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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 172 WEDNESDAY 7/17/24 smdp.com

Miramar project back on track with unanimous ARB recommendation



Graphic Courtesy Ocean Avenue LLC

HOTEL: The Miramar Hotel site at 1133 Ocean Avenue continues on the road to redevelopment, with the ambitious project given unanimous recommendation by the city's Architectural Review Board.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

A renovation over a decade in the making is finally making serious headway through Santa Monica city government, giving new life to one of the area's premier destinations.

During Monday's meeting of the city's Architectural Review Board (ARB), a presentation was given on the mass renovations planned for the Miramar Hotel site at 1133 Ocean Avenue, a project with near-unanimous approval by the board and public commenters. The comprehensive expansion and modernization of the Miramar would add to the full-service hotel by adding up to 60 residential condominiums and associated common areas, restaurant and retail spaces, a three-level subterranean parking garage and significant publicly-accessible open space.

Another key piece of the project will take place across the street, with 42 new affordable apartments planned at 1127 and 1129 Second Street. The housing site, approved by the ARB in May 2023, would be owned and operated by Community Corporation of Santa Monica and would include 11 three-bedroom, 15 two-bedroom and 16 one-bedroom units at affordability levels ranging from 30% to 80% income households.

The Miramar renovations, if approved by city staff and the city's Landmarks Commission, would begin construction after a 13-year odyssey for the project. A development agreement application for the Miramar was submitted by Ocean Avenue LLC in April 2011, with the project site identified in both the 2010 Land Use and Circulation Element and the 2017 Downtown Community Plan as "a site for major investment." Santa Monica City Council approved the agreement in September 2020, following a lengthy community engagement and city review process, and the California Coastal Commission approved the project's Coastal Development Permit in March 2022.

Updated design review plans reflect the review process, including preliminary review discussions held by both the ARB and Landmarks Commission in 2019. The

SEE **MIRAMAR** PAGE 6



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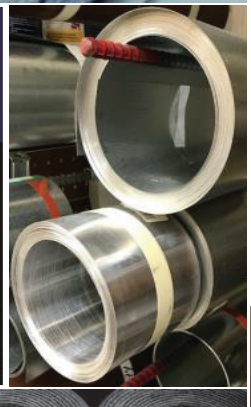
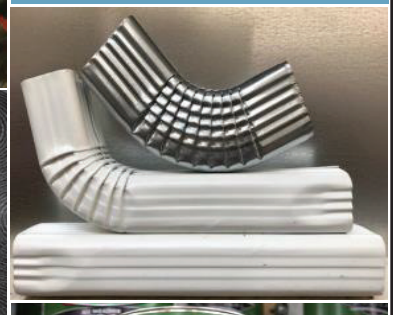
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Heavy metal, meals for children collide in food fundraiser



Courtesy Photo

FUNDRAISER: The Wayward Sons will rock The Viper Room on Thursday in a fundraiser event for the Westside Food Bank.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

An iconic Los Angeles landmark will be playing a vital role this week in keeping kids fed in Santa Monica and beyond.

On Thursday, the Westside Food Bank hosts its second Rock for Hunger event at The Viper Room in West Hollywood, an entertainment smorgasbord featuring pieces of rock music history and two of the area's premiere magicians. The food bank, which serves approximately four million nutritious meals to underserved populations each year, is teaming with the locale in the summertime, a "less hectic time" than last November's event.

"We're really thrilled (that) The Viper Room has just been an incredible partner, they've been so generous with us, giving us the venue for free and the parking lot, and it's just been a really wonderful experience to work with them," Westside Food Bank President and CEO Genevieve Riutort said.

The partnership began via the Westside staff, as Viper Room General Manager Tommy Black is the husband of food bank Executive Assistant Marshelle Fair. Black not only paved the way for the event, but brought some connections along with it, namely 80s cover band Wayward Sons and the night's master of ceremonies, former MTV personality and 95.5 KLOS' Matt Pinfield.

Riutort said that Wayward Sons "gave it 100%" at last November's Rock for Hunger, playing 80s hits for 90 minutes in wigs, spandex and "full 80s regalia." She added that Pinfield, a decades-long music industry veteran, will be holding a live auction for a guitar signed by Guns N' Roses shredder

> We're really thrilled (that) The Viper Room has just been an incredible partner, they've been so generous with us, giving us the venue for free and the parking lot, and it's just been a really wonderful experience to work with them
> - Genevieve Riutort, Westside Food Bank President and CEO

SEE **FOOD BANK** PAGE 11

14-year-old-child attacked by mob at the beach

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The Santa Monica Police Department is investigating a mob assault that sent one child to the hospital and forced the early closure of the Santa Monica Pier last week.

The incident began on July 14 with an illuminated drone show near the Santa Monica Pier at about 9 p.m.

SMPD said officers were deployed on the beach, Pier, and Ocean Front Walk observing the crowd and responding to any disturbances. According to Lt. Erika Aklufi the spectators were peaceful and followed instructions to stay within the designated viewing areas. Following the show, the crowd dispersed, and smaller groups headed onto the Pier and up the Pier Ramp.

However, about 15 minutes after the show ended, a 14-year-old boy was attacked and possibly knocked unconscious near 120 Colorado.

"Officers arrived on the scene at 9:48 pm and further dispersed the crowd," said Lt. Aklufi. "The fire department transported the juvenile victim to a local hospital and our officers completed a report."

Social media posts about the incident say the child was chased from the Pier to the Surfing Fox restaurant by the mob and was saved from further assault due to a pair of bystanders intervening.

According to SMPD additional disturbances were reported at 4th and Colorado as the group moved east. The disturbance and the extensive number of people still on the Pier prompted officials to close the structure at 10:30 p.m. rather than the normal closure of 11 p.m.

The assault is currently under investigation but follows a rash of beachfront crime in the city including a homeless man assaulting a child on the Pier, a group of beach vendors attacking visitors and the attempted drowning of a woman.

In addition to the serious crimes, SMPD has seen an increase in calls lately as Summer heat has drawn more people to the beach.

SMPD received 1,654 calls for service from July 4th to the 7th including both calls from the public and self-initiated activity like Periodic Checks (286 completed), Pedestrian Stops (62), traffic stops (98) and encampments addressed (18). SMPD said there was an expected increase in municipal code violations over the July 4 holiday mostly due to fireworks but they also responded to calls like: Disturbing the Peace - 198, Petty Theft - 37, Status/Welfare Check - 53, Trespassing - 59, Misdemeanor Battery - 16 and Traffic Collisions - 16.

Over the holiday weekend, officers wrote 91 reports and issued 117 non-traffic citations (cite and release misdemeanor arrests).

According to SMPD, officers physically booked/arrested 37 individuals over the holiday: 19 for misdemeanors (released from the jail with citations per Zero Bail), 11 for felonies, and seven warrant arrests. The felony arrests were for: Felony Domestic Violence, Assault with a Deadly Weapon (2), Commercial Burglary (2), Possession of Drugs with Intent to Sell (2), Possession of a Loaded Firearm, Felony Criminal Threats, Felony Vandalism, Felony Parole Violation (2), and Felony Battery on a Police Officer.

The misdemeanor arrests included: Misdemeanor Vandalism, Misdemeanor Assault, Misdemeanor Battery, Indecent Exposure, Shoplifting, Public Intoxication, Drug Possession, and DUI (three arrests on July 4th).

By comparison, there were 1,434 calls for service during the four days from June 20 to the 23rd.

editor@smdp.com





Surf report

WATER TEMP: **68.7**

WEDNESDAY
FAIR TO GOOD
SURF: 4-6ft
Chest to overhead

Good size, long period SW/SSW swell peaks for summer exposures. A touch more NW windswell blends in but shape will still favor the summer points. Wind looks light in the earlier AM — just plan around the modest AM high tide.

THURSDAY
FAIR TO GOOD
SURF: 4-6ft
Chest to overhead

Good size, long period SW/SSW swell continues for summer exposures. A touch of NW windswell blends in but shape will still favor the summer points. Wind looks light in the earlier AM — just plan around the modest AM high tide.

Weather

Wednesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 71.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 63.
Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 72.
Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 64.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2024/07/17	Wed	02:03 AM	0.30	L
2024/07/17	Wed	08:51 AM	3.22	H
2024/07/17	Wed	12:11 PM	2.80	L
2024/07/17	Wed	6:59 PM	5.77	H
2024/07/18	Thu	02:40 AM	-0.23	L
2024/07/18	Thu	09:24 AM	3.44	H
2024/07/18	Thu	1:06 PM	2.76	L
2024/07/18	Thu	7:42 PM	6.17	H
2024/07/19	Fri	03:17 AM	-0.67	L
2024/07/19	Fri	09:54 AM	3.62	H
2024/07/19	Fri	1:56 PM	2.63	L
2024/07/19	Fri	8:25 PM	6.55	H
2024/07/20	Sat	03:53 AM	-1.01	L
2024/07/20	Sat	10:26 AM	3.80	H
2024/07/20	Sat	2:43 PM	2.45	L
2024/07/20	Sat	9:06 PM	6.81	H
2024/07/21	Sun	04:31 AM	-1.21	L
2024/07/21	Sun	10:59 AM	3.97	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: 7/15
9 31 39 40 45
Power#: 23
Jackpot: 75 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 7/12
15 35 48 53 68
Mega#: 8
Jackpot: 226 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 7/13
1 18 25 27 31
Mega#: 5
Jackpot: 53 M

Fantasy5
Draw Date: 7/15
3 16 25 28 36

Daily 3
Draw Date: 7/15
EVENING: 3 0 4
Draw Date: 7/15
MIDDAY: 4 2 4

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 7/15
1st: 11 - Money Bags
2nd: 08 - Gorgeous George
3rd: 05 - California Classic
Race Time: 1:48.54

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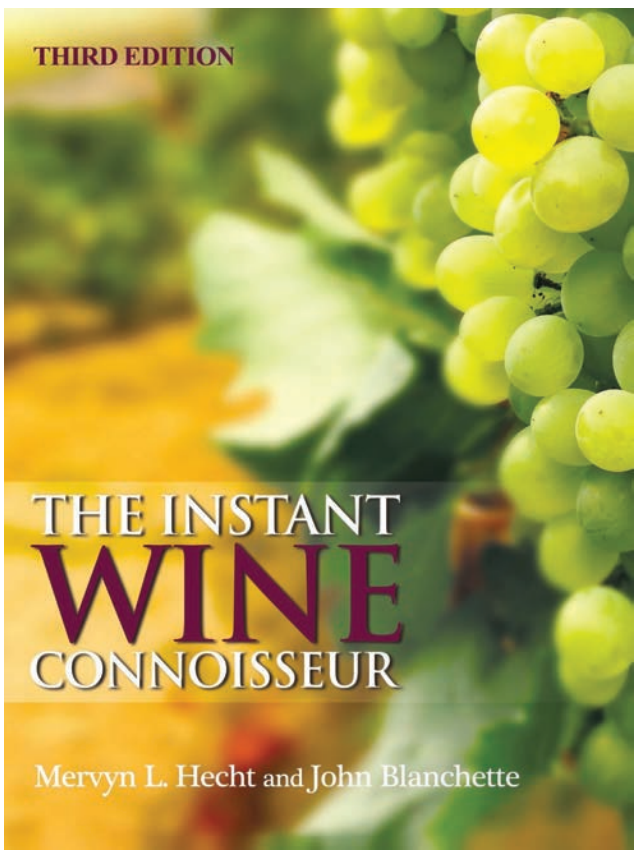
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OPINION **UNMUTED**

Devan Sipher

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A talk about homelessness

What do we talk about when we talk about homelessness (with apologies to Raymond Carver)?

At the most recent Santa Monica City Council meetings, the Council has focused on the intersection of homelessness and public safety, motivated partially by the recent violent assault of a 17-year old girl by a homeless man. Fortunately, the girl was saved by a woman who came to her rescue by tackling her assailant, and this past week the Council awarded a commendation for bravery to that woman, Jenna Wilker. The twist is that Ms. Wilker is also homeless.

The commendation calls Ms. Wilker a hero and with good reason, given that she put her own life at risk to save someone else's, suffering lacerations around her throat and a bite wound to her ear. "The only thing I was thinking is she needs help," Ms. Wilker, 25, told me, as she described seeing the teenager being strangled. "I know those screams," Ms. Wilker said. "I've made those screams."

Ms. Wilker, who was molested as a child, has been homeless on and off since she aged out of the foster care system at 18, so she knows what it feels like to be in danger and that overpowered thoughts of self-preservation.

We're not used to thinking of unhoused people as heroes. More often they get demonized as drug addicts and criminals. Some of them are. But some housed people are also drug addicts and criminals. It's easier to blame the homeless as a group for the urban blight we're suffering through than to deal with them as individuals with individual virtues and risks.

Ms. Wilker's altruism forces us to examine the complexity and contradictions of the situation. I've heard many complaints from local business owners about the threat posed by homeless people who assault customers or destroy merchandise. Those incidents are all too real and too frequent, but the people responsible for those destructive actions have greater problems than just being homeless.

The fact is that Ms. Wilker's equally concerned about public safety and described living in constant fear of violence from mentally unstable people on the streets in Santa Monica, where she has lived for nearly a year.

"There's a simple solution," she said. "Recriminalize methamphetamine use." This seemed somewhat surprising coming from an admitted former addict, who has been sober for more than three years, but as a former addict and someone living on the streets, she has first-hand experience. "Methheads don't care. They do it in public. They do it in front of children. If they're charged, they're out the next day. There's no consequences."

It's time for our city's leaders and public safety managers to separate the issues and address them without political dogma. Those insisting that all we need is more affordable housing to solve our city's problems are either uninformed or insincere, since housing won't solve the threat someone with mental illness poses to themselves or to society. But those in our city who are against affordable housing and want the homeless swept off the streets are also lacking clarity and compassion. "I'm a U.S. citizen," Ms. Wilker said. "I'm not a felon."

Credit goes to the Council for honoring her and to Mayor Phil Brock for tracking her down, as he told me the previous week he was trying to do. "I want to bring her to City Hall and make sure she gets all the huzzahs she can get because she saved a girl's life," he said.

Huzzahs are great, but what she really needs is a job and a home. Thanks to the attention, Ms. Wilker now has a GoFundMe page. "I'm now eating daily," she said, but she's been told there's a five-year wait for Section 8 housing in Santa Monica. "The idea of being on the street until I'm 30 is daunting."

She's also been unsuccessful finding work. "There's a stigma on hiring homeless people," she said. However, coincidentally, the Department of Transportation Director, Anuj Gupta, told the Council last week that Big Blue Bus is actively recruiting new employees. Is it possible that Ms. Wilker or others like her could be candidates? If not, is there someone out there with other public or private sector suggestions?

I doubt it will be an easy transition for any homeless person seeking employment. But Ms. Wilker shared the motto that she lives by: "Your past is called your past because you must move past it or it will drag you down for the rest of your life." Perhaps Santa Monica also needs to move past old habits and find new solutions for a healthier future.

Devan Sipher

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Downtown

Inaugural Roll @ Santa Monica Brings Roller Skating Fun to the Beach

Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. has announced the grand opening of the inaugural Roll @ Santa Monica, a seasonal roller skating rink located in the heart of the beach community. This is the first time Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. will host such an event, marking a new addition to the district's recreational offerings. The 4,800 square-foot outdoor rink, operated by Willy Bietak Productions, will be open from Saturday, August 10, through Monday, October 14, at 1324 5th Street, Santa Monica.

A Grand Opening Celebration, in partnership with LA Skate Hunnies, will kick off the skating season on Saturday, August 10, featuring music, skate performances and entertainment from 12 to 2 p.m. LA Skate Hunnies will be involved in all events at Roll @ Santa Monica, including 2nd Wednesdays themed skate nights on August 14, September 11 and October 9, from 6 to 10 p.m., offering unique music and style-themed sessions. For those looking to improve their skating skills, LA Skate Hunnies will offer group skating lessons every Saturday and Sunday morning from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., providing opportunities for both adults and children to learn and enjoy skating by the beach.

RINK DETAILS:
Location: 1324 5th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401
Dates: Thursday, August 10, 2024, through October 14, 2024
Hours of Operation:
Sundays through Thursdays, 12 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Fridays and Saturdays, 12 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Admission: $15 per person (includes skate rental)
Extras: Lockers and socks available for $5 each
ADMISSIONS:

Tickets can be purchased online at rollatsantamonica.com. Admission, including skate rental, is $15 per person. Five bookable time slots are available daily: 12 p.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., and 8 p.m.

PRIVATE EVENTS:
Private Party Tent: Rent a 15'x15' tent for 1.5 hours, accommodating up to 25 guests.
Private Rink Buyout: Exclusive use of rink for two hours, accommodating up to 200 guests.

For more information, visit rollatsantamonica.com or contact (310) 807-4822. Follow along on social media to stay updated and share your experiences on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok with the hashtag #rollsantamonica.

For more information on recreational offerings in Downtown Santa Monica, visit downtownsm.com/events-calendar.."

SUBMITTED BY SANAZ FAKHIMI

Citywide

Free and Reduced-Price Meals for SMMUSD Students- School Year 2024-25

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District announces its policy to serve nutritious meals every school day under the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, and/or Afterschool Snack Program. Effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals if the household income is less than or equal to the federal guidelines.

Households do not need to turn in an application when the household receives a notification letter saying that all children automatically qualify for free meals when any household member receives benefits from CalFresh, CalWORKs, or FDPIR. Children who meet the definition of foster, homeless, migrant, or runaway are eligible for free meals. Contact school officials if any child in the household is not on the notification letter. The household must let school officials know if they do not want to receive free or reduced-price meals.

Applications will be sent to the household with a letter about the free and reduced-price meal program. Households that want to apply for meal benefits must fill out one application for all children in the household and give it to the Food & Nutrition Services office at 1717 4th St., Santa Monica, CA 90401. For a simple and secure method to apply, use our online application at http://www.myschoolapps.com. Contact Food & Nutrition Services at 310-450-8338, ext. 70228 for help filling out the application. The school will let you know if your application is approved or denied for free or reduced-price meals.

Households may turn in an application at any time during the school year. If you are not eligible now, but your household income goes down, household size goes up, or a household member starts receiving CalFresh, CalWORKs, or FDPIR, you may turn in an application at that time.

Information given on the application will be used to determine eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year by school officials. The last four digits of the Social Security number from any adult household or checking that you do not have a Social Security number is required if you include income on the application.

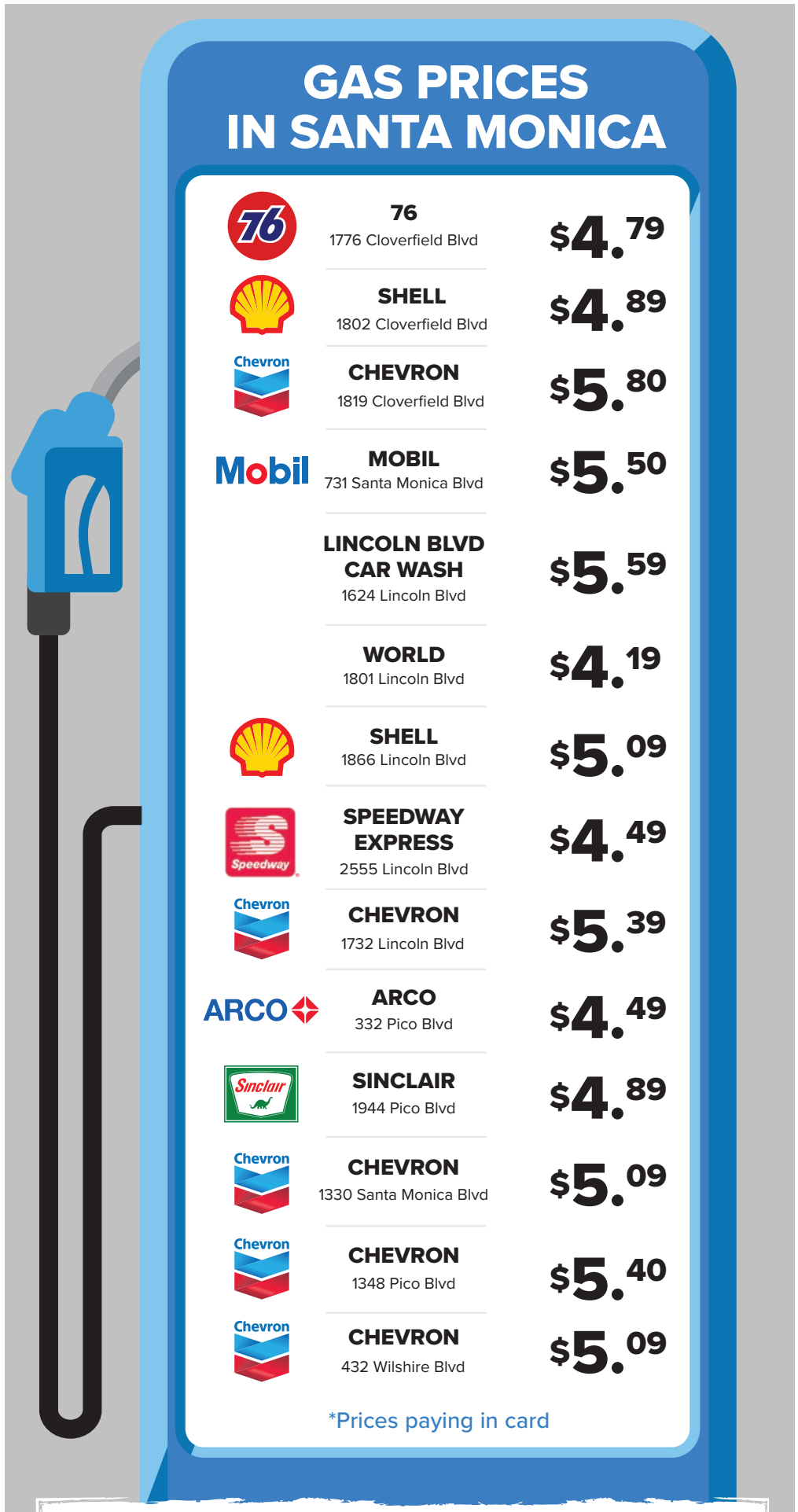
Households that receive Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) benefits, may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals by filling out an application.

Foster children are eligible for free meals and may be included as a household member if the foster family chooses to also apply for the non-foster children on the same application. Including foster children as a household member may help the non-foster children qualify for free or reduced-price meals. If the non-foster children are not eligible, this does not keep foster children from receiving free meals.

Your child's eligibility status from last school year will continue into the new school year for up to 30 school days. School officials do not have to send reminder or expired eligibility notices. If you do not agree with the decision or results of verification, you may discuss it with school officials. You also have the right to a fair hearing, which may be requested by calling or writing the hearing official: Richard Marchini, Director of Food and Nutrition Services, 1717 4th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401, 310-450-8338, ext. 70342.

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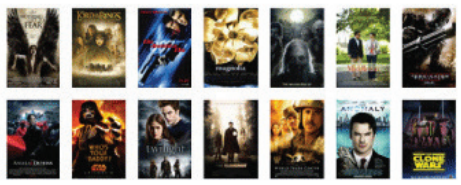


Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have fallen 2.3 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $4.67/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 9.7 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 29.7 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has risen 2.3 cents in the last week and stands at $3.83 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at $3.87/g while the most expensive was $5.69/g, a difference of $1.82/g. The lowest price in the state was $3.63/g while the highest was $6.79/g, a difference of $3.16/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 2.5 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $3.49/g. The national average is up 5.2 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 5.8 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.

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MIRAMAR

FROM PAGE 1

Landmarks Commission will ultimately have a say on the project via a Certificate of Appropriateness application, due to the complex's Palisades Building and the Moreton Bay Fig Tree's designation as city landmarks.

The Moreton Bay Fig Tree, the 80-foot-tall landmark planted by a sailor in the late 1800s, would become the "focal point of the site" with the redevelopment. The updated site plan, applicant Ocean Avenue LLC stated, "was designed to provide a pedestrian friendly open space network," and includes an approximately 14,000 square foot publicly-accessible space surrounding the tree, holding the Fig Tree Deck and the Miramar Gardens Terraces among other spaces.

> The site design is really anchored by the historic Moreton Bay Fig Tree ... one of the primary guiding principles was to open up the hotel parcel, most of the surrounding streets and also to pedestrians
>
> - Dustin Peterson, Principal and Vice President of developer The Athens Group

"The site design is really anchored by the historic Moreton Bay Fig Tree ... one of the primary guiding principles was to open up the hotel parcel, most of the surrounding streets and also to pedestrians," said Principal and Vice President of developer The Athens Group Dustin Peterson.

Board members and the vast majority of public comment were amazed by the attention to detail in the presentation, with board member Jesse Campos stating that the applicant has handled challenges from prior ARB reviews, appreciating "the responsiveness" to needs and comments.

"I'm supportive of the project and just interested to see the development," board member Craig Hamilton added. "There's so many pieces to it that have improved."

Speakers voicing their support ranged from representatives of local economic leaders to environmental advocates, such as Urban Forest Task Force member Jerry Rubin, who admired the care given to the Fig Tree.

"I certainly hope that this can be approved, it's going to benefit so much (to) the community ... I'm grateful to all of the employees (and) really appreciate all the work that's being done," Rubin said, adding that he hopes the development can be completed in time for the 2028 Olympic Games.

On the economic front, Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. Business & Community Development Manager Martin Ronzio-Garcia stated that the development is estimated to contribute over $444 million to the city's general fund and over $112 million to local schools, with a total economic impact exceeding the $3 billion mark. Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce Director of Government Affairs Alex Brown added that the Chamber has expressed "enthusiastic support" for the project.

"We believe the project represents a visionary step forward for our city, integrating contemporary architecture, sustainability and beautifully landscaped open spaces," Brown said. "Over the next 25 years, the project is projected to generate hundreds of millions in direct taxes and billions in overall economic impact ... after years of rigorous planning and approvals, we hope that Santa Monica can reap the benefits of this project."

Though the ARB item on the Miramar development was not a public hearing or a regular-agendized item, the board recommended that the project move forward to the Landmarks Commission. City staff will now review the project, specifically a historic preservation consultant assessing conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, and the Landmarks Commission public hearing for application is anticipated to take place in either September or October.

thomas@smdp.com



Graphic Courtesy Ocean Avenue LLC

PLANS: The redeveloped Miramar Hotel will focus on outdoor space around the iconic Moreton Bay Fig Tree.

A prison union is spending big on Gavin Newsom. Is it an '800 pound gorilla' or a threatened species?

NIGEL DUARA AND JEREMIA KIMELMAN
Special to the Daily Press



Photo by Pablo Unzueta for CalMatters

PRISON: Rows of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation uniforms hang at Halby's on May 8, 2023 in Blythe.

A year after he took the top job in 2019, the president of one of California's largest and most powerful unions said in a newsletter that he wanted to be "the 800 pound gorilla" in Sacramento politics.

Since then, the California Correctional Peace Officers Association, the union known as CCPOA representing 26,000 state prison guards, has spent and spent, in a way it never did before. Its biggest recipient: Gov. Gavin Newsom, who has taken $2.9 million from the union since he was elected governor.

That's 31% of all political spending by the union since 2001.

The union under President Glen Stailey gave $1.75 million to Newsom's anti-recall campaign in 2021 – the largest single contribution to that effort – and another $1 million to support Proposition 1, Newsom's treatment and housing plan for people experiencing serious mental illness, which passed by the narrowest of margins this year.

That's a noted contrast to the union's relationship with the three governors who preceded Newsom, especially former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who fought the union's proposed raises and was the target of an aborted recall campaign launched by the union.

Prior to the Newsom administration, the prison union's biggest political expense came in 2005, when it joined other labor organizations in fighting a package of ballot measures sponsored by Schwarzenegger that would have curbed state spending and weakened public employee unions. The unions won, dealing Schwarzenegger a major defeat.

Campaign finance records show the union largely stayed out of political fights during former Gov. Jerry Brown's administration. It avoided the ballot measures that lowered criminal sentences for nonviolent crimes and gave inmates more opportunities for parole — propositions that voters passed and that contributed to declining headcounts in state prisons.

Then Newsom took office, and the union's pocketbook opened wide.

There are two ways to look at that spending, according to interviews with legislators, labor leaders, former prison officials and budget watchdogs.

In one, it's a naked display of power: one of the richest unions in a labor-friendly state reminding its top politicians that it can spend with them — or against them. That's primarily the view from outside the Capitol.

In the other view, from inside the Capitol, it's a reflection of the union's anxiety in the face of waning influence as California's future almost certainly includes fewer prisons and fewer union-represented prison guards to staff them. The numbers don't lie: California is housing 70,000 fewer inmates in state prisons than it did in 2011.

At the outset of his first term, Newsom floated the idea of closing a single state prison. He's since closed three and canceled a contract on another private prison, collectively saving hundreds of millions of dollars. But facing a budget deficit and 4,000 fewer inmates projected to be in prison by the end of his term in 2026, Newsom demurred this year from shutting down another institution.

In a year of budget scarcity, when each inmate costs about $132,000 to house annually and the Legislative Analyst's Office has said the state has space to close five more prisons, Newsom has been stubborn about keeping prisons open. He has said he wants to keep some additional capacity in the system, and that he wants to build up rehabilitative programs that can help inmates reintegrate into society.

Izzy Gardon, a spokesperson for Newsom, in a written statement said the governor has tried to balance potential budget savings with public safety needs inside prisons.

"Saving taxpayers billions of dollars without impacting public safety, Gov. Newsom has closed more prisons than any of his predecessors," she wrote. "The governor's decisions have been based exclusively on meeting the evolving needs of our criminal justice system, in a manner that maximizes public safety and the judicious use of taxpayer dollars.

Nathan Ballard, an adviser to the union and a longtime Newsom ally, said in written responses to questions from CalMatters that the union and the governor had "respectful and substantive" discussions about potential prison closures this budget cycle.

"Union leaders clearly aired their views and listened very carefully to the administration's priorities," Ballard said. "The governor made it known that he valued the union's input. Ultimately, Gov. Newsom's process is his own, and it would be irresponsible to speculate about how he arrives at any particular decision."

The millions of dollars the union shoveled into Newsom's most significant projects were a reflection of the union's priorities, he said.

"When the union and the governor are in alignment policy-wise, as they were during Proposition 1, the CCPOA does not hesitate to fight hard for the governor's initiatives," he said.

"Even while grappling with policy areas where they are less aligned, there is a strong commitment to finding areas of agreement and progress."

CCPOA'S BIG CONTRACTS IN NEWSOM YEARS

Spending lots of money to support the most powerful executive in the state is perhaps not surprising. So what happens to the politicians who cross the prison guard union?

When the union wanted to get rid of John Moorlach, a Republican state senator who was questioning pension benefits for California public employees, it spent more than $1 million against him in his Orange County race. Then the flyers started popping up, sponsored by the union, tying the Never Trumper senator to the policies and personal predilections of Donald Trump.

"It was cartoonish," said Lance Christensen, Moorloch's campaign manager in that 2020 race. "You would think that the public safety unions whose job it is to serve and defend and protect Californians would want a guy like John Moorlach, who was law and order and supportive generally of public safety programs."

The prison guard union has spent $3.8 million across 32 state legislative races in this century – $1.2 million of that was spent to defeat Moorlach. He lost to Democrat Dave Min, 51%-49%.

"They decided that it was time to go hammer and tong after him, and take him out," Christensen said.

The union, which represents about 10% of all state workers, has undoubtedly gotten good deals for its members, arguably none more so than last year, when it negotiated a $1 billion raise over three years. Correctional officers also got a new state-funded retirement perk out of the deal, in addition to their California Public Employees' Retirement System pensions. And when the state mandated COVID-19 vaccinations for state employees, prison guards were permitted to skip them.

That spending has consistently come under fire from the Legislative Analyst's

SEE **UNION** PAGE 8

UNION

FROM PAGE 7

Office, which found in 2019 and 2021 that the Newsom administration offered "no evidence to justify (a) pay increase" in an unusually harsh analysis of proposed prison guard raises.

The analysis found that California prison guards have neither a recruitment nor a retention problem, and that their salaries were already in line with the salaries in the counties where they work – if not more than 5% higher than comparable job classifications.

Last year, the Legislative Analyst's Office excoriated Newsom's administration for repeatedly refusing to make public a 2018 compensation study on prison guard salaries and benefits. The administration regularly publishes compensation studies regarding its 18 other employee bargaining units.

Instead, the administration provided a 2022 compensation study, which the Legislative Analyst's Office called "flawed" for its failure to account for overtime pay and its selection of large, metropolitan counties as pay comparison points rather than the rural areas where most prison guards work.

"The study is flawed to the point that it is not helpful in meeting its stated objective and we recommend policymakers not use it to assess whether the state's compensation package for correctional officers is appropriate to attract and retain qualified workers," according to the Legislative Analyst's Office.

Those raises, said Brian Kaneda, deputy director for Californians United for a Responsible Budget, put the state's budget crisis in sharper relief.

"The CCPOA has a stranglehold on Sacramento politics," Kaneda said. "Everyone's struggling right now, but prison guards are getting a $1 billion raise. Explain how this could possibly be the right move for California as we tussle with this historic budget deficit."

When asked to gauge the union's influence in Sacramento and the diverging views on its power, Ballard said union leadership concentrates on its members more than its lobby.

"The union's leaders are focused on matters of character, not reputation," he said. "The CCPOA's leaders are street-smart correctional officers who have worked in very tough conditions for decades, and as a group they are not terribly concerned with perceived status."

IS CCPOA A FACTOR IN NEWSOM'S PRISON CLOSURES?

Newsom began identifying prisons to close in 2020. More followed in 2022. Then, Newsom stopped naming additional prisons to close even though they have thousands of empty beds.

What changed? For one, people's perception of crime spiked in the pandemic — though the kind of crimes that would merit prison time mostly went down.

For a governor who perhaps has ambitions beyond Sacramento, that's important, said one Democratic legislator who did not want their name used for fear of retaliation by both the governor's office and the prison guard union.

"I don't think the CCPOA is the reason we've stalled on prison closures," said the legislator. "I think it's the governor himself or someone in the governor's office protecting (the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation).

"My presumption is the governor is moderating his views on public safety because of where he wants to go nationally. And so he's super careful about any perception of being soft on crime."

In its heyday during the prison building boom of the 1990s and 2000s, the prison guard union would never have had to account for such calculations, said former Corrections Secretary Matt Cate. Back then, both parties had incentives to make nice with the union.

"At the time, the Democrats were more moderate than they are now and they were doing everything to support labor generally," said Cate, who was appointed corrections secretary in 2008 by Schwarzenegger and stayed for two years under Brown, leaving the office in 2011. "Meanwhile, Republicans were staunchly in favor of law enforcement and long sentences because they didn't believe in rehabilitation and re-entry.

"So CCPOA had an open field. It was just a much easier job than what the CCPOA faces today. It's not as easy today to be an 800-pound gorilla as it would have been 20 years ago."

Cate doubts the union is the sole reason, or even the main reason, that Newsom stopped designating prisons for closure. Closing a prison is like closing "a small city," Cate said, with 3,000 inmates and 800-1,000 employees represented by a dozen or more different unions. The prison system's health care is managed by a federal monitor, and another federal monitor oversees the state's prison mental health care.

TAKING ON A DEMOCRAT, AND LOSING

One legislator who crossed the prison union and whose career survived was Assemblymember Reggie Jones-Sawyer, a Los Angeles Democrat, who said the sharp-elbowed tactics employed by the union under Stailey, its president, were reflective of the union's approach in the 1990s, a time when the union's power was at its height.

"If they sneezed," he said, "people got a cold."

In 2020, Jones-Sawyer fell into their crosshairs, literally.

The union ran an online ad against Jones-Sawyer that showed Stailey pointing at a wall of photos of legislators. Over Jones-Sawyer's photo was a piece of white paper with crosshairs and a red dot. Jones-Sawyer took that as a threat, and the union pledged to pull the ad down and re-edit it.

"It became clear that if they wanted to get back the power, they needed to take somebody out to put the fear into everybody," said Jones-Sawyer, who won re-election that year. "They thought I was an easy target to take out. They learned that was not the case."

Jones-Sawyer notes that the union didn't spend much under former Gov. Brown – not until the threat of prison closures became a reality after Newsom's election in 2018.

"Once they started talking about closing prisons, that's when the fear from the CCPOA came up," Jones-Sawyer said. "That's when they started writing double max-out checks."

Jones-Sawyer said he's frustrated by what he sees as abuses within the prison system, especially guards with multiple infractions keeping their jobs. The Office of the Inspector General earlier this year found that the corrections department had reclassified a backlog of staff misconduct complaints as "routine grievances," and allowed the statute of limitations to expire in 127 complaints between 2022 and 2023.

Now, Jones-Sawyer said, he's considering calling for an audit of the prison system's facilities and spending.

"When (the corrections department) comes back and says this is the best way to do it, we try to see their logic and a lot of times we don't," he said.

Are those hard-charging tactics isolating the prison union? One bill introduced this year may be an indication. The bill would limit the number of empty beds available in the prison system to account for the declining inmate population.

Among the bill's registered supporters are immigration advocates, the California Public Defenders Association and anti-incarceration lobbies.

There was just one group registered in opposition: the CCPOA.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT a General Municipal Election will be held in the City of Santa Monica on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, for the following officers:

For four (4) members of the City Council	Full term of four (4) years
For two (2) members of the Rent Control Board	Full term of four (4) years
For three (3) members of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education	Full term of four (4) years
For three (3) members of the Santa Monica Community College District Board of Trustees	Full term of four (4) years

The Nomination Period for these offices begins on July 15, 2024, and closes on August 9, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. One Candidate Workshop will be held on July 15 at 10:00 a.m. at City Hall, in the Council Chamber where Nomination Packets will be issued. Candidates unable to attend the workshop must make appointments to pick up Nomination Packets after the workshop. Candidates are strongly encouraged to watch the recording of the Candidate Workshop prior to their appointment. Available appointment dates/times will be posted at santamonica.gov/topicexplainers/ elections on July 8th when City Clerk staff will begin taking appointments.

If Nomination Papers for an incumbent officer are not filed by August 9, 2024, the voters shall have until the 83rd day before the election, August 14, 2024, to nominate candidates other than the person who is the incumbent, for that incumbent's elective office.

If no one or only one person is nominated for an elective office, appointment to the elective office may be made as prescribed by Section 10229, Elections Code of the State of California.

The polls will be open on November 5, 2024 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.
/s/Nikima S. Newsome, Interim City Clerk
June 27, 2024

City of Santa Monica

NOTIFICACION DE LA ELECCIÓN

POR LA PRESENTE SE DA AVISO de que se habrá de llevar a cabo una Elección Municipal General en la Ciudad de Santa Mónica el martes, 5 de noviembre de 2024, para los siguientes funcionarios:

Para cuatro (4) miembros del Concejo Municipal	Período completo de cuatro (4) años
Para dos (2) miembros de la Junta del Control de Alquileres	Período completo de cuatro (4) años
Para tres (3) miembros del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Santa Mónica-Malibu	Período completo de cuatro (4) años
Para tres (3) miembros de la Junta de Síndicos del distrito de la comunidad universitaria de Santa Mónica	Período completo de cuatro (4) años

El período de nominación para estas oficinas comienza el 15 de julio de 2024 y cierra el 9 de agosto de 2024 a las 5:00 p.m. El 15 de julio de 2024 a las 10:00 a.m. se llevará a cabo un taller de candidatos en el ayuntamiento, en la sala del Consejo, donde se emitirán los documentos de nominación. Se les alienta a los candidatos potenciales que no pueden asistir al taller, que se comuniquen con la Oficina de la Secretaria Municipal para programar una cita para recoger los documentos de nominación. Se recomienda encarecidamente a los candidatos que vean la grabación del taller para condidatos antes de su nombramiento. Las citas disponibles se publicará en santamonica.gov/topic-explainers/elections el 8 de julio momento en el cual la Oficina de la Secretaria Municipal comenzará a tomar citas.

Si los papeles de nominación para un oficial titular no son presentados para el 9 de agosto de 2024, los votantes tendrán hasta 83 días antes de la elección, el 14 de agosto de 2024, para nominar otros candidatos que no sean la persona que es el titular, para la oficina electiva del titular.

Si no se nomina a nadie o solamente a una persona para un cargo electivo, se puede realizar el nombramiento al cargo elegido según lo prescrito por la Sección 10229 del Código Electoral del Estado de California.

Los centros electorales estarán abiertos el 5 de noviembre de 2024 entre las 7:00 am. y 8:00 pm.

/f/ Nikima S. Newsome, Secretaria Municipal Interino Fecha: 27 de junio de 2024

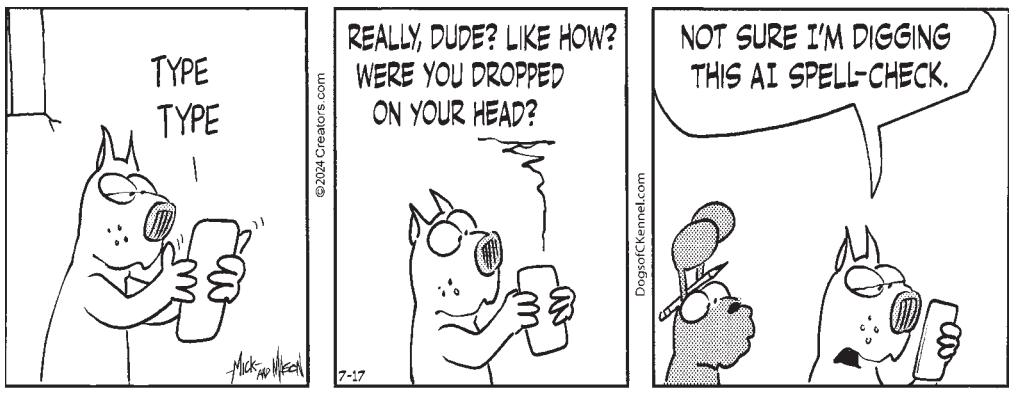
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



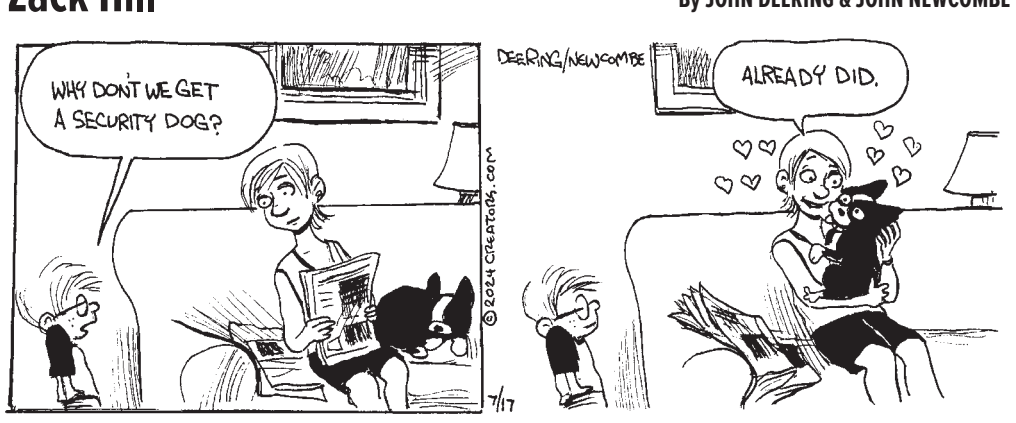
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



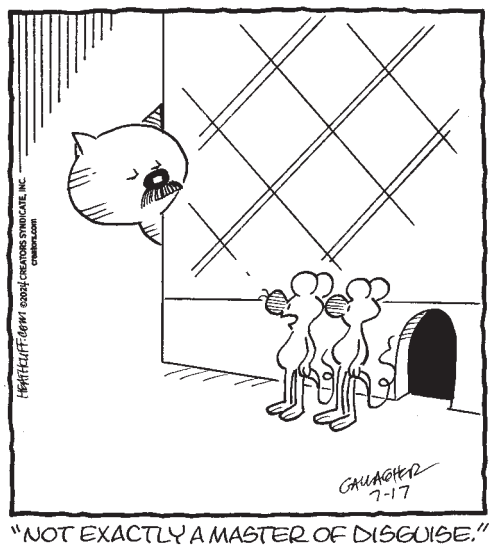
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"NOT EXACTLY A MASTER OF DISGUISE."

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6274

Kiama and beyond

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

Bait	Cape	Illaroo	Red Pt
Bars	Care	Jobs	Relax
Bays	Coal	Kiah	Rest
Beach	Cold	Lagoon	Sand
Bega	Cool	Lake	Sunny
Berry	Dining	Magnificent	Surf
Birds	Durras	Mogo	Swim
Boats	Eden	Museum	Tans
Bombo	Endrick	Nature	The Royal
Bunga	Ettrema	Ocean	Track
Bush	Fish	Oysters	Unit
Calm	Golf	Pambula	Valley

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

On another winery tour

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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 17)

You'll be often buoyed on strong currents of passion this year, which makes work feel like play and play feel like an important quest. You've a special charisma that kicks in to help you magnetize the very things you're most attracted to. More highlights: three celebrations, a shift in your style that creates ease and allows you to cover great distances, and a perfect report card of sorts. Virgo and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 12, 2, 20 and 15.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Widen your circle. New blood will invigorate your social and professional scene. The initial approach is the hardest part of the job today. Once you work up the nerve to jump in, the rest will happen naturally.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Even with your "no regrets" policy, certain moods can set in that cause you to ponder what you'd do differently if you could, and it's not a waste because the examination influences your future choices.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). In the party of life, motivation is usually fashionably late. There's something you've been thinking about doing, and it's a little ambitious, perhaps even scary. Don't wait for motivation — just start without it and it will show up at the perfect time.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You are purposeful but open-minded. You welcome an array of experiences because anything that forces you to adjust is an excellent teacher. Being comfortable in a variety of contexts is the hallmark of sophistication.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You learn it from Marvel movies and from life, too — no villain is complete without a good side, and no hero is complete without flaws. Today highlights the complex mix inside — you see it in others and appreciate it in yourself, too.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's normal to feel bewildered in this vast ocean of life. If you get a little lost, try anchoring to a hull and sticking with the vessel like a barnacle. You'll go everywhere the ship goes and love the journey.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There are accomplishments you want because of what they represent to you. The actual value of the reward doesn't matter nearly as much as your underlying purpose. Some things you just have to do to prove that you can.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When people seek your approval, it is flattering to a point but can also become draining. And however nice it is to know that you're respected, you'll be more drawn to the emotionally self-reliant.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You have so much more knowledge than you think, you could write a whole book, put out an entire class, or even a school of thought. It starts small though, by organizing and ordering your thoughts.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll be a bit of a tease, realizing the great fun that can come from a playful approach to life. The equally lighthearted will find you irresistible, as will a certain someone with a heavy heart.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll act boldly. Does knowing others will copy you affect your choice? There are social opportunities coming your way. It won't hurt to have a number of icebreakers and fun topics in your conversational bag.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You weren't exactly working toward a leadership position, and yet if no one is doing it as well as you know you can, you'll step up. It's best for everyone — a happy outcome.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

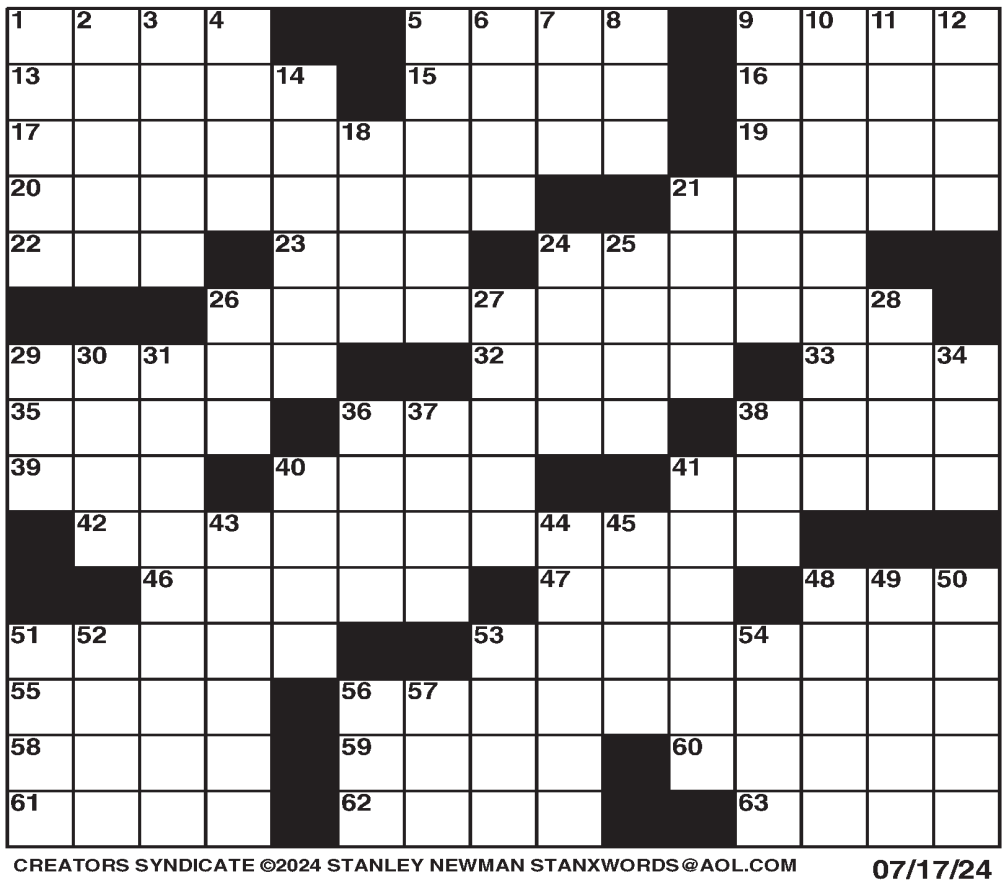
NO BUMPS OR LUMPS by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Hitchhiker's goal
5 IRS regulation experts
9 Fly high
13 Upset tummy
15 Lady with a niece
16 In the past
17 London landlord's offering
19 Flimsy, as excuses
20 Open-minded
21 Gave a great review
22 Maritime call for help
23 Prefix meaning "equal"
24 Pasta topper
26 2, 4, 6, 8...
29 Unshiny photo surface
32 Resources from mines
33 Feel poorly
35 Line of rotation
36 Silkwood portrayed by Streep
38 Folklore villain
39 Ruby or topaz
40 Photos
41 Aren't colorfast
42 Sensible
46 In a mean mood
47 Gen-__ (boomer's kid)
48 "Now I understand!"
51 Commence
53 Wines' origin years
55 Chemist's workrooms
56 Language meant to flatter
58 Wheel-to-wheel bar
59 Coconut tree
60 Look happy
61 Desserts with crusts
62 Tiny picnic intruders
63 Skiing surface

DOWN

1 Inflatable boats
2 Traditional Arctic abode
3 Wristwatch faces
4 Ending for kitchen or luncheon
5 Stadium's T-shirt launcher
6 Miniature golf stroke
7 Get __ for effort
8 Mo. metropolis
9 Give comfort to
10 In general
11 Pinnacle
12 Oboe accessory
14 Pull into town
18 Slacken off
21 Massages
24 Fully confident
25 Blessing's conclusion
26 Sci-fi visitors, for short
27 Icelanders' ancestors
28 Thoroughbred's father
29 Waiting-room reading, briefly
30 Skater's leap
31 Bus depot posting
34 Took by the hand
36 Scottish skirt
37 With sore muscles
38 __-fashioned (quaint)
40 Irksome person
41 Shelflike sleeping spaces
43 Poetry book contents
44 Fundamental truths
45 Soup can damage
48 A second time
49 "Greetings!"
50 Out of alignment
51 High-five sound
52 Roll to a runway
53 Battery measure
54 All-hrs. cash sources
56 Resort with saunas
57 Adult male



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07/17/24

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

FOOD BANK

FROM PAGE 2

Slash.

Along with the live auction, an exclusive raffle will take place with more rock history in tow. Prizes up for grabs include a drumhead signed by the Red Hot Chili Peppers' Chad Smith and a photo of late Stone Temple Pilots singer Scott Weiland with an inscription by widow Jamie Weiland. Other prizes range from nights at the Viper Room and the Magic Castle to a one-of-a-kind self-portrait drawn by three-time Emmy award-winning animation director and artist Wes Archer.

The Magic Castle will be well-represented during the evening, thanks to another food bank connection. One of the food bank's advisory board members is cousins with Cassandra and Ben Nemzer, regulars in Hollywood's magician paradise who will be performing on stage as well as doing "mingle magic" with attendees before the show.

"I've had to rethink what I believe in terms of the laws of physics after watching them perform," Riutort said.

While not a Santa Monica event, the Westside event was crafted to make everyone in the Los Angeles area aware of the organization's scope, as the food bank serves one-tenth of the county. The entertainment soiree was also made to re-think what's possible as far as nonprofit events, swapping the stuffy gala setting for good-natured heavy metal mayhem.

"We are trying to build the pipeline of the next generation of donors, board members, volunteers and other supporters, and we also want to get the message out that supporting nonprofit social service agencies can be fun, it doesn't have to be boring … you (can) go out to a really fun concert and magic show and have an amazing night with your friends," Riutort said.

A food drive will be set up at the venue, but the main goal of the night is to help kids survive a summer where they may be bereft of meals. Westside's Summer Children's Nutrition program provides easy-to-make foods like cereal, granola bars, microwavable mac and cheese, fruits and vegetables; making up for the meals they would typically get during the school year. Donations of $35 to the food bank provide 27 breakfasts and lunches for one child.

"There's a lot of kids who get most of their nutrition at school, they get breakfast and lunch and for a lot of kids, that's the most substantial meal that they get every day," Riutort said. "So when school is out over the summer, it's really concerning for a lot of families to try to make up those meals when they are barely getting by. Our (program) addresses that (by packing) very special boxes with kid-friendly foods, things that are fairly easy to prepare."

Thursday's Rock for Hunger event begins at 7 p.m., with tickets going for $50. To purchase, visit wsfb.org.

thomas@smdp.com



Courtesy photo

FUNDRAISER: The Westside Food Bank partners with The Viper Room for the second time on Thursday, focusing on funds for children's nutrition.



WEDNESDAY | JULY 17

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.

FREE WALK-IN LEGAL CLINIC

Santa Monica residents can meet one on one with a lawyer from Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles for help with housing issues from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. Immediate assistance is available by calling LAFLA directly at 800-399-4529 or visit lafla.org/gethelp.

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.

AUTHOR EVENT WITH JIM HARRIS

The Santa Monica History Museum, 1350 7th St., welcomes author and historian James Harris beginning at 6 p.m., with Harris presently the highly anticipated expanded edition of his celebrated book, "Santa Monica Pier: America's Last Great Pleasure Pier." The book, published by Angel City Press, will be available for purchase. Event is free.

THURSDAY | JULY 18

RETAIL/HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce members of retail and hospitality businesses are encouraged to join to discuss any issues, policy changes or other proposals that may be effecting your industry currently or in the future. Meeting held via Zoom beginning at 7:30 a.m. To register, visit: https://santamonicachamber.chambermaster.com/eventregistration/register/23197.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM: SUMMER WATER SAFETY

Longfellow the Whale and staff from the Santa Monica Swim Center share tips on how to stay safe around the water this summer. Limited space; free tickets available 30 minutes before the program. For families. Begins at 2:30 p.m. at Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave.

SUNSET PICNIC

It's Sunset Picnic at Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Highway, as locals pack their favorite picnic dinner (fancy or casual), bring family and friends and take part in fun activities like games, dominoes and checkers. Enjoy a fun, casual beachfront summer evening with a musical duo vibing in the background and S'mores for dessert. No glass or alcohol allowed. Runs from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION

The Commission shall act in an advisory capacity to the City Council and Director of Community Services in all matters pertaining to public recreation including playgrounds, music and entertainment. The Commission will consider the budget of the Community and Cultural Services Department and make recommendations to the City Manager and the City Council. Meeting begins at 6 p.m. in City Council Chambers of Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St.

FRIDAY | JULY 19

FREE PRODUCE MARKET

Come pick up refreshing summer fruits and vegetables at Seeds of Hope Free Produce Market at Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave., from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the Patio Room. Supplies limited to the first 150 families. For questions, call 310-458-8688.

SNOOPY!!! THE MUSICAL

Organized by the Santa Monica College Theatre Arts Department, this musical based on the beloved Peanuts comic strip by Charles Schulz sparkles with wit and warmth as it depicts life as seen through the eyes of Schulz's unforgettable characters. The musical sequel to "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown," "Snoopy!!!" has music by Larry Grossman and lyrics by Hal Hackady. Begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Theatre Arts Complex Main Stage. Tickets $18-25, to purchase visit: https://www.smc.edu/calendar/tickets.php.

GRILLED CHEESE & BEER NIGHT

Join Andrew's Cheese Shop, 728 Montana Ave., for a family-style dinner featuring a curated menu of decadent open face grilled cheese sandwiches expertly paired with artisanal beers from around the world. Includes a starter salad, four courses of grilled cheeses paired with four specialty beers, and a dessert course of an imperial stout float with french vanilla ice cream. Tickets $81.88, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/july-19th-grilled-cheese-beer-night-tickets-934650012347.

SATURDAY | JULY 20

PICKLE ME SILLY

The Ishihara Park Learning Garden, 2909 Exposition Blvd., will be hosting a "Pickle Me Silly" event for kids, families and adults beginning at 9 a.m. There will be a variety of pickled and preserved foods on hand, including Kim Chi, Pickled Beet and Okra. Kids get first dibs on the limited supply Home Pickling Kits to take home and inspire yourself.

DOWNTOWN SANTA MONICA WALKING TOUR

Discover the architectural gems and rich history of Downtown Santa Monica, beginning at Hostelling International Santa Monica, 1436 2nd St., at 10 a.m. Visit a 12-story Art Deco office tower, the British pub where Jim Morrison played his first show, the city's best example of a Queen Anne Victorian home, a lavish hotel that housed a speakeasy during Prohibition and more. Tours are approximately 2 hours and cover 6 blocks. Reservations suggested. Open to all ages. Tickets $10. For more information, visit: https://smc.givecloud.co/dwt.



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