Santa Monica Animal Shelter’s second annual fundraiser draws sunshine and crowds

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Saturday was a special day for a number of reasons; not only was the city bathed in glorious sunshine in a desperately needed break from the relentless gray and gloom, but the Pride celebrations kick off along the Third Street Promenade and the Santa Monica Animal Shelter’s second annual fundraiser was held at their HQ on 9th Street.

Attendees were able to enter a raffle with the chance to win some fantastic prizes, including gift certificates and gift baskets from many local Santa Monica businesses. In addition, there was the opportunity to win some unique experiences in the silent auction, the top prizes included a ride on a Santa Monica Harbor Patrol rescue boat or an educational experience with the Santa Monica Police Forensics Department.

“I’m so thrilled with the turnout and the tremendous support from the community. Everyone has been telling me what a wonderful time they had and how happy they were to come and support us,” says Elizabeth Noble, Chair, Santa Monica Animal Shelter Foundation.

Other events and attractions include face painting by The Magical Atelier, balloon animal headbands from Wild About Balloons LA, the chance to meet the community. Everyone has the opportunity to win some fantastic prizes, including face painting by The Magical Atelier, balloon animal headbands from Wild About Balloons LA, the chance to meet the

Santa Monica man hospitalized in Italy after tragic accident

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

In a devastating turn of events, Michael Shelton, a 33-year-old resident of Santa Monica has been hospitalized in Italy after a tragic accident.

Shelton was visiting Italy for a friend’s wedding on May 23, when he fell off a 65-foot cliff while descending a steep set of stairs in Positano. The incident left him with severe injuries, including broken legs, broken ribs, head trauma, chest trauma, cervical trauma, lung contusions, and internal bleeding.

Fortunately, an emergency rescue team quickly responded to the scene and airlifted him to a hospital in Naples. There, he was placed in a medically induced coma and put on a ventilator to aid his recovery. Although his condition is stable, the true extent of his health remains unknown until his body heals enough to be awakened from the coma.

Upon hearing the news, Shelton’s family immediately traveled to Italy and are expected to stay for several months. The financial implications of the accident, including medical costs and insurance coverage, are still unclear due to the incident occurring in a foreign country. However, it is anticipated that Shelton will require medical transport back to Southern California for repatriation and subsequent rehabilitation at an inpatient physical therapy facility for several months.

Initially Shelton’s family hesitated to ask for help. However, the financial burden of his extensive care is heading into the red with the District continuing to draw its funding from the property taxes.

The preliminary budget is based on a set of assumptions including declining enrollment of 8,394, average daily attendance of 7,974 (95%), about 28 percent of students requiring additional fiscal support and a cost of living adjustment (COLA) of 8.2%.

Staff said the surging inflation rate and its impact on COLA rates closed the gap between the amount of money the District received from property taxes and what it could receive from the state based on attendance but as tax revenues continue to outpace state funding, the District continues to draw its funding from the property taxes.

School budget hits the red next year

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District’s ledger is headed into the red with the District forecasting budget deficits for the next two budget cycles.

SMMUSD will formally adopt its budget at the end of this month but the Board heard a preliminary update last week with bad news in the short term.

The District projected total revenues for next school year as $132,538,788. That is projected to increase slightly to $137,119,554 for the 24/25 school year. Expenses are estimated to be $141,918,920 for next year and $139,110,031 for the 24/25 year.

“We’re projecting a possible $9.3 million deficit for that fiscal year and then the next fiscal year about $1.9 million deficit,” said Assistant Superintendent Melody Canady.

The preliminary budget is based on a number of reasons; not only was the city bathed in glorious sunshine in a desperately needed break from the relentless gray and gloom, but the Pride celebrations kick off along the Third Street Promenade and the Santa Monica Animal Shelter’s second annual fundraiser was held at their HQ on 9th Street.

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Colorado River deal forever changes the price of water in the West

GRAYSON ZULAUF
Special to the Daily Press

For the first time in this drought-stricken century, a new price for water in the West has been set – and it’s 25 times higher than what farmers have paid for the last 75 years.

Arizona, Nevada and California recently agreed to reduce their water consumption from the Colorado River by 13% through 2026. The federal government will pay their irrigation districts, Native American tribes and cities $521 for each acre-foot of water they don’t use.

This agreement is the start of the end of agriculture as we know it in the West, but not just agriculture. For every drop of water used, industries – from farms and ranches to data centers and power plants to ski resorts and golf courses – must determine whether it pays more to use the water, or to avoid using it.

And the price of using it will only increase. Some businesses will become more water-efficient. Some will move. Some will close.

What was the price of water, anyways? It depends on both the source and the use. If water comes from a river or lake, it’s zero. If water comes from an aquifer in the ground, it’s the cost of pumping the water up. And despite the enormous infrastructure required, water delivered from reservoirs behind large dams (as promised by the federal Bureau of Reclamation) has historically cost farmers no more than $20 per acre-foot, which is enough to cover a full acre one foot deep.

This water costs much more to deliver, with the difference subsidized by federal taxpayers.

For example, in the Imperial Water District, the destination for 80% of all Colorado River water delivered to California, water for irrigation costs farmers that $20 per acre-foot even though the water is stored (in Lake Mead, behind Hoover Dam) and transported (through the All-American Canal) by mega-projects paid for by federal taxpayers.

In the Westlands Water District of central California, taxpayers subsidize farms at $2,200 per acre. For California farmers who receive water from the Central Valley Project, taxpayers contribute $416 million annually.

With the price signal of water now reset to $521 per acre-foot, the math for water users will change, starting with agriculture. Food generates more than $50 billion annually across the lower Colorado River basin states, and the industry rests on the foundation of $20 water promised by the Bureau of Reclamation.

With this new agreement, every use of water must exceed the value of not using it.

Take the most-grown crop in the Colorado River basin: alfalfa. This grass is exported worldwide and fed to livestock, mostly cows. Alfalfa sells for $230 per ton in California. With 3 acre-feet of water, an acre of alfalfa will yield around 6 tons of product. So, at $20 per acre-foot of water, a farmer would spend $60 in water for $1,380 of alfalfa, losing plenty of money for labor and equipment and profit. At $521 per acre-foot of water, the farmer pays $3,126 for water alone for that same $1,380 in alfalfa, losing over $1,700 per acre.

By contrast, the farmer could make $3,126 from the federal government for growing nothing and avoiding the water consumption altogether.

The math for most other crops is not much better.

Although the agreement only runs through 2026, water price signals are here to stay. And


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Bluesky, championed by Jack Dorsey, was supposed to be Twitter 2.0. Can it succeed?

BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP Technology Writer

Bluesky, the internet’s hottest membership-only spot at the moment, feels a bit like an exclusive club, populated by some Very Online folks, popular Twitter characters, and fed by Twitter’s users of the Elon Musk-owned platform.

Musk is not on it — and this might be part of the appeal for those longing for the way things were before the Tesla billionaire bought Twitter and upended nearly everything about the social network, from rules against harassment to content moderation to its system for verifying prominent users’ identities. It also helps that Bluesky grew out of Twitter — a pet project of former CEO Jack Dorsey, who still sits on its board of directors.

“It was designed to replace Twitter,” said Sol Messing, who worked at Twitter as a data scientist until January and is now associate professor at New York University’s Center for Social Media and Politics. “And you can see it in the way that the system is designed. It works like Twitter.”

But can Bluesky replace Twitter? Prominent Twitter users such as the model Chrissy Teigen, U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, and Dril, a humorous account that grew out of “weird Twitter” and has been poking fun at Musk since the billionaire took over the platform, are active users. Journalists, academics and politicians — the users whose help made Twitter into the culture’s zeitgeist — are also flocking to the app (if they can score invite codes).

“We are all active on Twitter because we are all active on Twitter. And so it’s very, very difficult to migrate to a different social media platform once you have thousands of followers on Twitter,” - Sol Messing

“Really wondering about where the line is to leave the other place,” wrote — or “sketched” — Ocasio-Cortez recently, expressing concern about how Musk’s Twitter will handle next year’s presidential elections. “There’s a line where the harm of unchecked disinfo exceeds the benefits of direct, authentic communication. It’s really sad.”

Bluesky, though, has bigger ambitions than to simply supplant Twitter. Beyond the social network itself, it is building the technical network that is its approach to algorithms to decide what users see. That is, giving users a choice in what they see. The app launched with a chronological feed, meaning you see posts in the order they are posted in. Other social platforms like TikTok, Facebook, Instagram or Twitter use secretive algorithms to show you what you’re more likely to be interested in.

“The network of people who use and contribute to a platform. And getting people, especially people who aren’t teenagers, to move to a new social network, is quite a challenge. Just ask Mastodon, Truth Social or any other alternative network that’s sprung up more recently.”

We are all active on Twitter because we are all active on Twitter. And so it’s very, very difficult to migrate to a different social media platform once you have thousands of followers on Twitter — are your Twitter friends, and if you move on to a new social network, you can’t easily bring them with you — if you can bring them at all. Bluesky is trying to imagine all this.

“Once you open it up and allow different forms of content moderation to dominate, it’s going to be a very different platform,” Messing said.

Bluesky’s approach to content moderation is similar to its approach to algorithms to decide what users see. That is, giving users a choice in what they see. The app launched with a chronological feed, meaning you see posts in the order they are posted in. Other social platforms like TikTok, Facebook, Instagram or Twitter use secretive algorithms to show you what you’re more likely to be interested in.

“I imagine you want your timeline to only be posts from your mutuals, or only posts that have cat photos, or only posts related to sports — you can simply pick your feed of choice from an open marketplace,” CEO Jay Graber wrote in a recent blog post. Bluesky did not respond to a request for comment.

“It’s an open question whether Bluesky will soar or remain a pie in the sky. But some of Twitter’s earliest supporters are cautiously optimistic. After all, Twitter started out similarly small, and along the way both its creators and users learned a lot.

“There’s a whole community of people doing these experiments at these projects that are all learning from each other and sharing things back and forth and with the overall hope and idea that we cannot make the same mistakes we made last time,” said Evan “Rabble” Henschel-Plath, who worked on Twitter pre-Elon Musk and is now CEO of PlanetarySocial, another decentralized social network.

“In some ways, we democratized the media. We changed the world. We gave everyone a voice. But we didn’t figure out what to do with that,” he said. “We didn’t give ourselves great tools to handle it.”

Could Bluesky be the Twitter do-over it was set up to be?

“I would like to see these guys figure out a smart way to maintain data portability, without losing the ability to essentially moderate content,” Henschel-Plath said. “And yeah, that might be impossible, but that’s what I would ultimately like to see.”

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed proposals for

RFP: 2023-RFP-00037 CALL FOR CULTURAL/ENTERTAINMENT EVENT PROPOSALS FOR THE 1550 BEACH PARKING LOT

- Submission Deadline is June 30, 2023 at 5:00 PM Pacific Time.

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the CITY’S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL. The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is OpenGov (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca) There is no charge for the RFP package.
NOTE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendments to the Text of the Santa Monica Municipal Code to Provide Incentives for Certain Housing Projects That Filed an Application Prior to Implementation of the City’s 6th Cycle (2021-2029) Housing Element

A public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission to consider a Resolution recommending to the City Council that the City Council adopt an Amendment amending the text of the Zoning Ordinance to provide incentives for certain housing projects that filed an application prior to implementation of the City’s 6th Cycle (2021-2029) Housing Element. More specifically, the following local incentives would allow:

1) A 15% inclusionary requirement for the development of off-site affordable housing units, giving the owners more flexibility to pool off-site affordable housing units into one 100% affordable housing project to satisfy off-site inclusionary requirements for multiple market-rate projects;

2) The grant of State Density Bonus waivers and concessions for the market rate projects as if the off-site units were provided on-site; and

3) An increase in the Downtown Community Plan maximum parking requirement from 0.5 to 1.0 spaces.

DATE/TIME: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2023 AT 6:00 PM

LOCATION: City Council Chamber, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Members of the public unable to attend a meeting but wishing to comment on an item(s) listed on the agenda may submit written comments prior to the public hearing via email to planningcomment@santamonica.gov or via mail to the address listed below. Comments received prior to 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Planning Commission prior to the meeting and posted online. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

You may also comment in-person at the Planning Commission hearing. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment.

Address your comments to: Roxanne Tanemori, Acting Planning Manager
Re: Development Incentives Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment

VIA E-MAIL: planningcomment@santamonica.gov
VIA MAIL: City Planning Division
1685 Main Street, Mail Stop 28
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Roxanne Tanemori by e-mail at roxanne.tanemori@santamonica.gov. The Zoning Ordinance is available on the City’s web site at www.santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (866) 311-7266 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate languages provided the request is received 72 hours prior to the meeting. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPÁÑOL
Este es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar aplicaciones proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si desea más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-2201 ext. 5547.

DELTA SUPREME COURT upholds judge’s finding that Tesla acquisition of Solar City was fair

RANDALL CHASE
AP Business Writer

Delaware’s Supreme Court has upheld a judge’s decision in favor of Tesla CEO Elon Musk in a lawsuit challenging the electric car maker’s $2.4 billion acquisition of a solar panel company founded by two of his cousins.

The court on Tuesday rejected arguments from a group of Tesla shareholders that a Chancery Court judge erred in finding that Tesla’s deal to acquire SolarCity in 2016 was “entirely fair.” The judge made that determination even while finding that the process by which Tesla’s board of directors negotiated and recommended the deal to shareholders was “far from perfect.”

While noting errors in the trial court’s fair price analysis, and agreeing that the deal process was not “pitch perfect,” the justices said the record is replete with factual findings and credibility determinations indicating that the acquisition was “entirely fair.”

“We are convinced, after a thorough review of the extensive trial record, that the trial court’s decision is supported by the evidence and that the court committed no reversible error in applying the entire fairness test,” Justice Karen Valihura wrote in the court’s 106-page opinion.

Typically, under Delaware’s “business judgment” rule, courts give deference to a corporate board’s decision-making unless there is evidence that directors had conflicts or acted in bad faith. If a plaintiff can overcome the business judgment rule’s presumption because the deal involved a controlling shareholder or because directors might have been conflicted, the board’s action is subject to an ‘entire fairness’ analysis. That shifts the burden to the corporation to show that the deal involved both fair dealing and fair price.

At the time of the acquisition, Musk owned about 22% of Tesla’s common stock and was the largest stockholder of SolarCity, as well as chairman of its board of directors.

The justices concluded that the findings by former Vice Chancellor Joseph Slights III, which were not challenged by the shareholders, support the conclusion that the overall deal process was the product of fair dealing. The Supreme Court also said that, while Slights failed to explain why and how he relied on Solar City’s stock price on the day the deal was announced, rather than the lower price on the day the deal closed, his fair price analysis did not amount to reversible error.

The Court of Chancery, after examining all of the expert testimony and fair price evidence, found that the fair price case was not even close,” Valihura noted.

An attorney for the shareholders argued in March that the Chancery Court judge put too much emphasis on the price Tesla paid for SolarCity, and not enough on the deal process, which the plaintiffs contend was tainted by the failure to appoint an independent committee to negotiate the deal.

He also argued that the judge’s analysis of the deal price was flawed and that shareholders who voted to approve the deal were not properly informed, even though the vote was not required under Delaware law.

A lawyer for Musk noted that the SolarCity acquisition had been a strategic objective for Tesla for 10 years before the deal was completed, belying the argument that it was a last-minute “bailout” to save an insolvent SolarCity from bankruptcy.

The Chancery Court’s decision last year followed a July 2021 court appearance in which a defendant Musk defended the deal and sparred with attorneys for the plaintiffs, calling one lawyer a “bad human being.”

Musk chose to fight the lawsuit in court even after other directors on Tesla’s board reached a $60 million settlement, without admitting fault.

WATER
FROM PAGE 2

the price of water – or the value of avoided water use – will only increase. Because of global warming, the flows of the Colorado River will drop by half by 2100, making the current cuts almost seem pointless.

Carbon credits set the price for carbon dioxide emissions, with the avoided emission of one ton of carbon dioxide fetching a firm, trusted price. Over the last decade, as this price has started to come into focus, carbon-intensive industries have reexamined their businesses, analyzing if their products or services would remain profitable if they paid the market price for emissions.

The price of a water credit is now set, with the avoided consumption of one acre-foot of water worth $321. Over the next decade, similarly, water-intensive industries will reexamine the water liability of their businesses. For every use of water, they will have to consider what will happen if the price of water doubles, triples or more. For every drop of water used, they will have to weigh whether it is worth using it at all.

The water reckoning is here, and the West will never be the same.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.
We’re ignoring the important stuff

TITANIC: Deck chairs on the titanic.

PEOPLE BECOME MORE POLITICALLY CONSERVATIVE

As they age, right? It’s accepted wisdom, and a political aphorism, that does have some validity, though it is much more common that there is not that much change throughout a person’s life (as shown by “The Michigan Youth-Parent Socialization Panel Study”). Study, schmuddy. They didn’t study me. Recent and current events are not only making me revisit nail biting, they are “radicalizing” me again, more than Vietnam and Nixon combined.

Yes, I know. “We will always have the poor,” and hunger (but that’s not a given any more), disease (but medical science is amazing), and war (hope, that’s definitely a choice), and political corruption (see “war”), and greed – that one might be incurable.

And is the root cause behind most evils.

For those of you who weren’t there, or for various good reasons don’t remember the last half of the ‘60s and into the early 70s, it was a time of such political and generational unrest, and cultural change, that some thought the United States, the world’s longest-running democracy, might actually experience a revolution, an insurrection. Not possible, that kid at UNM might actually experience a revolution, an insurrection. Not possible, that kid at UNM might actually experience a revolution, an insurrection. Not possible, that kid at UNM might actually experience a revolution, an insurrection. Not possible, that kid at UNM might actually experience a revolution, an insurrection.

So yeah, despite the lies of our government, the threat was real, though not here, and not immediate. And so I submitted to the draft – and got very, very lucky to be assigned to Germany.

WHEN I GOT OUT

Fall of 1968, and returned to school, a whole lot had changed. I was exposed to a ton of historical facts that was either not taught in my schools (or any, really), or misrepresented. I grew up thinking we were the good guys on this planet, only to learn the sad truths. Journalism is the pillar of fact finding and truth seeking in any democracy, and I decided then that’s where I belonged. (They forgot to mention that most journalists have trouble even paying the rent.)

So like most, my views haven’t changed much in the last 50 years. But now, I’m … losing patience. Which aligns me somewhat with younger generations, like millennials, who wonder if they will be able to live to my age. Is it worth it to bring children into this world, not just screwed up but, as measured by science, on its last legs as far as the ability to support human life. That’s a different reality than those older grew up with, even with the nuclear threat. And we still have that: Putin, Communist or not, definitely not a nice guy, has his finger on the button that could end human life on earth. So, there’s that too. Climate change is proven and proceeding faster than we feared, and now we have the best tech minds (like Robert “Oops?” Oppenheimer warned about his A-bomb baby) nervous that unregulated AI could also do us all in.

Since we are all equally threatened,

NOT ME

Except for my passion for music, which was beginning to take on revolutionary tones, I was pretty straight arrow. A shy, unassuming, blue collar middle class, fairly conservative (or at least content), patriotic, programmed product of Catholic schools in Albuquerque, I didn’t flee or fight my draft into the US Army at the height of the gruesome Vietnam War. It was a moral decision. The Communists were really bad guys who wanted to spread their way of life throughout the world, by any means necessary and if we didn’t stop them over there we might have to repel them here.

Yes, I bought it, like so many. Alternative information was hard to come by then. But here are some historical facts, for those who may downplay the threat, Hitler barely slides in at No. 3 among greatest murderers in history, Marxist-Leninists Mao and Stalin eclipsed his deadly brutality. And let’s not forget Cambodia’s Pol Pot, who came to power around that time, and managed to kill 1.5-2 million, in a nation of only 6-7 million.

We’re ignoring the important stuff

CURIOUS CITY

Charles Andrews | Send comments to editor@smdp.com

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TITANIC: Deck chairs on the titanic.

OPINION
Apple’s Vision Pro goggles unleash a mixed reality that could lead to more innovation and isolation

MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Technology Writer

Reporters are a skeptical bunch, so it was unusual to hear so many of them raving about their firsthand experience with Apple’s next Big Thing: the high-priced headset called Vision Pro, a device infused with totally virtual reality as well as augmented reality that projects digital images on top of real-world settings.

But after wearing the Vision Pro during a half-hour demonstration meticulously orchestrated by Apple, I joined the ranks of those blown away by all the impressive technology Apple has packed into the goggles-like headset. Still, that excitement was muted by a disquieting sense of having just passed through a gateway that eventually will lead society down another avenue of digital isolation.

THE POTENTIAL UPSIDES

But first the good stuff: Vision Pro is a highly sophisticated device that is fairly easy to set up and incredibly intuitive to use. The setup requires using an iPhone to automatically take some assessments of your eyes and ears. If you wear prescription glasses (I wear contacts) some additional calibration will be needed, but Apple promises that won’t be complicated.

Once that’s all done, you will quickly find that putting on the Vision Pro is also simple, thanks to a knob on the side that makes it easy to ensure the headset fits comfortably. And unlike other headsets, the Vision Pro isn’t an awkward-looking piece of nerdware, although the goggles aren’t exactly chic, despite looking a bit like something you might see people wearing on a ski slope, jet fighter or race car.

Controlling the Vision Pro is astonishingly easy: Users just press a button above the right goggle to pull up a virtual screen of apps, including familiar standbys for photos, messaging, phone calls, video streaming and web browsing. Opening an app just requires looking straight at it, then pinching a thumb and finger together. The same app can be closed with a finger pinch or can be moved to the side by holding two fingers together and moving them in the direction where you want to place it.

Yet surprisingly, Apple’s well-curated demonstration cast the Vision Pro in the best possible light. The headset clearly seems like it could be quite popular for business purposes, improving productivity, collaboration and video conferencing, especially in an era when more work is being done remotely.

Without causing the disorienting effects common in other virtual-reality headsets, the Vision Pro can immerse you in stunning visuals, 3-D displays of faraway places. It can insert you into videos of past memories recorded with one of the device’s 12 cameras (the demo included heartwarming scenes of a child’s birthday party and a campfire scene). It can make watching a 3-D movie, such as the latest Avatar film, feel like you are sitting in an IMAX theater while relaxing on your own couch. It can thrust you into surreal moments (at one point, I watched in wonder as a butterfly first shown in a virtual screen depicting a prehistoric era seemingly fluttered across the room and landed in my outstretched hand as I sat on a couch).

And the demo featured just enough glimpses of the way sporting events appear through the goggles to realize that the powers that be in professional and collegiate football, basketball, soccer and hockey are bound to find ways to incorporate the technology into subscription services that make viewers feel like they are sitting in the front row.

To Apple’s credit, the Vision Pro is also designed in a way that allows users to still see those around them, if they so choose.

THE POTENTIAL DOWNSIDES

My mixed feelings about Apple’s first foray into mixed reality ironically stems from just how well-designed the Vision Pro is by a company that has been behind this sort of game-changing technology on numerous occasions during the past 40 years, ranging from the Macintosh computer to the iPhone.

It feels like this may be another instance in which Apple has accomplished something that has eluded other tech companies by cracking the code to make both virtual- and augmented-reality more compelling and less disorienting than a variety of other ho-hum headsets have done over the past decade or so.

The only reason the Vision Pro isn’t going to be an immediate sensation is its cost. When it hits the U.S. market early next year, it will sell for $3,500, which makes it probable it will start out as a luxury item unaffordable to most households — especially because the headset is marketed to professional and collegiate sports teams and coaches.

The potential downsides could lead to more innovation and isolation
The two funding sources (state vs. property tax) arrive at different points in the year with the property tax revenues arriving about six months after State payments. That will require the District to temporarily borrow money for a few weeks to preserve cash flow at the end of the year.

The District will dip into its reserves to cover the losses but boardmembers said more needed to be done to safeguard the District’s financial future.

“This is not a ‘Chicken Little the sky is falling’ budget but it is a ‘wake the heck up budget,” said Boardmember Jon Kean. “We did something that was important in terms of our pay scale last year. And this budget is showing us that by not making larger reductions or adjustments and 23/24, we’re seeing that.”

In July of last year, SMMUSD approved rates for contracts going into the 2022-23 school year, with teachers earning 10% wage increases. Teachers also got a 0.57% salary increase as part of “step and column” wage increases. Teachers also got a 0.57% salary increase as part of “step and column” wage increases.

Salary and benefits are the biggest expenses.

“Cuts made now compound, “ he said. “So the longer we take to adjust, the harder it is to get back online. Our budget is telling us that. This budget is saying our reserves are threatened.”

He said the district really needed to find more income but in the absence of additional revenue, spending cuts were the only choice.

“I would like to see a little more austerity before this comes back to us,” he said. “Because anything we do for 23/24 will show the double effect in 2024/25. I don’t know if there’s any more belt tightening to do. But if we don’t do it next year, we’re just making it harder for us the year after.”

Boardmember Alica Mignano agreed saying the District should evaluate its current programs.

“I think they really need to look at what we’re offering and what we’re spending and how effective it is,” she said. And we need to work on that as soon as possible.”

Kean said he agreed with a program analysis and stressed that the current issue is just a basic economic problem. The Board will have two more opportunities to reflect on the budget during a June 22 special meeting and at their regularly scheduled meeting of June 29.

editor@smdp.com
ANIMAL SHELTER
FROM PAGE 1

Cadro Bakery (including their to-die-for dark chocolate tahini brownies) and an indigenous bird presentation from Michael Chil with Wild Wings of California Wild Bird Rehabilitation Organization.

Plus, there was a live performance from School of Rock West LA house band, which included some belting performances from young Santa Monica singing talent. There are some future superstars among these talented musicians, that much is certain.

We’re really hoping that people will take home a dog, a cat or a rabbit they’ve bonded with and give us a bit of room as we’re basically at capacity, so we’re hoping for a good day today,” said Lieutenant Robert Silverstein, Foundation Board Liaison.

Mayor Glem Davis was in attendance, accompanied by her shepherd/terrier, Sylvie, and Mayor Pro Tempore Lana Negrete and Councilmember Phil Brock also paid a visit. “The shelter is full with lots of wonderful pets, so I hope that the people like the GOP-reviled “Gang of Four” in Congress. I have no love lost for the Democratic Party I embraced most of my life, but they are angels compared to the Republican Party, who have become our nation’s largest terrorist threat. A third party won’t accomplish anything more than handing the next election to the mango man, like Jill Stein did last time, so what we need is a totally remake Democratic Party. Let’s have our revolution there, and we can resolve most of our problems.

I do understand that politics involves compromise, but on the fine points, the methods, not on the life or death issues. We should have health care for all, like every other country. You can’t touch Social Security because that is our money, that we entrusted you with over the course of our work life. We need to melt down every damn gun in the US, all 40,000,000 of them, no matter how loud the howls are. How many deaths will it take, til we know, that too many people have died? Sweet little children, for God’s sake. But I will settle now for banning assault rifles and associated equipment, and requiring waiting periods and background checks, red flag laws, etc. 80% of the American people want that. We are being held hostage, and they are slaughtering the hostages as we wait. All men are created equal, Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Pretty clear concepts, and it’s way past time to live up to them. Equal rights, equal votes.

HANDS OFF, SACRAMENTO!

In Santa Monica, we need to tell Sacramento that every city has the right to determine its future. And we need to tell every City Council candidate that no one is buying the patently false idea that density is good. Density is bad for human beings and there are a thousand studies to prove it. Affordable housing, not just housing. We’re not buying your BS any more.

Although some have done a good job, it’s still too little too late. We need to support the San Diego City Council and resist a new election, and for damn sure the School Board, with candidates who will use common sense and work for residents. Their records are indefensible. Their transparency is approaching zero. Not a penny more for useless programs to attack the homeless, until you find out where all the other millions went. We don’t need to take this. Our money has been spent foolishly for years.

We need open libraries. We need more cops, and more mental health teams on the street. A lot fewer lawyers and a lot more Code Enforcement. We need investigation into deceased child molester Uller (he was hired by the Los Angeles District Public Attorney’s office so far it can never happen again to our defenseless children, and accountability and harsh punishment for anyone who knew. We need an elected mayor, an independent City Council to make problems at City Hall, and an efficiency expert. WE need shorter Council meetings, MUCH shorter agendas (cut the unnecessary bureaucracy crap), and an assistant for each Council member.

We’re running out of time, folks. If not now... probably never. Are we going to DO anything?

CURIOSITY CITY
FROM PAGE 5

can’t we put aside our tiny differences, like pigmentation, religion, gender, even politics? No, I suppose we can’t. Too important to rearrange the deck chairs on the Titanic.

I STILL BELIEVE

The politics that got us into this can get us out. But we need better politicians, radically better, like those three state legislators in KY and young Maxwell Frost, the Gen-Z US Congress member from, of all places, West Virginia. But people like the Republican Party, who have become our nation’s largest terrorist threat. A third party won’t accomplish anything more than handing the next election to the mango man, like Jill Stein did last time, so what we need is a totally remake Democratic Party. Let’s have our revolution there, and we can resolve most of our problems.

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LGBTQ+ Americans are under attack. Human Rights Campaign declares state of emergency warning

HANNAH SCHOENBAUM
Associated Press/Report for America

The Human Rights Campaign declared a state of emergency for LGBTQ+ people in the U.S. on Tuesday and released a guidebook pointing to laws it deems discriminatory in each state, along with “know your rights” information and resources to help people relocate to states with stronger LGBTQ+ protections.

Sounding the alarm about the current political climate, the nation’s largest organization devoted to the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer Americans said travel advisories aren’t enough to help people already living in states where lawmakers have taken a less keen approach.

“We need champions right now,” HRC President Kelley Robinson said in an interview with The Associated Press, President Joe Biden and other LGBTQ+ rights supporters with decision-making authorities, she said, need to be more than just allies.

The declaration is a call to action for “people in power at every level” of government and the business community, she said, urging them to FOE Q+ rights with the same fervor as they’ve fought for abortion rights since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade last summer.

“When Dobbs fell, you saw a federal response to deal with the abortion crisis that we’re in,” Robinson said. “We are in a crisis of even greater scale to the health and well-being of the LGBTQ+ community, and we need that same sort of response.”

Just a few days into Pride Month, the campaign said it’s taking action in response to an “unprecedented and dangerous” spike in discriminatory legislation sweeping state houses this year, with more than 525 anti-LGBTQ+ bills introduced and more than 70 signed into law so far in 2023 – more than double last year’s number. In a report released Tuesday, it said the new laws are a result of coordinated Republican efforts, supported by “well-funded extremist groups.”

A recent Associated Press analysis found that many bills seeking to ban or restrict gender-affirming health care for transgender youth, who have been the primary targets of state legislation this year, sprang not from grassroots or constituent demand, but from the pens of a few powerful conservative interest groups.

The HRC guidebook, meanwhile, provides information about filing complaints for civil rights violations and points to resources for finding new employment, particularly in the 17 states with a trifecta of Democratic leadership in both legislative chambers and the governor’s office. It also offers tips on how to engage in local advocacy and how to navigate tough conversations about LGBTQ+ policies with friends and family.

“The amount of calls I get every day from parents asking how they can move to another state because they’d rather mourn their home than their child is real,” Robinson said. “This is a different level of urgency and demands a different level of response.”

The emergency declaration is the first in the 43-year history of the HRC, which envisions a foundation focusing on research, advocacy and education, national and state lobbying campaigns and a political action committee that supports and opposes candidates for office. It comes as Republican-dominated legislatures around the country have restricted various aspects of transgender existence, from pronoun usage and bathroom access to medical care and more.

Among the latest, one of a series of bills that could soon pass as soon as Tuesday in Louisiana would broadly ban K-12 public school employees from discussing sexual orientation or gender identity in the classroom. The legislation is similar to the Florida law critics call “Don’t Say Gay.” As many LGBTQ+ Americans are celebrating their identities this month against the backdrop of a dizzying array of new restrictions, some trans people and their families are scrambling to flee their home states. Others have suddenly found themselves without access to medical care many credit as life-saving, and are turning to often-dangerous “do-it-yourself” hormone treatments to avoid involuntarily reversing their physical transitions.

And as Pride Month festivities kick off this week, organizers are beefing up security amid threatened protests by some extremist groups. A mass shooting last fall inside a gay nightclub in Colorado Springs left many LGBTQ+ community members feeling especially vulnerable.

Hannah Schoenbaum is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues.

FUNDRAISER
FROM PAGE 1

medical treatment and repatriation can no longer be ignored so they have started a GoFundMe campaign.

The Shelton family said they are grateful for the love and support received thus far, which they believe have played a crucial role in Michael’s survival. They also recognize the heartwarming embrace they’ve received from the people of Naples. Their compassion has provided immense comfort during this difficult time.

To support the family, visit https://www.gofundme.com/f/michael-sheltons-road-to-recovery.

Charles Andrews has lived in Santa Monica for 37 years and wouldn’t live anywhere else in the world. Recently sent love and/or rebuke to him at therealmusicartist@gmail.com

editor@smdp.com
**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 7)**

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You have specific skills and strengths in certain areas and, like everyone, you struggle in others. People with complementary talents are coming into your realm. Your open mind will see creative ways to work together.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Having trouble going with the flow? Consider that it might be easier than you're making it. What if all you have to do is choose not to resist? There's something to let go of, then you'll be one with the current.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). As a lifelong learner, you often enjoy most the lessons you didn't seek. You'll be surprised by the education you get today, and you'll be a quick study as usual, making the most of instruction and improving as you go.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). The good ideas and bad ideas will come in the same idea. They are like reversible sweaters. If one way clashes, you just have to turn them inside out and wear what's on the other side.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Your willpower will be stronger than usual. Don’t waste it by allowing yourself to be bombarded by distractions. Go where you’re likely to experience peace and quiet and you’ll accomplish something remarkable.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You are wide awake and so you will understand the rules of the game, whether stated or implied, official or unofficial. You’ll also be keenly aware of the option not to follow them.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22). When working on self-love is difficult, try loving someone else. When loving someone else is difficult, give love to yourself. However come at relationships, you’ll improve things with tenderness given in any direction at all.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Sometimes, negotiation is a healthy way to get to the deal that works for everyone, but today this will not be the case. The best deals will be a natural fit, rendering negotiation unnecessary. As for the others, just walk.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You have learned that happiness can be a skittish emotion; you chase it and it runs. Today, you’ll work at something meaningful to you, and happiness will suddenly set up shop within your heart — an unexpected perk.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You know the many shades of silence. Some are bricks. Some are feathers. Silences smile or condemn; they lift, they bury. You can fall in love with a certain kind of silence — and you will.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Aesthetics will matter to the outcomes of the day, especially things like lighting and architecture. You will feel the significance of an arch, a tall ceiling or an enclosed space. You’re searching for a feeling of sacredness.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Whatever you believe to be true, you’ll really see how the opposite could also be true. This proves your sophistication of mind. You’re not being wishy-washy; you’re being fluid.

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**SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY’S SUDOKU**

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

**SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY’S CROSSWORD**

**Newsday Crossword**

**ACROSS**

1 Hair styling goops
5 “Cómo ___ usted?”
9 Rice alternative
14 Very often
15 Parking place
16 Grouchy Muppet
17 Industry pay level
19 Oil-bearing rock
20 Prepare to be knighted
21 Applauds
23 Oolong or pekoe
24 Make a fool of
26 Realizes
28 U-turn from VNW
31 Approve automatically
36 Guiding light
39 Mexican mister
39 Creative spark
40 Cease-fire
43 Caesar’s rebuke
44 Cuban line dance
46 Loser at Waterloo
48 “a” or “z”
51 Rapper Dr. ___
52 Old-fashioned “Yikes!”
53 Smartphone, for short
55 Leatherworker’s tool
58 Writer Wharton
60 Overthrows
64 Finger for hitchhiking

**DOWN**

1 Stare (at)
2 Enthusiasm
3 Theater tier
4 War horse
5 PC key
6 Long keyboard key
7 Turnpike charge
8 Boot camp command
9 Knight’s body armor
10 Campfire residue
11 “Scram!”
12 See 69 Across
13 Vicinity
18 Speaks unclearly
22 ___ capita income
25 Short golf stroke
27 Girder metal
28 Heroic stories
29 Wicked city of Genesis
30 Justice Kagan
31 Main impact
33 Paid (up)
34 Auto engine
35 Wrinkly fruit
37 National bird
41 Miscellaneous
class
42 Fencing blade
45 High school math
47 Synthetic sweater material
49 Little guy
50 Autocratic orders
54 Sugar cubes
55 $$$ dispensers
56 Shout to stop a horse
59 Remarkable thing
61 Southeast Asian cuisine
62 Fork prong
63 Serving of shredded cabbage
65 Britain’s Isle of __
66 Be the owner of
67 Category

**AT THE P.O.** by Gary M. Larson

Edited by Stanley Newman

www.stanxwords.com

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**MORE OF STAN’S CROSSWORDS!** Play FREE from Stan’s archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords
Solutions to yesterday’s words puzzle:

A day to remember your Mum
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. 6G Gallery Bergamot Station, 2525 Michigan Ave, Space A2 Santa Monica, California 90404

FRIDAY | JUNE 9
MADE WITH PRIDE MARKETPLACE
A unique retail pop-up hosted every Friday through Sunday in June at Santa Monica Place on Level One. Hosted with Streetlet, the Marketplace showcases over a dozen LGBTQ+ business owners, highlighting their stories and featuring local goods and services made, conceived, and curated in Southern California. Santa Monica Place. 395 Santa Monica Place Santa Monica, CA 90401

SATURDAY | JUNE 10
MAIN STREET GG OPEN HOUSE
Come visit the Main Street Community Garden on Saturday June 10th and check out our Summer Crops 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

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 545-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 90405

SUNDAY | JUNE 11
SABA SURF BEACH DAY + CLEAN UP
Saba Surf, the Venice-based surf lifestyle brand, invites you to join their beach day and clean up on June 17th at 9am at Breakwater in Venice Beach (look out for the large SABA SURF tent). Grab coffee, a pair of gloves from the check-in table, and join the beach-clean up starting at 9:30 a.m. Guests will be invited to meet back up at the Saba Surf tent at 10:30 for a chance to win a month’s supply of Saba Surf Wax, Saba T-Shirt, and more. Breakwater, Venice Beach Ocean Front Walk, Venice, CA https://www.instagram.com/p/Cjxkdvi5yPBA/

TUESDAY | JUNE 13
93RD COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY
Join SMC for a momentous occasion as they celebrate the achievements of over 5,000 graduating students! The traditional Commencement ceremony will be on-ground once again. Commencement Speaker: Christopher P. Lu, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations for Management and Reform. Eligible graduating students will receive RSVP details. Families/Guests: RSVPs are not required.

WEDNESDAY | JUNE 14
TRIVIA NIGHT AT THE BUNGALOW
Meet at The Bungalow at Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows every Wednesday for Trivia Night. Test your knowledge, enjoy the food and fare and win over $500 worth of prizes every week. Bring friends and family for an epic showdown. See you there! The Bungalow 101 Wilshire Blvd Santa Monica, CA 90401 https://thebungalow.com/santa-monica/#calendar

THURSDAY | JUNE 15
CHILDREN’S BUREAU OFFERING VIRTUAL ORIENTATIONS
Children’s Bureau is seeking foster families and now offers two virtual ways for individuals and/ or couples to learn how to help children in foster care while reuniting with birth families or how to provide legal permanency by adoption. If you or someone you know may be interested in learning more about foster care and adoption, a live English Zoom Orientation is scheduled for June 15 from 4 to 5 p.m. hosted by a Children’s Bureau team member and a foster parent. For those who want to learn at their own pace about becoming a foster and/or fost- adopt parent, a PowerPoint orientation is also available. To RSVP for the live orientation or to request the PowerPoint orientation, please email RRecruitment@all4kids.org or call 800-730-3933, or visit https://www.all4kids.org/foster-care-and-adoption-inquiry-form/ to complete a quick inquiry form. A link to the meeting will be emailed to you.

WEATHER
Wednesday: Patchy drizzle before 10am. Cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny, with a high near 64.
Wednesday Night: Increasing clouds, with a low around 57. West wind 5 to 15 mph.
Thursday: Partly sunny, with a high near 66. Southwest wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 57.

DAILY LOTTERY
Draw Date: 6/5
2 31 45 48 69
Power#: 20
Jackpot: 285 M

Draw Date: 6/6
3 16 19 36 60
Megap#: 25
Jackpot: 218 M

Draw Date: 6/7
7 19 30 37 43
Megap#: 16
Jackpot: 30 M

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