Tourism nearly doubles year on year as the city rebuilds post-pandemic

GRACE INEZ ADAMS
SMDP Staff Writer

Tourism is on a small slump regionally but rebounding locally.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

A teenager who accidentally shot himself in the hand earlier this week is being accused of multiple crimes including an armed robbery shortly before the accident.

Children aged 13 and 15 accused of armed robbery, burglary and stabbing

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

A teenager who accidentally shot himself in the hand earlier this week is being accused of multiple crimes including an armed robbery shortly before the accident.

The uninjured youth, a 13-year-old resident of Santa Monica, was booked at the Santa Monica Police Department and transported to juvenile hall. The injured suspect, a 15-year-old Los Angeles resident was transported to the hospital for treatment. He was released from the hospital the next day, booked at the SMPD, and also transported to juvenile hall.

Additional charges are pending. Anyone with information pertaining to this incident or persons involved is strongly encouraged to contact SMPD Criminal Investigations during business hours at 310-458-8451.

SCHOLARSHIP: Three Samohi students received scholarships this week for their work in promoting peace. Pictured are Julie Honda, college counselor at Santa Monica High School, with Finn Ong, Kelly Larios, and Fernanda Casas, winners of the violence prevention award.

Three Samohi students received scholarships this week for their work in promoting peace. Pictured are Julie Honda, college counselor at Santa Monica High School, with Finn Ong, Kelly Larios, and Fernanda Casas, winners of the violence prevention award.

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Drug overdoses in the US slightly increased last year. But experts see hopeful signs

MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

Drug overdose deaths in the U.S. went up slightly last year after two big leaps during the pandemic.

Officials with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say the numbers plateaued for most of last year. Experts aren’t sure whether that means the deadliest drug overdose epidemic in U.S. history is finally reaching a peak, or whether it’ll look like previous plateaus that were followed by new surges in deaths.

“The fact that it does seem to be flattening out, at least at a national level, is encouraging,” said Katherine Keyes, a Columbia University epidemiology professor whose research focuses on drug use. “But these numbers are still extraordinarily high. We shouldn’t suggest the crisis is in any way over.”

An estimated 109,680 overdose deaths occurred last year, according to numbers posted Wednesday by the CDC. That’s about 2% more than the 107,622 U.S. overdose deaths in 2021, but nothing like the 30% increase seen in 2020, and 15% increase in 2021.

While the overall national number was relatively static between 2021 and 2022, there were dramatic changes in a number of states: 23 reported fewer overdose deaths, one — Iowa — saw no change, and the rest continued to increase.

Eight states — Florida, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia — reported sizable overdose death decreases of about 100 or more compared with the previous calendar year.

“Some of these states had some of the highest overdose death rates during the epidemic, which Keyes said might be a sign that years of concentrated work to address the problem is paying off. State officials cited various factors for the decline, like social media and health education campaigns to warn the public about the dangers of drug use; expanded addiction treatment — including telehealth — and wider distribution of the overdose-reversing medication naloxone.

Plus, the stigma that kept drug users from seeking help — and some doctors and police officers from helping them — is waning, said Dr. Joseph Kanter, the state health officer for Louisiana, where overdose deaths fell 4% last year.

“We’re catching up and the tide’s turning — slowly,” said Kanter, whose state has one of the nation’s highest overdose death rates.

Beginning in the mid-1990s, abuse of prescription opioid painkillers was to blame for deaths before a gradual turn to heroin, which in 2015 caused more deaths than prescription painkillers or other drugs. A year later, the more lethal fentanyl and its close cousins became the biggest drug killer.

Last year, most overdose deaths continued to be linked to fentanyl and other synthetic opioids. About 75,000, up 4% from the year before. There also was a 11% increase in deaths involving cocaine and a 3% increase in deaths involving meth and other stimulants.

Overdose deaths are often attributed to more than one drug; some people take multiple drugs and officials say inexpensive fentanyl is increasingly cut into other drugs, often without the buyers’ knowledge.

Research from Dr. Daniel Ciccarone, a drug policy expert at the University of California, San Francisco, suggests “there appears to be some substitution going on,” with a number of people who use illicit drugs turning to methamphetamine or other options to try to stay away from fentanyl and fentanyl-tainted drugs.

Ciccarone said he believes overdose deaths finally will trend down. He cited improvements in innovations in counseling and addiction treatment, better availability of naloxone and legal actions that led to more than $50 billion in proposed and finalized settlements — money that should be available to bolster overdose prevention.

“We’ve thrown a lot at this 20-year opioid overdose problem,” he said. “We should be bending the curve downward.”

But he also voiced some caution, saying “we have been here before.”

Consider 2018, when overdose deaths dropped 4% from the previous year, to about 67,000. After those numbers came out, then-President Donald Trump declared “we are curbing the opioid epidemic.”

But overdose deaths then rose to a record 71,000 in 2019, then soared during the
Twitter is purging inactive accounts including people who have died, angering those still grieving

WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS
AP Business Writer

Emily Reed lost her younger sister Jessica more than 10 years ago. For much of the last decade, she’s visited Jessica’s Twitter page to help “keep her memory alive.”

Twitter became one of the places where Emily processed her grief and reconnected with a sister she describes as almost like a twin. But Jessica’s account is now gone. Twitter became one of the places where Emily processed her grief and reconnected with a sister she describes as almost like a twin. But Jessica’s account is now gone.

Last week, owner Elon Musk announced Twitter would be purging accounts that have had no activity for several years. That decision has, to cherishing tweets that showed “the emotional pain for some users mourning late loved ones — including little snippets of a thought they shared.”

In this modern age, we have these electronic reminders of people — (including) little snippets of a thought they had on a particular day or pictures that they shared,” said Shira Gabriel, professor of psychology at University at Buffalo. Shira Gabriel, professor of psychology at University at Buffalo. Looking through a late loved one’s social media can both be a healthy way to process grief and gather as a community in remembrance, Gabriel said.

“The prospect of that resource disappearing can bring about a sense of mourning again,” Gabriel said. “There is a real psychological cost of getting rid of this digital thumbprint that was left behind and this ability for community members to gather in one spot.”

It is unknown if Musk will backtrack on the decision to purge. The billionaire CEO of Tesla has launched policies that have rattled users and advertisers alike and shown little interest in amending those policies in response.

Musk named a new CEO last week, Linda Yaccarino, a former NBCUniversal advertising executive, who will have her hands full with a platform seemingly now in a perpetual state of chaos.

Deleting inactive accounts can be seen as fulfilling a promise Musk made when he bought the company, particularly winnowing down junk accounts and bots, said Samuel Woolley, an assistant professor at the University of Texas at Austin’s School of Journalism and Media.

There are good reasons to preserve inactive accounts, and also reasons to delete them, Woolley said, but he is leery of the “one-size-fits-all” approach.

Advocates of purging accounts cite skewed metrics caused by inactive accounts or bots on social media platforms. Yet on top of emotional pain for some users mourning late loved ones, deleting inactive accounts could also mean losing tweets that documented historical events, commentary and breaking news on the app over the years.

“Twitter operates in many ways like a library of data,” Woolley said. “Just because someone hasn’t been active for 30 days or a few years, doesn’t mean their tweets don’t still have a great amount of relevance.”

Musks did say the reasoning behind removing inactive accounts was to free up unused Twitter handles, or user names, and that those inactive accounts would be archived.

What exactly that means is not known — including what inactive accounts will look like when they’re archived, and whether they’ll be easily accessible. Other details of the plan are also unclear, such as the number of accounts to be removed and whether the policy will be even enforced.

While Reed and others saw the inactive accounts of loved ones disappear last week, the account belonging to the late father of controversial internet personality Andrew Tate still appears to be on the site, for example.

On Twitter, Tate said he was fine with Musk’s decision, but asked that his father’s account remain active as he “still (reads) his account daily.”

Picking and choosing accounts for deactivation would “create precisely the kind of tiered system that Musk says he wants to avoid,” Woolley said.

When contacted by The Associated Press for comment, Twitter responded with an automated email. Twitter’s trust and safety lead Ella Irwin also did not respond.

According to Twitter policy, the social media platform determines an account’s inactivity through log-ins. Twitter says that users should log in at least every 30 days.

Twitter users are able to download an archive of their own data through the app, but not for accounts they don’t possess login credentials. Reed, for example, noted that her family wasn’t able to get into Jessica’s account over the last 10 years. The only traces they have now are some screenshots that Reed’s other sister luckily captured before the purge.

Reed talks about the importance of Jessica’s Twitter and Facebook pages during her journey with grief — from following her sister’s difficult journey with cystic fibrosis, a progressive genetic disorder that Reed also has, to cherishing tweets that showed “the joy and... the vibrancy that came out of her words.”

Over time, the image and memories of someone who has passed away can slowly change in your mind — “like a fading photograph,” Reed said. Having online resources, she added, can help keep a “person’s memory alive, in a way that just your own personal memory can’t.”
Musk says he’s not stepping down as Tesla CEO, tells shareholders the company will advertise

Associated Press

Elon Musk on Tuesday dismissed speculation that he might step down as Tesla’s CEO and told the company’s annual shareholders meeting that the electric car and solar panel company would start doing some advertising.

“Say it ain’t so,” one shareholder asked Musk about stepping down as Tesla’s leader. “It ain’t so,” he replied without further discussion.

When another shareholder suggested that Tesla try advertising, Musk said he is open to it.

“This has some merit,” he said to the shareholder at the meeting at Tesla’s factory site near Austin, Texas. “We’ll try a little advertising and see how it goes.”

Tesla famously has avoided paying for advertising like its competitors, relying a lot on Musk’s ability to generate free publicity — he has 140 million followers on Twitter, the social media company bought for $44 billion last fall.

Musk told shareholders that the company’s “Full Self-Driving” software is getting close to where it’s safer than human driving. He previously has said the system should be ready this year, a pledge he has made for several years.

Tesla says on its website that the cars can’t drive themselves and humans must be ready to intervene at all times. The company also has been forced by U.S. safety regulators to recall the software because it didn’t obey traffic laws in some cases. The problems noted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration are to be fixed with an online software update.

During Tuesday’s meeting, Musk cautioned that the next 12 months could be challenging for the Austin-based company, largely because rising interest rates have increased the cost of buying a car.

“Tesla is not immune to the global economic environment,” he said, predicting that the company will get through the period and do well, even when a lot of companies will go bankrupt.

Later on CNBC he talked about affordability of Tesla cars. “If the car payments or your home payments go up you have less money for other things,” he said.

He told the gathering that sometimes the pain of working has been “quite excruciating.” He called his time as CEO of Twitter a “short term distraction” and said the company needed open heart surgery to ensure its survival.

“It’s now in a stable place, and he’s happy to have Linda Yaccarino, whom he hired away from NBCUniversal, to run Twitter. Musk said the amount of time he’ll devote to Twitter will be “relatively small” compared with the last six months since he bought the social media platform.

Before Musk’s talk, shareholders voted to place Tesla co-founder and former chief technology officer JB Straubel on the company’s board for the next three years. Straubel left Tesla in 2019 to start a battery materials recycling company. Shareholders also re-elected Musk and Chairwoman Robyn Denholm to the board.
OTHELLO & EMMYLOU, DWIGHT & DJANGO

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:
TONIGHT! - EMMYLOU HARRIS, DWIGHT YOAKAM – What a great pairing. Emmylou has been all over the place in her long recording career, but her bedrock is deep respect and understanding of true country music. The same exploration can’t be said of Yoakam (though he did put out a fine bluegrass album), but his similar reverence for authentic country led him from Kentucky to Bakersfield, to mine those fields for the ghosts of the masters of that niche, sometimes overlooked but very rich vein of country music. They are very different troubadours of country, but both sitting in exactly the same place. I hope they do quite a few duets. Thurs, 7 p.m., Greek Theatre, LA, $39-299.

LA OPERA, “OTHELLO” – You’ve gotta understood, I moved to LA for the music. To work in the industry, but even more importantly, to be engulfed by music, the best, of the widest variety, nonstop, every night. Mission accomplished. But the delicious downside is that sometimes there is too much to fit in, and I do have a life outside that (punching bag for the mindless minions of evil politicos). And so it happens, for the second LA Opera presentation in a row, that I cannot see it until the final performance, So, how can I honestly “highly recommend” it? I’ve gone to literally thousands of live shows since college, and often reported on them, and you learn to make accurate judgments based on what has already been proven. And in years of LA Operas, I have been more thrilled some times than others, but never let down, with a bad or even mediocre showing. Like the LA Phil and the old Jazz Bakery, consistently rock solid. I literally bet my reputation on it, with no qualms. You won’t want to miss this powerful achievement by Guiseppe Verdi, along with “Falstaff” his final one-two knockout punch, considered by many to be the zenith of Italian opera. Next week I will give you another solid reason, still sight unseen. Or did you catch the free big screen simulcast on the Pier last weekend? Sat 7:30 p.m., Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, LA, $29-349.

THE HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES – Hot Club’s brand of virtuoso, sometimes breakneck Django-style 1930s gypsy swing jazz is found nowhere else and even if it was, it couldn’t possibly be better than this. These guys are masters, individually and collectively. They manage to record and play high-profile gigs and still show up every Monday night here, for years. Aren’t we lucky? Mon 9 p.m., Cinema Bar, Culver City, no cover.

DUDAMEL, LA PHIL, BEETHOVEN’S SYMPHONY NO. 7” – Ludwig van? Dudamel? I’m in, and you should be the last time I was in the LA Phil-commissioned “Sinfonia Concertante for Organ and Orchestra,” and any opportunity to hear those mighty Disney Hall pipes should not be missed. You will also get Stravinsky’s “Petrushka” and Bartok’s intriguing “The Miraculous Mandarin Mandarin Suite.” I would go just for that. But then, I’m a big Béla Bartók booster. Thurs, Fri 8 p.m., Walt Disney Concert Hall, LA, $64-216.

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At Cannes Film Festival, Johnny Depp says ‘I have no further need for Hollywood’

JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

Appearing at the Cannes Film Festival the day after premiering his first film in three years, Johnny Depp said Wednesday that he has “no further need” for Hollywood.

Depp made a rare public appearance to face questions from the press following the opening-night premiere of “Jeanne du Barry,” in which Depp plays King Louis XV. The French film, directed by and starring Maïwenn and featuring a French-speaking Depp, is the actor’s first film since a jury last year largely sided with him in his legal battle with his ex-wife, Amber Heard.

Part of Depp’s argument in that 2022 defamation trial was that he had lost work due to Heard’s allegations. Heard was ordered to pay Depp $10 million in damages, vindicating his allegations that Heard lied about Depp abusing her before and during their brief marriage. Heard was also awarded $2 million.

“I don’t feel boycotted by Hollywood, because I don’t think about Hollywood. I don’t have much further need for Hollywood, myself,” Depp said. “It’s a strange, funny time where everybody would love to be able to be themselves, but they can’t. They must fall in line with the person in front of them. If you want to live that life, I wish you the best.”

“Jeanne du Barry” opened Tuesday in French cinemas. It doesn’t have U.S. distribution as of yet.

Depp was most notably asked to step down from the “Harry Potter” spin-off franchise “Fantastic Beasts.” Now, though, he says he’s not interested in returning to studio projects.

“I don’t feel boycotted by Hollywood, because I don’t think about Hollywood. I don’t have much further need for Hollywood, myself!” Depp said. “It’s a strange, funny time where everybody would love to be able to be themselves, but they can’t. They must fall in line with the person in front of them. If you want to live that life, I wish you the best.”

Depp called the majority of what’s been written about him in recent years “fantastically, horrifically written fiction.”

“It’s like asking the question: ‘How are you doing?’ But the subtext is, ‘God, I hate you,’” said Depp.

Some have debated whether Cannes ought to have given Depp such a prominent platform. Asked how he would respond to such critics, Depp made a comparison that suggested few people feel that way.

“What if one day, they did not allow me to go to McDonald’s for life because somewhere there’d be 39 angry people watching me eat a Big Mac on a loop?” pondered Depp. “Who are they? What do they care?”

“I’ve had my 17th comeback, apparently,” said Depp. “I keep wondering about the word ‘comeback.’ I didn’t go anywhere. As a matter of fact, I live about 45 minutes away. Maybe people stopped calling out of whatever their fear was at the time. But I didn’t go nowhere.”

OVERDOSE
FROM PAGE 2

COVID-19 pandemic to 92,000 in 2020 and 107,000 in 2021.

Lockdowns and other pandemic-era restrictions isolated people with drug addictions and made treatment harder to get, experts said.

Keyes believes that 2022’s numbers didn’t get any worse partly because isolation eased as the pandemic ebbed. But there may be issues ahead, others say, like increased detection of veterinary tranquilizer xylazine in the illicit drug supply and proposals to scale back things like prescribing addiction medications through telehealth.

“What the past 20 years of this overdose crisis has taught us is that this really is a moving target,” Keyes said. “And when you think you’ve got a handle on it, sometimes the problem can shift in new and different ways.”

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute’s Science and Educational Media Group. The AP is solely responsible for all content.
The likelihood that Earth briefly hits key warming threshold grows bigger and closer, UN forecasts

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

There’s a two-out-of-three chance that the world will temporarily hit a key warming limit within the next five years, the United Nations weather agency said Wednesday.

But it likely would only be a fleeting and less worrisome flirtation with the internationally agreed upon temperature threshold. Scientists expect a temporary burst of heat from El Nino — a naturally-occurring weather phenomenon — to supercharge human-caused warming from the burning of coal, oil and gas to new heights. Temperatures are expected to then slip back down a bit.

The World Meteorological Organization forecasts a 66% likelihood that between now and 2027, the globe will have a year that averages 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than the mid 19th century.

That number is critical because the 2015 Paris climate agreement set 1.5 degrees Celsius as a global guardrail in atmospheric warming, with countries pledging to try to prevent that much long-term warming if possible.

Scientists in a special 2018 United Nations report said going past that point would be drastically and dangerously different with more death, destruction and damage to global ecosystems.

“It won’t be this year probably. Maybe it’ll be next year or the year after” that a year averages 1.5 degrees Celsius — Leon Hermanson, a climate scientist at the United Kingdom’s Met Office

It won’t be this year probably. Maybe it’ll be next year or the year after” that a year averages 1.5 degrees Celsius, said report lead author Leon Hermanson, a climate scientist at the United Kingdom’s Met Office.

But climate scientists said what’s likely to happen in the next five years isn’t the same as failing the global goal.

“This report does not mean that we will permanently exceed the 1.5 C level specified in the Paris Agreement which refers to long-term warming over many years. However, WMO is sounding the alarm that we will breach the 1.5 C level on a temporary basis with increasing frequency,” WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said in a statement.

“We haven’t been able to limit the warming so far and we are still moving in the wrong, wrong direction,” Taalas said at a Wednesday press conference.

Hermanson cautioned that “a single year doesn’t really mean anything.” Scientists usually use 30-year averages.

Those 66% odds of a single year hitting that threshold in five years have increased from 48% last year, 40% the year before, 20% in 2020 and 10% about a decade ago. The WMO report is based on calculations by 11 different climate science centers across the globe.

The world has been inching closer to the 1.5-degree threshold due to human-caused climate change for years. The temporary warming of this year’s expected El Nino — which starts with a warming of parts of the central Pacific Ocean and then sloshes across the globe — makes it “possible for us to see a single year exceeding 1.5 C, a full decade before the long-term average,” said climate scientist Zeke Hausfather of the tech company Stripe and Berkeley Earth, who wasn’t part of the WMO report.

“We don’t expect the longer-term average to pass 1.5 C until the early-to-mid 2030s,” Hausfather said in an email.

But each year at or near 1.5 matters.

“We see this report as more of a barometer of how we’re getting close, because the closer you get to the threshold, the more noise bumping up and down is going to bump you over the threshold randomly,” Hermanson said in an interview. And he said the more random bumps over the mark occur, the closer the world actually gets to the threshold.

Key in all this is the El Nino cycle. The world is coming off a record-tying triple dip La Nina — three straight years of El Nino’s cooler cousin restraining the human-caused warming climb — and is on the verge of an El Nino that some scientists predict will be strong.

The La Nina somewhat flattened the trend of human-caused warming so that the world hasn’t broken the annual temperature mark since 2016, during the last El Nino, a super-sized one, Hermanson said.

And that means a 98% chance of breaking the 2016 annual global temperature record
“PICASSO AT THE LAPIN AGILE” – Read carefully. It’s an “absurdist comedy.” By the inarguably absurd comic Steve Martin, I laughed, but it is not intended to have you in stitches the entire time. It is the absurd and artfully exceptional thing. I bring this fantasy that Picasso and Einstein may have hung out together in a Paris café in the early 20th century, before either was famous. What might they have been like? Who else might have passed through? No one knows so Martin could go anywhere. One place he went to was to make the “ordinary” women involved sound smarter than those two wise guys. People are diggin’ this show – it’s been extended through May 21. But some shows are selling out, so… Fri, Sat 8 p.m., Sun 2 p.m., Ruskin Group Theatre, Santa Monica Airport, $20-35.

PACIFIC OPERA PROJECT, “THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE” – This one snuck up on me! And it’s their last show of the season. But I have to recommend it because so many productions of this little opera company that most certainly can, are great fun and artistically exceptional. And they pick great venues (started in Santa Monica), like this one at Forest Lawn. Only six performances and many are already sold out, so get on board, quickly. Fri, Sat, Sun 7:30 p.m., Forest Lawn Cemetery, Glendale, $30.

TOLEDO DIAMOND – Unique, riveting, first-class act. There’s nothing like it, it is high performance art and great fun. Degeneracy is rarely so well disciplined. Could be the most memorable 12 bucks you ever spent. Sun 9:30 a.m., Harvelle’s.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: DUDAMEL, LA PHIL, BEETHOVEN “7TH,” Disney Hall, 5/26, 27; PACIFIC OPERA PROJECT, “THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE,” Forest Lawn, 5/26, 27; LA OPERA, “OTELLO,” Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 5/28; TOLEDO DIAMOND, Harvelle’s, 5/28, 6/4, 11, 18, 25; HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES, Cinema Bar, 5/29, 6/5, 12, 19, 26; DUDAMEL CONDUCTS MOZART, Disney Hall, 6/1, 2, 3, 4; SOUTHSIDE SLIM, Harvelle’s, 6/2; “PICASSO AT THE LAPIN AGILE,” Ruskin Group Theatre, 6/2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, RICK SHEA, Cinema Bar, 6/8; DAVE VANARRO, McCabe’s, 6/10; LIBRARY GIRL, Ruskin Theatre, 6/11.

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 3,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 37 years and wouldn’t live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at Charles Andrews

“’We understand the value of these investments in the hotel sector in our downtown and throughout our City,” he said. “And we are committed to nurturing them by doing everything we can to maintain the city’s infrastructure to keep the streets and public spaces clean, safe and attractive, and to ensure that all residents and visitors to our hotels, restaurants and retailers feel welcome and safe.”

Santa Monica Mayor Gleam Davis also spoke at the event about the value of tourism for the local economy. “If we didn’t have tourism in Santa Monica, every household in Santa Monica would...”

“…so if you get annoyed when you see a tourist, take out your checkbook.”

Two awards were given out at the event to local restaurant owner and Michelin star chef Joe Cilins and 42-year Fairmont Miramar Hotel employee Modesta Melchor for their work in the industry. While Mayor Davis said that statistics and numbers are helpful in understanding trends and the state of tourism in the City, she said it’s individuals like these who help make the City into a desirable travel destination.

“Those numbers really don’t tell the story, what tells the story is the vibrancy on our streets,” she said. “When you walk down our streets and you see people, whether it’s on the Promenade or on the boardwalk, you know this is a fun, exciting place to be.”

For more information and statistics on tourism in Santa Monica visit: https://www santamonica.com/summit-follow-up/

“THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023

The defendants have offered no evidence, departmental or third-party witnesses, departmental data, expert testimony, academic studies, or otherwise, to controvert any of plaintiffs’ evidence.

- Lawrence Riff Superior Court Judge

The plaintiffs in the case said those with money are able to leave jail immediately while those without the required cash may lose their jobs or incur other penalties for charges that may be ultimately dismissed. They also argue the poor conditions in Los Angeles County jails and the threat of physical violence amount to inhumane conditions for those who can’t pay.

In his ruling, Judge Riff said he “implied” the parties to answer if an injunction would increase crime or increase the number of individuals failing to appear for their court cases but only one side of the debate responded to his request.

“The plaintiffs have produced a vast amount of evidence, via four well-qualified expert witnesses and more than a dozen academic studies, that decisively show the answer to these questions is ‘no.’ Their evidence has demonstrated that it is highly likely that the opposite is true: secured money bail regimes are associated with increased crime and increased (Failure To Appear) as compared with unsecured bail or release on non-financial conditions. What’s more, the evidence demonstrates that secured money bail, as now utilized in Los Angeles County, is itself ‘criminogenic’ — that is, secured money bail causes more crime than would be the case were the money bail schedules no longer enforced,” he wrote.

He said the plaintiffs made a strong showing that the established system wasn’t designed to achieve the goal of reducing criminal activity.

“…the defendants have offered no evidence, via departmental or third-party witnesses, departmental data, expert testimony, academic studies, or otherwise, to controvert any of plaintiffs’ evidence,” he said.

The defendants did make an argument, that the Sheriff and Chief of Police are required to utilize the cash bail system as it was established by the Courts themselves and that they are just enforcers of someone else’s rules. However, the trial court and other law enforcement enforcers and not creators of a potentially unconstitutional law are not unusual.

The judge said both sides can point to sensational anecdotes to support their individual claims: namely that bail is either an unconstitutional injustice targeting the impoverished or that it is a bulwark against turning loose dangers individuals with a propensity to commit more crime. However, the court had to make a decision based on evidence, or a lack thereof.

Los Angeles County had previously had a zero bail schedule committed by the COVID-19 pandemic that expired last year.

That system was not conceived as a part of larger efforts at zero cash bail reform. Local courts said the larger efforts at zero-dollar bail initiatives seek, as a matter of public policy, to permanently eliminate cash bail as part of bail reform. The temporary system was said to be a response to the ability of defendants to spread among inmates during pretrial incarceration. While that system was temporary, it also excluded serious crimes.

Send your news to the editor

GREAT NEWS!

We have launched an initiative to offer additional resources! The new Summit Fall/Winter 2023 program is now open for registration!

‘University of Pennsylvania climate scientist Michael Mann said reports like this put too much emphasis on regional surface temperature, which varies with the El Nino cycle, even though it is climbing upward in the long term.

The real concern is the deep water of oceans, which absorb an overwhelming majority of the world’s human-caused warming, leading to a steady rise in ocean heat content and new records set regularly.

“I think it’s important to realize that if we pass 1.5 degrees it’s not a reason to give up,” Hermanson said at a Wednesday news conference. “We have to continue working out how much we can reduce emissions of greenhouse gases as much as possible, even after that, because it will make a difference.”

Associated Press climate and environmental coverage receives support from several private foundations. See more about AP’s climate initiative here.

BAIL

FROM PAGE 1

determinations of the defendants character, location and past behavior and those considerations are not impacted by the ruling.

Suspects accused of violent felonies or other serious misdemeanors are excluded from the

""
Aries (March 21-April 19). You’ll be drawn to those who are achieving the results you aspire to attain. The company of like-minded, disciplined individuals will keep you in sync and make it easier to maintain your focus and drive.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Today brings fun intellectual challenge and game-changing concepts to wrap your head around. These are more easily understood when you break them down. Seek assistance. Talk it through with friends and mentors.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). You have an aura of power today. Some would even say you are intimidating. An associate might be white-knuckled because of having to report to you. Try and put people at ease, because that’s when they’ll do their best work.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). A difficult situation from the past has grown and strengthened you. Knowing this, you might also assume that, in time, your current dilemma will be counted among your blessings instead of your curses.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Environmental triggers will bring you back to a favorite memory. The positive experiences, feelings and associations you have with another person are part of the attraction.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Accept the recognition your accomplishments bring you. Maybe your ego doesn’t need it and you don’t want the attention either, but if you don’t take credit for what you did, someone else will. This is about doing what’s right.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It’s not your job to care for all the lonely people of the world, but if you can help someone to feel a little more connected to others, it will be your pleasure to do so. You’ll gain more than you give in the process.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You might regret offering advice, especially if none was asked of you. But you’ll never regret (SET ITAL) not (END ITAL) offering it. To listen in silence and offer only a soft place for the other person’s expression to land takes restraint, kindness and a good sense of boundaries.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Some situations are like quicksand, appearing stable on the surface, but one step proves otherwise. The trick is to watch your step, test things before you move forward and if you misstep, don’t struggle; it only sinks you deeper.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Because you are multifaceted, you can get surprised by parts of yourself you don’t know as well. Matters of the heart will move you to behave unpredictably. You are luckiest when you relax, do less and let things unfold.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). One way to make people feel like they are extremely wanted in your world is to tell them so. You’ll be enlivened by the response, so let your words ring out.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). People who believe in the power of serendipity tend to have more significant chance encounters than those who don’t. However, even if you’re a skeptic, today’s incident of fate is undoubtedly extraordinary.

This year is marked by a wide variety of experiences offering creativity and structure to your days. Hard work will be followed by stretches of idyllic fun. More highlights: the folding of hands and hearts, an investment that pays off beyond your wildest dreams and fitting right into a dream team making big things happen in the world. Leo and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 4, 44, 1 and 17.
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN

Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE

Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART

Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORD PUZZLE.

Marvel at Grand Pacific Drive

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

In the shearing shed

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SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

Marvel at Grand Pacific Drive

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THURSDAY | MAY 18

WESTSIDE LAUGH PARTY STAND-UP COMEDY
Westside’s Laugh Party is a monthly standup show produced by Dennis Gubbins featuring the best comics from around the country with surprise drop-ins by the likes of Tig Notaro, Zach Galifianakis, Ali Wong, Demetri Martin, Democrats Wayans and many others! Proceeds for each show are donated to a local charity... so there is that too! Come on out and laugh! Who knows who will show up this month... party! Purchase tickets at westsidecomedy.com 1323A 3rd St Promenade. A stand for Alley. Santa Monica, CA

SUNSET VIBES SILENT DISCO @ SANTA MONICA
COME FOR THE SUNSET... STAY FOR THE VIBES! Eat, Drink and Dance... under the stars, perched above the beautiful Pacific Ocean on the World Famous Santa Monica Pier! It’s Local’s Night at the Santa Monica Pier! Join us every THIRD THURSDAY of the month as the Pier celebrates the Community of Santa Monica. Gather your friends and family and head down to the Pier for amazing entertainment including youth activities, a car show, local DJs and bands, art exhibits, and our newly announced Sunset Vibes Silent Disco @ The Santa Monica Pier! Santa Monica Pier: 200 Santa Monica Pier Santa Monica, CA 90401

FRIDAY | MAY 19

JAZZ VOCAL ENSEMBLE RECITAL
Andreas Preponis, Director. SMC’s award-winning jazz vocal ensemble blends its voices in a program of jazz repertoire specifically arranged for four-part harmony. Free with any Student I.D. The Broad Stage Performing Arts Center

SATURDAY | MAY 20

HOT BUTTERED RUM
Hot Buttered Rum, a souped-up, left-coast string band, is the branchchild of uniquely gifted musicians who weave their love of bluegrass, folk, jazz and soul into a riveting stream of America. String bass and five-alarm fiddle merge with jazz and soul into a riveting strain of Americana. The musicians who weave their love of bluegrass, folk, string band, is the brainchild of uniquely gifted Andreas Preponis, Director. SMC’s award-winning jazz vocal ensemble blends its voices in a program of jazz repertoire specifically arranged for four-part harmony. Free with any Student I.D. The Broad Stage Performing Arts Center

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DAY FOR ART AND WELL-BEING
Beach Culture celebrates Mental Health Awareness Month. Nurture the self and feed the collective soul with a day of creation and contemplation focused on well-being, health, and healing! Free day of communal artmaking, workshops, labyrinth walk and meditation led by cutting-edge community-based artists, performers, spiritualists and mental health advocates. Stay tuned for more information. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Highway. Santa Monica, CA 90402

MONDAY | MAY 22

20 QUESTIONS TRIVIA @ O’BRIEN’S
20 Questions Trivia is like no other trivia show, because you’re a part of the show. Wrong answers count for partial credit if they’re funny. Every week the show has a theme, and all the questions and/or answers revolve around that theme. That makes it possible to figure out the answer even if you don’t know it. And every question is followed by a song, which is usually an additional clue to the correct answer. O’Brien’s Irish Pub & Restaurant, 2226 Wilshire Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 310-829-5303

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TUESDAY | MAY 23

GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB
SMC Library book club that meets monthly to discuss graphic novels. Santa Monica College SMC Library book club that meets monthly to discuss graphic novels. Santa Monica College

WEATHER
Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 68.
Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 59.
Friday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 67.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 60.

DAILY LOTTERY
Draw Date: 5/15
1 26 28 55 68
Powerball 25
Jackpot: 146 M

Draw Date: 5/16
3 11 18 23 24
MegaBall 7
Jackpot: 306 M

Draw Date: 5/16
3 11 18 23 24
MegaBall 7
Jackpot: 306 M

Draw Date: 5/16
5 11 16 18 39
MegaBall 12
Jackpot: 132 M

Draw Date: 5/16
3 11 18 23 24
MegaBall 7
Jackpot: 306 M

Draw Date: 5/16
5 11 16 18 39
MegaBall 12
Jackpot: 132 M

Draw Date: 5/16
3 11 18 23 24
MegaBall 7
Jackpot: 306 M

Draw Date: 5/16
5 11 16 18 39
MegaBall 12
Jackpot: 132 M

EARRSCON is a different kind of food event will feature food from more than 20 incredible restaurants from around Los Angeles but with restaurants as the headliners. The event will feature food from more than 20 incredible restaurants from around Los Angeles and across the U.S. EEEEEATSCON Los Angeles will also offer exciting programming including conversations with writer and comedian Ali Wong, and a food and culture-focused discussion curated by Jon Gray of Ghetto Gastro, with more announcements to come. The Barker Hangar 3021 Airport Ave. Santa Monica, CA 90405 https://www.eeeeeatsccon.com/los-angeles
Environmental Design Within Reach

At Santa Monica College, our architecture and interior design programs emphasize innovation through functional, cultural, environmental, and socially conscious design.

For more information, visit smc.edu/designtech

“Our faculty and students work together to address a basic question: How do we build better spaces for our community?”

- Sheila Cordova, AIA
Chair of the Santa Monica College Design Technology Department