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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 186 WEDNESDAY 8/7/24 smdp.com

County defends needle exchange program citing plateauing overdoses



Scott Snowden

PARK: The County funded program has been providing services at local parks since 2018.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Despite passionate opposition in the past to the needle distribution program at Christine Emerson Reed Park, Santa Monica's representation during a community meeting held both in-person and over Zoom on Monday, was minimal.

Held at the Martin Luther King, Jr Behavioral Health Center on South Wilmington Ave, South Los Angeles, the meeting was hosted by LA County Board of Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer and also included Veronica Lewis, Director of the Homeless Outreach Program Integrated Care System and Dr Gary Tsai and Brian Hurley, both from the Substance Abuse Prevention and Control at the LA County Department of Public Health.

"Many harm reduction programs currently reverse over 700 overdoses each month and last year, for the first time in 10 years, the county's rate of overdose deaths dropped modestly for a crisis that has been getting worse every year," Ferrer began.

"Convening this public meeting is part of our commitment to ongoing community feedback and partnership in our advancement of public health, we're grateful to the opportunity to hear from many of you about harm reduction programs and how we can advance our shared goals of healthier people safer streets and Stronger Communities," she said, adding that additional, similar, meetings would be held in other areas of the county later in the year.

"The idea is just to provide our audience today, whether it's in their room or whether it's those participating virtually, a general sense of these services, what they are, what they aren't [and] why we feel that they're important," Tsai said.

In July, the LA County Department of Public Health announced that fatal drug-related overdoses plateaued for the first time in 10 years in 2023 in LA County in "a crisis that has been getting worse every year," according to Ferrer.

However, many residents in Santa Monica have a different perspective and the essence of that discussion revolves around a program whereby every week in the centrally located Reed Park, a transit van from the Venice Family Clinic distributes clean syringes, Narcan and fentanyl testing kits to anyone suffering from drug addiction, in what's called the "needle exchange program" or "needle distribution program."

SEE **NEEDLE EXCHANGE** PAGE 11

City of Santa Monica faces second lawsuit accusing officials of racial discrimination

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The City of Santa Monica is facing its second discrimination lawsuit of the year with a former procurement manager for the City alleging a pattern of retaliation and discrimination that culminated in her wrongful termination.

Araceli Esparza, who began working for the city in May 2012, alleges she faced numerous adverse actions after reporting misconduct and advocating for equity within the city's workforce.

Esparza started her career with the city as a Purchasing Services Manager and was promoted to Procurement Manager in the Finance Division in September 2018. Her duties included overseeing the city's procurement functions, developing policies, and supervising staff. She was also an active member of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 36 Union, serving as president of AFSCME Local 4819 from January 2020 to January 2024.

In addition to her union involvement, the plaintiff was an Equity Inclusion Officer and a

SEE **LAWSUIT** PAGE 8

New hires coming to several schools

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Staff within the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) is being shored up entering the 2024-25 school year, including a new Director of Student Services for the district and a new principal at Malibu High School.

At the August 1 meeting of the SMMUSD Board of Education, the board officially approved the appointment of Dr. Fransisco Dussan as the Director of Student Services, effective on that date. Making his way to the district from a policy organization facilitator role within the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), Dussan will be charged with developing and implementing student services innovations. This includes elemental health services, fiscal sustainability and implementation of state behavior programs.

Prior to his time in education, Dussan served as a crisis counselor for the Crisis Response Project in Los Angeles and as a peer specialist and facilitator in the substance abuse treatment center for the Veterans Affairs Long Beach Health Care System. SMMUSD Superintendent Dr. Antonio Shelton lauded these accomplishments, as well as his time spent in the United States Army and US Army Reserve.

"We are glad to have you as a member of our family ... we know that you will continue to demonstrate leadership and excellence because of your experience," Shelton said.

The new hire noted that his "commitment" to the community "is to ensure that every student receives the support and

SEE **HIRES** PAGE 6



Gary Limjap
(310) 586-0339

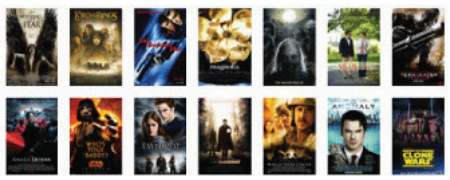
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Can Olympic swimming in LA's SoFi Stadium match the atmosphere in Paris' La Defense Arena?

JANIE MCCAULEY
AP Sports Writer

The French put on an incredible show at the Olympic swimming pool, packing the place with screaming, flag-waving fans waving larger-than-life cutout faces and wearing The Tricolore on their cheeks.

Raucous and patriotic, the fans pushed beloved countryman Léon Marchand to four individual gold medals and a bronze in the men's 4x100-meter medley relay on Sunday night to cap his sensational week of swimming at home.

Swimming fans are eager to see if organizers of the 2028 Games in Los Angeles — where swimming will be in SoFi Stadium — can match the atmosphere at La Defense Arena for the Paris Games.

That spirit was on display Sunday night when the relay foursome of Marchand, Yohann Ndoye-Brouard, Maxime Grousset and Florent Manaudou walked out to the pool deck hand in hand to the cheers of the crowd one last time. Anchor Manaudou faced the stands and lifted his arms up calling on the supporters to roar once more.

Marchand loved the national pride for the team.

"Just as much as the other medals. Now it's shared, so it's multiplied," he said. "That was so good. At 300 meters we hugged each other because we thought we'd be first. That was emotionally special, the last Olympic race at home. That's the cherry on the top of the cake tonight."

Julien Issoulié, the French Swimming Federation's National Technical Director, said Paris set the bar high for those in Southern California organizing the swimming competition at the home of the NFL's Los Angeles Rams in Inglewood.

"It's a big challenge for LA now, because we showed to the people that we can do something special in France, and now it's a challenge for (the U.S.) to do that well," Issoulié said.

The venue will be able to hold 38,000 for swimming events, that's 20,000 more fans than the capacity at the Paris Games. And the schedule is changing, with swimming held the second week of the Games rather than in Week 1 as has been for years.

Marchand and his teammates hope to build on their once-in-a-lifetime Olympics.

"It's so cool. I tasted a lot of world and European medals for the relay but never with this energy. To see these emotions for Maxime and Yohann was the best way to finish the week," Manaudou said. "I'm so happy, thanks to Leon, who launched us so well at the start of the week.

"We won't live something like that again. Even if we host the European championship in 2026, it won't be with that crowd, so I told the boys to enjoy it all around the pool, even if it takes 20 minutes."

Issoulié, of course, considers the competition an enormous success.

"It was mainly what we were dreaming about," Issoulié said. "We gained our maximum finals number so we met a lot of personal records and we are really happy about that and happy for all of the team."

"It's so cool. I tasted a lot of world and European medals for the relay but never with this energy. To see these emotions for Maxime and Yohann was the best way to finish the week"
- Florent Manaudou

GET IT DAILY...

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California must not fall for tech industry's false choices on AI safety legislation

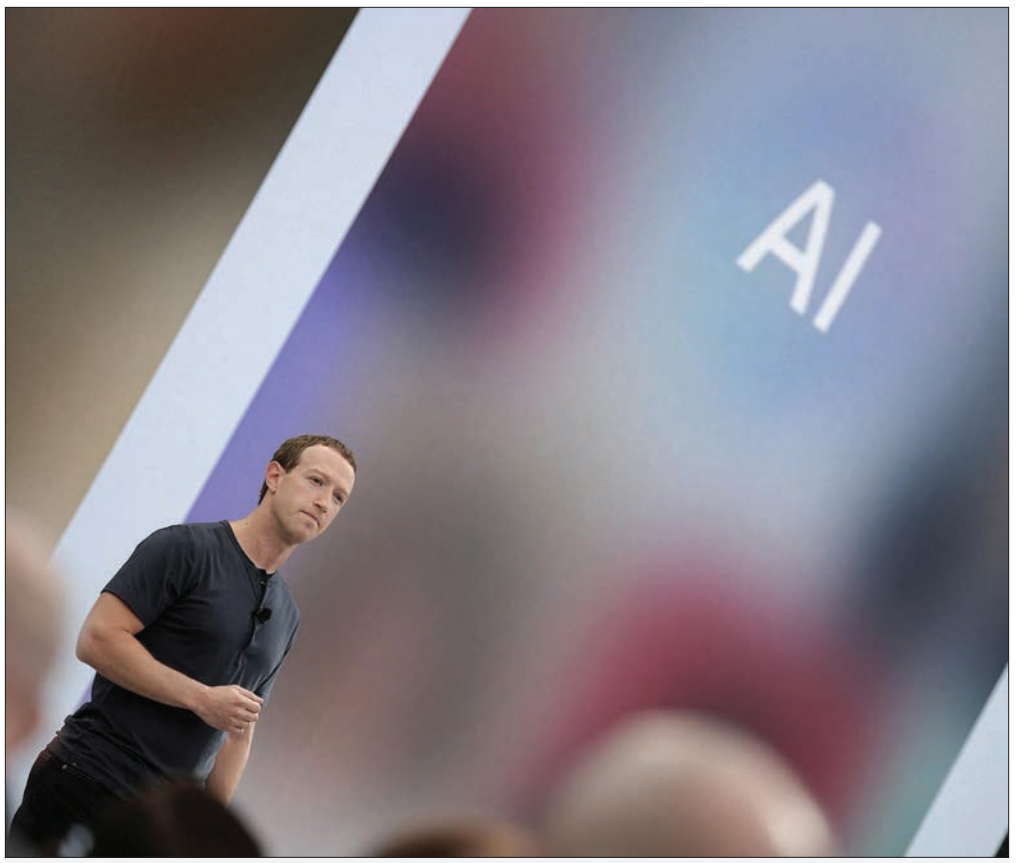


Photo by Carlos Barria, Reuters

AI: Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg delivers a speech, as the letters AI for artificial intelligence appear on screen, at the Meta Connect event at the company's headquarters in Menlo Park, on Sept. 27, 2023.

SUNNY GANDHI

If you've encountered headlines about California's proposed legislation to establish safety guardrails around artificial intelligence, you might think this is a debate between Big Tech and "slow" government.

You might think this is a debate between those who would protect technological innovation and those who would regulate it away.

Or you might think this is a debate that decides if AI development will stay or leave California.

These arguments could not be more wrong.

Let me be clear: Senate Bill 1047 is about ensuring that the most powerful AI models — those with the potential to cause catastrophic harm — are developed responsibly. We're talking about AI systems that could potentially create bioweapons, crash critical infrastructure or engineer damage on a societal scale.

These aren't science fiction scenarios. They're real possibilities that demand immediate attention.

In fact, the bill has been endorsed by many of the scientists who invented the field decades ago, including Yoshua Bengio and Geoffrey Hinton, the so-called "godfathers of AI."

Critics, particularly from Silicon Valley, argue that any regulation will drive innovation out of California. This argument is not just misleading — it's dangerous. The bill only applies to companies spending hundreds of millions on the most advanced AI models. For most startups and researchers, it's business as usual. They will feel no impact from this bill.

Fearmongering is nothing new. We've seen this kind of pushback many times before. But this time, major tech companies like Google and Meta have already made grand promises about AI safety on the global stage. Now that they are finally facing a bill that would codify those verbal commitments, they are showing their hand by lobbying against common sense safety requirements and crying wolf about startups leaving the state.

These exaggerated threats ring hollow: the likelihood of massive success — especially for startups — is much better in Silicon Valley than anywhere else in the country.

Some of the most vehement opposition comes from the "effective accelerationist" wing of Silicon Valley. These tech zealots dream of a world

SEE **AI** PAGE 7



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **65.1**

WEDNESDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 1-2FT
Knee to thigh

Smaller, with lingering SW swell from the SPAC, a little bit of NW windswell. Drained early — let the tide start to build in.

THURSDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: 1-2FT
Knee to thigh

Watching the EPAC tropics — could start to see new tropical swell later in the day. Small SW/SSW swell from the SPAC and minor NW windswell otherwise. AM winds look light. Tide is drained out early and slows most breaks.

Weather

Wednesday: Increasing clouds, with a high near 75. East southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
Wednesday Night: Patchy dense fog. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 64.
Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 72.
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 64.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2024/08/07	Wed	05:51 AM	0.24	L
2024/08/07	Wed	12:17 PM	4.41	H
2024/08/07	Wed	5:40 PM	2.05	L
2024/08/07	Wed	11:33 PM	5.07	H
2024/08/08	Thu	06:14 AM	0.67	L
2024/08/08	Thu	12:43 PM	4.48	H
2024/08/08	Thu	6:24 PM	2.06	L
2024/08/09	Fri	12:09 AM	4.47	H
2024/08/09	Fri	06:34 AM	1.15	L
2024/08/09	Fri	1:11 PM	4.54	H
2024/08/09	Fri	7:15 PM	2.09	L
2024/08/10	Sat	12:50 AM	3.83	H
2024/08/10	Sat	06:52 AM	1.65	L
2024/08/10	Sat	1:42 PM	4.59	H
2024/08/10	Sat	8:24 PM	2.10	L
2024/08/11	Sun	01:49 AM	3.19	H
2024/08/11	Sun	07:06 AM	2.12	L
2024/08/11	Sun	2:22 PM	4.64	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: 8/5
29 42 44 51 54
Power#: 12
Jackpot: 185 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 8/2
6 7 24 44 54
Mega#: 13
Jackpot: 374 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 8/3
3 4 28 40 44
Mega#: 19
Jackpot: 11 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 8/5
5 15 25 31 37

Daily 3
Draw Date: 8/5
EVENING: 4 0 0
Draw Date: 8/5
MIDDAY: 3 7 2

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 8/5
1st: 08 - Gorgeous George
2nd: 07 - Eureka
3rd: 12 - Lucky Charms
Race Time: 1:49.90

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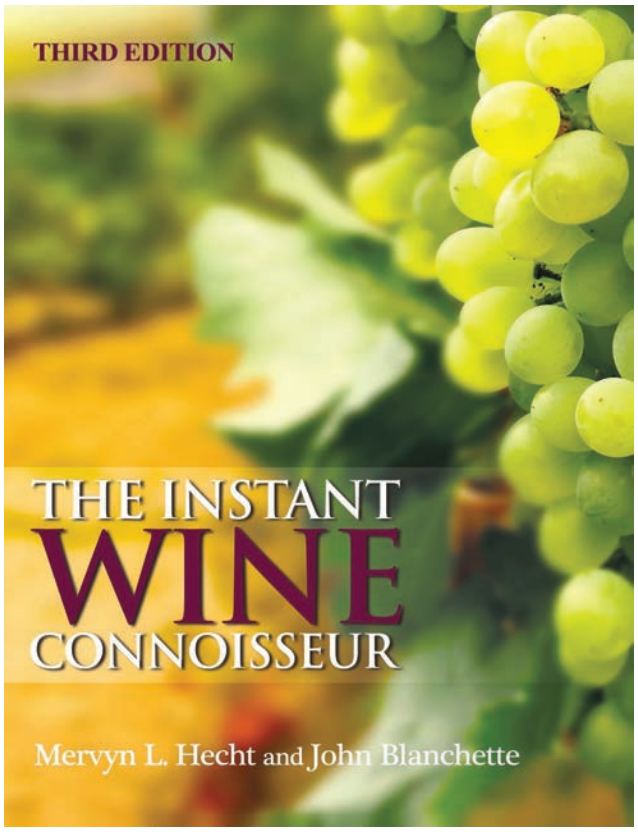
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Santa Monica Daily Press

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★★★★★ Well written, particularly useful, instantly accessible.
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Malibu

2024 Malibu Library Speaker Series Continues with Chief Astronomer and Planetarium Director Derrick Pitts

The 2024 Malibu Library Speaker Series continues with Derrick Pitts, Chief Astronomer and Planetarium Director of the Fels Planetarium at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, Tuesday, August 13, 7 p.m. in the Civic Theater at Malibu City Hall.

Derrick Pitts is currently the Chief Astronomer and Director of the Fels Planetarium at The Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. He's been associated with the Franklin Institute since 1978, designing and presenting many of the museum's public programs and exhibits. He's also been a NASA Solar System Ambassador since 2009. For more than two decades, Derrick has hosted award-winning astronomy radio programs for Philadelphia's two public radio stations and created signature astronomy television programming for PBS.

"We are honored to have Derrick Pitts join our Library Speaker Series. I encourage the community to join Derrick as he takes us on a journey through the galaxy, searching for planets similar to Earth that may harbor life," said Mayor Doug Stewart. "The Malibu Library Speaker Series continues to bring excellent speakers to Malibu that educate, inspire and entertain, elevating our community's cultural life."

> We are honored to have Derrick Pitts join our Library Speaker Series. I encourage the community to join Derrick as he takes us on a journey through the galaxy, searching for planets similar to Earth that may harbor life
> - Doug Stewart, Mayor

Pitts will delve into the fascinating world of astrobiology, taking the audience on the search for Earth-like planets elsewhere in the galaxy. Soon, we may find an Earth twin. He asks the questions: what are we really looking for in the search - a new place to live, or the answer to one of our most basic needs?

Malibu City Hall is located at 23825 Stuart Ranch Road, Malibu.

RSVPs are required for this free event. For more information and to RSVP, visit: MalibuCity.org/LibrarySpeakers.

Launched in 2013, the Malibu Library Speaker Series is a program in partnership with the Malibu Library, part of LA County Library, and the City of Malibu. It features experts, authors, and other notable figures discussing various subjects, including the entertainment industry, literature, science, motivation, the arts, education, sports, travel, food, and the environment.

Learn more about Derrick Pitts: https://fi.edu/en/authors/derrick-pitts-hond.

SUBMITTED BY CLOVE GALILEE

Citywide

"Write a Song in One Hour" with Matt Collette At Santa Monica Public Library

Santa Monica Public Library presents the songwriting workshop "Write a Song in One Hour" for adults and teens on Saturday, August 17, 2024, from 2-3:15 p.m. This event is free and takes place in the Main Library's Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Space is available on a first arrival basis; no registration required.

Dynamic musician and educator Matt Collette, whose students are now touring the world and composing for film and television, returns to SMPL with his unique and engaging songwriting workshop "Write a Song in One Hour" for musicians of all levels. Attendees will learn to take a song idea, add musical accompaniment, and develop it into a full-length song. No need to bring an instrument or have prior songwriting experience – just bring your love of music! Matt has a technique to have you playing an instrument in less than two minutes!

This event is the third installment of the four-part Summer of Strum! series at the Library, following a beginning ukulele class and a ukulele strum- and sing-along with a top local group. The series will conclude on September 19 with a ukulele workshop with world renowned teaching artists Heidi Swedberg and Daniel Ward.

Library events are free and open to the public. Santa Monica Public Library is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, call (310) 458-8600 one week prior to event. Ride your bike or Big Blue Bus. Bicycle parking racks are available at the Library.

Matt Collette, founder of HRA Studios in West LA, has mentored young musicians who have played with Grammy award-winning artists Laufey and boygenius, and many others. Matt ran the Music and Arts program for one of the largest behavioral health companies in California, and recently launched Just Like That Music and Arts, which cultivates a unique and innovative way to provide music and arts outreach for every community and individual.

SUBMITTED BY BARBARA CHANG FLEEMAN

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Trouble at LAX

Editor

Recently we arrived at LAX from New York on a 5 hour trans Continental flight and were stunned at what passes for ground transportation at such a world class destination? It was a disaster!

Arriving at terminal 7 United I knew that there was a taxi stand just outside baggage.

It's gone.

Instead somewhere near terminal 6? The pillar is painted green. Somehow that is supposed to denote that this is where travelers from the world over can catch a ride to a remote state of the art facility where the taxis are ... They can't.

Instead they are supposed to catch a bus to some remote location. The two green buses that came our way were already full and they just kept going as we stood with a gaggle of other tired and confused frustrated travelers.

Because we had booked a reservation at The June Hotel at Lincoln and Manchester, we thought we would just take a taxi there and check in, freshen up and get something to eat and catch a sunset.

Oh boy were we wrong?

Because there were no taxi stands anymore at LAX?

Instead we hopped on board a rental car bus to rent a car....wrong! There were no less than 50 travelers from the world over standing at the well recognized rental counter staffed by just three harried agents.

Need I tell you what that looked like?

After nearly two hours after landing , and paying over $400 more for a two mile ride to the hotel, we finally got to the hotel and checked in!

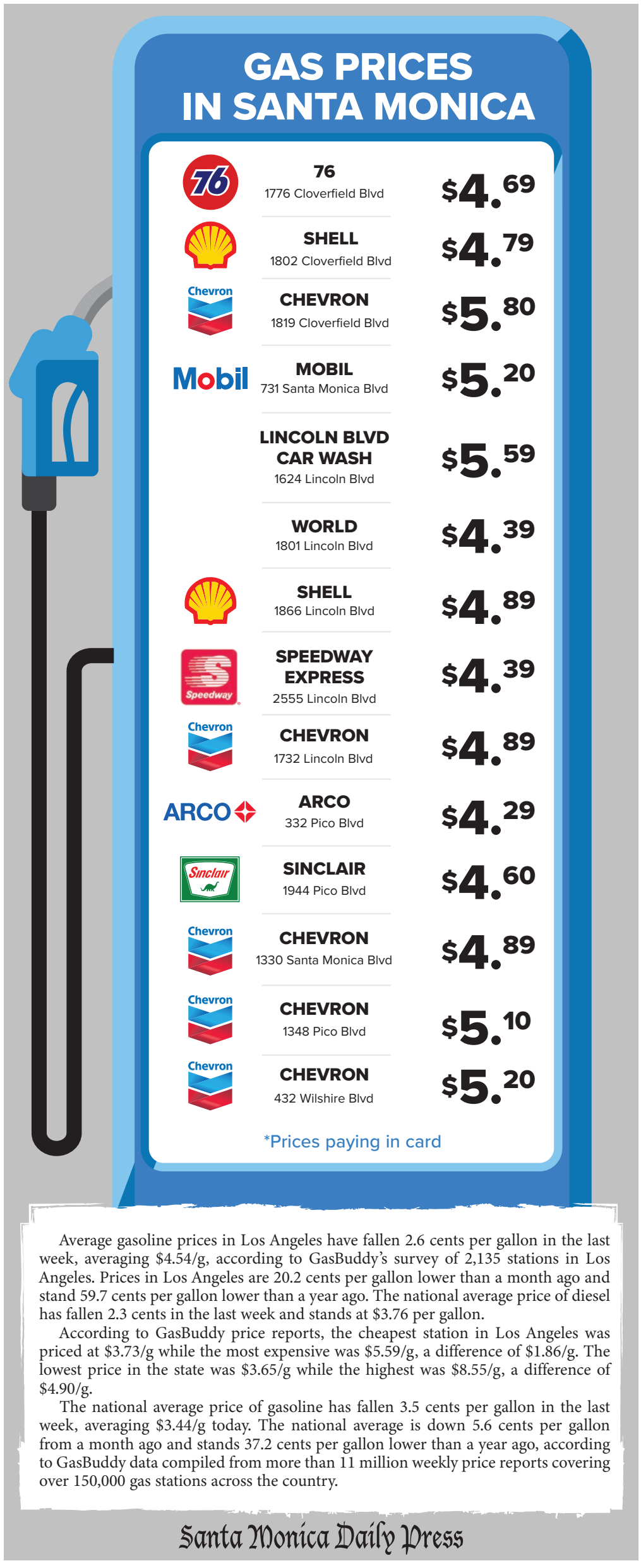
Los Angeles? What have you done!

Stewart Resmer, Los Angeles

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Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have fallen 2.6 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $4.54/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 20.2 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 59.7 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has fallen 2.3 cents in the last week and stands at $3.76 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at $3.73/g while the most expensive was $5.59/g, a difference of $1.86/g. The lowest price in the state was $3.65/g while the highest was $8.55/g, a difference of $4.90/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 3.5 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $3.44/g today. The national average is down 5.6 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 37.2 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Santa Monica Daily Press

HIRES

FROM PAGE 1

services they need to thrive" emotionally, academically and socially.

During the July 24 board meeting, two more hires were approved, including Dr. Adam Almeida's return to the district as Malibu High School Principal. Someone who Shelton noted as "not a stranger" to the district, Almeida was assistant principal at Malibu from 2019-2022, and has recently been working as an assistant principal of La Canada High School and a part-time lecturer and university supervisor at Cal State Northridge.

Almeida noted his gratitude for the new gig, as well as highlighting his commitment to Malibu during the completion of the high school's campus facilities plan.

"I am super excited to be back with (SMMUSD) ... I look forward to working with all the students, the staff and the community, highlighting all the wonderful things they're already doing and continuing to move forward as they transition to a new facility," Almeida said.

The meeting also saw the appointment of Kara Belsky as the new Assistant Principal at Grant Elementary School, with Grant Principal Christian Fuhrer and Belsky's mother both in attendance for the approval. Belsky was also tenured at LAUSD by serving in teaching and leadership roles at Warner Avenue Elementary School in Westwood.

Shelton noted that himself and Belsky were "neighbors" when Belsky was a teacher in Milford, Ohio, and stated that her leadership is characterized by a "data-driven approach, collaborative spirit and innovative strategies to enhance student learning."

"Grant Elementary is dedicated to fostering an inclusive and supportive learning environment, and I'm confident that (she) will contribute significantly to our community," Shelton added.

Just making the move to Santa Monica at the end of July, Belsky said she was "very excited" and that "everyone has been so welcoming" during and after her interview process.

While the hires bring new life into the district, the staffing process has not finished yet, particularly when it comes to bus drivers in the district. During his August 1 Superintendent's Report, Shelton stated that the district is "desperate" for new drivers, and that anyone interested should visit the human resources page on the district website to learn more.







Courtesy photos

SMMUSD: Dr. Adam Almeida, Kara Belsky and Dr. Fransisco Dussan are all new hires in the local school district.

thomas@smdp.com

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





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COMMUNITY NEWS

Pico

Santa Monica Retail Center sold for $3.9M

Lee & Associates Investment Services Group has announced the purchase of 1302-1308 Pico Boulevard, a multi-tenant retail center in Santa Monica, California. The property, built in 1962 and located at the hard corner of Pico Blvd. and Euclid St. in Santa Monica's Sunset Park neighborhood, sold off-market for $3.9 million. Senior Vice President Jesse Muñoz represented the buyer, Pico 1302 Investors Inc., in the transaction.

> "The purchase of this prime asset in a high barrier-to-entry market aligns with my client's long-term investment strategy"
>
> - Jesse Muñoz, Senior Vice President

Located southeast of Downtown Santa Monica, near Santa Monica College and Virginia Avenue Park, the Neighborhood Commercial (NC) property benefits from the city's new Housing Element update, allowing for future redevelopment options. The 13,007 square-foot lot includes a single-story 7,276 square-foot retail building and 12 surface parking spaces.

"The purchase of this prime asset in a high barrier-to-entry market aligns with my client's long-term investment strategy," said Muñoz. "With 61% occupancy, there's potential to increase revenue in the short-term while exploring future redevelopment options." A personal training concept, The Study, occupies 4,376 square-feet at the property.

"We believe this transaction is a good entrance into the Santa Monica market for us, as we intend to expand our portfolio in the more moderate areas of Santa Monica," said Jacob Jalil, managing member, Pico 1302 Investors, Inc.

Santa Monica, a seaside city spanning 8.42 square miles with a population of about 91,600, is one of the top suburbs in L.A. County. Known for its beautiful surroundings, relaxed vibe, and numerous amenities, it attracts professionals, retirees, artists, and affluent residents. As a premier destination with top-notch restaurants, retail, and nightlife, Santa Monica is also a major employment hub and the center of "Silicon Beach," drawing major tech companies to LA's Westside. These factors make it one of L.A.'s most expensive rental markets, appealing to landlords and developers.

The seller, 1302 Pico Blvd Associates LLC, was represented by Gabe Kadosh of Colliers

SUBMITTED BY JESSE MUÑOZ

AI

FROM PAGE 3

where AI develops unchecked, regardless of the consequences. They list concepts like sustainability, social responsibility and ethics as enemies to be vanquished. They feverishly dream of a world where technology replaces humans, ushering in "the next evolution of consciousness, creating unthinkable next-generation lifeforms and silicon-based awareness."

We've seen this kind of polarization play out before, albeit less intensely. Social media companies promised to connect the world, but their unregulated growth led to mental health crises, election interference and the erosion of privacy.

We can't afford to repeat these mistakes with AI. The stakes are simply too high.

Californians understand this. Recent polling shows that 66% of voters don't trust tech companies to prioritize AI safety on their own. Nearly 9 in 10 say it's important for California to develop AI safety regulations, and 82% support the core provisions captured in SB 1047.

The public overwhelmingly supports policies like SB 1047 — it is just the loud voices of Big Tech attempting to drown out the opinions of most Californians.

As a young person, I often feel as though I get mischaracterized as being anti-technology — for being this century's Luddites. I reject that completely. I'm a digital native that sees AI's immense potential to solve global challenges. I am deeply optimistic about the future of technology. But I also understand the need for guardrails.

My generation is the one that will inherit the world shaped by today's decisions. We deserve a say in how this technology develops.

For lawmakers and ultimately Gov. Gavin Newsom, the choice isn't between innovation and safety. It's between a future where AI's benefits are shared widely and one where its harms fall disproportionately on the shoulders of vulnerable groups and young people like me.

SB 1047 is a step towards the former, a future where California leads not just in technological innovation but in ethical innovation.

This article was originally published by CalMatters. Sunny Gandhi is the vice president of political affairs at Encode Justice.

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com





Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

FOR QUOTES PLEASE CALL 310-573-8074

or email **cindy@smdp.com**

Summons

Summons (Sum 100) (Citacion Judicial)CASE NUMBER(Número del Caso):22SMCV01963NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): CITY OF LOS ANGELES, a public entity; CITY OF SANTA MONICA, a public entity; COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, a public entity; CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH; a public entity, OPPC OCEAN PARK COMMUNITY CENTER, a public entity. YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE) Todd Johnson, an individual. NOTICE. You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the informationBelow. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy you served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear yourCase.There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California CourtsOnline Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, askthe court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and propertymay be taken without further warning from the court.There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorneyreferral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locatethese nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center(www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees andcosts on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información aContinuación.Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en estacorte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estaren el formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta.Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en labiblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corteque le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte lepodrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio deremisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de unprograma de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services,(www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o elcolegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobrecualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene quepagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso. The name and address of the court is:(El nombre y dirección de la corte es):Los Angeles County Superior CourtSanta Monica Courthouse1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401The name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's attorney, or the petitioner without anattorney, are: (El nombre, direcci6n y número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o deldemandante si no tiene abogado, son)Patrick Kahalil, Esq. Downton LA Law Group 601 N Vermont Ave Los Angeles, CA 90004Date 10/24/2023 Sherri R Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk Court Clerk by (secretario) K. Parenteau Deputy (ajunto)

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

LAWSUIT

FROM PAGE 1

lead organizer of Hispanic Heritage Month activities for the city. However, her advocacy efforts allegedly led to a series of retaliatory actions by her superiors.

The lawsuit claims that beginning in 2020, the plaintiff was subjected to retaliation for reporting what she believed were violations of local, state, and federal regulations.

In March or April 2020, the plaintiff spoke at a City Council meeting about the disproportionate layoffs of people of color within the city. Following this, she was allegedly excluded from important meetings, kept out of relevant committees, and faced heightened scrutiny from her supervisors. The lawsuit asserts that these actions hindered her career advancement and damaged her professional reputation.

Esparza cites several incidents.

In September 2021, she says she was accused of improperly obtaining donations for Hispanic Heritage Month. Despite the plaintiff's denial and explanation, she was called to the City Manager's Office and questioned about her compliance with donation solicitation rules.

In her complaint, Esparza said she continued to voice concerns about illegal procurement practices and fraudulent invoices, which she believed violated city codes and state regulations. In one instance, she reported the award of multiple contracts exceeding $250,000 to a nonprofit organization without City Council approval. In another, she flagged fraudulent invoices submitted by a city employee, which were allegedly approved by a supervisor.

In August 2022, the plaintiff was placed on administrative leave pending an investigation for allegedly inserting herself into a coworker's tuition reimbursement request without authorization. Shortly after, she was put on a leave of absence.

In one incident, the plaintiff received an email from Human Resources Director Lori Gentles, accusing her of lying about the number of minority layoffs. The email, sent in all capital, red font, was copied to the entire Equity Inclusion Officer team.

Gentles was also fired by the City and has filed her own lawsuit accusing the city of racism, discrimination, and retaliation. Gentles, who is Black, alleges that persistent bigotry and retaliation from white management damaged her mental health and ultimately led to her firing after she advocated for diversifying the city's workforce.

Esparza's lawsuit claims that in December 2022, the plaintiff reported the real reason for her administrative leave was her disclosure of illegal procurement procedures. Despite her attempts to defend herself, she was served with a notice of intent to terminate her employment in May 2023, and her termination became effective on October 22, 2023.

The plaintiff alleges that the city's actions have caused her significant emotional and financial harm, including damage to her professional reputation, loss of earnings and benefits, and adverse effects on her personal health. She seeks damages in excess of $25,000 for retaliation, discrimination, and wrongful termination.

The City of Santa Monica has declined to comment on the Esparza suit and has filed a defense in the Gentles case denying any wrongdoing.

editor@smdp.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

Citywide

Applications Now Accepted for 2024 Community Benefits Grant

Clean Power Alliance (CPA) has announced that applications are now being accepted for the 2024 Community Benefits Grant. The grant program, a partnership between CPA and Calpine Community Energy, has once again increased funding to support local nonprofit organizations working to advance clean energy goals within CPA's service area. This year, $325,000 in funding will be made available to 12 to 15 organizations – the largest amount since the grant was launched in 2021. Last year, $288,000 was distributed to 12 organizations throughout Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

"CPA is focused on efforts to help make Southern California resilient and more sustainable through our diverse customer programs, clean energy options, or community investments," said Ted Bardacke, CEO of Clean Power Alliance. "We continue to work closely with nonprofit organizations as they have insight into what is most needed to successfully advance local sustainability efforts. This grant provides a direct way to support the wellbeing of the communities we serve."

The Community Benefits Grant is open to organizations and projects focused on advancing clean energy, sustainability, and resiliency through four pathways: 1) Research 2) Education 3) Environmental and Social Justice Communities 4) Workforce Development.

The grant application period is open from Aug. 6 through Sept. 13, 2024. Grants ranging from $15,000 to $30,000 will be awarded. Eligible nonprofits must be working within at least one of the 35 communities CPA serves throughout Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

"Year after year, the Community Benefits Grant program continues to develop long-term partnerships with community-based organizations doing amazing work in the CPA community," said Josh Brock, Vice President of Commercial Operations for Calpine Community Energy. "We're honored to not only support our CCA partners but also the communities they serve by continuing to sponsor this program. Calpine Community Energy is pleased to create a funding opportunity that highlights the work of local community organizations while enhancing the positive impact Clean Power Alliance has on its local communities."

Last year's grant recipients included Climate First: Replacing Oil & Gas (CFROG), Columbia Memorial Space Center, Friends of the Los Angeles River, Grid Alternatives LA, LA Regional Collaborative for Climate Action and Sustainability (LARC), Merito Foundation, Oxnard Performing Arts Center, Pando Populus, Santa Monica Mountains Foundation, Tree People, U.S. Green Business Council (USGBC), and the Ventura County Community Foundation.

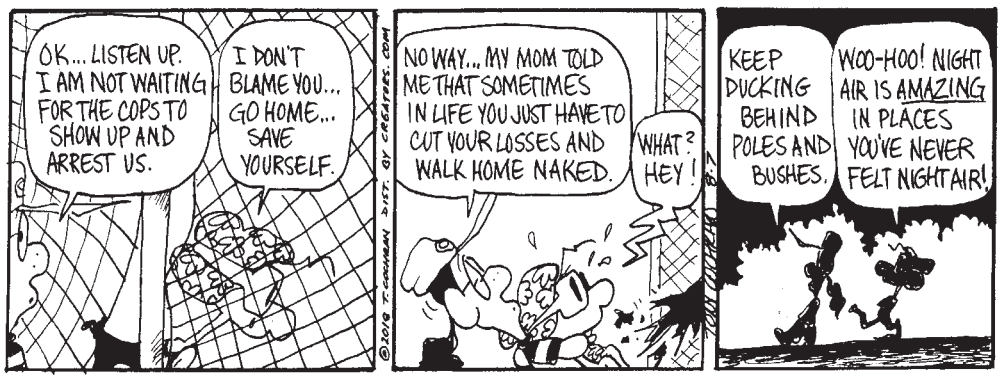
Organizations have utilized their grants to fund diverse projects. USGBC developed a certificate program for construction professionals to learn and adopt best practices around improvements and materials for buildings and landscapes to reduce the long-term extreme heat-related impacts of climate change.

Interested nonprofit organizations can learn more about the grant requirements and apply by visiting www.cleanpoweralliance.org/cbg. CPA will host an informational webinar on Aug. 14, from 1 pm to 2 pm (PST), to further share grant details.

SUBMITTED BY JOSEPH CABRAL

Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



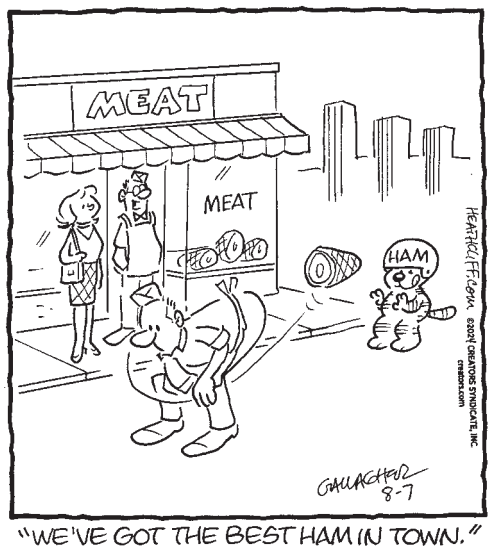
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

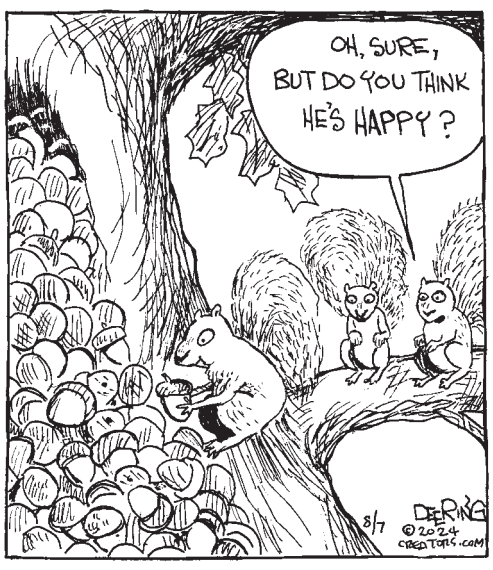
By PETER GALLAGHER



"WE'VE GOT THE BEST HAM IN TOWN."

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.

© australianwordgames.com.au 6295

University life

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

Acts	Diploma	Major	Review
Adelaide	Donor	Maps	Scan
Approval	Elective	Mark	Sport
Arts	Fail	Melbourne	Students
Award	Fees	Memory	Sydney
Bachelor	Formula	Night	Task
Bond	Griffith	Online	Tired
Books	HECS	Pass	Unit
Campus	Laptop	Questions	Urban
Clubs	Lunch	Rates	
Dean	Maintenance	Resit	

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 7)

You'll claim what's inherently yours, and there will be no doubt in you about what that is. Your voice has powerful resonance, and you'll cut through the world's chaos and demands with your truth. More highlights: You'll get more effective command of your time. Your schedule will become increasingly aligned with your passions and priorities. This is the "you" you always wanted to be. Sagittarius and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 3, 11, 5 and 10.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). As Shakespeare said, "The course of true love never did run smooth." Even in times when you think it's going smoothly, there is hot lava burbling inside. But if you stay far from the danger zone, you'll have the best of all worlds.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). People need to feel needed. Being essential in someone's world motivates you to do things you wouldn't otherwise have to. This is how you get strong and become an improved version of yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There are those who are closed off to the possibility they might have gotten something wrong. Not you. When new experiences fly in the face of what you previously thought to be true, you adjust quickly. Being a fast learner will pay off this week.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The work is more fun than the fun. There's nobility in it, too. Also, you'll love how a task can change you. To devote yourself to the aim not only tends to accomplish a goal but it also uncovers the deeper aspects of your character.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). For you to agree to something new, it needs to be an exciting enough idea for you to drop everything else you've got going on to take advantage of it. Unless it's irresistible, the best option will be the polite "no" that allows you to conserve your energy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll give your dear ones what they ask for as long as it's within your control. The problem is that's hard to know. You have to try first. The trick is to underpromise, so if/when anything happens, it's a delight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). One or two new people on the scene is all it takes to change everything. Someone's smile is the zephyr that makes clouds disappear; the edges of life seem to sparkle when they're around, an indication that this is special.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). What's better than having all the answers? Having a good reason to collaborate. Wherever there are people needing people, there is a chance to build the astounding creation that could never be made by one.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Work will pay off. New projects will ascend. Until then, just believe. To surrender to faith and optimism is to surrender to a sense of peace that will give you ease as well as better and more energy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You want to brighten someone's day, and you will — just not the person you thought. You never know who you influence just by being you. Stay true to your essence and let your light shine. In time, all will be revealed.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Sensitive issues come into the open. Should they be explored or just tolerated? You might be surprised at whose feelings can blow up on a hair trigger. Tolerance is an oft-underrated virtue.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). From weather in the sky to differences in a workflow or micro-expressions that flicker across the face of friends, the more you notice, the keener your intuition gets. It's all about curiosity and the ability to stay in the moment.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

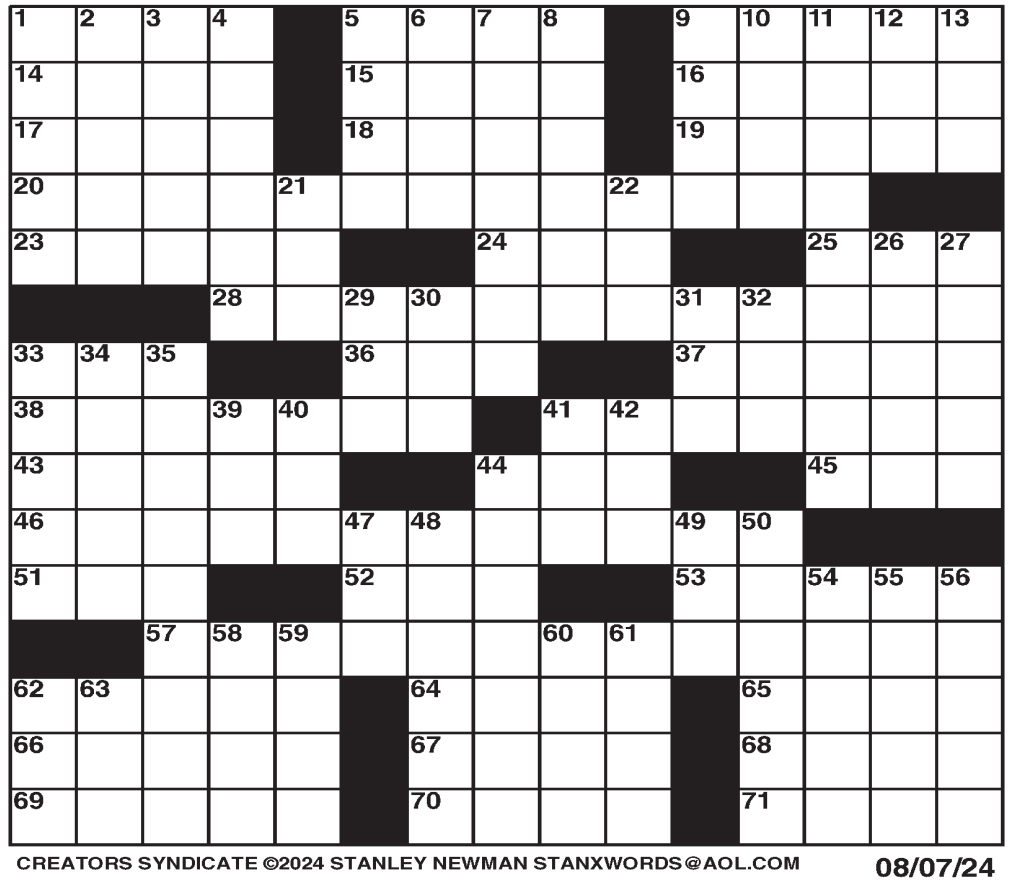
HIGHS AND LOWS by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Baby's female parent
5 In addition
9 Gelatin garnish for meats
14 Lots and lots (of)
15 Took a tumble
16 Deceive
17 See 10-Down
18 Sudden invasion
19 Fidgety
20 In full control
23 First prime minister of India
24 Possesses
25 Schedule slot abbr.
28 Prominent, as on some front pages
33 Sheep's statement
36 Armed conflict
37 Needing a nap
38 Fake a vocal performance
41 High, flat land
43 Plenty of
44 Flying geese formation
45 Auto additive brand
46 Subpar
51 Place for gulls and buoys
52 ATM ID
53 On the nose
57 Covertly
62 Half-diameters
64 Avocado dip, for short
65 Lake bird
66 Start of some poetic tribute titles
67 Rice-shaped pasta
68 "Chunk light" fish
69 Long-legged waterbird category
70 Observed
71 Part of a mushroom

DOWN

1 Brick artisan
2 Make amends
3 Electricity billing period
4 Fine wool
5 Spherical hairdo
6 Book sheet
7 Move like a snake
8 No longer in fashion
9 Actor Alda or Rickman
10 With 17 Across, musically monotonous
11 They sell collars and leashes
12 Part of TGIF
13 Cleverly shy
21 Server of ale
22 "Approximately"
26 33-Across, for instance
27 Make sense
29 Possess
30 Rug cleaner, briefly
31 Map app calculation
32 Be the right size for
33 Spills the beans
34 Female name meaning "loved"
35 Clapped for
39 __-mo playback
40 Fir relative
41 Part of MPH
42 Grassy field
44 Startup business
47 Chimp or orang
48 Many with September birthdays
49 Catch on to
50 Praises highly
54 Approximately
55 Genetic duplicate
56 Common coffee break time
58 Evening, in some ads
59 Couturier Christian __
60 Thin fog
61 MBA major
62 Line of seats
63 Oral health pros' org.



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08/07/24

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NEEDLE EXCHANGE

FROM PAGE 1

The program has operated in several parks in Santa Monica, but a significant cause of concern among critics is that St. Monica's school is directly opposite Reed Park, which incorporates publicly accessible basketball and tennis courts. Opponents of the current program say it not only affects the residents of the immediate area, but also young children who attend the nearby school.

> The idea is just to provide our audience today, whether it's in their room or whether it's those participating virtually, a general sense of these services, what they are, what they aren't [and] why we feel that they're important
>
> - Dr Gary Tsai

Critics claim the program enables the continued use of drugs, draws more homeless to the city and makes parks unsafe, but researchers have linked syringe programs with a roughly 50% reduction in HIV and hepatitis C.

However, proponents of the program claim that addicts will still use hard drugs in the park regardless of whether the Venice Family Clinic transit van is there or not. And as such, it should be there to offer whatever assistance is possible.

"Harm reduction saves lives. The focus is around keeping people who use drugs alive and as healthy as possible," Tsai said, adding, "And the harm reduction approach emphasizes empathy, respect, compassion, non judgmental services for individuals who use drugs so that we can continue to engage them wherever they are, along the care continuum and along the continuum of recovery."

Ferrer did ask Tsai arguably the single most important question, which was that people fear that the harm reduction programs are both encouraging people to use drugs and making it easier for people to use drugs, which could delay people seeking other treatment.

"I would say the reason why over 30 years of evidence demonstrate that harm reduction services have led to a three to five times increased rate of treatment, interest and acceptance in terms of substance use treatment is because of the fact that it engages people at varying stages of their substance use, as well as their substance use recovery," Tsai responded.

Following an unconvincing attempt to draw a parallel to people suffering from diabetes, he added, "If we can't limit risks that could easily translate to a death, and there's no way that we're going to help individuals who are not alive and so part of harm reduction is just about that engagement translating to lives saved so that we can continue to build relationships that are necessary for individuals to engage with needed services."

Jessica Rogers, co-founder of the Santa Monica Coalition, who very much led the charge at the Reed Park protest in April, was the first public speaker to comment. "If evil expresses itself in corrupted souls and dishonorable people who push inhumane policies out of egoism, greed and political agendas, why hand out needles and meth pipes to addicts on our streets and dehumanize them?" Rogers asked.

"If you have any mercy for their suffering, wouldn't you gift them with accountability and force them to show up for themselves, help them create meaning out of their existence that is more powerful than their [addiction], Rogers added.

"We are using a lot of our science that actually has demonstrated over time that the services that we're providing around needle exchange, around lessening the harm associated with using drugs saves lives and allows people on a path to recovery. But I appreciate that you have a different perspective," Ferrer responded.

John Allle, co-founder of the Santa Monica Coalition, also spoke regarding the situation in Santa Monica. "By your own admission, your program is model based. Please tell us what metrics, what stats and what evidence you have to show that it's working, because in the last four years in Santa Monica, it's been a disaster. Suspend the program there until you can provide brick and mortar buildings. Please. You're doing the majority of the public a disservice for a very few."

Following a little factual embellishment, he added, "Please come out and see for yourself … The City of Santa Monica has asked you to move it out of the parks [and] you haven't."

No one else from Santa Monica spoke during the meeting.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

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WEDNESDAY | AUGUST 7

HOMELESS CONNECT DAY

8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Venice Family Clinic Health and Wellness Center, 604 Rose Ave., Venice. People experiencing homelessness can connect with Venice Family Clinic services, including medical care, dental cleanings and consultations, health insurance enrollment, CalFresh enrollment, overdose prevention supplies, testing for Hep C and sexually transmitted infections including syphilis, for which L.A. County Department of Public Health will provide initial treatment onsite. L.A. County Homeless Court will help with pedestrian and traffic tickets, and celebrity stylist Jason Schneidman will give free haircuts. Venice Family Clinic will also provide hygiene kits, showers, a bike valet and hot meals.

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Between 4th St. and Ocean Ave. The largest grower-only Certified Farmers Market in Southern California and a favorite for local chefs. Widely considered to be among the best on the west coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheese, delicious foods, live music and more.

AUTHOR TALK WITH DR. JENNIFER LEVASSEUR

11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Santa Monica College Library, Floor 1, 1900 Pico Blvd. You're invited to virtually step inside one of the greatest international achievements with a behind-the-scenes guide to space exploration with the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum curator Dr. Jennifer Levasseur. Revealing a new perspective into the world of space exploration and the daring astronauts who make it possible, Dr. Levasseur will guide you through the Smithsonian's "Behind the Scenes at the Space Station" and take you on a once-in-a-lifetime virtual tour of the International Space Station. To register, visit: https://libraryc.org/smclibrary/52409/register.

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS CHARACTER CREATION

4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Pico Branch Library Annex, 2201 Pico Blvd. Curious about Dungeons & Dragons? Come craft a character to participate in upcoming adventures. Materials provided. For ages 9-14.

PRIEST RANCH ON THE ROAD TOUR

5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Local Kitchen, 1736 Ocean Park Blvd. Priest Ranch is taking its show on the road in 2024 with winemaker Cody Hurd and CEO Judd Wallenbrock. Local Kitchen will dish up light bites to pair with a selection of Priest Ranch wines, including a 2023 Priest Ranch Sauvignon Blanc, 2021 Priest Ranch Cabernet Sauvignon, 2019 Snake Oil Cabernet Sauvignon and 2019 Remedy Red Blend. Tickets are $45 and includes wine tasting and light nosh. To purchase, visit: https://www.priestranchwines.com/Visit/Events/Priest-Ranch-on-the-Road-Tour-2024.

THURSDAY | AUGUST 8

RENT CONTROL BOARD

7 p.m. Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. The Rent Control Board meets to conduct business associated with the Rent Control Charter Amendment and Regulations.

FRIDAY | AUGUST 9

SMPL AT THE BEACH

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Highway. Southern California's only beachside pop-up library is back for a fun-filled day of activities starting with Seaside Storytime with local author Nell Cross Beckerman at 10:15 a.m., sign out books from the curated beach reads collection, play games, or kick back and relax in the Surfside Lounge. All ages welcome.

SUNSET SWIM

6 - 9 p.m. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Highway. Enjoy an evening around the historic 1920's pool by swimming, hanging out with friends and making new friends poolside. S'mores and pool floats provided. Adults 18+ only. Outside food welcome, no glass, no alcohol. $10 for adults, $5 for seniors age 60 and above.

THAT CORPORATE COMEDY SHOW

7 - 9:30 p.m. 1301 5th St. A comedy show guaranteed to detox you from low-level anxiety and make you forget about Google Suite for 90 minutes. Prepare to laugh while you imbibe in some of LA's finest cocktails to set the perfect weekend tone. Featuring Eddie Pepitone, Amanda Savage, Andy Van and more. General admission $17.85, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/that-corporate-comedy-show-eddie-pepitone-andy-van-and-amanda-savage-tickets-946964746047.

15TH ANNUAL MIXMATCH DANCE FESTIVAL

7 - 8:30 p.m. Highways Performance Space, 1651 18th St. This year's 15th Annual MixMatch Dance Festival touts a lineup of mixed dance works bringing dance styles in Modern, Jazz, Ballet, Latin, Sign Language, Indian, Flamenco, Hip Hop, Contemporary and more. Tickets $20, to purchase visit: https://www.hartpulsedance.com/.

LAUGH IT OFF COMEDY SHOW

8 - 10 p.m. Viceroy Santa Monica, 1819 Ocean Ave. Get ready to laugh out loud in a night of non-stop laughter and hilarious stand-up comedic performances from Zak Johnson, David Del Rosario, Del Harrison, Willie Macc and Billy Bonnell. Tickets $23.18, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/laugh-it-off-comedy-show-tickets-948276700137.

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