Santa Monica has hosted several picket lines in recent weeks, mostly connected to Unite Here Local 11’s contract negotiations with hotels and the Santa Monica Police Department has seen a corresponding increase in calls during protests as tensions mount on both sides.

Last week, protesters clashed with private security at the Fairmont Miramar over access to the hotel’s driveway and video of security guards pinning protesters to the sidewalk prompted the union to file a labor complaint over the incident. However, complaints have been mounting with local authorities since the start of the strike.

Lt. Erika Aklufi said SMPD fields calls for service related to the protests from both sides, union and hotel management, as well as neighbors of the hotels. She said the department has heard complaints about physical confrontations, intimidation, trespassing, harassment, noise and obstructing the sidewalk among other things. While the calls have become a regular part of protest days, she said no one has been arrested. As most of the trespass and battery allegations have been made after the fact, SMPD officers are taking a report and then referring them for investigative follow-up or for filing consideration in the City Attorney’s Office. Nuisance reports for excessive noise and other municipal code violations are being referred to the City Attorney and to Code Enforcement.

Local officials said while neighbors may be annoyed and inconvenienced by the protest activity, the City’s noise laws have exemptions for this kind of activity and labor protests are additionally protected on constitutional grounds. Santa Monica’s general noise ordinance says:

It shall be unlawful for any person to make, produce, maintain, cause or permit to be made any noises or sounds in such manner so as to unreasonably disturb the peace, quiet and comfort of persons of normal sensitivity within the area of audibility or which are so harsh or prolonged or unnatural or

Santa Monica senior services organization set to operate as center to address elder abuse

Scott Snowden

A Santa Monica-based senior service center has been awarded a contract to run the new Adult Protective Services (APS) Center of Excellence. This new center seeks to serve older adults and those with disabilities who are experiencing abuse, neglect or exploitation by working to ensure their safety, prevent further abuse and to seek justice on their behalf.

WISE & Healthy Aging is tragically, there are many ways in which the elderly are taken advantage of and tragically cases seem to be on the rise.

California regulators vote to allow self-driving taxis to operate 24-hours a day

Scott Snowden

Following a grueling six-hour session on Thursday evening, state regulators voted 3-to-1 in favor of allowing two competing robotaxi companies, Waymo and Cruise, to operate throughout San Francisco 24 hours a day, with no human so much as even sitting in the driver’s seat.

Previously, Waymo was only allowed to operate without a safety driver present in specific areas of the city from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., but was allowed anywhere at any time with a safety driver present. Cruise was similarly permitted to operate a paying passenger service everywhere as long as someone was behind the wheel, even if they weren’t actually holding it.

The vote by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) came despite reservations from city officials and residents spurred by erratic behavior that resulted in unmanned vehicles blocking traffic, including the path of emergency vehicles.

A small number of protesters
Some private insurers are balking at paying for the first drug fully approved to slow mental decline in Alzheimer's patients.

Insurers selling coverage in North Carolina, Pennsylvania and New York, among other states, told The Associated Press they won't cover Leqembi with insurance offered on the individual market and through employers because they still see the $26,000-a-year drug as experimental.

Their decision stands in contrast to Medicare, which will wind up covering most patients who take the drug. The federal coverage program mainly for people ages 65 and older announced shortly after Leqembi received full approval last month that it will cover the treatment while still tracking its safety and effectiveness.

Leqembi is the first medicine that's been convincingly shown to slow the cognitive decline caused by Alzheimer's disease, though only modestly. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the IV drug for patients with mild dementia and other symptoms caused by early Alzheimer's.

That approval came after regulators reviewed data from a large study in which the drug slowed memory and thinking decline by about five months in those who got the treatment compared with those who got a dummy drug. Some Alzheimer's experts say the delay is likely too subtle for patients or their families to notice.

Alzheimer's mainly affects the elderly. About 76% of the people taking Leqembi will be covered by Medicare, according to the Japanese drugmaker Eisai, which developed the drug and is co-marketing it with Cambridge, Massachusetts-based Biogen Inc.

But people under 65 — even, rarely, as young as their 30s — also can get diagnosed. They are more likely to have commercial coverage.

"That's why we're just dumbfounded that commercial plans are not covering it," said Christine Mann, chief operating officer of the Buffalo, NY-area Dent Neurologic Institute, which will provide the IV drug to patients. "It's almost like discrimination against these patients."

The full picture on commercial insurance is still emerging in the patchwork U.S. system of coverage.

Companies saying no so far include Highmark, which provides Blue Cross and Blue Shield coverage in New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware and West Virginia; Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina, which has about 1.8 million commercial customers; and Philadelphia-based Independence Blue Cross.

Highmark and the North Carolina plan say they are still monitoring Leqembi and could re-evaluate their decision.

Independence Blue Cross made its decision after reviewing published, peer-reviewed studies and publicly available FDA materials.

"That re-evaluation made it clear to us that the existing evidence does not allow for conclusions to be drawn about the safety and effectiveness of Leqembi," said Dr. Heidi Syropoulos, a medical director with the insurer.

A Highmark spokesman said that company made its decision after also consulting with specialists to determine if the drug's benefit outweighs its side effects, which include brain bleeding and swelling.

Prominent insurers that will cover the drug for commercial plans include Kaiser Permanente and Elevance Health, the largest provider of Blue Cross-Blue Shield plans in the United States. A spokesman for another big health insurer, UnitedHealthcare, declined to comment when contacted by AP.

Because Medicare covers the drug, patients with privately run Medicare Advantage plans will receive coverage, said Juliette Cubanski, of the non-profit KFF, which researches health care issues.

Many other insurers say they have yet to make a decision.

Most insurers that will probably cover the drug but heavily restrict its use through things like requiring pre-approval, said Greg Warren, a health actuary and member of the Society of Actuaries.

For commercial coverage, insurers often pay for treatments that have full FDA approval. But that is not guaranteed.

Tufts Medical Center in Boston maintains a database that includes more than 11,000 commercial insurance coverage decisions on specialty drugs. In 2% of the decisions, insurers did not cover the FDA-approved use, said researcher James Chambers.

Chambers said they have found that the decision to not cover a drug largely happens when the evidence supporting the drug is considered questionable.

The denials for Leqembi don't surprise Jack Hoadley, a health policy researcher with...
Celebrities, makeup and nail stylists: How the Hollywood strikes have affected glam squads

LEANNE ITALIE
AP Entertainment Writer

Film, television, fashion: You name it and Kim Kimble has done it in her 30-plus years as a hair stylist in Hollywood — but even through the good times, she never gave up her background in biology.

Until the pandemic.

“I had a salon where I could work if I had to, and I closed it,” she said. “So now I don’t even have that.”

Kimble and a world of Hollywood hair stylists, makeup artists and manicurists have been idled by the actors and screenwriters strikes, in an era of declining rates as they were still rebuilding their livelihoods from the painful months of the coronavirus shutdowns.

They aren’t alone, of course, as writers and actors walk picket lines in their contract disputes with studios and streaming services. Crew and support staff on all sides of the entertainment equation — production, promotion, assistants — are also out of work from coast to coast.

“For three, four, five months before the writers went out, studios weren’t willing to greenlight projects, so many of us have been undone for a lot longer,” said Linda Dowds, a Los Angeles-based makeup artist in her 60s who has worked in film and television since 1987.

The writers went on strike May 2; the actors, followed July 14. It’s unclear how long the strikes will last. In more than a dozen interviews, specialists in wardrobe, hair, makeup and nails said they feared losing homes and health insurance as they scurry for pivots. Even if the studios and streamers reach agreements with the Writers Guild of America and SAG-AFTRA sooner rather than later, it will take weeks for productions to ramp back up.

Dowds, who shares an Oscar for her work on “The Eyes of Tammy Faye,” said she’s in a “heightened state of anxiety” over the strikes. But she considers herself among the lucky. She spent years working back-to-back projects, allowing her to keep her health insurance for now through the Make-Up Artists and Hair Stylists Guild.

“But that’s only sustainable for so long,” she said.

The 52-year-old Kimble, who has worked with Beyoncé and Taraji P. Henson, and in “Dreamgirls” and “A Wrinkle in Time,” belongs to the same union as Dowds. She has no idea what else she would do.

“Hair is what I love,” said Kimble, in Los Angeles. “There’s really nothing else, you know. And I love this business, so it’s really hard to understand, ‘Where would I go?’

Makeup artist Matin Maulawizada is based in New York but usually travels the world, working on campaigns for actors and other celebrities on television sets, red carpets and talk show appearances.

“My work has been erased mostly. Honestly, I don’t have a Plan B,” he said.

The strikes have come after years of lesser pay for their work, he said.

“I’m not exaggerating when I say we make one-tenth the exact same job we did in 2005,” Maulawizada said. “If you worked with an A-list client you could easily make anywhere between $3,500 to $5,000 for a red carpet. Now you’re lucky if you get $500.”

Celebrity manicurist Julie Kandalec in New York has been working the A-list (Emily Blunt, Storm Reid and Selena Gomez among them) for nearly 13 years. She also teaches entrepreneurial skills for beauty professionals online, a lucrative side hustle that’s helping sustain her. In addition, she works with brands and has maintained a network of contacts outside the Hollywood bubble.

Still, she worries about making rent.

“With the Emmys being pushed, just that alone is hard,” Kandalec said.

Like others, she has maintained salon space over the years while staying busy with red carpet and other work. For some, finding enough salon clients to make a dent in their lost incomes has been a problem.

“I have a salon suite but most of my clients are actors. A lot of them aren’t getting their hair cut regularly right now because they’re not making whatever I can do to do house calls and haircuts,” said celebrity stylist and men’s groomer Andrea Pezzillo, 38, in Los Angeles. She, too, teaches online.

A lengthy actors’ strike would be make or break for the 59-year-old Maulawizada. If it stretches into December, he and his husband, a teacher, will have to sell their house.

He just picked up a day’s work helping prepare Sarah Jessica Parker for a round of Zoom interviews in a collaboration with a French skincare brand to help a women’s mental health organization.

“My best clients have done a lot of it, and that’s being worked into our faces. But it’s still a lot for us to do to keep us going,” said Kimble. “It’s work for me has completely dried up, with nothing on the horizon,” she said. “Besides a small two-month project, I haven’t worked since November 2022 since the slowdown was already beginning last year.”

The only work she has found was a couple of days of background styling on a non-union music video.

“There’s really nothing else to pivot to at this moment,” she said.

Adams, based in Richmond, Virginia, has been dedicating herself to union work, sharing information about grant programs and other resources. She belongs to two union locals, both affiliated with the International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees and Motion Picture Technicians, Artists and Allied Crafts. It’s the same umbrella organization as union hair stylists and makeup artists.

“We will negotiate our contracts next year. We hope that the solidarity they feel from us now will come back at us then,” Adams said of the union workers currently on strike. “We all have very similar needs and we all work side by side. If they don’t get a fair contract it will be really bad for all of us in this industry.”
Santa Monica
An Elephant Parade Exhibit Comes to the Downtown Santa Monica’s Art Museum

On Aug. 12, Downtown Santa Monica and the Santa Monica Art Museum, in collaboration with the worldwide exhibition Elephant Parade, are unveiling an exhibit featuring a selection of handcrafted five-foot-tall elephant sculptures from celebrities such as Katy Perry, Tiësto, Lily Tomlin, Khloé Kardashian, Cesar Millan and Oliver Benjamin. The museum will host an opening event on World Elephant Day on Saturday, Aug. 12 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Santa Monica Art Museum, and will be on view until Friday, Sept. 22. Admission is $15 per person, and children under 12 are free if accompanied with an adult.

With the Asian elephant in desperate need of assistance, the Elephant Parade was created. The Amsterdam and Thailand-based company has produced exhibitions in over 20 countries, having raised awareness and over $1 million for elephant welfare, aiming to attract, inform and generate awareness for the endangered Asian elephant.

To learn more about Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. visit DowntownSM.com or follow them on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook at (@DTSantaMonica), as well as TikTok (@DowntownSantaMonica).

To learn more about the Santa Monica Art Museum, visit santamonicaartmuseum.com or follow their Instagram (@santamonicaartmuseum) and Twitter (@SMAMuseum).

Westlake Village
Blazing Star Arts’ New Exhibit and Sale Benefits the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area

From Sept. 3 to Oct. 29, the Blazing Star Arts Fused Glass will present a solo show, “Glass Reflections, Nature’s Inspiration,” and a sale benefiting the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. The event will be at Santa Monica Mountains Interagency Visitor Center at King Gillette Ranch, 26876 Mulholland Highway, Calabasas.

Award-winning artists Bonnie Quintanilla and Sue Wolhaupter created more than 100 fused glass artworks and artware for this two-month event, including sculptural pieces, wall and table art, and practical artware like bowls and plates.

“We are delighted to return to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area with an entirely new collection of fused glass for this event. It’s an honor to support this local treasure,” said Bonnie Quintanilla, artist at Blazing Star Arts. “We believe that fused glass is a powerful medium that inspires people to appreciate, enjoy, and protect our natural world.”

The artists work exclusively in glass, and they design and create fine art, practical artware, and custom orders for collectors across the United States and beyond. The artists are both members of the Fallbrook Art Center where their work is shown year-round.

“We are thrilled to have the opportunity to support the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area,” said Sue Wolhaupter, artist. “The unique body of work created for this show expresses the beauty of nature around us which we hope resonates with guests, collectors, and park visitors.”

To learn more about the artists, visit BlazingStarArts.com or contact the artists via email at info@blazingstararts.com. For more information on the exhibit, call the visitors center at 805-370-2302, or email samo@wnpa.org.

Venice
Haunted Hill Solo Show from Ana Bagayan

The Haunted Hill solo exhibition features the classic elements that fans love about Ana Bagayan’s art complete with eerie imagery and otherworldly elements, foreboding scenes, characters with oversized eyes and an otherworldly essence. All of it presented with wonderment and nostalgia that make the entire series feel as if it is being seen through a child’s memory.

But, there is much more to this show.

Besides a series of 8 new full size paintings, there is also a group show of miniature 3 inch or smaller paintings from Ana and an all-star artist lineup including Dan Barry, Tiffany Liu, Krystal Davey, Canopic Studios, RFX1, Myah London-Harwell and Marcelo Verdad all displayed inside of a dollhouse. Oh, not just any dollhouse, but Ana’s dollhouse as featured on KTLA news, an episode of Tastemade, and as a comic series on Macaulay Culkin’s website BunnyEars.com. Inside the house is full of wonders including a phoneline directly to God, and residents like Hamien Dirst (the parody of Damien Hirst), Bansky (a parody of Bansky), Chuke Lueh (a parody of Luke Chueh as a bear) all of which live in rooms adorned with a phoneline directly to God, and residents like Hamien Dirst (the parody of Damien Hirst), Bansky (a parody of Bansky), Chuke Lueh (a parody of Luke Chueh as a bear) all of which live in rooms adorned with eerie imagery and otherworldly elements.

The house is haunted including parody ghosts like Leonardo duh Vinci who is also hard at work making tiny master copies of his iconic works like The Mona Lisa and Salvador Mundi. And the dollhouse has much more including a gallery manager, framerate, more ghosts, artists all of which are part of the story! When experienced as a whole, the show on the walls, the dollhouse itself, the art in the dollhouse and the narrative that goes with it is an immersive experience engaging every part of the brain.

The show is free and open to the public, all art including the miniature paintings will be available for purchase. Please contact the gallery via phone or email for additional images and information. Ultra High Frequency (or UHF) Gallery opened in Venice in 2022, after being in Denver under the name Sally Centigrade since 2014 (and the Benjamin Benjamin Gallery in Portland Oregon since 2008). The galleries have been featured in Sunset Magazine, Huffington Post, Westward, 5280 Magazine, Willamette Week, Portland Mercury and Arrested Motion among many other magazines and art websites. They have also have had booths in art fairs around the world including LA Art Show and Focus Fine Art in Paris, France.


SUBMITTED BY PHYLIS GRABOT
OPINION

LAUGHING MATTERS

Jack Neworth
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

How Can We Save Santa Monica?

Council Member Brock
Town Hall @ The Shores!

North Tower Conference Room
Wednesday, August 16th, 6:30 PM

BROCK: Phil Brock will speak at a community meeting.

The day after my birthday I was reading the Daily Press looking for something celebratory for a birthday wish. Like instead of rent increases in September the Rent Board mandated decreases.

Unfortunately, the stories were about home break-ins, catalytic converter thefts, a drug bust and a homeless man in a public park stabbed to death by another homeless man. (Since crime gets ratings maybe the Daily Press should change our name to the Daily Press Police Blotter.)

The only possibly encouraging news was the City Council had unanimously approved a private security plan for the Third Street Promenade and surrounding area. For a 12-month pilot program the Council selected “Covered 6,” to provide extra policing, security and community services.

Covered 6 has successfully been operating in Beverly Hills since 2020 and has an impressive resume. Frankly, however, I couldn’t tell if I was pleased by that or perplexed that our crime epidemic has come to this. So I did what I often do during stressful salutations, I ate.

In honor of my birthday my friend Elizabeth brought me an extra large pepperoni and mushroom pizza. (Actually, she brought three, two are still in the freezer.) So I hurriedly put one in the oven and I poured a glass of wine, which ultimately turned into two glasses of wine. Suffice it to say, after I devoured the pizza, I was reminded of the Alka Seltzer commercial, “I can’t believe I ate the whole thing.”

Thankfully I didn’t have any indigestion but my dream that night was a pepperoni-induced freak show. Instead of Covered 6 patrolling the Promenade, the City Council had hired the Wagner Group led by the nightmarish Yevgeny Prigozhin who attempted a coup of Putin in June and reminds me of Mussolini, only worse. (Apparently the moral of this tale is never eat pizza before bed.)

This brings me to the serious side of this column, that being what if anything can be done to save our beloved Santa Monica. It seems to have gone from paradise by the sea to “Clockwork Orange” with an ocean view.

I started thinking about my late friend Liliane Pelzman, a writer and publisher who had predicted this years ago. Almost daily she’d swim a mile or more in the ocean even in the winter. I once asked her how she could do it with such joy and vividly remember her response. “My mother was in Auschwitz for three years, how can I not do it?”

Recently, I found one of Liliane’s emails which nearly brought me to tears. It read like a poem describing her love for Santa Monica but also describing the pain watching it deteriorate before her eyes.

These days there are so many acts of senseless violence here but one still sticks out in my mind. On April 19th two minors allegedly attacked a man getting off the Metro bashing his head with their skateboards. And yet apparently no bystanders interceded. It reminded me of the infamous “Kitty Genovese murder,” which took place in 1964 in Queens, New York.

Kitty, a 28-year-old attractive bartender was raped and slain only steps away from her apartment building but it seems the witnesses just watched. The mind-boggling story of such apathy shocked the nation and is credited to have been an impetus to beginning the 911 system. Unfortunately today it seems like we’re beyond being shocked.

Meanwhile, when the two minors appear in juvenile court I’m definitely going to monitor the results. It’s obvious

SEE CRIME PAGE 8
US suicides hit an all-time high last year

MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

About 49,500 people took their own lives last year in the U.S., the highest number ever, according to new government data posted Thursday.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which posted the numbers, has not yet calculated a suicide rate for the year, but available data suggests suicides are more common in the U.S. than at any time since the dawn of World War II.

“There’s something wrong. The number should not be going up,” said Christina Wilbur, a 45-year-old Florida woman whose son shot himself to death last year.

“My son should not have died,” she said. “I know it’s complicated, I really do. But we have to be able to do something. Something that we’re not doing. Because whatever we’re doing right now is not helping.”

Experts caution that suicide is complicated, and that recent increases might be driven by a range of factors, including higher rates of depression and limited availability of mental health services.

“I don’t know if you can talk about suicide without talking about firearms,” Harkavy-Friedman commented.

But a main driver is the growing availability of guns, said Jill Harkavy-Friedman, senior vice president of research at the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Suicide attempts involving guns end in death far more often than those with other means, and gun sales have boomed — placing firearms in more and more homes.

A recent Johns Hopkins University analysis used preliminary 2022 data to calculate that the nation’s overall gun suicide rate rose last year to an all-time high. For the first time, the gun suicide rate among Black teens surpassed the rate among white teens, the researchers found.

“I don’t know if you can talk about suicide without talking about firearms,” Harkavy-Friedman said.

U.S. suicides steadily rose from the early 2000s until 2018, when the national rate hit its highest level since 1941. That year saw about 48,300 suicide deaths — or 14.2 for every 100,000 Americans.

The rate fell slightly in 2019. It dropped again in 2020, during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some experts tied that to a phenomenon seen in the early stages of wars and natural disasters, when people pull together and support each other.

But in 2021, suicides rose 4%. Last year, according to the new data, the number jumped by more than 1,000, to 49,449 — about a 3% increase vs. the year before.

The provisional data comes from U.S. death certificates and is considered almost complete, but it may change slightly as death information is reviewed in the months ahead.

The largest increases were seen in older adults. Deaths rose nearly 7% in people ages 45 to 64, and more than 8% in people 65 and older. White men, in particular, have very high rates, the CDC said.

Many middle-aged and elderly people experience problems like losing a job or losing a spouse, and it’s important to reduce stigma and other obstacles to them getting assistance, said Dr. Debra Houry, the CDC’s chief medical officer.

Suicides in adults ages 25 to 44 grew about 1%. The new data indicates that suicide became the second leading cause of death in that age group in 2022, up from No. 4 in 2021.

Despite the grim statistics, some say there is reason for optimism. A national crisis line launched a year ago, meaning anyone in the U.S. can dial 988 to reach mental health specialists.

The CDC is expanding a suicide program to fund more prevention work in different communities. And there’s growing awareness of the issue and that it’s OK to ask for help, health officials say.

There was a more than 8% drop in suicides in people ages 10 to 24 in 2022. That may be due to increased attention to youth mental health issues and a push for schools and others to focus on the problem, CDC officials said.

But even the smaller number masks tragedy for families. Christina Wilbur lost her 21-year-old son, Cale, on June 16 last year. He died in her home in Land O’ Lakes, Florida.

Cale Wilbur had lost two friends and an uncle to suicide and had been dealing with depression. On that horrible morning, he and his mother were having an argument. She had confronted him about his drug use, his mother said. She left his bedroom and when she returned he had a gun.

“I was begging him not to, and to calm down,” she said. “It looked like he relaxed for a second, but then he killed himself.”

She describes her life as black hole of emptiness and sorrow, and had found it hard to talk to friends or even family about Cale.

“There’s just this huge 6-foot-2 hole, everywhere,” she said. “It’s hard to find professionals to help, and those that are around can be expensive, she said. She turned to support groups, including an organization called Alliance of Hope for Suicide Loss Survivors that operates a 24/7 online forum.

“There’s nothing like being with people who get it,” she said.

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute’s Science and Educational Media Group.
unique in their use, time or place as to cause physical discomfort to any person of normal sensitivity within the area of audibility.

Specific volume caps range from 50 - 75 decibels depending on the kind of neighborhood (residential vs. commercial). Public parking lots, some parks, and community facilities have their own set of rules prohibiting amplified sound or music in the evening hours. Amplification is also prohibited on public property (including sidewalks) in residential zones or at stationary protests that exceed specific duration thresholds.

However, please keep in mind that First Amendment expression, and especially labor picketing, is highly protected by the law and courts. Conduct directly associated with conveying a message, including, for example, playing drums, is specifically protected by law, said City Attorney Doug Sloan.

In addition to the broader federal protections, Santa Monica’s local code also includes various exemptions. Non-commercial outdoor activity is one of several exemptions and picketing is covered under that category provided it occurs between 7 a.m. - 10 p.m., on public property (excluding the Pier and Promenade), in a commercial zone and away from protected property like hospitals or schools.

Elder Abuse

a nonprofit social services organization headquartered on Fourth Street that serves more than 20,000 older adults each year from the Los Angeles county area.

In May, a motion was passed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors directing the Los Angeles Department of Aging and Disabilities to create a new APS Center of Excellence, where an interdisciplinary team of government and community-based organizations will meet weekly to address the most egregious abuse cases of older adults and adults with disabilities.

“Elder abuse is more common than many people realize,” said Miles McNeely, Vice President, Elder Abuse Prevention, WISE & Healthy Aging, who will lead the APS Center. “We have an increasingly aging world, where the population is experiencing a higher percentage of older adults.

And if we’re looking specifically at elder mistreatment, the definition is really broad. It encompasses a lot of different kinds of mistreatment. So it could be physical, it could be emotional or psychological abuse, it can be neglect, it could be sexual abuse. It can also include self neglect and it can also be financial abuse. And a lot of times when there is one form of abuse being reported, it’s coupled with at least one other form of abuse,” McNeely said.

Elder abuse as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is an intentional act of injury to a caregiver or a person that the older person trusts that causes them to be at risk for harm. About 1 in 10 people aged 60 or older living at home experience some form of abuse each year and nearly 30 percent of individuals age 65 and older with disabilities who need assistance with daily care have been the victim of a non-fatal violent crime, according to the National Center on Elder Abuse.

As part of the Center’s team of experts, WISE & Healthy Aging is partnering with renowned elder abuse experts Laura Mosqueda, M.D., Sloan said the overlap of residential and commercial property in Santa Monica meant the city’s code covering amplification rules would not apply to the protest activity.

The restrictions on sound amplifying equipment in 4.12.105(a) through (c) apply only to properties in Noise Zone I, which is for properties in residential zone districts,” he said.

“Further, the restrictions do not apply to the use or operation of sound amplifying equipment on a public sidewalk, street, alley, or parkway immediately abutting a property with a commercial use in Noise Zone I. Lodging, including hotels and motels, are a commercial use, as set forth in Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 9.51.030(B).” Sloan said common courtesy is the best solution to complaints.

“Thus, there is some rationale for restricting loud events in Noise Zone I, but the restrictions are overbroad andconstitutional, works best. Also, it should be noted that there are civil remedies available to anyone who may believe their rights to peace and quiet are being violated.”

WAYMO

from page 4

gathered outside the CPUC offices on Van Ness Ave to demonstrate, holding signs with messages like “Put the brakes on AVs!” and “Put the brakes on Cruise and Waymo” and comments on social media were an entertaining mix, albeit mostly positive, with Kyle Vogt, CEO and Co-founder at Cruise, tweeting, “It’s a huge milestone for the AV industry, but even more importantly a signal to the country that CA prioritizes progress over our tragic status quo.”

Santa Monica Department of Transportation interim Director Anuj Gupta said, “The city has been closely following the CPUC process for reviewing Cruise and Waymo’s applications to expand commercial driverless passenger service in San Francisco. While autonomous vehicle testing and deployment are regulated at the state level, city staff are in regular dialogue with autonomous vehicle companies currently testing in Santa Monica, including Cruise, Waymo, and Motional, to reinforce the city’s focus on safety, transparency, and engagement with our residents and businesses.”

In February, the Daily Press took a test ride in a Waymo Jaguar I-Pace all-electric SUV, resplendent with its impressive array of sensors, instruments and LiDAR detectors. However, that was with a safety driver present, or Autonomous Specialist as they prefer to be called. In anticipation of Thursday’s vote, we were able to ride around the streets of Santa Monica with no one in the front of the car at all. We sat in the back, along with Sandy Karp, Communications Manager at Waymo.

And in all honesty, it was like being in a swanky spa, or possibly even the Etihad first class lounge at LAX. Karp even commented on how hard the team had worked to create something as soothing as a spa-like environment and that they’d be really happy about that.

The biggest surprise came from the public’s reaction when they saw us smoothly pulling up to the stop signs. Karp even went so far as to say “It’s a huge milestone for the AV industry, but once a little background information had been provided, they were almost all a little impressed and hoped that having no driver might lower the cost of using the taxi service.

This ruling will make San Francisco the first major U.S. city with two fleets of driverless vehicles competing for passengers against ride-hailing and taxi services dependent on humans to operate the cars. It is a distinction that San Francisco officials didn’t want, largely because of the headaches that Cruise and Waymo have been causing in the city while testing their robotaxis on a restricted basis during the past year.

This meeting drew an unprecedented five- and-a-half hours of public comments. Many speakers derided the robotaxis as annoying nuisances at best and dangerous menaces at worst. Others vented their frustration about San Francisco being transformed into a “tech playground” and the equivalent of an “ant farm” for haphazard experimentation.

Supporters also stepped up to defend the technology as a leap forward that will keep San Francisco on the cutting edge of technology, while helping more disabled people who are unable to drive to get around town and reducing the risks posed by drunk driving.

In an attempt to appease thecriticism and concern, the commission wrote into the resolutions of both companies that it will “increase engagement” with the state’s Department of Motor Vehicles and law enforcement to keep tabs on these driverless taxis. The commission also requested the companies engage more with residents and city officials, both of which have complained about the robotaxis blocking traffic, hindering public transit and emergency service vehicles and making inexplicable choices while in transit.

Despite Waymo not directly commenting on how this might eventually trickle down to other cities in the US where these vehicles have been deployed, including Santa Monica, critics fear the expansion is coming.

Additional reporting from the Associated Press.

CARS: Will the lack of human drivers lower the cost of taxi rides and how will that affect existing services and their employees?
ALZHEIMER
FROM PAGE 2

Georgetown University’s Center on Health Insurance Reforms.

He noted Leqembi’s serious side effects and high cost. The price doesn’t include the cost for repeated brain scans patients need to check for side effects.

But Hoadley said insurers also may have a hard time explaining themselves.

“It’s going to be a harder-to-justify decision for them if they know that Medicare has made a decision to cover it,” he said.

Patients who don’t get coverage through a commercial plan may eventually receive it through Medicare or state- and federally funded Medicaid programs.

But waiting is risky. Those who advance out of early-stage Alzheimer’s may no longer qualify for Leqembi.

Bonnie Bortz has been caring for her 38-year-old daughter, Jaime, who has early-onset Alzheimer’s like her father did.

Bortz, who lives in the Buffalo suburb of Cheektowaga, is confident Jaime will get help paying for Leqembi because she will soon start on Medicare, which is available to some people under 65 with Alzheimer’s. Still, that hasn’t happened yet, and Bortz is anxious for treatment to begin.

She’s watched Jaime progress from repeatedly losing her phone and keys to struggling to help her 7-year-old daughter with homework.

“I don’t want to get to the next stages of all this,” Bonnie Bortz said. “I want more time.”

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute’s Science and Educational Media Group.

CRIME
FROM PAGE 5

brutal crimes like these make me irate. A few weeks ago I happened to watch the movie “Network.” I was surprised that news anchor Howard Beale angrily lectures his TV audience that he’s “Mad as hell and I’m not going to take it anymore!” I felt even angrier than when the movie came out forty-seven years ago!

How has all this happened to our city and what if anything can we do about it? As a result of the rapidly rising crime, drugs and homelessness violence The Shores Residents Association (TSRA) has invited Council Member Phil Brock to hold a Town Hall here outlining plans of the council to stem these horrific developments. There will also be a Q&A from the audience likely voicing their displeasure and possibly even offering their solution ideas.

A second generation Santa Monica, Brock was born and raised here. He’s ideal for the Town Hall as he was recently accosted by a violent homeless man whom he had to physically restrain until police arrived.

I just blew out the candles, so here’s my belated birthday wish. Before my next birthday, with everyone’s commitment and maybe even divine intervention, Santa Monica returns to more paradise and less “Clockwork Orange.” And that where ever she may be, Liliane is smiling.

The Shores is located at 2700 Neilson Way. The TSRA Town Hall will start at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, August 16th Jack is at jackdailypress@aol.com.
SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY’S SUDOKU

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY’S CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Large vessel
4 Port founded by Catherine the Great
10 First of all
14 Earnest appeal
16 Koko Kristy
17 Spy fiction staple
18 US broadcast debut of ’96
19 Performer with Missy at the 2015 Super Bowl
20 Inspiration for Wagner’s operas
21 Goes flat?
22 Foster
24 Flowed to and fro
26 Seville “grilled”
28 Comic relief?
31 Banker webinar offerer
32 Word in two UN member names
34 Pecuniary pledge
35 Article opener
36 Fire marshal’s measurement
38 Hong Kong Avenue of Stars honoree
39 Language once written in Cyrillic
41 Cry for
42 Hole ___
43 Kinds of kitties
45 Have an unpleasant word to say
47 Contributed to
48 Frazzle
49 Charger designation
51 Antes que ___ (most importantly)
53 Stand for
56 Preceder of bread or bottle

DOWN
1 What was seen on sets in the ’70s
2 Disruptively
3 Sword-and-sandal cinema staple
4 Wasn’t resistant
5 Agoy, with a Most Wanted list
6 Hungry or thirsty
7 Improved your progress
57 Reliable remedy
60 Outlandish
61 Improve your progress
62 Apt rhyme for “praise”
63 Get bigger, apparently
64 Plumkin

SOLUTIONS TO TODAY’S SUDOKU

The richness coming to you is born of the tall demands you make of yourself. You know you can handle the heavy work, but the universe kicks in for good measure, with just the crew you need. More highlights: Your idealism regarding your personal life turns out to be realistic — how sweet! You’ll have a brush with fame. You’ll receive a big check in the mail. Aquarius and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 14, 7, 30, 27 and 1.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Taking full responsibility for one’s life and actions is the winning way you usually subscribe to. But what about when the problem really is them, not you? Avoid those who bring out a lesser side of you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Among the duties you’d prefer not to get today is jury duty — neither in the legal nor social sense. It’s a relief not to be responsible for a verdict. Besides, most sins are self-punishing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). As much as you’d appreciate an indication from the outside world that you’re on the right track, it won’t help. What matters most is that you feel good about where you’re headed, and you stay aware as you proceed.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You’ve been known to put project and professional goals front and center, telling people what you’ll do, reinforcing with sticky notes on the mirror and reminders on your phone, etc. To realize a dream, do the same with personal goals.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). An interruption of the routine shouldn’t displace your purpose. If you feel knocked off your center, it’s an opportunity to come up with a stronger purpose with deeper roots. Contemplate what’s important to you and why.

VIRGO (Sept. 23-Oct. 22). An interruption of the routine shouldn’t displace your purpose. If you feel knocked off your center, it’s an opportunity to come up with a stronger purpose with deeper roots. Contemplate what’s important to you and why.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Not all games are fun. Instead of pinning your hopes for enjoyment on a game, take on a piece of work, then turn it into a game. The real fun happens where it’s not expected to.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You feel like dancing around a topic instead of talking about it or thinking about a task instead of actually doing it. This in-between state might not be productive, but who said you always have to be producing something? There is wisdom in the stall.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Being right is a top priority for many who could sacrifice happiness, civility or the good opinion of others at the altar of rightness without actually knowing if they are indeed correct. You take this as a lesson of what not to do.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). While you may not feel motivated to socialize, staying home helps no one. Once you’re up and out, you’ll find you have an excellent instinct for where the fun is. Follow it and life gets instantly livelier.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Normally it’s not very helpful to think of what might have happened had you arrived on this scene earlier or later, but pondering issues of timing will bring up some key ideas that might inform your next move.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Once upon a time, you would have been very frustrated by the kind of problems you run into today. Now you handle them like a boss, with patience and skill. Celebrate how far you’ve come.

TODAY’S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 12)

The richness coming to you is born of the tall demands you make of yourself. You know you can handle the heavy work, but the universe kicks in for good measure, with just the crew you need. More highlights: Your idealism regarding your personal life turns out to be realistic — how sweet! You’ll have a brush with fame. You’ll receive a big check in the mail. Aquarius and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 14, 7, 30, 27 and 1.
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN

Is your throat feeling better?
I can eat ice cream.
I think my throat is capable of a broader range of foods, though.
Have you told your grandma that?
I’m sick, not insane.

Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART

He ate something hazardous. We need to induce vomiting.
You could let him eat grass.
Not fast enough! We need immediate results.
I’ve got just the thing!
HURK —

Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE

Jan, your “whatever” jar was a bust, you didn’t collect one single dollar!
But it taught everyone an important lesson about respecting each other.

Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER

*Sometimes you’ve got to stop and smell the garbage.*

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

Safe on the road

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

Abide        Exit        North        Toll
Angry        Fall        Obey        Trains
Bend         For sale    Observe     Trucks
Bicycle      Frost       Open        Uneven
Bike         Fuel        Police       Utes
Bridge       Horns       Radio
Buses        Intersection Ramp        Vans
Calm         Kerb        Relax        Veer
Care         Late        Road block    View
Dark         Laws        Slip
Death        Left        Slow
Dogs         Limit       Start
Doze         Neon        Step
Entry        Noisy       Stop

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY’S WORDS PUZZLE.
Getting from A to B
SUNDAY | AUGUST 13
CHESS SUNDAYS
Make your move! Chess players of all ages and levels are invited for weekly casual play on Third Street Promenade! Every Sunday through the summer, from 11am-3pm, play a game with a friend or meet a new one. Chess sets (including a few giant ones) will be provided, but you’re welcome to bring your own! This event is a partnership between the Santa Monica Chess Club and Downtown Santa Monica, Inc.

MONDAY | AUGUST 14
LANDMARKS COMMISSION
Established in 1975, the mission of the Landmarks Commission is “To protect improvements and areas which represent the City’s cultural, social, economic, political and architectural history; safeguard the City’s historic, aesthetic and cultural heritage; and promote the use of landmarks and historic districts for the education, pleasure and welfare of the people.”
- Designate landmarks, structures of merit, and advise on potential historic districts
- Conduct evaluations of applications for designation of historic resources
- Regulate and control the alteration of any landmark
- Maintain a current listing and description of designated historic resources
- Provide for a suitable, sign, plaque or other marker indicating the designation
- Participate in environmental review procedures
- Convene in accordance with the State's Open Meeting Law

TUESDAY | AUGUST 15
SOCIAL SERVICE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY PROVIDENCE ST. JOHN’S COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM
Help with family nutrition and health care access is resuming at Virginia Avenue Park thanks to Providence St. John’s Community Health Program. Trained community health workers will be available to meet in person with community members at the Park Center Building in Virginia Avenue Park. The first Tuesday of the month 11:30 am to 7 pm, City Council Chambers.

WEATHER
Saturday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 72.
Saturday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 64.
Sunday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 71.
Sunday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 63.

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