2 **MINISO**
Variety store opens Downtown.

3 **Fast Food**
Debate over worker salaries.

4 **Meals on Wheels**
CFO retires after 26 years.

6 **Local Beach Grades**
From Heal the Bay.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

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City hopes streamlined rules spur housing development at Bergamot

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

The ongoing quest to encourage housing in and around the Bergamot Arts station, city officials are revising zoning rules to streamline potential development.

Last month, the Planning Commission approved changes to development standards in the area after existing rules failed to encourage the quantity of housing local leaders want.

The new rules impact the Bergamot Area Plan, a document covering an area on the Eastern edge of the city between Colorado Ave / Exposition Blvd and Cloverfield Blvd / Centinela St. The Bergamot Area Plan was initially adopted by council in September 2013, in an attempt to transition the 142.5 acres of former industrial land "into an arts-focused, transit-oriented and mixed-use pedestrian-oriented neighborhood" around the Bergamot Expo Line rail station.

Since the adoption of the plan, however, only three housing projects have been proposed in the Bergamot area, with the Planning Commission resolution stating that "processes and standards in the (plan) have proven to be overly complex, unclear, onerous, and do not incentivize housing." To remedy this, the resolution proposes amendments to the plan that "are intended to increase efficiency, ease of use, and consistency for land use regulations and development standards throughout the City."

Existing development standards will be replaced with "objective development standards," including simplified open space standards "improved to address current density bonus housing project designs," the elimination of street type standards, and the elimination of parking requirements in the Bergamot Area. The updates read that land uses will be subject to parking standards established in the city's Zoning Ordinance, however, there are no parking requirements within the plan due to the area's proximity (within a half-mile) of a major transit site (the Expo stop).

The proposed standards are modeled after the city's Downtown Community Plan, and are "intended to address the overall (plan) vision of a new walkable, transit-oriented neighborhood." To make this vision possible, the plan has identified a "Retail Priority Corner" and a "Pedestrian Priority Corner" that identifies a centralized area around

SEE **BERGAMOT** PAGE 4

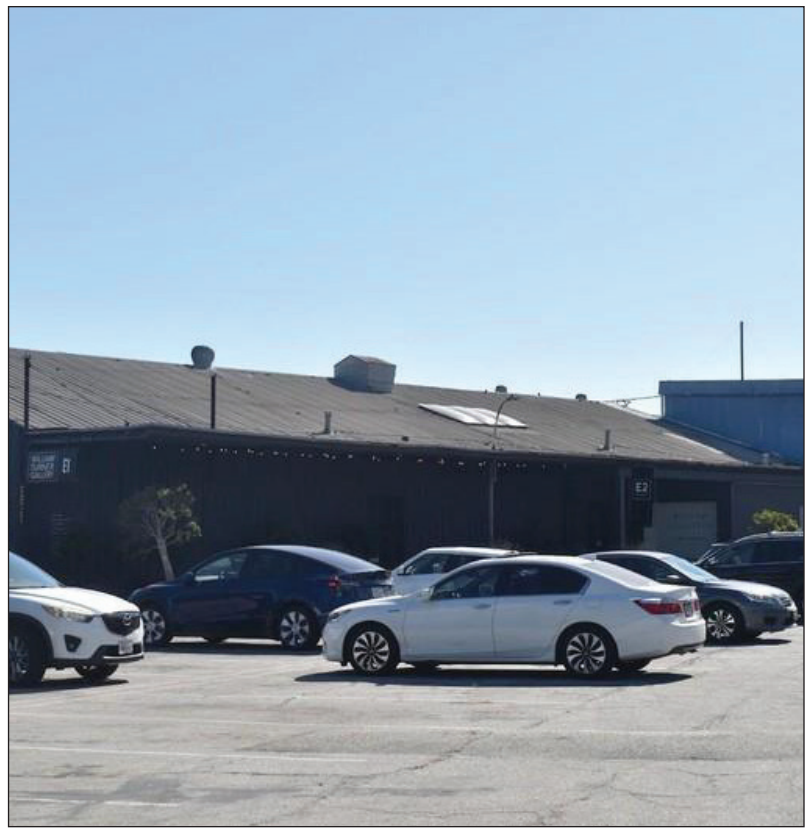


Photo by Thomas Leffler

BERGAMOT: The Santa Monica Planning Commission recently puts its stamp on amended regulations to incentivize development within the Bergamot Area.

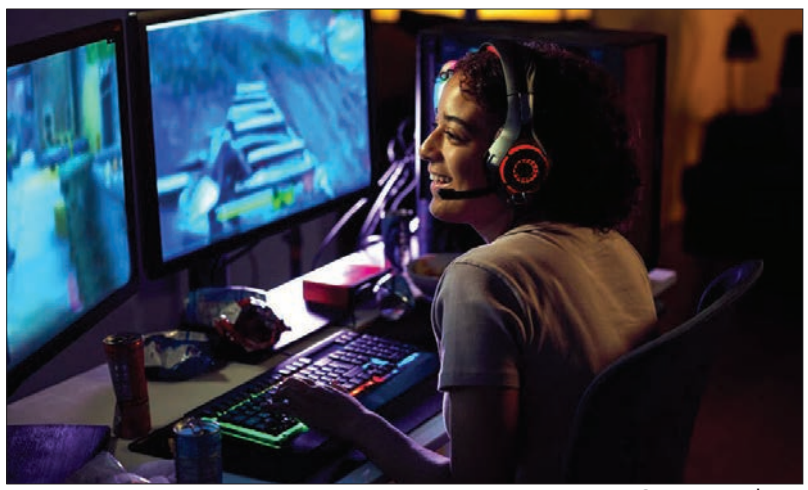
SMC gets in the game with esports pathway

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica College is no stranger to innovation, with its latest "first" taking advantage of a booming market in the sports industry.

For the fall semester, SMC has become the first community college in California to offer an Associate in Arts Degree and Certificate of Achievement in the world of esports. Titled "Esports Management, Production and Performance," the pathway teaches students "theories and

SEE **SMC** PAGE 6



Courtesy Photo

PATHWAY: Santa Monica College is getting into the game with an esports pathway, becoming the first community college in California to do so.

New speed limits across the City aim to reduce accidents, improve safety

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Speed limits on more than 30 miles of Santa Monica streets will be lowered, following unanimous approval by the Santa Monica City Council on Tuesday.

These reductions are the results of a speed survey conducted earlier this year to ensure the speed limits remain valid. The survey, conducted from Jan. 27 through Jul. 29, includes measurement of vehicular speeds along roadway segments to determine the speed of a majority of drivers, which is the most effective attribute in establishing speed limits.

The study recommended only one increase in speed limit, from 25 to 30 miles per hour, on a 0.3-mile segment of California Avenue. The City will begin rolling out new signage exhibiting the updated speed limits this fall.

The motion was made by Councilmember Jesse Zwick, himself an avid cyclist and seconded by Mayor Phil Brock and, as one would expect, passed with no objections whatsoever. Interestingly, among all of the proposed 30 changes, there is one that features an increase in speed limit and that's

SEE **COUNCIL** PAGE 11

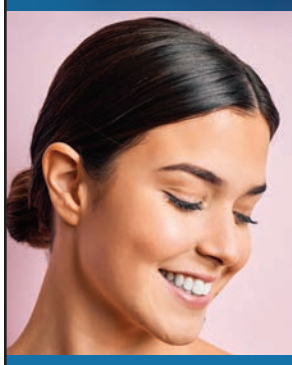
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East Asian-inspired variety store MINISO opens on the Promenade



Scott Snowden

NOW OPEN: The Third Street Promenade recently welcomed MINISO.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

There was even more commotion than usual on the Promenade last week as the East Asian-inspired variety store, Miniso, opened its doors. Crowds gathered, customers queued, music played very loudly and giant, fluffy something-or-others offered photo opportunities all outside 1418 Third Street.

Miniso has its origins in Guangzhou, China, as a retailer and variety store chain that offers household and consumer goods including cosmetics, stationery, toys and kitchenware, mostly from various existing intellectual properties. These include, Hello Kitty, Stitch Angel, Winnie-the-Pooh, Care Bears, Peanuts, Barbie, Zanmang Loopy, Gundam plus a few, select Disney-owned properties.

The company was founded in 2013 by Ye Guofu, a Chinese entrepreneur who subsequently became a billionaire. After opening its first pilot store in Guangzhou, it then expanded to Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia before opening several stores in Sydney, Australia.

Its look and style has been described as a mix of UNIQLO, MUJI and Daiso. However, in the past, questions have been raised by the brand's apparent lack of popularity in Japan leading some to say its "products are better described as 'made in China to look Japanese.'"

Nevertheless, in 2023, the company's sales revenue reached $1.9 billion and the company has grown beyond the Chinese market and operates 6,630 stores in Asia, Europe, Oceania, Africa, North America and South America.

"It's a fun store," said Maria Chairez, Area Manager for Miniso USA, adding, "We know a lot of tourists come here and Miniso is now all over the world. So a lot of people are familiar with our brand now. And there's something for everybody in the family."

According to the company's website, three locations exist in the Los Angeles area: Alhambra Place Store, the Beverly Center and Santa Anita Fashion Place. However, the first two are closed and the Beverly Center outlet in fact closed "about six or seven months ago" after only having been open for approximately a year.

On the Westside, there are stores currently open at 6922 Hollywood Blvd, Westfield Culver City and Del Amo Fashion Center in Torrance. There are also stores in the San Fernando Valley and the Inland Empire. Moreover, according to Chairez, the lease agreement between Miniso and the 1418 Third Street building owners, Hunt-Jacobsen Properties LLC, is for 10 years.

"It's a prime spot, we have the Pier, we have the Mall and then you have the Promenade, so it's a one stop shop," said Michael Jung, Marketing Manager for Miniso USA, adding, "it's a great spot to be in and have exposure, especially for tourism ... Because some people still have not heard of us, but being here in Santa Monica, that's going to get us out there even more."

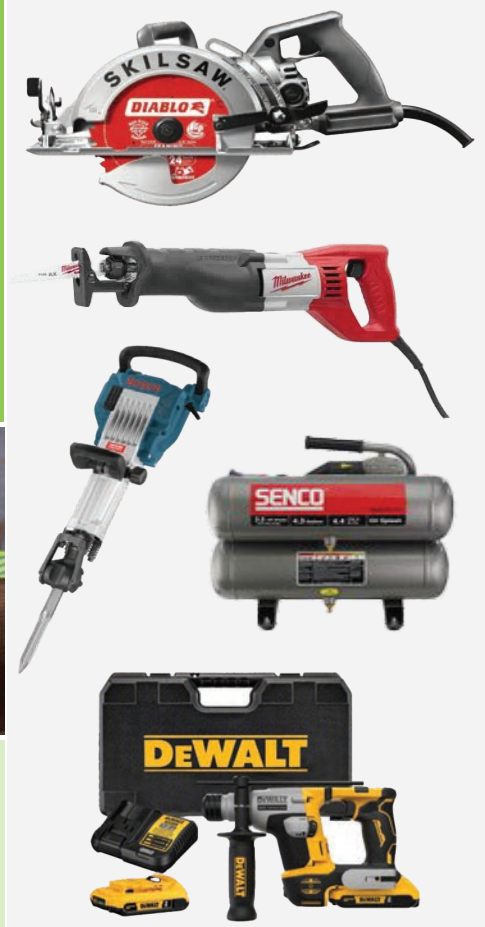
"We're getting notoriety. Notoriety is growing and growing. Our company is growing and we've already expanded to over 200 stores, to almost every state, so we will definitely be in all of America," said Chairez.

Miniso at 1418 Third Street is open Monday–Friday 10 a.m. – 7 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. and Sun 12–5 p.m.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

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California's fast food workers got a $20 minimum wage, but is it working? It's debatable



CalMatters

WAGE: Part-time employee Adriana Ruiz works on an order in the kitchen at a Wendy's restaurant in Fountain Valley, on June 20, 2024. California's minimum wage increase that went into effect in April and saw fast food workers across the state go from making $16 to $20 overnight is already having an impact on local operators who say they are reducing worker hours and raising menu prices as the sudden increase in labor costs leaves them scrambling for solutions.

DAN WALTERS

Every session of the California Legislature seems to produce at least one bill that generates high-octane political debate and media attention.

As the 2023-24 session winds down this week, Senate Bill 1047, which would impose rules on artificial intelligence developers, is generating fierce lobbying and drawing global interest.

During the final days of last year's session, the focus was on a very different issue — whether the state should impose a $20-per-hour minimum wage for fast food workers and create a Fast Food Council to oversee working conditions.

A year before, Assembly Bill 257 created the council and empowered it to set an initial minimum wage of at least $22 an hour, while assuming that franchised fast food outlets were subsidiaries of the parent company, rather than independently owned.

The fast food industry responded with a referendum that, if ratified by voters, would cancel out the new law, thus renewing the debate in the 2023 session. A last-minute deal repealed AB 257 and substituted another measure, AB 1228, that dictated a $20 minimum wage and removed what the industry considered to be a threat to the franchise system. In return, the referendum was dropped.

The $20 wage took effect last April, but only after a new squabble erupted over which sellers of food would be covered, colored by a Bloomberg article alleging that Newsom had demanded an exemption to benefit a campaign donor who owns two dozen Panera locations in California.

Newsom declared that the story was "absurd" and gave assurances that Panera and other similar businesses would be covered. The businessman, billionaire Greg Flynn, also said he would honor the $20 wage.

End of fast food angst? Of course not.

Six months after the $20 wage took effect there's a new debate in political, media and academic circles over its impact.

Fast food prices have been increasing, but how much higher wages are driving the rise and how fast food operations have changed are two new issues.

This month, Newsom declared that California fast food outlets had created 11,000 new jobs since the law was signed.

"What's good for workers is good for business, and as California's fast food industry continues booming every single month our workers are finally getting the pay they deserve," Newsom said. "Despite those who pedaled lies about how this would doom the industry, California's economy and workers are again proving them wrong."

The industry didn't agree.

"Every day you see headlines of restaurant closures, employee job losses and hours cut, and rising food prices for consumers," the International Franchise

SEE **WORKERS** PAGE 7



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **70.0**

TUESDAY
POOR TO FAIR

SURF: Knee to thigh 1-2FT

Modest scale SSW swell rolling in, as NW windswell lingers. Light winds and favorable tide push due early morning.

WEDNESDAY
FAIR

SURF: Knee to thigh 1-2FT

Still small but a little more push for the summer exposures as new SSW swell creeps up — most size for the afternoon/evening. AM still ok on the small wave gear and will be best window for most breaks. Decent tide push early.

Weather

Tuesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 81.
Tuesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 66.
Wednesday: Patchy fog. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 83.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 69.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2024/09/03	Tue	04:18 AM	0.16	L
2024/09/03	Tue	10:31 AM	4.77	H
2024/09/03	Tue	4:08 PM	1.50	L
2024/09/03	Tue	10:08 PM	5.55	H
2024/09/04	Wed	04:38 AM	0.48	L
2024/09/04	Wed	10:51 AM	4.88	H
2024/09/04	Wed	4:41 PM	1.38	L
2024/09/04	Wed	10:39 PM	5.15	H
2024/09/05	Thu	04:58 AM	0.85	L
2024/09/05	Thu	11:11 AM	4.97	H
2024/09/05	Thu	5:17 PM	1.32	L
2024/09/05	Thu	11:13 PM	4.67	H
2024/09/06	Fri	05:16 AM	1.27	L
2024/09/06	Fri	11:33 AM	5.02	H
2024/09/06	Fri	5:57 PM	1.33	L
2024/09/06	Fri	11:50 PM	4.13	H
2024/09/07	Sat	05:32 AM	1.71	L
2024/09/07	Sat	11:56 AM	5.01	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
5 33 47 50 64
Power#: 20
Jackpot: 69 M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 8/27
16 18 21 54 65
Mega#: 5
Jackpot: 627 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 8/28
15 27 28 31 47
Mega#: 20
Jackpot: 18 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 8/29
2 8 9 22 25

Daily 3
Draw Date: 8/29
EVENING: 5 0 4
Draw Date: 8/29
MIDDAY: 0 0 7

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 8/29
1st: 04 - Big Ben
2nd: 01 - Gold Rush
3rd: 03 - Hot Shot
Race Time: 1:43.37

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Santa Monica Daily Press

COMMUNITY NEWS

Citywide

Kevin McNulty Retires After 26 Years of Service with Meals on Wheels West

Meals on Wheels West has announced the retirement of Kevin McNulty, who served as the organization's Chief Financial Officer and Chief Administrative Officer for 26 years. McNulty's dedication and work ethic have been instrumental in advancing the organization's mission to reduce food insecurity, increase socialization, and build community for vulnerable populations in coastal communities such as Santa Monica, Venice, Marina del Rey, Del Rey, Pacific Palisades, and Malibu.

> Kevin McNulty is being recognized for his long-term service to Meals on Wheels West and his unwavering work ethic, which contributed to the organization's mission to end food insecurity, reduce isolation, and build community
>
> - Phil Brock, Mayor

Last week, McNulty was honored by the Santa Monica City Council, where he received a commendation from Santa Monica Mayor Phil Brock and the entire council. During the ceremony, Mayor Brock expressed appreciation for McNulty's years of service.

"Kevin McNulty is being recognized for his long-term service to Meals on Wheels West and his unwavering work ethic, which contributed to the organization's mission to end food insecurity, reduce isolation, and build community," Brock said. "On behalf of the entire City Council, I commend Kevin for his outstanding service and commitment to the well-being of our residents."

Reflecting on his career, McNulty shared heartfelt remarks, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to work with the community and Meals on Wheels West over the past 26 years.

"Thank you for all that you've given me over these years. I have enjoyed working with the [City] staff over the years, the 26 years. It's an amazing staff that is willing to listen and to be part of the solution." He added, "And that's one of the things that I enjoyed being a part of Team Meals. Being part of the solution…I challenge anybody and everybody to drive down any street, that they do on a regular basis, and wonder who it is behind those windows or doors that have never been opened. The Hidden Hunger and isolation of our community. And I love being a part of that solution. I want to thank you so much for allowing me to be a part of the community."

Meals on Wheels West's staff, clients, volunteers, and board extended their deepest gratitude to McNulty for his years of service, leadership, and commitment.

SUBMITTED BY MEALS ON WHEELS WEST

BERGAMOT

FROM PAGE 1

Nebraska Ave. and Pennsylvania Ave. to serve "as a potential corridor of ground floor active commercial uses."

Another concept continuing to make headway is a special Administrative Processing Incentive for housing projects on sites over one acre in space, but not more than three acres. Currently, housing projects proposed on parcels greater than an acre are subject to a Development Review Permit, with the incentive moving to waive the review permit process and replace it with administrative approval.

In order to be subject to administrative approval, apartment development over one acre would have to include a residential unit mix with up to 15% studio units, a minimum of 15% two-bedroom units, and a minimum 10% of three-bed units. Also, development would include a minimum of 14% ground floor open space, with 30% of that space being provided adjacent to a sidewalk and must be open to public use, as well as a ground level pedestrian pathway that must be dedicated to public use.

"This would guarantee that the proposed housing project provide the residential unit mix, meaningful open space adjacent to the public realm that helps to establish a walkable neighborhood, and pedestrian passageways that would be available for public use to improve the overall pedestrian circulation and connection through larger parcels and blocks within the area," the Planning Commission staff report stated.

In public comment, Dave Rand of firm Rand Paster & Nelson LLP, who represents three property owners with large parcels in the Bergamot area, told the commission that he is "very excited" to see what he believes is a "very thoughtful proposal" and a "very creative approach" to "regain some of the original vision" of the area plan. He added that the larger parcel incentive is a "win-win" and also recommended an expansion of the incentive for spaces beyond three acres.

Sunset Park resident and New Roads Trustee Jason Perry was cautiously optimistic, but asked that projects developed near the New Roads campus should have requirements like noise-attenuating windows for adjacent properties.

"We function on the site in a formerly industrial area, so we look at the potential impacts from development as a very serious matter that should have protections in place, where there is not just the protections (for) health and safety, but also so there is, within the community, a clear understanding of what threats exist and how they're being mitigated … for sensitive sites like a school," Perry said.

While the Commission's discussion focused on making it easier to build housing, efforts are also afoot to increase the available locations for that housing as the City has identified the publicly owned parking lot at Bergamot as a potential site for future affordable housing developments.

thomas@smdp.com

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California's water workforce is aging. Promoting the next generation of workers is essential



Photo by Andrew Nixon, California Department of Water Resources

WATER: Environmental Scientist Mackenzie Miner, from the California Department of Water Resources Division of Integrated Science and Engineering Aquatic Ecology and Estuarine Science and Synthesis teams performs routine water sampling on the Sacramento River in Yolo CountyCalifornia, on June 18, 2024..

TRAVIS HINKLE

A career building and maintaining California's water and wastewater treatment systems may be unglamorous, failing to spring to mind — at least it did for me — when young people contemplate their future careers.

However, the state faces a looming shortage of workers in these critical roles. It is imperative to support local, state and federal policies that help fill them.

Some 17 million workers will be retiring from infrastructure jobs during the next 10 years, taking their skills and institutional knowledge with them, as the workforce ages. According to a US Water Alliance report, approximately one-third of water utility operators are eligible to retire during the next decade. In 2018, Brookings projected that water utilities must fill 9,200 water treatment positions annually.

While President Biden and Congress agreed to spend $1 trillion on thousands of infrastructure projects, including $50 billion alone on water resilience projects in the West, California needs to ensure that there are enough workers equipped with the know-how and sweat equity to build and operate these projects.

These are jobs that get your hands dirty. It's work that makes a difference. It typically requires less formal education than many other jobs, but can offer a lifelong career, good pay and solid opportunities for advancement. Infrastructure work pays 30% more to lower-income workers and those just starting their careers, relative to all jobs nationally.

I got my own start after high school by joining my brother's remodeling business — kitchens, bathrooms and the like — in San Jose, where I grew up. But a friend in Sacramento stumbled into wastewater collections for Sacramento County and encouraged me to visit his plant. There I discovered the range of jobs available: electricians, control technicians and treatment and distribution operators.

Even though I pursued online specialty courses, it took a few years for my first job in the water industry to come together.

My work requires lots of on-the-job training, but all of it is teachable and learnable. Once hired, workers can bid through labor unions for other available positions they're qualified for. Even if they decide to go elsewhere, they'll leave the department knowing how a water distribution system works.

I have noticed that more attention

SEE **WATER** PAGE 7

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

In Los Angeles County and San Francisco, government reform is on the ballot

DAN WALTERS

In long-term impact, the most significant measure on California's Nov. 5 ballot may be one that, if passed, would overhaul governance in Los Angeles County, home to a quarter of the state's nearly 40 million residents.

The proposition would expand the county Board of Supervisors from five to nine members and make the county executive, now appointed by the board, an elected position with substantial authority — essentially a county mayor.

"It's time to expand the board so it is more representative of the beautiful diversity of Los Angeles County," Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, one of the proposal's originators, said during one of the board's extensive debates on the issue. Horvath, Janice Hahn and Hilda Solis voted to place the measure on the ballot while Kathryn Barger and Holly Mitchell said the idea needed more study.

The five-member board now wields virtually all governing authority in a county that's more populous than most states. The measure would apportion legislative power among more elected officials while creating an executive position that arguably would be second only to the governor in power and prestige.

If the recipe for improving governance in Los Angeles is more diffusion, in San Francisco it may be more consolidation.

Superficially, the City and County of San Francisco is governed by an elected mayor and an 11-member Board of Supervisors — roughly the same structure that the Los Angeles ballot measure would adopt.

However, much of the real power in San Francisco is in the hands of more than 100 boards, commissions and advisory bodies that supposedly oversee the city's bureaucracies and/or wield direct authority over particular issues, one being development projects.

For years, reformers have declared that the structure is essentially a mechanism for making it extraordinarily

SEE **GOVERNMENT** PAGE 7



Photo by Anne Wernikoff for CalMatters

BALLOT: San Francisco City Hall lit up red, white and blue for Election Day on Nov. 3, 2020.



SMC

FROM PAGE 1

critical models" of the gaming and media industries, as well as the principles of esports announcing, production and performance.

SMC staff began having conversations about esports, competitive video gaming, in 2015, with Department Chair of Communication and Media Studies Redelia Shaw stating nothing moved forward at the time because "a lot of people didn't even know what that was." Once popularity of the genre exploded during the COVID-19 pandemic, Shaw and a small team put together what a pathway could look like through a litany of conversations with industry experts.

Eventually approved by the Los Angeles Regional Consortium, the early phase of the curriculum was noted as "cross-disciplinary," with classes in sportscasting, television production and sports management "contextualized" within the esports realm.

"From all of our conversations with the industry, (we learned) that people didn't need to necessarily have a degree in esports, per se, because a lot of the skills are transferable," Shaw said. "So if you're a good communications person, if you are able to communicate orally and written, you're going to know and understand the games."

One communications class that will dive into esports coverage is Media 46, a television production course specializing in multi-camera shoots. Students will be able to shoot esports tournaments as projects, such as the exploits of the SMC Esports Club, and will have to factor in video gameplay as "another camera angle" in addition to traditional sports camera usage. Shaw added that although esports is a new endeavor for many, the production techniques remain similar to other shoots.



Courtesy photo

PATHWAY: The Santa Monica College Esports Club has paved the way for the college to add a pathway in the industry.

In addition to media production and sportscasting, the realms of sports management and kinesiology will also be represented in an esports context. The management course, taught by SMC Head Football Coach Kelly Ledwith, will incorporate esports in its classes, while kinesiology students will learn the physical habits of esports professionals.

"Some people don't have the understanding that students who play esports games have to be conditioned as well, they have to work out, they have to eat well, it's part of the dynamic of playing a sport," Shaw said. "They have to have practice time, they have to have strategy sessions. So (it's similar) to a football or baseball or volleyball team, just maybe the conditioning is a little bit different because they are seated mostly, (so) hand-eye coordination, there might be (more) activities around those things."

Shaw gave credit to the SMC Esports Club for "moving and shaking" within the rising sport, gathering to play games like Valorant (created by Santa Monica-based Riot Games) and League of Legends. The esports crew comes from a wide range of disciplines, with half noted to be STEM majors playing on the side as "a way to relieve stress."

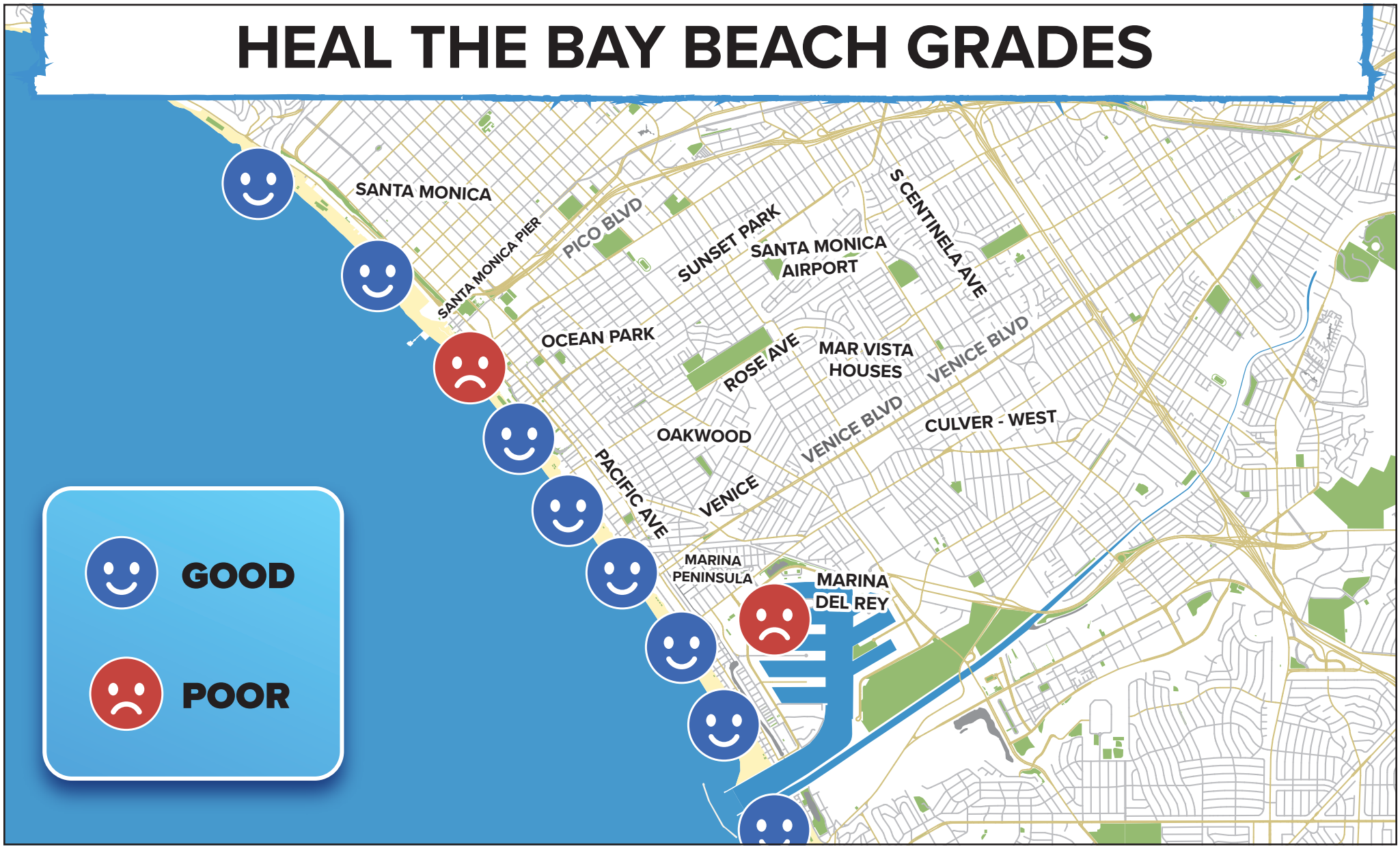
The potential of the industry has caught the eye of educators throughout the area, as the Samohi Esports team also returns this fall after a successful 2023-24 campaign. In addition, Shaw stated that Los Angeles Community College is potentially building an esports arena so that all local community colleges can play under one roof.

Now with a pathway in tow, Shaw hopes that esports classes can be a generator of excitement and increased enrollment.

"Before the pandemic in the cafeteria at (SMC), the first six rows (would) be filled with students," Shaw said. "They would bring their game, their game controllers, they bring their TV sets, and they'd be playing. They'd set up their own esports tournaments right there in our cafeteria. And so that also informed our thinking, too, that ... we want to try and bring that energy back again."

To learn more about the SMC esports pathway, visit https://www.smc.edu/academics/academic-departments/communication/esports-management.php.

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WORKERS

FROM PAGE 3

Association said in a statement. “Local restaurant owners in California are already struggling to cope with the $20/hour wage, as the Fast Food Council considers additional wage increases. All the while, workers and consumers are feeling the pinch.”

Brooke Armour, president of the California Center for Jobs and the Economy, an adjunct of the Business Roundtable, criticized Newsom’s declaration as reflecting just one month of preliminary data and concluding, “Despite what some are saying, the data are clear: newly passed fast food minimum wage laws are leading to job losses in California.”

Christopher Thornberg, founding partner of Beacon Economics, also was critical in an analysis of the state’s economic trends. “California’s well-intended push to reduce income inequality via wage floors is beginning to have a significant negative impact on some of our most vulnerable workers — our youth, particularly those from lower income households,” Thornberg wrote.

What California has wrought in the fast food industry could be the harbinger of more direct regulation of other industries, and not just in California, for better or worse. It’s not surprising, therefore, that its effects will be debated ad nauseam.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

WATER

FROM PAGE 4

is being paid these days to proactively recruit water industry workers, helping them understand the training and skills needed to grow in the industry. Last fall, I even told my story to a joint session of the California Public Utilities Commission and the California Workforce Development Board, as the state seeks to widen doors to infrastructure jobs, especially for disadvantaged workers.

When I entered this field, serendipity was my guide. Today, there are resources such as the EPA report “Making Water a Career of Choice,” with case studies of utility-worker pathways to encourage more people to consider working in water systems. In the years ahead, tens of thousands more workers will be needed to meet California’s water delivery and other infrastructure needs, and more effort required to attract new talent into this crucial industry.

While work in the water industry may seem obscure, it is rewarding, meaningful and essential for the wellbeing of communities throughout our state. Promoting community college, state university, private sector and state and federal programs designed to inspire and train the next generation of water infrastructure leaders is vital for California’s future.

Encouraging more young people to enter this career field will not only help California meet its mushrooming needs, but will provide important, well-paying work for those who don’t mind rolling up their sleeves to keep California’s water pipelines flowing.

Travis Hinkle is a distribution system supervisor for San Jose Water. He’s worked in the water industry for 13 years. Financial support for this story was provided by the Smidt Foundation and The James Irvine Foundation. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

GOVERNMENT

FROM PAGE 5

difficult, and sometimes impossible, to get anything meaningful done in the city while subjecting ordinary San Franciscans to a Kafkaesque nightmare of bureaucratic footdragging.

In June San Francisco’s civil grand jury, in a report titled “Commission Impossible?” counted 115 commissions, saying that it had to assemble the list on its own because it’s nowhere to be found in City Hall. The grand jury recommended creating one more commission that would recommend which of the 115 should be retained and which should be abolished.

“The rich irony of recommending a new commission to reduce the number of commissions is not lost on us,” the grand jury conceded. “The system needs significant reform which includes fewer commissions, centralized oversight, consistent standards, and performance assessments.”

“In true San Francisco fashion, however, even proposed solutions to this problem are dysfunctional,” San Francisco Chronicle columnist Emily Hoeven – a former colleague at CalMatters.org – noted. “Instead of our leaders coming together to fix things, they’re forcing voters to do the dirty work of choosing between two complicated, competing commission streamlining ballot measures in November.”

Proposition D, sponsored by an ideologically moderate group called TogetherSF Action, would retain 22 commissions dealing with vital public services, such as those overseeing the airport, planning and police, but the other nearly 100 would be abolished unless specifically renewed. It also would strip legislative and rule-making power from commissions, making them advisory bodies, and strengthen the mayor’s role in appointing commission members and overseeing city departments.

Proposition E, backed by four of the most left-leaning members of the Board of Supervisors, would establish a task force to recommend ways to “modify, eliminate or combine” boards and commissions.

The civic and political leaders of Los Angeles County and San Francisco are at least trying to improve their governance systems. Maybe it will rub off on the antiquated structure of California’s state government.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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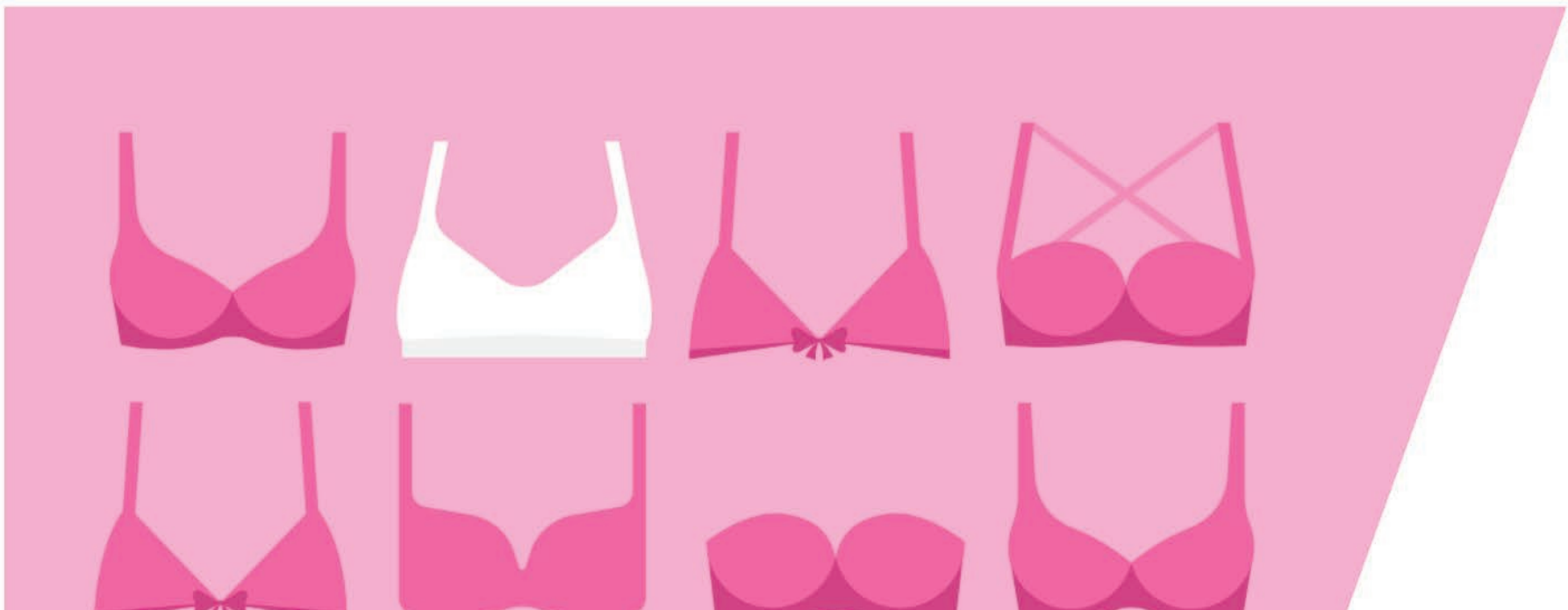
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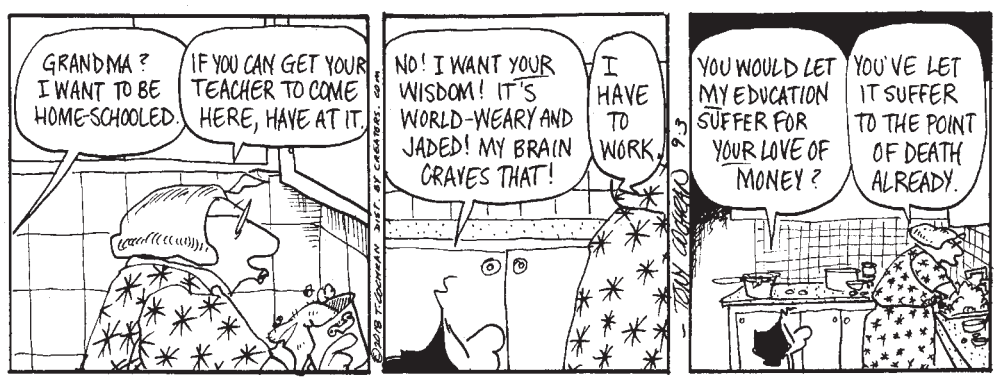
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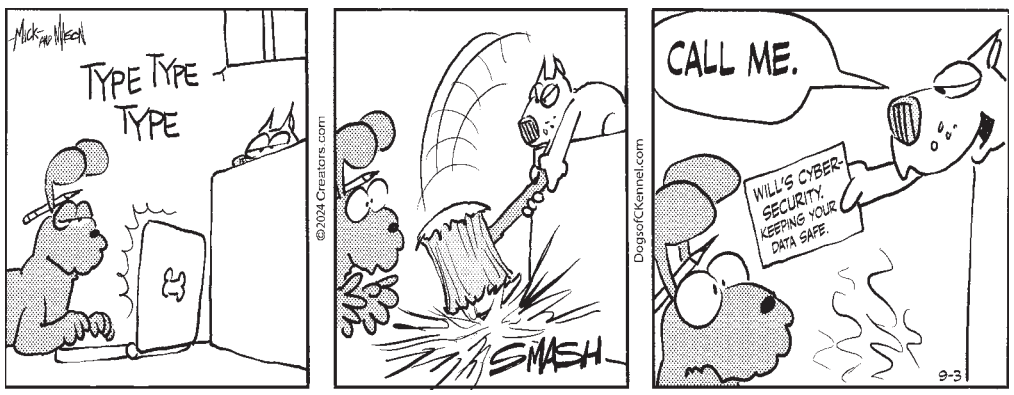
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



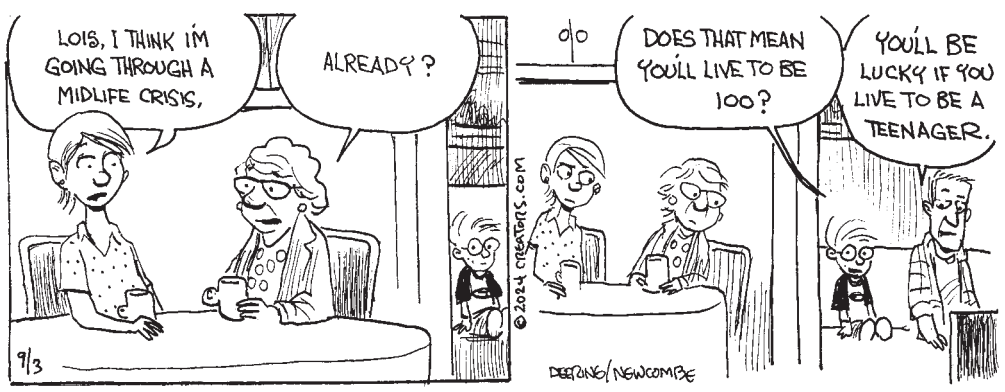
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



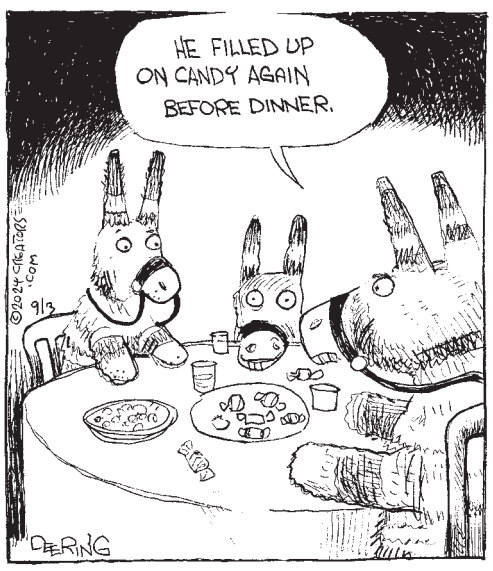
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 23 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6322

Our amazing women

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

Annan
Azalea
Blanchett
Boyle
Campion
Delta Goodrem
Dinnigan
Farr
Flo
Fraser
Gibney
Greer
Griffiths
Hanson
Hart
Hinze
Ilsa
Imbruglia
Karvan
Kelly
Kylie
Lyons
Magda
McKay
Mia Wasikowska
Newton-John
Olivia
Orianthi
Palmer
Rice
Ruby Rose
Tina Arena
Ward
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Wickham

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 3)

The year brings quiet and contented moods as often as it does adventurous feats of heart, travel and entertainment. Your work contributes to a major improvement, and you'll get the awards to validate. You'll make attempts without wondering if you'll be good at them and achieve amazing results regardless of skill level because your timing and sense of trend is on point. Taurus and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 20, 4, 48 and 1.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Wherever you go, aim to be fully present. It's naturally harder when you get roped into going places you had no intention or desire to see in the first place. Your efforts to engage and make the most of these situations are admirable.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your attitude of defiance is more than a rebel spirit rising up in you. When you question the norms, you change tomorrow. Deviate from what's expected of you and you become an agent of progress.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Don't worry about what's popular or who is supporting what. Instead, focus on what's right, true and helpful. Oddly, you're very likely to get the support just as soon as they sense you don't need it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Some struggle to align their tone with the typical expectations and norms of their surroundings. You'll have compassion for all. You'll be part of a developing awareness and the adaptations it invites.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When you ask, "What would (insert idol) do?" you might just as aptly be asking what the best version of you would do. The answer will be clear to you, and you will fulfill the order to the best of your ability.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). There's a tendency to mistake our own personal knowledge as "common knowledge," but it isn't so. You know things that others don't, and those things have value that others would gladly pay for.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). People can be as addictive as substances. Each good feeling you share deepens your groove together. You'll nurture the connection, growing this source of comfort and joy and raising your overall well-being.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). An adrenaline rush can go in a pleasant or unpleasant direction, depending on your interpretation. Lean into the thrill of this kind of energy spike and memories get made.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Everyone is unique and exceptional in their own way. You'd rather not have to judge, compare or assign value to anyone's work. What you're looking for is a good fit. If it's for everyone involved, the other qualifications are irrelevant.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). If you think someone's answer is "no" but they are saying serving "yes/maybe" instead, trust your gut. Hear it as a "no" and move on. It's a waste of time to hang around for weak communication and flakiness when you could be finding a better match.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It is often your policy to trust people until they give you a reason not to. But sometimes, said reason is simply a feeling, which is valid enough. Open-door policies are best managed with a screen so you can see what's coming and keep the bugs out.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The kind of help you can buy may very well be worth the money, but what you can do when you take dollars out of the equation will be much richer. Get to know people. Figure out what you need and want and what you might trade to make it happen.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

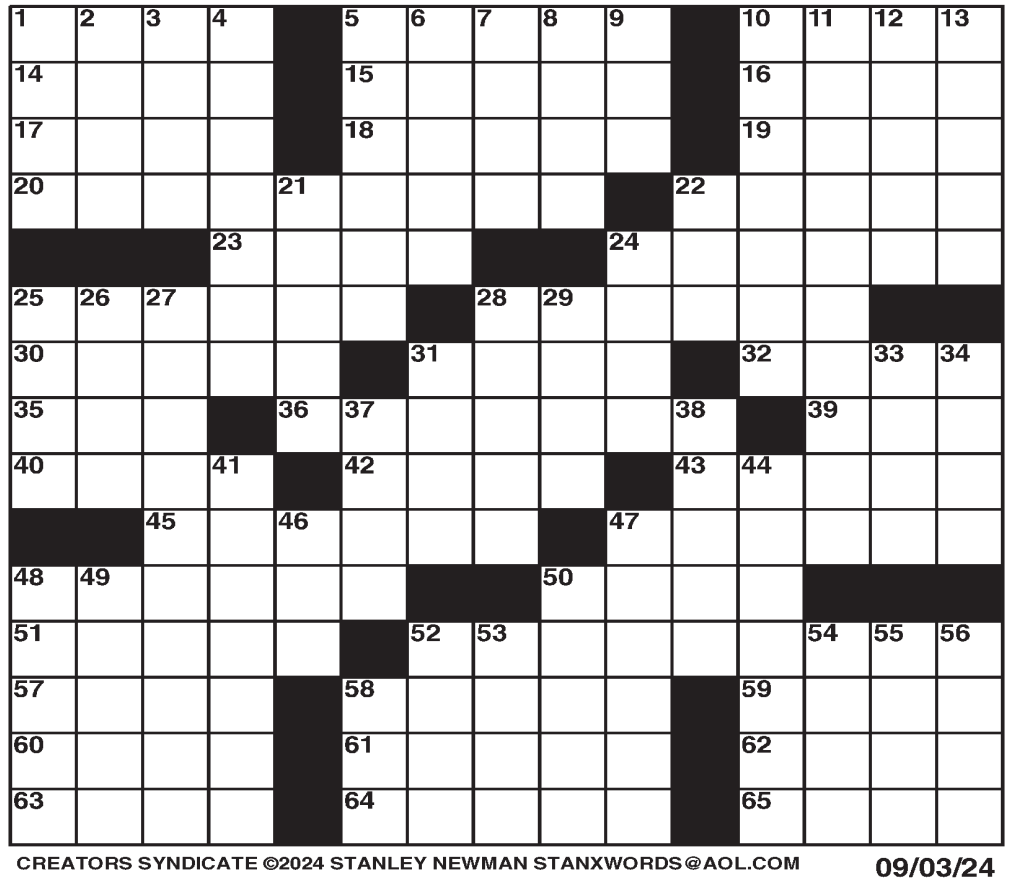
STURDY STUFF by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Twirled around
5 Lots and lots
10 Egyptian snakes
14 Lighten, as a burden
15 Vietnam's capital
16 Any number in a spreadsheet
17 Oak or maple
18 South American mountains
19 Factual
20 Kid-lit detective brothers
22 Reindeer cousin
23 Place for an earring
24 Intruded, with "in"
25 Medical cure
28 Overly large
30 Iron __ (rust)
31 Vatican leader
32 With no warranty
35 Ask earnestly
36 Female feline in a "pride"
39 Letters on Forever stamps
40 Rebound of a sound
42 For women and men, as dorms
43 What dogs wag
45 One-on-one teachers
47 Coffees with hot milk
48 Wright brothers' Ohio home
50 Flat-topped hill
51 Small and impish
52 "That's a shame"
57 "Tender" beef cut
58 "Sugar is sweet, and __ you"
59 From here __ (henceforth)
60 Displayed on a wall
61 Actor Hawke
62 Building's location
63 "Beware the __ of March"
64 Is willing to
65 Meal in a slow cooker

DOWN

1 Cain and Abel's brother
2 Prefix for chute or legal
3 Software purchaser
4 Poked fun at
5 Not well maintained
6 Summer camp boat
7 Raggedy Ann's brother
8 Accomplishes
9 Female sibling, for short
10 New York's Waldorf __ hotel
11 What a person's best at
12 Brief halt
13 High-spirited horse
21 Sing in the Alps
22 Unruly crowd
24 Weed-chopping tools
25 Judge's garment
26 Company veep, for example
27 Top-quality
28 Musical notes
29 Newspaper essay page
31 Low-quality
33 Dot of land in a sea
34 Talk back to
37 Phone app image
38 Hidden supply
41 Excursions
44 Totally baffled
46 2,000 pounds
47 Folklore tale
48 New __, India
49 For all to hear
50 Art painted on a wall
52 Canine in Oz
53 Honolulu's island
54 Group of troops
55 Quote as a source
56 Was sure of
58 Assemble with thread



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09/03/24

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

COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

on the California Incline, which will be raised from 25 miles per hour to 30.

"On the incline we don't have the proximity to a park or pedestrian generator," explained City Traffic Engineer Mia Silver, adding, "The pedestrian and bikeway is physically separated. The park is physically separated. That roadway segment connects a very high speed facility, the PCH, up into our city and balances the need for reasonable and appropriate speeds."

The proposed speed limit changes support the city's Vision Zero goal of eliminating fatal and severe injury crashes on city streets by improving safety for all roadway users.

Council adopted Vision Zero in February 2016. Unsafe speed is the second most common violation cited in fatal and severe crashes in the city, at 14% of the total. Crashes at slower speeds are less likely to result in fatalities and the application of reasonable and safe speed limits allows for effective enforcement of speed limits throughout the city.

Zwick raised an interesting point about maintaining a more effective set of statistics, saying, "I don't have access to the most recent data [but] pre 2020, there were around 40 initiated traffic stops a day, and that number is down to around eight at least, last I checked. So I'm just curious if we could have some reporting in the future."

Captain Roberto Villegas of the Santa Monica Police Department was present to address remarks exactly like this and responded, "I don't have the specific numbers from 2020 to compare, but I can tell you in '23, we had approximately 185 [speeding] citations for the year to date [and] for 2024, we're just shy of 1000. So there has been some increase in that area."

Villegas reiterated that figure was for speeding only, given the nature of this ordinance and that he did not have citation numbers for other types of traffic law infringements, which prompted Councilmember Gleam Davis to suggest some form of location-based monitoring.

"I do think that reporting on the enforcement is important … If you could even do a geo-mapping of where the enforcement actions are … So you could say to people in the various neighborhoods, 'See, we are enforcing it here.' You just might not be observing it. I think having some sort of geolocation data, or even if you could break it down by neighborhood, I think would actually be very helpful."

Back in November of last year, councilmembers voted unanimously to strengthen the City's safety commitment to reduce road-related injuries, an issue brought to the forefront of resident's minds following the tragic fatal crash involving a cyclist on Idaho Avenue.

Tania Mooser died at 19th and Idaho in October and Paul Postel survived a crash at the same location also in November, albeit with four broken and two bruised ribs. Since then, that intersection has been made a four-way stop.

"Reducing vehicle speeds on our roads is vital to create safer conditions for getting around in our city," Department of Transportation Director Anuj Gupta said in a statement. "It is one of the many ways Santa Monica is creating a street network that is more safe, connected and attractive for all roadway users."

The ordinance will be adopted 30 days after the second reading, which is anticipated for Sept. 10. A full list of approved speed adjustments, recommended in consultation with the Santa Monica Police Department, is as follows:

REDUCTION TO 35 MPH

- Olympic Boulevard between 11th Street and Centinela Avenue – from 40 to 35 mph
  Reduction to 30 mph
- Lincoln Boulevard between I-10 Freeway and Pico Boulevard – from 35 to 30 mph
- Ocean Park Boulevard between 23rd Street and Centinela Avenue – from 35 to 30 mph
- Pico Boulevard between Lincoln Boulevard and Centinela Avenue – from 35 to 30 mph

REDUCTION TO 25 MPH

- 2nd Street between Wilshire Boulevard and Colorado Avenue — from 30 to 25 mph
- 4th Street between Colorado Avenue and Pico Boulevard — from 30 to 25 mph
- 11th Street between San Vicente Boulevard and Marine Street — from 30 to 25 mph
- 14th Street between San Vicente Boulevard and Ashland Avenue — from 30 to 25 mph
- 20th Street between Wilshire and Pico boulevards — from 30 to 25 mph
- 26th Street between San Vicente and Cloverfield boulevards – from 30 to 25 mph
- Colorado Avenue between Ocean Avenue and 17th Street — from 30 to 25 mph
- Dewey Street between Robson Avenue and 23rd Street — from 30 to 25 mph
- Main Street between Colorado Avenue and Pico Boulevard — from 30 to 25 mph
- Marine Street between Lincoln Boulevard and 17th Street — from 30 to 25 mph
- Montana Avenue between Ocean Avenue and Stanford Street — from 30 to 25 mph
- Neilson Way between Pico Boulevard and Marine Street — from 30 to 25 mph
- Ocean Avenue between the north city limit and Pico Boulevard — from 30 to 25 mph
- Ocean Park Boulevard between Barnard Way and 23rd Street — from 30 to 25 mph
- Pico Boulevard between Appian Way and Lincoln Boulevard — from 35 to 25 mph
- Stewart Street between Colorado Avenue and Pico Boulevard — from 30 to 25 mph
- Wilshire Boulevard between Ocean Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard — from 30 to 25 mph

REDUCTION TO 20 MPH

- 6th Street between Pico Boulevard and Pier Avenue — from 30 to 20 mph
- 20th Street between Pico and Ocean Park boulevards — from 25 to 20 mph
- Appian Way between Pacific Coast Highway and Bay Street — from 25 to 20 mph
- Ashland Avenue between Neilson Way and Lincoln Boulevard — from 25 to 20 mph
- Barnard Way between Hollister Avenue and Neilson Way — from 25 to 20 mph
- California Avenue between Ocean Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard — from 25 to 20 mph
- Michigan Avenue between Lincoln Boulevard and 19th Street — from 25 (statutory) to 20 mph
- Washington Avenue between Ocean Avenue and Stanford Street — from 25 to 20 mph

INCREASE TO 30 MPH

- California Avenue between Pacific Coast Highway and Ocean Avenue (also known as the California Incline) — from 25 to 30 mph

scott.snowden@smdp.com



TUESDAY | SEPTEMBER 3

SOCIAL SERVICE ASSISTANCE

11:30 a.m. - 7 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. Virginia Avenue Park in partnership with Providence St. John's Community Health Program, resumes Social Service Assistance. Help with facility nutrition and health care access from trained community health workers. The trained Providence St. John's staff can assist with enrollment in CalFresh, the state of California's food subsidy program created to improve the nutrition of families through access to healthy foods. Staff can also help navigate enrollment or questions for MediCal or Medicare. If you have questions about whether you qualify for benefits or if you need help completing enrollment forms, you can make an appointment by calling 310-458-8688. Drop-ins are also welcome.

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

3 p.m. SMi Room in the Civic Parking Structure, 330 Olympic Dr. The goal of the Santa Monica Human Services Commission (HSC) is to advise City Council on priorities and strategies involving the well-being, equity, and needs of vulnerable, low income, and at-risk residents including youth and families, seniors, and people experiencing homelessness.

PUBLIC SAFETY REFORM AND OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

6 - 9:30 p.m. City Council Chambers, City Hall, 1685 Main St. The Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission promotes, in partnership with the Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD), the best practices in community-oriented policing for the fair treatment, safety, and wellbeing of all.

SANTA MONICA OPEN MIC

8 - 10:30 p.m. Kavahana, 306 Pico Blvd. Discover raw talent or be the showstopper at The Santa Monica Open Mic at Kavahana's non-alcoholic bar. Kavahana is a unique, non-alcoholic bar and long that brings a taste of the South Pacific Islands and Hawaii to Los Angeles, featuring an exclusive selection of craft kava nectar drinks. For more information, visit kavahana.com/events.

WEDNESDAY | SEPTEMBER 4

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

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

PLANNING COMMISSION

6 p.m. City Council Chambers, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. Established in 1946, the Planning Commission envisions Santa Monica as a city of wellbeing, sustainability, and equity, and seeks to balance the many needs and priorities within our community in accordance with the City's General Plan and Specific Plans. The Commission acts through open and civil discourse that is informed by public input, impartial analysis, and best practices in land use and planning.

SURF & SADDLES:

9 - 11 p.m. The Bungalow Santa Monica, 101 Wilshire Blvd. Join The Bungalow for Surf & Saddles, a night of country by the coast. Grab your cowboy boots, hate and a signature cocktail for line dancing with DJ Pinke on the dance floor. For more information, visit: https://thebungalow.com/santa-monica/#calendar.

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Menu

FOOD 10

Arancini alla mozzarella
Crispy rice balls, mozzarella, San Marzano tomato purée (vegetarian)

Arancini di carne e mozzarella
Crispy rice balls, mozzarella, beef ragout San Marzano tomato purée

Crostini con burrata
Toasted ciabatta bread, burrata, honey almonds (vegetarian)

Truffle fries
Truffle frice, grated Parmigiano, truffle zest (vegetarian)

Crocchette di pollo
Chicken croquettes, parmigiano

Bruschetta
The classic, tomatoes, basil and garlic (vegan)

Calamari fritti
The classic, Calabrian chili aioli

COCKTAIL 10

Spicy Margarita
House tequila, agave, organic lime

Old fashioned
House bourbon, maraschino cherry, organic sugar

Classic Martini
House vodka or gin, twist or olives

WINE 10

Pinot Grigio Valdadige, Veneto
Dry and crisp white wine

Chardonnay Maddalena, Monterey
Oaky and aromatic white wine

Chianti Classico, Clemente VII
Dry and medium body red wine

Cabernet Sauvignon Scotto, California
Aromatic and full body red wine

Classic Spritz

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