3
Extreme Summer
Halfway over.

4
National Night Out
Tonight at City Hall.

5
After Growth
Chronic Stagnation.

TUESDAY
08.01.23

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Body in a barrel found on the Malibu beach

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's department is investigating a body found in a barrel at a popular Malibu beach.

Homicide detectives were called to the 23200 block of the Pacific Coast Highway at about 10:30 a.m. on Monday for a report of a body inside a large oil drum. The Sheriff's department said the case was under their jurisdiction and could not confirm the involvement of lifeguards or the Parks Service in the investigation.

The body was found in the Malibu Lagoon which is a State Park and a popular destination in

SEE **BODY** PAGE 8

Beach stabbing sends one man to the hospital

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

A man was transported to a local hospital yesterday after being stabbed on the beach path in the middle of the afternoon.

According to the Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD), officers were called to the 2000 block of the beach at about 2:07 p.m. for an assault with a deadly weapon call.

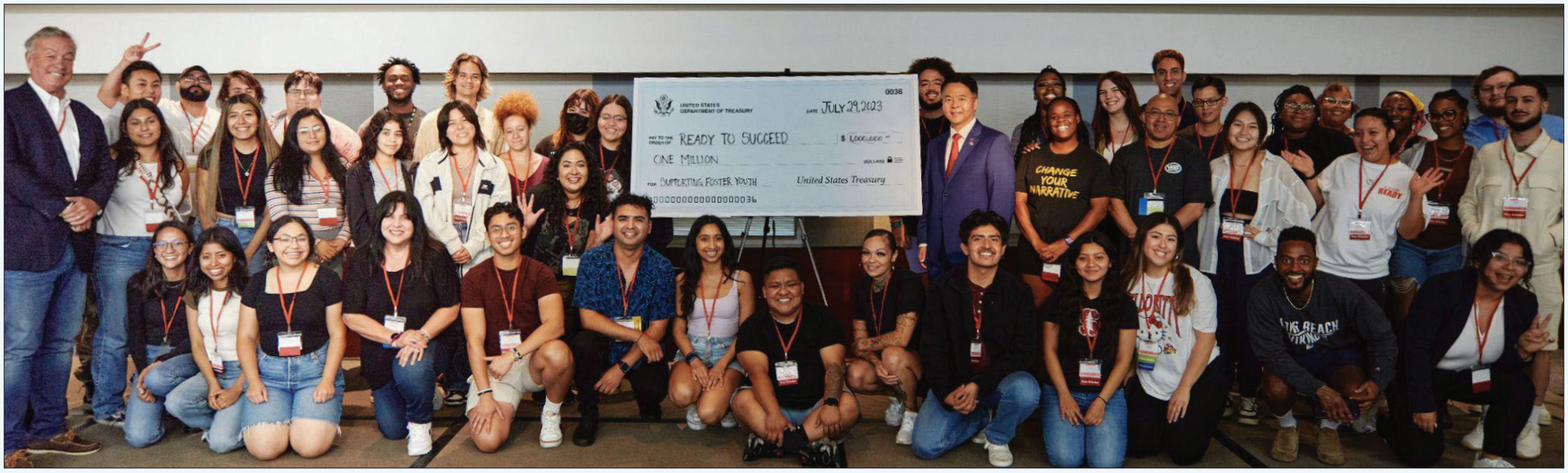
Officers found the victim near the restrooms between the Sea Castle apartments and the Shutters hotel with at least one stab wound to his chest.

"The officers gave the victim first aid and performed CPR until the fire department arrived and transported the victim to a local hospital," said a statement from SMPD.

The suspect was arrested and while there were witnesses to the assault, SMPD said they were still interviewing individuals and actively investigating at press time.

editor@smdp.com

Scholarships support college-bound foster youth



Courtesy Photo

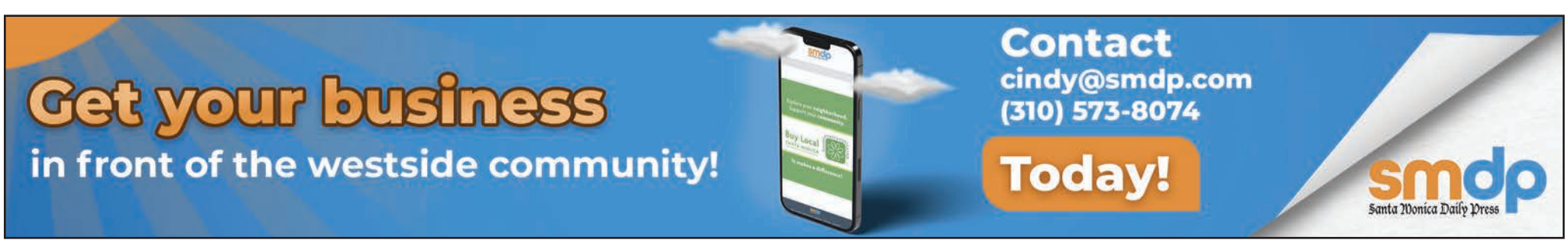
SCHOLARSHIP: Ready To Succeed (RTS) hosted their annual two-day summer camp, Camp Ready, this month. The event is the start of the internship and scholarship program for new participants in the RTS program and for the first time, Congressman Ted W. Lieu announced a $5,000 scholarship for each of the 50 foster youth participating this year.

With support from Congressman Lieu, the Ready to Succeed was included in the federal budget for the first time ever, receiving a $1M grant in the Omnibus Bill passed by Congress. The largest chunk of the grant will be allocated to the $5,000 scholarship for each RTS scholar to head into the school year without worrying about basic needs. This follows the recent Guaranteed Basic Income pilot program that was just released in Los Angeles county which also supports the viewpoint that basic needs are a human right and improve society on a macro level.

Camp Ready is the first interaction Ready to Succeed scholars have with their program and initiates the start of their ongoing support to guide them through college and beyond.

Camp Ready is a summer boot camp designed to make sure that foster youth and first-generation college students Scholars have a career toolkit ready to launch themselves into new opportunities. Last year, 81 scholars were able to attend and now have the career readiness resources they need.

RTS is a local nonprofit dedicated to helping foster youth develop vital skills. RTS founders Romi Lassally and Pat McCabe, alongside a skilled team of experts, scaled a successful program that has resulted in 94% of scholars placed in paid summer internships during college, 92% secure jobs 6 months post graduation, and 95% say they can envision a bright future for the first time in their lives. They are the only nonprofit nationwide that fully focuses on career readiness using a holistic model centered on coaching, community and connections. Graduates of the program average $49,320 upon entering the workforce six times that earned by most foster youth at age 21. For more information, visit https://readytosucceedla.org/.



GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Should California use bond money to cover its budget deficits?

DAN WALTERS

California's state budget is under stress from stagnating tax revenues, leading Gov. Gavin Newsom and legislators to make some hard choices about priorities and enticing them to adopt alternative strategies to maintain spending.

The recently adopted 2023-24 budget contains examples of both and as the income/outgo squeeze continues, as a recent Department of Finance projection indicates, the search for new strategies will become more intense.

One of those strategies emulates the federal government's chronic addiction to borrowing money to cover operating deficits. The 2023-24 budget includes several examples, including directly tapping the state's special funds for loans and indirectly borrowing from employers by forcing them to repay the state's $18 billion debt to the federal government for unemployment insurance benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic.

When the Legislature returns to the Capitol in mid-August for the last month of its 2023 session, one of its unfinished chores is to decide how many bond issues to place on the ballot for two 2024 elections.

Gov. Gavin Newsom and various lawmakers have collectively proposed something north of $100 billion in bonds, which is far more than either voters or financial markets are likely to swallow. Newsom has indicated that he wants a $26 billion lid on bond issues, telling reporters at a recent press conference, "A number of legislative leaders have come to – 'Hey, support this, support my bond, this bond.' We have to work together on what the priorities are going to look like for November."

Some of the proposals are for things that have traditionally been financed with borrowed money, such as school construction and water projects. But there's a disturbing trend in other proposals – using borrowed bond money to operate programs and services that are usually backed by budget appropriations.

It's disturbing because it violates what should be a bedrock principle of bond financing, which is to use it only for projects with long-term benefits, such as construction.

California has generally adhered to that principle but has deviated occasionally, such as issuing long-term bonds in 2004 to pay off billions of dollars in short-term budget debt which threatened to destroy the state's credit rating. Another example is two voter-approved bond issues totaling $8.5 billion to finance stem cell research.



Rahul Lal

SACRAMENTO: The state Capitol in Sacramento on July 6, 2022.

One of the bond measures floating around the Capitol this year would borrow $5.2 billion to deal with the state's epidemic of opioid addiction through treatment and education. It's being pushed by Assemblyman Reggie Jones-Sawyer, a Los Angeles Democrat who chairs the Assembly Public Safety Committee.

The committee has blocked bills that would impose harsher penalties on sellers of fentanyl, a particularly deadly opioid, and Jones-Sawyer contends that non-criminal approaches would work better.

The crisis is real but borrowing money that would have to be repaid by taxpayers over decades, with hefty interest payments, to finance short-term services is a slippery slope. Given the likelihood that California will be seeing

SEE **BUDGET** PAGE 4



Here's how hot and extreme the summer has been, and it's only halfway over

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

At about summer's halfway point, the record-breaking heat and weather extremes are both unprecedented and unsurprising, hellish yet boring in some ways, scientists say.

Killer heat. Deadly floods. Smoke from wildfires that chokes.

And there's no relief in sight.

Expect a hotter than normal August and September, American and European forecast centers predict.

> We are seeing unprecedented changes all over the world
> - Gavin Schmidt NASA climate scientist

"We are seeing unprecedented changes all over the world," said NASA climate scientist Gavin Schmidt. "The heat waves that we're seeing in the U.S. and in Europe, in China are demolishing records left, right and center. This is not a surprise."

Imperial College of London climate scientist Friederike Otto said examining what's causing heat waves is "boring" in a way since it keeps happening. Yet she added that it matters "because it shows again just how much climate change plays a role in what we are currently experiencing."

"This story, these impacts, are going to continue," Schmidt said. "We're going to be seeing this pretty much this year and into next year" with a natural El Nino warming of the Pacific adding to the overwhelming influence of human-caused climate change largely from the burning of coal, oil and gas.

Here's a rundown of the summer of Earth's discontent.

RECORD-SHATTERING HEAT

Globally, June this year was the hottest June on record — and scientists say July has been so hot that even before the month was over they could say it was the hottest month on record. But it's individual places where people live that the heat has stuck around and killed.

Phoenix, where the last day of June and each day of July has been at least 110 degrees, set records for the longest mega-heat streak and longest stretch when the temperatures didn't go below 90 degrees at night.

El Paso, Texas, had 44 days of 100 degree heat. Schools closed in Nuevo Leon state in northern Mexico a month earlier than usual as temperatures reached 113 degrees.

Farther east, Miami added humidity to high heat for 46 straight days of feels-like temperatures of 100 or more.

Beijing had its own record streak with at least 27 days of 95 degrees in July, after a three-day streak of at least 104 in June. And the country set it's all-time highest temperature on July 16 in remote Sanbao township with 126 degrees.

Heat records fell all over southern Europe. Sardinia, Italy, hit 117. Palermo in Sicily broke a record that goes back to 1791 by a whopping 3.6 degrees. Temperatures hit 115 in Gytheio, Greece.

Spain reported nearly 1,000 excess deaths from the heat, mostly among the elderly, by mid July.

In Argentina, where it's mid-winter, temperatures were above 89.6 four straight days in June in the northern part of the county. One July night in Buenos Aires didn't get below the 70s.

TOO MUCH RAIN

More than 10,000 people had to be evacuated in central Hunan province in China where heavy rainfall caused at least 70 houses to collapse. In Yichang, rain triggered a landslide that buried a construction site and killed at least one person.

Australia's Queensland outback got 13 times its normal monthly July rain in just one day.

Thousands of people were evacuated from Delhi in India as rains caused flash floods and landslides. Elsewhere in the country at least 100 people were killed by the downpours.

In the United States, sudden heavy rain killed people in Vermont, Connecticut and Pennsylvania with tragic stories of children washed away in flooding.

WILDFIRES AND SMOKE

Too little rain in Greece and Spain fed wildfires that proved difficult to fight. In the Canary Islands, a fire caused 4,000 people to evacuate, others to wear face masks and had 400 firefighters battling it.

Hot and dry conditions caused about 160 wildfires to break out in Israel in early June.

But what really brought fires home happened in parts of Canada where few people live. Rare far northern Quebec wildfires triggered nasty smoke that inflicted the world's dirtiest air on cities like New York and Washington, then switched to the Midwest.

As of late July more than 600 wildfires were out of control in Canada. A record 47,490 square miles burned, and fire season isn't near done. That's an area larger than the state of Pennsylvania or North Korea.

WATER TEMPERATURES

Water temperatures in the Florida Keys and off the Everglades hit the high 90s with Manatee Bay breaking 100 degrees twice in what could be an unofficial world record for surface water temperature, although that's in dispute.

The North Atlantic had hot spots that alarmed scientists. The world's oceans as a whole were their hottest ever in June and got even hotter in July. In Antarctica, sea ice smashed record-low levels.

Ocean temperatures take a long time to warm up and cool down, said University of Northern Illinois meteorology professor Victor Gensini. So it doesn't look good for the rest of the summer, he said.

A HOT FORECAST

"We are favoring above normal temperatures for the next three months," said NOAA Climate Prediction Center meteorologist Matt Rosencrans.

The only potential relief he sees, especially in the hot Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico, is if a hurricane or tropical storm moves through.

The peak of hurricane season in September hasn't even started.

When going through the litany of this summer's weather extremes so far, University of Pennsylvania climate scientist Michael Mann had one question: "How on God's Earth are we still burning fossil fuels after witnessing all this?"

Researcher Rhonda Shafner contributed to this report from New York.

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WINNER

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SMMUSD
SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District of Los Angeles County (SMMUSD) will receive electronic bids from contractors holding a type "B" license, on the following: Bid #24.04. SMS – DSA # 03--123564 – SMMUSD Grant ES Portable Alterations & Replacements Project at Grant Elementary School per bid specifications. This scope of work is estimated to be between $500,000.00 - $550,000.00 and includes the construction of Alterations to Portable #70 and replacement of Portables #71, #72, & #75 project and other associated improvements per bidding documents. All bids must be submitted electronically as per the instructions included in the bidding documents on or before 9/6/23 no later than 2:00 PM. All General Contractors and Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (M/E/P) Subcontractors must be pre-qualified for this project per bidding documents. To view the projects bidding documents, please visit the projects SecureBids website at: https://colbisecurebids.com/o/smmusd/Bid2404SMSGrantPortables.

Prequalification Due Date & Instructions for Application Submission: All applications are due no later than 8/22/23 - Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District has contracted with Colbi Technologies, Inc. to provide a web-based process for prequalification called QualityBidders. To submit an application at no cost please visit www.qualitybidders.com. Once you have been approved, you will receive an email indicating your approval expiration date and approval limit. The Districts approved contractors listing can be obtained via the FIP website at https://www.smmusd.org/domain/4172.

Mandatory Job Walk: 8/10/23 @ 10:30 AM

Job Walk location: Grant Elementary School located at 2368 Pearl Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405 – All Attending Contractors MUST meet the District representatives at the campus entrance. Bidders will be escorted onto the campus from that location.

Electronic Bid Submittal Deadline: 9/6/23 at 2:00pm

Any further questions or clarifications to this bidding opportunity, please contact Sheere Bishop-Griego at smbishop@smmusd.org directly. In addition, any pre-qualification support issues relative to Colbi Technologies, Inc., website or for technical support please contact support@qualityBidders.com directly.

TEMPORARY STREET CLOSURES MONTH OF AUGUST, 2023

For the latest information on temporary street closures and roadway impacts, please visit the City of Santa Monica website at: www.santamonica.gov/categories/getting-around/street-closures; or scan the QR code below. The Street Closure page has links to various City capital improvement and street maintenance projects and is updated continuously as projects progress to completion. Please check this page periodically for updates.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Citywide

City Attorney's Office Obtains Judgment and Injunction Against Landlord in Tenant Harassment and Eviction Moratorium Case

In a case brought under the City's Tenant Harassment Ordinance, COVID-19 Eviction Moratorium, and Home-Sharing Ordinance by the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Michael E. Whitaker has signed a stipulated judgment and injunction against the Defendant-landlord SoCal Investment Company, LLC.

In City v. Youseph Golshirazian et al, Case No. 21SMCV00201, the City alleged that the Defendants engaged in a campaign to empty out a 30-unit residential building of long-term rent-controlled tenants. The allegations include fraud, intimidation, bad faith baseless evictions brought during a pandemic surge and in violation of the COVID-19 Eviction Moratorium, failure to provide mandatory disclosures in making buyout offers, and renting units as unlawful vacation rentals even after attempting to evict long-term tenants.

> "The City has passed some of the strongest tenant protection laws in the state"
> - Doug Sloan City Attorney

Defendants filed eviction cases against five tenant households in November 2020, in the first year of the pandemic while the Santa Monica Eviction Moratorium was in effect. The Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles represented the tenants in defending the evictions and the cases were dismissed by Defendants.

As a part of the settlement with the City, Defendants Hanokh Golshirazian, Youseph Golshirazian, and SoCal Investment Company, LLC:

- Posted and mailed notices of tenants' rights to all tenants in properties they own or manage in Santa Monica.
- Attended City-approved landlord-tenant training;
- Paid $125,000 to the City, to the be used to support housing protection work within the City; and, agreed to comply with tenant protection and vacation rental laws and to be subject to a minimum penalty of $10,000 for each violation proven in court for four years.

Under the terms of the stipulated judgment, the owner must comply with the City's tenant protection laws, including the Tenant Harassment Ordinance, the requirement to report attempted evictions, the vacation rental law, and the eviction moratorium.

"The City has passed some of the strongest tenant protection laws in the state," said City Attorney Doug Sloan. "We made extraordinary efforts to protect tenants during the COVID-19 pandemic and have continued to focus on tenant protection since. Cases like this one show our willingness to enforce these laws to protect the community."

A separate and related case brought by the victim tenants, represented by the law firm Elder & Spencer, LLP, has also been resolved.

SUBMITTED BY TATI SIMONIAN

City Hall

National Night Out

Santa Monica will hold its annual National Night Out on Tuesday, August 1, at City Hall from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The event aims to promote police-community partnerships and foster neighborhood camaraderie. This year's theme is "Everyone is a Superhero," emphasizing the power of the community to make a positive impact. Santa Monica Police Chief Ramon Batista extended an invitation to the event, highlighting the importance of looking out for one another.

The celebration will feature police officers, community entertainment, food, music, and family-friendly activities. Several sponsors, including the Santa Monica Police Officers Association and 7-Eleven, are supporting the event. Additionally, the Big Blue Bus will offer free rides to and from the event between 4:30 and 9:30 p.m. on all Downtown Santa Monica routes. The Santa Monica Police Department encourages attendees to use this opportunity to join their neighbors in building a safer and more caring community. Free parking will be available in the Civic Center Parking Structure for those who prefer to drive.

Overall, Santa Monica's National Night Out seeks to strengthen community bonds and showcase the potential for positive change when residents come together.

SUBMITTED BY SMDP STAFF

BUDGET

FROM PAGE 2

budget deficits for the foreseeable future, approval of an opioid treatment bond would encourage advocates for other social service and medical services to seek similarly expedient financing.

California has no shortage of debt now. The state treasurer's office says that as of July 1, the state was on the hook for $121 billion in principal and interest on bonds it already has issued. That doesn't count the $18 billion owed to the feds for unemployment insurance, the $82 billion in unfunded liabilities for state employee health care or at least that much in unfunded liabilities for state worker pension obligations.

There is good debt and there is bad debt. In winnowing through the competing bond proposals for placement on the 2024 ballot, Newsom and legislators should remember the difference.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

After decades of historic growth, California switching to a period of chronic stagnation

DAN WALTERS

From its founding 173 years ago, California's history has been dominated by one word: growth.

Its population grew from a few thousand to nearly 40 million, becoming by far the nation's most populous state. Its economy grew to $3.6 trillion, the fourth largest in the world, and its $310.8 billion state budget is virtually the same as Russia's.

But that was then and this is now. California's indices of growth have hit a plateau.

The state's population has been drifting downward for several years, and the state Department of Finance recently projected that it will remain virtually unchanged at just under 40 million at least until 2060 – a radical change from earlier predictions that it would top 50 million by then.

The state's labor force is likewise stagnant, according to the state budget's projections, which explains why employers are having such great difficulty filling positions. Personal income is barely keeping up with inflation, while real, inflation-adjusted wages, the budget says, are declining.

The Department of Finance projects that state tax revenue will remain virtually unchanged for at least the next several years, leading to operating deficits for the remainder of Gov. Gavin Newsom's second and final term.

Looking ahead, the old saying that demography is destiny comes into play.

A stagnant population has myriad social, political and economic impacts – some already evident – such as not having enough workers to fill jobs and California's loss of a congressional seat for the first time in its history.

A non-growing population is an aging population with ever-fewer Californians of working age (18 to 64), and greater

SEE **COMMENTARY** PAGE 8



Jeff Chiu

CALIFORNIA: In this March 16, 2020, file photo, a person looks toward the skyline from Bernal Heights Hill in San Francisco. According to new data from the U.S. Census Bureau released Thursday, Aug. 12, 2021, California's Asian population grew by 25% in the past decade, making them the fastest growing ethnic group in the nation's most populous state.

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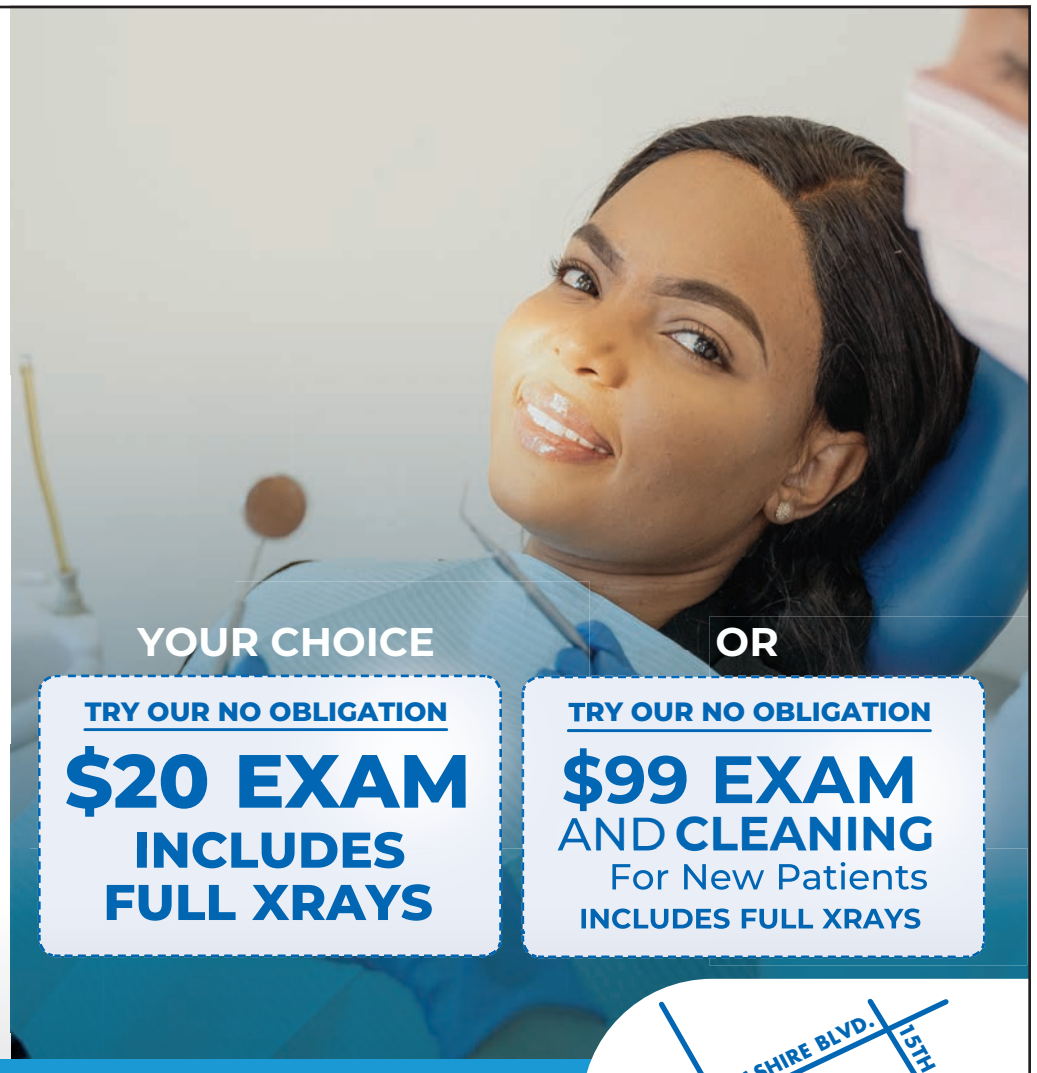
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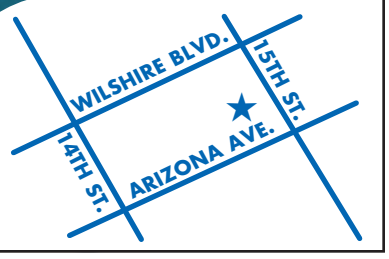
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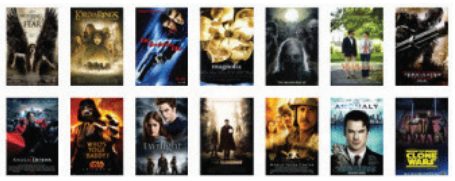
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Customers want instant gratification. Workers say it's pushing them to the brink

ALEXANDRA OLSON
AP Business Writer

Six straight days of 12-hour driving. Single digit paychecks. The complaints come from workers in vastly different industries: UPS delivery drivers and Hollywood actors and writers.

But they point to an underlying factor driving a surge of labor unrest: The cost to workers whose jobs have changed drastically as companies scramble to meet customer expectations for speed and convenience in industries transformed by technology.

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated those changes, pushing retailers to shift online and intensifying the streaming competition among entertainment companies. Now, from the picket lines, workers are trying to give consumers a behind-the-scenes look at what it takes to produce a show that can be binged any time or get dog food delivered to their doorstep with a phone swipe.

> This seems to happen to many places when the tech companies come in. Who are we crushing? It doesn't matter
> - Danielle Sanchez-Witzel, a screenwriter

That workers are overworked and underpaid is an enduring complaint across industries — from delivery drivers to Starbucks baristas and airline pilots — where surges in consumer demand have collided with persistent labor shortages. Workers are pushing back against forced overtime, punishing schedules or company reliance on lower-paid, part-time or contract forces.

An issue for Hollywood screenwriters and actors staging their first simultaneous strikes in 40 years is the way streaming has upended the economics of entertainment, slashing pay and forcing showrunners to produce content faster with smaller teams.

"This seems to happen to many places when the tech companies come in. Who are we crushing? It doesn't matter," said Danielle Sanchez-Witzel, a screenwriter and showrunner on the negotiating team for the Writers Guild of America, whose members have been on strike since May. Earlier this month, the Screen Actors Guild–American Federation of Television and Radio Artists joined the writers' union on the picket line.

Actors and writers have long relied on residuals, or long-term payments, for reruns and other airings of films and televisions shows. But reruns aren't a thing on streaming services, where series and films simply land and stay with no easy way, such as box office returns or ratings, to determine their popularity.

Consequently, whatever residuals streaming companies do pay often amount to a pittance, and screenwriters have been sharing tales of receiving single digit checks.

Adam Shapiro, an actor known for the Netflix hit "Never Have I Ever," said many actors were initially content to accept lower pay for the plethora of roles that streaming suddenly offered. But the need for a more sustainable compensation model gained urgency when it became clear streaming is not a sideshow, but rather the future of the business, he said.

"Over the past 10 years, we realized: 'Oh, that's now how Hollywood works. Everything is streaming,'" Shapiro said during a recent union event.

Shapiro, who has been acting for 25 years, said he agreed to a contract offering 20% of his normal rate for "Never Have I Ever" because it seemed like "a great opportunity, and it's going to be all over the world. And it was. It really was. Unfortunately, we're all starting to realize that if we keep doing this we're not going to be able to pay our bills."

Then there's the rising use of "mini rooms," in which a handful of writers are hired to work only during pre-production, sometimes for a series that may take a year to be greenlit, or never get picked up at all.

Sanchez-Witzel, co-creator of the recently released Netflix series "Survival of the Thickest," said television shows traditionally hire robust writing teams for the duration of production. But Netflix refused to allow her to keep her team of five writers past pre-production, forcing round-the-clock rewrites with just one other writer.

"It's not sustainable and I'll never do that again," she said.

Sanchez-Witzel said she was struck by the similarities between her experience and those of UPS drivers, some of whom joined the WGA for protests as they threatened their own potentially crippling strike. UPS and the Teamsters last week reached a tentative contract staving off the strike.

Jeffrey Palmerino, a full-time UPS driver near Albany, New York, said forced overtime emerged as a top issue during the pandemic as drivers coped with a crush of orders on par with the holiday season. Drivers never knew what time they would get home or if they could count on two days off each week, while 14-hour days in trucks without air

SEE **LABOR** PAGE 8

Do you believe in angels? About 7 in 10 U.S. adults do, a new AP-NORC poll shows

HOLLY MEYER
Associated Press

Compared with the devil, angels carry more credence in America.

Angels even get more credence than, well, hell. More than astrology, reincarnation, and the belief that physical things can have spiritual energies.

In fact, about 7 in 10 U.S. adults say they believe in angels, according to a new poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

"People are yearning for something greater than themselves — beyond their own understanding," said Jack Grogger, a chaplain for the Los Angeles Angels and a longtime Southern California fire captain who has aided many people in their gravest moments.

That search for something bigger, he said, can take on many forms, from following a religion to crafting a self-driven purpose to believing in, of course, angels.

"For a lot of people, angels are a lot safer to worship," said Grogger, who also pastors a nondenominational church in Orange, California, and is a chaplain for the NHL's Anaheim Ducks.

People turn to angels for comfort, he said. They are familiar, regularly showing up in pop culture as well as in the Bible. Comparably, worshipping Jesus is far more involved; when Grogger preaches about angels it is with the context that they are part of God's kingdom.

American's belief in angels (69%) is about on par with belief in heaven and the power of prayer, but bested by belief in God or a higher power (79%). Fewer U.S. adults believe in the devil or Satan (56%), astrology (34%), reincarnation (34%), and that physical things can have spiritual energies, such as plants, rivers or crystals (42%).

The widespread acceptance of angels shown in the AP-NORC poll makes sense to Susan Garrett, an angel expert and New Testament professor at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Kentucky. It tracks with historical surveys, she said, adding that the U.S. remains a faith-filled country even as more Americans reject organized religion.

But if the devil is in the details, so are people's understandings of angels.

"They're very malleable," Garrett said of angels. "You can have any one of a number of quite different worldviews in terms of your understanding of how the cosmos is arranged, whether there's spirit beings, whether there's life after death, whether there's a God … and still find a place for angels in that worldview."

Talk of angels, Garrett said, is often also about something else, like the ways God interacts with the world and other hard-to-articulate ideas.

The large number of U.S. adults who say they believe in angels includes 84% of those with a religious affiliation — 94% of evangelical Protestants, 81% of mainline Protestants and 82% of Catholics — and 33% of those without one. And of those angel-believing religiously unaffiliated, that includes 2% of atheists, 25% of agnostics and 50% of those identified as "nothing in particular."

The broad acceptance is what fascinates San Francisco-based witch and author Devin Hunter: Angels show up independently in different religions and traditions, making them part of the fabric that unites humanity.

"We're all getting to the same conclusion," said Hunter, who spent 16 years as a professional medium, and started communicating as a child with what he believed were angels.

Hunter estimates that a belief in angels applies to about half of those practicing modern witchcraft today, and for some who don't believe, their rejection is often rooted in the religious trauma they experienced growing up.

"Angels become a very big deal" for long-time practitioners who've made occultism their primary focus, said Hunter, an angel-loving occultist. "We cannot escape them in any way, shape or form."

Jennifer Goodwin of Oviedo, Florida, also is among the roughly seven in 10 U.S. adults who say they believe in angels. She isn't sure if God exists and rejects the afterlife dichotomy of heaven and hell, but the recent deaths of her parents solidified her views on these celestial beings.

Goodwin believes her parents are still keeping an eye on the family — not in any physical way or as a supernatural apparition, but that they manifest in those moments when she feels a general sense of comfort.

"I think that they are around us, but it's in a way that we can't understand," Goodwin said. "I don't know what else to call it except an angel."

Angels mean different things to different people, and the idea of loved ones becoming heavenly angels after death is neither an unusual belief nor a universally held one.

In his reading of Scripture as an evangelical Protestant, Grogger said he believes angels are something else entirely — they have never been human and are on another level in heaven's hierarchy. "We are higher than angels," he said. "We do not become an angel."

Angels do interact with humans though, said Grogger, but what "that looks like we're not 100% sure." They worship God who created this angelic legion of unknown numbers, he said, adding that evangelicals often attribute the demonic forces in the world to the angels who fell from heaven when the devil rebelled.

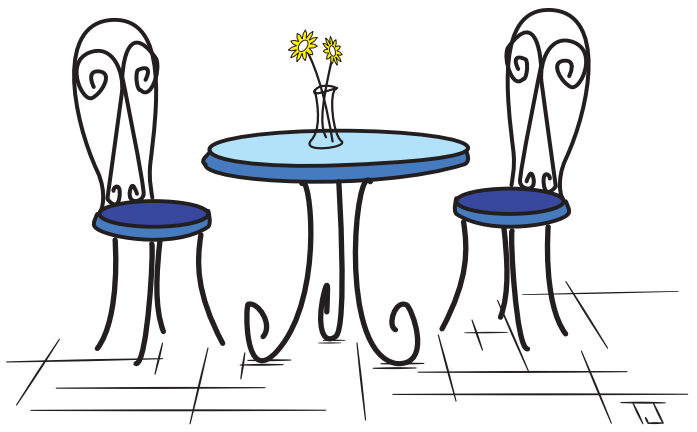
The Western ideas about angels can be traced through the Bible — and to the worldviews of its monotheistic authors, Garrett said. Those beliefs have changed and developed for millennia, influenced by cultures, theologians and even the ancient polytheistic beliefs that came before the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament, she said.

"There are sort of lines of continuity from the Bible that you can trace all the way up to the New Age movement," said Susan Garrett, who wrote "No Ordinary Angel: Celestial Spirits and Christian Claims about Jesus."

The angels in the Bible do God's bidding, and angelic violence is one part of their job description, said Esther Hamori, author of the upcoming book, "God's Monsters: Vengeful Spirits, Deadly Angels, Hybrid Creatures, and

SEE **ANGEL** PAGE 8

dine in the great
Outdoors

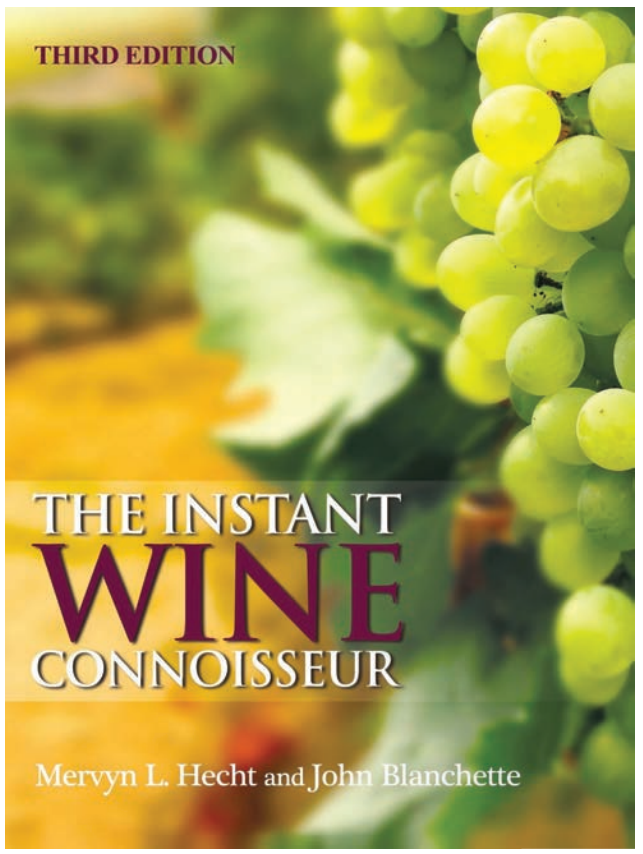


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ANGEL

FROM PAGE 7

Divine Hitmen of the Bible."

"The angels of the Bible are just as likely to assassinate individuals and slaughter entire populations as they are to offer help and protect and deliver," said Hamori. She doesn't believe in these angels, but studies them as a Hebrew Bible professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York where she teaches a popular "Monster Heaven" class.

"They're just God's obedient soldiers doing the task at hand, and sometimes that task is in human beings' best interests, and sometimes it's not," she said.

The perception that angels act angelic and look like the idyllic, winged figurines atop Christmas trees could be attributed to an early centuries belief that people are assigned one good angel and one bad — or have a good and bad spirit to guide them, Garrett said.

This idea shows up on the shoulders of cartoon characters and is likely what Abraham Lincoln was alluding to in his famous appeal for unity when he referenced "the better angels of our nature" in his first inaugural address, she said.

"It's also tied in with ideas about guardian angels, which again, very ancient views that got developed over the centuries," Garrett said.

For Sheila Avery of Chicago, angels are protectors, capable of keeping someone from harm. Avery, who belongs to a nondenominational church, credits them with those moments like when a person's plans fall through, but ultimately it saves them from being in the thick of an unexpected disaster.

"They turn on the news and a terrible tragedy happened at that particular place," Avery said, suggesting it was an "angel that was probably watching over them."

The poll of 1,680 adults was conducted May 11-15 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 3.4 percentage points.

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DBA

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BODY

FROM PAGE 1

the area.

On Monday, the Sheriff's Department said their investigation into the incident is underway and more details will be available after their officers have a chance to examine the scene.

editor@smdp.com

LABOR

FROM PAGE 6

conditioning became the norm.

"It was basically like Christmas on steroids for two straight years. A lot of us were forced to work six days a week, and that is not any way to live your life," said Palmerino, a Teamsters shop steward.

Along with pay raises and air conditioning, the Teamsters won concessions that Palmerino hopes will ease overwork. UPS agreed to end forced overtime on days off and eliminate a lower-paid category of drivers who work shifts that include weekends, converting them to full-time drivers. Union members have yet to ratify the deal.

The Teamsters and labor activists hailed the tentative deal as a game-changer that would pressure other companies facing labor unrest to raise their standards. But similar outcomes are far from certain in industries lacking the sheer economic indispensability of UPS or the clout of its 340,000-member union.

Efforts to organize at Starbucks and Amazon stalled as both companies aggressively fought against unionization.

Still, labor protests will likely gain momentum following the UPS contract, said Patricia Campos-Medina, executive director of the Worker Institute at the School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University, which released a report this year that found the number of labor strikes rose 52% in 2022.

"The whole idea that consumer convenience is above everything broke down during the pandemic. We started to think, 'I'm at home ordering, but there is actually a worker who has to go the grocery store, who has to cook this for me so that I can be comfortable," Campos-Medina said.

> "The whole idea that consumer convenience is above everything broke down during the pandemic. We started to think, 'I'm at home ordering, but there is actually a worker who has to go the grocery store, who has to cook this for me so that I can be comfortable
> - Patricia Campos-Medina

Associated Press video journalist Leslie Ambriz contributed from Los Angeles.

COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 5

demands for health care and other services. Even the youngest members of the post-World War II baby boom generation are now close to retirement.

The net outflow of population vis-à-vis other states exacerbates the workforce dilemma even more, and a chronic lack of workers discourages employers from expanding operations with a negative effect on the overall economy.

California lost one congressional seat after the 2020 census because its population grew slower than the rest of the country. Over the next several decades, at least, California and other slow- or no-growth blue states, such as New York, will lose more seats to fast-growing red states such as Florida and Texas, and therefore more presidential electoral college votes.

California's net loss in state-to-state migration patterns may already be a factor in the state's projection of stagnant tax revenues. The state's tax system is inordinately dependent on taxing the incomes of the state's most affluent residents. The highest income 1% of Californians generate nearly half of income taxes, which are the lion's share of overall revenues.

A fierce debate has raged in academic and political circles over whether there has been a significant flight of wealthy taxpayers from the state as marginal tax rates rose and the federal government sharply restricted their ability to deduct state taxes on the federal tax returns – the latter an issue now raging in Congress.

The debate gained new fodder recently when SmartAsset, a website devoted to economic issues, revealed that California and New York have the highest out-migration rates of taxpayers with incomes over $200,000 a year.

The SmartAsset study, based on federal tax return data, found that in 2021, California had a net loss of 27,341 high-income taxpayers, a 42% increase from the outflow in 2020. California's loss was the nation's highest and Florida and Texas, neither of which has an income tax, were the major gainers.

It's reasonable to assume that the flight from California contributes in some measure to the state's projection of stagnating tax revenues and ongoing deficits.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 1)

It's your year of truth-seeking and illumination. You'll use a remarkable education to earn more, discover the world and develop yourself. More highlights: A tedious ongoing task will finally be taken off your hands. You'll solve a great mystery affecting many. Three new friends favorably influence the plot of your social life and your habits. Aries and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 7, 20, 13 and 5.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Seek help in breaking your bad habits, and don't be afraid to experiment with solutions; if you knew which one was going to work, you wouldn't be stuck. So try new things, even the silly ones.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Theories live in their own fictional realm. You're more interested in what will happen in the world you share with others, and so you'll put a theory to the test and let it show you what it can do in reality.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll be motivated by a shiny prize. The real prize is who you become because you did the work. While that's far more valuable than any trophy, the award gives you a helpful point of focus.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll accomplish 20 things before lunch and another 30 get ticked off your list by dinner, and yet somehow you still have the energy to invest in your loved ones at the end of the day. Love repowers you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You won't be stuck for long. Input from the knowledgeable and experienced will grease your gears. This may come in conversational or book form. You'll solve a problem and broaden your understanding of the big picture.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll get a win, but it feels temporary. Don't worry how long this will last. Make it count. Publicize it far and wide. You won't be able to build on it if no one knows about it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It takes guts to be outgoing because there's always a risk of being misconstrued, judged or rejected. You proudly assume the risk, break the ice, share something real about yourself and pave the way for honest connection.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your feelings will surprise you. Since there's no such thing as a "wrong" emotion, it's better not to impose logic on your mood. You have a way of turning whatever energy comes into useful fuel for interesting outcomes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're open and impressionable today, so hang out with the people you want to be like. If you can't do it face to face, media works well, too — especially what you read in books, which will touch deep into your psyche.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your subconscious has an agenda that you're just now learning about. It's surprising to find out that you've been keeping secrets from yourself, but all will be revealed at the perfect time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Because you're not afraid of complexity and you expect life to get a little messy at times, people show you who they really are. You bond in an honest connection.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're in the early stages of a transformation and starting to play around with a new way of seeing yourself. Trying on personas can be fun like shopping. Don't worry about going all in until you find the right fit.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

A	C	H	E	S	■	I	D	E	A	■	B	O	A	T
B	L	A	R	E	■	D	R	U	G	■	A	I	D	E
C	I	V	I	L	■	L	U	R	E	■	C	L	A	N
S	P	E	E	D	D	E	M	O	N	■	K	E	G	S
■	■	■	■	O	A	R	■	■	D	E	G	R	E	E
G	R	A	M	M	Y	■	K	O	A	L	A	■	■	■
A	U	R	A	■	S	A	N	G	■	S	M	A	L	L
P	I	E	R	S	■	F	O	R	■	E	M	C	E	E
S	N	A	K	E	■	A	W	E	S	■	O	M	E	N
■	■	■	H	E	A	R	S	■	T	U	N	E	R	S
S	M	E	A	R	S	■	■	S	A	N	■	■	■	■
P	U	R	R	■	C	A	R	L	Y	S	I	M	O	N
A	T	O	M	■	O	B	O	E	■	N	O	O	N	E
R	E	D	O	■	T	I	L	E	■	A	W	A	I	T
E	D	E	N	■	S	T	E	P	■	P	A	N	T	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	9	2	6	7	1	3	4	5
6	3	4	5	2	9	1	8	7
5	1	7	8	3	4	9	6	2
4	2	6	9	8	7	5	1	3
9	8	5	2	1	3	4	7	6
1	7	3	4	6	5	8	2	9
3	4	8	7	5	2	6	9	1
2	6	1	3	9	8	7	5	4
7	5	9	1	4	6	2	3	8

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

Newsday Crossword

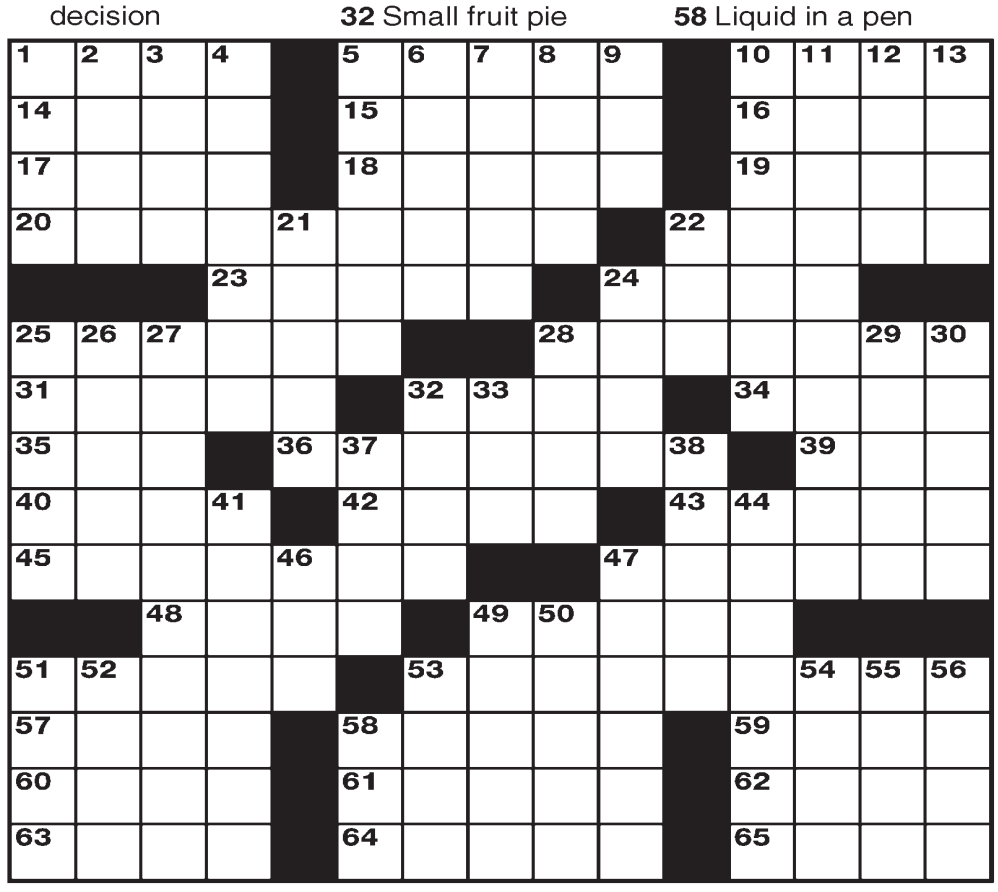
ME FIRST by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Sound of an electric fan
5 Detest
10 Enlivens, with "up"
14 Fire hydrant attachment
15 Show to be true
16 Very funny person
17 Letters after kays
18 Longed (for)
19 Capital of Norway
20 Startling revelation
22 Sharply sloped
23 Dripping when off, as a faucet
24 Legal claim, as a mortgage
25 Whine tearfully
28 Raincoats with a hole for the head
31 Not as narrow
32 Spicy Southeast Asian cuisine
34 Legal wrong
35 Had breakfast or lunch
36 Athlete's staying power
39 By the __ (incidentally)
40 Sandy golf course hazard
42 Smooth out creases
43 Detect an odor
45 One-person performance
47 Thinly scattered
48 Subtle visual signal
49 Supply food for a party
51 Full of rocks, as a beach
53 Bart Simpson's Spanish catchphrase
57 Rudely abrupt
58 Run up, as debt
59 __ as a cucumber (calm)
60 Up to the task
61 Nick of films
62 Initial poker bet
63 Sober-motoring org.
64 Parts of pants often with patches
65 Bratty talk

DOWN

1 Roller coaster rider's shout
2 Sacred
3 Land surrounded by water
4 Settle, as a dispute
5 Contest a court decision
6 Extreme edge
7 Beehive product
8 Higher than
9 Traditional fire-engine color
10 Shield from harm
11 1950s president
12 Fishing rod
13 "Cut it out!"
21 Jury members, in theory
22 Moral wrong
24 "Tender" cut of steak
25 Attacks, as a fly
26 Explosive liquid, for short
27 Hypothetical utopia
28 __ in the neck (pest)
29 Face-to-face exams
30 Fashion sense
32 Small fruit pie
33 Med. insurance group
37 Clock sound
38 According to
41 Indicated a direction with one's finger
44 Rattle-like musical instruments
46 __ day now (soon)
47 Gawks (at)
49 Ride a bike
50 Sharp, as vision
51 Con game
52 Big brass horn
53 Unknown, as a writer: Abbr.
54 da Vinci's __ *Lisa*
55 Web-crawling apps
56 Pub drinks
58 Liquid in a pen

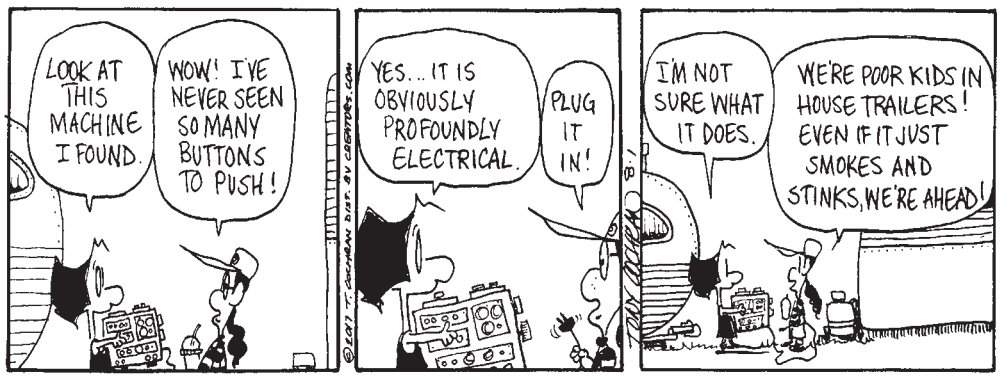


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Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



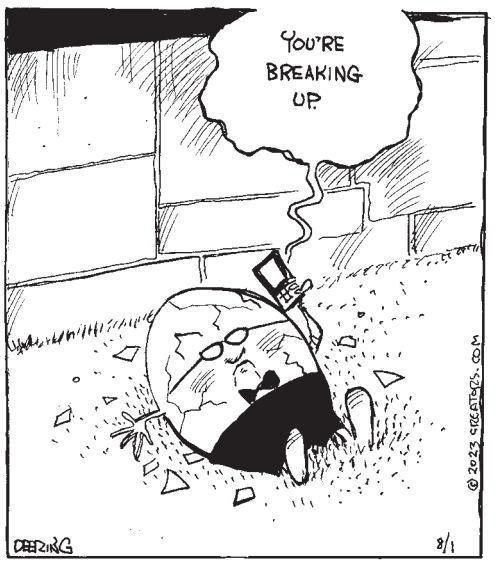
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 16 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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Dangerous fauna

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

Adder
Ants
Aphis
Avoid
Bats
Black
Burn
Copperhead
Cyclone
Dark
Earwig
Eels
Eggs
Fangs
Grass
Grub
Hazard
Hide
Hornet
Hurt
King
Large
Leech
Lice
Lotion
Mako
Mite
Moths
Nasty
Orb webs
Ouch
Pain
Pale
Panic
Pets
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Python
Rabies
Rips
Scare
Sick
Slough
Slugs
Smell
Snake
Swat
Toad
Wasp
Weak
Yuck

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What's Up Westside

out and about in Santa Monica

TUESDAY | AUGUST 1

THE NO CHASERS

Doors open at 8 PM. Show starts at 9:30PM. Online ticket sales end at 7 PM, tics available at the door after 8 PM. 2 drink minimum. The No Chasers" are hailed as one of the greatest cover groups around SoCal. Their charm is summed up in one sentence "All young people, playing old music". Though most of their set includes classics from the 50s - 70s, they can pull out goodies from all genres and decades, from Beatles to Pink Floyd and Elvis to Ed Sheeren. Harvelle's Santa Monica, 1432 4th St. https://santamonica.harvelles.com/shows/226979

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT WITH SMPD

the Santa Monica community is invited to join Police Chief Ramon Batista, the members of the Santa Monica Police Department along with other city divisions, plus thousands of communities nationwide to celebrate National Night Out (NNO). NNO is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie aimed at making the neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. NNO enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. SMPD's theme this year is "Everyone Can Be A Superhero". Grab your free cape, snap Instagram-worthy photos with your favorite Superhero and learn all about the amazing things the community members do every single day that make the Santa Monica community great. 5:30 - 8:30 p.m, 1685 Main Street, In front of City Hall.

WEDNESDAY | AUGUST 2

ANIMAL FEEDING DEMONSTRATIONS

Swim by and visit the Aquarium every Wednesday to observe local marine animals, and watch live feeding demonstrations by Aquarium staff. Wednesday Mealtimes: 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. https://healthebay.org/event/shark-feeding-2-2023-07-02/

THURSDAY | AUGUST 3

HOUSING COMMISSION

The Santa Monica Housing Commission is a city advisory body whose mission is to protect and improve the quality of life of all Santa Monicans by listening to input from city residents and staff, publicly deliberating, and providing recommendations to both the Santa Monica City Council and Santa Monica Housing Authority Board on issues related to housing in Santa Monica. The Santa Monica Housing Commission is committed to strengthening the social, economic, and cultural vitality and diversity of Santa Monica through habitable, fair, and equitable housing for all. 6:00 p.m - until concluded https://www.smgov.net/departments/clerk/boards.aspx?id=53687092551

FRIDAY | AUGUST 4

LAVENDER AND TRUFFLES ICE CREAM TASTING

Lavender and Truffles plant-based ice cream made with organic oatmilk is popping up at Cafe Demitase in Santa Monica. Rotating 6 flavors every week with FREE tastings of all flavors. Scoops and pints available for sale too! 6:30pm-9:30pm, Cafe Demitasse, 1149 3rd Street

WOMEN OF SPACE SERIES: WOMEN IN SPACEFLIGHT

It's been a long time since the flight of Valentina Tereshkova and the frustration of the "Mercury 13," the female aviators in the 1960s who went through the same screening process as the original seven NASA astronauts, without the chance to go into space. Until relatively recently, women in spaceflight saw small breakthroughs, but little wholesale progress. While we now routinely see women in program management and mission commander positions, it has been a struggle, which lecturer Sarah Vincent will chronicle. 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM, Online Event https://www.smc.edu/community/planetarium/

SATURDAY | AUGUST 5

BRISK FESTIVAL L.A. RETURNS TO SANTA MONICA FOR ITS III EDITION

The Brisk Festival is an international theater extravaganza, featuring an impressive lineup of 53 short one-act plays. The festival serves as a vital platform for artists, celebrates diverse voices, and aims to discover new or established talent. Two distinct programs, each featuring 10-minute one-act plays. In total, eight shows, comprising 6-8 plays each. Three of the shows, comprising 22 one-acts, were written and performed exclusively in Spanish, adding a unique multicultural flair. Participants from Mexico, Florida, and Spain join local artists. In addition to the captivating plays, festival-goers can savor delectable food options and peruse various vendors on the theater's patio. A variety of traditional Baja California dishes by Los Toxicos and authentic Iberico ham flown in from Spain will be among the culinary delights. Morgan-Wixson Theater, 2627 Pico Blvd https://briskfestival.com/

SUNDAY | AUGUST 6

NATIONAL FARMERS MARKET WEEK 2023

TVisit one of the Santa Monica Farmers Markets to celebrate National Farmers Market Week. Join in the celebration to honor the farmers, local produce and our community. Starting at 8:30 am to 1:00 pm on Main Street Market.

For help submitting an event, contact us at
310-458-7737 or submit to events@smdp.com



SURF REPORT

WATER TEMP: **74.1**

TUESDAY *POOR TO FAIR*	**SURF:** 2-3ft Thigh to waist	Should still be something worth surfing for the better summer exposures as SSW swell lingers. Shape straightens out a bit with NW windswell dropping to smaller leftovers — less corners for the beachbreaks out west.
WEDNESDAY *POOR TO FAIR*	**SURF:** 1-2ft Knee to thigh	Could see shape trend back more peaky. Expecting a little refresh of SSW swell and NW windswell could perk back up enough to help in the shape department. The tide is drained for the dawn patrol before a decent push through the morning.

WEATHER

Tuesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 75. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Tuesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 66.
Wednesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 74.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 62.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2023/08/01	Tue	04:08 AM	-1.47	L
2023/08/01	Tue	10:33 AM	4.24	H
2023/08/01	Tue	3:17 PM	2.00	L
2023/08/01	Tue	9:35 PM	7.26	H
2023/08/02	Wed	04:48 AM	-1.45	L
2023/08/02	Wed	11:10 AM	4.48	H
2023/08/02	Wed	4:09 PM	1.77	L
2023/08/02	Wed	10:23 PM	7.05	H
2023/08/03	Thu	05:28 AM	-1.21	L
2023/08/03	Thu	11:50 AM	4.72	H
2023/08/03	Thu	5:04 PM	1.61	L
2023/08/03	Thu	11:12 PM	6.54	H
2023/08/04	Fri	06:07 AM	-0.74	L
2023/08/04	Fri	12:31 PM	4.95	H
2023/08/04	Fri	6:02 PM	1.54	L
2023/08/05	Sat	12:03 AM	5.77	H
2023/08/05	Sat	06:45 AM	-0.10	L
2023/08/05	Sat	1:14 PM	5.15	H

DAILY LOTTERY

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

Powerball
Draw Date: 7/29
10 25 27 34 38
Power#: 2
Jackpot: 74 M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 7/28
5 10 28 52 63
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 1.05 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 7/29
4 24 31 32 46
Mega#: 15
Jackpot: 81 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 7/30
1 3 10 19 36

Daily 3
Draw Date: 7/30
EVENING: 0 7 6
Draw Date: 7/30
MIDDAY: 4 7 8

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 7/30
1st: 02 - Lucky Star
2nd: 04 - Big Ben
3rd: 10 - Solid Gold
Race Time: 1:41.92

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