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While Newsom claims credit for homeless decline, Counties say he's part of the problem

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

California state and local leaders are in the midst of a dispute over who deserves credit for recent declines in homelessness and what should happen next, as counties warn that state budget cuts could undermine the very programs showing success.

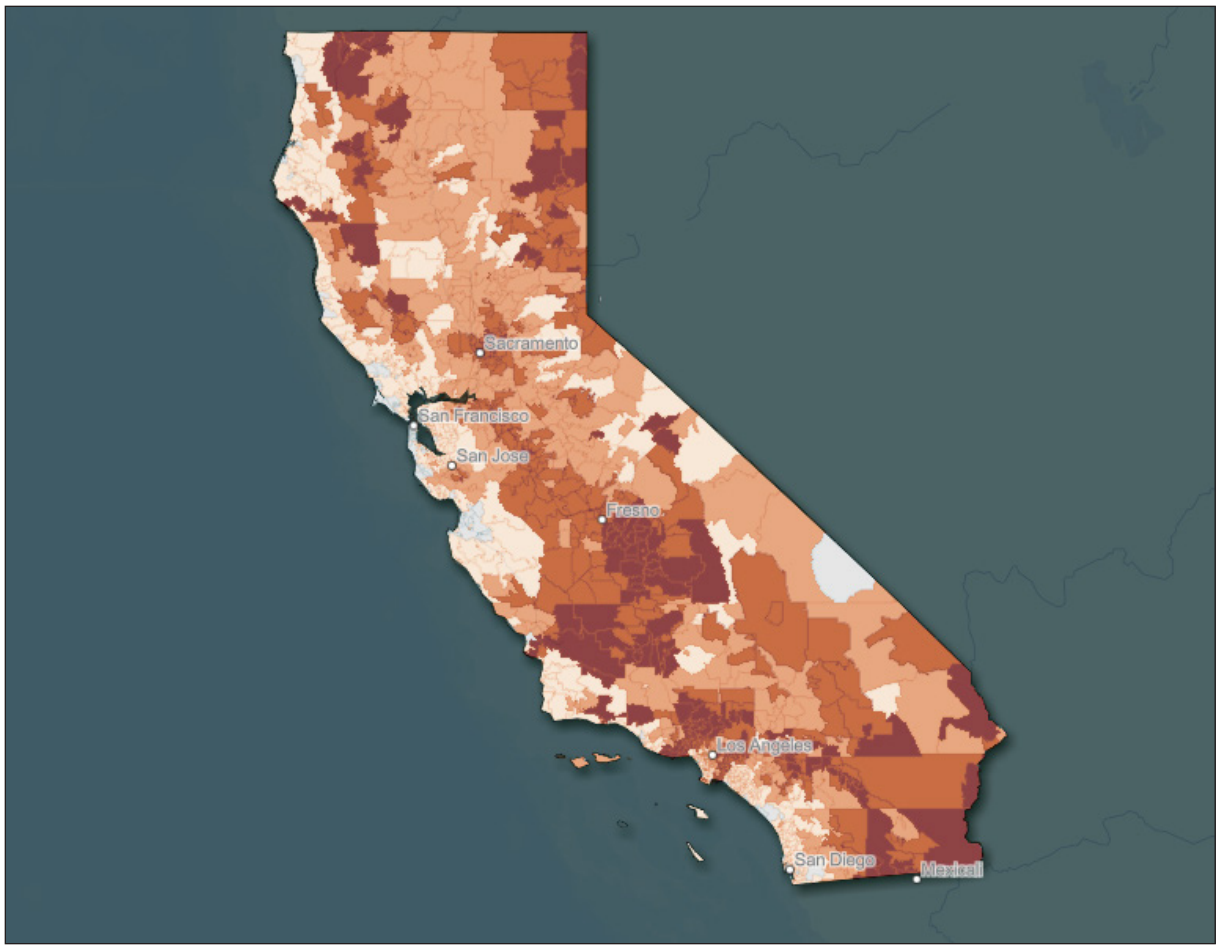
Gov. Gavin Newsom has been quick to claim victory as preliminary data shows homelessness decreasing in multiple California communities, saying his administration is "reversing decades of inaction on homelessness." But the California State Association of Counties fired back, accusing Newsom of jeopardizing that progress by slashing state funding for the programs they say are most responsible for the improvements.

The conflict centers on competing narratives about California's approach to its homelessness crisis, which affects more than 187,000 people statewide. While both sides agree that some communities are seeing promising declines, they disagree sharply on strategy, funding and who should take responsibility for results.

Point-in-time counts conducted

SEE **HOMELESS** PAGE 11

Heat wave begins just as Summer ends



Courtesy image

HEAT: CalHeatScore shows high and severe temperatures for much of the state later this week.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Southern California is bracing for a heat wave beginning Wednesday that will bring dangerously high temperatures and elevated fire danger through the weekend, prompting state officials to pre-position emergency resources across Los Angeles County.

The National Weather Service issued warnings Tuesday about the incoming conditions, cautioning residents of a "high risk for heat illness and fire danger" as temperatures are expected to soar well above normal levels. Officials are urging residents to adjust any plans for strenuous outdoor activities to cooler morning hours or postpone them entirely for

SEE **HEAT** PAGE 8

Malibu man pleads not guilty in PCH crash that killed four Pepperdine students

Fraser Bohm, the Malibu man accused of killing four Pepperdine University seniors in a high-speed crash on Pacific Coast Highway nearly two years ago, pleaded not guilty to four counts of murder.

Bohm, 23, appeared in Los Angeles County Superior Court on Aug 7 with his new attorney, Alan Jackson, a high-profile defense lawyer who earlier this year won an acquittal for Massachusetts woman Karen Read in a widely publicized murder trial.

Prosecutors allege Bohm was driving more than 100 mph in a 45-mph zone when he lost control of his BMW on Oct. 17, 2023, and struck sorority sisters Niamh Rolston, Peyton Stewart, Asha Weir and Deslyn Williams. All four young women, seniors at Pepperdine, were pronounced dead at the scene. Bohm was not injured.

The crash occurred along a stretch of Pacific Coast Highway known as "Dead Man's Curve," an area long associated with high-speed collisions.

Bohm's defense is expected to argue that he was fleeing a road rage incident when the crash happened, though investigators have not confirmed that account. Speaking outside court, Jackson said he intends to challenge the prosecution's evidence and will seek

SEE **ARREST** PAGE 5

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Las Vegas tourism is down. Some blame Trump's tariffs and immigration crackdown

Tourism in Las Vegas is slumping this summer, with resorts and convention centers reporting fewer visitors compared to last year, especially from abroad, and some officials are blaming the Trump administration's tariffs and immigration policies for the decline.

The city known for lavish shows, endless buffets and around-the-clock gambling welcomed just under 3.1 million tourists in June, an 11% drop compared to the same month in 2024. There were 13% fewer international travelers, and hotel occupancy fell by about 15%, according to data from the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority.

Mayor Shelley Berkley said tourism from Canada — Nevada's largest international market — has dried up from a torrent "to a drip." Same with Mexico.

"We have a number of very high rollers that come in from Mexico that aren't so keen on coming in right now. And that seems to be the prevailing attitude internationally," Berkley told reporters this month.

A TRUMP SLUMP

Ted Pappageorge, head of the powerful Culinary Workers Union, called it the "Trump slump." He said visits from Southern California, home to a large Latino population, were also drying up because people are afraid of the administration's immigration crackdown.

"If you tell the rest of the world they're not welcome, then they won't come," Pappageorge said.

The Vegas dip mirrors a national trend. The travel forecasting company Tourism Economics, which in December 2024 anticipated the U.S. would have nearly 9% more international arrivals this year, revised its annual outlook to predict a 9.4% drop. Some of the steepest declines could be from Canada, the company said. Canada was the largest source of visitors to the U.S. in 2024, with more than 20.2 million, according to U.S. government data.

Canadian airline data shows fewer passengers from north of the border are arriving at Harry Reid International Airport in Las Vegas. Air Canada saw its passenger numbers fall by 33% in June compared to a year earlier, while WestJet had a 31% drop. The low-cost carrier Flair reported a whopping 62% decline.

Travel agents in Canada said there's been a significant downturn in clients wanting to visit the U.S. overall, and Las Vegas in particular. Wendy Hart, who books trips from Windsor, Ontario, said the reason was "politics, for sure." She speculated it was a point of "national pride" that people were staying away from the U.S. after President Donald Trump said he wanted to make Canada the 51st state.

"The tariffs are a big thing too. They seem to be contributing to the rising cost of everything," Hart said.

THE SKY'S NOT FALLING

At the downtown Circa Resort and Casino, international visits have dipped, especially from Canada and Japan, according to owner and CEO Derek Stevens. But the downturn comes after a post-pandemic spike, Stevens said. And while hotel room bookings are slack, gaming numbers, especially for sports betting, are still strong, he said.

"It's not as if the sky is falling," he said. Wealthier visitors are still coming, and Circa has introduced inexpensive package deals to lure those with less money to spend.

"There have been many stories written about how the 'end is near' in Vegas," he said. "But Vegas continues to reinvent itself as a destination worth visiting."

On AAA's annual top 10 list of top Labor Day destinations, Las Vegas slipped this year to the last spot, from No. 6 in 2024. Seattle and Orlando, Florida — home to Disney World — hold steady in the top two spots, with New York City moving up to third for 2025.

Reports of declining tourism were news to Alison Ferry, who arrived from Donegal, Ireland, to find big crowds at casinos and the Vegas Strip.

"It's very busy. It has been busy everywhere that we've gone. And really, really hot," Ferry said. She added that she doesn't pay much attention to U.S. politics.

> People are feeling that they're getting nickeled and dimed, and they're not getting value for their dollar
> - Shelley Berkley, Mayor

RECESSION-PROOF BUSINESSES

Just off the strip, there's been no slowdown at the Pinball Museum, which showcases games dating back to the 1930s. Manager Jim Arnold said the two-decade-old attraction is recession-proof because it's one of the few places that offers free parking and admission.

"We've decided that our plan is just to ignore inflation and pretend it doesn't exist," Arnold said. "So you still take a quarter out of your pocket and put it in a game, and you don't pay a resort fee or a cancelation fee or any of that jazz."

But Arnold said he's not surprised overall tourism might be slowing, citing

SEE VEGAS PAGE 6

Menendez brothers to be evaluated by parole board for release after 30 years in prison

The Menendez brothers are set to make their cases for parole starting Thursday, marking the closest they've been to winning freedom from prison since their convictions almost 30 years ago for murdering their parents.

Erik and Lyle Menendez were sentenced in 1996 to life in prison for fatally shooting their father, Jose Menendez, and mother, Kitty Menendez, in their Beverly Hills mansion in 1989. They were 18 and 21 at the time. While defense attorneys argued the brothers acted out of self-defense after years of sexual abuse by their father, prosecutors said the brothers killed their parents for a multimillion-dollar inheritance.

The brothers became eligible for parole after a Los Angeles judge in May reduced their sentences from life in prison without the possibility of parole to 50 years to life, making them immediately eligible for parole under California law because they were under the ages of 26 when they committed their crimes.

A panel or two or three parole hearing officers from a board of commissioners appointed by the governor will evaluate the brothers individually. Erik Menendez will have his hearing Thursday morning, followed by Lyle Menendez on Friday, over videoconference from the Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility in San Diego.

The board will assess whether the brothers pose an "unreasonable risk of danger to society" if released, considering factors like criminal history, motivation for the crime and signs of remorse, behavior while in prison and plans for the future, according to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Even if the board grants their parole, it could still be months before the brothers walk free — if at all. If the board grants each brother's parole, the chief legal counsel has 120 days to review the case. Then Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom has 30 days to affirm or deny the parole. Only then, if Newsom affirms the parole, would the Menendez brothers be able to leave prison.

Newsom had previously ordered the state parole board to conduct a risk assessment of the brothers in response to a clemency request. At the time, he emphasized that the key question was whether the brothers posed an "unreasonable risk to public safety."

He noted at a May news conference that he has both approved and rejected decisions by the parole board before and that he was the "ultimate arbiter."

The brothers' lawyer, Mark Geragos, sought release last month for Erik Menendez after he was hospitalized for a "serious medical condition." He has since returned to prison.

The case has captured the attention of true crime enthusiasts for decades and spawned documentaries, television specials and dramatizations. The Netflix drama "Monsters: The Lyle and Erik Menendez Story" and the documentary "The Menendez Brothers," both released in 2024, have been credited for bringing new attention to the brothers.

In the last year, weigh-in from celebrities such as Kim Kardashian and a greater recognition of the brothers as victims of sexual abuse has helped amass a legion of supporters who have called for their release. Some have flown to Los Angeles over the past few months, holding rallies and attending court hearings as the brothers' attorneys pushed for their resentencing.

The previous LA County district attorney, George Gascón, first opened the door to possible freedom for the brothers last fall by asking a judge to reduce their sentences. Since their conviction, the brothers have gotten an education, participated in self-help classes and started various support groups for fellow people in prison, his office said in a petition.

The judge's decision to ultimately resentence the brothers followed months of pushback from current prosecutors, who argued the brothers hadn't taken adequate responsibility for their crimes.

The Menendez brothers still have a pending habeas corpus petition filed in May 2023 seeking a review of their convictions based on new evidence supporting their claims of sexual abuse by their father. Last month, a different judge ordered Los Angeles prosecutors to explain why their case shouldn't be reexamined.

The state corrections department has selected one media representative to view the proceedings virtually and share notes with the rest of the press at set intervals.

By JAIMIE DING Associated Press





Surf report

WATER TEMP: **71.6**

WEDNESDAY *FAIR*
SURF: 1-2ft Knee to thigh

First pulse of fun SSW swell tops out. AM winds look favorable at this point. Topped out SSW swell puts more widespread waist-chest high surf in the water as the better breaks west of Dume go shoulder high through the day. A little more of a tide push window first thing in the morning when winds look best. Afternoon onshores look more manageable than Tue, and the evening could get a little cleanup, but you'll again have to deal with a 6'+ high tide at the end of the day.

THURSDAY *FAIR*
SURF: 2-3tt Thigh to waist

Staying fun as reinforcing SSW pulses move in through the end of the week. Size stays in the knee-waist high range for average breaks heading into the weekend thanks to reinforcing SSW pulses. Chest-high surf shows for better spots, and standouts out west are shoulder-high. Better early/mid AM tide pushes set up heading into the weekend, which is when the best winds are expected to show. Not much windswell in the mix, so spots with some structure offer best shape.

Weather

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 77. Light and variable wind becoming west southwest 5 to 10 mph in the afternoon.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 69. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph
Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy, with a high near 79.
Thursday Night: Patchy fog before 11pm. Otherwise, partly cloudy, with a low around 70.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2025/08/20	Wed	02:37 AM	-0.76	L
2025/08/20	Wed	09:12 AM	4.19	H
2025/08/20	Wed	1:53 PM	2.39	L
2025/08/20	Wed	8:02 PM	6.54	H
2025/08/21	Thu	03:14 AM	-0.83	L
2025/08/21	Thu	09:40 AM	4.42	H
2025/08/21	Thu	2:39 PM	2.04	L
2025/08/21	Thu	8:46 PM	6.58	H
2025/08/22	Fri	03:48 AM	-0.73	L
2025/08/22	Fri	10:08 AM	4.62	H
2025/08/22	Fri	3:20 PM	1.75	L
2025/08/22	Fri	9:26 PM	6.44	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: 8/18
15 46 61 63 64
Power#: 1
Jackpot: 643 M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 8/15
4 17 27 34 69
Mega#: 16
Jackpot: 216 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 8/16
10 12 19 33 36
Mega#: 6
Jackpot: 35 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 8/18
3 13 15 19 37

Daily 3
Draw Date: 8/18
EVENING: 4 9 0
Draw Date: 8/18
MIDDAY: 1 8 6

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 8/18
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 02 - Lucky Star
3rd: 12 - Lucky Charms
Race Time: 1:47.26

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Santa Monica Daily Press

California sues Trump over new conditions on funding for crime victims

Attorney General Rob Bonta on Monday filed California's 39th lawsuit against the Trump administration, challenging new immigration enforcement requirements it placed on federal funding for crime victims.

States were set to receive more than $1.2 billion in federal crime victim funding this year, with California expected to claim $165 million. But last month, the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Victims for Crime announced that states must agree to support and assist the Department of Homeland Security with federal immigration enforcement in order to access those funds.

> Congress has never put civil immigration enforcement conditions on this funding because it has nothing to do with immigration. This is a brazen abuse of the president's power
>
> - Rob Bonta

Some states view that condition as unworkable and the potential loss of funding could be the second significant hit this year from the Trump administration to California programs that support crime victims. Earlier this year, the U.S. Justice Department slashed grants for violence prevention and victim service programs that were initially valued at $811 million. In California alone, the department cut just over $80 million.

"Congress has never put civil immigration enforcement conditions on this funding because it has nothing to do with immigration. This is a brazen abuse of the president's power," Bonta said at a Monday press conference about the latest lawsuit.

California and 20 other states are suing the Trump administration over the potential cut in the U.S. District Court for Rhode Island. The states want the courts to prevent the Department of Justice from implementing the new rules.

The contested funding for crime victims supports expenses such as emergency shelter, sexual assault medical support, compensation for lost wages and funeral expenses.

The lawsuit says the Trump administration is violating the U.S. Constitution by going around Congress on how a program it created should be funded. The lawsuit also alleges that the Trump administration violated the Administrative Procedure Act, a law that is the subject of most of the lawsuits California has filed against the White House. The act says that a federal agency needs to follow procedures and explain its rationale for changing a policy.

The states allege that the Department of Justice "arbitrarily relied on immigration-related factors that Congress did not authorize it to rely on in allocating federal grant monies to support victims."

Rhode Island's attorney general, Peter Neronha, said during the press conference that the Department of Justice's new rules go against his values. He gave the example of a child who's the victim of sexual assault being interviewed at a child advocacy center. "One question that should not be asked is whether that child is in this country lawfully or unlawfully," he said.

The crime act fund was signed by President Ronald Reagan in 1984. The law emerged after a report from Reagan's 1982 Task Force on Victims of Crime said that the "neglect of crime victims is a national disgrace," according to Monday's lawsuit. Among the report's recommendations was to "enact legislation to provide federal funding to assist state crime victim compensation programs."

In May, California filed two other lawsuits against the Trump administration for tying immigration enforcement to transportation and counter-terrorism funding, affecting billions of dollars in federal support.

By Mikhail Zinshteyn and Cayla Mihalovich. Cayla Mihalovich is a California Local News fellow. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

GET IT DAILY...

Gavin Newsom wants an election in a hurry on his gerrymander. Here's what has to happen



Photo by Larry Valenzuela, CalMatters/CatchLight Local

ELECTION: A row of voters filling out their ballots at the polling place in the Community Center in Kerman on Nov. 5, 2024.

Calling a statewide special election sounds simple in theory. But executing one with fewer than 75 days notice? As one California county election official put it, that's a "herculean" effort.

California voting officials are scrambling behind the scenes to prepare for the special election Gov. Gavin Newsom wants this November on his proposal to redraw the state's congressional districts. But to do so, Newsom needs voters to approve a ballot initiative in an off-year special election that the state has yet to officially approve and schedule.

Democrats want the proposed California maps to offset President Donald Trump and Republicans' efforts to stack the next congressional election in the GOP's favor by squeezing more Republican seats out of red states like Texas, Florida and Missouri.

Newsom only released his proposed maps late last week, and state lawmakers — who just returned from a month-long summer recess — are staring down a hard deadline of Friday to greenlight the ballot language before voters in time for a Nov. 4 election.

County election officials are hustling as if the election is happening so they can make sure they lock down everything from vendors to print their ballots, locations for voting centers and election workers to staff those polling places come Nov. 4. They've pushed hard for the state to cover the hefty costs of an unplanned special election, and some have noted that without additional appropriations, they might need to cut back on vital public safety and social services.

"It's difficult for us, just in a regular election, being a smaller rural county," said Juan Pablo Cervantes, the registrar of voters for Humboldt County, which has just over 85,000 registered voters. Usually Cervantes and his staff have at least five months of lead time to find voting sites, hire staff and procure all the machines, pens and ballots for a statewide election.

"That's usually a Herculean effort on its own," Cervantes said.

A MAD DASH TO FIND BALLOTS AND VOTE CENTERS

One of the biggest challenges for counties is lining up vendors to print enough ballots – including one absentee ballot for every registered voter in the state, as well as a sufficient number to keep onsite for on-site voting at polling stations. California's secretary of state has only approved seven vendors to print ballots, not including Orange County, which operates its own printing facility.

The other two logistical hurdles are securing enough sites to serve as vote centers, and hiring and training staff to work them.

Soon after Newsom declared on July 31 that he would call a special election, Orange County Registrar of Voters Bob Page gathered his staff for an emergency planning

SEE **DISTRICTING** PAGE 7

COMMUNITY NEWS

Los Angeles

LA County Seeks Contractor for Film Permit Services

The Los Angeles County Department of Economic Opportunity announced Monday it is seeking a qualified organization to oversee film, television and photography permit coordination services across the county's unincorporated areas.

Proposals are due Sept. 18 at 12 p.m. for the contract that will run from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2031.

The entertainment industry supports hundreds of thousands of jobs and generates billions in local revenue annually for LA County. The department aims to ensure a streamlined, transparent and community-informed permitting process that strengthens the industry while protecting neighborhood quality of life.

The selected contractor will provide expedited permit coordination, industry sector trend analysis, public notifications of upcoming productions and complaint resolution. The contractor also will serve as an industry subject matter expert for the county, ensuring production activity complies with regulations while balancing community needs.

Organizations must demonstrate at least 10 years of experience in the last 15 years providing film, television and photography permit coordination services to a government entity. Applicants must submit all required forms and support documents and show verified financial capacity of at least $500,000 in reserves.

The Request for Proposals opened Aug. 18. Qualified organizations can download the RFP by visiting Solicitation Search – Doing Business With and searching for "Economic Opportunity Solicitations."

For questions, contact DEO-PRO@opportunity.lacounty.gov.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

Santa Monica

HelloFresh Agrees to $7.5 Million Settlement Over Subscription Practices

HelloFresh, the largest meal kit delivery service in the United States, has agreed to pay approximately $7.5 million to settle a consumer protection lawsuit alleging violations of California's Automatic Renewal Law.

The lawsuit accused HelloFresh of enrolling consumers in automatically renewing subscription plans without properly disclosing the terms or obtaining proper consent. A court has approved a stipulated judgment requiring the company to comply with applicable laws and pay restitution, civil penalties and investigative costs.

"Consumers who sign up for autorenewal services have a right to know the terms of the plan and decide for themselves if they want to consent to those terms," said Santa Monica City Attorney Doug Sloan. "The City Attorney's Office, in partnership with the California Automatic Renewal Task Force, is proud to enforce this right for consumers in Santa Monica and throughout California."

> "Consumers who sign up for autorenewal services have a right to know the terms of the plan and decide for themselves if they want to consent to those terms"
> - Doug Sloan

The lawsuit was filed by members of the California Automatic Renewal Task Force, which includes the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office and district attorney offices from Los Angeles, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties.

HelloFresh did not admit liability as part of the settlement agreement.

The case highlights ongoing enforcement efforts targeting companies' subscription and automatic renewal practices under California consumer protection laws. The state's Automatic Renewal Law requires businesses to clearly disclose subscription terms and obtain explicit consumer consent before enrolling customers in auto-renewing services.

The settlement amount will be distributed among the participating jurisdictions and affected consumers, though specific details about restitution payments were not immediately available.

HelloFresh operates as a subscription-based service that delivers pre-portioned ingredients and recipes to customers' homes. The company has faced similar regulatory scrutiny in other states over its subscription practices.

The California Automatic Renewal Task Force was formed to coordinate enforcement actions against companies that allegedly violate the state's automatic renewal laws, which are designed to protect consumers from unexpected charges and difficult-to-cancel subscriptions.

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ARREST

FROM PAGE 1

to reduce Bohm's $4 million bail.

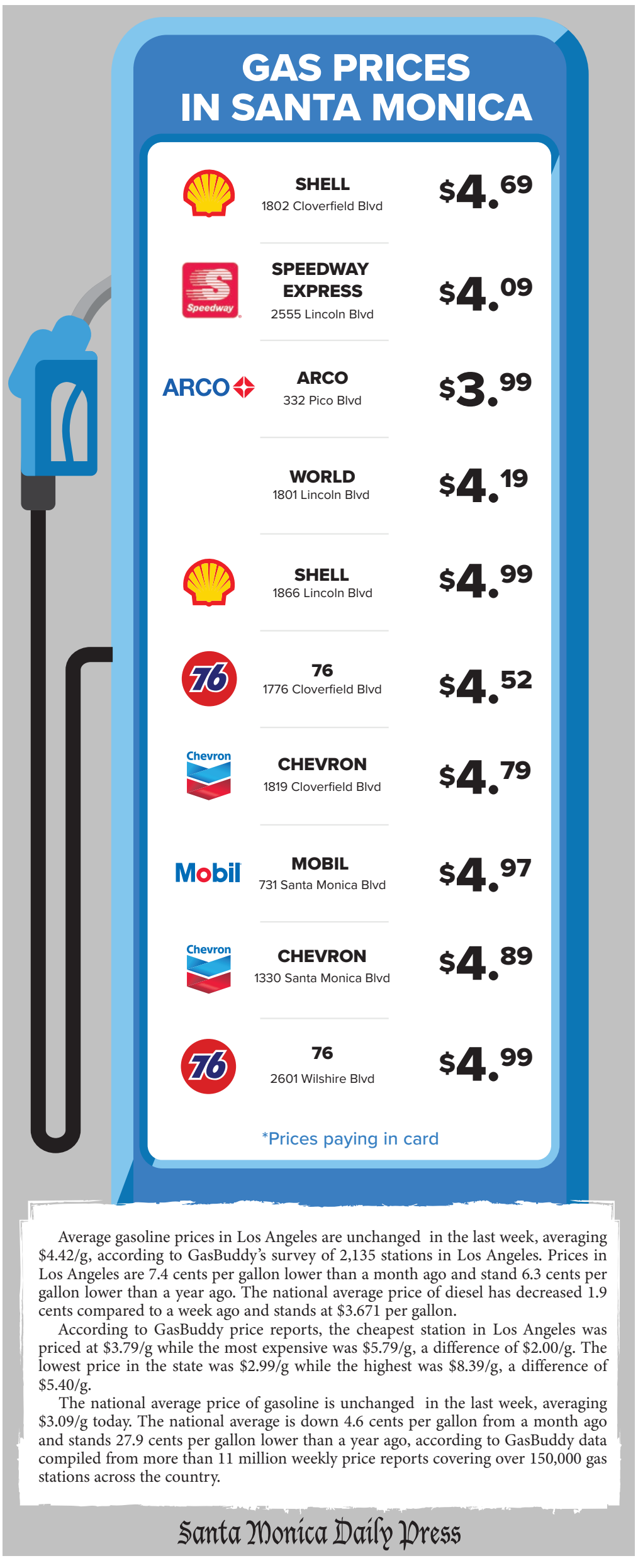
Bohm was initially arrested after the crash and released within hours. He was later rearrested and formally charged. In addition to the criminal case, he faces possible civil lawsuits from the victims' families.

He is scheduled to return to court Sept. 5.

Published in partnership with the Westside Current.

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Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles are unchanged in the last week, averaging $4.42/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 7.4 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 6.3 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has decreased 1.9 cents compared to a week ago and stands at $3.671 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at $3.79/g while the most expensive was $5.79/g, a difference of $2.00/g. The lowest price in the state was $2.99/g while the highest was $8.39/g, a difference of $5.40/g.

The national average price of gasoline is unchanged in the last week, averaging $3.09/g today. The national average is down 4.6 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 27.9 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



OPINION **UNMUTED**

Devan Sipher

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The Big Beautiful Crusade

Last month the Santa Monica City Council fired six city officials without cause, tossing aside the councilmembers' commitment to transparent governance when it got in the way of scoring political points. But their actions didn't take place in a vacuum, and they reflect what's increasingly happening in Sacramento.

Democratic state leaders point with rightful outrage at the creeping authoritarianism in Washington, but they seem to be as jealous as they are offended. So instead of prioritizing the fortification of our Constitution, they are also taking aim at it.

There's a little known Assembly bill, 1079, making its way toward becoming law. The bill aims to let the legislature dictate to the judiciary branch how appeals can be handled. AB 1079 doesn't aim to stifle all appeals, just cases regarding the California Voting Rights Act.

The bill is sponsored by Assembly Member Anamarie Ávila Farías, and her purpose seems sincere. She wants to prevent injustice in the implementation of minority voters' rights, and she has determined that subjecting those voters to our country's lengthy legal processes is a form of injustice.

There's nothing nefarious or necessarily unadmirable about her proposed legislation. It's simply unconstitutional.

Our system of government is based on having three equal branches, and as Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan stated in an Assembly committee hearing on the bill, the right to appeal "is fundamental to the justice system." Bauer-Kahan then voted for the bill. At the same hearing, Assembly Member Rick Chavez Zbur said that "it was bad precedent to deprive people of the right to seek appeal." He also voted for the bill.

Though Chavez Zbur initially opposed the bill, once he succeeded in getting a carve-out for Santa Monica and its current litigation, he pledged his support. "Given that the bill was likely to pass, my most important objective was to protect Santa Monica's election system," he said in a statement.

There's admittedly little benefit in fighting something that has unanimous party support. But why does a bill that potentially violates fundamental democratic principles have unanimous support? Because it has been identified as fighting injustice, and who wants to be on the side of injustice?

It's not just polarization that's pulling at the fabric of our country, but the moral certitude of each side. This is what the far right and far left have in common—they're both convinced of their own righteousness. When you know that your goals are righteous, you don't need to worry about democratic norms. You can even argue that the only way to protect those norms is to temporarily subvert them by passing flawed legislation or purging opponents. Both in California and in Washington.

But with Republicans marching in lockstep with the President, from the sanctification of January 6th to the militarization of our cities, the judiciary has become a crucial bulwark for democracy.

"We obviously lost the legislative branch to Trump and Trumpism," Gov. Gavin Newsom said after the deployment of troops in Los Angeles. "We pray that the courts are still holding firm."

So it's astounding that Democrats would do anything at this moment to jeopardize our judicial system. The cognitive dissonance is deafening.

Fortunately, there are some elected officials willing to challenge the consensus. Sen. Ben Allen voted for AB 1079 in committee, but it was a procedural vote and he remains conflicted about it.

"The appellate system can be frustrating to people," he said, explaining some of the motivation for the fervor on the topic in his caucus. In a statement, he emphasized that the state's voting rights laws are "important parts of our current system, and it's fair to want them to be enforced."

However, he made it clear that as a lawyer and legislator he wasn't comfortable voting for a law like 1079 that could shortcircuit the judicial process. In a lengthy conversation, he grappled with the complexities and contradictions that groupthink precludes. I'm not quoting what he said, because he wasn't speaking in sound bites but as a public servant wrestling with the messiness of democracy and the desire to do more good than harm.

As a journalist, I like a pithy quote. As a citizen, I'd like our elected leaders to do more wrestling and less crusading.

Devan Sipher can be reached at Unmuted.SMDP@gmail.com

VEGAS

FROM PAGE 2

skyrocketing pricing at high-end restaurants and resorts that "squeezes out the low-end tourist."

The mayor said the rising cost of food, hotel rooms and attractions also keeps visitors away.

"People are feeling that they're getting nickeled and dimed, and they're not getting value for their dollar," Berkley said. She called on business owners to "see if we can't make it more affordable" for tourists.

"And that's all we want. We want them to come and have good time, spend their money, go home," the mayor said. "Then come back in six months."

By TY ONEIL and CHRISTOPHER WEBER Associated Press. Weber reported from Los Angeles.

DISTRICTING

FROM PAGE 4

meeting. He instructed them to identify which supplies they needed to order as soon as possible, prioritizing products like ballot paper, ballot envelopes and toner for their ballot printers – which might not arrive in time to meet deadlines if they waited for official confirmation of a special election.

Should the governor end up abandoning his plan, Orange County would also be able to use those materials in next year's June primary election, minimizing potential waste of taxpayer dollars.

> I had to make a decision that I couldn't wait until Aug. 22 to make sure that I could pull this off
>
> - Bob Page

"I had to make a decision that I couldn't wait until Aug. 22 to make sure that I could pull this off," Page said. "I don't want to be in a position where my county fails in some way to conduct a free and fair election."

The county also started emailing people with past experience as election workers to gauge potential interest in working at a vote center during the special election.

CALIFORNIA'S LAST SPECIAL ELECTION

California last had a short-notice, off-year statewide special election in September 2021 when Newsom defeated an attempt to recall him from office.

But because the recall campaign was triggered by a signature drive rather than ordered by the state Legislature, Page said counties had plenty of early warning signs to help them prepare.

"We knew when there were enough signatures to require the recall election," Page said. "We were very involved when the legislature was pitching ideas of trying to shorten the timeline and have the recall election in August of that year rather than September."

Even then, when the Legislature was hashing out the fine print about when the election would take place, county registrars brought their vendors to testify that they didn't have enough paper stock to print ballots in time for an August recall election. The date was ultimately set for Sept. 14.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

The Legislature and the Department of Finance have yet to release official cost estimates for the statewide special election, but experts say that given inflation, the Nov. 4 special election will almost certainly surpass the recall's price tag.

During that 2021 effort, the state sent counties more than $240 million and an additional $35 million to the secretary of state's office to administer the election. In the end, the contest cost less than planned — about $200 million in all, with the counties' costs totaling just over $174 million.

Newsom has repeatedly promised the state will cover the steep cost counties will incur to administer an unplanned statewide off-year election. Yet in the absence of official statewide numbers, county officials and even Assembly Republicans have released their own estimates. The GOP caucus's budget analysis projected the statewide contest would cost taxpayers $235.5 million.

Page estimated Orange County's costs will land somewhere between $11.2 million to $12.7 million depending on whether the ballot and county voter information guide will fit in the same envelope or need to be sent separately. Riverside County's registrar projected upwards of $15 million in costs, and Fresno County was bracing for at least $4 million in unbudgeted expenses.

The counties have implored state leaders to provide them money up front rather than reimburse them after the election.

"The additional expenses tied to a statewide special election would fall almost entirely on counties — imposing a significant and unfunded financial burden on already strained local budgets," wrote the California State Association of Counties, which represents county supervisors, in partnership with its subsidiary organization that represents clerks and registrars.

H.D. Palmer, spokesman for the Department of Finance, said that the legislation will provide the money to counties in advance, as it did in 2021 before the gubernatorial recall election, although the department has yet to determine the precise amount..

"The state of California is going to pay for it," Newsom said at a press conference last week, dismissing concerns from county registrars about how they'd afford to administer the election as "deeply disingenuous."

"There's no price tag for democracy," Newsom said.

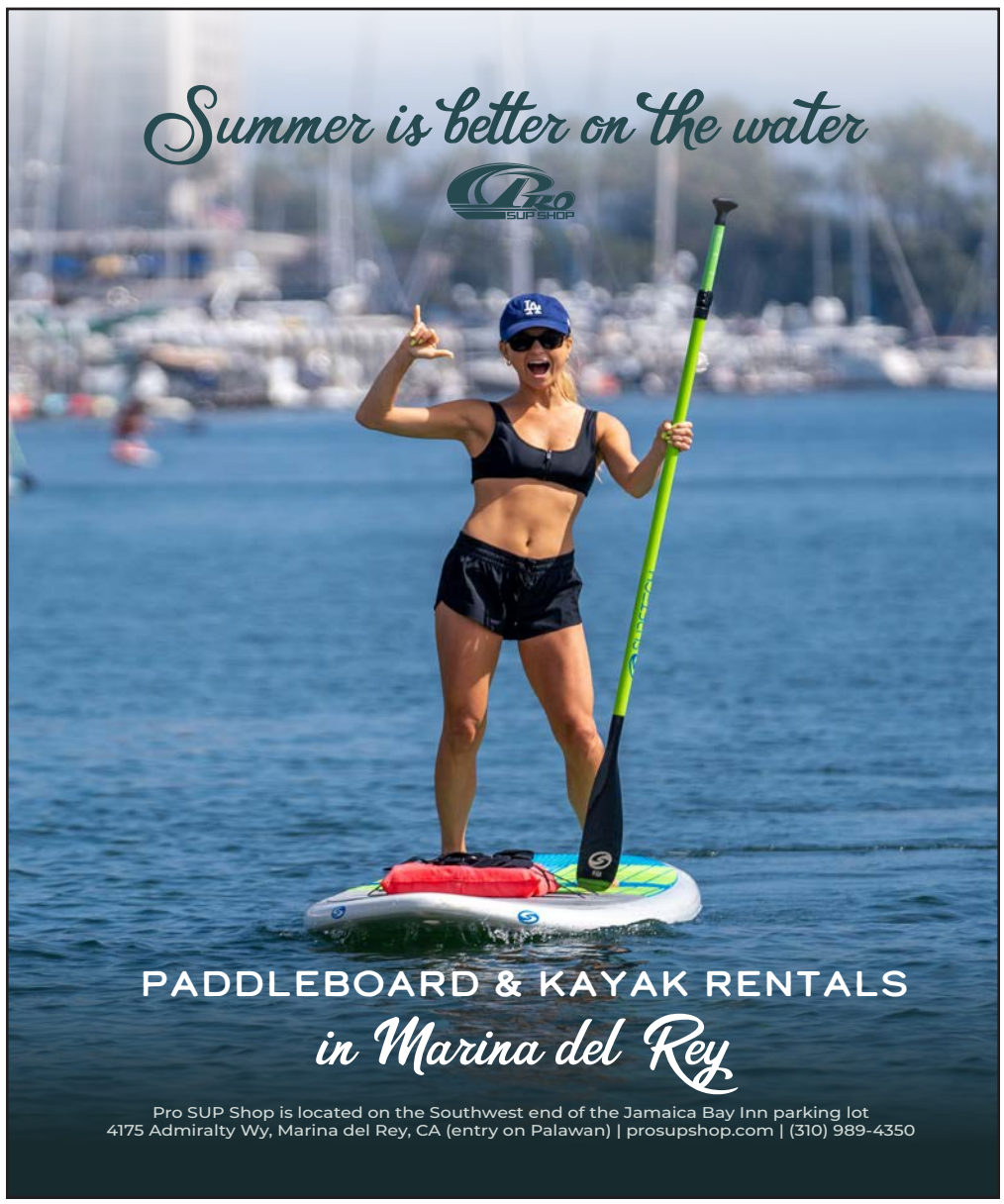
The governor has also stated that unlike during the recall election, several counties already plan to hold local off-year elections and can add the redistricting question to the existing ballot. As of Monday, only 21 counties are listed as having elections scheduled for Nov. 4, according to the Secretary of State's website.

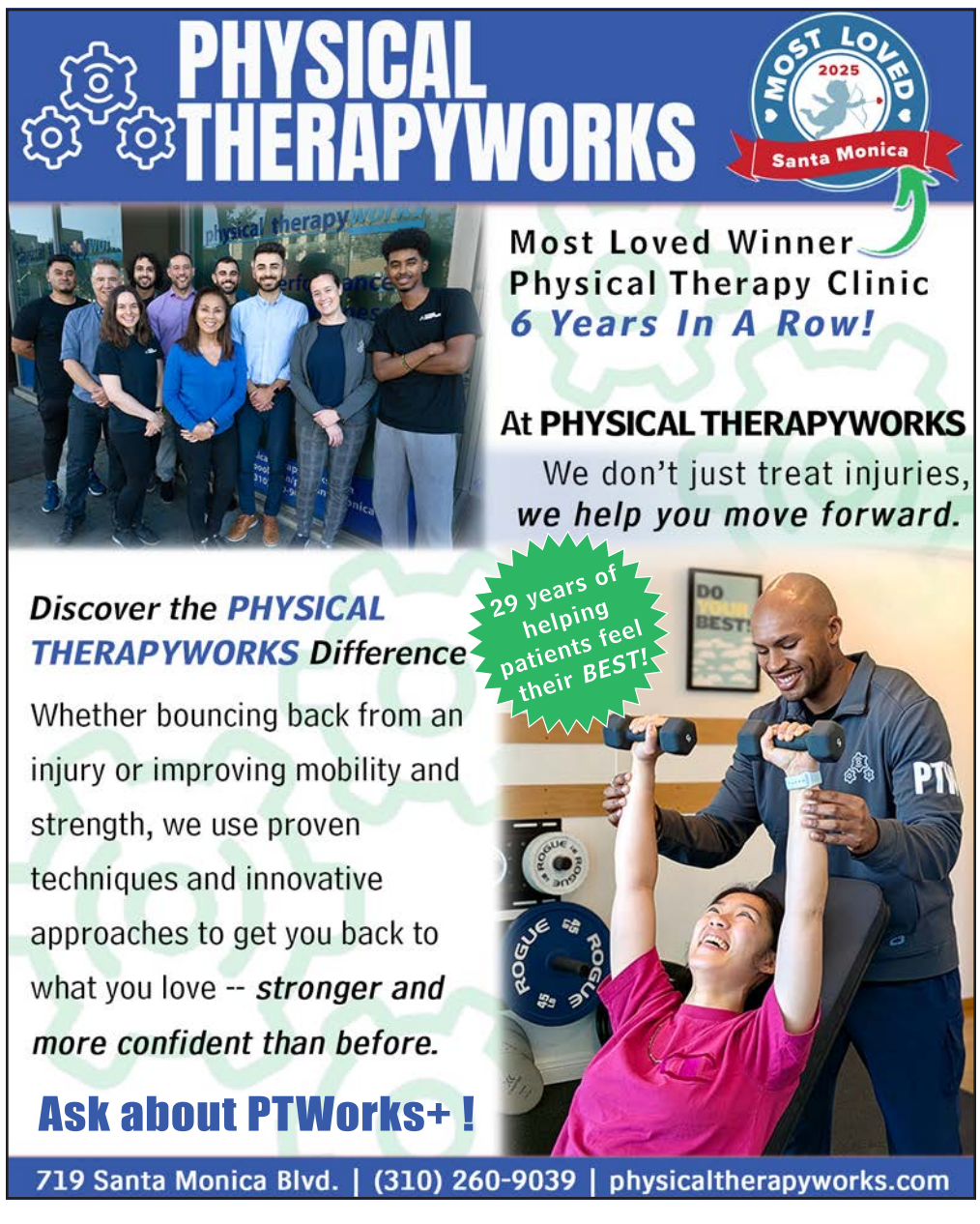
But Cervantes, who estimates his county will incur at least $700,000 in additional costs, emphasized that it makes a "massive difference" whether the state pays upfront or requires counties to submit expenses for reimbursement. His vendors won't allow him to defer payment until he receives the state's check in the mail.

Cervantes noted that counties pay for elections administration from the same pot of money that funds sheriff's departments, county jails and the district attorney's offices, as well as some local wildfire prevention efforts. That's why it's so important for the state to cover the costs, he argued.

"You're talking about taking deputies off the street. You're talking about reducing social services. Like, it's a zero-sum game," Cervantes said. "If I have to spend that money, then other departments won't be able to."

By Maya C. Miller. This article was originally published by CalMatters.





Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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CLASSIFICATIONS					
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For Sale	Wanted	Roommates	Massage	Yard Sales	Psychic
Furniture	Travel	Commercial Lease	Services	Health and Beauty	Obituaries
	Vacation Rentals	Real Estate	Computer Services	Fitness	Tutoring

Name Change

Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No.25STCP01212 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Jhee Hae Grace Choi for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Jhee Hae Grace Choi court for a decree of changing names as follows: Jhee Hae Grace Choi to Grace Jhee Hae ChoiThe court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 9/05/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: 45 Room: 529 The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Courthouse 111 N Hill St Los Angeles, CA 90005. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press

Lien

NOTICE OF PUBLIC LIEN SALEPursuant to the California Self-Service Storage Facility Act, (B&P Code 21700et. seq.), the undersigned will sell atpublic auction, on Sep 3th, 2025 personal property including, but not limited to business equipment, electronics,furniture, clothing, tools and/or other miscellaneous items located at:A-AMERICAN SELF STORAGE via storagetreasures.com @ 1:00 pm, at 100 E Avenue G8 Lancaster, CA93535 (661)677-9797STORED BY THE FOLLOWING PERSONS:Darlene MunozSolomon David SanusiMaria Gaytan (Deniz)Jasmine RichardsonLewis SmithCloyd Bland RobertsSolomon David SanusiAll sales are subject to prior cancellation. Terms, rules and regulations available at sale. By A-AmericanStorage Management Co, Inc. (310)914-4022, Bond #72BSBBU5400

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HEAT

FROM PAGE 1

another week.

Residents living in high fire danger areas in the mountains or foothills are being told to review their evacuation plans and routes while staying tuned to local emergency officials.

The extreme weather system is being driven by a massive high pressure system positioned over the Four Corners region. This weather pattern is expected to strengthen Wednesday marking the beginning of what forecasters describe as a "long duration heat wave."

The high pressure system will severely limit the marine layer that typically provides coastal cooling, compressing it to just 600 feet and drastically reducing low cloud cover. Combined with weaker than normal onshore flow, temperatures are expected to climb 2 to 4 degrees away from the coast, with some areas seeing increases of 4 to 8 degrees above normal.

Thursday is forecast to be the most dangerous day of the heat event, with the upper high pressure system peaking and driving warming subsidence across the region. Downtown Los Angeles temperatures are expected to approach record levels, while areas like Woodland Hills could reach 109 degrees. The San Fernando Valley is expected to see temperatures ranging from the mid-90s to 106 degrees.

> "Extreme summer weather is returning to California this week"
> - Gavin Newsom, Gov.

In Santa Monica, the high is predicted to be near 80 while the low is about 70 degrees.

"The combination of warm overnight lows and these daytime highs will result in dangerous heat conditions across much of the area," weather officials warned. "People need to plan now to mitigate the effects of this heat."

In response to the forecasted extreme conditions, Governor Gavin Newsom has directed the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services to pre-deploy substantial firefighting resources throughout Los Angeles County. The preemptive action reflects lessons learned from previous heat events that have spawned devastating wildfires across the state.

"Extreme summer weather is returning to California this week," Governor Newsom said in a statement. "Now is the time to check the forecasts for your area and prepare for higher temperatures and dangerous fire weather. While the best thing we can all do is prepare now, the state is also pre-deploying resources to protect communities from catastrophic wildfire."

The deployment includes 10 fire engines, two water tenders, two bulldozers, one helicopter, two hand crews, three dispatchers and one Incident Management Team strategically positioned across Los Angeles County. These resources are designed to enable rapid response to any fire incidents, potentially containing blazes before they can escalate into major catastrophes.

Cal OES Director Nancy Ward emphasized the proactive approach as critical to the state's wildfire response strategy. "By prepositioning firefighting crews, equipment, and other resources in high-risk areas, we can respond faster and more effectively when needed," Ward said. "This strategy is about protecting lives, property, and communities by ensuring help is ready when it's needed most."

CAL FIRE Chief Joe Tyler confirmed that the agency remains fully staffed statewide in preparation for the heightened fire risk. "CAL FIRE remains fully staffed and prepared across the state as we anticipate increased temperatures," Tyler said. "Our dedicated team is committed to safeguarding communities and minimizing wildfire risk."

California's new CalHeatScore tool is showing much of the state reaching high and severe levels of extreme heat later this week, providing residents with location-specific heat safety information.

State officials are urging residents to take immediate precautions:

- Prepare a wildfire action plan, including evacuation routes and emergency supplies
- Sign up for local emergency alerts to receive real-time updates
- Visit CalHeatScore.CalEPA.ca.gov for location-specific heat safety information
- Review fire safety plans and ensure go-bags are ready with essentials

The heat event represents a return of August weather patterns after nearly a two-week respite from typical summer conditions. With fire danger accompanying the extreme temperatures, residents in mountainous and foothill areas are being advised to stay particularly vigilant and prepared for potential evacuation orders

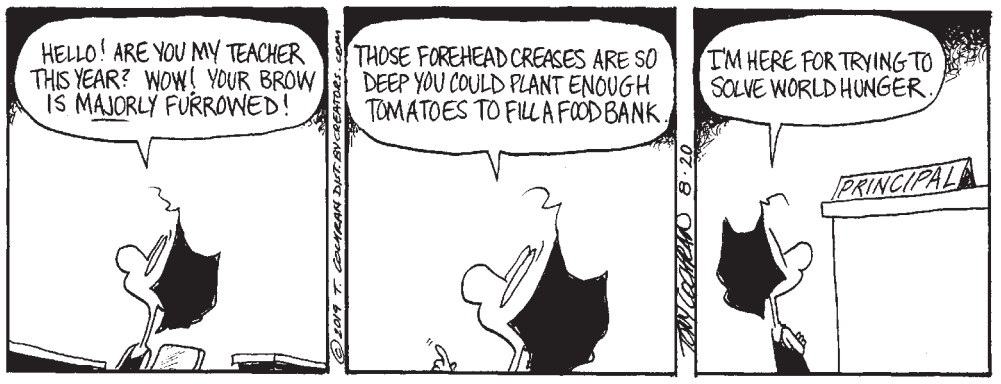
The extreme temperatures pose significant health risks, particularly for outdoor workers and vulnerable populations. Recent research highlighted in the State of Sweat Index (produced by drink company Pocari Sweat) reveals that workplace dehydration is a widespread problem, with 83% of high-heat workers in Texas and California regularly experiencing potentially harmful symptoms like headaches, fatigue, or dizziness. The survey found that 25% of respondents have required medical treatment for heat or dehydration-related illnesses within the past five years, with rates reaching one in three workers in Los Angeles and Dallas.

The timing of the heat wave coincides with Los Angeles County's recent approval of groundbreaking heat-related tenant protection measures. The Board of Supervisors has established the first-ever maximum indoor temperature limits for rental units in the region, setting an 82-degree ceiling for rental properties in unincorporated areas. The ordinance, authored by Chair Pro Tem Hilda L. Solis and Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath, grants tenants the right to install portable cooling devices without facing eviction or retaliation. The measure takes effect in 30 days but includes a phased implementation, requiring compliance in at least one room by January 2027 and all habitable rooms by January 2032.

editor@smdp.com

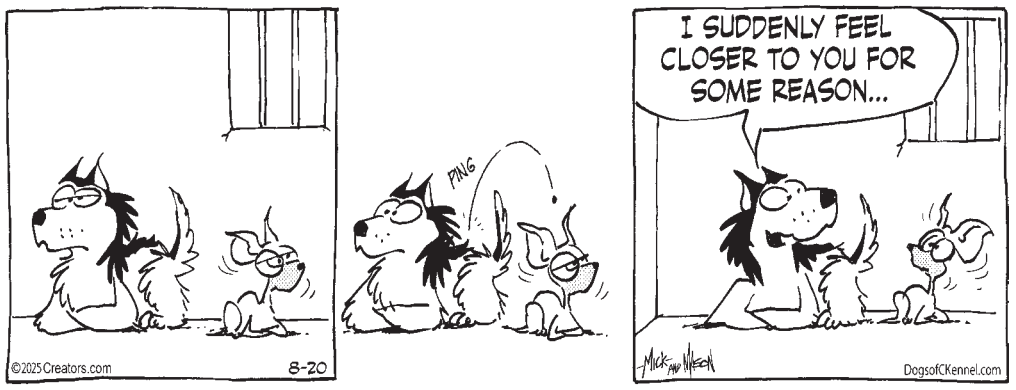
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



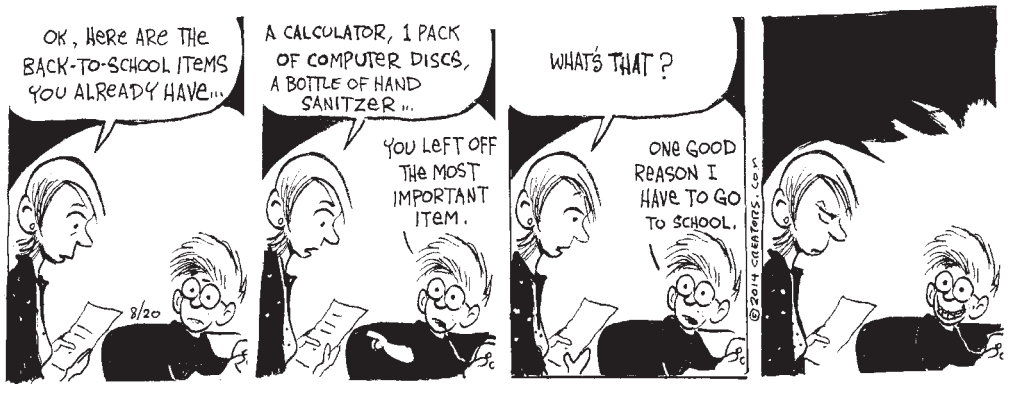
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



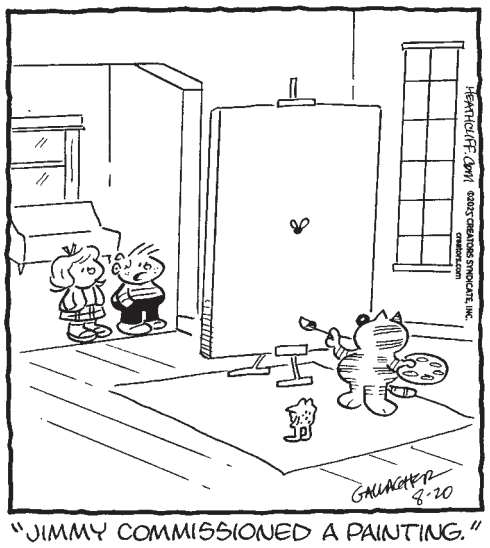
Zack Hill

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 18 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 6673

Bookworm

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

Adams	Craft	Legend	Play
Amuse	Dawe	Lette	Plot
Anh Do	Desks	Marsden	Practical
Author	Details	McDonald	Purcell
Base	Enjoy	McIntosh	Review
Books	Epic	Memoir	Rowe
Carmody	Files	Myth	White
Children	Foster-Blake	Nunn	Wood
Coetzee	Gleeson	Nursery	Wright
Concen-	Involve	Palmer	Zusak
trate	Johns	Park	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 20)

You radiate confidence and originality this trip around the sun, drawing admiration and opportunities in equal measure. Look forward to love you embrace with your whole heart, deeper self-knowledge and a year rich with chances to use and hone your gifts. More highlights: a thrilling trip, a luxurious upgrade and a sweet reunion. Taurus and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 1, 11, 16 and 30.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll be hearing plenty of opinions today and few facts. It's OK as long as you can tell the difference between the two. Many can't seem to. Also, you won't agree with all you hear, but it's worthwhile to learn where people's heads are at.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Rest is part of your creative rhythm. You're cycling through insight, release, determination and ambition right now - it's bound to leave you a little spent. An hour or two more of sleep could change your whole day. Let restoration do its work.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There's a productive power in boredom. A lull or quiet period isn't a setback - it's fuel. When you get bored, your natural creativity kicks in and drives you toward something new.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Every person is a universe of perspective, experience and possibility. Get together. It opens doors to collaboration and growth. Reconnect with people you already know and don't stop there. Ask for introductions. Expand your circle.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Here comes a lucky break. Even though it feels unexpected, it's actually the result of something you did in the past - a smart decision or a seed you planted. You forgot all about it, but now it's clear. Past you is always looking out for future you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You set a boundary not to shut anyone out but to protect your inner world. Solitude and the company of supportive souls help you stay grounded. You can't always control your social landscape, but when you can, you choose peace.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Before, you were showing up in relationships like they were auditions. Now you're stepping back, seeing the exhausting roles you've been cast in - therapist, muse, support staff - and saying "no, thank you." You've started to leave the stage and step into authorship.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The moment you decide to impress yourself, the adventure is on. You become open and unstoppable. A caution: Avoid getting hung up on impressing anyone other than you, it will only cause a delay in your journey to greatness.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). If there is a slice of heaven on earth - and most certainly the rumors must be true - you want to experience it. Also, heaven on earth wants to experience you. When you approach the moments with this in mind, the portals open.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Something isn't fitting. Name what feels off. Identify exactly which part of what you're doing feels false. What would you prefer? Probably this is really about setting a boundary or changing a routine. Doesn't have to be dramatic - just intentional.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You are a masterpiece mid-paint, and masterpieces can look wild in the middle. Your beauty is not in your composure. It's in your tenacity, your insight, your ability to keep showing up for the hard things - even while your mind spins.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). What you build in collaboration will exceed what any one person could've done alone - even in a group of two. Even in a group as small as two this will be true. You'll be mystified by a creation born from the chemistry of people.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

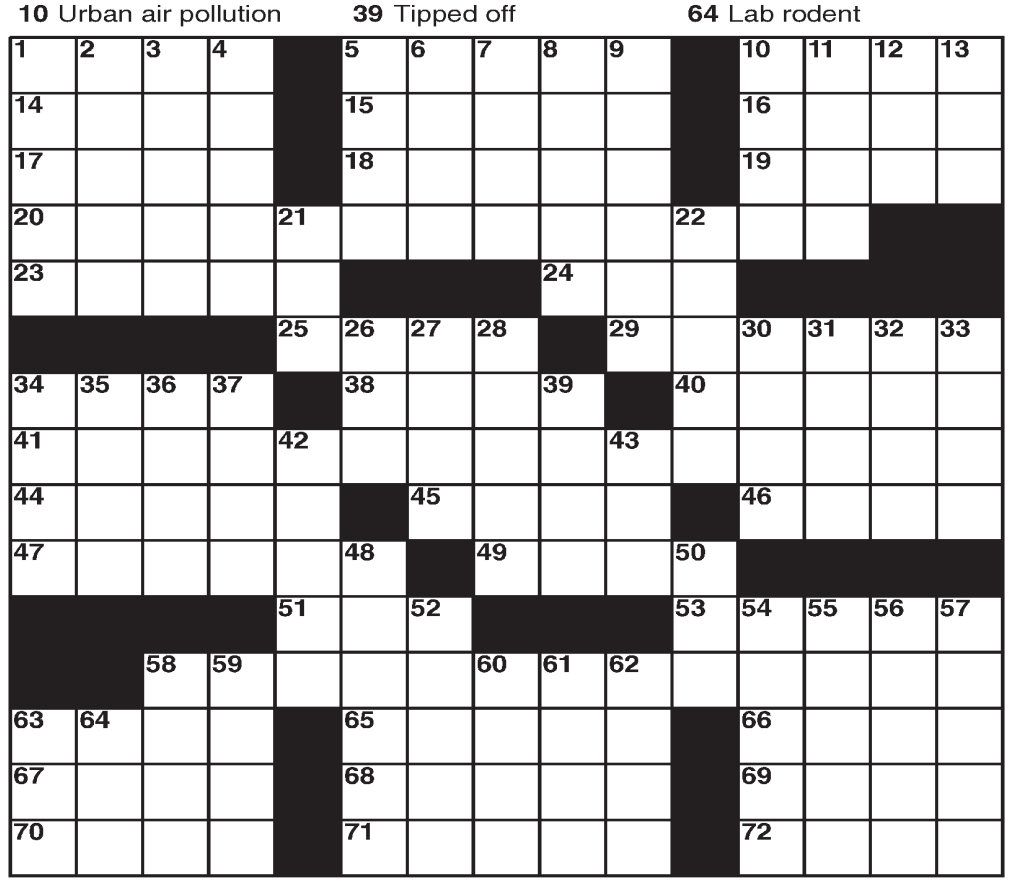
BY THE DOZEN by Steve Faiella
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Attired (in)
5 Taking little time
10 Minor quarrel
14 Not at all polite
15 Blender's baby-food setting
16 Female horse
17 Small wallet bills
18 Open, as a parka
19 Black-and-white dolphin
20 Proceeding very cautiously
23 Get into clothes
24 Catch sight of
25 Mexican money
29 Starts to get out of bed
34 Church area
38 Overwhelming victory
40 Homes for hens
41 Confident person's metaphorical bet
44 Elite guest roster
45 Overly greasy
46 Hole in a piggy bank
47 Sheep herder of nursery rhymes
49 Genesis garden
51 Noah's boat
53 Scarlett of *Gone With the Wind*
58 Turning out great
63 High-fiber cereal
65 Discontinue
66 Desserts with a crust
67 __ Grey (type of 13-Down)
68 DeGeneres or Burstyn
69 Not busy at all
70 Handicrafts website
71 Heads a cast
72 Hatchling's home

DOWN

1 Large group of people
2 Of the moon
3 Very popular British singer
4 Office's work stations
5 Whirled around
6 Displayed on a wall
7 Rice-shaped pasta
8 Jockey's straps
9 Traditional Native American tents
10 Urban air pollution
11 Golf standard scores
12 Rainbow shape
13 Coffee alternative
21 Any Web access co.
22 Insurer with a gecko mascot
26 Make a mistake
27 Just adequate
28 Protruding navel
30 Freight weights
31 Nary a __ (nobody)
32 No later than
33 "Hey you!!" whisper
34 Just __ (small amount, as of paint)
35 Sport on horseback
36 Minor error
37 Alternatively
39 Tipped off
42 Main sports squad
43 Change the color of
48 What shoppers compare
50 Neither hide __ hair
52 Prepared to propose
54 Offer to a hitchhiker
55 "All kidding __..."
56 Spools for older films
57 Balance-sheet plus
58 Coupes and convertibles
59 Merely
60 Formal party
61 Software manual reader
62 Ballpoints
63 Spelling competition
64 Lab rodent



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HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 1

earlier this year show encouraging trends in several major California regions.

According to preliminary data from the governor's office, Los Angeles County showed a 9.5% reduction in unsheltered homelessness, while Los Angeles City reported a 7.9% decrease. San Diego saw a 6.6% decline in total homelessness, with San Diego City recording a 13.5% drop. Other communities reporting decreases include Riverside County, San Bernardino County, Sonoma, Ventura and Tulare counties. Santa Cruz County saw a 20% drop, counting 1,473 people compared to the previous year. Contra Costa County recorded a 26% decrease.

> "I have been clear that I expect every community to address encampments and help get people off the streets and the support they need"
> - Gavin Newsom, Gov.

"I have been clear that I expect every community to address encampments and help get people off the streets and the support they need," Newsom said in a statement. "My administration has provided unprecedented support. Addressing encampments means more than just sweeping them up, which is why California has developed a comprehensive and effective approach."

The governor's office emphasized that California limited its overall homelessness increase to just 3% in 2024, compared to a national increase of over 18%. The state held growth of unsheltered homelessness to 0.45%, while the national increase was nearly 7%.

Newsom's administration points to a multi-pronged approach that includes addressing mental health impacts on homelessness, creating new legal pathways through conservatorship reform and CARE courts, streamlining housing development, and providing shelter and support while removing dangerous encampments.

The administration also highlighted voter approval of Proposition 1 in 2024, which provides a $6.4 billion bond for behavioral health treatment and housing for veterans and people experiencing homelessness.

But declines were not universal and county leaders argue that the state's approach has been fundamentally flawed and that recent progress is now at risk due to budget cuts.

"We agree with the governor: Thanks to years of hard work on the ground, counties and cities are showing results," said Jeff Griffiths, California State Association of Counties president and Inyo County supervisor. "But now, because of the new state budget, local governments will be forced to defund successful efforts making real progress."

The dispute focuses heavily on the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention program, which provided $1 billion in funding last year but was cut to zero in the current budget. Newsom has signaled intent to allocate $500 million for the program next year.

Counties say this on-again, off-again funding approach makes it impossible to build sustainable programs. Historical HHAP funding shows the volatility: $650 million in 2019-20, $300 million in 2020-21, then $1 billion annually from 2021-22 through 2024-25, before dropping to zero for 2025-26.

In the last funding round the Los Angeles region received $380,361,330.80 spread over seven applicants.

"For years, the state has thrown one-time money at this problem without any real strategy," Griffiths said. County officials argue that the unpredictable funding prevents local governments from making long-term investments in permanent solutions.

The counties have released their own comprehensive proposal called the AT HOME framework, which would create clear responsibilities for each level of government and provide reliable, ongoing funding rather than one-time grants.

Counties also dispute Newsom's claims about state spending on homelessness. While the governor's office says the state has spent $27 billion to address homelessness, county analysis found that roughly half of awarded funds went to housing development rather than direct homelessness services.

The counties note that local governments received much less funding than housing developers, with counties getting $7 billion over six fiscal years — barely $1 billion annually spread across 58 counties.

Despite the positive trends in many communities, challenges remain. Santa Cruz County, while seeing an overall 20% decrease, reported an increase in "chronically homeless" people — those who have been homeless for a year or more and have a disability. Santa Clara County, which conducts counts every other year, saw an 8% increase from 2023.

Santa Monica bucked the regional trend, with homelessness increasing 5% to 812. The city's increase was driven primarily by a rise in vehicle camping and more people in shelters).

Experts caution that point-in-time counts are estimates at best and likely undercount homeless populations.

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), who oversee local homeless counts, has been under siege recently following accusations of fiscal mismanagement and longstanding complaints over its accuracy. Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath proposed creating a new county department to replace LAHSA and the organization's CEO resigned after the County pulled its $300 million contract from the agency.

CalMatters contributed to this story.



WEDNESDAY | AUGUST 20

DISNEY ANIMATED FILMS

11:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. California Heritage Museum 2612 Main Street Santa Monica. Disney Animated Films showcases more than 100 original works of art from the production of Disney's most cherished animated classics including Bambi, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Peter Pan, Lady and the Tramp and more. We offer visitors an intimate glimpse behind the scenes of filmmaking history. All artwork is generously on loan from the prestigious Mark Hilbert Collection. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/disney-animated-films/16449187/2025-08-20T11

THURSDAY | AUGUST 21

SPILL THE TEA WITH THE MAYOR!

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Dr. T House 1709 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. Meet the Mayor of Santa Monica, Lana Negrete and ask her any questions you have on your mind while she "spills the tea" on any happenings going on in the city! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/spill-the-tea-with-the-mayor-/16564626/2025-08-21T17

MONTANA BRANCH BOOK GROUP

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Montana Branch Library 1704 Montana Ave. Santa Monica. This community-led, monthly book discussion group meets in person at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at the Montana Branch Library. This book group discusses a mix of fiction and nonfiction titles, often on topics chosen from current events. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/montana-branch-book-group/14818668/2025-08-21T18

THE THREE BELIEFS OF EGO: A SUFFERER'S GUIDE TO FREEDOM

6:30 p.m. Brentwood Country Mart 225 26th Street, Suite #33 Santa Monica. The Three Beliefs of Ego explores a simple but transformative idea: that the ego, often misunderstood, is structured around three unconscious beliefs — lack, attachment, and control. These beliefs quietly shape how we think, feel, and respond to life, giving rise to emotional pain. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/the-three-beliefs-of-ego-a-sufferer-s-guide-to-freedom/16526553/2025-08-21T18

SUMMER FLORAL ARRANGING WORKSHOP

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Merrihew's Sunset Gardens 1526 Ocean Park Boulevard Santa Monica. Join Kaylyn Garceau of True Vine Studio for a Summer Floral Arranging Workshop! Kaylyn will walk you through general design fundamentals that you can apply for all your DIY floral arranging. We will spend the majority of our time together making a centerpiece in a vase that you can take home with you. No previous experience required; the class is open to all skill levels! Tickets: $150 - flowers, clippers, vases, and simple mechanics will all be provided. Plus all workshop participants receive 10% off all day-of purchases at Merrihew's Sunset Gardens! Kaylyn Garceau is the Owner and Creative Director of True Vine Studio, a floral design company providing garden-inspired styling for weddings, events, productions, and publications. True Vine Studio's clients and collaborators include Vogue, Architectural Digest, The Fifteen Percent Pledge, Washington Post, and many more. Check out True Vine Studio. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/summer-floral-arranging-workshop/16456142/2025-08-21T18

FRIDAY | AUGUST 22

LIVE MUSIC FRIDAYS AT THE SURFING FOX

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. 120 Colorado Ave. Santa Monica. Erinn Alissa performs acoustic folk pop with her guitar Friday nights at The Surfing Fox. Enjoy a night of live music, tasty bites, and Foxtails! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/live-music-fridays-at-the-surfing-fox/14385252/2025-08-22T18

SATURDAY | AUGUST 23

POP UP PILATES & PLUNGE

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Crescent Bay Park 2000 Ocean Avenue Santa Monica. Join us for a Saturday beachside burn with Pop Up Pilates + breath-work, plunges, live DJ, wellness experiences & more. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/pop-up-pilates-plunge/16456160/2025-08-23T09

BEGINNER REFORMER PILATES AT GOOD BODY PILATES STUDIO

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Good Body Pilates Studio 3229 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica Good Body Pilates Studio Santa Monica. Start your Saturday feeling strong, centered, and energized with our Beginner Reformer Pilates Class at Good Body Pilates Studio, taught by expert instructor Kylie. This group class is perfect for those new to Pilates or anyone looking to reconnect with the fundamentals in a welcoming and supportive environment. No experience necessary! Located in the heart of Santa Monica on Pico Boulevard, right across from Trader Joe's, our boutique studio is surrounded by great local coffee shops and restaurants, making it the perfect place to kick off your weekend. Plenty of metered parking available on Pico Blvd, and both metered and free street parking available on Urban Ave. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/beginner-reformer-pilates-at-good-body-pilates-studio/16094481/2025-08-23T10

DISNEY ANIMATED FILMS

11:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. California Heritage Museum 2612 Main Street Santa Monica. Disney Animated Films showcases more than 100 original works of art from the production of Disney's most cherished animated classics including Bambi, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Peter Pan, Lady and the Tramp and more. We offer visitors an intimate glimpse behind the scenes of filmmaking history. All artwork is generously on loan from the prestigious Mark Hilbert Collection. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/disney-animated-films/16449187/2025-08-23T11

DOG DAZE OF SUMMER

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Santa Monica Public Library 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Santa Monica. The Dog Daze on Montana Avenue is back! Join them for sales, treats, giveaways, photo opps and more! It's the perfect way to celebrate an afternoon with your four-legged friend.Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/dog-daze-of-summer/15799899/2025-08-23T11

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Poker Lessons | 5:30 PM

First Hand Dealt | 6:00 PM SHARP

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