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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 141 TUESDAY 6/4/24 smdp.com

SMC shows its pride during annual parade











Photos by Thomas Leffler

PRIDE: Santa Monica College students and staff came together this past weekend to show support to the LGBTQ+ community as part of the annual West Hollywood Pride Parade, an annual event that SMC stated was about "spreading joy and solidarity along the parade route." Using the phrase "Proud to be SMC," students were able to dress in cheerleading outfits for the high-energy occasion. SMC shared the route with a bevy of local institutions, along with celebrities like high-profile attorney Gloria Allred and pop music legend Cyndi Lauper.

LCAP goals, fiscal matters on tap for final pre-graduation board meeting

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

The final Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) Board of Education meeting before the Class of 2024 graduation ceremonies will discuss a number of updates in both student achievement and fiscal matters.

Thursday's meeting includes a draft of the district's 2024-25 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), describing how the district intends to meet annual benchmarks in the three SMMUSD LCAP goals. The LCAP serves as a strategic planning tool, utilized to address and reduce disparities between student groups and closing achievement and opportunity gaps.

SMMUSD's first LCAP goal area is making sure "students will be college and career ready through socially just pathways rooted in curiosity, belonging and empowerment," an expansion from the 2023-24 definition of "all students will be socially just and ready for careers and college." District actions toward this goal are tied toward staff development as well as student readiness programs like Career Technical Education pathways and Project-Based Learning (PBL) opportunities.

Through 2023-24, a year-long in-depth PBL training at Grant

SEE **SMMUSD** PAGE 7

Weekend crash is suspected DUI

MATTHEW HALL
SMDP Editor

A weekend crash that hospitalized a driver is being investigated as a potential DUI but

SEE **CRASH** PAGE 3

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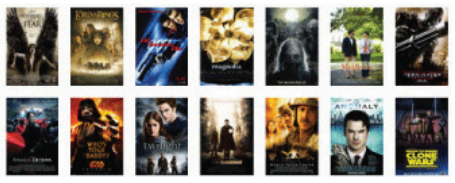
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CA Senate preserves big corporate tax breaks that benefit some cities



Photo by Martin do Nascimento, CalMatters

TAX: Steve Glazer, candidate for Controller, gives an interview at CalMatters in Sacramento on May 3, 2022.

RYAN SABALOW
Special to the Daily Press

Some of the most liberal and conservative members of the state Senate agreed recently that if you buy an iPhone in Los Angeles it shouldn't help pay for police in Cupertino.

But the bipartisanship wasn't enough to pass a bill that would change the rules allowing corporations wide discretion to choose who gets their online sales taxes, forcing cities to compete by offering companies huge tax kickbacks to win their favor.

"When we're talking about how much you're losing in tax dollars, let me tell you, it's over $1 billion ... given back to companies," Sen. Steve Glazer, the bill's author, told his colleagues on the Senate floor late last month. "One billion dollars that would go to public services in all of our jurisdictions."

The opposition to Glazer's Senate Bill 1494 was also bipartisan, some of it from senators who represent cities that benefit from the current rules. Cupertino, for example, gives 35% of the taxes it collects from Apple – about $4.5 million per year – back to the company. Still, nearly three quarters of the city's sales tax revenue comes from Apple, according to Bloomberg Tax, which has extensively covered the issue.

As shoppers have switched to buying goods on their smartphones and computers, officials have debated for years about where sales tax revenue should go for purchases made online. Should it be the location of the buyer or the seller? Currently, it's the seller. And companies have significant discretion about choosing their "point of sale" for tax purposes. This gives the companies that promise local jobs and municipal revenue boosts from warehouses, offices or retail centers tremendous bargaining power over local governments as they negotiate agreements that funnel sales tax money the cities collect back to the corporations.

> When we're talking about how much you're losing in tax dollars, let me tell you, it's over $1 billion ... given back to companies
>
> - Sen. Steve Glazer

SEE **TAX** PAGE 8

How Trump's deny-everything strategy could hurt him at sentencing

ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

Donald Trump has had plenty to say since his hush money trial conviction last week.

He's claimed the case was rigged, incorrectly linked President Joe Biden to the state prosecution, called the star witness against him a "sleazebag" and said the judge was a "devil" and "highly conflicted."

What he hasn't done is utter any variation of the words that might benefit him most come sentencing time next month: "I'm sorry."

It's a truism of the criminal justice system that defendants hoping for lenient treatment at their sentencing are expected to take responsibility for their actions, even express remorse. But that flies in the face of Trump's longtime refusal to acknowledge any wrongdoing, a tone that he often strikes to portray strength and present himself as a fighter under ceaseless attack. While the strategy may resonate with his most loyal political supporters, it failed during his New York criminal trial and could complicate his legal team's efforts to avoid a tough sentence.

"The fact, I think, that he has no remorse – quite the opposite, he continues to deny his guilt – is going to hurt him at sentencing," said Jeffrey Cohen, an associate professor at Boston College Law School and a former federal prosecutor in Massachusetts. "It's one of the things that the judge can really point to that everybody is aware of — that he just denies this — and can use that as a strong basis for his sentence."

Trump is set to be sentenced on July 11 by Judge Juan M. Merchan, who raised the specter of jail time during the trial after the former president racked up thousands of dollars in fines for violating a gag order. He has been the target of Trump's relentless ire.

The 34 felony counts of falsifying business records Trump was found guilty of are charges punishable by up to four years in prison. It's not clear whether prosecutors intend to seek imprisonment — Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg dodged a question on that Thursday — or whether Merchan would sentence him behind bars even if that's the recommendation.

As part of a broader, rambling broadside against the case, Trump has sought to downplay any concerns about his sentence, saying in a "Fox & Friends" interview that aired on Sunday that he was "OK" with the prospect of imprisonment or home confinement.

"I saw one of my lawyers the other day on television saying, 'oh, no, you don't want to do that'" to a former president. "I said, don't, you know, beg for anything. It's just the way it is."

He will have the option to address the judge at his sentencing hearing though he is not required to do so, and some legal experts have said it would be inadvisable for him to speak. He did not testify in his own defense at the trial, something he later suggested had to do with concerns that prosecutors would try to catch him in a trivial falsehood.

"If he turns around and blames the court, attacks prosecutors, decries this as a witch hunt, lies — you should have no misgiving: There will be consequences and there should be consequences," said Jeremy Saland, a former assistant district attorney in Manhattan.

In addition, Trump's constant attacks on the prosecutors, judge and court system and his aggressive trial strategy — outright denying both claims of an extramarital affair by porn actor Stormy Daniels and involvement in the subsequent scheme to buy her silence — would make any change of tune at his sentencing seem disingenuous.

"I don't see any real benefit of him speaking at sentencing because even if he did say something, he's saying the exact opposite outside the courtroom and the judge is not unaware of that," Cohen said.

To be sure, there are multiple other factors that could tilt against a prison sentence — Trump's apparent lack of contrition notwithstanding. Merchan could conclude, for instance, that there's a strong societal interest against having a former, and potentially future, president in jail.

"Sometimes as a judge and a prosecutor, you have to look at the proverbial scoreboard and say, 'That's enough.' And that scoreboard here is a permanent brand that you'd see on the side of cattle of a big fat 'F' for felony," Saland said.

"It is far worse than any scarlet letter could ever be," he added. "And no matter what he says, no matter how he spins it, no matter if it's a day in jail or not, he will always be a convicted felon. Period."

CRASH

FROM PAGE 1

officials said it could be up to a month before any conclusions are drawn.

According to SMPD, a section of Ocean Park Blvd. between 26th and 28th streets was closed for several hours on Saturday afternoon after a car careened across the street and into a tree.

Officials said the damage to the vehicle and the tree was significant. While the driver was taken to the hospital, their condition was unknown at press time.

SMPD said the accident was being investigated as a DUI involving drugs and depending on the results of that investigation, the driver could face charges.

That work will take up to 30 days to complete.

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Surf report

WATER TEMP: **64.4**

TUESDAY — ***FAIR***
SURF: 2-3ft
Thigh to waist

New SW swell gradually fills in to nudge up the waves. Nice early AM tide push helps too.

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

Small but rideable and probably kinda fun on the small wave gear with some more SW swell showing. The morning looks fairly clean but avoid the mid AM high tide.

Weather

Tuesday: Patchy drizzle and fog before 11am. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 71.
Tuesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 62. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Wednesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 72.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 62.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2024/06/04	Tue	02:49 AM	-0.85	L
2024/06/04	Tue	09:06 AM	3.67	H
2024/06/04	Tue	1:51 PM	1.68	L
2024/06/04	Tue	8:17 PM	6.63	H
2024/06/05	Wed	03:35 AM	-1.26	L
2024/06/05	Wed	10:01 AM	3.66	H
2024/06/05	Wed	2:32 PM	1.96	L
2024/06/05	Wed	8:56 PM	6.71	H
2024/06/06	Thu	04:20 AM	-1.43	L
2024/06/06	Thu	10:54 AM	3.63	H
2024/06/06	Thu	3:14 PM	2.20	L
2024/06/06	Thu	9:35 PM	6.62	H
2024/06/07	Fri	05:05 AM	-1.39	L
2024/06/07	Fri	11:47 AM	3.58	H
2024/06/07	Fri	3:56 PM	2.40	L
2024/06/07	Fri	10:15 PM	6.37	H
2024/06/08	Sat	05:50 AM	-1.18	L
2024/06/08	Sat	12:41 PM	3.54	H

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POWERBALL — Draw Date: 6/1
28 38 52 54 68
Power#: 8
Jackpot: 171 M

Fantasy5 — Draw Date: 6/2
1 12 17 34 36

MEGA MILLIONS — Draw Date: 5/31
4 11 23 33 49
Mega#: 23
Jackpot: 560 M

Daily 3 — Draw Date: 6/2
EVENING: 7 7 1
Draw Date: 6/2
MIDDAY: 3 4 8

SuperLotto Plus — Draw Date: 6/1
3 10 12 17 21
Mega#: 16
Jackpot: 41 M

Daily Derby — Draw Date: 6/2
1st: 12 - Lucky Charms
2nd: 04 - Big Ben
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:42.32

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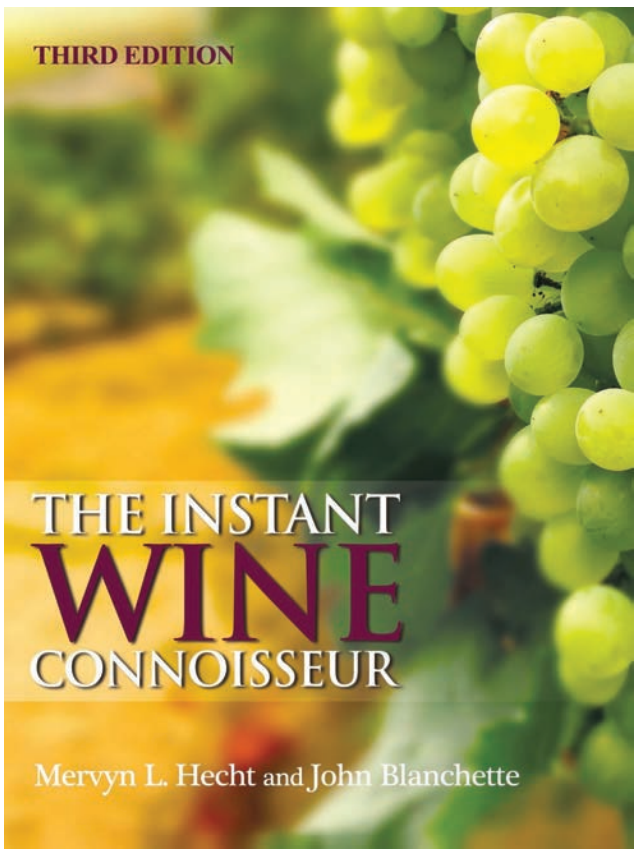
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Fauci pushes back partisan attacks in fiery House hearing over COVID origins and controversies

LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP Medical Writer

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the top U.S. infectious disease expert until leaving the government in 2022, was back before Congress on Monday, calling "simply preposterous" Republican allegations that he'd tried to cover up origins of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A GOP-led subcommittee has spent over a year probing the nation's response to the pandemic and whether U.S.-funded research in China may have played any role in how it started — yet found no evidence linking Fauci to wrongdoing.

He'd already been grilled behind closed doors, for 14 hours over two days in January. But Monday, Fauci testified voluntarily in public and on camera at a hearing that quickly deteriorated into partisan attacks.

Republicans repeated unproven accusations against the longtime National Institutes of Health scientist while Democrats apologized for Congress besmirching his name and bemoaned a missed opportunity to prepare for the next scary outbreak.

> I have repeatedly stated that I have a completely open mind to either possibility and that if definitive evidence becomes available to validate or refute either theory, I will ready accept it
> - Dr. Anthony Fauci

"He is not a comic book super villain," said Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., saying the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic had failed to prove a list of damaging allegations.

Fauci was the public face of the government's early COVID-19 response under then-President Donald Trump and later as an adviser to President Joe Biden. A trusted voice to millions, he also was the target of partisan anger and choked up Monday as he recalled death threats and other harassment of himself and his family, threats he said still continue. Police later escorted hecklers out of the hearing room.

The main issue: Many scientists believe the virus most likely emerged in nature and jumped from animals to people, probably at a wildlife market in Wuhan, the city in China where the outbreak began. There's no new scientific information supporting that the virus might instead have leaked from a laboratory. A U.S. intelligence analysis says there's insufficient evidence to prove either way — and a recent Associated Press investigation found the Chinese government froze critical efforts to trace the source of the virus in the first weeks of the outbreak.

Fauci has long said publicly that he was open to both theories but that there's more evidence supporting COVID-19's natural origins, the way other deadly viruses including coronavirus cousins SARS and MERS jumped into people. It was a position he repeated Monday as Republican lawmakers questioned if he worked behind-the-scenes to squelch the lab-leak theory or even tried to influence intelligence agencies.

"I have repeatedly stated that I have a completely open mind to either possibility and that if definitive evidence becomes available to validate or refute either theory, I will ready accept it," Fauci said. He later invoked a fictional secret agent, decrying a conspiracy theory that "I was parachuting into the CIA like Jason Bourne and told the CIA that they should really not be talking about a lab leak."

Republicans also have accused Fauci of lying to Congress in denying that his agency funded "gain of function" research – the practicing of enhancing a virus in a lab to study its potential real-world impact – at a lab in Wuhan.

NIH for years gave grants to a New York nonprofit called EcoHealth Alliance that used some of the funds to work with a Chinese lab studying coronaviruses commonly carried by bats. Last month, the government suspended EcoHealth's federal funding, citing its failure to properly monitor some of those experiments.

The definition of "gain of function" covers both general research and especially risky experiments to "enhance" the ability of potentially pandemic pathogens to spread or cause severe disease in humans. Fauci stressed he was using the risky experiment definition, saying "it would be molecularly impossible" for the bat viruses studied with EcoHealth's funds to be turned into the virus that caused the pandemic.

In an exchange with Rep. H. Morgan Griffith, R-Va., Fauci acknowledged that the lab leak is still an open question since it's impossible to know if some other lab, not funded by NIH money, was doing risky research with coronaviruses.

Fauci did face a new set of questions about the credibility of NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which he led for 38 years. Last month, the House panel revealed emails from an NIAID colleague about ways to evade public records laws, including by not discussing controversial pandemic issues in government email.

SEE **COVID** PAGE 11



OPINION **UNMUTED**

Devan Sipher

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Participating in democracy

Democracy isn't pretty.

It can also be exhausting. The Santa Monica City Council meeting last week ran until three in the morning, and that was without the Gaza protesters who were present for the previous three meetings. One of the contributing factors was a budget discussion.

Quick quiz: What best describes Santa Monica's current fiscal status?

A) One of the ten most financially healthy cities in Southern California

B) Diminished by post-COVID disruptions, but stable with a strong reserve

C) Insolvent

Avid readers of the Santa Monica Daily Press, may be unsurprised to learn that I think C is closest to the mark. The city isn't bankrupt, because the solution to not having sufficient funds for necessities, such as safety and maintenance, is to reduce the money spent on those necessities. But there's a cost to that as well, which is why the councilmembers spent over an hour painstakingly horse trading sidewalk repairs for police officers.

I'm going to venture that it was as torturous for them to negotiate as it was to witness. The Council has identified five praiseworthy budget priorities: safety, economic recovery, homelessness, racial justice, and sustainability. The hitch is there's not enough money to adequately fund any of them.

Which is why the Santa Monica Trapeze School lost its lease on the Santa Monica Pier at the same Council meeting. Two dozen people testified for the school, describing it as more of a diverse neighborhood community than a business and praising the owner, Kenna Stevens, in ways that define civic virtue. Even Vice Mayor Negrete said the uplifting school belonged on the pier and was precisely the kind of local business the Council has vowed to support. But fidelity is a virtue the Council couldn't afford when there was a competing bid from the owner of Pacific Park for $215,000 more per month.

In a $750 million budget, one might call it penny-pinching, but that's what it's come to. The city does have reserves; however, those reserves have been cut in half since 2019 to less than $150 million, which seems like a lot of money, until you consider there's $458 million of essential infrastructure projects waiting for funding (not to mention $500 million of pension liabilities).

It would be easy to assume that the city's financial problems are due to COVID-related losses, including diminished retail activity, office tenancy, and tourism. But here too avid readers have an advantage, because while the pandemic has in fact cost the city $170 million, the even greater blow was the $230 million spent on the sexual abuse lawsuits from more than 200 victims of a former city employee.

How many residents are aware of the fiscal jeopardy? Or the damage caused by a solitary predator? Based on informal polls I've done with local friends, my guess is the majority are oblivious, and we can't blame that on politicians or the media. Democracy requires paying attention. I'm likely preaching to the converted, but if more people were paying attention, perhaps fewer children would have been abused in the first place.

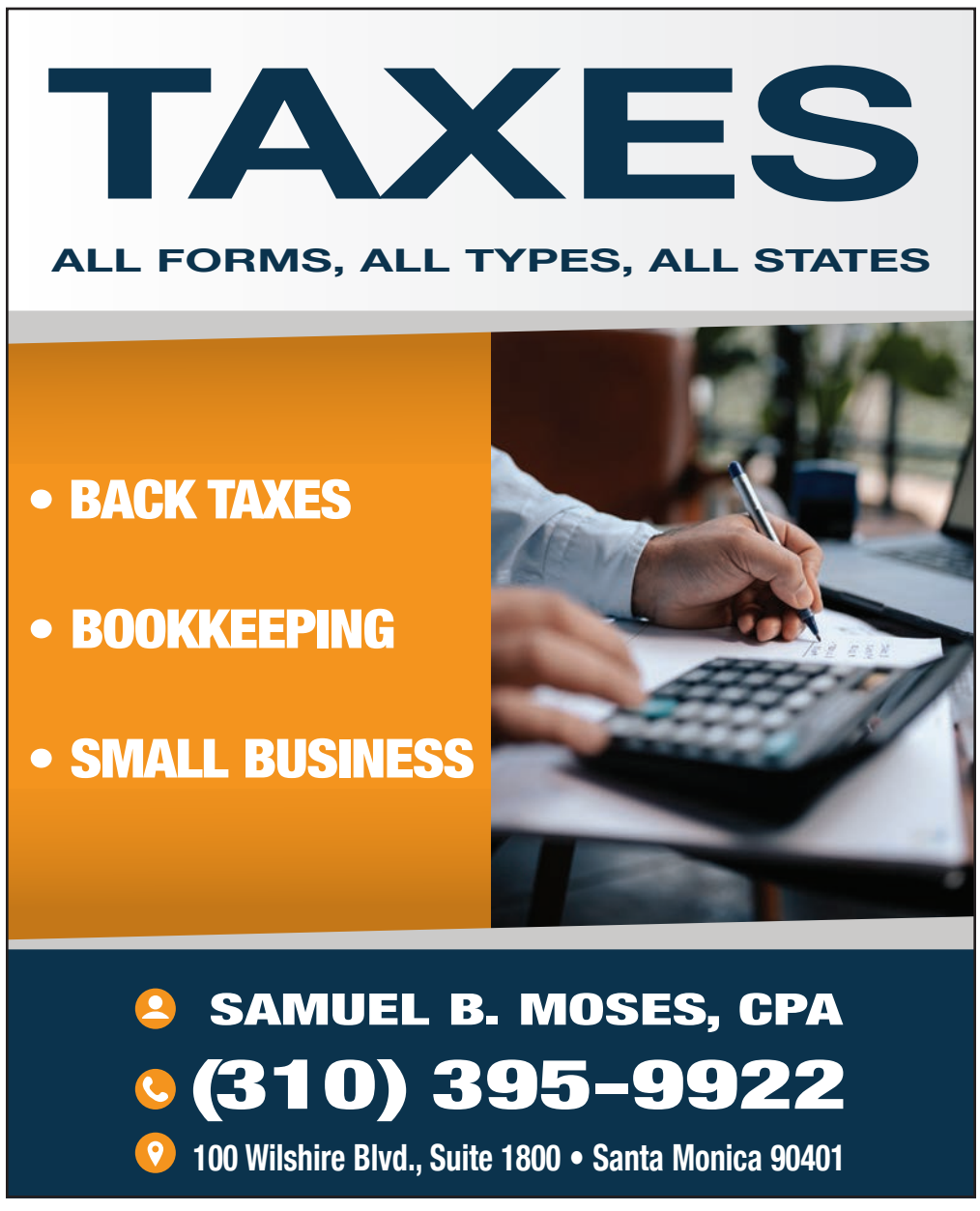
It's easy to take democracy for granted, as if it's an amenity provided in return for our tax payments, like garbage collection, as opposed to something we actively engage in maintaining. Around the world people are sacrificing their lives for the privilege. In Myanmar, students are picking up weapons rather than books, and, according to the New York Times, they're chanting in English for "federal democracy," because there are no equivalent words in Burmese.

Yet here in the U.S., a former President feels victimized because he was held accountable to the same laws as ordinary citizens, which one could argue is the bedrock of our country. To hear elected leaders rail against our democratic system is alarming, but it's that very system that gives them the right to do so.

Like I said at the start, it's not pretty. And sustaining it requires a lot of effort. Twelve jurors in New York gave a month of their lives listening to tedious details about bookkeeping. So what are the rest of us doing?

In Santa Monica, there are numerous commission meetings every month with minimal public attendance. Food banks, libraries, hospices and foster care organizations are actively seeking volunteers. And you might have heard there's an election coming up. It's easy to assume that all of this is someone else's responsibility. But to paraphrase a Talmudic quote: If not us, then who? If not now, then when?







COMMUNITY NEWS

The Beach

Santa Monica State Beach Named On Best Beach In California List By USA Today 10 best

Santa Monica Travel & Tourism is pleased to announce that Santa Monica State Beach has been honored with a 2024 Readers' Choice Award for Best Beach in California by USA TODAY 10Best.

Santa Monica State Beach placed sixth on the list of top ten beaches in California, nominated by a panel of subject matter experts and USA TODAY 10Best editors before being voted on by the public.

"With more than 400 beaches in California, it's a true honor to be recognized amongst the ten best beaches in the Golden State. Even more special is that USA TODAY readers made the final selections. Congratulations to all of the CA beaches that made this impressive list," said Misti Kerns, President/CEO of Santa Monica Travel & Tourism. "Santa Monica State Beach is truly the treasure of our destination, and it is a privilege to welcome visitors and locals to take in the most beautiful sunsets, enjoy a dip in the Pacific and make lifelong memories on our shores."

> With more than 400 beaches in California, it's a true honor to be recognized amongst the ten best beaches in the Golden State. Even more special is that USA TODAY readers made the final selections. Congratulations to all of the CA beaches that made this impressive list
>
> - Misti Kerns, President/CEO of Santa Monica Travel & Tourism

Santa Monica State Beach is an iconic example of Southern California's famed beachfront lifestyle. With 3.5 miles of soft, sandy shores, Santa Monica State Beach is home to the world-famous Santa Monica Pier, friendly gathering spots like the Annenberg Community Beach House and the birthplace of the beloved sport of beach volleyball. Santa Monica's nearly 300 days of sunshine each year make it the perfect beach destination for a coastal bike ride along the 22-mile Marvin Braude Bike Trail or a surf lesson in the Pacific with Aqua Surf School, all within walking distance to the city's world-class hotel properties, restaurants and attractions.

USA TODAY 10Best travel experts carefully selected 20 exceptional nominees before inviting the public to cast their vote for the Best Beach in California as part of the publication's annual Readers' Choice Awards recognizing the best destinations, accommodations, attractions, culinary experiences and more.

For more information visit santamonica.com, email info@santamonica.com.

SUBMITTED BY EMILY OHARA

Citywide

SMMUSD Schools Honored for High Achievement and Student Success

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) is proud to announce that four schools have been named to the 2023 Educational Results Partnership (ERP) Honor Roll, recognizing their high achievement and student success.

The honored schools include:

- Edison Language Academy: Star School
- McKinley Elementary School: Star School
- Franklin Elementary School: Scholar School
- John Adams Middle School: Star School (Intermediate/Middle/Junior High category)

Star Schools and Districts are those where 33 percent or more of the students are designated as socioeconomically disadvantaged. Scholar Schools and Districts have fewer than 33 percent of students designated as socioeconomically disadvantaged.

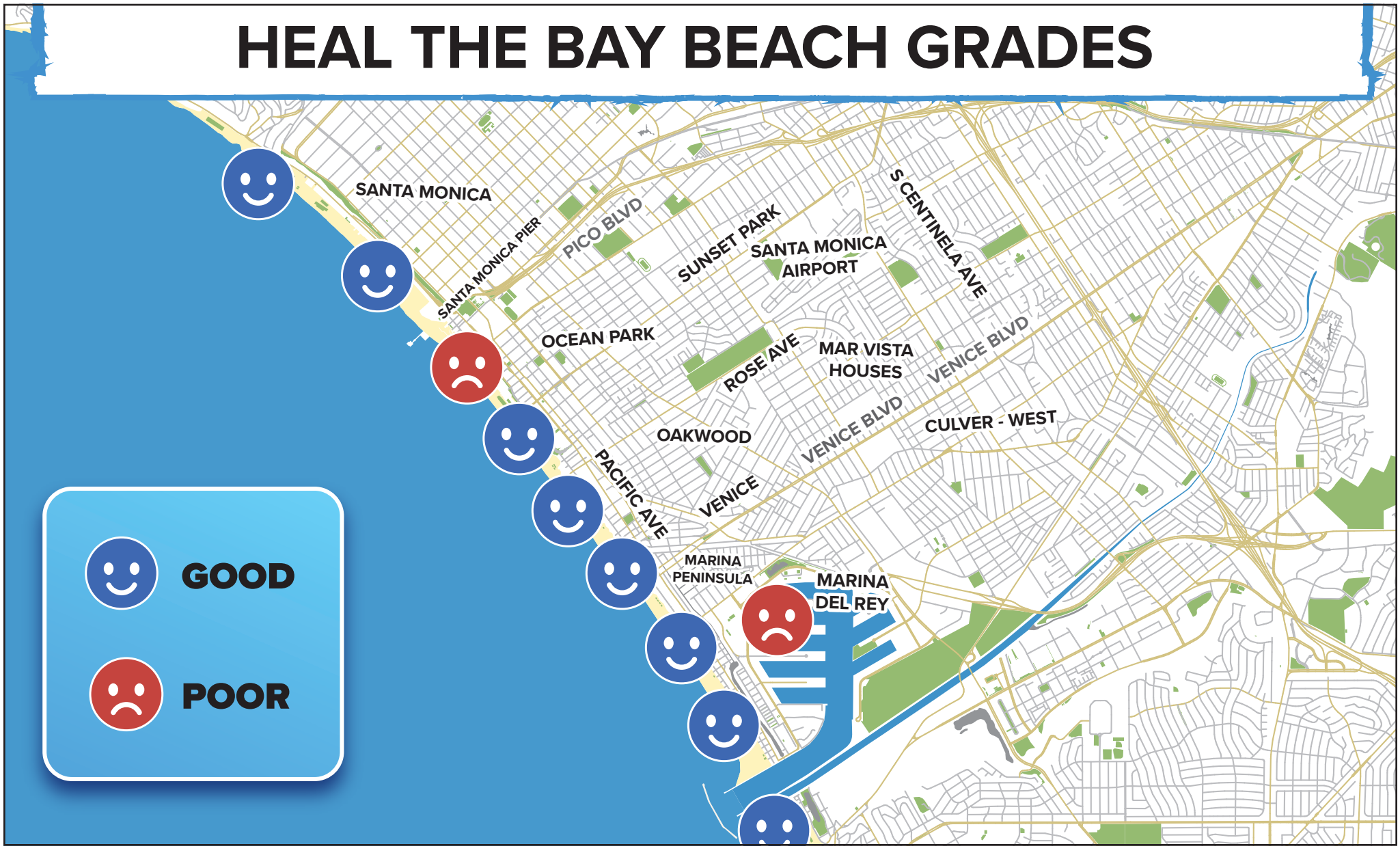
The ERP Honor Roll, part of the national Campaign for Business and Education Excellence (CBEE), highlights schools that are effectively preparing students with the fundamental skills needed for success in college, career and life. This recognition is based on objective student achievement data and is the only school recognition program presented in partnership with state and local business leaders.

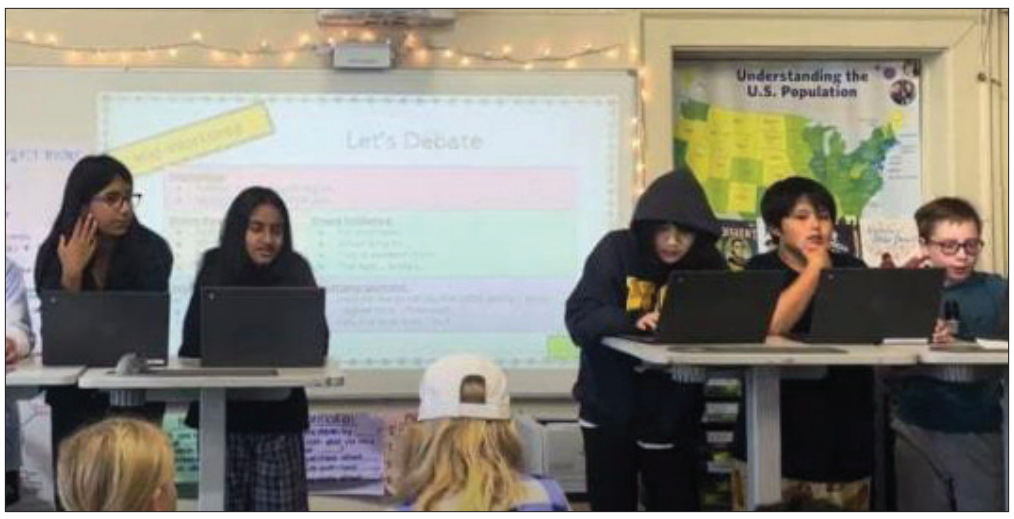
> We are thrilled to see our schools recognized for their dedication to student achievement,
>
> - Dr. Antonio Shelton, SMMUSD Superintendent

"We are thrilled to see our schools recognized for their dedication to student achievement," said SMMUSD Superintendent, Dr. Antonio Shelton. "This honor reflects the hard work of our students, teachers, and staff in creating a supportive and effective learning environment."

The ERP Honor Roll program aims to identify successful schools and districts and encourage the sharing of best practices among educators to raise student achievement across the board. This year marks the ninth consecutive year that ERP has presented the Honor Roll, underscoring the importance of collaboration between educational institutions and the business community to ensure student success.

DIANA BOUCHAAYA







Courtesy Photo

AVID: McKinley Elementary School became Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's first Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) elementary site during the 2023-24 school year.

SMMUSD

FROM PAGE 1

Elementary School was deemed successful, with the model to be replicated at other school sites in 2024-25. The CTE program also expanded offerings this past year at Samohi and Malibu High School, adding new opportunities for students.

Continuing to build a socially just district will also be the focus of an Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program update at Thursday's meeting. AVID, an accelerated program to assist, support and empower learners for college and career, included students in grades 4-12 exploring possibilities for the future. This year, McKinley Elementary School became the district's first AVID elementary site, taking part in college awareness activities and debating social justice topics.

The second LCAP goal is to have Multilingual Learners become "proficient in English while engaging in a rigorous, culturally and linguistically responsive, standards-aligned core curriculum." The district will continue its English Language Development (ELD) in 2024-25 by having teachers embed Integrated ELD in content instruction, including elementary site administrators reinforcing daily Designated ELD time in weekly instructional schedules. The ELD process continued in 2023-24 by giving English Learners access to a seven-period day, ensuring that a designated ELD and an elective period were offered for multilingual learners.

Actions involving district facility maintenance and student physical and mental well-being are included in the third goal, ensuring "all students and families feel connected and informed" while engaging in "safe, well-maintained and culturally responsive schools that support future-ready learning." Along with ever-present facility improvements district-wide, 2024-25 will feature a mental health and wellness focus, continuing to develop and maintain "wellness spaces" at school sites and having TK-12 teachers utilize social emotional learning curriculum to support social-emotional health and positive coping skills.

Thursday's meeting will also publicly disclose bargaining agreements between the district and several bodies, including the Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association and School Employees International Union - Local 99 (SEIU). The district and Local 99 came to an agreement in May that secured union members an 18 percent wage increase through the 2025-26 school year. The agreement included a 5 percent wage increase plus retroactive pay to January 2024, a 3 percent wage increase effective July 1, and two-step adjustment wage increases of 5 percent during the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years.

The preliminary 2024-25 general fund budget will also be presented on Thursday, discussing the budget process, Local Control Funding Formula calculations and multiyear projections for district fiscal matters.

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TAX

FROM PAGE 2

For Glazer, a Democrat from Orinda, the agreements with local governments that kick back sales taxes to the firms are fundamentally unfair. He believes that if Californians buy something online, they expect taxes to go to the local government where the transaction took place – not to some city that could be hundreds of miles away. He told his Senate colleagues it creates a perverse system of "winners and losers."

> We hear every day on this floor about disadvantaged communities and people not getting a fair break in California and the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer
>
> - Brian Dahle, California Chamber of Commerce, and conservative Sen.

"Ninety-three percent of the cities are losers," he said. "I can tell you that if you live in cities like Los Angeles, you're a loser; San Francisco, Oakland, you're a loser; San Diego, you're a loser."

A bipartisan group of 17 lawmakers, some of whose districts include cities that were in Glazer's "loser" category, voted to support his bill on May 23. The supporters included liberal Sen. Scott Wiener, a Democrat from San Francisco who has a 100% rating from the Sierra Club and 0% from the California Chamber of Commerce, and conservative Sen. Brian Dahle, a Republican from the state's rural northeast corner with a 100% rating from the chamber and 0% from the Sierra Club.

Dahle, who lost a bid for governor in 2022, split with the California Taxpayers Association on this vote even though he sides with the anti-tax group's position on bills nearly 90% of the time, according to the CalMatters Digital Democracy database.

"We hear every day on this floor about disadvantaged communities and people not getting a fair break in California and the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer," he said on the Senate floor. "Think about this: This is not a tax increase or decrease. This is about distribution. These multibillion dollar companies in California are robbing your community and putting in that tax base that I pay in (Lassen County) in their pockets, getting even more rich off the backs of a tax."

But the arguments from the likes of Glazer and Dahle weren't enough for the bill to pass the 40-member chamber. It got 17 votes in support and just 11 votes against, but 12 senators did not vote, which counts as a "no."

As CalMatters has reported, lawmakers regularly avoid voting on controversial bills to avoid angering colleagues or to eliminate a record of their opposition on sensitive matters. There is no distinction for legislators who abstain or are absent.

Many of the opposing senators have communities that benefit from the tax agreements, or they sided with cities and counties that argue the tax agreements are valuable tools that help disadvantaged communities promote economic development and create jobs.

Gov. Gavin Newsom vetoed a similar Glazer bill in 2019, making the same arguments.

Not surprisingly, Cupertino's senator, Dave Cortese, a Democrat, voted "no."

Sen. Susan Talamantes Eggman, a Democratic former Stockton city councilmember, also cast a "no" vote. She told her colleagues that the current tax system doesn't necessarily benefit just wealthy Silicon Valley communities.

"This bill is about what local governments can do with the resources they have," she said. "So I'll tell you some of the winners, and you tell me if they're the big guys or not. City of Dinuba, city of Fresno, city of Merced ... city of Tracy, city of Stockton. You know who those folks are? The little guys that live on that corridor, that breathe that diesel, that smell that gas, that have a lot of our jobs taken."

She noted that Stockton alone receives about $1.5 million to $2 million a year from such an agreement. She didn't say which company, and her office didn't respond to CalMatters' request for clarification. Stockton officials also didn't respond to CalMatters' request.

But Glazer told CalMatters those sorts of arguments are shortsighted since changing the tax system would funnel $1 billion in tax kickbacks that corporations receive from these agreements to communities across the state. It frustrated him that the influential League of California Cities opposed the bill, since the organization's lobbyists regularly complain to lawmakers that "our cities are struggling and our cities are suffering" from lack of revenue, Glazer said.

"You've given more than $1 billion away of public money to these wealthy corporations," Glazer said. "How can you come up here to Sacramento complaining about not having money?"

The League of California Cities told lawmakers in a letter opposing the bill that the proposed regulations were unnecessary since its members had agreed to place a cap on the corporate kickbacks, "provide enhanced transparency and public review, and make equitable changes" to how the taxes are distributed.

Sen. Kelly Seyarto, a Republican and former Murrieta mayor, said the tax-sharing agreements allow little communities like his to compete with bigger cities to lure in major business developers. He told the Senate's Local Government Committee in April that if the Glazer's bill would have passed, they wouldn't be able to.

"And for smaller communities like the one I came from," he said, "that's death."

This article was originally published by CalMatters.



Photo by Rahul Lal, CalMatters

SENATE: California State Sen. Susan Talamantes Eggman, a Democrat from Stockton, listens to legislative testimony at a hearing last year.

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

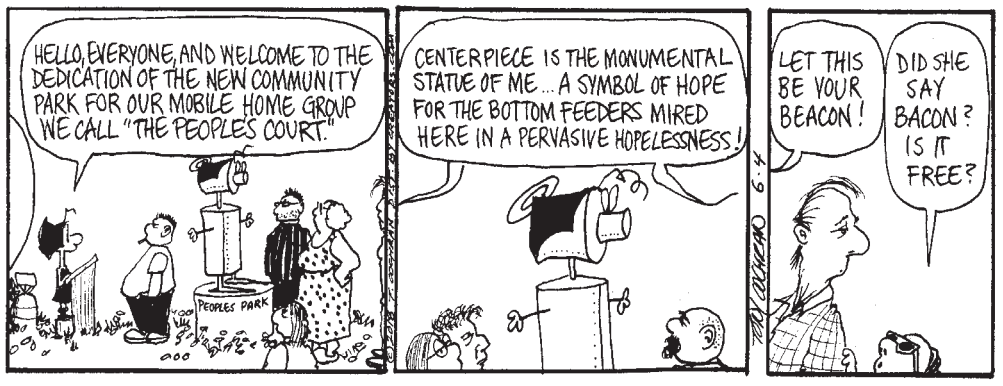
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Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

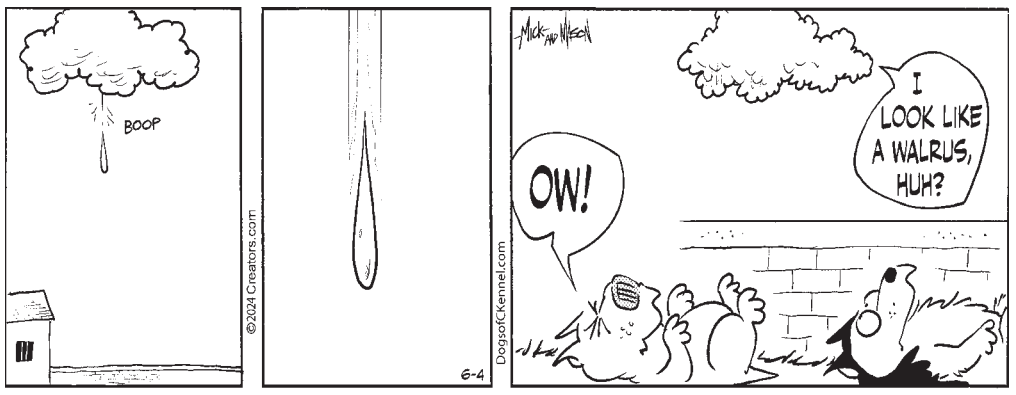
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



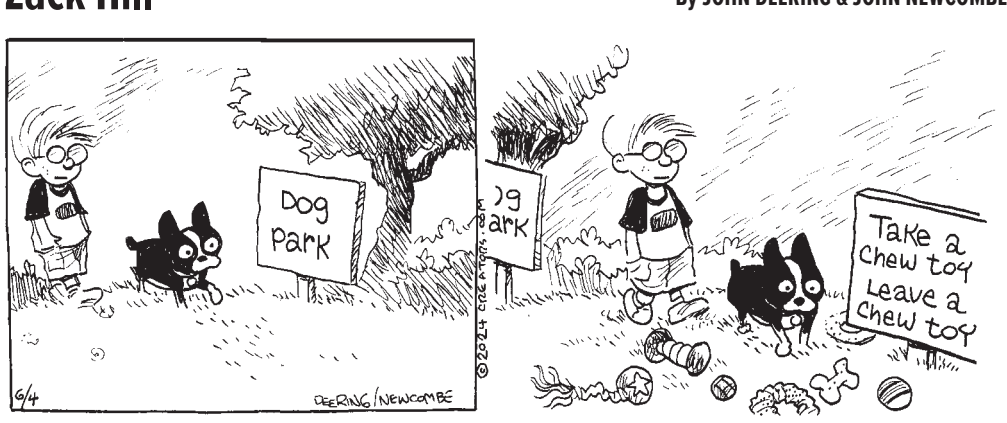
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



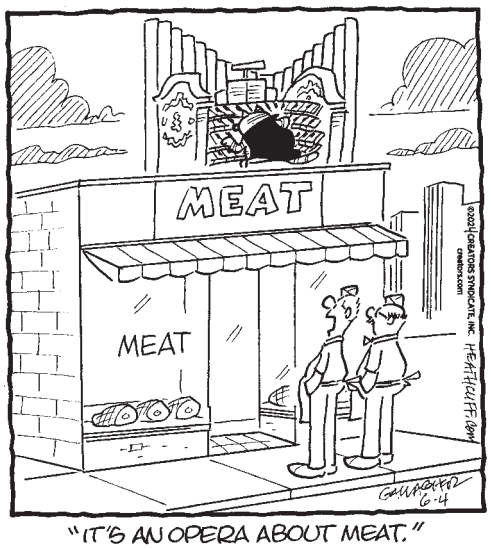
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 18 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 6231

Productive orchards

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

Akee	Figs	Mangoes	Rain
Apple	Gage	Mast	Rasp
Avocado	Gean	Morus	Ripe
Betel	Guava	Muscat	Rows
Boxes	Hail	Nectarine	Samara
Cedrat	Kaki	Ogen	Skeg
Cobnut	Kiwi	Olive	Strawberry
Crab	Lemon	Papaw	Treat
Crop	Lichi	Pear	Ugni
Damson	Lime	Pecan	Umbinza
Date	Longan	Peel	Uva
Egriot	Lychee	Picking	Whurt
Eleot	Mahaleb	Pome	

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 4)

Your personal life will be fond, and your intellectual life adventurous. More highlights: You'll get to live in your preferences for long stretches and refine the tones, moods and styles that make your work attractive and thrilling. People will write about you. A stimulating hobby will unexpectedly develop in lucrative ways. Sagittarius and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 10, 33, 4 and 19.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Heavy realities are like dumbbells to weightlifting goals. They have little aesthetic appeal, and they are a grunting pain to deal with, but it's an effective way to make the sinew do what you want it to.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Anyone can have a good attitude when things are going their way. It's the people who maintain a sweet demeanor even when expectations have been dashed who really deserved the medal. You'll give gems of acknowledgment.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). People who talk about how useful they are but don't follow through with action are worse than the ones who don't get involved. At least the ones who say and give nothing don't set up an expectation. There can be great grace in minding one's own business.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If you leave a conversation too early, you won't get past the surface observations and niceties. And if you stay in it too long, things get way too interesting and intimate. Today, your sense of social timing will be impeccable.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). While putting too many eggs in one basket is never advised, right now, you're less the farmer and more the bird, at your productive capacity for both eggs and receptacles. Just do what you can and hope for the best.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). What was once confusing to you is now easily sorted because you have taken the time to gain the knowledge and skill to discern exactly what you're dealing with and how it is most expediently handled. You will be celebrated and paid for this.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There's a new, impressive someone. In the moments you prioritize this person, you feel changed. It's too soon to tell the nature or duration of the influence, and that's not important now anyway. Enjoy and explore.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The relationship between physical and emotional space will be highlighted. Where there is little room for people to have their own private spaces, emotional distancing kicks in. Mannerisms, devices, boundaries and sensory limits are all part of social management.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Getting to the next milestone will be extraordinarily simple — as simple as getting to an actual milestone, which involves being on the path and putting one foot in front of the other for a mile. Decide where you're going, get on the road, and go there.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There is an adjustment to be made, and likely, it's a subtraction. Can you guess what you might need to lose along the path of desire? Try seeing it as a trade instead of a loss — the cost, the entry fee or the contribution that puts you on your preferred tier.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The reason why controlling people are not much fun is because their attempts to make life predictable squeeze the mystery out of the scene. Fun and surprise go together, and you'll have both today because you dare to let go.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Maya Angelou said, "Every storm runs out of rain." Because you'd rather experience the lovely drama of a weather system that cycles and dissipates than bear an ongoing, dreary damp season, you'll embrace whatever feelings arise.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

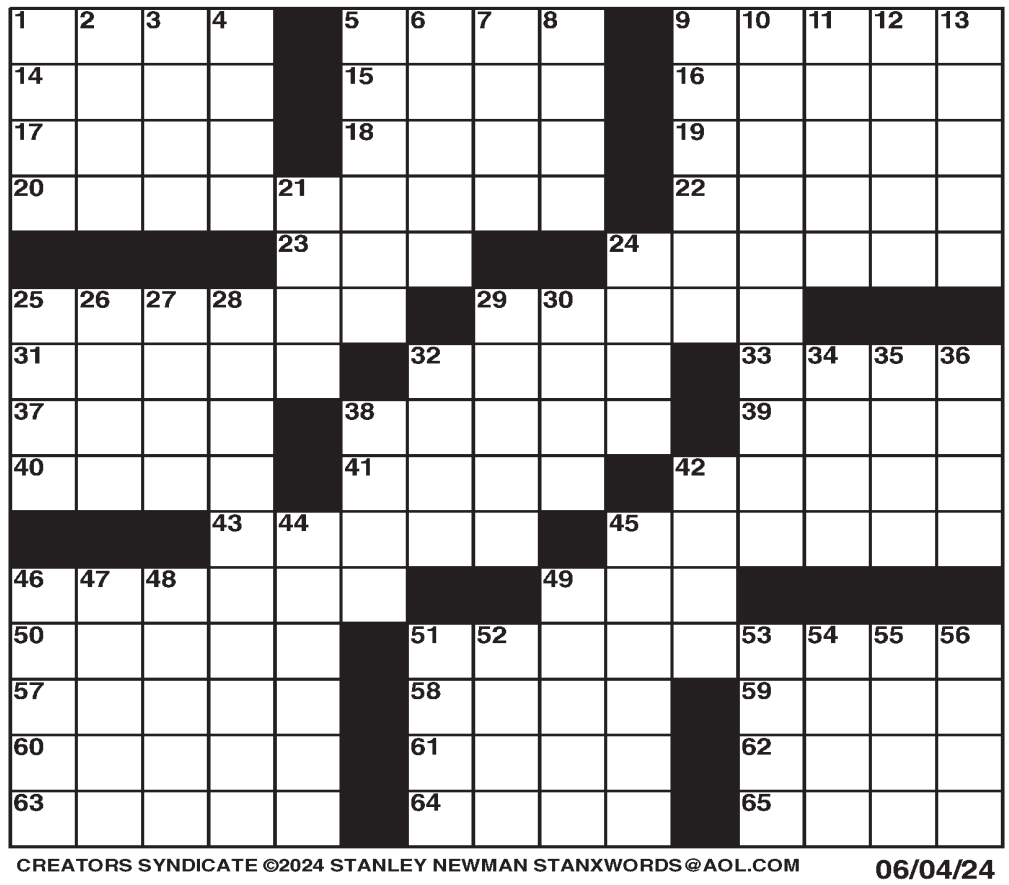
QUITE A FEW by Sally R. Stein
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Bratty backtalk
5 __ of the time (nearly always)
9 Keep from happening
14 Ballerina's skirt
15 Muscle soreness
16 Less decorated
17 And others: Abbr.
18 "That remains to be __"
19 Sharp, as eyesight
20 Tasks assigned to employees
22 Easy golf putt
23 Rustic hotel
24 Became a tenant
25 Small food samples
29 Story-line surprise
31 Cleans off with a dishrag
32 Took care of the check
33 Green citrus fruit
37 Poems of praise
38 Pancake syrup flavor
39 Word-of-mouth
40 Offshoot group
41 Was indebted to
42 Smell bad
43 Rise from a chair
45 Sheriff's pursuit groups
46 Lighthouse's light
49 Keogh plan alternative
50 Middle-arm joint
51 Inflatable emergency vessels
57 Like very much
58 Large vases
59 Make a sketch of
60 Celebrate noisily
61 Stolen property
62 Neighborhood food shop
63 Get into clothes
64 "Do __ others..."
65 Appear to be

DOWN

1 Slow-cooker dinner
2 Sedan or convertible
3 Top-billed actor
4 Mope
5 Stone artisans
6 Pacific or Atlantic
7 Building to store tools
8 Change for a $20 bill
9 Lessens, as the tide
10 Land parcels that are empty
11 Gush, as a volcano
12 Adjust, as shoelaces
13 Current fashion
21 Isn't truthful
24 Go by cab or train
25 "__ company, three's..."
26 Assistant
27 Design detail, for short
28 Exam grades
29 Repaired, as a book page
30 Not tamed
32 Lowly chess piece
34 Colorful part of the eye
35 Horse's hair
36 Animals with antlers
38 __ and groan (complain)
42 Fly high
44 Sauna linens
45 Magician's exclamation
46 Goatee, for example
47 __ statesman (retired politician)
48 Higher than
49 "__ now, then when?"
51 Amazing thing
52 Remove creases in
53 Totals up
54 At no cost
55 "Tall" story
56 Do laps in a pool



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06/04/24

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

Vikings' Ponce picks ELAC for college

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

One of Samohi's top baseball prospects will be staying local to continue his career in the college ranks. Last month, Vikings senior Tony Ponce committed to East LA College to advance his education and stay on the mound, where he excelled for the 2024 baseball squad. In 12 appearances for the Vikings, Ponce became a key contributor in the bullpen, going 4-1 with an 0.68 earned run average and recording two of the Vikings' three saves this season. In 31 innings of play, Ponce struck out 32 batters while giving up just 17 hits. Arguably the senior's most crucial mound appearance was in the CIF Southern Section Division V playoffs against Ganesha, where Ponce struck out eight of 11 batters faced while giving up just one hit in the 3-2 Vikings win. Another Vikings senior heading off to college is ace pitcher Jackson Klein, who will be attending UC Davis. Klein is currently undecided on continuing in the college ranks after a senior campaign that put him amongst California's top hurlers, throwing multiple no-hitters and collecting 10 wins.

thomas@smdp.com



Courtesy Photo

VIKINGS: Samohi senior pitcher Tony Ponce will be attending East Los Angeles College for academics and athletics..

COMMUNITY NEWS

Downtown

Author James Harris shares his new book "Santa Monica Pier: America's Last Great Pleasure Pier" at the Santa Monica History Museum.

On Wednesday, July 17, Santa Monica History Museum welcomes author, and historian James Harris as he presents the highly anticipated expanded edition of his celebrated book, "Santa Monica Pier: America's Last Great Pleasure Pier."

The Santa Monica Pier embodies a compelling saga of resilience—battling forces of nature and political currents, adapting through evolving times. More than a tourist attraction, it has become a tangible slice of history, embodying the spirit of resilience and adaptation that defines California.

With a poignant foreword penned by Robert Redford, a champion of the pier's preservation efforts during the tumultuous, Harris's new edition stands as a definitive compendium of the pier's rich history and cultural significance.

James Harris is a multi-talented executive and producer with a background in event concepts and management, facility/venue rentals, and non-profit management. He is the official Santa Monica Pier historian, as well as the Executive Director of the Santa Monica Pier Corporation. The Santa Monica pier is his favorite place in the world, and as Executive Director and pier historian he loves to share his knowledge and passion for the pier with the people of Southern California. James currently resides in Santa Monica, California.

The museum is located at 1350 7th Street. Visit www.SantaMonicaHistory.org for more information.

SUBMITTED BY LISA DANNENBAUM

COVID

FROM PAGE 4

Fauci denounced the actions of that colleague and insisted that "to the best of my knowledge I have never conducted official business via my personal email."

The pandemic's origins weren't the only hot topic. The House panel also blasted some public health measures taken to slow spread of the virus before COVID-19 vaccines, spurred by NIAID research, helped allow a return to normalcy. Ordering people to stay 6 feet apart meant many businesses, schools and churches couldn't stay open, and subcommittee chairman Rep. Brad Wenstrup, R-Ohio, called it a "burdensome" and arbitrary rule, noting that in his prior closed-door testimony Fauci had acknowledged it wasn't scientifically backed.

Fauci responded Monday that the 6-feet distancing wasn't his guideline but one created by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention before scientists had learned that the new virus was airborne, not spread simply by droplets emitted a certain distance.

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Science and Educational Media Group. The AP is solely responsible for all content.



TUESDAY | JUNE 4

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.

RESUME WORKSHOP WITH CHRYSALIS
Job placement specialists from Chrysalis guide you in creating or updating your resume. Learn resume basics, including key information to share, using resume templates, and customizing resumes to match job descriptions. Begins at 4 p.m. in the computer classroom of the Santa Monica Public Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

PUBLIC SAFETY REFORM AND OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING
On January 26, 2021, the City Council adopted an Ordinance to create a new Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission to promote, in partnership with the Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD), the best practices in community-oriented policing for the fair treatment, safety, and wellbeing of all; provide a body to work with SMPD and experts to develop, recommend, and help implement proposed reforms for handling complaints regarding SMPD conduct, including proposed reforms for the intake, review, and investigation of, and oversight of disciplinary decisions and policies relating to, such complaints. Meeting begins at 6 p.m. in City Council Chambers at Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St.

WEDNESDAY | JUNE 5

VENICE HERITAGE MUSEUM RIBBON CUTTING
Join the Venice Chamber of Commerce for a VCC Happy Hour Mixer and Ribbon Cutting at the Venice Heritage Museum, 228 Main St., Venice, beginning at 5 p.m. Mix and mingle with Venice Chamber members and prospective members alike. Enjoy beer and wine at a cash bar and complimentary small bites from host. Members $10, Prospective Members $15. For more information, visit business.venicechamber.net.

THURSDAY | JUNE 6

SMC LYRIC CHORUS WELCOMING THE SUMMER
Sing along with the Santa Monica College Emeritus College Lyric Chorus during this performance of Broadway tunes to welcome the spirit of summer. The chorus was founded over 50 years ago and is led by conductor Tom Gerhold. Beigns at 11 a.m. in the Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium at the Santa Monica Public Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

HOUSING COMMISSION
The Santa Monica Housing Commission is a city advisory body whose mission is to protect and improve the quality of life of all Santa Monicans by listening to input from city residents and staff, publicly deliberating, and providing recommendations to both the Santa Monica City Council and Santa Monica Housing Authority Board on issues related to housing in Santa Monica. The Santa Monica Housing Commission is committed to strengthening the social, economic, and cultural vitality and diversity of Santa Monica through habitable, fair, and equitable housing for all. Meeting begins at 6 p.m. at Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St.

HOUSING SOLUTIONS PANEL
The Santa Monica History Museum presents a dynamic panel discussion delving into modern housing solutions and the future of housing in Santa Monica. Frances Anderton, former host of KCRW's "DNA: Design and Architecture" and author of "Common Ground: Multifamily Housing in Los Angeles," will moderate the evening. Panelists include former Santa Monica Mayor Denny Zane from Santa Monicans for Renters Rights, Bruce Fairty representing Cypress Equity, Jesús Hernández from Community Corporation of Santa Monica, and Jing Yeo, planning manager from the City of Santa Monica. Admission is free. Begins at 6 p.m. at the Santa Monica History Museum, 3250 7th St.

SMC MUSIC DEPARTMENT CONCERT
Using excerpts from Duke Ellington's three Sacred Concert settings as the centerpiece, the Santa Monica College Music Department presents a collaboration between the SMC Jazz Ensemble, Chamber Choir, Concert Chorale and Jazz Vocal Ensemble. Tickets $15. Begins at 7:30 p.m. at the SMC Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th St. For more information, visit smc.edu.

NOMA MEETING
Critical city issues will be combining with Midsummer fun at the North of Montana Avenue Association meeting Thursday, June 6, 2024, on Zoom. Preparation and programming for NOMA's annual Make Music Day bash in Palisades Park are up for discussion along with new SM Fire Chief Matthew Hallock's presentation of his department's 2024-2025 Strategic Plan. Members will also learn of latest developments on SB-9 — the controversial 'lot-split' law —- from attorney John Murdock. The meeting begins at 7 pm and all are invited, log-on information available at www.smnoma,org.

FRIDAY | JUNE 7

PICO ROOTS MARKETPLACE GRAND OPENING
Join Pico Roots Marketplace, 1819 Pico Blvd., for a grand opening ceremony at 10 a.m. As the only small-business incubator in Santa Monica, attendees will have the opportunity to interact and purchase unique products from vendors like Adey Gojo Coffee and Catering, Tiny Bee Cards and Lucky Bug Clothing. The even will also include music by DJ KillaCam, refreshments, a community art project and a professional portrait studio. Registration is free, RSVP required. To RSVP, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pico-roots-marketplace-grand-opening-tickets-902858051737.


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ALL★STAR SUMO
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