As part of the annual SaMo Pride festival, the retail space next to the Louis Vuitton store on the first floor of the Santa Monica Place shopping mall will be transformed into a pop-up marketplace, showcasing over 20 LGBTQIA+ business owners, highlighting their stories, unique products, and services.

“This is a little bit different from most vendor markets you might stumble across, because it’s completely free for all the businesses to participate,” says Laura Barnehama, co-founder and CEO of Streetlet, the event organizer. “It’s in a prime retail location, which is really exciting and it’s a fun way to give to this community in a way that isn’t standard for vendor markets.”

“This is the second time that the event has taken place and the vendors will be a mix of both exciting, new and returning businesses selling local goods and services made, conceived and curated in Southern California. Over 75 percent of this year’s participating businesses were born out of the pandemic, with over 50 percent of vendors hand-making their own products. Half of this year’s businesses are owned by women, with more than 25 percent being Black-owned, Latinx-owned and AAPI-owned, respectively, together with indigenous- and immigrant-owned businesses.

In the final few weeks of the school year, Santa Monica High School students may have noticed white tents quietly popping up on the tennis courts.

While they may look inconspicuous from the outside, they mask an elaborate set that volunteers have been busy building up over the last three weeks in preparation for this year’s Grad Nite, a nearly 30-year-old Samohi tradition.

The event, which is essentially an all-night-long, on-campus party for graduating seniors, takes

California lawmakers have advanced more than a dozen bills aiming to address the fentanyl crisis, including some that would impose harsher prison sentences for dealers, ahead of a critical deadline this week.

Legislators in the Assembly and Senate debated measures on Wednesday as they tried to wrap up several hundred pieces of legislation before Friday — the last day a bill can pass out of its original chamber and get a chance to become law later this year.

Fentanyl overdoses are killing roughly 110 Californians each week, officials said, and lawmakers are divided on how best to stem the crisis.

Some Democratic lawmakers support policies that focus on education, prevention and treatment, while Republicans and more moderate Democrats want more enforcement against fentanyl dealers.

State lawmakers across the country, including in Democratic-controlled legislatures such as Oregon and Nevada, have also considered harsher penalties on drug dealers — a tactic that many say would backfire.

But the majority of 16 fentanyl bills that advanced this past week in California focused on education, prevention and treatment of
Tourism workers seek $25 minimum wage before Olympics, World Cup in Los Angeles

ALEJANDRA REYES-VELARDE
Special to the Daily Press

Jovan Houston wakes most days at 3:30 a.m. and commutes from her Inglewood apartment to the Los Angeles International Airport, where she directs passengers, ensures they have IDs and passports ready, and alerts security if someone goes through the wrong door.

At the end of each shift she’s exhausted, she said, but not done. She’s home when her 13-year-old son returns from school, and she makes dinner and gets him started on homework. Then she gets back to work — cutting clients’ hair in her living room.

Her $19.04-an-hour pay doesn’t cover basic expenses, she said, and rent goes up almost every year.

“It’s a struggle,” Houston said. “It takes away time to be with my son. I think one job should be enough.”

Los Angeles leaders say they’re considering workers like Houston, who work in travel and hospitality, in their latest plan to shore up wages before the 2026 World Cup and the 2028 Olympics come to town.

Curren Price, a Los Angeles City Council member, has proposed upping the hourly minimum wage for airport and hotel workers in the city to $25 an hour, then raising it $1 each year until 2028, bringing it to $30 an hour.

He also proposed more affordable options for healthcare coverage.

“I find that unacceptable, (that) anyone who works fulltime in our city could still be finding themselves homeless,” he said in a recent city council economic development committee meeting. “So I think it is time that we consider bringing this wage up from a minimum wage to a living wage, so that our families can not only survive, but thrive.”

BOOSTING WAGES

If L.A.’s city council passes it, the ordinance would boost pay for more than 36,000 workers to more than 38% higher than the minimum wages in most major California cities. Many cities mandate hourly wages above the statewide $15.50 minimum.

The proposed wage ordinance would replace two existing ordinances that set minimum wages at $18.04 for certain LAX employees and $18.86 for hospitality employees at city hotels with 60 or more rooms.

Supporters of the proposed living wage ordinance argue that hotels and airports have fully recovered from the pandemic’s impact. But their low-wage workers continue struggling with living costs in Los Angeles rising faster than pay.

Some L.A. officials predict the World Cup and the Olympics will bring rare economic

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AI chips are hot. Here’s what they are, what they’re for and why investors see gold

DAVID HAMILTON
AP Business Writer

The hottest thing in technology is an unprepossessing sliver of silicon closely related to the chips that power video game graphics. It’s an artificial intelligence chip, designed specifically to make building AI systems easier.

Such chips have suddenly taken center stage in what some experts consider an AI revolution that could reshape the technology sector — and possibly the world along with it.

Shares of Nvidia, the leading designer of AI chips, rocketed up almost 25% last Thursday after the company forecast a huge jump in revenue that analysts said indicated soaring sales of its products. The company was briefly worth more than $1 trillion on Tuesday.

There really isn’t a completely agreed upon definition of AI chips

- Hannah Dohmen, a research analyst with the Center for Security and Emerging Technology

SO WHAT ARE AI CHIPS, ANYWAY?

That isn’t an easy question to answer. “There really isn’t a completely agreed upon definition of AI chips,” said Haned Dohmen, a research analyst with the Center for Security and Emerging Technology.

In general, though, the term encompasses computing hardware that’s specialized to handle AI workloads — for instance, by “training” AI systems to tackle difficult problems that can choke conventional computers.

VIDEO GAME ORIGINS

Three entrepreneurs founded Nvidia in 1993 to push the boundaries of computational graphics. Within a few years, the company had developed a new chip called a graphics processing unit, or GPU, which dramatically sped up both development and play of video games by performing multiple complex calculations at once.

That technique, known formally as parallel processing, would prove key to the development of both games and AI. Two graduate students at the University of Toronto used a GPU-based neural network to win a prestigious 2012 AI competition called ImageNet by identifying photo images at much lower error rates than competitors.

The win kick-started interest in AI-related parallel processing, opening a new business opportunity for Nvidia and its rivals while providing researchers powerful tools for exploring the frontiers of AI development.

MODERN AI CHIPS

Eleven years later, Nvidia is the dominant supplier of chips for building and updating AI systems. One of its recent products, the H100 GPU, packs in 80 billion transistors — about 13 million more than Apple’s latest high-end processor for its MacBook Pro laptop.

Unsurprisingly, this technology isn’t cheap; at one online retailer, the H100 lists for $30,000. Nvidia doesn’t fabricate these complex GPU chips itself, a task that would require enormous investments in new factories. Instead it relies on Asian chip foundries such as Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. and Korea’s Samsung Electronics.

Some of the biggest customers for AI chips are cloud-computing services such as those run by Amazon and Microsoft. By renting out their AI computing power, those services make it possible for smaller companies and groups that couldn’t afford to build their own AI systems from scratch to use cloud-based tools to help with tasks that can range from drug discovery to customer management.

OTHER USES AND COMPETITION

Parallel processing has many uses outside of AI. A few years ago, for instance, Nvidia graphics cards were in short supply because cryptocurrency miners, who set up banks of computers to solve thorny mathematical problems for bitcoin rewards, had snapped up most of them. That problem faded as the cryptocurrency market collapsed in early 2022.

Analysts say Nvidia will inevitably face tougher competition. One potential rival is Apple, which has developed its own chips.

Amazon is one of the biggest customers for AI chips. The company has developed a new chip called a graphics processing unit, or GPU, which dramatically sped up both development and play of video games by performing multiple complex calculations at once.

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IN SHORT

AI chips are hot. Here’s what they are, what they’re for and why investors see gold.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Amazon agreed Wednesday to pay a $25 million civil penalty to settle Federal Trade Commission allegations it violated a child protection law and deceived parents by keeping for years kids’ voice and location data recorded by its popular Alexa voice assistant.

Separately, the company agreed to pay $5.8 million in customer refunds for alleged privacy violations involving its doorbell camera Ring.

The Alexa-related action orders Amazon to overhaul its data deletion practices and impose stricter, more transparent privacy measures. It also obliges the tech giant to delete certain data collected by its internet-connected digital assistant, which people use for everything from checking the weather to playing games and queuing up music.

“Amazon’s history of misleading parents, keeping children’s recordings indefinitely, and flouting parents’ deletion requests violated COPPA (the Child Online Privacy Protection Act) and sacrificed privacy for profits,” Samuel Levine, the FTC consumer privacy chief, said in a statement.

The 1998 law is designed to shield children from online harms.

FTC Commissioner Alvaro Bedoya said in a statement that “when parents asked Amazon to delete their kids’ Alexa voice data, the company did not delete all of it.”

The agency ordered the company to delete inactive child accounts as well as certain voice and geolocation data.

Amazon kept the kids’ data to refine its voice recognition algorithm, the artificial intelligence behind Alexa, which powers Echo and other smart speakers, Bedoya said.

The FTC complaint sends a message to all tech companies who are “sprinting to do the same” amid fierce competition in developing AI datasets, he added.

“Nothing is more visceral to a parent than the sound of their child’s voice,” tweeted Bedoya, the father of two small children.

Amazon said last month that it has sold more than a half-billion Alexa-enabled devices globally and that use of the service increased 35% last year.

In the Ring case, the FTC says Amazon’s home security camera subsidiary let employees and contractors access consumers’ private videos and providing lax security practices that enabled hackers to take control of some accounts.

Amazon bought California-based Ring in 2018, and many of the violations alleged by the FTC predate the acquisition. Under the FTC’s order, Ring is required to pay $5.8 million that would be used for consumer refunds.

Amazon said it disagreed with the FTC’s claims on both Alexa and Ring and denied violating the law. But it said the settlements “put these matters behind us.”

“Our devices and services are built to protect customers’ privacy and to provide customers with control over their experience,” the Seattle-based company said.

In addition to the fine in the Alexa case, the proposed order prohibits Amazon from using deleted geolocation and voice information to create or improve any data product. The order also requires Amazon to create a privacy program for its use of geolocation information.

The proposed orders must be approved by federal judges.

FTC commissioners had unanimously voted to file the charges against Amazon in both cases.
opportunities to the nation’s second largest city. But union leaders say they don’t expect low-wage workers to share in the profits — not without a push.

“We’re moving this ordinance well in advance of the Olympics because we want to make sure we have laws in place to make sure the workers who do all the hard work actually get some of the benefits,” said Jane Martin, airports director of the Service Employees International Union, which represents hospitality workers in Southern California and Arizona.

Representatives for airlines and hotels spoke against the proposed ordinance at a public meeting in April. The bill recently passed out of the Senate Appropriations Committee with a newly revised bill minimum wage proposal. It will be up for a vote in the Senate; the deadline for approval is Friday.

“WE’RE MOVING THIS ORDINANCE WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE OLYMPICS BECAUSE WE WANT TO MAKE SURE WE HAVE LAWS IN PLACE TO MAKE SURE THE WORKERS WHO DO ALL THE HARD WORK ACTUALLY GET SOME OF THE BENEFITS”

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Representatives for airlines and hotels spoke against the proposed ordinance at the economic development committee meeting. They said the ordinance would force them to raise prices and some small businesses would have to close, making L.A. a less attractive tourist destination.

WAVE OF WAGE DEMANDS

Pete Hillan, spokesperson for the California Hotel & Lodging Association and the Hotel Association of Los Angeles, contradicted the union statements, saying hotels haven’t fully recovered from the pandemic.

“To go from the current minimum wage to $25, that is a huge increase from a cost standpoint,” Hillan said. “For many of these hotels that are family owned, they can’t absorb that.”

Sean Williams, vice president of state and local government affairs for the Airlines for America trade association, said passenger traffic at LAX is at 75% of where it was before the pandemic. Council members Price, Hugo Soto-Martinez and Traci Park voted to study the economic impact study of the proposed ordinance.

The airport and tourism worker proposal is the latest in a wave of demands for higher pay for low-wage workers, many of whom were frontliners during the pandemic.

Across the country, municipal governments have set pay ordinances for workers in hotels, food service, domestic work, and healthcare. For instance, Inglewood voters last fall approved raising the minimum wage for healthcare workers to $25 an hour in that city.

Similar local ordinances for healthcare workers were floated in Los Angeles, Downey and Long Beach, but they’re all on hold because hospitals collected enough signatures to trigger referendums on the issues.

Democratic state lawmakers also had proposed a $25 minimum wage for healthcare workers statewide. The bill recently passed out of the Senate Appropriations Committee with a newly revised bill minimum wage proposal. It will be up for a vote in the Senate; the deadline for approval is Friday.

"TRACING TO GET WHAT THEY NEED"

Los Angeles Democratic Sen. Maria Elena Durazo, a labor leader, said she supports other low-wage workers in Los Angeles also getting an income boost because the state’s $13.50 minimum wage is not enough to sustain most families.

If the push for $25 in healthcare spills over to other industries, “God bless them,” Durazo said. “They’re only trying to get what they need for their families.”

She added low-wage healthcare workers are similar to low-wage tourism workers; they’re often from the same communities and worked throughout the pandemic.

“We counted on them and now they’re counting on us,” she said. The California Chamber of Commerce has called the bill a “job killer,” citing its costs to hospitals and health workers.

David Neumark, a labor economist at UC Irvine, said any minimum wage increase would lead to businesses increasing their prices, usually resulting in some job loss.

Neumark said there’s no logic to proposing wage bumps ahead of the Olympics, because increased demand for labor will likely lead to increased wages anyway. What would be more helpful to low-wage workers is strong labor protections, he said.

When the games end, the higher minimum wage may lead employers to lay off more workers, he said.

Martin, at the SEIU, has a different view.

“We’ve seen, when the Olympics have come to different cities around the globe, it’s always promoted as a huge economic opportunity,” Martin said. “But in fact, for low-income communities it usually has an economic cost. People are displaced; working class neighborhoods are impacted.”

HEALTHCARE COSTS

Martin said the union’s members can’t make ends meet, so they take second jobs or move far from the airport to afford rent. Also, she said, employees put their health on the line during the pandemic, but the healthcare coverage requirement in the current ordinance hasn’t kept up with the cost of health insurance in California.

Currently the airport and hotel living wage ordinances allow employers to offer health insurance coverage or pay an hourly credit of $5.77 to workers who opt out of health insurance. The proposed living wage ordinance seeks an increase to the health care credit to meet the average cost of healthcare coverage. It also proposes minimum benefit requirements for those offering health insurance, including family coverage and greater transparency.

Houston has worked at the airport for six years, including during the pandemic, when the airport operated at reduced capacity because of travel restrictions.

Houston’s work hours shrank to four-hour days, three days a week, slashing her twice-monthly paychecks by more than a half, to $500.

She paid rent and made sure her son was fed, she said. Everything else came second, so some bills went unpaid.

“It was chaotic,” she said. “I remember getting, like, red notices from my light and gas companies. I was losing hundreds of dollars during that time.”

Like other employees, Houston worked despite her fear of getting COVID. Initially her employer didn’t provide protective equipment to workers, Houston said; employees had to scavenge through stores to find effective masks and gloves.

“The airport was a ghost town,” she said. “There was no one coming through. It was really hard. During that time, we still had to operate as normal.”

A ‘LIVING’ WAGE?

Despite Houston’s best efforts to protect herself from COVID, she was infected with it twice. The first time, she was “deathly sick” in the hospital for two weeks, she said.

As a result of COVID, she was diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, a condition that makes it difficult to breathe and causes chronic coughing. She has frequent medical appointments — with a co-pay for $100 — and several prescriptions.

That’s not counting the medical visits and prescriptions her son may need.

“That’s another dig in my income,” she said. “That’s my life.”

Although a $25 hourly wage would still not constitute a living wage for Houston — a living wage for an adult with one child in Los Angeles is $43.81 an hour, according to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s living wage calculator — it would be life changing for her, Houston said.

“Her kids are out of the house; her son is now in college,” she said. “You can have basic things like food and clothes. You can take your kids to the movies. You can take them to the zoo.”

“Her son is going to college,” she said. “That’s my life.”

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Although a $25 hourly wage would still...
COMMUNITY NEWS

Malibu

Malibu Association of REALTORS® Continues to Invest in Community Educational Organizations

The Malibu Association of REALTORS continued its commitment to the community educational organizations with a $1,000 donation to the Topanga Enrichment Programs (TEP). TEP is a non-profit corporation created specifically to provide enriched educational opportunities to students of Topanga Elementary Charter School. TEP helps provide the resources at Topanga Elementary that LAUSD cannot.

MAR President Cody Garcia was joined by Bill Bowling, MAR Past President and Topanga resident, to present a check to TEP Treasurer Kathleen Beegle and Topanga Elementary Principal Kevin Kassebaum. Garcia said, “MAR finds that the programs which TEP supports at Topanga Elementary, such as art, physical education, and of course the library, are important to the full development of these great elementary students. Of course, great students and great schools are a very important part of the Topanga community! MAR is very happy to contribute on behalf of our members.”

The Malibu Association of REALTORS. Established in 1947, with over 1000 current members, serves advocates for the profession, to educate, inform, and serve both the public and REALTOR members and affiliated professionals. REALTORS are the largest professional association in the country, on the forefront fighting to protect private property rights and promote home ownership.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ocean Health

Ocean Health

Oceans are an iconic aspect of California’s geography. Many out-of-state visitors and locals visit the state’s beautiful and beloved beaches to relax, be with their families, and admire the coastline. Given the fact that beaches are such an admired characteristic of California, it is surprising to see how they are continuously abused through intense pollution that is destroying their natural beauty. Through excessive oil drilling as well as dumping of trash in the ocean, the marine ecosystem is in jeopardy. We must take action to resolve this issue fast before more of the ocean is soiled by more human negligence. As a result, I am calling on Governor Gavin Newsom to increase the amount of Marine Protected Areas to 30% in order to ensure that oceans are preserved. Hopefully in doing so, California will be a pioneer for other states to protect their marine landscapes. This method is one of the only ways to make sure that oceans are maintained for future generations to enjoy just as much as we are able to enjoy them now.

Jessica Gonzalez, Los Angeles

Join us in our beautiful courtyard for an authentic, natural Italian al fresco dining experience.

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The start of June marks the beginning of Pride month around the U.S. and some parts of the world, a season intended to celebrate the lives and experiences of LGBTQ+ communities and to protest against attacks on hard-won civil rights gains.

This year’s Pride takes place in a contentious political climate in which some state legislators have sought to ban drag shows, prohibit gender-affirming care and limit how teachers can talk about sexuality and gender in the classroom.

Events have been disrupted. Performers have been harassed. And in Colorado in November, five people were killed and several injured when a gunman shot them inside a gay nightclub.

What we’re seeing right now is probably the worst that it’s been since the early days, in terms of the demonization of our communities.

- Jay W. Walker
While we continue to provide resources for drug treatment and education, we cannot neglect the trafficking that spreads this poison throughout our community.

- Carlos Villapudua, Democratic Assemblymember

A look at other actions taken by lawmakers:

**HUMANS IN SELF-DRIVING TRUCKS**

The state Assembly passed a bill that would require human drivers in self-driving trucks weighing more than 10,000 pounds. The bill is a priority for labor unions, who worry drivers could lose their jobs. The bill’s author, Democratic Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, said the primary purpose was to keep people safe. Republican Assemblymember Josh Hoover opposed the bill, arguing it would make it harder to develop the self-driving technology. The bill now heads to the state Senate.

**HPV VACCINES IN SCHOOLS**

The state Assembly passed a bill that would require school districts to tell students they are expected to be vaccinated against the human papillomavirus, or HPV, a sexually transmitted disease that can lead to cervical cancer. The bill does not require students to be vaccinated to attend school. Republican Assemblymember Joe Patterson opposed the bill, saying parents should discuss the HPV vaccine with doctors instead of school officials. The bill now heads to the state Senate.

**STREAMLINING THE HOUSING PERMITTING PROCESS**

The state Senate passed a bill that would eliminate the expiration of a landmark housing law to streamline construction in cities that have not met the state-mandated housing goals. Since the original bill took effect in 2018, it has helped fast-track 18,000 homes, with roughly 75% of them being affordable housing. The new bill would also remove the requirement to hire “skilled and trained workers,” which could limit who could be hired for those projects. The bill’s author, Democratic Sen. Scott Wiener, opted for a prevailing wage in the new bill instead — a move that angers several powerful trade unions. The bill, one of the most contentious pieces of housing legislation this year, passed with bipartisan support. The bill now heads to the state Assembly.

**FREE CONDOMS IN SCHOOLS**

The state Senate passed legislation requiring that free condoms be made available at all public high schools in the state. Democratic state Sen. Caroline Menjivar, who authored the bill, hopes it will help prevent sexually transmitted infections among teens. The bill would also ban stores from making someone prove their age before selling condoms to them. Vermont passed legislation in recent years requiring schools to have free condoms available for middle and high school students. The bill now heads to the state Assembly.

**RAISING MINIMUM WAGE FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS**

The state Senate passed a bill that would bring the minimum wage for health care workers to $25 an hour by 2025. The contentious bill would give medical assistants, nursing home caregivers and others a fair and livable wage, said the bill’s author, Democratic Sen. Maria Elena Durazo. The bill faces fierce opposition from hospitals and some local jurisdictions that said the increased minimum wage would result in higher health insurance premiums, more costs to hospitals and potentially cutbacks on services. The bill now heads to the state Assembly.
Los Angeles
Supervisor Horvath Celebrates LGBTQ+ Pride Throughout The Third District

June is Pride Month and Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath will lift our LGBTQ+ community at events across the Third District. Community members are invited to join Supervisor Horvath to celebrate the beauty, strength and diversity of the LGBTQ+ community at events across the Third District. Community members are invited to join Supervisor Horvath to celebrate the beauty, strength and diversity of Los Angeles County’s LGBTQ+ community at parades and festivals from West Hollywood to the San Fernando Valley, and an event celebrating the legacy of Ginger Rogers Beach as a sanctuary for the LGBTQ+ community on June 17.

“This Pride month, I’m excited to celebrate and uplift LGBTQ+ people, while recognizing the countless contributions of the community to our region,” said Supervisor Horvath. “Amidst a despicable rise in anti-LGBTQ+ policies and hatred throughout the country, Los Angeles County must declare that hate has no place here, and that our diversity is what makes us strong. I am looking forward to celebrating LGBTQ+ Angelenos who live out and proud—this June and all year long.”

On June 1, Supervisor Horvath was part of Progress Pride flag raising ceremonies at the City of San Fernando City Hall and the Los Angeles County Hall of Administration, with her colleagues. She’ll join Third District communities at the following events to celebrate Pride:

- **Friday, June 2 at 9:30 a.m.** Coffee and pastries to be provided along with the opportunity to meet the participating vendors. The Promenade will then turn into a “Pride Zone” as part of the official festivities at 11 a.m., with live musical performances, free swap, plus games and activities for adults and kids. In addition to the marketplace being open every weekend in June, a whole host of events are planned for the entire month, including comedy shows, musical performances and even a sunset swim. A full list can be found at the smpride.com website.

“Santa Monica and Los Angeles have been very supportive of the queer community both at city and local level and in the surrounding communities. Folks are more supportive in our area than other parts of the country, especially right now,” Barnehama says.

“It takes talent and effort to produce events and manage activations to the scale we have come to expect Downtown. I am incredibly grateful for our DTSM, Inc. team, and for the impact of their work,” said Andrew Thomas, CEO Downtown Santa Monica, Inc in a statement.

The Made with Pride Marketplace will take place on June 2-4, 9-11, 16-18 and 23-25 and it’s open from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. on Sundays.

**GRAD NITE**

GRAD NITE FROM PAGE 1

This Pride month, I’m excited to celebrate and uplift LGBTQ+ people, while recognizing the countless contributions of the community to our region

- Lindsey P. Horvath

On offer will be everything from graphic novels featuring the first Latina superhero team in comic book history, to handmade jewelry, clothing and original fine art prints to comics and underwear, because why not?

“The space is a gift from the Santa Monica Place team. So basically, no one has to pay the rent for the space ... So that’s why this is such a great way to test selling a product and see if it’s viable before having to commit to something more permanent,” Barnehama says.

The month-long citywide celebration of the LGBTQQA+ community begins with a ribbon cutting and grand opening of Santa Monica’s Made with Pride Marketplace on Friday, June 2 at 9:30 a.m. Coffee and pastries will be provided along with the opportunity to meet the participating vendors. The Promenade will then turn into a “Pride Zone” as part of the official festivities at 11 a.m., with live musical performances, free swap, plus games and activities for adults and kids.

The 501-c3 organization was formed in the early years of Samohi’s Grad Nite to help fund and organize the event. SMMUSD Board Member and Samohi parent Jennifer Smith and fellow parents Nicole Faries and Diana Oliver have been leading the charge for the last few years. While neither Smith or Faries have children who are seniors this year, they said they think it is important to step up and help make it happen for others.

“I know a lot of parents kind of click into things when their kids are in it, but it is very nice if you’re kind of going along, helping out and running it and so that when your kid is a senior you can take a step back,” Faries said. “It will be your kid before you know it, is often what I say to parents — it happens faster than you realize.”

While the concept of Grad Night is not unique to Samohi and many other high schools host similar events, its scale and spirit set it apart.

For the first 22 years, Samohi’s Grad Nite featured a multi-story replica of a cruise ship complete with a deck, porpholes and smokestacks. While the volunteer builders behind the design have since retired and the set up has been somewhat scaled down in recent years, the core concept remains.

“It’s a cruise ship-themed party, but it had to be modified,” Faries said, explaining that the entrance has been reduced to a single large wood panel shaped and painted to look like a cruise ship with a replica of the iconic Santa Monica Pier Sign.

However, the inside is just as intricate and features a series of decorated rooms designated for a variety of activities including karaoke, dancing, carnival games with prizes, a bracelet making station, temporary tattoos, plenty of food and more.

Smith said the cost of the event, which generally ran around $100,000 prior to the pandemic, has increased in recent years due in large part to inflation. Last year’s event cost over $130,000 and was made possible in part by a donation from an anonymous donor.

While Smith and Faries said there is enough funding for this year’s event, the financial future of Grad Night depends on being able to secure more money going forward and they hope that the community will continue to rally around the tradition. Smith said nearly 50% of their budget comes from community donations and the other 50% is from ticket sales.

Tickets for Grad Night cost between $130-$160 (depending on when they are purchased) but Faries said they have scholarship and sponsorship options available for students who can’t afford them to make sure any student who wants to attend can.

In previous years, the participation rate at the event has been high with upwards of 90% of students in attendance. Grad Nite begins at 9:30 p.m. and ends at 5:00am, at which point students are given their diplomas. Faries said some walk to the beach together and watch the sunrise to “cap off” their Samohi experience.

While Faries, Smith and others involved were concerned institutional memory of the event had faded when it did not happen for two years due to covid, the excitement and intrigue surrounding Grad Night seem to be back on the rise. Faries said a freshman student still has a few years to go before they can experience Grad Nite and this year’s seniors must wait until June 8, parents and other community members are invited to come by for a sneak peek this Saturday as part of an open house this Sunday from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Samohi.

The organizers are still looking for volunteers to help with the remaining set up and during the event itself. Those interested can sign up to volunteer at: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d44a4ab2a964-samoii1/

To make a donation visit: https://account.vemno.com/u/SMGradnite

grace@smdp.com
SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY’S SUDOKU

Sudoko
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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY’S CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Annoy
4 Turkish confection
9 Los Angeles Angels’ nickname
14 Photo archive source
15 Telecasting
16 Came to
17 His library is in
18 Knighted author/humorist
20 Spirits
22 Silicon Valley city
23 Beloved
26 Reason for a bouncing
27 Powerhouse
31 Collection agency
36 Paycheck acronym
39 No longer on the table
40 Inevitable future event
44 Either of two authors of 2020s autobio best-sellers
45 Place at the table
46 Maestro’s outfit
47 Urging words
49 Banned pollutants
52 Outrun everyone
58 Display unity
63 Went long
66 Offshore coughing
67 AL Central team
68 Singular sensation
69 Exemplar
70 Question not included “across” the five longest answers
71 Drag through the mud

DOWN
1 Irises, for instance
2 Stroke on strings
3 The first action figure
4 Expect that one will
5 Will’s director in Gemini Man
6 Part of 72 Across
7 Certain quartet member
8 Fervency
9 Response to a riot
10 MP concern
11 Brute
12 “And your point is…”
13 Takes in
19 First opened: Abbr.
21 Chanting school
24 Gramophone descendant
25 Changes made
28 “Can I help you?”
29 One at home south of the Birds
30 Bickering
31 Roster with starters
32 Stone in Solomon’s Temple
33 Singular sensation
34 Hurlyburly playwright
35 Math class
37 Evita narrator
38 Go with the flow
41 Teammate twosome
42 Tail movement

PuZZLES

FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2023

TODAY’S BIRTHDAY (June 2)

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You take pride in your ability to accurately assess a situation. To hang back and watch isn’t a passive position at all. It takes a great deal of energy to observe well. You’ll focus up and absorb it all.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Whatever you’ve achieved, you are still capable of more. There are many ways to be great, the most important of which (like great compassion and great patience) often go unlauded, but you won’t let that deter you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). At first it seems things are getting out of hand, then the realization sets in: they were never in your hands to begin with. Let this come as a relief. The illusion of control can be comforting, but there’s deeper comfort in faith.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Statements and questions don’t always come in words. There are actions that are questions, and actions that are answers. Be keen to recognize the difference and you’ll know how to respond to people who are testing you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Good scheduling and pacing are your keys to happiness. When there’s not enough on a calendar, the buildup to an event can turn it into a bigger deal than it should be. When there’s too much on the books, it’s hard to relax into each event.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). For whatever reason, you still have to remind yourself from time to time that your feelings are important. You have something to say that will be vital to the way things will unfold for you and everyone around you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22). Customization will be the key to your success today. How can you make your life fit you better? As it goes with tailoring, small tweaks can make a big difference. This also applies to the things you do for others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Mystified by your own behavior? Welcome to the complexity of your humanity. Just remember that each facet of you is just one among many, trying to be heard. Acceptance and curiosity facilitate the conversation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). While it is frustrating not to get what you want, anyone who’s been depressed knows that desire itself can be a gift. Appetites signal vitality. Wanting teaches us who we are and what we like. Celebrate your drive.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The seasoned clown doesn’t always go for the laugh. They are strategic and will sometimes kill the chuckles to build to bigger payoffs later. You will employ similar advanced techniques toward the outcome you have in mind.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your fun impacts not only you, but the general vibe and direction of a whole scene. If you knew that kindling joy for yourself would bring sunshine to a hundred other people, what would you do to accomplish it?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Confucius says there is beauty everywhere, but not everyone can see it. That tug you feel is the pull of responsibility as you realize it’s up to you to frame the beauty you see to make it accessible to those who would otherwise overlook it.
**Comics**

**Agnes**

*By TONY COCHRAN*

![Agnes comic strip](image)

**Dogs of C-Kennel**

*By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART*

![Dogs of C-Kennel comic strip](image)

**Zack Hill**

*By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE*

![Zack Hill comic strip](image)

**Heathcliff**

*By PETER GALLAGHER*

![Heathcliff comic strip](image)

**Strange Brew**

*By JOHN DEERING*

![Strange Brew comic strip](image)

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**Solutions to Yesterday's Words Puzzle**

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 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5863

**New South Wales**

![Word puzzle grid](image)

**Ando**

Cook

Junee

Raleigh

**Appin**

Cowra

Kiama

Ryde

**Arrawarra**

Darlinghurst

Largs

Scone

**Bega**

Dee Why

Leura

Tarago

**Bell**

Eden

Lismore

Uringa

**Boro**

Edith

Monorail

Wagga

**Calga**

Glebe

Nelson

Yamba

**Canowindra**

Gold

Oberon

Yass

**Coast**

Gosford

Opals

**Colo**

Grafton

Port

**Competitive**

Gum trees

Stephens

_Solutions to yesterday's words puzzle._

Marie Kondo fan

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FRIDAY | JUNE 2

“The Disabilities Commission helps improve the quality of life for people with disabilities in Santa Monica by prioritizing issues of concern and advising the City Council and City Staff on those issues. The Commission recommends ways to maximize participation of people with disabilities in all facets of City life and increase awareness of the abilities, rights and issues of people with disabilities throughout the community. Join us for our monthly meeting. Civic Center Parking Structure 333 Civic Center Dr Santa Monica, 90401 5MI Room in the Civic Parking Structure. https://www.smgov.net/departments/clerk/boards.aspx?id=53687092550

TUESDAY | JUNE 6

CRUNCHES AND COCKTAILS AT LANE
Every Tuesday join Yoga Sculpt at Corepower Santa Monica at 5:30pm then head to Lanea for some apps on them and Happy Hour all night long! All Corepower students get 10% off at Lanes and Cult Santa Monica every day. Just show your CPY App Member Card! 217 Broadway. Santa Monica, CA

WEDNESDAY | JUNE 7

STAR BAKER COMEDY SHOW
Created and hosted by Kelly Shanley, Star Baker Comedy Show is inspired by the hit series The Great British Baking Show. Each month, different comics will compete for the title of “Star Baker” by sharing their best signature joke, showstopper joke, and technical joke. The Crow 2525 Michigan Avenue, Unit F4 Santa Monica.

THURSDAY | JUNE 8

SPECTRUM GESTALT 10
Reception Saturday June 10th 5-8pm. Join us for the 10 Year Anniversary of Spectrum Gestalt. bi Gallery Bergamot Station, 2525 Michigan Ave, Space A2 Santa Monica, California 90404

FRIDAY | JUNE 9

AIDS/LIFECYCLE RIDE FINISH LINE EVENT
We welcome the riders of the AIDS/LifeCycle Ride to Santa Monica for the first time as they finish their 546-mile ride from San Francisco near the Santa Monica Pier at Beach Lot 4 South. They are also seeking volunteers to make sure the Finish Line Festival is as fun and exciting as possible! Santa Monica Beach Lot 4 1230 Ocean Ave Santa Monica, CA 90404

SATURDAY | JUNE 10

MAIN STREET CG OPEN HOUSE
Come visit the Main Street Community Garden on Saturday June 10th and check out our Summer Craps and Flowers. The Annual Tomato Tasting competition is around the corner, keep an eye out for the date! Main Street Community Garden 2318 Main Street Santa Monica, CA

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

WEATHER

Friday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 66.

Saturday: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, partly cloudy, with a high near 67.

Saturday: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 58.

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 prior winning numbers are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com
Check out SMDP's NEW event calendar

A complete list of all the happenings in the City of Santa Monica and surrounding areas!
Visit smdp.com/event or scan the code

FIND ALL EVENTS INCLUDING

• MUSIC EVENTS  • LIBRARY EVENTS  • HAPPY HOURS
• CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS  • AND MORE!