2 **Samohi baseball**
Loses title game clash

3 **UC grad students**
Going on strike

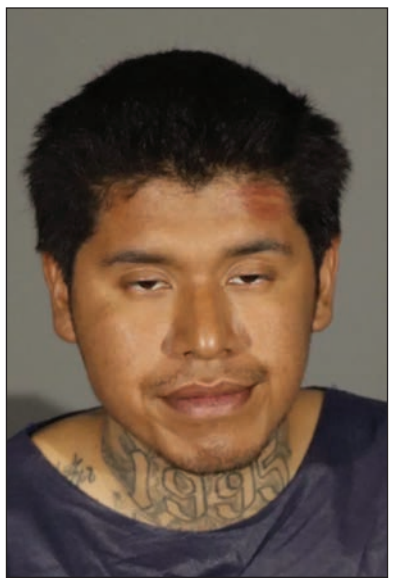
5 **Weekend events**
Bike ride, awards ceremony

6 **Local beach grades**
From Heal the Bay

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 132 | TUESDAY 5/21/24 | smdp.com

Suspect arrested after Sunday night stabbing



Courtesy Photo

SUSPECT: 29-year-old Larry Ameyal Cedeno has been arrested in a Downtown stabbing incident.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

A 29-year-old man has been arrested for an unprovoked stabbing in Downtown Santa Monica that sent two victims to the local hospital.

According to the Santa Monica Police Department, two of the victims were hospitalized, one in critical condition while the third was assaulted but reported no major injuries.

SMPD said the incident began at about 8 p.m. on Sunday May 19 when the suspect, Larry Ameyal Cedeno attacked the three victims on the 1500 block of 4th Street near Parking Structure #7.

"Upon arriving at the scene, officers immediately began CPR on the first victim while additional officers located the suspect," said a

SEE **STABBING** PAGE 8

City seeks closure of infamous motel alleging long history of drug sales and nuisances



Scott Snowden

MOTEL: The city wants a judge to temporarily close the Pavilions Motel.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The City of Santa Monica is seeking the temporary closure of a local motel alongside fines and security improvements due to ongoing criminal activity at the location that has resulted in numerous arrests and complaints.

City Hall has filed a nuisance abatement action against the owners and managers of the Pavilions Motel in Sunset Park, Saeed Farzam and Goharshad Farzam, alleging they have violated the state Drug Abatement Act, state public nuisance laws and Santa Monica public nuisance law.

The suit claims the motel is known for drug sales, fights and other problems that make it a nuisance for the surrounding community.

The suit alleges the hotel is well known as a place to buy drugs and lists several arrests from this year from the location.

"These arrests over the last several months are just the tip of the iceberg, evidenced by the fact that they have not deterred the drug activity in the intervening weeks," says the lawsuit. "SMPD has

SEE **CLOSURE** PAGE 7

New appointments, district finance discussions held by school board



Courtesy Photo

APPOINTMENT: Dr. Brenda Clarke, formerly of Santa Barbara High School and Palisades Charter High School, has joined Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District as a Special Education Coordinator.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Faces old and new in Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) will be taking on several district administrative roles going forward, including a familiar name being chosen as the new principal at Edison Language Academy.

At the May 16 meeting of the district's Board of Education, the board approved Elizabeth Ipina as the new Edison principal, with Ipina replacing Lori Orum who will retire next month after 19 years in the role. Ipina has worked at Edison for 28 years in a number of positions, most recently

SEE **SMMUSD** PAGE 6

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Successful Samohi season stopped short in title game clash

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

The Samohi Vikings baseball squad's run towards a CIF Southern Section Division V championship came up three runs short, ending the team's most successful season in over a decade.

On Friday, the Vikings traveled to Lake Elsinore Storm Stadium to face off with the Chino Hills Huskies in the Division V title game, dropping the contest 4-1. Both squads threw out their aces in the contest, with the Vikings' Jackson Klein and the Huskies' Brody Buoncristiani facing off in a matchup between two of California's top hurlers.

The Huskies got to Klein in the first inning, as a Jackson Gray grounder up the middle brought Buocristiani home from second base for the 1-0 lead. Samohi's Blue Hunter attempted a throw to home from center field, but Bobby Munoz was unable to attempt a tag out. The very next batter, Andrew Baldomino, hit another grounder up the middle that got past the Samohi infield and was able to bring in Gray from second base.

In the third, Gray once again got on base, setting up Baldomino with a runner on. The Huskies sophomore delivered for the opposition, hitting a line drive toward the first base line that fell fair, and an error by Samohi's Jacob Myrow in right field allowed Gray to come home from first for the 3-0 lead. The fourth Huskies run came later in the inning off a sacrifice ground ball from Frankie Brazil, bringing Baldomino home from third base.

Buoncristiani kept the Vikings offense at a standstill in his five innings pitched, as the squad got just five runners on base in that time. The Vikings finally struck when Buoncristiani was pulled for Baldomino in the sixth, as a standup double by Blue Hunter got the team in scoring position, eventually brought in on a sacrifice fly by Sage Douglass for the first and only Samohi run.

Despite the loss, the Vikings playoff push was the deepest the team has gone in CIF brackets since 2007, and the 2024 squad that finished 21-8 overall was the most successful since the 2014 campaign, a 27-7 unit that made it to the semifinals of the CIF-SS Division 3 bracket.

The title bout was the final Vikings contest for several seniors, including Klein, who established himself as one of the state's standout pitchers in 2024. Joining Klein in graduating from Samohi is top reliever Tony Ponce, who was instrumental in the squad's second-round home playoff victory over Ganesha.

At the plate, the Vikings will need to retool for 2025, losing five regular lineup contributors in this senior class. This year's playoff run was the final stretch of games for Douglass, Myrow, Munoz, Spencer Levin and Theo Smith. The squad will remain formidable, however, bringing back top hitters like Hunter, Isaac Liberman, Brady Satinover, Jackson Myrow and Manny Lares.

thomas@smdp.com



Photo Courtesy David E. Hunzicker Photography

VIKINGS: Samohi's Jackson Klein (#18) took the mound for the final time in a Vikings uniform Friday during the CIF-SS Division V title game.

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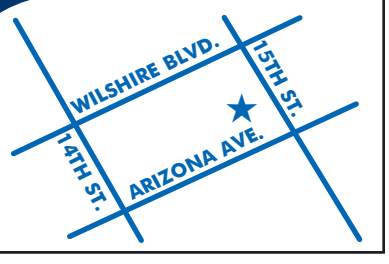
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Why UC grad students are going out on strike



Photo Courtesy of CalMatters

STUDENTS: The UCLA campus with a pro-Palestinian solidarity encampment. Groups of student protesters gathered at both sides of the entrance to the encampment.

MIKHAIL ZINSHTEYN
Special to the Daily Press

More than 1,500 graduate students, teaching assistants and researchers are expected to walk off the job at UC Santa Cruz today, launching the first labor strike over the University of California's response to pro-Palestinian protests in the past month.

Workers will picket from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the two main roads leading into campus, disrupting package deliveries and transit into the university that's become a hotbed for labor activity in the past few years.

The union, UAW 4811, won approval from its members last week to call for strikes at select campuses throughout the UC.

While many work stoppages are over pay and benefits, this one is in response to the union's anger over the UC's use of police to clear overnight encampments in support of Palestinians that propped up at multiple campuses. Some union members took part in those protests. The largely peaceful demonstrations sought to put pressure on the university to call for a ceasefire in Gaza, divest from weapons companies and cut various other economic ties to Israel. After Hamas, which governs Gaza, killed an estimated 1,200 people in Israel on Oct. 7, the country waged a military campaign in Gaza that has killed an estimated 35,000 Palestinians.

> "UC doesn't get to decide what is lawful"
> - Rafael Jaime

Days after police swept the encampments at UCLA and arrested scores of protesters, the union filed an unfair labor practice violation with a state labor relations agency. The union filed similar violations after police cleared encampments at UC San Diego and UC Irvine that also led to arrests of protesters.

"By summoning the police to forcibly arrest and/or issuing interim suspensions to

SEE **STRIKE** PAGE 8



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **61.0**

TUESDAY
FAIR TO GOOD
SURF: 4-5ft
Chest to head

SW swell continues, along with lingering NW windswell. Generally walled at open beachbreaks but some broken up lines due too. Winds looking light for much of the morning, best early. Nice tide push then too.

WEDNESDAY
FAIR TO GOOD
SURF: 4-5ft
Chest to head

SW/SSW swell keeps going and there's enough steep-angled NW swell mix to open up an occasional corner for the beachbreaks. Points still have best shape. Wind looks lightest through the early AM - take advantage of the tide push then.

Weather

Tuesday: Cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 65. South southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
Tuesday Night: Cloudy, with a low around 56. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming light and variable in the evening.
Wednesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 65.
Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 57.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2024/05/21	Tue	03:09 AM	-0.12	L
2024/05/21	Tue	09:19 AM	3.51	H
2024/05/21	Tue	2:10 PM	1.73	L
2024/05/21	Tue	8:34 PM	5.69	H
2024/05/22	Wed	03:43 AM	-0.48	L
2024/05/22	Wed	10:00 AM	3.46	H
2024/05/22	Wed	2:37 PM	1.93	L
2024/05/22	Wed	9:00 PM	5.88	H
2024/05/23	Thu	04:19 AM	-0.73	L
2024/05/23	Thu	10:44 AM	3.38	H
2024/05/23	Thu	3:05 PM	2.12	L
2024/05/23	Thu	9:30 PM	6.00	H
2024/05/24	Fri	04:58 AM	-0.87	L
2024/05/24	Fri	11:32 AM	3.29	H
2024/05/24	Fri	3:35 PM	2.30	L
2024/05/24	Fri	10:03 PM	6.02	H
2024/05/25	Sat	05:41 AM	-0.91	L
2024/05/25	Sat	12:26 PM	3.20	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: 5/18
19 36 37 42 59
Power#: 19
Jackpot: 88 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 5/17
8 17 40 60 70
Mega#: 3
Jackpot: 421 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 5/18
25 27 32 35 37
Mega#: 22
Jackpot: 37 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 5/19
17 22 25 26 27

Daily 3
Draw Date: 5/19
EVENING: 3 6 3
Draw Date: 5/19
MIDDAY: 6 3 8

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 5/19
1st: 03 - Hot Shot
2nd: 01 - Gold Rush
3rd: 02 - Lucky Star
Race Time: 1:43.62

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Potential tough-on-crime ballot measure promises less homelessness. Experts aren't convinced

MARISA KENDALL AND YUE STELLA YU
Special to the Daily Press

Homelessness gets top billing in a measure likely to make it onto your November ballot. Whether the measure has anything to do with homelessness is debatable.

The initiative proponents are calling the "Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act" would increase penalties for some drug and theft crimes, by rolling back Proposition 47 — the criminal justice changes California voters passed a decade ago. It also would force some people arrested three or more times for drug crimes into treatment.

But where does homelessness factor into this tough-on-crime measure? The initiative includes no money for housing, shelter or treatment beds — leading some experts to question how it would help get California's more than 181,000 unhoused residents off the street in a state where recent research shows loss of income is the leading cause of homelessness. Nor does the measure allocate or create new funding sources to pay cities or counties to enforce it.

For Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig, who helped author the proposed ballot measure, the philosophy is simple: The measure would slash the homeless population by pushing those struggling with drug addiction into treatment.

"The big part of this, which is the key to the program, is it's going to be compelled," Reisig said. "People are going to have to go through the program or accept the consequences."

But according to Elliott Currie, a professor of criminology, law and society at the University of California Irvine, the measure is based on a false assumption.

"The theory is that people are homeless because we've been too lenient with drug addiction," Currie said. "I think I can safely say that I don't see one shred of serious evidence that that's what's going on."

DID PROP. 47 INCREASE HOMELESSNESS IN CALIFORNIA?

The proposed ballot measure targets Prop. 47, which, when passed by voters in 2014, reduced certain theft and drug crimes from felonies to misdemeanors. In some circles, Prop. 47 now is being blamed for a perceived increase in crime – and a fierce debate is raging over whether, and how, to change it.

Backers of the measure, which is likely to qualify for the ballot after it recently submitted more than 900,000 signatures (about 547,000 valid ones are required), also blame Prop. 47 for California's dire homelessness crisis.

In the decade that Prop. 47 has been in effect, homelessness in California has grown by more than half — and backers of the proposed ballot measure say the two are "directly connected." They argue by watering down the legal consequences for drug use, Prop. 47 removed the incentives for homeless Californians to participate in mental health and drug treatment, and as a result, fewer are. Because of that, they argue, more people are living on the streets.

"One of the primary root causes of homelessness is serious addiction, which is debilitating and results in people not being able to function or even hold a job," Reisig said in an interview with CalMatters.

It's true that participation in drug courts dropped throughout the state in the wake of Prop. 47. In San Diego County, for example, more than 650 people went through drug court in the year before Prop. 47 passed. By 2021, it was down to just 255.

As evidence Prop. 47 is tied to homelessness, backers of the measure point to states with stronger drug laws and smaller homeless populations. Illinois, for example, has a homeless rate about five times less than California's.

> One of the primary root causes of homelessness is serious addiction, which is debilitating and results in people not being able to function or even hold a job
> - Jeff Reisig

But there are a lot of other factors — especially housing costs — contributing to the state's homelessness crisis. Fair market rent for a two-bedroom in Chicago is just $1,714 – nearly half the going rate in San Francisco. The San Francisco area rate increased 72% since Prop. 47 passed, hitting $3,359 this year, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

For some experts who study crime and homelessness, the ballot measure is baffling.

"I'm not aware of any data that shows a connection between Prop. 47 and homelessness," said Charis Kubrin, a professor of criminology at UC Irvine. "So it's a bit of a puzzle to me why they're together like that."

Blaming the state's spike in homelessness on Prop. 47 is "preposterous," said Sharon Rapport, director of California state policy for the Corporation for Supportive Housing. "All of the changes that the (ballot measure) is proposing have nothing, nothing whatsoever, to do with homelessness."

The organization hasn't even taken an official position on the measure, because, Rapport said, it's not related to homelessness.

The number one reason Californians end up homeless is a loss of income — not drug use, according to a UC San Francisco study that provides the most comprehensive look yet at the state's homelessness crisis. And in the six months before becoming homeless, the people surveyed were making a median income of just $960 a month.

That doesn't mean drug use has nothing to do with homelessness. Nearly a third of people surveyed reported using methamphetamines three times a week, while 11% used non-prescribed opioids. Other studies have had varying results: a 2022 Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research study, which cited research from multiple surveys across several states, showed 43% to 88% of the homeless population struggled with drug abuse.

Drug and alcohol overdoses are also the leading cause of death for homeless people nationwide, according to a February study examining mortality rates among unhoused people between 2011 and 2020.

But it's clear not everyone on the streets has an addiction. Therefore, the proposed ballot measure would leave out a large chunk of the state's homeless population.

If the measure helps even a third of California's 181,000 unhoused residents — that's a huge number, Reisig said.

"I'll take that," he said. "I'll take that number to try and get those people well, and to get them reintegrated, and to keep them out of jail and prison, and keep them from dying on the street of overdose or murder."

This measure might help some people get sober, said Benjamin Henwood, director of the USC Center for Homelessness, Housing and Health Equity Research. But for many people, that won't be enough to end their homelessness, he said. While being sober might make someone more likely to get a job, it won't make housing any less expensive.

"The question is: Once treatment is up, where do they go?" he said.

Under this measure, the answer to that question will depend on each individual county and how much, if any, housing they make available for people coming out of treatment.

HOW WOULD THE HOMELESSNESS, DRUG ADDICTION, AND THEFT REDUCTION ACT WORK?

If the proposed ballot measure is approved by voters, certain repeat drug offenses could be prosecuted as a "treatment-mandated felony." That means the third time someone is arrested for a drug offense, they could be given a choice between jail or mandatory addiction and mental health treatment.

The measure says people participating in mandatory treatment also would be offered "shelter, job training, and other services designed to break the cycle of addiction and homelessness." But it doesn't say how any of that would be paid for. It would be up to counties to decide whether to offer shelter and other services, and how to fund them, Reisig said.

"That will have to be deployed in each county to the extent they can do it," he said.

But without guaranteeing those housing services, the measure could actually worsen homelessness, Currie said. There's already a robust jail-to-homelessness pipeline in California: 43% of those surveyed in the UCSF study were in jail or prison, or on probation or parole, in the six months before they became homeless.

"Anybody who says you've got to solve the problem by putting more people behind bars, but you then don't say anything about how you're going to help them re-enter when they come out — I think that's pretty bogus," Currie said.

The measure also doesn't specify how the mandatory drug and mental health treatment would be funded.

Resources for treatment already are stretched thin in California. In a 2022 survey by the state's Department of Health Care Services, 70% of California counties reported "urgently" needing more residential addiction treatment, while nearly 40% didn't have any residential facilities at all.

> You can't just say, 'Ok, you counties. Since you are swimming in so much money after all ... we are going to mandate drug treatment for some people on top of the existing number of clients
> - Elliott Currie

In addition to providing no new funding, the proposed ballot measure could actually end up reducing funds for the very programs it's trying to bolster, according to a report from the independent Legislative Analyst's Office. That's because Prop. 47 saved the state money in criminal justice costs by diverting people away from prison and jail. Those savings are earmarked for projects that provide mental health and substance use treatment (nearly $104 million was awarded between 2017 and 2020, and another $96 million between 2019 and 2023).

By gutting Prop. 47 and funneling more people into the state's jails and prisons, the Legislative Analyst estimates the proposed ballot measure would eat away at those savings and increase criminal justice costs by as much as tens of millions of dollars per year. That could mean less money for mental health services and addiction treatment.

Reisig dismissed that worry, saying, at least in Yolo County, where he is district attorney, Prop. 47 savings haven't made much difference. "There's literally nothing that I fear losing through this program," he said.

There is some new money available from other pots. In March, California voters approved a $6.4 billion bond to pay for 6,800 beds in facilities treating mental illness and addiction, and as many as 4,350 housing units

SEE **HOMELESS** PAGE 11

Weekend events keep locals busy









Photos by Fran Lyness

EVENTS: It was a busy weekend in Santa Monica with a wealth of events for locals including the Kidical Mass bike ride, the preservation awards presented by the Santa Monica Conservancy and the always popular sidewalk sale on Montana Ave.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Citywide

Ed Foundation names Raymur Flinn as its next Executive Director

The Santa Monica Education Foundation Board of Directors has completed a nationwide search for the organization's next Executive Director with the appointment of longtime nonprofit professional and education leader Raymur Flinn to the role.

Flinn comes to the Ed Foundation with extensive experience in nonprofit leadership, fundraising and advocacy for public schools and the students they serve. Her experiences include both professional and volunteer leadership roles within the Redondo Beach Unified School District, including serving as PTA Council President and as Executive Director of the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation. Since 2019, she has served as an elected member of the District's Board of Trustees.

"I look forward to working with everyone in the Santa Monica community to continue the incredible work the Santa Monica Education Foundation does in supporting quality educational opportunities for all students in Santa Monica public schools," Flinn stated. "I've been so impressed and energized by everyone I've met so far, and I'm thrilled to step into this important role in the Santa Monica community."

> "I look forward to working with everyone in the Santa Monica community to continue the incredible work the Santa Monica Education Foundation does in supporting quality educational opportunities for all students in Santa Monica public schools"
> - Raymur Flinn

Flinn's prior leadership of the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation yielded impressive results, including an 82% growth in annual dollars raised and nearly $2 million in annual contributions to the Redondo Beach Unified School District.

"The Santa Monica Education Foundation is excited to welcome Raymur as its new Executive Director," Ed Foundation Board President John Baracy shared. "Her passion, energy and excitement for the work of the Ed Foundation, and her prior experiences in and knowledge of fundraising and public education, will be tremendously valuable to the Ed Foundation and the Santa Monica community."

"I was so pleased to meet with Raymur and see her passion and commitment to supporting public education," Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Antonio Shelton stated. "The Santa Monica Education Foundation is a vital partner to the District and an indelible part of our community. I have the utmost confidence in Raymur as its next Executive Director."

ED FOUNDATION BOARD FINALIZES TRANSITION PLANS

Flinn will join the Ed Foundation on a part-time basis effective May 30 and will work with Interim Executive Director Linda Greenberg and the Ed Foundation Board in the coming weeks to learn the inner workings of the Ed Foundation and meet SMMUSD families and community members. She will officially assume the role of Executive Director effective July 1.

"I'm excited to inherit and continue the work Linda Greenberg and others have engaged in these many years," Flinn said. "The Ed Foundation has evolved from one that reacted to urgent needs to one that now looks to the future and moves strategically to ensure that funding will always be available for our community's educational priorities."

"Linda, her staff and the Ed Foundation Board of Directors, along with the greater Santa Monica community, have built one of the most impactful K-12 education foundations in Southern California," Flinn continued. "I'm honored to assume this role and continue the amazing work Linda and her team have done over the years."

Greenberg, the longtime Ed Foundation leader who resumed the full-time Executive Director role on an interim basis last November, will remain involved with the Ed Foundation even as she steps back from a full-time role, providing her wealth of experience and community contacts as resources to Flinn as she assumes the Executive Director's role.

"I've known Raymur for several years and have always seen her as an incredibly gifted leader and dedicated champion for public schools," Greenberg said. "I couldn't be happier to see her take the reins of the Santa Monica Education Foundation as its next Executive Director, and I'm excited to work with her on a seamless transition in the coming weeks."

For more about the Ed Foundation, visit www.smedfoundation.org.

SUBMITTED BY HEATHER EPPS, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & EVENTS

11th St.

Santa Monica College Guitar Showcase Presents Free Concert May 23

The Santa Monica College Music Department will present the SMC Guitar Showcase on Thursday, May 23, at 11:15 a.m. in The Edye at the SMC Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th Street (at Santa Monica Boulevard), Santa Monica.

The concert is free, but seating is limited and strictly on a first-arrival basis. Early arrival is highly recommended. Free parking on premises.

Under the direction of Jimmy Cheesman, the epic concert will feature SMC guitar students performing classical, rock, pop, blues, and reggae music.

More information is available by calling 310-434-4323. Showcase is subject to change or cancellation without notice.

SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH

SMMUSD

FROM PAGE 1

as assistant principal for the past three years.

Ipina, who has two children graduates in the district's immersion program, said she accepts the position "with great pleasure and honor."

"Over the years, there's something that I've heard many people say about Edison, that it's a gem in our district," Ipina said. "Knowing how amazing all the other schools are, I wouldn't say we're the only gem, but I do want to say that Edison definitely has its unique sparkle."

She added that Edison's 90-10 Dual Language model, where English instructional time increases by 10 percent from first to fifth grade, eventually dividing instruction equally between English and Spanish, is the "most effective program" for educating English learners in the district.

"Dual language education is an act of social justice, and Edison embraces this opportunity with courage and commitment," Ipina said. "We work hard to ensure that our students' identities, languages and cultures are affirmed. We celebrate our diversity and we learn from each other."

The board also approved of two new roles, including Walter Gavidia as a new Samohi House Principal. Gavidia has 14 years of experience in SMMUSD in roles such as assistant principal, administration designee and math coordinator.

"I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude for this opportunity and I'm looking forward to collaborating with all members of our school community," Gavidia said.

> "I am so excited to join (SMMUSD), this is a dream come true and I can't wait to get started and help some kids"
>
> - Dr. Brenda Clarke

A new face in the district is the newly-hired Special Education Coordinator, Dr. Brenda Clarke. The educator comes to SMMUSD with decades of experience, recently being in leadership roles as assistant principal of student outcomes at Santa Barbara High School and in the special education department at Palisades Charter High School.

"I am so excited to join (SMMUSD), this is a dream come true and I can't wait to get started and help some kids," Clarke said.

The board also looked at district finances during the meeting, receiving a presentation on the 2023-24 third budget revision from Assistant Superintendent of Business and Fiscal Services Melody Canady and Director of Fiscal Services Gerardo Cruz.

In the district's unrestricted general fund, the fund balance decreased by $2.31 million due to a $1.25 million decrease in total revenues and a raise of $1.05 million in total expenditures. The revenue decrease did not come from a shortfall, rather a $1.5 million transfer of local general fund contributions from the unrestricted fund to the restricted fund.

Local revenues actually increased by $242,158, mainly due to $202,158 in rent and lease revenue from the gross sales agreement with Hilton Santa Monica Hotel & Suites. The hotel, located at 1707 4th St. adjacent to the SMMUSD offices, has a ground lease agreement with the district, as well as an agreement that gives the district a portion of the location's gross sales. The district anticipated about $800,000 in revenue from the agreement this year, but received around $1 million instead, adding the extra $202,158 into budget revisions.

"Business is doing well in Santa Monica which we're really proud and happy to be a part of," Canady said.

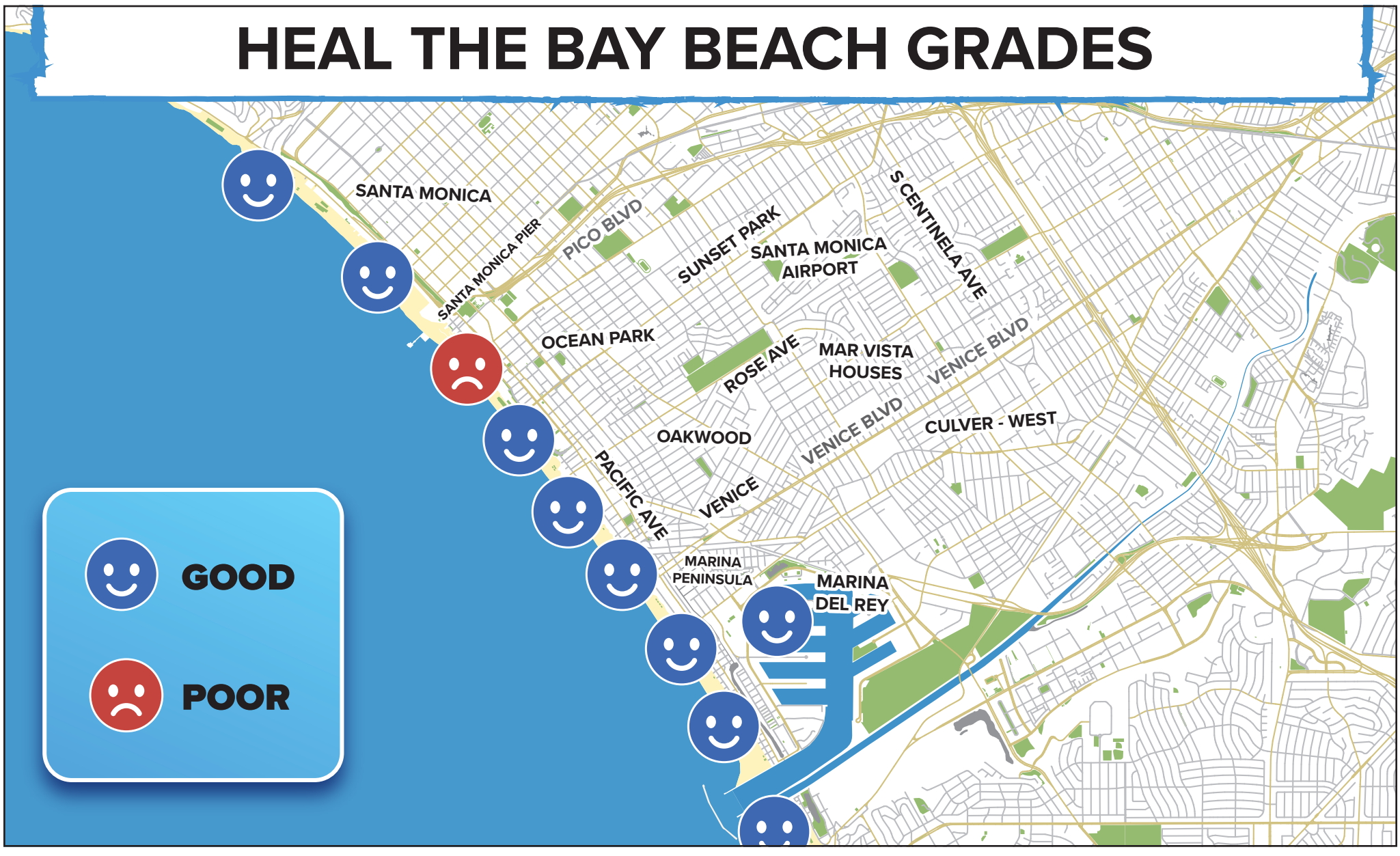
A large chunk of expenditure increases in the general fund came from a $665,000 increase in utility costs from the last budget revision, something staff noted they will be researching further.

"Everybody's feeling that crunch ... that is a huge amount that we hadn't anticipated, it's a little bit difficult sometimes to know that's coming," Canady said. "Those are things we are looking into."

Another financial crunch came in the form of increased food and paper supply costs. The district's cafeteria special fund decreased by $652,000 since the second interim budget report dated January 31, and Canady pointed that food and paper supplies "continue to rise" in cost, something the district has experienced "time and time again." Canady added that staff doesn't see costs of food decreasing, and will continue to have quality in required food and paper supplies.

Finances will once again be broached on Wednesday during a special board meeting, featuring a presentation of the tentative agreement for revenue sharing related to Malibu unification. Officials representing the district and the City of Malibu have been mediating a property tax sharing agreement since February 2022, one of three agreements necessary to split the district into a Santa Monica Unified School District and a Malibu Unified School District. The other agreements, an Operational Transfer Agreement and a Joint Powers Agreement, are still pending and will not be part of the Wednesday presentation.

thomas@smdp.com



COMMUNITY NEWS

Downtown

SaMo Pride Returns with Pride on the Promenade and Sounds of Santa Monica: Pride Edition

The month-long SaMo Pride celebration returns this June with interactive activities and experiences that honor and celebrate the LGBTQ+ community and promote inclusivity and acceptance in Santa Monica. SaMo Pride is a citywide partnership between Santa Monica Place, Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. (DTSM, Inc.) and Santa Monica Pier, in collaboration with the City of Santa Monica and Santa Monica Travel and Tourism.

Hosted by DTSM, Inc., Pride on the Promenade returns Saturday, June 22, from 2 to 8 p.m. This lively block party transforms Third Street Promenade into a colorful celebration featuring musical performances curated by OUTLOUD, giveaways, games and a retail pop-up marketplace showcasing local LGBTQ+ businesses, creating an inclusive space for all ages to come together and celebrate diversity. Plus, local service providers and community groups will be present along the Promenade, offering support and resources for the LGBTQ+ community. For talent submissions, to apply to become a vendor and to learn more about Pride on the Promenade, please visit downtownsm.com/pride-on-the-promenade. For sponsorship inquiries, please reach out to DTSM, Inc. Director of Marketing & Partnerships Ariana Gomez at ariana@downtownsm.com. This year's event is sponsored by LA County Supervisor, 3rd District, Lindsey Horvath.

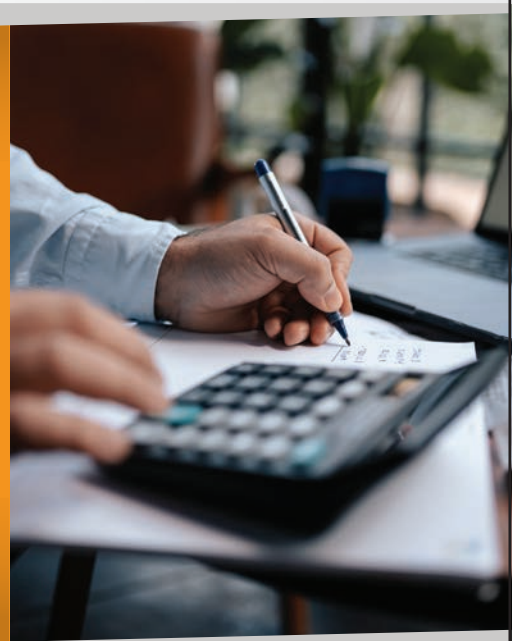
Adding to the festivities on the same day from noon to 6 p.m. Santa Monica Place presents the inaugural Sounds of Santa Monica: Pride Edition as an extension of the brand-new Sounds of Santa Monica live music series. Families will groove to the beats of live musical entertainment by LGBTQ+ performers in Center Plaza under Lanterns of Love, an overhead colorful lantern installation. Vibrant overhead lights will also span from Third Street Promenade to Santa Monica Place, illuminating the festive atmosphere. Also on Saturday, the Santa Monica Place Kid Zone offers kid-friendly Pride programming and activities, creating an educational and entertaining space for children to play and learn about inclusivity and acceptance. For more information about Sounds of Santa Monica: Pride Edition, visit santamonicaplace.com.

At Santa Monica Pier, the community is invited to participate in Fierce Fables: Drag Queen Pride Family-Edition on June 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Merry-Go-Round Building. Hosted in partnership with The Crow Comedy Club, this event welcomes all family members to enjoy a drag queen and king storytelling corner, face painting and show-stopping dance numbers by Pickle Drag Queen, Pandora Boxx and Johnny Gentleman.

The City of Santa Monica is dedicated to increasing visibility and understanding of the broad spectrum of gender identities and experiences within the LGBTQ+ community. The City celebrates Pride with the month-long lighting of City Hall in rainbow colors and a series of educational, uplifting events during the month of June. Community events include the City's Pride Proclamation on May 28; an AIDS LifeCycle Finish Line Festival on June 8; Rainbow Family Storytime at the Santa Monica Public Library on June 11; Family Pride Drag Queen Storytime with Pickle on June 14; Pride sunset swim at the Annenberg Community Beach House on June 21; and much more.

TAXES

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CLOSURE

FROM PAGE 1

dedicated at least 100 man-hours to policing the area surrounding the motel, just since November 2023. Despite this dedication of resources, the drug-dealing has not abated. People still routinely come to the Motel parking lot, or to one of the windows or gates, to buy drugs."

The complaint claims that the drug sales prompt other troublesome activity including fires, noise complaints, public intoxication and violence.

"Property owners are responsible for ensuring that their properties are not a nuisance or a danger to the neighborhood, and the city will hold them accountable when they fail to do so," said City Attorney Douglas Sloan in a statement.

The lawsuit asks the court to close the property for up to one year and says if closure is too harsh then fine the owners an amount equal to the fair market rental value of the property for one year. It also asks for individual fines against each owner of $25,000, sale of hotel fixtures to pay for enforcement costs, hiring a property management company to oversee the location, installation of various security measures and to require the owners or their representatives to live at the location until the nuisances are stopped.

In the suit, Sloan says the owners have been contacted multiple times about the problems and have chosen to ignore the warnings. The suit says no action has been taken to make any improvements on the property despite years of complaints.

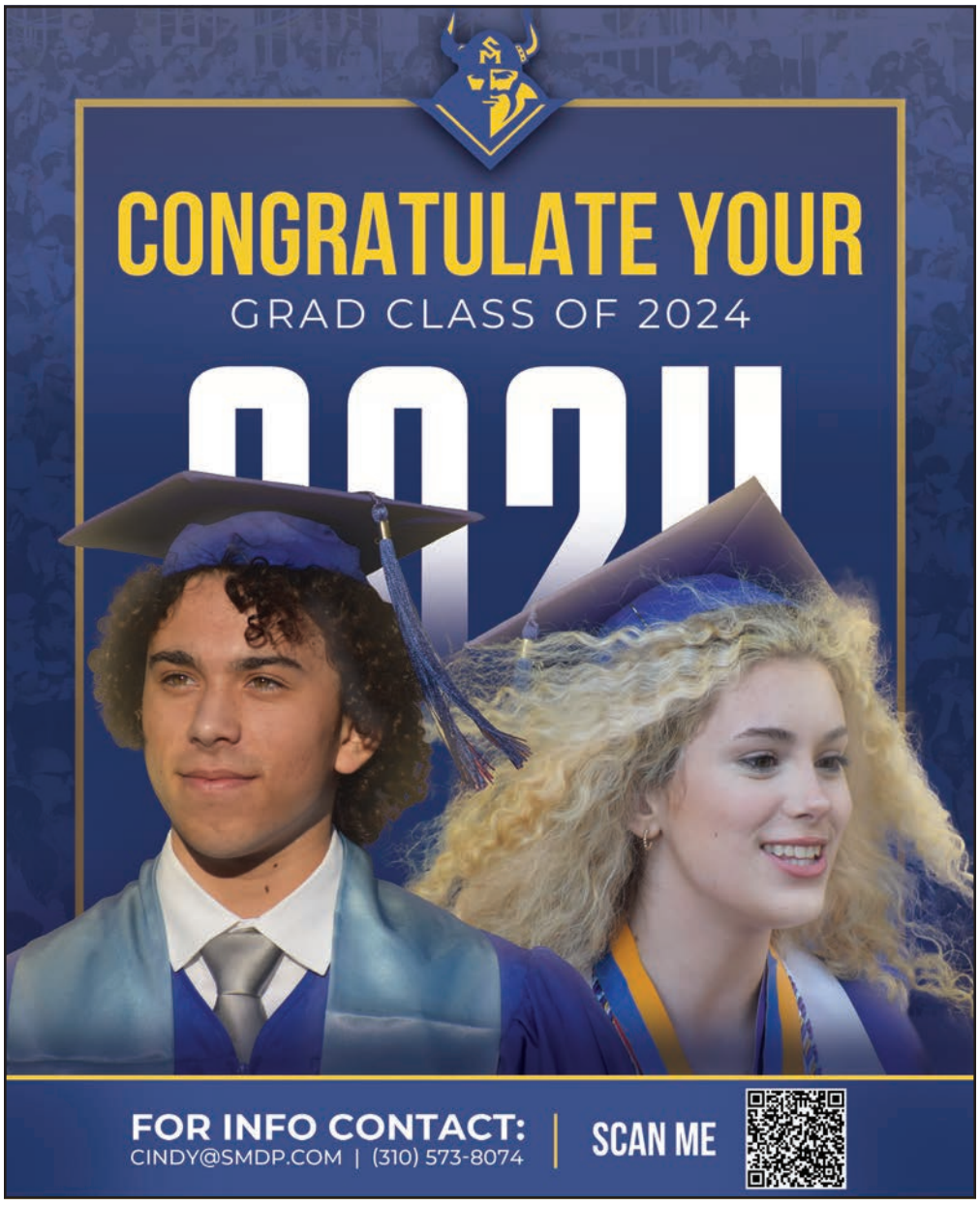
According to the lawsuit, the motel has been part of enforcement efforts in the past, including a joint code enforcement and police operation in 2007 that resulted in a temporary closure of the motel and arrests of several people, including owner Saeed Farzam.

"The Pavilions Motel has had an outsized impact on the community and on the deployment of police resources for years," said Chief of Police Ramon Batista. "The Santa Monica Police Department is pleased to collaborate with the City Attorney's Office in developing long-term solutions to this problem and this lawsuit is a critical step in that process."

editor@smdp.com

GET IT DAILY...





STABBING

FROM PAGE 1

statement provided by SMPD. "The suspect was detained and arrested a short time later. The suspect remains in custody at the Santa Monica Jail pending arraignment and the official filing of charges."

No information was available on Cedeno's city of residence but police said he was on probation for larceny.

"The safety and security of our community is our top priority. As we actively investigate this incident, we will continue to provide updates as they become available. No additional information is available at this time," said the statement.

Anyone with information related to this incident or these individuals is encouraged to contact Detective Burciaga at George.Burciaga@santamonica.gov or the Watch Commander 24 hours at 310-458-8427.

The attack was the second security alert of the evening for SMPD.

At about 4:45 p.m. on Sunday, SMPD closed the 1600 block of 5th Street for an investigation into a suspicious package. Officers spent about three hours investigating the incident in a parking lot next to the downtown train station.

Officers at the scene initially described the call to SMDP reporters as the investigation of a suspicious package near the back of the office building. However, SMPD officials clarified the call was more detailed on Monday morning.

According to SMPD, officials received a call from an individual who believed they had found bomb-making materials found while cleaning a deceased relative's home.

The caller placed the items in their vehicle and began to drive to the Santa Monica Police Station but were met by officers near 5th and Colorado, where they confirmed the suspicious items and immediately contacted the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Bomb Squad.

As a precaution, nearby buildings were evacuated, and streets were closed while the Bomb Squad rendered the materials safe. There were no injuries or direct threats to public safety.

Information related to the incident was provided to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

editor@smdp.com



Photo by Thomas Leffler

SMPD: Officers from the Santa Monica Police Department discuss the crime scene on the 1600 block of 5th St.

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STRIKE

FROM PAGE 3

these employees, the University has violated their employee rights," the union alleges. The union says its workers were protesting not just over the war in Gaza but seeking ways to opt out from funding sources tied to the U.S. military and "opposing the discrimination and hostile work environment directed towards Palestinian, Muslim, and pro-Palestine Jewish employees and students."

The UC Office of the President argues that the strikes are illegal because its contract with the union contains a no-strike provision. Friday the UC filed its own unfair labor practice against the union. It seeks a state order to block the union from striking.

"To be clear, the University supports free speech and lawful protests. Across the UC system, campuses have allowed — and continue to allow — lawful protests surrounding the conflict in the Middle East," the UC said in a statement last week. "But when protests violate University policy or threaten the safety and security of others, the University has taken lawful action to end impermissible and unlawful behavior."

The union isn't buying UC's anti-strike argument, and in fact submitted another labor violation charge accusing the university of intimidation by telling unionized workers the strike is illegal, which would mean employees could be reprimanded for not completing their duties.

"UC doesn't get to decide what is lawful," said Rafael Jaime, UAW 4811 president, in an email to CalMatters. That jurisdiction falls with the state labor relations board, he said.

"UC has committed serious unfair labor practices which have led to this strike, and we are well within our legal rights," Jaime added, pointing to a commentary written by a UCLA law professor that argued labor law allows unions to strike over matters not covered in the contract, even if there's a no-strike clause.

Members allowed union leadership to call for strikes through June 30 — long enough to potentially snarl teaching and grading at seven undergraduate campuses where finals begin the second week of June. In 2022, graduate students struck for six weeks in pursuit of higher wages and benefits.

Of the nearly 20,000 of the union's 48,000 members who voted on whether to strike last week, nearly 80% who did vote approved the strike authorization.

Unlike a systemwide strike, this "stand up" strike may see labor stoppages at certain campuses, a strategy popularized by Detroit autoworkers in their successful campaign for increased compensation last year. The approach functions like a slow simmer to put pressure on management before a full boil.

The union of UC academic workers wants the university to "grant amnesty for all academic employees who were arrested and are now facing disciplinary action, and also to grant the right to free speech and political expression on campus," said Rebecca Gross, a doctoral candidate in literature who heads the local union at UC Santa Cruz.

The University of California's leadership "could prevent the other campuses from standing up by coming to the table," she added. "We've had no indication so far that they plan to."

> "UC has committed serious unfair labor practices which have led to this strike, and we are well within our legal rights
> - Rafael Jaime

Response to the encampments has varied across the university system. At UC Riverside, campus leadership and students agreed to peacefully take down the tents; in exchange, the campus's chancellor promised to create a task force to look into a policy of removing campus investments from weapons manufacturers. That appeared to fall short of the demands students initially sought, which included pulling funds from assets tied to Israel.

The UC Office of the President last month rejected any divestment from funds targeting Israel, but was silent on broader approaches that weren't country-specific.

Last week the chief of UC's systemwide investment portfolio said the university holds about $3.3 billion in financial ties to weapons manufacturers, not directly but through investments in stock and bond indexes that include weapons companies. About $32 billion, out of the full investment portfolio of $175 billion, is in some way tied with weapons, the state of Israel and companies that student protesters take issue with, the UC official said last week. UC's investment portfolio funds pensions for retired UC employees, campus endowments and short-term capital to help with university operations. No tuition money funds UC investments.

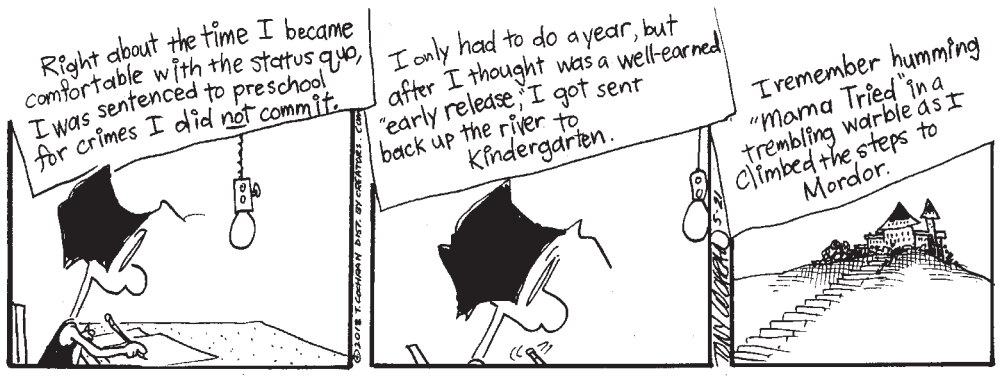
Gross said she expects packages from UPS, whose delivery workers are unionized with the Teamsters, to be rerouted from campus. During the 2022 strike, she said UPS deliveries were instead dropped off at an affiliated store and campus employees had to retrieve the packages. The local union is also expecting that city bus service will stop at the picket lines just outside campus and have passengers disembark there, rather than continuing its route to stops inside UC Santa Cruz.

UC Santa Cruz is home to more than 2,000 academic workers, but not all union members have a job with labor to withhold. Some are paid with fellowships to support their research. Most workers, though, take part in campus research, student teaching and grading. A strike that lasts into the final weeks of the term is likely to cause chaos.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

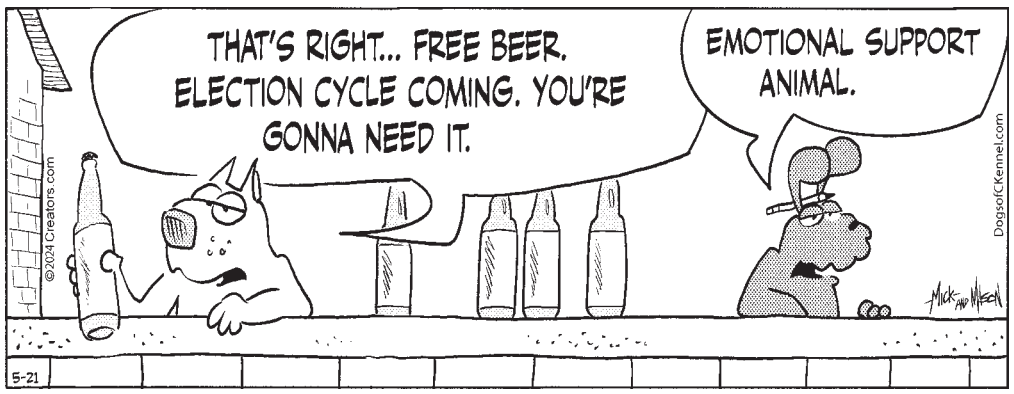
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



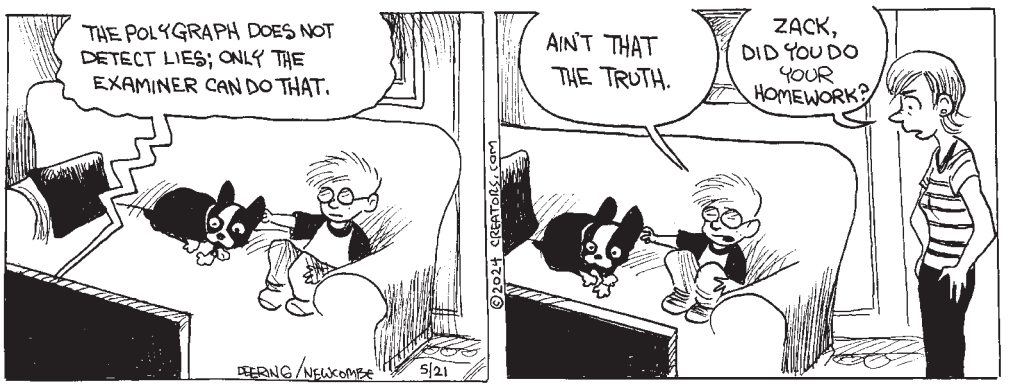
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



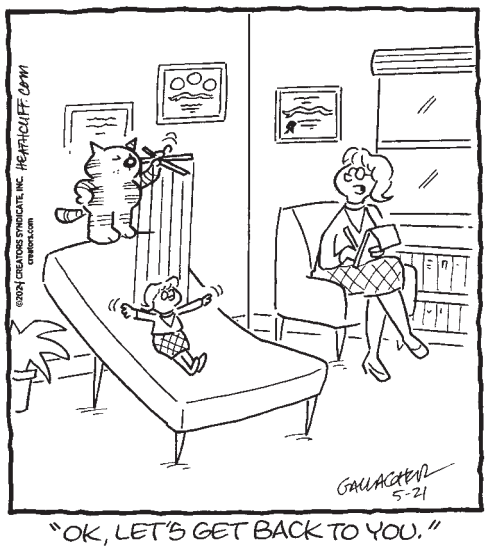
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



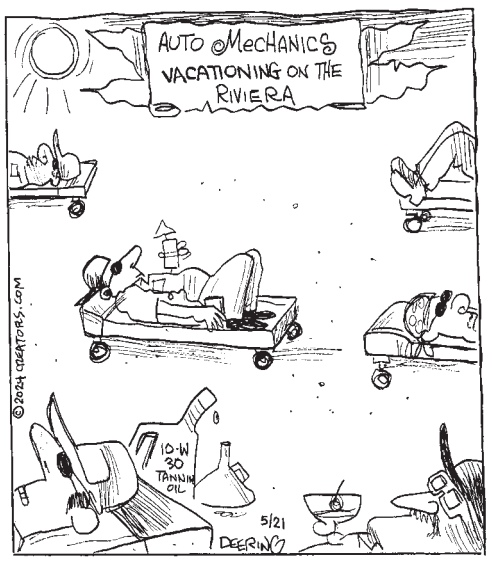
Heathcliff

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 26 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6217

Aussie music greats

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

AC/DC
Allniters
Audio
Bee Gees
Big Pig
Country
Drum
Epicure
Funk
Guitar
Harp
Hip hop
INXS
John Butler Trio
Keith Urban
Musician
Pendulum
Pnau
Precision
Quiet
Rabbit
Reverberate
Rock
Sample
Sets
Singer
Snog
Song
Spod
Spy Vs Spy
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Tina Arena
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 21)

Here comes your best chapter yet, filled with love, laughter and opportunity. You bring the levity, humor and an emphasis on trends to projects and create winning results, especially financially. Unsurprisingly, you gain many fans. More highlights: Excellent tickets, a big celebration, and someone you pull close will accompany you on three adventures. Scorpio and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 7, 16, 12 and 1.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The dawn is a prize for those who wake up early. The sunset is a treat for outsiders, and those with a window seat or a room with the right view. As you take advantage of the free pleasures, expensive ones will also befall you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your interests meld with the common interest, and a lucrative wave of business follows. Years of experience suddenly add up to well-deserved mastery. Smooth will be the road of business relationships established now.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Everyone needs a support system. As you build yours, you may notice you don't want to. On some level, you think of yourself as a solo act. But there is no solo act on the planet that doesn't come with a behind-the-scenes team.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). With your big plans, you can't afford to wait for inspiration. You'll simply show up and work with the inspiration of the moment. If that doesn't kick in, you'll work until inspiration catches up with you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). This is a day of clean slates. Ask for the second chance (or third or fourth) and you will get it. Love and forgiveness will weave together like entwined fingers of holding hands.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It seems sometimes that you'll do about anything to see your loved one smile. Today, you'll be struck with the fact of the matter - some smile-producing things are not sustainable, but you'll sprinkle them in, to excellent effect.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll extend your empathy and imagination to try and understand where someone is coming from. Seeing the world how another person sees it gives you new access to it. Knowledge of people is knowledge of the world.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Loving someone doesn't mean they won't drive you bonkers. When annoying behaviors test your nerves, assume it's not personal or deliberate, and take it as a sign of intimacy. Mature relationships are a prize held by few. Take pride.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your behaviors and your attitude will say more about you than anything you own. This is why you invest in developing your skills, improving yourself and learning about the world and about people.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You see that something needs to be done, and then you have an instinct about what. The job will fall to you, not because it's your responsibility but because you are the one it chose.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It is said that once is enough to see, not to be. Today, fortune favors a one-off adventure. It will bring a thrill, a story, a notch on your belt or simply the confidence of knowing that you are a person who is open to life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). What if the thing that is so bothersome to you doesn't need to be solved or overcome? Maybe it just needs to be accepted. That might seem harder than the previous two options, but it is also much more realistic.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

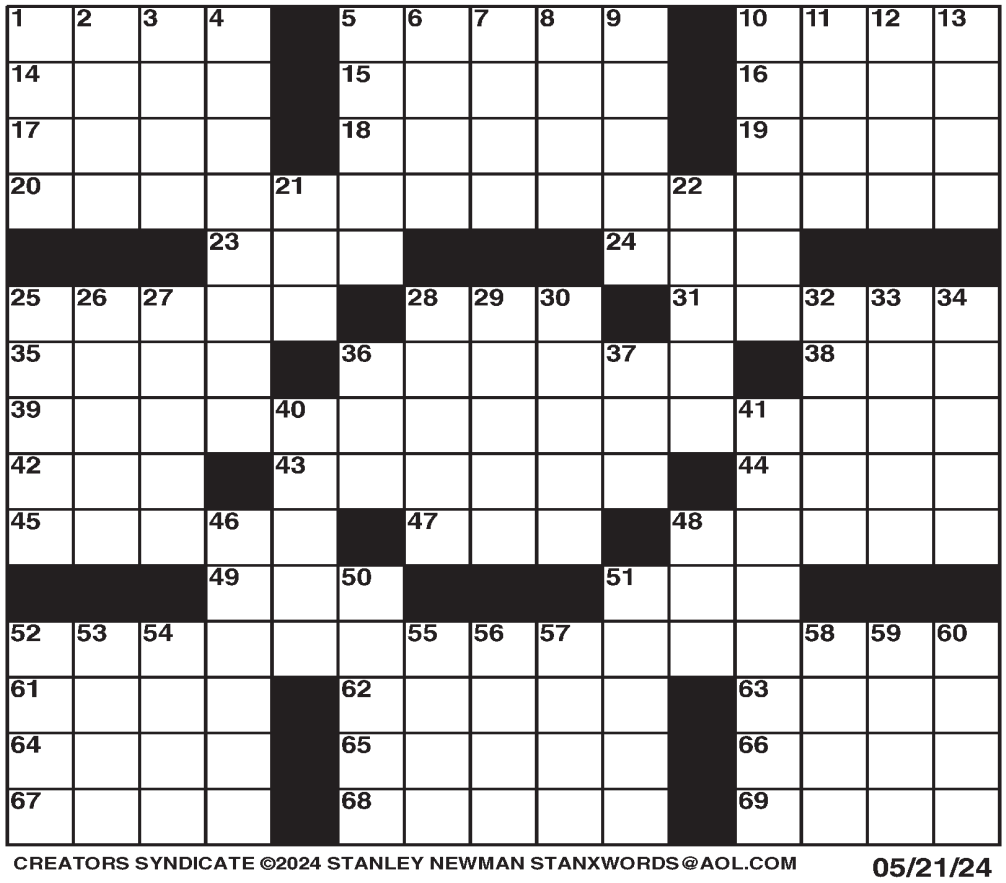
TEST YOURSELF by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 "Airy" prefix for sphere
5 Physically nimble
10 Screen door material
14 Lima __ (soup veggie)
15 Person walking through water
16 Bounce-back sound
17 Pet hamster's home
18 Higher than
19 Extremely eager
20 What road tests are taken for
23 Ancient
24 Prefix for cycle or angle
25 Decorator's unifying theme
28 Swampy ground
31 Settle, as a loan
35 Long heroic tale
36 Latino neighborhood
38 Winter road hazard
39 What sitcom screen tests are taken for
42 "Ready when you __"
43 Visiting locally
44 Type of blood vessel
45 Cowpoke's rope
47 New USNA grad
48 Green sauce
49 Yale student
51 Road-patching goo
52 What IQ tests are qualifications for
61 Vicinity
62 Spanish farewell
63 Make less difficult
64 Thailand's former name
65 Subtly suggest
66 Bachelor of __ degree
67 Roll call reply
68 Sweepstakes submission
69 Leopard's marking

DOWN

1 Alphabet start
2 Rip apart
3 Yuletide wise trio
4 What those in agreement speak with
5 Oscar or Emmy
6 Talks too much
7 Revered celebrity
8 Strauss of blue jeans
9 Standing very straight
10 Cruel person, informally
11 Heart charts: Abbr.
12 Sneaker or sandal
13 Big pigs
21 Assistant for Santa
22 Mistake
25 Tin or copper
26 Drama with singers
27 Scrabble pieces
28 Moisten while roasting
29 Hunter constellation
30 Becomes taller
32 Untidy stacks
33 Do great on an exam
34 Two-choice type of question
36 Recycling container
37 Quaint hotel
40 String quartet instrument
41 Across the ocean
46 __ seed bun
48 Golf standard score
50 Mirror's reflection
51 In a crabby mood
52 Crush, as potatoes
53 A Great Lake
54 Close by
55 Eve's first home
56 Oven glove
57 Wild pig
58 Angel's instrument
59 That __ say (in other words)
60 Annoying person



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HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 4

for people who need those services. The state is set to start awarding that money in the spring and summer of 2025, Newsom said this month.

But at the same time, to plug a yawning budget deficit, Newsom has proposed cutting funds from the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program, which provides beds for people who need mental health and addiction services.

Currie said he is "skeptical" of the lack of funding mechanisms for treatment programs and other services to ensure homeless people stay off the streets post-treatment. That, he said, could burden counties that already struggle with insufficient funding for such services — one in five homeless people surveyed by UCSF researchers said they sought substance abuse treatment but failed to get it.

"You can't just say, 'Ok, you counties. Since you are swimming in so much money after all … we are going to mandate drug treatment for some people on top of the existing number of clients,'" Currie said.

THE POLITICS OF HOMELESSNESS

Some political strategists say the measure's tie to homelessness represents the campaign's attempt to capitalize on public concern about the problem. Homelessness is a top issue on California voters' minds, according to a February 2024 statewide survey by the Public Policy Institute of California.

"This notion somehow that it addresses homelessness is deceptive and downright farcical," said Garry South, a longtime Democratic consultant who has worked on ballot measures for more than 20 years.

Homelessness is ultimately due to a lack of housing, he argued, and measures aiming to address the problem without providing housing are "disingenuous."

"You've heard the old saying 'Putting lipstick on a pig,'" South said. "I'm not saying that this measure is a pig, but what I'm saying is it's a standard procedure … to try to gussy it up with some reference or some provision that really strikes a responsive chord with voters when that's not really what the initiative is about."

If the measure appears before voters in November, "homelessness" won't be in the title they see on their ballots. The official title of the measure, chosen by the state attorney general, is: "Allows felony charges and increases sentences for certain drug and theft crimes."

A lot of thought, politics, and sometimes even litigation goes into drafting the title and summary of a ballot measure. While proponents of a proposition want to entice voters with their description, it's ultimately the state attorney general's job to make sure the language is fair.

Even without mentioning homelessness, South said the ballot measure could still "pass on its own merits." He, for one, would likely vote for it as a way to decrease crime.

DRUGS AND HOMELESSNESS

Tom Wolf, who has experienced both homelessness and addiction first hand in San Francisco, said the proposed ballot measure has great potential to help people who were like him.

An opioid addiction cost Wolf his job and his home, and landed him on the streets of San Francisco's Tenderloin neighborhood in 2018. He said he worked as a "holder" for nearby drug dealers, safeguarding their stash of narcotics in case they were busted by the police. Sometimes he stole razor blades from a nearby Target and sold them for money to buy heroin.

Wolf says he was arrested on drug charges five times within three months, and was released back to the street each time. The sixth time he was arrested, the judge let him sit in jail for three months, where he got sober. Wolf finally called his brother, who said he would bail him out if Wolf went to drug treatment. Wolf agreed. He says that if he had been given the choice between jail and treatment the last time he was picked up, he would have chosen treatment.

In June, Wolf will have six years sober. He's now an advocate for drug policy reform, and works as director of West Coast initiatives for the Foundation for Drug Policy Solutions.

"That accountability piece was the key to me getting off the street," he said, "getting sober, becoming willing to accept an opportunity to go to treatment and give recovery an honest try."

This article was originally published by CalMatters.





TUESDAY | MAY 21

SOCIAL SERVICE ASSISTANCE

Virginia Avenue Park, in partnership with Providence St. John's Community Health Program, resumes Social Service Assistance from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Help with facility nutrition and health care access from trained community health workers. The trained Providence St. John's staff can assist with enrollment in CalFresh, the state of California's food subsidy program created to improve the nutrition of families through access to healthy foods. Staff can also help navigate enrollment or questions for MediCal or Medicare. If you have questions about whether you qualify for benefits or if you need help completing enrollment forms, you can make an appointment by calling 310-458-8688. Drop-ins are also welcome.

MYSTERIOUS BOOK CLUB

Join organizers for the next meeting of the Mysterious Book Club a group of readers who love mystery and suspense. We are reading The Expendable Man by Dorothy B. Hughes. You'll enjoy this view of California and Arizona in the 1960's. We welcome new members. Come even if you haven't read the book. You can meet everyone and you'll know the title for next month. Why does Hugh Denismore, a seemingly comfortable new intern driving his mother's Cadillac from LA to Phoenix, get so upset at the sight of a few redneck teenagers in Indio? Why is he reluctant to pick up a disheveled girl hitchhiking along the desert highway? And why is he the first person the police suspect when she is found dead in Arizona a few days later? Palisades Branch Library, 861 Alma Real Drive, Pacific Palisades. 1:30 p.m.

ORCHESTRATING CHANGE SCREENING

Celebrate Mental Health Awareness Month with the award-winning 2021 documentary "Orchestrating Change" about the Me2/Orchestra, the world's only orchestra for musicians living with mental illness. The screening will be followed by a Q&A with the film's Executive Producer/Directors, Margie Friedman and Barbara Multer-Wellin. Starts at 6 p.m. in the MLK Jr. Auditorium at the Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

AUDIT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

On July 28, 2015, the Santa Monica City Council adopted a resolution establishing an Audit Subcommittee to assist the City Council in fulfilling their oversight responsibilities for the financial reporting process, the framework for internal control, and the audit process. The Subcommittee consists of three members of the City Council and two City residents qualified to serve by virtue of their experience and expertise with governmental accounting and internal financial controls. Meeting begins at 6 p.m. at the Santa Monica Institute Training Room, 330 Olympic Dr., 2nd Floor (Plaza Level).

VIRGINIA AVE PARK ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

The Virginia Avenue Park Advisory Board (VAPAB) serves as an advisory body to the Recreation and Parks Commission and the Director of Housing and Human Services Department. The VAPAB is composed of seven Santa Monica resident board members. The Board represents the social and ethnic diversity of the park's neighborhood and includes but is not limited to representatives of the following segments of the community: park users, park neighbors, park program participants, seniors, families with children, community organizations and older youth. Meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the Thelma Terry Building, Workshop 3, at Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave.

WEDNESDAY | MAY 22

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.

'SILENT' PIANO EXPERIENCE

Join the Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Hwy., at 6:30 p.m. for an extraordinary and immersive musical event. Experience the magic of MindTravel, a unique 'silent' piano concert where you'll wear wireless headphones to listen to the live performance by renowned composer and pianist Murray Hidary. General admission tickets $45, Kids 12 and under $15. To purchase, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mindtravel-live-to-headphones-silent-piano-concert-in-santa-monica-tickets-891875933927.

URBAN FOREST TASK FORCE MEETING

The Urban Forest Task Force discusses items affecting public trees in Santa Monica. The task force will hear an urban forest management update, an airport conversion public outreach presentation and an update on the status of the Sooty Canker outbreak. Meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

CLEAN BEACHES COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING

The mission of the Clean Beaches & Ocean Parcel Tax Citizens Oversight Committee is to uphold the mission of the City of Santa Monica Watershed Management Plan: to restore a healthier balance between the urban environment and the natural ecosystem, including the Santa Monica Bay, by reducing the pollution in urban runoff, reducing urban flooding, and increasing water conservation, recreation opportunities, open space, and wildlife and marine habitat. Meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Santa Monica Institute Room on the 2nd Floor Plaza Level of the Civic Center, 333 Civic Center Dr.

BOURBON TASTING WITH BUFFALO TRACE

Encounter the masterminds of Buffalo Trace Distillery as you indulge in the rich, complex flavors expertly paired with delectable bites. General admission ticket includes a welcome cocktail, tastings and a take-home souvenir. Tastings include Sezerac Rye 6 Year, Buffalo Trace and Blantons. Also includes small bites like oysters on the half shell, New Zealand Lollipop and Coconut-Lemongrass Tart. Begins at 7 p.m. at The Marina Del Rey Hotel, 13534 Bali Way, Marina del Rey. General admission tickets $68. To purchase, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bourbon-tasting-with-buffalo-trace-at-the-marina-del-rey-hotel-tickets-768681425837.


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