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For 2024.

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# Victim of Monday's beachfront stabbing dies at the hospital

**MATTHEW HALL**
Daily Press Editor

A man was killed on Monday afternoon on the Santa Monica beach after being stabbed by a homeless man.

Juan Evarastico Bahena, 48, was identified by witnesses and taken into custody following the broad-daylight attack near the public restrooms on the 2000 block of the beach.

According to SMPD, Bahena argued with an as yet unidentified victim on the east side of the beach restrooms south of the Shutters and Casa del Mar hotels. Bahena stabbed the victim in the chest and the 27-year-old man was unconscious by the time officers arrived. Officers performed CPR until the fire department arrived and while the victim was transported to a local hospital, he ultimately succumbed to his injuries.

SMPD said the victim is not being identified until family can be notified. No information regarding his housing status was available at press time but SMPD said the victim had a dog with him at the time of the attack and the animal is now under the care of the police department.

Murders are rare in Santa Monica but the Monday attack comes as residents are increasingly concerned about crime.

In 2022, serious crime in Santa Monica saw a 10% increase, driven by aggravated assault, robbery, and car theft. Part 1 Crimes, including burglary and larceny, rose to 4,719 incidents, up from 4,300 the previous year but still below 2018 levels. Robbery calls increased by 47%, reaching 231 incidents, but remained lower than pre-pandemic levels due to enhanced patrols in the downtown area. There were three murders reported last year.

Car thefts were the main contributor to the crime surge, with 121 more incidents compared to the previous year, totaling 541. This crime is partly fueled by social media targeting specific car models lacking anti-theft technology. Business burglaries decreased, but home burglaries increased. Larceny, mainly attributed to shoplifting, rose by 251 incidents, with shoplifting accounting for 231 of those cases. Theft from vehicles increased, while bicycle theft decreased.

Less serious crimes, known as Part 2 offenses, including DUI, public intoxication, simple assault, weapons charges, drug, and fraud, increased by 21%. However, these crimes are still below pre-pandemic levels. Simple assault cases increased by 161 incidents, reaching a total of 742, while weapon charges hit a five-year low of 24 in 2020 and then increased to 54. Narcotic arrests nearly doubled from 123 in 2021 to 228 in 2022.

SEE **STABBING** PAGE 8




SMDP Image

**STABBING:** The victim was stabbed to death on the beach mid-afternoon on Monday.

## Few details on origin of Malibu body found in an oil drum

**MATTHEW HALL**
Daily Press Editor

The body of a naked man was found inside a barrel in Malibu on Monday and homicide detectives are investigating the circumstances around the death, authorities said.

SEE **BODY** PAGE 4

## Beach tennis, like pickleball, paddles its way into local hearts

**ARABELLA JOAQUIN**
SMDP Intern

While pickleball has dominated discussions about fast growing sports across the country, Santa Monica remains the home of a sandier, paddle fueled sport: beach tennis.

Much like pickleball is thriving on paved courts worldwide, beach tennis is staking its claim internationally.

"Beach Tennis is the fastest growing beach sport in the world, played in over 70 countries," said Carolina Hannes, US national beach tennis champion and founder of Beach Tennis Santa Monica and Torrance. "It is a combination of beach volleyball, tennis and badminton. Even in countries like Brazil beach tennis has become more popular than soccer."

Players said it's a natural fit for the City By The Sea.

"Beach tennis is as the name entails, it's on the beach. Right? So Santa Monica has one of the best beaches in Southern California. So it makes sense that beach tennis will become popular," said Aurelian Leturgie, a beach tennis player.



Courtesy Photo

**BEACH:** Beach Tennis on the Santa Monica beach.

SEE **TENNIS** PAGE 7



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# Don't call it 'toilet to tap' — California plans to turn sewage into drinking water

**RACHEL BECKER**
Special to the Daily Press

Californians could drink highly purified sewage water that is piped directly into drinking water supplies for the first time under proposed rules unveiled by state water officials.

The drought-prone state has turned to recycled water for more than 60 years to bolster its scarce supplies, but the current regulations require it to first make a pit stop in a reservoir or an aquifer before it can flow to taps.

The new rules, mandated by state law, would require extensive treatment and monitoring before wastewater can be piped to taps or mingled with raw water upstream of a drinking water treatment plant.

"Toilet-to-tap" this is not.

Between flush and faucet, a slew of steps are designed to remove chemicals and pathogens that remain in sewage after it has already undergone traditional primary, secondary and sometimes tertiary treatment.

It is bubbled with ozone, chewed by bacteria, filtered through activated carbon, pushed at high pressures through reverse osmosis membranes multiple times, cleansed with an oxidizer like hydrogen peroxide and beamed with high-intensity UV light. Valuable minerals, such as calcium, that were filtered out are restored. And then, finally, the wastewater is subjected to the regular treatment that all drinking water currently undergoes.

"Quite honestly, it'll be the cleanest drinking water around," said Darrin Polhemus, deputy director of the state's Division of Drinking Water.

The 62 pages of proposed rules, more than a decade in the making, are not triggering much, if any, debate among health or water experts. A panel of engineering and water quality scientists deemed an earlier version of the regulations protective of public health, although they raised concerns that the treatment process would be energy-intensive.

"I would have no hesitation drinking this water my whole life," said Daniel McCurry, an assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of Southern California.

This water is expected to be more expensive than imported water, but also provide a more renewable and reliable supply for California as climate change continues. Most treated sewage — about 400 million gallons a day in Los Angeles County alone — is released into rivers, streams and the deep ocean.

The draft rules, released on July 21st, still face a gauntlet of public comment, a hearing and peer review by another panel of experts before being finalized. The State Water Resources Control Board is required by law to vote on them by the end of December, though they can extend the deadline if necessary. They would likely go into effect next April and it will take many years to reach people's taps.

Heather Collins, water treatment manager for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, said the regulations will give the district more certainty about how to design a massive, multi-billion dollar water recycling project with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts. The district imports water that is provided to 19 million Southern Californians.




Photo by Lauren Justice for CalMatters

**JARS:** Reverse osmosis, step two in the process, eliminates more than 99% of all impurities at the Pure Water Southern California Demonstration Plant in Carson, on July 28, 2023. On the left is what the water is filtered through, and on the right are samples of the before and after reverse osmosis.

The joint effort, called Pure Water Southern California, has already received $80 million from the state. The first phase of the project, which could be completed by 2032, is expected to produce about 115 million gallons of recycled water a day, enough for 385,000 Southern California households.

Most is planned to go towards recharging local water agencies' groundwater stores, but about 20% could be added to drinking water supplies upstream of Metropolitan's existing treatment plant for imported water.

"We're excited," Collins said. "It helps better inform us on what our project needs to include, so that we can have a climate-resistant supply for our agencies in Southern California."

The new rules come as endless cycles of drought leave California's water suppliers scrabbling for new sources of water, like purified sewage. In 2021, Californians used about 732,000 acre feet of recycled water, equivalent to the amount used by roughly 2.6 million households, though much of it goes to non-drinking purposes, like irrigating landscapes, golf courses and crops.

Last year, Gov. Gavin Newsom called for increasing recycled water use in California roughly 9% by 2030 and more than doubling it by 2040.

"Water recycling is about finding new water, not just accepting the scarcity mindset — being more resourceful in terms of our approach," Newsom said last May in front of Metropolitan's Pure Water Southern California demonstration plant.

Some recycled water is already used to refill underground stores that provide drinking water, a process called indirect potable reuse, employed beginning in the 1960s in Los Angeles and Orange counties. But a water agency must have a clean and convenient place to store the expensive, highly-purified water. "You don't want to inject this recycled wastewater that you've spent all this effort cleaning into a dirty, polluted aquifer just to ruin it again," McCurry said.

To expand these uses, state lawmakers in 2010 tasked the water board with investigating the possibility of adding recycled water either directly into a public water system or just upstream of a water treatment plant. In 2017, they set a deadline to develop the regulations by the end of 2023.

California won't be the first; Colorado already has regulations and the nation's first direct potable reuse plant was built in Texas in 2013. Florida and Arizona have rules in the works.

California's statewide rules, however, are expected to be the most stringent, said Andrew Salveson, water reuse chief technologist at Carollo Engineers, an environmental engineering consulting firm that specializes in water treatment.

"They are more conservative than anywhere else," he said. "And I'm not being critical. In the state of California, because we're in the early days of (direct potable reuse) implementation, they're taking measured and conservative steps."

## REMOVING VIRUSES AND CHEMICALS

The water that flushes down toilets, whirls down sinks, runs from industrial facilities and flows off agricultural fields is teeming with viruses, parasites and other pathogens that can make people sick. Chemicals also contaminate this sewage, everything from industrial perfluorinated "forever chemicals" to drugs excreted in urine. Bypassing groundwater stores or reservoirs to funnel purified sewage directly into pipes means that there's less room for error.

The new regulations would ramp up restrictions on pathogens, calling for scrubbing away more than 99.9999% of diarrhea-causing viruses and certain parasites. Also a series of treatments are designed to break down chemical contaminants like anti-seizure drugs, pain relievers, antidepressants and other pharmaceuticals. Medications can bypass traditional sewage treatment so they are found in low concentrations in recycled sewage and groundwater.

The added technologies are good at washing away pharmaceuticals, McCurry said, so having them "back-to-back introduces a ton of redundancy," he said. "Any pharmaceutical you could think of, if you tried to measure it in the product water of one of these plants, is going to be below the detection limit."

The new rules call for extensive monitoring to ensure the treatment is working. Some harmful chemicals, such as lead and nitrates, which are dangerous to babies and young children, will be tested for weekly; others, monthly. And water providers must also monitor the sewage itself before it even reaches treatment for any chemical spikes that could indicate illegal dumping or spills.

"We think we've got the chemical classes covered in the treatment processes, so that we're removing materials that we don't even know are there," the water board's Polhemus said.

Jennifer West, managing director of WateReuse California, a trade association for water recycling, said she was happy to finally see California's regulations, though she hopes the state will build in more flexibility for water providers to alter the suite of treatments as technologies change.

Richard Gersberg, San Diego State University professor emeritus of environmental health, said he supports using highly treated waste for drinking water. But he suggests that the state fund long-term studies comparing health effects in people who drink it to those whose drinking water comes from another source, such as rivers, "which might end up being worse. Probably is," he said.

Given the vast and changing cocktail of chemicals constantly in use, "we don't know what we don't know," Gersberg said. "If this becomes huge in California, and it will, I believe … we should at least spend a little money."

## WHO WILL BE FIRST?

All this treatment and monitoring is likely to be pricey, which is why Polhemus expects to see it largely limited to large urban areas that produce a lot of wastewater, such as Los Angeles County. The Metropolitan Water District's $3.4 billion estimate for building the project dates back to 2018, and has likely increased since then, according to spokesperson Rebecca Kimitch.

For small and medium communities, Polhemus said, "it doesn't pencil in a small scale type of arrangement."

The Orange County Water District, which has long been a leader in purifying recycled water, has concluded that piping it directly to customers doesn't pencil out for them, either, because they've already invested so heavily in

SEE **WATER** PAGE 4

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# *The Orwellian Worldview of Jesse Zwick (and Sue Himmelrich)*

A couple of jaw-dropping statements by former mayor Sue Himmelrich and her protege, current council member Jesse Zwick, are worth a moment to dissect. They are important because the illuminate an Orwellian thinking that undermines center-left resident's attempts to create a clean, safe, and appealing city. They reveal a far-left worldview based on an up-is-down, virtue-signaling belief system from people who are so out of touch with reality, I truly don't understand how they get through the day.

In response to the assault on Phil Brock by a 250 pound transient from Missouri who was vandalizing property and acting erratically, Sue Himmelrich declared, when Phil actually had the guts to ask him what he was doing, that:

"Phil provoked him!"

Interesting choice of words, blaming the victim. So residents, who have seen our commons overtaken by violence, drugs, and disorder, enabled by the anti-enforcement policy wing of the city council, aren't supposed utter a peep when there isn't a cop or security guard around? And if they do, it's characterized as a provocation? Wow… Okay. Then the logical answer would seem to be more police and more real security on the promenade, but not if you're Jesse Zwick, who came by his luxury beliefs by way of an extremely privileged upbringing in the Palisades, (with armed private patrols everywhere):

"I'm not comfortable with any private security forces being armed," said Councilmember Jesse Zwick… And personally, I would be more likely to keep my family away from this area if this was the direction which we decided to go in."

Ha! So, on the one hand we're supposed to do nothing, but on the other, we have Zwick, who actually thinks having highly trained professionals, (ex-police officers, with only the supervisor carrying a gun) is more dangerous than the aggressive mentally ill and addictive people overrunning downtown, with yet another fatal stabbing this week. Zwick said this even after he heard that Covered Six has a perfect record of zero excessive force complaints in 10 years as a company, with no gun ever being fired. At one point Zwick, in another sign of his out-of-touch worldview, asked if the security forces will have a college degree. Hilarious! Maybe Jesse can wave his college degree at the huge mentally ill man on a rampage on the promenade and see how that goes.

All this would be an Onion headline if it didn't have such dire consequences for our city. There is a far left, anti-police, anti-enforcement sentiment that runs so deep here it's almost full-circle Libertarian (the far Left meets the far Right in crazy town). If you're an addict, grifter, or mentally ill, you should suffer zero control or consequences. But if you're a law-abiding police officer or security guard, actual oversight commissions will be created to monitor you. Because that's what our problem is here: police brutality. This is the grandiose application of a national narrative to our city, solving problems we don't have, while ignoring the ones begging for action. And it's a tremendous insult to Mike Grant, the 30-year police veteran, former police chief, and COO of Covered Six, who patiently answered Zwick's questions as if he made a lick of sense. And keep in mind, Zwick made his statement in the presence of an aging (sorry Phil) council member who was just attacked, and another council member who is going to have to shut her generational family business due to our city being looted, and constant robberies/shoplifting that have made the beloved institution untenable. Where's your compassion for them and other residents experiencing the same hardships? But there isn't room for real compassion in this ideology, not for residents nor the people dying of overdoses in our city under a bankrupt "harm reduction" philosophy.

I don't know where Jesse set up his carpet-bagging residence in Santa Monica, but I do know Sue Himmelrich lives north of Montana, far from the daily gruel of residents who live near Reed Park and downtown. She doesn't put up with every debasement and danger possible, from defecation in our carports, to drug use on our sidewalks, lawns, and parks, to flat-out assault. (Last year I was attacked by a man with a pipe undergoing drug psychosis, after I asked him why he was breaking windows with the pipe. I guess I "provoked" him too, right Sue?!) Thankfully, the decision to bring in private security reflects the changing mood of residents in SM, who say, overwhelmingly, that the crime and the transient mental illness/drug crisis playing out on our streets is their number one issue. I'm glad the council is starting to listen and unanimously approved it (even Zwick, after he was done grandstanding), so that we can reclaim our city from the influx of people who aren't from here, but come for the sun, the drugs, and our softness, as exemplified by Mr. Zwick.

Ultimately, Zwick and Himmelrich are lost causes—they think the maniacs roaming our streets deserve more consideration, and are less dangerous than the professionals we've hired to protect us. Our mayor thinks this never-ending influx are all "future Santa Monicans." These statements are only important in that they reveal an inverted ideology that is delusional and dangerous.

Finally, may I remind those of you that need it, that you are all Santa Monica city council members. So stop trying to solve the problems of the region, state, and country, and start solving the problems residents face every day. Every day you should ask yourself one question only: Is this good for the residents of Santa Monica. Thankfully, in a good first step, the rest of the city is (finally) catching on and we will have more eyes and ears, plus a Covered Six homeless outreach person, as another line of defense in our public spaces while we ramp up our police force. Common sense gains a toehold.

Arthur Jeon, Santa Monica

Santa Monica Daily Press

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WINNER

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# Amazon adds video telemedicine visits nationwide to its virtual clinic

**TOM MURPHY A**
P Health Writer

Amazon is adding video telemedicine visits in all 50 states to a virtual clinic it launched last fall, as the e-commerce giant pushes deeper into care delivery.

Amazon said Tuesday that customers can visit its virtual clinic around the clock through Amazon's website or app. There, they can compare prices and response times before picking a telemedicine provider from several options.

> "As a doctor, I've seen firsthand that patients want to be healthy but lack the time, tools, or resources to effectively manage their care"
> - Nworah Ayogu Chief Medical Officer Dr.

The clinic, which doesn't accept insurance, launched last fall with a focus on text message-based consultations. Those remain available in 34 states.

Virtual care, or telemedicine, exploded in popularity when COVID-19 hit a few years ago. It has remained popular as a convenient way to check in with a doctor or deal with relatively minor health issues like pink eye.

Amazon says its clinic offers care for more than 30 common health conditions. Those include sinus infections, acne, COVID-19 and acid reflux. The clinic also offers treatments for motion sickness, seasonal allergies and several sexual health conditions, including erectile dysfunction.

It also provides birth control and emergency contraception.

Chief Medical Officer Dr. Nworah Ayogu said in a blog post that the clinic aims to remove barriers to help people treat "everyday health concerns."

"As a doctor, I've seen firsthand that patients want to be healthy but lack the time, tools, or resources to effectively manage their care," Ayogu wrote.

Amazon said messaging-based consultations cost $35 on average while video visits cost $75.

That's cheaper than the cost of many in-person visits with a doctor, which can run over $100 for people without insurance or coverage that makes them pay a high deductible.

While virtual visits can improve access to help, some doctors worry that they also lead to care fragmentation and can make it harder to track a patient's overall health. That could happen if a patient has a regular doctor who doesn't learn about the virtual visit from another provider.

In addition to virtual care, Amazon also sells prescription drugs through its Amazon Pharmacy business and has been building its presence with in-patient care.

Earlier this year, Amazon also closed a $3.9 billion acquisition of the membership-based primary care provider One Medical, which had about 815,000 customers and 214 medical offices in more than 20 markets.

One Medical offers both in-person care and virtual visits.

Anti-monopoly groups had called on the Federal Trade Commission to block the deal, arguing it would endanger patient privacy and help make the retailer more dominant in the marketplace. The agency didn't block the deal but said it won't rule out future challenges.

That deal was the first acquisition made under Amazon CEO Andy Jassy, who took over from founder Jeff Bezos in 2021. Jassy sees health care as a growth opportunity for the company.

AP Business Writer Haleluya Hadero contributed to this story from New York. Murphy reported from Indianapolis.

## BODY

FROM PAGE 1

The barrel was first spotted over the weekend but it wasn't opened until Monday morning, Lt. Hugo Reynaga of the Los Angeles County sheriff's homicide bureau said at a news conference.

A maintenance worker from a state park saw the black plastic 55-gallon drum floating in the Malibu lagoon Sunday afternoon and brought it in with a kayak, Reynaga said.

"Apparently it was too heavy and they didn't want to open it, so they left it on shore," Reynaga said.

Shortly after 10 a.m. Monday, a lifeguard at Malibu Lagoon State Beach noticed the same barrel back in the lagoon, swam out and brought it ashore, opened it and saw the body inside, according to the Sheriff's Department.

It wasn't clear where the barrel originated.

"At about 8 p.m., there's a high tide here and there's a possibility that the container could have come in from the ocean and then got stuck in the lagoon — but we don't know," Reynaga said.

There was no immediate word on the age of the man or how long the body had been in the drum.

However, "from what I did see it didn't look to me like it was decomposed or had been there a long time," Reynaga said.

# Crews are battling 'fire whirls' in California's Mojave Desert

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Crews battled "fire whirls" in California's Mojave National Preserve as a massive wildfire crossed into Nevada amid dangerously high temperatures and raging winds.

The York Fire was mapped at roughly 120 square miles on Monday night, with no containment.

The blaze erupted Friday near the remote Caruthers Canyon area of the vast wildland preserve, crossed the state line into Nevada on Sunday and sent smoke further east into the Las Vegas Valley.

A smoky haze blotted out the sun midday on the Las Vegas Strip and obliterated views of mountains surrounding the city and suburbs. Because of low visibility, the Harry Reid International Airport in Las Vegas reported departure delays of nearly two hours.

A fire whirl — sometimes called a fire tornado — is a "spinning column of fire" that forms when intense heat and turbulent winds combine, according to the National Park Service.

The vortexes — which can be anywhere from a few feet tall to several hundred feet high, with varying rotational speeds — were spotted Sunday on the north end of the York Fire.

"While these can be fascinating to observe, they are a very dangerous natural phenomena that can occur during wildfires," the park service wrote.

The whirls require high temperatures to form. In Searchlight, Nevada — an unincorporated area about 12 miles from the California border where the fire burned — Monday's high was 100 degrees Fahrenheit , according to the National Weather Service.

Significant portions of the U.S. population have been subject to extreme heat in recent weeks. Worldwide, July has been so steamy thus far that scientists calculate it will be the hottest month ever recorded and likely the warmest to hit human civilization.

Wind-driven flames 20 feet high in some spots charred tens of thousands of acres of blackbrush scrub, pinyon-juniper woodlands and the famous Joshua trees in the New York Mountains in San Bernardino County.

Ileene Anderson, a senior scientist at the Center for Biological Diversity, said it could take the pinyon-juniper woodlands 200 to 300 years to become "a functional community again," while the blackbrush scrub and Joshua trees are unlikely to regrow after this catastrophic blaze, which erupted without human intervention.

"It will change the habitat possibly permanently," Anderson said.

Even more, deer and bighorn sheep could become trapped by the flames, she said. If any manage to survive the blaze, their resources in the newly scorched landscape would be severely limited.

In 2020, the Dome Fire ripped through the preserve, ravaging one of the world's largest Joshua tree forests. Conservationists, including Anderson, are trying to revitalize the land by planting new trees since the species usually isn't able to make a comeback naturally after a wildfire.

The desert hasn't adapted to fires; such blazes are rare because there are few ignition points in the harsh terrain. Generally, most fires in the desert are caused by humans, Anderson said.

The cause of the York Fire remains under investigation, though authorities say it started on private land within the preserve. Other details were not available Monday.

To the southwest, the Bonny Fire burned about 3.6 square miles in the rugged hills of Riverside County. The blaze was about 30% contained on Monday.

More than 1,300 people were ordered to evacuate their homes Saturday near the community of Aguanga that is home to horse ranches and wineries. However, the fire didn't grow on Monday, and some were allowed back home.

One firefighter was injured in the blaze.

Gusty winds and the chance of thunderstorms into Tuesday will heighten the risk of renewed growth, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said in a statement.

## WATER

FROM PAGE 2

refilling their carefully tended aquifer.

It would "require adding more treatment processes and increasing operating expenses," board president Cathy Green said in a statement. "Local water agencies are currently well-equipped to continue to supply drinking water to customers in our service area at a low cost using the Orange County Groundwater Basin."

For other regions like Silicon Valley, though, the costs may be worth it as climate change continues to shrink state supplies.

"At this point, it's more expensive than water we might import during a drought. But who knows what will happen in the future," said Kirsten Struve, assistant officer in the water supply division at the Santa Clara Valley Water District, which serves approximately 2 million people.

"That's why we need to get prepared."

The Santa Clara water agency, known as Valley Water, is planning a $1.2 billion project in Palo Alto to produce about 10 million gallons a day of water for groundwater recharge, but Struve said she hopes the plant also will be used for direct potable reuse in the future.

The timing of the regulations has butted up against the realities of planning for Monterey One Water on the Monterey Peninsula as well. The utility has been injecting purified wastewater into the seaside aquifer for three years, producing about a third of the local supply, said General Manager Paul Sciuto. It is working on expanding the project by 2025, Sciuto said.

"I get that question of, 'This water is so pure, why do you put it in the ground? Why can't you just serve it?' " he said. "And I always fall back on, well, there's no regulations that allow us to do that at this point."

Now that the state is closer to finalizing them, he said, "there's a point on the horizon to shoot for."

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# California's 2024 ballot measures will revive familiar ideological battles

**DAN WALTERS**

As it stands, the 2024 California ballot would be, as the old saying goes, "déjà vu all over again."

Nine measures have qualified for the ballot: two constitutional amendments for the March primary election, and five initiatives and two referenda for the November general election. All are replays of polarizing ideological issues.

The two March measures, both placed on the ballot by the Democrat-dominated state Legislature, typify the trend of refighting old battles. One would repeal a 2008 ballot measure, passed by a 52% vote, that prohibited same-sex marriages but was later voided by the U.S. Supreme Court. The other would repeal a constitutional mandate known as Article 34, passed by voters in 1950, that requires voter approval for low-income housing projects.

The two referenda are by their nature replays of previous clashes, both backed by business interests seeking to overturn recent legislative efforts to impose more state regulation on their operations, and both are likely to spark multimillion-dollar campaigns.

One, sponsored by the fast food industry, would erase a 2022 union-sponsored bill that would create a 10-member Fast Food Council to regulate wages and working conditions in fast food chains such as McDonald's and Burger King.

The second referendum, backed by the petroleum industry, would overturn a 2022 law requiring a 3,200-foot buffer between new oil wells and homes, schools, nursing homes and hospitals.

The five initiatives so far qualified for the ballot are also reruns of ideological clashes – three sponsored by those on the political left and two by conservative business interests, to wit:

Michael Weinstein, who runs the Los Angeles-based AIDS Healthcare Foundation, has spent millions of dollars on two previous ballot measures that would remove long-standing legal barriers on local rent control laws, both of which failed badly. Weinstein hopes the third time will be the charm, but rental property owners are ready to spend tens of millions of dollars to oppose his latest effort.



Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters

**ELECTION:** A voter casts their ballot at a voting site at the California Museum in downtown Sacramento on June 7, 2022.

Commercial real estate interests, meanwhile, are part of a coalition, led by the California Business Roundtable, to pass a new constitutional amendment that would require voter approval of any new state and local taxes or tax-like fees. It's needed, they say, to bolster California tax limitation laws that have been eroded by judicial decisions and sets up a high-stakes clash pitting business against local government officials and public employee unions.

Although California voters have in

SEE **COMMENTARY** PAGE 8


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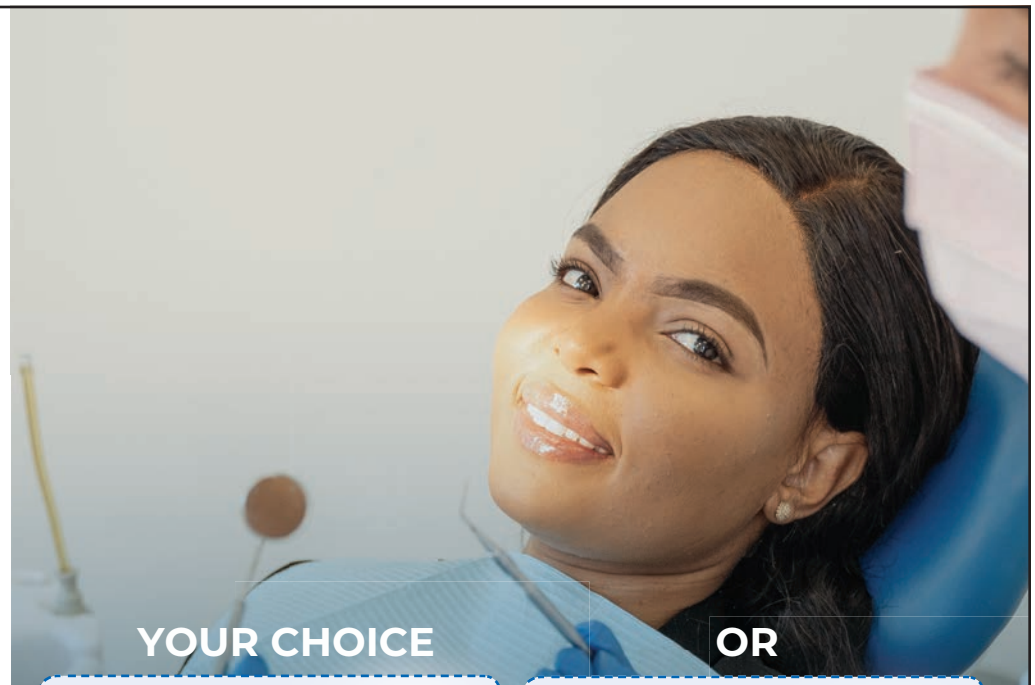
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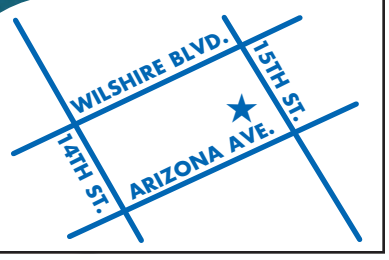
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City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Proposals for:

**As Needed Land Surveying Services Project**
**Project No. SP2693**

The City of Santa Monica is inviting proposals from firms interested in providing as-needed surveying services for a term of five years.

The purpose of the RFP is to select the most qualified consultant to provide as-needed surveying services of the subject project.

RFP questions to be submitted to via **OpenGov,** no later than **3:00 p.m. on August 14, 2023.**

Proposers shall upload RFP via **OpenGov,** no later than **3:00 p.m. on September 1, 2023.**

RFP Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca.

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# Chatbots sometimes make things up. Is AI's hallucination problem fixable?

**MATT O'BRIEN**
AP Technology Writer

Spend enough time with ChatGPT and other artificial intelligence chatbots and it doesn't take long for them to spout falsehoods.

Described as hallucination, confabulation or just plain making things up, it's now a problem for every business, organization and high school student trying to get a generative AI system to compose documents and get work done. Some are using it on tasks with the potential for high-stakes consequences, from psychotherapy to researching and writing legal briefs.

"I don't think that there's any model today that doesn't suffer from some hallucination," said Daniela Amodei, co-founder and president of Anthropic, maker of the chatbot Claude 2.

"They're really just sort of designed to predict the next word," Amodei said. "And so there will be some rate at which the model does that inaccurately."

Anthropic, ChatGPT-maker OpenAI and other major developers of AI systems known as large language models say they're working to make them more truthful.

How long that will take — and whether they will ever be good enough to, say, safely dole out medical advice — remains to be seen.

"This isn't fixable," said Emily Bender, a linguistics professor and director of the University of Washington's Computational Linguistics Laboratory. "It's inherent in the mismatch between the technology and the proposed use cases."

A lot is riding on the reliability of generative AI technology. The McKinsey Global Institute projects it will add the equivalent of $2.6 trillion to $4.4 trillion to the global economy. Chatbots are only one part of that frenzy, which also includes technology that can generate new images, video, music and computer code. Nearly all of the tools include some language component.

Google is already pitching a news-writing AI product to news organizations, for which accuracy is paramount. The Associated Press is also exploring use of the technology as part of a partnership with OpenAI, which is paying to use part of AP's text archive to improve its AI systems.

In partnership with India's hotel management institutes, computer scientist Ganesh Bagler has been working for years to get AI systems, including a ChatGPT precursor, to invent recipes for South Asian cuisines, such as novel versions of rice-based biryani. A single "hallucinated" ingredient could be the difference between a tasty and inedible meal.

When Sam Altman, the CEO of OpenAI, visited India in June, the professor at the Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi had some pointed questions.

"I guess hallucinations in ChatGPT are still acceptable, but when a recipe comes out hallucinating, it becomes a serious problem," Bagler said, standing up in a crowded campus auditorium to address Altman on the New Delhi stop of the U.S. tech executive's world tour.

"What's your take on it?" Bagler eventually asked.

Altman expressed optimism, if not an outright commitment.

"I think we will get the hallucination problem to a much, much better place," Altman said. "I think it will take us a year and a half, two years. Something like that. But at that point we won't still talk about these. There's a balance between creativity and perfect accuracy, and the model will need to learn when you want one or the other."

But for some experts who have studied the technology, such as University of Washington linguist Bender, those improvements won't be enough.

Bender describes a language model as a system for "modeling the likelihood of different strings of word forms," given some written data it's been trained upon.

It's how spell checkers are able to detect when you've typed the wrong word. It also helps power automatic translation and transcription services, "smoothing the output to look more like typical text in the target language," Bender said. Many people rely on a version of this technology whenever they use the "autocomplete" feature when composing text messages or emails.

The latest crop of chatbots such as ChatGPT, Claude 2 or Google's Bard try to take that to the next level, by generating entire new passages of text, but Bender said they're still just repeatedly selecting the most plausible next word in a string.

When used to generate text, language models, "are designed to make things up. That's all they do," Bender said. They are good at mimicking forms of writing, such as legal contracts, television scripts or sonnets.

"But since they only ever make things up, when the text they have extruded happens to be interpretable as something we deem correct, that is by chance," Bender said. "Even if they can be tuned to be right most of the time, they will still have failure modes — and likely the failures will be in the cases where it's harder for a person reading the text to notice, because they are more obscure."

Those errors are not a huge problem for the marketing firms that have been turning to Jasper AI for help writing pitches, said the company's president, Shane Orlick.

"Hallucinations are actually an added bonus," Orlick said. "We have customers all the time that tell us how it came up with ideas — how Jasper created takes on stories or angles that they would have never thought of themselves."

The Texas-based startup works with partners like OpenAI, Anthropic, Google or Facebook parent Meta to offer its customers a smorgasbord of AI language models tailored to their needs. For someone concerned about accuracy, it might offer up Anthropic's model, while someone concerned with the security of their proprietary source data might get a different model, Orlick said.

Orlick said he knows hallucinations won't be easily fixed. He's counting on companies like Google, which he says must have a "really high standard of factual content" for its search

SEE **CHATBOT** PAGE 8

## TENNIS

FROM PAGE 1

Hannes said part of the appeal is the sports ability to combine a workout with some social interaction.

"You're on the beach. People come and start exercising and burning calories. They meet people and keep up with your old friends. And you know, they have a good time," she said.

The local company offers classes throughout the week and participants said they enjoy the friendly vibe when beach tennis players gather on the sand in front of Ocean Park beach. Offering a variety of classes from beginner classes to advanced open plays, even hosting toddler classes for four years olds, Haanes' organization said the sport can cater to anyone, even those who have no history or background with similar sports.

Beach tennis started on the coastal shores of warm climate countries like Italy and Brazil before making its way to SoCal and its coastal cities where local players say it really epitomizes the beach culture of Santa Monica.

The sport has obvious differences to its court based cousin. The ball cannot bounce or hit the sand, the ball itself is softer than a traditional ball and the smaller, lighter racquet doesn't use strings. Players said the combined effect is a gentler game.

"I've always loved racquet sports, I now do beach tennis more than regular tennis, it's so much better for your joints. You don't get hurt and you're on the beach," said Leturgie.

Another racket sport lover, Sherry Soong said beach tennis helped her recover from an injury.

"After rupturing my Achilles, I saw beach tennis and then really got interested in it," she said. "Beach tennis was perfect for me to be exercising my Achilles on the sand while I can still play a racquet sport."

> "I've always loved racquet sports, I now do beach tennis more than regular tennis, it's so much better for your joints. You don't get hurt and you're on the beach
> - Aurelian Leturgie

As fun as the sport already is, most new players acknowledge that their new found addiction to coming to the beach to play is drawn by the positive atmosphere the sport encompasses.

"It's a friendly sport. Like people get excited by this music playing. There's like really cool events and culture. It's competitive, but it's not too crazy competitive. So it's like the perfect sports meets lifestyle" Aurelian said.

Hannes said it's really an activity for any age.

"Beach tennis ... anyone can play, young, old, athletic, if you've never done a sport, this can be the perfect sport for you. So come out, try it.

For more information visit https://www.beachtennissantamonica.com/.





Courtesy Photo

**TENNIS:** A local company offers lessons on the Santa Monica beach.




# Classifieds

## Summons

PROBATE CITATION E/O Frank R. Lawler SURROGATE'S COURT - ALBANY COUNTY CITATION THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, By the Grace of God Free and Independent TO: Linda Diana Lawler and Rick Lawler, if living and if dead to their hairs at law, next of kin and distributees, whose names and places of residence are unknown and if they died subsequent to the decedent to their executors, administrators, legatees, devisees, assignees and successors in interest whose names and places of residence are unknown and to all other heirs at law, next of kin and distributes of FRANK R. LAWLER, the decedent herein, whose names and places of residence are unknown and cannot after due diligent inquiry be ascertained and NY Attorney General A petition having been duly filed by Kimberly Gross 9 Taymor Trail, Clifton Park, NY 12065 YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, Albany 16 Eagle St., Albany New York, on August 29th 2023 at 10 o'clock in thefore noon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of Frank L. Lawler lately domiciled at 29 Orlando Ave., Albany, NY admitting to probate a Will dated May 17, 2022(a Codicil dated (a Codicil dated a copy of which is attached, as the Will of Frank L. Lawler deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that Letters Testamentary issue to Kimberly GrossLetters of Trusteeship issue to Kimberly Gross Letters of Administration c.t.a. issue to -Surrogate Hon. Stacy L. Pettit (Surrogate) Dated, Attested-and Sealed July 11. 2023 Manama Gerly (Deputy Chief Clerk )Mark T. Houston, Esq. (Attorney for Petitioner)69 State St., Suite 1400-D, Albany, NY 12207 (Address of Attorney )518-407-3880 (Telephone Number) e-mail: mark@jwlawalbany.com [NOTE: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear. If you fail to appear it will be assumed you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney appear for you.] P-5 (10/96) ** TO PERSON SERVING THIS CITATION: THE CITATION IS TO BE SERVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COURT'S ORDER DIRECTING SERVICE OF PROCESS ** **THIS RETURN DATE IS A VIRTUAL APPEARANCE, UNLESS A PERSONAL APPEARANCE IS A BASIAP COUNT Albany County Surrogate's Court Albany County Courthouse 16 Eagle Street, Room 123 Albany, NY 12207 (518) 285-8585 AlbanySurrogateCourt@nycourts.gov NOTICE TO CITED PARTIES ALBANY COUNTY SURROGATE'S COURT VIRTUAL APPEARANCE NOTICE You have been served with a citation for a matter that is on the Albany County Surrogate's Court calendar. Albany County Surrogate's Court is proceeding with citation return dates by virtual appearance using Microsoft Teams. 1. If you do not object to the relief requested, you do not need to appear and the relief may be granted by the court. 2. If you object to the relief requested, you or your attorney may appear as follows: a. By Microsoft Teams Video/Audio Link: To appear via Microsoft Teams video/audio link, go to the Albany County Surrogate's Court website: https://ww2.nycourts.gov/courts/3jd/albany/3JD-Albany SurrogateCourt.shtml and click on the Virtual Court Access to Court Calendar Link and follow instructions on the date and time of the return date. Please log in prior to the start of the calendar to check audio and video connections. The Court will let you in when calendar starts; or b. If you lack the ability or technology to appear via Microsoft Teams OR if you would prefer to appear in person: Please email the Clerk of the Court at AlbanySurrogate Court@nycourts.gov no later than three (3) business days prior to the scheduled virtual appearance and include either an email address or telephone number, or both, where you can be reached during normal business hours. Someone from the court will contact you and make arrangements for you to come to the courthouse in person on the date and time of the return date at the Albany County Courthouse, 16 Eagle Street, Albany, New York 12207. Requests without an email address or phone number will not receive a response. ***PLEASE BE ADVISED*** If you have questions regarding the specific proceeding you are being cited for, the court may not give you legal advice. You may contact the attorney listed at the bottom PRESENT: Honorable Stacy L. Pettit, Surrogate In the Matter of the Estate of Frank R Lawler aka Frank Richard Lawler Decedent. At a Surrogate's Court of the State of New York held in and for the County of Albany at Albany, New York. ORDER FOR SERVICE File# 2023-658 On reading and filing the petition for Letters of Testamentary praying that the Last Will and Testament of the above-named decedent be admitted to probate and Letters of Testamentary be issued; and IT IS ORDERED that a citation be issued to all persons interested in the estate of said deceased, requiring them to show cause before this Court why a decree should not be made in the estate of the above-named decedent; and IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the citation and the Albany County Surrogate's Court Notice for Cited Parties ("Notice"), along with any other necessary documents, be served upon all residents of New York State, including the Attorney General if cited, by personal service at least ten (10) days prior to the return date of the citation issued herein; and proof of service shall be an affidavit of personal service; and IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the citation and Notice, along with any other necessary documents (e.g., the will), be served upon all residents outside of New York State, by USPS Express Mail now known as Priority Mail, Certified Mail or Registered Mail, or any form of special mail service set forth in SCPA 103 (35-a), 103 (36), and 103 (37-a), not less than 20 days before the citation return date, or not less than 30 days for persons residing outside the United States, except that mailings that request return receipts shall not be required, and that proof of service shall consist of an affidavit of mailing that includes tracking numbers and proof of delivery of the citation, Notice and any other necessary documents, which shall be filed with the Court on or before the second day preceding the return date in accordance with 22 NYCRR 207.7 (c); and IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the said citation be served upon those whose residence and/or identity is unknown by publishing once in each of four consecutive weeks in one newspaper most likely to give notice to the person(s) served. Service of process is complete on the 28th day after the first publication, and proof of service shall be an affidavit of publication. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the return date will be held by virtual appearance using Microsoft Teams on the return date unless a personal appearance at Court is preferred; and that, pursuant to the Notice, to appear virtually parties must obtain an audio/video link by going to the Court's website (http://ww2.nycourts.gov/courts/3jd/albany/3JD-Albany%20Surrogate%20Court.shtml) and clicking on the Virtual Access to Court Calendar link. Dated: July 11, 2023 StacyL. Pettit, (Surrogate)

**HOURS** MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm **LOCATION** 1640 5th Street, Suite 218, Santa Monica, CA 90401

## STABBING

FROM PAGE 1

Statewide, violent crime rate increased by 6.1% since 2021, and property crime was up 6.2%. Homicides dipped very slightly, but robberies jumped by 10.2%.

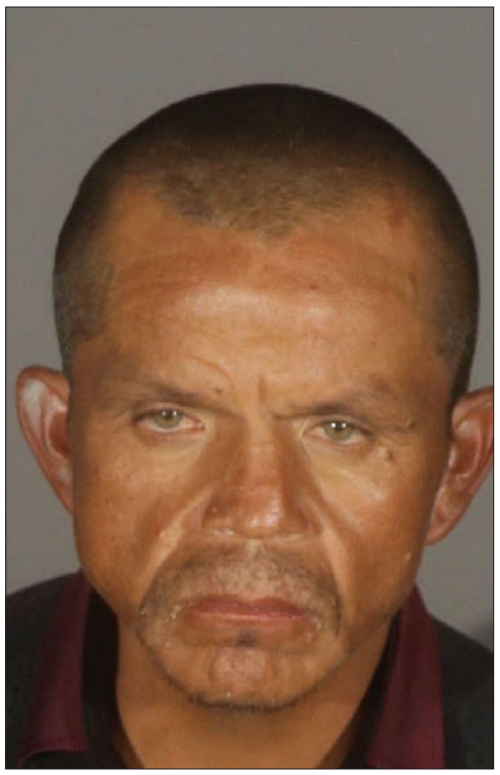
Monday's murder was the second in recent months near the beach.

SMPD responded to a report of a body in a vehicle in November of last year. Upon arrival, they found a man dead from stab wounds in Lot 1 North (1550 Pacific Coast Highway) and the investigation identified Mohamed Abou-Arabi, a 22-year-old man from Michigan as the suspect and Abou-Arabi was extradited to Los Angeles. He remains in custody on a $2M bail.

While not a fatal assault, a Santa Monica maintenance worker was stabbed earlier this year by a homeless man in Palisades Park.

Anyone with information related to Monday's crime or suspect are encouraged to contact the SMPD Investigations Division during business hours at (310) 458-8451 or the Watch Commander 24-hours at (310) 458-8427.

editor@smdp.com



SMPD Photo

**SUSPECT:** Juan Evarastico Bahena has been arrested for murder.

## COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 5

recent years rejected efforts to hike property and income taxes, another 2024 measure would increase the marginal tax rate on incomes of $5 million or more by .75% to finance research on detection of pandemic diseases. The bulk of the money to qualify the measure came from a fund created by cryptocurrency guru Sam Bankman Fried, who is facing federal fraud charges.

In 2003, the Legislature passed the Private Attorney Generals Act, making it easier for workers to sue their employers for violations of state wage and working condition laws. It was a big win for unions but employers claim it has been used to shake them down. After two decades of legal skirmishing, business groups qualified a measure for the 2024 ballot to repeal the law, setting up another high-dollar clash.

Another employer-union skirmish looms in a labor-backed measure to raise California's minimum wage, now $15 an hour, to $18 over several years with upward adjustments for inflation thereafter. Proponents say it would create a living wage needed to cope with inflation while opponents say it will discourage employers from creating jobs.

While more 2024 initiatives or referenda are unlikely, when the Legislature returns from its summer vacation it probably will approve some bond issues that would require voter approval.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

## CHATBOT

FROM PAGE 6

engine, to put a lot of energy and resources into solutions.

"I think they have to fix this problem," Orlick said. "They've got to address this. So I don't know if it's ever going to be perfect, but it'll probably just continue to get better and better over time."

Techno-optimists, including Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates, have been forecasting a rosy outlook.

"I'm optimistic that, over time, AI models can be taught to distinguish fact from fiction," Gates said in a July blog post detailing his thoughts on AI's societal risks.

He cited a 2022 paper from OpenAI as an example of "promising work on this front." More recently, researchers at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich said they developed a method to detect some, but not all, of ChatGPT's hallucinated content and remove it automatically.

But even Altman, as he markets the products for a variety of uses, doesn't count on the models to be truthful when he's looking for information.

"I probably trust the answers that come out of ChatGPT the least of anybody on Earth," Altman told the crowd at Bagler's university, to laughter.

GET IT DAILY...

## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 2)

You're like a sunrise over the ocean, your fiery passion illuminating a wide sea of emotion. People will be drawn to you and will be awed to watch you lift to new heights. More highlights: You'll manage a project and be involved in the livelihood and thriving of many. You'll develop a soulful talent. You'll celebrate additions to family and chosen family. Aries and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 7, 20, 13 and 5.

## HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Once your heart sets a quest in motion, the rest of you goes on the search. However, since things often show up when you're not looking for them, you'll benefit from a break and a distraction.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You may not agree with someone, but you'll hear them out, honoring the basic human need to feel seen and heard. Because you give your respect to all, it will be abundantly reflected back to you when you need it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You might feel miffed without knowing why. Anger happens when something has been lost or an expectation has been violated. You can diminish your agitation by simply looking into the feeling and asking, "What has been lost?"

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're open to the magical but you do the practical work anyway, knowing that magic has an affinity for sweat and often visits in the heat of effort. You'll be amazed by what you can accomplish all on your own.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Greed often settles in where there's a lack of creativity, curiosity and security. You may not have everything you want, but you're so resourceful you can see no reason to grasp or hoard. Your internal resources make you rich.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Responsibility is meant to be shared. You'll attract a dream team. You'll be a master of delegation, with just the right amount of involvement in a task to maintain quality while freeing up your perspective to handle a bigger picture.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A lone wolf will be integral to your experience. This person feels stifled by too much involvement, but you'll find the amount of social connection that works and be enriched by the unique perspective this person offers.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Listening is the power move. The loudest person is often the weakest one. Talking the most actually puts a person at a disadvantage. Power comes from knowing what others want, which requires listening well.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You don't have to formally sign up for the "race" to get the full benefit of the game. Just knowing you have competition is enough to motivate you to do more than you otherwise would.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Subtle variances of language can mean drastically different things. For instance, "I couldn't say" means something and "I don't know" means something else. You're completely tuned in to the nuances that matter, which will help you solve a mystery.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Making and keeping promises is a theme. You don't have to know how you will accomplish goals; you just need to commit, and the way will reveal itself as you go.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It's easy be confident when you don't know much about a situation. Extremely knowledgeable people are often humbled by how much more there is to know and will come across as less confident even though they are more qualified.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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| M | A | D | D | ■ | K | N | E | E | S | ■ | S | A | S | 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 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 3 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 6 |
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| 9 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 5 |
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 7 |
| 4 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
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| 6 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 8 |

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| 2 | | | | | 8 | 6 | 5 | |
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## Newsday Crossword

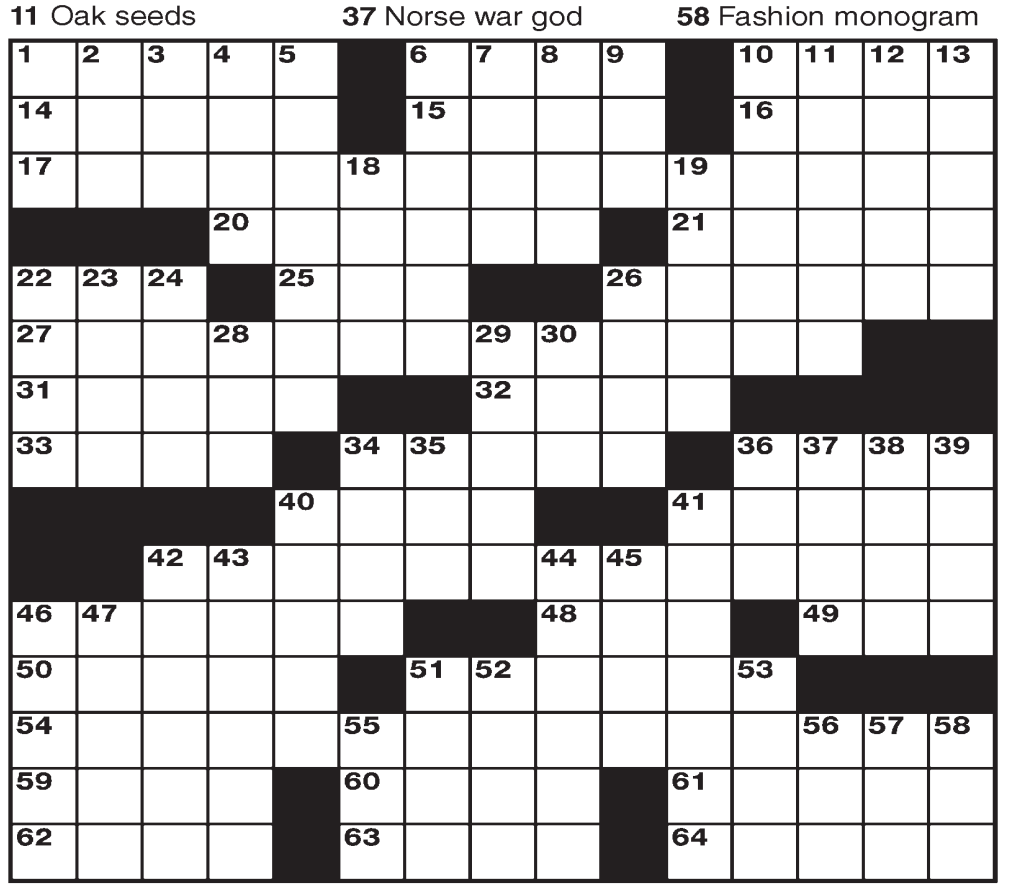
**COVER STORY** by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**

**1** Nation on an island with the Dominican Republic
**6** Nos. on college transcripts
**10** Curly-leafed cabbage
**14** Rodgers of football or Hank of baseball
**15** First-class
**16** Post-op hospital areas: Abbr.
**17** Clear holders for documents in binders
**20** Within a person's powers
**21** Sky-lit lobbies
**22** S&L dispenser
**25** Zero
**26** All the rage
**27** Voting processes that are rigged
**31** Store transactions
**32** Ship captain's place
**33** Knotted
**34** Book's backbone
**36** Lap dogs
**40** Gasoline or propane
**41** "Me too"
**42** Wagering based on margin of victory
**46** Log-in info
**48** Oral care org.
**49** "I'll pass on that"
**50** Symbol for subtraction
**51** Real __ (home seller's inventory)
**54** Broad exemption from prosecution
**59** "Small" ending for kitchen
**60** __ strip (Mideast region)
**61** Bike wheels
**62** Sandwich breads
**63** Scottish valley
**64** '50s unsuccessful Ford

**DOWN**

**1** Owns
**2** "That feels good!"
**3** Angry emotion
**4** __ the line (obeyed)
**5** Speaks in a singing voice
**6** Distort, as words
**7** Resort's place to swim
**8** Poker payment
**9** Lay eyes on
**10** Newborn pet feline
**11** Oak seeds
**12** Glaringly vivid
**13** Short opinion piece
**18** Sandbox bucket
**19** Off-the-wall ball bounce
**22** Helper: Abbr.
**23** Bangkok native
**24** Bull or stallion
**26** Word game square
**28** Shirt smaller than lge.
**29** Kindergartener, for instance
**30** Years in a decade
**34** Took legal action
**35** Paella morsel
**36** Stew vessel
**37** Norse war god
**38** __ *Lisa*
**39** Sound of relief
**40** Pat down, as a suspect
**41** Law on the books
**42** Louisiana legislature
**43** Trims, as trees
**44** Partner of Robin
**45** Dutch cheese
**46** "Burnt" brown color
**47** Full of sediment
**51** List-shortener
**52** Pants specification
**53** Oklahoma city
**55** Pancake batter ingredient
**56** Form 1040 org.
**57** Casual shirt
**58** Fashion monogram

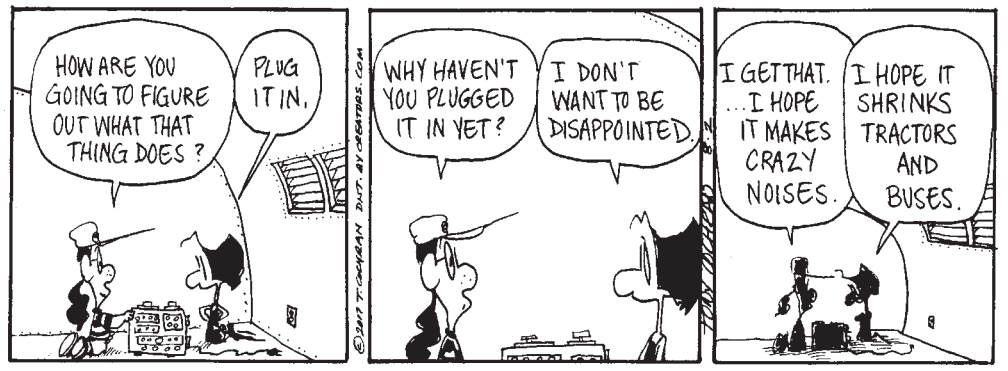


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**MORE OF STAN'S CROSSWORDS! Play FREE from Stan's archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords**

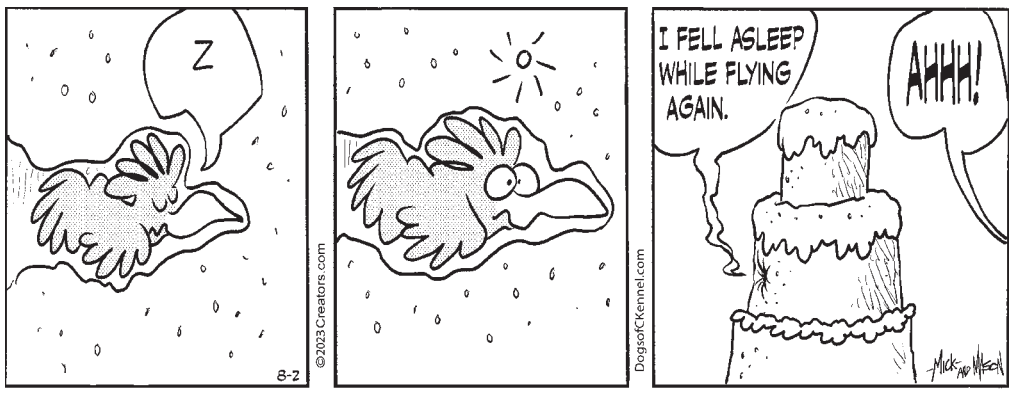
## Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



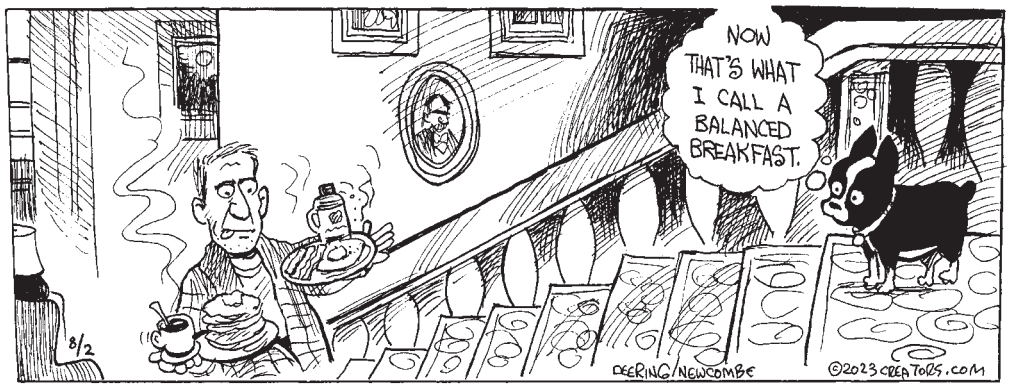

## Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



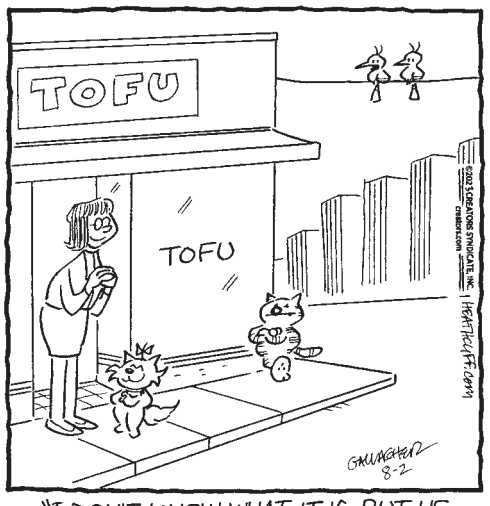

## Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE




## Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER




"I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS, BUT HE SEEMS TO HATE IT."

## 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 14 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.**

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## Cattle farming

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

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Agist | Devon | Longhorn | Returns |
| Angus | Dirt | Loud | Rough |
| Beast | Dogs | Lunch | Runs |
| Beer | Dressed | Merino | Sales |
| Bids | Dust | Milker | Scones |
| Boss | Expense | Muley | Scrub |
| Bull | Farm | Noisy | Sheep |
| Calf | Feed | Owner | Show |
| Cars | Flys | Paid | Stockmen |
| Cattle | Gate | Poddy | Strays |
| Cook | Hardworking | Prices | Udder |
| Count | Hats | Rain | |
| Cows | Heat | Ramp | |
| Dairy | Herd | Red poll | |

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

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# What's Up Westside

out and about in Santa Monica

## 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

**NOMA MEETING**

The changes taking place along Wilshire to make it safer for pedestrians and drivers to navigate will be presented by Jack Moreau, senior transportation planner, this Thursday, August 3rd at 7pm at the North of Montana Avenue Neighborhood Associaton's monthly meeting. An update from Ann Bowman on the status and future of our Civic Auditorium is also on tap, as is a proposal for a "Saturday Dog Club." Info on joining the Zoom session is available at smnoma.org and all are invited.

## 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/

**INTRO TO WATERCOLOR**

Discover the joy of watercolor painting with instructor Melissa Elliott. During this 90-minute session, we'll cover the fundamentals of this versatile and colorful art, including a discussion of supplies, materials, attributes, and techniques. Live demonstrations will be followed by hands-on practice by participants. Advance registration required; please sign up with the reference librarian or by calling (310) 575-8273. Donald Bruce Kaufman - Brentwood Branch Library 11820 San Vicente Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA https://www.lapl.org/whats-on/events/intro-watercolor

## SUNDAY | AUGUST 6

**NATIONAL FARMERS MARKET WEEK 2023**

Visit 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.

## MONDAY | AUGUST 7

**DON'T HAVE TICKETS FOR TAYLOR? WE'RE HAVING AN ERAS TOUR PARTY AT THE WEST LOS ANGELES REGIONAL LIBRARY**

Don't have tickets for Taylor? Join us for a Swifties dance party, friendship bracelet making, button making, photos, a fashion show, and more! 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. West Los Angeles Regional Library, 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles, CA https://www.lapl.org/whats-on/events/dont-have-tickets-taylor-were-having-eras-tour-party-west-la-library

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



## SURF REPORT

WATER TEMP: **73.2**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 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. |
| THURSDAY *POOR TO FAIR* | **SURF:** 3-4ft Waist to chest | Drained dawn patrol but the mid-AM tide push worth keeping an eye on. Small SSW swell gets a refresh and NW windswell could be back up a touch for peaky shape. Wind looks light for the morning. |

## WEATHER

**Wednesday:** Sunny, with a high near 74. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southwest 10 to 15 mph.
**Wednesday Night:** Increasing clouds, with a low around 64. Southwest wind 5 to 15 mph.
**Thursday:** Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 73.
**Thursday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 62.

| Date | Day | Time (LST/LDT) | Predicted (ft) | High/Low |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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 |
| 2023/08/05 | Sat | 7:07 PM | 1.53 | L |
| 2023/08/06 | Sun | 01:01 AM | 4.86 | H |
| 2023/08/06 | Sun | 07:22 AM | 0.65 | L |
| 2023/08/06 | Sun | 2:00 PM | 5.28 | 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: 7/31
2 11 48 58 65
Power#: 13
Jackpot: 95 M

**MEGA MILLIONS**
Draw Date: 7/28
5 10 28 52 63
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 1.1 M

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

**Fantasy 5**
Draw Date: 7/31
13 18 26 32 35

**Daily 3**
Draw Date: 7/31
EVENING: 5 9 8
Draw Date: 7/31
MIDDAY: 3 3 3

**Daily Derby**
Draw Date: 7/31
1st: 02 - Lucky Star
2nd: 09 - Winning Spirit
3rd: 06 - Whirl Win
Race Time: 1:49.12

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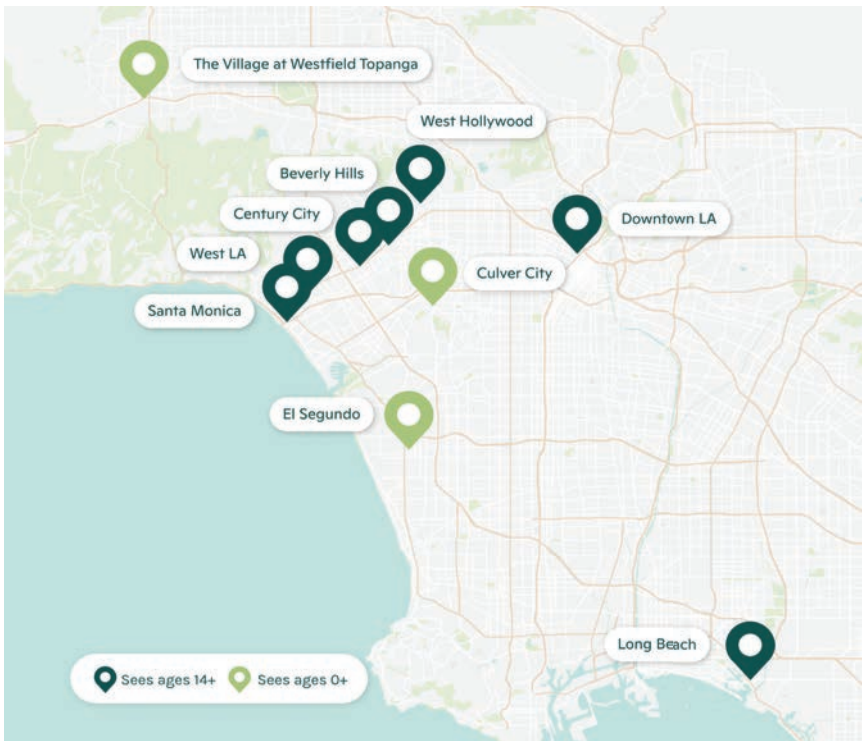
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