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Volume 25 Issue 228

WEDNESDAY 10/7/26

smdp.com

Santa Monica gallery pairs art and healing in breast cancer show

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

A Santa Monica gallery that remade itself around patients living with illness will host a reception Oct. 17, opening with a free art meditation session, for a Ventura artist who painted her way through breast cancer.

The "Jill's Journey" event at dnj Gallery, timed to Breast Cancer Awareness Month and sponsored by Living Beauty Cancer Foundation, begins at 5 p.m. with CALM Art, a guided art meditation led by artist Jill Covell that requires no art experience. A reception follows from 6 to 8 p.m.

"I'll also be doing a book signing that evening, and the art in the gallery will be for sale, with 25% of the event's proceeds going to Living Beauty so they can continue offering free programs to women with cancer," she said.

Living Beauty, a national nonprofit, has supported women with cancer for more than two decades. Covell said she has worked with the group "both as a survivor and to help create art programs for others."

Founder and director Pamela Schoenberg shifted dnj Gallery in 2024 from a solely commercial space to one with a charitable and educational mission centered on medical patients and artists,



Courtesy Image

SEE **ART & HEALING** PAGE 8 **ART:** Ventura artist Jill Covell shares breast cancer journey through paintings at dnj Gallery reception Oct. 17.

SEE **SMMUSD** PAGE 7

Housing: RAND says Santa Monica reformed approvals, but homes still take 6 years to build

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Editor's Note: A new RAND study puts empirical data behind several longstanding assumptions about Santa Monica, confirming some and complicating others. Researchers found the city's economy has declined more sharply over the past decade than those of Beverly Hills, Culver City

SEE **RAND** PAGE 7

Santa Monica-Malibu school board seeks another waiver from state classroom salary rule

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education voted unanimously Oct. 1 to ask county officials, once again, to excuse the district from a state rule requiring it to spend 55% of its expenditures on classroom salaries and benefits.

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Paramount completes its takeover of Warner Bros to become one Hollywood giant known as Skydance

It's official: Skydance-owned Paramount closed its \$81 billion takeover of Warner Bros. Discovery on Tuesday, ushering in a new Hollywood giant.

The merger brings two of America's oldest moviemaking studios together under a new name: Skydance. The deal, which followed a tumultuous, roughly yearlong fight, further concentrates power in an industry already run by just a handful of major players.

HBO Max, titles ranging from "Harry Potter" to "Sinners" and networks such as CNN now find themselves under the same roof as Paramount+, CBS and the likes of "Top Gun" and "The Godfather." All are under the helm of billionaire David Ellison and his new co-CEO Ynon Kreiz.

"Today is a historic day, not just for Skydance but for our entire industry," Ellison said in a statement. "We couldn't be more excited to get to work."

Including billions of dollars in debt, the Warner acquisition amounts to nearly \$111 billion.

Ellison's Skydance bought Paramount for \$8 billion last year before setting its sights on Warner. What followed was one of the biggest tie-ups ever in the media and entertainment industry.

NETFLIX GETS INTO A BIDDING WAR WITH PARAMOUNT FOR WARNER

The early days of Paramount's quest for Warner turned into a messy bidding war.

Months after disclosing it was open to selling all or part of its business, Warner initially struck a studio and streaming deal with Netflix in December.

But Paramount said it also had made offers that Warner management "never engaged meaningfully" with. It soon launched a hostile counterbid.

The Hollywood giants spent much of early 2026 in a heated back-and-forth over who had a stronger offer, with Warner leadership repeatedly backing Netflix as its preferred suitor. But Netflix bowed out after Paramount eventually upped its offer to buy all of Warner for \$31 per share.

Warner and Paramount inked a mutual merger agreement in late February.

HOLLYWOOD STARS MADE THEIR THOUGHTS KNOWN

Hollywood was closely watching the fight over Warner's future. From awards shows to online petitions, A-list celebrities and other creatives made their voices known.

In April, thousands of movie stars, writers, directors and other professionals announced their "unequivocal opposition" to the Paramount-Warner merger. An open letter—which was signed by long-outspoken critics of the deal like Jane Fonda and Mark Ruffalo, as well as Hollywood heavyweights from Denis Villeneuve to J.J. Abrams—warned of fewer jobs and "less choice for audiences in the United States and around the world."

Others lined up to back Paramount as Ellison reiterated his commitments to the movies. At CinemaCon, the company

debuted a glossy mini movie about the studio directed by Jon M. Chu and narrated by Tom Cruise—who ended the spot atop the iconic Paramount water tower, with the words "the future is paramount and the future looks pretty great from here." Director James Cameron also doubled down on his support of Ellison.

The prospect of a new Warner owner also loomed over awards season, from #BlockTheMerger pins to more subtle nods in acceptance speeches. When accepting her Emmy last month, "Remarkably Bright Creatures" actor Sally Field—who also signed the open letter in opposition to the Paramount-Warner deal—stressed that "unique storytelling matters" and "we can't let those voices be silenced, or compromised or merged."

Many industry critics were also outspoken when Netflix's studio and streaming deal was on the table, with a particular focus on the future of movies staying in theaters.

TRUMP HAS ATTACKED CNN

President Donald Trump has regularly attacked reporting he deems unfavorable at CNN (most recently attempting to bar the outlet from the White House altogether). Over the course of the Warner buyout, his administration chimed in about hopes for a new owner.

Days after Paramount launched its hostile bid for Warner last year, Trump said that CNN spread "poison and lies," adding that "I think the people who have run CNN for the last long period of time are a disgrace" and "it's imperative that CNN be sold."

The White House took aim again at CNN in March, over the network's coverage of the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth told reporters that "the sooner David Ellison takes over that network, the better."

Ellison has said editorial independence will be maintained at CNN. Skydance is retaining Mark Thompson as CNN's editor-in-chief.

Under a settlement finalized last month with states that had sued over the takeover, the company agreed to form a "News Editorial Independence Board."

Critics point to turmoil already seen at CBS under Skydance ownership and aren't convinced this new body will move the needle much, because Ellison is set to have ample oversight over appointments.

Trump has continued to criticize CBS coverage under Skydance ownership. Still, the president has held a long relationship with the Ellison family.

Paramount's chief reportedly hosted a dinner in Washington in Trump's honor in April, on the same day Warner shareholders gave their green light for the merger. In June, just two days after the Justice Department said it wouldn't intervene in the deal, Ellison attended an Ultimate Fighting Championship match on the White House lawn for Trump's

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR

Santa Monica Daily Press

editor@smdp.com

SEE HOLLYWOOD PAGE 8

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

LA can make the Olympics cleaner and greener than the World Cup

With the fanfare from this summer’s World Cup long subsided, and that monthlong test of logistics and coordination behind it, Los Angeles is getting ready to host the Olympics in less than two years.

The stakes couldn’t be higher. The World Cup was a trial run in hosting a major modern international sports event at scale. Inglewood’s SoFi Stadium hosted eight games drawing more than 560,000 people, to say nothing about the watch parties and fan zones. The city proved it can put on a show.

But L.A. also proved it has a long way to go to match that enthusiasm with a plan that leaves the community better off once the Olympic crowds depart.

Experts warned the World Cup would be the most polluting yet, in part driven by carbon emissions from flying more teams to more games across three continents. And, although L.A. touts itself as a sustainability leader, the city didn’t exactly walk the talk during the 39 days of matches.

It wasn’t unexpected: In April, the World Sports Network ranked each World Cup host city’s efforts to prioritize sustainability. Los Angeles tied for dead last with Houston and New York, and with San Francisco as the “dirtiest” host city.

Experts predicted SoFi Stadium in Inglewood would generate nearly 125,000 lbs of trash per game.

This waste is not inevitable for the Olympics. Los Angeles can take straightforward steps to cut stadium refuse beforehand.

One significant step could be limiting single-use plastic dishware, including cups, bottles and utensils that remain the norm at big venues, despite reusable, less wasteful alternatives.

Changing that would be more than just a drop in the bucket. Venues use more than 3 billion single-use items every year.

But how can sports arenas become waste preventers, rather than generators? One simple change: Let fans bring their own reusable bottles.

FIFA banned reusable bottles days before the World Cup kickoff, then allowed fans one factory-sealed plastic bottle

instead — a change that likely generated millions of unnecessary single-use plastic bottles. L.A. Olympics organizers must not repeat that mistake.

Even more impactfully, the LA28 Organizing Committee could prohibit single-use cups altogether.

The average stadium annually uses about 5.4 million single-use cups, creating 64 tons of plastic rubbish. The simple alternative: cups that can be washed and reused hundreds of times, cutting that waste by about 98%, to less than 2 tons.

Venues in Los Angeles have already begun making the switch: Crypto.com Arena and Peacock Theater, both slated to host Olympic competitions, have replaced single-use cups, and the L.A. Memorial Coliseum has deployed reusable cups for several football seasons.

With reusable cups already cutting litter at major venues in L.A. and beyond, what’s missing isn’t proof they work. It’s a requirement that Olympic venues use them.

Reusable systems require upfront investment, but so does the plastic waste stream they would replace. Plastic trash cleanup alone costs as much as \$13.3 billion nationwide every year, not including landfill management and ecosystem damage.

Weighed against those costs, the green investment is worth making and will benefit Los Angeles for years to come. That investment needs to happen soon. Venue and vendor contract negotiations are imminent.

The World Cup showed what happens without adequate pollution-prevention planning: Tons of waste that could have been prevented is generated, leaving millions of pieces of trash to litter communities and burden landfills.

Requiring Olympic stakeholders to invest in reusable dishware would meaningfully reduce future pollution and give future mega-event organizers a sustainable model to follow.

Los Angeles proved it can put on a show. It has two years to prove it can also clean up after itself.

By Fiona Hines



Surf report WATER TEMP: 74.8

WEDNESDAY FAIR SURF: 3-4ft Waist to chest

Southerly energy from Rachel provides a few fun-sized waves all day. Tropical energy from Rachel shows little better than Tue as direction trends more SSE/S. Expect widespread waist-chest high surf with continued head high surf at standouts, but it'll be on the softer side (compared to a similar size Southern Hemi) with the short to mid-period energy. Still looking like a fun day with favorable wind for at least the morning.

THURSDAY FAIR TO GOOD SURF: 3-4ft+ Waist to shoulder

Rachel's leftovers as stronger SPAC swell builds. A touch of mid period NW late week. The first in a series of long period SW/SSW swells will fill in through the day as Rachel's leftovers help overall consistency at the summer exposures. A little bit of mid period NW swell mix blends in through the end of the week - not much on its own but opening some corners for the combo breaks out west. For now wind looks light in the mornings but we'll have pesky deep AM high tides (pushing 5.6-6' even without the kelvin wave impacts).



Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 84. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southwest in the morning.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 70. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 83. Light and variable wind becoming west southwest 5 to 10 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 68.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2026/10/07	Wed	01:45 AM	-0.12	L
2026/10/07	Wed	08:10 AM	5.17	H
2026/10/07	Wed	1:58 PM	1.25	L
2026/10/07	Wed	7:55 PM	5.55	H
2026/10/08	Thu	02:18 AM	0.10	L
2026/10/08	Thu	08:36 AM	5.54	H
2026/10/08	Thu	2:40 PM	0.70	L
2026/10/08	Thu	8:40 PM	5.39	H
2026/10/09	Fri	02:47 AM	0.43	L
2026/10/09	Fri	09:02 AM	5.83	H
2026/10/09	Fri	3:20 PM	0.30	L
2026/10/09	Fri	9:23 PM	5.11	H



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 Draw Date: 10/5 Power#: 9 Jackpot: 485 M	 Draw Date: 10/5 3 16 18 27 28
 Draw Date: 10/2 6 37 40 41 55 Mega#: 10 Jackpot: 345 M	 Draw Date: 10/5 EVENING: 7 4 0 Draw Date: 10/5 MIDDAY: 3 3 2
 Draw Date: 10/3 14 19 23 26 33 Mega#: 25 Jackpot: 61 M	 Draw Date: 10/5 1st: 02 - Lucky Star 2nd: 11 - Money Bags 3rd: 05 - California Classic Race Time: 1:45:32

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Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00423. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica 90401. Petition of Jason Re Borne for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Jason Re Borne filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Jason Re Borne to Jason Mosaed Bennett. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 10/16/2026, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept: K. The address of the court is the same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 09/08/2026. LAWRENCE H. CHO, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 09/16/2026, 09/23/2026, 09/30/2026, 10/07/2026

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026182353. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SIT STAY PLAY, 100 Wilshire Blvd Suite 700, Santa Monica, CA 90401, County of Los Angeles. Al#ON 3635823. Registered Owner(s): SAMANTHA'S KEEPER, INC, 100 Wilshire Blvd Suite 700, Santa Monica, CA 90401. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 08/2026. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ JAIME RIEGEL, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 08/25/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish on: 10/07/2026, 10/14/2026, 10/21/2026, 10/28/2026

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ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00454. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1532 Berkeley St #7 Santa Monica , CA, 90404,. Petition of Lina Rudashevskaya for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Lina Rudashevskaya filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Lina Rudashevskaya to Lina Rudd. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 10/30/2026, Time: 8:30 am, Dept:K. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 09/28/2026. Lawrence Cho, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 09/30/2026, 10/07/2026, 10/14/2026, 10/21/2026

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ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26CHCP00342. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, West Valley District, 6230 Sylmar Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91401. Petition of LIAM ALON SWANSON BY AND THROUGH LIAT HEN SWANSON for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner LIAM ALON SWANSON filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: LIAM ALON SWANSON to LIAM SWANSON. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 11/10/2026, Time: 8:30am, Dept: F51. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 09/08/2026. ANDREW E. COOPER, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 09/30/2026, 10/07/2026, 10/14/2026, 10/21/2026

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTIONNotice is hereby given that, pursuant to California Civil Code section 1988, Government Code section 6066, and other applicable California law, the personal property listed below is believed to be abandoned by Andre Wicker, and all other owners, occupants, partners, tenants, and/or subtenants, formerly located at 817 Lansford, Lancaster, CA 93535, and now stored at 2255 East Ave Q, Unit 104, Palmdale, CA 93550. The property will be sold at public auction by Clearview Real Estate, offered in one or more lots through a competitive online public auction facilitated by MEGA Auctions, to be conducted on Tuesday, October 27, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.Auction access: WWW.MEGAAUCTIONS.NETItems to be sold include, but are not limited to: S a m s u n g Refrigerator/Freezer; Stove; Chest Freezer; Washer and Dryer Set; Sony PlayStation 5 with Controllers; Panasonic Tau CT-27SC14J CRT TV; Vizio D-Series TV and Additional LCD TV; HP All-in-One Computer and Printer; Dell Laptop; OnePlus Nord N10 5G; Monitor Speakers, Keyboard Controller and Microphone; Framed RIAA Gold Disk; Beats by Dr. Dre Headphones; Memorex Karaoke Machine; Emerson DVD Recorder/VCR; Nike and Air Jordan Sneakers, including Air Max 270, Air Force 1 '07, Dunk Low Retro, 6 Rings, Stay Loyal 3 and SC-3; Gold's Gym Crosstrainer 600 Treadmill; Everlast Reflex and Speed Bags; Genie 1035-V Garage Door Opener; Haier and Other Air Conditioners; Couches, Loveseat, Reclining Armchairs, Desks, Chairs, Tables, Credenza, Bookshelf, Buffet, Cabinet, Bed Frames and Shelving; Patio Furniture; Kobalt Wheelbarrow; Hart Battery Leaf Blower and Edger; Household Electronics; Kitchenware; Bedding; Artwork and Décor; Books and Recorded Media; Tools and Garden Equipment; Cleaning Supplies; Storage Containers; Unopened Boxes and Totes; and Miscellaneous Personal Property.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Let’s bring Doug Trussler’s record to light

As Santa Monica homeowners for the last quarter century, my family and I have watched as our beautiful, funky beach community has become increasingly out of reach for working families, immigrants, students and young professionals like we were when we first moved here. Private equity, a federal government bent on punishing poor people and terrorizing immigrants, and the threat of unregulated big tech surveillance are all contributing to what tech writer Cory Doctorow calls “enshittification”: the process by which something that begins as beneficial to the public becomes little more than a profit center for investors.

That brings me to this year’s competitive election for three Santa Monica City Council seats. Candidate Doug Trussler is running in significant part on his business experience. Good—we need all kinds of professional and life experience in politics. But voters should also examine what that experience involved. Trussler co-founded private-equity firm Bison Capital and has served on the boards of numerous companies, including FinFit and Sentinel Offender Services.

At FinFit, where Bison invested millions, a 2025 South Carolina filing listed rates of 36% on unsecured loans and as high as 102% on certain open-end loans. FinFit calls itself an alternative to payday lending, but whatever the label, triple-digit interest is extraordinarily expensive credit—offered to workers borrowing when they are financially vulnerable.

More troubling to me is Sentinel Offender Services.

Bison invested in Sentinel in 2012, eventually taking control and owning more than 90% of the company, according to Trussler’s own recent account. Trussler says Bison initially lent Sentinel money to finance an acquisition, later took control in 2018 and ran the business for eight years before selling it in 2026.

That acquisition included G4S Justice Services, which had worked with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement on electronic monitoring and case-management services. Sentinel itself operated in the controversial business of for-profit probation and electronic monitoring, including arrangements in which people under court supervision paid fees associated with their own monitoring.

Human Rights Watch documented the human consequences of that model. Among its examples was a homeless man convicted of stealing a \$2 beer who sold blood plasma twice a week trying to pay

Sentinel’s fees, accumulated more than \$1,000 in debt and ultimately returned to jail.

Trussler offers an important defense. He says Bison inherited many of Sentinel’s problems, eventually eliminated most participant-paid monitoring, settled litigation and strengthened compliance. He says he is proud that Sentinel’s monitoring allowed hundreds of thousands of low-level offenders to avoid incarceration.

Electronic monitoring may indeed be preferable to incarceration. But that doesn’t resolve the question that troubles me: Why should keeping poor people out of jail be a profit center in the first place?

And the concerns didn’t simply disappear when Bison took control. In 2019, civil-rights, labor and criminal-justice organizations raised concerns directly with Trussler about the industry’s impact on low-income and minority communities. In 2024, 19 members of Congress—including Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders, Cory Booker and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez—sought answers from Trussler and others about fees and alleged abusive practices in electronic monitoring.

Trussler presents his experience turning around troubled businesses as an important qualification for City Council. His campaign says he has spent his career “turning around complex organizations, managing costs, holding systems accountable, and driving measurable results.”

Voters can decide how much weight to give that argument. But they should know the other side of the record as well.

These weren’t abstract investments. They involved workers taking out extraordinarily expensive loans and people caught in the criminal-justice system paying private companies as an alternative to incarceration.

We talk a lot in Santa Monica about standing with working people and protecting Black, Brown and immigrant communities. Trussler has made his business experience central to his case for City Council. That makes the businesses he chose to invest in—and who bore their costs—fair subjects for voters to examine.

There is such a thing as too high a cost for a community to bear just so investors can turn a profit and call it good business.

Sincerely,

Susan Sheu, Santa Monica

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Santa Monica Daily Press

editor@smdp.com

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COMMUNITY NEWS

SMC
SMC’s Friday Night Jazz Series returns Oct. 16

The Santa Monica College Music Department will open its fall Friday Night Jazz Series on Oct. 16 with the Marvin “Smitty” Smith Octet. A benefit concert, “Some of My Best Musicians Are Friends,” follows Nov. 13. Concerts begin at 7 p.m. in the Music Hall at the SMC Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th St. (at Santa Monica Boulevard).

Smith, a renowned drummer, has performed around the world for the past 50 years with artists including Steve Coleman, the late Sonny Rollins, Dave Holland and Sting. He was also the drummer for “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno” for 15 years. Tickets are \$10 general admission, plus a service charge, at smc.edu/tickets. Admission is free for students with any student ID.

The Nov. 13 benefit supports the series and features an all-star lineup: Eric Scott Reed, Ralph Moore, Ira Nepus, Edwin Livingston, Smith, Gilbert Castellanos, Clay Jenkins and special surprise guests. The evening will present small ensemble and big band material, then evolve into a celebratory jam session.

The concert honors the series’ more than 40-year history. Past performers include John, Jeff and Gerald Clayton, Kim Richmond, Dave Scott, Rich Perry, Francisco Aguabella, Bob Mintzer, Peter Erskine, Eric Person, Theo Saunders, Kevin Brandon, Paul Jackson, Justo Almario, George Bohanon, Oscar Brashear and Jon Mayer.

Tickets are \$30 general admission and \$10 for students with any student ID, plus a service charge, at smc.edu/tickets.

Tickets may also be purchased starting 45 minutes before each performance at The Broad Stage box office at the SMC Performing Arts Center. Parking is free on the premises. Seating is strictly first-arrival.

For more information, call 310-434-4323. Concerts are subject to change or cancellation without notice. The latest details are posted at smc.edu/events.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy Image

JAZZ: Santa Monica College’s popular Fall 2026 Friday Night Jazz Series opens Oct. 16 with the Marvin “Smitty” Smith Octet, followed on Nov. 13 with a special Friday Night Jazz Series Benefit Concert.

Santa Monica’s record breaking
October heat wave will last
another couple of days

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Students at Santa Monica High School walked out of class Tuesday to protest malfunctioning air conditioning on campus, as a record-breaking heat wave pushed temperatures along the coast well above normal.

Students organized the impromptu protest via social media after students said cooling systems in multiple buildings at the high school have failed to maintain a reasonable temperature for the second time this year.

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District said Tuesday that its facilities teams are responding to air-conditioning problems at its schools as the extreme temperatures put significant strain on the systems. Most systems are working and cooling classrooms, according to the district, while a small number of areas need repairs or replacement parts.

At Santa Monica High School portable air-conditioning units are providing temporary cooling in language and English classrooms while the district waits for parts, officials said.

Air conditioning in the campus’ Exploration Building is running again after crews replaced a memory board that had been damaged by a leak in a condensation line, the district said.

In the Discovery Building, the air-conditioning system shut itself down overnight after detecting extreme temperatures, not due to a fire. Crews reprogrammed the system Tuesday morning, and it is mostly operating, though some problems continue.

The Innovation Building had air-conditioning trouble during August’s unusually intense heat and humidity, including issues tied to coastal air and moisture, according to the district. Facilities staff have since replaced damaged dampers and updated the system’s programming to make it more reliable.

“We are experiencing a record-breaking heat wave, and our facilities teams are working diligently to keep our schools operating,” said Carey Upton, the district’s chief operations officer. “Our technicians are responding across the district, putting temporary solutions in place where needed while also working on permanent repairs. Our focus is on addressing issues as they arise and keeping our schools comfortable and functional for students and staff throughout these extreme conditions.”

The district said it expects some air-conditioning systems may continue to have

problems for the rest of the heat wave. Its facilities team will respond quickly, putting temporary fixes in place where needed while working toward permanent repairs, officials said.

The heat has gripped the entire region. An extreme heat warning remains in effect for the coast and valleys of Los Angeles and Ventura counties until 8 p.m. Thursday, the National Weather Service said Tuesday. Temperatures could reach 90 to 100 degrees at the coast and 106 degrees in the valleys.

The warning covers dozens of communities, including Santa Monica, Malibu, Pacific Palisades, Topanga, Culver City, Beverly Hills and Long Beach.

The weather service also issued a beach hazards statement through 6 a.m. Wednesday for dangerous rip currents and breaking waves. A coastal flood advisory takes effect at 6 a.m. Wednesday and runs until 11 p.m. Friday, with minor to locally moderate flooding expected in low-lying areas such as beach parking lots, bike paths and harbor walkways, especially around high tide. Forecasters said Malibu is among the areas of greatest concern.

According to the weather service, two patterns combined to push the record heat to the shoreline: a strong dome of high pressure overhead and a steady flow of air moving from inland out to sea.

Normally, an afternoon sea breeze brings cool ocean air ashore and keeps beach towns mild. Offshore flow reverses that pattern, keeping cooler marine air away from the coast and limiting cooling at night. On Oct. 4, the third day of the heat wave, overnight temperatures stayed in the 70s and 80s.

The marine layer, which forecasters describe as the coast’s natural air conditioner, disappeared. The weather service forecast highs 15 to 27 degrees above normal, with the most unseasonable heat over the Los Angeles Basin and the Los Angeles and Ventura county coasts.

Some relief has begun at the beaches. Coastal highs Tuesday were 3 to 6 degrees cooler than Monday as onshore flows are slowly returning, forecasters said.

The pattern is expected to break this weekend. A cold low-pressure system moving south from Canada is forecast to bring below-normal temperatures to the entire West Coast from Sunday through Tuesday, with highs mostly in the 70s by Monday.

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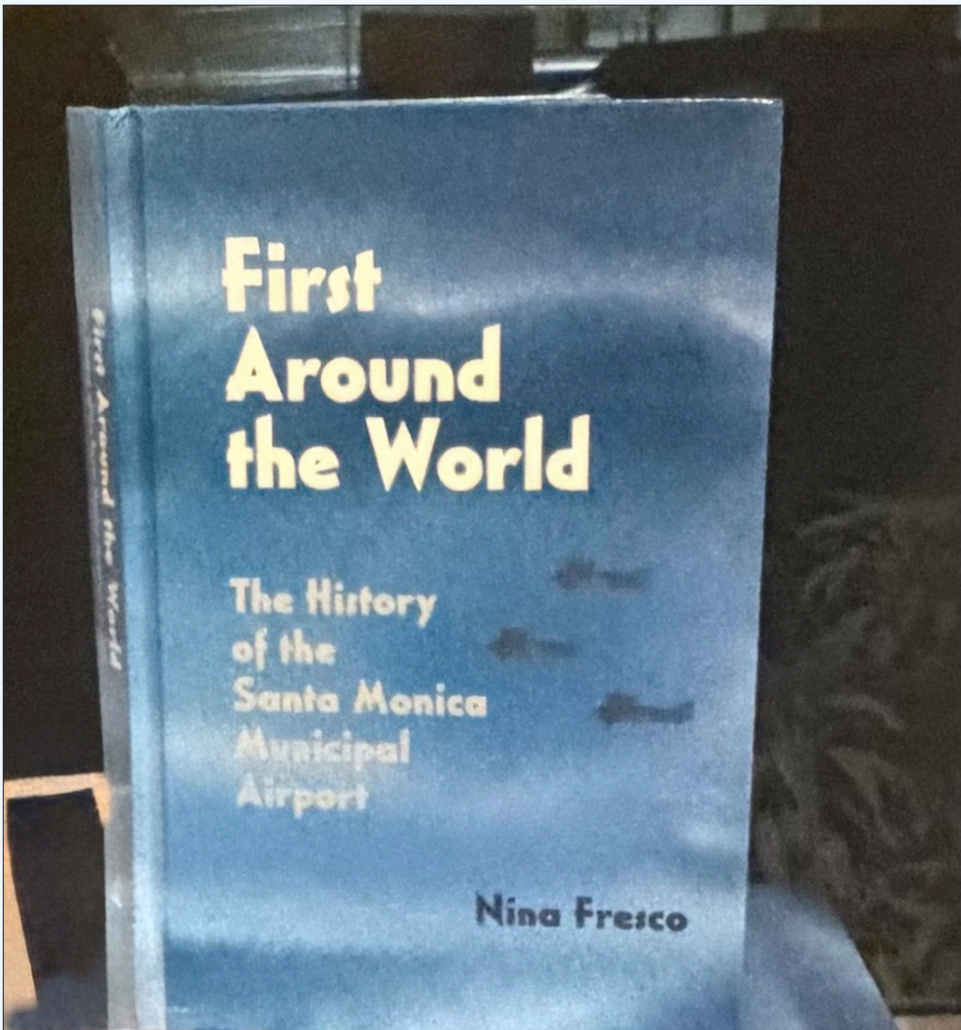
*Prices paying in card

Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have fallen 0.4 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$6.37/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 46.6 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand \$1.67/g higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has decreased 14.2 cents compared to a week ago and stands at \$6.307 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at \$5.17/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$7.69/g, a difference of \$2.52/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$4.55/g while the highest was \$9.79/g, a difference of \$5.24/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 12.5 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$4.30/g today. The national average is up 19.3 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands \$1.22/g higher 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.

Shotgun house talk revisits Santa Monica's aviation roots



HISTORY: Author Nina Fresco, a former Landmarks commissioner and current Planning commissioner, shared the history of Santa Monica Airport at the Shotgun House, tracing its rise from the barley fields of Cloverfield to the Douglas Aircraft Company, which employed up to 44,000 workers building wartime aircraft including C-47 transports.

Fran Lyness

RAND

FROM PAGE 1

and West Hollywood, with tourism, retail sales and other business indicators lagging most peer cities. Concerns about crime and homelessness hold up in specific parts of the city, chiefly downtown and along the beachfront, but not citywide. The report also found Santa Monica built less housing per resident from 2018 to 2025 than any comparison city except Beverly Hills, and that substantial policy reforms by the city's new leadership may improve its trajectory.

Santa Monica has overhauled the way it approves housing, but the reforms have not yet produced more construction, and a typical project still takes more than six years to go from application to move-in, according to a new RAND Corporation study.

The report, "Santa Monica's Recent Economic and Social Trends: A Case Study with Regional Comparisons," found that from 2018 to 2025, Santa Monica built fewer new homes per resident than any of eight comparison jurisdictions except Beverly Hills. The group included Culver City, West Hollywood, Los Angeles, Burbank, Glendale, Long Beach and Pasadena. Santa Monica issued about 10 to 15 building permits per 10,000 residents a year from 2018 to 2024, fewer than Culver City, and was overtaken by Beverly Hills in 2021.

Using city permit records, RAND calculated that a project takes an average of 403 days to win entitlement, 726 more days to receive a building permit and 965 more days to reach a final permit, usually a certificate of occupancy. Comparable projects in the West Los Angeles Area Planning Commission area take an average of 4.9 years. The difference lies mainly in the entitlement and permitting stages, which are largely within the city's control, the authors wrote.

The California Coastal Commission adds delay, RAND found. Because Santa Monica lacks a fully certified Local Coastal Program, projects in the coastal zone, which runs four to eight blocks inland, need state approval as well as the city's. Projects there took 77% longer to win entitlement, 701 days compared with 396, and 12% longer to move from entitlement to building permit.

The 2022 "builder's remedy" produced a surge in applications. Between February and October 2022, while the city lacked a state-approved housing plan, developers filed 16 applications proposing 4,260 units, according to RAND. A May 2023 settlement let the projects be refiled with expedited processing but many of those units have not shown up in permit numbers.

The city has since made substantial reforms, RAND found. It eliminated its tier system in 2023, raised height and floor-area limits, expanded administrative approval and adopted a pilot program that lets builders pay fees or build affordable units off-site. The pilot has been credited with reviving several stalled projects. "I would rather propose a housing project in Santa Monica than literally any other jurisdiction in the entire state of California," an experienced land-use attorney told researchers.

Interviewees blamed many stalled projects on Measure GS, the 5.6% transfer tax on sales of \$8 million or more. The tax represents

more than 30% of a typical expected return on a development project, enough to make many projects infeasible, according to the report. A separate RAND study found a similar Los Angeles tax led to a major decline in apartment construction.

Bottlenecks remain, the researchers concluded. Interviewees described a two-step architectural review in which the architectural review board appeared to disregard the urban designer's earlier review. They said inspectors apply discretion inconsistently, departments such as sanitation and public works make costly demands late in construction, and permits are routed to every department whether or not they need to weigh in. City staff said experienced inspectors often leave for the private sector. A developer estimated that a two-month construction delay "could cost \$600,000 at the peak of the construction loan," and an architect said new construction pencils out only at rents of \$3,500 to \$4,500 a month for a one-bedroom.

Researchers Jason M. Ward, Roland Neil and Lizhong Liu analyzed state Department of Housing and Community Development progress reports, Los Angeles County assessor data and Santa Monica and Los Angeles permit records, with help from USC and MAREA.AI analysts. They interviewed 14 of 19 people invited, including five development-sector participants, city staff, elected officials and business owners. The authors note the study is descriptive, did not include affordable housing developers and did not test the effects of the reforms with data. Timeline data may include delays by developers between permit and construction start.

Santa Monica must plan for 8,895 units by 2029, more than five times the prior requirements. It permitted about 1,034 units, roughly 11.6% of the goal, through 2023, and just 37 in 2024, according to state data. Only 265 affordable units were permitted through 2023, 4.3% of that target. Meanwhile, 3,296 market-rate and 878 affordable units held approvals without permits.

City staff have cited high interest rates, volatile material costs, labor shortages and flat rents as impacts on the housing construction ecosystem.

RAND recommended that the city expedite certification of its Local Coastal Program and publicly commit to a timetable, which would let applicants get coastal permits directly from the city. It urged the city to reconsider its two-stage architectural review, reduce the number of required reviewers and stop sending every application to all departments when routine items were already approved in plan check.

The authors also called for earlier interdepartmental coordination, bringing in sanitation and transportation at the start as Los Angeles does, and more inspection resources, including retaining experienced inspectors and using deputy inspectors. They recommended additional incentives, such as fee waivers, to convert offices to housing beyond the city's 2024 adaptive reuse ordinance; a transparent open data portal showing stage-by-stage timelines and how much time applications spend with the city versus applicants; and outreach to builders and investors to dispel the city's outdated reputation as "a place to avoid."

editor@smdp.com

SMMUSD

FROM PAGE 1

The district fell short of the mark by 7.66%, or \$16,096,765.33, in the 2025-26 fiscal year. District officials attributed the gap to one-time state and federal money that must be spent on items other than teacher pay.

The request now goes to the Los Angeles County Office of Education, which has approved the district's exemption each of the past six to seven years, said Gerardo Cruz, the district's assistant superintendent of business and fiscal services.

District leaders had expected the annual waivers to run their course through the 2028-29 school year. Cruz told the board that is no longer likely.

Board member Stacy Rouse recalled projections from when she began four years ago that the exemptions would end sometime between 2025-26 and 2027-28, and asked whether that still held.

"Good question and good memory," Cruz said.

He noted the district recently received about \$12 million in additional one-time categorical funds for restricted purposes, money it expects to spend over at least the next six to seven years. As for whether the exemptions would end in 2028-29, "The short answer is no," he said.

"We're actually going to likely expand that runway for an additional five to six years," Cruz said.

Under Section 41372 of the California Education Code, a unified school district must devote 55% of its expenditures to classroom salaries and benefits. The requirement may be waived if the penalty would cause a district serious hardship.

Cruz said the district has "benefited greatly" from COVID-19 recovery and learning recovery funds, as well as newer state grants such as the Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant and the Student Support and Professional Development Block Grant. Those dollars are largely restricted to technology, personal protective equipment, other equipment and instructional materials,

he said.

Because the one-time money counts toward the state's calculation but generally cannot go to salaries, the district's percentage drops.

"The catch-22 is a lot of the time those categorical funds are not meant to be spent on teacher salaries because we don't have them forever and they're one-time funds, so we don't want to commit ongoing costs to one-time funds," Cruz said.

The district is far from alone, he said. When the state's Local Control Funding Formula took effect in 2012-13, 9% of California unified school districts missed the 55% mark. By 2024-25, the most recent year with data, that share had climbed to 31.3%. Elementary and high school districts have seen similar increases, Cruz said.

"This is a phenomenon not specific to us, but it's pervasive throughout the state," he said.

Board member Jennifer Smith said she was surprised the figure isn't higher and wondered whether other districts were spending the money on teachers in ways they could not sustain. She said districts that use the one-time money for staff later have to reduce staff, "and it's painful."

"It shocks me that the entire state doesn't apply for this," Smith said.

Cruz said she had "hit the nail right on the head." All districts face the same deadlines to spend the funds, he said, but many are using them to pay classroom instructional salaries. That lets those districts meet the 55% threshold while forcing them into the staff reductions that districts around the state carry out each March.

He credited the board for "not tying one-time revenues to ongoing expenditures like classroom salaries."

"We could absolutely move to that model. I'm not sure that we would want to," Cruz said.

No other questions were raised before the board voted to approve the application.

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ART & HEALING

FROM PAGE 1

drawing on her background in nutritional science, preventive medicine and health coaching.

The gallery presents its current exhibition, "In Strength," through Art and Med, a program that pairs exhibitions with community events to increase awareness, further education and raise money for charity. The group show features artists connected to breast cancer and runs through Dec. 5.

Its title reflects the idea that strength is not the absence of fear or pain but something built in their presence, and that art can help build it.

Covell's installation traces her experience with breast cancer through spirit animals, displayed with a map and narrative guiding visitors through her experience and each animal's meaning.

"The real breakthrough came when I was going through heavy chemo and needed a way to visualize my white blood cells multiplying and going on the attack," Covell said.

Covell has aphantasia, which she said "might sound strange for an artist, but painting is how I visualize." A painting called "Healing Shower" started the collection.

"From that point on, I knew I was going to create a painting for each phase of the journey, and I really haven't stopped," she said.

A few months into treatment, a therapist helping Covell manage anxiety recommended an art therapy group at UCLA's Simms Mann.

"No doctor appointments, no calls, just an hour and a half every Wednesday that I blocked off for art," she said. "It was truly liberating."

"Many times I'd just want to paint a particular animal, and later, when writing the narrative, I'd understand why that animal mattered," Covell said.

One painting grew out of sunset clouds that looked like a dragon and a butterfly, a sight she said felt symbolic of what she was

going through during radiation: "the dragon strong and fierce, the butterfly transformative and delicate." Gold lines in the painting represent the radiation rays, a reference to the Japanese art of kintsugi.

"I see my cancer journey as both a blessing and a curse," Covell said. "The curse part is obvious, no one wants cancer. The blessing is that it allowed me to reinvent myself and become the person I was really meant to be."

"I lost my business, I lost my boyfriend, my world was crashing, and yet I knew it wouldn't get the better of me," she said.

She hopes sharing her experience "gives a voice to others going through this devastating disease and offers them hope." People have told her the story and images brought tears to their eyes because they related to the words, she said, "and then a smile because of the beauty and healing in the images."

Covell, who began painting at 11, holds a bachelor's degree in painting and drawing from UCLA and a master of fine arts in installation and sculpture from Claremont Graduate University, where she was the first student to receive a degree in that program. Her book, "Jill's Journey: A Cancer Story Told Through Art and Healing," is available on Amazon.

She met several of the show's other artists at the opening. One piece in the exhibition, "Making New Friends," explores the bond among people who have gone through cancer.

"Even though each of us has traveled a different path, there's a real camaraderie," Covell said.

Covell will also join a Nov. 15 conversation at the gallery with Ashley James and Dr. Evanthisa Roussos Torres of USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center.

The gallery, at 3015 Ocean Park Blvd., is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays and by appointment. RSVPs for the reception are taken through the gallery's website.

More information is available at dnjgallery.net/current.html.

maaz@smdp.com

HOLLYWOOD

FROM PAGE 2

80th birthday (streamed by Paramount+).

3 GULF COUNTRIES HELPED BACK THE DEAL

To help fund its Warner buyout, Paramount racked up billions of dollars in financial backing from three Gulf countries: Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. The Federal Communications Commission approved the company's request for sizable indirect ownership from those foreign investors.

Paramount previously disclosed it expected those funds to indirectly own nearly 50% of equity interests — but no voting rights — of Skydance. But the company asked for clearance of up to 100% to account for potential future investments, which the FCC granted, citing in part that access to more capital would strengthen the broadcast industry and was therefore "in the public interest."

The FCC's sole Democratic commissioner, Anna Gomez, and other critics have called the move alarming and unprecedented. They argue that amount of money opens the door to behind-the-scenes influence.

LEGAL FIGHTS STALLED THE DEAL

Paramount cleared antitrust hurdles for its Warner acquisition from the Justice Department and regulators worldwide over the summer.

But in July, Democratic attorneys general from 12 states — led by California's Rob Bonta — sued to block the merger, alleging the combined company would "extinguish competition" and lead to fewer choices for consumers, particularly movie theatergoers and cable customers across the U.S.

The Writers Guild of America followed suit.

Settlements emerged in September. The states' terms, eventually approved by a judge, include pledges from the company to increase film production in the U.S. over the next five years, commit millions of dollars to a fund aimed at supporting workers displaced by the merger and again establish new editorial monitoring of CNN and CBS.

Critics said the remedies were too weak, but the settlements cleared the way for the deal to close.

By WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS AP Business Writer

Santa Monica Daily Press

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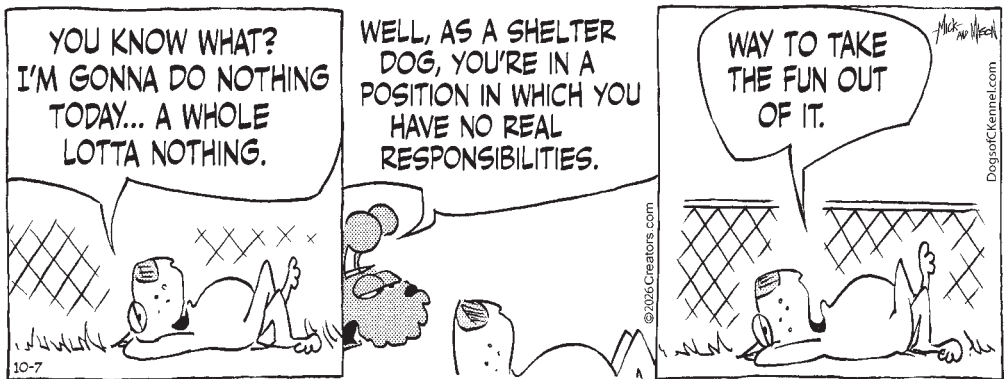
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



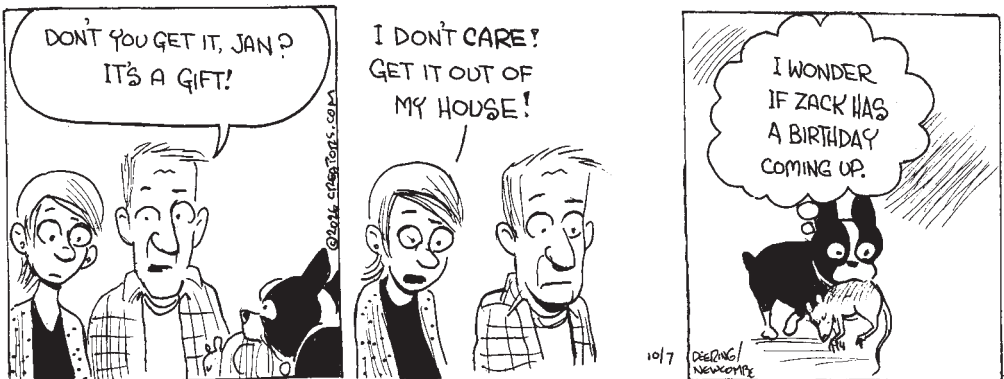
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



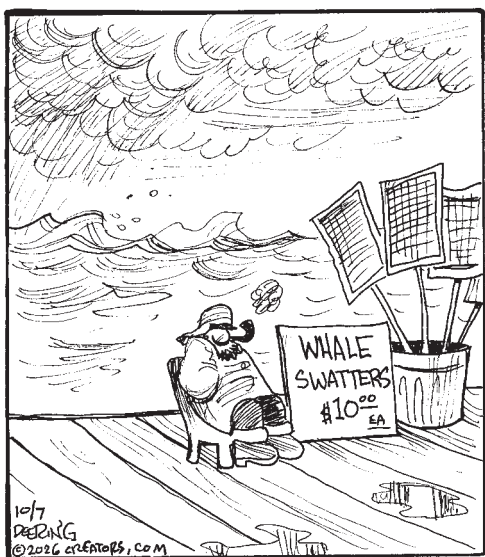
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 7086

Motor racing

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

Apex	Dogleg	Luck	Results
Autos	Energy	Mess	Rules
Bends	Europe	Mini	Runs
Brakes	Fast	NASCAR	Skill
Chequered flag	Fuel	Nitro	Smash
Chicane	Gears	Parade	Spain
Crew	Heats	Pass	Speedway
Damage	Idols	Pits	Spoiler
Dips	Jaguar	Power	Turbo
Dirt	Jones	Racecam	Wheel
Doctor	Laps	Record	
	Le Mans	Reflex	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

She deserves a treat



TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 7)

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll make a strong impression by combining things that usually seem incompatible. You might treat something silly with elegance, bring some wildness to a formal setting or respond with restraint when people expect drama.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There are ways you feel trapped. Even though, technically, you could get out of the arrangement, the consequences make it seem like there's only one choice. Is that really so? This is the time to question.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There are kind lies - white lies to extend to save someone from feeling awkward, unchosen or embarrassed. Saying them is gracious, maybe even a gift. Today, you'll also give the gift of the plain truth when it's the right thing to do.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Someone has been waiting for your answer and filling the silence with possibilities. You'll give them a clean yes or no today so they can stop guessing and make their plans going forward with the facts in hand.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You hear a version of what happened, and the pieces seem to fit. Before you decide what it means, ask one more person to tell their side. Hear one missing detail, and you may reconsider the whole story today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Someone asks what you think because they trust your judgment. You can see the smartest choice and explain it well. Your real gift is helping them hear themselves think clearly enough to take the wheel and choose their own direction.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's fun to play the games you're good at - the ones that speak to your strengths. Today's challenge comes as a welcome gift, custom fitted to you. It will polish your talent until it gleams like a jewel.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Sharing what you have always seems to help you appreciate it better, especially when you can share with someone from a different background. What's ordinary to you is novel, or even wonderful to them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You can handle many tasks at once if you have to, but it's energetically expensive. So plan ahead - way ahead, if possible. Arrange things so you can focus on what matters most to you. You deserve this kind of peace.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You assess risk in your own way, which is appropriate since your circumstances are completely unique. Today, this is what gives you a competitive edge: You have less to lose.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A friend isn't merely a person with whom you share your time. Each relationship is a world, and every world influences those who inhabit it. Update your criteria for choosing your company because your priorities have shifted.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Someone who once disappointed you will show up differently today. Watch what they do now. They'll keep making better choices, and you'll keep updating your opinion to match what you see.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

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Edited by Stanley Newman
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ACROSS

- 1 Story from Aesop
- 6 Grab (on to)
- 10 Junk email
- 14 Hearing-related
- 15 Actor Rob
- 16 Mock fanfare
- 17 Speed event on natural terrain
- 20 Fez dangles
- 21 Nautical distance measure
- 22 PC port

24 Fine sprays

25 Grand home

30 Like Humpty Dumpty

33 Fine dinnerware

34 Aroma

35 Family nickname

38 Sprinter's event

42 1300 hours

43 Untruthful one

44 "I surrender!"

45 Allude (to)

47 Moved twistily

48 Nonsocial person

51 Coffee alternative

53 Eye specialist

56 Letter rearrangement

62 Picnic competition

64 Try out

65 Word-of-mouth

66 "Start eating!"

67 Metallic rocks

68 All-knowing

69 Simple earrings

DOWN

1 True statement

2 Mystical glow

3 Warner ___ (film studio)

4 Scottish girl

5 Otherwise

6 Lip cosmetic

7 Baseball great Gehrig

8 Has title to

9 Dispense, with "out"

10 Thwart

11 Arc de Triomphe city

12 Grown-up

13 Thick heads of hair

18 Hint

19 Hits head-on

23 Tattoos, for instance

25 Sound rebound

26 Keep away from

27 Fork prong

28 "Not to mention..."

29 Roofing material

31 Swine with tusks

32 Go wrong

34 *Garfield* dog

35 Potato bag

36 Castaway's home

37 Storage building

39 North Pole worker

40 Bradstreet's partner

41 Genetic ID

45 Finds new tenants for

46 Cleveland's lake

47 Sensible

48 Number-picking game

49 Brown shade

50 Hospital staffer

52 National bird

54 Moving sluggishly

55 Actress Hatcher

57 Tacks on

58 Sandpaper coating

59 Prego rival

60 Corrosive chemical and tuxes

63 Oxygen, for one

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



WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 7

AI FOR EVERYDAY LIFE WORKSHOP

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Main Library, Computer Training Room. Curious about Artificial Intelligence (AI) but unsure where to start? Learn what AI is and get guidance on how to safely use it in this interactive session designed for older adults.

EGO CLUB

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Pico Branch, The Annex. Explore the limits of your building imagination or try out one of our suggested builds. All materials provided. For ages 18 months - 11 years old.

PLUS ME PROJECT: TEEN EDITION

4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Montana Branch. Build confidence, reflect on your experiences, and connect with other teens through personal storytelling in this writing workshop. For ages 13 - 18.

THE LIBRARIANS SCREENING & DISCUSSION

5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. Main Library, Multipurpose Room. Celebrate Banned Books Week with us at this film screening and discussion. First, enjoy the thought-provoking documentary *The Librarians*, which highlights the vital, often challenging, role librarians play in protecting access to diverse ideas and viewpoints. Following the film, stay for a panel discussion in which librarians and authors explore the spike in book bans across the country and the significance of libraries as bastions of intellectual freedom. Film runtime: 92 mins.

OCEAN PARK BOOK GROUP

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Ocean Park Branch. This new community-led, monthly book discussion group meets in person at 6 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month. The group discusses popular fiction titles. Titles include: October 7, 2026: *The Big Sleep* by Raymond Chandler, November 4, 2026: *James* by Percival Everett, December 2, 2026: *The Year of Living Danishly* by Helen Russel

THURSDAY | OCTOBER 8

PACIFIC PALISADES FRIENDS AND NEWCOMERS JUST COFFEE

10:00 a.m. The Penmar 1233 Rose Avenue Pacific Palisades, CA. A relaxed morning coffee gathering for friends and newcomers, with fresh air, open views, and easy conversation. Pacific Palisades Friends and Newcomers hosts “Just Coffee” on the second Thursday of each month. Come start your morning with friends, fresh air and good coffee. Open-air fairway views and great company in a relaxed outdoor setting. This month’s Just Coffee will take place at The Penmar, 1233 Rose Avenue, Venice. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/pacific-palisades-friends-and-newcomers-just-coffee/19945553/2026-10-08T10>

SMC GLASS PUMPKIN SALES

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. 1900 Pico Blvd Santa Monica, CA. The SMC Glass Pumpkin Sales are wonderful opportunities to buy handcrafted glass pumpkins. Each pumpkin is a truly unique work of art that can enhance fall-season home and office decor, as well as satisfy holiday and year-round gift needs. Proceeds from this sale will benefit the SMC Art Department. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/smc-glass-pumpkin-sales/19944713/2026-10-08T10>

LOW IMPACT GROUP EXERCISE CLASS

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. American Legion Ronald Reagan - Palisades Post 283 15247 La Cruz Drive Pacific Palisades. Power up your Thursday with our free, low-impact group exercise classes — open to all members of the Legion Family, designed for every fitness level, and held from 10:30am to 11:30pm at Palisades Post 283. Come move, recharge, and feel great heading into the rest of your day! Sign up here to receive emails about upcoming exercise classes and cancellations: [post283.com/exercise](https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/low-impact-group-exercise-class/18566926/2026-10-08T11). Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/low-impact-group-exercise-class/18566926/2026-10-08T11>

REACH PROGRAM APPLICATION SUPPORT

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Main Library, Lobby. Office of Sustainability staff answer questions about the city’s Renter’s Energy and Cooling/Heating Program, which offers free appliances for income-qualified Santa Monica renters.

COMPUTER PRACTICE: OPEN LAB

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Main Library, Computer Classroom. Build computer skills at your own pace through guided online lessons. Support is available if needed.

FRIDAY | OCTOBER 9

MOBILE COMMUNITY MEDITATION CENTER - GUIDED MEDITATION

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Ocean View Park 2701 Bernard Way Santa Monica. A 45-minute fully guided mindfulness meditation outdoors, open to all experience levels; bring a chair or cushion and settle in by the ocean. Please join Mobile Community Meditation Center aka Buddhist Boondockers Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 am for a 45 minute fully guided mindfulness meditation - on the grass, under the shade of the trees, with a view of the sparkling ocean. (Tuesday and Thursday offered via zoom). Free— Any contributions are accepted and appreciated. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/mobile-community-meditation-center-guided-meditation/19479748/2026-10-09T10>

FIX-IT FAMILIA STORYTIME

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. / Pico Branch, The Annex. Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month and enjoy a special storytime featuring Lucky Diaz’s, *Fix-It Familia*, followed by a craft inspired by the book. For ages 5 - 11.

BUNDY TRIANGLE NIGHT MARKET

5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Bundy Triangle 1500 S Bundy Drive Los Angeles. Cayton Children’s Museum offers free hands-on activities for families at the Bundy Triangle Night Market every Friday through October. Cayton Children’s Museum will offer free, weekly hands-on activities for children and families at the Bundy Triangle Night Market in Sawtelle every Friday from March 27 through the end of October, the museum announced. The programming, offered in partnership with Los Angeles City Councilwoman Traci Park, will run from 5 to 8 p.m. each Friday at the Bundy Triangle, a public space at Ohio Avenue and Bundy Drive. The broader night market, presented by Raw Inspiration, runs from 5 to 9 p.m. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/bundy-triangle-night-market/18490079/2026-10-09T17>

SUNSET SESSIONS

5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. The Penmar 1233 Rose Avenue Los Angeles, CA. Live music at The Penmar as the sun sets. A weekly series of outdoor evening concerts with a relaxed vibe. Music and good vibes as the Sun sets. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/sunset-sessions/18537173/2026-10-09T17>

CHRISTY CARLSON ROMANO WITH MARA WILSON! ONCE UPON A TRAINWRECK!

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Zibby’s Bookshop 1113 Montana Ave Santa Monica, CA. Disney Channel alum Christy Carlson Romano talks with Mara Wilson about childhood fame, resilience, and memoir, in a candid author-event conversation. \$34.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/christy-carlson-romano-with-mara-wilson-once-upon-a-trainwreck-/19783889/2026-10-09T18>

SATURDAY | OCTOBER 10

ONCE UPON A GARDEN: A STORYTIME

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Main Street Community Garden, 2318 Main Street, Santa Monica 90405. Join us for a garden-themed story time surrounded by nature! We’ll enjoy stories about flowers, plants, and growing gardens. Along with garden-inspired songs, and fun movement activities and songs. Come explore, read, and learn as we celebrate all the wonderful things that grow in the garden. “Once Upon a Garden: A Storytime” will be led by librarians from the Santa Monica Public Library. Story time begins at 10 am. Join us at 9 am to grab a cup of coffee, kid friendly snacks and wandering around the gardens to see what’s growing, pick up seed packets and chat with gardeners. Limited seating, please bring blankets or chairs. For more info: [SANTAMONICA.GOV/Events](https://www.santamonica.gov/events).

CLASSICS BOOK GROUP

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Zoom. This community-led, monthly book discussion group meets virtually at 11 a.m. on the second Saturday of the month. The group discusses classic fiction titles. For Zoom link, email library@santamonica.gov.

SCREAM AND STREAM – TEEN MOVIE

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Main Library, Youth Activity Room. Connect with friends and celebrate the spooky season with themed snacks and a film. For ages 13 - 18.

LGBT HISTORY MONTH FILM SCREENING

7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Miles Memorial Playhouse, 1130 Lincoln Blvd. Join us for Janis Ian: *Breaking Silence*, a documentary about lesbian pop artist Janis Ian from Santa Monica filmmaker Varda Bar-Kar. Q&A with the director to follow. Runtime: 114 min. SUNDAY | OCTOBER 11

CONTINUUM: HONORING THE HISTORY OF BELMAR AND BLACK SANTA MONICA

Noon to 5:00 p.m. Historic Belmar Park. This free, all-ages cultural activation presented by the city of Santa Monica and GV Black honors the history of Belmar and the Black experience in Santa Monica and will include conversations with award-winning journalist and radio host Sam Sanders, DJ sets by KCRW’s Tyler “Boogie” Boudreaux, live music performances from Katalyst Collective, Songs With Strings, and NPR Tiny Desk Concert Winner Cure For Paranoia, fusing live strings, hip-hop and jazz. Shop the vendor village curated by Black Market Flea and enjoy art-making, art installations and more.

SUNDAY | OCTOBER 11

LOWE FAMILY YMCA PUMPKIN PATCH

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Simon Meadow 15551 W Sunset Blvd Pacific Palisades, CA The Lowe Family YMCA Pumpkin Patch returns to Simon Meadow Monday to Friday from 3 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Explore the playful hay maze, snap photos with festive photo props, enjoy an art installation and shop pumpkins of all sizes. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/lowe-family-ymca-pumpkin-patch/20059545/2026-10-11T10>

PALIBU RECOVERY EXPO

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. American Legion Ronald Reagan - Palisades Post 283 15247 La Cruz Drive Pacific Palisades, CA. Join the PaliBu Chamber of Commerce for the October Recovery Expo, the final quarterly Recovery Expo of 2026, in the heart of Pacific Palisades. Connect with trusted rebuilding professionals, local businesses, nonprofits and recovery resources to help navigate every stage of the rebuilding process. Whether you’re seeking expert guidance, products, services or community connections, you’ll find the information and support needed to move forward with confidence. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/palibu-recovery-expo/19481196/2026-10-11T11>

SHOTGUN HOUSE TOURS

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. 2520 Second St Santa Monica Santa Monica, CA. Guided tours of shotgun houses, offering a close look at the distinctive narrow home style and its design details. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/shotgun-house-tours/19784836/2026-10-11T12>



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