Murals of Santa Monica receive national acclaim and more are coming

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

The city’s iconic murals have received recognition as the rest of the nation is reminded of what we all already know: the giant paintings that adorn the sides, fronts and backs of many buildings in Santa Monica are among the best and the most beautiful in the country.

In a recently published reader’s choice poll by the national newspaper USA Today, Santa Monica ranked second in a list of 10 US Cities You Must Visit To See Incredible Street Art. It was pipped at the post by Philadelphia.

“The seaside city of Santa Monica is an artistic haven in Southern California. Although it’s relatively small, it boasts over 100 murals from artists like Ruben Rojas, Jonas Never and Shepard Fairey,” the article says.

The last name on that list was recently responsible for the large mural on the Pierside Hotel at Ocean and Colorado directly across from the Santa Monica pier. In a press release written regarding the rebranding and redesign of the hotel, Fairey said, “Santa Monica is a beautiful place with a vibrant history filled with creators and rebels from surf, skate, and music culture. No neighborhood is one-dimensional, so I chose to emphasize themes and bits of history related to Santa Monica that I most enjoy.”

“I’m drawn to the hippie spirit of the neighborhood, which is welcoming of all types; the natural beauty, ocean air, and the way the Pacific Ocean Park — once it was abandoned — provided a fertile wasteland for surfers and skaters to flourish."

Another often overlooked site is the side of the Red Cross office in Santa Monica at 1450 11th Street. For over 20 years the parking lot wall was adorned with a faded, 140-feet-long mural painted in 2002, but local artist Boo Simms has given the exterior wall a facelift in an event that was deliberately aimed to coincide with a local community blood donation drive.

“I’d read about the five lines of service that the Red Cross offer [disaster relief, blood service, training and certification, service to the armed forces and international service] and I honestly didn’t know how much is actually going on. It’s amazing. "It’s desert and in the middle of the city, "I didn’t know it was going to be a mural, and it’s going to be on the side of the building," Simms said.

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**PATRIOTIC PLASTIC WASTE:** Plastic, not-quite-so-fantastic. This 4th of July, take your rubbish home with you.

Surfrider Foundation

July 5 is the dirtiest beach day of the year

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

The day after Independence Day is when the beaches up and down the Southern Californian coast suffer from the most litter, garbage and plastic pollution, according to non-profit environmental organization, the Surfrider Foundation.

“We just see it year after year. You know, we see many, many beachgoers making their way to the coast the day before to celebrate Independence Day. And we just see tons of single use plastic bottles, utensils, bags, straws, fireworks and more,” said Newara Brosnan-Faltas, Southern California Regional Manager for Surfrider.

July 5 is the dirtiest beach day of the year. And we just see it year after year. “We’re ready to open [in 2019] 50-year-old, family-run izakaya from Tokyo opens first US eatery in Santa Monica

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

A Japanese, family-run restaurant company called the Raku Corporation, with 13 outlets across Tokyo, has opened its first location in the US and it’s in Santa Monica. Originally scheduled to open in the summer of 2019, the project was put on hold during the pandemic and has only survived as a result of the company’s success in Japan’s capital city.

Called Shirubē, the izakaya operated by brothers and owners Kodai and Yudai Uno offers grilled meats and seafood, together with fresh vegetables from Southern California farmers markets.

The word izakaya (居酒屋) is made up of three kanji (a system of Japanese writing using Chinese characters) that mean “stay-drink-place.” In essence, it’s a type of informal Japanese bar that serves drinks and food, like a Spanish tapas bar or a gastropub. Unlike other kinds of Japanese restaurants, which typically specialize in one dish, like sushi or ramen for instance, an izakaya usually offers a wider choice of menu items.

“We were ready to open [in 2019] but the pandemic hit,” said Uno. “As a company, we have survived as a result of the success of our stores in Tokyo. We are grateful that we get the chance to continue our business in Santa Monica.”

**Supporting workers In the hospitality industry.**

**Restaurant Review**

**Calabra at the Proper.**

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California can’t — or won’t — match Texas’ approach to homelessness. Here are 4 reasons why

MARISA KENDALL
Special to the Daily Press

When looking at the numbers, there’s no question Texas is doing a better job of mitigating homelessness than California.

For one thing, Texas’ homeless population shrunk by nearly a third over the past decade, while California’s grew by 43%, according to the federally mandated point-in-time count. And in the Golden State, 439 people are homeless for every 100,000 residents – compared to 81 in the Lone Star State.

Can California homeless services get similar results by copying Texas? It’s not that simple. Things are very different in California, and here’s a brief look at why:

Texas builds more homes than California

One advantage Texas has over California when it comes to addressing homelessness is the Lone Star State’s ability to build. Last year, 265,793 homes were permitted in Texas, compared to just 119,667 in California, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. That’s less than half as many as Texas, even though California has about 9 million more residents.

Many experts say part of the problem is the heaps of red tape developers must navigate to get anything built in California. The state’s signature California Environmental Quality Act, which Gov. Gavin Newsom is attempting to reform, allows opponents of projects to block them in court for years, sometimes leading to their demise.

Not only does Texas have no such law, it has fewer building regulations across the board. Land in unincorporated counties, for example, isn’t subject to zoning. That allowed for the 2015 opening of Community First! Village, a neighborhood with 350-and-counting tiny homes for homeless residents just outside Austin’s city limits.

In addition, there are no zoning ordinances in the entire city of Houston. That lack of regulation, coupled with a strong mayor who can push projects through, makes it easier to get homes built in Texas’ largest city.

Last year, Houston permitted 15,745 homes. Los Angeles permitted 16,707, but it has 1.5 million more people and four dozen zoning districts with different rules on what developers can and can’t build.

Everything is just way more expensive in California

It’s impossible to leave cost out of the equation. The median rent for a one-bedroom home in California was $2,200 in June, compared to just $1,223 in Texas, according to Zillow.

In Houston, Texas’ biggest city, that price is $1,202. Compare that to Los Angeles, California’s largest city, where the median rate is $2,198.

Texas also has more homes available. Its rental vacancy rate was 10.2% in the first
The Supreme Court rejects Biden’s plan to wipe away $400 billion in student loan debt

COLLIN BINKLEY
AP Education Writer

The Supreme Court has sent shockwaves through higher education with a landmark decision that struck down affirmative action and left colleges across the nation searching for new ways to promote student diversity.

Leaders of scores of universities said Thursday that they were disappointed by what they see as a blow to diversity. Yet many also voiced optimism that they would find new ways to admit more Black and Hispanic students, despite evidence that eliminating the practice often leads to steep enrollment decreases among them.

President Joe Biden said he disagreed with the decision and asked the Education Department to explore policies that could help colleges build diverse student bodies. He also pushed against policies like legacy preferences — admissions boosts given to the children of alumni — that tend to help white, wealthy students.

“We should never allow the country to walk away from the dream upon which it was founded,” Biden told reporters. “We need a new path forward, a path consistent with the law that protects diversity and expands opportunity.”

Yet evidence from states that previously outlawed affirmative action show it will be a daunting challenge.

As an alternative to affirmative action, colleges from California to Florida have tried a range of strategies to achieve the diversity they say is essential to their campuses. Many have given greater preference to low-income families. Others started admitting top students from every community in their state.

But years of experimentation — often prompted by state-level bans on considering race in admissions — left no clear solution. And requiring race-neutral policies, colleges saw enrollment drops among Black and Hispanic students, especially at selective colleges that historically have been mostly white.

At Amherst College, officials had estimated going entirely race-neutral would reduce Black, Hispanic and Indigenous populations by half.

“We fully expect it would be a significant decrease in our population,” said Matthew McGinn, Amherst’s director of admission, earlier this year.

Facing a conservative Supreme Court that appeared skeptical from the start, colleges have been preparing for a rollback. Some were considering adding more essays to get a better picture of an applicant’s background, a strategy invited in Thursday’s Supreme Court ruling.

“Nothing prohibits universities from considering an applicant’s discussion of how race affected the applicant’s life, so long as that discussion is concretely tied to a quality of character or unique ability that the particular applicant can contribute to the university,” Chief Justice John Roberts wrote for the court’s conservative majority.

Other colleges were planning to boost recruiting in racially diverse areas, or admit more transfer students from community colleges.

The court took up affirmative action in response to challenges at Harvard University and the University of North Carolina. Lower courts upheld admissions at both schools, rejecting claims that the schools discriminated against white and Asian American applicants. But at Supreme Court arguments in late October, all six conservative justices expressed doubts about the practice, which had been upheld under Supreme Court decisions reaching back to 1978, and as recently as 2016.

Nine states already have banned affirmative action, starting with California in 1996 and, most recently, Idaho in 2020.

After Michigan voters rejected it in 2006, the University of Michigan shifted attention to low-income students.

It sent graduates to work as counselors in low-income high schools. It started offering college prep in Detroit and Grand Rapids. It offered full scholarships for low-income Michigan residents. More recently, it started accepting fewer early admission applications, which are more likely to come from white students.

Despite those efforts, the share of Black and Hispanic undergraduates hasn’t fully rebounded from a fall-off after 2006. And while Hispanic enrollments have been increasing, Black enrollments continued to slide, going from 8% of undergraduates in 2006 to 4% now.

The campus is drawing more low-income students, but that hasn’t translated to racial diversity, said Erica Sanders, director of undergraduate admissions at Michigan.

“Socioeconomic status is not a proxy for race,” Sanders said.

At the same time, some of Michigan’s less selective colleges have fared better. At nearby Eastern Michigan University, the number of students of color increased, reflecting demographic shifts in the state. It illustrates what experts say is a chilling effect seen most acutely at selective colleges — students of color feel fewer of their peers at places like Ann Arbor, prompting them to choose campuses that appear more welcoming.

Growing up in Ann Arbor, there was an expectation that Odia Kaba would attend the University of Michigan. When her application was deferred, she started at Eastern Michigan with plans to transfer to Ann Arbor her sophomore year.

By then, Kaba was getting daily texts from her sister, who attended U-M, describing the microaggressions she faced as a Black student on campus. Rooms went silent when she walked in. She was ignored in group projects. She felt alone and suffocated.

“Why would I go to U of M?” Kaba, 22, remembers thinking. “I’m just going to be stuck with people that don’t look like me, can’t relate to me, and with no way to escape it.”

Kaba stayed at Eastern Michigan and graduated with a degree in quantitative economics this year. Even though it’s mostly a white campus, Kaba said she found pockets of diversity that helped make her comfortable.

“I’m in economics, which is a white male-dominated space. But I can walk out of the classroom and be surrounded by my people, and I just feel safe,” she said.

The University of California also saw enrollment slides after a statewide ban in 1996. Within two years, Black and Hispanic enrollments fell by half at the system’s two most selective campuses, Berkeley and UCLA. The system would go on to spend more than $500 million on programs aimed at low-income and first-generation college students.

It also started a program that promises admission to the top 9% of students in each high school across the state, an attempt to reach strong students from all backgrounds. A similar promise in Texas has been credited for expanding racial diversity, and opponents of affirmative action cite it as a successful model.

In California, the promise drew students from a wider geographic area but did little to expand racial diversity, the system said in a brief to the Supreme Court. It had almost no impact at Berkeley and UCLA, where students compete against tens of thousands of other applicants.

Today at UCLA and Berkeley, Hispanic students make up 20% of undergraduates, higher than in 1996 but lower than their 53% share among California’s high school graduates. Black students, meanwhile, have a smaller presence than they did in 1996, accounting for 2% of undergraduates at Berkeley.

Opponents of affirmative action say some states have fared well without it. After Oklahoma outlawed the practice in 2012, the state’s flagship university saw “no long-term severe decline” in minority enrollments, the state’s attorney general told the Supreme Court.

It added to a recent freshman class at the University of Oklahoma that had more Hispanic, Asian and Native American students than in 2012. The share of Black students fell, but it wasn’t far from flagship universities in other states that allow affirmative action, the state said.

Still, many colleges expect racial diversity could take a hit. With affirmative action struck down, colleges fear they will unknowingly admit fewer students of color. In the long run, it can be self-perpetuating — if numbers fall, the campus can appear less attractive to future students of color.

That’s a problem, colleges say, because racial diversity benefits the entire campus, exposing students to other worldviews and preparing them for a diverse workforce.

Beyond race, the decision has the impact to reshape other admissions policies. To draw more underserved populations, experts say colleges may need to do away with policies that advantage white students, from legacy preferences and early admission to standardized test scores.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

By Jesse Zwick

Hospitality workers need higher wages and more homes

From school teachers to TV writers to hospitality workers, the message on the picket lines across LA County this year contains the same direct and urgent plea – and we ignore it at our peril.

Housing costs have risen far faster than wages, forcing essential workers to commute inhumane distances from Apple Valley, Palmdale, or California City to the Westside of LA, losing sleep and time with their families and worsening our congested roads and unhealthy air.

Indeed, most of the people who cook our food, clean our homes, and care for our loved ones – or, in the timeless words of George Bailey, the folks who “do most of the working and paying and living and dying in this community” – make salaries that fall far below what’s needed to afford median rent of $2,900 in Los Angeles, let alone $3,800 in Santa Monica, where I serve on the city council.

To solve this we need higher wages, which is why our unions are more than justified in dropping their tools and picking up signs. We also need a lot more homes.

Overall, California ranks 49th out of 50 states in the number of homes available per capita. There simply isn’t enough housing to meet the needs of a huge share of our state’s lower- and middle-income workers.

It doesn’t have to be this way. With the right reforms, we can make it faster and less costly to build affordable housing across LA County and the entire state.

One such law, SB 35, has been doing just that by allowing homebuilders to pursue a streamlined approval process in cities that have fallen behind on their state-mandated affordable housing production targets.

Since its passage in 2017, 20,000 homes across our state have been approved and streamlined under the bill’s provisions; more than 650 of these homes are in Hollywood and West LA – with almost 500 of them affordable to lower-income renters.

But here’s the problem: SB 35 has an expiration date – and we’re fast approaching it.

Unless we act, cities that are not producing their fair share of affordable housing will be free to deny desperately needed new projects – exacerbating our regional housing crisis and placing an even greater burden on good actors like Santa Monica.

That’s why I’m calling on my fellow Santa Monicans to join me in asking the state legislature to approve the passage of Senator Scott Wiener’s SB 423, a state law that will extend SB 35.

SB 423 builds on the success of SB 35 by expanding its reach to ensure more affordable housing is built in coastal communities, enabling more lower- and middle-income Californians to have access to our walkable neighborhoods, good schools, and clean air.

SB 423 will also streamline affordable housing developments on surplus public land – thousands of acres of underutilized property owned by state public land – thousands of acres of underutilized property owned by state

Hollywood’s actors may join its writers on strike. Here’s why

ANDREW DALTON
AP Entertainment Writer

Hollywood actors may be on the verge of joining screenwriters in what would be the first two-union strike in the industry in more than six decades, with huge consequences for film and television production. Here is a look at how it could play out, and why it’s happening.

WHAT’S HAPPENING WITH ACTORS’ NEGOTIATIONS?

The contract between the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Radio and Television Artists and the studios, streaming services and production companies that employ them expires Friday night at midnight Pacific time. Unionized actors have voted overwhelmingly to authorize their leaders to call a strike if it does. But that’s hardly a hard deadline. Both sides have indicated a willingness to talk for what may be several days past the expiration, as happened before resolutions were reached in the same negotiations in 2014 and 2017.

Reports have said the talks have been productive. But some actors have expressed worry that their leaders may not be pushing hard enough. More than 1,000 of them, including Meryl Streep, Jennifer Lawrence and Bob Odenkirk, have added their names to a letter to negotiators saying they are willing to strike, and are concerned they are “ready to make sacrifices that leadership is not.” The letter says “this is not a moment to meet in the middle.”

The guild, led by president and former “Nanny” star Fran Drescher, represents over 160,000 screen actors, stunt performers, broadcast journalists, announcers, and hosts, but a strike would involve only actors working on television shows and films.

WHAT DO THE ACTORS WANT?

Many of the same issues that drove writers to strike are on the table for actors, including what the guilds say is shrinking compensation brought on by a streaming ecosystem in which royalty payments are no longer tethered to the popularity of a film or TV show. A role or a writing credit on a show that became a hit with a long life in reruns is no longer the cash cow that it once was. And the unions say inflation is outpacing the scheduled pay bumps within their contracts.

For both scribes and performers, the move to streaming and its ripple effects have also meant shorter seasons of shows with longer gaps between them, and therefore less work.

And like the writers, actors fear the threat of unregulated use of artificial intelligence. SAG-AFTRA said in a memo to members that the burgeoning ability of AI to recreate the performances of its members is “a real and immediate threat” that it wants to head off.

Issues particular to actors include the new and increasing burden of self-taped auditions — the cost of which used to be the responsibility of casting and productions.

HAVE HOLLYWOOD ACTORS GONE ON STRIKE BEFORE?

Movie and TV actors last went on strike for three months in 1980, though actors in broadcast commercials have gone on strike twice since then. Overall they have had far more labor peace than screenwriters, whose walkouts have been far more frequent. That includes the current standoff, in which 11,500 members of the Writers Guild of America have been on strike for nearly two months, with no end in sight.

In 1960 the actors’ union, led by then-SAG president and future U.S. President Ronald Reagan, went on strike for six weeks that fell in the middle of a five-month writers’ strike, the only time two major Hollywood unions walked off the job at the same time.

Actors have shown broad support for striking writers, and many have joined them on picket lines in an act of what has so far been symbolic solidarity.

WHAT EFFECT WOULD THE COMBINED STRIKES HAVE FOR VIEWERS?

The writers’ strike had an almost instant effect on late-night network talk shows, including NBC’s “The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon,” ABC’s “Jimmy Kimmel Live!” and CBS’s “The Late Show With Stephen Colbert,” which all went on hiatus immediately. “Saturday Night Live” axed its last three episodes of the season.

In the two months since, many scripted television series have also shut down,
Calabra at Proper Hotel

Every cloud has a silver lining. The COVID pandemic was a big cloud, but its negative impact on restaurants resulted in relaxed rules for outside dining and allowed restaurants to expand into parking areas and outside dining. And when the weather is nice, outside dining is special. And outside dining on rooftops is even more special.

There’s a nice semi-outdoor patio with a bar nearby at Elephant on 2nd Street with a nice view and a lot of beautiful people having a good (loud) time. But the best outside roof top dining that I’ve found in West Los Angeles is the Calabra restaurant at the top of the new Proper hotel on 7th and Wilshire.

Entering the restaurant from the elevator near the hard-to-find hotel entry is tricky, but once you arrive you almost feel like you’ve entered a different world a bit like Hawaii. There are beautiful plants everywhere and various seating areas with different views. There’s a Mediterranean atmosphere amplified by the Mediterranean menu.

I love the menu, and the all-day service.

The last time I was there for lunch I ordered mostly breakfast selections. I tasted my friend’s Moroccan pancakes with yogurt, dates, and walnuts and loved it. I had the Mediterranean breakfast, which was lox, pita breads, humus, and Israeli salad.

The main courses run the gamut of every restaurant, but I would skip the hamburger and salmon dishes even though they are prepared a bit differently than most restaurants, and stick with the chicken souvlaki or the lamb with harissa.

The drinks are great; juices, smoothies, good wine list, and great cocktails. And the service is above average. But I was not impressed with the desserts, which, according to my doctor, is a good thing.

Merv Hecht, like many Harvard Law School graduates, went into the wine business after law. In 1988, he began writing restaurant reviews and books. His latest book “The Instant Wine Connoisseur, 3rd edition” is available on Amazon. He currently works for several companies that source and distribute food and wine products internationally. Please send your comments to: mervynhecht@yahoo.com

CALABRA: The restaurant has one of the best rooftop experiences.

WHAT’S HAPPENING WITH THE WRITERS?

The writers’ strike has seen persistent picketing and some major rallies for two months, but so far no movement. There are no current negotiations happening between the strikers and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, which represents the studios, streamers and production companies in all the industry’s union negotiations. The longest previous writers strike, in 1988, lasted five months.

Along with the issues they have in common with actors, writers are especially concerned with the shrinking staffs that are used on shows, which they call “mini-rooms.” They have meant much less work, and far fewer guarantees of future work.

The AMPTP says the writers’ demands would require that they be kept on staff and paid when there is no work for them. The group also said that it had offered generous pay increases.

The two sides were so far apart on its negotiations that talks broke off hours before the contract expired. No one expects that will happen on Friday with actors, but whether a strike can be avoided in the coming days remains to be seen.
how extensive their work was, but I wanted to reflect all of this as much as possible,” Boo says.

On June 29, members of the community were encouraged to come along to the center and donate blood. After which they were then encouraged to pick up a paintbrush and tap into their inner Bob Ross, by helping paint the new mural.

“It was amazing,” Boo says, adding, “I think the youngest we had helping out was five years old and the oldest was 70-something. We mapped it all out in chalk the day before, with different parts sectioned off and images pasted of what the finished section should look like.”

As we spoke, Boo was adding the final finishing touches and she very much hoped it would be completed by the end of the day, which was Friday.

“Everyone has a story about the last time they painted, or perhaps it had been years since they’ve held a brush, or this is the first time they’ve ever actually painted, or maybe they’ve only ever painted a wall in their house; they’ve only ever painted a wall in their house, ” Boo says.

Boo laughed. “And they’re all nervous about brush strokes, but, you know, there’s no wrong way to do it here, we just want everyone to have a bit of fun. Yes, of course one or two went outside the lines, but that’s no problem.”

Boo is one half of the culinary duo behind Lady & Larder, a Santa Monica-based specialty cheese and cured meat shop located at 828 Pico Blvd that she runs with her twin sister. She says her painting is more of a therapeutic thing, but how does a painter top a 140-ft, wall-sized work of art?...

“The projects I’m most drawn to are areas where communities gather, like schools, playgrounds, parks, areas where kids and neighbors come together. I think those areas are always the most exciting because you get to be a little part of the story.

“When we came to this one, there was a mural here that had been painted 20 years ago, this wall was already painted and that’s always a strange part of the process. You cover up an old one to start a new one, you’re erasing a little bit of history to make new history.”

Boo Simms

MURAL: All the paint needed has been generously donated by the Dunn-Edwards Corporation.

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### Commentary

FROM PAGE 4

and local governments, which often include parking lots, vacant parcels and unused or abandoned commercial properties.

Too many of California’s cities and counties are failing to meet the housing needs of their lower- and middle-income residents; in 2021, our state produced less than 17 percent of the affordable units we need to meet our goals.

While it’s not a silver bullet, SB 423 contributes to the success of our advocacy actions.

“The real change that we’re trying to make is to ensure that we collect the data to inform better advocacy. We have a long track record of helping pass bills locally that banned plastics. Numbers that people can collect when they’re beach cleaning, can help us do that more effectively,” says Brosnan-Faltas.

The Surfrider Foundation has helped pass bills that ban plastic bags in California grocery stores, keep unwanted plastic utensils out of takeout orders in NYC, and commit to reducing single-use plastics in National Parks. In 2022, 20 local, state and federal laws were passed that keep 4.2 billion items of plastic out of circulation.

Of course, every time you go for a walk along the beautiful, sandy beaches of sunny Santa Monica, you could pick up trash... and some residents do. Even just filling a supermarket-sized grocery bag and dropping it into an actual bin helps. However, because of some of the repugnant items that some folk leave behind, Brosnan-Faltas suggests wearing gloves and possibly even consider the purchase of a “grabber.”

“Surfrider actually has a solo cleanup database that people can use. So if folks want to get out there and help clean up, we encourage people to document what they’re finding,” says Brosnan-Faltas.

However, if you can’t make it down to the beach for Wednesday July 5, another non-profit, environmental organization LA Waterkeeper will be hosting the first of four beach and river cleanups in the Los Angeles River watershed as part of the global Plastic Free July initiative. After all, it’s always nice to meet like-minded people. If you’re interested, everyone will be meeting at 9 a.m. at Tower 20, near 2030 Ocean Ave on Saturday, July 8.

Last year alone, LA Waterkeeper, together with more than 700 volunteers, collected over 4,000 pounds of trash — most of it plastic — and cleaned up more than four miles of coastline, rivers and creek beds.

### Crime Watch

**ON JUNE 15 AT 5:40 PM**

Officers were dispatched to the 2700 block of Santa Monica Blvd, for a stolen laptop report. The victim informed officers that his laptop was stolen from his office a few days prior and he was able to track it. He found the laptop posted online for sale and had arranged to meet with the suspected thief under the pretense of buying the laptop. The individual selling the laptop claimed he was given the laptop and did not know it was stolen. During the investigation, the suspect was found to be driving a stolen vehicle that officers recovered and returned to the rightful owner. Forty-year-old Pamela Webb was arrested for Unlawful Possession of a Vehicle and transported to the Santa Monica Jail.

### Beach

**FROM PAGE 1**

Pollution and the discarding of waste by people into our natural environment is one of the biggest existential problems the human race faces. Putting aside for a moment, the catastrophic consequences caused by the relentless dumping of garbage actually at sea — which has contributed to the creation of a 620,000 square mile accumulation of trash in the ocean between California and Hawaii — a lot of waste still finds its way into the sea by way of river estuaries, waste pipes, beaches and tides.

And if that wasn’t bad enough, which it obviously is, plastic and other, often frankly disgusting, trash left on the beaches is not only extremely unpleasant to stumble across, but can be dangerous to both animals and people.

“We find a lot of drug paraphernalia like needles and such like and sometimes even baby diapers. Condoms too, quite a lot of condoms,” Brosnan-Faltas says.

Aside from a total, outright disrespect for the environment in which we all have to live, other people and all other life forms that we share the planet with, what makes people do this?

“One key factor behind the persistence of beach litter is a general lack of knowledge about how trash and plastic affect the environment and our marine ecosystems,” says Brosnan-Faltas.

“Public education through efforts like Surfrider’s Beach Cleanup Program can play an important role in informing individuals about the harmful effects of litter on our beaches, such as the contamination of water sources, the entanglement and ingestion risks for marine animals and the disruption of fragile ecosystems.”

According to Brosnan-Faltas, they’ve collected over 1,970 pounds of trash from local Los Angeles beaches this year so far during public cleanup events. But Surfrider’s beach cleanup events do more than just remove trash. They collect and analyze data about what’s ending up on our beaches, which
RESTAURANT
FROM PAGE 1

IZAKAYA: The restaurant’s opening was delayed by the pandemic but it’s now feeding customers.

Shirubē serves two beers, one Japanese and one American, plus a nice list of nine types of sake to choose from and all of this unfolds in 1,800 square feet of space that offers a total of 60 covers, both at tables and at bar.

The décor itself is simple, effective and elegant, with a somewhat industrial aesthetic. Plus there’s also a samurai warrior placed high up on the wall at one end with the family’s crest on the left and the name of the restaurant on the right.

“Our family is from one of the two biggest samurai clans from thousands of years ago and our family has ancestors that were samurai,” Kodai says. “We kept everything simple [inside the restaurant] but we wanted to display something that’s Japanese and I think the samurai armor is probably the best example.”

Shirubē is at 424 Wilshire Blvd and opens between 5 and 11 p.m., seven days a week, currently.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

Jewish Family Service

AWARD: Jewish Family Service LA (JFSLA) has been honored as a 2023 California Nonprofit of the Year by Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur. JFSLA is a leading social service agency in Los Angeles. They provide various services including food insecurity programs, domestic violence services, aging services, services for survivors of the Holocaust, services for individuals with special needs and disabilities, and more. Assemblymember Zbur represents district 51, which includes the cities of Hollywood, West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, and Santa Monica.

“We don’t stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing”
- George Bernard Shaw

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INDEPENDENT LIVING

JUMP INTO SUMMER SAVINGS!
HOMELESSNESS
FROM PAGE 2
quarter of this year – one of the highest in the country – compared to just 4.1% in California, according to U.S. census data.
Little state funding for Texas cities, but outsized federal resources
Texas gets by almost entirely on money from the federal government and private donations, whereas California recently has made large contributions in state funding to homeless services.
Last year, Texas put $19.7 million of state funding into its three main homelessness programs – equal to about $806 per unhoused person. California poured $1.85 billion into its three main programs – or $10,786 for every unhoused person.
Houston puts no city money into homelessness. Instead, service providers there rely on federal funding of which they get an outsized amount. The Houston area received $45.2 million for homelessness from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in 2021, or about $14,483 for every homeless person in the region. Leaders there say they win extra federal dollars because they’ve proven that their strategies work.
Los Angeles County got $155.4 million – but that equates to just $2,386 per unhoused person. San Francisco got $6,629 per unhoused person, and Sacramento County got $3,203.
Two of Texas’ most well-known homelessness programs – Austin’s Community First! Village of tiny homes and San Antonio’s massive, 1,600-bed shelter – were founded on private donations.
Texas’ enforcement-heavy approach wouldn’t fly in California.
Texas is cracking down on homeless communities in a way California is unwilling and unable to do. With support from Republican Gov. Greg Abbott, Texas in 2021 passed a law that makes camping in public places a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to $500. Republican lawmakers in California tried to pass versions of that ban this year, but their bills died in committee.
Some California cities recently started prohibiting encampments in certain places, such as near schools, but a federal court ruling severely limits their ability to enforce broader bans. The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, whose rulings govern nine Western states ruled cities cannot penalize someone for sleeping on public property if there are no other options. Cities have interpreted that to mean they can’t clear a camp unless they have shelter beds for all its occupants.
Leaders in Texas have no such court ruling tying their hands. Even so, different cities in Texas use different tactics. Houston attempts to get everyone into housing – or into a bed in its brand-new navigation center – before clearing an encampment. In Austin, activists say police force unhoused people to move from camp to camp – often pushing them out of sight into wooded areas far from services.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.
Welcome to your year of great courage: bold actions, public expression and the moxie to ask for, and receive, more than you thought possible. More highlights: You’ll add to your education and earning power, too. Your relationships improve and multiply. You’ll form mighty bonds and beautiful networks of loose ties too. Gemini and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 12, 4, 48, 21 and 5.

Solutions to Yesterday’s Crossword

**PUZZLES**

**TODAY’S BIRTHDAY (July 1)**

Welcome to your year of great courage: bold actions, public expression and the moxie to ask for, and receive, more than you thought possible. More highlights: You’ll add to your education and earning power, too. Your relationships improve and multiply. You’ll form mighty bonds and beautiful networks of loose ties too. Gemini and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 12, 4, 48, 21 and 5.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). At an arm’s length, a thing is so understandable as to be unremarkable. If you back away, it gets even more ordinary to the point of blending into the inconsequential background. But if you get closer instead, the wonder sets in.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). The spirit of generosity isn’t always about giving. Today it’s about ignoring—or at least pretending to. Though you see all, you’ll graciously turn a blind eye to someone’s faults, flowing attention to the very thing they would prefer.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). What so often stands in the way of major progress is minor disputes. It’s the law of accumulation. The whole universe is made up of tiny things. You’ll be mindful of the minutiae of each interaction.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). “I have found the paradox, that if you love until it hurts, there can be no more hurt, only more love,” said Mother Teresa. If there’s a pain point to blow past, today you will certainly do it.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Past encounters have instilled in you the wisdom to exercise restraint. Today this is coming off as poise, and an innate elegance that will attract various forms of favor and other positive outcomes.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You’re getting stronger by accepting more responsibility. Today you’ll get a chance to grow in versatility too. Because as worthy a pursuit as strength may be, it will not be effective without versatility.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have tact and diplomacy in abundance. You’ll speak to the needs and wants of others and argue your points with gentle persuasion. Your point of view will be respected and will sway the group.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There are those who consistently bring out your kind and friendly nature, and others who seem predisposed to irritate you. Regardless, you build up your core social and emotional skills with the aim of maintaining balance around anyone’s fault lines.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Some are so afraid of being wrong that they rage against the notion. Being corrected leads to greater accuracy. You’re determined to know that all’s necessary to reach excellence.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The change you’re going for will occur in the future, but there’s still a benefit to touching back on a bit of past pain that might be keeping you stuck.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It’s possible for people to learn to do a job better, but if you can get someone who already knows, everything will be easier today. When the right person is doing the right job, things come together in a map and problems are solved quickly.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Oscillating atoms give the impression of a solid world. Even though you’re right there in it, you sense the illusory nature of this plane of consciousness. Let the realizations embolden you. You may as well experiment, play around and enjoy this persistent version of reality.

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**Newsday Crossword**

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**SATURDAY STUMPER** by Lester Ruff
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**
1. Treatment you won’t take lying down
11. Varm or pickle
15. Kept to oneself
16. Abbr., atop some newspaper pages
17. Broadly speaking
18. Two-forty seen by Darwin
19. Sign to start
20. Has a list
21. Name associated with a painted apron and pitchfork
22. Goes the wrong way
24. Brief request for restraint
25. Victoria’s grandpa
26. They may be writing
28. Kitchen cover
30. What many tablets need to work
32. Scream’s Sidney
33. Terra dans l’ocean
34. Many a sulfide
37. Hard to paddle to
39. Go the wrong way
40. Plus preceder
41. Reduce uncertainty
42. Tool’s cutting edge
44. The first flat screens
47. Aqueduct, especially
51. Though
52. Panelist’s cry?
54. Frightful, for starters

**DOWN**
1. Not taken whole
2. Term
3. Treacle tart, to his orders
4. Advanced degree
5. It’s more than one can do
6. Kept in the dark
7. “Lamp unto my feet” source
8. What got Welles on Page One
9. Fixes the wrong way
10. Ox tail
11. Source of blood cells
12. John McCain in Game Change
13. Anagram of LEAVINGS
14. Where Cash recorded “A Boy Named Sue”
15. Unbranded
21. Scatterer of powder
22. What a chair might hold
27. One in a Lipton line
29. Spin, for short
31. Something heard at a food light

---

**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.

---

**Creators Syndicate © 2023 Stanley Newman Stanxwords@AOL.COM 7/1/23**
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN

It's time to start gathering up red, white and blue things to glue to the float.

This board is pink.

The pink boards are for figures of national note.

DOES THIS BOARD LOOK JEFFERSONY OR MORE GEORGE WASHINGTONY?

Figurines?

COMICS

Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART

I had the biggest worm the other day... musta been three feet long!

... on today's episode of TMI...

"HURK... THAT WAS YOURS?!

Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE

It's not the blatant commercialism that bothers me. It's that I get no royalties.

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING

*WHO WAS THAT MASKED ROBOT?*

FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5892

Sports galore

F I N T E R N A T I O N A L

F O I C U X N L C A N O E U A

I C D M A C H I V E D B D S

E B M E H R G A R E E H O O T

L Y O C O D E U F P L O O A

D S R W L A C S E S S O T L R

L T O F L C O N W I T T Y O T

N L F N O S C G S I D E O P B

I U F S W E R C H I T S G R A

L S I V E R E S S T A A A T

E E C N L O K O K R M I T Y S

V R I A J I P I C E I O R M B

A O A L H U P A S S P A R G I

J F L P S T R E P X E A P T D

F I S H E A M Y S W S Q U A T

Aced Expert Javelin Side
Achieve Fast Join Silver
Anchor Field Ludo Skip
Arms Fish Officials Soccer
Bats Games Pairs Spar
Boot Golf Pass Squat
Bowls Grit Peel Start
Canoe Heat Plan Tice
Cards Hike Polo Toss
Crew Hits Push Trot
Defence Indoor Results Weary
Dibs Injury Rummy Yoga
Exhaust International Score

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

Let's order in tonight.
SATURDAY / JULY 1

POSITIVE PARENTING: BEHAVIORAL STRUGGLES IN CHILDREN
Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. United Mental health Promoters presents this free, confidential and educational conversation for parents, grandparents and caregivers. UMHP aims to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness by increasing awareness, removing barriers, engaging families with children and improving timely access to culturally- and linguistically- appropriate resources. A light breakfast is served and childcare provided. To register, email library@santamonica.gov or call (310) 458-8600.

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION AT SANTA MONICA COLLEGE
SMC’s Independence Day Celebration—the biggest, most sensational patriotic community event on the Westside! Bring your family and friends to SMC for a star-spangled salute to our nation’s independence. Come early, picnic on the lawn, enjoy continuous entertainment and special exhibits (with plenty of refreshments available for purchase), and cap off the evening with a spectacular fireworks salute to America. Santa Monica College 1900 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 90405. https://www.smc.edu/calendar/index.php?event-details/349216ef-e8d8-4118-aa78-e50a6a3ea997

SUNDAY / JULY 2

DAPPER DAY SOCIAL
Calling all vintage buffs- legendary LA event producers Dapper Day will host an afternoon at the Santa Monica Place full of vintage fun: music, refreshments, vintage shopping, and more! Calling all vintage buffs—legendary LA event producers Dapper Day will host an afternoon at the Santa Monica Place full of vintage fun: music, refreshments, vintage shopping, and more! DAPPER DAY SOCIAL SUNDAY | JULY 2

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET
Santa Monica Farmers Markets create thriving, vibrant communities that are inclusive, connected, and diverse by promoting the prosperity of California farmers and small food businesses, preservation of the agricultural arts and sustainable food systems. The Wednesday is open 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine, and may be closed for selected holidays.

THURSDAY / JULY 6

TECH & TASKS
Volunteer tutors provide help with reading documents or written tasks, using mobile devices, navigating government websites, filling out forms, using email, writing resumes, and more. The July 13 program includes transportation representatives from the Santa Monica Active Aging Program. 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Main Library, Tutoring Center.

NOMA’S MEETING
SM Police Chief Ramon Batista will be discussing current policing policy and resident safety and hearing the concerns of members of the city’s business community at the North of Montana Avenue Neighborhood Association’s monthly meeting. Ridwell, SMC’s newest recycling service for home pick-up of plastic bags and wrappings, will also be featured on the program. The meeting begins at 7 pm via Zoom — details at http://www.smmoma.org — and the public is invited.

FRIDAY / JULY 7

OPEN MIC MUSIC
Open mic music every Friday at 7pm to 10pm At Unurban coffeehouse 3301 pico Blvd Santa Monica ca. 90405 Open to all ages no alcohol, open to all. With a professional sound system and lighting system now. Just come in and play. Tickets for sale in the event until there is no more room. You get 2 songs or ten mins.

WEATHER
Saturday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 76. Saturday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 65.
Sunday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 74.
Sunday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 62.

SURF REPORT
Todays Surf Forecast:

**SATURDAY FAIR**
**SUNDB defines 2-3' through the PM.**

**SUNDAY POOR TO FAIR**
**Surf: 1:2' Knee to thigh**

Many breaks dropping below waist high in the morning. The wildcard will be Adrian the EPAC tropics which could prop surf size back up across the region for the afternoon — nudging many breaks back into 2-3’ range surf through the PM.

**WEDNESDAY / JULY 5**

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**READ THE ROOM**
Comedy Meets Spirituality! Get a REAL tarot card reading by the one and only Java Iliu! Then have Spirit’s voice interpreted into hilarity by comedian Jenny Zigrino Want a reading? Drop your name in the Mystical Bucket, and we’ll let The Universe choose which souls need biting, witty, advice until the show ends! Bergamot Station Arts Center 2525 Michigan Ave.
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