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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 166 | TUESDAY 7/9/24 | smdp.com

Transit system focuses on Brighter future with bevy of proposed changes



Photo by Thomas Leffler

BBB: The Big Blue Bus Brighter Blue five-year transit plan looks to expand weekday and weekend service for many of its bus lines.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Los Angeles transit is in a state of flux, with regional projects and global-scale events necessitating an updated outlook from Santa Monica's transit system.

Tuesday evening, the Santa Monica City Council will likely approve the proposed Brighter Blue five-year service plan for Big Blue Bus (BBB), the result of a comprehensive operational analysis of its system by BBB officials.

The first review of the program since 2015, BBB's plan looks to restore bus service to pre-pandemic levels along with altering routes to meet the needs of riders both now and into the future.

Alterations to several key routes, such as Routes 1, 2, 3, 7 and Rapid 12, would operate every 10 minutes or better on weekdays under the Brighter Blue plan, and every 15 minutes or better on weekends. This would increase the percentage of customers with 10-minute or better service on weekdays from 40% to 70%.

City of Santa Monica Director of Transit Services Anuj Gupta said this planning effort has been engaged by the BBB for a "better part of two years," taking into account more than 1,000 community responses, as well as outside forces planned like the opening of the LAX/Metro Transit Center and the Metro Rail D Line extension to the Westside.

"It takes a lot of work, it's been taking a lot of time, but that's because it's a really major and exciting effort," Gupta said. "We are really at an inflection point, we

SEE **BBB** PAGE 6

School board runs into confusion in Measure R process, elementary music teacher numbers

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

A proposed plan not to fill a retirement in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) elementary school music teacher ranks recently put the district's Board of Education at a pause.

The board passed its Measure R 2024-25 annual plan at its June 25 meeting, but not without much discussion of what they were actually passing when it came to one portion of the document. Measure R, approved by voters in Santa Monica and Malibu in 2008, serves as a permanent parcel tax to fund school programs that cannot be funded through state educational funding alone, such as art and music

SEE **TEACHERS** PAGE 7

Tuesday's Council meeting could result in a board or a commission post for 32 lucky appointees

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

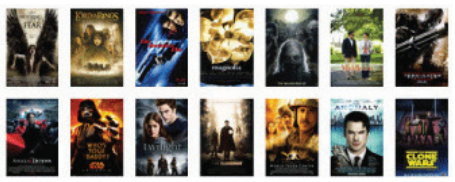
As City Council meetings regularly seem to sail into the early hours of the morning more often than not recently, some items will invariably get pulled. One noticeable item that was on the agenda for the last meeting and suffered from

SEE **COUNCIL** PAGE 7

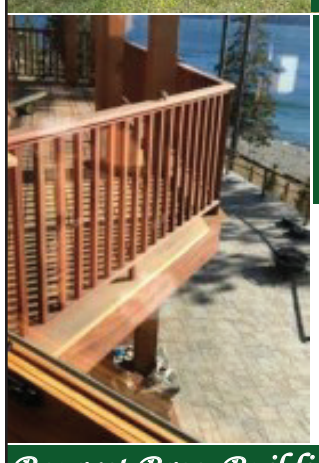
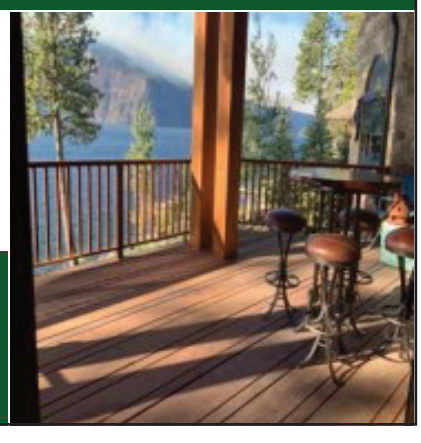


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Persistent heat wave in the US shatters new records, causes deaths in the West and grips the East

CHRISTOPHER WEBER AND MARGERY A. BECK
Associated Press

A long-running heat wave that has already shattered previous records across the U.S. persisted on Sunday, baking parts of the West with dangerous temperatures that caused the death of a motorcyclist in Death Valley and held the East in its hot and humid grip.

An excessive heat warning — the National Weather Service's highest alert — was in effect for about 36 million people, or about 10% of the population, said NWS meteorologist Bryan Jackson. Dozens of locations in the West and Pacific Northwest tied or broke previous heat records.

Many areas in Northern California surpassed 110 degrees (43.3 C), with the city of Redding topping out at a record 119 (48.3 C). Phoenix set a new daily record Sunday for the warmest low temperature: it never got below 92 F (33.3 C).

> While this is a very exciting time to experience potential world record setting temperatures in Death Valley, we encourage visitors to choose their activities carefully, avoiding prolonged periods of time outside of an air-conditioned vehicle or building when temperatures are this high
>
> - Mike Reynolds, Park Superintendent

A high temperature of 128 F (53.3 C) was recorded Saturday and Sunday at Death Valley National Park in eastern California, where a visitor died Saturday from heat exposure and another person was hospitalized, officials said.

The two visitors were part of a group of six motorcyclists riding through the Badwater Basin area amid scorching weather, the park said in a statement.

The person who died was not identified. The other motorcyclist was transported to a Las Vegas hospital for "severe heat illness," the statement said. Due to the high temperatures, emergency medical helicopters were unable to respond, as the aircraft cannot generally fly safely over 120 F (48.8 C), officials said.

The other four members of the party were treated at the scene.

"While this is a very exciting time to experience potential world record setting temperatures in Death Valley, we encourage visitors to choose their activities carefully, avoiding prolonged periods of time outside of an air-conditioned vehicle or building when temperatures are this high," said park Superintendent Mike Reynolds.

Officials warned that heat illness and injury are cumulative and can build over the course of a day or days.

"Besides not being able to cool down while riding due to high ambient air temperatures, experiencing Death Valley by motorcycle when it is this hot is further challenged by the necessary heavy safety gear worn to reduce injuries during an accident," the park statement said.

The soaring temperatures didn't faze Chris Kinsel, a Death Valley visitor who said it was "like Christmas day for me" to be there on a record-breaking day. Kinsel said he and his wife typically come to the park during the winter, when it's still plenty warm — but that's nothing compared with being at one of the hottest places on Earth in July.

"Death Valley during the summer has always been a bucket list thing for me. For most of my life, I've wanted to come out here in summertime," said Kinsel, who was visiting Death Valley's Badwater Basin area from Las Vegas.

Kinsel said he planned to go to the park's visitor center to have his photo taken next to the digital sign displaying the current temperature.

Across the desert in Nevada, Natasha Ivory took four of her eight children to a water park in Mount Charleston, outside Las Vegas, which on Sunday set a record high of 120 F (48.8 C).

"They're having a ball," Ivory told Fox5 Vegas said. "I'm going to get wet too. It's too hot not to."

Jill Workman Anderson also was at Mount Charleston, taking her dog for a short hike and enjoying the view.

"We can look out and see the desert," she said. "It was also 30 degrees cooler than northwest Las Vegas, where we live."

Triple-digit temperatures were common across Oregon, where several records were toppled — including in Salem, where on Sunday it hit 103 F (39.4 C), topping the 99 F (37.2 C) mark set in 1960. On the more-humid East Coast, temperatures above 100 degrees were widespread, though no excessive heat advisories were in effect for Sunday.

"Drink plenty of fluids, stay in an air-conditioned room, stay out of the sun, and check up on relatives and neighbors," read a weather service advisory for the Baltimore area. "Young children and pets should never be left unattended in vehicles under any circumstances."

HEAT RECORDS SHATTERED ACROSS THE SOUTHWEST

Rare heat advisories were extended even into higher elevations including around Lake Tahoe, on the border of California and Nevada, with the weather service in Reno, Nevada, warning of "major heat risk impacts, even in the mountains."

"How hot are we talking? Well, high temperatures across (western Nevada and

SEE **HEAT** PAGE 11

COMMUNITY NEWS

Citywide

Civil Rights Department Obtains $15 Million Settlement Agreement with Snapchat Over Alleged Sex-Based Employment Discrimination

The California Civil Rights Department (CRD) has announced obtaining a $15 million settlement agreement with Snap Inc. — known for the Snapchat social media platform — over alleged discrimination, harassment, and retaliation against women at the company. As part of the agreement, which is subject to court approval, Snap Inc. has committed to taking action to help ensure the implementation of fair employment practices and provide monetary relief to women who were employees at the company in California between 2014 and 2024.

"In California, we're proud of the work of our state's innovators who are a driving force of our nation's economy," said CRD Director Kevin Kish. "We're also proud of the strength of our state's civil rights laws, which help ensure every worker is protected against discrimination and has an opportunity to thrive. This settlement with Snapchat demonstrates a shared commitment to a California where all workers have a fair chance at the American Dream. Women are entitled to equality in every job, in every workplace, and in every industry."

The settlement announced today resolves a more than three-year investigation into Snap Inc. over claims of employment discrimination, equal pay violations, and sexual harassment and retaliation. Founded in 2011, Snap Inc., which is based in Santa Monica, California, underwent a period of rapid growth, increasing its employee count from 250 in 2015 to over 5,000 in 2022. CRD alleged that despite its growth, Snap Inc. failed to put into place measures to ensure that women were paid or promoted equally. Instead, women encountered a glass ceiling and were told to wait their turn, were actively discouraged from applying for promotions, or lost promotion opportunities to less qualified male colleagues. CRD also alleged that women suffered unwelcome sexual advances and other harassing conduct. When women spoke up, they allegedly faced retaliation, including in the form of the denial of professional opportunities, negative performance reviews, and termination.

The announcement is in addition to Snap Inc.'s ongoing commitment to promoting and strengthening inclusivity in its hiring and retention policies. If approved by the court, the settlement will require Snap Inc. to:

Pay $15 million to cover direct relief to workers and litigation costs. Of the total, approximately $14.5 million is dedicated to compensating workers.

Retain an independent consultant to evaluate and make recommendations regarding Snap Inc.'s compensation and promotion policies and training materials.

Ensure that future contracts with staffing agencies require compliance with state protections against workplace discrimination and harassment.

Recognize its obligation to not discriminate against or harass employees based on sex, as well as comply with all federal and state antidiscrimination laws.

Contract with a third-party monitor to audit Snap Inc.'s sexual harassment, retaliation, and discrimination compliance and make appropriate recommendations.

Ensure staff complete training on the prevention of discrimination, retaliation, and sexual harassment in the workplace.

Provide information to all employees regarding their right to complain of any harassment or discrimination without fear of retaliation.

Women who worked as employees for Snap Inc. in California between 2014 and 2024 may be eligible to receive compensation. At this time, no action is needed by individuals covered under the proposed agreement and additional information will be posted on CRD's website upon approval by the court. If the court approves the settlement, covered workers will receive further information and updates from a settlement administrator.

If you or someone you know has been the victim of employment discrimination or harassment, CRD may be able to assist you through its complaint process. General information about CRD's complaint process and how to file a complaint is available here. Additional information regarding protections against discrimination and harassment in the workplace is available here.

The settlement announced today was supported by numerous attorneys in CRD's Legal Division, including Rumduol Vuong, Alexis McKenna, Mackenzie Anderson, Irene Meyers, Jenny Chhea, Azadeh Hosseinian, Gwendolyn Leachman, and Eliana Mata.

SUBMITTED BY CALIFORNIA CIVIL RIGHTS DEPARTMENT

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Dear Editor

In response to Kevin McKeown's Letter to the Editor on July 3rd, I'm puzzled by his referring to himself as "Retired Former Mayor."

While it's true that Kevin served as mayor for two years during his 23 years on the City Council, (2015 and 2020), he didn't "retire" as mayor.

Instead, he chose to "resign" from the City Council midterm, without any explanation to voters, rather than serve out his four-year term. That makes him a "quitter," not a "retiree."

And while he may disagree with some of the decisions made by current Council members, at least they've shown up for the job to which they were elected.

As for decisions being made late at night, I seem to remember more than a few of those during Kevin's years on the City Council.

Zina Josephs



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **68.0**

TUESDAY
FAIR

SURF: 2-3ft+
Thigh to stomach

S swell nudges up further as old SSW swell drops to smaller leftovers. Modest to locally fun size overall. NW windswell still minor. AM conditions look okay.

WEDNESDAY
FAIR

SURF: 2-3ft
Thigh to waist

Peaky west of Dume. NW windswell is up a notch further and there's some modest S/SSW swell mixing in at exposed breaks. Drained early AM low tide - wait for the tide push mid morning. Wind looks manageable in the morning.

Weather

Tuesday: Patchy dense fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 77.
Tuesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 65. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Wednesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 77.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 65.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2024/07/09	Tue	06:40 AM	-0.23	L
2024/07/09	Tue	1:25 PM	3.93	H
2024/07/09	Tue	6:05 PM	2.59	L
2024/07/09	Tue	11:59 PM	5.17	H
2024/07/10	Wed	07:11 AM	0.20	L
2024/07/10	Wed	2:02 PM	4.01	H
2024/07/10	Wed	6:57 PM	2.63	L
2024/07/11	Thu	12:39 AM	4.58	H
2024/07/11	Thu	07:40 AM	0.67	L
2024/07/11	Thu	2:41 PM	4.13	H
2024/07/11	Thu	8:03 PM	2.63	L
2024/07/12	Fri	01:25 AM	3.94	H
2024/07/12	Fri	08:08 AM	1.18	L
2024/07/12	Fri	3:21 PM	4.29	H
2024/07/12	Fri	9:35 PM	2.48	L
2024/07/13	Sat	02:30 AM	3.31	H
2024/07/13	Sat	08:38 AM	1.67	L
2024/07/13	Sat	4:03 PM	4.49	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: 7/6
5 32 35 39 49
Power#: 21
Jackpot: 29 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 7/5
6 15 32 54 67
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 181 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 7/6
8 11 17 27 31
Mega#: 21
Jackpot: 51 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 7/7
16 21 27 30 39

Daily 3
Draw Date: 7/7
EVENING: 6 7 7
Draw Date: 7/7
MIDDAY: 1 5 4

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 7/7
1st: 05 - California Classic
2nd: 09 - Winning Spirit
3rd: 07 - Eureka
Race Time: 1:46.34

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Santa Monica Daily Press

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Proposed Emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance Extending Interim Zoning Regulations Adopted by Emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance 2781 (CCS) to Remove the Minor Use Permit, Location, and Facility Requirements for Massage Establishments from the City's Personal Service Use Standards for Specific Uses and Activities

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to introduce and adopt an Emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance extending interim zoning regulations adopted by Emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance 2781 (CCS) by the City Council on June 11, 2024, to remove the Minor Use Permit, location, and facility requirements for massage establishments from the City's Personal Service use standards for specific uses and activities.

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2024 AT 7:00 PM**

LOCATION: City Council Chamber, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT:
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Members of the public unable to attend a meeting but wishing to comment on an item(s) listed on the agenda may submit written comments prior to the public hearing via email to councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov or via mail to City Clerk, 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, California 90401. Written public comment submitted before 12:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be available for online viewing. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item number in the subject line of your written comments.

You may also comment in person at the City Council hearing. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment in person.

Address your comments to: City Clerk
Re: Emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance for Massage Establishments

VIA EMAIL: councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov
VIA MAIL: 1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION: If you want more information about this project, please contact Tony Kim at (310) 458-2200 ext. 5522 or by e-mail at tony.kim@santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (310) 458-8211 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate languages provided the request is received 72 hours prior to the meeting. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL: Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-2275.

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Paramount and Skydance merge, signaling end of a family reign in Hollywood and the rise of new power

WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS
AP Business Writer

The entertainment giant Paramount will merge with Skydance, closing out a decades-long run by the Redstone family in Hollywood and injecting desperately needed cash into a legacy studio that has struggled to adapt to a shifting entertainment landscape.

It also signals the rise of a new power player, David Ellison, the founder of Skydance and son of billionaire Larry Ellison, the founder of the software company Oracle.

Shari Redstone's National Amusements has owned more than three-quarters of Paramount's Class A voting shares through the estate of her late father, Sumner Redstone. She had battled to maintain control of the company that owns CBS, which is behind blockbuster films such as "Top Gun" and "The Godfather."

Just weeks after turning down a similar agreement with Skydance, however, Redstone agreed to a deal on terms that had not changed much.

"Given the changes in the industry, we want to fortify Paramount for the future while ensuring that content remains king," said Redstone, who is chair of Paramount Global.

The new combined company is valued at around $28 billion. In connection with the proposed transaction, which is expected to close in September 2025 pending regulatory approval, a consortium led by the Ellison family and RedBird Capital will be investing $8 billion.

Skydance, based in Santa Monica, California, has helped produce some major Paramount hits in recent years, including Tom Cruise films like "Top Gun: Maverick" and installments of the "Mission Impossible" series.

Skydance was founded in 2010 by David Ellison and it quickly formed a production partnership with Paramount that same year. If the deal is approved, Ellison will become chairman and chief executive officer of what's being called New Paramount.

Ellison outlined the vision for New Paramount on a conference call about the transaction Monday. In addition to doubling down on core competencies, notably with a "creative first" approach, he stressed that the company needs to transition into a "tech hybrid" to stay competitive in today's evolving media landscape.

"You've watched some incredibly powerful technology companies move into the ... media space and do so very successfully," Ellison said. He added that it was "essential" for New Paramount to chart a similar course going forward.

That includes plans to "rebuild" the Paramount+ streaming service, Ellison noted — pointing to wider goals to expand direct-to-consumer business, such as increasing engagement time on the platform and reducing user churn. He also said that the company aims to transition to more cloud-based production and continue the use of generative artificial intelligence to boost efficiency.

Executives also outlined further restructuring plans for New Paramount on Monday's conference call, with chairman of RedBird Sports and Media Jeff Shell noting that they had identified some $2 billion in cost efficiencies and synergies that they'll "attempt to deliver pretty rapidly."

Shell and others addressed the declining growth of linear TV. Flagship linear brands will continue to represent a big chunk of the company's operations, but learning how to run this portion of business differently will be key, he said.

The on-again, off-again merger arrives at tumultuous time for Paramount, which has struggled to find its footing for years and its cable business has been hemorrhaging. In an annual shareholder meeting in early June, the company also laid out a restructuring plan that included major cost cuts.

Leadership at Paramount was also volatile earlier this year after its CEO Bob Bakish, following a number of disputes with Redstone, was replaced with an "office of the C.E.O," run by three executives. Four company directors were also replaced.

Paramount is one of Hollywood's oldest studios, dating back its founding in 1914 as a distributor. Throughout its rich history, Paramount has had a hand in releasing films — from "Sunset Boulevard" and "The Godfather," to "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and "Titanic."

The studio also distributed several early Marvel Cinematic Universe films, including "Iron Man" and "Thor," before the Disney acquisition. In addition to "Mission: Impossible" and "Top Gun," Paramount's current franchises include "Transformers," "Star Trek" and "Jackass."

While Paramount has not topped the annual domestic box office charts for over a decade, the wild box office success of "Top Gun: Maverick" in 2022 (nearly $1.5 billion worldwide) was an important boon to both movie theaters and the industry's pandemic recovery.

Still, its theatrical output has declined somewhat in recent years. Last year it released only eight new movies and came in fifth place for overall box office at around $2 billion — behind Universal (24 films), Disney (17 films), Warner Bros. and Sony.

This year the release calendar is similarly modest, especially with the absence of "Mission: Impossible 8," which was pushed to 2025 amid the strikes. The studio has had some successes, with "Bob Marley: One Love" and "A Quiet Place: Day One," and still to come is Ridley Scott's "Gladiator" sequel.

The National Association of Theatre Owners, a trade organization that represents over 35,000 screens in the U.S., said in a statement Monday that it plans to look closely at the details of the merger with an eye towards whether it will produce more or less theatrical releases.

"We are encouraged by the commitment

SEE **SKYDANCE** PAGE 7

California Legislature votes to ask voters for permission borrow $20 billion for climate, schools

ADAM BEAM
Associated Press

Mired in a stream of multi-billion dollar budget deficits, the California Legislature on Wednesday turned to voters for help.

Lawmakers voted to place a pair of $10 billion bonds on the November ballot. If approved, the money would pay for the building of new schools and help communities prepare for the impacts of climate change.

California was swimming in money just a few years ago as budget surpluses totaled well over $100 billion through the pandemic. But the state had to slash spending to cover deficits totaling more than $78 billion over the past two years as revenues declined amid rising inflation and an economic slowdown in the state's pivotal technology industry.

Money from the bonds would backfill some of those cuts, plus pay for a slew of priority projects up and down the state for years to come.

But the money isn't free. The climate bond alone will cost taxpayers more than $19 billion to pay off, with annual payments of $650 million per year, putting more pressure on the state's finances.

With Gov. Gavin Newsom meeting with President Joe Biden and fellow Democratic governors in Washington, Senate President Pro Tempore Mike McGuire signed the bills into law as acting governor, capping a raucous evening session of the Legislature that was disrupted multiple times by Israel-Hamas war protesters.

Asking voters for permission to borrow large sums of money is always risky, particularly when doing it multiple times in the same election.

In addition to the two statewide ballots, voters will likely be asked to approve hundreds of local borrowing proposals — including a massive $20 billion housing bond for the nine counties that surround the San Francisco Bay.

Recent history suggests voters are tiring of these bonds.

In 2020, despite a history of approving statewide school bonds, voters rejected a $15 billion education borrowing proposal — what would have been the largest in state history. And earlier this year, voters only narrowly approved Proposition 1 authorizing the state to borrow more than $6 billion to help house the homeless — a result widely seen as a warning for lawmakers who were considering taking on more debt.

"I would have thought that the razor-thin margin on Proposition 1 would be a wake-up call on these ill-defined bonds," said Jon Coupal, president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association. "Whether it comes to education homelessness or climate, California citizens perceive that they are not getting value for their dollar."

Supporters say voters are savvy enough to recognize the great need that will be filled — most school facilities are built with a combination of state and local money. But demand for state dollars is so great that there's a waiting list of projects worth more than $3 billion, according to Democratic Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi, who sits on the committee that approves the funding.

"Why do you go to the voter? You go to the voters to do investments that move us ahead that single allocations from the budget can't afford," Democratic state Sen. John Laird said.

Much of the climate bond would go to improve water supply and help prepare for wildfires. Statewide, nearly 400 water systems don't meet state safety standards. Meanwhile, 15 of the 20 most destructive wildfires in state history have occurred in the past decade. Heat waves are getting longer and more severe, placing public safety at risk, and intense winter storms have caused damaging floods in recent years.

"It's something that's more tangible for people here and more real because they've seen it so much," said Melissa Romero, deputy legislative director for California Environmental Voters, an advocacy group that supports the bond.

Negotiations over the education bond have been ongoing for nearly two years, and the final result did not please everyone. Money from the bond would only apply to public schools and community colleges, excluding the University of California and the California State University systems.

Plus, some advocacy groups say the bond would benefit wealthier school districts at the expense of poorer districts — something they say has been a persistent problem with the state's program of funding school facility construction.

"It would continue the status quo, with some nominal equity adjustments that really won't address the underlying issue," said Nicole Gon Ochi, deputy managing attorney for Public Advocates, a nonprofit law firm and advocacy group.

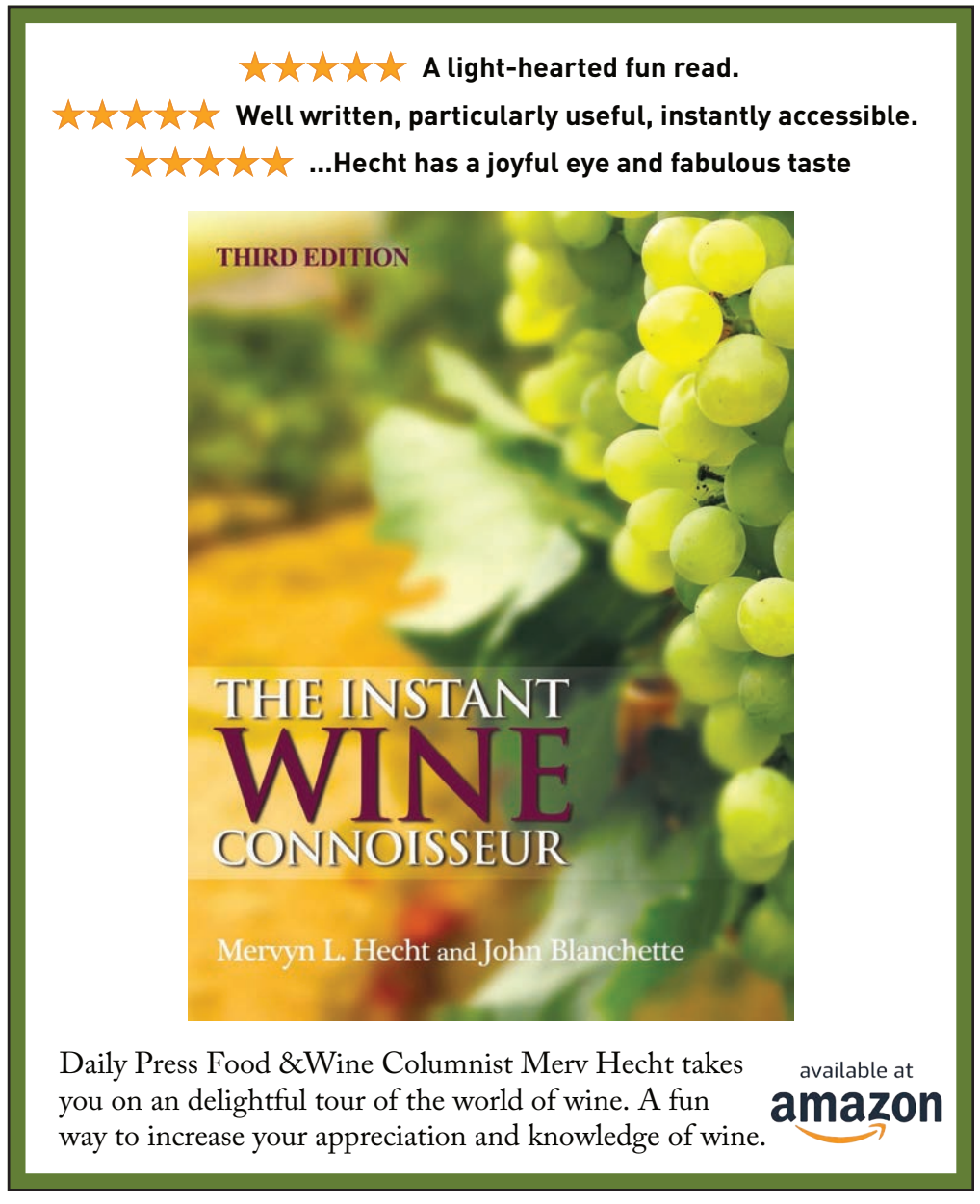
Muratsuchi said the bond would make it easier for districts to qualify for the state's financial hardship program and would help districts with fewer resources navigate the complex process of applying for state grants.

Concerns about the climate bond center on whether $10 billion is enough to make a difference and whether the money will be distributed fairly across the state. Democratic Assemblymember Jasmeet Bains was one of the few lawmakers to oppose the bond for that reason.

Democratic Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia noted that "difficult decisions needed to be made" given the competing priorities for limited funding.

"We also had to consider the dynamics of what voters and members of this House would support," he said.





SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

BBB

FROM PAGE 1

believe, for transit in Southern California, and for us here (at) Big Blue Bus and on the Westside and in Santa Monica specifically, this is an exciting time," Gupta said.

Along with the faster service, the Brighter Blue plan will expand service hours on the vast majority of routes, prioritizing extra hours earlier in the morning and later in the evening. Propositions for extended service time are adding a 5 a.m. morning hour and 9 p.m.-11 p.m. hours for Route 2 on Wilshire Blvd., as well as adding 8 p.m.-10 p.m. hours for Route 14 on Centinela Ave & Bundy Dr.

Several routes will join BBB's weekend schedule as part of expanded service, including Route 5, Route 16 to Playa Del Rey via Wilshire Blvd. and Bundy Dr., a sticking point for many of the stakeholders who took part in the planning process.

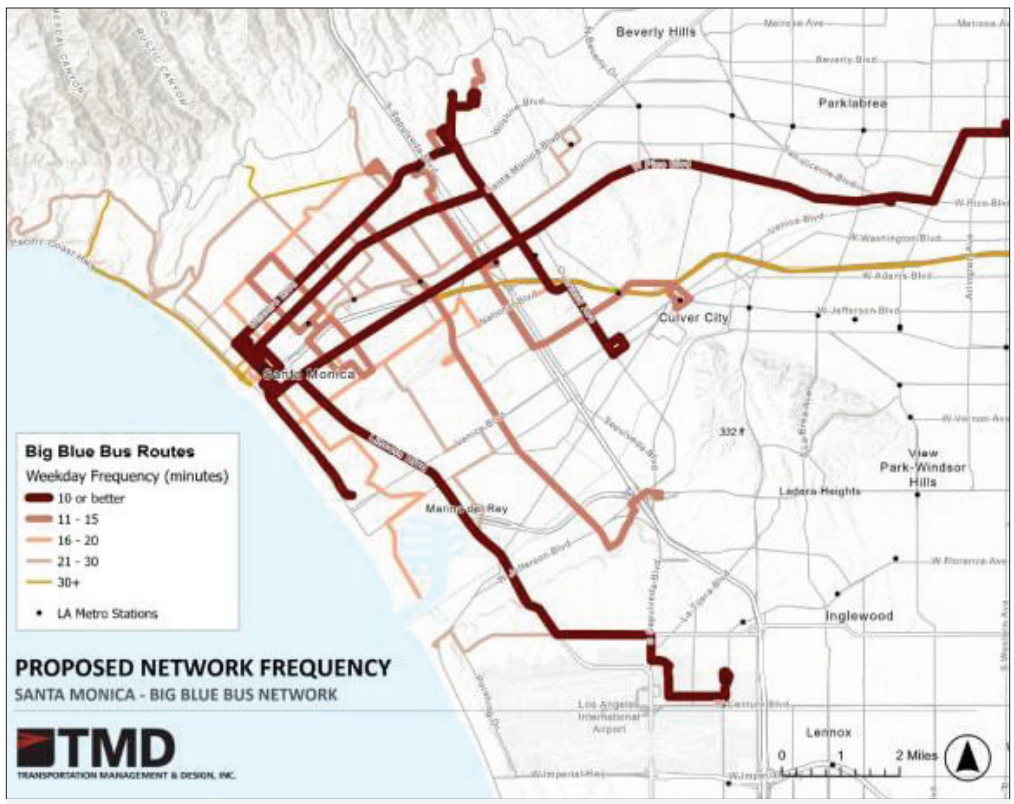
"We want to continue (work) for all the nearly 8 million people who rode our system this past year and many more who we believe will run our system in the years to come," Gupta said. "We want to offer really outstanding services and continue to give people what they say they want out of a transit service."

Changes under the Brighter Blue plan would begin taking shape in December, as the Rapid 3 route on Lincoln Blvd. would be discontinued in order to "reinvest resources" to the normal Route 3, increasing peak frequency of the route from 13 minutes per bus to 10. The majority of route changes, including a similar closure of the Rapid 7 on Pico Blvd. to reinvest into the normal Route 7, would be implemented in August 2025.

Implementing these changes would mean continuing to build up a bus driver base that dissipated during the COVID-19 pandemic, a rebuild process Gupta noted has shown "great momentum over the last year."

> We want to continue (work) for all the nearly 8 million people who rode our system this past year and many more who we believe will run our system in the years to come
>
> - Anuj Gupta, City of Santa Monica Director of Transit Services

"Obviously, there will continue to be attrition and turnover, as there naturally is, but we continue to attract and retain, do everything we can to retain our operators, and having that level of staffing is what enables us to expand service," Gupta said.



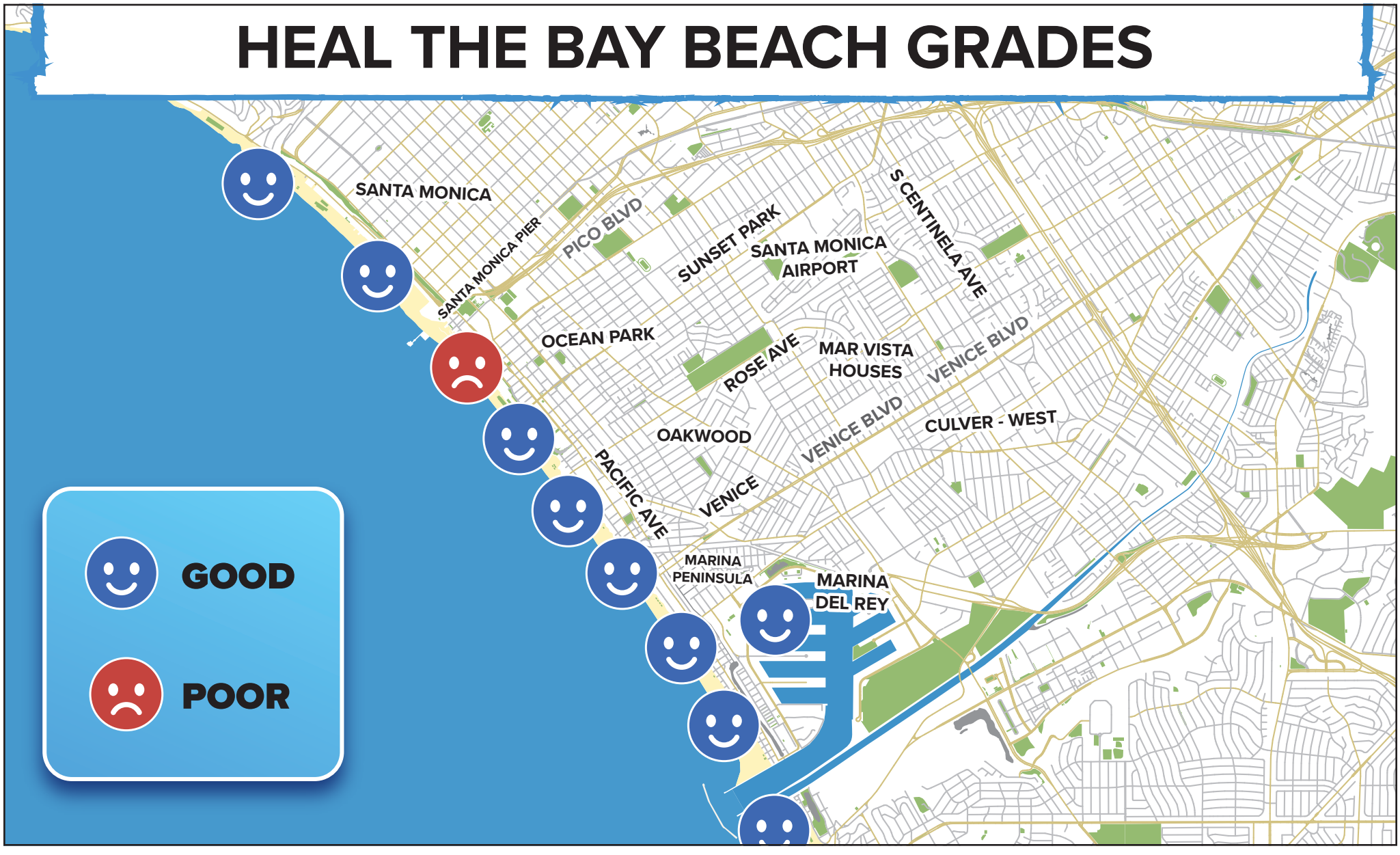
Courtesy Graphic

BBB: Expanded routes and speedier times are top priorities for the Big Blue Bus' Brighter Blue five-year transit plan.

Both the new workforce and the BBB ridership will need to feel safe with changes coming, with BBB's Transit Safety Officer program implemented this year responding to what Gupta calls "challenges overall" with public safety in Southern California. The program will continue to expand in the coming months, as BBB will be introducing a road patrol on certain evening hours to be an "additional backup" for certain lines where bus drivers report troubling incidents.

"Feedback since the program has been in place has been very positive overall … those riders who have been on a (bus) with the transit safety officer have felt … that it has enhanced their safety, made them more comfortable," Gupta added.

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COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

the scythe of agenda management was a discussion item on the annual appointments to a number of boards and commissions within the City of Santa Monica.

There are currently 25 different boards and commissions, including the recent Human Services Commission and a number of attempts have been made in recent meetings to discuss new appointees, with one or two popping up periodically on the agenda. However, all seven members of Santa Monica City Council must be present in order to pass a decision on any of these.

The list includes some significant entries including, but not limited to, the Planning Commission, the Housing Commission, the Recreation & Parks Commission and Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. (DTSM).

The structure of each of these can vary significantly. For example, DTSM votes within its members to appoint new board members, but at the same time there are three City-appointed positions that form part of that board and it's these that are coming up.

Board members Peter Trinh, Barry Snell and Ericka Lesley are all CIty appointees. Snell has served three terms, so he cannot serve a fourth. Lesley and Trinh 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 Lesley and Trinh can — and have — applied to be appointed once again for the city-appointed seats.

But there are nine other applicants also vying for those seats. That list includes, Kurt Isensee (owner of Santa Monica Mailbox Rental), Natasha Rusler (owner of Solidarity restaurant), Jon Farzam (co-owner of The Shore Hotel and the Ocean View Hotel), Berta Negari (affiliated with XYZ Rent), Hudson Maudlin (asset manager for Promenade Gateway), Michelle Cardiel (events permitting), Hodge Patterson (CEO Santa Monica YMCA), Andrea Salerno (VP, SPI Management) and Albin Gielicz (business development consultant).

Gielicz is no stranger to local politics as he ran for council a few years ago. However, as an example of how you don't have to raise tens of thousands of dollars to make a difference in this city, he's running for a place on the DTSM board instead.

"As a staunch supporter of our local businesses and economy, I've decided to apply my knowledge of Santa Monica, strong relationships and 10+ years of experience on the Montana Merchants Association to work with the DTSM staff as a board member and ensure a full economic recovery with the revival of the Promenade and other commercial corridors in the downtown," he told the Daily Press.

Another example is the Recreation & Parks Commission. However, these positions are all decided by councilmember's votes. Six people in total are vying for three positions and the list includes two incumbents, Steven Johnson, current Chair and Maryanne LaGuardia. Joining them are Larry Arreola, Nikki Kolhoff, Jaleh Mirhashemi and Greg Morena.

The Santa Monica Pier Corporation is also looking to fill three positions, with six residents looking to compete for those, including incumbents Randi Parent, Christopher Foster and Jeff Jarow together with newcomers Julieta Giner, Greg Morena and David Newberg.

The Disabilities Commission is also looking for three appointees as is the Building & Fire-Life Safety Commission, but where the former simply stipulates that the applicant must "reside or work in Santa Monica and self-identify as a person with a disability," the latter is looking for more specific qualifications; one must be a California licensed building contractor, one must be a California-certified access specialist and one must be a California-registered fire protection engineer.

With the exception of Planning Commissioners, these roles are unpaid, volunteer positions. According to the City website, members of boards and commissions may be reimbursed for expenses in the amount of $25 per meeting, not to exceed $50.00 per month. Planning Commissioners receive a meeting stipend of $40.47 per meeting, with a monthly maximum of $100. Attendance at at least three quarters of the meeting is mandatory to receive payment.

Fingers crossed the results of these will be discussed and announced at the Council meeting on Tuesday, July 9. Finally, there are a lot of Consent Calendar items, including a number of budget plans, so providing none of those get pulled, the meeting stands a reasonable chance of getting to the end. That said, two discussion items have been placed on the agenda that, if addressed, will no doubt spark considerable conversation. The first is that "the City must do more to address public safety and the homelessness crisis" and the second is regarding the recent Grants Pass Supreme Court decision and how it applies to the city's commitment to clean and safe living.

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SKYDANCE

FROM PAGE 4

that David Ellison and the Skydance Media team have shown to theatrical exhibition in the past," said Michael O'Leary, president and CEO of the National Association of Theatre Owners. "A merger that results in fewer movies being produced will not only hurt consumers and result in less revenue, but negatively impact people who work in all sectors of this great industry – creative, distribution and exhibition."

Sumner Redstone used National Amusements, his family's movie theater chain, to build a vast media empire that included CBS and Viacom, which have merged and separated a number of times over the years. Most recently, the companies re-joined forces in 2019, undoing the split consummated in 2006. The company, ViacomCBS, changed its name to Paramount Global in 2022.

Under Sumner Redstone's leadership, Viacom became one of the nation's media titans, home to pay TV channels MTV and Comedy Central and movie studio Paramount Pictures.

It is a company with a rich history, as well as a deep bank of media assets, and Skydance wasn't the only one to gun for Paramount in recent months — Apollo Global Management and Sony Pictures also made competing offers.

Late last year, Warner Bros. Discovery also made headlines for exploring a potential merger with Paramount. But by February, Warner had reportedly halted those talks.

AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr contributed to this report.

TEACHERS

FROM PAGE 1

programs in the district.

In the approved document, the Measure R budget calls for 10 full-time equivalencies, or 10 teachers, in the elementary music department. However, the retirement of choral music educator Susan Justin has left one of the 10 positions open, and there has been a recommendation by district officials to change the amount of positions from 10 to 9. The budget was passed with the 10 number intact, partly due to having to approve the budget in order to spend money as of July 1, and also with the fact this number can change as needed in future interim budgets.

During the meeting, SMMUSD Assistant Superintendent Dr. Mark Kelly stated that leaving the position unfilled is done to reflect rapidly declining enrollment in third, fourth and fifth grade students. Kelly added that he and SMMUSD Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator Tom Whaley have made adjustments to manage the cut "by attrition," a typical practice carried across programs facing similar situations in the past.

"All of our schools, when we have declining enrollment, face some adjustments … we need to look across the district in various aspects … meaning fewer FTEs," Kelly said. "They're still managing to offer those programs. We have worked with Mr. Whaley to look at the elementary scheduling for next year and believe we can continue to offer the elementary program with the 9 FTEs."

Kelly added that "no teacher is losing their job because of this," and that all SMMUSD school sites have experienced lower FTEs at one time or another. Nonetheless, several elementary music staff members expressed the added stress their positions will feel come August.

"Declined enrollment has not changed our teaching schedules," Grant Elementary School Lead Music Teacher Sean Pawling said. "We currently teach 22 sections and travel to three schools a day, four to five days a week. As it stands, the proposed music schedule negatively impacts student learning, student equity and teacher equity … this does not make sense in the district where music is valued and celebrated by our community."

Roosevelt Elementary School Lead Music Teacher Lindsay Okumura echoed that classes across the board will become a tighter proposition, specifically at McKinley Elementary School and Will Rogers Learning Community because of teacher scheduling conflicts with Malibu schools.

"We have already combined sections to the point that our homogenous classes have been compromised … if we keep chipping away at the spirit of this program, it's going to become unsustainable to the teachers and most importantly, detrimental to the students that we teach," Okumura said.

The lament of the staffers in public comment eventually moved to confusion of board members during item discussion, with differing thoughts on how the plan was communicated amongst officials and if the Measure R budget could be passed despite the plan to have 9 positions instead of the budgeted 10.

"What's before us is to pass the (district) budget and the Measure R plan and both have the 10 (FTEs) in it … I'm trying to understand how this has become an issue this evening … something doesn't feel right here to me and I'm trying to understand that," Boardmember Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein said.

Kelly responded by stating that prior communication was given about contemplating not filling the position, informing staff that this was a "likely recommendation."

Aside from the elementary teachers, Measure R funds arts and music amenities such as accompanists and music aides for secondary schools, staffing and supplies for the district's mariachi program and repair services for district-owned musical instruments. For 2024-25, Measure R will also establish a one-time funding in capital equipment for new and refurbished pianos to the tune of $100,000; as well as establish a new ongoing Music Composition Fellowship program that will cost $50,000.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Citywide

Amazon MGM Studios' Debra Birnbaum Joins Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance Board of Directors

Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance (OCRA), the world's largest organization dedicated to advancing research into ovarian and related gynecologic cancers and supporting patients, is proud to announce that Debra Birnbaum has joined its Board of Directors.

Birnbaum is an accomplished multi-platform content creator and media strategist with over 20 years of experience covering news and entertainment. She currently serves as the global head of awards for Amazon MGM Studios, where she oversees awards strategy for the streaming service's extensive slate of original films and series. Under her leadership, Amazon MGM Studios has experienced its most successful film and series awards seasons to date, setting new studio records and amassing dozens of nominations and wins across all major awards, including Academy Awards, Emmy Awards, Golden Globe Awards, Critics Choice Awards, and more.

> "I first got involved with Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance because of my belief in the importance of early detection and research into all gynecologic cancers"
> - Debra Birnbaum

Birnbaum's own connection to ovarian cancer adds a deeply personal dimension to her new role with OCRA. She was first diagnosed with ovarian cancer at the age of 17, the summer after graduating high school, with a recurrence at age 20. "I first got involved with Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance because of my belief in the importance of early detection and research into all gynecologic cancers," said Birnbaum. "I'm honored to join the Board of Directors today to continue to honor that commitment. Women of all ages, their families, and their healthcare providers need to be better educated about the symptoms of cancer, and we need to fund more research into treatments and cures."

OCRA CEO Audra Moran expressed her enthusiasm about Debra's appointment: "We are deeply honored to welcome Debra Birnbaum to our Board of Directors. Her strategic vision, combined with her personal commitment to our cause, will be invaluable as we continue to strive towards our mission of eradicating ovarian and related cancers. Debra's insights and dedication will undoubtedly enhance our efforts to increase awareness and support for research and to offer inspiration and hope to patients and their families."

Birnbaum spent five years as the executive editor, TV, for Variety, where she led television news and awards coverage across multiple platforms, including the weekly print edition, Variety.com, and special awards season issues. As the president/editor-in-chief of TV Guide Magazine, a position she held for seven years, she revitalized the brand with innovations like the annual "Fan Favorites" cover contest, the Comic-Con photo studio, and the "Hot List" party. Her extensive career also includes roles at Redbook, George, More, The New York Post, and Us Weekly, where she oversaw film, television, theater, music, and entertainment coverage. Additionally, she has frequently appeared on TV and radio as an entertainment expert and has moderated hundreds of panels for high-profile industry and consumer events.

Her work has earned recognition from the L.A. Press Club, the Publicists Guild of America, the Webby Awards, the Clio Awards, Promax, and the Television Academy, including an Emmy Award for producing Variety's "Actors on Actors" series. A graduate of Cornell University, she is a member of the President's Council of Cornell Women and serves as an alumni ambassador. She also belongs to key entertainment industry organizations, including the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, the Television Academy, and the International Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

SUBMITTED BY ALISON HENDRIE

Malibu

City of Malibu Arts Commission Hosts the Opening Reception of the Summer Community Art Exhibition Celebrating Malibu's Surf Culture

The City of Malibu Arts Commission invites all of Malibu to the free opening reception of the City's summer community art exhibition on July 14.

"A Tale of a Seaside Town," a tribute to Malibu's deep-rooted surf culture featuring original works in multiple media by local artists, will be on display from July 15 through August 23, 2024.

Join organizers on Sunday, July 14, 12 p.m. at the opening reception at City Hall to celebrate the artists. Enjoy complimentary refreshments and live music by Christopher Wooley. RSVPs are not required for this free event.

"If everybody had an ocean, across the USA, then everybody'd be surfin', like Californ-ia," said Mayor Steve Uhring. "The Beach Boys said it best, and now is your opportunity to join the celebration of Malibu's talented local artists as they salute Malibu's beaches and surfing culture. So wax down your surfboard, and help us applaud the wonderful contributions our Arts Commission makes Malibu's vibrant artistic and cultural life."

The City Gallery is located on the lower level of Malibu City Hall (23825 Stuart Ranch Road) and is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission to the gallery is free. Tickets and RSVPs are not required.

For more information, visit MalibuArtsCommission.org/MalibuSummerExhibit.

SUBMITTED BY KRISTIN RIESGO, COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

California's Gavin Newsom touts his support for President Joe Biden and sidesteps replacement talk

JOEY CAPPELETTI AND BILL BARROW
Associated Press

California Gov. Gavin Newsom offered a forceful defense of embattled President Joe Biden on Thursday, telling Democrats in Michigan that the 81-year-old president has the record and energy to win a second term despite widespread doubts about his ability to campaign or govern effectively.

Newsom's pitch at a local Independence Day picnic is part of an effort from Biden's reelection campaign and the White House to reassure party activists and the broader electorate that Biden is up to job after he appeared addled in his debate against former President Donald Trump.

"This is a serious moment in American history. It's not complicated," Newsom told Van Buren County Democrats, turning their attention to the prospects of another Trump presidency. "What I need to convince you of is not to be fatalistic, not to fall prey to all of this negativity. ... Do more. Worry less."

Newsom's plea highlights the tenuous balance for Democrats and party lieutenants like the 56-year-old governor: He has long been a top Biden campaign surrogate and was among the governors who rallied behind the president after a private White House session on Wednesday. Yet Newsom himself is among those mentioned as potential replacements should Biden step aside and allow an open convention when Democratic delegates convene in Chicago next month.

The governor sidestepped questions about those potential outcomes, including a question about whether he would support Vice President Kamala Harris, a fellow Californian, for the nomination if Biden leaves the race.

"I don't even like playing in the hypotheticals, because last night was about sort of locking down any doubt or ambiguity," he said, referring to Biden's session with Democratic governors. "And then we start running in different directions, zigging and zagging and all that kind of speculation. And that gets in the way of progress."

Newsom acknowledged "a tough few weeks" during his remarks to picnic attendees, and he admitted he had to scrap his planned talking points when facing reporters in Atlanta after the debate. But he said Biden reassured him and other Democratic governors Wednesday at the White House, where the president acknowledged his flop but expressed determination to win his rematch with Trump.

"That was the Joe Biden I remember from two weeks ago. That was the Joe Biden that I remember from two years ago," Newsom said. "That's the Joe Biden that I'm looking forward to reelecting as president of the United States, and I mean that."

According to three people familiar with the meeting, Biden acknowledged to the governors that he needs to get more sleep and limit evening events so he can turn in earlier and be fit for the job.

The sources spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations.

Newsom did not address those explanations during his 15-minute remarks. He told reporters afterward that Biden referenced late nights "with a smile on his face."

"It was more of a rhetorical framework of just being fit and rested, because he was burning it at both ends that last last ten or so days (before the debate), and I think that was what he was reflecting," Newsom said. "It wasn't a literal 'at 8 o'clock I will be doing things differently,' it was more figurative.'"

Newsom said it's okay when a "president acknowledges they're human" and added that people are "reading between the lines too much" on what Biden said about his schedule.

Newsom drew enthusiastic applause from the partisan crowd. One attendee, Susan Kavanaugh, called his outlook "timely."

"I just was so encouraged by his optimism and speaking genuinely from his heart," she said. "Which reminds me a lot of the character of Joe Biden."

Despite the governor's confidence, leading Democrats remain concerned about whether Biden can rebound politically. The president's aides and allies agree that the coming days are critical, with Biden planning a visible, busy schedule that could stem any free fall in public confidence — or further solidify voter concerns that he is too old for another term.

Biden is scheduled to campaign Friday in Wisconsin, a key battleground that he won in 2020, and sit for an interview with ABC's George Stephanopoulos. It will air as a prime-time special that night. He plans Sunday to be in Philadelphia and hold a full news conference during the NATO summit in Washington next week.

Already this week, the president used a radio interview to emphasize voters' choice and argue that Trump would be a disaster for American democracy and the economy.

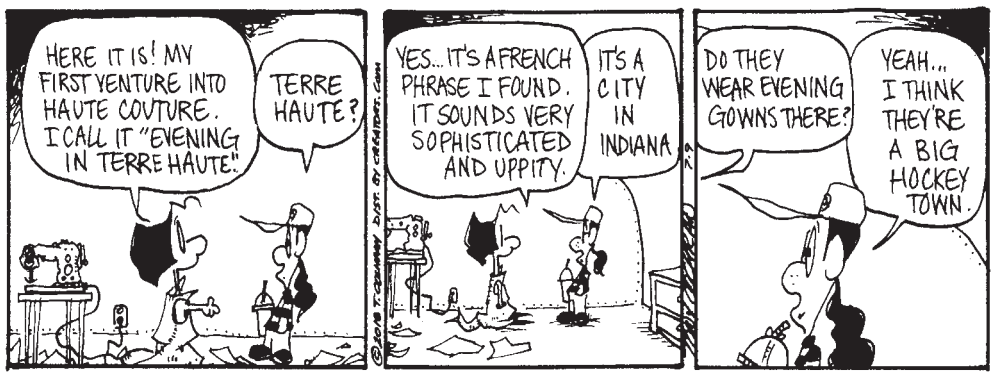
Newsom echoed that framing in Michigan, urging party faithful to embrace Biden's record and values. He noted sustained low unemployment, rising wages and major legislation for infrastructure spending, addressing climate change and spurring American manufacturing, especially computer chips.

"I believe in this man. I believe in his character. I believe that he has been one of the most transformative presidents in our collective lifetimes," Newsom said. "We're so good at focusing on what's wrong and not celebrating what's right."

Barrow reported from Atlanta. Associated Press reporter Seung Min Kim contributed from Washington.

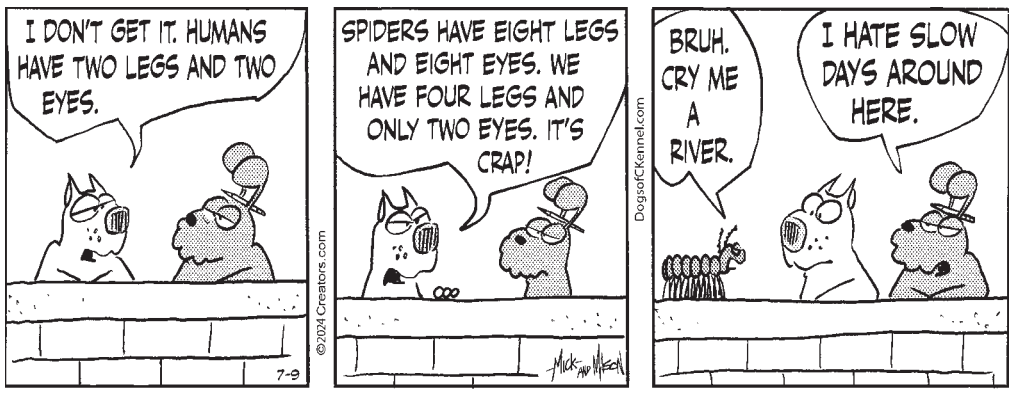
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By TONY COCHRAN



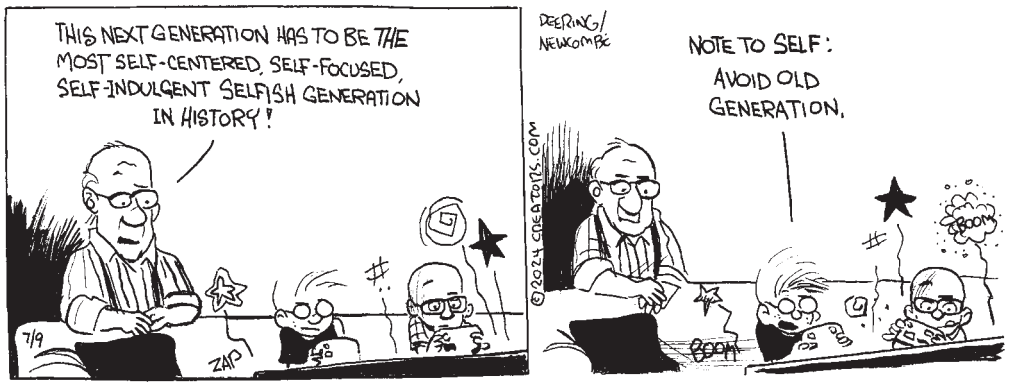
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



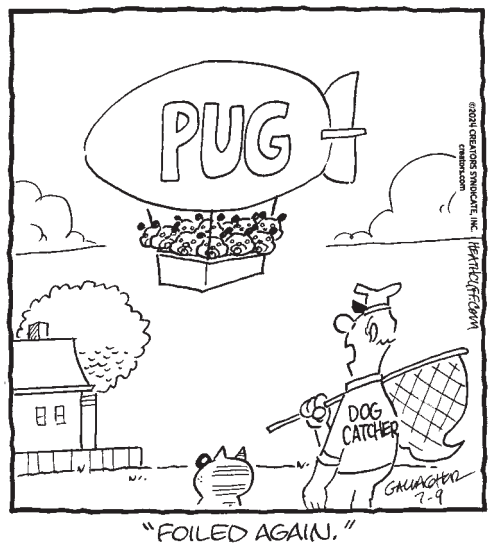
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"FOILED AGAIN."

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 6266

Sport shooting

T	E	B	U	T	T	Y	D	D	U	M	B	O	L	T
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Action	Cannelure	Hide	Range
Airgun	Caps	Hits	Retrieve
Ammo	Care	Jacket	Ricochet
Arms	Chamber	Length	Safety
Ballistics	Clip	Magazine	Shot
Bird	Concentrate	Muddy	Skeet
Blank	Drag	Oils	Smoke
Bolt	Eight	Pins	Steady
Bore	Fast	Plug	Sunlit
Breach	Fire	Points	Test
Butt	Gauge	Pull	Ways

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 9)

You'll experience more joy than ever this year. Your love of the natural world shines, and you'll lend a sense of hope, care and progress to environments you interact in. You also define "progress" in a meaningful way that catches on with others. More highlights: a genuine confidante, the victorious end of a battle, five excellent events and one that's wildly successful. Scorpio and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 30, 21, 15 and 9.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The first time you do a thing, it seems to take a lot longer. The freshness of a new experience always changes perception. Novelty makes moments stretch. Break the routine. Variety is a must for a memorable life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You don't always get to see the impact you have on others, which can occur at a distance or so subtly it goes undetected even while making a remarkable difference. Sometimes, it takes people years to recognize an effect.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your first impression on a situation will be strong. Note it. If you do this formally, with an actual note, you'll be very impressed with what comes of it. There is more to learn here, and you're playing a long game.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There seems to be no end to the number of tricky, sticky situations to be navigated today. It will help to have a unifying chat in the mirror with the soul behind the eyes.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). What if it was just all about the fun? Would it really change the trajectory that much? If inclined to move based on the potential for fun, what direction would you go?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Pride is tricky. Displays of pride can actually signal in the opposite direction, a trajectory lacking self-confidence. The truly confident don't need to talk about it. Today features a kind of quiet satisfaction.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll be put in a position. Say yes and you'll say it again and again. Say no and it will be the last time. The second way is better, causing you less stress overall, but of course, it's harder.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Goals are good to have but also optional. Many successful people keep their goals flexible and life becomes more about exploring paths than obtaining things. It's smart, and it leads to feelings of freedom.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When you like yourself a real lot, it's no problem getting on your own team. And honestly, what's not to like? Everything you were doing was in your own defense. Believe it because it's true.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). If you've ever worked out too hard or eaten too much, you understand how the choices in the moment don't always please the person who has to live with them. Thinking ahead to what "next-day" you will say will be prudent.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll be inspired to make fresh choices. You wouldn't normally dedicate yourself to the pursuit of pleasure, and the novelty of this is what makes this so fun. You'll react quickly to news and find yourself in a privileged position.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You don't have to divulge your story to everyone who wants to know about it, but at the same time, it's nice to know people are curious. Yes, they are! There will be benefits to acts of sharing and caring beyond the obvious ones.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

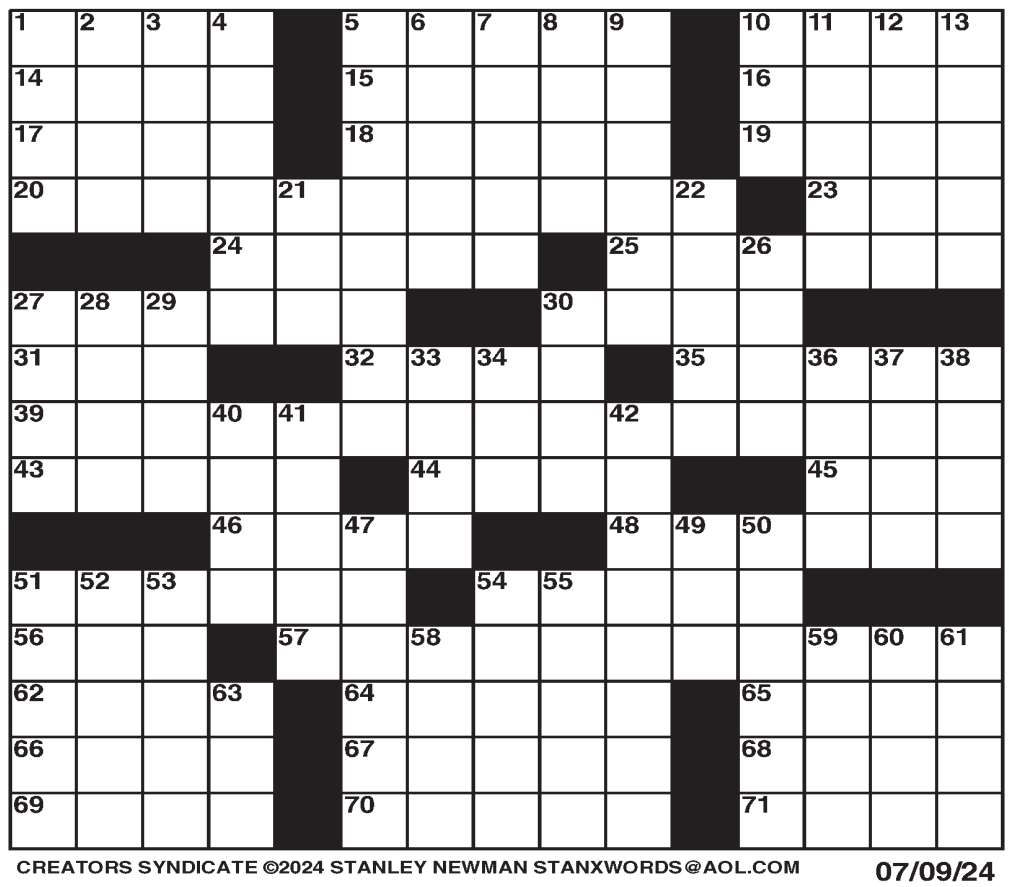
WEATHER FORECAST by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Digital clock toggle switch
5 Flinch from a sting
10 Short comedic sketch
14 Depend (on)
15 Add decorations to
16 __ colada cocktail
17 "Hurry up!"
18 Knock on
19 "Watch __ step!"
20 "Sweltering weather continues..."
23 "No seats left" sign
24 Egret relative
25 Box office purchase
27 Earn $200 in Monopoly
30 Ancient legend
31 Highest playing card
32 Clear sky's color
35 Camping shelters
39 "...and it might rain..."
43 Male choir voice
44 Just adequate
45 Midmorning hour
46 First claim, informally
48 Annoying sounds
51 Foamy chocolate dessert
54 Author's negotiator
56 Hill-building insect
57 "...but it won't be totally cloudy"
62 Bit of help for a sleuth
64 Still in effect
65 Good-natured
66 Trumpet or trombone
67 Avert or elude
68 And others: Abbr.
69 Possesses
70 Stitch up again
71 Make airtight

DOWN

1 Curve of the foot
2 Office note
3 Story line
4 Birds that talk
5 Clothes closet
6 Potato-growing state
7 "__ intended" ("I didn't mean any wordplay")
8 Study hard
9 Any real thing
10 Undercover operative
11 Booth in a mall's hall
12 Get used (to)
13 Psychic's __ cards
21 Darkroom image: Abbr.
22 "Me too"
26 Enjoy some gum
27 Treaty
28 Muscle soreness
29 Actor Penn or Connery
30 Untidiness
33 Sports team's setback
34 Sci-fi saucer: Abbr.
36 Tennis court dividers
37 Mahogany or maple
38 Taxpayer IDs
40 Assents silently
41 Crunchy, as potato chips
42 Sweet melon
47 Dam-building mammal
49 Carry-__ (some airline bags)
50 Apple's app source
51 Ultra-manly
52 At a minimum setting
53 Reversal on a road
54 Book of maps
55 Soar without an engine
58 Four-star review
59 Evening, on marquees
60 University sports org.
61 Shout
63 Three letters in "nanny"



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07/09/24

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

SMC

Santa Monica College to Stage "Snoopy!!! The Musical" July 19-28

The Santa Monica College (SMC) Theatre Arts Department will perform "Snoopy!!! The Musical" July 19-28 in the Theatre Arts Main Stage on the main SMC campus, 1900 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica.

"Snoopy!!! The Musical" — the charming musical sequel to "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" — sparkles with wit and warmth as it depicts life as seen through the eyes of Charles Schulz's unforgettable characters. The tuneful, hilarious play deserves each of its three exclamation points.

"Snoopy!!! The Musical" is based on the comic strip "PEANUTS" by Charles M. Schulz and the book by Charles M. Schulz Creative Associates, Warren Lockhart, Arthur Whitelaw, and Michael L. Grace, with music by Larry Grossman and lyrics by Hal Hackady.

The SMC production is directed by Dr. Adrianne Harrop.

Show times are 7:30 p.m. on Friday, July 19 and July 26, and Saturday, July 20 and July 27. Matinees are at 2 p.m. on Sunday, July 21 and July 28. All performances subject to change or cancellation without notice.

Advance (pre-sale) tickets, which range from $22 to $25 ($18 for SMC students and staff) plus a modest service charge, can be purchased online at smc.edu/tickets at any time, or by calling 310-434-4165 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Tickets purchased on performance weekends at the Events Box Office (at the Theatre Arts building) are $3 higher. Parking is free, and information on parking, transportation, and directions can be found at smc.edu/transportation.

"Snoopy!!! The Musical" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC. (concordtheatricals.com)

SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH

Ocean Park

Santa Monica Conservancy Launches Ocean Park Neighborhood Initiative

The Santa Monica Conservancy announced today a new initiative to engage the community in a program of events, neighborhood walks, garden tours, open houses events and community meetings, based at its headquarters at the Shotgun House. These programs spotlight local culture and history for neighbors and visitors to Ocean Park and beyond.

This summer the Conservancy launched its first new signature tour in seven years. Offered the second Saturday of every month from 10:30 am to noon, the new Main Street Walk is designed to reveal the vibrant assemblage of personalities, dreams, real estate transactions, politics, urban planning, transportation, construction materials that make up the neighborhood. A new Third Street Historic District Walk will also make its debut soon.

In addition to expanding existing free weekend walk-in visitor tours of the Shotgun House itself over the summer, the Conservancy is opening the little house to a series of community gatherings. These include bi-monthly roundtable discussions to share stories about the city's neighborhoods and histories, starting on Saturday, July 20 from 11 – 1 pm with moderator Carolyne Edwards of the Quinn Research Institute.

Educational programs also include a series of Shotgun House Native Plant Garden tours, led by volunteer and poet Hilda Weiss. The next tour will correspond with the garden's fall lifecycle, exact date tbd.

Further, the Shotgun House, is a meeting point and focus for Preservation Next, the Conservancy's affinity group for emerging and mid-career professionals interested in cultural and historic heritage to engage in interdisciplinary discussion and networking events. Interested parties can contact the Conservancy directly to be put on the Preservation Next mailing list.

There is an ongoing effort to recruit volunteer storytellers to support these developing programs. Interested parties can Contact the Conservancy directly for an application.

"We hope to create a cultural commons," says Kaitlin Drisko, Executive Director, Santa Monica Conservancy. "We are excited to focus our work locally to promote understanding of the role that heritage conservation can play in creating a sense of belonging here in your own back yard, and beyond."

SUBMITTED BY CATHERINE AZIMI

HEAT

FROM PAGE 2

northeastern California) won't get below 100 degrees (37.8 C) until next weekend," the service posted online. "And unfortunately, there won't be much relief overnight either."

More extreme highs are in the near forecast, including possibly 130 F (54.4 C) around midweek at Furnace Creek, California, in Death Valley. The hottest temperature ever officially recorded on Earth was 134 F (56.67 C) in July 1913 in Death Valley, though some experts dispute that measurement and say the real record was 130 F (54.4 C), recorded there in July 2021.

Tracy Housley, a native of Manchester, England, said she decided to drive from her hotel in Las Vegas to Death Valley after hearing on the radio that temperatures could approach record levels.

"We just thought, let's be there for that," Housley said Sunday. "Let's go for the experience."

DEATHS ARE STARTING TO MOUNT

In Arizona's Maricopa County, which encompasses Phoenix, there have been at least 13 confirmed heat-related deaths this year, along with more than 160 other deaths suspected of being related to heat that are still under investigation, according to a recent report.

That does not include the death of a 10-year-old boy last week in Phoenix who suffered a "heat-related medical event" while hiking with family at South Mountain Park and Preserve, according to police.

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES FANNED BY LOW HUMIDITY, HIGH TEMPERATURES

In California, crews worked in sweltering conditions to battle a series of wildfires across the state.

In Santa Barbara County, northwest of Los Angeles, the growing Lake Fire had scorched more than 25 square miles (66.5 square kilometers) of dry grass, brush and timber after breaking out Friday. There was no containment by Sunday. The blaze was burning through mostly uninhabited wildland, but some rural homes were under evacuation orders.

Beck reported from Omaha, Nebraska. Associated Press videographer Ty O'Neil in Death Valley National Park, and writer Walter Berry in Phoenix contributed to this report.



TUESDAY | JULY 9

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.

AUTHOR TALK WITH KATE DICAMILLO

Join Santa Monica College at the SMC Library for a visit with Newbery Medal winning author Kate DiCamillo, who will be sharing the stories behind the creation of her early chapter book series, the original "Mercy Waterson," and the follow up series "Tales from Deckawoo Drive." Begins at 11 a.m.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council is made up of seven members elected at-large for staggered four-year terms. Every two years, after each election, the City Council selects one of its members to serve as Mayor and another to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore. The City Council also sits as the following bodies for the City of Santa Monica: Housing Authority, Parking Authority, Public Financing, Redevelopment Successor Agency, Audit Subcommittee. Meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers of Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St.

SPARK LA BRAINSTORM & CONNECT

SPARK is a local meetup initiative by Freelancers Union, hosting monthly events to educate and empower freelancers across the nation. Whether you're a seasoned freelancer or just starting your freelance journey, this event is the perfect opportunity to expand your network, gain valuable insights and have a great time with peers in the freelance community. Begins at 6:30 p.m. at Capital One Cafe, 401 Broadway. Free admission, to RSVP, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spark-la-brainstorm-connect-tickets-902892655237.

WEDNESDAY | JULY 10

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

The largest grower-only Certified Farmers Market in Southern California and a favorite for local chefs. Enjoy Santa Monica's downtown farmers market from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. between 4th St. and Ocean Ave. Widely considered to be among the best on the west coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheese, delicious foods, live music and more.

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

The goal of the Santa Monica Human Services Commission is to advise City Council on priorities and strategies involving the well-being, equity and needs of vulnerable, low income and at-risk residents including youth and families, seniors and people experiencing homelessness. Begins at 3 p.m. in the SMi Room in the Civic Center Parking Structure. 330 Olympic Dr.

LITERARY LOUNGE

Discover the joy of social reading at the Literary Lounge; a space for bibliophiles to bond over books, with music and literary-inspired mocktails. Bring your own book or choose from a collection of staff favorites. Begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Courtyard of the Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

PRODUCTION CONNECT

Production Connect is here for its July in-person event at The Victorian, 2640 Main St., beginning at 7 p.m. This is your chance to connect with like-minded individuals, discover the latest trends, and gain valuable insights to enhance your production skills. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to grow your career and expand your network. Tickets $15, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/production-connect-july-24-registration-928864999217.

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 11

NIGHT MARKET AT THE BUNGALOW

A special edition of Night Market at The Bungalow, 101 Wilshire Blvd., runs from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. as Grammy-award winning artist DJ Pee .Wee, also known as Anderson.Paak, will mesmerize the crowd with a DJ set. The event, featuring Paak's brand SelvaRey and AMASS' Summer Water rosé Pizzolato is a ticketed event with all proceeds supporting .Paak House. Olivia, Paak's co-owned vegetarian restaurant, will tantalize taste buds with their Korean-Mexican pizzas and bites. Entrance fee $20.

RENT CONTROL BOARD

The Rent Control Board meets to conduct business associated with the Rent Control Charter Amendment and Regulations. Meeting begins at 7 p.m. at Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St.

FRIDAY | JULY 12

FAMILY AND FRIENDS SPLASH NIGHT

What better way to celebrate than with an evening of family fun at the pool? Bring the whole family and friends and dive into an unforgettable experience at Santa Monica Swim Center, 2225 16th St., beginning at 4 p.m. Pool floats and an inflatable obstacle course provided, as well as delicious treats for all attendees. Fees apply, for more information visit: https://www.santamonicaswimcenter.org/swim-center-special-events.



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