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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 182 THURSDAY 8/1/24 smdp.com

Palisades native serves as Team USA volleyball star



www.milespartain.com

OLYMPICS: Pacific Palisades native Miles Partain has made a strong impression on the Team USA Men's Beach Volleyball unit

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

With Team USA grabbing gold after gold in the 2024 Olympic Games, one of Paris' standouts is serving up victories straight from the Westside of Los Angeles.

Pacific Palisades native and Palisades High School graduate Miles Partain has the distinction of being the youngest-ever member of Team USA's Men's Beach Volleyball unit, and the 22-year-old has already made a difference in Paris. Teaming with Rancho Palos Verdes native Andy Benesh, Partain secured his first Olympic victory Tuesday, defeating Morocco's Mohammed Abicha and Zouheir Elgraoui in two sets.

Partain was a model student-athlete at Palisades High, named the Valedictorian for the school's class of 2020 while being noted as a National AP Scholar and National Merit Scholar. For the Palisades indoor volleyball squad, he starred as a three-time California Interscholastic League All-City Division 1 Team member, part of back-to-back championship units.

One of the top recruits in the nation, Partain stayed local at UCLA, beginning as a reserve in 2021 before blowing up in 2022, earning the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation's Player of the

SEE **VOLLEYBALL** PAGE 11

School board to reflect on selves, district goals

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Though a much less hectic agenda than this past week, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) Board of Education will get a chance to shape future objectives on Thursday.

Prior to the board's meeting on Thursday evening, a special "board retreat" will be held to the public at 1 p.m. in Room D100 of Santa Monica High School. The objective of the retreat is to hear from SMMUSD Superintendent Dr. Antonio Shelton on district goals and priorities moving forward, guided by the district's three Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) goals.

SEE **SMMUSD** PAGE 5

County votes for status quo despite lackluster results in homelessness programs

JAMIE PAIGE
Special to the Daily Press

Despite lackluster results from its existing programs, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted on Tuesday to maintain and broaden its current strategies, embracing a "Care First" approach to managing homeless encampments.

The decision comes in the wake of a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that permits stricter enforcement of anti-camping laws, even when shelter space is limited.

SEE **COUNTY** PAGE 8



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Meet the Olympics superfan who spent her savings to get to her 7th Games

LUJAIN JO
Associated Press

Covered with pins and adornments, Vivianne Robinson is hard to miss in the streets of Paris.

The Olympics superfan has attended seven Summer Games over the span of 40 years. But this trip to Paris came at a hefty price — $10,000 to be precise.

Robinson, 66 and from Los Angeles, maxed out her credit cards and worked two jobs to afford the trip and the 38 event tickets she purchased. She worked on Venice Beach during the day, putting names on rice necklaces, and bagged groceries at night. She said she has to work two more years to make up for the money she spent following her passion for the Summer Olympics to Paris.

"It was hard to save up and it's a big budget, but it's a thousand times worth it," she says.

Even still, she was disappointed to pay $1,600 for the opening ceremony only to end up watching a screen on a bridge. "You know how long that takes to make that much money?" she asks, eventually adding: "But things happen in life and life goes on and you win if you lose a few."

During her interview, a passerby suggests Robinson use her fame to open an account and ask people to help fund her passion.

"That doesn't matter. I can make the money eventually," she responds.

Robinson's fascination with the Olympics started when her mother worked as a translator for athletes at the University of California, Los Angeles, during the 1984 Olympics in the city. Her mother would come home after work with pins from athletes that she passed to her daughter.

Her newfound hobby of collecting pins led her to Atlanta 1996, where she made rice necklaces for athletes in exchange for their pins.

"I got all the pins and I got to meet all the athletes. And in those days, it wasn't high security like now," she recalls. "Now you can't even get near the athletes' village."

From there: Sydney 2000, Athens 2004, London 2012 and Rio 2016. She secured a visa for Beijing 2008, but couldn't ultimately afford the trip. Tokyo was similarly doomed: She bought tickets, but got refunded as COVID-19 soared and the Games were held without spectators.

Robinson's outfits started simply but have become more complex over time. She spent a year working on her Paris outfit, decorating it with hundreds of adornments. Tens of Eiffel Tower ornaments hang from her hat, just above her Olympic ring earrings. Affixed to her clothes are patches, pins and little flags.

Her outfit attracts attention. Not a minute goes by before someone stops Robinson to take a photo with or of her. She does it with a smile on her face but admits that it can get too much.

"It is a little bit overwhelming. I can't really get anywhere because everybody stops me for pictures. It takes a long time to get to the venues, but it's OK," she says.

> "It is a little bit overwhelming. I can't really get anywhere because everybody stops me for pictures. It takes a long time to get to the venues, but it's OK"
>
> - Vivianne Robinson

And she says she feels a little like the celebrities she's so excited to have seen — like Tom Cruise, Lady Gaga and Snoop Dogg at gymnastics.

As soon as these Olympics end, she will start working on the next Summer Games, from working on outfits to saving up for tickets, no matter what it costs — though it is on her home turf, in Los Angeles.

"Oh, I'm going to do it forever. I'm going to save all my money and just concentrate on Olympics," she said.



To learn how to feature your upcoming event on the SMDP and various digital event calendars

Contact dina@smdp.com today!

San Francisco police and street cleaners take aggressive approach to clearing homeless encampments

JANIE HAR
Associated Press

Police in San Francisco will start clearing out homeless residents living in public areas under new policies announced Tuesday by the office of Mayor London Breed, who has pledged a more aggressive approach to tent encampments following a key U.S. Supreme Court decision.

In a memo, Breed's office said city workers will continue offering housing and services to homeless people as they work to dismantle tent encampments, but street cleaners, police and other city workers will have greater leeway to prevent tents from popping back up in areas that have been cleared or to prevent smaller encampments from growing into larger ones.

> The goal of this enforcement is for people to accept offers of shelter and know that they cannot remain where they are. Staff will not be required to re-offer shelter in an area where they've recently been working to clear an encampment if individuals return to that same area
> - London Breed

San Francisco has nearly 4,000 shelter beds for an estimated 8,000 people who are homeless. Breed has expanded capacity since taking office in 2018, but the city is still short.

"The goal of this enforcement is for people to accept offers of shelter and know that they cannot remain where they are. Staff will not be required to re-offer shelter in an area where they've recently been working to clear an encampment if individuals return to that same area," said the release.

The U.S. Supreme Court in June made it easier for cities to ban homeless encampments, an issue cropping up in more parts of the country amid the high costs of housing and opioid drug crisis. In California, which is home to nearly a third of an estimated 650,000 homeless people in the U.S., Gov. Gavin Newsom last week ordered state agencies to begin removing tents and structures on state land.

In central California, the Fresno City Council gave initial approval Monday to a ban on homeless camping despite impassioned pleas from residents and advocates that people should not be punished for being poor.

In San Francisco, a multi-department unit goes out to clear encampments at least twice a day, five days a week, with homeless residents receiving advance notice of upcoming cleanings and outreach.

That will continue, but city workers can now return to cleared areas to force out a returning person. Also, new teams of police and public works employees will go out daily to address smaller encampments.

Breed, who is in a tough reelection bid, said the city will still offer services and shelter. But new methods are needed as homeless people reject two-thirds of shelter offers. Enforcement will be progressive, with warnings followed by citations, escalating penalties, and even arrest, according to her office.

Homeless people say they have rejected shelter offers because they can't take all their belongings or bring pets, or they have had traumatic encounters with staff or other residents. They were among those who sued the city in 2022, alleging the city was not providing notice or making real offers of shelter. The case is pending.

Homeless advocates in San Francisco said at a Tuesday press event that hundreds of subsidized housing units and hotel rooms are vacant and available, but officials are focused instead on encampment sweeps that worsen the situation.

"Our local officials are choosing to confiscate people's property, survival gear, medications, the last items they're holding on to after losing everything, instead of offering... a place to live," said Jennifer Friedenbach, executive director of the Coalition on Homelessness.

Officials with Los Angeles County said at a supervisors' board meeting Tuesday they disagreed with the governor's approach to addressing homelessness.

"Criminalization is intentionally not part of the county's framework because it makes the problem worse by creating more barriers along people's path to housing, and it runs counter to our goals to create a more equitable system," said Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority CEO Va Lecia Adams Kellum.

AP reporter Jaimie Ding contributed from Los Angeles.



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **68.4**

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

Modest blend of SSW/S swells and lingering NW windswell. Surf will favor the summer and combo exposures but be small there as well. Wind looks reasonably light in the AM.

FRIDAY — ***FAIR*** | **SURF:** 1-2ft Knee to thigh

Small scale surf likely to continue. Blend of S swells and some NW windswell. Wind looks pretty light in the AM.

Weather

Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 72.
Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 65.
Friday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 74.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 66.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2024/08/01	Thu	02:46 AM	-0.65	L
2024/08/01	Thu	09:29 AM	3.85	H
2024/08/01	Thu	1:43 PM	2.71	L
2024/08/01	Thu	7:58 PM	6.37	H
2024/08/02	Fri	03:24 AM	-0.78	L
2024/08/02	Fri	10:01 AM	4.00	H
2024/08/02	Fri	2:29 PM	2.53	L
2024/08/02	Fri	8:41 PM	6.44	H
2024/08/03	Sat	03:59 AM	-0.77	L
2024/08/03	Sat	10:29 AM	4.10	H
2024/08/03	Sat	3:09 PM	2.35	L
2024/08/03	Sat	9:18 PM	6.41	H
2024/08/04	Sun	04:31 AM	-0.64	L
2024/08/04	Sun	10:57 AM	4.18	H
2024/08/04	Sun	3:46 PM	2.21	L
2024/08/04	Sun	9:53 PM	6.25	H
2024/08/05	Mon	05:00 AM	-0.43	L
2024/08/05	Mon	11:24 AM	4.25	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: 7/29
11 27 30 33 44
Power#: 16
Jackpot: 154 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 7/30
19 23 30 33 50
Mega#: 25
Jackpot: 358 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 7/27
17 22 24 26 27
Mega#: 22
Jackpot: 9 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 7/30
5 10 26 32 38

Daily 3
Draw Date: 7/30
EVENING: 0 3 3
Draw Date: 7/30
MIDDAY: 9 2 0

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 7/30
1st: 05 - California Classic
2nd: 11 - Money Bags
3rd: 12 - Lucky Charms
Race Time: 1:41.28

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Jack Neworth,
David Pisarra.

CIRCULATION
Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com

Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Scott Snowden
scott.snowden@smdp.com

Thomas Leffler
thomas@smdp.com

DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

MARKETING MANAGER
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

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

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2024149152 NEW FILING.The following person(s) is (are) doing business as BEACHES TROPICANA, 8911 Santa Monica Blvd, West Hollywood, CA 90069. Mailing Address, 2986 Passmore Dr, Los Angeles, CA Los Angeles. This business is conducted by a limited liability company (llc). Registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed herein on July 2024. Signed: Baracoa Beach LLC (CA-202461111521, 8911 Santa Monica Blvd, West Hollywood, CA 90069; Julio Carta, Managing Member. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on July 15, 2024. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law (See Section 14400 et seq., Business and Professional Code).

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AROUND TOWN

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Summer Events Aplenty

SMDP's Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town includes Endless Summer Camp, The Festival of Chariots, National Night Out, and much more!

Summer Roller Disco: Skate Hunnies presents a Summer Roller Disco on Thursday, Aug. 1, 6 to 10 p.m. at Mar Vista Roller Hockey Rink. Admission is free and there will be a DJ and skate lessons. All ages are welcomed and skate rentals for $10 if you need them. https://www.instagram.com/p/C92-NqQy64v/?img_index=1

SMC's Drescher Planetarium Free Live Virtual Show - "Women in Spaceflight": Drescher Planetarium's Women of Space Series continues with a showcase of the careers of three female Space Shuttle Era astronauts: Sally Ride, Mae Jemison, and Peggy Whitson. Free. Friday, August 2, 8:00p.m. Zoom at smc.edu/planetarium



Courtesy image
CAMP: There are plenty of activities available this weekend.

Endless Summer C.A.M.P. (Community | Art | Music | Picnic) at Tongva Park (FREE): This first of four Saturday events celebrates community, arts and culture. Bring a picnic and join as artists from across Santa Monica and the LA region share their culture through interactive music, performances, and hands-on crafts. Special performances by local youth will be featured. Open to all. Saturday Aug. 3, features Bollywood dance performance by Joya Kazi Entertainment along with bells and beads adornment workshop with Matti Sands. Angel Fruits Cart will offer fresh fruit for purchase. Saturdays, Aug 3, 10, 17, & 24, 11:00a.m.-2:00p.m. https://www.santamonica.gov/press/2024/07/25/economic-growth-cultural-vitality-free-art-and-music-events-enliven-santa-monica-parks-this-summer

The Festival of Chariots Celebrates Ancient Indian Tradition: Dancers in colorful clothing, music, a multicourse feast, 40-foot tall hand-drawn floats — The Festival of Chariots will be an explosion of culture and celebration. Sunday, Aug. 4, 10 a.m. Parade begins at 1855 Main St. and the festival takes place at 1530 Ocean Front Walk.

Night Market at The Bungalow: Every Thursday night through Aug. 29, expect food vendors, beverage activations, family-friendly activities, live musical and DJ performances, and celebrity guest appearances. Free and open to the public for guests of all ages and pet friendly. Thursdays 5:00 - 11:00p.m. https://www.fairmont-miramar.com/activities/night-market/

SMC Barrett Gallery "Still Blowin' Opening Reception: The free exhibition showcasing glassworks by more than 20 artists is open to the public Aug. 1 through Sept. 6. A free opening reception will be held in the gallery on Saturday, Aug. 3, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. @ the SMC Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th St. smc.edu/barrett

Endless Summer C.A.M.P. (Community | Art | Music | Picnic): Join us for four Saturdays of family fun and creativity in Tongva Park! Pack a picnic, bring your blankets and beach chairs, and enjoy interactive music and dance performances, along with craft workshops. Celebrate art, creativity, and community outdoors. All ages are welcome to this afternoon of art and connection! This year's lineup of performers includes: Pilipino folk and dance arts by Kayamanan Ng Lahi, a puppet show by The Bob Baker Marionette Theater, and the animal ambassadors of Zoo To You. Saturdays, Aug. 3, 10, 17, and 24, 11:00a.m. - 2:00p.m.

Superbloom Beach Club w/ The Gratitude Group and Club Rewire: Beach Club is a full-day community beach festival that offers a full day of wellness activations, live DJs, beach games, and amazing connections. Sunday, Aug. 4 11:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. @ Lifeguard Tower 28 https://lu.ma/6mjwuxke

National Night Out: The annual community-building event promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. Expect FREE music, food, and activities for all ages. SMPD will showcase their various police vehicles and equipment and invite the community to meet police personnel (human and 4-legged alike). The parking structure at Olympic & 4th St. is free that night and Big Blue Bus will be providing free bus rides all night when you mention National Night Out. Tuesday, August 6, 5:30 - 8:30p.m. @ City Hall, 1685 Main St. https://www.santamonica.gov/events/4zq7kcjaztfaq0r0rz1kcd0f52/202408061700

SEE **TOWN** PAGE 8

COMMUNITY NEWS

Venice

Venice Chamber of Commerce 2024-25 Board Installation & Mixer: A Night of Celebration and New Beginnings

On Wednesday, July 24, the Venice Chamber of Commerce (VCC) hosted its highly anticipated 2024-25 Board Installation & Mixer at the Thrive Health & Wellness Collective. This event marked a significant moment for the community as Assemblymember Tina McKinnor officiated the oath of office for the newly elected VCC Board of Directors.

The evening began with a vibrant networking hour from 6 to 7 p.m., where attendees could connect and engage with fellow community members and business leaders. The atmosphere was filled with excitement and anticipation as guests gathered to celebrate the new board members and the past year's achievements.

At 7 p.m., VCC Treasurer Jennifer Wilson welcomed the attendees and introduced the current board members and committee chairs. She also encouraged new and prospective members to reach out and become more involved with the Chamber. The welcome address was followed by introductions of the honored guests, including representatives from various elected offices: Assemblymember Tina McKinnor, Nick Faries for State Senator Ben Allen, Sean Silva for Councilmember Traci Park, Ian Michael May for LA County Assessor Jeff Prang, and Zac Gaidzik for LA County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath.

Margot Chambers, owner of Thrive Health & Wellness Collective, then took the stage to warmly welcome the guests and express gratitude for the community's support.

The program continued with the recognition of outgoing board members Bud Jacobs, Ashley McGullam, Elizabeth Penuela, and Paul S. Levine for their invaluable service to the Chamber. Their dedication and contributions have been instrumental in the VCC's growth and success.

Assemblymember McKinnor addressed the attendees, highlighting the importance of community and leadership. She then administered the oath of office, officially swearing in the new VCC Board of Directors for the 2024-25 term. The newly elected board members are poised to lead the Chamber to new heights with their diverse backgrounds and shared passion for community growth.

Following the swearing-in ceremony, a ribbon-cutting and raffle added an element of fun and celebration to the evening. The event concluded with a gift presented to Assemblymember McKinnor as a token of appreciation for her support and participation.

The VCC is excited to announce the new Board of Directors for the 2024-26 term: Andrea Tan - Alcott Center, Alex Stowell - Venice Paparazzi, Artagus Ashford - Shefayoga, Carl Lambert - The Venice V Hotel, Brennan Lindner - Generic Events, Carole Stein - Venice Living Magazine, David Stine - David J. Stine Design, Chantel Hunter Mah - Law Office of Chantel Hunter Mah, Jennifer Wilson - L.A. Social Karma, Florence Granteral Fall - NeueHouse, Karin Wallerstein - Wallerstein Law, Hollie Stenson - WOOMIR, Michael Wallerstein - Wallerstein Law, Justin Brezhnev - Dogtown Fundraising, Stephanie Black - Google, Patty Ross - Golden State Marketing, Sunny Bak - Venice Art Crawl, Steve Vulin - Vulin Construction, Theresa Ireland - The Magic Inside, Alex Kissin - Venice Insider, Pass Karen La Cava - Coldwell Banker Realty, Lauren Pardini - Venice School of Music, Madeline Di Nonno - Geena Davis Institute, Mike Harriel - Southern California Gas Company.

SUBMITTED BY THE VENICE CHAMBER

SMMUSD

FROM PAGE 1

Presentations will be given by Shelton on district priorities, as well as on the following subjects:

Guaranteed Viable Curriculum (by Dr. Stacy Williamson and Dr. Ashley Benjamin)

Reclassification (by Dr. Benjamin)

Special Education (by Victoria Hurst and Jillian Bucciero)

Transformative Approaches (by Dr. Devon Smith)

Maintenance (by Carey Upton and Glen Infuso)

Budget (by Melody Canady and Gerardo Cruz)

The board and other district officials will also take part in storytelling and symbolism exercises, such as choosing "symbols of me" that represent qualities they are proud of, challenges as a board member and a part of their individual stories. Shelton asked similar reflective questions of his staff before his first year as Superintendent, an exercise that he said would bring officials together into a stronger unit.

"When we are reflective and self-reflective about who we are and what's going on with us, then we can bring the best self to the space to support and educate our students," Shelton told the Daily Press last year.

A few hours later, the board will reconvene for a regularly-scheduled meeting, a truncated agenda with just weeks remaining before the 2024-25 school year. The board will be appointing a new Director of Student Services, effective August 1, as well as hearing the District English Learners Advisory Committee (DELAC) End-of-Year Report.

Focusing on the district's English Learner Programs, the DELAC committee will highlight accomplishments from the 2023-24 school year, including a host of special meetings with district officials, as well as recommendations for actions and expenditures.

DELAC recommendations include hiring staff who work directly with families of English Learner students, providing additional English Learner parent training and collaborating with Special Education officials to "ensure that parents of (English Learners and Special Education students) have the tools and information necessary to advocate and promote student success with reclassification and academics."

The committee also recommends monitoring Reclassified Fluent English Proficient students to ensure that students have not been prematurely exited from the English Learner curriculum, using the ELLevation software. The English Learner software program currently serves over 1,700 school districts and 2.5 million students nationwide.

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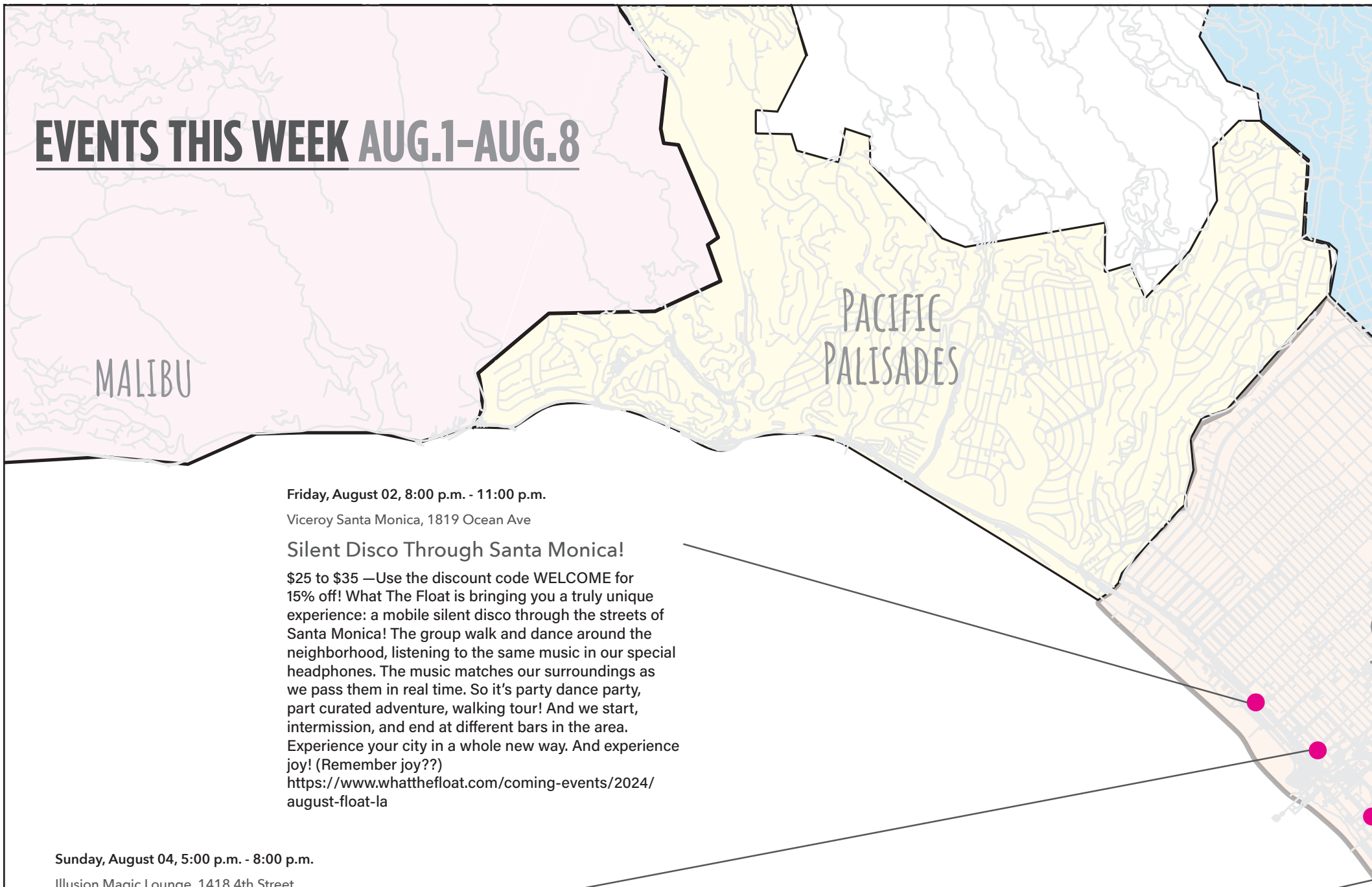
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EVENTS THIS WEEK AUG.1-AUG.8



Friday, August 02, 8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Viceroy Santa Monica, 1819 Ocean Ave

Silent Disco Through Santa Monica!

$25 to $35 —Use the discount code WELCOME for 15% off! What The Float is bringing you a truly unique experience: a mobile silent disco through the streets of Santa Monica! The group walk and dance around the neighborhood, listening to the same music in our special headphones. The music matches our surroundings as we pass them in real time. So it's party dance party, part curated adventure, walking tour! And we start, intermission, and end at different bars in the area. Experience your city in a whole new way. And experience joy! (Remember joy??)
https://www.whatthefloat.com/coming-events/2024/august-float-la

Sunday, August 04, 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Illusion Magic Lounge, 1418 4th Street

Cancer is a Drag Fundraiser Hosted by Gusty Gorgeous and Friends!

Gusty hiked 20+ miles (not in drag) on June 29 on the Pacific Crest Trail in the Ultimate Hike to raise money and awareness for CureSearch. Why? Because cancer sucks and the money raised will benefit children's cancer research. The money raised by this Drag Extravaganza will benefit both CureSearch and First Descents which provides outdoor adventure therapy and connections for young adults dealing with cancer and MS.
Gusty's debut will be hosted by the amazing Jordan Jayro. This fabulously fierce night will feature drag performances by Gusty, Gemini Sexton and Cake Moss! There will be drag bingo, comedy, lip synchs, lots of fundraising fun, and a whole lot of surprises!
Get your tickets now to the Drag Debut of the Year! $34
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cancer-is-a-drag-fundraiser-hosted-by-gusty-gorgeous-and-friends-tickets-909519566507

Friday, August 02, 2:30 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main St.

Summer Reading Program: Mr. Electric

Experience lightning, right in front of your eyes, at this high energy, interactive show all about electricity! For families.

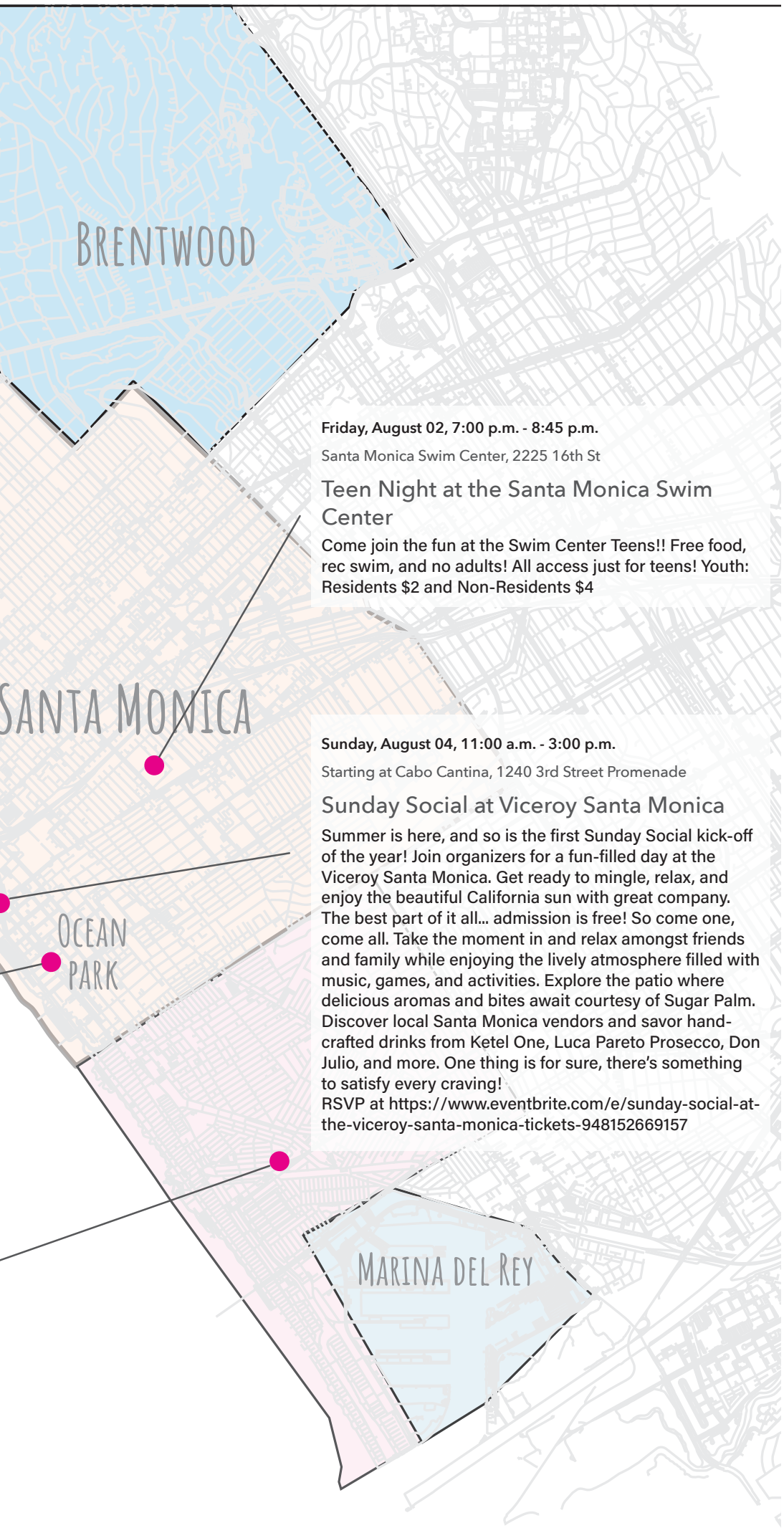
Friday, August 02, 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Abbot Kinney Blvd, 1525 Abbot Kinney Blvd

First Friday Food Truck Fest

Join organizers on Abbot Kinney Boulevard for a fun and festive night in Venice. Chances are you will find whatever food you are craving, along with special merchant events.
https://www.abbotkinneyblvd.com/firstfridays

Check out more events at: smdp.com/events



Friday, August 02, 7:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

Santa Monica Swim Center, 2225 16th St

Teen Night at the Santa Monica Swim Center

Come join the fun at the Swim Center Teens!! Free food, rec swim, and no adults! All access just for teens! Youth: Residents $2 and Non-Residents $4

Sunday, August 04, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Starting at Cabo Cantina, 1240 3rd Street Promenade

Sunday Social at Viceroy Santa Monica

Summer is here, and so is the first Sunday Social kick-off of the year! Join organizers for a fun-filled day at the Viceroy Santa Monica. Get ready to mingle, relax, and enjoy the beautiful California sun with great company. The best part of it all... admission is free! So come one, come all. Take the moment in and relax amongst friends and family while enjoying the lively atmosphere filled with music, games, and activities. Explore the patio where delicious aromas and bites await courtesy of Sugar Palm. Discover local Santa Monica vendors and savor hand-crafted drinks from Ketel One, Luca Pareto Prosecco, Don Julio, and more. One thing is for sure, there's something to satisfy every craving!
RSVP at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sunday-social-at-the-viceroy-santa-monica-tickets-948152669157



THURSDAY | AUGUST 1

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS AT THE LIBRARY - GROUP TWO
1 - 3:30 p.m. Donald Bruce Kaufman - Brentwood Branch Library, 11820 San Vicente Boulevard, Los Angeles, Space is limited! Please sign up online at https://www.lapl.org/whats-on/events/dungeons-dragons-library-group-two.
Kids and teens aged 9-14 are invited to join us for summer D&D Adventures! These will be incredibly fun adventures in fantasy taking place over three weeks and led by a professional Dungeon Master.

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

NIGHT MARKET AT THE BUNGALOW
Brent Bolthouse's vision for the Night Market at The Bungalow Santa Monica is brought to life this summer, offering an enchanting blend of culinary delights, live entertainment, and community spirit. The ultimate foodie event of the summer with food vendors, beverage activations, family-friendly activities, live musical and DJ performances, and celebrity guest appearances. Fairmont Miramar Hotel, 101 Wilshire Boulevard

NOMA MEETING
"Is our police department underfunded?" Cody Green, Chair of the SM Police Officers Assoc., will address this critical issue and how SM compares to other nearby cities in its funding at the North of Montana Neighborhood Association's meeting this Thursday, August 1. Also on the agenda is the director of the SM Community Corporation, Tara Barauskas, on the current state of affordable housing in our city, who will be joined by Heather Averick, Director of the SM Housing and Human Services Dept. The meeting begins at 7 pm on Zoom — info at smnoma.org — and all are invited to attend.

FRIDAY | AUGUST 2

SUMMER READING PROGRAM: MR. ELECTRIC
2:30 - 3:15 p.m. Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main Street. Experience lightning right in front of your eyes at this high-energy, interactive show all about electricity. For families.

TEEN SWIM NIGHT
7 p.m. - 8:45 p.m. Santa Monica Swim Center, 2225 16th St. Come join the fun at the Swim Center Teen Night, with free food, rec swim and no adults. All access just for teens. Residents $2, non-residents $4.

POP LOCK N FLOAT IT
7:30 p.m. - 11 p.m. Starting at Cabo Cantina, 1240 3rd Street Promenade. The water may be contaminated but the vibes are immaculate at the beach block party of the summer, Pop Lock n Float It. Make your own journey or party with friends with DJ performances from Brittany Guttheim, DJ ColEco and DJ YOHO. Tickets $30, to purchase visit: https://www.whatthefloat.com/coming-events/2024/august-float-la.

SATURDAY | AUGUST 3

RECYCLING EVENT
9 a.m. - 2 p.m. City Yard Parking Lot, 2500 Michigan Ave (second gate entrance). The City of Santa Monica is hosting a free recycling event for Santa Monica residents only. Bring your used mattresses, box springs, electronic waste and up to five boxes of paper for shredding. Shredding will happen on-site and the paper will be recycled. For questions, call 866-311-7266.

DOWNTOWN SANTA MONICA WALKING TOUR
10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Hostelling International Santa Monica, 1436 2nd St. Discover the architectural gems and rich history of Downtown Santa Monica. 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.

FAMILY THEATRE MUSICAL- CINDERELLA
2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St. The beloved Rudie-DeCarlo musical Cinderella celebrates its 40th anniversary with a stunning multi-media makeover at the Playhouse. It's Cinderella like you've never seen her before, with new songs, special effects, a silent movie segment and dazzling costumes. Tickets $15, $12.50 for kids 12 and under. To purchase, visit: https://www.showclix.com/event/cinderella-2023-the-musical. Also playing Sunday from 12:30 - 2 p.m.

MIRAMAR JAZZ NIGHT
7 p.m. - 10 p.m. Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows, 101 Wilshire Blvd. Fairmont Miramar is thrilled to announce an exciting new partnership with BroadStage Santa Monica, bringing the soulful sounds of live jazz featuring talented resident piano players Yuko Mabuchi and Sam Smylie. Free admission in the Lobby Lounge.

SUNDAY | AUGUST 4

Santa Monica Airport Antique Market
7 a.m. - 3 p.m. Santa Monica Airport, 2800-3200 Airport Ave., next to the Museum of Flying. Noted as one of the top 10 "flea markets" in America, visit the Santa Monica Airport Antique Market, a fun outdoor (and dog-friendly) market full of many great dealers with furniture, antiques, collectibles, art, vintage clothes, jewelry, rugs and much more. A destination for decorators, designers, boutique owners, families with their friendly dogs and collectors of all ages.

TOWN

FROM PAGE 4

WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

Pasjoli Summer of Sous Series: Throughout August, the Michelin-starred Main St. staple is showcasing their "talented team of sous chefs who are in the kitchen with Chef Dave each night" by letting them "take over the Pasjoli kitchen for one night to showcase their own personal cooking style & influences." Each four-course menu is priced at $95 per person. Thursday, Aug. 1, features Chef Jose presenting "a menu full of Mexican flavors and, of course, tequila." https://www.pasjoli.com/summer-of-sous

Abbot Kinney First Friday Food Truck Fest: About two dozen food trucks are expected to line the street for the monthly event. Friday, Aug. 2, starting at 5:00p.m. https://www.abbotkinneyblvd.com/

LA Times 101 Best Tacos List: Only the Jackfruit tinga taco at Socalo gets SaMo love stating "If they're as delicious as this one, then jackfruit should be the focal point of more tacos." https://www.latimes.com/food/list/best-tacos-los-angeles-101-guide-birria-asada-pastor-carnitas

Shirube Gets Rave Review from The Infatuation: "We're not exactly sure why this Tokyo-based izakaya chain decided to open its first US location next door to a Chevron in downtown Santa Monica, but we're glad they did. This narrow drinking tavern serves creative Japanese dishes with high-end touches, somehow at very reasonable prices. It's the most delicious bang for your buck in the neighborhood and a modern izakaya experience where the right amount of flair makes even a quick meal here feel special." https://www.theinfatuation.com/los-angeles/reviews/shirube

Further Afield: The Obscure - Distillery & Cocktail Experience: Enjoy a guided tasting event where a master distiller and storyteller explains the background and history of three different spirits and makes fantastic cocktails with them. I went there last weekend and LOVED the experience and flavors! Thursdays - Sunday, 1356 Palmetto St., Downtown LA https://experience.theobscure.com

LOOKING AHEAD: Montana Ave. Dog Daze (8/24), The Pier's Birthday Bash (9/6), Main St. Day of the Dog Festival (9/7), Montana Ave. Art Walk (9/28); Americana in the Park (Sundays in September)

If there's something you think is worth highlighting, you can reach out directly to me at sean@smdp.com and let me know if you have any feedback on Around Town: Summer Events Aplenty

COUNTY

FROM PAGE 1

The agenda item, titled "Developing a Countywide Strategy for Addressing Encampments After the Grants Pass Decision," was aimed at addressing the challenges that have seen local homelessness rates more than double the national average. Governor Gavin Newsom issued an executive order last Thursday, based on the Grants Pass ruling, directing local governments to urgently address homeless encampments while emphasizing humane treatment.

Up for Debate

During Tuesday's meeting, County Supervisor Janice Hahn highlighted the local community's weariness with the increasing visibility of homeless encampments, a sentiment she referred to as "encampment fatigue." However, Hahn did not delve further into solutions to this fatigue. Instead, she sought clarifications on the motion before the board. Hahn noted that while the Supreme Court ruling clarified legal boundaries, it did not resolve what she described as an important County approach to the crisis. "The challenge requires more humane approaches than mere enforcement," Hahn stated.

During the board discussion, Hahn raised questions about the legal implications of regulating encampment locations and how cities might handle potential displacements into neighboring jurisdictions. "We need to understand our legal avenues should cities begin to push homeless encampments into other areas?'

For more than an hour, the county reaffirmed its commitment to existing initiatives like the Pathway Home and Inside Safe programs.

During the meeting, Los Angeles County discussed the outcomes of its homelessness initiatives. Despite having declared a local emergency on homelessness in January 2023, the county has conducted only 17 Pathway Home operations to date. This is in sharp contrast to the City of Los Angeles, which has initiated 56 Inside Safe operations since its own declaration of emergency.

Supervisor Hilda Solis advocated for increasing housing availability to ensure the sustainability of the programs. LA County Sheriff Robert Luna also emphasized a "Service First, Care First" approach, maintaining that enforcement would remain a last resort and that LASD's booking criteria for misdemeanor offenses would not change.

The board motion, put forth by Solis and Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, called for a strategic report back in 120 days. The strategy was said to prioritize humane approaches, community outreach, and partnerships with local municipalities.

Supervisor Kathryn Barger, following the discussion, remarked, "While enforcement is an important tool, it must be applied strategically to effect permanent change and maintain public safety and health."

Local leaders like Carolyn Jordan and Chris Spitz expressed mixed reactions before the vote. They criticized the prevailing Housing First approach and called for more diversified strategies that include mental health and addiction services. The delayed implementation of Senate Bill 43, expanding the definition of 'gravely disabled' to include severe substance use disorders, was also noted, with Hahn casting the lone dissenting vote against last December's delay.

Published in partnership with the Westside Current.

Toilet paper and flat tires — the strange ways that Californians ignite wildfires

JULIE CART
CalMatters

Of all the insidious threats faced by wildland firefighters — extreme heat, desiccated forests, unpredictable fire behavior and a nearly year-round fire season — what might be the most fearsome?

Humans.

People do dangerous things, things that start wildfires. Pushing a burning car into a gully. Mowing the lawn on a hot summer day. Miswiring a hot tub. Driving cars with flat tires. Burning toilet paper rather than packing it out of a campsite. Setting off smoke bombs at gender reveal parties.

In hot, dry conditions already primed for fire, people's actions can quickly escalate from a harmless mistake — such as hammering a metal stake into the parched ground — to igniting a blaze that kills a firefighter.

People — whether purposeful, reckless or simply careless — are responsible for about 95% of California's wildfires. Last year alone, people caused more than 7,000 wildfires in California; nationally, it was more than 50,000.

"Humans are incredibly predictable," said Cal Fire Battalion Chief David Acuna. "They drag chains and they leave campfires to burn or they have a flat tire but think they can juuust make it to the next exit.

"It's people not using appropriate judgment," he added, "They are not looking at what they are doing and whether or not it's going to start a fire. I believe in the ability of humans to recognize what is not in their best interest, but people constantly prove me wrong."

Add to the list the Park Fire, a fierce fire raging across 600 square miles in four Sacramento Valley counties that is already the fifth largest in California history. Butte County authorities arrested a 42-year-old Chico man suspected of pushing a burning vehicle into a ravine.

Human action, tragically, also may have caused the 57,300-acre Borel Fire in Kern County, which began last week on the side of Highway 178, possibly sparked when a vehicle crashed, killing the driver.

In a summer of severe fires, with dangerous lightning storms possible in coming weeks, authorities wish people would stop doing stupid stuff. Nature doesn't need any help starting fires.

That would include the man accused of driving his truck for more than four miles, minus a front tire, in Sonoma County last week. The metal scraping on the road sparked the Flora Fire, a small blaze east of Healdsburg. The fire was contained last Sunday and a suspect is in custody. Cal Fire lists the cause as "vehicle."

A similar maneuver started the 2018 Carr Fire near Redding. The fire, which killed three people fighting the fire and five civilians and burned nearly 230,000 acres, was ignited by a spark caused by someone driving a trailer with a flat tire.

Another major human cause is related to institutions — the power utilities — rather than reckless individuals. "Since 2015, power lines have caused six of the state's 20 most destructive wildfires," according to a 2022 report from the State Auditor's office. California's most-deadly fire, the 2018 Camp Fire, which killed 85 people, was started by arcing transmission lines whipped by high winds.

Natural causes still play a significant role, especially lightning, which could become even a bigger threat with climate change.

INTENTIONAL ARSON IS RARE IN WILDFIRES

Arsonists purposefully setting fires is not common, accounting for about 10% of California fires, depending on the year. Last year 111 people were arrested for arson-caused fires in the state.

Thousands of human-caused fires fall into the unofficial category of people being knuckleheads: Folks doing something they think is safe or, absent any thinking, something they come to regret.

A few examples:

1. A smoke bomb at a gender-reveal party sparked the deadly 2020 El Dorado Fire in San Bernardino and Riverside counties, which killed a firefighter and cost $42 million to suppress.

2. A person using a lawnmower in Mariposa County caused the French Fire on July 4.

3. Starting a fire to signal for help, a hunter inadvertently started the 2003 Cedar Fire near San Diego, which burned 280,278 acres, destroyed 2,820 buildings and killed 15 people.

4. Faulty wiring on a hot tub in 2015 ignited a fire that burned for longer than a month in Lake County.

5. Weapons fired in backcountry started the 2017 Detwiler Fire, destroying 134 structures and threatening Yosemite National Park. The same cause in the same area sparked the Telegraph Fire nine years earlier.

6. A homeowner attempting to install a shade cloth on his property used a hammer to drive a metal stake in the ground. The sparks set off the Ranch Fire, which killed a firefighter and burned more than 410,000 acres in Colusa, Glenn, Lake and Mendocino counties in 2018.

Throw into the mix: escaped Mylar balloons sparking utility lines, unattended campfires, weedwackers, cigarette butts tossed out of car windows, trains, backyard fireworks. It's a wonder that the state doesn't burn down every year.

Dispatching crews to human-caused fires takes resources away from the fires that nature creates, said Adrienne Freeman, a spokesperson with the U.S. Forest Service.

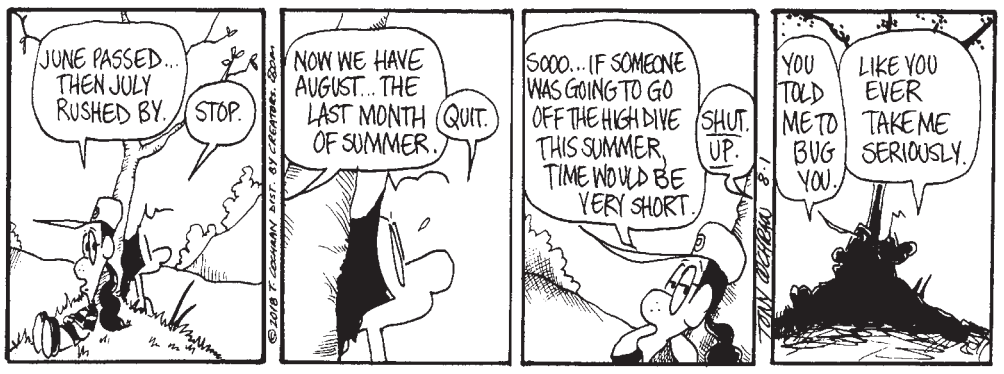
"The answer is to use common sense," she said. "It's important not to place blame, but if you have a flat tire and you are 500 feet from the gas station, you may want to push (the car instead.) Think about it in the bigger picture."

Freeman said a particular numbskull decision she's seen is, evidently, common: backcountry campers setting fire to used toilet paper so they don't have to pack it out.

SEE **FIRE** PAGE 11

Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



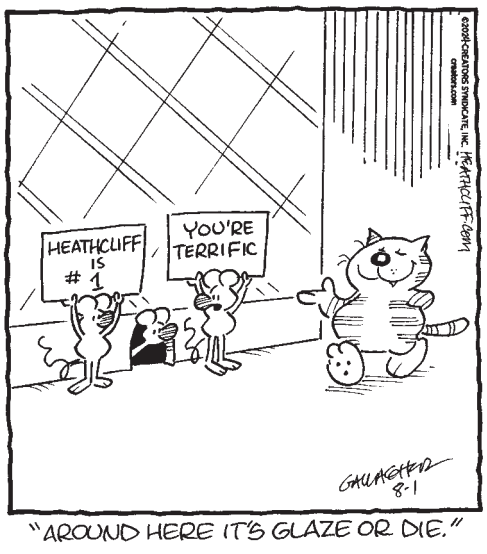
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"AROUND HERE IT'S GLAZE OR DIE."

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 24 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6289

Aussie towns and cities

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

Albury	Coach	Kiama	Omeo
Angourie	Colo	Lightning Ridge	Perth
Avalon	Derby	Mackay	Roma
Bathurst	Dubbo	Maree	Snug
Bega	Echuca	Maya	Toowoomba
Blyth	Evans Head	Melton	Utakarra
Bondi	Hervey Bay	Morpeth	Wyndham
Cairns	Hostels	Newcastle	Yass
Ceduna	Innisfail	Nowra	
City	Jabiru		

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
On the must see list

Covering the city by the bay since 2001.
To advertise, email dina@smdp.com or call 310.573.8342
smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 1)

It feels so right to take charge of your own experience. This lucky feeling meets you on the regular this year and is often your constant companion. The world is responsive to your needs and wants. More highlights: You'll be part of an excellent team and you'll also root for winning teams. Education pays off big-time. A magical process brings kindred souls together. Virgo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 50, 3, 39 and 18.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). People feel safe with you. Because of this, the truth will move in where mysteries and manipulation once existed. It's your warmth that inspires others to let down their guard or give up the ruse.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Trust in the timing. Pauses just mean that matters outside the frame are being solved. Ultimately, even the lulls work in your favor. Hunger makes the meal sweeter. The reward, long-awaited, will be worth it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Feelings heat up. Channel your creative impulses into making something tangible. This process can provide a sense of release and offer a new perspective on your experiences.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You don't have to be perfect to be loved, liked or included. Perfection would be intimidating and tends to drive people away. People are drawn to your relatability, which is based in knowledge of your strengths and flaws alike.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll be an objective witness to your own behavior. This is advanced human behavior, and it takes maturity. To clearly understand your motivations and patterns, and make changes where needed, will allow you to evolve in the way you wish to.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The logic you once followed suddenly seems faulty, but you can't quite put your finger on why. Until you figure it out, try to navigate with something different. An innate knowing rises up in you — use it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll make someone's tough day a lot brighter with your generosity. You'll give your last dollar, share your fries, do whatever it takes to get to that smile. Your sweetness is matched only by your strength.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The whole universe breathes with you. Anytime you want to remember this truth, just bring your attention to the pulsing ground, the sway of trees, and the vibrant force that fills your lungs and invigorates your spirit.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Shortcuts might get you somewhere fast, but you still won't be able to skip anything life wants to teach you. These lessons insist on being learned, if not now, then tomorrow or next month.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Wishing for what you want doesn't make you entitled. The entitled are the ones who expect that wishing is enough to bring things to hand, which is, of course, childish. Aligned aims, efforts and strategy will win the game.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Study the routines of your admired crew. Observe how they structure their day, manage their time and tackle their tasks. Don't hesitate to ask them directly for the steps they follow and the best practices they adhere to.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Because you're so used to hard work, it feels passive to sit back and gather inspiration. But absorbing ideas and experiences is crucial to producing your next round of quality work. Seek out books, art, music and conversations.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

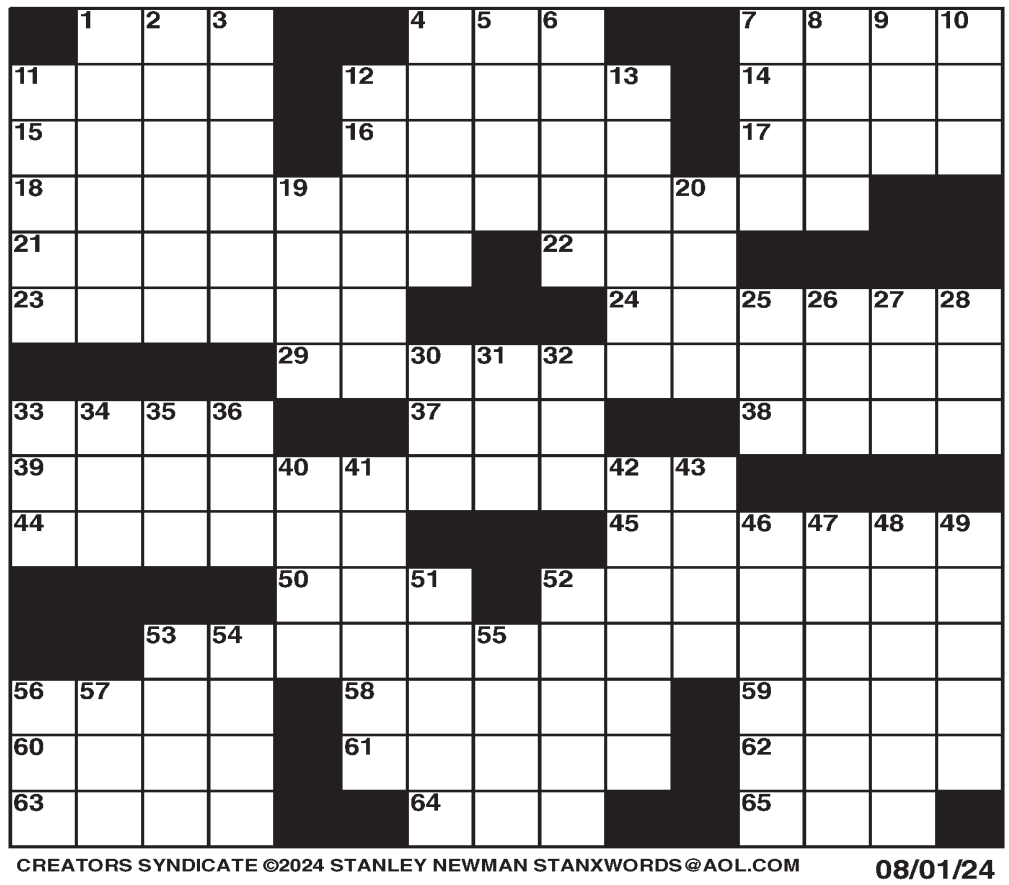
YOU'LL FLIP by Steve Faiella
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 PD rank
4 Keeps
7 Motel inventory
11 Hawaiian fish, on menus
12 Get-well process
14 Out of control
15 Out of balance
16 Delight
17 Salon service
18 '70s High Court head
21 Fancy foot furniture
22 Lentil cousin
23 Shut up again
24 Chiding sounds
29 Vacuums, dusts, etc.
33 Legendary ship
37 Catch up to, but not pass
38 Microscopic
39 Add to the language
44 Long-haired cat
45 Go by
50 Tolkien beast
52 Sleet, essentially
53 Actor's application
56 Constant change
58 Four-award achievements
59 Large group
60 HP competitor in PCs
61 Slow tempo
62 They grasp at straws
63 Ready to pick
64 For example
65 Helpful contacts

DOWN

1 Pay tribute to
2 Trick-or-treaters in white
3 Move furtively
4 Dame __ Mirren
5 Literary whaler
6 Stopped slouching
7 Attended, with "to"
8 Actor Epps or Sharif
9 Large quantity
10 Glide on powder
11 Academic concentration
12 Think back to
13 Tams' kin
19 Apple desktop
20 Deep cut
25 Pond fish
26 Chiding sound
27 Erstwhile Mach 2 flier
28 Most important
30 Biblical verb ending
31 Atmosphere
32 Teachers' org.
33 Healthcare.gov law
34 Potter pal
35 Band date
36 Middle name of Lennon
40 Middle name of Elvis
41 Dole (out)
42 Appear that way
43 Spanish pronoun
46 High-pH compound
47 Look through a window
48 Leaves perplexed
49 TV multisport awards
51 Shark filmers' surroundings
52 Inconsequential
53 Orange juice material
54 Sedan's spindle
55 Hawaiian coffee
56 10-cent portrait
57 String of small shells



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08/01/24

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

Citywide

CRJ Workshop: a Change is Coming

The Committee for Racial Justice (CRJ) is presenting a workshop titled "A Change Is Coming: Are You Ready to Vote?" on August 4. As the election season intensifies, the focus will be on critical voting issues. The event will begin with a traditional potluck supper at 6 p.m. at the Thelma Terry Center in Virginia Avenue Park, Santa Monica, followed by a free hybrid workshop starting at 6:30 p.m. The workshop will feature a panel of three speakers and a Q&A session. Those unable to attend in person can register online to receive the Zoom link for the workshop.

The first speaker, Pastor Cue Jn-Marie, founder and pastor of The Row LA, will discuss the importance of voter participation in this significant election. He is also involved with various justice-oriented organizations, including CREATING JUSTICE.LA and the Black-Brown Clergy & Community Coalition.

Isabel Storey, a progressive Democrat and political activist, will speak about Proposition 6, related to ending involuntary servitude as a punishment for crime, and other propositions on the ballot, including the Living Wage Act, the Justice for Renters Act, and a measure on affordable housing and homelessness solutions. Storey is also a California Assembly Delegate and Vice President of Legislation for the Santa Monica Democratic Club.

Darrell Goode, the NAACP Santa Monica/Venice Branch President and NAACP Southwest Area Director for LA County branches, will address the importance of the upcoming election, threats of voter suppression, and other NAACP concerns. Goode is a retired Academic Administrator from Santa Monica Community College.

The workshop aims to provide valuable insights and opportunities for community involvement. For those requiring childcare, email committee4racialjustice@gmail.com by 5 PM on Friday, August 2. For more information, contact Joanne at 310-422-5431. The event will be held from 6 to 8 PM, with the program starting at 6:30 PM. The workshop is free and available online for those who register via the provided link.

SUBMITTED BY JOANNE BERLIN

VOLLEYBALL

FROM PAGE 1

Year and solidifying himself as an elite setter in the sport. He left the UCLA squad in order to pursue the Olympics, a decision that has paid off thus far.

Longtime partners Partain and Benesh entered the preliminary phase of Olympic competition on July 27, falling in two closely-contested sets to the Cuban duo of Noslen Diaz Amaro and Jorge Luis Alayo Moliner. Tuesday told a different story, one defined by both the Team USA victory and the blazing conditions Partain played in.

On a humid, 92-degree day, Partain and his partner took the first set 21-12 before persevering to take a grueling 28-26 second-set win. Near the end of the second set, Benesh's would-be winning point was protested by the Moroccan opponents, turning the set from 25-23 to 24-24. Team USA took over in the deciding points for the win, as Partain was faced with the heated competition and the heat itself.

"It was a big factor, especially for blocking and if you're getting served and getting a lot of jumps in," Partain told TeamUSA.com after the match. "The water breaks help, but it's really hot."

While the California duo has turned heads, the other squad of Team USA has brought considerable attention, that being the team of Miles Evans and Chase Budinger. The latter half of the duo has intrigued fans of his former sport, as Budinger was a seven-year veteran of the National Basketball Association (NBA), playing small forward in four different stops. Mainly in a reserve role for teams like the Houston Rockets and Minnesota Timberwolves, Budinger's career change to volleyball reminded many of Wilt Chamberlain's famous sport-swap, with Budinger taking his talents all the way to the Paris stage.

Up next for Partain and Benesh is a crucial Thursday preliminary match against Brazil, as Team USA is seeking its first Men's medal in the sport since Phil Dalhausser and Todd Rogers in 2008. If unsuccessful, Partain may get a chance to compete a stone's throw from home at the Santa Monica Pier in 2028.

thomas@smdp.com

FIRE

FROM PAGE 8

VEHICLES, LAWN EQUIPMENT ARE LEADING CAUSES OF WILDFIRES

"The unsung reason is parking on dry grass. It's common," she said. "People pull up to a river access and see all these cars parked on the same strip you are parked on. What do you do? You park there."

California firefighters respond to countless brush fires every summer that were started from a hot tailpipe making contact with high and dry grasses next to a road. The flammability of grasses is so well known that even those in the fire service are on guard not to spark fires when they use or move equipment.

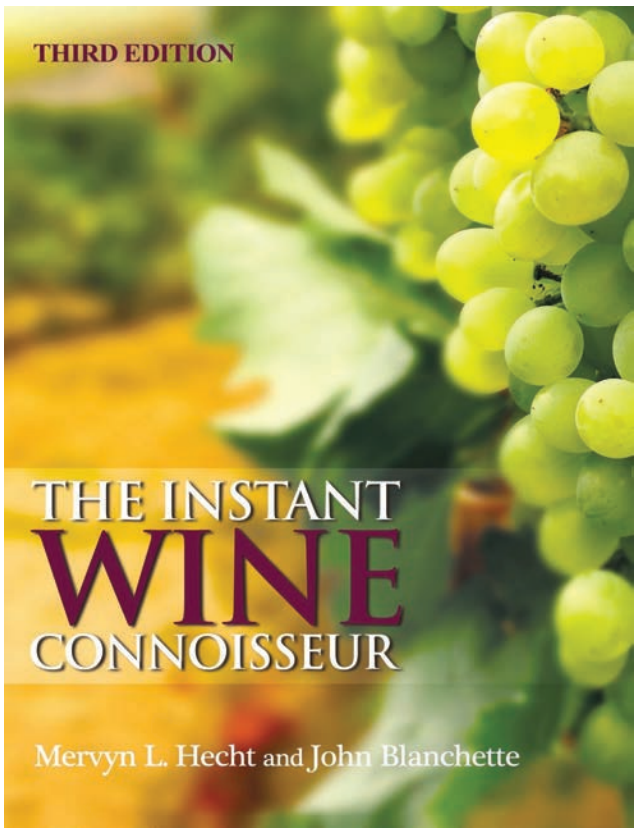
"You can actually start fires while fighting fires," Freeman said, noting that heavy-duty fire engines and other fire vehicles can kick up rocks and cause sparks. "You are moving your dozers to respond to a fire, you have to be very careful."

Dave Winnacker, fire chief of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District east of Berkeley, said human-caused fires commonly involve using equipment outdoors unsafely and vehicle accidents. His department operates a rigorous fire awareness program but sometimes education and warnings are not enough. In June, the fire district instituted a near-total outdoor fire ban.

Many California counties suggest mowing grass early in the day or late afternoon, but it's not mandatory.

"We rely on our education and spreading the word. At the end of the day, some people are going to get it and some are not," said Andy VanSciver, public information officer for the Ventura County Fire Department.

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