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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Hyatt and Regent rebands are part of busy fall for hotels

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

Hotel happenings are nothing new in Santa Monica, but the city by the sea has some new developments on that front this fall.

On Sept. 18, Hyatt Hotels Corporation opened up the Hyatt Centric Delfina Santa Monica, taking over the site formerly known as Le Méridien Delfina Santa Monica. While the hotel will keep the same management, Viceroy Hotel Group, the sixth Hyatt Centric location in California will be undergoing some changes alongside the name switch.

From now through the second quarter of 2025, a $16 million refurbishment project will be taking place. Work includes a facelift for the hotel's dining experience, as Hyatt stated that an all-new three-meal restaurant and bar is in the works. Other priorities are revitalization of meeting space, as well as the lobby and guest arrival area.

What Hyatt calls a "carefully phased approach" to the work will not impact guests' time at the site.

"We are committed to growing Hyatt's brand presence in the

SEE **HOTELS** PAGE 6



Photo by Thomas Leffler

HOTEL: The Hyatt hotel brand has taken over the location previously named Le Méridien Delfina Santa Monica.

Santa Monica rent highest in LA metro area, new report states

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

It's no secret that Santa Monica's unique slice of Los Angeles equates to higher rents, but one report says the city stands above all of its contemporaries in the category.

According to the latest Los Angeles Metro Report from apartment listing website Zumper, Santa Monica was ranked as the most-expensive spot in Los Angeles to rent a one-bedroom apartment, with a medium active listing of $3,000 over the past month. The website ranked 25 LA metro area cities, with Santa Monica coming out ahead of Irvine ($2,880), West Hollywood ($2,880), Redondo Beach ($2,710) and Costa Mesa ($2,680) in one-bedroom listings.

The city remains at the top of the Zumper report despite the fact that one-bedroom listings on the site are down 10.2% year-over-year. This is by far the largest decline in rent evolution out of the 25 listed cities, beating out Torrance (6.9%) and West Hollywood (4.6%) for the sharpest drop.

Two-bedroom listings tell a similar story, with Santa Monica's average listing going for $4,500, narrowly edging out West Hollywood ($4,450) for the most expensive metro area spot. Once

SEE **RENT** PAGE 11

Huge donations kickstart the final month of campaigning for local office

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

With a matter of days remaining before early voters can send in their ballots, endorsements and cash continue to flow into campaigns both local and regional including a new player in the City Council election with a massive war chest.

A new and well funded Political Action Committee (PAC) emerged last week. The long-titled group, Santa Monicans for a Real Positive Future Supporting Brock, de la Torre, Roknian and Putnam for Council 2024, is funded by a pair of mega donations.

Douglas Emmett Properties donated $100,000 as did Jerry A.

SEE **ELECTION** PAGE 7

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California sues ExxonMobil and says it lied about plastics recycling

JANIE HAR
Associated Press

California sued ExxonMobil Monday, alleging the oil giant deceived the public for half a century by promising that the plastics it produced would be recycled.

Attorney General Rob Bonta's office said that less than 5% of plastic is recycled into another plastic product in the U.S. even though the items are labeled as "recyclable." As a result, landfills and oceans are filled with plastic waste, creating a global pollution crisis, while consumers diligently place plastic water bottles and other containers into recycling bins, the lawsuit alleges.

"'Buy as much as you want, no problem, it'll be recycled,' they say. Lies, and they aim to make us feel less guilty about our waste if we recycle it," said Bonta, a Democrat, at a virtual news conference, where he was joined by representatives of environmental groups that filed a separate but similar lawsuit Monday, also in San Francisco County Superior Court.

"The end goal is to drive people to buy, buy, buy and to drive ExxonMobil's profits up, up, up," he said.

ExxonMobil, one of the world's largest producers of plastics, blamed California for its flawed recycling system.

"For decades, California officials have known their recycling system isn't effective. They failed to act, and now they seek to blame others. Instead of suing us, they could have worked with us to fix the problem and keep plastic out of landfills," Lauren Kight,

> Buy as much as you want, no problem, it'll be recycled,' they say. Lies, and they aim to make us feel less guilty about our waste if we recycle it
>
> - Rob Bonta

spokesperson for ExxonMobil, said in an email.

Dozens of U.S. municipalities as well as eight states and Washington, D.C., have sued oil and gas companies in recent years over their role in climate change, according to the Center for Climate Integrity. Those are still making their way through courts, including a lawsuit filed by California a year ago against some of the world's largest oil and gas companies, claiming they deceived the public about the risks of fossil fuels.

The lawsuit announced Monday stems from an investigation Bonta's office launched in April 2022 into the fossil fuel and petrochemical industries, which included issuing subpoenas that revealed previously hidden documents, Bonta's office said.

The complaint alleges violations of California's nuisance and unfair competition laws and alleges ExxonMobil concealed the harms caused by plastics.

It was filed a day after Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom signed into law a statewide ban on all plastic shopping bags at supermarkets.

Notre Dame Law School professor Bruce Huber, who specializes in environmental, natural resources and energy law, said the state faces an uphill battle in its suit against ExxonMobil despite evidence that plastic manufacturers "have not been forthright" about the challenges of turning old plastics into new items.

"The state's primary claim relies on public nuisance, a notoriously murky area of law. It could be difficult for a court to grant California relief here without opening a Pandora's box of other, similar claims," he said by email.

ExxonMobil knew that plastic is "extremely costly and difficult to eradicate" and that plastic disintegrates into harmful microplastics, yet it promoted recycling as a key solution through news and social media platforms, according to the state's lawsuit.

At the same time, it ramped up production of plastics, the lawsuit states.

Lately ExxonMobil has been promoting "advanced recycling" or "chemical recycling," saying the process will better turn old plastics into new products, the lawsuit states, when only 8% of materials do so.

> This is a revelation to many, after years and years of a belief that is untrue because they were lied to by ExxonMobil ... about the myth of recycling
>
> - Rob Bonta

The ExxonMobil spokesperson said advanced recycling works.

The state hopes to compel ExxonMobil to end its deceptive practices and to secure an abatement fund and civil penalties for the harm.

Bonta said the contents of the lawsuit will stun many who have purchased products made from recycled materials and who have placed plastic products in blue recycling bins.

"This is a revelation to many, after years and years of a belief that is untrue because they were lied to by ExxonMobil ... about the myth of recycling," he said.

SUNDAY • OCTOBER 6, 2024



KTLA's Kacey Montoya

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FBI finds violent crime declined in 2023. Here's what to know about the report

ALANNA DURKIN RICHER
Associated Press

Violent crime in the U.S. dropped in 2023, according to FBI statistics that show a continued trend downward after a coronavirus pandemic-era crime spike.

Overall violent crime declined an estimated 3% in 2023 from the year before, according to the FBI report Monday. Murders and non-negligent manslaughter dropped nearly 12%.

Violent crime has become a focal point in the 2024 presidential race, with former President Donald Trump recently claiming that crime is "through the roof" under President Joe Biden's administration. Even with the 2020 pandemic surge, violent crime is down dramatically from the 1990s.

Here's what to know about the FBI's report and the state of crime in the U.S.:

THE NUMBERS

Crime surged during the coronavirus pandemic, with homicides increasing nearly 30% in 2020 over the previous year — the largest one-year jump since the FBI began keeping records. The rise defied easy explanation, though experts said possible contributors included the massive disruption of the pandemic, gun violence, worries about the economy and intense stress.

Violent crime across the U.S. dipped to near pre-pandemic levels in 2022, according to the FBI's data. It continued to tick down last year, with the rate falling from about 377 violent crimes per 100,000 people to in 2022 to about 364 per 100,000 people in 2023. That's just slightly higher than the 2019 rate, according to Deputy Assistant Director Brian Griffith of the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services Division.

"Are we looking at crime rates at a return to pre-pandemic levels? I think a reasonable person would look at that and say, 'Yes, that's what has happened,'" Griffith said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Law enforcement agencies in the biggest municipalities in the U.S. — communities with at least 1,000,000 people — showed the biggest drop in violent crime last year — nearly 7%. Agencies in communities between 250,000 and 499,999 people reported a slight increase — 0.3%— between 2022 and 2023.

Rapes decreased more than 9% while aggravated assault decreased nearly 3%. Overall property crime decreased more than 2%, but motor vehicle theft shot up nearly 13%. The motor vehicle theft rate — nearly 319 per 100,000 people — was the highest last year since 2007.

THE LIMITATIONS OF THE FBI'S DATA

The FBI collects data through its Uniform Crime Reporting Program, and not all law enforcement agencies in the U.S. participate. The 2023 report is based on data from more than 16,000 agencies, or more than 85 percent of those agencies in the FBI's program. The agencies included in the report protect nearly 316 million people across the U.S. And every agency with at least 1 million people in its jurisdiction provided a full year of data to the FBI, according to the report.

> "Are we looking at crime rates at a return to pre-pandemic levels? I think a reasonable person would look at that and say, 'Yes, that's what has happened"
> - Brian Griffith

"What you're not seeing in that number are a lot of very small agencies," Griffith said.

OTHER CRIME REPORTS

The FBI's report is in line with the findings of the nonpartisan Council on Criminal Justice, which earlier this year analyzed crimes rates across 39 U.S cities, and found that most violent crimes are at or below 2019 levels. That group found there were 13 percent fewer homicides across 29 cities that provided data during the first half of 2024 compared the same period the year before.

On the campaign trail, Trump has cited another recent Justice Department survey to suggest the crime is out of control under the Biden administration.

That National Crime Victimization Survey, released earlier this month, shows that the violent crime victimization rate rose from about 16 per 1,000 people in 2020 to 22.5 in 2023. But the report notes that the rate last year was not statistically different from the rate in 2019 — when Trump was president. And the rate has declined dramatically overall since the 1990s.

The FBI's report and the National Crime Victimization Survey use different methodologies and capture different things.

The victimization survey is conducted every year through interviews with about 240,000 people to determine whether they were victims of crimes. While the FBI's data only includes crimes reported to police, the victimization survey also aims to capture crimes that were not.

Because it's done through interviews with victims, the victimization survey doesn't include data on murders. And it only captures crimes against people ages 12 and over.



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **65.1**

TUESDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: Knee to thigh 1-2FT
Minimal surf, but morning conditions should be clean with light wind. SW swell edging up and may be just enough to longboard.

WEDNESDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: Knee to thigh 1-2FT
Could be up just a touch from the start of the week but still minor. Little mix of SW and NW swell.

Weather

Tuesday: Patchy dense fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 73.
Tuesday Night: Patchy dense fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 62.
Wednesday: Patchy dense fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 71.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 59.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2024/09/24	Tue	05:36 AM	3.38	H
2024/09/24	Tue	07:43 AM	3.31	L
2024/09/24	Tue	2:55 PM	5.19	H
2024/09/24	Tue	11:19 PM	0.33	L
2024/09/25	Wed	07:04 AM	3.78	H
2024/09/25	Wed	10:43 AM	3.43	L
2024/09/25	Wed	4:35 PM	5.05	H
2024/09/26	Thu	12:27 AM	0.14	L
2024/09/26	Thu	07:39 AM	4.12	H
2024/09/26	Thu	12:14 PM	3.04	L
2024/09/26	Thu	5:54 PM	5.16	H
2024/09/27	Fri	01:17 AM	0.02	L
2024/09/27	Fri	08:06 AM	4.39	H
2024/09/27	Fri	1:09 PM	2.56	L
2024/09/27	Fri	6:54 PM	5.32	H
2024/09/28	Sat	01:55 AM	0.01	L
2024/09/28	Sat	08:28 AM	4.60	H
2024/09/28	Sat	1:49 PM	2.10	L

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: 9/21
17 19 21 37 45
Power#: 14
Jackpot: 208 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 9/20
20 21 40 49 55
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 62 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 9/21
1 8 26 27 35
Mega#: 10
Jackpot: 25 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 9/22
4 8 20 22 24

Daily 3
Draw Date: 9/22
EVENING: 7 0 4
Draw Date: 9/22
MIDDAY: 8 7 2

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 9/22
1st: 10 - Solid Gold
2nd: 12 - Lucky Charms
3rd: 08 - Gorgeous George
Race Time: 1:41.35

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Santa Monica Daily Press

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT: **Recommendation to the City Council on Adoption of an updated Safety Element of the City's General Plan**

A public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission to consider a Resolution recommending to the City Council that the City Council adopt the updated Safety Element of the City's General Plan

DATE/TIME: **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2024 AT 6:00 PM**

LOCATION: City Council Chamber, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

California State law (Government Code Section 65300) requires that each county and city adopt a comprehensive, long term General Plan to guide future land use development and growth of that jurisdiction. Each General Plan must include eight "topics" or elements: land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open space, noise, safety, and environmental justice. The 6th Cycle Housing Element Update (2021-2029) was adopted by the City Council on October 11, 2022. California State law requires the update of the Safety Element upon adoption of the Housing Element Update.

In the context of State law requirements for General Plans, the updated Safety Element addresses natural hazards and human-made hazards in the built environment. The Safety Element focuses primarily on the hazards that are most cited in California State Laws pertaining to the Safety Element of the General Plan and to federal requirements for Local Hazard Mitigation Planning. Specifically, these topics include:

- Geologic and Soil Hazards
- Seismic Hazards
- Flooding
- Fire
- Climate Change Effects (including Extreme Heat, Drought, Extreme Precipitation Severe Winds, Sea Level Rise)
- Hazardous Materials
- Airport Safety

The updated Safety Element provides a comprehensive assessment of the various hazards affecting the City, identifies vulnerable populations, and establishes the regulatory framework for addressing these hazards, with the goal of creating a safer and more resilient City.

The Safety Element Update is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines which states that CEQA does not apply, "where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment." The Safety Element Update serves as the guiding framework to address hazards in the natural and built environment, and does not provide for improvements or future development. The Safety Element Update is consistent with the City's General Plan, including the 2021-2029 6th Cycle Housing Element. Therefore, it can be seen with certainty that actions would not result in adverse physical impacts on the environment, and as such, is categorically exempt from CEQA.

HOW TO COMMENT: The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Members of the public unable to attend the meeting but wishing to comment on an item(s) listed on the agenda may submit written comments prior to the public hearing via email to planningcomment@santamonica.gov. Written public comment submitted before 12:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be available for online viewing. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item number in the subject line of your written comments.

You may also comment in person at the Planning Commission hearing. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment in person.

Address your comments to: **Rachel Kwok, Environmental Planner, Re: Safety Element Update**

MORE INFORMATION: If you want more information about the Safety Element Update or wish to review the draft Safety Element, please see the City's website: https://santamonica.gov/safety-element-update or email rachel.kwok@santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL: Esto es una noticia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si desea más información, favor de llamar a Ana Fernandez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-2201 ext. 2431 o envíe un correo electrónico a ana.fernandez@santamonica.gov

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Addressing the root cause of homelessness

Recent articles in the Santa Monica Daily Press have explored several aspects of homelessness in Santa Monica. At present, many of the efforts by governments and concerned citizens address the current problem. But, we need to realize that the homeless of today will soon be joined by a new wave of homeless.

In this article I hope to address primary socioeconomic factors that I see as the potential root causes of homelessness. The whack-a-mole strategy of removing homeless from one encampment, only to have another encampment emerge, is not a solution to the problem, it's a feature of it.

In an ideal world, we would start with treatment of substance abuse and mental illness in a compassionate setting, with housing integrated with counseling and long-term guidance, for those who need it. Providing housing alone ignores the reality that many homeless can't function independently given their addiction and mental issues. Next steps should include assistance in seeking employment opportunities, which will ultimately lead to independent living in their own home.

When we criminalize homelessness, we expect the justice system to solve the problems. In truth, criminalization creates a revolving door of arrest, release, and repeat crime. Currently, it is reported that 2/3 of all police arrests in Santa Monica are due to homelessness, for petty criminal activity, violent crimes, or just existing on the streets where they shouldn't be. Instead of productive citizens in our community, they become an economic burden to not only the police, but also to the paramedics who respond, to the hospitals that treat them, and to the judicial system that adjudicates their criminal behavior.

And let's not fall into the trap of thinking that having more affordable housing is going to solve the homeless problem-it isn't. The affordable housing solution is clearly gaslighting by people who should know better.

California with 40+ million people, about 12% of the total US population of 325 million, has 1/3 of the total homeless in the nation. We appear to be the destination of choice because of our weather and perhaps because of our benevolent humanitarian efforts that we've made to treat homeless. We have more to do, but we're not alone.

We need to realize that nothing done in Santa Monica will solve the national homeless problem, where many of the solutions face strong opposition elsewhere in the US. This includes such things as higher minimum wages, universal health coverage, full voting rights, less regressive taxation, and the elimination of all racial discrimination and intimidation. There's a lot of work to be done at the national level, but only until we accept the reality of our current situation will we be able to shut off the pipeline of homelessness. So, let's dive into the root causes: Racism, Inequality, and Healthcare.

RACISM

Perhaps the number one reason for homelessness is racism! It's hard to argue that racism is not the root cause. Slavery, and the culture that emerged, ensured that racism would create two populations with unequal rights with Blacks lacking standing in the eyes of the Courts. Instead, they were originally considered second class "citizenry" at best, with rights no better than farm animals, bought, sold, and even killed at their owner's discretion. Furthermore, having children with slave mothers produced new slaves to enrich the slave holder.

The history of Civil Rights has many twists and turns, often with Constitutional Amendments, soon morphing into tragic events. After the Confederacy lost in 1865, there began a period of reconstruction in which the rights of Blacks were expanded: they were now free. As Black voices influenced government actions, the Jim Crow era started where voting rights were restricted by a variety of means, including poll taxes and many literacy tests that excluded most Blacks, and many Whites as well.

Soon, the way to control the Black voices came through fear and intimidation. After the Civil War, there were over 4,000 lynchings of Black people continuing until the 1950s. The obvious intent of lynchings was to intimidate Blacks into accepting their inferior position in the hierarchy of our society. And let's not forget the current dog whistle of intimidation, the Confederate flag.

So, how does this cause homelessness? Discrimination for Blacks begins at an early age, and it continues as Blacks enter the workforce, where they meet discrimination in hiring. This leads to lower income, poverty and living in areas that are relatively undesirable, with limited healthy food sources, and with education systems that are willfully inadequate and separate but clearly not equal. We end up with de facto segregated communities with few opportunities for work. And if work is available, discrimination in hiring ensures that Blacks retain their second-class status.

To escape from this environment and seek opportunities elsewhere, Blacks often seek hiring by the government, which is by law colorblind, or by joining the military. It is no surprise that people of color represent approximately half of armed forces personnel. With few opportunities for Blacks in rural areas, in areas with little, or no commerce, and in inner cities where many jobs require educated workers this is not surprising. Still, in-spite-of government hiring and military service, the majority of homeless are people of color.

On the national level, we are thankfully seeing changes such as the renaming of all military bases named after Confederate leaders. In 2021, on the heels of the George Floyd protests against police brutality, Congress established the Naming Commission, which aimed to examine the ways in which the US military has continued to commemorate, honor, and

SEE **HOMELESSNESS** PAGE 5

HOMELESSNESS

FROM PAGE 4

memorialize the Confederacy, and provided recommendations to remove and rename all US Department of Defense facilities and memorabilia that commemorate the Confederate States of America, or any person, who served voluntarily with the Confederate States of America.

Further, the Arlington National Cemetery made plans for removing and relocating the Arlington Confederate Memorial, a monument placed in the cemetery in 1914 by the Daughters of the Confederacy. This memorial was removed in December 2023.

My personal feeling is that we shouldn't cancel the culture and expunge our memory of the Confederacy, but instead place all the monuments and symbols in museums so that we can understand our history and not repeat it. We should forgive, but never forget.

INEQUALITY

One of the measures of inequality used by economists is the Gini coefficient which calculates the amount of inequality throughout a society. The US is a clear outlier with some of the greatest disparities in incomes, which parallels the levels of wealth. What's worse is the trickle-down of government funding at the state level, where many states provide incredible benefits for businesses while under-spending for housing, education, healthcare and creating opportunities for all.

According to US data from 2022, the average median income is $74,600. For the White non-Hispanic population, the median income is $81,100. For Hispanic workers, the median income is $62,800, whereas for Blacks the income is $52,900. Are the disparities due to education levels, or something else?

So where does the US stand regarding wealth inequality? In 2023, the top 10% of the population had 69% of total wealth, whereas the bottom 50% had 2.5%! In 1989, the top 10% held 60%. The reality is that half of Americans have too few financial resources to weather financial setbacks, like losing one's job or becoming ill, and then amassing medical debts resulting in bankruptcy, and perhaps even losing one's home and becoming homeless.

Many countries in northern Europe have both low inequality and significantly higher happiness than other societies in the world. The social safety net is much stronger, and everyone feels they are getting a fair shake. In many of these countries higher education is free to all. We need to level the playing field in education and expand available opportunities. Given what we are doing in the US, it seems like we don't want everyone to be happy!

Unionization of workers and increases in minimum wages have been vehemently opposed for decades by conservative governments which seems to prefer having a second class of citizens who will work for lower wages. As fast-food workers in some states won the right for improved wages through unionization or public pressure, some state governments have overruled this action by preventing such increases in wages for food workers. In essence, they're perpetuating inequality.

HEALTHCARE

The lack of appropriate healthcare is another cause of homelessness today. For example, the State of California closed many of its mental institutions in the 1980s and attempts to create sustainable local clinics never materialized. So today we are faced with mentally ill homeless people on the streets committing crimes. Many have schizophrenia with delusional thinking, or PTSD with paranoia, none of which is successfully treatable on the streets.

Once incarcerated for their crimes, they seldom receive the kind of care they need, and inevitably return to the streets unable to be productive members of society. We saved the cost of mental health facilities and traded it for the cost of crime and many ruined lives. In the absence of mental health treatment, the cost of lost opportunities for the homeless is staggering.

The war on drugs, often referred to as the "second Jim Crow", had unintended consequences. Its professed aim was to stop drug use within inner cities, often imprisoning people for victimless crimes, such as marijuana possession. According to the DEA and Federal government, marijuana is a Schedule I drug supposedly without medical benefit. Not true. Scientific research today empirically shows that marijuana does have medical benefits!

Once released, former inmates often have no skills, little education or money. If they've been convicted of a felony, the vast majority cannot vote. They do not receive housing support, and they have difficulty in finding work. In essence, the punitive system engenders homelessness even though the released person completed their sentence for the crimes they committed.

Even though we have Medicare, Medicaid (Medical in California), and Obamacare, we don't have universal healthcare for all. It is estimated that a third of the people in California have some form of medical debt. And medical debt is often the number one cause for people to declare bankruptcy and subsequently lose their home. Why is this? From a recent personal experience, an MRI was billed at $2,730, of which Medicare and my supplemental insurance paid $236 and my co-pay was $20. For an uninsured patient, they would receive a $2,730 bill.

What's worse is that our healthcare system in the US costs an estimated 17% of GDP, significantly more costly than all the other developed countries in the OECD, where the average cost of healthcare is in the 10% to 12% of GDP range. In our $27.4 trillion GDP economy (2023), the cost penalty is massive: a five-percentage point penalty (17% versus 12%) is equivalent to an astounding $1.4 trillion!

While the US compares well with other countries in the OECD for longevity, we need to understand that we basically have two separate populations in the US regarding healthcare: those who have some form of health insurance, such as through an employer, or through government-run systems, and those who don't. In many states in the US, the state governments have rejected Obamacare and the Medicaid option that would come with it.

Hence, we clearly see that institutionalized racism and inequality in education, employment, and legislation created a situation in the US where we produce and perpetuate homelessness. We need to do better and fix this!

Roger Swanson

FINDING A NEW DENTIST IS TOUGH!!!
(BUT WE MAKE IT EASY!!!)
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HOTELS

FROM PAGE 1

leisure and lifestyle segment, and our latest Hyatt Centric hotel opening in a key market like Los Angeles demonstrates our focus on destinations that resonate most with our guests and World of Hyatt members," Hyatt Senior Vice President of Global Franchise Operations Mike Waddell stated. "As the first Hyatt hotel in Santa Monica, this lifestyle property not only celebrates the areas vibrant culture, but also offers our guests an opportunity to explore one of Los Angeles' most iconic coastal destinations."

Hyatt is already well-versed in the Los Angeles hotel scene, operating such spots as Andaz West Hollywood and The Shay in Culver City. The group now takes over the Le Méridien Delfina, which Viceroy Hotel Group Chief Operating Officer Mike Walsh has been of great service to Santa Monica.

"We are excited to continue the hotel's legacy as a premier destination in Santa Monica," Walsh said. "This property has long been a staple in the neighborhood, and we look forward to its next chapter through a new look and feel."

Hyatt is not the only company investing in local hotels, as Crescent Hotels & Resorts announced last week that Courtyard Santa Monica and Hampton Inn & Suites Santa Monica have been added to the group's portfolio. Previously under OTO Development, the two sites now join a Crescent portfolio headlined by the PGA National Resort and Spa in West Palm Beach, Florida and the Williamsburg Inn in Williamsburg, Virginia.

"Ideally situated near Downtown Santa Monica's best entertainment, dining, and the renowned Third Street Promenade, these hotels provide the perfect beach getaway," Crescent said in a Facebook post. "Just steps away from the iconic Santa Monica Pier, guests can enjoy an exceptional blend of coastal relaxation and vibrant city life. We're delighted to bring these premium hotels to our portfolio."

> "We are excited to continue the hotel's legacy as a premier destination in Santa Monica"
>
> - Mike Walsh

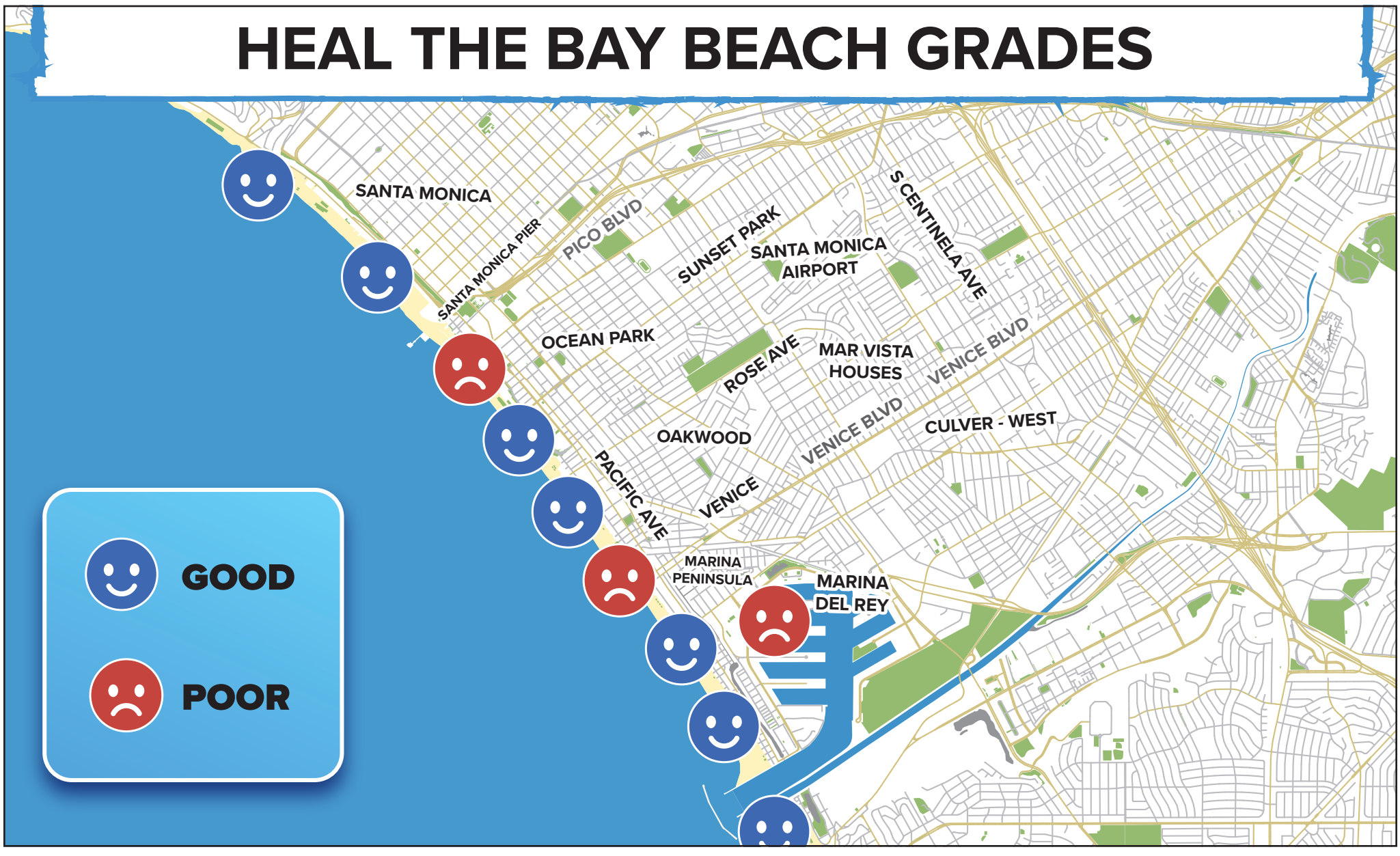
These management shifts are supplemented by the upcoming remodeled and rebranded Regent Santa Monica Beach, which will have its grand opening on Oct. 1. In advance, hotel management gathered city officials and business leaders on Sept. 12 for a sneak preview tour of the updated establishment.

thomas@smdp.com



Courtesy Photo

HOTEL: The remodeled Regent Santa Monica will have its grand opening next week.



ELECTION

FROM PAGE 1

Greenberg. A third donor, Ben Marcus, put in $4,900. Initial financial documents show the PAC has spent just over $12,000 on mailers so far.

The same slate also received a new endorsement from the Santa Monica Coalition for a Livable City (SMCLC).

In their endorsement email, SMCLC said there is a stark contrast between two slates competing for votes this year.

"One slate – Vivian Roknian, John Putnam, Phil Brock, and Oscar de la Torre are home-grown: their philosophies and actions are in sync with SMCLC – to advocate for residents, not developers, and fight for the scale, character, and livability of Santa Monica," they said.

"The other slate, fueled by big money and entrenched political interests, strongly supports high-density overdevelopment throughout our city, including letting developers build apartment buildings in single-family neighborhoods, and the removal of parking requirements for new projects. They will not push back against new state mandates overriding local zoning because they agree with those mandates."

There are a total of 10 candidates vying for the four seats available on Council this year. A competing four-person slate features Dan Hall, Ellis Raskin, Natalya Zernitskaya and Barry Snell. Last week the group picked up new endorsements from labor organizations and the County Democratic organization.

In countywide elections, the Santa Monica Police Officer's Union endorsed Nathan Hochman for District Attorney. Hochman is running against incumbent George Gascon and the POA said the incumbent has failed at his job.

"We cannot afford another four years of Gascon's failed social experiment, in which he places criminals above law-abiding residents. We need an independent District Attorney who will work with police to reduce residential burglaries, retail theft and other crimes that adversely affect the people of Santa Monica. Enough is enough. That's why we support Nathan Hochman for Los Angeles County District Attorney," said Cody Green, president of the Santa Monica Police Officers Association in a statement.

In the same press release, Hochman said he is grateful for the support.

"I will fairly enforce the laws, hold criminals accountable and implement effective criminal justice reform. As a life-long Angeleno, I want to rebuild trust with our community as we work together to address urgent issues, such as homelessness and reducing fentanyl deaths," he said.

Also at the county-level, Measure G picked up additional endorsements last week.

Measure G would expand the Board of Supervisors from five to nine members, establishes an independent Ethics Commission to oversee County government, and introduces an elected County Executive, providing a clear separation of powers between the executive and legislative branches of County government.

SEIU 121RN, representing nurses and healthcare professionals across Los Angeles County and the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce announced their endorsement of the measure last week.

"As the voice of healthcare professionals and strong advocates for workers' rights, SEIU 121RN is proud to endorse Measure G on the November 2024 ballot. This critical measure represents a significant step forward for the residents of Los Angeles County, as it seeks to enhance public health, safety, and essential services that directly impact our communities." said Leo Perez-Ferrer, RN, President of SEIU 121RN in their announcement.

> As the voice of healthcare professionals and strong advocates for workers' rights, SEIU 121RN is proud to endorse Measure G on the November 2024 ballot. This critical measure represents a significant step forward for the residents of Los Angeles County, as it seeks to enhance public health, safety, and essential services that directly impact our communities
> - Leo Perez-Ferrer, RN, President of SEIU 121RN

"Measure G will help ensure that L.A. County's leadership is more responsive and reflective of the communities it serves," said Maria S. Salinas, President and CEO of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce in their endorsement. "By creating an elected County executive branch, and establishing an independent Ethics Commission, Measure G will create a more effective government to provide the tools and resources needed for our local business community to thrive."

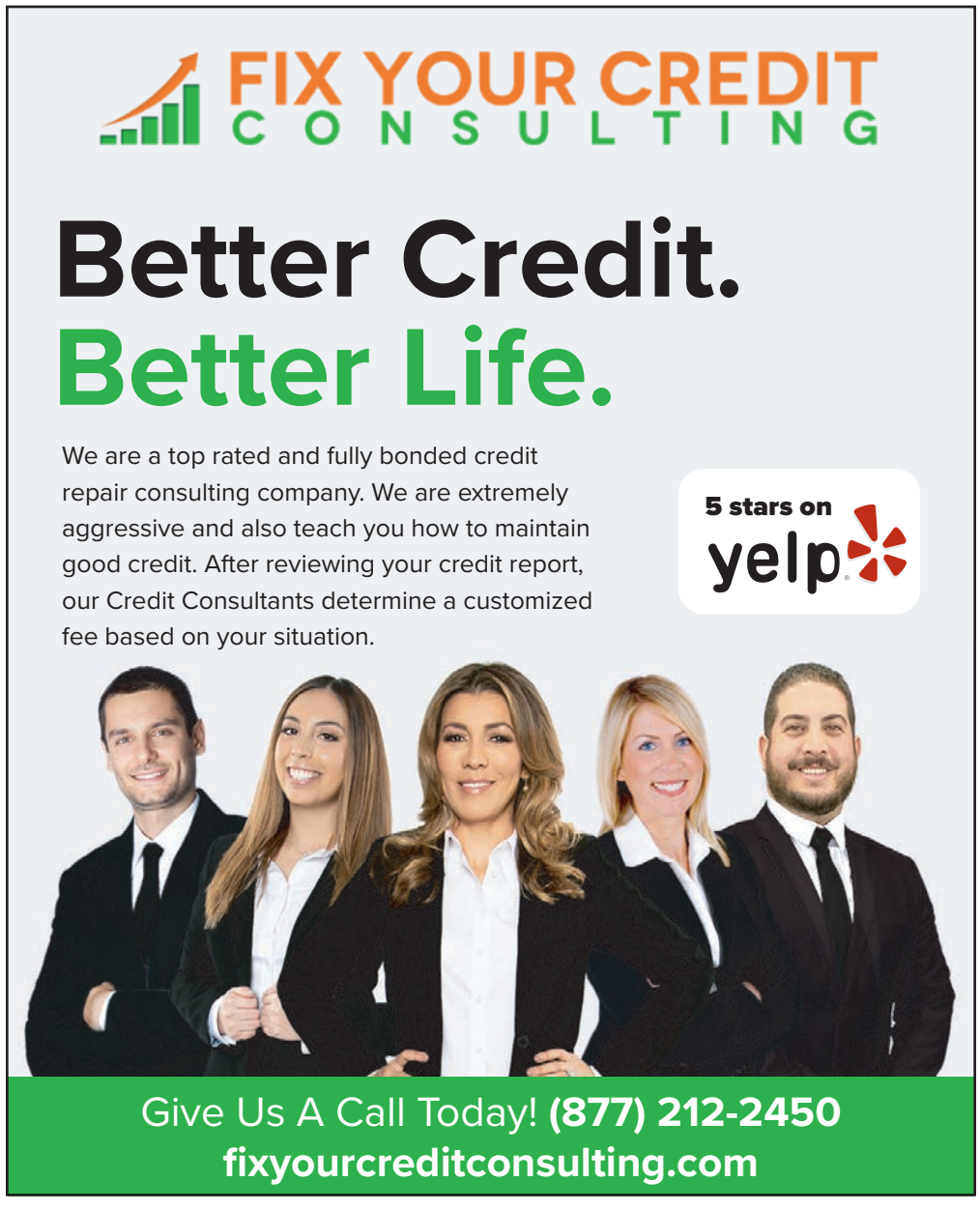
Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath, who represents Santa Monica, first proposed Measure G.

"Measure G is a major step toward creating a government that truly serves its people. It's about ensuring that our leaders are held accountable, our communities have a stronger voice, and our County operates with the transparency and integrity that our working families deserve," she said.

While Election Day isn't until Tuesday, Nov. 5, some voting centers will open on Oct. 26. Mail voters can start to cast ballots starting next week as Vote by Mail ballots can be returned to the County as early as Oct. 3.

editor@smdp.com







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We invite you to join forces with the American Cancer Society – the nation's nonprofit leader in the breast cancer fight. Join the Making Strides movement to help end breast cancer as we know it, for everyone.

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REGISTER DONATE DONATE REGISTER

American Cancer Society®

MAKING STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER®

Sign up or donate
MakingStridesWalk.org/SantaMonica

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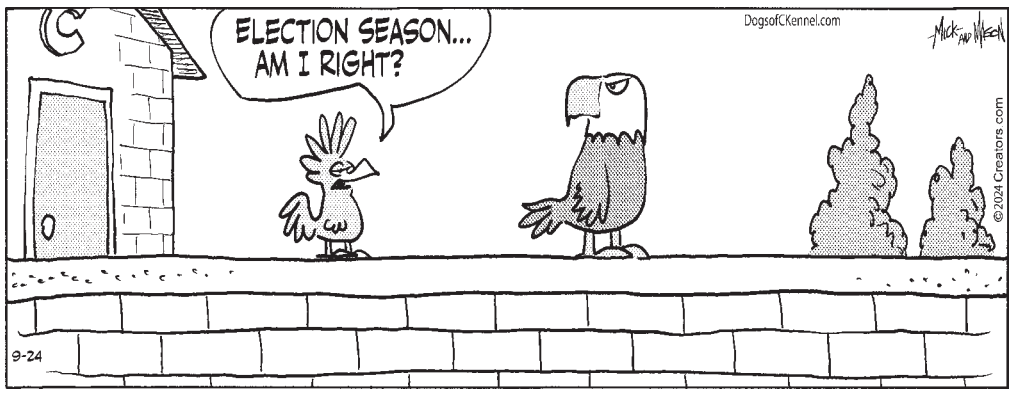
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



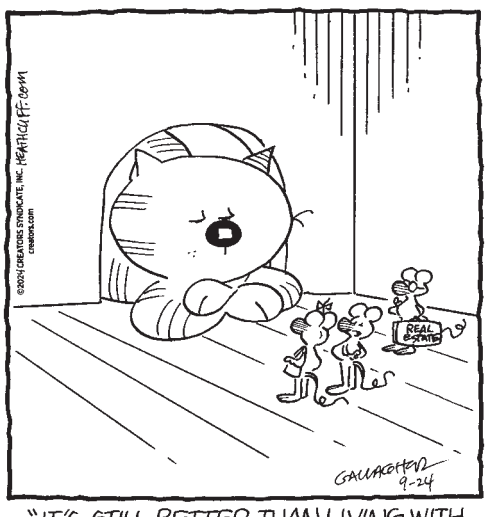
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"IT'S STILL BETTER THAN LIVING WITH YOUR PARENTS."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6343

Roughing it

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

Air bed
Annexe
Arvo
Away
Battler
Bays
Boil
Breeze
Cache
Cozy
Cuppa
Deet
Doona
Esky
Evening
Fees
Fire
Food
Fuel
Glee
Heat
Hike
Honey
Idle
Inlet
Jump
Lazy
Maps
Mate
Milk
Parks
Peace
Photos
Poles
Quilt
Rest
Rods
Room
Rope
Sailboard
Scrub
Share
Simple
Site
Sunbake
Swim
Toast
Torch
Towel
Tucker
Two-up
Wowser

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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 24)

"Work first, assess later" is your frequent motto in this year of making things happen for you and yours. Fear has no room in the equation, and when it tries to encroach, it's squeezed out by the momentum of your action. More highlights: Brushes with fame, collisions with love, and you'll profit from your talent for accurately calculating risk. Pisces and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 20, 13, 5 and 7.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). As every background singer knows, it can take a little work to find the note that harmonizes best. You're willing to change your tone until it resonates in a pleasing way with what's going on around you today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It might seem like your inner voice is dragging you down rather than lifting you up. The good news? You can turn it around with the simple decision to be nice to yourself. Bring some loving words and encouragement to the conversation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). People feel your generous spirit. You'll draw in kindred souls, those who need help and those who would take advantage of any opportunity to get more of a good thing. Keep your heart open but protect your peace.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). A natural attraction is a door. It might be locked or just tricky to open, but worth it to figure out how to get in. This path aligns with your interests and values, making the effort it takes to explore feel more like play than work.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Honesty has a feel to it. True words carry weight. You'll earn trust with your straightforwardness. What's even better is you deliver with compassion and focus on topics people are ready and open to share on.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You crave change but only to a certain degree. Too much novelty is destabilizing. There's an art to inviting just the right amount of excitement, though some forms are a slippery slope. Best to steer away from those today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll notice what needs improvement, and it won't take too much of a brainstorm to figure out how to rearrange things to support you better. Maybe you can't make all the changes now, but put it on the schedule while the motivation is high.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Sometimes those who seek your attention go about it in a way that feels a tad antagonistic. This "negging" isn't your favorite, but your sense of humor and quick responses turn things around to the best outcome.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Instead of parroting the opinions of others in your group, you'll make a concerted effort to try to see things differently, as though it's your job to do so, and maybe it is. Technically, a point of view is something that really can't be shared.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Relationships are full of lovely nuance, the sort that keeps you captivated though you're not sure exactly why. Subtle details speak to you, though some subconsciously, which is even more enticing. True connections are born.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're the artist of your life, determined to make a masterpiece of it. It sometimes means tearing off the clay and reworking it, or erasing the oil with a rag and starting over on the underpainting.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You are Visine to bloodshot eyes. You drop in as an agent of clarity. You soothe and brighten the situation. You don't mean to cause tears, but if they come, they are tears of joy or relief, and all part of the process.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

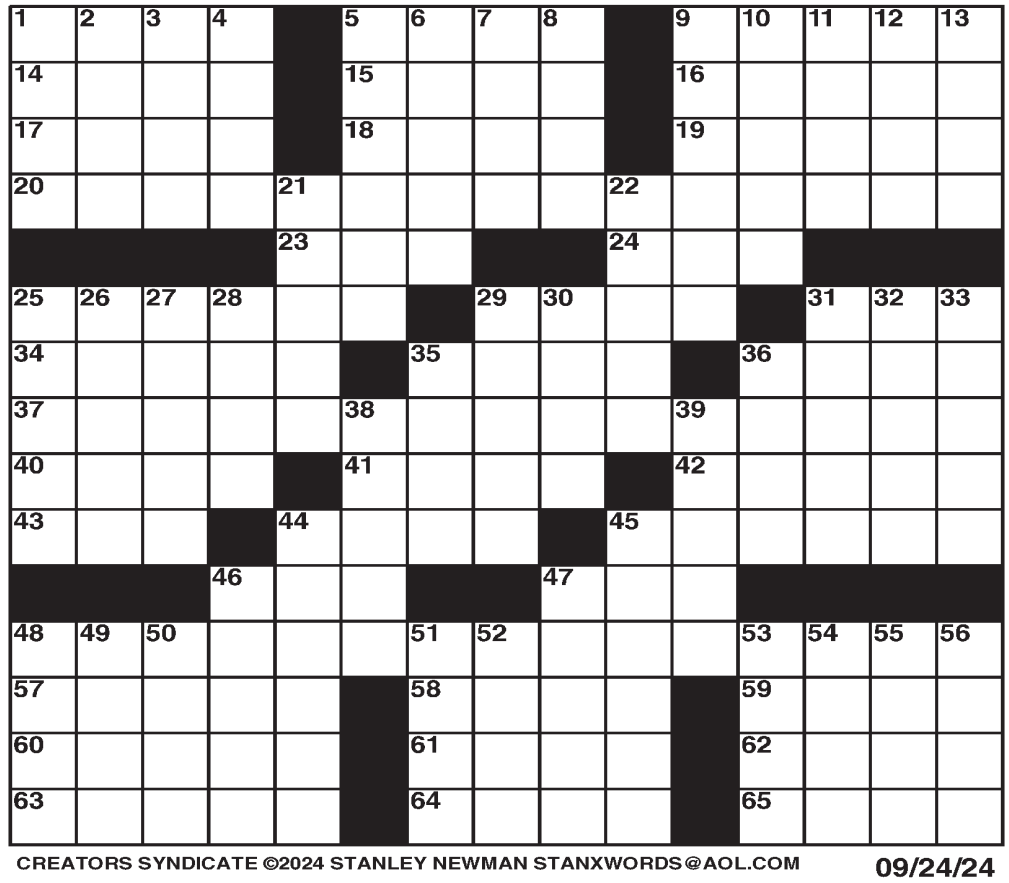
WORDS OF MOUTH by Jerry Clarkson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Sweater's sleeves
5 Potato, informally
9 Wallpaper adhesive
14 Canoe or kayak
15 "Bye-bye!"
16 Hawaiian farewell
17 Hint in a whodunit
18 Teheran's country
19 Prohibited things
20 Minor mistake in speaking
23 Two-__ paper towels
24 Warm embrace
25 Small sofa
29 Narrow cut in an envelope
31 Twosome
34 Town __ (colonial news source)
35 Twirl around
36 Well-mannered man
37 Extremely hard to find
40 Finds a function for
41 Slight coloring
42 Any tune from the '60s
43 Cradle or crib
44 Penny
45 Quarterback, throwing the ball
46 "Ready when you __!"
47 Assist
48 Being talked about by all
57 Birds of peace
58 Grand-scale tale
59 Much-admired person
60 In plain sight
61 Appoint to a job
62 Dog-biting bug
63 __ and raves
64 Kid's vehicle on snow
65 Short-term worker, for short

DOWN

1 First lessons in reading
2 Throw of the dice
3 Island near Oahu
4 Rung of a ladder
5 Hold back, as a yawn
6 Birthday celebration
7 Great Salt Lake's state
8 Great __ (large dog)
9 Eventually be successful
10 "Moving right __..."
11 Ballad or hymn
12 "Wherefore art __ Romeo?"
13 Make less complicated
21 Gig for sopranos and tenors
22 Gets slimmer
25 Wash vigorously
26 Wipe from a chalkboard
27 Weary
28 Golf pegs
29 Paid cash
30 Clothes dryer fuzz
31 Noble actions
32 Loosen, as shoelaces
33 "On the __ hand..."
35 Lower leg
36 Gooey hair products
38 Direct a car
39 Frogs' cousins
44 Peaks of waves
45 __ together (assembled)
46 Keep from happening
47 Japanese cartoon genre
48 Distinctive smell
49 __ Scotia, Canada
50 Make level
51 Sudden urges
52 White gemstone
53 Elevate
54 Just hanging around
55 Literary verse
56 __ on the wrist (minor punishment)



CREATORS SYNDICATE ©2024 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM

09/24/24

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

RENT

FROM PAGE 1

again, this is despite a year-over-year drop of 3.4%, with only Glendale (9.6%) and West Hollywood (5.1%) falling more in the two-bedroom category.

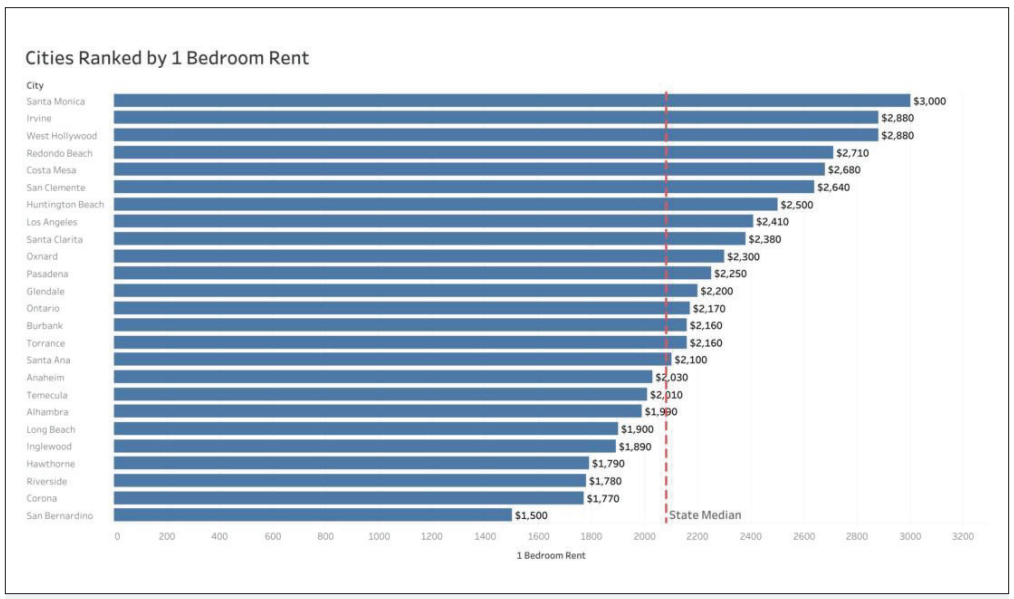
Similar websites also put Santa Monica in rare air, including Apartments.com, with average one-bedroom listings going for $2,992. According to the site, this puts the city at 91% higher rent than the national average, putting it among the most expensive cities in the entire United States. The average two-bedroom rental on the site, $3,779, is much more lax than the Zumper average.

The Apartments.com report also breaks down one-bedroom rentals by Santa Monica neighborhood, with the most expensive being no surprise. One-bedroom listings in Downtown Santa Monica average out to $4,278 per month from the site's listings, with Ocean Park ($3,781) and North of Montana ($3,712) finishing second and third in average listing price. The most affordable neighborhood, by nearly $1,000, is the Sunset Park neighborhood with an average one-bedroom rental at $2,339 per month.

While the high rents impact everyone, those just beginning their apartment journey have been particularly hurt in the Los Angeles area. A recent report from Rent.com stated that recent college graduates wanting to live alone in a one-bedroom apartment have to spend 54.9% of their income to do so, the second-highest percentage in the nation (behind New York City). This would define the group as "severely rent burdened," those that have to spend 50% or more of income on housing.

Even with recent graduates that rent a two-bedroom apartment with a roommate, that group would still spend 35.9% of income on rent, and would still count under the "rent burdened" category. Overall, 54% of Los Angeles residents were noted as rent burdened (at least 30% of income spent on housing) in 2021.

thomas@smdp.com



Courtesy Graphic

RENT: Santa Monica was recently ranked as the most expensive part of Los Angeles to get a one-bedroom apartment, according to Zumper.

INSIDE
THE DAILY PRESS
PODCAST
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TUESDAY | SEPTEMBER 24

SOCIAL SERVICE ASSISTANCE

9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. Trained community health workers will be available to meet in person with community members at the Park Center Building in Virginia Avenue Park. 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 and 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.

SMALL BUSINESS WORKSHOP

11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Santa Monica Fairview Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. One way to increase sales for your business is to become a vendor or contractor to public agencies and private organizations. This workshop covers the elements you need to know to begin the pursuit of new contracting opportunities. Presented by the Small Business Development Centers of El Camino College. Limited space. Register at: lasbdcnet.ecenterdirect.com/events/27099.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

5:30 p.m. City Council Chambers, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main St. The City Council is made up of seven members elected at-large for staggered four-year terms. Every two years, after each election, the City Council selects one of its members to serve as Mayor and another to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore. The City Council also sits as the following bodies for the City of Santa Monica: Housing Authority, Parking Authority, Public Financing, Redevelopment Successor Agency, Audit Subcommittee.

WEDNESDAY | SEPTEMBER 25

THE ART OF JULIO SALGADO

12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Student Services Center Orientation Hall, Santa Monica College, 1900 Pico Blvd. Julio Salgado, a visual artist of color whose work explores themes of immigration and queerness, will talk about the influences on his work over the past 15 years. His work has been displayed at the Oakland Museum, SFMOMA, and the Smithsonian.

HANDS-ONLY CPR

2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Palisades Branch Library, 861 Alma Real Dr., Pacific Palisades. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is coming to the library to provide Hands-Only CPR training. This is drop-in training, come anytime between 2:30 and 4:30, it only takes about 10 minutes to complete. This is not a certified CPR class, you will not receive a certificate. For ADA accommodations, call 213-228-7430 at least 72 hours prior to the event.

THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 26

LOS ANGELES INVESTOR CONFERENCE

10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Famecast Creator Brand Accelerator, 1533 26th St. Join 500-plus investors and investment attendees, as featured companies and entrepreneurs will be presenting their companies throughout the day and evening, and have their brand's products, services and investment materials available for review and discussion with key executives at their booth. Guest entrepreneurs will have access to networking throughout the event. General admission $49, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/los-angeles-investor-conference-tickets-950350242157.

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MEDICARE

2 - 3 p.m. Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave. Barry A. Sikov, Independent Licensed Health Plan Advisor, discusses Medicare basics and the 2025 changes to Medicare Advantage and Part D drug plans.

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.

LA LAW LIBRARY OFFICE HOURS

2 - 6 p.m. Main Lobby, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. A legal research specialist helps patrons find answers to legal questions. Legal research specialists are not attorneys and cannot provide legal advice, help fill out forms, or interpret the law.

THE OTHER ART FAIR

6 - 10 p.m. Barker Hangar, 3021 Airport Ave. The Other Art Fair Los Angeles returns Sept. 26 - Sept. 29 to Barker Hangar and will host 140-plus independent and emerging artists, each handpicked by a selection committee of art world experts. Visitors can connect with artists in-person and explore thousands of original artworks across various media, in a range of prices from $150 to $10,000. Tickets $25-$55, children under 12 free, to purchase visit: https://www.theotherartfair.com/la/tickets/.

BRIAN DELATE'S GUARDIAN ANGELS

8 - 9 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St. Guardian Angels reveals how the angels on earth and beyond can guide and direct us. In 1973, a profound event, in the form of a dream, transformed Brian Delate's life. Was it a close encounter, an out-of-body experience, or a visit from "The Great Beyond?" You decide in this show written and performed by Delate, directed by Robert Murray Duncan. Proceeds support the Santa Monica Playhouse Benefit Campaign. Tickets $25, discounts for students, teachers, seniors and military. To purchase, visit: https://www.showclix.com/event/brian-delate-s-guardian-angels.

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Kehillat Israel

High Holy Days 5785





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