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Presale tickets.

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Mortgage rates
Near record high.

FRIDAY
08.18.23

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Hilary approaches L.A. area with rainfall, rough surf

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

After a precipitation-scarce summer, Mother Nature will be sending a potentially dangerous storm to the Los Angeles area this weekend.

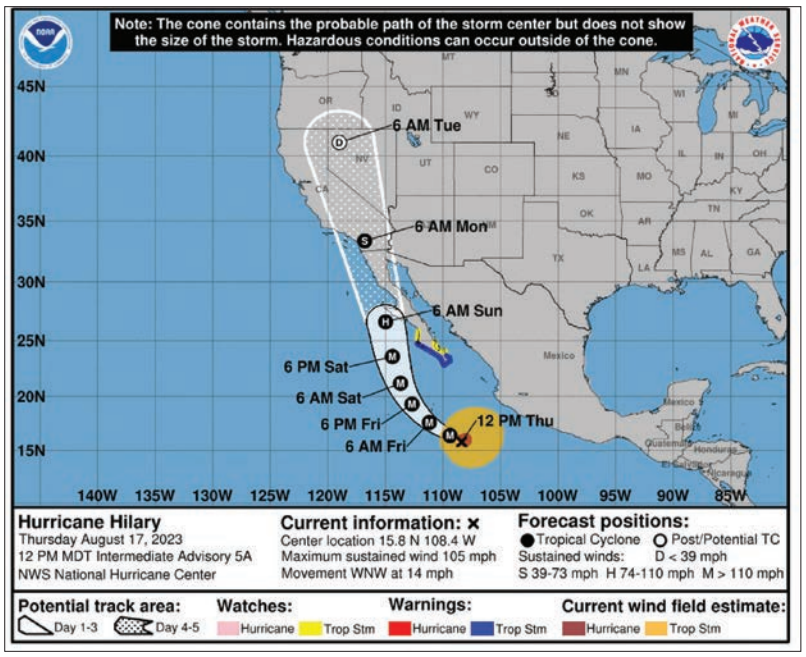
Hurricane Hilary, a rapidly strengthening storm, has been traversing along the coast of southwestern Mexico, and is poised to continue north and bring impacts to Southern California throughout the weekend and into Monday. According to the National Weather Service's National Hurricane Center, Hilary was about 475 miles off the coast of Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, as of 2 p.m. PDT Thursday, packing maximum sustained winds of 110 mph.

Initially named a tropical storm on Wednesday morning, the system intensified into Thursday, eventually strengthening into a Category 2 hurricane. A report by AccuWeather states that Hilary is forecast to peak as a Category 3 hurricane as it spins off Mexico's Baja peninsula this weekend.

The NWS report notes that rainfall amounts between 2-4 inches, with isolated locations receiving more than 8 inches, will be possible throughout portions of Southern California, including parts of the Los Angeles metro area.

While mountains to the east of Los Angeles will shield Santa Monica and other cities on the coastline from Hilary's worst impacts, rounds of heavy rain and high wind gusts are forecast, along with rough surf which will build throughout the early part of the weekend. According to Surf Forecast, the most powerful waves at the Santa Monica Pier area are forecast to arrive Sunday morning,

SEE **HILARY** PAGE 8



NWS

STORM: The tropical storm is heading north this weekend.

Commissioners both new and returning take to the dais



Photo by Fran Lyness

PLANNING: After a contentious nomination process the Santa Monica Planning Commission reorganized this week welcoming one new member while bidding farewell to another. Nina Fresco (left) was returned to the dais. Fresco was one of two commissioners who needed five votes to serve a consecutive third term. The other, Mario Fonda-Bonardi, didn't receive the supermajority of votes last month and left the Commission this week. New Commissioner Josh Hamilton (right) was seated at the August meeting. Jim Ries was also reappointed to a third term but due to a gap between terms two and three, his nomination only required four votes.

Santa Monica drivers face the case of the mysteriously malfunctioning meters

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

For as yet unknown reasons, Santa Monica's parking meters are breaking and drivers are literally paying the price.

Parking meters throughout the city are preventing drivers from selecting the amount of time they want to pay for at that meter. Instead, drivers are forced to pay for however many hours the meter defaults to, regardless of the amount of time they want to spend at that location.

City Hall is aware that some meters are broken and said customers who are overcharged can request a refund.

"It is unclear what is causing the button issue at some of our parking meters," said Communications and Public Information Manager Lauren G. Howland. "As each faulty button is identified, city staff removes and replaces the faulty meter part with a functioning part and sends the faulty part back to the meter vendor for repair, since the parts are under warranty. The vendor is gathering more information about the issue and trying to determine how to fix it long-term."

About 50 meters have been replaced so far but the City has no way to preemptively identify which meters are broken and is reliant on

SEE **PARKING** PAGE 8



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Pentagon review calls for reforms to reverse spike in sexual misconduct at military academies

LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

The U.S. military academies must improve their leadership, stop toxic practices such as hazing and shift behavior training into the classrooms, according to a Pentagon study aimed at addressing an alarming spike in sexual assaults and misconduct.

U.S. officials said the academies must train student leaders better to help their classmates, and upend what has been a disconnect between what the cadets and midshipmen are learning in school and the often negative and unpunished behavior they see by those mentors. The review calls for additional senior officers and enlisted leaders to work with students at the Army, Navy and Air Force academies and provide the expanded training.

The report, which was released Thursday, says that too often discussions about stress relief, misconduct, social media and other life issues take place after hours or on the weekends. The report recommends that those topics be addressed in classes and graded, to promote their importance.

The study comes on the heels of a report this year that showed a sharp spike in reported sexual assaults at the academies during the 2021-22 school year. It said that one in five female students said in an anonymous survey that they had experienced unwanted sexual contact. The survey results were the highest since the Defense Department began collecting that data many years ago.

Student-reported assaults at the academies jumped 18% overall compared with the previous year, fueled in part by the Navy, which had nearly double the number in 2022, compared with 2021. The anonymous survey accompanying the report found increases in all types of unwanted sexual contact — from touching to rape — at all the schools. And it cited alcohol as a key factor.

In response to the spike in assaults, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin ordered on-site evaluations at the U.S. Naval Academy in Maryland, the Air Force Academy in Colorado and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in New York, to explore the issues and identify solutions. The new report, expected to be released Thursday, makes several immediate and longer-term recommendations to improve assault and harassment prevention and eliminate toxic climates that fuel the problems. Austin is ordering quick implementation of the changes.

In a memo, Austin acknowledges that the academies "have far more work to do to halt sexual assault and harassment." He says the increase in assaults and harassment "is disturbing and unacceptable. It endangers our teammates and degrades our readiness."

Elizabeth Foster, executive director of the Pentagon's force resiliency office, told reporters Thursday that the study will set up ways to measure whether the changes are working. But she cautioned that "not only are they going to take time to implement, but cultural change does take time."

> "What was striking was that the message was, this is okay here and this is how we treat each other"
> - Andra Tharp

Foster and Andra Tharp, the senior prevention adviser for the force resiliency office, said that while the academies offer a lot of strong programs, toxic and unhealthy command climates make them less effective. When cadets and midshipmen learn one thing about leadership or prevention in the classroom, but they don't see it reinforced in other settings, it sends mixed messages about what to expect, about how to be treated and how to treat others.

Such mixed messages, they said, create cynicism and distrust.

The report points to the Air Force Academy's longstanding system that treats freshmen differently and badly, promoting hazing and an unhealthy climate. Tharp said those students may leave the academy with a poor sense of what good leadership looks like.

"What was striking was that the message was, this is okay here and this is how we treat each other," Tharp said. "Unfortunately, that didn't stop once they left their freshman year."

The officials added that a contributing factor to the behavior problems is that — like other college students around the country — many more cadets and midshipmen are arriving at the academies with previous bad experiences, ranging from assaults and harassment to thoughts of or attempts at suicide. On top of that, the report says incoming students then face a lot of stress as they grapple with their education and military training.

In many cases, the report says that student

SEE PENTAGON PAGE 8



‘Blue Beetle’ director Ángel Manuel Soto says the DC film is a ‘love letter to our ancestors’

LESLIE AMBRIZ
Associated Press

Director Ángel Manuel Soto didn’t think too much about the “Latino side of things” when visually crafting DC’s “Blue Beetle” alongside Mexican screenwriter Gareth Dunnet-Alcocer.

The film — starring “Cobra Kai’s” Xolo Maridueña as Jaime Reyes, aka Blue Beetle and DC’s first Latino superhero — oozes with Mexican references and elements of other Latin American cultures through almost every scene. Still, the Puerto Rican director says that all of this came naturally due to his and Dunnet-Alcocer’s backgrounds.

“We never were like, ‘Okay, so how are we going to make this Latino?’ We cannot hide who we are. If we have the opportunity to tell our collective experiences because we are Latino, they’re going to come out Latino.”

> “I know they’re sad that they cannot be here, but they understand that what they’re doing is important for the future generations, and they have my full support, so the least I could do was bring them with me
> - Ángel Manuel Soto Director

In “Blue Beetle,” Reyes finds himself in possession of an ancient scarab named Khaji Da made of alien biotechnology that chooses Reyes as its symbiotic host. In a hilarious scene, the scarab attaches itself to Reyes, transforming the hesitant young adult into a superhero.

Soto is promoting the film by himself due to the ongoing Hollywood strikes, which prohibit actors and screenwriters from promoting work under television and theatrical contracts. Still, he made sure to bring his cast along for the ride via a culturally relevant white shirt with illustrations of his lead cast as Mexican Loteria characters during the Los Angeles leg of the press tour. The game is similar to bingo and is popular in Mexican and Mexican-American households.

“I know they’re sad that they cannot be here, but they understand that what they’re doing is important for the future generations, and they have my full support, so the least I could do was bring them with me,” said Soto. “I know they’re here in spirit.”

Soto hopes that audiences will still show up to support the film when it opens Friday.

“Hopefully, people will watch the movie because it is a good movie, and our cast killed it and they’re going to fall in love with them,” said Soto.

The Associated Press sat down with Soto to chat more about the film’s seamless Mexican and Latino cultural references and why he was initially hesitant to take on the project.

Remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: What has it been like being on this press tour, having to promote it on your own?

SOTO: I love talking about what I love. I think as exhausting as it might be, because it’s a lot for one person to do, connecting with fans and having experiences with people from other cultures, from other countries definitely fuels the energy cause I’m learning a lot. I learn a lot when I talk to people. I get reassurance, I get empowered. So any depletion of energy caused to forced nights of sleep and constant travel are immediately replenished when interacting with beautiful people.

AP: I read that you originally wanted to pitch a Bane origin story, but instead, DC presented you with this film. What was it like for you mentally having to pivot from wanting to tell a supervillain origin story to this coming-of-age superhero one?

SOTO: I had no idea they were working on something like “Blue Beetle.” Coming out of the success of a film like “The Joker” and understanding there’s other characters that might have so many things to explore, I wanted to pitch that Bane idea. So they came in and was like, ‘Yeah, that’s a great idea. But we got this product here, and it’s “Blue Beetle.” I knew a little bit about Blue Beetle. I knew that Jaime Reyes was in it. My first reaction was that I didn’t want to brownwash something, you know, that already existed. It’s okay if there’s familiarity with certain things, but I didn’t want to be that person that my Latinidad had to conform to somebody else’s expectations of Latinidad. I wanted to be able to be free, and I wanted the actors that I hired that are Latino to be authentically themselves.

So when I said that, they were like, ‘Oh, no, no, don’t worry. Our writer is Gareth Dunnet-Alcocer. He is a Mexican from

SEE **BLUE BEETLE** PAGE 7

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be opened and posted for:

BID #4464 Liquid Hydrofluorosilicic Acid

Submission Deadline is September 14, 2023 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

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

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
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BID #4462 Public Works Fencing (Permanent, Temporary, Access Controls)

Submission Deadline is September 21, 2023 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

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

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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 sealed proposals for

RFP: # 372 EV Charging Station Provider (2)

- **Submission Deadline is September 26, 2023 at 5:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is OpenGov (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca) There is no charge for the RFP package.

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Hawaii is vowing to protect landowners on Maui from being pressured to sell after wildfires

BOBBY CAINA CALVAN, JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER AND CHRISTOPHER WEBER
Associated Press

Hawaii's governor vowed to protect local landowners from being "victimized" by opportunistic buyers when Maui rebuilds from deadly wildfires that incinerated a historic island community and killed more than 100 people.

Gov. Josh Green said Wednesday that he instructed the state attorney general to work toward a moratorium on land transactions in Lahaina, even as he acknowledged the move would likely face legal challenges.

"My intention from start to finish is to make sure that no one is victimized from a land grab," Green said at a news conference. "People are right now traumatized. Please do not approach them with an offer to buy their land. Do not approach their families saying they'll be much better off if they make a deal. Because we're not going to allow it."

> "My intention from start to finish is to make sure that no one is victimized from a land grab"
> - Josh Green Gov.

Since flames consumed much of Lahaina just over week ago, locals have feared that a rebuilt town could become even more oriented toward wealthy visitors, according to Lahaina native Richy Palalay.

Hotels and condos "that we can't afford to live in — that's what we're afraid of," he said Saturday at a shelter for evacuees.

As the death toll rose to 111 on Wednesday, the head of the Maui Emergency Management Agency defended not sounding sirens during the fire. Hawaii has what it touts as the largest system of outdoor alert sirens in the world.

"We were afraid that people would have gone mauka," said agency administrator Herman Andaya, using a navigational term that can mean toward the mountains or inland in Hawaiian. "If that was the case, then they would have gone into the fire."

The system was created after a 1946 tsunami that killed more than 150 on the Big Island, and its website says they may be used to alert for fires.

Avery Dagupion, whose family's home was destroyed, said he's angry that residents weren't given earlier warning to get out.

He pointed to an announcement by Maui Mayor Richard Bissen on Aug. 8 saying the fire had been contained. That lulled people into a sense of safety and left him distrusting officials, he said.

At the news conference, Green and Bissen bristled when asked about such criticism.

"I can't answer why people don't trust people," Bissen said. "The people who were trying to put out these fires lived in those homes — 25 of our firefighters lost their homes. You think they were doing a halfway job?"

The cause of the wildfires, the deadliest in the U.S. in more than a century, is under investigation. But Hawaii is increasingly at risk from disasters, with wildfire rising fastest, according to an Associated Press analysis of FEMA records.

As the island begins to think about rebuilding, Green vowed to prevent land grabs. He said he would announce details of the moratorium by Friday, adding that he also wants to see a long-term moratorium on sales of land that won't "benefit local people."

Many in Lahaina struggled to afford life in Hawaii before the fire. Statewide, a typical starter home costs over $1 million, while the average renter pays 42% of their income for housing, according to a Forbes Housing analysis. That's the highest ratio in the country by a wide margin.

The 2020 census found more native Hawaiians living on the mainland than the islands for the first time in history, driven in part by a search for cheaper housing.

Green made affordable housing a priority when he entered office in January, appointing a czar for the issue and seeking $1 billion for housing programs. Since the fires, he's also suggested acquiring land in Lahaina for the state to build workforce housing as well as a memorial.

Meanwhile, signs of recovery emerged as public schools across Maui reopened, welcoming displaced students from Lahaina, and traffic resumed on a major road.

Sacred Hearts School in Lahaina was destroyed, and Principal Tonata Lolesio said lessons would resume in the coming weeks at another Catholic school. She said it was important for students to be with their friends and teachers, and not constantly thinking about the tragedy.

"I'm hoping to at least try to get some normalcy or get them in a room where they can continue to learn or just be in another environment where they can take their minds off of that," she said.

Kelleher reported from Honolulu and Weber from Los Angeles. Contributing to this report were Associated Press journalists Haven Daley in Kalapua, Hawaii; Kathy McCormack in Concord, New Hampshire; Jennifer McDermott in Providence, Rhode Island; Seth Borenstein in Washington, D.C.; and Heather Hollingsworth in Kansas City, Missouri.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Malibu

Presale Tickets Now Available for 41st Annual Malibu Chili Cook-Off Labor Day Weekend 2023

The temperature is rising in Malibu over Labor Day Weekend for the 41st annual Malibu Chili Cook-Off, which runs Friday, September 1, through Monday, September 4, 2023, is a four-day event bringing together friends, families, local businesses and restaurants for a weekend of fun in the sun and to crown the ultimate Chili Cook-Off winner. All proceeds from the event benefit the Boys & Girls Club of Malibu (BGCM) and its year-round youth and community services, including the BGCM Wellness Center.

This year's event proudly presents the return of the renowned Chili Cook-Off competition, where contestants will compete for the top chili in the meat and vegan categories and vie for the people's choice award. The Chili Competition winners will be announced on Saturday, September 2. Guests to the event vote for their "fan favorite" on Friday, September 1 (on-site only).

"We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our esteemed partners for their unwavering support, not only for this event but also for the impactful year-long programs benefiting the youth and community at the Boys & Girls Club of Malibu and the Club's Wellness Center," said Kasey Earnest, chief executive officer of the Boys & Girls Club of Malibu. "The Club extends its appreciation to the local businesses and supporters of the Chili Cook-Off, including our cherished long-standing vendors and sponsors, Barefoot Dreams, Alphapals, Bright Event Rentals, Universal Music Group, Aviator Nation, Havaianas, Outerknown, Rancho West Beer, Summer Somewhere Wines, Flying Embers, Open Water, Optimist Drinks along with our newest partners California Naturals, Malibu Brewing Co, Known Supply, LaCroix, Bones Love Milk, State Farm/Efrain Cazares, and more to come."

> "We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our esteemed partners for their unwavering support, not only for this event but also for the impactful year-long programs benefiting the youth and community at the Boys & Girls Club of Malibu and the Club's Wellness Center
> - Kasey Earnest, chief executive officer of the Boys & Girls Club of Malibu

The highly anticipated Malibu Chili Cook-Off event includes food, drink, carnival rides and engaging amusement to ensure an unforgettable weekend for friends and families who attend. Local favorite restaurants, businesses and artisans, DJs, family-friendly activities and community support opportunities will be available throughout the weekend. The event also includes the return of signature Chili Cook-Off swag designed by Aviator Nation, along with custom merchandise by the Boys & Girls Club of Malibu.

Adults who attend are encouraged to unwind at the Barefoot Dreams Lounge, a cozy-chic oasis where delicious beer and local wine varieties are served. Separately, plenty of activities curated explicitly for kids will be available, including a 24-foot-high rock climbing wall presented by Alphapals and a new junior carnival area featuring rides for ages 2-10. With something for everyone, this year's Chili Cook-Off ensures an unforgettable experience for all ages.

Alongside the diverse array of activities and performances will be the 4th Annual Johnny Strange Legacy Skate Competition, which will take place on Sunday, September 3. This will include jam-session-style competitions for intermediate and advanced competitors of all genders, with cash prizes awarded to the winners. The Bones Love Milk Skateboard Mini Ramp will be available throughout the weekend, offering public skate and practice sessions opportunities for those eager to refine their skateboarding skills. Please visit malibuchilicookoff.org/skate to learn more.

Attendees at this year's event are encouraged to bring their empty reusable water bottles and take advantage of the refillable water stations provided. The Cook-Off is passionate about investing in future generations and the future of the environment. Through continued local partnerships, we champion environmentally-friendly practices and do our part to protect water resources and ensure water consumption is as responsible as possible.

For information about participating as a vendor or sponsor, please contact malibuchilicookoff@gmail.com. For info about volunteer opportunities, please email mcco.volunteer@gmail.com. For security and private handling, please call in advance at 424-234-6248.

Please note that event admission tickets are required for entry and will not be sold on-site. The event advises attendees to secure their tickets in advance, as prices will progressively rise leading up to the event. Ensure seamless entry and take advantage of the best ticket prices by purchasing tickets now! All children under five will receive free admission. Purchase presale event admission tickets at malibuchilicookoff.org. Please note that carnival ride passes and tickets are sold separately at https://helmandsons.com.

Any donation over $100 made to BGCM through the Malibu Chili Cook-Off ticket page will be automatically entered into a raffle to win four single-day unlimited carnival ride wristbands. Be sure to follow Malibu Chili Cook-Off on social media, where the winner will be announced on Friday, September 1. Donations can be added to your cart when purchasing admission tickets.

The safety and well-being of all guests are of utmost importance to this event. They aim to provide a safe, fun, family-friendly environment and, thus, have decided to enact a Chaperone Policy. All guests under the age of 18 will require a chaperone. Please visit the event website for the full Chaperone Policy details and the Prohibited Items list.

Visit malibuchilicookoff.org for more event information and frequently asked questions.

Malibu Chili Cook-Off Event Hours of Operation:

Friday, September 1, 4 - 10 p.m.

Saturday, September 2, 1 - 10 p.m. (Chili Awards from 5 - 6 p.m.)

Sunday, September 3, 1 - 10 p.m. (Skate Contest from 3 - 4 p.m.)

Monday, September 4, 1 - 8 p.m. (Family Day)

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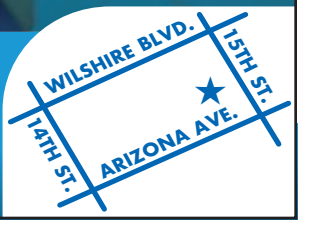
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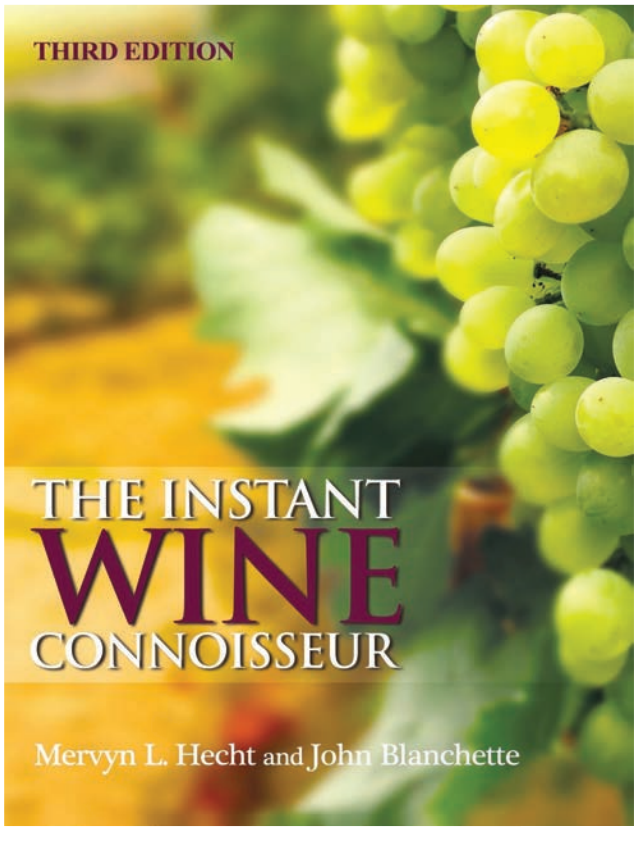


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Average long-term US mortgage rate climbs to 7.09% this week to highest level in more than 20 years

ALEX VEIGA AND MATT OTT
AP Business Writers

The average long-term U.S. mortgage rate climbed this week to its highest level in more than 20 years, grim news for would-be homebuyers already challenged by a housing market that remains competitive due to a dearth of homes for sale.

> With prices even higher than they were a year ago in many markets, crossing the 7% mortgage rate threshold again could be what sets in motion a major contraction in the housing market this fall
>
> - Lisa Sturtevant, chief economist for Bright MLS

Mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said Thursday that the average rate on the benchmark 30-year home loan rose to 7.09% from 6.96% last week. A year ago, the rate averaged 5.13%.

It's the fourth consecutive weekly increase for the average rate and the highest since early April 2002, when it averaged 7.13%. The last time the average rate was above 7% was last November, when it stood at 7.08%.

High rates can add hundreds of dollars a month in costs for borrowers, limiting how much they can afford in a market already unaffordable to many Americans.

"With prices even higher than they were a year ago in many markets, crossing the 7% mortgage rate threshold again could be what sets in motion a major contraction in the housing market this fall," said Lisa Sturtevant, chief economist for Bright MLS.

The latest increase in rates follows a sharp uptick in the 10-year Treasury yield, which has been above 4% this month and climbing. The yield, which lenders use to price rates on mortgages and other loans, touched its highest level since October on Thursday morning, and it's close to where it was in 2007.

The yield has been rising as bond traders react to more reports showing the U.S. economy remains remarkably resilient, which could keep upward pressure on inflation, giving the Federal Reserve reason to keep interest rates higher for longer.

"The economy continues to do better than expected and the 10-year Treasury yield has moved up, causing mortgage rates to climb," said Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's chief economist. "Demand has been impacted by affordability headwinds, but low inventory remains the root cause of stalling home sales."

High inflation drove the Federal Reserve to raise its benchmark interest rate 11 times since March 2022, lifting the fed funds rate to the highest level in 22 years.

Mortgage rates don't necessarily mirror the Fed's rate increases, but tend to track the yield on the 10-year Treasury note. Investors' expectations for future inflation, global demand for U.S. Treasurys and what the Fed does with interest rates can influence rates on home loans.

The average rate on a 30-year mortgage remains more than double what it was two years ago, when it was just 2.86%. Those ultra-low rates spurred a wave of home sales and refinancing. The sharply higher rates now are contributing to a dearth of available homes, as homeowners who locked in those lower borrowing costs two years ago are now reluctant to sell and jump into a higher rate on a new property.

The lack of housing supply is also a big reason home sales are down 23% through the first half of this year.

The average rate on 15-year fixed-rate mortgages, popular with those refinancing their homes, rose to 6.46% from 6.34% last week. A year ago, it averaged 4.55%, Freddie Mac said.



GET IT DAILY...

COMMUNITY NEWS

Downtown

Soundwaves Concert Series Announces Fall Season

The Santa Monica Public Library's acclaimed Soundwaves new music series continues with events in September through December, all at the Main Library's Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

All the musical performances are on Saturdays at 3:30 p.m. September 2, at 3:30 p.m, rising star Patrick Shiroishi presents music for four saxophonists. On October 7 Anna Homler sings in invented languages and creates sound with found objects, joined by Jorge Martin on electronics and series coordinator Jeff Schwartz on string bass. November 4 composer Michael Jon Fink picks up his guitar for a set of music inspired by the experimental side of cool jazz, with clarinetist Brian Walsh and cellist Derek Stein. Bay Area clarinetist Ben Goldberg visits December 2 with an all-star trio including Grammy and Tony-winning bassist Todd Sickafoose and drummer Scott Amendola, and on December 9 Berlin-based oboist Cathy Milliken, a founding member of Ensemble Modern, performs with Jeff Schwartz and series co-founder Daniel Rothman (clarinet).

Soundwaves is also teaming with the Angel City Jazz Festival to host a talk by composer/performer Nicole Mitchell, on her recent book The Mandorla Letters: For the Hopeful, on Thursday, October 26, at 6:30 p.m. in the MLK Auditorium. Mitchell's book is an original, powerful, and accessible blend of Afrofuturist fiction, memoir, ecofeminist manifesto, and notes on her music. A book sale and signing will follow her talk.

Since 2016 Soundwaves has regularly presented free concerts of cutting-edge music at the Santa Monica Public Library, supported by the Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library and the Amphion Foundation, and including collaborations with the Angel City Jazz Festival, Piano Spheres, Jacaranda Music, Microfest, Cold Blue Music, and the Dog Star Orchestra.

Soundwaves focuses on noncommercial music, drawing on Los Angeles' deep history of experimentation in rock, jazz, classical, and uncategorizable creative music, bringing the underground back to the westside. Visit soundwavesnewmusic.com for more information, including videos of many past shows.

All Library programs are free and open to the public. Seating is limited and on a first arrival basis. For more information, call (310) 458-8600 or visit smpl.org. The Auditorium is wheelchair accessible. For other disabled services, call Library Administration at (310) 458-8600 one week ahead. The Main Library is directly served by Big Blue routes 1, R10 and 18. Other bus routes and the Blue Line stop nearby. Ride your bike. Bike racks are available.

SUBMITTED BY JEFF SCHWARTZ

BLUE BEETLE

FROM PAGE 3

Querétaro and just read the script. Let me know what you think.' And when I read the script, I could see that the person who wrote it is not only Latino, but he wrote characters that he knows and they were so relatable because we've realized that even though we're both from different countries, we're so similar. Our families are so similar. The music, the TV shows, we grew up exactly the same, just in different countries. And we're like, 'Oh my gosh, this is special because not only Mexicans are going to connect. I think all Latinos are going to connect. And consequently, all the people that are not Latino also are going to connect if they're open and curious.

AP: Can you talk more about how you and Dunnett-Alcocer settled on the story? I love how you found a way for the women to all be strong figures and also to blend all of these Latino cultures in the film.

SOTO: We know the tropes, right? We know the hero's journey, and we all know the superhero genre, how it works. We didn't want to miss the opportunity (to) tell the story through a different lens. For us, it's hard to keep a secret from your mother or family because they're always in your face, always up your nose. And we wanted to be like, 'Okay, that's going to happen, then let's just keep them in from the beginning.' They were in the transformation. They're still going to be their family, and they're going to bully him because he is a reluctant hero. Not reluctant for a moment, the whole film, he just wants this (scarab) out and then he ends up understanding that that's his destiny and that could not have happened without his family.

And we wanted to create this love letter to the people that came before us, to our ancestors, especially to the women in our life. None of my family are damsels in distress. They're tougher than I can ever be. And we wanted to honor that. They paved the way and they are heroes in their own right. So we wanted to give them heroic arcs because it is important to see the women in our lives differently than society has pushed them to be.

AP: The soundtrack seemingly includes every Latino music legend. Why was it important for the soundtrack to be mostly Latinos?

SOTO: You know, the movies that you have seen, every time they go to a Latin country, if they go to Mexico, its always the same music. If they go to the Caribbean, it's always the same music. And the truth is that, yeah, we listen to that, but we also listen to other stuff. Not only do we consume stuff from the U.S., but we also have great rock bands in our countries. Just because other people have not heard it doesn't mean that they're not great. So the same way that I've been introduced to other music from the U.S. without any complaints, I wanted to introduce to the world, to the music that I grew up with, hoping they don't complain about it either.

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[1] "Medicare & You," Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2020
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6255

HILARY

FROM PAGE 1

with waves swelling up to 3 feet every 17 seconds.

Due to the Marine Weather Statement issued by the NWS for the storm, the Santa Monica Office of Emergency Management is coordinating with local response agencies to prepare for the storm. Chief Resilience Officer Lindsay Call recommended that residents avoid recreational outdoor activities during the storm, prepare for high winds by securing items such as patio furniture and gas grills, and to prepare for potential power outages by keeping devices charged and having battery-operated flashlights, radios and backup batteries available.

State officials are also monitoring the development of Hilary, with the Governor's Office of Emergency Services coordinating across state government to support state and local preparations. The State Operations Center in Mather is also coordinating a response across state agencies, pushing resources to potentially impacted regions to support recovery efforts in Hilary's aftermath.

The NWS forecast points to likely showers and thunderstorms on Sunday evening and Monday morning, mainly between 11 p.m. Sunday and 11 a.m. Monday. A chance of showers remains on Monday evening, before partly sunny conditions return Tuesday.

Rainfall will be making a rare appearance in Santa Monica, with very little precipitation since a deluge of atmospheric rivers caused massive downpours between January and March. According to Weather Underground's Santa Monica Municipal Airport observation station, a total of 15.45 inches of precipitation fell in the city between January and March, with a peak of 2.69 inches falling between March 14 and March 15. Since April began, however, just 0.08 inches of precipitation have been recorded in the city.

Travel delays will also be a concern from Hilary, as travelers along the coastline will see delays due to worsening conditions over deserts and eastern slopes of the mountains. Incidents of flash flooding, mudslides and debris flows are also possible.

Since official record keeping on hurricanes and tropical storms began in 1949, no such storms have officially made landfall in California. The most damaging tropical storm to have directly hit the state occurred in September 1939, when the storm known as "The Lash of St. Francis" killed 45 people via deadly flooding and winds of up to 75 mph.

A close call with tropical storm landfall took place in September 2022, when Tropical Storm Kay was just 130 miles offshore from San Diego. According to the National Weather Service office in Los Angeles, temperatures in the city rose to over 100 degrees Fahrenheit during Kay's arrival, with the first round of rain from the storm evaporating before hitting the ground due to the excessive heat.

thomas@smdp.com

PARKING

FROM PAGE 1

customer complaints to track the problem.

"We're looking into a more permanent solution that allows us to find and track meters that need to be replaced," said Howland.

The impacted meters are all relatively new, only 2-3 years old but are part of the wave of "smart meters" Santa Monica moved to about 11 years ago with the installation of meters that could accept contactless payments, track occupied spaces and reset meters when a vehicle leaves a space.

According to a 2022 case study released by the meters' manufacturer (IPS Group), the meters have had vastly reduced downtime up to now and operate at about 98% efficiency. About 83% of transactions are conducted without coins and the reset feature generates about $1.5 million in additional revenue per year.

Customers who are overcharged can request a refund via the city's online 311 system (https://311.santamonica.gov/csp). Howland said they should include the following information:

1) Date and time of parking.

2) Street and nearest cross street.

3) The last four digits of the card they used to pay.

4) The meter number, which can be found on a sticker on the outside of the meter.

editor@smdp.com

PENTAGON

FROM PAGE 2

leaders aren't trained or equipped to handle those issues or provide proper support to the students.

Another problem, officials said, is the ever expanding influence of social media, where bullying and harassment can go on unchecked. The report pointed to Jodel, an anonymous social media app that focuses on a specific location and is in wide use by academy students.

The report said students can get inaccurate information about assault prevention, reporting, resources and military justice from the app, making them less likely to seek help.

It said training at the academies has not kept pace with change, including the ever-evolving social media platforms and how students differ today from in the past.

The report also noted that alcohol plays a significant role in misconduct. Asked about additional alcohol restrictions, Tharp said the academies can "implement all the alcohol prevention or responsible drinking as much as we want," but if those policies are implemented in a toxic command climate they won't have the intended impact.

> "We're looking into a more permanent solution that allows us to find and track meters that need to be replaced
>
> - Lauren G. Howland
> Communications and Public Information Manager

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 18)

A surge of courage is your cosmic boon! You'll challenge norms and break through barriers. More highlights: You'll repeat a lucrative action many times to build up a nest egg. You'll be freely taught something that people pay thousands to know. The prayer, wish or request you most consistently make will be answered. Gemini and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 15, 2, 22, 28 and 13.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Understanding nuance is a blessing and a curse. Overwhelmed by the complexity of an interaction, you hesitate to proceed. Focus on what is simple and positive. Go forward in good faith, trusting the guidance of better angels.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A story will reveal quite a lot about a person. The choice of topic is the first tell. The second is not the facts of the tale, but how they are prioritized. You'll learn what's important to someone and know how to proceed with them.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Popularity has its perks, but it can also be draining. When you're alone, you can spend your downtime doing whatever you want. Take the break you need from the world of friends. You'll recharge by laying low.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Connecting comes easily to you. You find something to like in each face you greet. You'll be naturally "on" and when you're not, take the time to recharge. There's no need to force anything.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Archimedes said, "Give me a place to stand and I will move the earth." You have the leverage part down, so sort out the positioning. Keep making adjustments to get this right. You'll be amazed at how powerful you can be.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Overwhelmed? It's a sign that your life is big, broad, rich and full. The tasks before you may be multitudinous, but they will be accomplished the same way anything on Earth ever is — one thing at a time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Some things are important to do, and some things are nice to do. Try and check off everything in the first category before you move to the second because it will make your life easier down the line.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The gap between a certain dream and the reality of the situation has been wide for a good while. Now you're in for the thrill of closing that space. Tonight, you'll have the best time clowning around.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Solving a predicament will be about responding to the motives of others, which is only possible if you know what they are. Motives are often secret, even to the people they are inhabiting, but you're astute and will figure it out.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You feel pressured to give a top performance, and think it's the world's expectation, but it's really your own. Stop expecting to do everything right. You'll naturally do many right things when you show yourself more love and leeway.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Oh, the pitfalls of familiarity! Here's one you can avoid: People close to you know how to push your buttons, but you can outsmart them by rewiring the circuitry, so they get something different than expected.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's magic in paper today. Take your plan out of the digital realm so you can hold it in your hand, or tape it to a mirror, or give it to someone. Something about the physical copy that ushers in reality.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

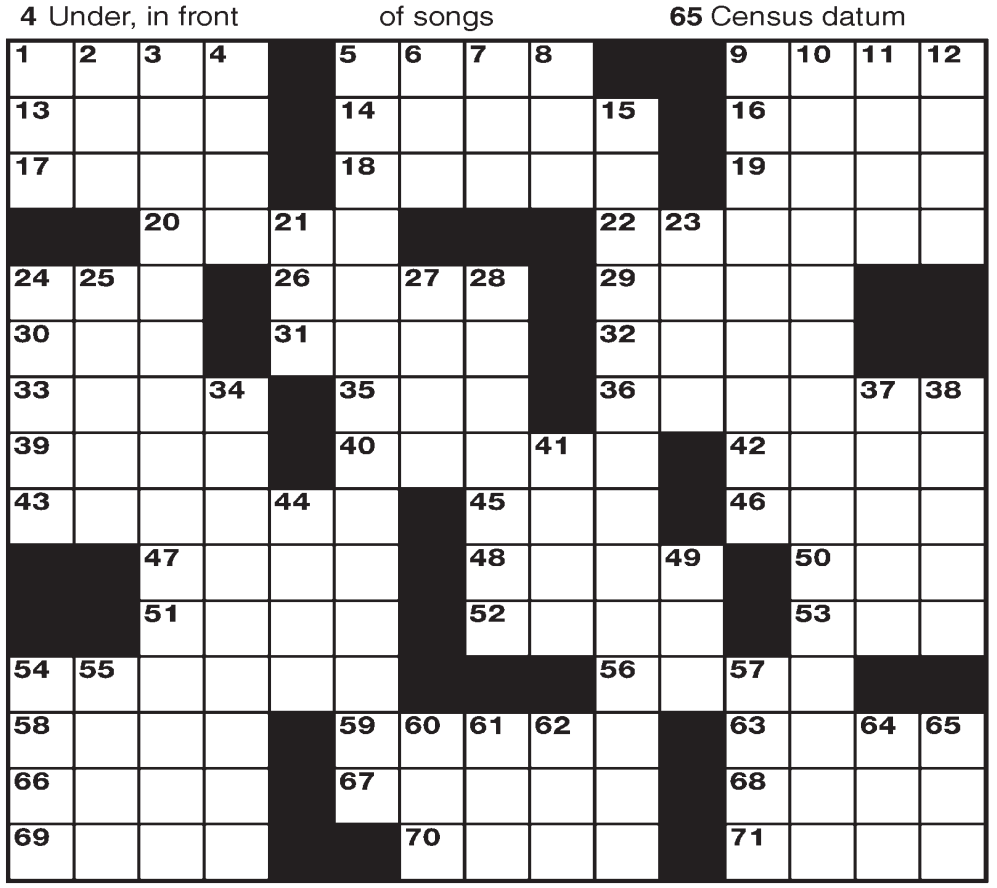
SETTLE DOWN by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Cantata master
5 Display sadness
9 Move furtively
13 Not in
14 Go for
16 Barn arrival
17 Servants, so to speak
18 Starter for state
19 US loan guarantor
20 Swag
22 *Bugsy* Oscar nominee
24 Sorority letter
26 30-stock stat
29 For one
30 Cry of distress
31 Conduit
32 Stage showcase
33 Mushy
35 Nail down
36 Nimble-witted
39 Scottish isle
40 Baloney
42 Pixar title character
43 Sees through
45 NBA and NFL locale
46 Delicacy
47 Ramen cousin
48 Be the boss of
50 Big boss
51 Name meaning "born again"
52 *Allure* rival
53 Anthem contraction
54 Chaplains
56 "Barely made it!"
58 Yucca cousin
59 Frowny face, e.g.
63 Plate cleaners
66 Tattered attire
67 Pink shade
68 Tough to catch
69 __ mgr.
70 Whimper
71 Jet black

DOWN

1 Dismissive remark
2 Captivate
3 "Settle down!"
4 Under, in front
5 "Settle down!"
6 Article in *Der Spiegel*
7 FD employee
8 Equal standing
9 Well-organized
10 "Settle down!"
11 Gutsy
12 King David Club operator
15 "Settle down!"
21 Not expected
23 *King Lear* title
24 Surname meaning "red"
25 Catchy parts of songs
27 Artist in buttercream
28 Embassy official
34 Most sensitive
37 Intro pro
38 Wind turbine part
41 Author Silverstein
44 Instrumental nuance
49 Far from fantastic
54 Occupational prefix
55 "Regrettably . . ."
57 Coin featuring Francis
60 Palindromic parent
61 Metallurgic matter
62 Vise part
64 Use leverage
65 Census datum

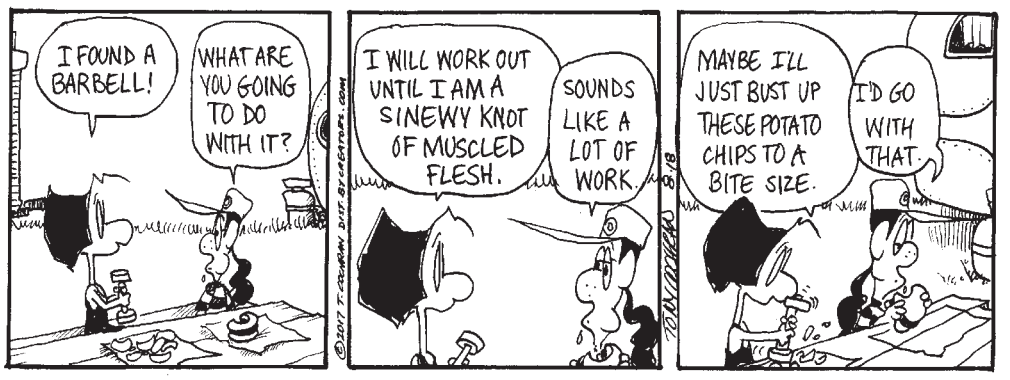


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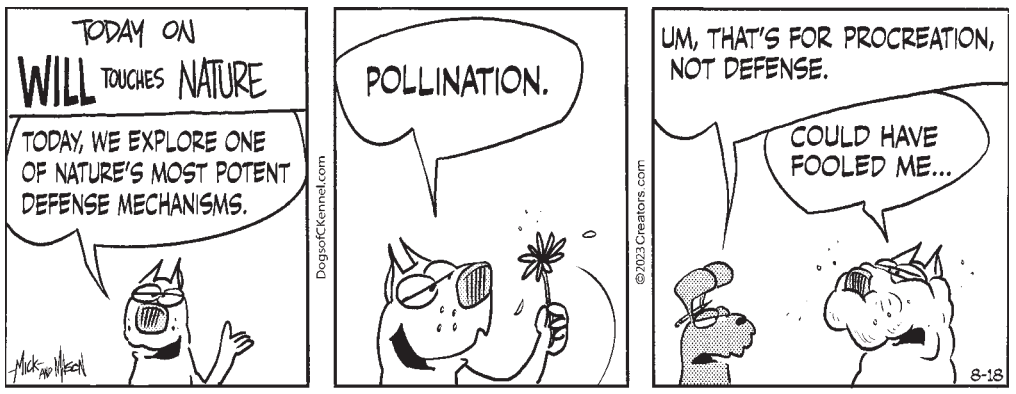
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



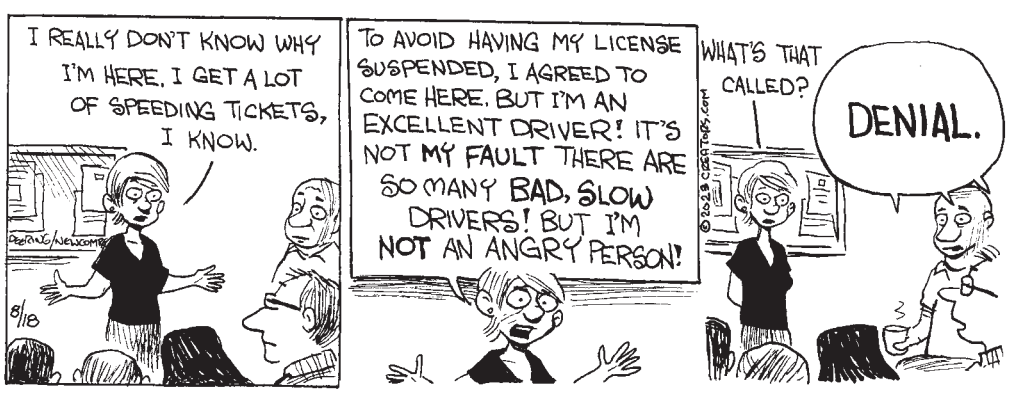
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



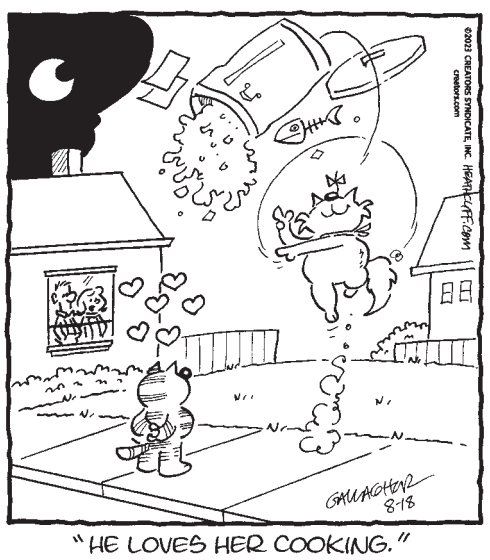
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



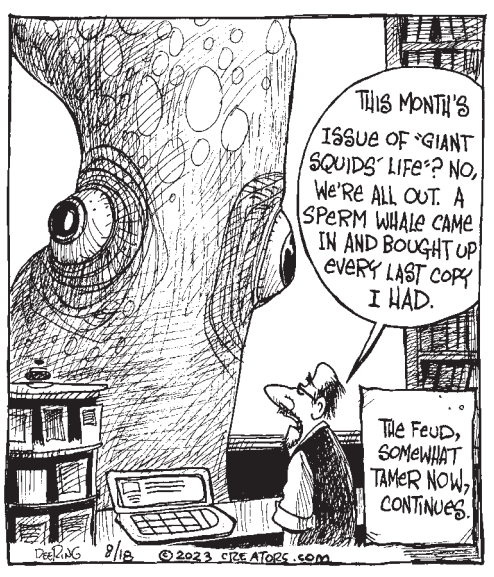
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 17 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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Dog breeds

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

Affenpinscher	Cairn	Fearless	Pets
Afghan	Coat	Great dane	Pit bull
Alert	Collie	Guide	Pony
Bark	Comfort	Hamster	Poodle
Bichon frise	Corgi	Harrier	Pugs
Bones	Devotion	Howl	Puli
Borzoi	Dish	Kennel	Saluki
Boston	Dogs	Love	Sloughi
Boxer	Eager	Loyal	Toys
Burmese	Enjoyment	Nose	Yelp

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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FRIDAY | AUGUST 18

A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

Unveiling the gripping complexities of Arthur Miller's Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, and Olivier Award-Winning story, this timeless masterpiece serves as a powerful exploration of human nature, examining the fragility of relationships, the complications of love, and the devastating impact of unresolved conflicts. The play revolves around Eddie Carbone, a longshoreman whose life unravels after his wife's cousins arrive from Italy to start a new life in America. Through its compelling characters and thought-provoking themes, the story exposes the dark underbelly of a tightly-knit community struggling with its own demons, ultimately leading to a haunting climax. 8 - 10 p.m. Ruskin Group Theatre Company, 3000 Airport Ave. 310-397-3244

SATURDAY | AUGUST 19

4TH ANNUAL TOMATO TASTING COMPETITION

Calling all maters!!! Bring your Black Krims, your Sun Golds, your Green Zebra or your Purple Cherokee. Bring your Big Rainbows, Amish Paste, and Mortgage Lifters for all to see. Do you have what it takes to earn the title of "Best Tomato in Santa Monica" Unlimited entries, and open to all residents. All tomatoes must be registered by 9:30 AM. Judging will begin at 10:00 AM Ishihara Park, 2909 Exposition Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 90404.

SUNDAY | AUGUST 20

SUNDAY TASTING "OTHER SPARKLING"

Sunday Tastings are 12-9 p.m., with new themes every week, curated by Sommelier Randall Middleton. Enjoy a flight for $25/person, which includes a mini cheese pairing and link to a video of our team telling stories about the lineup. 12:00pm-9:00pm, Esters Wine Shop & Bar, 1314 7th St.

MONDAY | AUGUST 21

MAIN LIBRARY BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION

Join a community-led online discussion of a wide range of books, chosen by the members. To register, email library@santamonica.gov. August's selection is A Crack in Creation: Gene Editing and the Unthinkable Power to Control Evolution by Jennifer A. Doudna & Samuel H. Sternberg. Virtual, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Commission on Sustainability, Environmental Justice and the Environment shall act in an advisory capacity on sustainability, environmental programs and policy issues. Civic Center Parking Structure, 333 Civic Center Dr. 7 - 10 p.m.

TUESDAY | AUGUST 22

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The City Council is made up of seven members elected at-large for staggered four-year terms. Every two years, after each election, the City Council selects one of its members to serve as Mayor and another to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore. The City Council also sits as the following bodies for the City of Santa Monica:

- Housing Authority
- Parking Authority
- Public Financing
- Redevelopment Successor Agency
- Audit Subcommittee

The City Council meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month starting at 5:30 P.M., in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California.

STAR STORIES WITH LAURA

Children are invited to drop in and share the joy of storytelling and reading with Laura. Take home a free book after coming to three STAR sessions at the Venice Branch Library. 3:00pm-4:30pm Venice - Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library 501 S. Venice Boulevard, Venice, CA

BOOK GROUP OF THE SANTA MONICA BAY WOMANS CLUB

The August meeting at this historic Santa Monica location (1210 Fourth St) will begin with a short discussion of the love of books and the books we love. It will then focus on "Be Frank With Me" by Julia Claiborne Johnson. Book Group is open to everyone, including non-members. For information, contact sbarry1015@sbcglobal.net. 6:00 pm at Santa Monica Bay Womans Club, 1210 Fourth St., Santa Monica 90401

WEDNESDAY | AUGUST 23

AUTHOR TALK WITH CASSANDRA CLARE

An exciting evening online chatting with mega-bestselling author, Cassandra Clare, about her newest and final book in The Last Hours series, Chain of Thorns. Online event 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm https://libraryc.org/smclibrary/31092/register

THURSDAY | AUGUST 24

COFFEE CONNECTION

Connect with new friends and business prospects while enjoying coffee and delicious pastries in Dogtown Coffee's historic setting. Start your morning making new business connections and sharing your business story while learning about this Ocean Park Santa Monica location. Please book in advance since there are only 25 spaces available and it will be another sold out mixer! 8:00am-9:00am, Dogtown Coffee, 2003 Main Street

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



SURF REPORT

WATER TEMP: **70.9**

FRIDAY *FAIR*	**SURF:**	2-3ft+ Thigh to stomach	A day to keep an eye on. Semi-peaky (west of Dume) and probably clean in the early morning. Fun new SSW swell expected to top out through the day with a little more NW windswell mixing in.
SATURDAY *FAIR*	**SURF:**	3-4ft Waist to chest	Another playful day if the wind cooperates for the morning tide push — looks likely at this point. Semi-peaky west of Dume and lined up for the points. SSW swell lingers from Friday, NW windswell should still have enough gas for occ. peak.

WEATHER

Friday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing.
Friday Night: Increasing clouds, with a low around 65. West wind 5 to 10 mph.
Saturday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 75.
Saturday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 11pm.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2023/08/18	Fri	05:17 AM	0.20	L
2023/08/18	Fri	11:36 AM	4.46	H
2023/08/18	Fri	5:01 PM	1.90	L
2023/08/18	Fri	10:58 PM	5.35	H
2023/08/19	Sat	05:39 AM	0.52	L
2023/08/19	Sat	12:00 PM	4.57	H
2023/08/19	Sat	5:41 PM	1.86	L
2023/08/19	Sat	11:31 PM	4.86	H
2023/08/20	Sun	06:00 AM	0.92	L
2023/08/20	Sun	12:26 PM	4.68	H
2023/08/20	Sun	6:25 PM	1.85	L
2023/08/21	Mon	12:10 AM	4.29	H
2023/08/21	Mon	06:20 AM	1.37	L
2023/08/21	Mon	12:54 PM	4.77	H
2023/08/21	Mon	7:19 PM	1.85	L
2023/08/22	Tue	12:58 AM	3.66	H
2023/08/22	Tue	06:38 AM	1.84	L
2023/08/22	Tue	1:28 PM	4.84	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: 8/16
9 11 17 19 55
Power#: 1
Jackpot: 264 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 8/15
18 39 42 57 63
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: 20 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 8/16
10 14 22 25 40
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 10 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 8/16
5 10 20 21 22

Daily 3
Draw Date: 8/16
EVENING: 8 6 4

Draw Date: 8/16
MIDDAY: 1 3 7

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 8/16
1st: 07 - Eureka
2nd: 02 - Lucky Star
3rd: 08 - Gorgeous George
Race Time: 1:44.60

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