2 **British Elections**
Similarities to US

3 **Ballot measures**
For climate and schools

5 **Gas Buddy**
Where to fill up

6 **Curious City**
Up in the clouds

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 162 WEDNESDAY 7/3/24 smdp.com

After two weeks of beach crimes, Santa Monica prepares for July 4 rush

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor



Thomas Sipher

BEACH: A regional heatwave is driving more visitors to the beach and the holiday weekend will be busy.

With residents on high alert following assaults at the beach, the Santa Monica Police Department is increasing patrols and preparedness in advance of the July 4 holiday.

According to SMPD, the department will utilize a holiday deployment plan from Thursday through Monday.

This includes additional police officers and other department personnel doing high visibility patrols in holiday hot spots like the beach, parks, Pier, and downtown area. SMPD said its parking and traffic enforcement teams are at the ready and will be assisting with traffic control and safety. They will also have a full complement of Downtown Services Officers and patrol officers serving the rest of the city.

The Independence Day Holiday comes after a man was hospitalized last weekend following a fight near the Pier. In that incident five people were arrested. Three were charged with assault with a deadly weapon, one with battery and the last for sexual battery. The week prior, Jawann Dwayne Garnett attacked multiple people on the beach. He has been charged with multiple felonies, including attempted murder and assault with intent to commit rape.

The incidents have made headlines well beyond Santa Monica and prompted calls for more security.

Several residents told the Daily Press this week that they were concerned about public safety in the city.

"I walk during the daytime, I won't at night. It's because of the safety factor, homeless. Yeah, that's a problem," said Darlene Camberg

SMPD said it was prepared for whatever the heat and holiday may bring to town.

"The beach is our crown jewel and the Fourth of July holiday is the ultimate beachside celebration," said Lt. Erika Aklufi. "The SMPD wants to make sure residents and

SEE **BEACH** PAGE 7

Decision over Promenade patrol's future delayed as DTSM board members desert meeting

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

The main item on the agenda for the June 27 Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. (DTSM) monthly board meeting was supposed to be a presentation by security firm Legion after six months of deployment, followed by a vote on how to proceed with this program going forward to next year.

According to the agenda, there was to be a presentation by Joseph Shelley, Founder of Legion Corporation, on the "status of the downtown private security pilot program" lasting approximately 60 minutes. That was to be followed by a discussion tabled for around

SEE **DTSM** PAGE 7



Courtesy photo

LEGION: The Legion security officers have been working the Promenade area for about a year.

'Restorative' alcohol, drug use policy broached by school board

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's commitment to restorative justice practices has sparked discussions regarding student alcohol and drug use on campuses.

During the June 25 meeting of the district's Board of Education, the board looked to update Board Policy (BP) and Administrative Regulation (AR), initially broached to properly name and number the BP and AR to align with the California School Boards Association. The current BP and AR were titled "Controlled Substances," with the materials proposed to be moved into existing BP and AR titled "Alcohol and Other Drugs."

Proposed changes to the district's alcohol and drug policy went further than simple administrative housekeeping, however, as outgoing Director of Student Services Tara Brown presented changes to the policy she felt were a "long time coming" in her final board presentation. This shift would be from "traditional" policies honing in on consequences and punishments for student behavior, to a more restorative justice-based system with "progressively scaled discipline" for alcohol and drug offenses.

At the middle and high school level, the updated policy for a first alcohol or drug offense would replace an automatic three-day

SEE **SMMUSD** PAGE 7



Gary Limjap
(310) 586-0339

In today's real estate climate ...
Experience counts!
garylimjap@gmail.com www.garylimjap.com

COLDWELL BANKER
CalRE # 00927151

TAXES
ALL FORMS • ALL TYPES • ALL STATES
BACK TAXES • BOOKKEEPING • SMALL BUSINESS
(310) 395-9922
SAMUEL B. MOSES, CPA
100 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1800 • Santa Monica 90401

City of Santa Monica
WOODLAWN
Cemetery
Mausoleum
Mortuary
FD #2101
Helping families honor, remember, and celebrate life.

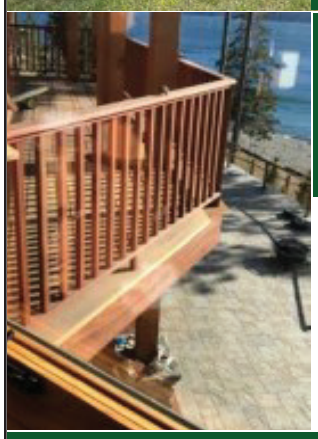


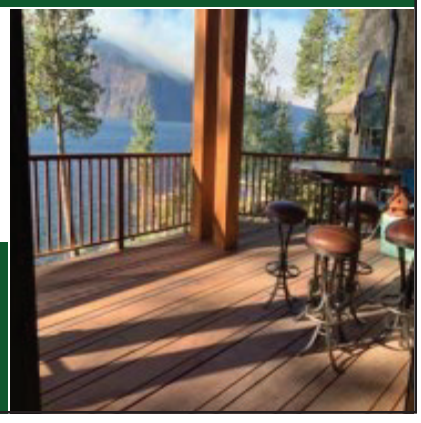
• Traditional Burial • Green/Natural Burial • Cremation
• Funeral Planning & Mortuary Services
ALL IN ONE LOCATION
1847 14th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404 ▪ (310) 458-8717 (on-call - 24/7)
woodlawn.cemetery@santamonica.gov ▪ www.woodlawnsm.com

IT'S DECKING SEASON!



VISIT OUR LUMBER DEPT
SUMMER TIME OFFER
RED MANGARIS ONLY $3.79 / LN FT
SKU 16M





Bourget Bros. Building Materials
1636 - 11th Street
Santa Monica, CA 90404 • (310) 450-6556
bourgetbros.com

American and British voters share deep roots. In 2024, they distrust their own leaders, too

LAURIE KELLMAN AND CHRISTINE FERNANDO
Associated Press

Distrust has settled over the campaign trails in the United States and United Kingdom ahead of July 4 like a soggy summer haze.

On that day, British voters will choose a new Parliament in an election expected to finish with a Labour government after 14 years under the Conservatives. Americans across the pond, deeply polarized by the rematch between Democratic President Joe Biden and Republican Donald Trump, will mark Independence Day in something resembling unity with barbecues and fireworks ahead of their vote on Nov. 5.

There's much to celebrate on the Fourth of July for one of the world's biggest democracies and the venerable kingdom that gave rise to it, 248 years after they split and set off on slow, troubled journeys toward granting all citizens the right to vote. Both remain rooted in the Magna Carta, the English document signed in 1215. It set in writing the idea that leaders — including kings, presidents and their governments — are not above the law. The nations have become close friends and stalwart allies.

> "I'm just very disheartened, really, because I don't think any of the parties know what they're doing"
> - Jacqueline Richards

That's how it started.

As for how it's going, the run-up to July 4, 2024 — Independence Day for one land, Election Day for the other — offers a snapshot of the stress test facing voters in each country.

"I'm just very disheartened, really, because I don't think any of the parties know what they're doing," Dartford, England, resident Jacqueline Richards, 77, said of her country's election. "But then looking at yours in America, it's not that great, is it?"

TRUST HAS TAKEN A BEATING IN BOTH COUNTRIES

Every democratic election is, at its core, about who voters trust to run their country so they can go about running their lives.

Debates are candidate aptitude tests in real time, never more so than during Thursday's showdown between Biden, 81, and Trump, 77. Biden's halting performance did the opposite of building confidence, even among some of his most loyal supporters. Trump, meanwhile, repeated his lies about the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection and his record as president.

That's only the most recent example of why distrust and a sense of resignation dominate the emotional landscape in both countries, according to voters interviewed by The Associated Press in recent weeks. From battleground Wisconsin to bellwether Dartford, England, voters said years of misinformation, scandal and lies have drained them of the sort of optimism or excitement they might once have felt about the right to vote or the future.

In Britain, 45% said they "almost never" trust governments to put the nation's interest first, up from 34% in 2019, according to a survey published June 12 by the National Centre for Social Research. The pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine War and the country's cost-of-living crisis affected living standards and the economy, it reported. Two Tory prime ministers were ousted. Also, there was Boris Johnson, who resigned rather than be thrown out of Parliament over boozy parties at 10 Downing Street when the nation was under COVID-19 lockdown.

A vote to turn the Conservative government out of power is not necessarily a vote for Labour, opposition leader Keir Starmer acknowledged during a May 27 debate. Voters, he said, "still have questions about us: Has Labour changed enough? Do I trust them with my money, our borders, our security?"

Starmer's own answer was yes, of course. But British voters told the AP in the weeks before the election that they're far from sure.

"They promise and promise and promise and nothing ever changes," said Shane Bassett, 34, the bar manager at a pub in bellwether Dartford, where the Peasants' Revolt of 1381 is said to have started. "No matter who gets in — if it's Labour, if it's Conservative, it's all the same. They all lie."

In the United States, trust has been eroded by deepening political polarization, misinformation and Trump's lies about Biden's victory in the 2020 election — all amplified by social media.

Roughly 2 in 10 Americans say they trust the U.S. government to do what is right "just about always" or "most of the time," according to a recent Pew Research Center survey. About 6 in 10 say they can trust the government "only some of the time" and about 2 in 10 say they can never trust the government to do what's right.

Nearly three-quarters of American adults blame the news media for dividing the nation, according to a 2023 poll by AP-NORC. Families and friends have learned to avoid discussing politics around Thanksgiving tables and other gatherings. In many places, even celebrations of the Fourth of July — a national holiday when Americans mark the 1776 ratification of the Declaration of Independence from Britain — fall under this practice of restraint.

In Racine, Wisconsin, Rebecca Eisel, 48,

SEE **VOTERS** PAGE 5

California lawmakers unveil $10 billion bond proposals for climate and schools

ASSOCIATED PRESS

California lawmakers on Sunday announced they plan to put two bond measures on the ballot in November, one that would ask voter approval to borrow $10 billion for climate programs and another that would borrow $10 billion to build or repair public schools. If passed by the Legislature later this week, the bonds would appear on the Nov. 5 ballot. Lawmakers announced the bond proposals on Sunday, one day after Gov. Gavin Newsom signed California's budget. The spending plan closes an estimated $46.8 billion deficit in part through $16 billion in spending cuts.

"These bond measures are critical to the future of this state, and invest in our kids, their neighborhood schools, and they ensure communities big and small have access to clean drinking water and are wildfire safe," Democratic state Senate President Pro Tempore Mike McGuire said in a statement.

The climate initiative would help communities recover from wildfires, floods, drought and other natural catastrophes.

The clean water and wildfire bond would cover $10 billion in strategic investments for safe drinking water, as well as funding for "wildfire and forest resilience, sea-level rise, extreme heat mitigation, clean air, and protecting biodiversity," according to a statement from McGuire's office.

Officials said it would be the single largest investment in public funding for climate resilience in California's history.

The second measure would provide $10 billion in borrowed money to modernize and repair schools. K-12 schools would get $8.5 billion, while California community colleges would receive $1.5 billion. The debt would be designated for new construction, improving existing campuses, career technical education and energy efficiency grants.

"Districts will be able to ensure schools have essential facilities like kitchens and libraries, equip students with the skills for high-demand technical careers, and provide greater access to broadband internet," said Sen. Josh Newman, a Democrat who chairs the Senate Education Committee. "This bond ensures that our schools are safe, modern, and well-prepared for the 21st-century."

> These bond measures are critical to the future of this state, and invest in our kids, their neighborhood schools, and they ensure communities big and small have access to clean drinking water and are wildfire safe
> - Mike McGuire, Democratic state Senate President Pro Tempore

Lawmakers passed the state budget last Wednesday after Newsom and legislative leaders both made concessions. They were forced for the second year in a row to pare back or delay some progressive policies that were previously paid for with the help of record-breaking surpluses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The bond measures, if approved by voters, would allow legislators to borrow money not allocated by the budget. In March, voters narrowly — 50.18% to 49.82% — approved a plan to borrow $6.38 billion to build 4,350 housing units for homeless residents and add 6,800 mental health and addiction treatment beds.





Surf report

WATER TEMP: **68.2**

WEDNESDAY — *POOR TO FAIR*
SURF: 1-2ft, Knee to thigh
Potential for lingering NW windswell. New, long period SSW swell creeps in through the day but will be particularly selective and won't move the needle for most of the region through the AM. Little more size gradually shows late in the day.

THURSDAY — *FAIR*
SURF: 2-3ft+, Thigh to stomach
Surf size trends up through the day off overlapping SSW swells. NW windswell winds down so shape will likely straighten out — structured breaks are the best option. Low-incoming tide and clean for the early AM.

Weather

Wednesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 68.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 66. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 76. Light west wind becoming southwest 5 to 10 mph.
Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 67.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2024/07/03	Wed	02:50 AM	-0.84	L
2024/07/03	Wed	09:26 AM	3.56	H
2024/07/03	Wed	1:33 PM	2.43	L
2024/07/03	Wed	8:02 PM	6.59	H
2024/07/04	Thu	03:34 AM	-1.10	L
2024/07/04	Thu	10:12 AM	3.69	H
2024/07/04	Thu	2:23 PM	2.49	L
2024/07/04	Thu	8:45 PM	6.64	H
2024/07/05	Fri	04:15 AM	-1.17	L
2024/07/05	Fri	10:53 AM	3.77	H
2024/07/05	Fri	3:08 PM	2.49	L
2024/07/05	Fri	9:26 PM	6.57	H
2024/07/06	Sat	04:54 AM	-1.09	L
2024/07/06	Sat	11:33 AM	3.81	H
2024/07/06	Sat	3:51 PM	2.49	L
2024/07/06	Sat	10:05 PM	6.38	H
2024/07/07	Sun	05:31 AM	-0.89	L
2024/07/07	Sun	12:11 PM	3.84	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: 7/1
5 9 32 39 55
Power#: 9
Jackpot: 138 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 6/28
28 31 33 42 66
Mega#: 24
Jackpot: 137 M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 6/29
8 10 12 21 25
Mega#: 16
Jackpot: 49 M

FANTASY 5
Draw Date: 7/1
11 15 16 20 38

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 7/1
EVENING: 9 3 7
Draw Date: 7/1
MIDDAY: 7 9 5

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 7/1
1st: 08 - Gorgeous George
2nd: 06 - Whirl Win
3rd: 12 - Lucky Charms
Race Time: 1:42.94

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Jack Neworth,
David Pisarra.

CIRCULATION
Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com

Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Scott Snowden
scott.snowden@smdp.com

Thomas Leffler
thomas@smdp.com

DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

MARKETING MANAGER
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

1640 5th Street, Suite 218
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

AWARD WINNER

Sustainable Quality Awards
WINNER

The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 8,200 on weekdays and 8,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

PUBLISHED BY NEWLON ROUGE, LLC
© 2023 Newlon Rouge, LLC, all rights reserved.

Santa Monica Daily Press

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be opened and posted for:

BID #4490 SANTA MONICA CCTV EXPANSION, REPLACEMENT AND MAINTENANCE.

Submission Deadline is July 18, 2024 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: OpenGov (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

Classifieds

Help Wanted

IT Professionals: GoodRx, Inc. in Santa Monica, CA, and various unanticipated worksites in US seeks: Sr. Software Engineer I (CA0624LC): develop, maintain mission critical services and APIs. Salary: $177,029 - $214,000/ yr. Software Engineer III (CA0624SH): design, maintain highly scalable, performant services. Travel/relocate in US. Salary: $177,029 - $229,000/ yr. Resumes to jobs@goodrx.com. Ref Job Code #

AR Engineer - iOS sought by Snap Inc. (Santa Monica, CA) *Hybrid work permitted - Snap practices a "default together" approach & expects team members to work in Santa Monica ofc at least 80% of time (avg 4 days/wk). Mobile app dvlpmt using Swift, Objective C, etc. Base salary: $177,029-$228,000/ yr. Eligible for discretionary performance-based bonus award. Eligible for equity in form of RSUs. Our Benefits: https://careers.snap.com/benefits. Email Resume: apply2snap@snap.com. Ref. Job Code #AREIOS-SM-0624-VP. EOE.

Affordable Local Plumber

Santa Monica Drain Co is your local plumbing company. We offer same-day service at an affordable price. Licensed. Bonded. Insured. 310-422-8915

Help Wanted

Software Engineer (Infrastructure & Tooling) sought by Snap Inc. (Santa Monica, CA) *Hybrid work permitted - Snap practices a "default together" approach & expects team members to work in Santa Monica ofc at least 80% of time (avg 4 days/wk). Dsg, dvlp & modify s/ware apps & sys. Base salary: $152,000 - $228,000/ yr. Eligible for discretionary performance-based bonus award. Eligible for equity in form of RSUs. Our Benefits: https://careers.snap.com/benefits. Email Resume: apply2snap@snap.com. Ref. Job Code #SWEIT-SM-0624-TS. EOE.

Quality Engineer (4) sought by Snap Inc. (Santa Monica, CA) Hybrid work permitted - Snap practices a "default together" approach & expects team members to work in Santa Monica ofc at least 80% of time (avg 4 days/wk). S/ware quality assurance eng. for entire feature/product teams. Base salary: $152,000-$228,000/yr. Eligible for discretionary performance-based bonus award. Eligible for equity in form of RSUs. Our Benefits: https://careers.snap.com/benefits. Email Resume: apply2snap@snap.com. Ref. Job Code #QE4-SM-0624-AL. EOE.

Help Wanted

AR Engineer - Android sought by Snap Inc. (Santa Monica, CA) *Hybrid work permitted - Snap practices a "default together" approach & expects team members to work in Santa Monica ofc at least 80% of time (avg 4 days/wk). Mobile app dvlpmt using Java, Kotlin, etc. Base salary: $152,000-$228,000/ yr. Eligible for discretionary performance-based bonus award. Eligible for equity in form of RSUs. Our Benefits: https://careers.snap.com/benefits. Email Resume: apply2snap@snap.com. Ref. Job Code #AREA-SM-0624-OT. EOE.

Machine Learning Engineer sought by Snap Inc. (Santa Monica, CA) *Hybrid work permitted - Snap practices a "default together" approach & expects team members to work in Santa Monica ofc at least 80% of time (avg 4 days/wk). Dvlp innovative ML tech & products for millions of Snapchatters. Base salary: $168,000-$252,000/ yr. Eligible for discretionary performance-based bonus award. Eligible for equity in form of RSUs. Our Benefits: https://careers.snap.com/benefits. Email Resume: apply2snap@snap.com. Ref. Job Code #MLE-SM-0624-VI. EOE.

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED HERE

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

Should gun store sales get special credit card tracking? States split on mandating or prohibiting it

DAVID A. LIEB
Associated Press

Beginning July 1, a California law will require credit card networks like Visa and Mastercard to provide banks with special retail codes that can be assigned to gun stores in order to track their sales.

But new laws will do the exact opposite in Georgia, Iowa, Tennessee and Wyoming by banning the use of specific gun shop codes.

The conflicting laws highlight what has quietly emerged as one of the nation's newest gun policy debates, dividing state capitols along familiar partisan lines.

Some Democratic lawmakers and gun-control activists hope the new retail tracking code will help financial institutions flag suspicious gun-related purchases for law enforcement agencies, potentially averting mass shootings and other crimes. Lawmakers in Colorado and New York have followed California's lead.

"The merchant category code is the first step in the banking system saying, 'Enough! We're putting our foot down,'" said Hudson Munoz, executive director of the nonprofit advocacy group Guns Down America. "'You cannot use our system to facilitate gun crimes.'"

But many Republican lawmakers and gun-rights advocates fear the retail code could lead to unwarranted suspicion of gun buyers who have done nothing wrong. Over the past 16 months, 17 states with GOP-led legislatures have passed measures prohibiting a firearms store code or limiting its use.

"We view this as a first step by gun-control supporters to restrict the lawful commerce in firearms," said Lawrence Keane, senior vice president of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, an industry group that backs laws blocking use of the tracking code.

The new laws add to the wide national divide on gun policy. This past week, U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy declared gun violence a public health crisis, citing a rising number of firearm-related deaths, including more than 48,000 in 2022. The move was quickly criticized by the National Rifle Association.

States have dug opposing trench lines on other gun policies. On July 4, for example, Republican-led Louisiana will become the 29th state to allow residents to carry concealed guns without a permit.

By contrast, Democratic-led New Mexico this year tightened laws for people who don't have concealed-carry permits, requiring a seven-day waiting period for gun purchases, which is more than double the three-day period for a federal background check.

States also have responded differently to recent mass shootings. In Maine, where an Army reservist killed 18 people and wounded 13 others, the Democratic-led Legislature passed a variety of new gun restrictions. Following school shootings in Iowa and Tennessee, the Republican-led legislatures there took steps that could allow more trained teachers to bring guns into classrooms.

The surge of legislation targeting firearm store category codes addresses a behind-the-scenes aspect of electronic financial transactions. The International Organization for Standardization, based in Geneva, sets thousands of voluntary standards for various fields, including category codes for all kinds of businesses, from bakeries to boat dealers to bookstores.

Those category lists are distributed by credit card networks to banks, which assign particular codes to businesses whose accounts they handle. Some credit card issuers use the category codes for customer reward points.

The codes can be used by financial institutions to help identify fraud, money laundering or unusual purchasing patterns that are reported as suspicious activities to the U.S. Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network.

Banks and other depository institutions filed more than 1.8 million confidential reports in 2022 flagging more than 5.1 million suspicious activities. About 4% of annual reports lead to follow-up by law enforcement and an even smaller percentage to prosecution, according to the Bank Policy Institute, a trade group representing large banks.

Stores that sell guns have previously been grouped with other retailers in merchant category codes. Some have been classified as sporting goods stores, others as miscellaneous and specialty retail shops.

At the urging of New York-based Amalgamated Bank, which worked with gun-control groups, the International Organization for Standardization adopted a new four-digit category code for gun and ammunition shops in 2022. Major credit card networks initially said they would implement it but backed off under pressure from conservative politicians and the gun industry.

Munoz, who helped lead the effort to establish the firearms store code, noted credit cards were used to buy weapons and ammunition for some of the nation's deadliest mass shootings.

The intent of a gun merchant code is to spot suspicious patterns, like a person with little history of gun purchases who suddenly spends large amounts at multiple gun stores in a short period. Once alerted by banks, authorities could investigate, potentially thwarting a mass shooting, Munoz said.

California's new law requires credit card networks to make the firearms code available to banks and other financial institutions by Monday. Those entities then have several months to determine which of their business clients should be categorized as gun stores and assign them new codes by May 1.

Visa, the nation's largest payment network, recently updated its merchant data manual to add the firearms code to comply with California's law.

Democratic-led legislatures in Colorado and New York this year also passed firearms code mandates aligned to kick in with

SEE **GUNS** PAGE 11

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Brock Tower

Dear Editor,

Brock Tower (Daily Press opinion 6/26, "I've Had It" by Charles Andrews) will probably never get built because of the daunting economics of high-rise construction, but fear-mongering has proven an effective political tool. The image you published is a rendering, not a photograph, yet Brock Tower is emblematic of what is happening to our city because Brock prefers bluster to effective policy-making.

Our residential neighborhoods are now dotted with "builder's remedy" projects, a direct result of Brock, Parra, and de la Torre having voted for a fatally flawed Housing Element — despite professional advice that it would not pass state muster and would result in significant penalties to our community. Rather than thinking through the best long-term policy (which is hard work!), they chose to pander to extreme no-growthers and roll the dice with Sacramento. They lost, and so, we all lost.

Impulsive bad decisions have been a hallmark of this unfortunate Council majority. Two years ago they pushed a 2am vote that could have destroyed rent control. At the most recent Council meeting, without meaningful public input, they summarily changed long-standing wall and hedge height rules, but only in renter neighborhoods... a change that our police have warned will make residents LESS safe. And that vote was taken at 3am, making sure that more reasoned voices could not be heard.

Fortunately, Council meetings are recorded on YouTube, and residents do watch, although the Brock Council does its best to operate out of sight. We watch, we understand, we learn.

Thanks for your four years of instructive service, Phil, Oscar, and Christine. You've taught us that candidates promising blue sky, but who have no real plan to make things better, can be disastrously inadequate for the difficult job of actually running our city. It's time for us to elect new Councilmembers more committed to policy than posturing.

Kevin McKeown, Retired former Mayor

VOTERS

FROM PAGE 2

wondered how the vast United States, home of 262 million eligible voters and the world's biggest economy, faces a rematch that few Americans wanted.

"How did our democratic process result in something that the majority of the population doesn't like?" Eisel, 48, said over a sandwich at the Maple Table restaurant.

THE UNITED STATES: 'THE COUNTRY IS STRUGGLING'

The last time Kathleen Barker, 64, was excited about a candidate, it was Ronald Reagan, who went on to serve two terms in the 1980s and exited office by referring to the country as a "shining city on a hill."

"He was a very real person, very respectful, family-oriented," she said while walking her dog near the river in Racine. "You could relate to him. He felt like just that average man."

Now, she says, the "nasty back-and-forth" between Biden and Trump — who each insist the other is unfit for office — suggest neither can be trusted to dig into the major problems facing the United States.

"People are poor. The country is struggling. And this is their focus?" she said.

Emmanuel McKinstry, a 58-year-old businessperson, voiced similar frustration. The economy, he said while waiting in line to hear Trump speak in Racine, is his top issue. The next morning, McKinstry said he'd still vote for Trump — with reservations.

"I'm tired of politicians working for themselves and not really getting down and asking people what we really want," McKinstry said. "We're putting you in office. What are you gonna do for us?"

The last presidential candidate to excite high school teacher Marcus T. West, 49, was Democrat Barack Obama, who went on to serve two terms.

"He got the importance of educators. He had good intentions," West said over breakfast at Mrs. Betty's Kitchen. "He's the last person I felt talked like me, talked to me, passed policies that I liked."

This year, he said of Biden and Trump, "they aren't looking out for us."

BRITAIN: 'NOT VERY OPTIMISTIC'

In Britain, the distrust is less personal. It's about scandal — think Johnson and "partygate" — and the cost-of-living crisis.

On May 22, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak had good news and a bombshell: Inflation was down to 2.3% for the first time in three years, and he was dissolving Parliament immediately, which started a clock that required an election on July 4.

But the visuals are what's remembered about that day. Rain soaked his suited shoulders as Sunak spoke where his predecessors had stood for 275 years, before the iconic black door of No. 10 Downing Street. No one sheltered him with an umbrella. Protesters nearly drowned out his words by playing "Things Can Only Get Better," a rival Labour campaign song used in the Tony Blair era.

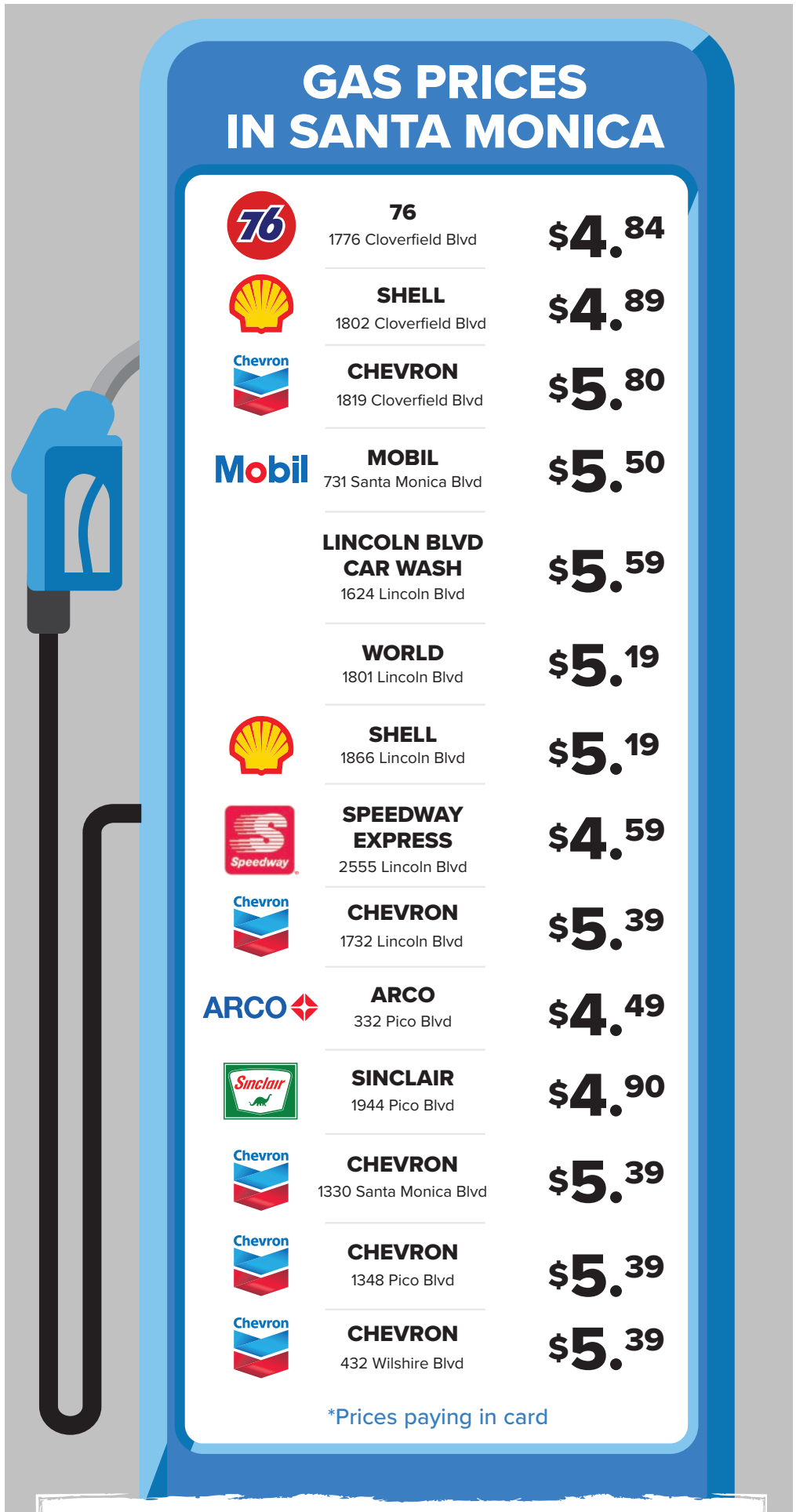
"Things can only get wetter," led the reports on several news sites.

That's what concerns Bassett, the manager at the Wat Tyler Pub, named for a leader of the Peasants' Revolt that started on that site. You're not supposed to talk about politics in British pubs, he says — the counterpart, perhaps, of the American reluctance to stir up trouble on the same topic at parties.

But Bassett looked around at the empty dining room at lunchtime. There were no customers to offend. So he let it fly.

The pub's energy bill last winter jumped from its usual 800 pounds a month (about $1,000) to 1,200 pounds (about $1,500). It has struggled since the Christmas season to bring in customers for a beer. He thinks the owners are likely to sell the place only four years after buying it.

"I'm not very optimistic." he said. Thinking of his family members in Canada, Bassett added: "If I could leave the country, I would."

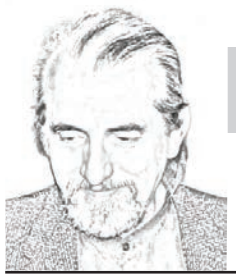


Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have fallen 2.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $4.71/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 26.5 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 18.2 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has risen 1.4 cents in the last week and stands at $3.77 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at $3.89/g while the most expensive was $6.15/g, a difference of $2.26/g. The lowest price in the state was $3.67/g while the highest was $6.79/g, a difference of $3.12/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 5.0 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $3.46/g today. The national average is down 6.0 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 5.4 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Santa Monica Daily Press



OPINION | CURIOUS CITY

Charles Andrews | Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Clouds... & We're Screwed



Charles Andrews

CLOUD: Charles Andrews was up in the air recently, taking in a "cloud experience.".

JUST BACK FROM NASHVILLE, ABQ

Sunday night through Sunday night, so I knew I would have to get up Monday morning with a cup of strong coffee to counter a weak will for work, and crank out this column, in just a few hours.

I had already decided the topic (but not the details, and that's where the devil lurks), some type of continuation from the previous column, where I showed an artist's rendering of the 24-story residential tower set to go skyward at 6th and Colorado, the column crowned by the headline, "I'VE HAD IT!" And the notion that if you extract yourself from the debates and quibbling about details and look at the big picture, you will be reminded that this is insane. Skyscrapers in Santa Monica? Who benefits from this? Who gets hurt? (– a very long list)

But then at the end of exhilarating encounters with music and master songwriters, and dear friends, in Nashville, and reconnecting with the cultural and geographical magic of "The Land of Enchantment" (state motto of NM), where I spent 30 years, and dear friends from decades ago to the present, I settled into my airplane seat for a quick trip home to Santa Monica... forgetting that sometimes, when you jet away from Albuquerque in the daylight, you cruise through the clouds and usually just above them, and it can be an enthralling sight.

THE SKY

A friend from New York, at the wedding reception, looked up and said, with a big smile, "I forgot how huge and wonderful the sky is here!" It really is. I remember being given a thin book while a student at UNM, possibly someone's master thesis, with the seductive title "The Sky Determines," which made a surprisingly credible attempt to explain everything in New Mexico's long history – by some aspect of the state of the sky. Where the pueblo tribes settled, and the Spanish, the gringos and others. Whether the rain provided for cattle country or farming, or mining. Or building and testing the first atomic bomb. Which political leaders emerged from various areas of this huge state. Why Albuquerque came to hold nearly half the state's population, but the Capitol went to Santa Fe. Where universities and "Indian schools" were built, and so many beautiful rural churches, constructed with adobe (mud and hay) bricks, giving NM architecture a unique and distinctive look. The Navajo Reservation covers 27,000 square miles (bigger than five other states combined) of NM, and extends deep into Arizona, and Utah.

So while I was not thinking of it, I was primed for the "cloud experience." I know, only little kids are supposed to be so fascinated with looking at clouds from an airplane window. But beauty is hard to resist. Few people tire of looking at a spectacular sunset or waterfall, or the massive gorgeous glaciers of Antarctica. Maybe we take the beauty of clouds for granted because they are always there, above us. But flying through them, close enough to touch, is different.

SEE **CURIOUS CITY** PAGE 11

CELEBRATE THE ARTS

with Santa Monica this 4th of July! We're kicking things off with **200 FREE** kids' goody bags, including an art kit, coloring sheet, and some Santa Monica-themed treats.

Stop by our Main Street Visitor Information Center, located at **2427 Main Street, open from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.** seven days a week, to grab your bag and get the creativity flowing.

Don't forget to return your completed masterpiece to be displayed in the Visitor Center storefront.

SANTA MONICA TRAVEL & TOURISM

www.santamonica.com seesantamonica



SMMUSD

FROM PAGE 1

suspension with meetings and counseling sessions determined to understand why a student would be using substances. Offenses resulting in meetings does not include selling controlled substances, which results in immediate suspension and mandated expulsion from a campus.

Subsequent offenses, traditionally a five-day suspension, would be replaced by a one-day suspension followed by counselor meetings regarding mental health and drug or alcohol dependency, as well as working on an individualized "action plan." Authorities would still be notified about both the first offense and subsequent offenses.

Brown noted that she has been speaking with district stakeholders for 18 months on policy revisions, with these revisions being called "student-centered." She added that in interviewing students who were suspended for alcohol and drugs, she saw that they would continue to use substances during the suspension while missing classroom time, a double-whammy she wishes to prevent.

"Instead of just suspending them for three days, we need to find out why the student is using drugs in the first place," Brown said. "Suspending them for three days off-campus like we were doing wasn't addressing the problem, it was addressing the symptoms that we were seeing. We need to address the problem so that the student doesn't continue to use drugs."

Brown and her team on the subject, including Director of Restorative Practices Rob Howard and Social-Emotional Learning Teacher Kimberly Marshall, wanted to work towards "more of a restorative community" in the district that will keep students in the classroom. This priority of equity applies to the "extremely high" suspension rates with student groups like Black, special needs, homeless and foster youth students; aligning with goals of increased academic achievement for these groups in the district Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP).

"When a student is caught in possession of drugs or alcohol, instead of it being a 'gotcha' moment, (we're) shifting it towards a 'we got you,' a caring moment where they can learn lessons, they can grow and they can mature," Howard said.

The team stressed that they were "in no way tolerating" drug and alcohol-related behaviors, but that a suspension-heavy climate was not the answer, something several board members agreed with, including Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein who said that it's best to keep students around when dealing with non-violent offenses.

"Asking a child to leave the building, leave, and think they'll be able to come back and participate in any way, it's not working," Board Vice President Jon Kean added.

While Kean agreed with pivoting away from heavy suspensions, he remained concerned that the revised system would give first-offense students "one free pass" to use.

"We want to get to the root of the problem, we want to help the students that seriously need help, but we also don't want to create a school district where everyone gets a free pass … I think we need to get away from this cycle of endless suspensions and keep kids in school, but I also believe that we need to live in a society where there are consequences to our actions," Kean said.

The board will return to discuss the matter further this month, with district Assistant Superintendent Dr. Mark Kelly hoping for an agreed-upon policy by the start of the upcoming school year. While Boardmember Maria Leon-Vasquez agreed that a policy shift is a "long time coming," she added that she wants to see more "buy-in" from stakeholders before taking any action.

Several of her constituents agreed, with Boardmember Laurie Lieberman saying the public may be surprised by the shift because of not knowing what "the other ways" of handling offenses are. Board President Jennifer Smith pointed to how teachers might respond to this change, wanting to make sure there are "enough" resources on every campus to deal with individualized meetings and counseling.

thomas@smdp.com

BEACH

FROM PAGE 1

visitors alike can feel comfortable relaxing in the sand and enjoying our awesome ocean views. A combination of the Directed Action Response Team (DaRT), Homeless Liaison Program (HLP) Team, Traffic, Public Service Officers, and Patrol Officers, in addition to the Downtown Services Unit have been deployed to assist in ensuring a safe holiday weekend."

Aklufi said SMPD always reminds visitors to remain aware of their surroundings— when they're in large crowds or an unfamiliar place, it's especially important.

"If you are heading down to our beach this weekend, please pack your patience (there will be traffic) along with your cooler (remembering to leave all alcoholic beverages at home)," she said.

All fireworks are illegal in Santa Monica as are several other items and SMPD is asking everyone to leave these things at home:

❌ Fireworks: Fireworks are illegal citywide (including those marked safe & sane). If you are found in possession of fireworks you will be cited or arrested.

❌ Alcohol: Alcohol consumption is not allowed on the beach.

❌ Gas-powered generators

❌ Amplified music or instruments: Keep it courteous for fellow beachgoers.

❌ Open flames.

❌ Firearms or other weapons

In addition, SMPD is asking pet owners to take care as the temperatures rise because animals are not allowed on the beach.

Unleashed dogs: are prohibited. Leashed dogs are allowed on the boardwalk/paved pedestrian path, but not the sand or in the water.

With summer heat, the pavement can get very hot, burning your dog's paws.

Leaving a pet in a hot car is dangerous and illegal. Owners who violate these rules will be cited or arrested, and the car may be forced open to remove the animal.

editor@smdp.com

ADVERTISE WITH US TODAY!
Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

DTSM

FROM PAGE 1

30 minutes, where the "Board will discuss amending the property-based assessment district management plan to extend or make permanent the downtown private security pilot program."

However, an unexpected presentation, lasting 48 minutes that was not listed on the agenda, threw a little confusion into proceedings.

This focused much more on the role of the SMPD in policing the Promenade and Downtown area and while it prompted considerable discussion among the board members and public input, it was never going to be an item that required a vote of any kind. Thomas told the Daily Press that it was "intended to inform the private security discussion," adding, "It went a little long."

During Shelley's presentation, which was somewhat condensed given the new time constraints, he explained how 93% of 5,400 arrests were people that did not originate from Santa Monica. "This reflects the transient nature of the City and how much is really committed by people who don't actually live here," Shelley said.

"As we all know, Santa Monica is more than just a city, it's an ideal, a brand and an icon. To uphold these ideals, we must be ready to adapt and adjust as the world changes around us," Shelley said, adding, "One key reason for the widespread use of security services is their unique ability to address issues that are not criminal in nature."

He explained that not having overnight security leads to a buildup of activity and camping at night, leaving extra work in the morning to clean up and reset for the day. "People know there is no overnight security, so it draws people to the area during the day where they wait in parks and on the beach," he said.

Shelley presented statistics showing the number and types of incidents the members of Legion have faced each month since their inaugural deployment on December 2, 2023. There didn't appear to be any kind of predictable pattern, but what he did share with the board was a number of instances of how the staff of Legion have actually managed to save lives.

In the six month period since Legion began operating, they've observed nearly 1,500 individual instances of drug use. As such, they've identified many who are suffering from an overdose and by acting quickly and effectively, together with calling emergency services, Legion has saved lives.

"In January, our officers observed an adult male who was in apparent medical distress, heavily intoxicated and visibly swollen. Emergency Services were contacted and he was transported to the hospital," Shelley said, citing just one example.

The board's discussion, while somewhat fragmented towards the end, seemed to still be very positive.

However, prior to Shelley's presentation and as Leyva's presentation was wrapping up, Board Member Luke Cain announced that he had to leave. Some time afterwards, Board Member Leo Pustilnikov also got up and left. Only he didn't actually utter a word. It wasn't until later when Andrew Thomas, CEO of DTSM, asked where Pustilnikov was and no one actually knew, it became clear that he had left the room without informing anyone.

The Daily Press reached out to Pustilnikov to inquire what his reason was, to which he responded by email, "I only showed up to make sure we had quorum [sic]. I asked Andrew [Thomas] if we could start earlier as I had a Beverly Hills council hearing to prepare for with my attorney."

Vice Chair Michele Aronson had also exited the meeting early and Board Member Lucian Tudor announced that he too had to leave. However, his departure was past the point in the evening's proceedings where a vote would've taken place. Moreover, with the already declared absenteeism of Bruce Fairty and Julia Ladd, together with Susan Cline, the quorum was lost following Pustilnikov's exodus. Consequently, the future of Legion was left undetermined until the next board meeting in July.

Speaking to the Daily Press regarding the troubling truancy of some board members, Thomas said, "Our DTSM, Inc. board members volunteer their time to serve their community. The attendance record of our Board members is very high. There are occasions when our members cannot attend a meeting or they must leave a meeting early."

"Fortunately, we just need a quorum to conduct business, so we have, almost without exception, been able to do our work even when a member or members miss a meeting. The June 27, 2024 meeting is certainly an outlier for us," Thomas said.

July's meeting, scheduled for July 25, will see new appointees joining the DTSM board. Joining a reelected Joshua Gilman from Walter N Marks, Inc, who will serve his third and final term representing Zone 1, will be the also reelected Bruce Fairity from Cypress Equity Investments serving the Lincoln Zone and the new face will be Zone 2 elected candidate Edna Galindo, from United El Segundo, inc.

And we still have the three appointments from the City Council coming on July 9. Peter Trinh, Ericka Lesley and Barry Snell are all City appointees. Snell has served three terms, so he cannot serve a fourth. Trinh and Lesley are, in essence, incumbents and have only served one term, however Lesley is running for a seat on council, but she can remain a member of DTSM until her election is successful, at which point she has to leave. But both of them can — and have —applied to be appointed once again for the city-appointed seats. The full list of all 11 applicants also vying for those seats can be found at smgov.net/departments/clerk/boards.aspx?id=53687092993. Applications closed on Tuesday, July 2 and the results will be announced on Friday, July 9.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

GET IT DAILY...

Celebrating Arts and Culture

Santa Monica's 4th of JULY PARADE 2024



Main Street 9:30 am

Back by popular demand...

Parade emcees at Ocean Park and Main Street: Evan Edwards and Rachel Lozano

SANTA MONICA PIER · RAND CORPORATION · SANTA MONICA TRAVEL & TOURISM · SMPOA · City of Santa Monica · Shutters Hotel on the Beach Santa Monica, California · UCLA Health · Saint John's Health Center · Providence · KAISER PERMANENTE · SANTA MONICA FIREFIGHTERS · SANTA MONICA COLLEGE · Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows · CASA DEL MAR Hotel by the Sea Santa Monica · SANTA MONICA place by Macerich · REGENT · Southern California Recycle & Save Our World! Disposal & Recycling · PACIFIC PARK Santa Monica Pier · THE ALBRIGHT · Santa Monica Sister City Association · ASHLAND HILL Santa Monica · bxp · TheCondoExperts MaserCondoSales · Senator Ben Allen · RICK CHAVEZ ZBUR Assemblymember, 51st District · SMMCTA CTA nea · SMMUSD Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District · Santa Monica Education Foundation · Santa Monica-Malibu Council PTA everychild.onevoice. · opa

For information on the *4th of July Parade*: www.santamonicaparade.com

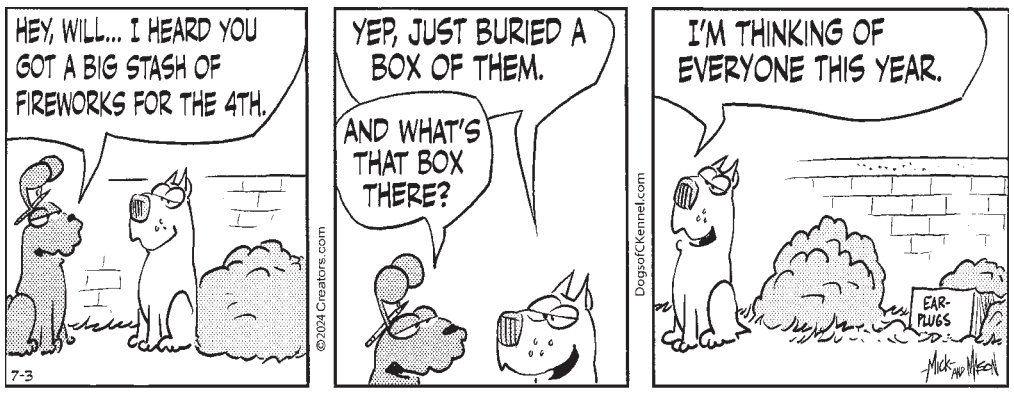
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



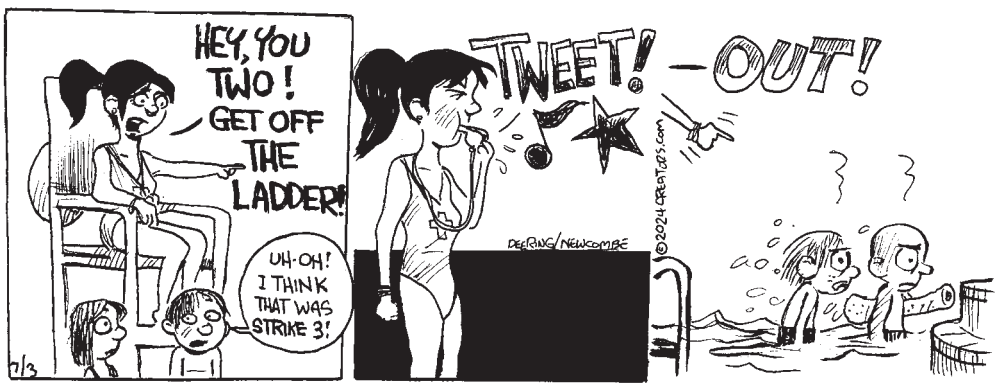
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



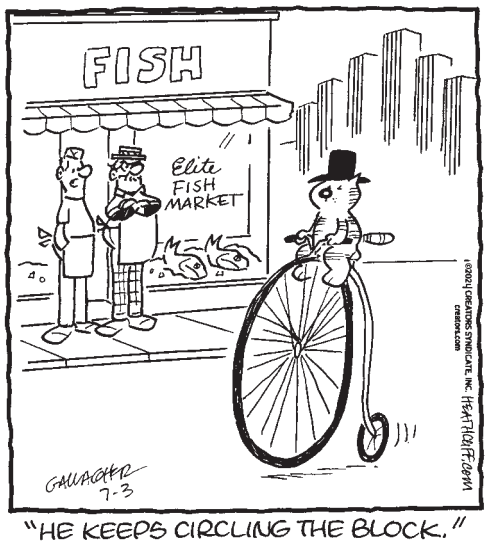
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE KEEPS CIRCLING THE BLOCK."

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 15 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 6260

Looking for a bargain

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

Aisles	Cardigans	Gates	Sheets
Arts	Cash	Hats	Skis
Atlas	Chair	Inexpensive	Suits
Axes	Chemist	Junk	Teapot
Bags	Credit	Lounge	Tools
Basket	Crowded	Macrame	Toys
Bike	Cups	Nightclub	Tyres
Boutique	DVDs	Plaza	Variety
Burner	Earrings	Popular	Vases
Busy	Electrical	Quilt	
Cage	Flute	Radios	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

A life less complicated

Covering the city by the bay since 2001.
To advertise, email cindy@smdp.com or call 310.458.7737
smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 3)

You'll coast in an area that used to be a lot of work for you. An improvement you desire will happen so fully that at the end of this year, you won't even remember there was a time when it wasn't your life. More highlights: Your friend group will double. You'll travel for work, play and love. And you'll get to make your own rules in an arena and set a trend while you're at it! Virgo and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 14, 21, 3 and 18.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Many people become better listeners when they believe there's something good in it for them. Even though it might seem tedious to have to imply there's a reward for listening well, it could also be in your best interest.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Success doesn't make a person, and failure doesn't break a person, but both certainly impact the mood. Instead of thinking in terms of success or failure, think in terms of tenacity. It's what will make the biggest difference.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You want change, so make it easy on yourself. Focus on adjustments to the bits that seem accessible and amenable to tinkering. Trying to alter the core of things will only make the process cumbersome. Go lightly and think small to create momentum.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Because the perfect response can sometimes come to you much later than the ideal moment to use it, you appreciate days like today when witty words show up early and linger in the wings of your mind, ready to activate on cue.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your smile holds irresistible charisma, and you'll use it more than you realize because you find much to be happy about, amused by and enamored with.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's one thing to enjoy and quite another to be a fan. The latter version is curious, investigative and active in appreciating the finer points. Go on marveling. You'll soon become what you admire.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're feeling so confident that you will proceed without explanation. Indeed, you don't need to explain yourself because your action and effectiveness will say it all in the form of a concrete result.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You may have had an expectation of how things would go, but you either forgot it, changed it or dropped it and everything is better this way. Now you'll be open to the fullness of what's there, and perhaps even delighted by it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You don't have to compete to win because all the winning happens as you work, serve and assist others. You'll be so happy you're able to make a difference in people's experience. Goodwill in any direction benefits you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You will give help without really knowing who's on your team, and it really doesn't matter because the teams are an illusion. When you pull back far enough, the lines disappear and it's all one big team.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Common interests and shared goals will be part of the camaraderie. Since feelings have no inherent meaning beyond what we assign to them, on some level it makes no sense to judge them as bad or good. On the other hand, they are reactions and information to process and move through, which you most definitely will today.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). In the movies, a feisty meet-cute can be the start of an interesting relationship. In real life, people who clash in the first few minutes of knowing one another seldom get along later. You'll appreciate the early stages of a relationship, for better or worse.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

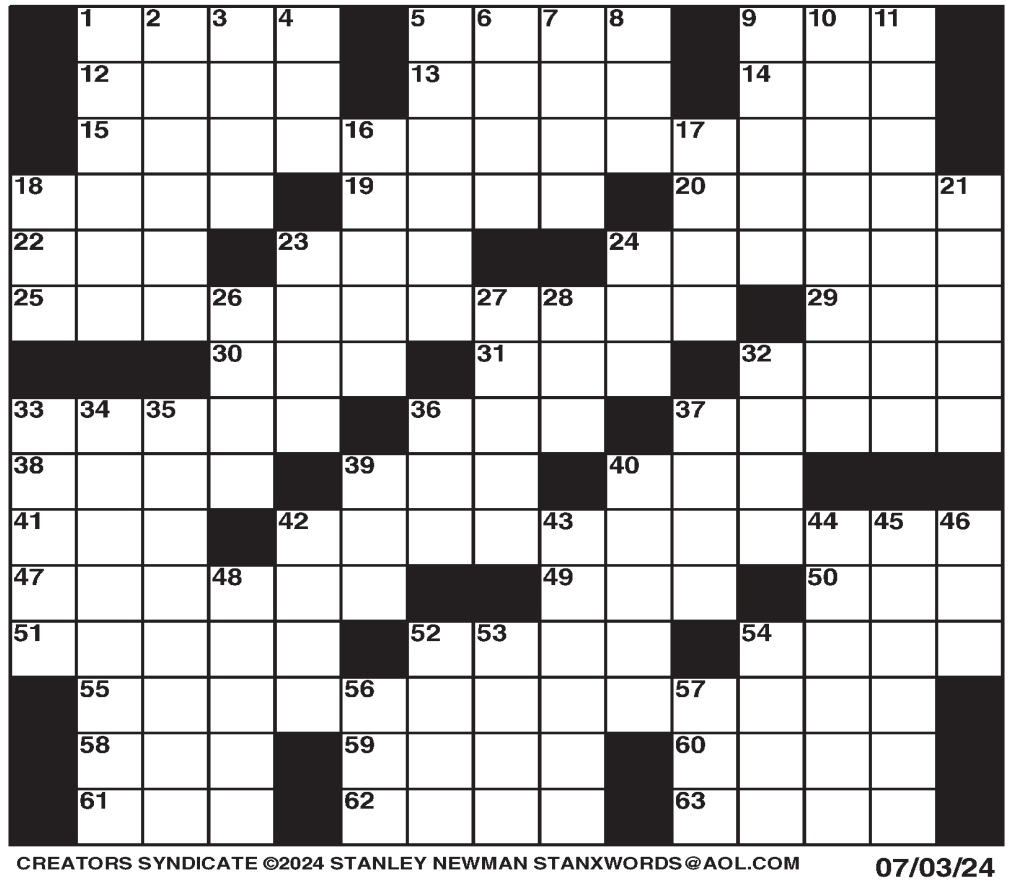
EASY DOES IT by Steve Faiella
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Reach by telephone
5 Genuine
9 Sgt.'s subordinate
12 __ vera (medicinal plant)
13 She, in Paris
14 Aussie jumping beast
15 Easy, from the nautical world
18 Song superstar Celine
19 Feels regrets about
20 Bottomless pit
22 Shoo-__ (sure winners)
23 Barbie's boyfriend
24 Track-race starter's device
25 "That was easy!"
29 __ minute now (very soon)
30 Outdated
31 Have possession of
32 Solemn ceremony
33 Zac of *High School Musical*
36 __ in a million (rare)
37 Draw with crayons
38 Told a fib
39 Arabian Nights' __ Baba
40 Beret or fedora
41 Large coffee maker
42 "That was easy!"
47 More profound
49 Wrath
50 Clever person
51 Raring to go
52 Beer barrels
54 Flying mammals
55 Something easy, from the pedestrian world
58 Home security co.
59 Gave temporarily
60 *M*A*S*H* star
61 "Certainly!"
62 Wife of Jacob
63 Give a quiz to

DOWN

1 Gambling establishment
2 Very nearly
3 Lake bird
4 Zodiac feline
5 Placed back up, as a portrait
6 Otherwise
7 "That's too bad"
8 Luau necklace
9 Baby beds
10 "Equine" hair behind the head
11 Accesses with a password
16 Current fashion
17 French milk
18 Annoying noise
21 More devious
23 Pottery oven
24 Frat jewelry
26 Parka part
27 Gin and __ cocktail
28 Have debts
32 Campus marching grp.
33 Avoid artfully
34 "Ask me whatever you like"
35 Deserter of a cause
36 Hispanic cheer
37 Casual eatery
39 Televise
40 Steed or stallion
42 Fringe benefit, for short
43 Half of a quarter
44 Oscars and Grammys
45 Break-off-able chocolate brand
46 UFO passengers
48 Hits with hailstones
52 Place for a pants patch
53 Sicilian volcano
54 Hay bundle
56 __-at-ease (nervous)
57 Bit of butter



CREATORS SYNDICATE ©2024 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM

07/03/24

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

GUNS

FROM PAGE 4

California's next May.

"If there was someone suspiciously purchasing a large number of firearms, right now it would be very difficult to tell," said California state Assemblymember Phil Ting, a Democrat who sponsored the new law. "You couldn't tell if they were soccer balls or golf balls or basketballs."

Even with a firearms store code, it won't be possible to know whether a particular sale is for a rifle, storage safe or some other product such as hunting apparel.

The state laws prohibiting gun store codes have varying effective dates but typically allow state attorneys general to seek court injunctions against financial institutions using the codes, with potential fines reaching thousands of dollars.

The merchant code could lead more people to buy guns with cash instead of credit in order to protect their privacy, said Dan Eldridge, owner of Maxon Shooter's Supplies in suburban Chicago. Though his business has yet to be recategorized, Eldridge said he already has placed an ATM in his store.

"Viewed most benignly, this code is an effort to stigmatize gun owners," Eldridge said. "But a more worrisome concern is that this is another private sector end run around the prohibition against the federal government creating a gun registry."

Iowa state Sen. Jason Schultz, a Republican sponsor of legislation banning the firearms code, said he feared federal agents could gain access to data about gun store purchases from financial institutions, then use that as justification to raid gun owners' homes and infringe on their Second Amendment rights.

"States are going to have to make a choice," he said, "whether they want to follow California or whether they'd like to support the original intent of the U.S. Constitution."

CURIOUS CITY

FROM PAGE 6

LOST THE MOOD TO COMPLAIN

So as a final faerie touch, along with being primed by the rest of being wrapped in the spell of New Mexico, those heavenly billows pushed me right out of being angry about the rape of Santa Monica. I feel the same way, but not so inclined at this moment to rail against it. Again. Still. It's not fun to be angry with something so bad and so hard to fix, you know. Yes, you do know. But fighting for what's right has never been fun, just absolutely necessary. There's chance if you keep hope alive, no matter what the odds or obstacles. No chance at all if you give up.

We expected, and got, temperatures in the 90s, and high humidity in Nashville. But oddly enough, as we waited for entrance to the Grand Ole Opry, the sauna turned very quickly to monsoon-force rain, driving everyone farther and farther back for cover. It was ferocious. Then in Albuquerque, after the outdoor wedding ceremony, we moved to a big barn (a very nice barn) for the reception, and the rains came again, so hard that people at the airport were talking about it the next day.

"We love to get rain here in the desert," one person remarked, "but not a year's worth in a few hours." After the reception we rushed over to a downtown club to hear a singer named Hillary, and she was really good, but it was a bit distracting to see the conveyor belt of young men with buckets and mops trying to stay ahead of the deluge that was pouring into the second story venue from its outdoor terrace.

WEATHER REPORT

Am I overdoing the weather report of my trip? Maybe. But it did affect me, and take me out of my urban despair. No matter where we are, we do live in nature, and sometimes nature forcefully reminds us of that. It reminds us the world is bigger than 8.4 square miles. And 24 stories.

I had another "moment" when I turned on the news Monday morning to find out the Supremely Corrupted Court sold democracy down the river. At the very least, Thomas and Alito should be removed, and probably Chief "Justice" Roberts too, for saying, this is all OK and normal. With lifetime appointments and no code of ethics, and the wannabe dictator who appointed the far right majority now running for the Oval Office again, it seems nearly impossible to change things. We're screwed.

With a state government in Sacramento hell bent on passing laws to take away cities' rights to determine their futures, with so many new laws giving developers carte blanche to build away at a time when CA is losing population and has too many vacancies already, we're screwed.

So it might seem irrelevant who we elect to our City Council this November. But it isn't. You now have three Council members who have come down firmly on the side of more and more development "needed" in Santa Monica – Jesse Zwick, Caroline Torosis, Gleam Davis. And you have all their power brokers bowing to developers – SM "Forward," SMRR, SM "Democratic" Club, and "The Community for Excellence in Public Schools" – all endorsing our worst nightmare, four pro pro rah rah mo' mo' taller bigger development candidates: Dan Hall, Natalya Zernitskaya, Barry Snell, Ellis Raskin. If even one or two of them win Council seats, we're screwed. And right now, other than our incumbents – Phil Brock, Oscar de la Torre and Christine Parra – we have no candidates running against them. No PAC money, no organization. WTHeck. Screwed.

But – I won't go preaching here, I will just say – this remarkable city is very much worth fighting for. If Ukraine freedom fighters can hold off the Russians who want to destroy them, can't we David the Goliath who wants to destroy precious SM with overdevelopment? Yes, we can. But we have to start something different and powerful – yesterday. But yes, we can.

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



WEDNESDAY | JULY 3

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS NEWCOMERS MEETING

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

LOBBY LOUNGE LIVE- PIANO NIGHT

Guests are invited to immerse themselves in the enchanting ambiance of the Lobby Lounge at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows, 101 Wilshire Blvd., as they enjoy handcrafted cocktails, delectable bites and the unparalleled talent of master pianist Jason Pelsey. As a special treat, six lucky attendees will have the opportunity to join Pelsey at the piano for an unforgettable musical experience (first come, first serve). Begins at 7 p.m.

THURSDAY | JULY 4

4TH OF JULY PARADE

Get ready to unleash your creativity as the 2024 Santa Monica 4th of July Parade celebrates the arts. Join the Ocean Park Association as they showcase the vibrant artistic spirit of the Santa Monica community. Parade kicks off promptly at 9:30 a.m. at Pico and Main Street. The entire parade route and some streets leading to it will be closed to vehicle traffic all morning long from 6 a.m. to 12 p.m. Public parking can be found at lots of Neilson to the west.

MARINA DEL REY FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS

Experience the magnificent Marina del Rey Fourth of July Fireworks show from various vantage points, including the Marina, Venice Beach Pier, Playa Vista and Dockweiler Beach, beginning at 9 p.m. For a truly immersive experience, head to Burton Chace Park at 13650 Mindanao Way or Fisherman's Village at 13755 Fiji Way where the fireworks will be synchronized with music. For more information, visit marinadelrey.lacounty.gov.

INDEPENDENCE DAY HOURS AT SWIM CENTER

The Santa Monica Swim Center, 2225 16th St., will be open Independence Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for lap swim and recreational swimming. No same-day call-in reservations for lap swim that day. For more information, visit: https://www.santamonicaswimcenter.org/swim-center-special-events.

LA BELLE VIE APÉRO DE LOULOU

The weekly French hipster rendezvous to celebrate "La Belle Vie" at LouLou Santa Monica, 395 Santa Monica Pl #300, begins at 6 p.m. Programming includes live performance by Chloe Perrier & The Heart Jazz Band, DJs, Apero menu, "Plat du Jour," menu a la carte and carefully selected French wines. For more information, contact Claire at asst@splashpragency.com or 323-877-8102.

SUNDOWN SANTA MONICA

Come join Mon Ami, 1541 Ocean Ave. Suite #150, for an evening filled with fun, food and music at Sundown Santa Monica. Begins at 6:05 p.m. with Sarime, an international Italian DJ launching her new mix to kick off the 4th of July weekend. Other performances include Dominican raised artist IRISOUL, Leisan, Miss Javi, Henry Pope and Marques Wyatt. General admission $50, entry with shuttle pick up access and food bar $100. To purchase, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sundown-santa-monica-on-4th-of-july-tickets-927021816207.

FRIDAY | JULY 5

FIRST FRIDAY FOOD TRUCK FEST

Abbot Kinney Boulevard's First Friday Food Truck Fest is a fun and festive night in Venice, beginning at 5 p.m. at 1525 Abbot Kinney Blvd, corner of Palms Blvd. Chances are you will find whatever food you are craving, along with special merchant events.

INK & PAINT

Celebrate 4th of July weekend with a fabulous evening of theatre, a lovely post-show wine-and-nibbles reception with the cast of "Ink & Paint" and support for the Playhouse Benefit Campaign. Inspired by real events, "Ink & Paint" follows five women artists at Walt Disney Studios in the 1930s and beyond, telling the true story of the company's first all-women story unit. Begins at 7:30 p.m. at Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St. Tickets $25, includes post-show reception with the cast. For more information, visit: https://www.santamonicaplayhouse.com/ink-and-paint.html.

DRUNK THEATRE

A comedian takes five shots of whiskey in a row and tries to perform an improvised play with five sober comedians, what could go wrong? Drunk Theatre is the entirely improvised, unpredictable and crazy comedy show that'll kick your weekend into overdrive. Cast includes Sahil Desai, Ittai Geiger, Cassie Grilley, Rodd Naomi and Oleg Trofimov. Check-in opens at 8 p.m. at Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St., show begins at 9 p.m. General admission $20, VIP seating $35. To purchase, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/drunk-theatre-la-wildest-improv-comedy-show-tickets-927012799237

SATURDAY | JULY 6

SUMMER READING PROGRAM- SUMMER WATER SAFETY

Longfellow the Whale and staff from Santa Monica Swim Center share tips on how to stay safe around the water this summer, beginning at 10:30 a.m. in The Annex at the Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. Limited space; free tickets available 30 minutes before program. For families.

SOUNDWAVES NEW MUSIC CONCERT

After eight years and almost one hundred shows, the Soundwaves New Music series at the Santa Monica Public Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., concludes with a concert by the Present Quartet beginning at 3:30 p.m. in the Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium. Series founder and bassist Jeff Schwartz organized the Present Quartet in 2018 with frequent collaborators. Call 310-458-8600 to request special accommodations.

Building a Cleaner Future for Santa Monica

As the climate crisis worsens, the urgency to reduce emissions and transition to clean energy solutions increases. Santa Monica has partnered with QuitCarbon to provide a free service that helps homeowners convert to climate-friendly, electric systems for heating and cooking.

QuitCarbon's free, expert guidance makes it simple and affordable to get fossil fuels out of our homes. QuitCarbon has helped thousands of homeowners with planning, installation, and rebates on upgrades like heat pumps, mini-splits, induction cooking, and EV chargers. QuitCarbon is the only ENERGY STAR® partner providing free assistance with clean energy upgrades.

What's at Stake

This initiative could have a huge impact. Gas-powered water heaters, furnaces, and other appliances can be replaced with electric counterparts, reducing Santa Monica residents' fossil fuel pollution. Consider the following:

- It is possible to reduce your emissions from heating your home by up to 93% by replacing a gas furnace with an air-source heat pump.
- Using a heat pump water heater instead of a natural gas water heater can reduce a home's total emissions by 49%.
- Heat pumps are 2-4 times more efficient than gas furnaces and their efficiency continues improving with technology advancements.[1]

The City's partnership is also timely, since statewide regulations are phasing out gas appliances. California's Air Resources Board voted to ban the sale of new gas furnaces and water heaters beginning in 2030.The Southern California Air Quality Management District is developing standards for zero emission equipment, which would phase out gas appliances installed in new buildings beginning as early as 2026 and would require zero NOx appliances in existing buildings when an appliance is replaced beginning in 2029 or later depending on the equipment type. (These policies are not yet finalized.) . Santa Monica homeowners can easily and cost-effectively prepare for this transition by working with QuitCarbon now.

[1] Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE)

"Making clean energy home upgrades is complicated and confusing. That's why we provide simple, money-saving guidance at every step of the way, at no cost to the homeowner." said Cooper Marcus, QuitCarbon's Chief Quitter and CEO.

Marcus is also quick to point out that "quitting" is about far more than slashing emissions; it's a matter of safety and comfort. "Electric-powered upgrades improve indoor air quality, comfort, and safety compared to gas appliances," he said. "Home gas appliances create more NOx pollution than our cars and power plants – and gas stoves produce more cancer-causing benzene than cigarette smoke!"

Engaging the Community

As part of the partnership, QuitCarbon will conduct outreach campaigns to educate Santa Monica homeowners about home electrification and enroll them in QuitCarbon's concierge service.

Homeowners are guided through each step of the process by QuitCarbon's unbiased energy advisors, who develop customized upgrade plans, connect them with vetted local contractors, and assist with rebate applications and bid reviews.

During the campaign, QuitCarbon and the City will track data to better understand common objections and barriers to electrification. This will inform future policies and efforts to make residential electrification equitable and accessible throughout Santa Monica.

Interested homeowners can learn more about the process and incentives for making the switch to clean energy in an upcoming webinar organized by the City of Santa Monica and QuitCarbon.

Free registration is here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-practical-guide-to-electrification-in-santa-monica-tickets-914742528527

Sparking Change Together

Our community can – and must – take the lead on climate action. The City of Santa Monica's latest initiative, in partnership with QuitCarbon, embodies this spirit of change. By partnering to put clean-energy homes within reach, we're empowering Santa Monicans to build a healthier and more sustainable future.

For more information, visit www.QuitCarbon.com and https://www.santamonica.gov/process-explainers/how-to-electrify-your-home.

> "Making clean energy home upgrades is complicated and confusing. That's why we provide simple, money-saving guidance at every step of the way, at no cost to the homeowner."

Don't upgrade your home's water heater, furnace, or stove without free money-saving guidance from QuitCarbon!

Before you buy a heat pump, mini split, water heater, induction stove, panel upgrade, EV charger, battery, or solar...

Get free money-saving guidance

☑ Planning ☑ Rebates ☑ Contractors

Save **thousands of dollars** with federal and state rebates!

☑ Santa Monica is Quitting Carbon



Annika, Ocean Park

"It's complicated to get your home off fossil fuels. QuitCarbon made it way easier overall."

★★★★★



Steven, Pico

"Great idea and great service to homeowners facing a complex array of options and rebates."

★★★★★

QuitCarbon is the only ENERGY STAR® partner providing free assistance with clean energy upgrades.

ENERGY STAR PARTNER

Save time and money upgrading your home to **clean energy.**

Scan here or visit QuitCarbon.com/SMDP

QuitCarbon

415-446-1620