepares for the worst.

"We never know what the attitude is going to be, we try and be ready for anything and scale it up or scale it down at the time," she said.

editor@smdp.com

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 19)

At times you'll be a captivating and enigmatic presence in the lives of others. Just when they think they have you figured out, you'll reveal a wild card that leaves them pleasantly surprised and inspired. More highlights: a contest win, the validation from a powerful established entity you can bank on for years and a sweet addition to your day-to-day. Aquarius and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 1, 22, 39 and 18.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You can't help how you feel, but managing those feelings is a skill you're determined to master. It will make you powerful. Anything you can understand in yourself, you can understand in others.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you can't articulate what a thing means, that doesn't make it any less meaningful; it only indicates that you may need more time. You will have a strong feeling and a connection to a physical item and be unsure why.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your specialty this year is finding emotionally rewarding work that feels more like fun and adventure. It's almost not fair you get to be paid for it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Fear is nothing but an idea crying out for recognition. To acknowledge fear and confront it directly is to lessen its power over you. Take a moment to listen to and examine your fear. Say "I understand your concern and will take it into consideration."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You have something to express and the more people you reach, the better you'll feel. Someone with a remarkable life force is coming into your world. This one has the potential to sweep you off your feet.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll have fun building your network — a very productive way to use your time, even though it looks, from the outside, like a lot of fun. The more people you know, the more access you have to the world.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Culture's impact on an individual is like water to the fish; a given that is only noticeable when it changes significantly or disappears. You'll slip into a state of objectivity and inquiry to better understand the invisible forces shaping your experience.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Today features your talent for assessing people accurately. Your intuition never fails you and you have a keen sense of who you can trust. You are quick to feel negative vibes and avoid them like the plague.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You are a force to be reckoned with and your impact is not limited to verbal communication. At times your stillness speaks volumes, leaving those around you in awe of your powerful presence.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). To organize yourself around pleasing and performing for others might bring short-term benefit but is emotionally unsustainable in the long term. The more pretense you can drop, the more energy you'll have.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your unique perspective will be embraced by people with different views who recognize the soundness of your logic and respect the intelligence behind your process.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Try not to let peer pressure sway you. Your gut feeling about things will be accurate, so you'll do well to make decisions independently, regardless of what others think.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

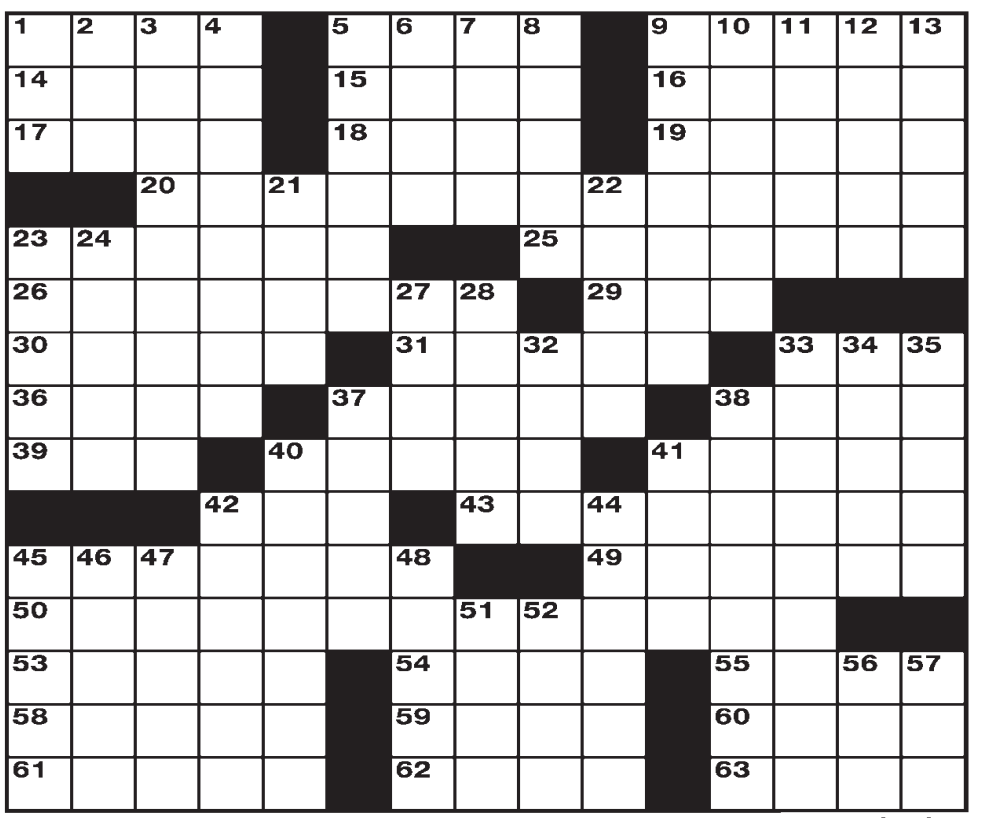
7		8						
		3		7		4	6	
1		5	6		9		7	
	5			9	4			
8		9				1		4
			1	5			9	
	8		4		5	9		1
	2	6		1		5		
						6		7

Newsday Crossword

CAPITAL IDEA by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Particular type of pilgrimage
5 It might be over your head or under your feet
9 Particular pilgrim's belief
14 Silver 5 breakfast for kids seller
15 Marc Antony great-grandson
16 How biscotti is baked
17 59 Across, for instance
18 Consequently
19 Part of three California county names
20 William the Conqueror commission
23 Mideast carpet city
25 Sotheby's category
26 With 43 Across, German Confederation creator
29 Fortune-teller title, often
30 Free of blocks
31 Don't bother
33 ID checkers
36 Big help
37 Combatants circa 1900
38 Dreadful, to the Bard
39 Endure
40 Jag alternative
41 Code descriptor
42 Curtail
43 See 26 Across
45 Devious logician
49 Bethlehem school
50 How the US got Puerto Rico
53 Exclamation of frustration
54 Party regulars
55 Seoul music
58 Sleep starter
59 Three-syllable tree
60 Legendary archer
61 City north of Cologne
62 A lot of brass
63 Comfy spot

DOWN
1 Not square
2 Sound said with a smile
3 Yankee great's nickname
4 Gilded Age VIP
5 Cold blast
6 Hamburger guy
7 Transport for Heracles
8 Explode
9 "Put your wallet away"
10 "How I love ya" river of song
11 Name that means "beautiful"
12 Marquee name
13 Aimed (for)
21 Congenial
22 Perching places
23 Take a dive, perhaps
24 High esteem
27 Job to fill
28 Handle
32 Not kosher
33 One with a remunerative racket
34 What moolah is
35 Name on the Saudi flag
37 Name in flag lore
38 Why pay more?
40 Big name in bags for 150+ years
41 Yacht spot
42 Space left of Short Line
44 Dill Wholes brand
45 *Fear Street* series author
46 "Wolves of the sea"
47 What fills some dumplings
48 Yellow stone
51 Points of convergence
52 Think through
56 Cartoon cry of discomfort
57 Noncommercial commercial

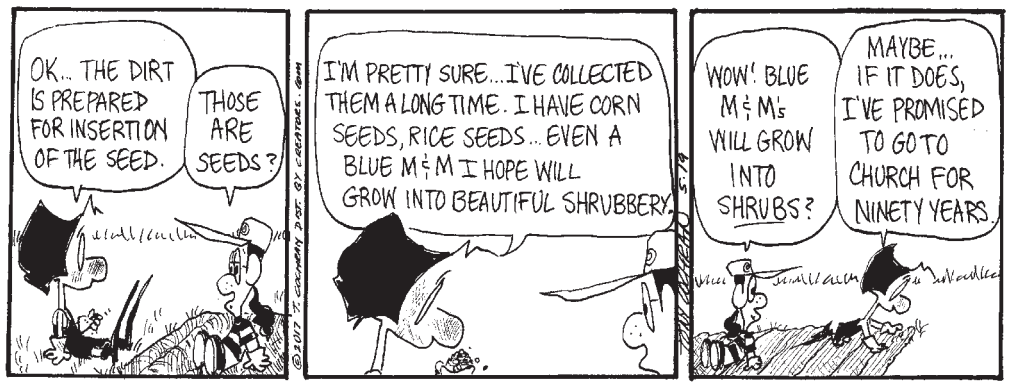


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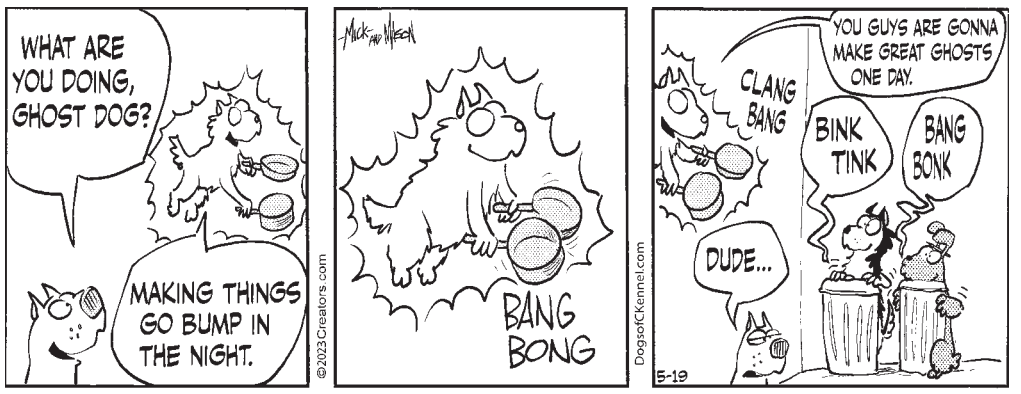
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



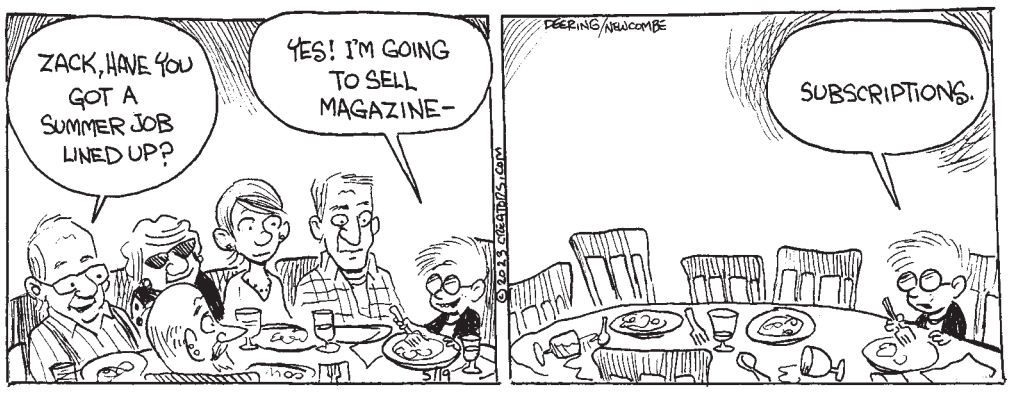
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



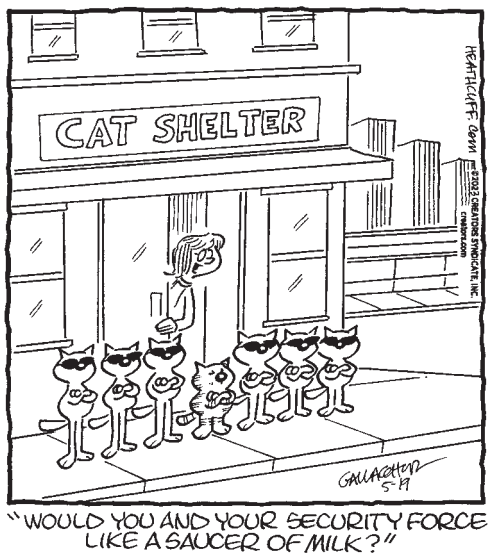
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



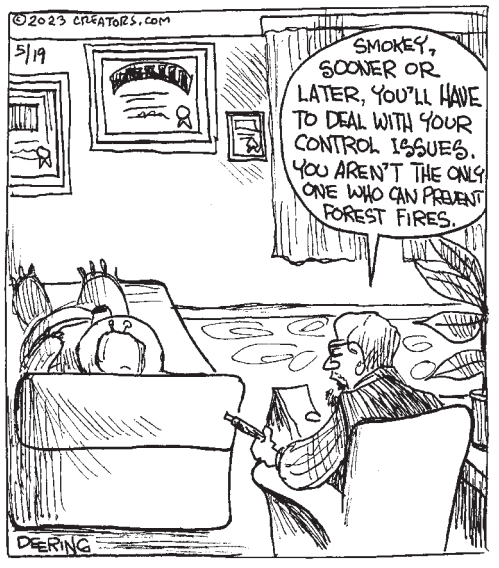
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



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 5849

It's time for tennis

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

Aced	Drinks	Mini	Score
Aims	Fast	Mixed	Seed
Amateur	Fault	Muscle	Serve
Ashleigh	Finals	Nets	Slam
Barty	Game	Novice	Social
Champion	Glory	Open	Sponsor
Chop	Hats	Play	Swat
Clap	Hoad	Racket	Sweat
Court	Lawn	Rafter	Talk
Cups	Lines	Rank	Team
Dokic	Lose	Rewards	Tired
Doubles	Love	Round	Volley

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What's Up Westside

out and about in Santa Monica

FRIDAY | MAY 19

JAZZ VOCAL ENSEMBLE RECITAL
Andreas Preponis, Director. SMC's award-winning jazz vocal ensemble blends its voices in a program of jazz repertoire specifically arranged for four-part harmony. Free with any Student I.D. The Broad Stage Performing Arts Center

SATURDAY | MAY 20

HOT BUTTERED RUM
Hot Buttered Rum, a souped-up, left-coast string band, is the brainchild of uniquely gifted musicians who weave their love of bluegrass, folk, jazz and soul into a riveting strain of Americana. String bass and five-alarm fiddle merge with guitar, banjo, mandolin,drums and keyboards to frame the voices of its two contrasting writers, fueling a dance party with roots in Appalachia and its branches in California. It's a sound that's as tough to describe as it is easy to love. The Venice West. 1717 Lincoln Blvd Venice, CA 90291 https://www.ticketweb.com/event/hot-buttered-rum-the-venice-west-tickets/12887125

WALK AND PLAY LA
Children's Hospital Los Angeles is thrilled to host its seventh annual Walk and Play L.A. This year's event will be held in person at the Santa Monica Pier, hosted by two CHLA Trustees: boxing legend Sugar Ray Leonard and the host of the Ellen K Morning Show on KOST 103.5 FM, Ellen K! Join us for a day of fun and entertainment creating hope and building healthier futures for our young patients. Pacific Park at the Santa Monica Pier 380 Santa Monica Pier. Santa Monica, California 90401 https://secure1.chla.org/site/SPageServer?pagename=walk_play_landing

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EEEEEATSCON is a different kind of food experience built in the spirit of a music festival, but with restaurants as the headliners. The event will feature food from more than 20 incredible restaurants from around Los Angeles and across the U.S. EEEEEATSCON Los Angeles will also offer exciting programming including conversations with writer and comedian Ali Wong, and a food and culture-focused discussion curated by Jon Gray of Ghetto Gastro, with more announcements to come. The Barker Hangar 3021 Airport Ave. Santa Monica, CA 90405 https://www.eeeeeatscon.com/los-angeles

SUNDAY | MAY 21

DAY FOR ART AND WELL-BEING
Beach Culture celebrates Mental Health Awareness Month. Nurture the self and feed the collective soul with a day of creation and contemplation focused on well-being, health, and healing! Free day of communal artmaking, workshops, labyrinth walk and meditation led by cutting-edge community-based artists, performers, spiritualists and mental health advocates. Stay tuned for more information. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Highway. Santa Monica, CA 90402

MONDAY | MAY 22

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

TUESDAY | MAY 23

GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB
SMC Library book club that meets monthly to discuss graphic novels. Santa Monica College 1900 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica, CA

LAVIALLE CAMPBELL AND ROBIN MITCHELL EXHIBITIONS
Join us at the gallery on May 20th from 5-7pm for the opening reception of Lavialle Campbell: Disruption & Robin Mitchell: Spellbound Craig Krull Gallery 2525 Michigan Avenue, BLD. B-3 Santa Monica, 90404

WEDNESDAY | MAY 24

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
The City Council is made up of seven members elected at-large for staggered four-year terms. Every two years, after each election, the City Council selects one of its members to serve as Mayor and another to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore. The City Council also sits as the following bodies for the City of Santa Monica: Housing Authority, Parking Authority, Public Financing, Redevelopment Successor Agency, Audit Subcommittee Santa Monica City Hall 1685 Main St. Santa Monica, CA 90401 Council Chamber, Room 250

THURSDAY | MAY 25

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
Kinetic sculptor, Jim Jenkins' most recent works are inspired by the state of the world, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the destabilization of the economy. He sculpts inanimate objects from metal, wood, and plastics and brings them to life with motors and counter-weights, carefully orchestrating the movement of each object. Lois Lambert Gallery 2525 Michigan Ave, #E3 Santa Monica, CA 90404

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



SURF REPORT

WATER TEMP: **61.0**

FRIDAY *FAIR*	**SURF:**	5-8ft Head to well overhead	Solid SSW swell holds good size all day. Not expecting to have enough NW energy in the mix to help with shape at the beachbreaks. Gonna need some structure to have a decent chance at an open corner.
SATURDAY *POOR TO GOOD*	**SURF:**	4-6ft Chest to overhead	This extended run of southerly swell starts to ease but still plenty of waves to start the weekend. Modest NW energy in the mix but shape may be slightly better at the beachbreaks with the period coming down.

WEATHER

Friday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 66.
Friday Night: Patchy fog. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 60.
Saturday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 69.
Saturday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 60.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2023/05/19	Fri	04:11 AM	-0.98	L
2023/05/19	Fri	10:32 AM	3.67	H
2023/05/19	Fri	3:16 PM	1.77	L
2023/05/19	Fri	9:35 PM	6.19	H
2023/05/20	Sat	04:52 AM	-1.01	L
2023/05/20	Sat	11:22 AM	3.48	H
2023/05/20	Sat	3:47 PM	2.10	L
2023/05/20	Sat	10:06 PM	6.01	H
2023/05/21	Sun	05:33 AM	-0.89	L
2023/05/21	Sun	12:17 PM	3.32	H
2023/05/21	Sun	4:18 PM	2.40	L
2023/05/21	Sun	10:38 PM	5.73	H
2023/05/22	Mon	06:17 AM	-0.65	L
2023/05/22	Mon	1:17 PM	3.19	H
2023/05/22	Mon	4:50 PM	2.66	L
2023/05/22	Mon	11:14 PM	5.38	H
2023/05/23	Tue	07:03 AM	-0.35	L
2023/05/23	Tue	2:27 PM	3.13	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: 5/17
18 34 37 45 51
Power#: 14
Jackpot: 162 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 5/16
15 34 36 69 70
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 132 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 5/17
1 11 23 35 37
Mega#: 13
Jackpot: 60 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 5/17
6 15 17 23 31

Daily 3
Draw Date: 5/17
EVENING: 6 8 2
Draw Date: 5/17
MIDDAY: 6 0 6

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 5/17
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 06 - Whirl Win
3rd: 03 - Hot Shot
Race Time: 1:41.65

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City calendar

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