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Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 22 Issue 243

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Santa Monicans unite for Maui victims

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

From teams of determined locals to A-list Hollywood stars, many in Santa Monica had the same goal this month, getting help for struggling victims of a terrible tragedy.

Earlier in August, the Hawaiian island of Maui was ravaged by several deadly wildfires. As of Tuesday, the death toll from the fires stands at 115 fatalities, with another 388 people still unaccounted for. Hawaii Gov. Josh Green announced Tuesday that the search for victims on-land has ended, and the search will be moving to ocean locales.

"Right now, we have people diving and looking into the water," Green told the press on Tuesday. "Most of the fatalities up to the first 80 were individuals who were quickly determined … we're grateful that when we delayered

SEE **MAUI** PAGE 7



Courtesy Photo
MAUI FUNDRAISER: Purchases of clothing and other items available at the Assistance League of Santa Monica's thrift shop on Aug. 24 went toward helping victims of the Maui fires.

Los Angeles considers new prohibitions on RV camping



SMDP Photo
RV: The new rules would target vehicles parked near schools, parks and homes.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Los Angeles Councilwoman Traci Park has proposed new rules for the city that would restrict RV parking around sensitive areas such as schools, daycare centers, parks and homes.

Park said the motion made this week would limit oversized vehicle dwelling in residential areas while also creating designated areas where RVs can park and access services.

"The surge in these oversized vehicles being used as housing units creates a myriad of challenges that affect public health, welfare, and the overall livability of our local neighborhoods," said Park.

Park has made homelessness a center point of her first term on the LA Council with a focus on homeless cleanups, including the removal of RV encampments in Playa Del Rey.

She recently made a separate motion to ensure a fairer distribution of Measure H homeless funds as the measure approaches its renewal. Measure H, passed in 2017 with 69% voter approval, established a 0.25% sales tax to provide ongoing funding for homelessness prevention and intervention in the county. The funds are designated for various uses including mental health, substance abuse treatment, housing subsidies, job training, and services for homeless individuals and families. The county anticipates raising around $3 billion over the ten-year period of the measure and discussions are already underway about renewing it in 2027. Park's motion focuses on allocating renewed Measure H funds based on the areas most affected by homelessness.

Los Angeles recently passed another resolution to reduce the presence of RVs and oversized vehicles in specific neighborhoods of West Los Angeles due to concerns regarding safety and parking. The city designated six additional locations in Park's Council District 11, such as Ocean Park Boulevard,

SEE **RV** PAGE 7

Some have high hopes for CARE Courts, others want lower expectations

JEANNE KUANG
Special to the Daily Press

Under the low hum of cold fluorescent lights in a nondescript office park in Orange County, dozens of Californians gathered to find out if they could get help for their loved ones under the state's new CARE Court system.

Unless that loved one has a medical diagnosis specific to schizophrenia or some other psychotic disorders, the answer was probably not.

The mid-August meeting was one of a series held by a mental health advocacy group in Orange County with the officials in charge of implementing CARE Court starting in October, about what the new system can and cannot do.

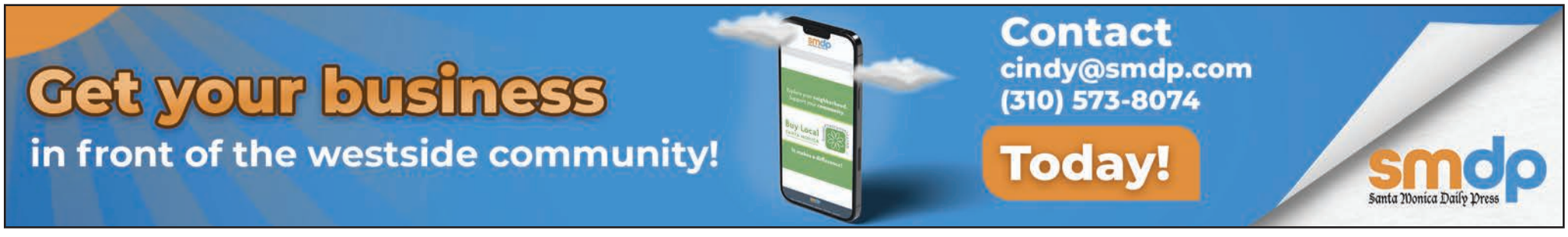
"What we're here to do is share the facts to help manage expectations," said Veronica Kelley, Orange County's chief of Mental Health and Recovery Services.

Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court was Gov. Gavin Newsom's biggest legislative priority last year — what state lawmakers and local politicians hoped would be one answer to California's dual, overlapping homelessness and mental health crises.

The new program allows family members and others to petition someone with untreated mental illness into civil courts, where a judge would order a treatment plan and require county mental health departments to provide it.

Backed by millions in new state funds, it's a mandate for those departments at a time Californians have become increasingly frustrated with one of the most visible consequences of the state's trenchant homelessness crisis — people with

SEE **COURT** PAGE 4



AROUND TOWN

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

World of Barbie Final Weekend & Handel's Ice Cream Opens

SMDP'S WEEKLY GUIDE TO FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT GOINGS-ON IN & AROUND SANTA MONICA

Your Labor Day weekend starts here with World of Barbie's Final Weekend, food and drink highlights including a Grilled Cheese & Beer Night @ Andrew's Cheese Shop, Handel's Ice Cream Opening in SaMo, and much more!

Endless Summer C.A.M.P. (Community | Art | Music | Picnic) at Tongva Park (FREE): This third of four Saturday events celebrates community, arts and culture. Bring a picnic and join as artists from across Santa Monica and the LA region share their culture through interactive music, performances, and hands-on crafts. Special performances by local youth will be featured. Open to all. Saturday, Sept 2, 11a.m. - 2p.m. https://www.santamonica.gov/events/4w5twznp80094shwzf7avn835r/202308261100

Soundwaves New Music Series Presents Patrick Shiroishi (FREE): The saxophonist and composer is performing to celebrate the return of the SaMo Public Library being open on Saturdays. Saturday, Sept. 2, 3:30p.m. @ Main Library Auditorium, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. www.soundwavesnewmusic.com

Glow Up Beach Yoga (FREE): Expect a "45-minute yoga class set to an inspirational soundtrack as we reconnect to ourselves and reset near the ocean! This class is beginner friendly and open to all levels but please bring your yoga mat or beach towel!" Sunday Sept 3, 10:00a.m. @ 530 Pacific Coast Hwy https://www.eventbrite.com/e/september-glow-up-workout-fierce-clarity-beach-yoga-tickets-697473912247

SaMo Airport Antique Market: Noted as One of the Top Ten "Flea Markets' in America, it is "a fun outdoor (and dog-friendly!) market full of many great dealers with furniture, antiques, collectibles, art, vintage clothes, jewelry, rugs and much more." Sunday, Sept. 3, 7a.m. - 3p.m. @ 2800 Airport Ave. https://www.santamonicaairportantiquemarket.com

World of Barbie Closing Sept 4th: This is the last weekend to get your Barbie on at the immersive experience. 395 Santa Monica Place. https://www.theworldofbarbie.com



Courtesy photo

CLOSING: The very successful World of Barbie is ending its run in Santa Monica.

Americana in the Park 2023 (FREE): "Bring a picnic, blanket, and beach chairs for this end-of-summer series that explores Americana styles from its roots to modern forms." Sept 3 features folk duo Eleni & Milo and alt-country rock band Dead Rock West along with multiple food trucks, including Drizzle Funnel Cakes, Messi Burgers, Salt n Pepper. Every Sunday in September, 4 - 7p.m. @ Gandara Park, 1819 Stewart St. https://santamonica.gov/events/4fa59kwprfa0t1g2zr92x6tzwz/202309031600

SEE **TOWN** PAGE 8

Hollywood's working class turns to nonprofit funds to make ends meet during the strike

THALIA BEATY
Associated Press

Shawn Batey was sweating in the August sun on the 100th day of the writers strike, carrying her "IATSE Solidarity" sign on the picket line outside Netflix's New York offices, but she was glad to be there.

A props assistant and documentary filmmaker, Batey is a member of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, the union that represents many entertainment workers, in Hollywood and New York, but also around the country. She recently worked on "Pose" and "Russian Doll," but since the writers strike began in May and the actors joined them on July 14, she's had trouble covering her expenses. So she applied to the emergency fund from the Entertainment Community Fund for help.

"They say apply when you're at a critical point," said Batey, adding that she needed to show her union card, her wages and, in her case, that she'd worked as a member of the union for a certain number of years. The application is lengthy, but she said, "It is definitely worth for people to apply. Just be patient."

Batey — who used her grant to pay her rent, phone bill and electric bill, and other expenses — is one of 2,600 film or television workers that the Entertainment Community Fund has helped during these strikes, granting $5.4 million as of Aug. 25. The fund, formerly known as The Actors Fund, is one of several nonprofits that have long supported workers who make the entertainment industry run, but who were essentially gig workers long before the term was coined. That includes both unionized and nonunionized workers, and those on strike as well as those who've lost work because of it.

The fund has received the most requests for help from people in California, followed by Atlanta and New York. It's raised $7.6 million so far and is granting about $500,000 a week. For now, it's issuing one-time grants of up to $2,000 for individuals or $3,000 for families.

"It's a lot of the crafts people, the wardrobe people, the makeup people, the carpenters that build the sets, the painters, the electricians," said Tom Exton, chief advancement officer for the Entertainment Community Fund. He said the fund has supported industry members through many previous crises, including the AIDS epidemic and financial crisis, and would continue to fundraise to provide help as needed.

Another charity created more than 100 years ago to help entertainment workers get through tough periods, the Motion Picture & Television Fund, helps administer funds from some of the unions to provide emergency assistance specifically for their members. It declined to disclose the amount of financial support its received from those unions. The fund also provides financial and counseling support to unaffiliated workers and offers housing to industry veterans over the age of 70.

Bob Beitcher, its president and CEO, said many of the lowest-paid entertainment workers have little savings or reserves coming out of the pandemic. The federal programs and protections, like eviction moratoriums that helped keep entertainment workers and many others afloat during COVID-19 shutdowns, also aren't around now.

"They are losing their homes. They're losing their cars and trucks. They're losing their health insurance," Beitcher said. "And it's pretty awful."

Striking actors and writers have accused the studios of purposefully prolonging the strike so that they lose their homes.

MPTF has been getting 200 calls a day as opposed to 20 a day before the strike. Over 80% of callers are "below-the-line" workers, meaning not the actors, writers, directors or producers. They've processed 1,000 requests for financial assistance through the end of July, the fund said, with applicants waiting an average of two weeks for the money to be dispersed.

Beitcher called for greater support from industry members, in an open letter on Aug. 17, saying, "As a community, we are not doing enough to support the tens of thousands of crew members and others who live paycheck to paycheck and depend on this industry for their livelihood. They have become the forgotten casualties during these strikes, overlooked by the media."

MPTF said it has raised $1.5 million since the letter was published.

The SAG-AFTRA Foundation, a nonprofit with a mission to support the members of the actors union, quickly raised $15 million with initial donations of $1 million or more from Dwayne Johnson, Meryl Streep, and George and Amal Clooney in the first three weeks of the actors strike. Other $1 million donations came from Luciana and Matt Damon, Leonardo DiCaprio, Deborra-lee Furness and Hugh Jackman, Nicole Kidman, Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck, Ryan Reynolds and Blake Lively, Julia Roberts, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Oprah Winfrey.

Cyd Wilson, the foundation's executive director, said her pitch to the top talent is that even the biggest stars need the army of smaller actors, many of whom live paycheck to paycheck, to make their movies and television shows.

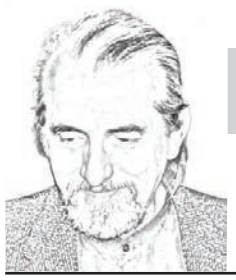
"Those are the people that we're going to be helping the most, because those are the people that are going to be hurting the most," she said.

The foundation exclusively supports the 160,000 members of the union and 86% of those performers don't make enough work in a year to qualify for health insurance, Wilson said.

"They waitress, they bartend, they work catering, they drive Uber, they babysit, they dog walk, they housesit. They have all these secondary jobs in order to be able to survive," she said.

As the strike goes on, the funds expect more and more union members will lose their health insurance because they will not have worked enough hours to remain eligible. A small group of mostly showrunners decided they wanted to specifically fundraise to cover health care for crew members, and set up a

SEE **STRIKE** PAGE 7



OPINION | **NOTEWORTHY**

Charles Andrews | Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A hurricane at our airport

THE SANTA MONICA CIVIC AUDITORIUM

Every week for nearly seven years I have researched and compiled a collection of great performances around LA in the coming weeks, that I personally recommend. I would be there for every one of them if that were possible, or even practical. The LA Philharmonic, LA Opera and Hollywood Bowl performances can be incredible, but it often involves a two-hour drive across LA, then parking, plus walking. I sympathize: sometimes that's just too much time and trouble, to even think about.

So consider this. What if some great performances were a short drive or even walking distance, in a small venue? Wouldn't that be nice? Wouldn't that be the kind of thing Santa Monica could be known for, instead of some of the terrible things we are now being branded with?

It was that way for decades. Our Santa Monica Civic was known worldwide as a great little venue right by the ocean, where so many legendary artists chose to perform. The Rolling Stones, Dylan, The Supremes, The Beach Boys. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke here, as did the Dalai Lama. The Academy Awards were handed out here for eight years.

To say this venue is historic is quite an understatement. We, the residents of Santa Monica, still own it and the land it is on. It is in disrepair but certainly not beyond bringing back to life.

But there are people and groups, who would like to get their hands on it, and they would not bring it back to life.They want the cash, maybe nine figures. But can you put a price on our history, tied up in that building? A lot of us say no, and are fighting to make it a part of Santa Monica's future history. You don't get a second chance on something like this.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:.

"A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE '' – I know, it's barely September, but time to hand out the 2023 Santa Monica Theater Awards. Sure, the Ruskin Group could come up with another blockbuster by the end of the year, and "Library Girl," also at the Ruskin, is a threat every month to blow your literary mind, but – Arthur Miller. A stunning piece of writing and storytelling, and unforgettable character sketches, plumbing the human condition and soul, from that brilliant author's mind. On the subject of immigrants in America, and how they fit into the fabric. In a very human, personal way. Scene by scene, sentence by sentence, we are left hanging on where he will next take us, and it is often revelatory. But not without the proper delivery, and award #2 goes to the actors here, top to bottom, but especially the four principals, who made you feel you were watching your neighbors, despite the setting and the time. When the Ruskin folks got Ray Abruzzo ("The Sopranos") for the lead, they probably set off fireworks. He is a force of nature. Fri 8 p.m., Ruskin Group Theatre, SMO, $20-30.

THE HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES – from their website: "Hot Club's brand of virtuoso, Django-style 1930s gypsy swing jazz is found nowhere else and even if it were, it couldn't possibly be this good. These guys are masters, individually and collectively. You will find it hard to stop smiling all night. - Santa Monica Daily Press" And still show up every Monday night here, for 12 years. Mon 9 p.m., Cinema Bar, Culver City, no cover.

RECOMMENDED:

"A PERFECT GANESH" – Will Geer's Theatricum Botanicum is celebrating its 50th year of operation - amazing! - and while their forte is Shakespeare they always throw in one other unusual play per season, to make us think. This Terrence McNally play finds humor within the self-searching American abroad. Two friends travel to India with heavy baggage, reeling from loss and personal demons.. Fri 7:30 p.m., Theatricum Botanicum, Topanga Canyon, $15-60.

"MACBETH" – In this bloody, depraved corner, M'Lord and M'Lady, reigning still as the unchallenged monstrous couple of political pushiness, gruesome greed, absolute ambition and murderous mayhem. Some things never change. No wonder this one by Will (Shakespeare, not Geer) remains perhaps his best-known work (but hardly beloved). Sat 7:30 p.m., Theatricum Botanicum, Topanga Canyon, $15-60.

"QUEEN MARGARET'S VERSION OF SHAKESPEARE'S WAR OF THE ROSES" – This Theatricum production encompassing Henry VI Part I, II, III, and Richard III, is stitched together in a way that becomes a bit confusing, and as far as it "centers on the women and children of this UK civil war saga," well, a whole lot of them wound up dead. The acting is, as always, top notch, but – nearly three hours is just a bit long despite the fantastic sword fights. Sun 7:30 p.m., Theatricum Botanicum, Topanga Canyon, $15-60.

TOLEDO DIAMOND – Unique, riveting, first class act. There's nothing like it, it is high performance art and great fun. Degeneracy is rarely so well disciplined. Sun 9:30 p.m., Harvelle's, Santa Monica, $12.

"A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM" – TB specializes in Shakespeare, and they do "Midsummer" every year. They do tinker with it a little, and that means if you saw

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 8

Classifieds

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 23SMCP00398 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles Petition of Ehsan Vahid Fazel for Change of Name TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Ehsan Vahid Fazel filed a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Ehsan Vahid Fazel to Ehsan Emami The 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 09/8/2023 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: - The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA - COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 1725 Main St Santa Monica, CA 90401 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

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AWARD WINNER

AWARD WINNER

Sustainable Quality Awards WINNER

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COURT

FROM PAGE 1

the most severe mental illnesses languishing on the streets.

Counties will be judged on how well they're able to get people who may be resistant to help inside and into treatment, even though CARE Court is not exclusively a program targeting homelessness. Local mental health officials are warning it won't be a panacea.

"There's been a presumption — and this is, to be clear, driven by how the administration talked about CARE Court at the outset — a broad presumption that CARE Court is going to fix homelessness or have a broad impact on the nexus of homelessness and behavioral health," said Luke Bergmann, director of the San Diego County Behavioral Health Services department.

In reality, he said, it's "actually going to be a pretty small program. It's not going to be this thing that dramatically changes homelessness."

The program aims to walk the line between forced treatment and completely voluntary treatment for those with the gravest needs. Disability rights groups decry it as a violation of a person's civil liberties, and a potential path toward conservatorship and the loss of legal rights for those who repeatedly decline care.

CARE Court survived a legal challenge from Disability Rights California and other civil rights groups earlier this year. The group sat on a state working group for the program's implementation and will monitor its rollout.

The program was welcomed by some family members of those with severe mental illness, who have complained the state's privacy and patients' rights laws only allow their loved ones to be compelled into treatment when in crisis, trapping them in a revolving door of short-term hospital stays and homelessness.

The first courts will open across the state in about a month. Seven counties, urban and rural, have been deep in preparation to be the first to roll out the program in October.

Los Angeles County, whose roughly 75,000-person unhoused population is the state's largest, will start the program in December; the rest of the state will follow next year.

Those in the first group — San Francisco, Orange, San Diego, Riverside, Stanislaus, Glenn and Tuolumne counties — have had numerous questions to address, such as:

Who will find and serve respondents with their CARE Court petition if the respondent is unhoused?

How can county courts make the paperwork-heavy petition process easy for family members?

How many mental health treatment beds will counties need to add?

Where will people live after completing the court-ordered plans?

The state estimates between 7,000 and 12,000 people will qualify. They needn't be homeless to receive the services, though many who qualify are likely to be unhoused. The state's homeless population on any given night last year topped 171,000.

A UC San Francisco study of homelessness statewide this year found that more than a quarter of unhoused people had been hospitalized at any point in their lives for a mental health problem; the homeless services authority in Los Angeles has estimated a quarter of the city's homeless adults has a severe mental illness. But CARE Court is targeted at an even narrower set of diagnoses and circumstances.

So counties are also playing a careful game of "level-setting," Bergman said, "about what this thing will actually be."

Still, local officials see the program as an opportunity to get more people into mental health care who haven't been treated, before their condition deteriorates to the point of being put in conservatorships.

And the state's Department of Health Care Services says it will be looking out for whether the program reduces emergency room visits, police encounters, short-term hospital stays and involuntary psychiatric holds — and whether it helps people find stable housing.

MANAGING EXPECTATIONS

One major uncertainty counties face, officials say, is even knowing how many cases they'll get.

That's in part because the law allows a wide range of people to petition for someone to be in CARE Court, including family members, roommates, health care providers, paramedics, hospital officials or homeless outreach workers.

But the list of actual conditions the program targets is narrow, limited to schizophrenia and related illnesses.

That could disappoint those whose loved ones have other diagnoses — and create an unknown amount of work for counties if a flood of those family members file petitions. Behavioral health departments must evaluate each person if it's not clear whether they qualify for the program.

San Diego County estimates it will get 1,000 petitions in the first year and establish court-ordered treatment plans for 250 people; the remainder likely will either not qualify or agree to services voluntarily, Bergmann said. Orange County expects about 1,400 petitions and anywhere from 400 to 600 treatment plans.

Officials in Riverside County don't even have an estimate, citing varying data there on the prevalence of schizophrenia in the unhoused population.

"We really think it's unknowable," said Marcus Cannon, the county's deputy behavioral health director.

Counties want the state to help them manage public expectations. Both Kelley and Cannon said they've heard from local leaders who have floated having city workers file petitions for a wide swath of unhoused residents, to get them indoors.

"What the public thinks CARE Court is and what it is are definitely two very different things," said Michelle Doty Cabrera, director of the County Behavioral Health Directors Association.

In an emailed statement, state Department of Health Care Services spokesperson Sami Gallegos said that counties "are managing public relations among local elected officials and others" to spread the message about who the program is and isn't for.

After learning of the narrow eligibility criteria at a community meeting in August, Nancy Beltran considered her options.

Beltran, of Anaheim, said she lives with a family member whose psychotic condition caused him to hit another relative in 2020, landing him in the hospital against his will. She said he's refused treatment and doesn't believe he's sick. Another psychotic episode earlier this year didn't qualify him for hospitalization, she said, because the symptoms weren't as severe.

"I didn't want it to get to that point," she said. "I don't want him to be incarcerated. I want it to be the least restrictive, least traumatic experience."

She's still not sure whether the program is for her family member, because they haven't gotten a clear diagnosis, she said.

Beltran said she also wishes the program could help a friend, who is already enrolled in therapy sessions for diagnosed schizophrenia, find a place to live. Her friend's condition, she said, deteriorates because he is unhoused, but he remains on waiting lists for housing. But CARE Court, she was disappointed to learn at the meetings, is only for those with untreated schizophrenia.

THREADING A NEEDLE

Everyone involved in CARE Court in Orange County — from the judge who would ultimately order treatment to the public defender who will represent respondents to the behavioral health officials responsible for finding, diagnosing and treating them — had the same message for the public: The program will be voluntary.

Critics, however, contend that there's no way a court process can be voluntary since at some point there is a judge's order. By law, counties must try at least twice to persuade a respondent to accept treatment before a judge orders it. Even then, the treatment plan, which can include therapy, medication and housing, doesn't come with much enforcement. Medication can be ordered, but not forcibly administered.

Over the course of a year, respondents will attend court hearings to see whether they're adhering to the treatment, and whether the county is providing it. Counties can be fined as much as $1,000 a day for not providing the care; if the person fails to complete treatment they could be considered for conservatorship.

But county officials stressed that's not the goal.

"We have tried for 40 years in this wonderful country of ours to force people with mental illness" to be treated, Orange County Superior Court Judge Ebrahim Baytieh told family members at another community meeting, in a church in Cypress. "Study after study has found it doesn't work. We all know there's no magical answer. But we will be patient, and we will be persistent."

Kelley's department is training its workers and peer supporters — people who also have mental illness or have recovered who can help guide a respondent through CARE Court — in a well-regarded communication method called LEAP to persuade respondents to accept care. It will offer services to those in CARE Court under a "whatever it takes" approach, whether it's a ride to the doctor's office, help enrolling in food stamps, addiction treatment or temporary housing.

The task will take time.

At the community meetings, Kelley and her colleagues repeatedly described a pilot program she ran as behavioral health director in San Bernardino County. The program took referrals from family, police or other community members who wanted to prod those who were resistant into mental health treatment.

The time it took for county workers using the LEAP method to persuade respondents to enter treatment varied, Kelley said. But on average, she said it took 20 visits if a respondent was housed — and 40 visits if they were unhoused. Visit times varied, from a few minutes to a whole day, so the whole process could take weeks or months, Kelley said.

The timetables set by law for CARE Court are much tighter.

If counties initially determine a client won't agree to treatment, they get 14 days to try again before the next court hearing. Kelley said the judges in her county are sympathetic toward those concerns, but not all counties will get such flexibility.

"I can't do 40 face-to-face visits in 14 days," she said.

Civil rights advocates balked at the counties' suggestion that any program involving the pressure of the judicial system, even a non-criminal court, could be voluntary.

"If you're trying to engage somebody, and there's a petition that involves a court," there's less hope of building genuine trust, said Keris Myrick, a mental health advocate who lives with schizophrenia and a board member of Disability Rights California.

The group is particularly concerned the court process could be ineffective or harmful among Black residents, who are overrepresented both in California's homeless population and among people diagnosed with schizophrenia.

Myrick, who is Black, said she has been subject to involuntary treatment, and described harrowing experiences during which she was handcuffed in the back of a police car or strapped down to a gurney for hours before a doctor visited. She said one thing that actually helped her recover was having a peer supporter who was also African American and related to her experiences, eventually persuading her to get treatment on her own terms.

She later ran a peer support program in Los Angeles County and trained workers in the county mental health department. Myrick says the state needs to expand those services, as well as housing and social supports to help people live stable lives, without the threat of a judicial order.

Alex Barnard, a sociologist at New York University who has studied involuntary mental health treatment in California, is skeptical about whether the state can appease both civil libertarians and those who want more aggressive treatment. But he said the program's mandate of a year of persistent engagement is promising.

"If CARE Courts works, it will probably be because of that," he said. "It creates some accountability on the provider to keep trying to work with somebody who might be very challenging, and elsewhere in the system would just have their file closed out."

LONG-TERM RESOURCES

Those implementation questions are among a list of other practical hurdles counties face for the program to be successful.

There's long-term funding. The first seven counties were given $26 million in one-time state grants to start the programs; some have estimated annual costs of the services themselves will far exceed those allotments.

The state says most services will be covered by Medi-Cal or private insurance, and expects counties to submit reimbursement requests, including the costs of going to court or finding respondents.

But the nationwide shortage of behavioral health workers has made it a challenge for some departments to hire.

And there's housing and beds, which all agree is crucial to making treatment a success.

Health officials believe most people who qualify for CARE Court will need a more intensive treatment placement in the beginning, while some may be able to be placed in residential facilities or their own apartments after being stabilized.

But there are shortages across that spectrum. A 2021 Rand analysis found the state is short more than 4,700 psychiatric inpatient treatment beds and nearly 3,000 residential facility beds such as board-and-cares —long-term housing for people with severe mental illness and one option for respondents to live after they complete CARE Court.

Included in last year's state budget was nearly $1 billion in new funding for counties to expand temporary housing placements for those with mental illness, with priority given to people in CARE Court.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Psychedelic therapies could be transformative for California's ailing first responders

JOE MCKAY

On September 11, 2001, I was off-duty helping organize a fundraiser when we got the news about the attack.

The world watched as New York firefighters worked around the clock, putting out fires and searching for survivors while breathing in toxic fumes. I lost 26 friends that day and spent months attending funerals for fellow firefighters.

The trauma of that experience put me on a long path of misery and despair. Over the next 15 years, daily life was a constant struggle, and on many occasions, I thought about ending my life. My world completely changed when I found the healing power of psilocybin, the psychedelic substance found in certain varieties of mushrooms.

Earlier this summer, I testified in front of the California Assembly Public Health Committee and shared my story. I was there in support of Senate Bill 58, a bill to remove criminal penalties for several naturally occurring psychedelic medicines, including psilocybin. Sitting alongside a veteran and psychiatrist, we explained to lawmakers the profound importance of bringing these healing therapeutic substances out of the shadows so people can safely access them without fear of being arrested or stigmatized.

Much of the public is now hearing about the growing body of scientific evidence showing that psychedelics like psilocybin can be powerful tools to help people with serious mental, neurological and pain issues. Renowned institutions like Johns Hopkins University, NYU and UCLA are producing high quality, peer-reviewed research demonstrating that these medicines hold potential to effectively treat major depression, addiction, severe anxiety and other conditions.

For first responders like me, as well as veterans and health care workers, this research represents a tremendous source of hope. People in our lines of work are disproportionately impacted by our nation's mental health crisis, and sadly suicide rates among these communities are much higher than the general population. While daily medications and other coping mechanisms help some people get by, these options aren't working for many of us.

In addition to my depression, I also suffer from cluster headaches. It's an excruciating condition, and at times I experience 8-10 attacks a day. These cluster attacks are extremely debilitating, and in addition to the physical agony, the condition made my mental health much worse.

I discovered psilocybin mushrooms, which have been used by Indigenous cultures for thousands of years, in the late 2000s. I learned about a Harvard study that showed psilocybin could treat cluster headaches. But at the time, I feared I would lose my job, so I didn't dare to seek them out.

Several years later, after being medically retired from the FDNY, it became clear that none of the prescription drugs and typical medical interventions I was being offered would help. I decided to try psilocybin, and to my amazement, my headaches vanished.

For the first time in many years, I felt hopeful about my health. I stopped taking the cocktail of pills I had been prescribed, many of which caused damaging side effects and were addictive. Since then, psilocybin has been extremely effective at preventing my cluster headaches.

Psilocybin also helped me get back in touch with my former, happy-go-lucky self – the Joe that my friends and family hadn't seen since 9/11. It's not an exaggeration to say that psilocybin gave me my life back. It's been transformative, and allowed me to feel happiness and joy in a way I never thought I would again.



Photo by Richard Vogel, AP Photo

MUSHROOMS: A bag of psilocybin mushrooms at a pop-up cannabis market in Los Angeles on May 6, 2019.

SB 58 is currently pending in the Assembly, just a few votes away from Gov. Gavin Newsom's desk. There are countless first responders, veterans and people across California who could benefit from this legislation. I hope that by sharing my journey, more hearts and minds will be opened to the potential of these medicines.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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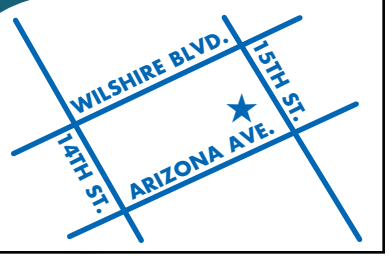
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Psychedelics have 3 paths to going mainstream in California. Here's what you need to know

ANA B. IBARRA
Special to the Daily Press

Psychedelics are having a moment. A nationwide push to bring magic mushrooms and other psychedelics into the mainstream is gaining traction, and some Californians want in.

While hallucinogens are often associated with the drug culture of the 1960s, today's movement on psychedelics is largely about using them to help treat the nations' ballooning mental health crisis. Growing research portrays the drugs as a promising tool in helping people heal from various mental illnesses, including depression and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Now several proposals floating around in California seek to make psychedelics more accessible for therapeutic and personal use. These include one legislative proposal that would decriminalize use of certain natural hallucinogens and two pending initiatives for next year's ballot, one that would legalize the use and sale of psilocybin mushrooms and a second that would fund a $5 billion agency to research and develop psychedelic therapies.

One recent UC Berkeley survey offers a glimpse of where the public currently stands on these types of reforms. For example, more than 60% of those surveyed supported psychedelics for therapeutic use. Seventy eight percent supported making it easier for researchers to further study psychedelics. Meanwhile, 49% said they supported removing criminal penalties for personal use.

Some researchers, doctors and parents urge caution around personal use because psychedelics aren't for everyone and potential risks are still not all that well understood. Use of these substances should be done with safeguards in place, they say.

The bill to decriminalize plant-based psychedelics faces a key test this week at a hearing that could determine whether it moves forward this year. Senate Bill 58, by Sen. Scott Wiener, a San Francisco Democrat, would ensure that people do not get arrested for possessing and ingesting specified quantities of psilocybin and psilocin, the psychoactive ingredient in hallucinogenic mushrooms; mescaline, found in peyote; or ibogaine and dimethyltryptamine, or DMT.

The bill does not, however, legalize the sale of any of these substances.

"A huge number of people right now in California are using psychedelics, despite the fact that it is banned," Wiener said during an Assembly Health Committee hearing last month.

Decriminalizing these substances, he argued, promotes responsible use. "If you think you're doing something wrong, you're less likely to seek information or talk to someone about how to be safe," he said.

His bill would also order the state's health agency to form a workgroup that would make recommendations regarding supervised medical use of these psychedelics — although any psychedelic-assisted therapies first need approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

This is the second time Wiener has tried to decriminalize psychedelics; the first failed last year. This time around his bill is more narrow in that it excludes synthetic psychedelics, such as LSD.

If Wiener's bill makes it through the Legislature and across the governor's desk, California would follow Oregon and Colorado, where voters have already decriminalized psychedelics. Some cities in the Golden State are a step ahead — Oakland, San Francisco, Santa Cruz and most recently Berkeley, have already passed measures that order law enforcement to back off arresting people for using plant-based psychedelics.

BENEFITS AND RISKS OF PSYCHEDELICS

Supporters of decriminalization point to promising data about some psychedelic-assisted therapies now in end stages of clinical trials, such as the use of MDMA (commonly known as ecstasy) to treat symptoms in patients with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Additionally, psilocybin, found in hallucinogenic mushrooms, is being studied for treating depression. For example, early data from The Johns Hopkins Center for Psychedelic and Consciousness Research, has shown that psilocybin therapy can reduce major depressive disorder symptoms for up to a year.

Wiener has taken combat veterans and retired first responders to testify before the Legislature about their "transformational" experiences using psychedelics to help relieve suicidal thoughts and PTSD symptoms.

According to the U.S. Veterans Affairs Department, about 6% of the U.S population will have PTSD at some point in their lives. About 1 in 5 adults live with a mental illness, according to some national estimates.

Researchers believe public attention on the worsening mental health crisis during the COVID-19 pandemic may also play a role in this renewed interest in psychedelics.

"Suddenly you've got this discussion about mental health issues in a way that, at least in American culture, we really hadn't been discussing," said Jennifer Mitchell, a neurology professor at the University of California, San Francisco who has been working on the development of psychedelic therapies and collecting safety data.

Mitchell opposes Wiener's decriminalization bill because she believes access to psychedelics for therapeutic use should come before personal use.

Currently, psychedelics are only allowed for clinical research. If and once therapies are approved by the FDA, those lessons, she argues, could then help inform safety guidelines for personal access.

"[Psychedelics] are actually exceedingly safe physiologically; psychologically, is where we get into trouble," Mitchell said. "Because if you take a drug and think you can fly, you're capable of self harm. If you take a drug and think you can breathe underwater, you are capable of self harm. And those are the types of reasons why when you take a psychedelic, we want you to be in a facilitated environment where you're being watched and well maintained."

A CALIFORNIA MOTHER'S CAMPAIGN

One powerful voice opposing Wiener's bill is a coalition led by mothers who have lost a child to an adverse reaction after ingesting psychedelics. Kristin Nash, for one, has widely shared the story of her son who died 21 months before his college graduation. In blogs and Op-Eds, Nash has shared that in 2020, Will took two grams of psilocybin mushrooms and in his altered state mistook a jar of protein powder for a water jug and suffocated.

Nash now runs a foundation named after son, William, through which she works to raise awareness and advocates for harm reduction efforts, such as better tracking of adverse reactions and training for college campus responders. Nash said she is not against allowing veterans and others to use these substances for treatment, but she'd like to see Wiener's bill amended so it includes safety measures for personal use.

Nash, who also has a background in public health and most recently worked at an AIDS nonprofit, is a participating author in a Stanford-led study (yet to be peer reviewed), that showed emergency room visits in California linked to hallucinogens jumped 84% from 2,260 in 2016 to 4,161 in 2021. But that data includes a spectrum of substances, from plant-based psychedelics to MDMA and ketamine. Authors note that currently data is collected in a way that makes it difficult to comb for specific substances.

"I don't believe people should be arrested for possessing and using mushrooms," Nash told CalMatters. "These are being used whether we legalize them or not. And so I would argue that we need these safeguards. When we make this policy shift, we know that use will increase further, that adverse events will increase further, and so I feel like we don't have to choose between social justice, equitable access and safety, we can do all of those things."

MUSHROOMS ON THE BALLOT

California voters may hear more about psychedelics next year even if Wiener's bill fails as advocacy groups attempt to qualify ballot initiatives for the November 2024 election.

One group, Decriminalize California, is looking to legalize hallucinogenic mushrooms. Its proposal goes further than Wiener's bill by legalizing not only possession, but also the sale and commercialization of these substances. If approved by voters the measure would go into effect in January 2025.

"Originally we wanted to go for all psychedelics, but the problem was there wasn't enough public comprehension about what else was out there," said Ryan Munevar, campaign director at Decriminalize California. Noting that voters are a lot more familiar and likely more comfortable with magic mushrooms than any other psychedelic drug.

A separate measure would ask voters to approve $5 billion in bonds to create a government agency that would focus on psychedelic research with the goal of developing therapeutics. The idea, according to proponents, is to dedicate more resources to research that shows promise but has for long been underfunded.

Dr. Jeannie Fontana, the chief executive officer of TREAT California, who is spearheading this initiative, said California's lead on innovation makes it the ideal location for this type of research. TREAT stands for Treatments, Research, Education, Access and Therapies.

"The federal government is not there yet. They recognize the problem, but they just don't know how to deal with this psychedelic hangover from the '60s and '70s," Fontana said. "California is a progressive citizenry. We are innovators and leaders in many things."

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION
Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

RV

FROM PAGE 1

where overnight parking will be prohibited.

While RV campers have said they often have nowhere else to go, residents say the vehicles illegally dump trash and sewage into storm drains, block public right of way, reduce neighborhood parking and sometimes cause fires.

In her most recent motion, Park asked for a collaborative study across various city departments to identify appropriate parking locations that can provide services to RV campers.

"The scale of vehicular homelessness crisis and the unsafe and unsanitary conditions this problem has created for those living in and around these encampments demand immediate action," said Park.

The motion asks departments to identify locations for RV parking, create a free permit system for parking, provide shower/restroom/sanitation services and include a safety component.

The Los Angeles Transportation and Housing and Homelessness committees will now take up the request.

editor@smdp.com

STRIKE

FROM PAGE 2

fund with the MPTF.

"It's one thing for us to be sacrificing our own day-to-day for our greater good, but to watch our brother and sister union stand beside us?" said actor and writer Andrea Savage. "We just got together and said, 'How can we show that we're there for them? And also really put our money where our mouth is and actually do something concrete?'"

On Wednesday, talk show hosts Stephen Colbert, Jimmy Fallon, Jimmy Kimmel, Seth Meyers, and John Oliver launched the "Strike Force Five" podcast, with proceeds from the limited run going to the writers and crew on their TV shows. Mint Mobile and premium alcohol maker Diageo signed on as presenting sponsors.

Savage, along with other actors like "Girls" creator Lena Dunham and "Black Monday" star Paul Scheer, started talking on WhatsApp groups, then met on Zoom and eventually founded The Union Solidarity Coalition. They've raised $315,000 so far in part from a benefit show in Los Angeles on July 15 that went to the MPTF fund (Savage said she and Scheer covered the cost of the portable toilets).

The writer Liz Benjamin helped set up an initial auction, which included a ceramic vase made by Seth Rogen and a blue dress worn by Abbi Jacobson in the series "Broad City," raising more than $8,600. A second auction opens in mid-September on eBay.

Batey says she is still trying to figure out how to make ends meet in September and for the rest of the strike. She's thinking about where else her skills might be applicable and whether to get temporary work outside her field. In the meantime, she supports the striking writers and actors.

"It's dignity and standing up for yourself," she said. "So if it means we have to take a hit right now for the bigger cause, it's worth it."

MAUI

FROM PAGE 1

the multiple larger buildings, that we didn't find large numbers of people."

Local evacuations began on Aug. 8 as fires flared up, specifically the Lahaina fire, which eventually burned approximately 2,170 acres and 2,200 structures. The separate Olinda and Kula fires have burned 1,081 and an estimated 202 acres, respectively.

Santa Monica groups have been in action ever since the fires sprung up, aiding the residents of the tourist destination. Cheryl Clark, president of the Assistance League of Santa Monica, knows the importance of Maui and Hawai'i for Southern Californians.

"Most of us have been to Maui ... if you've lived here long enough, you've probably been at least once or twice," Clark said. "It's sort of like your vacation playground, you can do it cost-effectively, it's exotic and it's pretty close."

The Assistance League, which raises funds for ongoing charitable endeavors such as scholarship funding and other educational needs, listened to a long-time member of the group who suggested doing a Maui fundraiser. After throwing ideas around, Clark and her team decided to choose one day, Aug. 24, to have all proceeds from their thrift shop go towards the Maui Food Bank. In turn, the food bank uses the money to purchase emergency supplies and other goods for victims of the blazes.

In all, the thrift shop proceeds totaled over $2,400, with Clark saying the direct funding was an easier way to give back than past fundraisers involving clothing donations.

"We've learned that oftentimes, when these disasters happen, people automatically start donating clothing and things like that," Clark said. "And then that creates a logistical nightmare for the people on the ground, because they don't really have the manpower to go through the stuff and sort. It's really more beneficial to send funds so that the money can be spent on what is needed immediately."

Despite not being in the area, Maui still represented a chance for the Assistance League to make a difference to those in need.

"You can't even imagine your entire ... town just burning to the ground ... so we wanted to help. We wanted to do our little part," Clark said.

Another fundraiser that took place on Aug. 24 was at the Night Market at The Bungalow, with high-profile celebrities such as "Aquaman" star Jason Momoa and "Desperate Housewives" star Eva Longoria on the scene doing their part. Proceeds from the event totaled over $25,000, going to the Hawai'i Community Foundation's Maui Strong Fund and the Maui Humane Society. The Fairmont Miramar Hotel and The Bungalow gave a $5,000 donation for the causes.

More local efforts included a recent "Moms for Maui" brunch benefit with donations going toward the Makai Foundation, focused on rebuilding Maui after the fires.

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NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 8

it last year, or 10 years ago, you will see something a bit different. Who doesn't love it? Puck, yes! Mon 6:30 p.m., Theatricum Botanicum, Topanga Canyon, $15-60.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: BACH, MENDELSOHN, LA PHIL, Hollywood Bowl, 9/7; "A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE," Ruskin Group Theatre, 9/8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24; "QUEEN MARGARET'S VERSION OF SHAKESPEARE'S WAR OF THE ROSES," Theatricum Botanicum, 9/9. 17, 24; LIBRARY GIRL, Rusdkin Group Theatre, 9/10; "A PERFECT GANESH," 9/10, 16, 24, 30; TOLEDO DIAMOND, Harvelle's, 9/10, 17, 24; HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES, Cinema Bar, 9/11, 18, 25; HOLST "THE PLANETS," PHILLIP GLASS, LA PHIL, Hollywood Bowl. 9/12; "A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM," Theatricum Botanicum, 9/14, 21; SAMANTHA FISH, Teragram Ballroom, 9/14; "MACBETH," Theatricum Botanicum, 9/17, 23; GERALD CLAYTON, ELENA PINDERHUGHES, Jazz Bakery/Zipper Hall, 9/17; RONNIE MACK'S BARN DANCE, McCabe;s, 9/17; JOHN LEGEND with Orchestra, Gospel Choir, Hollywood Bowl, 9/23; JACKSHIT, McCabe's, 9/30; LA PHIL GALA Celebrating FRANK GEHRY, Disney Hall, 10/5; STING, Hollywood Bowl, 10/7.

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 3,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 37 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com (the real mr music...)

TOWN

FROM PAGE 2

Brisk Festival: This theater competition features 53 ten-minute one-act plays with the finals on Saturday, Sept. 2 & Sunday, Sept. 3, 4:15 - 10:30p.m. @ Morgan-Wixson Theatre, 2627 Pico Blvd. https://briskfestival.com/tickets-la/

Arthur Miller's "A View From the Bridge" at Ruskin Group Theatre: Fridays & Saturdays @ 8p.m. & Sundays @ 2p.m. through October 8, 3000 Airport Ave. www.ruskingrouptheatre.com

The Engine Inside Film Screening & Panel Discussion (FREE): The film follows six everyday people from vastly different worlds who dedicate their lives to a simple, 200-year-old machine - the bicycle. Their trials and tribulations reveal its unique power to change lives and help build a better world. Wednesday, Sept. 6, 7:00p.m. @ Aero Theater, 1328 Montana Ave. https://www.sustainableworks.org/engineinside/

WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

Grilled Cheese & Beer Night @ Andrew's Cheese Shop: "We have now upgraded the event to have a tangy, zippy starter salad, four courses of our famous grilled cheeses (paired with four specialty beers), and an awesome, new dessert course of an Imperial Stout Float with French Vanilla Ice cream." $75/person. Friday, Sept. 1, 7:30p.m. @ 728 Montana Ave. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/september-1st-grilled-cheese-beer-night-tickets-690250747567

Aleksander Wine Tasting with NBA Star Sasha Vujačić @ Wallys: Thursday, Aug 31, 5:30p.m. https://www.wallywine.com/aleksander-wine-tasting-with-sasha-vuja-i-at-wallys-santa-monica-08-31-23-231724

Abbot Kinney First Friday Food Truck Fest: About two dozen food trucks are expected to line the street for the monthly event. Friday, Sept. 1, 5:00 - 9:30p.m. https://www.abbotkinneyblvd.com/

'Check Yo' Self' Pizza From Brandoni Pepperoni Pop Up at Offhand Wine Bar: "Savor the Season with a Fresh Prosciutto, Fig, and Pistachio Fusion Pizza" Saturday, Sept. 2, 5:30 - 9p.m., 3008 Santa Monica Blvd.

Buena Vida Tea Bar & Garden: The tea bar is unveiling a brand new boba milk tea menu with different drinks targeting adults along with a series of children and teen-centric boba drinks. 726 Montana Ave. https://buenavidatea.com/menu/

Handel's Ice Cream Opens on Ocean Park Blvd.: The world's #1 ice cream brand according to National Geographic opened last week and plans to feature 48 flavors daily, including launching with Graham Central Station, Oree-Dough, Black Cherry, and Chocolate Peanut Butter Brownie. 1701 Ocean Park Blvd. https://handelsicecream.com/store/santamonica

KTLA Features "the Couple Behind Isla" on Main St: This video story that aired on California Cooking with Jessica Holmes details the "story behind Leena Culhane and Brian Bornemann, partners in life" and how they opened Crudo e Nudo and Isla. 2424 Main St. https://ktla.com/food/california-cooking/meet-the-couple-behind-isla-santa-monicas-newest-restaurant-offering-california-coastal-cuisine/

Labor Day Buffet Brunch @ LouLou: Expect DJs and live performances at the rooftop restaurant & lounge Monday, Sept. 4, 11:30a.m. - 4:30p.m. @ 395 Santa Monica Place.

Labor Day Luau at Belles Beach House's Ocean-Side Patio: The Hawaiian-inspired restaurant will be serving a specialty menu of luau-style favorites like Kalua Pork Sliders and Garlic Fried Chicken along with cocktails and music from a live DJ who will be spinning all afternoon. Monday, Sept. 4, 12 - 6p.m. @ 24 Windward Ave.

LOOKING AHEAD: "Day of the Dog" themed Main St. Festival (Sept 9 & 10); Bergamot Station Arts Center Fall Open House (Sept 9); Pier Locals Night Returns (Sept 21), Free Opera on the Pier (Sept 23); "Woman. Life. Freedom." Fundraising Gala (Sept 26)

If there's something you think is worth highlighting, you can reach out at sean@smdp.com.

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 31)

A habit of envisioning your oasis several times a day every day will turn into a superpower. You'll clear the obstacles one by one to get there. More highlights: You overcome a fear. Someone spoils like you've seen in movies. Actions taken out of inspiration, love or service also turn out to be lucrative. Libra and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 10, 5, 14 and 2.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). What do you want more than money, power or the admiration of your peers? Personal excellence. You'll dream of reaching a fine result and you'll keep moving toward it until you're sure you've taken the endeavor to greatness.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Love makes you leave your home and love is your home. It is the fuel for your drive, and it is your destination. Considering how love shapes you, you're right to be choosy about who you let into your heart.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Think of all you want to do, then choose one small part to act on. Let time work for you. You'll be surprised at what you can accomplish when you give yourself two months, then do a little every day.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Wherever you go, bring gifts. They don't have to be gifts that cost money or are even tangible things for that matter. Your smile, your laughter and your attention are among the best presents.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Adventures don't come cheap by any measure of exchange. They will cost courage and probably some ego, hundreds of dollars and the sacrifice of an expectation or two. The experience will be well worth the cost.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Good people get in bad positions, bad people make good, and sorting out which category applies is exhausting. You'll conserve and brighten your energy when you focus on what's working and leave the judgments to a judge.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). With your bright eyes and busy mind, you'll quickly catch on to what this scene needs. Give it your best shot. Either nothing happens and you learn what doesn't work, or magic happens. You can't lose!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Try not to assign extra weight and meaning to things. It means what you think it means, so you may as well adopt the light explanations that keep the action moving along. Also, no opinion matters unless you make it matter.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The sale isn't over until the customer is satisfied. The job continues only as long as the clients stay happy. Approach work with humility. The cosmic omens warn against arrogance or self-congratulations.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). One minute you're on your own; the next you're one of the gang. There's something good in either state. Fitting and not fitting are both inevitable conditions in the life of one as uniquely talented as you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Shake up the routine, if only to make you aware that there's more to life than you typically see every day. There are plenty of different ways, places and people who can help you fuel up your soul.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You may not realize what a constant source of stress a thing really is until you're away from it. It could possibly be that the entity was draining you, or making you snappy, draggy or jealous, and without it, the real you emerges in good cheer.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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■	■	■	■	S	I	T	A	R	■	A	L	I	K	E
C	R	E	A	K	■	S	Q	U	I	R	T	G	U	N
A	O	R	T	A	■	B	U	N	K	■	R	E	N	D
T	W	E	E	N	■	E	A	S	E	■	A	R	K	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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

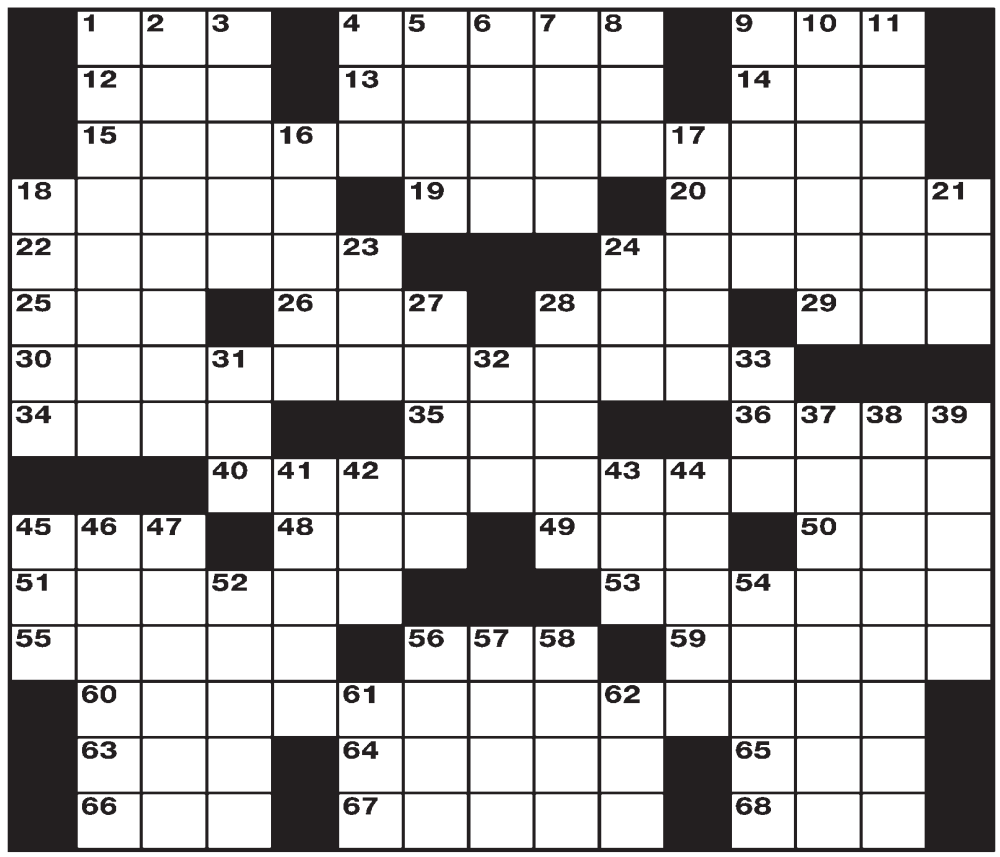
RECIPP by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 PBS docuseries
4 Wow
9 Laser's readings
12 Young Skywalker's nickname
13 Aviator's acknowledgment
14 Feel off
15 "Hot" meal of nursery rhymes
18 Oscar winner Berry
19 Narcissism source
20 Exploits
22 Heron cousins
24 Encouraging words
25 Most preferred
26 Business partner of Edward Jones
28 Call for help
29 Certain perfect score
30 Salty snacks
34 Two-tone treat
35 Hunk of history
36 Wilson predecessor
40 Halloween season biscotti ingredient
45 Seek enlightenment
48 Coral islet
49 Make it all up
50 Train org. in many cities
51 Quaint cooler
53 Early match
55 2011's Green Hornet
56 Driving-home result
59 Smelting residue
60 Rum/lime juice cocktail
63 Shout of the squeamish
64 Nonstop
65 Harry successor
66 HMO network members
67 Datebook heading
68 Capital of South Dakota

DOWN

1 Beast with a too-big chair
2 Small purchase of petrol
3 Medicine holders
4 Don't just seem
5 Act moody
6 All keyed up
7 Round number
8 Bungle
9 Cop in training
10 Condensed version
11 Heavy hitter
16 Far from fancy
17 In other words
18 Swimmer with crocs
21 Business partner, often
23 Petty bribe
24 Batter often after the Babe
27 Lachrymose
28 Slow mover
31 Most prestigious
32 Focus of Genesis 7
33 Alphabetic trio
37 Wrestling holds
38 Magic charms
39 Competitive factions
41 2023 NCAA men's basketball champ
42 But not more
43 Touch of frost
44 Concealed
45 Tank filler
46 Checked (out)
47 Person on an alley
52 Hawks have them
54 Orange Muppet
56 Fabric rip
57 Concoct
58 Fails to be
61 Animal in an alley
62 DocuSign output format

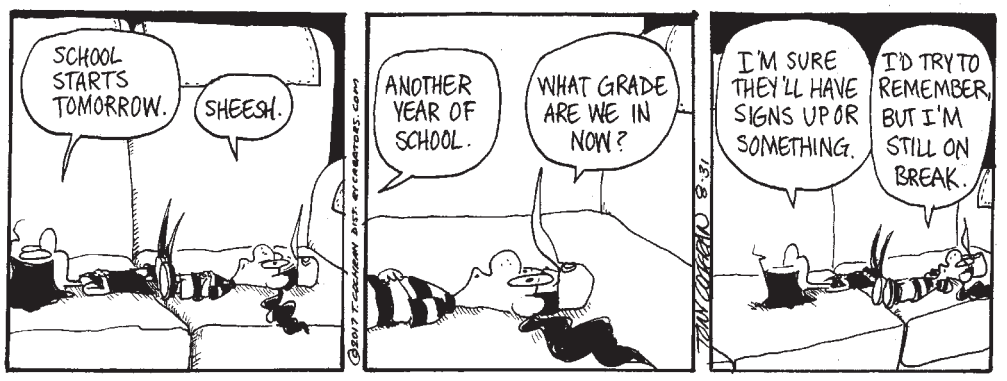


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MORE OF STAN'S CROSSWORDS! Play FREE from Stan's archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords

Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

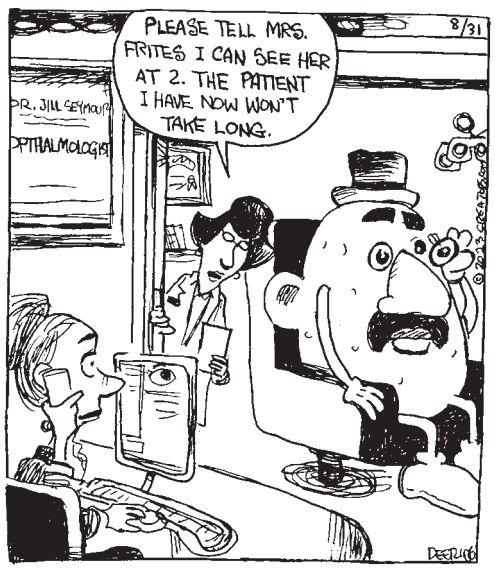
By PETER GALLAGHER



"BRO."

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 25 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5953

Public entertainers

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

Admire
Appreciation
Bikes
Brave
Cash
Clap
Clever
Clowns
Coins
Comedy
Conjure
Council
Crowd
Dangerous
Drum
Exciting
Funny
Gymnast
Hats
Heckler
Licence
Magic
Money
Musical
Noisy
Novelty
Patter
Performer
Photos
Popular
Show
Skills
Smart
Song
Tips
Tricks
Tune

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What's Up Westside

out and about in Santa Monica

THURSDAY | AUGUST 31

TRANSPORT TO THE MEDITERRANEAN ISLA BLANCA FOR 'HOLA IBIZA' AT LOULOU

Grab your friends and family and come experience the magic Mediterranean Isla Blanca at ¡Hola Ibiza! Night at the Santa Monica French-Mediterranean restaurant, LouLou. Guests can fully taste and experience the Bohemian Chic lifestyle with live musicians and performers such as the group Spanish Guitar LA and limited-time specials of authentic Spanish paella, tapas, and sangria! 6:30 p.m. Loulou, 395 Santa Monica Pl #300

FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 1

READ THE ROOM

Comedy Meets Spirituality! Get a REAL tarot card reading by the one and only Jova Illa (Reiki & Tarot Expert)! Then have Spirit's voice interpreted into hilarity by comedian Jenny Zigrino (The Late Late Show, Comedy Central)! Want a reading? Drop your name in the Mystical Bucket, and we'll let The Universe choose which souls need biting, witty, advice until the show ends! 8:00pm-9:30pm, Bergamot Station Arts Center, 2525 Michigan Ave.

SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 2

MEN'S FOOTBALL - VICTOR VALLEY

Games held at SMC Corsair Stadium.
- Free for SMC students (with current ID);
- $5 for adults & teens age 13 & up;
- $3 for seniors age 55 & up & youth ages 3 to 12;
- Free for kids under 3.

https://www.smccorsairs.com/sports/fball/2023-24/schedule

SOUNDWAVES NEW MUSIC CONCERT

Soundwaves celebrates LA's diverse history of innovative underground music with free performances by world-class artists. Started in 2016 by librarian, author, and musician Jeff Schwartz with composer Daniel Rothman, and funded by the Santa Monica Public Library, Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library, and the Amphion Foundation, Soundwaves has collaborated with presenters including the Angel City Jazz Festival, Microfest, PianoSpheres, Jacaranda Music, the Dog Star Orchestra Festival, the Santa Monica Department of Cultural Affairs, and Cold Blue Music. Sept. 2: Patrick Shiroishi Saxophone Quartet. Main Library 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

SUNDAY | SEPTEMBER 3

AMERICANA IN THE PARK 2023

Bring a picnic, blanket, and beach chairs for this end-of-summer series that explores Americana styles from its roots to modern forms. In addition to two Southern California acts featured at each concert, there will also be food trucks and a McCabe's Guitar Pop-Up Shop. 4:00pm-7:00pm Gandara Park, 1819 Stewart St

PARTY ON! A SOBER COMEDY SHOW

Party On! is more than just a night of laughs, it's a celebration of recovery and a testament to the power of humor in overcoming addiction. Headlining comics from HBO, Netflix, and late night shows, will speak to the sober experience, but every comedy fan will love this show. 7:00pm-8:30pm Bergamot Station Arts Center, 2525 Michigan Ave.

MONDAY | SEPTEMBER 4

DISABILITIES COMMISSION

The Disabilities Commission helps improve the quality of life for people with disabilities in Santa Monica by prioritizing issues of concern and advising the City Council and City Staff on those issues. The Commission recommends ways to maximize participation of people with disabilities in all facets of City life and increase awareness of the abilities, rights and issues of people with disabilities throughout the community. Join us for our monthly meeting. 6:30 - 8 p.m. Civic Center Parking Structure, 333 Civic Center Dr.

TUESDAY | SEPTEMBER 5

TAKE & MAKE KIT: HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Available beginning Monday, September 5 (while supplies last). This kit includes supplies to create a quetzal — a bird that lives in the tropical forests of Central America that was sacred to the ancient Maya and Aztec peoples — as well as a learning sheet to guide further discovery. Pick up at the Main Library Youth Services desk and at all branch locations, while supplies last. For ages 4 and up.

WEDNESDAY | SEPTEMBER 6

SUSTAINABLE FILM SCREENING SERIES AND PANEL DISCUSSION: THE ENGINE INSIDE

The Engine Inside follows six everyday people from vastly different worlds who dedicate their lives to a simple, 200-year-old machine. Their trials and tribulations reveal the bicycle's unique power to change lives and help build a better world. Covering many different global issues—from climate change and indigenous trauma to socio-economic inequality and more livable cities —The Engine Inside sparks hope and agency in everyone it touches. Panel discussion to follow. Free but registration required at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-engine-inside-film-screening-and-panel-discussion-tickets-692669843147. American Cinematheque at the Aero Theatre, 1328 Montana Ave, 7 p.m.

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



SURF REPORT

WATER TEMP: **67.5**

THURSDAY *FAIR*	**SURF:**	2-3ft Thigh to waist	Probably down in the morning a bit from previous days but slowly building late as new, long period S swell fills in.
FRIDAY *FAIR*	**SURF:**	3-4ft Waist to chest	Day to watch — drained at sunrise then a nice tide push through the morning. Fresh, long period S swell builds through the day. Summer focal points get the best of it with some of the more powerful SPAC surf in a while. Beachbreaks walled.

WEATHER

Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing.
Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 64.
Friday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 72.
Friday Night: Patchy fog. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 63.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2023/08/31	Thu	04:16 AM	-0.94	L
2023/08/31	Thu	10:29 AM	5.22	H
2023/08/31	Thu	4:05 PM	0.98	L
2023/08/31	Thu	10:13 PM	6.61	H
2023/09/01	Fri	04:51 AM	-0.53	L
2023/09/01	Fri	11:03 AM	5.51	H
2023/09/01	Fri	4:56 PM	0.75	L
2023/09/01	Fri	11:02 PM	5.98	H
2023/09/02	Sat	05:25 AM	0.07	L
2023/09/02	Sat	11:40 AM	5.69	H
2023/09/02	Sat	5:50 PM	0.68	L
2023/09/02	Sat	11:54 PM	5.17	H
2023/09/03	Sun	05:59 AM	0.77	L
2023/09/03	Sun	12:19 PM	5.73	H
2023/09/03	Sun	6:49 PM	0.74	L
2023/09/04	Mon	12:53 AM	4.31	H
2023/09/04	Mon	06:31 AM	1.52	L
2023/09/04	Mon	1:01 PM	5.62	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: 8/28
4 6 25 55 68
Power#: 26
Jackpot: 386 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 8/29
9 39 52 61 63
Mega#: 25
Jackpot: 85 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 8/26
6 10 14 36 44
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: 13 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 8/29
2 7 12 21 24

Daily 3
Draw Date: 8/29
EVENING: 1 8 7

Draw Date: 8/29
MIDDAY: 5 7 8

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 8/29
1st: 05 - California Classic
2nd: 08 - Gorgeous George
3rd: 03 - Hot Shot
Race Time: 1:42.18

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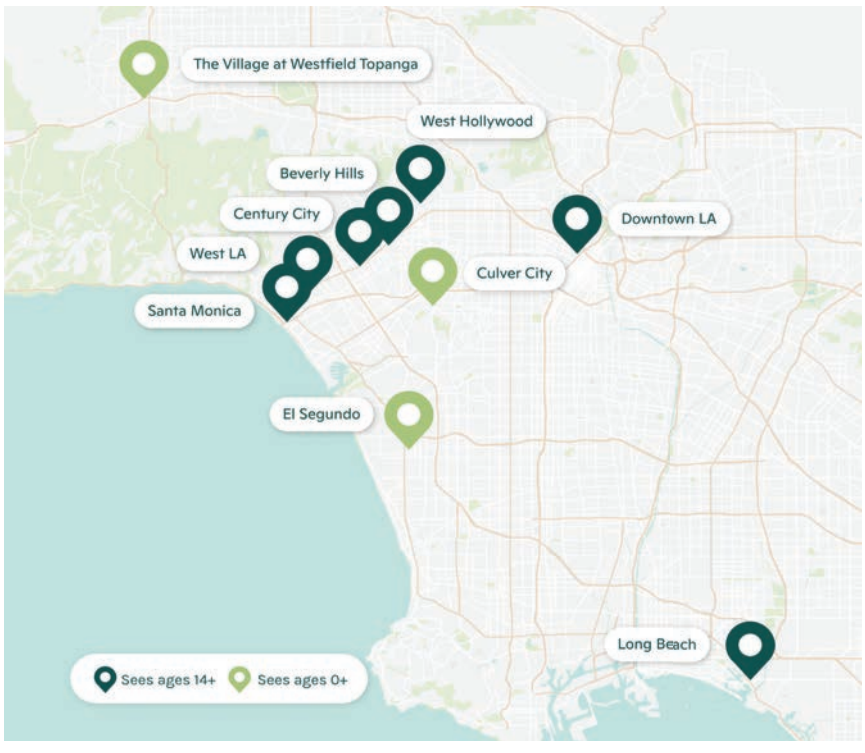
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