A host of fees and fines increased last week with the adoption of the city’s $745 million budget. The bulk of increases, including most fees and parking rates, increased by 4 percent to keep up with inflation concerns. However, about 140 fees were added, altered beyond the standard increase or had their services clarified.

In some cases, the fee increases are pass throughs from third party vendors who provide the services. For example, fees associated with embalming (from $676.03 to $721.03), pacemaker removal (from $66.66 to $86.66) preparation of remains (from $324.03 to $384.03) and casketing of un-embalmed remains (from $262.90 to $292.90) all increased at Woodlawn Cemetery.

The cemetery also had the largest new fee of $22,845 for a large cremation niche. As a result of the latest Abandoned Graves Project and property sold back to the Cemetery, there were several cremation niches in the old part of the mausoleum that are now available. The addition of the new niche shows a stylish addition to the Third St Promenade.

Thousands of Los Angeles hotel employees walked off their jobs Sunday morning, two days before Independence Day, after contract negotiations stalled, union officials said.

The strike may be one of the largest in Los Angeles history and is part of a string of union actions affecting various California industries this year. Labor leaders point to rising expenses in California as one reason for union action, but some employers say unions are merely seeking to increase their political influence.

The Unite Here Local 11 represents about 15,000 hotel and hospitality workers in California, including room attendants, dishwashers, cooks, front desk attendants, bellmen, cooks and dishwashers. The union says it is seeking better pay and benefits, which workers say they need because housing, groceries, gas and other basic needs are becoming increasingly unaffordable on their current salaries.

Room attendants, the lowest paid workers in hotels, range from $20 to $25 an hour.

“Today I feel like workers feel a combination of anger they could release and hope that we will win a wage that allows them to live in L.A.,” said Kurt Petersen, co-president of the union.

Petersen said the union presented its proposal at the first bargaining session April 20. It included an immediate $5-an-hour raise with an additional $3-an-hour raise for 2024 and 2025.

Keith Grossman, a spokesman for a coalition of 44 hotels negotiating with the union, said in a statement that Unite Here Local 11 represents about 15,000 hotel and hospitality workers in California, including room attendants, dishwashers, cooks, front desk attendants, bellmen, cooks and dishwashers. The union says it is seeking better pay and benefits, which workers say they need because housing, groceries, gas and other basic needs are becoming increasingly unaffordable on their current salaries.
A California city was making a difference on homelessness. Then the money ran out

MARISA KENDALL
Special to the Daily Press

A new homeless outreach program pairing a social worker with a police officer in Grass Valley, a small town in the Sierra Nevada foothills, seemed to be working.

The state-funded effort sent the team to homeless encampments, where they helped build trust among vulnerable people and persuaded them to accept help, according to nonprofit Hospitality House, which ran the program.

It blew past its goal of engaging 90 people in three years, instead meeting with more than 200. It even helped move some people directly into housing, including an 80-year-old veteran.

But when the three-year grant paying for that outreach ended in June, there was no money to replace it. So the program came to a screeching halt, to the disappointment of all involved.

“It is a profound loss to not be able to do this,” said Nancy Baglietto, executive director of Hospitality House.

That loss embodies the worst fears of homeless service providers across California, as they struggle to piece together new funding sources after their state grants expire. Many had hoped that Gov. Gavin Newsom and legislative leaders would change that dynamic in the state budget deal they announced last week by committing ongoing funds for homelessness that nonprofits, cities and counties could rely on year after year.

Instead, Newsom and lawmakers settled on another round of one-time funding.

“It really defies logic that the state budget once again fails to include funding to match the scale of the crisis we are experiencing,” said Carolyn Coleman, executive director and CEO of the League of California Cities, which pressed Newsom’s administration for a guaranteed $3 billion a year in homelessness funding.

‘UNPRECEDENTED’ HOMELESSNESS FUNDING UNDER NEWSOM

As California grapples with how to provide for its massive population of more than 170,000 unhoused residents, Newsom has stepped up homelessness funding to unprecedented levels. He’s funneled nearly $21 billion into housing and homelessness since the 2018-19 fiscal year.

This year, for the third year in a row, the state budget allocates $1 billion to the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention fund, which local officials can use for housing, outreach at encampments, emergency shelters and more.

But the vast majority of Newsom’s homelessness spending has been in one-time grants, which providers say makes it difficult to fund the kind of long-term programs that could make a noticeable dent in the crisis.

California would need to spend $8.1 billion a year for a dozen years to eliminate homelessness in the state, according to a report by the Corporation for Supportive Housing and the California Housing Partnership, two nonprofit advocacy groups.

The governor’s office defended this approach to funding homelessness, pointing out that the state has provided an “unprecedented”
The Democratic Party promised to overhaul its primaries. Doing that has been anything but simple

**WILL WEISSELT**
Associated Press

New Hampshire is in open rebellion. Georgia is all but out.

South Carolina and Nevada are on board but face stiff Republican pushback. Michigan's compliance may mean having to cut the state legislative session short, despite Democrats controlling both chambers and the governor's mansion.

Then there's Iowa, which is looking for ways to still go first without violating party rules.

“Despite the fact that it looked like relatively smooth sailing for the president when he proposed it ... the kind of backlash you're hearing, the reactions, are exactly what we would have expected” - David Redlawsk, chair of the political science department at the University of Delaware

Biden's political advisers say the president doesn't expect to campaign extensively in the Democratic primary and instead will focus on the general election. But the primary calendar drama might nonetheless prove a headache for Democrats who want to project unity ahead of 2024 and might spell trouble for 2008 — when the party has promised to revisit its primary calendar anew.

Jim Roosevelt, co-chairman of the DNC's Rules and Bylaws Committee, said he “was not surprised” at the objections of Iowa and New Hampshire since they are losing their leadoff spots, and that the committee is “definitely able to work around” the protests of Republicans in places adjusting to new rules or new slots on the calendar.

“I think having a sitting president is the most likely time to make a fundamental change to make the process more representative,” said Roosevelt, who also noted that the party last enforced a reordering of its primary calendar ahead of a competitive presidential primary in 2008.

It will get that chance again, though, since a potential reorder next cycle will come when, no matter what happens in 2024, there won't be an incumbent Democratic president seeking reelection.

Another long, contentious new calendar process then might mean uncertainty with real electoral consequences — perhaps even making it difficult for Democrats running in a competitive presidential primary to know where to campaign, hire staff and advertise. The party can try and mitigate that by starting its 2028 calendar discussions early, potentially even weeks after next year's election.

The prospect of another drawn-out fight won't deter the party, though: “Definitely we'll see this again in 2028,” Roosevelt said.

In the meantime, the DNC isn't planning to alter the 2024 plan it approved in February stripping Iowa's caucus of the leadoff spot it held since 1972, and replacing it with South Carolina, which is set to have its primary Feb. 3. Going second, three days later, were supposed to be New Hampshire and Nevada, which is scrapping its caucus in favor of a primary.

The new order had them being followed by Georgia's primary on Feb. 13 and Michigan's two weeks after that. Those states would precede most of the rest of the country, which would vote on Super Tuesday in early March — giving them enormous influence on deciding which primary candidates can make it that far.

But New Hampshire, responding by pointing to its state law mandating that it hold the nation's first presidential primary — which Iowa only circumvented for five decades because it held a caucus — and threatening to jump ahead.

Georgia, meanwhile, likely won't take its place in the new top 5 because the state's Republicans rejected calls to move their party's primary to comply with Democrats' new date.

To South Carolina Democrats are set to go first, the state's Republicans delayed their party's primary until three weeks later, on Feb. 24. In Nevada, Republicans have sued to maintain their party-run presidential caucus, even as the state shifts to a primary system.

Michigan has also approved its new date, but its Legislature may adjourn early to make that work.

And Iowa has proposed holding a caucus before anyone else, yet may not release the results of its presidential contest until later in deference to new party rules.

This year's shakeup followed the 2020 Iowa caucus meltdown. Iowa responded by proposing new rules allowing Democrats to submit their presidential choices by mail, breaking with past caucus rules requiring in-person participation.

Scott Brennan, an Iowa attorney and member of the DNC's rules committee, said his state "knew the deck was stacked against us" from the start of the primary calendar shakeup — and its Democrats have since attempted to avoid open defiance of national party plans.

"We're trying to remain flexible as long as we can," Brennan said, "to see if there's a way to fix this."

Republicans are still leading off their 2024 primary with Iowa's caucus, and the Iowa GOP could set its caucus date next month. That would then allow Iowa Democrats to tell the DNC when it plans to hold its caucus, even if the presidential results aren't released until later.

Iowa Democrats hope their more flexible attitude could see the state let back into the Democratic primary's top 5, if Georgia and New Hampshire vacate their spots. That would mean Iowa filling a potential gap between when Nevada votes on Feb. 6 and Michigan does on Feb. 27 — though Roosevelt said such a scenario is unlikely.

"I give Iowa a lot of credit for trying to work flexibly," he said. "If Iowa were to find a way to fully comply with the new rules, that would be considered. Frankly I think it's too late for Iowa to change that"

Roosevelt also noted that one of the reasons the largely white state was moved out of the No. 1 spot was demographics, and that's not going to change.

New Hampshire has struck a harsher tone, saying its Republican governor and GOP-controlled Legislature won't change state law requiring it to hold the nation's first primary.

"We don't have a choice to delay the primary. Maybe Iowa's different," said New Hampshire Democratic National Committeeman Bill Shaheen.

If New Hampshire presses forward with its plan to go first, and Biden opts not to campaign there, one of his challengers could see a bump in support. That would be potentially embarrassing to the president, though Biden supporters have pointed to polling showing the state's primary remains far from really competitive.

"I don't think the DNC is going to do anything that's going to change what we're going to do," Shaheen said of the national party's continuing work to overhaul its primary. "We just don't like getting pushed around much."

**SEE ELECTIONS PAGE 4**

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**Santa Monica Daily Press**

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Housing Choice

Editor:

I am a Housing Choice Voucher holder in Santa Monica. This program is also known as Section 8. There is a lot of shame and stigma attached to this program, because we live in a society that does not value people with lower incomes. My income is attached to my disability. The only thing that is harder for me than being disabled is the way that I am treated, because of it.

I have experienced disability and racial discrimination in my housing here in Santa Monica. One of the property owners where I live stated that they do not have to “respect tenants.” This person also said that I am always talking about my right (sic) and they “don’t give a **** about my right.” (Sic) This is the kind of foolishness that many of us with vouchers have had to endure. The Housing Authority does not require property owners to go through any kind of training to receive payments on behalf of a voucher holder. There is no requirement for the property owner to learn fair housing law or about habitability standards. It’s assumed that the property owner will engage in due diligence, but it’s not required.

Conversely, tenants are required to document all sources of income, including any income that children in the home hold, such as money in a savings account. The tenant also has to provide their car registration, and if they are allowed to drive a car owned by someone else. If you think that’s a lot, wait, there’s more. If a tenant has life insurance, the cash value of the life insurance has to be disclosed. This is why some voucher holders have no life insurance.

A lot of the rules of the program come from HUD. The City of Santa Monica cannot change those rules, but they can work to eliminate the stigma of the program. That has not happened. The other thing that the City can do is put a functional Resident Advisory Board in place. Currently, all voucher holders have been appointed by the City to sit on the Resident Advisory Board, but we have no officers, agenda, or meeting dates. It basically exists in theory. That basically leaves those of us with vouchers with no agency. That’s not very progressive for a city like the city of Santa Monica.

Debra Shepherd, Santa Monica

ELECTIONS
FROM PAGE 3

Biden’s reelection campaign has refused to discuss his primary challengers or whether he might be buoyed by success in an unsanctioned New Hampshire primary. Iowa Democrats, by contrast, have suggested they’ll list Biden among the presidential preferences in their caucus whether he campaigns there or not — potentially sparing the president embarrassment there.

Redlawsk said the fact that Democrats have made it this far in their calendar shakeup means “the battle will continue, but I think it’s far more likely that change will now happen” and that the impact could be profound.

“These early states really do condition the campaign. The early states don’t guarantee a winner, but they tell us who is going to lose, at least in the first rounds,” Redlawsk said. “The winnowing is very likely to be different if the first state is South Carolina, or Nevada, or some combination, than if it were Iowa or New Hampshire.”

COMMUNITY NEWS

Santa Monica

Car Shoppers Feel the Heat from Scorching Financing Costs in Q2, According to Edmunds

The cost of financing a new vehicle remains at an all-time high as car shoppers search for a new ride this summer, according to the car shopping experts at Edmunds.

New vehicle transaction data from Edmunds reveals that the record-breaking financing figures from Q1 were unyielding in the second quarter:

The share of consumers who financed a vehicle with a monthly payment of $1,000 or more reached a new all-time peak of 17.1% in Q2, up from 16.8% in Q1 2023 and 4.3% in Q2 of 2019.

Average monthly payments also reached a new record high of $733 in Q2, up from $730 in Q1 and $678 in Q2 2022.

The average annual percentage rate (APR) ticked up a tenth of a percentage point to 7.1% in Q2, compared to 7.0% in Q1 and 5.0% in Q2 2022. 7.1% is the highest APR since Q4 2007.

The average amount financed remained above $40,000 for the fifth straight quarter, settling at $40,356 in Q2, slightly below Q1 2023’s mark of $40,468 and $40,602 in Q2 2022.

“The double whammy of relentlessly high vehicle pricing and daunting borrowing costs is presenting significant challenges for shoppers in today’s car market,” said Ivan Drury, Edmunds’ director of insights. “The Federal Reserve’s recent pause in interest rate hikes unfortunately didn’t offer much relief for consumers, and hints at further raises later this year mean auto loan rates could even continue to increase.”

Edmunds analysts conducted a deeper dive into the makeup of $1,000+ new-vehicle monthly payments and discovered that not all four-figure auto loans look the same. Of the consumers who agreed to a $1,000+ monthly payment in Q2, there are two distinct subgroups:

64.5% signed up for an average loan-term range of between 67 and 84 months and an average APR of between 8.5% and 9.6%. Edmunds analysts say this group is made up of consumers who are paying thousands of dollars toward interest vs. principle and could find themselves upside down on their auto loans down the road.

15.6% signed up for loan term lengths between 31 and 48 months and a 2% to 4.8% APR. Edmunds analysts note this latter group is likely made up of savvy consumers who are taking advantage of subsidized finance offers, which typically consist of lower-rate but shorter-term loans. On a typical $40,000 loan, consumers with a 2.9% APR over 36 months can expect to save $8,500 in finance charges compared to those with a 7.9% APR over 72 months.

“There are better ways and worse ways to spend $1,000 per month on a car note,” said Drury. “Consumers who are paying large amounts of finance charges could be in jeopardy of falling into a negative equity trap, so it’s critical to come to the table with a comprehensive budget and a feel for the financing elements of a car purchase beyond the monthly payment, including the APR. For those with plans to replace their vehicle over the next few months, you may have to reset any expectations of the summer discounts of old. But, on a positive note, trade-in values remain elevated compared to prepandemic times, so shop around to ensure you get top dollar for the asset you own.”

Los Angeles
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Responds to Federal Lawsuit Alleging ADA Violations and Discrimination Against Voters with Disabilities

Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) Dean C. Logan released the following statement in response to the Federal Lawsuit alleging ADA violations and discrimination against voters with disabilities:

Providing fair, accessible, and transparent voting services to the voters of Los Angeles County is the mission of the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk and has been the bedrock of the County’s Voting Solutions for All People (VSAP) voting model. The County has a long history of active engagement with the disability rights community and partnered directly with voters with disabilities in the design and development of its voting services. This action by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) is not reflective of that work and engagement.

The County became aware of the possibility of this lawsuit last month and has been actively working in good faith to reach an agreement on a reasonable settlement. The assertions made in the media release do not reflect the voting model or service delivery provided by Los Angeles County,” said Dean Logan, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk. “That said, we remain committed to addressing accessibility issues in an equitable and effective manner and will be vigilant in preserving the extensive work the County has done to improve access to voting, broadly, and specifically for voters with disabilities and other specific needs.”

Los Angeles County is proud to offer one of the most inclusive and expansive voting programs anywhere in the nation—with an extended voting period, vote centers, and ballot drop boxes that offer late-night and even overnight voting opportunities. Because of our expansion beyond the traditional voting model, we need to site voting locations broadly across the County—including in sites that we do not control or operate.

Many of the issues cited deal with the physical layout, parking, and cross slope on sidewalks or walkways approaching locations used for in-person voting. The County is challenged in meeting the requirements to ensure equitable distribution of voting locations across the County in facilities that meet all the ADA requirements or where mitigations can be put in place to facilitate access. Significant effort and resources are already expended in this regard. The County disputes the findings and allegations asserted by the DOJ. Unfortunately, this action could result in a reduction in services and access for communities that have less resources to invest in infrastructure.

“We will continue to seek resolution of this matter in a manner that advances improved accessibility and that ensures equity and fairness in the distribution and availability of voting locations for all voters,” said Logan.

Opinion
The Daily Press Podcast

smdp.com/pod

COMMUNITY NEWS

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“We will continue to seek resolution of this matter in a manner that advances improved accessibility and that ensures equity and fairness in the distribution and availability of voting locations for all voters,” said Logan.
Hi, I’m Nemo! A 2-year-old male Pitbull Mix, ID#A064452. I am by definition, "a happy-go-lucky" dog! While my exuberance in my kennel can seem excessive, beyond its walls, I’m high-spirited and carefree! Tail wagging and with a radiating smile, I’m bursting with joy to socialize with people, and there’s always a pep in my step on walks. Since toys are my poison, and I’m always “on your mark, get set, GO” for playtime, prepare to unleash a kind of fun that you’ll never want to end! Admittedly, cues in “sit” and “stay” are foreign to me, and my manners can be inconsistent. The source of my limitations is due to never being afforded any training. Which I believe, if given the opportunity, I would soar! So, if you are an adopter that lives an active lifestyle — hikers, avid walkers, and runners strongly encouraged to apply — and you can provide me with a high level of regular enrichment and some training, every day will surely be an epic adventure with me!

The Santa Monica Animal Shelter is located at 1640 9th Street in Santa Monica. Walk-in adoptions may be accommodated, but appointments are preferred and can be made by calling (310) 458-8595, Tuesday through Saturday, between 8 pm and 5 pm. For a full list of their adoptables, and more information about the shelter and animal control, visit santamonica.gov, and go to Animal Services. To learn about ways to donate, visit the Santa Monica Animal Shelter Foundation at smasf.org.

**PET TIP: MANAGING DOG LEASH REACTIVITY WITH YOUR PROACTIVITY**

As a dog behaviorist and trainer, the #1 inquiry I receive for behavior modification is leash reactivity. The common denominator in all leash behavior is that regardless of age, breed, how or where a dog is acquired or adopted, walking is instinctual for dogs, but being on leash while meeting our expectations is not! Consequently, leash training is required. From rewards, dog walking equipment, obedience cues, socialization, counter conditioning, and your relationship. To understanding your dog’s learning threshold, body language, and managing and preventing undesirable behaviors. Leash training is comprehensive, takes time, and even more patience. Regardless of whether your dog is trained, being proactive on walks now can help manage their behavior, encourage their strengths, and even create an engaging stroll with them!

Choose force free dog walking equipment that is appropriate to your dog’s needs on leash to help guide and encourage them in a positive way.

Keep your dog motivated to respond to you by using their preferred high value rewards. Limit them to dog walking so that they may hold their value.

Be aware of the environment by sticking to areas that offer the least number of distractions.

Have your dog walk beside you more often than ahead, or behind you so that it is easier for you and your dog to engage with each other.

Check in with your dog frequently by calling their name and offering praise and rewards for looking at you.

Make it fun by offering games such as “find it” with treats, and targetting play with the “touch” cue so that you are more interesting than what may distract them.

Use the obedience cues that your dog is familiar with throughout their walks. By doing so, your dog has the practice to respond to your management when you need it the most.

Dogs have peripheral hearing, and they can smell up to 100,000 times better than we can. They will be able to detect a trigger that you may not notice until they are reacting. Pay close attention to your dog’s body language for...
with a glass facade, a 2,500-square-foot rooftop deck and an impressive frontage of 50 ft along the promenade. Prior to its demolition, the site was shared by Chilli Beans sunglasses store and Lush cosmetics before the 77-year-old building was razed last year by developer Blattes & Schnur, a 100-year-old retail leasing and brokerage firm. “Funding a speculative retail development in today’s environment is very challenging, however we were able to identify a lender who understood the unique location of this asset and the strength of the developer as well as their ability to execute on their business plan,” said Sonnenblick-Eichner principal David Sonnenblick in a press release.

Many stores, including big brands like T-Mobile, have opted to forsake the Promenade as thefts continue to plague retailers. Just two weeks ago, the board of Downtown Santa Monica Inc. voted to move forward with an initiative to use the $1.7 million currently funding the Ambassador Program to hire a private security company to help patrol the Third Street Promenade and surrounding area.

“Half of All Open COVID-19 Outbreak Investigations in LA County in Skilled Nursing Facilities; Highlights Need to Protect Older People”

Although the number of open outbreak investigations across Los Angeles County is near an all-time low, skilled nursing facilities continue to experience a high proportion of outbreaks when compared to other sectors. Given the vulnerability of skilled nursing facility residents associated with advanced age and serious health conditions, preventing the spread of COVID-19 remains of paramount importance.

The highest number of new outbreaks at skilled nursing facilities occurred at the end of 2021, with 94 outbreak investigations initiated the week of Dec. 26, 2021, coinciding with the dominance of the first Omicron strain. This number has been steadily declining and over the past two months the number of new skilled nursing facilities outbreaks opened within a one-week period has ranged from one to 10.

Cumulatively, over the course of the pandemic, there have been more than 70,000 COVID-19 cases at skilled nursing facilities, nearly evenly divided between residents and staff; more than 4,000 deaths have been reported among residents highlighting the vulnerability of individuals receiving care at the sites. The proportion of COVID deaths among skilled nursing facility residents has dropped steadily since vaccinations became available. In the summer of 2020, 58% of COVID deaths were among skilled nursing facility residents; in June of 2023, this number declined to 11%.

Currently, half of the 30 open outbreaks being investigated by Public Health are at skilled nursing facilities across the county. Data on COVID-19 in skilled nursing facilities is reported regularly at ph.lacounty.gov/SNFDashboard.

One of the reasons for the significant declines in deaths is the significant number of residents and staff who are vaccinated: 89% of residents and 98% of staff at skilled nursing facilities completed the initial series. Currently, 70 percent of all residents and 48 percent of staff are up-to-date on their vaccines, meaning they have received the bivalent dose as well.

To help reduce transmission of COVID-19 among people living and working in skilled nursing facilities, Public Health is continuing to implement equity-driven strategies, with public health measures in place to help prevent COVID-19 infection. Whenever a resident or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, testing is required for anyone with close contact with that person. That may range from a small group of close contacts or everyone in the facility if there is a high level of exposure. Facilities are required to provide education about COVID-19 vaccines and offer all staff and residents the most recent COVID-19 vaccine recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). A Los Angeles County Health Officer Order requires that all healthcare workers are vaccinated against COVID-19, including one booster.

Local reporting requirements mandate that a skilled nursing facility report any suspected outbreak within 24 hours by calling 888-397-3993 or 213-240-7821, or by filling out an online form. This allows Public Health to track cases, help with investigations, and provide resources.

Visitors to skilled nursing facilities are no longer required by Public Health to be vaccinated or test negative prior to visiting residents. However, individual facilities are granted the discretion to have these requirements as part of their policy to protect residents and staff.

To provide support, Public Health’s mobile vaccine teams regularly hold clinics at skilled nursing facilities to administer the bivalent COVID-19 vaccine to residents and staff. Public Health also distributes free COVID-19 test kits to facilities on a bi-weekly basis. To date, over 8.4 million tests have been distributed to County skilled nursing facilities. This summer, Public Health will offer free educational forums about infection prevention and control for skilled nursing facility staff.

Family members and friends should also take steps to prevent infection when visiting loved ones at skilled nursing facilities. If a person has any signs of respiratory illness, including coughing, sore throat, fever or headache, they should delay their visit until symptoms have passed. Taking a COVID-19 home test before a visit can provide extra assurance. The bivalent vaccine provides an additional layer of protection.

Free tests are available throughout Los Angeles County, including at libraries, through community-based organizations, and for each person in a household covered by insurance, eight free tests are available per month at pharmacies. More information is available at ph.lacounty.gov/COVIDTests. If a person has a question about testing, possible symptoms, or has tested positive and needs telehealth services for treatment, the Public Health Call Center is available 7 days a week, from 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. at 1-833-540-0473.

“While I share in the relief that we are in a much less dangerous phase of the pandemic, I remain acutely aware that each day very vulnerable residents still die from COVID-19,” said Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed., Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. “I worry that some people think that COVID is gone and that common-sense precautions are no longer helpful. Unfortunately, for some of our residents, particularly those residing in skilled nursing and long-term care facilities, sensible protections remain critically important to keep the risk of transmission low. By taking advantage of the abundant access to personal protective equipment, tests, vaccines, and treatment, we can all do our part to make sure that our vulnerable family and friends can also enjoy the summer with less worry and lower risk.”

The CDC has replaced COVID-19 Community Levels with Hospital Admission Levels, which can help individuals and communities decide which prevention actions they can take based on the most recent information. Los Angeles County is in the Low Hospital Admission Level with 2.7 weekly COVID-19 hospital admissions per 100,000 people, reported on June 26 for the seven-day period ending June 21.

SUBMITTED BY LOS ANGELES COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

ON JULY 2 A suspect was taken into police custody Sunday evening following an altercation on Colorado Avenue near 4th Street. The fight between two subjects (possibly three) resulted in minor injuries to the suspect under arrest as well as knife wounds to a dog. The suspect will be booked for battery, brandishing a weapon, and potentially other charges once surveillance video is obtained. The dog was transported by SMPD Animal Control Officers to a local veterinarian and will be treated for its injuries. No additional details were available by press time.

Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.
$15.3 billion for the issue since he took office at the start of 2019. The governor has also proposed a 2024 ballot measure to amend the Mental Health Services Act that would provide $1 billion a year for housing for people with mental illnesses and substance abuse disorders. That amendment would require voter approval to take effect.

“This budget provides not just funding to address homelessness — it builds in the accountability needed to ensure that tax dollars are being maximized to produce real results,” Daniel Lopez, Newsom’s deputy communications director, said in an emailed statement. “Ultimately, the challenge of homelessness and housing must be met not only with dollars, but it also requires strong accountability coupled with financial resources to make lasting progress for our state.”

To be eligible for homelessness funding under this budget, cities and counties must submit homeless action plans — in coordination with other jurisdictions in their region — that detail the progress they’ve made.

SHORT-TERM HOMELESS SERVICES

There was some momentum this year to move away from one-time spending on homelessness. More than two dozen state legislators signed a letter in May supporting the League of California Cities’ demand for $3 billion a year. A coalition led by the California State Association of Counties also called for ongoing funds it drafted bill language it urged legislators to adopt.

But that proved to be a tough ask with a $1399 !!!

E Bikes was $1899 Now only $1399 !!!

This article was originally published by CalMatters.
BUDGET FROM PAGE 1

fees establishes pricing to sell the newly available property.

The largest non-cemetery fee came from the Architectural Review Board for Administrative Design Approval (New Construction). The $4,942.56 new fee is for staff-level review of certain new construction projects. This fee would be applicable to a new category of projects that are eligible for streamlined review.

Some fees were increased due to long periods of stagnation, such as fees for renting the carousel building at the Pier that have remained the same since 2014.

A handful of fees were reduced including the cost for running fitness classes in parks. Council voted to remove the quarterly use fee for training in the City’s general parks for commercial fitness trainers in the hopes this will further activate the park spaces. Council approved charging a reduced fee for Palisades park and Beach parks as they are prime locations for trainers. Fees are now $468, $936 or $1,404 depending on the size of the class.

A few fees were eliminated entirely.

Council had previously approved waiving the application processing fees for Landmark Designation and Structure of Merit permits for Landmarks Commissioners and nonprofit organizations.

FINES

The majority of fines were unchanged however, three categories of new fine or fine increase were approved.

Landlords will be required to pay more if they fail to adequately compensate tenants who are temporarily relocated.

“The current fines for failure to provide relocation assistance required by the Code are less than the daily relocation benefit required,” said the staff report. “The current fine amount is also a per day violation, which makes the citation process more difficult as each citation has to have a separate fine for each day.”

The new fine increases the first violation from $250 to $2,000 and the increase is 125% of the first fine for a second and 150% for the third violation.

New fines were approved for violations of the city’s home-sharing ordinance. The fines vary from $250 for a simple violation to $5,000 for repeated violations. More complicated violations will carry a fine of between 400% and 800% of the advertised price of a rental.

Fines associated with operating a parklet also increased. All fines associated with parklets were a flat $75 but have increased to between $250 and $500 depending on the violation.

Councilwoman Lana Negrete questioned the parklet fines and their impact on small businesses as the city also increased some parklet fees, such as the removal of parking meters.

“Because from what I heard when I was pushing back on a lot of these parklet fees was that everybody’s in compliance, it’s not that big of a deal. Now, I’m hearing that we need to raise it 400% to match the other fees because there actually are people who are not compliant,” she said.

Code Enforcement Manager Daniel Mick said there were some scofflaw businesses and that his department had worked with them for more than six months with no success and that the new fine schedule standardized parklet fines with other business fines such as operating without a business license.

All changes to the budget are effective as of July 1.

HOTEL WORKERS FROM PAGE 1

11 has not shown a desire to bargain in good faith.

Grossman said the hotel coalition has proposed wage increases of $2.50 per hour in the first 12 months of the contract and $6.25 an hour over the next four years, as well as continuing current health care plans and pension contributions.

Under that proposal, Beverly Hills and downtown LA housekeepers would receive 10% wage increases in 2024 and make more than $31 an hour by January 2027, according to the coalition.

BARGAINING RESPONSE

The coalition claims the union responded to its proposal by canceling a scheduled bargaining meeting, refusing to schedule additional meetings, and not budging from the union’s original proposal of a 40% wage increase and a more than 28% increase in benefit costs.

“Based on the union’s actions, it’s clear the union is not focused on the interests of our employees and its members is instead focused on its political agenda” Grossman said.

Petersen, speaking for the union, denied canceling a planned bargaining session, and said the hotels did not present a counter proposal until two months after the union’s initial proposal.

“We don’t need a bargaining session,” Petersen said. “What we need is for them to sign the agreement that the Westin Bonaventure signed.”

Thursday, June 29, a day before the hotel workers’ contracts expired, the union reached a tentative deal with the Westin Bonaventure, Los Angeles’ largest hotel, that avoided a strike of its 600 or so workers at that location.

“The Westin cares about its workers and the city,” Petersen said, adding that hotel representatives in the coalition are worried about how the worker strike will spread.

“They’re worried that what happens in L.A. will go across the country. I hope it does,” he said.

The strike is the latest among major union actions in California this year.

In March a union representing tens of thousands of teachers, bus drivers, and cafeteria workers won concessions after a walkout shut down LA Unified schools for several days.

Hollywood writers have been on strike since May, and other entertainment unions are threatening action as their contracts expire this summer. A major actors union recently extended its contract to July 12 while negotiations continue.

There also have been strikes, threats and last-minute deals involving nurses, warehouse workers and the food industry this year.

WORKERS BALLY

At Le Meridien Delfina, a Marriott-owned boutique hotel in Santa Monica, Patricia Ibáñez rallied a few dozen workers with a loudspeaker as they encircled the sidewalk in front of the hotel. A few hotel guests watched.

Ibáñez said she’s striking because the hotel “wants to save on labor. They don’t want to hire people and give us more benefits.”

Ibáñez said she has to hold a second job at a nearby Jack in the Box to be able to afford her family’s $2,600-a-month apartment in Culver City.

Carlos Martinez, a room attendant, said he is on strike for better pay and better benefits, so he can take care of his growing family.

“I have my wife under my insurance and I want her and my child to be covered,” he said.

He earns $25 an hour, but it’s not enough, he said, with the rising cost of living and with the amount of work room attendants do with limited staff.

“There have been days where the occupancy is 100% and we’re short three or four employees and they have us working double,” he said.

An extra $5 would be a cushion for his family and would make him feel more comfortable working those difficult shifts, he said.

Last year 120,600 workers nationwide participated in major strikes (work stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more), a 50% increase over 2021 but a fraction of the strike activity during its height in the 1970s, according to the Economic Policy Institute.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

PET OF THE WEEK FROM PAGE 5

any barked and overt flags that they are becoming increasingly distracted, which can be a precursor to a reaction. Some include pinned back ears, panting, licking lips, targeted stares, stiff body language, freezing, pulling, not being able to look at you, or reacting badly.

Address flags at that time. Call your dog’s name. When your dog looks at you, give praise, rewards, and use a verbal cue like “let’s go” to keep them walking so that the distraction will disengage with the distraction, resetting them back to you.

Inevitably there will be times when you are not able to address flags. Once your dog reacts, they will likely not be able to respond to you at all. At that point, distance yourself from the trigger, and if necessary, leave the environment to prevent their reaction from escalating.

While there is no replacement for behavior modification training — especially if your dog struggles to respond to these tips — being proactive on walks gives you tools to manage their behavior to help prevent reactivity, building on your dog’s leash skills, and paving the way for an enjoyable walk for the two of you!

Pet of the Week is provided by Carmen Molinari. A longtime volunteer at the Santa Monica Animal Shelter and founder and CEO of Love At First Sit®, a pet care and dog behavior & training company in Santa Monica. Learn more at loveatfirstsit.net and Instagram.com/ loveatfirstsit.

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION
You give what people want and need and fortune favors you in brilliant and unexpected ways. This sense of connection you feel in the world will come so natural and easy, though it’s been hard-earned. More highlights: cultural enrichment and adventure, a hobby that pays you and responsibility that winds up raising your position. Capricorn and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 40, 1, 24 and 16.

**SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY’S CROSSWORD**

Solutions include:
- Lon 
- Miss 
- Sage 
- Page 
- Apart 
- Inch 
- Hole 
- Manuscript 
- A slant 
- Blackboard torn 
- Ear edits 
- Stern asset 
- Have idle enact 
- Epic sugar oreo 
- Delise ease tent 
- Paste cheats 
- Chewy May 
- Croc scrap paper 
- Mama tour erode 
- Over else error 
- Nerd mats beef

**Newsday Crossword**

Across:
1. Piña colada liquor
2. Scoundrel
7. Gate fastener
12. Assist a criminal
14. Finished
15. Sneezer’s sound
16. Letter after alpha
17. Chooses, with “for”
18. Surgical prep area
19. Auto-stopping fluid pump
22. Oahu and Maui
23. Before, poetically
24. __ scene

Down:
1. Synagogue leader
2. Rideshares that aren’t Lyfts
3. Aluminum or iron
4. Exact duplicate
5. Reindeer toppers
6. Wish to have
8. Farmland measure
9. Lunchbox drink holders
10. Pigeon sound
11. Move like a rabbit
13. George of the original Star Trek
14. Physician’s nickname
20. PC bailout key
25. Ready to serve from a keg
26. Muscular
28. Lamb’s mother
29. Family vehicle
30. Finance deg.
31. Baseball great Ripken
32. Dutch Caribbean cruise stop
33. Taboos
34. Woke at noon, say
35. 1,002 in Roman numerals
36. Under the weather
37. __-tac-toe
41. Ostrich’s Aussie cousin

IN 3-D by Steve Faieila
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

**Sudoku**

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

Solutions to yesterday’s Sudoku:

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

**TODAY’S BIRTHDAY (July 5)**

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The warrior energy doesn’t always have to do with war. Sometimes, it’s about knowing what’s worth fighting for and appreciating when you don’t have to. You’ll be enriched by food, fresh air and friendship.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It’s a gag for the television audience, but hypnotists don’t always use fob watches to put subjects in a trance. Similarly, you don’t need a prop to command attention today because you have the power of your voice and intention.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A little plan might fall through, but the big picture is still intact. In some way, the pressure is off you now, so celebrate this. Do you see the opportunity to make a new deal? All is moving in the right direction.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You show up and do the work. Whatever temptation, distraction, discomfort, drama, inconvenience or interference you encounter along the way, you finish what you started. Rewards are coming to you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You’re constantly learning and growing and sometimes you just want to stop and take stock of where you are. Love helps you do this. Someone to talk to and share special moments with will help you to realize your many blessings.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Even though wishing can’t make it so, much that is so began with a wish. It’s a day for wishing and dreaming without a worry or care as to the practicalities. Why limit the scope of a wide-open wish?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22). Conversations will be complex and layered, and it will take a sophisticated mind and emotional intelligence to know just how deep things go. Try not to spend too much time in the depths, though. Bounce back to the surface for air.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21). Avoid becoming overwhelmed and thus paralyzed. The correct move will also be easy. So just take it slow, step by step, by breath. It may also help to keep the brainstorming process separate from the planning process.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Even though wishing can’t make it so, much that is so began with a wish. It’s a day for wishing and dreaming without a worry or care as to the practicalities. Why limit the scope of a wide-open wish?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). What a wonderful feeling to be the smartest person in the room. If only it meant something good -- but it usually indicates you’re in the wrong room. Go where you can learn from the others and you’ll be better for the challenge.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You will have a physical reaction to reminders of what happened back there -- evidence that you may still be processing an emotional charge from long ago. With conscious effort, and only when you’re ready, you can and will let this go.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Just remember, you’re a person who, like all people, will make mistakes. And though this can create a problem, you yourself are not the problem. You are working things out as you go, just like all the others.

---

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Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN

Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART

Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE

Healthcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING

**FIND THE WORDS**

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 19 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

The Olympics

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

Athens

Bans

Bids

Booth

City

Clint

Curry

Dais

Discus

Dome

Dues

Field

Flags

Form

Gary

Glen

Golf

Green

Hand

Host

Injury

Jemima

Montag

Judo

Karate

Legs

Lift

Lisa

Lose

Marks

Medal

Milan

Modern

Nina

Kennedy

O’Neill

Oslo

Polo

Pride

Rachel

Presser

Seoul

Set

Skiing

Sport

St Moritz

Stable

Steve

Sydney

Talbot

Throw

Watt

Wood

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY’S WORDS PUZZLE.

Remote border towns
DOWNTOWN | JULY 5

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 market 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, SM’s newest recycling service for home pick-up of plastic bags and wrappers, will also be featured on the program. The meeting begins at 7 pm via Zoom — details at http://www.csmoma.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.

READ THE ROOM
Comedy Meets Spirituality! Get a REAL tarot card reading by the one and only Jova Ilia! Then have Spirit’s voice interpreted into hilarity by comedian Jenny Zgino. Want a reading? Drop by Bergamot Station Arts Center 2525 Michigan Ave. Saturday Night: 11:00 PM - 1:00 AM.

SATURDAY | JULY 8

CITY OF HOPE’S THIRD ANNUAL ‘RIDE WITH JOSH’ FUNDRAISING BIKE RIDE
Founded by Sterling Simms, vice president of A&R at Columbia Records who also sits on City of Hope’s Future Hope Committee, Ride With Josh is an annual cycling event and fundraiser named in honor of his late brother Joshua who lost his battle with diabetes at age 19. City of Hope has joined forces with Sterling, and elite cycling brand Rapha, to elevate this cause and raise funds to support research that may help lead to cures for a chronic condition which affects 1 in 10 Americans. Presented coast to coast and virtually, Ride with Josh encourages cyclists at all levels to join us to get out and ride in support of eliminating diabetes in all its forms. Join riders in Santa Monica for a day of riding for all levels. Take in the breathtaking beach city views and challenging hills as you ride through this coastal city. After a day of riding, enjoy any of the local eateries, relax at the beach or take in the thrills of the Santa Monica Pier. Rapha, Los Angeles 1347 Fourth St. Santa Monica, CA https://ourhope.cityofhope.org/event/ride-with-josh-2023/479400

COMMUNITY DOG TRAINING CLASSES-FUNDRAISING EVENT
In celebration of National Pet Month, Love At First Sit®, a pet care and dog behavior and training company in Santa Monica, is thrilled to announce their first fundraising event called “Donation Days” through their Community Dog Training Classes, hosted by their charity program, the Love At First Sit® Initiative. Classes are $25 and start Saturday, at 12 PM, at Virginia Ave Park in Santa Monica. The fundraising event will continue on Saturdays through the end of the summer. 100% of the proceeds from the classes are donated to various charities for people and animals, animal shelters, and animal rescues. Class topics explore basic obedience, and are open to beginners!

SUNDAY | JULY 9

LIQUID KITTY’S PUNK ROCK BBQ
Doors open at 12:30 PM. Show starts at 1:00 PM. Free admission, free hot dogs and cheap booze! Everyone out at 6 PM! 2 drink minimum. FREE ADMISSION and HOT DOGS! Doors at 12:30 PM. Everyone out at 6 PM! Five bands on a Sunday afternoon featuring DONDO IT’S OK! LAWNDALE MONSTERS ON VACATION KITTEN FISHING Havellite’s Santa Monica 1432 4th St, Santa Monica, CA.

DAILY LOTTERY
Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prior claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

WHAT'S UP
Westside out and about in Santa Monica

WEATHER
Wednesday: Patchy dense fog. Otherwise, cloudy, with a high near 68. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph. Wednesday Night: Patchy fog. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 58.
Thursday: Patchy fog before 1am. Otherwise, cloudy, with a high near 72.
Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 1pm. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 59.

Surf gradually picks up through the day but shape could be an issue outside of the points. Old SSW swell lingers as fresh, long period SSW swell builds in through the day. Models disagree on AM winds... stay tuned.

Likely the largest day of the week but the morning will start out drained with the low tide. Wind could stay down for the initial tide push which would keep the morning in play. Elevated onshore W wind probable in the PM.

WATER TEMP: 63.9

Surf Report

Surf Time: 1:49.20
3rd: 11 - Money Bags
1st: 03 - Hot Shot
Draw Date: 7/2

Draw Date: 7/2
MIDDAY: 6  6  9
Evening: 9  3  4
Draw Date: 7/2

Draw Date: 7/2
Draw Date: 7/2
3rd: 10 - Hot Shot
2nd: 12 - Lucky Charms
3rd: 11 - Money Bags
Race Time: 1:49.20

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The doctor’s office tailor-made for Los Angeles.

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- 24/7 on-demand virtual care via message or video
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- Request prescription refills via our app
- Simple referral process for specialists

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*Terms & conditions apply