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Cirque homecoming, a decade in the making, set for October



Courtesy Photo

CIRQUE: A homecoming 10 years in the making, Cirque du Soleil will bring its "KOOZA" production back to the Santa Monica Pier in October.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica grounds crucial in launching a worldwide circus revolution will once again host the high-risk, high-skill acrobatics known across the globe.

In a homecoming a decade in the making, Cirque du Soleil announced this week that its "KOOZA" production will take over the iconic Big Top at the Santa Monica Pier beginning in October. The first Cirque performance in Santa Monica since 2014, the Pier has played a pivotal role in the touring production's rapid rise, with Cirque making its United States

SEE **CIRQUE** PAGE 11

More laws proposed in Sacramento to protect renters

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

A budget crunch in Sacramento has hamstrung state affordable housing programs but lawmakers continue to propose new tenant protections according to a report presented to the Rent Control Board last month.

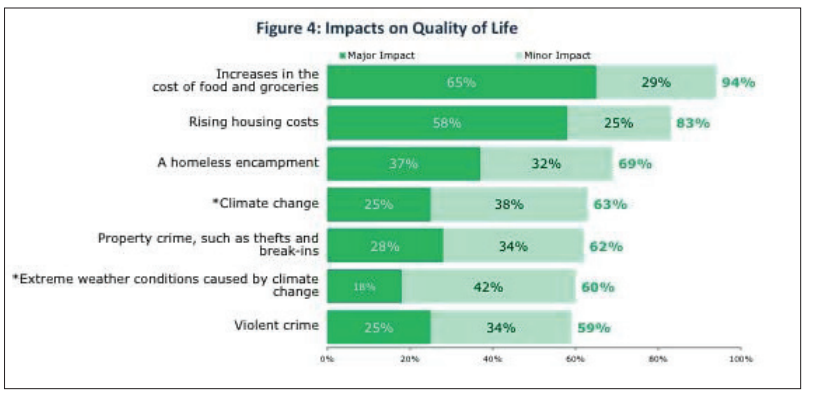
At the April 11 meeting of the Santa Monica Rent Control Board, legislative advocate Brian Augusta presented key bills making their way through state government pertaining to rent control and tenant protection.

Augusta noted that in contrast to prior years, the state legislature is faced with "big gaps" in state funding in contrast to past surpluses that allowed funding to go into affordable housing. Much of the conversation, he said, was focused on the state budget and "staving off cuts" related to housing and rent control programs, adding that it would be "not surprising" if cuts to housing programs occur despite the importance of the affordable housing conversation at the state level.

Despite the strict budget and this year's lack of bills with

SEE **TENANT PROTECTIONS** PAGE 12

Housing and homelessness drive local quality of life to the lowest levels in years



Courtesy Graphic

HOUSING: Rising housing costs and impacts from homelessness have been major causes for concern in daily Los Angeles County life, a new UCLA survey shows.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

There's been an uneasy feeling across the Los Angeles area about the state of housing, and that feeling has become tangible in the answers of a recent area-wide survey.

This past month, the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs and Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies released its annual Quality of Life Index, which polls a cross-section of Los Angeles County residents on the quality of about 40 aspects of life organized into different categories. Alongside the questions, each survey also addressed what the study called "timely issues," such as the looming presence of homelessness in the area.

For the 2024 index, the overall quality of life for the LA residents polled dipped to the lowest number since the index began in 2016, a 53 out of 100 which also occurred in 2022. Out of the nine categories, "cost of living" was ranked last in a rating of satisfaction amongst residents, with the 38 score also the lowest since the beginning of the index.

The study noted that the "cost of living" category, which includes housing and rental costs, was "clearly the most important issue" for quality of life in the county, and has been the top issue for all nine years of the survey.

As it relates to housing, 58% of survey takers reported that rising housing costs had a "major impact" on quality of life, with 25% reporting a minor impact on their lives. The percentages in the 2023 index were nearly identical, with 58% reporting a major impact and 24% reporting a minor impact, highlighting the ongoing stressors related to the housing issue.

Those renting in the county provided some of the most negative responses when it comes to rising housing costs, with the study stating that renters "are being disproportionately affected by all the economic and inflationary pressures facing the region." Renters rated their satisfaction with the cost

SEE **HOUSING** PAGE 12



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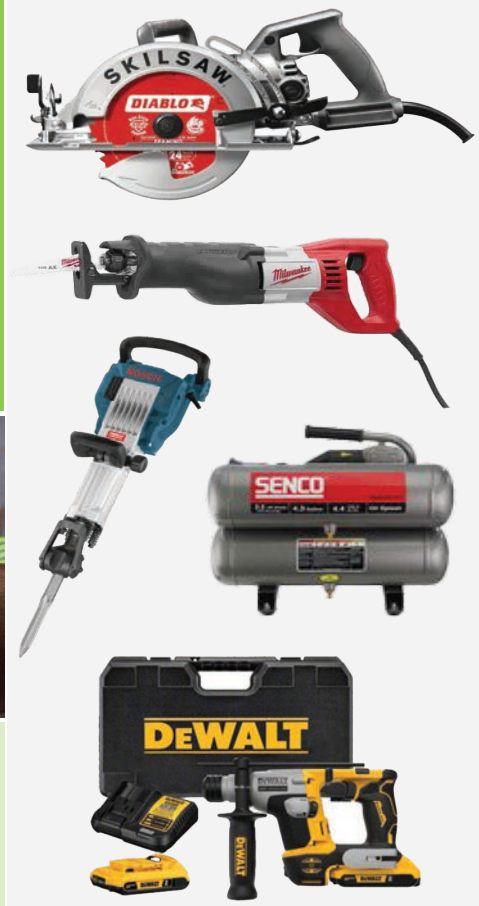
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AI use by businesses is small but growing rapidly, led by IT sector and firms in Colorado and DC

MIKE SCHNEIDER
Associated Press

The rate of businesses in the U.S. using AI is still relatively small but growing rapidly, with firms in information technology, and in locations like Colorado and the District of Columbia, leading the way, according to a new paper from U.S. Census Bureau researchers.

Overall use of AI tools by firms in the production of goods and services rose from 3.7% last fall to 5.4% in February, and it is expected to rise in the U.S. to 6.6% by early fall, according to the bureau's Business Trends and Outlook Survey released this spring.

The use of AI by firms is still rather small because many businesses haven't yet seen a need for it, Census Bureau researchers said in an accompanying paper.

"Many small businesses, such as barber shops, nail salons or dry cleaners, may not yet see a use for AI, but this can change with growing business applications of AI," they said. "One potential explanation is the current lack of AI applications to a wide variety of business problems."

Few firms utilizing AI tools reported laying off workers because of it. Instead, many businesses that use AI were expanding compared to other firms. They also were developing new work flows, training staff on the technology and purchasing related services, the researchers said.

The rate of AI use among business sectors varied widely, from 1.4% in construction and agriculture to 18.1% in information technology. Larger firms were more likely to be using the technology than small and midsize firms, but the smallest firms used it more than midsize businesses, according to the researchers.

The type of work AI was used for the most included marketing tasks, customer service chatbots, getting computers to understand human languages, text and data analytics and voice recognition.

Erik Paul, the chief operating officer of a software development company in Orlando, has been using AI tools for about a year to generate images for marketing materials, help write compliance paperwork that can be tedious and compare different versions of documentation for products.

"It has become an integral part of our day," Paul said Thursday. "But the problem is, you can't trust it. You can never blindly copy and paste. Sometimes the context gets thrown off and it throws in erroneous details that aren't helpful or change the tone of the topic you are writing about."

> "It has become an integral part of our day"
> - Erik Paul

The two places with the nation's highest AI use by firms, Colorado and the District of Columbia, had adoption rates of 7.4% and 7.2%, respectively. Not far behind those states were Florida, Delaware, California and Washington State. Mississippi had the smallest AI use with 1.7% of firms.

The survey showed some ambivalence among firms about whether they will adopt AI to their businesses in the near future or continue using it. Two-thirds of firms not yet using AI reported that they expect to remain non-users, and 14% of firms not yet using the technology were unsure if they would do so down the road.

Around 14% of current users reported that they didn't expect to continue utilizing AI in the near future, "potentially indicating some degree of ongoing experimentation or temporary use that may result in de-adoption," the researchers said.

The statistical agency plans to continue tracking AI use by businesses, Ron Jarmin, the Census Bureau's deputy director, said Thursday.

"For the first time that I know of, we are in a place to measure the diffusion of a general-purpose technology through the economy to learn what impact it has," Jarmin said.

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UC's president had a plan to deescalate protests. How did we get a night of violence at UCLA?

ATMIKA IYER

As counterprotesters tore at barricades, threw fireworks, and beat and pepper sprayed pro-Palestine protesters at UCLA overnight Tuesday, no law enforcement officers took action to stop the violence or made any arrests. In stark contrast, by tonight, UC Police declared that anyone who remains in the "unlawful" encampment would be arrested.

The reason for such a mixed response from law enforcement: haphazard adherence to UC President Michael Drake's 2021 UC Campus Safety Plan.

Encampments at a growing number of universities across the state and nation are sparking battles between students' free speech and campus policies against trespassing and obstructing operations. For the University of California system, the encampments at five campuses are a test of newly implemented campus policing reforms meant to address systemic racism post-2020.

Drake's safety plan states: "The University will reinforce existing guidelines that minimize police presence at protests, follow de-escalation methods in the event of violence and seek non-urgent mutual aid first from UC campuses before calling outside law enforcement agencies."

The plan was designed to deter potential violence — and reduce a police role in campus protests. But now, people are questioning why law enforcement did not break up any of the physical assaults or otherwise intervene as violence escalated at the Los Angeles campus. According to a statement Drake released today, there were at least 15 injuries and one hospitalization.

The UC president has ordered a review of UCLA's "mutual aid response" and UCLA Chancellor Gene Block said he plans to "dismantle (the encampment) at the appropriate time."

"My office has requested a detailed accounting from the campus about what transpired in the early morning hours today," Block said today. "But some confusion remains. Therefore, we are also ordering an independent external review of both UCLA's planning and actions, and the effectiveness of the mutual aid response."

UC lecturers were quick to call for Block's resignation, citing the mismanagement of police and security response to the overnight violence.

"Chancellor Block has refused to meet with protesters to discuss their interests; instead he has created an environment that has escalated tensions and failed to take meaningful action to prevent the violence that occurred last night," the UC lecturers' statement read.

Counterprotesters began setting off fireworks around 10:30 p.m., and later, armed with pepper and bear spray, physically attacked those residing in the pro-Palestine encampment. During this time, university-hired, unarmed security guards and campus public safety aides watched the scene but did not stop the attacks. By about 1:30 a.m., Los Angeles Police and the California Highway Patrol arrived, after the chancellor called them to assist security guards and UC police. The officers did not break up the violence. Instead, they advanced a line every few minutes to push the counterprotesters out of the area. Some of the counterprotesters who remained, however, continued their assaults.



Photo by David Swanson, Reuters

UCLA: CHP officers hold the line near an encampment during a pro-Palestinian protest at UCLA in Los Angeles on May 1, 2024.

At about 4 a.m., a small group of student journalists for the Daily Bruin, including Christopher Buchanan, a student fellow for the CalMatters College Journalism Network, were confronted by a group of counterprotesters who began berating them. They targeted the staff's news editor, calling her names, and blocked the journalists' route to the Daily Bruin office. One shined a strobe light into Buchanan's face while others attacked him as he fell to the ground.

"After I was struck and debilitated, I was surrounded by four to seven counterprotesters who proceeded to punch and kick my head and torso for thirty seconds to a minute," Buchanan said. "I didn't sustain any internal injuries, but I was badly bruised on the body and face."

Buchanan said this all happened within earshot of CHP officials, who did nothing to intervene.

Students and government officials are decrying UCLA's response. UCLA refused to provide interviews or answer questions about their policing response.

California Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur, a Democrat whose district includes UCLA, issued a statement condemning the violence against pro-Palestine protesters.

"The horrific acts of violence against UCLA students and demonstrators that occurred on campus last night are abhorrent and have no place in Los Angeles or in our democracy," Zbur said. "No matter how strongly one may disagree with or be offended by the anti-Israel demonstrators' messages, tactics, or goals, violence is never acceptable and those responsible must be held accountable."

In the past few days, UC Irvine and UCLA have declared their campus encampment protests illegal and in violation of the state education code against non-UC use of university property. Many pro-Palestine student advocates see this position as an attempt to disrupt their advocacy.

In responding to the encampments, the UC, unlike some universities, has avoided an aggressive law enforcement response. Police have not arrested anyone or used tear gas. The UC Campus Safety plan, however, has not been uniformly followed at each campus.

UC Irvine appeared to ignore the campus safety plan. When an encampment was erected

SEE **UCLA** PAGE 12



Surf report — WATER TEMP: **57.0**

FRIDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Some small new SSW swell energy starting to show better across the region. Not much NW swell in the mix, but should be enough for some small peaks west of Dume. An early high tide won't do the small surf any favors but AM wind is light.

SATURDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Getting pretty small. Morning window will basically be flat on high tide. A little more energy showing on dropping tide midday, but low expectations. Modest mix of S/SW swells.

Weather

Friday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 65.
Friday Night: Patchy fog before 11pm. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 56. West southwest wind 5 to 15 mph.
Saturday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 63. East southeast wind 5 to 15 mph becoming south southwest in the afternoon.
Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers after 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 54.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2024/05/03	Fri	12:16 AM	1.93	L
2024/05/03	Fri	05:55 AM	4.47	H
2024/05/03	Fri	12:37 PM	-0.21	L
2024/05/03	Fri	7:12 PM	4.76	H
2024/05/04	Sat	01:12 AM	1.05	L
2024/05/04	Sat	07:01 AM	4.51	H
2024/05/04	Sat	1:16 PM	-0.03	L
2024/05/04	Sat	7:42 PM	5.37	H
2024/05/05	Sun	02:02 AM	0.18	L
2024/05/05	Sun	08:01 AM	4.48	H
2024/05/05	Sun	1:52 PM	0.26	L
2024/05/05	Sun	8:13 PM	5.92	H
2024/05/06	Mon	02:50 AM	-0.57	L
2024/05/06	Mon	08:56 AM	4.37	H
2024/05/06	Mon	2:27 PM	0.64	L
2024/05/06	Mon	8:45 PM	6.33	H
2024/05/07	Tue	03:36 AM	-1.12	L
2024/05/07	Tue	09:49 AM	4.16	H

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POWERBALL
Draw Date: 5/1
1 11 19 21 68
Power#: 15
Jackpot: 203 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 4/30
10 18 27 37 61
Mega#: 5
Jackpot: 284 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 5/1
9 22 35 42 43
Mega#: 20
Jackpot: 32 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 5/1
2 10 17 24 37

Daily 3
Draw Date: 5/1
EVENING: 0 1 2
Draw Date: 5/1
MIDDAY: 3 1 0

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 5/1
1st: 04 - Big Ben
2nd: 05 - California Classic
3rd: 07 - Eureka
Race Time: 1:44.73

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Summons

State of South Carolina; County of York; in the Probate Court; Case No: 2015ES4600513; Estate of William Commodore Pratt; Summons; Rita D. Pratt, Petitioner; Buffy Deneke; Monique Pratt; Pary Hart; Whitney Pratt; Hanna Chappa; William Deneke; Alissa Deneke; Andrew Deneke; Michael Deneke, William Deneke, Respondents; YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Petition in this action to determine heirs of William Commodore Pratt which Petition was filed with this Summons on June 9, 2023 and is a part of the public record at the York County Probate Court located at 2 S. Congress Street, York, South Carolina and to serve your answer to the Petition upon the Petitioner at the Law Office of John P. Gettys, Jr., 331 E. Main Street, Suite 300, Rock Hill, SC 29730, within thirty (30) days of the first publication of this Summons, exclusive of the day of such service and if you fail to answer the Petition judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Petition. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date June 25, 2024. Time 10:00 a.m.Place: York County Probate Court, 2 S. Congress Street, York, SC 29745Matter: HEARING ON PETITION TO ESTABLISH HEIRS OF WILLIAM COMMODORE PRATT as captioned in the accompanying Summons which is a part of this Notice. The purpose of this hearing is to determine the heirs at law of William Commodore Pratt whose estate was not previously probated. Any spouse or child of William Commodore Pratt must appear before the Court as required under the terms of the Summons or waive any rights to be acknowledged as a child forever.

Summons

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2024050181 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 03/7/24The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Purely Clean Wellness 1061 Palisair Place, Pacific Palisades CA 90272Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Alexander Cooper 1061 Palisair Place, Pacific Palisades CA 90272 2. Purely Clean Wellness 1061 Palisair Place, Pacific Palisades CA 90272If corporation or LLC- Print State of This is Business is Conducted: Co Partners The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 02/24Registrant/Corp/LLC Name /s/: Samantha Cooper Title: General Partner Samantha Cooper This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 03/7/24.NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS.04/22/24,04/29/24, 04/06/2024, 04/13/24

DBA

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LOCATION 1640 5th Street, Suite 218, Santa Monica, CA 90401

City of Santa Monica

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BID #4487 Replacement of City of Santa Monica DWDM optical network with a Juniper MPLS routed network

Submission Deadline is June 4, 2024 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: OpenGov (https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

California politicians face rampant threats. Some want to use campaign cash for protection

SAMEEA KAMAL

Last spring, Assemblymember Isaac Bryan received a letter calling for him to be lynched because of a bill he introduced to change how ballot measures are presented to California voters.

It's not the only time he's been subjected to threats or harassment. Bryan said he and fellow Assemblymember Mia Bonta received hundreds of threats when they didn't vote in a committee on a bill increasing penalties for child trafficking, until it added language that he said would protect victims.

"The one that I'll probably forever remember is a suggestion that my fiancé and mother should be human trafficked so that I understand how serious this is — which, for a legislator who travels four days out the week and leaves my loved ones at home, you know — that was not taken lightly," Bryan told CalMatters.

Currently, to use campaign funds, lawmakers have to file a police report. But threats happen "all the time," Bryan said, and legislators just need "basic security... protection that you need to do this job."

That's why the Culver City Democrat supported a bill last year by Bonta that would have made it easier for local and state candidates and elected officials to use campaign funds for security.

The Legislature passed the bill, but Gov. Gavin Newsom vetoed it, saying it lacked clear definitions of security expenses. "This bill could have unintended consequences and could lead to use of political donations for expenditures far beyond what any reasonable donor would expect," he wrote in his veto message last October. "We must ensure political donations are utilized in a manner consistent with their intended purpose."

But for Bonta, the issue remains worth addressing. She revised and reintroduced the bill, which passed the Assembly on a 72-0 vote last week and is before the Senate. Because Assembly Bill 2041 would amend the voter-approved 1974 Political Reform Act, it requires a two-thirds vote in both the Senate and Assembly to pass. If Newsom signs this version, it would take effect immediately, making it available to those currently campaigning for the November election.

Under current law, elected officials or candidates can get reimbursed for the costs of a home or office security system if they have received threats to their physical safety that are verified by law enforcement. But they can't be reimbursed for more than $5,000 for their entire career — which the bill's supporters say hasn't been adjusted to reflect the current costs for home alarm systems or other security measures.

The new bill would eliminate the lifetime dollar limit, and allow money to be spent on protection for family members, if the threats are related to duties of a candidate or elected official.

Bonta, an Oakland Democrat, told CalMatters the feedback received from the governor's office on last year's bill was late in the legislative process. The new bill was amended to clarify what can be considered a security expense and tightened up disclosure requirements to ensure transparency. Specifically, it does not allow the funds to be used for firearms, and would require the politician to maintain detailed records.

The bill also removes language requiring verification of threats by law enforcement, instead allowing expenses on "reasonable costs."

The city of Beverly Hills, while acknowledging that more needs to be done to protect elected officials, opposed last year's bill unless there was a financial cap. The city expressed concern that the protection for immediate family members and staff could be abused "without better safeguards in place," including a narrower definition on whom the campaign funds can be expended on for security.

Concerns for how campaign funds are used aren't unfounded. Former U.S. Rep. Duncan Hunter pled guilty in 2019 to misusing funds on resort stays, jewelry, video games and, perhaps most notoriously, $600 in airline fees for a pet rabbit. And last November, former Orange County Assemblymember Bill Brough was fined $100,000 for using campaign funds on family vacations, as well as on supplies he took home when he left office: a $1,300 custom cigar humidor, a custom bourbon cabinet and a portable ice maker, according to a Fair Political Practices Commission report.

THREATS TARGET LAWMAKERS UNEVENLY

Being able to use campaign funds could help fill gaps in the security provided by the Legislature.

For events, lawmakers must request security in advance and explain why it's needed, and can request ongoing security from the state. But they can't always anticipate when they'll need security, especially when they're out in their districts.

Security efforts are coordinated between the Legislature's sergeants, California Highway Patrol and local law enforcement so legislators can do their job and serve constituents, Erika Contreras, secretary of the Senate and Lia Lopez, chief administrative officer of the Assembly, told CalMatters in an email.

They also noted that they increase security when needed, and that, in recent years, there have been heightened levels of concern. "We manage those concerns and take appropriate action on a case-by-case basis," they wrote.

The state, however, would not release data on the number of threat assessments based on reports by lawmakers, citing an exemption to the Legislative Open Records Act that allows the state to withhold records of complaints or investigations that it conducts, or security procedures.

Still, there have been some high-profile examples of attacks on elected officials and their families, including the 2022 attack on Paul Pelosi, husband of former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in their San Francisco home. Sen. Scott Wiener, a Democrat from San Francisco, has spoken out about numerous incidents, including emailed death threats he received in 2022.

SEE **THREATS** PAGE 11

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

LA quality of life is at a record low, survey shows. Why political leaders shouldn't ignore that

JIM NEWTON

The findings of this year's Los Angeles Quality of Life Index, an annual survey conducted by UCLA's Luskin School of Public Affairs, pose a riddle for city and county leaders – and underscore the challenges of local officials everywhere: How should officeholders react when their constituents are angry at them for problems that they didn't create and can't solve?

That's the natural question suggested by the top-line numbers in the survey, or at least the ones that got the attention when it was released in late April. The overall quality-of-life score that respondents produced this year was the lowest in the nine years of the survey. Ratings for elected leaders, including Mayor Karen Bass, dipped as well.

But the factors influencing those numbers are enough to drive a mayor to drink. For the most part, residents are satisfied with their neighborhoods, with race relations, with public safety and with healthcare – the services that local governments offer or supplement.

What residents are unhappy with is their rent and the cost of goods and services (and the quality of their schools, too, but that's a matter for another day).

Imagine, then, that you're Mayor Bass. Your approval rating has seemingly dropped and your constituents are unhappy because their rent is too high and groceries are overly expensive.

The problem for Bass and her colleagues, said Zev Yaroslavsky, a former Los Angeles councilmember and county supervisor who now oversees the survey, is "you can't do anything about that."

And while the survey focuses on Los Angeles, the same conundrum faces elected leaders of pretty much every city in California – perhaps even America. Constituents are worried and they want help, but they're not sure who to hold accountable. So they flinch at price hikes and point the finger at the first official who comes to mind, whether it's President Joe Biden or the local councilmember.

Some local officials simply ignore it. They focus on the work of local government and trust that voters will come around. But that feels unresponsive and precarious. It's rarely a good thing for an elected official to brush off the feelings of their constituents, even if those constituents are potentially misplacing responsibility.

The better response to this survey would be to dig deeper into the results because there is guidance suggested by this data – ways that local government can, in fact, respond to some of the anxieties it captures.

Take the cost of living. Bass can't do much about the price of groceries, but the second-most cited area for concern about the cost of living comes from the 58% of respondents who said rising housing costs are having a "major impact" on their lives. There, elected officials can make a difference.

Indeed, one of the survey's most shocking – and under-reported – findings is that 26% of those who responded said they were worried about losing their place to live. Fully 37% of renters reported that they fear eviction and becoming homeless. Los Angeles County has nearly 10 million residents so that number suggests that more than 3 million people are going about their lives with the fear that they may lose their home someday soon.

That is a staggering and dismaying number, evidence of gnawing instability that undermines all aspects of a secure life. And unlike grocery costs, that's something local government can affect.

Start with rental assistance. Those who fear eviction might fear it less if they knew the city would help them in a pinch – with rental assistance, for instance. For those actually facing eviction, the mayor has organized legal resources to help keep people in their homes. Knowing that such a program exists and taking advantage of it may alleviate their anxiety and also prevent a surge in homelessness.

Looking forward, this survey and others also have guidance for elected leaders committed to addressing housing. Residents consistently favor construction of new apartment housing, particularly along commercial corridors. And state law allows developers to override local zoning restrictions if they build in those areas and price the apartments for low-income residents.

To those constituents who are burdened by the high cost of housing and the fear of losing their homes, these surveys suggest a program: Help renters who are struggling, fight attempts to evict them and authorize the construction of affordable housing along commercial streets.

Residents approve of all those measures. Taken together, they suggest a path toward a healthier city and happier electorate.

Of course, there will be objections. Each of those steps involves government action or intervention, so they do not represent a "free market" approach. Fine.



Photo by Mike Blake, Reuters

LOS ANGELES: The San Gabriel Mountains behind the city of Los Angeles, from Kenneth Hahn Park on Feb. 26, 2023.

Yaroslavsky, for his part, said that it's time for local officials to recognize that the market alone will not solve these problems.

He pointed to a project underway in the city's Eagle Rock neighborhood where a developer is eliminating rent-controlled units in order to create more apartments, but mostly at market-rate prices. The net result, Yaroslavsky noted, will not be more affordable units, just more expensive ones.

"The free market has no conscience," he said. "Just building more market-rate housing will not bring down the cost of housing. That's a fraud."

But guiding the market, protecting those who are tossed aside by it and creating incentives for developers to build more units that the working people of LA can afford could alleviate some of the fear that this survey uncovered. It might even make some politicians more popular.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.



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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

SANTA MONICA
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
SANTA MONICA CITY HALL

DATE/TIME: Monday, May 6, 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Council Chambers, (wheelchair accessible)
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Room 250

PUBLIC HEARING:

1645 Euclid Street – 24ARB-0058: Creative Office
Review of the design, colors, materials, and landscape plans for the construction of a Tier 2, three-story, 38,995 square foot, creative office building with two levels of subterranean parking in the Industrial Conservation (IC) Zoning District.

825 Santa Monica Boulevard – 24ARB-0018: Housing/Mixed-Use
Review of the design, colors, materials, and landscape plans for the construction of a new 7-story, mixed-use building including 85 market-rate units, 14 affordable units, and approximately 3,300 square feet of ground floor commercial over two levels of subterranean parking. The site is proposed on four parcels, three zoned General Commercial (GC) and one Medium-Density Residential (R3).

1801 Santa Monica Boulevard & 1819 Santa Monica Boulevard – 24ARB-0046 & 24ARB-0047: Residential/Mixed-Use
Review of the design, colors materials and landscape plans for the construction of an 8-story multi-family residential building with 145 units at 1801 Santa Monica Boulevard and an 8-story mixed-use building with 143 residential units and 2,700 square feet of commercial space at 1819 Santa Monica Boulevard in the General Commercial (GC) Zoning District.

1902 Wilshire Boulevard – 24ARB-0036: Residential/Mixed-Use
Review of the design, colors, materials, and landscape plans for the construction of an eight story, 114,132 square foot mixed-use development with, 6,381 square feet of commercial floor area and 140 residential units including 14 affordable housing units with residential amenities and 4 levels of subterranean parking in the Mixed-Use Boulevard (MUB) Zoning District.

2501 Wilshire Boulevard – 24ARB-0030: Residential/Mixed-Use
Review of the design, colors, materials, and landscape plans for the construction of an eight-story, 85' tall, mixed-use housing development consisting of 170 residential units and 17,438 square feet of ground floor commercial space above 4 levels of subterranean parking in the Mixed-Use Boulevard (MUB) Zoning District.

PRELIMINARY REVIEW:

901-913 Pico Boulevard - Residential/Mixed-Use
Preliminary Review of the design, colors, materials, and landscape plans for the construction of a Tier 1, five-story, 47' tall, fully residential housing development project consisting of 45 residential units with one level of subterranean parking located at 901 Pico Boulevard in the General Commercial (GC) Zoning District.

More information is available online at https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Architectural-Review-Board/ (en espanol tambien at (310) 458-2201 ext. 5547#).

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Those wishing to give written public comment shall email comments to planningcomment@santamonica.gov. Comments received **prior to 12 p.m.** on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Architectural Review Board prior to the meeting and posted online. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

For disability-related accommodations, please contact (866) 311-7266 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation.

All written materials are available in alternate languages provided the request is received 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Lagging revenue continues to drive California budget deficit as deadline nears

DAN WALTERS

As the June 15 constitutional deadline for enacting a 2024-25 state budget approaches, the good news for Gov. Gavin Newsom is that all-important income tax revenues in April slightly exceeded the administration's $16.3 billion assumption.

Even so, the bad news is that overall revenues from income, sales and corporate taxes are still running $6 billion behind what Newsom's January budget projected for the current fiscal year, meaning that cumulative deficit will be substantially more than the $38 billion Newsom's proposed budget assumed.

But how much more?

The Legislature's budget analyst, Gabe Petek, has estimated that the cumulative deficit for the three-year "budget window" – 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 – to be $73 billion, largely due to his more pessimistic revenue calculations. Newsom's January budget assumes that revenues are running $44 billion under last year's budget projections during the three-year window, while Petek raises that estimate to $68 billion.

With revenue shortfalls driving the state's deficit number – whatever it might be – everyone involved in the annual budget process was closely monitoring what April 15's income tax filing deadline would produce.

Newsom even indefinitely postponed his annual state of the state address because of the uncertainty. Governors usually try to strike upbeat themes in such addresses and that would be particularly difficult this year.

With the month's revenue numbers now known, the next phase will be Newsom unveiling a revised budget later this month, setting the stage for several weeks of intensive – and secretive – negotiations between the governor and legislative leaders. The revised budget proposal, and the budget that emerges from negotiations, will be balanced on paper. That is, projected revenues and projected spending – $291.4 billion in the January budget – will be matched.

However, neither will be balanced in the true sense of the word, because the revenues will include at least $12 billion from the state's emergency reserves, many billions more in loans from special funds and some accounting gimmickry.

Nor will the June 15 budget be the final spending plan for the 2024-25 fiscal year, any more than the current 2023-24 budget is what Newsom and legislators enacted last June. They have already made billions of dollars in changes in response to stubbornly subpar revenues, trying to get a jump on the state's chronic gap between income and outgo.

The situation is a sticky wicket, to use an old-fashioned term from the sport of cricket, for the countless interest groups that depend on money from the budget. Even with the injection of money from reserves, the spending side of the budget will have to be trimmed, although by how much and from what programs are still guesswork at this stage.

Budget stakeholders are jockeying for position on the priority list with private lobbying of legislators and public pronouncements of vital need.

In theory, there's another way Newsom and legislators could truly balance the budget and satisfy those clamoring for money – by raising taxes. Both of Newsom's last two predecessors, Republican Arnold Schwarzenegger and Democrat Jerry Brown, faced deficits of comparable magnitude and both won legislative or voter approval of tax increases to close their gaps.

Left-leaning legislators have proposed tax increases and one might think that Newsom, who is ideologically to the left of both former governors, would be willing to embrace that solution.

However, Newsom has publicly shunned tax increases, apparently concerned that they might drive more high-income taxpayers or corporations out of the state, but perhaps because a tax hike would also undercut his strenuous efforts to raise his national political standing.

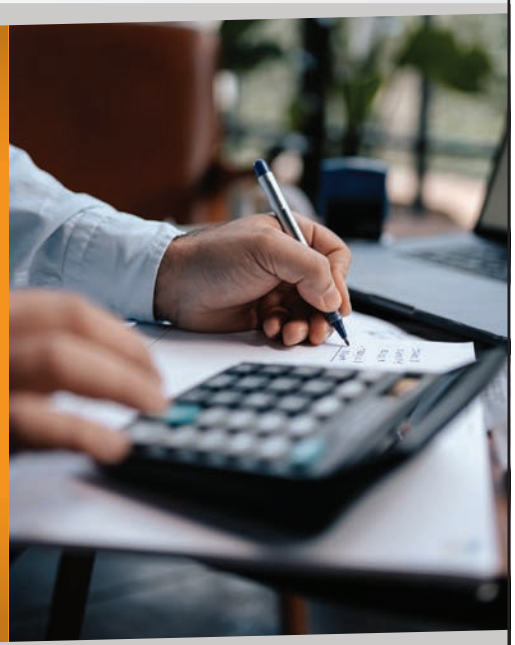
This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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9TH ANNUAL

SUNDAY MAY 19, 2024

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Eric Uller sexually abused hundreds of children over almost 30 years while masquerading as a police officer at Santa Monica PAL.

Reasons his victims didn't come forward sooner

- I was going to take it to the grave.
- They don't talk about the abused girls.
- I don't want my family to know.
- I'm terrified they'll claim I'm lying.
- I felt guilty for "allowing" it.
- I felt shame.
- I thought I was the only one.
- Who would believe my word over a police officer's?
- I didn't want to be perceived as gay.

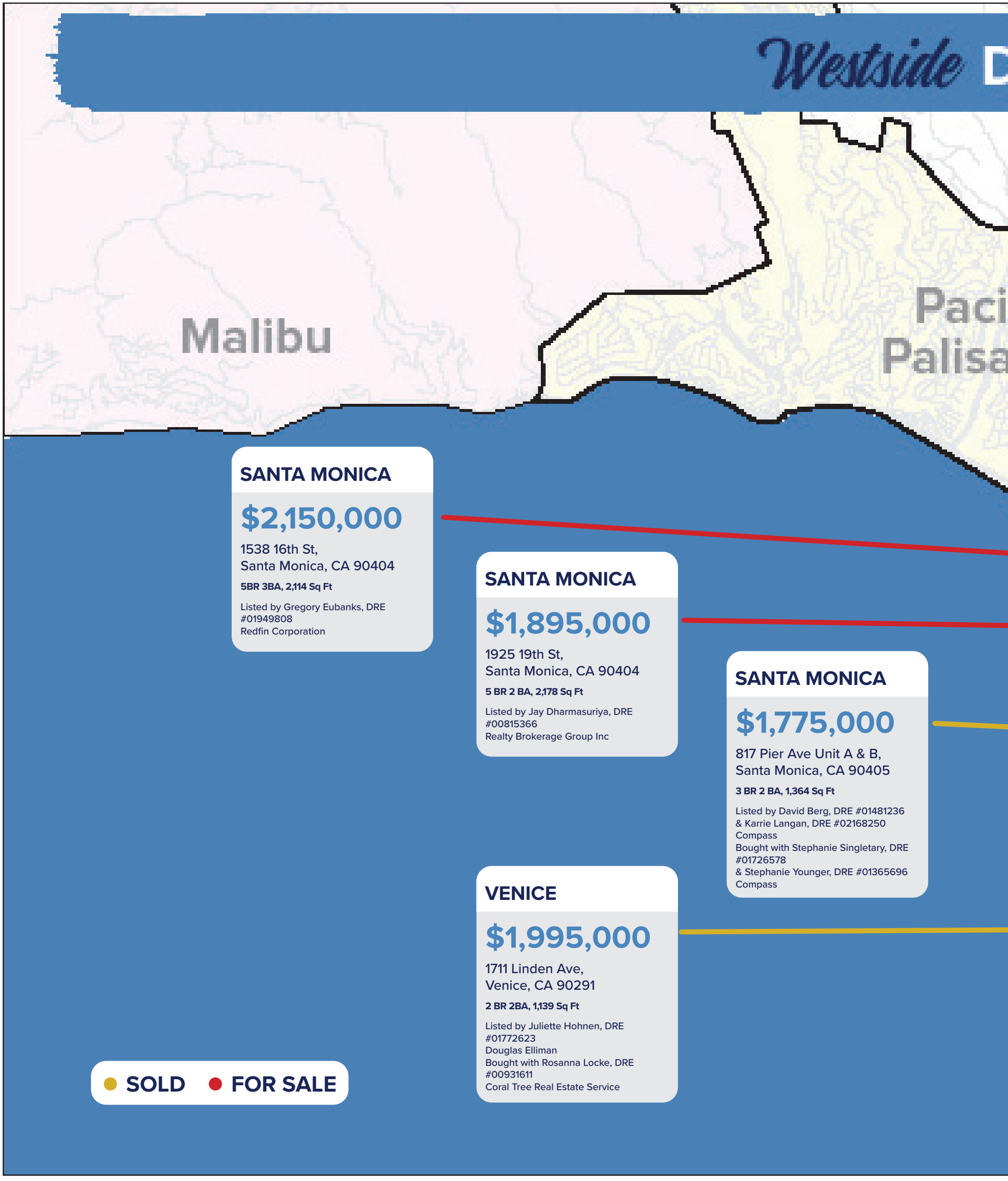


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SANTA MONICA

$2,150,000

1538 16th St,
Santa Monica, CA 90404

5BR 3BA, 2,114 Sq Ft

Listed by Gregory Eubanks, DRE #01949808
Redfin Corporation

SANTA MONICA

$1,895,000

1925 19th St,
Santa Monica, CA 90404

5 BR 2 BA, 2,178 Sq Ft

Listed by Jay Dharmasuriya, DRE #00815366
Realty Brokerage Group Inc

SANTA MONICA

$1,775,000

817 Pier Ave Unit A & B,
Santa Monica, CA 90405

3 BR 2 BA, 1,364 Sq Ft

Listed by David Berg, DRE #01481236 & Karrie Langan, DRE #02168250
Compass
Bought with Stephanie Singletary, DRE #01726578 & Stephanie Younger, DRE #01365696
Compass

VENICE

$1,995,000

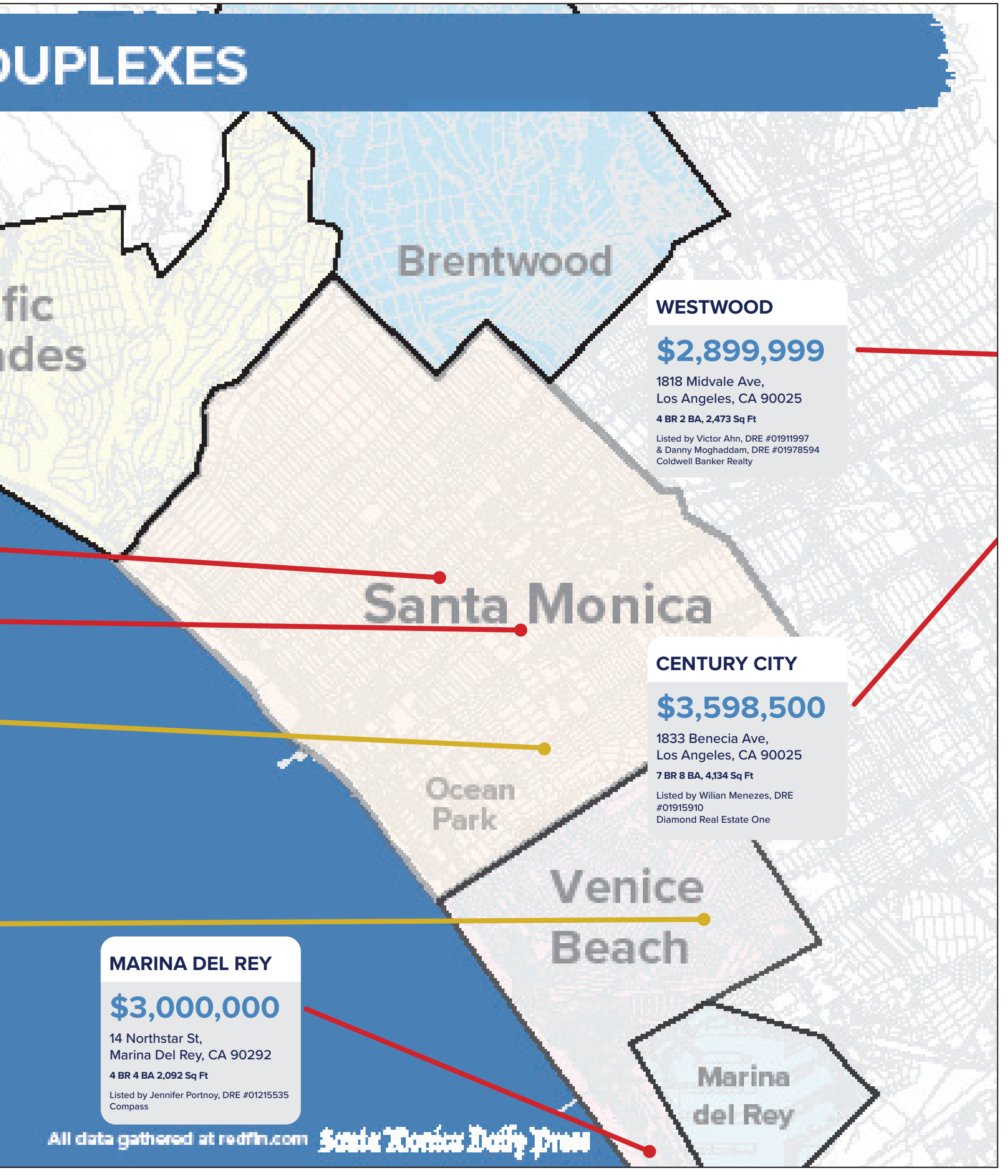
1711 Linden Ave,
Venice, CA 90291

2 BR 2BA, 1,139 Sq Ft

Listed by Juliette Hohnen, DRE #01772623
Douglas Elliman
Bought with Rosanna Locke, DRE #00931611
Coral Tree Real Estate Service

● SOLD ● FOR SALE

DUPLEXES



WESTWOOD

$2,899,999

1818 Midvale Ave,
Los Angeles, CA 90025

4 BR 2 BA, 2,473 Sq Ft

Listed by Victor Ahn, DRE #01911997
& Danny Moghaddam, DRE #01978594
Coldwell Banker Realty

CENTURY CITY

$3,598,500

1833 Benecia Ave,
Los Angeles, CA 90025

7 BR 8 BA, 4,134 Sq Ft

Listed by Wilian Menezes, DRE
#01915910
Diamond Real Estate One

MARINA DEL REY

$3,000,000

14 Northstar St,
Marina Del Rey, CA 90292

4 BR 4 BA 2,092 Sq Ft

Listed by Jennifer Portnoy, DRE #01215535
Compass

All data gathered at redfin.com Santa Monica Daily Press

Santa Monica CHAMBER of COMMERCE

TOAST OF SANTA MONICA

June 20th, 2024
5:00 p.m.

Fairmont Miramar Hotel and Bungalows
Santa Monica, CA



Keynote speaker
Rick Caruso

Sponsorship opportunities + special table pricing contact:
Judy.Kruger@Smchamber.com

CIRQUE

FROM PAGE 1

debut there in 1987.

"We are thrilled to announce the return of Cirque du Soleil to the beautiful Santa Monica Pier," said Cirque Touring Shows Division President Duncan Fisher. "It has been 10 years since our last visit to this iconic site that has created such amazing memories over the years. Cirque du Soleil's relationship with Santa Monica dates back to 1987, where we received such a warm welcome that it sparked our climb to global prominence. As we celebrate our 40th anniversary, it is only fitting we return to the community and fans who supported us from the very beginning."

Since that time, the company has brought 10 different productions to the Pier, including "KOOZA" last seen in 2009. This unique show pays tribute to traditional circus with ambitious aerial stunts combined with slapstick comedy brought to you by what the show's artistic director, Robert Tannion, calls "the art of clowning." The production was created by one of the world's most-known clowns, David Shiner, and Tannion explained that the clowns give the audience a chance to "exhale" after exhilarating stunt work.

Tannion added that the production includes feats like a double high-wire act nearly 15 meters in the air, as well as the legendary "Wheel of Death," where a performer attempts stunning stunts within a hamster wheel-type apparatus. Formerly an artistic director in his home in Australia, Tannion joined Cirque in 2019 and became the "KOOZA" director in 2023.

"We've been waiting for the right show, the right time to come back and kind of reconnect and (have) this homecoming with Santa Monica," Tannion said. "What an iconic place, we've got two icons (here in) kind of (a) marriage made in heaven."

Santa Monica City Council voted unanimously 7-0 in December 2023 to allow the City to enter into an agreement with Cirque for the Big Top installation. During the council discussion, Santa Monica Pier Corporation Executive Director Jim Harris said that his organization supports the return to Beach Parking Lot 1 North adjacent to the Pier, while laying out key requests. Harris stated that developing a parking and traffic management plan will be key to serve Cirque visitors, non-Cirque visitors and employees of Pier businesses.

The return of Cirque is also a chance for the city to prepare for large-scale events as the 2028 Olympic Games draws nearer.

"It seems to me that this is an opportunity to start to develop more holistic traffic plans about the whole city," City Councilmember Gleam Davis said during the December 2023 council meeting.

Running from October 19 through December 1, local officials are already in the mood to take in the acrobatic experience.

"The return of Cirque du Soleil to Santa Monica is a welcomed reprise of this beloved production to enhance Santa Monica's vibrant arts and culture offerings," Santa Monica Mayor Phil Brock said. "I'm looking forward to seeing show-goers enjoy our beautiful city and encourage everyone to make a day of it by visiting our local restaurants and attractions."

Tickets for the "KOOZA" performances are now available for Club Cirque members, with a free subscription to the club available at cirqueclub.com. General tickets go on sale on May 6, and can be purchased at cirquedusoleil.com/kooza.

thomas@smdp.com

THREATS

FROM PAGE 4

Bonta said local candidates and fellow legislators had shared their own personal experiences or those of their staff that she felt prompted the need for the bill — as well as an experience of her own.

"I've had an instance of being on my front lawn, and having somebody text me from an unknown number to say that I looked really good on my lawn," she said. "Those are all things that make us, just, not feel very safe."

A report by the University of San Diego's Violence, Inequality, and Power Lab and the Institute for Civil Civic Engagement found that of the 328 local elected officials surveyed, 75% reported being threatened or harassed and 35% said it happened monthly.

The survey also found that women were more impacted than men: 82% of female local elected officials, compared with 66% of men.

That's largely in line with national trends reported by the Brennan Center for Justice, which released a report in January that documented a "barrage of intimidating abuse" against state and local elected officeholders.

"Threats and attacks constrain how freely officeholders interact with constituents, narrow the spectrum of policy positions they feel safe to support, and make them less willing to continue in public service," said the report, based on surveys of 1,744 local officeholders and 354 state legislators. "Unaddressed, the problem stands to endanger not just individual politicians but, more broadly, the free and fair functioning of representative democracy — at every level of government."

It's harmful for gains in diversity, too, the researchers note. Women were three to four times as likely as men to experience abuse targeting their gender, while elected officials of color were more than three times as likely as white office holders to experience abuse targeting their race.

That's for those who are already in office. Threats, harassment and intimidation are also rampant on the campaign trail.

A 2023 study conducted by the California Women's list found that 42% of women encountered stalking at least once while running, with almost one in five experiencing it frequently or very frequently — 15 times higher than what's reported by men. The rate was higher among women of color — 55% — and LGBTQ+ women, at nearly 53%.

Sen. Caroline Menjivar, a Democrat from Van Nuys, introduced a bill to allow candidates to use campaign funds for mental health services. The language of Senate Bill 1170 aims to help those running for office who aren't incumbents.

She said that the law, first passed in 1974, needs to continue being updated to reflect greater diversity among public officials.

"Things about childcare … weren't an issue because you didn't need to think about including those issues, because it was mostly men," she said. "We're looking to address things that weren't considered, because we weren't considered as a possibility to be in elected positions."

"If we want a diverse representation on all levels of government, then we need to provide support."

This article was originally published by CalMatters.



FRIDAY | MAY 3

FUTURE FEST 2024

Presented by RPA, Ad 2 SoCal, AAF LA and COOP, Future Fest 2024 is a day-long career workshop for young professionals interested in advertising. Panels include an intro to RPA by Early Career Recruiter David Peña, a soft skills panel and speakers on topics like how to be creative in your role and finding the right career path. The event also includes networking, professional headshots, and resume reviews. Begins at 10 a.m. at RPA, 2525 Colorado Ave. Tickets $10, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/future-fest-2024-tickets-874156223797.

FIERCE FRIDAY/YALLWEST PREVIEW

Join the Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., in the Central Courtyard for a special Fierce Friday preview event to YALLWEST, the nation's biggest young adult book festival. Fierce Friday will feature more than 16 best-selling authors meeting fans and signing their books. Authors confirmed include Raquel Marie, Adalyn Grace, Aiden Thomas and Jordan Morris. The event is free, but tickets are required and can be received at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/friday-preview-events-fierce-friday-or-deadendia-launch-tickets-873448045617.

DYSTOPIA CINCO DE MAYO

It's been four years since Dystopia first reimagined the Latin nightclub experience with epic nights of reggaetón and unforgettable chaos. Now, Dystopia returns to where it all began, Senator Jones at 2020 Wilshire Blvd., for an electrifying Cinco de Mayo celebration. Trendy and fashionable outfits required, no shorts, jerseys or flip flops will be allowed. Event 21+ only, doors open at 10 a.m. General admission tickets $29. To purchase, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dystopia-cinco-de-mayo-tickets-888002227567.aspx.

SATURDAY | MAY 4

VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK/PICO BOULEVARD FARMERS MARKET

The family market in the heart of the Pico neighborhood's Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave., runs from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Widely considered to be among the best markets on the west coast, featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheeses, delicious foods, live music and more. For more information, call 310-458-8688.

MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU BEACH CLEANUP

Attention all rebels and Jedi knights! Join AICP, GTB, Versatile Studios, FTHT.org and Good Planet Innovation for a "May the 4th Be With You" Pick Up For Paradise beach cleanup at Life Guard Tower 1550 starting at 9 a.m. with morning meditation led by Farah Afnan. Consider wearing a hat, layers and sun protection, wear closed-toe shoes, there will be water to refill non-plastic reusable bottles. Please bring your own non-plastic reusable glove. To register, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/may-the-4th-be-with-you-beach-cleanup-tickets-851166019477.

CONSCIOUS MARKET

Conscious Market, LLC is a collection of elevated brands that are for the consumer who wants more fitness, wellness, health in their lives through products, experiences and services. Fit Girl Club aligns to bring people together to create meaningful memories through events by curating entertainment and small businesses. Market runs from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 1351 3rd Street Promenade.

PILATES DAY CELEBRATION

Good Body Pilates Studio, 3229 Pico Blvd., hosts a rejuvenating Group Reformer Pilates class followed by a refreshing cold brew experience with Little Bean Cold Brew. Sessions at 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. Limited spots available, reserve at goodbodypilates.com/reserve-five. Tickets $35.

LA TEQUILA CLUB TASTING EVENT

Join the LA Tequila Club for an unforgettable educational experience at Lanea, 217 Broadway, the home of one of the most extensive agave selections in LA. This is an exciting opportunity to discover to unique flavors and aromas of Cierto Tequila, while also trying Antología Tequila and Entre Manos Tequila. Must be over 21 to attend, bring your ID. Ride sharing or designated drivers encouraged. Begins at 12 p.m. Tickets $55, designated drivers $20. To purchase, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/la-tequila-club-tasting-event-tickets-879952941937.

POWER HOUSE NIGHT OF COMEDY & PHILANTHROPY

Power House Sober Living invites you to a night of celebration, inspiration and support at a first-annual fundraiser awards banquet. Held at the Venice Church, 2241 Walgrove Avenue, at 6 p.m., this event shines a light on the extraordinary recovery journeys of three individuals who have overcome addiction, marking their five-year milestone of resilience and courage. Other highlights include a comedy show to lift spirits, an evening dinner experience and a silent auction filled with unique finds. General admission tickets $50. To purchase, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/power-house-night-of-comedy-philanthropy-tickets-852396670387.

ALEICHEM SHOLOM:

Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St., hosts "Aleichem Sholom!: The Wit and Wisdom of Sholom Aleichem," a musical starring Chris DeCarlo and Evelyn Rudie. Part of the Jewish Heritage Series, this joyous and poignant musical follows the life of the beloved Yiddish story-teller as he spins tales of his loves and losses, his fame and failures, his travels, travails and the tremendous optimism that kept him going against all odds. Starts at 7 p.m. Tickets $35. Discounts for students, teachers, seniors and military. For tickets, visit: https://www.showclix.com/event/aleichem-sholom-01.

SUNDAY | MAY 5

SANTA MONICA AIRPORT ANTIQUE MARKET

Noted as one of the top 10 "flea markets" in America, visit the Santa Monica Airport Antique Market, a fun outdoor (and dog-friendly) market full of many great dealers with furniture, antiques, collectibles, art, vintage clothes, jewelry, rugs and much more. A destination for decorators, designers, boutique owners, families with their friendly dogs and collectors of all ages. Located at 2800-3200 Airport Ave., next to the Museum of Flying. Runs from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

TENANT PROTECTIONS

FROM PAGE 1

a direct impact on local rent stabilization policies, such as last year's session which included bills amending both the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act and the Ellis Act, there are still a number of bills aimed at protecting tenants. The first "big theme," Augusta said, was a number of legislators putting in bills in the broad category of "tenant screening," encompassing things like application fees, security deposits and "front-end requirements" for renters, things that can be a "barrier" for achieving housing.

Under this theme are bills like AB 2304, which extends existing "eviction masking law" to mobile home cases and unlimited civil cases. This bill aims to further protect tenants that are victorious in eviction cases, as those cases won't show up on a renter's credit report or rental history.

Other bills would prohibit a landlord from charging a prospective tenant a screening fee if they do not have a unit available, and would also prohibit a landlord from collecting more than one screening fee from a prospective tenant in a 30-day period if that prospective tenant is applying for multiple units owned by the landlord. Similarly, AB 2785 proposes requiring landlords to limit tenant screening fees to no more than $50, and would require a screening fee to be returned to a prospective tenant if they are not selected for the unit.

Another prospective bill deals with rental security deposits, making a number of changes including requiring a landlord to provide photographic evidence of necessary repairs and proof they were completed, prohibiting security deposit money from being taken away from a renter due to routine cleaning of a unit.

"There's a lot of abuse in that area, some believe that landlords assume that they're going to get most of the security deposit back, they're going to retain most of the security deposit at the end of a tenancy," Augusta said.

The second theme of the 2024 legislative session is "information sharing," including AB 2187 which aims to establish an Office of Tenants' Rights within the state's Civil Rights Department for the purposes of maintaining an up-to-date list of statewide tenant protections "in an understandable format." Another force for tenant knowledge comes in the form of AB 2278, which would require the state's Attorney General to publish allowable rent increases under the Tenant Protection Act for each metropolitan area (including Los Angeles) online by August 1 of each year.

Finally, the state legislature is looking to tackle corporate ownership of housing with several bills. One proposal, SB 1212, would prohibit real estate investment trusts from owning single-family homes in the state, while another, AB 2584, would prohibit corporate entities that own more than 1,000 single-family homes from acquiring and offering for-rent additional single-family homes. The latter bill, Augusta said, targets increased corporate ownership of rented-out units.

"We hear a lot from renters in those units that corporations, not surprisingly, don't make the best landlords and are very aggressive about raising rents," Augusta said.

Another proposal, SB 1201, increases renter knowledge base by requiring the disclosure of the beneficial owners of an LLC or corporation that owns rental housing, which Augusta stated would be an important advancement in understanding "the nature of ownership" and having a better picture of distinguishing small and larger landlords.

On SB 1201, Rent Control Board Commissioner Anastasia Foster said that corporate transparency is an issue Santa Monica runs into with multi-family apartment buildings, stating that it is "sometimes hard for tenants to identify who their landlord is." Foster added that she's seen bills like this before that haven't been passed, asking Augusta what the difference might be this time around, with Augusta responding that the state of New York recently enacted a similar bill that "changes the conversation" around anonymity of landlords.

Another question surrounding SB 1201, particularly in the state's current financial situation, is what the cost will be for the Secretary of State to collect and report this data, and if the bill can get past the "practical limitations" of the data reporting cost.

thomas@smdp.com

HOUSING

FROM PAGE 1

of living and the economy lower than nearly every other major demographic in the index's sample, with a narrow majority of renters (51%) reporting feeling pessimistic about the economic future of LA County, compared to just 39% pessimism amongst homeowners.

Rent figures in Los Angeles increased by 0.5% in March, according to Apartment List, leaving the overall median rent in the city at $2,083. Santa Monica rents grew by 1.5% over the same month, with the city ranking sixth out of 24 LA metro municipalities in median one-bedroom apartment rent ($2,358) and seventh in median two-bedroom apartment rent ($2,827).

A part of the pessimism from renters comes from their lack of hope in being able to afford a home in the county. Of surveyed renters in the index, only 23% believe they will have the ability to buy a LA County home at any point in the future.

Homeowners showed their dissatisfaction with the county's housing climate in other survey questions, such as the ability of air conditioning within their home. The survey found that 75% of LA County residents have air conditioning at their home, but also found substantial variation of income. About 60% of residents at the lowest end of the income scale surveyed (under $30,000 per year) have air conditioning, as opposed to 89% at the top of the survey's income scale (over $150,000 per year).

Another major issue is the homelessness crisis, with 60% of survey respondents stating that problems related to homelessness in their area of the county has "gotten worse" over the past year. Homeless encampments specifically have given residents cause for concern, with 37% of survey takers stating that encampments have a major impact on their lives. Residents aren't feeling much optimism for the future of the issue, either, as 49% of responders stated that they are less hopeful that the crisis in LA County will be improved, compared to just 20% being more hopeful.

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UCLA

FROM PAGE 3

on April 29, the university immediately called in the UC police department, the Orange County Sheriff's Department, and the police forces of Irvine, Costa Mesa and Newport. Officers in riot gear barricaded the encampment entrance.

UC Irvine spokesperson Tom Vasich described the decision to involve five law enforcement departments as "a standard response" for situations where the campus needs support while simultaneously describing the protest as a "very peaceful environment." He attributed the police response to potential trespassing violations from people not affiliated with the university.

"This isn't a free speech issue, this is a trespassing issue," Vasich said.

Sara, a UC Irvine student studying psychological sciences who only gave her first name in fear of retaliation for participating in the protest, said that at around 9 a.m. on Monday, law enforcement prevented students from entering the encampment and giving protesters water.

Despite police pushback, she said students and bystanders later created barricades around their encampment, allowing students to enter the area and receive supplies. "The students here all know the risks," Sara said. "But regardless, they stood their ground and will continue to stand their ground until our demands are met."

UC Irvine Chancellor Howard Gillman said in a Monday night statement that police would no longer engage with the protesters, and hours later police cleared out. Gillman promised to work with students to find a different location "that is appropriate and non-disruptive."

HOW THE UC PLAN IS SUPPOSED TO ENSURE SAFETY

The UC Campus Safety Plan is being put to the test amid heightened tensions between pro-Palestine groups calling for the UC to financially divest from companies with ties to Israel, and pro-Israel groups counterprotesting and calling the actions of those in the encampments anti-semitic.

The UC Office of the President released a statement on April 26 rejecting demands for divestment.

"The University of California has consistently opposed calls for boycotts against and divestment from Israel," the statement said. "While the University affirms the right of our community members to express diverse viewpoints, a boycott of this sort impinges on the academic freedom of our students and faculty and the unfettered exchange of ideas on our campuses."

President Drake's office refused multiple requests from CalMatters to answer questions about UC's response to campus encampment protests.

The UC's policing reforms came after the system faced several high-profile instances of excessive force in response to student advocacy on campuses. In 2011, the Occupy Wall Street protests at UC Davis drew international attention when peaceful activists were pepper sprayed by the university's police department. In the end, students won a $1 million settlement from UC Davis.

In 2020, racial justice organizations and Black student unions at the UC's nine undergraduate campuses led protests over the police-custody murder of George Floyd, and to cast a light on other Black Americans killed by law enforcement officers.

Their activism elevated negative experiences that some students of color reported with campus police. Students and employees demonstrated against racial profiling and a lack of police transparency. Some pushed for reforms; others called for abolishing police on university campuses.

The 2021 safety plan instituted data dashboards, police advisory boards, mental health responders and professional accreditation for individual police departments. According to the UC's director of community safety Jody Stiger, all 10 campuses are expected to put the plan into action — with the final, delayed step being professional accreditation for campus law enforcement agencies — by the end of this year.

The UC Cops Off Campus Coalition, composed of UC students and faculty, has criticized the safety plan for not acknowledging the structural biases of police forces, and only increasing the scope of policing power.

UC Riverside Black Studies professor and faculty coalition member Dylan Rodríguez described the Campus Safety Plan as largely reactionary. He said it is the UC's attempt to quell a push for police abolition in the wake of the UC's own crises and Floyd's murder.

"It's a response to a period of time in which there are deep questions, fundamental and abolitionist questions, about whether campuses should have fully armed, militarized and, sometimes, riot-gear equipped and SWAT team-trained police officers on their campuses," Rodríguez said.

The stated aim of UC's tiered response is to use several non-sworn responders in calls for emergencies that don't require police. Relying on alternatives to police allows campuses to respond to students in crisis who require mental health support or intervention. The plan also establishes public safety officers to patrol residence halls on foot, escort students across campus at night, provide security for events and diffuse unsafe behavior.

In an interview with CalMatters before this week's violence, Stiger praised the increase of unarmed security guards and guidance against a police presence at protests. Police were not called to the scene during recent labor strikes, nor for earlier protests on both sides of the Gaza war.

"In almost a majority of those on every campus, you don't see any police. You might see maybe one or two that are just in the area, but you don't see a major police presence," Stiger said.

PROTESTS ESCALATE ON UC CAMPUSES

Late Tuesday, the university delivered a formal letter to UCLA's Divest Coalition declaring the encampment an unlawful assembly in violation of campus policy. Chancellor Block put out a statement saying the university removed demonstrators' barricades blocking entrances to specific buildings, and warned that students could face suspension or expulsion.

Campus police chiefs at UC Berkeley, UCLA and UC Irvine refused several requests for comment from CalMatters.

The UC Student Association — systemwide student representatives — published a statement on April 29 in solidarity with students protesting for "Free Palestine" and condemning the law enforcement response.

"We demand that the UC, at a minimum, allow students to exercise their freedom of speech," the statement read. "We denounce any use of police force to silence us."

Christopher Buchanan, Li Khan and Hugo Rios contributed to this story. All authors are fellows with the College Journalism Network, a collaboration between CalMatters and student journalists from across California. CalMatters higher education coverage is supported by a grant from the College Futures Foundation. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

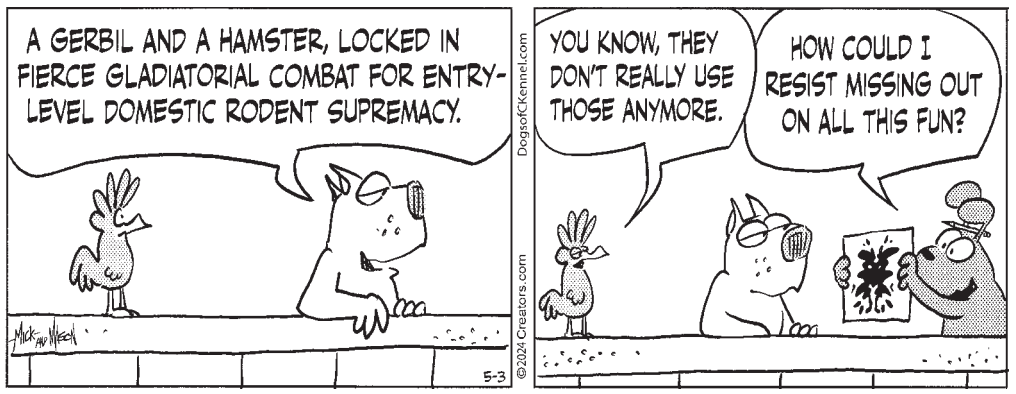
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

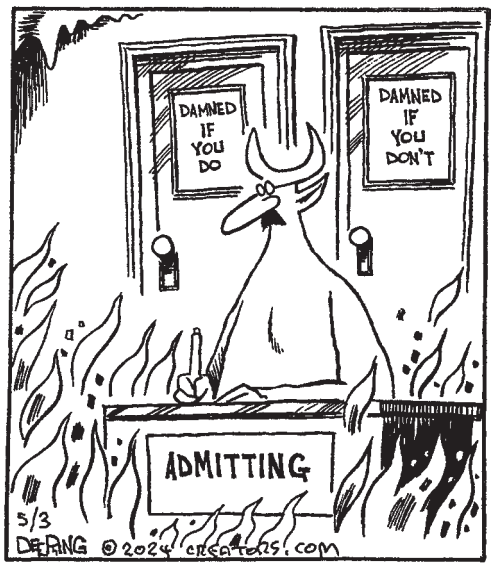
By PETER GALLAGHER



"IGNORE HIM."

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 22 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6199

Amateur chef?

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

Appliance	Cups	Mixer	Spices
Apron	Drain	Mugs	Spoons
Bake	Electricity	Oven	Table
Bench	Fans	Pantry	Teaset
Blow torch	Fold	Pots	Tests
Bottle opener	Food	Preparation	Timer
	Fruit	Range	Tray
Bowl	Frying	Roast	Water
Broil	Gas flame	Scales	Weigh
Chairs	Glass	Shelves	
Cook	Ladle	Sink	

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 3)

People will think you're fearless, but you're really just brave, making it look like big dreams are easy for you to take on. You'll inspire and win. You'll be spoiled with attention the way you once wished you'd be. Fresh alliances will benefit you for years to come. More highlights: Tighter organization, better use of time, physical strength and financial growth. Gemini and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 13, 20, 6 and 19.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). When there's dissonance between your public self and the you inside, don't be afraid or expect it to be different. Tension can be a source of beauty. For instance, the tension of a guitar string is necessary for melodious expression.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Believe in your abilities and embrace the journey ahead. You have the determination and perseverance to achieve anything you set your mind to. You're as worthy as any to have your hard work pay off. With confidence, you'll excel.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Just because you see the cleanest, most direct path to your goal doesn't mean you'll take it. Sometimes the short way doesn't offer enough of a chance to connect with your fellow travelers.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll put yourself through the paces of a training process. These repetitions will serve you well in time. Simple actions will get you there. Keep going until the friction points wear smooth.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When people say the wrong thing, but the intention is sweet, does that make it easier to overlook the insensitivity? Your life is expanding to the point that it's hard to find the time to get bent out of shape.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Something great about the past is that it's how you got here, and "here" is where everything happens. It may as well be the center of the universe. Claim it as so. Also, exercise your option to drop any part of the past you don't want to carry.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Remember when you weren't sure how you felt about someone? Now you know, and as feelings develop, you update your status with very little lag time. Give yourself credit for the greater self-awareness.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You have a choice of how to talk to yourself. Why not be warm? One way to overcome perceived shortcomings is to stop perceiving them as such. Instead, try a neutral statement like: This is the current state of things.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Love is a very real human need, but you can't eat it. Today your focus will be on the practical and on tending to and feeding that which will fuel your projects and relationships.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll act as an advocate. You know firsthand how hard life can be without support, which makes you take this role seriously, and you'll definitely shine as you show up strong for the ones you care about.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The situation is complex. The righteous path is either obscured by brush overgrowth or never existed at all. But wisdom is your guide. Rather than getting bogged down in matters of correctness, you'll think in terms of doing what's helpful and useful.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll be entering into a new challenge that comes with its own culture, rules and environment. Who knows this world and can coach you through it? How can you give yourself the advantage of education?

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

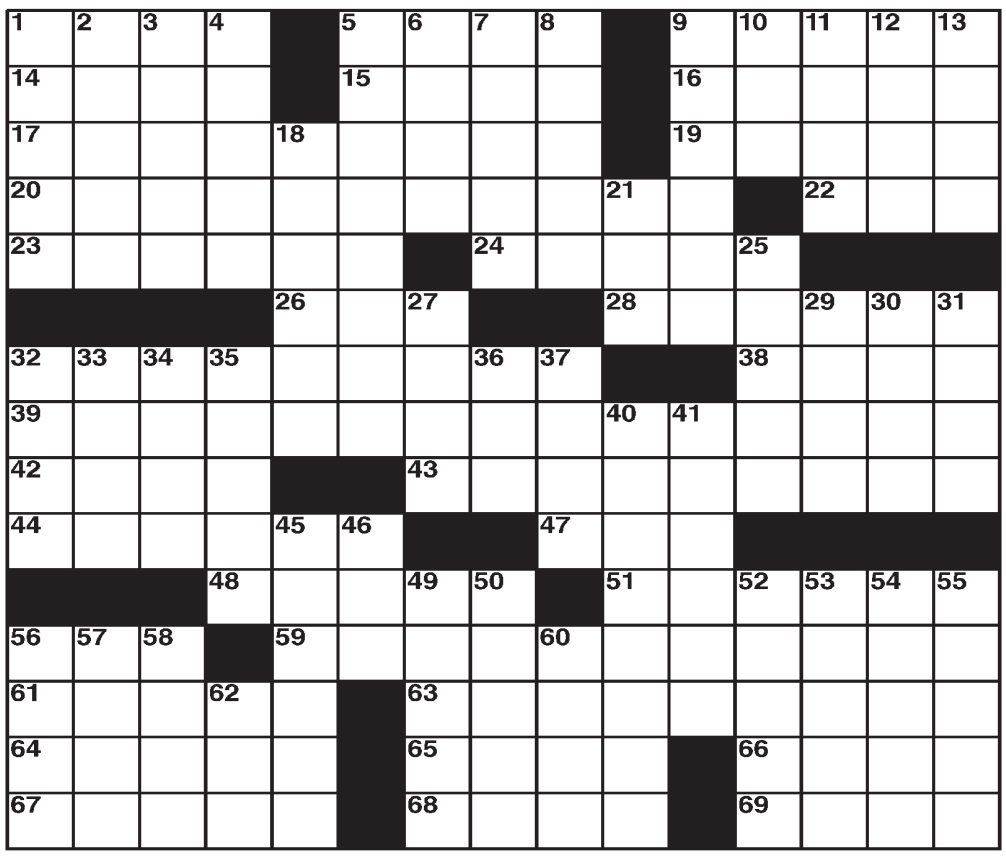
WHERE'S YOUR HOMEWORK? by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Crowds around
5 Work crew
9 Bakery supply
14 Bailiwick
15 Big name in espionage
16 Conform (with)
17 Turntable of a sort
19 "Sorry, ___ do"
20 Lacking-homework excuse
22 *Bounty* designation
23 Take in
24 Pope who met Attila
26 Panamanian pronoun
28 Run down
32 Blitz
38 Not much
39 Lacking-homework excuse
42 *Vidi*
43 Unsupported claim
44 Nobelist nun
47 Authentic, in brand names
48 *CBS Sunday Morning* regular
51 Mississippi's source
56 DC fiscal agency
59 Lacking-homework excuse
61 Regal residence
63 Pre-paying pains
64 Hot mess
65 Detroit River's destination
66 Former Chicago mayor Lightfoot
67 Ersatz letter opener
68 Give a little
69 Music videos, informally

DOWN

1 Obama daughter
2 AI toothbrush brand
3 Spaceflight firm founder
4 Final authority
5 Digital approval
6 Undemanding
7 Most Moroccans
8 North Dakota city
9 NATO alphabet baseballer
10 Certain boost beneficiary
11 Foot feature
12 Singer creation
13 Some ATM output
18 Continuous flow
21 Vintage
25 National Gallery ___
27 The rain in Spain
29 Parisian possessive
30 Oceanic predator
31 Where "all the birds" were named
32 Cut out
33 Letters read on market reports
34 Lasting aftereffect
35 Turn down
36 Shaker ___, OH
37 Course challenge
40 Outfitted differently
41 Exhausting
45 Vocal approval
46 Austrian's lament
49 A-lister
50 Hold dear
52 Listing
53 Diego designation
54 '90s Olds
55 When a hand's up and the other's down
56 Siberian city
57 *Doktor Faustus* novelist
58 ___ B'rith
60 Going ___ the world
62 Wide of the mark



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