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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 218 WEDNESDAY 9/25/24 smdp.com

Longtime Daily Press columnist Jack Neworth dies at 80

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

A beloved voice in Santa Monica has fallen silent with the death of longtime Daily Press columnist Jack Neworth. Known equally for his humor and strong opinions, Neworth left an indelible mark on the city he called home with decades of columns to his name.

Neworth passed away in the early morning hours on Sept. 24 at the age of 80, succumbing to cancer in the bladder that had spread throughout his body. Neworth had spent his final days in Encino, in the care of his brother-in-law, David Winter. Along with David, the longtime Santa Monica Daily Press columnist is survived by his sister, Brenda Neworth-Winter, niece Jenny Winter, cousin Mark Gold, and a host of close friends.

Born in West Los Angeles on July 11, 1944, Neworth was a California lifer, including a long stint as a Park Ranger in Idlewild. He moved into The Shores apartments 40 years ago, becoming one of the property's first tenants, with Winter stating he was a "Santa Monica lover" who appreciated both the city and its ocean views.

Neworth's lifelong passion for writing led him to the Daily Press in 2006, beginning his "Laughing Matters" column on June 16 of that year with a piece entitled "Life in Santa Monica: Good, Bad and Ugly."

In that first column, he talked about his childhood trips to the city and the feeling seeing the ocean as they came into town.

"The highlight of the drive occurred on the hill above 11th, with our first glimpse of the ocean," he wrote. "Minutes later we'd be in the water which was so clean you could see your

SEE **NEWORTH** PAGE 7

Lone challenger for School Board withdraws from the election

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The November election in Santa Monica will be among the least contested in City history as one of the two races that voters would have had a voice in is now moot following the withdrawal of the lone challenger for School Board.

School Board candidate Christine Falaguerra notified the City Clerk's office of her intent to withdraw from the race last week.

"I have decided to withdraw my candidacy from the School Board election," she wrote. "Please let me know if there are any further steps I need to take."

She was one of four individuals competing for the three open seats. The other three are incumbents Jon Kean, Jennifer Smith and Maria Leon-Vazquez.

Falaguerra did not respond to a request to elaborate on her decision by press time but while she may no longer be actively seeking office, the lack of contest does not mean the election for School Board will be canceled.

The City Clerk's office confirmed receipt of Falaguerra's email this week but said voters would still see Falaguerra's name when they cast their votes as ballots were finalized last

SEE **ELECTION** PAGE 5

'Douglas Day' at Santa Monica Airport draws big crowd and WWII aircraft flyover



Lisa Matthews

AIRPORT: A huge crowd came to the Santa Monica Airport on Sunday to celebrate "Douglas Day."

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Sunday saw a crowd of nearly 3,000 gather on the north side of Santa Monica Airport to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first ever flight around the world.

This amazing achievement was accomplished in four specifically modified aircraft manufactured by the Douglas Aircraft Company, which was based at the airport when it was still known as Clover Field. In fact, Southern California positively drips in aviation history, lest we forget that the sound barrier was broken in 1947 over Edwards Air Force Base, just a hair's breadth outside

SEE **DOUGLAS DAY** PAGE 8



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Over 400 lbs of trash cleared from Santa Monica Pier on Coastal Cleanup Day



Scott Snowden

CLEANUP: The 35th annual Coastal Cleanup Day brought over a thousand volunteers to local beaches.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Saturday saw the 35th annual Coastal Cleanup Day, an international endeavor to protect oceans, watersheds and wildlife and once again, Santa Monica-based environmental nonprofit Heal the Bay served as the Los Angeles County Coordinator. More than 60 cleanup sites were targeted throughout Los Angeles county, including eight local sites for residents in Santa Monica, Venice and Pacific Palisades.

For anyone making their way south through Palisades Park to the Pier or even to catch a few early waves, the sight resembled thousands of ants constantly crisscrossing the sand collecting every piece of discarded refuse they could find.

While the numbers from every site are still being collated, at the Santa Monica State Beach, North Beach & Pier, Tower 1550 site alone, over a thousand volunteers collected over 400 lbs of trash in just three hours. At the time of going to press, the data that had been shared from many, but all of the sites, suggested that over 10,000 lbs of trash had been removed.

However, this particular section of the Coastal Cleanup was particularly interesting because PADI-certified scuba divers from the Eco Dive Center in Culver City were clearing all manner of accidentally-dropped and deliberately-discarded debris from the base of the Pier at its western tip.

Beth Beltramo, co-owner at the Eco Dive Center, said, “It’s free, we get to dive and it’s all for a good cause,” adding, “Safety is a

SEE **BEACH CLEAN** PAGE 6

SUNDAY • OCTOBER 6, 2024



KTLA’s Kacey Montoya

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GUEST COMMENTARY

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California's expensive explosion of real estate fraud hits home



Photo by Semantha Norris, CalMatters

HOUSING: A home for sale in the Sunset district in San Francisco on July 12, 2023.

DAN WALTERS

Rana Robillard came very close this year to losing her life's savings and with it her dream home, when she wired nearly $400,000 to an internet scammer.

Robillard, ironically, is an experienced veteran of the Bay Area technology industry, but when she received what she thought was a request for her down payment on a home in Orinda, she sent the money, only to learn that she had been tricked.

"That's when I went into a full panic," Robillard, 55, told CNBC, the cable channel devoted to financial matters, which chronicled her terrifying experience.

Robillard was not alone in being victimized.

The real estate industry has fully embraced online transactions, thus eliminating the hassle of having buyers, sellers, real estate agents, mortgage lenders and title company employees shuffle through dozens of paper documents that must be signed or initialed to complete transactions.

It's made the process of buying and selling houses much more convenient, but it's also given scammers an opening for fraud that has cost home buyers many millions of dollars.

The request for down payment that Robillard received was virtually identical to the many email messages she had exchanged and, in fact, was the only bogus one, which is why scammers have been so successful.

Cyber crooks have mastered the dark art of mimicking legitimate messages, complete with the real names of title company employees and authentic-looking logos, and artificial intelligence could make their scams even more successful in the future.

FBI data, CNBC reported, reveal that real estate fraud involving bogus emails has risen from less than $9 million in 2015 to $446.1 million in 2022.

A study of real estate fraud commissioned by Anidjar and Levine, a Florida law firm, found that California's 1,583 cases in 2023 far surpassed those of any other state, as did its $24.8 million in losses.

Robillard is one of the lucky victims. She quickly reported her loss and her $398,359.5 was tracked through several banks as the thieves shifted it around to avoid detection. Five months later,

SEE **EXPENSIVE** PAGE 11



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **65.1**

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.

THURSDAY
POOR TO FAIR
SURF: Knee to thigh 1-2FT

Still very small but perhaps up a touch over previous days. We could see a trickle more surf as small, long period SW builds. AM wind likely light with clean conditions.

Weather

Wednesday: Patchy dense fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 69.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 60.
Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 70.
Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 59.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)	High/Low
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
2024/09/28	Sat	7:40 PM	5.42		H
2024/09/29	Sun	02:25 AM	0.11		L
2024/09/29	Sun	08:48 AM	4.78		H
2024/09/29	Sun	2:22 PM	1.70		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: 9/23
15 21 25 37 45
Power#: 19
Jackpot: 223 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

Fantasy5
Draw Date: 9/23
15 17 22 26 32

Daily 3
Draw Date: 9/23
EVENING: 9 0 2
Draw Date: 9/23
MIDDAY: 1 6 2

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 9/23
1st: 04 - Big Ben
2nd: 01 - Gold Rush
3rd: 05 - California Classic
Race Time: 1:46.02

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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

Woman alleges Sean 'Diddy' Combs raped her on video in latest lawsuit

ANDREW DALTON
AP Entertainment Writer

Another woman sued Sean "Diddy" Combs on Tuesday, alleging that the music mogul and his head of security raped her and recorded it on video at his New York recording studio in 2001.

The lawsuit filed in federal court in New York, the latest of several similar suits against Combs, comes a week after he was arrested and a federal sex trafficking indictment against him was unsealed.

Thalia Graves alleges that when she was 25 and dating an executive who worked for Combs in the summer of 2001, Combs and Joseph Sherman lured her to a meeting at Bad Boy Recording Studios. She said they picked her up in an SUV and during the ride gave her a drink "likely laced with a drug."

> It has been hard for me to trust others to form healthy relationships or even feel safe in my own skin
>
> - Thalia Graves

According to the lawsuit, Graves lost consciousness and awoke to find herself bound inside Combs' office and lounge at the studio. The two men raped her, slapped her, slammed her head against a pool table and ignored her screams and cries for help, the lawsuit alleges.

At a news conference in Los Angeles with one of her attorneys, Gloria Allred, Graves said she has suffered from "flashbacks, nightmares and intrusive thoughts" in the years since.

"It has been hard for me to trust others to form healthy relationships or even feel safe in my own skin," Graves said, crying as she read from a statement.

She said it is "a pain that reaches into your very core of who you are and leaves emotional scars that may never fully heal."

Combs remains jailed without bail in New York on federal charges alleging that he ran a vast network that facilitated sexual crimes and committed shocking acts of violence, using blackmail and other tactics to protect Combs and those close to him.

He pleaded not guilty to racketeering conspiracy and sex trafficking. His attorney said he is innocent and will fight to clear his name. His representatives did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment on the latest lawsuit. There was no immediate indication from the lawsuit or from Combs' representatives whether Sherman had a separate attorney who could comment on the allegations.

The lawsuit was filed under the New York City Victims of Gender-Motivated Violence Protection Act, and comes during a two-year window that suspends legal deadlines and allows sexual assault victims to sue over abuse that might otherwise be too old to pursue.

Allred declined to say whether her client had spoken to investigators in Combs' criminal case. The indictment in that case mentions only allegations since 2008.

Graves' lawsuit also alleges that late last year, after Combs' former singing protege and girlfriend Cassie filed a lawsuit that began the surge of allegations against him, Graves learned through her former boyfriend that Combs had recorded her rape, shown it to others and sold it as pornography.

The Associated Press does not typically name people who say they have been sexually abused, unless they come forward publicly as Graves and Cassie, whose legal name is Casandra Ventura, have done.

Graves' lawsuit says both Combs and Sherman contacted her multiple times in the years after the assault, threatening repercussions if she told anyone what had happened to her. She was in a divorce and custody fight at the time and feared losing her young son if she revealed anything, the suit says.

Graves said at the news conference that the guilt and shame attached "often made me feel worthless, isolated and sometimes responsible for what happened to me."

The lawsuit seeks damages to be determined at trial and for all copies of the video to be accounted for and destroyed.

The lawsuit also names as defendants several companies owned by Combs, the three-time Grammy winner and founder of Bad Boy Records who was among the most influential hip-hop producers and executives of the past three decades.

GET IT DAILY...

ELECTION

FROM PAGE 1

week. Printed ballots are already in the mail to some voters and they can be returned as of Wednesday next week. Falaguerra's name and candidate statements are going to be included in those ballots regardless of her intent to withdraw from the race.

Santa Monica's elections are consolidated with Los Angeles County and local officials said they have notified County election officials about the request to withdraw but local election code has no procedure to remove a candidate at this late stage unless they were to die prior to the election.

While the now uncontested race for School Board will still go before voters, races for Rent Control Board and the Santa Monica College board were canceled earlier this year due to a similar lack of candidates. In both cases, the number of potential candidates matched the number of open seats and no election was required.

Voters will still have a meaningful choice of candidates for City Council with 10 individuals vying for the four open seats but even that choice is vastly reduced from years past when the city saw up to 20 individuals campaigning for local office.

Election experts said the lack of residents seeking local office is unlikely to have a significant impact on the outcome of the one remaining contested race as there's plenty of heat at the top of the ticket.

UCLA lecturer Jim Newton said the impact of local races, or the lack thereof, on overall voter turnout is negligible and while a particularly interesting local race would ideally generate its own pool of informed voters, it is more likely that a high intensity national or regional race would skew the local voter pool.

"Trump/Harris is a serious choice and people understand there's a lot on the line there," he said. "Also the fact that Harris is a Californian and I think that will additionally drive some turnout here. Quite possibly, you could see a real movement in the electorate here. It's a possibility that with a woman, a woman of color ... who is significantly younger than Trump, all those things combined could really produce a significant turnout increase for her."

He said the Harris candidacy combined with a national focus on abortion could generate a surge in turnout among women who would then have a corresponding influence on local races, regardless of their quantity or intensity.

Newton said it's possible a surge in turnout could have a real impact on the race for District Attorney.

"One race to watch locally is the DA race," he said. "That's a race where Gascon polls very badly, and has for months, but Hochman doesn't poll great either."

He said Hochman's past identification as a Republican could sway the kind of voters who may be brought out to vote by the Presidential race.

"Hochman has a very good chance of winning this race because Gascon's numbers are so bad but if you saw a big surge in young voters, voters of color, I would think they are more likely to be Gascon rather than Hochman supporters."

editor@smdp.com

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Santa Monica Daily Press
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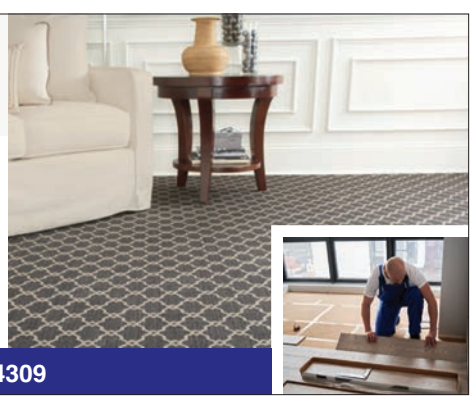
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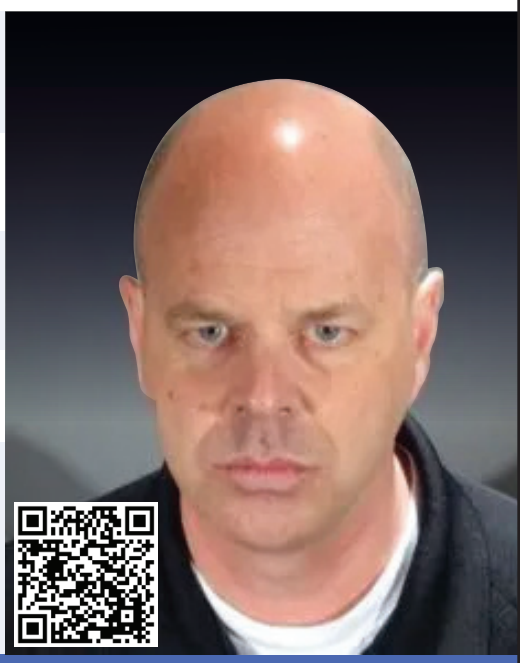
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POWERED BY smdp Santa Monica Daily Press



BEACH CLEAN

FROM PAGE 2

prime concern though, as it is on every dive, but around the base of the Pier we have to be especially careful, so we have Harbor Patrol out there as a backup."

According to Beltramo, in previous years they've found GoPros, sunglasses, wedding rings, wedding dresses, electric scooters and electric bikes. They find the occasional urn, which they leave behind.

"Earlier on this morning it was like there was a mob," says Art Salter, Site Captain. "There were so many people here and we were just setting up ... It's so great though and many keep on going out, they give us their full bucket, grab another and head back out."

Last year's Coastal Cleanup Day had over 7,100 volunteers remove 16,000 pounds of trash and recycling from Los Angeles neighborhoods, parks, trails and beaches. While cigarette butts were the most common item, small plastic pieces and styrofoam have been increasing items. Volunteers have also found unusual items such as a white wedding dress, a pumpkin full of hard boiled eggs, a $100 bill torn in half and a World War II-era gas mask.

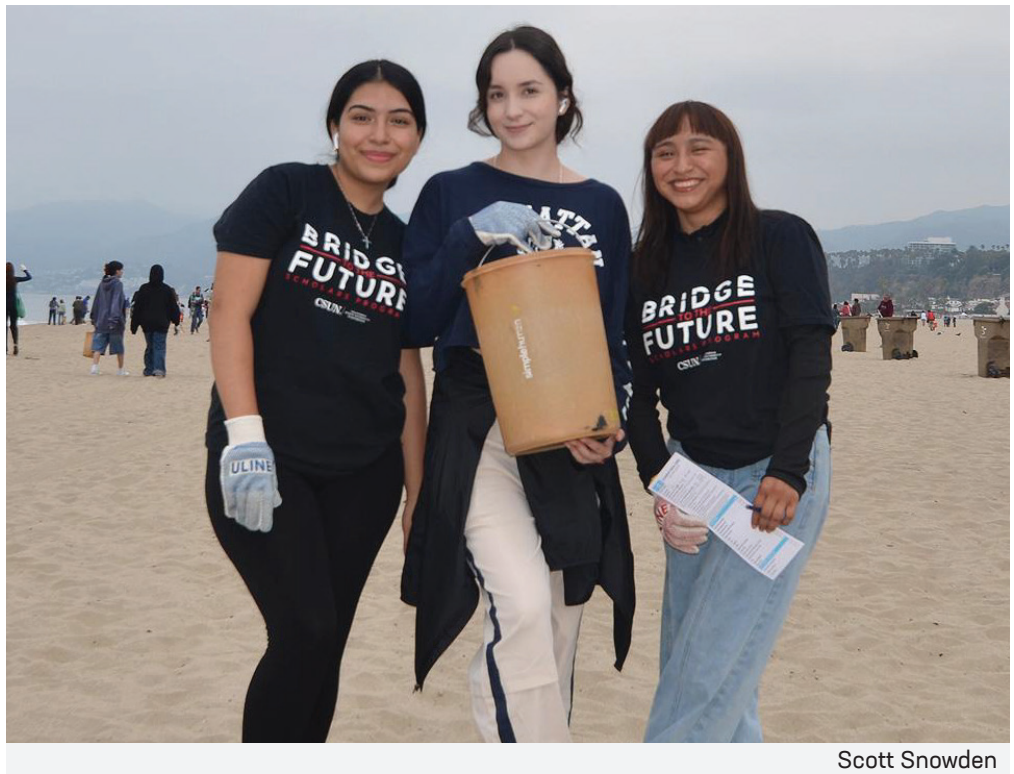
The trash discarded by beachgoers is harmful not only to wildlife, but also to human beings. Birds can swallow cigarette butts – FYI, smoking on the beach is prohibited — and almost any aquatic lifeform can get itself entangled in fishing nets or even plastic yokes that six packs come in. Moreover, once plastic has made its way into the water it can degrade over time to form microplastics.

These are nano millimeter-sized nodules of plastic material that have now affected the whole planet. They have been found just about everywhere, from Arctic snow to deep in the oceans. The particles can harbor toxic chemicals and harmful microbes and are known to harm some marine creatures. It is also known now that humans consume them via food and water and even inhalation.

It's estimated that between 1.15 to 2.41 million tonnes of plastic enter the oceans each year. Five years ago, a group of amateur Australian divers found a plastic KFC bag from the 1970s during an ocean clean-up off the waters off Bulcock Beach in Queensland and during a dive to the bottom of the Marianas Trench — the deepest region anywhere in the Earth's oceans — a plastic bag was found.

scott.snowden@smdp.com





Scott Snowden

BEACH: Heal The Bay organized the popular beach cleanup last weekend.

NEWORTH

FROM PAGE 1

feet, and even fish swimming around. The upside of today's pollution? Fewer fish in your way and you can get your daily requirement of mercury if you inadvertently swallow a gulp of sea water."

In the following years, he touched on everything from his thoughts on politics and sports, to unheralded personal stories of the local community. His love of tennis, and sports in general, resurfaced time and again but the column was centered around Neworth's one-of-a-kind wit, gaining a following in Santa Monica and beyond.

He frequently highlighted the city's characters and was known to tell sometimes deeply personal stories about his own history with a self-deprecating style.

"He had a great sense of humor," Winter said. "He was quite liberal and clear with his ideas … his writing was clear, it was emotional, (and) he had strong beliefs."

Other columnists came to bond with him over a shared love of the writing style, such as the scribe of the Daily Press' Noteworthy and Curious City columns, Charles Andrews. Saying his fellow writer was even more humorous in person, Andrews heaped praise on Neworth shining a light on stories "that might otherwise never be told."

"I admired him for writing humor, because I think that's one of the hardest things in the world to do," Andrews said.

Andrews also admired Neworth's dedication to sports, including Los Angeles teams like the Dodgers and Lakers. Neworth's top sport was tennis, though, writing about past icons like Santa Monica-born women's star Gussie Moran and 1940s and 1950s legend Pancho Gonzales.

He had strong opinions about politics and wasn't shy about engaging with readers who took issue with his stalwart support for the Democratic Party.

His skill as a writer often allowed him to weave those disparate threads into a single compelling narrative such as a 2021 column that used an email from an angry reader complaining about a recent column, as the prompt to reminisce about a trip to see the Rams many years prior that turned into a desire to be a sports writer and ultimately to his time at SMDP.

"Last week I received another email from KH, who, perhaps facetiously, called me 'talented' and said I had the right to express my views about anything I wanted. (She should only know.) In retrospect, you could say that the letter to the Rams' president was the origin of how I ultimately wound up at the Daily Press where, after 800+ columns, I'm still trying to get one right," he wrote.

The entirety of Daily Press staff was grateful for his contributions, including Publisher Ross Furukawa.

"The Daily Press has hosted many writers over the years but few were as impactful, long lasting and foundational to the paper's character as Jack," said Furukawa. "His humor and personality are now as much a part of the City's history as the beach he loved. Generations of Santa Monicans came to look forward to his particular style and he will be missed by everyone who came to know him through his work."

Neworth outlasted multiple editors, technologies and physical offices at the Daily Press.

"When you lose a pillar like Jack, there's nothing that can be done to fill that void," said Editor-in-Chief Matthew Hall. "The way he wrote and the connection he had with residents is a lightning-in-a-bottle situation. The city was fortunate to have him for as long as they did. His passing is a loss to everyone who loves this city even a fraction of the amount he did."

At the beginning of 2024, Neworth's kidneys were failing him, forcing a nephrostomy procedure. After a few months in and out of the hospital, medical staff checked his bladder and found that the cancer was spreading. Doctors attempted to reduce his tumor so they could operate, but he never recovered. Neworth and his family chose hospice care at Winter's home to make his final days comfortable, where the writer would spend his days watching his beloved Dodgers.

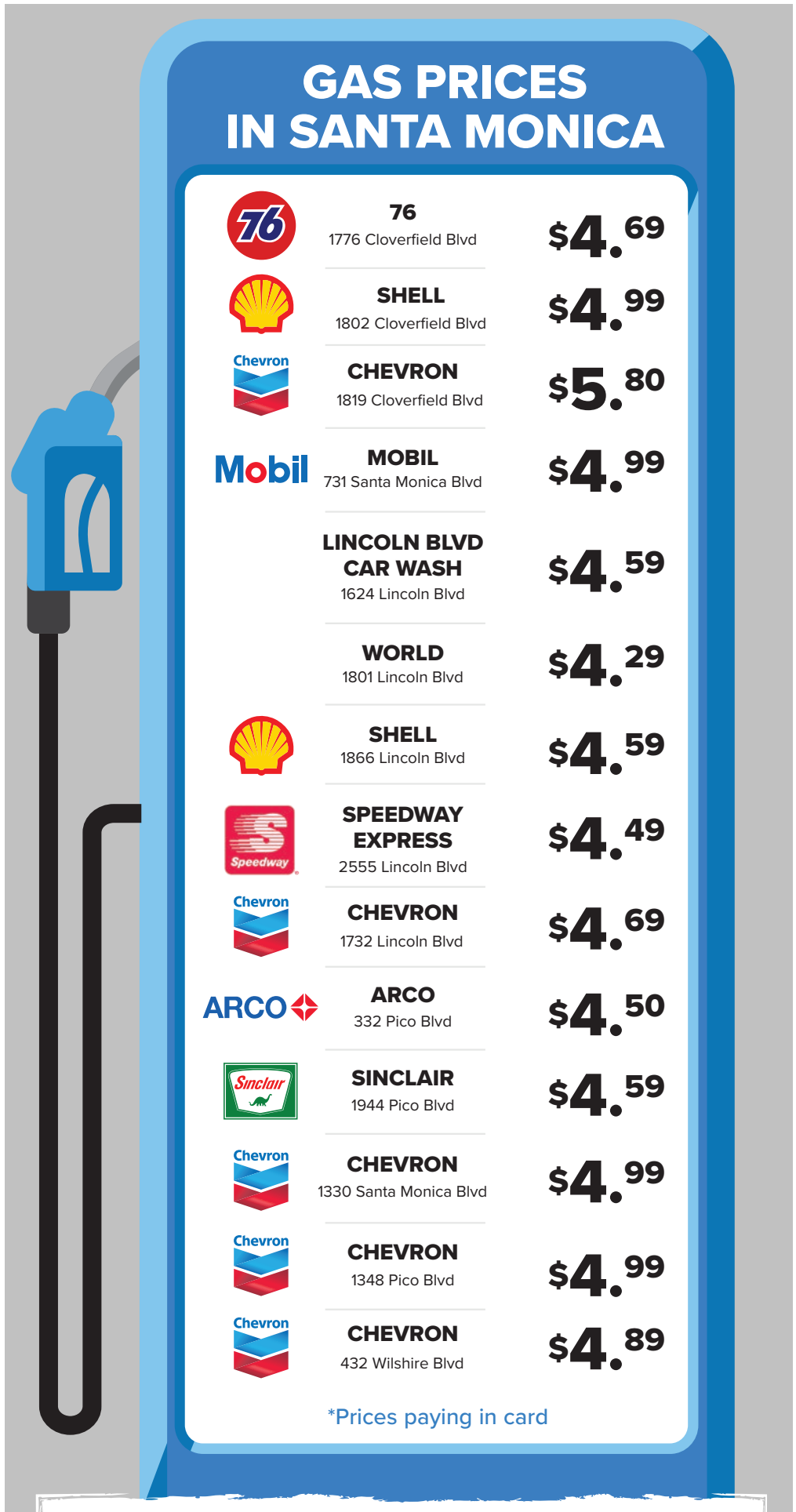
Though Neworth kept a low profile in later years, his impact was undeniable when walking into his longtime home at The Shores.

"Everybody knew him (there)," Andrews said. "There were a couple of times when I dropped something off and he would come down the lobby and we'd have a chat. Every single person that came off the elevator would say hello (to) Jack, even though he was wearing a big hat and (you) couldn't really see his face. He was very well-known and very influential."

thomas@smdp.com

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Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have fallen 4.0 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $4.50/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 3.2 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 155.5 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has declined 2.1 cents in the last week and stands at $3.55 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at $3.79/g while the most expensive was $5.67/g, a difference of $1.88/g. The lowest price in the state was $3.39/g while the highest was $6.79/g, a difference of $3.40/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 1.2 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $3.16/g. The national average is down 18.8 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 67.4 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

VOTE FOR A SAFER SANTA MONICA

PHIL BROCK
OSCAR DE LA TORRE
JOHN PUTNAM
VIVIAN ROKNIAN



We need a SAFER Santa Monica. This election will determine the direction of our city for years to come. Our SLATE of longtime residents understands the importance of public safety as well as business and economic development. They have the knowledge and experience needed to revive our city, fund public safety, protect rent control, and do what it takes to make Santa Monica Safe!

SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

Ad paid for by Santa Monicans for Change in support of Brock, Putnam, Roknian & De La Torre for City Council 2024.
Not authorized by a candidate or candidate's committee.

DOUGLAS DAY

FROM PAGE 1

of Los Angeles County and Santa Monica's contribution to SoCal's aeronautical legacy is equally awe-inspiring.

Hosted by the Santa Monica Airport Association, there were activities for everyone, including vintage aircraft, aircraft seemingly from the future, helicopters, flight simulators, plus food trucks, live music and an incredible flyover from a C-53 transport built by Douglas at Santa Monica Airport in 1943 and actually used to drop US paratroopers into occupied Normandy for D-Day in June 1944 and later Operation Market Garden in September of the same year. Called D-Day Doll, this magnificent aircraft is one of only a handful of airworthy C-53s and came courtesy of the Inland Empire Wing at Riverside Municipal Airport.

However, the focus was just as much on the future this year as it was the past, as electronic aircraft have begun to arrive at Santa Monica Airport. Archer Aviation had a stand as did Eco-Aviation and the Proteus Flight School, which is now operating the Pipistrel Velis Electro, the world's first certified electric aircraft. (Look out for a forthcoming feature on the Electro as this reporter was recently allowed to actually fly one.) But the Joby electric vertical takeoff and landing air taxi was undoubtedly the star of the show. And the never-ending queue of curious folk keen to get a glimpse of the interior of the revolutionary new aircraft very much reflected that.

"The purpose of bringing these electric aircraft here today is to inspire the community to understand that electric aviation is here today. It's quiet, it's green and doesn't emit any pollutants. It's affordable. The electric airplane that's already flying here is available for training, very affordable costs. You don't need to put any fuel in it. And very soon, many young people in this community are going to be taking flying lessons in that airplane, because they'll be able to afford it," said Scott Burgess, President of Eco-Aviation.

"The electric vertical aircraft that are coming from Joby, Archer and Pivotal in the next few years are going to whisk anybody across Los Angeles, skipping the traffic in total, clean, quiet, comfort and for a very affordable cost, a cost that nearly everybody can muster. So that's why they're here. They're here to share their story. They're here to show that this is a community airport. It's not a private airport, it's for everybody," he said.

Mayor Phil Brock issued a proclamation to event organizers Vanessa Gibson and Ben Marcus and gave an entertaining speech, briefly explaining the importance of the event.

"We're celebrating the 100th anniversary of 200,000 people being here at the airport to watch a plane land, that is amazing. There's a few thousand of you here now, imagine the entire Clover Field packed with residents, packed with visitors from all throughout Los Angeles and this is a great celebration of an historical moment in our city," Brock said.

There were also bus tours around the site and across the other side of the runway, by the amazing Museum of Flying. You don't have to be a propellerhead or a history buff, but if you live in Santa Monica, this opportunity for enlightenment is a must.

The Museum of Flying is located at 3100 Airport Avenue and is open from Thursday-Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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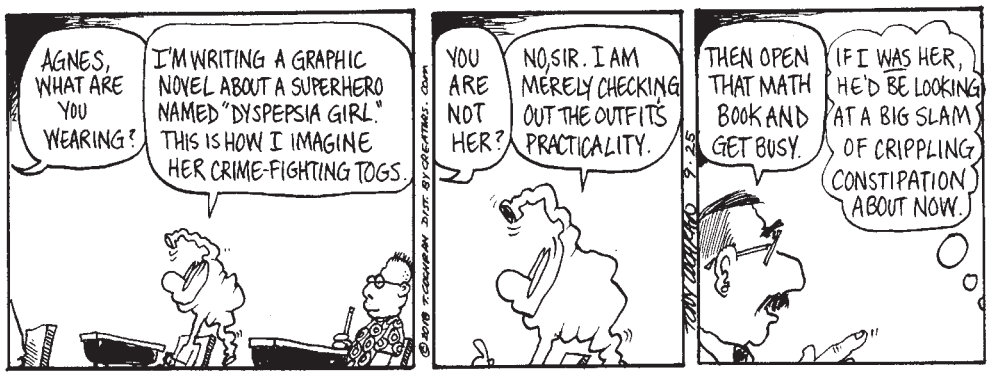


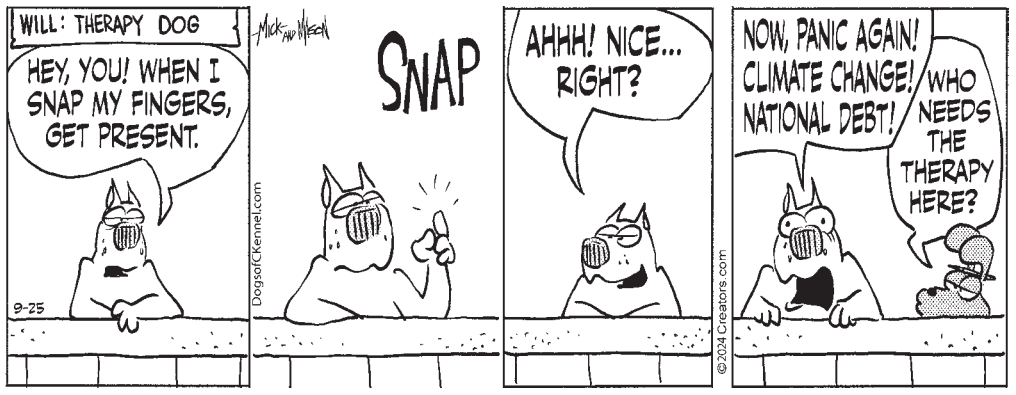
Scott Snowden

SMO: The weekend event featured information about current and historic aircraft.

Agnes

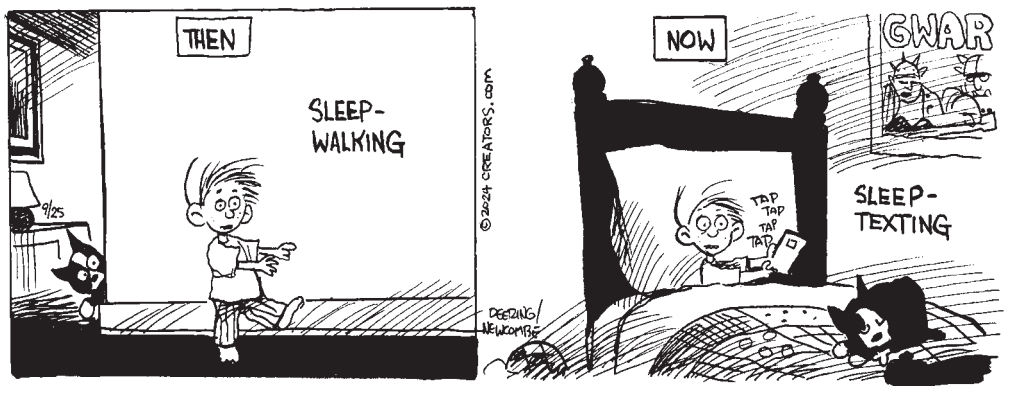
By TONY COCHRAN





Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE'S GOT FLEAS."

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6344

Our national capital

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

Aims	Chifley	Holt	Molonglo
Airport	Cold	Hughes	River
Banks	Crace	Lake	Neat
Belconnen	Curtin	Left	Open
Bruce	Dips	Lyons	Page
Cafe	Evatt	Maps	Reid
Capital	Ferry	Mawson	Trout
Carp	Festival	Melba	Turner
Casey	Fishing	Members	Woden
Centrepiece	Hall	Menzies	
Chains	Hawker	Mist	

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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 25)

Without meaning to, you cultivate a mysterious presence, drawing close those you're interested in without even focusing on them, as yours is an indirect allure. Your connection with the natural world is highlighted in travel, animal encounters and art. More highlights: the key to a new kingdom, and ink on two significant deals. Aquarius and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 33, 28, 5 and 32.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You gave without expecting a return. Not only that, you were more generous than you planned to be. Fulfilling need brings a rush of joy, which continues in a steady stream -- and that's only part of what's coming back around.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Involving others enriches your entire experience, and you'll also get much more accomplished with the extra help. You'll achieve everything on your list and then some, and sharing the credit will make it all the sweeter.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The universe is a teacher that requires no prerequisites, only a sincere desire to learn. In today's case, there is no preparing that will help, so just go forward with an open mind and heart and you'll absorb the lesson.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Recognizing you want something different is the first part of change. Next comes a willingness to mess things up a bit, followed by a stage of encouraging yourself and supporting yourself through a new behavior. You're ready for this.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Once you've tasted sweet inspiration, it's hard to go back to arrangements that are merely "workable" or "tolerable." Sometimes you don't have a choice, but today, the choice is there but subtle. Tune in. There's an eject button -- you just have to look for it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's by digging into a dull situation that you really gain craft and the discipline of champions. Champions don't wait for things like inspiration or motivation. Instead, they develop the skills to bring it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll provide something valuable when the moment is right. Until then, conserve your energy. Save your story for the audience who is curious about the subject and can apply the information.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll come up with a fix for the problem that plagues the group. It likely involves a compromise. No one will get all of what they want, but everyone will move forward with a few key benefits.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Stay aware of cost. At the diner of life, the prices are not always listed on the menu. Even something as mindless as a scroll through social media has a steep price tag that's wrapped around your precious time and attention.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A principle of advertisement will apply to today's endeavors: more exposure equals more response. The best ad in the world will fail if no one sees it. Play the numbers game today. Put the message out as many times as you possibly can.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Winning the day doesn't always mean you take home a prize because the victory is not the trophy. If you extract significant value from an experience, you've won. Outside acknowledgment is merely the cherry on top.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Even though at times you've felt like a pawn in someone else's game of life, you've always been a royal in your own. And you can keep it that way even while serving someone today.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

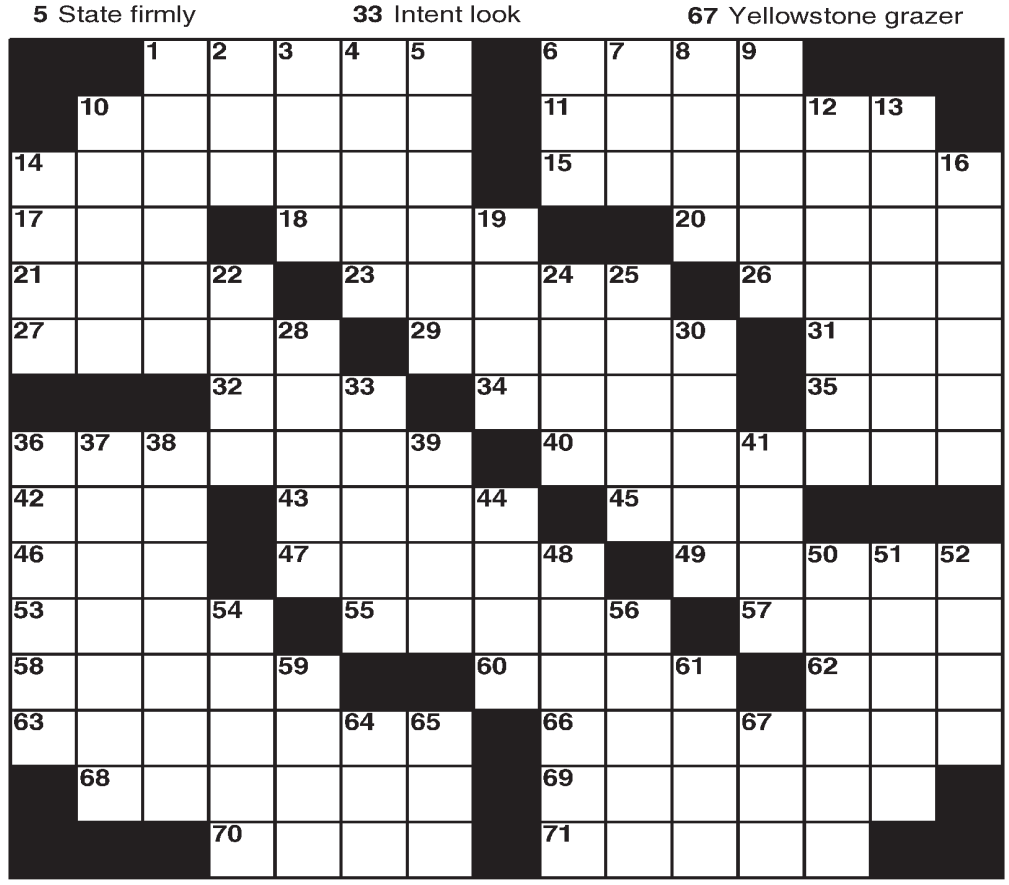
SEEN BUT NOT HEARD by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Part of a semicolon
6 Nativity scene trio
10 Boats that are paddled
11 Barely passing grade
14 *Second letter of "island"
15 *Fourth letter of "business"
17 S&L's sidewalk device
18 Don't throw away
20 Idealistic wish
21 Tech expert
23 Put on clothing
26 Skyscraping
27 Give as a bonus
29 Sneaker sole pattern
31 Pekoe or oolong
32 "My country, __ of thee"
34 Chess player's "I win"
35 Superlative suffix
36 *Third letter of "walk"
40 *Last latter of "candle"
42 Female Spanish article
43 Monopoly square with bars
45 Remind persistently
46 Walgreens rival
47 Regions
49 Expensive pleasure vessel
53 Chop crudely
55 Sharp parts of knives
57 Elevator entryway
58 __-Dale (Robin Hood pal)
60 Personality
62 GI entertainment destination
63 *Last letter of "column"
66 *Fourth letter of "listen" (note the letters mentioned in the starred clues)
68 007 portrayer Timothy
69 Grownups
70 Head: Fr.
71 Lines on a calendar's month

DOWN

1 Quieted (down)
2 Early afternoon hour
3 Abbey cleric
4 Rationed (out)
5 State firmly
6 Prescription writers: Abbr.
7 "What __, a mind reader?"
8 __ the lily (overdo it)
9 Not moving
10 Quoted as a source
12 Available for leftovers
13 Least innovative
14 Epic story
16 White Rabbit's lament
19 Long-lasting hairdo
22 Airborne toy
24 Large briny bodies
25 Fine sheet fabric
28 Japanese martial arts warrior
30 Problem for progress
33 Intent look
36 "For example..."
37 Null and void
38 Milan opera house
39 Wasn't honest
41 Quaint "Oh my!"
44 Falls behind
48 Playground plank for two
50 Is important
51 Invitation preparers
52 Jogger's pace
54 Prepared to be knighted
56 Playground chute
59 Initial poker bet
61 Chimney duct
64 Tiny tyke
65 Point opposite SSW
67 Yellowstone grazer



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09/25/24

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

EXPENSIVE

FROM PAGE 3

after CNBC began making inquiries, she received $150,000 from one bank and then the remaining nearly $250,000 from another.

Robillard contacted CNBC about her case both to help her recover the money and bring more attention to the real estate fraud explosion.

"This is not what I thought my public representation would look like, which is that I've lost all this money," Robillard told CNBC. "If it helps other people, I'm happy to do it, even though it's obviously not my proudest moment."

I take a particular interest in Robillard's case not only because it's important but because I came within a whisker last week of also becoming a victim.

I, too, received a very authentic-looking instruction from the title company handling my purchase of a smaller home for downsizing, seeking down payment and closing costs to complete the purchase. It seemingly came from the title company employee who had been handling my transaction and had all of the appearances of a legitimate communication.

I intended to comply with the request a few hours later, but then received a phone call from my lender about closing the transaction. I told him of the request and he immediately smelled a rat.

That phone call was a lifesaver. A few days later, I presented a valid cashier's check to the title company employee whose identity had been borrowed by the scammer and signed the legitimate paperwork to finalize the purchase.

> "This is not what I thought my public representation would look like, which is that I've lost all this money"
>
> - Rana Robillard

One of the documents I signed was a warning about phony payment instructions. Perhaps it should have been one of the first documents I was given, rather than one of the last.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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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.

FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 27

FRAGRANCE POP-UP TRUCK
2 - 7 p.m. Venice Beach, 57 Windward Ave., Venice. Indulge in the new La vie est belle L'Elixir by Lancôme, take home a sample, and awaken your senses through a blind olfactive and tasting experience. The fragrance is available at all Lancôme counters and at Lancome.com.

CERAMIC CUP SHOW AND SALE
6 - 9 p.m. Still Life Studio, 850 Pico Blvd. Over 50 local ceramic artists will be selling their cups and mugs at Still Life Studio Cup Show and Sale. Show will run until October 11. For more information, contact Ark Kiv at Kiv814@yahoo.com.

SOCCER SKILLS CAMP
6 - 8 p.m. Santa Monica High School Football Field, 601 Pico Blvd. Led by Samohi boys soccer team players, this camp is for young athletes ages K-6th grade. Learn new tricks, make new friends and have a blast on the field. Fun and supportive environment, all skills level welcome. Bring cleats, shin guards, soccer ball and a water bottle. $35 per player, pizza and drink included. To register, visit: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4FACAA29A1FECE9-51208874-friday#/.

DRUNK THEATRE LA
Drunk Theatre is the entirely improvised, unpredictable and crazy comedy show that will kick your weekend into overdrive. A comedian takes five shots of whiskey in a row and tries to perform an improvised play with five sober comedians. Cast includes Sahil Desai, Ittai Geiger, Cassie Grilley, Todd Naomi and Oleg Trofimov. Includes meet and greet after the show. Tickets $20, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/drunk-theatre-la-wildest-improv-comedy-show-tickets-1000967309167.

SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 28

VIRGINIA AVENUE PARK FARMERS MARKET
8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. Enjoy one of Santa Monica's farmers markets, 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, cheeses, delicious foods, live music and more.

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

Campus
Events
2024/25

FALL & WINTER


Photo by Ed Gandara

Exciting events happening at SMC!

Santa Monica College has a lively lineup of events scheduled, so mark your calendar!

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- **Intercollegiate Athletic Competitions**
- **Literary Talks & Readings**
- **Music Concerts**
- **Planetarium Shows**
- ***Santa Monica Review* Issue Launch Party**
- **Theatre Arts Performances**
- **And Much More!**

Visit **smc.edu/events** for more information.

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