3
Crimes for clout
Social media fueling theft.

5
Letters to the Editor
Nonexistent representation.

7
Debt ceiling
What would a default mean?

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Financial future of Historic Preservation Program to be decided by Council

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Historic preservation advocates are trying to rally support in advance of tonight's council meeting to argue for additional resources supporting the City's landmark process.

Council will listen to, and vote on, the city's, proposed biennial budget 2023-25 (along with the five-year financial forecast update in tonight's meeting) and the Santa Monica Conservancy is arguing more money should be put towards landmarking properties as cuts over the last three years have resulted in the increased cost of designation applications and the reduced number of meetings and resources for the Landmarks Commission.

The Conservancy is a non-profit organization that was founded in 2002 and has worked to save many of Santa Monica's most iconic historic buildings, together with promoting historic districts and developing many educational programs and tours to increase public appreciation for the city's rich history.

"People are looking at their preservation programs as ways of being able to tell the stories of everyone in the community," says Carol Lemlein, Vice President of the Santa Monica Conservancy.

There are approximately 600 properties that are not currently designated that were recognized as being eligible for landmark designation on the 2018 inventory, Lemlein says.

"Some of those properties

SEE **CONSERVANCY** PAGE 7

Salvation Army launches Second Chance Campaign





Courtesy photos

SALVATION ARMY: The Salvation Army has announced the kick off of its "Second Chances" campaign in Los Angeles - a yearlong initiative designed to de-stigmatize addiction and put the spotlight on recovery. The group's ARC program is often the last hope for those fighting substance addiction.

The campaign is designed to put the spotlight on the addiction crisis, and create awareness of the life-changing programs at ARC. A series of hosted events bringing together local officials, ARC officers and staff, graduates of ARC, their families and local celebrities in recovery are planned. Launched in the Western states, the events are free and open to the public. As the "Second Chances" movement gains traction the events could roll out across the country.

"The campaign reminds us that we've all made regrettable decisions at some point in our lives, decisions we wish we could have made differently, if given a second chance," said Major Henry Graciani, Commander of the nonprofit's ARC'S in the USA western territory.

A key component of the campaign is the "Red Wall" signature board, where people get a chance to share what they might have done differently if given a second chance. The boards are featured prominently at each event. A virtual board is also available online at TheChanceto.org for anyone who'd like to participate.

Pictured are: Jay Mohr, Jennifer Jimenez, Tim Ryan, Captain Paul Timothy Pemberton and Captain Tanya Pemberton.

Santa Monica housing provider expands into Venice

ANGELA MCGREGOR
Special to the Daily Press

Since its founding 41 years ago, Community Corporation of Santa Monica has built 2,023 affordable apartments in West Los Angeles. With their recent purchase of the First Baptist Church property in Oakwood and their status as part of a development partnership that is a finalist to develop the Metro Yard (the current site of the Venice Bridge Home), they are now creating a substantial footprint in Venice Beach.

CCSM's Executive Director, Tara Barauskas explained that CCSM's business model has stayed the same "for 40 years except for our geographic expansion beyond Santa Monica. We're a nonprofit. So each building that we build is a self contained mini business entity. The way we figure out what buildings are going to be feasible for us is we try to make sure there's at least a certain number of units, because the rents are really low and…otherwise we won't be able to pay the bills."

Rents start around $450 a month for a one bedroom unit and go up to $1500 for three bedrooms. Their most recent project — Las Flores, is a 73 unit building on 14th Street in Santa Monica serving residents with incomes between 30-80% of the area's median income, $20,000 for a single resident, up to $90,000 for a family of four.

To finance construction, CCSM uses the Low Income Housing Tax Credit program, created in 1986, wherein the Federal Government

SEE **HOUSING** PAGE 2



HOUSING

FROM PAGE 1

disburses funds to each state, which are then handed off to affordable housing developers in the form of tax credits. These tax credits are then sold to investors, which provides CCSM with about 60% of the cost of each project. The rest of the funding usually comes from cities, counties, and state programs. Developers using LIHTCs are bound by a land use covenant and required to hold and operate each property for 55 years. Barauskas said at one time that number was just 30 years, and CCSM has already renewed a couple of their older properties because "our mission is to provide affordable housing, so we're not going to flip the market or kick everyone out or whatever."

"HUD [The Department of Housing and Urban Development] dictate what the rents are, and it's based on HUD's fair market value. HUD does an assessment of each county and they publish the rents and those are the ones we use," she said.

This is a different pricing model than Section 8, which utilizes vouchers to reimburse landlords, or projects funded by Proposition HHH, wherein the city provides money generated via property taxes directly to developers and mandates that a certain percentage of each building's tenants fall into certain categories.

"The problem right now," Barauskas said, "is that a lot of the affordable housing resources that we use require some permanent supportive housing, except for the tax credits. I personally have been advocating for five to 10 years that those funding sources should change because the people who we're serving are the ones who, if it wasn't for our housing, could be homeless. I don't think the right strategy is to only build homeless units, but I haven't been successful in that advocacy yet."

Demand for CCSM's units is enormous. For the 50 available units at Mar Vista's Ballona Vista, which opened in 2021, CCSM received over 5,000 applications, which were selected "primarily on income" Barauskas told us. "30 to 80% of median area income, so you're talking about people who might be making minimum wage working at a grocery store or preschool. It's jobs that are important for the community, but they don't get paid a lot. The idea is to try to get more affordable housing options nearby" in order to avoid long commutes.

Barauskas said when she came onboard at CCSM about seven years ago, her intention was always to expand to other areas of the Westside, noting that housing is expensive all over the region, and not just in Santa Monica, where CCSM had been exclusively focused up to that point. "I asked the board, 'If you're interested in expanding, then I'd like the job.' And it's worked out really well. So that was kind of my pitch."

As for the Metro yard, it's been five years since Camden Real Estate Ventures approached CCSM and asked if they would be interested in providing the affordable housing component of their project, for which they were submitting a proposal to the MTA. Safe Place for Youth, which currently co-manages the Venice Bridge Home at the site, was brought on to provide the permanent supportive housing component, and Barauskas says she "loves their work. They're fantastic…We're just kind of a minor partner in it, because it is a pretty big property that it would be mixed use and mixed income… There would actually be market rate units, some kind of commercial component, and then some affordable housing.

"We submitted this [proposal] five years ago, then the pandemic happened, and then nothing happened. And so we're like, well, maybe it's not moving forward. And then out of the blue, we get an email [from MTA]: 'We want to interview you guys.' I honestly have no idea if we're still in the running or not, but when we see city owned land or public jurisdiction land, it's always a great opportunity. Land is super expensive. So if we don't have to pay for land, then that's going to make the project more cost effective."



Courtesy Photo

CCSM: Tara Barauskas said she took the job to expand the organization's services beyond Santa Monica.

As for the First Baptist Church property, Barauskas told us CCSM first became aware of it in October, 2022, after the Penske family put it on the market. "Over the years we have bought some historic properties, not necessarily that were designated historic, but old buildings, and then rehabilitated them. So that was sort of already in our wheelhouse. And so when the property was on the market, somebody came to us and said, 'Hey, have you seen this property for sale?'"

"And then I took a look at it, and thought we would love to have something in Venice, because that's right next to Santa Monica. It kind of makes a lot of sense. And we did learn quite a bit about the church, and I kind of got emotionally attached and like, oh, it'd be so neat to work on this and save it…And so we put in a bid to the broker for the Penskes. And they selected us because they liked the idea of what we wanted to do there, I think, versus maybe what some other people were going to do.

"It was actually a very difficult closing, because it's very unique for us. We don't normally buy large, vacant church structures," she laughed. "I had to work to convince my board that this was such a unique opportunity. And I felt like a group like us would do the right thing with the church."

Both the church building and its adjoining parking lots were designated historic by the city's Land Use and Planning Committees. During escrow, CCSM's research included "reports and assessments done with historical consultants who said that there is a path forward to amend the historic designation, to remove it from the parking lots because that's what I want to develop," Barauskas said. "We know that the church has to be preserved and restored. So we're not touching the church."

The church building also includes about 20 classrooms, which Barauskas said were in very poor shape, although in the interest of creating enough affordable units to make the project cost effective, might be converted to housing, depending on what the community wants.

"We want to do some community work and see how people feel about the classrooms," she said. "What I've heard so far is nobody really cares about the classrooms…But I haven't heard enough input yet."

Barauskas said she reached out to the CD11 Council office during the escrow period, first to Mike Bonin, who she says told her he was in favor of affordable housing at the site, and then to Traci Park once she was in office.

"I had to reach out to her office and said, 'Are you supportive of this idea?' And they said, 'Yes'. If they had said no, I was not going to buy it because I knew they would just block every which way."

Park's office disputes this. Park told the Current that, according to her office's records, Barauskas contacted her office after escrow closed and it was explained to her by Park's planning staff that Park "would not take any position on any project until they knew what it was, and that any development of any kind should be done with the robust engagement of the Oakwood community, who have a vested interest in the project."

Barauskas responded to the Council Office's comment with the following statement: "The Councilmember hasn't taken an official position on our project yet, because we don't yet have an official project. We are still formulating the project based on the community input we'll be doing over the next few months. So we could not say that the Councilmember supports the project at 682 Westminster, since no project is confirmed yet. From my interpretation Ms. Park seems generally supportive of affordable housing, and did not oppose the concept of us buying the property."

Barauskas also said she had discussions during escrow with original members of Save Venice, the neighborhood group that has lobbied for years to get the church its historic designation.

"I got connected to Naomi Nightingale because I'm working with her niece, Robbie Jones, who's putting a cafe in one of our buildings." Barauskas said both saving the church's sanctuary and providing affordable housing were among Save Venice's top priorities. "I think what's very appealing to them about this is that we're serving people who make lower incomes. But I still don't have any sense like, is it families? Is it going to be seniors? So we're a little bit of a blank canvas as long as it's serving people in those income levels, and we can work together to figure out what's more needed."

Naomi Nightingale, Laddie Williams (another original Save Venice member) and several CCSM staffers, Board members and residents are on a CCSM committee screening requests for qualifications from 20 prospective architects. Barauskas said that she and Nightingale are still in conversations about an acceptable height for the project — 30 feet, or three stories, would be the standard zoning restriction for the neighborhood, but Barauskas would prefer four stories. She said that if the height is restricted to three stories, smaller units would be required. "It'll probably be senior housing. I can't do three stories, and three bedroom units" and get the project to its break-even point, to between 50-55 units.

> "I got connected to Naomi Nightingale because I'm working with her niece, Robbie Jones, who's putting a cafe in one of our buildings"
>
> - Tara Barauskas CCSM's Executive Director

"It was really nice to have a go to group that already cared so much about this, and they were very honest with me about whether this idea will fly or not…and so I really listened to their perspective. They're so knowledgeable about the history, and because they care so much about it, they also want to guide us to do the right thing. And so that's been really helpful…Because sometimes as a mission-oriented developer, you can think you're doing the right thing, but not actually be doing the right thing, what's right for the community. My goal is, on this [project], to really listen. And I really need to hear different perspectives so that we can really trying to come up with something that will serve the community."

CCSM held its first outreach meeting at the site of the First Baptist Church on May 7. Barauskas said that many more will follow, and hopes that the Venice Neighborhood Council will ultimately approve the project, once Oakwood is on board.

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TikTok and other social media trends are thrusting performance crimes into the US spotlight

CLAUDIA LAUER AND HALELUYA HADERO
Associated Press

Jonnifer Neal's Kia was stolen twice in one day — first from in front of her Chicago home and later from outside the mechanic shop where she took it to get fixed.

But Neal's ordeal didn't end there. After her car was recovered a month later, she was stopped by police twice coming home from work because a police error caused the Optima to remain listed as stolen. The same error resulted in officers waking her up at 3 a.m. another night. On yet another occasion, a swarm of officers pulled her over as she was traveling to Mississippi, handcuffing and placing her in the back of a cruiser for more than an hour.

The Kia now sits in her garage.

"It's been a few months, but honestly I'm still nervous," Neal said. "I drove that car maybe once in a blue moon and I loved that car."

Neal's story is one of thousands from Kia and Hyundai owners across the country whose cars were stolen or damaged in the past two years.

The sharp uptick has been linked to viral videos, posted to TikTok and other social media platforms, teaching people how to start the cars with USB cables and exploit a security vulnerability in some models sold in the U.S. without engine immobilizers, a standard feature on most cars since the 1990s preventing the engine from starting unless the key is present.

But unlike some social media-driven trends that seemingly disappear just as police get a handle on them, the car thefts have continued. Hyundai has tried to work with TikTok and other platforms to remove the videos, but as new ones surface fresh waves of thefts occur, illustrating the lingering effects of dangerous content that gains traction with teens looking for ways to go viral.

It's a phenomenon known as performance crime. Police departments in a dozen cities have said it factors into an increase they've seen in juveniles arrested or charged with car thefts. Still, criminology experts caution that the role teens are playing in the theft increases — which began during the pandemic and aren't limited to Kia and Hyundai — may be artificially inflated because teenagers inexperienced at crime are more likely to be caught.

Attorneys general from 17 states have called on federal regulators to issue a mandatory recall, arguing the voluntary software fixes issued by the companies aren't enough. Multiple cities including Baltimore, Milwaukee and New York have filed or announced plans to join legal action against the automakers, which also are facing class-action and civil lawsuits from consumers like Neal. One such lawsuit was settled for roughly $200 million last week.

The National Highway and Safety Administration blames the trend for at least 14 crashes and eight fatalities, but lawyers suing the carmakers say the number is likely much higher.

Morgan Kornfeind was driving to a yoga class in Portland, Oregon, at the end of March when a man in a stolen Kia barreled into her as he drove the wrong way while fleeing police. The 25-year-old suffered lacerations, broken bones and extensive injuries to her leg. She needed surgery and attends multiple medical appointments every week.

"I'm unable to work my job that I love dearly. I'm unable to practice yoga or walk my dogs. I've missed planned trips with friends because of my ongoing rehab. The idea of ever driving again causes me great distress," she wrote in a statement.

Earlier this month in Milwaukee, a stolen Kia collided with a school bus, leaving a 15-year-old who was hanging out the window in critical condition. Police later arrested four 14-year-olds, one of whom allegedly was driving.

Many of the calls for accountability have been directed at the automakers. MLG Attorneys at Law, a California law firm specializing in automotive defect lawsuits, has received more than 4,000 inquiries from victims like Kornfeind.

"And the amazing thing is it's not slowing down," said Randy Shrewsberry, MLG chief strategy officer.

But some police departments, victims and the automakers also point the finger at social media platforms. Videos posted on YouTube in recent weeks show people breaking into various cars or using a USB cable to hotwire cars. The company removed the videos when notified by The Associated Press.

YouTube removed videos depicting what's known as the "Kia Challenge" in recent months, spokesperson Elena Hernandez said in a statement, while stressing the company considers context when making those decisions.

"We might allow some videos if they're meant to be educational, documentary, scientific, or artistic," Hernandez wrote.

In a statement, a TikTok spokesperson pushed back on assertions that many of the dangerous challenges mentioned in news reports had reached mass popularity on the platform.

"There is no evidence any of these challenges ever 'trended' on TikTok, and there is a clear documented history that many challenges falsely associated with TikTok pre-date the platform entirely," TikTok spokesperson Ben Rathe said.

Hany Farid, who stepped down in January from TikTok's U.S. content advisory council because he felt unable to affect change, said TikTok tends to be defensive when criticized for its content moderation practices. He acknowledged the challenge of knowing where some trends originate because content moves quickly between platforms.

"It's very much a Whack-A-Mole problem," said Farid, a digital forensics expert at the University of California, Berkeley. "Because these platforms were not designed to be safe for kids, or for anybody."

TikTok's enforcement report from the last three months of 2022 showed 5% of the videos the company removed were due to dangerous acts and challenges, with 82% removed within 24 hours.

Like many social platforms, TikTok screens content with a combination of artificial intelligence and human moderators who try to catch whatever AI might miss. A spokesperson said it's easier for technology to spot certain violations, like nudity, than things like teens breaking into cars. The human moderators are a second level of screening when content is questionable.

Users also sometimes subvert the platform's controls by misspelling or changing words in hashtags. Some see that as a loophole deserving attention. TikTok says it monitors misspellings and touted the content being forced away from mainstream hashtags as a success.

Meta, which owns Facebook and Instagram, did not reply to a request for comment on how it screens for similar videos.

While the Kia Challenge is the social media crime trend of the moment, it's not the first. And, experts say, it's not indicative of social media creating a paradigm shift in criminal activity.

In LaGrange, Georgia, a city of about 31,000 people close to the Alabama border, before the Kia Challenge the police dealt with fallout from the "Orbeez Challenge," which directed people to use toy or airsoft guns to shoot small, gel-filled balls called Orbeez at strangers or friends. Lt. Mark Cavender said officers were alarmed when they saw middle schoolers using toy guns painted black to look like real weapons, immediately putting out warnings to stop.

Michael Scott, director of the Problem-Oriented Policing Center at Arizona State University, said social media hasn't completely changed crime.

"Social media seems to be a radically new thing, but the only new things are the speed and the breadth," Scott said.

There are also plenty of examples of trends in criminal activity spreading before social media existed as it does now. Before there were "rob mobs" there was "wilding" in the 1980s, in which groups of people gathered in public to cause chaos, vandalize or steal property. And before the Kia Challenge, there were groups of teens in the 1990s who figured out they could steal General Motors vehicles using a screwdriver.

Scott, who was an officer in the St. Louis Police Department at the time, said the carmaker was slow to act when officers noticed the uptick in their cars being stolen.

"Even without social media, that technique spread around the country," he said. "What social media changed, was it sped up the process. Before, you had to know or meet someone who had figured out that all you needed was a screwdriver."

Lauer reported from Philadelphia.

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BLACH CONSTRUCTION

INVITATION FOR SUBCONTRACTOR BIDS

Pursuant to California Education Code 17406, notice is hereby given that subcontractor bids will be received by Blach Construction – 3090 Bristol Street, Costa Mesa 92626. Bids must be received in accordance with Blach Construction's instructions by **Tuesday, June 6th, 2023 at 2PM.** It is the bidder's responsibility to ensure timely delivery via Building Connected.

SMASH-Muir ES Water Intrusion Repairs
Bids Due: Tuesday, June 6th, 2023 at 2PM

Project Scope:

1. Selective demolition of drywall, plaster, and concrete to support and provide structural design.

Subcontractors Required:
C-21 and C-22 Demo and Abatement

Job Walk (Non-Mandatory): To be held at 1:00pm, Thursday June 1, 2023 at SMASH-Muir Elementary School located at 2526 6th St. Santa Monica, CA 90405.

Requests for Information (RFI's): Requests for information for this project are due by 5:00 pm, June 2, 2023. Bidders are required to indicate the project name in the title of your request submission. Submit all requests for information to Justin Gilbert at justin.gilbert@blach.com

Contract Bid Documents: Copies of the bid & contract documents including drawings and specifications are available through Building Connected. Please reach out to Justin Gilbert with Blach Construction at (209) 505-2551 or justin.gilbert@blach.com for access as needed.

Prevailing Wage and Skilled & Trained Workforce Requirements: Per Public Contract Code 2601 and 2602 as well as Senate Bill 693, all subcontractors at every tier must adhere to Skilled & Trained Workforce Requirements. Additionally, prevailing wage is required on this project. Additional information is provided in Blach Construction's Bid Documents.

The Contractor and all Subcontractors under the Contractor shall pay all workers on all work performed pursuant to this Contract not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages and the general prevailing rate for holiday and overtime work as determined by the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations, State of California, for the type of work performed and the locality in which the work is to be performed within the boundaries of the District, pursuant to sections 1770 et seq. of the California Labor Code. Prevailing wage rates are also available from the District or on the Internet at: <http://www.dir.ca.gov>.

The successful bidder will be required to have the appropriate State of California Contractor's License to perform the work, current at the time of submission to bid.

Pursuant to Labor Code sections 1725.5 and 1771.1, all contractors and subcontractors that wish to bid on, be listed on, be listed in a proposal, or enter a contract to perform public work **must be registered with the Department of Industrial Relations.** No bid will be accepted, nor any contract entered into without proof of the contractor's and subcontractor's current registration with the Department of Industrial Relations to perform public work. If awarded a Contract, the Bidder and its subcontractors, of any tier, shall maintain active registration with the Department of Industrial Relations for the duration of the Project.

a. This Project is subject to labor compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Compliance Monitoring Unit ("CMU") of the Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code section 1771.3 and subject to the requirements of section 16450 et seq. of Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations. The Contractor and all Subcontractors under the Contractor shall furnish certified payroll records directly to the Labor Commissioner weekly and within ten (10) days of any request by the District or the Labor Commissioner in accordance with section 16461 of the California Code of Regulations. The successful Bidder shall comply with all requirements of Division 2, Part 7, Chapter 1, of the Labor Code.

b. In bidding this project, it shall be the Bidder's sole responsibility to evaluate and include the cost of complying with all Labor compliance requirements under this contract and applicable law in this bid.

Pre-Qualification: Pre-qualification by Blach Construction is a requirement for ALL subcontractors that will enter into a contract/agreement with Blach Construction.

The successful bidder will be required to either meet the DVBE goal of three percent (3%) participation or demonstrate its good faith effort to solicit DVBE participation in this Contract if it is awarded the contract for the Work.

For more information, please contact Justin Gilbert with Blach Construction Company at (209) 505-2551 or justin.gilbert@blach.com.

New York City has a right to shelter, but will it establish a right to sleep outside?

BOBBY CAINA CALVAN AND CHRISTOPHER WEBER
Associated Press

New York Mayor Eric Adams has hailed his city's right to shelter as a hallmark of compassion for its most destitute. Now he must decide if he will extend that compassion by bestowing homeless people with the right to sleep outside.

The City Council unanimously approved a "Homeless Bill of Rights" last month that would make New York the first big U.S. city to establish an explicit right to sleep in at least some public places.

If Adams, a Democrat, allows the measure to become law, it could be a notable departure for the city, which has for years sent police and sanitation crews to clear homeless encampments as they arise.

It also would run against the prevailing political headwinds in other places that have struggled with large numbers of people living in tents and other makeshift shelters.

The Los Angeles City Council passed a broad anti-camping measure two years ago. Then last year, the city outlawed tents within 500 feet (150 meters) of schools and day cares and banned sitting, lying, sleeping or storing personal property that would disrupt the flow of traffic on sidewalks, streets and bike lanes.

The changes were billed as a compassionate way to get homeless people off the streets and restore access to public spaces for other people. Sonja Verdugo, an organizer with the Los Angeles advocacy group Ground Game LA, called the measure "inhumane."

"Basically, you can't rest anywhere outdoors if you're unhoused," she said.

Earlier this year, a "Right to Rest" proposal in Oregon died quietly after its sponsor could not muster support. It would have granted the right to use public spaces "without discrimination and time limitations that are based on housing status."

Attempts to establish a similar Homeless Bill of Rights in California, including a right to sleep outdoors without fear of being confronted by police, also have faltered.

Some hope Los Angeles' newly elected Mayor Karen Bass will make good on a campaign promise to move people out of tents and cardboard shanties and into permanent housing.

Bass vowed to eliminate encampments lining entire blocks and have made the city's notorious Skid Row the embodiment of the country's homeless crisis. Bass also promised to house 15,000 people by the end of her first year in office. The number comprises more than a third of the estimated 42,000 Los Angelenos without permanent shelter.

The increasing visibility of homeless camps has fueled public frustration and prompted politicians, including some moderate Democrats, to push to reduce their prevalence — to the chagrin of some advocates for homeless people.

"More and more, it's simply illegal to be homeless all across the country — in Republican and Democratic cities," said Mark Horvath, CEO of Los Angeles-based nonprofit Invisible People. "But it's not like we can arrest our way out of this crisis."

Aside from establishing the right to sleep outdoors, the Homeless Bill of Rights passed in New York would also codify the city's longstanding right to shelter, the only one of its kind among the country's biggest cities.

Among the nine rights in the measure are safeguards against being forced into facilities that don't correspond to a person's gender identity. It also gives people the right to apply for rental assistance and requires parents staying in shelters be given diapers for their babies.

"This is a sensible and compassionate policy response to unprecedented homelessness," said Taysha Milagros Clark, a policy and data analyst for the Coalition for the Homeless in New York City.

"The bill of rights really encompasses an understanding that homeless people do have rights. They haven't violated any laws or anything of the sort just by virtue of their homeless status," she said. "It is a stark departure from what this administration has done."

Fabien Levy, a spokesperson for Adams, said the mayor was still evaluating the measure.

SEE **HOMELESSNESS** PAGE 8

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

New wave of demands add pressure to California's budget squeeze



Photo by Rahul Lal, CalMatters

LAWMAKERS: Assemblymembers convene during session at the state Capitol in Sacramento on Jan. 19, 2023.

BY DAN WALTERS

One could call it the "big squeeze."

It's the ever-increasing conflict between the state government's current and projected tax revenues, which are drifting downwards, and the demands for billions of additional dollars for vital services, such as health care, homelessness and mass transit.

In January, when Gov. Gavin Newsom unveiled his initial budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year that begins July 1, he projected a $22.5 billion deficit – just a few months after boasting the state had a $97 billion surplus. This month, in a revised budget, he said the deficit had grown to $31.5 billion.

As worrisome as those numbers appear, they might be a best case scenario, according to the Legislature's budget analyst, Gabe Petek.

"Based on our assessment, there is a roughly two-thirds chance revenues will come in below May Revision estimates," Petek said. "As such, while we consider the May revision revenues plausible, adopting them would present considerable downside risk."

Moreover, Petek said that using the Newsom administration's own projections and assumptions, "the budget condition would worsen in future years" with annual operating deficits of around $15 billion in the following two years, and hinted that the real shortfalls in the final years of Newsom's governorship could be larger.

These estimates of a chronic and perhaps widening gap between income and outgo also assume that the state's economy won't be clobbered by recession.

Many economists believe that the Federal Reserve System's increasing interest rates, meant to slow the economy and battle inflation, could trigger a recession within the next year. If it occurred, Newsom's budget says, "revenues could decrease by $40 billion in 2023-24 alone, largely driven by losses in personal income tax," adding that "revenue declines relative to the May Revision forecast could reach an additional $100 billion through 2026-27."

While the state has amassed more than $30 billion in reserves to cushion the impact of recession, an even moderate economic downturn would quickly consume them, drowning the budget in red ink as the Great Recession did.

To summarize: California's budget faces several years, at least, of budget difficulty. But the demand side of the fiscal ledger is not shrinking.

After the January budget was released, advocates for programs, particularly health care and social services, cranked up pressure on legislators to protect their slices of the pie. That pressure is even more intense with the May revision's deficit increase.

They have been joined by three other major stakeholders seeking multi-billion-dollar increases in state aid: hospitals, transit systems and cities on the front lines of the state's worst-in-the-nation homelessness crisis.

Hospital and transit system officials say they have been unable to fully recover from the impacts of COVID-19 on their patronage and finances and may be forced to shut down or at least reduce services. Mayors of the state's largest cities say they need an additional $2 billion per year to maintain ongoing efforts to house those on the streets.

None of the three fared well in the May revision. Newsom offered just a $150 million loan fund to hospitals, didn't include any extra money for local homelessness efforts, and only said he would be willing to discuss transit's self-proclaimed "fiscal cliff."

There's little question that advocates for existing and new state financing would prefer that Newsom and the Legislature tap into reserves and/or raise taxes to satisfy their demands. In fact, the state Senate's budget framework proposes a hike in corporate income taxes, although Newsom has rejected it.

Were California's budget squeeze to continue or grow tighter, as seems likely, the remainder of Newsom's governorship would be dominated by the difficult task of resolving it.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Non-existent representation

Representation in Santa Monica has always been non-existent. If City Council members represented specific neighborhoods or geographical regions of the city, they might actually be held to account. Currently, they're not.

People have remained on the Council long beyond their effective date. Some have been so blatantly unethical that they were, indeed, forced out, but most have remained in place for years, sometimes decades, ensuring that developers will find a welcome mat as the interests of residents have, over time, become less important.

The City's progressive reputation is well-deserved, but not for things that ensure that the character of the city and its quality of life endure. The environment? High marks. The schools? Pretty good. The move to clean energy? A bit behind the residents who took the first steps, but well-intentioned.

Housing? Commercial development? Horrible about the former, over-eager about the latter.

By the time the city's manufacturing sector moved away and the freight trains disappeared, it was already clear, back in the '80s, that housing affordability was an issue. Instead, the City drank the proverbial Kool-Aid promising endless tax revenues from office and hotel/retail projects. Countless promises were made by developers to provide community services and amenities. Yet, when the builders didn't deliver and vanished like carpetbaggers, the City never pursued them... but let them keep their tax breaks.

So the people who needed affordable housing got nothing, the neighborhoods that were most vulnerable bore the brunt of accommodating operations that would make anyone north of Montana apoplectic, and we're now fighting with the State about housing expansion while wasting resources to keep builders remedy projects at bay. If even half the space given over to hotels and retail that appeal, primarily, to tourists had been earmarked for affordable housing, then staffers at City Hall wouldn't have a 21-mile one-way commute, as does the woman I spoke with in Resource Recovery and Recycling this week.

The teachers, retail and restaurant workers, healthcare staff, and countless others who work in Santa Monica, deserve to be able to afford housing here. Yet a City Council that's beholden to no particular constituency will never address minority problems that have a major impact.

Peter Altshuler, Santa Monica

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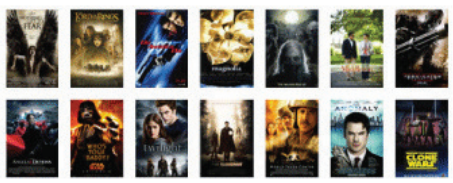


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How California public transit is pleading for state aid

SAMEEA KAMAL
Special to the Daily Press



Courtesy Photo

TRANSIT: Commuters quickly jump on the Metro bus at the Norwalk Green Line Station in Norwalk on April 3, 2023.

California is grappling with a $31.5 billion budget deficit. Gov. Gavin Newsom denied public transit agencies a lifeline in his latest spending plan, and time is running out.

But transit officials and their supporters in the Legislature aren't giving up hope yet that the state will offer at least some aid. And Friday, the California Transit Association delivered a plan for how individual agencies should ask for money — and how they would be held accountable for how they spend it.

Transit agencies are seeking $5.15 billion in operating funds over the next five years — warning that without substantial cash, they'll fall deep into a financial pit caused by a continued decline in ridership since the pandemic and the drying up of federal funds.

Without some kind of financial infusion, Muni — San Francisco's bus system — may have to start cutting bus lines this summer. Other transit systems are issuing similar dire forecasts.

If services are cut, commuters will be impacted, as will working people who can't afford their own cars — and certainly not electric vehicles. Increased use of public transit is key to reducing carbon emissions and reaching the state's climate goals championed by Newsom and Democratic leaders.

But in his updated budget plan unveiled this month, the governor committed only to working with the Legislature to find a solution.

"You can't do everything," he said at his May 12 budget briefing. "It's about balancing other priorities."

The state Senate wants to make public transit a priority. In its spending proposal, it included the $5.15 billion as "bridge funding." Supporters say the money can come from a mix of sources that already support transit and would reduce general fund revenue by only $213 million.

TransForm, an advocacy group focused on transit and housing inequities, said it was disappointed in Newsom's decision.

"The $2.5 billion needed to save Bay Area transit is less costly, in terms of dollars, people, and the planet than the $5 billion in additional transportation costs that will be paid by the people who can least afford it," said Zack Deutsch-Gross, TransForm policy director.

The budget negotiations are well underway, with a June 15 deadline for the Legislature to pass a budget to keep collecting pay.

Call for help too late?

At a town hall on May 12, Assemblymember Phil Ting, a Democrat from San Francisco and chairperson of the Assembly budget committee, said transit agencies should have been better prepared, and should have "sounded the alarm earlier."

"Having said that, we are where we are. We can't change the past," Ting said.

He said that legislators in the Bay Area Caucus that he leads are focused on the issue and are committed to making sure agencies don't go over the "fiscal cliff."

"We know that once these agencies have to stop service, it's very difficult to turn it back on," he said.

Ting said that given the budget shortfall, the goal is to help get agencies to solid enough ground to pursue a local ballot measure for long-term financial sustainability.

But he also said that for the state to help, transit representatives needed to present a spending plan and demonstrate accountability.

On Friday, the California Transit Association, which represents agencies throughout the state, responded with its proposal, which includes an 18-month deadline to report how funds are spent. Sent to Newsom and legislative leaders, the blueprint is based on recovery plans previously created by the Bay Area's regional transportation commission and the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority, as well as a bill this session from Burbank-area Democratic Assemblymember Laura Friedman on transit oversight.

The association also noted that its proposal won't solve all of the underlying issues.

"As we advance this accountability and reform framework, we continue to elevate that significant external challenges will continue to impact agencies' budgets, operating environments, and ridership levels, including, the hollowing out of downtown cores, the housing crisis, and rise in violent crime," it said in a statement.

The proposal, however, doesn't satisfy concerns from some lawmakers, including state Sen. Steve Glazer, who has been vocal in his criticism of BART oversight. BART officials previously responded to some of those concerns, saying the "fiscal cliff" has more to do with the agency's financial model rather than specific expenses and missteps.

"I thought it was an April Fool's joke delivered in May," Glazer told CalMatters of the association's proposal. "Self-policing is not accountability."

Meanwhile, agencies have already begun to make some changes to boost ridership, including BART ramping up service on its most popular line between Antioch and San Francisco, and L.A. Metro ramping up both homelessness services and microtransit.

But those changes aren't cheap.

Bevan Dufty, a member of the BART board of directors, said in April: "We really can't cut our way out of this."

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

What it would mean for the global economy if the US defaults on its debt

PAUL WISEMAN
AP Economics Writer

If the debt crisis roiling Washington were eventually to send the United States crashing into recession, America's economy would hardly sink alone.

The repercussions of a first-ever default on the federal debt would quickly reverberate around the world. Orders for Chinese factories that sell electronics to the United States could dry up. Swiss investors who own U.S. Treasurys would suffer losses. Sri Lankan companies could no longer deploy dollars as an alternative to their own dodgy currency.

"No corner of the global economy will be spared" if the U.S. government defaulted and the crisis weren't resolved quickly, said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics.

Zandi and two colleagues at Moody's have concluded that even if the debt limit were breached for no more than a week, the U.S. economy would weaken so much, so fast, as to wipe out roughly 1.5 million jobs.

And if a government default were to last much longer — well into the summer — the consequences would be far more dire, Zandi and his colleagues found in their analysis: U.S. economic growth would sink, 7.8 million American jobs would vanish, borrowing rates would jump, the unemployment rate would soar from the current 3.4% to 8% and a stock-market plunge would erase $10 trillion in household wealth.

Of course, it might not come to that. The White House and House Republicans, seeking a breakthrough, concluded a round of debt-limit negotiations Sunday, with plans to resume talks Monday. The Republicans have threatened to let the government default on its debts by refusing to raise the statutory limit on what it can borrow unless President Joe Biden and the Democrats accept sharp spending cuts and other concessions.

US DEBT, LONG VIEWED AS ULTRA-SAFE

Feeding the anxiety is the fact that so much financial activity hinges on confidence that America will always pay its financial obligations. Its debt, long viewed as an ultra-safe asset, is a foundation of global commerce, built on decades of trust in the United States. A default could shatter the $24 trillion market for Treasury debt, cause financial markets to freeze up and ignite an international crisis.

"A debt default would be a cataclysmic event, with an unpredictable but probably dramatic fallout on U.S. and global financial markets," said Eswar Prasad, professor of trade policy at Cornell University and senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

The threat has emerged just as the world economy is contending with a panoply of threats — from surging inflation and interest rates to the ongoing repercussions of Russia's invasion of Ukraine to the tightening grip of authoritarian regimes. On top of all that, many countries have grown skeptical of America's outsize role in global finance.

In the past, American political leaders generally managed to step away from the brink and raise the debt limit before it was too late. Congress has raised, revised or extended the borrowing cap 78 times since 1960, most recently in 2021.

Yet the problem has worsened. Partisan divisions in Congress have widened while the debt has grown after years of rising spending and deep tax cuts. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has warned that the government could default as soon as June 1 if lawmakers don't raise or suspend the ceiling.

'SHOCKWAVES THROUGH THE SYSTEM'

"If the trustworthiness of (Treasurys) would become impaired for any reason, it would send shockwaves through the system ... and have immense consequences for global growth," said Maurice Obstfeld, senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics and former chief economist at the International Monetary Fund.

Treasurys are widely used as collateral for loans, as a buffer against bank losses, as a haven in times of high uncertainty and as a place for central banks to park foreign exchange reserves.

Given their perceived safety, the U.S. government's debts — Treasury bills, bonds and notes — carry a risk weighting of zero in international bank regulations. Foreign governments and private investors hold nearly $7.6 trillion of the debt — roughly 31% of the Treasurys in financial markets.

Because the dollar's dominance has made it the de facto global currency since World War II, it's relatively easy for the United States to borrow and finance an ever-growing pile of government debt.

But high demand for dollars also tends to make them more valuable than other currencies, and that imposes a cost: A strong dollar makes American goods pricier relative to their foreign rivals, leaving U.S. exporters at a competitive disadvantage. That's one reason why the United States has run trade deficits every year since 1975.

CENTRAL BANKS' STOCKPILES OF DOLLARS

Of all the foreign exchange reserves held by the world's central banks, U.S. dollars account for 58%. No. 2 is the euro: 20%. China's yuan makes up under 3%, according to the IMF.

Researchers at the Federal Reserve have calculated that from 1999 to 2019, 96% of trade in the Americas was invoiced in U.S. dollars. So was 74% of trade in Asia. Elsewhere outside of Europe, where the euro dominates, dollars accounted for 79% of trade.

So reliable is America's currency that merchants in some unstable economies demand payment in dollars, instead of their own country's currency. Consider Sri Lanka, battered by inflation and a dizzying drop in the local currency. Earlier this year, shippers refused to release 1,000 containers of urgently needed food unless they were paid in dollars. The shipments piled up at the docks in Colombo because the importers weren't able to obtain dollars to pay the suppliers.

"Without (dollars), we can't do any transaction," said Nihal Seneviratne, a spokesman for the Essential Food Importers and Traders Association. "When we import, we have to use hard currency — mostly the

SEE **DEBT** PAGE 8

CONSERVANCY

FROM PAGE 1

may have been changed and wouldn't still be eligible, but that's why the inventory is typically updated every five to 10 years," she said.

According to the Conservancy, landmark applications are in sharp decline and applications cost anywhere between $6,000 to $7,000 to file, the most expensive in the state of California. Moreover, the timeline for landmark nominations can be up to nine months.

"We recognize that the budget is extremely tight this year, although, as you read current forecasts, they may or may not be even tighter in the years to come. What we're recommending is making changes that could be made with very little cost impact in the short term," Lemlein says.

Given current funding constraints, the charity is asking the City to recommend restoration of the preservation process in two phases:

Phase 1 (now) would include the restoration of monthly meetings of the Landmarks Commission to ensure city-wide review of historic resources; reducing the cost of landmark applications by streamlining consultant and staff reports; streamlining Certificate of Appropriateness analysis to focus on conformance with the standards; and the return of Demolition Review to the Landmarks Commission.

Phase 2 (next year) would involve restoring the 2019 Preservation Planner position so that Landmark Application Analysis can be conducted by the City just as all other discretionary building permits are evaluated, eliminating the need to hire costly outside consultants and streamlining the process. It would also mean that applicants can be informed of incentives, for example, encouraging the use of the State Historic Building Code and Zoning Ordinance exceptions to achieve programmatic goals while preserving historic features. With reduced costs, fee waivers for nonprofit organizations can be restored to ensure equitable access to the program.

Two thirds of the City's landmarks have been nominated and/or designated since the Conservancy was formed. Notable examples include the Embassy Hotel Apartments, Strick House, the Santa Monica Doctor's Building and the Zephyr Surf Shop, now Dogtown Coffee.

"We now have a list of well over 100 approved landmark designated properties, I think we hit that milestone a few years before COVID, as well as properties designated as structures of merit — which is a lesser level of designation — in addition to properties that are considered part of the historic district," Lemlein says.

"Historic preservation is intrinsically important if we are going to develop communities that drive forward progress while honoring our past," Councilmember Caroline Torosis says. "I support the call for historical preservation expertise in our planning department and we need to return to monthly meetings for our Landmarks Commission."

This issue will be part of the study session and agenda item 7A, to be discussed in this evening's Council meeting, scheduled to start at 5:30 pm.

scott.snowden@smdp.com



Dogtown Coffee

DOGTOWN: Dogtown Coffee was, in the mid 70s, the site of Zephyr Surf Shop, which played a pivotal role in the history of skateboarding.

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HOMELESSNESS

FROM PAGE 4

"Since Day One of this administration, Mayor Adams has been focused on helping New Yorkers experiencing homelessness and connecting them with a clean, safe place to rest their heads at night," Levy said.

The mayor's subway safety program has resulted in more than 4,600 New Yorkers experiencing homelessness being connected to the help and shelter they need "to stabilize their lives," Levy said.

It is uncertain how the proposed right to sleep outdoors might work in practice.

New York City has rules limiting the ability to set up a campsite. Most city parks close at 1 a.m. Privately owned spaces are off limits. Sidewalks and roads are required to be free of obstructions.

People are forbidden from lying down on benches or seats on the city's subway trains, though enforcement is lax.

New York City is required by law to guarantee space in its huge shelter system to anyone who needs it, but the system has been bursting partly due to an influx of migrants, many of whom crossed into the U.S. along the southern border.

Nearly 81,000 people were housed in the shelter system in the past week. City officials scrambled to find more space, including renting out entire hotels for families without permanent housing.

Some people choose to live on the streets because they find the city's shelters dangerous or too crowded, don't like their rules or curfews, or have trouble being around other people.

Jumaane Williams, New York City's elected public advocate and a sponsor of the homeless rights measure now before Adams, said he would like the city to focus less on preventing encampments and more on addressing what he says are the roots of the crisis: rising housing costs, joblessness, racism, addiction and mental illness.

"I think we're in dire situations for things that have been decades in the making," Williams said.

The concept of a bill of rights for homeless people dates back more than a decade. In 2012, Rhode Island was the first state to adopt one, soon followed by Connecticut and Illinois.

"So far none of them have explicitly protected the right of a person to be able to sleep outside," said Eric Tars, the legal director of the National Homelessness Law Center.

Five years ago, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled the city of Boise, Idaho, could not stop people from sleeping outside if there was nowhere else for them to sleep. Doing so, the court suggested, would criminalize homeless people. The right to sleep outside only exists, the court ruled, if there is no shelter space available.

Weber reported from Los Angeles.

DEBT

FROM PAGE 7

U.S. dollars.''

Likewise, many shops and restaurants in Lebanon, where inflation has raged and the currency has plunged, are demanding payment in dollars. In 2000, Ecuador responded to an economic crisis by replacing its own currency, the sucre, with dollars — a process called "dollarization'' — and has stuck with it.

THE GO-TO HAVEN FOR INVESTORS

Even when a crisis originates in the United States, the dollar is invariably the go-to haven for investors. That's what happened in late 2008, when the collapse of the U.S. real estate market toppled hundreds of banks and financial firms, including once-mighty Lehman Brothers: The dollar's value shot up.

"Even though we were the problem — we, the United States — there was still a flight to quality," said Clay Lowery, who oversees research at the Institute of International Finance, a banking trade group. "The dollar is king.''

If the United States were to pierce the debt limit without resolving the dispute and the Treasury defaulted on its payments, Zandi suggests that the dollar would once again rise, at least initially, "because of the uncertainty and the fear. Global investors just wouldn't know where to go except to where they always go when there's a crisis and that's to the United States.''

But the Treasury market would likely be paralyzed. Investors might shift money instead into U.S. money market funds or the bonds of top-flight U.S. corporations. Eventually, Zandi says, growing doubts would shrink the dollar's value and keep it down.

GOVERNMENT'S STRATEGY IF DEBT CAP IS BREACHED

In a debt-ceiling crisis, Lowery, who was an assistant Treasury secretary during the 2008 crisis, imagines that the United States would continue to make interest payments to bondholders. And it would try to pay its other obligations — to contractors and retirees, for example — in the order that those bills became due and as money became available.

For bills that were due on June 3, for example, the government might pay on June 5. A bit of relief would come around June 15. That's when government revenue would pour in as many taxpayers make estimated tax payments for the second quarter.

The government would likely be sued by those who weren't getting paid — "anybody who lives off veterans' benefits or Social Security," Lowery said. And ratings agencies would likely downgrade U.S. debt, even if the Treasury continued to pay interest to bondholders.

The dollar, though it remains dominant globally, has lost some ground in recent years as more banks, businesses and investors have turned to the euro and, to a lesser extent, China's yuan. Other countries tend to resent how swings in the dollar's value can hurt their own currencies and economies.

A rising dollar can trigger crises abroad by drawing investment out of other countries and raising their cost of repaying dollar-denominated loans. The United States' eagerness to use the dollar's clout to impose financial sanctions against rivals and adversaries is also viewed uneasily by some other countries.

So far, though, no clear alternatives have emerged. The euro lags far behind the dollar. Even more so does China's yuan; it's hamstrung by Beijing's refusal to let its currency trade freely in global markets.

But the debt ceiling drama is sure to heighten questions about the enormous financial power of the United States and the dollar.

"The global economy is in a pretty fragile place right now," Obstfeld said. "So throwing into that mix a crisis over the creditworthiness of U.S. obligations is incredibly irresponsible.''

AP Writer Bharatha Mallawarachi in Colombo, Sri Lanka, contributed to this report.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 23)

The glory days are ahead, and the change you embrace is transformational. More highlights: a fascinating journey of the mind repeating dozens of times, being well-compensated for something you would have gladly paid to do and a partner who dances with you through challenges of work and play. Aquarius and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 1, 15, 20 and 17.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The thing that disturbs you is always an opportunity to grow yourself. Being excessively disturbed means you're on the cusp of an impressive growth spurt. Your capabilities will expand in the weeks to come, and on multiple levels.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). People throw up roadblocks because they are afraid if you cross into their territory, they'll lose control of it. Considering your influence, it's a legitimate concern, especially in territories that aren't being well-managed. The work at hand is to earn everyone's trust.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're taking it all in. Some of the information will be useful in the moment, and other bits will help much further down the line. You'll be most effective as you tune into the world outside instead of the world in your phone.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your happiness will have to do with helping another person out. Giving more than you get feels good to you. Because of this, you're good at keeping track of who you owe, and you may forget about who owes you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). If you have to change yourself constantly in order to make things work, maybe they just don't. Whether it's you or them doesn't matter. Go find a better fit. You deserve the best fit that's out there for you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Free is an attractive price, but often it attracts too many and too random a customer. Put a price on what you're giving so people will value it, even if the price isn't monetary. This applies to more than just commercial offerings.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). In most cases, responding assertively is unnecessary. Instead, opt for a gentler approach. It takes awareness and restraint, but if you can do what's required and nothing more, you'll be in an excellent position.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Familiarity can blind you to the truth that an outsider can see straight away. This is why spending time with strangers will be so helpful to you and will in fact have an enlightening outcome today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The simple things you do to care for yourself will contribute the most to your joy. There's a surprise turn coming, a detour that corrects for flaws in the map. Sometimes incomplete information is a blessing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your creativity shines through everything you do today. It's in how you dress, eat and make small talk. It's in the way you take care of yourself, your plans and schedules and your general point of view.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The things you worry about seldom happen. However, it still benefits you to prepare for the worst-case scenario. For starters, it makes you grateful for the positive way things pan out.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When people tell you what they need, you do not hesitate to give what you can, and you don't judge anyone for a lack of self-sufficiency. It takes a strong person to be vulnerable.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

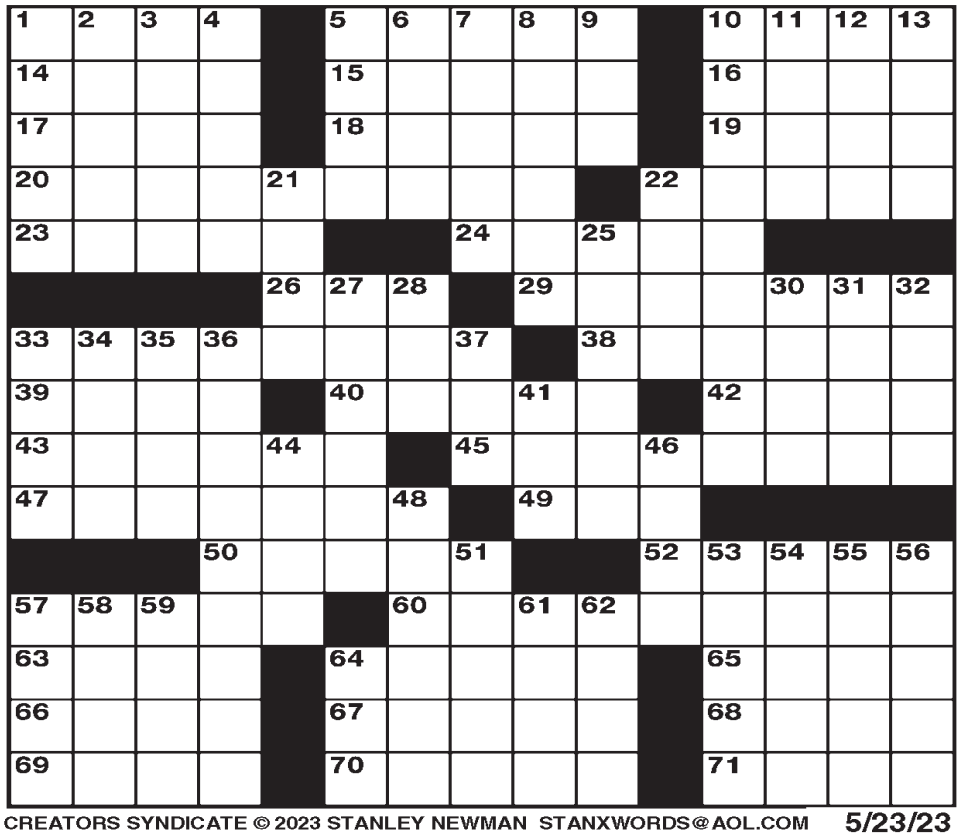
	4	8	1				6	
2			5		8			
	5	3		2				7
	2	9		3		6		
				8				
		6		1		7	5	
5				6		9	1	
			7		1			6
	3				4	2	7	

Newsday Crossword

PRODUCE AISLE by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 "How clumsy of me!"
5 Crumple into a ball
10 Molten rock
14 Self-storage rental
15 Indoor sports venue
16 Very wicked
17 Microscopic bit of heredity
18 Leans slightly
19 Be nostalgic for
20 Controversial topic
22 Event with bronco riding
23 What fills a dumpster
24 Go-for-broke poker bet
26 Sound from a cow
29 Wastes time
33 Tot's three-wheeler
38 Share a bedtime story with
39 __ Raton, FL
40 Spine-tingling
42 Be dressed in
43 Lacking principles
45 Sprinkles on crystals from a shaker
47 Went on a rampage
49 Piglet's mom
50 Ready to pour from a keg
52 Pet rescue org.
57 Writer F. __ Fitzgerald
60 Troublemakers who influence others
63 Layer of paint
64 Songs for a single voice
65 Harvest, as crops
66 Woman in the choir
67 Verses such as limericks
68 Make simpler
69 Gravelly voice
70 Any thing of value
71 Home for Adam and Eve

DOWN
1 "You __ to know better"
2 __ two (just a few)
3 Ship of 1492
4 Staircase parts
5 Light bulb measure
6 Operatic song
7 Triangular river formation
8 Never revealed, as a story
9 Faux __ (minor error)
10 Car buyers' protections
11 Enthusiastic
12 Workbench clamp
13 Furthermore
21 "Goodness gracious!"
22 Make angry
25 Texas border city
27 Spotted wildcat
28 Spanish cheer
30 Creative spark
31 And others: Abbr.
32 Arrange in some order
33 Type of ski lift
34 Italy's capital, to Italians
35 Clickable screen image
36 Redhead, slangily
37 Historical period
41 Passports and dog tags, for short
44 "It __ over till it's over"
46 Make a trade
48 Things not allowed
51 Loses color
53 Shopping binge
54 Argue in a courtroom
55 Come to a halt
56 Colorado ski town
57 Lasting mark
58 Pepsi or Coke
59 Cheerios grains
61 Bowl-shaped roof
62 Office aide: Abbr.
64 Relaxing resort



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

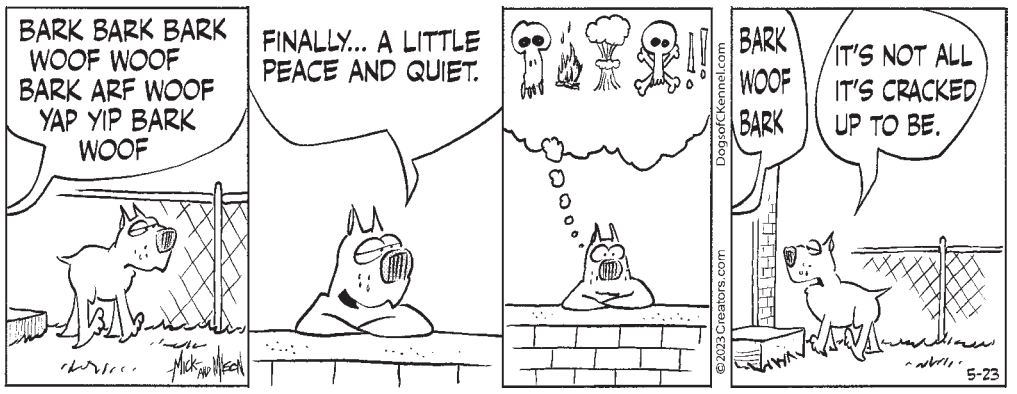
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



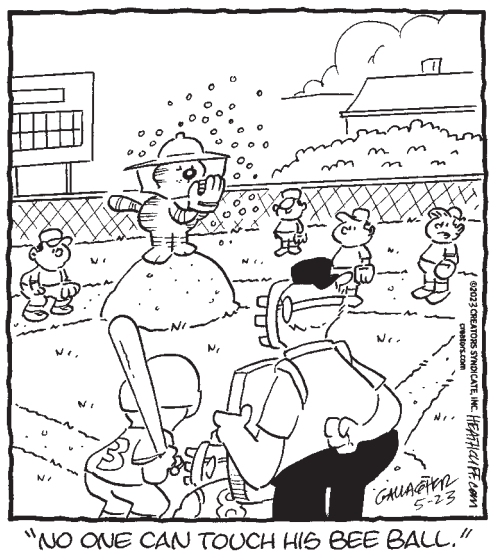
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"NO ONE CAN TOUCH HIS BEE BALL."

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 22 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5853

Birthday celebrations

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

Aunt	Exhaust	Kitten	Punch
Bake	Fizz	Leis	Relatives
Band	Flame	List	Revel
Bash	Food	Lollies	Roses
Beer	Gifts	Mates	Salad
Bike	Guests	Merry	Speech
Blow	Happy	Music	Spirit
Cups	Hats	Noise	Toys
Dance	Host	Party	Wild
Dinner	Joyful	Personal	Wine
Dips	Jumping	Play	Wish
Dress up	castle	Prizes	Yacht

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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What's Up Westside

out and about in Santa Monica

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

EXHIBITION: JIM JENKINS, "CURRENTS"
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

FRIDAY | MAY 26

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) CONVERSATION, LOW
Santa Monica Public Library hosts an ongoing series of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors. Classes are free and students must be 18 years or older to attend. Pico Branch Library 2201 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 90405

SATURDAY | MAY 27

MAINOPOLY: A TASTE OF MAIN STREET
Celebrate Memorial Day weekend and experience the best restaurants, coffee shops, ice cream shops, and more by joining us for the 8th Annual "MAINopoly: A Taste of Main Street" in Santa Monica on Saturday, May 27th, 2023 from 12-5pm. This all ages event is a fun take on the classic board game, giving you access to tastings at over 20 participating locations. Stop at every location for a chance to win free prizes. Dressing up is encouraged! A portion of all proceeds will go towards funding The Main Street Business Improvement Association (MSBIA) community event programs. The Victorian 2640 Main St. Santa Monica, CA 90405

SUNDAY | MAY 28

BILLY T & NADAV PELED DUO!
Santa Monica's favorite and infamous Billy T returns to the west side with his partner in good for the hood, guitarist Nadav Peled. Don't miss the morning music they'll be making and remind you of good times gone by. The Venice West 1717 Lincoln Blvd, Venice, CA https://www.bandsintown.com/e/104124011

MONDAY | MAY 29

LIGHTING OF HISTORIC CITY HALL
City Hall will be illuminated in red, gold, blue, and green lights representing colors common in themes across Asian and Pacific Islander cultures to celebrate AAPI Heritage Month. Santa Monica City Hall 1685 Main Street Santa Monica, CA, California 90401

TUESDAY | MAY 30

ACTIVE AGING TRANSIT OUTING - BALLONA DISCOVERY PARK
Learn more about using transit and walking in Santa Monica by joining us for the Active Aging Transit Outing to the Ballona Discovery Park. Start Location: 4th Street / Santa Monica Station Event Location: Ballona Discovery Park (13110 Bluff Creek Dr, Los Angeles, CA 90094) https://www.eventbrite.com/e/active-aging-transit-outing-ballona-discovery-park-tickets-622184419347

WEDNESDAY | MAY 31

FREE COMMUNITY RUN CLUB IN SANTA MONICA
Run Club Every Wednesday Night Starting at Road Runner Sports in Santa Monica. Check in at 5:30pm, run from 6pm-7pm. Walkers also welcome! Come log your mid week miles and make some new friends.

THURSDAY | JUNE 1

COMING OUT WEST: LGBTQ+ ELDERS SHARE THEIR STORIES
Santa Monica History Museum and The Outwords Archive present an exhibition of oral histories, ephemera and historical objects from LGBTQ+ elders with ties to Los Angeles and the Santa Monica Bay area. 2 pm-5 pm Santa Monica History Museum 1350 7th Street Santa Monica, CA 90401 https://santamonicahistory.org/

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



SURF REPORT

WATER TEMP: **62.1**

TUESDAY *FAIR*	**SURF:** 2-3ft+ Thigh to stomach	Fun S/SSE swell lingers, NW swell mix creeps up a touch. S winds look to strengthen as the marine layer deepens along the coast for a gray morning. S wind looks manageable but expect some more texture than the last couple mornings.
WEDNESDAY *POOR TO FAIR*	**SURF:** 2-3ft Thigh to waist	S/SW wind and another gray morning along the coast — decent chance this will be worst texture of the week. Small to fun new SSW swell builds and S/SSE swell lingers. NW windswell holds steady, opens up a few corners at the beachbreaks.

WEATHER

Tuesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy, with a high near 66.
Tuesday Night: Patchy fog. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 58. South southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
Wednesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy, with a high near 64.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog before 11pm. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 56.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2020/05/23	Sat	04:47 AM	-0.57	L
2020/05/23	Sat	11:12 AM	3.47	H
2020/05/23	Sat	3:46 PM	2.03	L
2020/05/23	Sat	10:04 PM	5.80	H
2020/05/24	Sun	05:26 AM	-0.64	L
2020/05/24	Sun	12:01 PM	3.34	H
2020/05/24	Sun	4:16 PM	2.26	L
2020/05/24	Sun	10:37 PM	5.74	H
2020/05/25	Mon	06:09 AM	-0.61	L
2020/05/25	Mon	12:57 PM	3.24	H
2020/05/25	Mon	4:50 PM	2.50	L
2020/05/25	Mon	11:14 PM	5.58	H
2020/05/26	Tue	06:56 AM	-0.51	L
2020/05/26	Tue	2:02 PM	3.20	H
2020/05/26	Tue	5:34 PM	2.73	L
2020/05/26	Tue	11:59 PM	5.32	H
2020/05/27	Wed	07:49 AM	-0.36	L
2020/05/27	Wed	3:16 PM	3.31	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: 5/20
17 23 32 38 63
Power#: 23
Jackpot: 179 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 5/19
5 11 41 44 55
Mega#: 14
Jackpot: 150 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 5/20
2 3 31 42 45
Mega#: 19
Jackpot: 61 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 5/21
3 23 28 29 36

Daily 3
Draw Date: 5/21
EVENING: 9 3 9
Draw Date: 5/21
MIDDAY: 4 3 6

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 5/21
1st: 02 - Lucky Star
2nd: 03 - Hot Shot
3rd: 08 - Gorgeous George
Race Time: 1:49.91

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