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Where to fill up.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 204 WEDNESDAY 9/4/24 smdp.com

Hottest August in years previews warm fall ahead



Photo by Thomas Leffler

HEAT: Locals will have another couple of months of 70-plus degree days to contend with while doing outdoor activities at the beach and beyond.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

To some, passing Labor Day on the calendar means a winding down of summer, a gradual transition into football and pumpkin spice. To others, it means getting away from the August heat, particularly in Santa Monica.

Even though the beachside city isn't impacted by sweltering conditions like its inland neighbors, Santa Monica too is affected by August, the hottest month of the year for the area. The city's average maximum temperature, according to statistical database Weather Underground using data from the Santa Monica Municipal Airport station, was 76.52 degrees Fahrenheit in the month.

This was Santa Monica's hottest average max temperature since the COVID-19 pandemic in August 2020. Taking average normal temperature into consideration, 2024 was the city's hottest overall August since 2018, sitting at 69.8 degrees. Five days in the month reached the 80-degree mark, peaking on August 20 and 21 when the mercury reached 84.

It's not just the city that has been a victim to the heat, as the whole state is under never before seen circumstances. According to the NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information, July 2024 was the hottest month ever on record in California, with an average temperature of 81.7 degrees.

Cities such as Fresno in-state, as well as

SEE **HEAT** PAGE 11



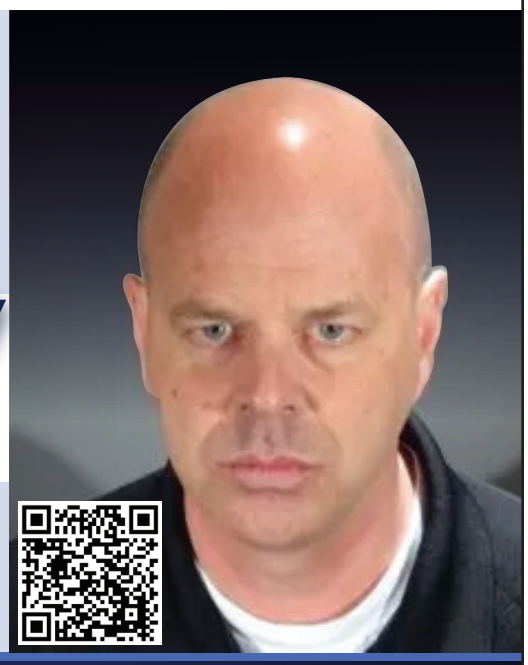
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PUBLIC NOTICE
Eric Uller sexually abused children while masquerading as a police officer at Santa Monica Police Activities League (PAL).
WHAT WE KNOW:
- Over 300 victims (boys and girls).
- Over almost 30 years (late 1980s to early 2000s).
- Some victims, parents and city and PAL employees reported Uller.
WHAT WE DON'T KNOW:
- Why were reports of abuse and/or inappropriate conduct by Uller not acted on?
Contact our firm for a free CONFIDENTIAL consultation if you were a victim or have any information.

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Westside Democratic HQ official opening draws crowds and commotion



Photo by Scott Snowden

DEMOCRATIC HQ: This will certainly make for a very interesting venue to watch the upcoming Presidential debate next week.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

The official opening of the Westside Democratic Headquarters on the Promenade on Sunday afternoon attracted all manner of attention as political supporters and willing volunteers queued outside while anti-Israel-Gaza-War protestors made quite the commotion outside.

On August 22, the Westside Democratic HQ began setting up their site at 1241 Third Street Promenade, but now the store is fully operational and stocked with all manner of Kamala Harris and Tim Walz merch, including patches, pins, posters, badges, baseball caps, stickers, sweatshirts, lawn signs and t-shirts. There's even a photo opportunity with a life-size cardboard cutout of the Vice President.

"Thursday was our soft opening, in that we were not ready to fully staff the headquarters and open the doors ... because we still didn't have our computers or office furniture or other necessary supplies," said Adam Wolman Communications Manager, Westside Democratic HQ, adding, "But we didn't want to miss the opportunity, since we had taken possession of the space, to open the doors and let people see what we were doing there, and, you know, turn on the big TVs and get people interested in what was coming."

Wolman explains that the store "offers merchandise in exchange for a donation" and that money is used in a number of ways, but mostly to cover the six figure sum of keeping the Third Street location open for three months. However, that itself provides a venue for people to meet, gather, give talks, listen to talks, collect crucial supporter supplies and the opportunity to train staff and volunteers.

> Thursday was our soft opening, in that we were not ready to fully staff the headquarters and open the doors ... because we still didn't have our computers or office furniture or other necessary supplies
>
> - Adam Wolman Communications Manager, Westside Democratic HQ

SEE **HQ** PAGE 8



OPINION **UNMUTED**

Devan Sipher

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Do it for kicks

You might want to stock up on straws. And spoons. The Santa Monica City Council voted to ban them in most of Santa Monica. That's not all. The Council got so slap-happy at the end of their lengthy meeting last week that they also decided to outlaw the city's two hospitals and most of the pharmacies. "For kicks," said Mayor Phil Brock.

Was it truly the Council's intention to criminalize the majority of the medical and commercial establishments in Santa Monica? Who knows? Maybe they thought they were entitled to political free throws after midnight. Or maybe they were too busy with election-year posturing to pay attention to minor details like the legal ramifications of their actions.

Their stated goal was to rid the city of the controversial needle exchange program, which some Councilmembers – and many residents – believe is responsible for bringing homeless addicts to Santa Monica. There's an obvious flaw with this argument, and that's the fact that there were many unhoused people addicted to drugs in Santa Monica prior to the needle exchange, which is why it was initiated. But that's not proof the program is working.

There are numerous studies that show "harm reduction" programs save lives and reduce disease for vulnerable members of society. However, the data doesn't address how much harm is done to others in the process. There needs to be a balance between protecting unhoused people and protecting the rest of the city's residents. The needle may have swung too far in one direction when taxpayers are afraid to go into Reed Park, and when there are increasing reports of children getting stabbed by used syringes. A truly honest discussion by all Councilmembers would be welcome.

Unfortunately, four of the Councilmembers prefer leading a vigilante pitchfork brigade against the LA County Department of Public Health, bringing back uncomfortable memories of attacks on officials like Dr. Anthony Fauci during COVID. Councilmember Oscar de la Torre was singled out for praise in this effort by John Alle, the co-founder of the Santa Monica Coalition, which is currently suing a nonprofit health clinic. The medical professionals who choose to work at such clinics often sacrifice financial security for old-fashioned notions of duty and integrity. That doesn't mean that everything they do is right, but disparaging people who devote their lives to the welfare of others is a questionable tactic if you're seeking the moral high ground.

It was De la Torre who proposed the Council motion prohibiting the needle program, seemingly forgetting that the program is mandated by the state. Well, not exactly forgetting, because City Attorney Doug Sloan informed him and the entire Council that the motion violated state law. But the majority voted for it anyway.

Councilmembers Gleam Davis, Jesse Zwick and Caroline Torosis did not, and Davis said "It's incredibly inappropriate to vote for something we've just been told is absolutely illegal."

But only the part that attempts to override state statutes is illegal. De la Torre's poorly conceived measure goes much further, forbidding the distribution of "any and all drugs, opioids, needles, syringes, glass pipes, straws, rolling paper, [and] miniature spoons" within 1000 feet of any school, church, senior housing, or youth center, which covers a great swath of the city. If the ordinance were to be enacted, both UCLA Medical Center and Providence St. John's Health Center would run afoul of its overreaching proscriptions. And forget about getting your hands on nefarious baby spoons.

De la Torre isn't a lawyer, so he can't be expected to know how to craft perfect legal code. But he can be expected to have enough respect for the law – and the voters – to come up with something coherent, and that goes for all of the Change Slate Councilmembers who fully supported this reckless act.

The only saving grace is that it's unlikely to ever become law. Though the City Attorney is sworn to produce civic ordinances based on the Council's directives, the only action taken so far in this case is a memo reiterating the unlawfulness of the request. Left unsaid is its absurdity. Rather than take meaningful action on a serious issue, the Council voted for performance art to distract frustrated and gullible residents.

This isn't about needles or spoons or even the tragedy of unhoused addicts on our streets. This is about elected officials actively choosing to disregard the law, or worse, determining that their interests trump it. Those who think the country needs more disruptive leaders who don't get hemmed in by pesky facts should applaud their actions. The rest of us should consider sending a message in November through a vote of our own. For kicks.

Devan Sipher

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **70.0**

WEDNESDAY
POOR TO 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.

THURSDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: Thigh to waist 2-3FT

Still small but slowly creeping up. Wind looks light for the early window and there's a nice tide push to work with through the middle of the morning. Bumpier for the PM tide drop but could still be an option.

Weather

Wednesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 76.
Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 69. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 85. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southwest in the morning.
Thursday Night: Clear, with a low around 70.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2024/09/07	Sat	6:42 PM	1.41	L
2024/09/08	Sun	12:35 AM	3.57	H
2024/09/08	Sun	05:45 AM	2.14	L
2024/09/08	Sun	12:22 PM	4.96	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: 9/2
8 42 46 48 53
Power#: 22
Jackpot: 93 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 8/30
10 17 20 24 54
Mega#: 8
Jackpot: 681 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 8/31
32 37 40 42 43
Mega#: 5
Jackpot: 19 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 9/2
1 6 8 10 36

Daily 3
Draw Date: 9/2
EVENING: 3 8 3
Draw Date: 9/2
MIDDAY: 9 3 6

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 9/2
1st: 12 - Lucky Charms
2nd: 03 - Hot Shot
3rd: 02 - Lucky Star
Race Time: 1:48.16

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City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit statements of qualification for the:

As-Needed Service Agreements (2024)
SP2524-2024

Statements of Qualifications will only be accepted through the CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL, OpenGov or https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca. They must be received by the specified date and time. Late Statements of Qualifications will not be accepted. Please allow sufficient time for uploading of documents. The Statements of Qualifications opening will be electronic, all submitted bids will be viewable by the public via OpenGov immediately after Request for Statements of Qualifications close time.

Request for Statement of Qualifications documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca. The Contractor is required to have a Class A and/or B license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Statements of Qualifications.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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or email **cindy@smdp.com**

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Furniture	Travel	Commercial Lease	Services	Health and Beauty	Obituaries
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DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER 2024166760 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 08/08/2024 . The following person(s) is (are) doing business as 1. Tower 25 2. Tower 25 Agency 2219A Main Street Santa Monica CA 90405 The full name of the registrant(s) is/are The Geronimo Agency LLC 2140 S Dupont HIghway Camden DE 19934 DE This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date) N/A Registrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: The Geronimo Agency, LLC Title:Member This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 08/08/24 NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish, 08/12/24, 08/19/24, 08/26/24, 09/02/24

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GUEST COMMENTARY

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California's economy lags behind other states, here's why it's so sluggish



Photo by Marcio Jose Sanchez, AP Photo

ECONOMY: Prospective employers and job seekers interact during during a job fair in the West Hollywood section of Los Angeles on Sept. 22, 2021.

DAN WALTERS

California's unemployment rate, 5.2% of its labor force in July, is no longer the nation's highest after months of having that dubious distinction.

While California's July rate was unchanged from June, Nevada's creeped ahead — or behind — with a 5.4% rate, so California is now tied with Illinois for second place among the states.

The jobless rate translates into slightly over 1 million of California's 19.4 million-person labor force being unemployed. The labor force is defined as adults of working age who either hold jobs or are seeking work.

As high as it may be in relative terms, California's unemployment rate is merely one piece of an economic puzzle. Other pieces include a population that has been declining due largely to out-migration to other states, a chronic shortage of housing that pushes housing costs upward and pushes people out of the state, increased numbers of workers who have retired and a decline in the labor force due to all of those factors and more.

Overall, California' economic recovery from the brief but sharp recession during the COVID-19 pandemic has been slower than the nation as a whole, or as a new analysis from Beacon Economics puts it, "There is little doubt that California is not doing as well as it has in the past. The only substantial argument is over why the state is faring so poorly, and the depth of the rot.

"California's biggest problems are not a function of an economy that suddenly stumbled upon hard times," Beacon continues, "they are the unintended consequences of policy choices made over the past decade. While the state continues to show real strength, and there is no recession in sight, these policies have limited the economy's capacity to expand."

While "the state's economy is growing, just at a slower-than-typical rate (and) California's problems relate to a number of unforced policy and fiscal errors, which have created a drag on the state's ability to grow. A change in approach would serve California well, but this can only occur if we align the narrative about the state's economy with the reality," the strongly worded analysis declares.

Chief among those unforced errors cited by Beacon is California's inability to jump-start housing construction despite the passage of numerous legislative measures aimed at reducing impediments, such as restrictive local zoning and design rules.

Beacon says, "California's economy is being held back by the state's housing shortage, not by housing affordability," adding, "As the lack of housing supply drives up home prices, higher income families who enjoy lower price sensitivity are moving in, pushing housing prices up even further, and pushing lower income families, who face greater price sensitivity,

SEE **ECONOMY** PAGE 7

Party of one: Restaurants are catering to a growing number of solo diners

DEE-ANN DURBIN AND ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP Business Writers

Parisa Imanirad, a scientist and cancer researcher from San Francisco, is married and has a wide circle of friends. But once or twice a week, she goes to a restaurant by herself.

Imanirad said dining alone gives her time to think or read. She tries not to touch her phone and relishes the silence. "It's like a spa, but a different type," Imanirad said during a recent solo lunch at Spruce, an upscale restaurant in San Francisco.

Imanirad isn't alone in her desire to be alone. In the U.S., solo dining reservations have risen 29% over the last two years, according to OpenTable, the restaurant reservation site. They're up 18% this year in Germany and 14% in the United Kingdom.

Japan even has a special term for solo dining: "ohitorisama," which means "alone" but with honorifics spoken both before and after the word to make parties of one feel less hesitant. In a recent survey, Japan's Hot Pepper Gourmet Eating Out Research Institute found that 23% of Japanese people eat out alone, up from 18% in 2018.

As a result, many restaurants in Japan and elsewhere are redoing their seating, changing their menus and adding other special touches to appeal to solo diners.

"Even so-called family restaurants are increasing counter seats for solitary diners, and restaurants are offering courses with smaller servings so a person eating alone gets a variety of dishes," said Masahiro Inagaki, a senior researcher at the institute.

OpenTable CEO Debby Soo thinks remote work is one reason for the increase, with diners seeking respites from their home offices. But she thinks there are deeper reasons, too.

"I think there's a broader movement of self-love and self-care and really... enjoying your own company," Soo said.

The pandemic also made social interactions less feasible and therefore less important while eating out, said Anna Mattila, a professor of lodging management at Penn State University who has studied solo dining. And smartphones help some restaurant patrons feel connected to others even when they're by themselves, she said.

"The social norms have changed. People don't look at solo diners anymore and think, 'You must be a loner,'" Mattila said.

The growth comes as more people are living alone. In 2019, the Pew Research Center found that 38% of U.S. adults ages 25 to 54 were living without a partner, up from 29% in 1990. In Japan, single households now make up one-third of the total; that's expected to climb to 40% by 2040, according to government data.

Increasing interest in solo travel – particularly among travelers ages 55 and over – is also leading to more meals alone.

On a recent solo trip to Lucerne, Switzerland, Carolyn Ray was stunned when the hostess led her to a beautiful lake-view table set for one, complete with a small vase of flowers. Ray, the CEO and editor of JourneyWoman, a website for solo women travelers over 50, said other restaurants have tried to seat her toward the back or pointedly asked if someone will be joining her.

> "Even so-called family restaurants are increasing counter seats for solitary diners, and restaurants are offering courses with smaller servings so a person eating alone gets a variety of dishes"
> - Masahiro Inagaki

Ray counsels women planning to dine alone to go somewhere else if they're treated rudely or given a bad table.

"It's almost like the world hasn't caught up with this idea that we are on our own because we want to be on our own and we're independent and empowered," she said. "We can go into any restaurant we want and have a table for one and feel good about it."

Shawn Singh, a Houston-based content creator and restaurant reviewer, said he eats alone about 70% of the time. If the idea of venturing out for a solitary meal is intimidating, he suggests going to lunch instead of dinner – when tables are usually more crowded with groups – or going early on a weekday.

"The best way to see a restaurant you've been wanting to see for a long time is definitely going solo," Singh said. "If I go at 5 p.m. and alone, I haven't been denied at one place ever."

Restaurants aren't always thrilled to seat a single diner at a table that could fit more. A Michelin-starred London restaurant, Alex Dilling at Hotel Café Royal, caused a stir last year when it started charging solo patrons the same price as two customers. Its eight-course dinner tasting menu, which includes caviar and Cornish squid, costs 215 pounds ($280) per person.

The restaurant, which has only 34 seats, didn't respond to a request for comment. But its website doesn't allow reservations for less

SEE **DINING** PAGE 7

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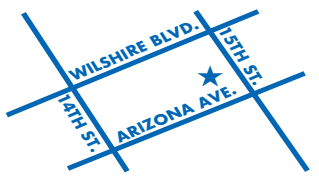
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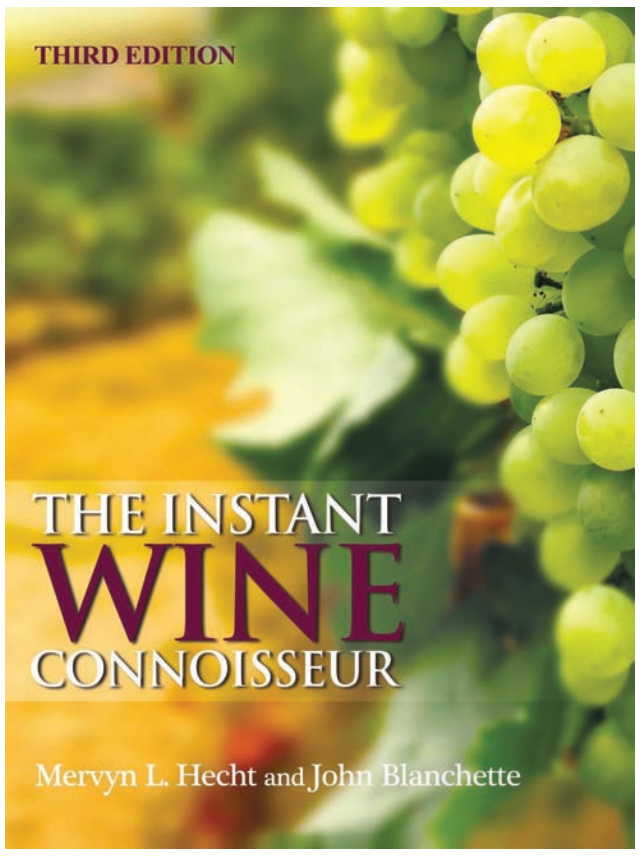
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Citywide

Excessive Heat Warning: High Temperatures Forecast for Parts of Los Angeles County

The Los Angeles County Health Officer has issued an excessive heat warning as high temperatures have been forecast for the following areas:

West San Fernando Valley: EXCESSIVE HEAT WARNING effective 9/3/2024 through 9/6/2024.
Santa Clarita Valley: EXCESSIVE HEAT WARNING effective 9/4/2024 through 9/6/2024
Los Angeles Inland Coast: EXCESSIVE HEAT WARNING effective 9/4/2024 through 9/6/2024.
West Santa Monica Mountains: EXCESSIVE HEAT WARNING effective 9/4/2024 through 9/6/2024.
East Santa Monica Mountains: EXCESSIVE HEAT WARNING effective 9/4/2024 through 9/6/2024.
Calabasas/Agoura Hills: EXCESSIVE HEAT WARNING effective 9/4/2024 through 9/6/2024.
East San Fernando Valley: EXCESSIVE HEAT WARNING effective 9/4/2024 through 9/6/2024.
Santa Susana Mountains: EXCESSIVE HEAT WARNING effective 9/4/2024 through 9/6/2024.
Northwest LA County Mountains/I-5 Corridor: EXCESSIVE HEAT WARNING effective 9/4/2024 through 9/6/2024.
Western San Gabriel Mountains/Hwy 14 Corridor: EXCESSIVE HEAT WARNING effective 9/4/2024 through 9/6/2024.
East San Gabriel Mountains: EXCESSIVE HEAT WARNING effective 9/4/2024 through 9/6/2024.
Western Antelope Valley: EXCESSIVE HEAT WARNING effective 9/4/2024 through 9/6/2024.
Antelope Valley: EXCESSIVE HEAT WARNING effective 9/4/2024 through 9/6/2024.
Eastern Antelope Valley: EXCESSIVE HEAT WARNING effective 9/4/2024 through 9/6/2024.
San Gabriel Valley: EXCESSIVE HEAT WARNING effective 9/4/2024 through 9/6/2024.

To check the risk of heat-related impacts for your specific city, go to https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/heatrisk

Public Health reminds everyone to take precautions to avoid heat-related illness, especially older adults, young children, pregnant people, outdoor workers, athletes, and those with a chronic medical condition who are more at risk for negative health impacts from extreme heat. Public Health recommends the following actions be taken on days with high temperatures:

Stay Hydrated: Drink plenty of water to keep hydrated throughout the day. Your body loses water more rapidly through sweating to cool itself down. Drinking enough water helps you replenish the lost water and maintain proper bodily functions, prevent dehydration, and reduce the risk of heat-related illnesses.

Think ahead, Plan, and Protect: If you need to go outside, avoid going out during the hottest hours. Wear sunscreen, lightweight and light-colored clothes and wear a hat or use an umbrella.

Car Safety: Cars get very hot inside, even with the windows 'cracked' or open. Never leave children or pets in cars. Call 911 if you see a child or pet in a car alone in a car.

Recognize Heat Illness: Be aware of the symptoms of heat-related illness like heat exhaustion and heat stroke and know what to do to care for them. Call 911 right away if you see these symptoms: high body temperature (103°F or higher), vomiting, dizziness, confusion, and hot, red, dry, or damp skin. Heat stroke is a medical emergency.

Check on People More At-Risk: Regularly check on those at risk for heat-related illness, like those who are sick or have chronic conditions, older adults, pregnant people, children, those who live alone, pets, and outdoor workers and athletes.

Prepare for Power Outages: Visit your power company's website or contact them by phone to determine if you are scheduled for a rolling power outage.

"Although it's crucial that we take care of ourselves, it's equally important that we extend our hand to those in need. We must look out for those who are more likely to get ill due to the heat, including the elderly, unwell, pregnant women, children, and those living alone. Hot days aren't just uncomfortable -- they can be dangerous," said Muntu Davis, MD, MPH, Los Angeles County Health Officer. "However, if we make sure to stay hydrated and keep cool, we can protect ourselves and our loved ones, friends, and neighbors. If you have an elderly or unwell family member or neighbor, check on them regularly to ensure they are safe and well."

> Although it's crucial that we take care of ourselves, it's equally important that we extend our hand to those in need. We must look out for those who are more likely to get ill due to the heat, including the elderly, unwell, pregnant women, children, and those living alone. Hot days aren't just uncomfortable -- they can be dangerous
> - Muntu Davis, MD, MPH, Los Angeles County Health Officer

County and City partners have planned ways to safely operate cooling centers during times of high heat. Residents who do not have access to air conditioning are encouraged to take advantage of these free cooling centers, splash pads, and community pools. To find a location near you, visit https://ready.lacounty.gov/heat/ or call 211.

The NWS HeatRisk takes into consideration:

How unusual the heat is for the time of the year

The duration of the heat including both daytime and nighttime temperatures

If those temperatures pose an elevated risk of heat-related impacts based on data from the Center for Disease Control (CDC)

Los Angeles County residents and business owners, including people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs can call 2-1-1 for emergency preparedness information and other referral services. The toll-free 2-1-1 number is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. 211 LA County services can also be accessed by visiting 211la.org.

SUBMITTED BY PUBLIC HEALTH



Mountain lion attacks 5-year-old at Malibu park and is euthanized

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A mountain lion attacked a 5-year-old boy at a popular Southern California park over the holiday weekend and state rangers later euthanized the big cat, officials said Tuesday.

The child was attacked Sunday afternoon while playing near his family's picnic table at Malibu Creek State Park west of Los Angeles, according to a statement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

"One or more adults charged at the lion, and it released the boy," the statement said. "Multiple witnesses saw the attack and observed the mountain lion climb up a nearby tree."

The child was airlifted to a hospital with injuries that were significant but not life-threatening, according to the statement. He was released Monday.

The cougar remained in the tree until state parks rangers arrived and determined it was a threat to the public. The animal was euthanized with a firearm, officials said.

Mountain lions rarely attack humans. About 20 attacks have been confirmed in California in more than a century of record-keeping, the Fish and Wildlife department said earlier this year.

In March, two adult brothers who were attacked, one fatally, by a mountain lion in Northern California tried to scare the cougar away once they realized it was stalking them, and then fought with the animal after it pounced.

In September 2023, a 7-year-old boy was bitten by a mountain lion while walking with his father around dusk in a park near Santa Clarita north of Los Angeles. The father scared the animal away, and the child was treated for relatively minor wounds.

ECONOMY

FROM PAGE 4

out of the state."

Beacon sees a geographic aspect to the state's slow recovery, with jobs in inland areas growing markedly faster than those in coastal communities — and once again ties it to housing.

"The regions that have added significant payroll jobs over the last two years, such as the Inland Empire, Sacramento, Fresno, and Stockton, are all located in less expensive inland parts of the state and are able to grow because of their expanding labor force," Beacon notes. "In contrast, the more expensive coastal markets have seen much less labor force growth, and hence less payroll job growth. The differential impact on California's coastal communities is a function of slower growth in their housing supply combined with a greater share of their labor market entering retirement."

Aligning the narrative of the economy with reality, rather than ideology, is sound advice that Capitol politicians should heed as they draft nostrums purporting to improve the lives of their constituents but rarely succeed.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

DINING

FROM PAGE 5

than two people.

Other restaurants say it's worth seating one person at a table made for two because solo diners tend to be loyal, repeat customers.

"While there may be a short-term loss there, I think we're kind of playing the long game and establishing ourselves as a place that's truly special," said Drew Brady, chief operating officer at Overthrow Hospitality, which operates 11 vegan restaurant concepts in New York.

Brady has seen an increase in solo diners since the pandemic, and says they're evenly split between men and women. At the company's flagship restaurant, Avant Garden, they make up as much as 8% of patrons.

In response, the restaurant teamed up with Lightspeed, a restaurant tech and consulting company, to develop a solo dining program. Avant Garden now has a spacious table designed for solo diners, with a $65 four-course menu fashioned like a passport to enhance the sense of adventure. If solo diners order a cocktail, a bartender mixes it tableside.

Mattila, at Penn State, said restaurants might want to consider additional changes. Her research has found that solo diners prefer angular shapes – in lights, tables or plates, for example – to round ones, which are more associated with the connectedness of groups. They also prefer slow-tempo music.

Jill Weber, the founder of Sojourn Philly, a Philadelphia company that owns two restaurants and a wine bar, said she adds a communal table at special events like wine tastings so individuals have a place to gather. She also doesn't offer specials designed for two.

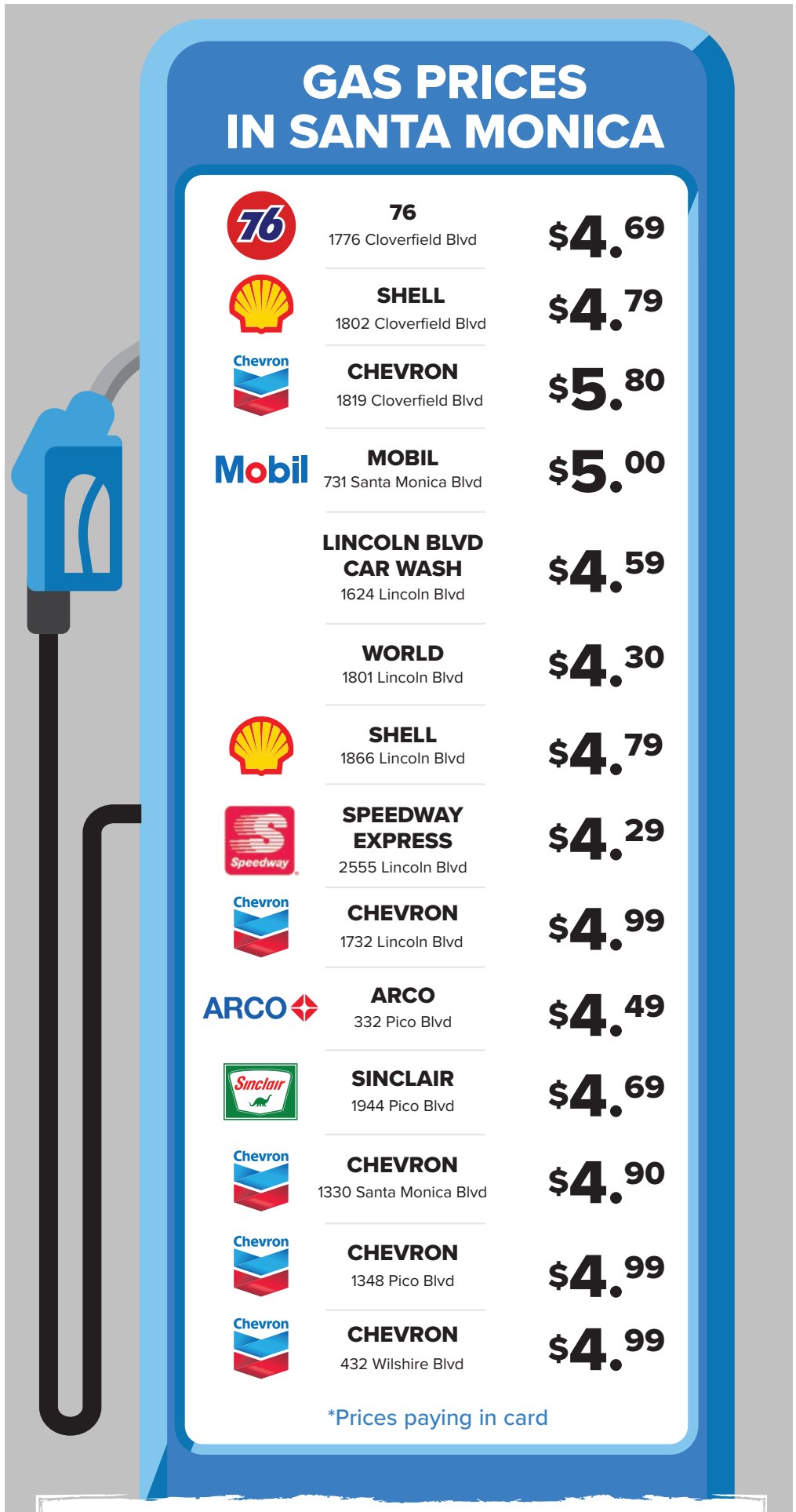
Weber, who is also an archaeologist, loves dining alone when she's traveling.

"There's something about not having to agree on where to go and everything that goes with that. You have the freedom to stay as long as you want, order what you want and sit with those things," she said. "It also feels brave sometimes."

Durbin reported from Detroit. Yuri Kageyama in Tokyo, Kelvin Chan in London and Haven Daley in San Francisco contributed.

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com



Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles are unchanged in the last week, averaging $4.53/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 2.7 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 82.1 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has declined 0.2 cents in the last week and stands at $3.65 per gallon, a fresh multi-year low.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at $3.79/g while the most expensive was $5.39/g, a difference of $1.60/g. The lowest price in the state was $3.69/g while the highest was $8.57/g, a difference of $4.88/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 4.6 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $3.28/g. The national average is down 17.9 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 48.9 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Santa Monica Daily Press

HQ

FROM PAGE 2

Wolman says that the seemingly high cost of rent was actually a pretty good deal.

"We couldn't afford to pay market rents for the space. But, in the past, even when Santa Monica has been at its peak thriving economically, there have always been a couple of empty storefronts that we've been able to purchase, landlords to ask, 'Would you be open to having us come in for just, say, three months, if you don't have a tenant coming for another six months or so, you know, at a discounted rate, so that we could do some good.' And if they are sympathetic to the Democratic cause, they [might agree]," he says.

But not every property owner in Santa Monica is in full agreement with the policies of the Democratic Party.

"The gentleman who has always led the charge on the search for a space, is Gary Bettman (COO of The Miller Group) and he has been a part of this operation since its inception in 2004 ... He went around for weeks and weeks, trying to negotiate with maybe a dozen different places before we found this one," Wolman says.

He explains that in addition to looking at venues on the Promenade, they also looked on Wilshire Blvd and around most of the Downtown area. "You know, either the landlords weren't sympathetic, or they were sympathetic, but they weren't willing to cut us enough of a break for us to move forward and they let their properties remain empty," Wolman says.

The official opening on Sunday also attracted a protest from approximately 30 locals and residents calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. The crowd was encouraged to sing chants and many were using megaphones to express their opinions with volume.

"I'm personally sympathetic to a good portion of their message, and I wish the administration would truly investigate human rights abuses and withhold military funding if criteria are not met for protecting civilian populations," Wolman said. "If the protesters had been mostly quiet and not harassing people, out there making their point, chanting, but not through a megaphone, being seen, being heard, but not trying to disrupt what we were doing inside, then I would have fully embraced it.

"I partially embraced it because it could have been worse. But as I tried to explain to the people out there, that we're in there, working for their cause, in large part, because we all know that if Kamala doesn't win, the alternative, a Trump administration would be far, far worse for the civilian population in Gaza than a Harris administration ... There's at least a chance that a Harris administration will listen to their pleas for peace and justice. There's zero chance a Trump administration is going to give them the time of day," Wolman said.

> "I'm personally sympathetic to a good portion of their message, and I wish the administration would truly investigate human rights abuses and withhold military funding if criteria are not met for protecting civilian populations
>
> - Adam Wolman Communications Manager, Westside Democratic HQ

He also says that he tried to engage some of the protestors in discussion. "It was fascinating, because it was a mixed bag of some people who listened and wanted to engage in dialog and understood what I was saying about how Harris is our best bet for seeing policy change, and other people who were just angry and shut off to any kind of discussion, and they're just like, 'If you're supporting her, you're supporting genocide,' and they wouldn't hear my arguments at all."

There will be watch events at the Dem HQ, including the debate between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump, still currently scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 10 at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, beginning at 6pm PT. (ABC will host the debate and it will also be livestreamed on the ABC News app, Disney+ and Hulu.)

Currently, the Dem HQ is open Monday–Thursday: Noon–8pm, Friday: Noon–6pm and Saturday–Sunday: 10am–6pm, but as Wolman says, these times will probably expand as we get closer to the election. For more information on opening times, events and how to volunteer, visit the website at westsidedemhq.org/

scott.snowden@smdp.com





Photos by Scott Snowden

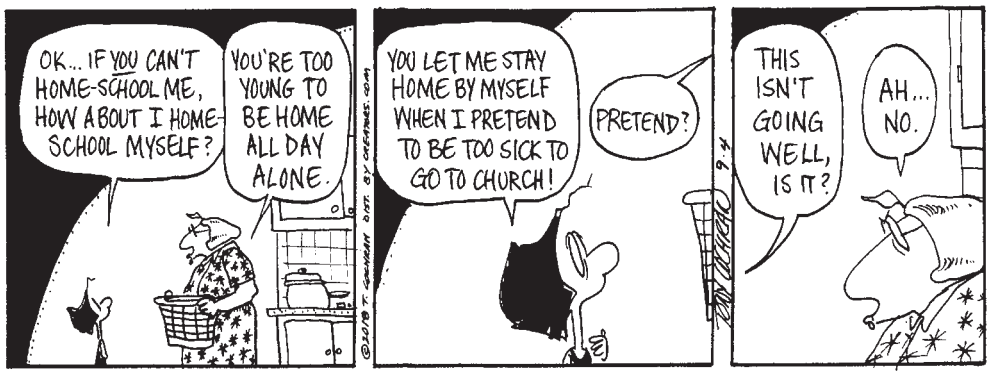
DEMOCRATS: The opening of the Westside Democratic Headquarters on the Third Street Promenade brought out a protest asking for a ceasefire in Gaza.

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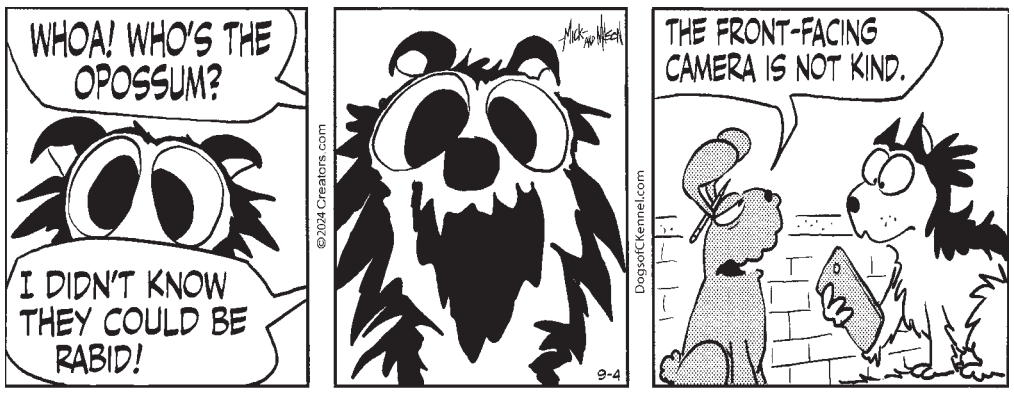
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



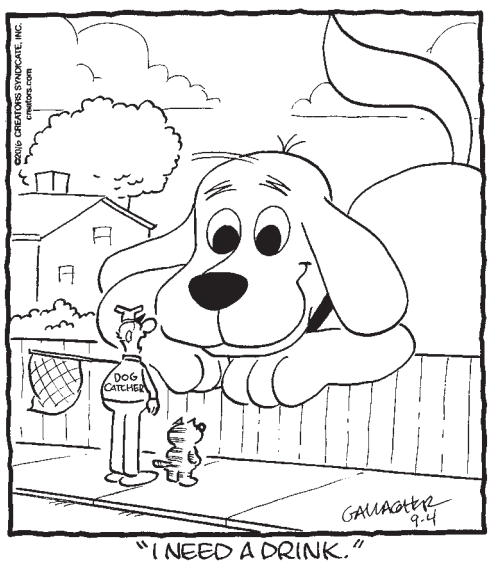
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

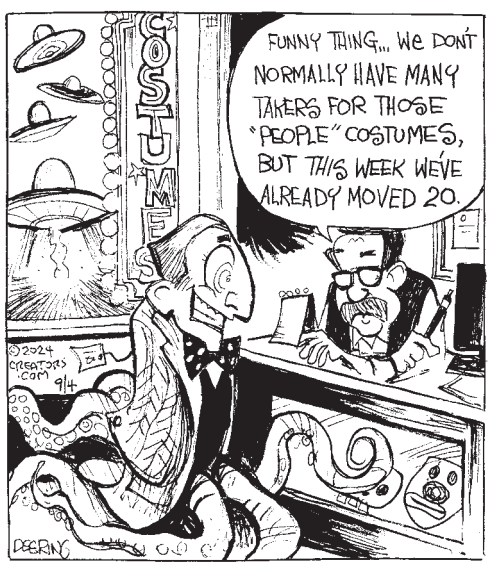
By PETER GALLAGHER



"I NEED A DRINK."

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 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6323

Story tellers

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

Adams	Cleary	Hines	Mystery
Amis	Coetzee	Ireland	Nunn
Anh Do	Dawe	Kent	Palmer
Astley	Drama	Le Carre	Rodda
Base	FitzSimons	Ludlum	Rowe
Behrendt	Funder	Lurie	Thiele
Bestseller	Garner	Marchetta	White
Brooks	Gibbs	Mem Fox	Winton
Byatt	Gleeson	Morgan	Wood
Clark	Hardworking	Moss	Zusak

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 4)

You'll really see people and take in the full breadth of their character. You're in the driver's seat of many kinds of relationships from professional to personal, and it feels good to take the wheel and steer them in a beautiful direction. More highlights: You'll get your wish. You'll work with a top team and know the thrill of all hearts beating for the same thing. Aries and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 4, 33, 20 and 11.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll set a firm intention. While the outcome may not match your original plan, things will inevitably change because of what you set out to do. There's power in your willingness to initiate, and there will be just rewards for following through.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Blame it on your excellence when more than one person gives you something to solve. Though you have many answers, you don't have to have them all. It would be annoying if you did. "I don't know" is often the perfect answer.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You love seeing the people around you thrive. Though you're quite modest, the truth is that you're part of their flourishing. Your support and guidance contribute significantly to the success of others, even if you don't always realize it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You feel like a jack-of-all-trades. It turns out the odd jobs and strange responsibilities you juggled were a sort of secret superhero training for the big responsibility ahead. Gear up mentally for the challenge that waits just around the corner.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're the ultimate do-gooder now. When you think you've messed up, you go all out to make things right. But don't take the same approach for something that wasn't your fault and was probably destined to fail before you got there. Let go and start anew.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're much more careful about what you take on, and you assess options thoroughly before deciding what's worth diving into. Once in, you'll hang on longer than you used to as well, partly out of persistence and partly out of curiosity.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You have wild ideas, but you'll be judicious about acting on them. Of course, prudence can be overdone. Too much of it puts everyone to sleep, especially you, which is why you'll add the spice that wakes up your scene.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You've an excellent read of the room today. Whether the room is homogenous, diverse, chaotic or catatonic, you'll find a way to improve the vibe and be a part of creating more fruitful outcomes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Like a theatrical set change that happens with the curtain open, the scenery is transforming before your eyes. Even though you're seeing this happen, there are so many moving parts going at once, the effect is still magical.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The muses gift you. You'll pay it forward, applying the inspiration in a space of daily life. First, your imagination will thrive on the mundane, and then transcend it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll do the usual things but for different reasons, for instance to squeeze the most joy out an experience, or know its origins, or learn it to the extent that you could easily describe it or teach it to another. Perspective changes everything.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Would you believe that not everyone knows the route to fun? You'll witness it firsthand and take the lead with your playfulness. You'll help others find joy through your laughter.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

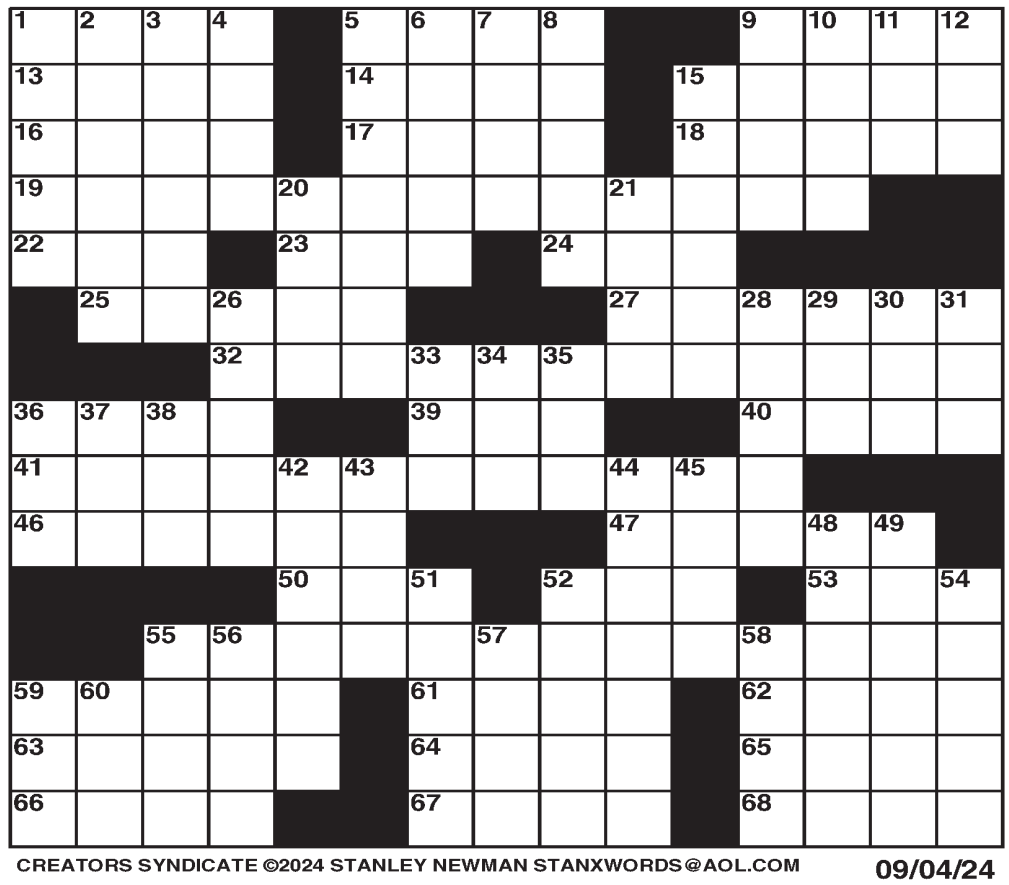
UNCOMPLICATED by Steve Faiella
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Anti-bullfighting org.
5 Barnyard birds
9 Large quantity
13 Plow-pulling beasts
14 Came in for a landing
15 Honda's upscale make
16 Quart fraction
17 Bottom of a shoe
18 Grannies
19 Talking that's direct and honest
22 Japanese money
23 Hispanic cheer
24 A Kardashian sister
25 Look without blinking
27 Workers with circus lions
32 Spectrum slice that can be seen
36 Threesome
39 Served lunch to
40 Add ice cubes to
41 Glaring mistake
46 Too busy to talk
47 Declares with certainty
50 Baggage screening org.
52 Suffix for meteor
53 Variety of a color
55 Ability to act intelligently
59 Skylit hotel lobbies
61 Nabisco best-selling snack
62 Pitch black
63 Helpful upward push
64 __ and groan (complain)
65 Start to cry
66 Offshoot group
67 Auto loan nos.
68 Does not exist

DOWN

1 Source of bread seeds
2 Banishes
3 Apartment renter
4 Prefix for freeze
5 Major inconveniences
6 Marry secretly
7 Egypt's main river
8 Sirloin or T-bone
9 Read, as a bar code
10 Organ taking in air
11 Historic time
12 Used to be
15 Aardvark or lark
20 Formal "Me neither"
21 Toy for a windy day
26 Keep away from
28 "Small" prefix for scope
29 Sense of self
30 Greek letter after pi
31 Major Mo. city
33 "No __, ands, or buts!"
34 Bug that stings
35 CEO, for one
36 Crib dweller
37 Slugger's stat, for short
38 "Now __ seen everything!"
42 Surpass at a buffet
43 "__-daisy"
44 Limits access to
45 Home's hot spot
48 Complains
49 Below the kitchen, as living rooms
51 Pleasant smell
52 Rumor spreader's intro
54 Cleopatra's country
55 Gator cousin
56 Grocery shopper's sheet
57 De __ (too much, from the French)
58 Fuzzy brown fruit
59 Belly muscles
60 Tip of a shoe



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09/04/24

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Sacramento

California Legislature Expands Access to Comprehensive & Affordable Health Care with AB 2258

Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Hollywood) announced yesterday that AB 2258, a bill designed to ensure all Californians—especially low-income individuals—have access to comprehensive and affordable preventive health care, has passed the Legislature and now heads to the Governor's Desk. This bill, sponsored by Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara, Equality California, APLA Health, the Los Angeles LGBT Center, and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, solidifies California's commitment to preventive health care.

AB 2258 was introduced in response to growing concerns that recent federal court cases could undermine critical patient protections under the Affordable Care Acts. The bill seeks to codify in California law longstanding federal guidance requiring health plans and insurers to cover services that are integral to the delivery of recommended preventive care without cost sharing to the consumer.. These services include critical health interventions such as reversible contraceptives, pre-exposure prophylaxis and post-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP and PEP), and screenings for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

"This bill represents a critical step in protecting access to preventive health care for all Californians," said Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur. "A study found that even a $10 cost for HIV prevention medication doubled prescription abandonment rates, increasing the risk of HIV infections. Barriers like these force people to choose between their health and basic necessities. With recent court decisions casting doubt on federal protections for preventive care, AB 2258 is more important than ever. This bill will enshrine these protections in state law, ensuring that Californians continue to have access to vital preventive services like contraceptives and HIV prevention, regardless of what happens at the federal level."

"Preventive health care is life-saving care and we need to protect insurance benefits from activist conservative judges who could try to take them away," said Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara, who is California's first LGBTQ+ statewide elected leader. "By enshrining these protections in California law, AB 2258 would guarantee preventive care and medications without cost-sharing to close health gaps for women, seniors, our LGBTQ+ community and many other Californians."

"While MAGA extremists are trying to undermine and repeal the Affordable Care Act, California is once again taking control of its own future and protecting the health and wellbeing of our communities," said Equality California Executive Director Tony Hoang. "AB 2258 is a crucial proactive step to guarantee that LGBTQ+ and ALL Californians will not be stripped of access to affordable preventive care. We are grateful to Assemblymember Zbur for championing legislation that affirms our state's unwavering commitment to health equity and to the California Legislature for ensuring that vital preventive health services remain accessible and affordable."

"APLA Health is proud to cosponsor AB 2258," says Craig Thompson, CEO of APLA Health. "Removing barriers to lifesaving preventive care is critical to reducing new cases of HIV and STIs. By protecting Californians by codifying current federal regulations into state law, we can continue to effectively reduce the number of new HIV and STI transmissions among the communities most impacted and most impeded in accessing care."

"The Los Angeles LGBT Center is a proud supporter of SB 996 because for too long PBMs have caused unnecessary barriers to care for patients, including those living with HIV. Pharmacies owned by the PBMs can lead to culturally incompetent LGBTQ+ healthcare or delayed medication delivery, which risks negative health outcomes, especially in HIV treatment and prevention. We are grateful for Senator Weiner's and Assemblymember Zbur's championing of this tremendous cause," said Nicole Thibeau, Director of Pharmacy Services at the Los Angeles LGBT Center.

The Governor has until September 30, 2024 to sign the bill.

SUBMITTED BY VIENNA MONTAGUE

HEAT

FROM PAGE 1

places like Austin and Denver, have suffered from urban heat trapped by concrete and asphalt, which is also a trapping of the Los Angeles area.

"Too often, heat is talked about as just 'the weather,' International Institute for Environment and Development senior researcher Tucker Landesman told CNN. "But we've built our cities to be heat islands, often much hotter than the surrounding land, which exacerbates the effects of climate change. This effect can be especially acute in low-income areas that lack quality green space."

Overall, the institute stated that at least 1,071 days of temperatures 95 degrees or above took place in the United States 50 largest cities, over 150 more than the average over the past decade. The entire Earth has been privy to this trend, as 2024 is en route to becoming the warmest year on record yet again, according to Copernicus Climate Change Service.

The conditions won't be slowing down this week, as the National Weather Service forecast for the greater Los Angeles area calls for a "pretty significant stretch of heat," with Thursday likely being the high point. The forecast also states that coastal areas should be on the lookout for temperatures in the 80s once again.

Last year, per Weather Underground, Santa Monica had three September days in the 80s, with an average max temperature of 73.97 degrees. October had even more days in the 80s (six), including on Halloween, which may give an indication of a longer warm period in the fall.

thomas@smdp.com

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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.

THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 5

TECH & TASKS
2 - 4 p.m. Tutoring Center, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Volunteer tutors provide help with reading documents or written tasks, using mobile devices, navigating government websites, filling out forms, using email, writing resumes and more.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
4 - 5 p.m. Zoom meeting. The Government Affairs Committee meeting focuses on reviewing potential impacts of new policies, legislation and ordinances on Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce membership. Chamber members can register for the meeting at: https://santamonicachamber.chambermaster.com/eventregistration/register/22992.

COMMUNITY CORP. SUMMER SOCIAL
5:30 - 7:30 p.m. California Heritage Museum, 2612 Main St. Join Community Corporation of Santa Monica for their summer social, an evening of fun while supporting a great cause - raising funds for affordable housing. Tickets $125, includes food, two beverages, free parking, live music and an evening of socializing. Sponsorships are available for this event, contact tbarauskas@communitycorp.org for more information. To purchase tickets, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-corp-summer-social-tickets-958090924747.

HOUSING COMMISSION
6 p.m. 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.

AUTHOR EVENT
6 - 7 p.m. Zibby's Bookshop, 1113 Montana Ave. Zibby's Bookshop is thrilled to host Rebecca J. Sanford and Hadley Leggett. Rebecca and Hadley will be celebrating the launch of their novels "The Disappeared" and "All They Ask is Everything." Includes discussion, Q&A and book signings.

STARTUP CPG AT SEA YACHT PARTY
6 - 8 p.m. FantaSea Yachts, 4215 Admiralty Way, Marina del Rey. Join Startup CPG Community Events and celebrate innovation in the consumer goods industry at the Shelfie Awards Boat Party. Whether you're a Shelfie Awards finalist, winner, or simply interested in celebrating with founders and experts, it is sure to be an unforgettable events. Includes open bar, networking opportunities and sampling of products from the consumer goods community. Tickets $65, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/startup-cpg-at-sea-yacht-party-presented-by-recharge-tickets-948579957187.

NOMA MEETING
7 p.m. Online via Zoom. Past, present and future will be on the docket at the North of Montana Avenue Association's meeting, as new SM Conservancy President Mario Fonda-Bonardi will explore the prospects and challenges for our city's historic landmarks and Megan Gamble with Hospitality Santa Monica will spotlight current offerings for tourists and visitors to our city. Preparations for the Neighborhood Council's Candidates Forum on Sept. 8 for the upcoming City Council elections will also be reviewed. All are welcome to attend the meeting and discussion on Zoom, to register visit smnoma.org.

FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 6

ART BREAK DAY
11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. In early September, volunteers across the globe create art making spaces and invite their community to come together to connect through art making. Join Art Break Day and make art with your community and the world as we celebrate the amazing benefits of art and the power it has to connect us with ourselves and each other.

FIRST FRIDAY FOOD TRUCK FEST
5 - 9 p.m. 1525 Abbot Kinney Blvd. Join Abbot Kinney Boulevard for a fun and festive night in Venice. Chances are you will find whatever food you are craving, along with special merchant events. Free event.

NIC GAREISS & SIMON CHRISMAN
8 - 10 p.m. McCabe's Guitar Shop, 3101 Pico Blvd. Nic Gareiss (percussive dance, bouzouki, vocals) and Simon Chrisman (hammer dulcimer, vocals) will be performing at McCabe's, having played music together since 2007. Both innovators on their instruments, Nic and Simon bring unique approaches to traditional song, percussive dance, instrumental tunes and improvisation. Tickets $24, to purchase visit: https://www.mccabes.com/product/nic-gareiss-simon-chrisman/.

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