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Policing the Promenade: DTSM’s security proposal comes to council

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer



Arabella Joaquin

DOWNTOWN: A new security company may come to 3rd Street.

The rising levels of crime in the Downtown area, together with the worsening homelessness crisis and most recently, the altercation Councilmember Phil Brock was involved with, have further fuelled the opinion that something needs to be done to help restore confidence to what was once the pride of Santa Monica, the city’s principal retail zone and one of the biggest tourist attractions in Southern California.

Add to this the fact that the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority board recently voted to move ahead with a plan to create a new police force dedicated to patrolling the County’s bus and train system and it’s hard not to think things are getting out of control.

As we reported last month, the board of Downtown Santa Monica Inc. voted to green light an initiative that will see a private security company patrolling the Third Street Promenade and surrounding area.

BACKGROUND

This vote followed a meeting on May 2, where board members voted to approve moving ahead with a proposal for DTSM to use the nearly $1.7 million currently funding the Ambassador Program to hire a private security company to help police patrol the downtown. Consequently, on May 5, a request for proposal was released and posted on the websites of both the international Downtown Association and the California Downtown Association.

A total of 11 submissions were received by the deadline of May 26 and in the DTSM meeting on May 25, the board voted to create an ad hoc security service selection committee to evaluate and recommend a private security company to provide services in the Downtown district.

Three private security firms made the shortlist and presented to that committee, before California-based Covered 6 was selected to advance, ultimately winning the approval of the board in the vote taken on June 15, 2023. However, before the vote was cast, the CEO of Covered 6, Chris Dunn and COO Michael Grant, were questioned quite extensively by both board members, together with gathered members of the public and retail owners and managers.

WAIT, WHAT..?!

Oh yes, a private security company called Covered 6 is set to be hired to provide extra policing, security and community services within the downtown area in the city of Santa Monica. It’s a pilot program of sorts, currently planned for a period of 12 months.

SEE **DTSM** PAGE 3

Actors and writers strikes enter second week with no signs of a deal to get Hollywood working again

KRYSTA FAURIA AND JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

The combined strike by Hollywood actors and screenwriters is entering its second week with no sign that a swift ending will be achieved.

For a week, actors including household names like Tina Fey, Kevin Bacon and wife Kyra Sedgwick, Rosario Dawson, David Duchovny and other stars have joined working class performers and writers on picket lines outside studios and corporate offices of streaming giants Amazon, MAX and Netflix.

The actors’ regular appearance on picket lines has provided additional starpower and voices on issues that are key to both groups — better pay and preserving established practices like residual payments, as well as protection from the use of artificial

SEE **STRIKE** PAGE 4

Emergency freeway closure announced to stabilize parts of the bluffs

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Emergency repairs are needed to repair an unstable portion of the Santa Monica Bluffs and City Hall has announced an overnight closure of the I-10 freeway and northbound Pacific Coast Highway to address the problem.

The City of Santa Monica, in coordination with local and regional partners, will temporarily close portions of the westbound I-10 freeway, northbound Pacific Coast Highway (PCH), and the

SEE **CONSTRUCTION** PAGE 7



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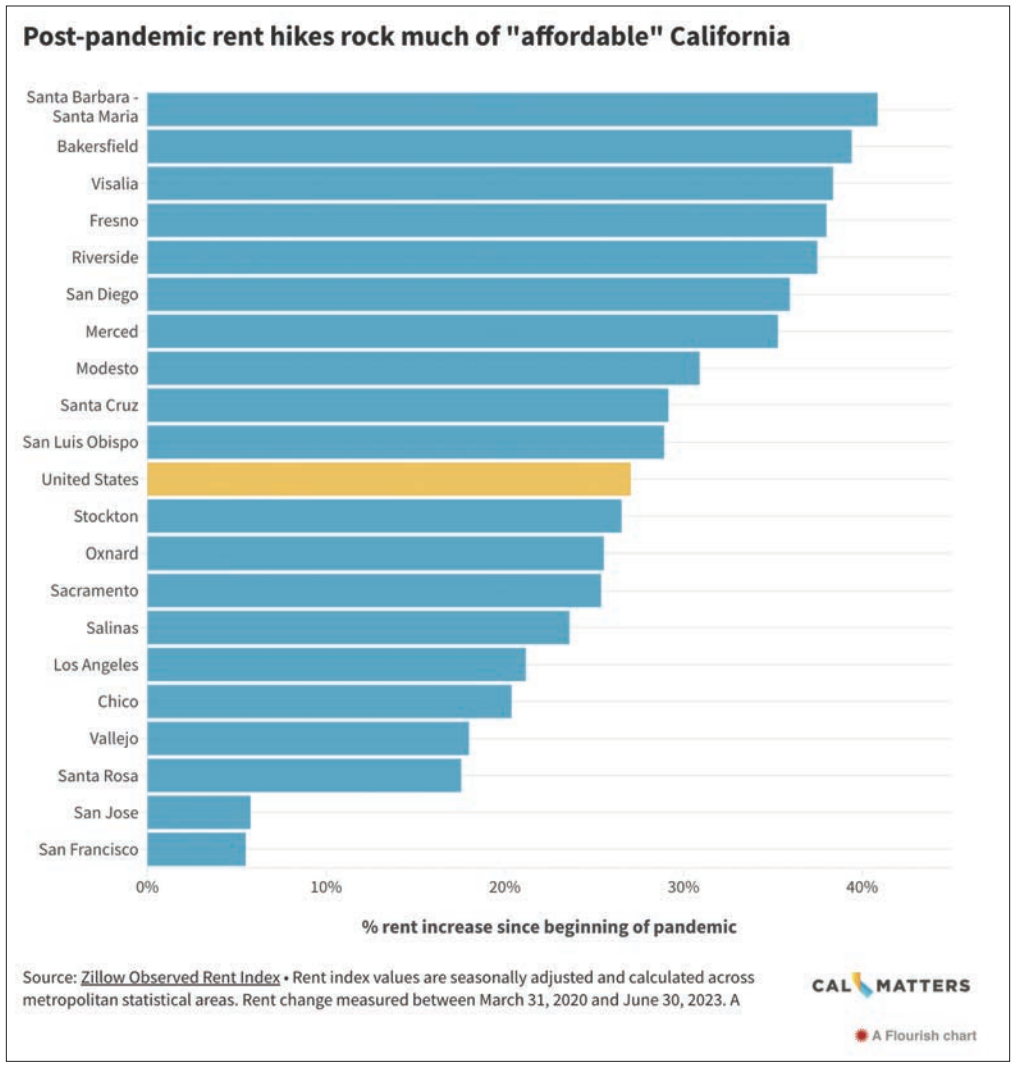


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Some of California's "cheapest" cities have seen the biggest rent hikes



Cal Matters Image

RENT: Rent is increasing in previously affordable communities.

BEN CHRISTOPHER
Special to the Daily Press

Inland cities including Bakersfield, Fresno, Visalia and Riverside — once cheaper options than pricey places such as the Bay Area — are no longer refuges from California's housing affordability crisis.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the typical asking rent in these former bastions of relative affordability have exploded by as much as 40%, according to data from the real-estate listings company Zillow.

California's inland rent spike is yet another lasting effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. Beginning in 2020, California's dense metropolitan coast saw an outflux of people, as educated white-collar workers, suddenly untethered from the office, packed their bags in search of cheaper and more socially distanced modes of living.

For many smaller California towns, the surge of new residents competing for housing has placed new financial pressures on lower-income residents, upended local housing markets and, in some cases, shifted the politics around housing and affordability.

In Santa Maria, just an hour up the 101 from Santa Barbara, the last three years have been a "perfect storm" for renters, said Victor Honma, who oversees housing vouchers across the region for the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Barbara.

The town was awash in suburb-seeking homebuyers from Los Angeles, the Bay Area and nearby Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo. The suddenly hot housing market persuaded many longtime local property owners to sell their rentals to the wave of new homebuyers, reducing the rental stock further. And though Santa Maria had always had a "healthy supply of inventory," said Honma, the available homes ran on the large side, leaving few one-bedroom units to go around for many suddenly desperate renters.

These trends were in the works prior to 2020, but "the pandemic was a stimulus," he said.

It's the same story in Bakersfield, where rents have jumped 39% since March 2020, as priced out Angelenos migrated north of the Grapevine, said Stephen Pelz, executive director of the housing authority in Kern County.

Since then rising interest rates have cooled the national housing market. But Pelz said the higher cost of borrowing has only added to the woes of Kern County renters: Fewer people purchasing homes has meant more competition for the area's remaining rental units.

AN INEVITABLE CONSEQUENCE

Jeff Tucker, an economist at Zillow, said the inland rental crunch is the inexorable result of California's overall housing shortage, as the affordability crisis along the coast ripples outward. Cities in the Central Valley used to enjoy a healthy "affordability advantage" over coastal urban areas, he said. But that advantage has begun to shrink over the last three years.

"People have been moving towards that more affordable option when they don't have anywhere else in California that they can afford," said Tucker.

SEE **RENT** PAGE 6

DTSM

FROM PAGE 1

WHO ARE THESE GUYS?!

The private security company Covered 6 has worked on security projects all over the world and has its own training facility in Moorpark, just north of Thousand Oaks. It boasts extremely rigorous training and candidate screening and employs many ex-law enforcement officers and former members of the armed services. Moreover, it has also already operated in the city of Beverly Hills for some time. Dunn himself is a 14-year veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department, before he established Covered 6 over a decade ago.

WHO DECIDED THAT THIS WAS NECESSARY?

This is a decision made by Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. (DTSM), a private, non-profit organization that works in association with the city to manage services and operations in the Downtown area of Santa Monica while promoting economic stability, growth and community life within the neighborhood.

WHO PUT THEM IN CHARGE?!

The 13-member board of directors of DTSM are made up of six members who are appointed by the City Council, six are directly elected by property owners within the district and one is the Santa Monica City Manager or his/her designee. DTSM manages the property-based Business Assessment District bounded by Ocean Ave to the west, Wilshire Blvd to the north, Lincoln Blvd to the east and the Santa Monica Freeway to the south.

WHERE'S THE CASH FOR THIS COMING FROM?

The estimated cost to fund the one year pilot program is in the region of $1.7million and that comes from two different sources. According to Andrew Thomas, CEO of DTSM, $1.1million is what had been allocated to the existing Community Ambassador program. The remaining $600,000 comes from the overall DTSM budget, made up of assessments and property taxes from retail outlets. It is not being paid for by residential Santa Monica taxpayers.

"We're fortunate that we have such a healthy reserve that we can draw from," Thomas says, adding, "For this pilot program we can afford to provide this service and not draw from other services and programs. But, if we take the program further, in the future, then we won't be drawing on our fat reserves any longer, we'll be going into major organs. It would impact our ability to perform other functions that are equally as important."

Consequently, should this experiment-of-sorts prove to be an unparalleled success in 12 months, there will need to be a discussion involving the City Council as to where the funding will come from.

"I should add that this contract is very important to Covered 6," Thomas said, adding, "So much so, that they're going to supplement what they're already set to provide us, with additional personnel to really get us started on the right track."

WHY CAN'T THAT MONEY BE SPENT ON EXTRA COPS?

It's no way near as simple as that. Putting aside for a moment that $1.7 million won't fund an entire platoon of new SMPD officers, when you factor in salaries, training, pensions and everything else that's part of that career job, it probably only pays for a couple of new officers. The more pertinent issue is that funding for additional police officers doesn't come from the DTSM.

"A private entity cannot employ the sworn officers of any public entity, whether a municipal police department like mine or a sheriff's department or any other city, county, state or federal law enforcement agency," Lieutenant Erika Aklufi, Office of the Chief of Police, said.

"The city could increase the number of budgeted police officers and continue to pay for us out of the general fund, but it is still up to the Chief in his sole discretion to determine where officers are to be used," Aklufi said, adding, "We already staff a contingent of officers in the downtown footprint and these officers will support and collaborate with the security officers because we believe it will increase public safety by filling in some gaps that we can't or don't provide."

WILL THEY BE ARMED?

You'd be forgiven for thinking after even a cursory glance at the Covered 6 website that the streets of Downtown are about to turn into a bad day in Damascus. Yes, it's jam-packed with pictures of ex-law enforcement and ex-military types dressed head-to-toe in merc chic: tac vests, pouches aplenty, body armor and combat clothing, shooting sidearms and assault rifles

However, it has been stressed that the majority of the Covered 6 employees will not be carrying any kind of firearms. According to Thomas, there will be one shift supervisor who will be carrying a sidearm and that's all. The current plan is to have a morning, afternoon and evening shift and during each of those, only one individual will be equipped with a gun. "That person will be former law enforcement who served honorably and was discharged as such" says Thomas.

It's not known yet if the patrolling employees will carry non-lethal forms of self-defense yet. It also hasn't been confirmed yet if each employee will be wearing a body-cam, but Thomas believes this is entirely possible.

ARE THEY GOING TO DRESS LIKE THEY'RE EXPECTING WWIII?

Unlike the city of Beverly Hills, where Covered 6 are already operating, the city of Santa Monica has a municipal code that states "No person employed to guard by persons or property or engaged in the business of guarding persons or property, other than a person duly authorized by a public agency so to do, shall wear a uniform which is black, navy blue, or dark blue in color."

So, while their attire won't look like it's just come from the Barbie movie, which is a damn shame, they can't dress like a police officer, which is exactly what's happening in Beverly Hills. Quite what the uniform will look like is not yet known and Thomas says that's one of the fine details that still has to be worked out.

WHAT AREAS WILL THEY PATROL?

For the proposed plan, coverage of the Downtown area will break down as follows: Zone 1 represents the three block length of the Third Street Promenade. Zone 2 surrounds Zone 1, providing a larger perimeter extending to 4th Ct, Ocean Ave, California Ave and Broadway. Zone 3 covers the area between 4th Ct and 7th Ct and approximately Wilshire Blvd to Colorado Ave. Zone L is from 7th Ct to 8th Ct and runs from Wilshire Blvd to Olympic Blvd. Finally, Zone 0 is a higgledy-piggledy shape incorporating the Santa Monica Place Mall, the Metro E-Line station and a little bit of Colorado Ave.

According to Covered 6, Zones 1 and 2, which also include the Downtown parking structures, will receive 100 percent coverage, Zone 3 will receive between 10 percent and as much as is needed and finally Zones L and Zone O will each receive between five percent and as much as is required. According to DTSM, deployment will be determined by need, by coordinating with SMPD and by zone of service.

WILL IT BE A 24-HOUR SERVICE?

No, it won't be 24-hours. Thomas says that Covered 6 will coordinate with SMPD to determine the best hours of operation, but it will be seven days a week made up of three shift changes on a daily basis. "My feeling is that they'll start early morning and then go pretty late into the evening," he says.

WHO WATCHES THE WATCHMEN?

The employees of Covered 6 will report directly to the Santa Monica Police Department and in the event that any kind of action is needed, the SMDP will be called immediately.

SO, THESE GUYS HAVE BEEN DOING THE SAME IN BEVERLY HILLS?

hirnot to exceed $1,081,281. This has been extended to November, when the contract will be reviewed again."The real success in Beverly Hills has been the reduction in crime in almost all categories," says Dunn, adding, "This team has virtually responded to 600 incidents and has become a model for other law enforcement agencies. More recent is the success in dealing with the unhoused and mentally ill. Often we are able to provide assistance and cancel these calls for the police department which frees up their time to focus on other services."

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The Santa Monica City Council is set to meet again next week, on Tuesday, 25 July where the issue will be discussed and finalized. A commencement date will more than likely be set not long after for the program to begin and Thomas believes this will be very soon, probably sometime in early September.

"At the police department, our constant focus is ensuring public safety. We recognized several years ago that security personnel in the downtown area, including the Promenade, parks, and parking structures, can help increase safety for our residents and visitors," said SMPD Chief Ramon Batista.

"We've supported DTSM's efforts to select the best service provider who understands the unique challenges inherent to Santa Monica and the Downtown area in particular. We're confident a collaboration between the police department and Covered 6 will be successful for Downtown Santa Monica."

Council will hear DTSM's plans for security, partnerships and programs at their July 25 meeting.

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STRIKE

FROM PAGE 1

intelligence. Roughly 65,000 actors — the vast majority of whom don't make enough from acting to qualify for health benefits through their guild — along with 11,500 screenwriters, are on strike.

While many of the picket lines are in Los Angeles and New York, film and television production happens throughout the country. Boston, Philadelphia and Chicago were among the the major cities with strike events Wednesday and Thursday. On Friday, actors in London held an event in solidarity with their Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists brethren.

Stars including Brian Cox, Andy Serkis, Hayley Atwell, Simon Pegg and Imelda Staunton gathered with other performers and production crew in London's Leicester Square for the demonstration organized by British actors' union Equity.

They chanted "One struggle, one fight, we support SAG-AFTRA fight" and "The luvvies, united, will never be defeated," using a British slang term for actors.

Cox, who played media mogul Logan Roy in "Succession," said "I think we are at the thin end of a horrible wedge," with artificial intelligence shaking the foundations of actors' work.

"The wages are one thing, but the worst aspect is the whole idea of AI and what AI can do to us," he said. "AI is the really, really serious thing. And it's the thing where we're most vulnerable."

Cox said it was important actors showed solidarity with striking screenwriters in the Writers Guild of America.

"We're just like pieces of furniture without writers," he said. Cox said he was "extremely annoyed with the (directors' union) DGA for not coming out in support" of colleagues in the industry.

Serkis, who has become a specialist in playing digitally created characters since he first played Gollum in "The Lord of the Rings" saga two decades ago, said "I'm probably one of the most scanned actors on the planet."

"I know that my image can be used, or my library of movements, can be used or my voice," he said, adding that it "is wrong that that is easily accessed and used without remunerating the artist."

There's no indication when negotiations with studios and streaming companies, which are represented by the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, will resume. The group has said they've offered both writers and actors substantial pay increases and have tried to meet other demands.

"Please come back to the table, please be realistic, please have a little bit more socialism in your heart and think of the people who make the money for you," "Mission Impossible" star Pegg urged studios and streaming services.

> "The wages are one thing, but the worst aspect is the whole idea of AI and what AI can do to us"
> - Brian Cox

Many on the picket lines in the U.S. have seized upon comments by their corporate bosses like Disney CEO Bob Iger, who last week called the unions' demands "not realistic."

During an earnings event Wednesday, Netflix co-CEO Ted Sarandos said grew up in a union household and knew the strike was painful on workers and their families.

"We're super committed to getting to an agreement as soon as possible. One that's equitable and one that enables the unions, the industry and everybody in it to move forward into the future," he said.

Actor-writer Seth Green said streaming, which became a dominant entertainment outlet during the pandemic, has upended the livelihoods of those striking.

"It all got broken. I mean, it sounds silly to say, but it's really as simple as that," Green said speaking outside Paramount Studios in Hollywood on Thursday. Traditional entertainment contracts used to compensate actors and writers throughout the long lifespan of successful shows and movies. But no longer, he said.

"If the company that owned the thing made a billion dollars, you'd get like a little bit of money from that. All of that is gone," Green said.

Lawless reported from London.

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OPINION **LAUGHING MATTERS**

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The Non Apology Apology



Courtesy Image

LM1: Some people have a lot to apologize for.

Occasionally I get reader emails claiming I'm far more critical of Republicans than I am of Democrats.(Okay, maybe more than occasionally.) One came right before the 2020 election when I wrote about an interviewer who asked Trump why didn't he ever apologize. "That's because I'm never wrong," he said as only he can with a straight, albeit orange, face.

Trump continued, "I have no problem with apologizing." The reporter replied, "When is the last time you apologized to anyone?" Trump said shamelessly, "I can't remember," just like he couldn't remember on which foot he had the "debilitating" bone spur. But today I thought for the most part, I'd switch my criticisms to the progressive side of the ledger. But first I need to define my definition of "apologizing."I'm sorry if your feelings are hurt puts the blame on the recipient. A more genuine statement is simply, "Can you accept my apology?forgive me?" (I suppose it's not a shock I've been divorced for decades.)

That brings me to RFK, Jr. who's running for the 2024 Democratic nomination for President, although he doesn't seem like the Democrat his uncles or his father were. In fact rumor has it that he's even getting funding from Republican donors. In a Republican held Congressional Hearing on Thursday he said he had 'never uttered a phrase that was either racist or antisemitic.' This only days after suggesting that the COVID-19 pandemic was possibly engineered to spare Jewish and Chinese people. (Which would would be even more comforting to a Chinese Jew or to a Jew who eats a lot of Chinese food. Sorry about that.)

In 2022 RFK, Jr. inexplicably implied that "Anne Frank had more freedom in hiding from the Nazis than people have today under U.S. vaccination policies." (He seemingly forgot to mention what ultimately happened to Anne.)

RFK Jr.'s 1st cousin, Caroline, John John's sister, married Edwin Schlossberg in 1986. In fact the couple just welcomed Caroline's first grandchild, a Jewish baby boy. I gather that given his recent comments RFK Jr. is getting plenty of tsuris, so I'm not going to pile on but I'm tempted.

That brings me to Roseanne Barr who is 100% Jewish and on a podcast recently said "No Jews died during the holocaust but that six million should die now for all the problems in the world they've created." Just as I felt a stroke coming on, I realized Roseanne was satirizing so I stopped dialing 9-1-1.

In 2018 Roseanne wrote a disgusting tweet about Obama's former political advisor, Valerie Jarrett that got Roseanne's TV show reboot canceled. The tweet read, "The Muslim Brotherhood and the Planet of the Apes had a baby = V.J." (Jarrett's parents are European and African-American.") Roseanne deleted the tweet and issued a non apology apology that she had taken Ambien before the tweet. And when that didn't sell, she screamed on YouTube, "I thought the b*tch was white!"

Roseanne is still bitter about losing her show but is reportedly worth $80 million. Rumor is during her divorce from Tom Arnold, her bestie female confidant noted she was spending a fortune just harassing Arnold," to which Roseanne replied, "Well that's what the money's good for."

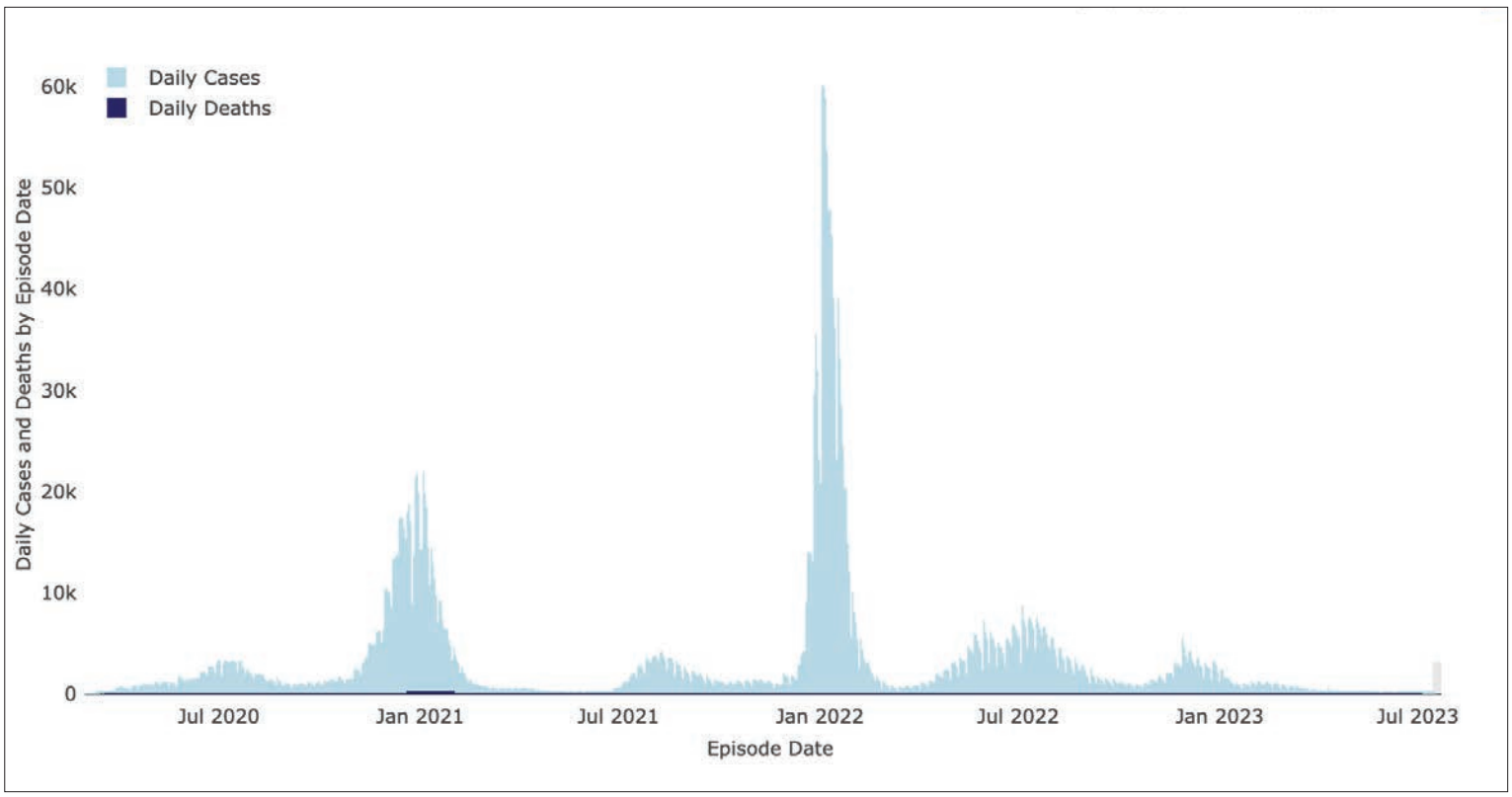
The last in my unique trio is the most intelligent and evil. I'm referring to the late Roy Cohn who at 27, was Senator Joe McCarthy's lawyer and hatchet man who became famous during the televised Army-McCarthy Senate Hearings in 1954. The era was known as the Red Scare that was supposedly to rid Communists from within the military and other governmental agencies.

McCarthy's hearings made him extremely powerful but also led to his ultimate downfall. With 80 million viewers or more than one-half the entire country, McCarthy's bully tactics, his narcissism and pathological lying, didn't play well with a country that preferred manners.

SEE **APOLOGY** PAGE 6

City Hall exposure highlights minor increase in COVID cases

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor



Courtesy image

COVID CHART: Daily cases have plummeted.

COVID-19, the disease everyone wants to forget, popped back into the local consciousness this week with an exposure at the Tuesday Council meeting and while experts still urge symptomatic individuals to quarantine, the County's overall Covid picture is vastly better than it has been in recent history.

According to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health for the past three summers, Los Angeles County has experienced a summer COVID-19 surge. Those spikes have been sudden or gradual but either way, they've traditionally been visible by this point in the year.

There are signs of an increase this year, but the scale is radically less than in prior years.

This week, Public Health reported a 32 percent increase in new cases but that only amounts to about 500 cases total. Tracking of the virus concentration in wastewater has shown a small increase from 8 percent over the past three weeks to 10 percent this year. The test positivity rate, which does not include home tests, increased to 7.5 percent up from 5.1 percent one month earlier.

While there has been a small uptick that experts said may be a result of July 4 celebrations and hot weather keeping more people inside in close quarters, hospitalization levels for COVID-19 are the lowest recorded since the beginning of the pandemic. Just over 200 people are hospitalized per week countywide and only 3 percent of all admissions are people under 18 years old.

Many of the current outbreaks are actually in skilled nursing facilities, where residents are more susceptible to severe illness and death from COVID-19. Those outbreaks have tripled in recent weeks from four at the end of June to 11 and 12 in the past two weeks. The vast majority of deaths, roughly 70% are in people over 65 years old.

In Santa Monica, an individual that attended the City Council meeting this week reported they had tested positive for COVID-19 in the subsequent days.

Individuals who attended the meeting are recommended to monitor for symptoms and if they do develop, self isolate. Self testing is recommended from 3 - 5 days after the contact and mask wearing is recommended when indoors and around others for 10 days.

editor@smdp.com

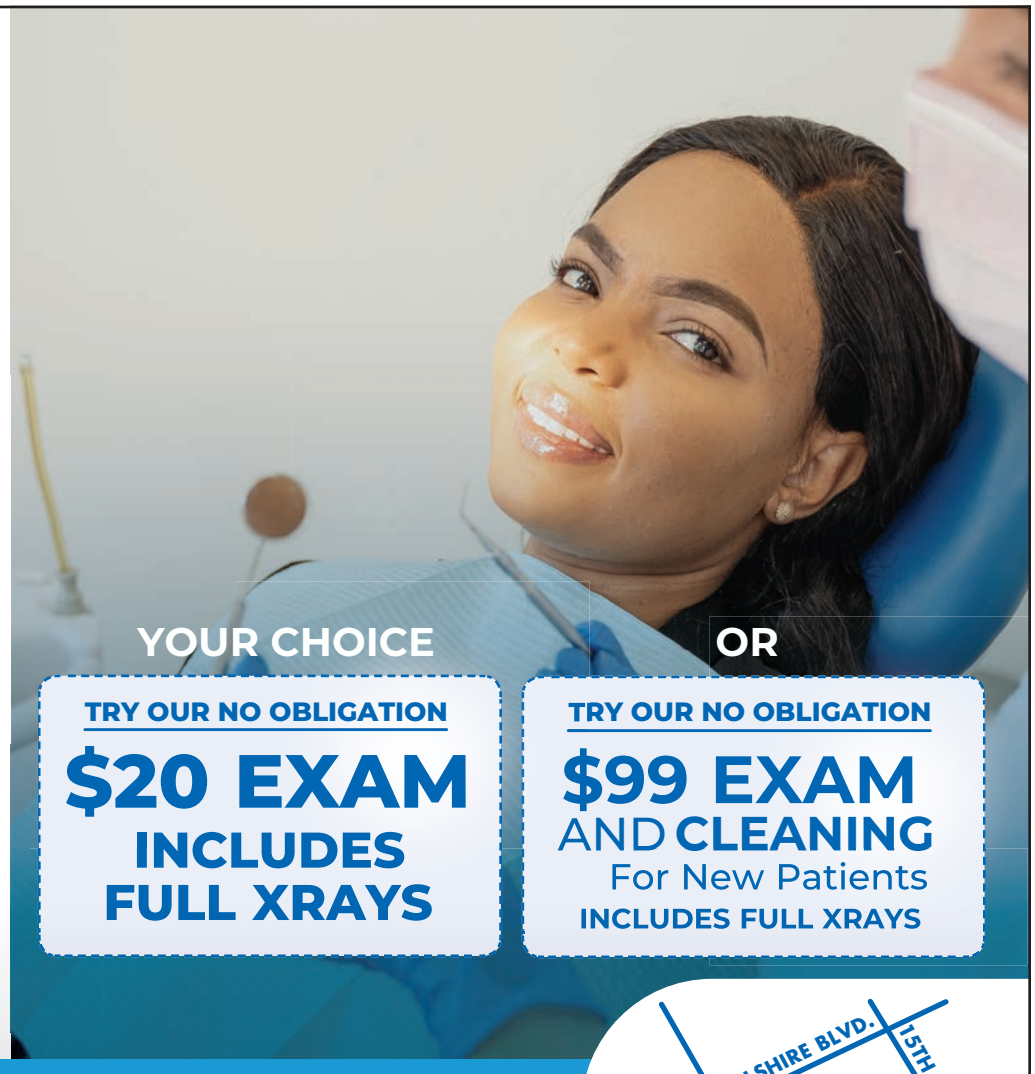
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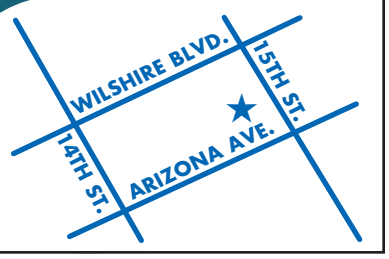


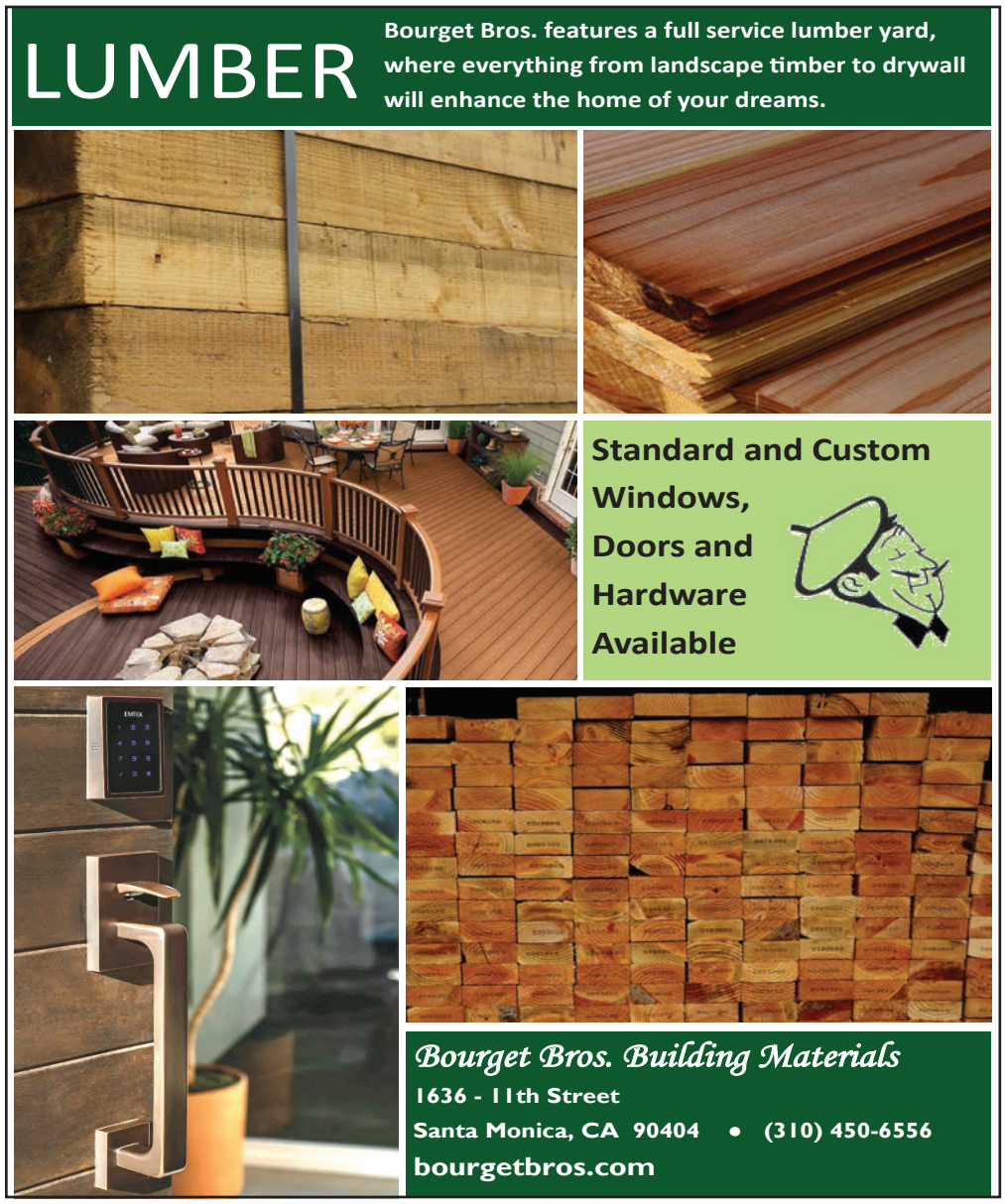
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RENT

FROM PAGE 2

According to Zillow's seasonally adjusted "observed rent index" — a kind of gussied-up average that strips out exceptionally pricey or cheap outliers in a given market — the typical rent in the Fresno metropolitan used to be 54% cheaper than that in San Francisco. As of June 2023, that discount dropped to 40%.

Further south in Bakersfield, where renters used to pay roughly half of L.A. area tenants, on average, the difference has narrowed to 40%.

In part, that's just a function of arithmetic. In both the Bakersfield and the Los Angeles metro areas, the typical rent increased by a little more than $500 since the beginning of the pandemic. Because Kern County rents were much lower to begin with, $500 represents a larger percentage hike.

But for the average Bakersfield area resident, that $500 rent hike pinches a lot harder: The average income in Kern County is roughly $25,000, according to the most recent Census data. In L.A. County, the average is $38,000.

Some modest relief could be on the way.

The cities of Bakersfield, Visalia and Fresno have all permitted roughly 15% more units in 2021 and 2022 than they did in the two years before the pandemic, according to data collected by the state Housing and Community Development Department.

The city of Santa Maria has permitted 150% more. The bulk of the new or incoming units around town are accessory dwelling units — backyard cottages and annexes. For a city short on lower-cost single bedroom places to live, the new crop of ADUs are "really filling that gap," said Honma.

PRO-RENTER ADVOCATES UNSUCCESSFUL

While building more places for people to live is one part of the battle, others have tried to soften the impact on rents of existing housing stock.

Earlier this year, tenant rights and anti-poverty advocates mounted a campaign to push the city of Fresno to adopt a rent control ordinance. For a city whose most notable politico, Democratic U.S. Rep. Jim Costa, lent his name to a state law that restricts local governments for enacting or expanding rent control laws, it was a symbolic push.

> "People have been moving towards that more affordable option when they don't have anywhere else in California that they can afford"
> - Jeff Tucker

Further south, activists in Delano were competing to see which town would be the first in the Central Valley to enact a permanent cap on rent hikes.

Neither campaign was successful. Fresno's city council declined to include a rent stabilization program in its budget for this fiscal year and elected leaders in Delano agreed only to study the issue.

In Sacramento, many of these same advocacy organizations have been pushing a bill by state Sen. María Elena Durazo that would have, among other things, lowered a statewide cap on annual rent increases from 10% to a mere 5%. But that provision was stripped out, leaving only new rules that make it harder for landlords to evict tenants without cause.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.



APOLOGY

FROM PAGE 4

Soon McCarthy would be censored by the Republican Senate (this is when the GOP were proud of their ethics). Suddenly McCarthy was disgraced and literally drank himself to death within two years at age 48. The cause of death was alcoholism.

Roy Cohn left Washington D.C. and relocated to New York City where he represented Donald and Fred Trump in federal charges of violations of the Fair Housing Laws of 1968 as they definitely discriminated against African-Americans. Fred tasked Donald, age 27, to find a lawyer and thus entered Roy Cohn. A settlement was reached which was essentially a slap on the wrist. Most importantly, Cohn became Trump's mentor. He taught Trump to never apologize, to deny, delay, to say you won even when you lost and many other pathological traits.

As former Republican political strategist Rick Wilson's 2019 best selling book said in its title so prophetically, "Everything Trump Touches Dies." Cohn was eventually disbarred and disgraced. He contracted AIDS and died broke and alone and didn't get a penny from Donald.

Please Google "Lawrence O'Donnell, RFK Jr." Jack is at: jackdailypress@aol.com.

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

CONSTRUCTION

FROM PAGE 1

northbound Moomat Ahiko Way on-ramp in order to proactively address the problem starting on Tuesday, July 25.

According to the City, crews will use a large crane with clamshell attachment to remove the top portion of the unstable bluff and slowly break it apart for hauling off-site.

The area of concern is a "column" of soil that has broken away from the main bluff, probably due to this year's heavy rains. While the now dangerous area is small compared to the total road closure zone, traffic has to be diverted off the freeway before the McClure Tunnel and can't be allowed back onto the road too close to the work.

The City's engineering department said they had already engaged an outside expert to analyze the stability of the local bluffs following the very wet winter. However, a large crack appeared in part of the bluff last week and the decision was made to remove the now dangerous section before it could fall onto traffic or pedestrians below.

"We don't want to take chances," said Stelios Makrides, Chief Operating Officer for the Public Works Department. "It could be there months, could stay there weeks or it could come down tomorrow but we decided to move in quickly and address it."

Makrides said they understood the work would impact residents, visitors and neighboring communities who use the road but efforts are being made to limit the imposition to everyone.

Roads will start to be closed at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 25 as a large crane is brought into the area. Overnight work will be limited to assembly of the equipment and isn't expected to be too disruptive. Actual removal of the soil will begin in the daylight hours and is expected to be complete by mid morning. After cleanup, the area will reopen by noon.

The northbound Moomat Ahiko Way on-ramp to PCH will close beginning at 11:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 25. The westbound I-10 at Lincoln Boulevard through northbound Pacific Coast Highway to the California Incline will close beginning at 2 a.m. on Wednesday July 26. All routes will reopen by 12 p.m. (noon) on Wednesday, July 26.

The Lincoln Boulevard offramp to eastbound I-10 will remain open, in addition to the California Incline, the southbound PCH and the eastbound I-10. Traffic from I-10 Freeway needing to access Pacific Coast Highway will be detoured at the Lincoln Boulevard offramp and rerouted using the following streets:

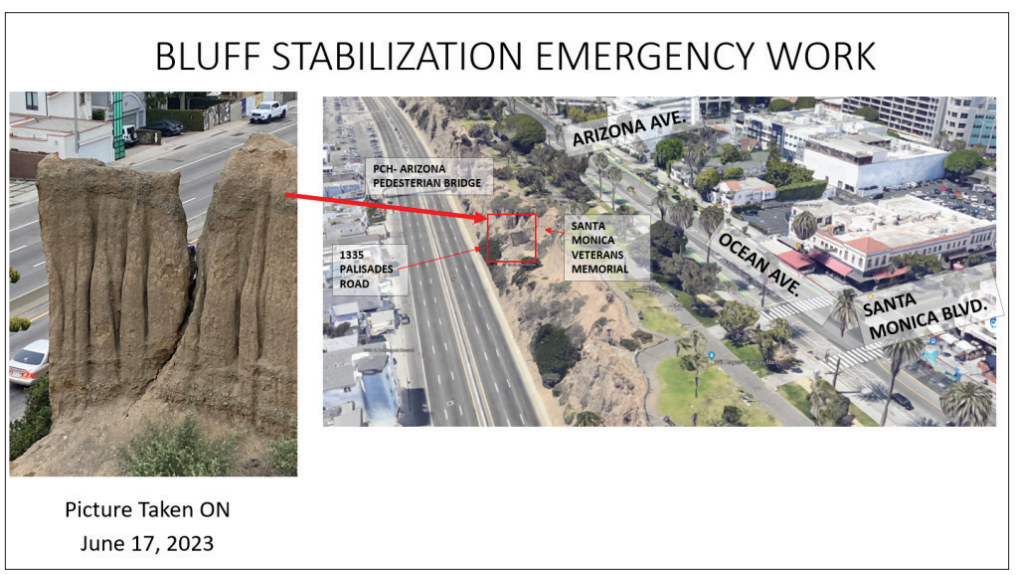
Wilshire Blvd./Santa Monica Blvd.
Ocean Avenue
California Incline
TIMELINE

CLOSURE: Tuesday, July 25, beginning at 11:30 p.m. – closure of Moomat Ahiko Way on-ramp to PCH between Ocean Avenue and Pacific Coast Highway. The off-ramp from PCH to Ocean Avenue will remain open.

CLOSURE: Wednesday, July 26, beginning at 2 a.m. – closure of westbound I-10 at Lincoln Boulevard through northbound Pacific Coast Highway to the California Incline. The Lincoln Boulevard offramp will remain open and the California Incline will remain open. The southbound PCH and Eastbound I-10 will remain open.

editor@smdp.com





Courtesy Photo

BLUFF: A column of earth needs to be removed before it falls onto the PCH.

Elks Donation



Photography by R.A. Pickett, PDD

ELKS FOOD: Santa Monica Elks 906 awarded $4,000 to the Westside Food Bank recently. This money will help feed 16,000 local citizens according to the WSFB. The Elks have partnered with the foodbank since their inception in 1981. Pictured are Exalted Ruler Gloria Kidd Steck and co-grant writer Donald Checchi presented the check to the Food Bank Board Members Richard Smith and Rebecca Mais.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 22)

Welcome to your year of happy news and outrageously fun stories as you make optimism and adventure your hallmarks. More highlights: a transformation in a key environment or relationship, a couple's paradise and family connections that bring you hot tickets, proud moments and travel too. Gemini and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 18, 34, 12 and 15.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your idea gets slayed by a better one, and you don't mind at all because you're on a quest for the best and will thrive when your methods are based on solid truths. If it works, you'll work it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). At first you consciously focus on what you're happy about. But soon you naturally focus on everything good, and enjoy yourself so thoroughly that other people around you feel the good vibes too.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're telepathically joined to loved ones and also to certain people you don't yet love but share a strong resonance of potential with. Tonight, because you don't know the rules, you'll be accidentally adventurous.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). People's attractions can be unpredictable, arbitrary, personal and contextual. We often relate to one another in irrational ways. Keep in mind that each person has unique criteria for deciding who to know, like and trust.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Media changes you. The influence may be temporary, but it's still powerful and once you see you can't unsee. Through the magic of media, you will connect to other worlds. You'll be careful not to do this mindlessly.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your endeavor is alive. How can you tell? It's imperfect. Everything that grows is a work in process. Allow yourself the thrill in this. Expect hits and misses and keep trying.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll separate what you want from what your people want then try to do a little of both. Sometimes it will be OK to mostly focus on them. But to avoid resentment, you must bring it back to you eventually.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Let others dream of winning the lottery or of escaping the daily grind on a relaxing beach. Instead of pining away for "someday," you'll focus on making your life exciting right now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You have things you're passionate about, deeply interested in and you fully enjoy. Doing those things alone will be so much more pleasurable than spending time with those who don't give quality attention.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You shouldn't have to toil to prove your worth, though you might opt to just because working hard makes you feel strong, shows you how capable you are and ultimately brings you a resounding sense of satisfaction.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're in it for the long haul so you need to pace yourself. "Autopilot" mode isn't the most exciting and involved way to do a job, but it definitely conserves energy. Besides, sometimes it's just about showing up.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Voltaire said that "Work spares us from three great evils: boredom, vice and need." But what if work is the vice, and a boring one at that? A task that's meaningful, whether work or play, will bring you joy.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

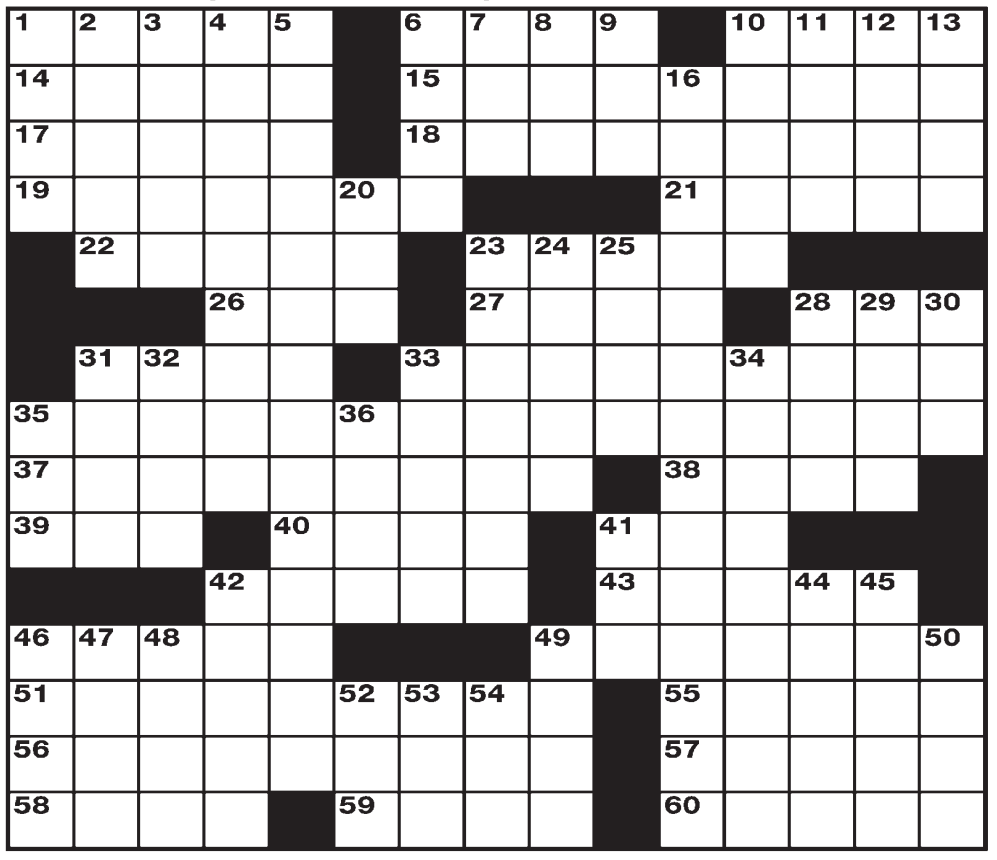
SATURDAY STUMPER by Stella Zawistowski
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Last thing to be taken
6 Got tiresome
10 Letters on red, white and blue trucks
14 Artistic lamentation
15 All-year sport played on dirt
17 Better-chosen
18 Unauthorized absence
19 Overemotional oratory
21 L.A.'s "Mecca of bodybuilding"
22 Name on the ACC member list
23 Success succession
26 Harley-Davidson, on the NYSE
27 Possessive favored by Twain
28 Big deal for Saudi Aramco (2019)
31 Fool
33 Haydn opera
35 Symbol of proletarian solidarity
37 Disconcerts
38 Legislative coalition
39 Trepidation term
40 San __(Vegas hotel near the Excalibur)
41 Marbles for a Chinese checkers player
42 City often mentioned on *M*A*S*H*
43 Evidence of encryption
46 Hosts
49 Onetime big name in beverages
51 Conclude spring training
55 *Chambre* __ (darkroom)
56 Essence of ear candy?
57 Extort from
58 "The soul __ itself is an imperial friend": Dickinson
59 Hardly aerodynamic
60 Dawn

DOWN

1 Small row
2 Short-stroke goal in hockey
3 No longer out
4 Got delivery
5 Steamers, for instance
6 Large rolls
7 Lead __
8 Thing in chambers
9 GPS reading
10 At the highest level
11 *Old Farmer's Almanac* topic
12 Take it slow
13 What George VI hadn't
16 Expression of lost love lamentation
20 MD's reading
23 Highlighted
24 Doesn't go straight
25 Panamanian pronoun
28 What you'd expect a press to be
29 Parts of a circle
30 It's like -like
31 Spoiler
32 Large Siberian city
33 Arabic name meaning "peace"
34 Comment before quitting
35 Chocolate or pistachio
36 Short courses
41 With 42 Down, Palme d'Or winner for 1993
42 See 41 Down
44 Common Uber arrival
45 What a loud barker might be called
46 Alabama A&M, for one
47 *Bruder von Moses*
48 Dalí contemporary
49 Brisk
50 Face
52 Bear __
53 Erenow
54 But not more

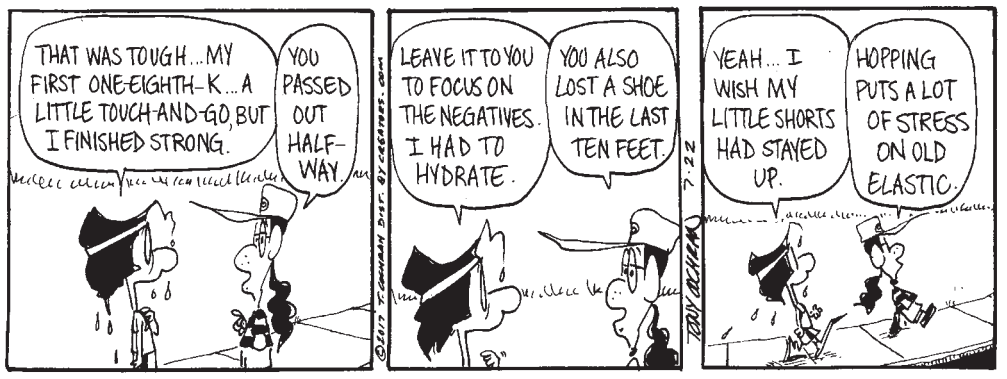


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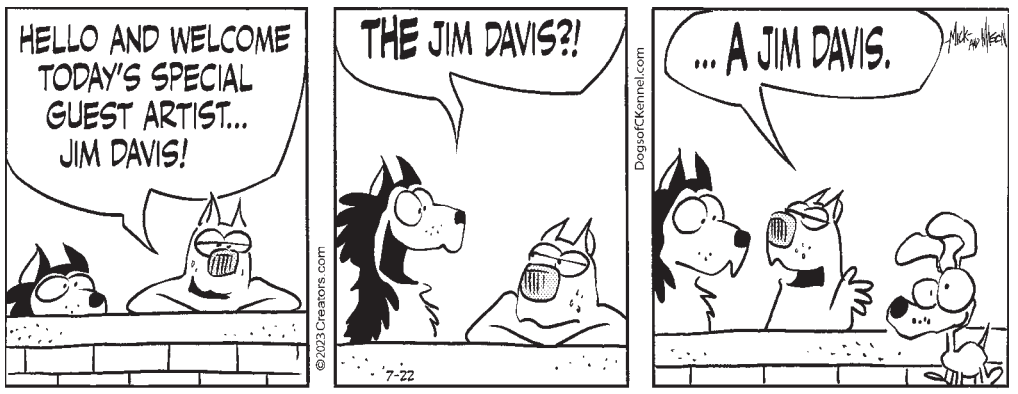
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



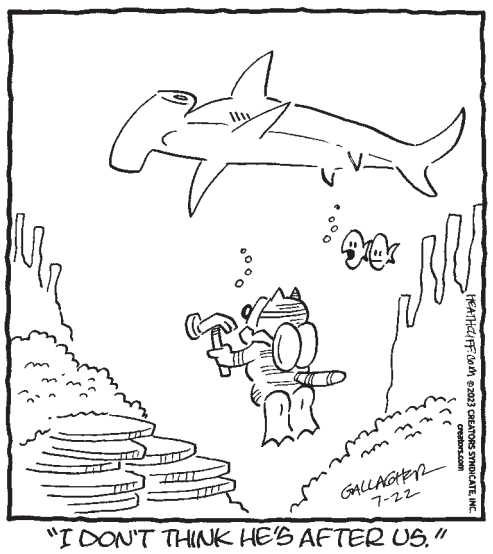
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"I DON'T THINK HE'S AFTER US."

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 5914

Arts and crafts

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

Alter	Edge	Lathe	Soft
Axle	Emboss	Link	Spun
Basic	Ends	Motif	Tats
Beads	Eraser	Nails	Teacher
Bight	Experiment	Paste	Timber
Blade	Gallery	Pelt	Toys
Cafe	Glassblowing	Pins	Tube
Chain	Glue	Plane	Turn
Clay	Hitch	Pull	Unpick
Create	Hobby	Relax	Vice
Daub	Image	Rope	Yarn
Design	Kits	Satin	
Doll	Knit	Sews	
Dyed	Knot	Show	

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What's Up Westside

out and about in Santa Monica

SATURDAY | JULY 22

COMMUNITY DOG TRAINING CLASSES!

Love At First Sit®, a pet care and dog behavior and training company in Santa Monica, hosts Community Dog Training Classes, Saturdays, at 12 PM, at Virginia Ave Park in Santa Monica. Class fee is $5.00, then Pay-What-You-Can after that! Class proceeds are donated to various charities for people and animals, animal shelters, and animal rescues. Class topics explore basic obedience, manners, tricks, beginner's agility, and more! Walk-ins are welcomed, beginners are encouraged, and there is no limit to how many classes you can take! https://www.loveatfirstsit.net/community-dog-training-classes

SUNSET SWIM

Enjoy an evening around our historic 1920's pool at the former oceanfront estate of actress Marion Davies built for her by media mogul, William Randolph Hearst. Swim, hang out with friends and make new friends poolside We will provide the s'mores and pool floaties. Pre-purchase Sunset Swim pool passes online at https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/santamonicarecreation/activity/search/detail/89898; or purchase at the door on the day of the event, per availability. If you pre-purchase pool passes, please pick up your pool passes by 6:30 p.m. If the pool is at capacity when you arrive, you may be added to a waitlist and notified when space is available. Outside food welcome, no glass, no alcohol. $10 Adult (age 18 – 59). $5 Senior Adult (age 60 & above.

SUNDAY | JULY 23

ANASTASIA THE MUSICAL: YOUTH EDITION

This summer, join Theatre Palisades Youth (TPY) on their "Journey to the Past" in ANASTASIA THE MUSICAL: YOUTH EDITION. This exciting musical will run at the Pierson Playhouse in Pacific Palisades, July 21 - July 30. With a cast of more than 40 youth actors, between the ages of 7 and 17, prepare to be entertained as they swing from the sky on aerial silks, and sing and dance to such nostalgic favorites as "Once Upon A December" along with new music from the renowned Tony Award–winning writing team of Stephen Flaherty and Lynne Ehrens. Pierson Playhouse, 941 Temescal Canyon Road. Pacific Palisades, CA. 310-454-1970 https://theatrepalisades.org/youth/

MONDAY | JULY 24

THOR'S REPTILE FAMILY

Enjoy a hands-on, entertaining, and educational show featuring anthropods, amphibians, and reptiles of all sizes. You will be taken on a safari around the world, learning about various aspects of the animals presented with an emphasis on who, how, and what their feeding habits are. Donald Bruce Kaufman - 4:00 pm at Brentwood Branch Library, 11820 San Vicente Boulevard. Los Angeles, CA https://www.lapl.org/whats-on/events/thors-reptile-family-brentwood

TUESDAY | JULY 25

SOCIAL SERVICE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY PROVIDENCE ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM

Help with family nutrition and health care access is resuming at Virginia Avenue Park thanks to Providence St. John's Community Health Program. Trained community health workers will be available to meet in person with community members at the Park Center Building in Virginia Avenue Park. The first Tuesday of the month 11:30 am to 7 pm and 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Tuesdays from 9:30 am to 5 pm. 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 and 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. 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM Virginia Avenue Park. 2200 Virginia Ave. https://www.santamonica.gov/

WEDNESDAY | JULY 26

DRAG MAKEUP WORKSHOP

Join Pickle for an easy drag makeup tutorial and conversation about the drag art form! Some supplies will be provided, but teens are encouraged to bring their own makeup to learn how to add some sparkle to their day! at 3:00 p.m in Palisades Branch Library. 861 Alma Real Drive. Pacific Palisades, CA https://www.lapl.org/whats-on/events/drag-makeup-workshop

TUESDAY | JULY 27

AUTHOR TALK: CHARLES FLEMING

Veteran journalist Charles Fleming tells stories from his books Secret Stairs and Secret Walks, walking guides to the historic staircases and hidden trails of Los Angeles, and helps the Library launch its new "Walking in L.A." RED (Read Engage Discover) Kit. A book sale and signing follows the program. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m Santa Monica Public Library. 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

FRIDAY | JULY 28

FIRE IN THE SKY – THE PERSEID METEORS OF 2023

This year's Perseids will be ideal for observing from a dark-sky site on their peak night of August 12-13. Senior Lecturer Jim Mahon will discuss the origins of this annual celestial spectacle, provide tips for observing the shower, and even point you to a group that you can join at a dark camping site to enjoy the shower. Online Event https://www.smc.edu/calendar/index.php#event-details/d0cf82ce-93b2-4a74-b67a-8e94dbaa9b11

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



SURF REPORT

WATER TEMP: **65.3**

SATURDAY *POOR TO FAIR*	**SURF:**	2-3ft Thigh to waist	Rideable on the small wave gear. Little S swell from the SPAC holds, watching the tropics for potential SSE swell.
SUNDAY *POOR TO FAIR*	**SURF:**	1-2ft Knee to thigh	Rideable on the small wave gear. Little S swell from the SPAC fades, watching the tropics for potential SSE swell. NW windswell could nudge up a touch.

WEATHER

Saturday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 79.
Saturday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 67.
Sunday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 79.
Sunday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 68.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2023/07/22	Sat	06:55 AM	0.46	L
2023/07/22	Sat	1:41 PM	4.10	H
2023/07/22	Sat	6:51 PM	2.54	L
2023/07/23	Sun	12:30 AM	4.48	H
2023/07/23	Sun	07:21 AM	0.88	L
2023/07/23	Sun	2:16 PM	4.26	H
2023/07/23	Sun	7:55 PM	2.51	L
2023/07/24	Mon	01:17 AM	3.86	H
2023/07/24	Mon	07:47 AM	1.34	L
2023/07/24	Mon	2:54 PM	4.45	H
2023/07/24	Mon	9:25 PM	2.33	L
2023/07/25	Tue	02:28 AM	3.25	H
2023/07/25	Tue	08:15 AM	1.80	L
2023/07/25	Tue	3:39 PM	4.70	H
2023/07/25	Tue	11:07 PM	1.86	L
2023/07/26	Wed	04:28 AM	2.84	H
2023/07/26	Wed	08:55 AM	2.24	L
2023/07/26	Wed	4:30 PM	5.02	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: 7/19
7 10 11 13 24
Power#: 24
Jackpot: 20 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 7/18
19 22 31 37 54
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 720 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 7/19
5 10 20 22 32
Mega#: 1
Jackpot: 78 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 7/20
7 14 27 36 39

Daily 3
Draw Date: 7/20
EVENING: 7 8 9

Draw Date: 7/20
MIDDAY: 5 8 3

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 7/20
1st: 06 - Whirl Win
2nd: 05 - California Classic
3rd: 01 - Gold Rush
Race Time: 1:42.18

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