2 **A home debut**
For world-traveled conductor

4 **Friday protests**
Local agencies prepare despite lack of local threat.

6 **New law**
Allows housing on church sites

7 **Solar Eclipse**
This Saturday.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 22 Issue 278 THE WEEKENDER 10/13-10/15 smdp.com

World-renowned think tank hopes to foster new ideas for its Santa Monica office



Thomas Leffler

RAND: The organization's flagship office is in Santa Monica but officials want to renegotiate the agreement with the city to provide more flexibility in the modern era.

NO PLANS TO SELL THE BUILDING DESPITE INCREASED VACANCY

Santa Monica's very first development agreement may be up for debate in the near future as one of the City's most historic organizations is looking to modernize its office footprint.

The RAND corporation is asking officials to void the development agreement that governs its Santa Monica office and work with the organization on a new deal that would account for the declining number of workers physically coming into the space every day. RAND said they are not looking to sell or redevelop the site, but they can't do anything other than leave offices vacant under their current rules.

The organization has called the city home for more than 70 years but its current office has only been home for about two decades.

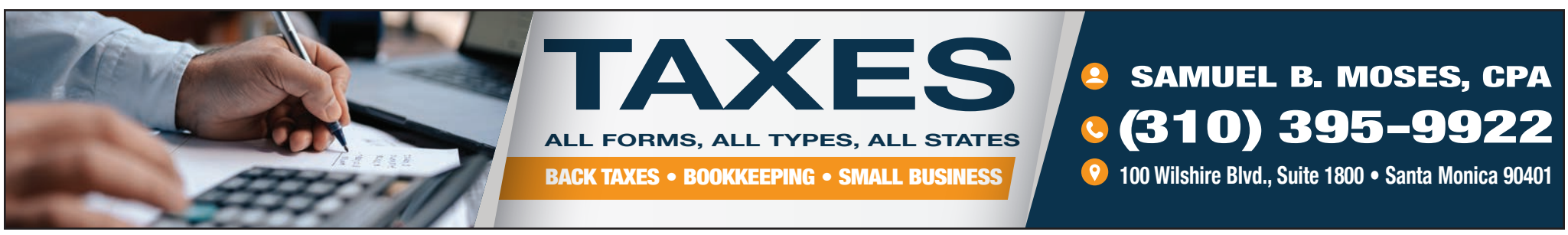
MATTHEW HALL
SMDP Staff Writer

Prompted by the need for technology research during WWII, RAND was established in 1945, at a total cost of $640, as an offshoot of the Douglas Aircraft Company. Taking its name from a contraction of "research and development," Project RAND completed its first report (Preliminary Design of an Experimental World-Circling Spaceship) in 1946 and was soon spun off into a standalone nonprofit in 1948 under the approval of the Air Force.

The organization quickly grew to more than 200 staff with wide ranging expertise in areas like mathematics, engineering, aerodynamics, physics, chemistry, economics, and psychology.

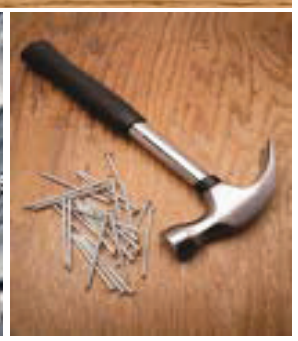
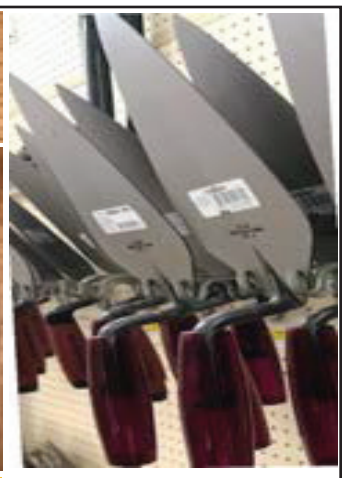
At one point, RAND owned about 15 acres along Main

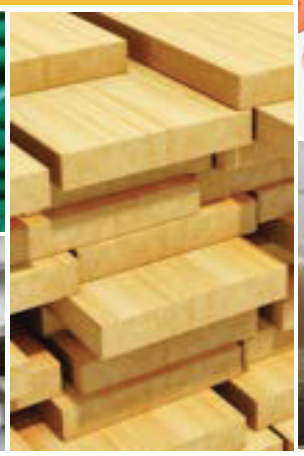
SEE **RAND** PAGE 12



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World-traveled conductor comes home for U.S. debut

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

A homecoming a decade in the making will be heard at Santa Monica's BroadStage this weekend.

Elias Peter Brown, a 2013 graduate of Santa Monica High School, will be making his United States conducting debut on Sunday alongside musicians of the LA Philharmonic, performing Stravinsky's "The Soldier's Tale." First performing at BroadStage as a Samohi trumpet player, the time has come for the rising star to take his place at the front of the stage.

"I'm really excited for the opportunity to reconnect … to perform for several teachers of mine (that) will be there … it's not so easy to get friends and family and music teachers (to go), so it's a wonderful opportunity to be performing at a high level, but also to be doing this for very special people," he said.

Already a world-traveled conductor, Brown's return to the U.S. after a prolonged overseas excursion comes with his selection as a Salonen Fellow. The fellowship has Brown serving as assistant conductor at the San Francisco Symphony, while also working as assistant conductor with the Colburn Conservatory Orchestra in the Nagaunee Conducting program.

The art of conducting is not one typically taught at U.S. schools, forcing Brown to carve his own path. His musical path began within the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, starting with simple recorder classes in 3rd grade before evolving as a trumpet player. Brown credits the "amazing" SMMUSD program for sparking his musical interests, along with the city he called home.

"(Santa Monica is) an amazing place to grow up, because you feel a part of this really intimate community," Brown said. "Santa Monica (is) its own kind of enclave and we've got beach and mountains all at your fingertips. But you're also connected to this much larger metropolis. You can kind of dip into all these other offerings that exist, but also, Santa Monica has its own very special thing."

Continuing to grow and collaborate with fellow SMMUSD musicians, an orchestra tour of New York during his first year at Samohi included a guest session with conductor Daniel Boico, a moment where Brown's eyes shifted from his instrument to the front of the stage.

"He started conducting, and it just felt like we were a better orchestra immediately, without him saying anything," Brown said. "I felt like 'wow, I'm hearing things that I haven't heard before,' I (felt) like I'm better able to play and come in at the right time and play with the group. This made such an enormous impact on me, this idea that a conductor actually without even saying anything, just using a sort of gestural vocabulary, would be able to make an orchestra sound better like that quickly."

Reconnecting with Boico during his time with the California All-State Orchestra, the conductor arranged a masterclass for Brown in St. Petersburg, Russia. Brown's first solo overseas venture, his parents were initially against the idea, and the musician's grandmother was the supporting voice to take on the endeavor.

His St. Petersburg excursion was another eye-opener, this time showing Brown the extreme detail that goes into the seemingly simple gestures.

"Before that trip, the conducting was sort of this … pure musicality thing, where you don't have the technical limitations of an instrument, you're just kind of working with music in some sort of ideal, pure way," Brown said. "And of course, that's not the case, there's an insane amount of technique, an insane amount of training that has to go into actually learning how to get on the podium

SEE **CONDUCTOR** PAGE 11



Courtesy Photo
ELIAS PETER BROWN: Santa Monica native and world-traveled conductor Elias Peter Brown will be making his United States conducting debut at BroadStage this weekend.

Choral anniversary season performance serenades through iconic poetry



Photo by Thomas Leffler

VERDI CHORUS: (L-R) Tiffany Ho, Megan McDonald, Anne Marie Ketchum and Alexandra Bass will be performing the works of Emily Dickinson through song for the Verdi Chorus.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

A musical staple of Santa Monica is wasting no time starting its 40th anniversary season, sending its audience into a spiritually and philosophically engaging journey this weekend.

On Sunday, the First Presbyterian Church will play host to the Verdi Chorus' performance of "This, and My Heart, A Portrait of Emily Dickinson and Her Worlds Through Text and Song." The combination of theater and concert piece celebrates Dickinson's works by interspersing spoken readings with musical settings of her poems. Verdi Chorus Artistic Director Anne Marie Ketchum will portray the icon in both text and song, accompanied by Fox Singers Alexandra Bass, Tiffany Ho and Megan McDonald to express Dickinson's thoughts through singing of her poetry.

"This, and My Heart" was written by Ketchum along with pianist Victoria Kirsch and actress Linda Kelsey, premiering in 2009 and subsequently performed throughout Southern California. Ketchum has been the conductor of the Verdi Chorus since its start in 1983, when operatic showcases were a staple of the Verdi Ristorante on Wilshire Boulevard. Four decades later, the outfit has become what Ketchum calls a "major force" in the Los Angeles music scene, including 65 singers in total to perform a variety of operatic works. The chorus working exclusively within the opera world has created a unique space for the group.

"Some people sitting out in the audience will say it's not just sound, it becomes like a visceral experience, which is interesting," Ketchum said. "Most groups, if they're going to do any opera, they'll do (one) concert ... but we only do opera. So there's a great deal of variety in all that, it's very theatrical."

The 65 voices of the chorus were whittled down to three Fox Singers, a satellite group that provides performance opportunities to young professional singers. Bass, Ho and McDonald have all been classically trained, and Bass noted that the Verdi opportunity "kind of seemed like a natural place to go" when seeking out gigs in the Los Angeles area.

"Sometimes you'll find there's a different feeling singing regular standard choral music and operatic chorus music," Bass said. "It allows us to use kind of our full instrument without having to necessarily worry about having to blend for a more specific choral sound."

McDonald met Ketchum while the latter was filling in for a voice teacher at California State University, Northridge, helping the young singer prepare for her graduate recital. Currently a section leader with Verdi, McDonald said her performances with the group introduce audiences to "what opera is without sitting through the three-hour opera." Ho echoed her fellow singers' sentiment, calling it a "unique experience to explore so many different operas in one concert alone."

"There (were) just so many opportunities to refine your own craft, to expand your knowledge of the repertoire as well ... we get to find pieces that just have so much excitement."

One of those pieces is "This, and My Heart," which looks at Dickinson's life through her different areas of thought, rather than a chronological overview. The selection of songs for the performance was a complex process chosen based on what best fit the poet's "essence," touching on subjects such as nature, fame, religion, love and death.

Having previously sung these works, Ketchum was able to have an edge on how to coach the singers, sitting down with the trio to evaluate the multiple interpretations of Dickinson's work. She likened Dickinson's poetry to having multiple people looking at a painting and having different ideas of what is occurring, saying her thoughts widen every time she studies the material.

"I chose these three singers because I knew

SEE **CHORUS** PAGE 6



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **64.4**

FRIDAY
FAIR
SURF: 2-3ft+ Thigh to stomach

Small'ish but potentially kinda fun as a new SSW swell fills in & slowly becomes dominant source of surf. Likely lully, but could be some pretty crisp little lines at the points and maybe still just enough NW running for peaks at beachbreak

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

A bit more SSW and less NW than Friday is likely - so potential for fun little lines at the points with more walled up shape at the beachbreaks. Stay tuned.

Weather

Friday: Partly sunny, with a high near 71. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 60.
Saturday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 72.
Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 59.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2023/10/13	Fri	02:57 AM	0.77	L
2023/10/13	Fri	09:11 AM	5.35	H
2023/10/13	Fri	3:24 PM	0.75	L
2023/10/13	Fri	9:24 PM	4.87	H
2023/10/14	Sat	03:17 AM	1.02	L
2023/10/14	Sat	09:30 AM	5.58	H
2023/10/14	Sat	3:56 PM	0.46	L
2023/10/14	Sat	9:59 PM	4.62	H
2023/10/15	Sun	03:37 AM	1.32	L
2023/10/15	Sun	09:50 AM	5.75	H
2023/10/15	Sun	4:32 PM	0.25	L
2023/10/15	Sun	10:37 PM	4.29	H
2023/10/16	Mon	03:58 AM	1.66	L
2023/10/16	Mon	10:13 AM	5.85	H
2023/10/16	Mon	5:11 PM	0.15	L
2023/10/16	Mon	11:21 PM	3.92	H
2023/10/17	Tue	04:18 AM	2.02	L
2023/10/17	Tue	10:40 AM	5.86	H

Daily Lottery

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22 24 40 52 64
Power#: 10
Jackpot: 20 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 10/10
3 8 17 46 63
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: 48 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 10/11
17 30 36 38 39
Mega#: 2
Jackpot: 17 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 10/11
20 23 26 31 33

Daily 3
Draw Date: 10/12
MIDDAY: 4 9 2
Draw Date: 10/11
EVENING: 3 1 3

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 10/11
1st: 05 - California Classic
2nd: 08 - Gorgeous George
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:40.30

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Jack Neworth,
David Pisarra.

CIRCULATION
Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com

Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Scott Snowden
scott.snowden@smdp.com

Thomas Leffler
thomas@smdp.com

DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

MARKETING MANAGER
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

1640 5th Street, Suite 218
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Hollywood studios break off strike talks with actors, who slam 'bullying tactics'

ANDREW DALTON
AP Entertainment Writer

Talks bitterly broke off between Hollywood actors and studios late Wednesday, killing any hopes that the three-month strike by performers would come to an end anytime soon.

The studios announced that they had suspended contract negotiations, saying the gap between the two sides was too great to make continuing worth it, despite an offer as good as the one that recently ended the writers strike. The actors union decried their opponents' "bullying tactics" and said they were wildly mischaracterizing their offers.

> It is clear that the gap between the AMPTP and SAG-AFTRA is too great, and conversations are no longer moving us in a productive direction
> - Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers

On Oct. 2, for the first time since the strike began July 14, the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists had resumed negotiations with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, which represents studios, streaming services and production companies in strike talks.

When negotiations resumed with writers last month, their strike ended five days later, but similar progress was not made with the actors union.

The studios walked away from talks after seeing the actors' most recent proposal on Wednesday.

"It is clear that the gap between the AMPTP and SAG-AFTRA is too great, and conversations are no longer moving us in a productive direction," the AMPTP said in a statement.

The SAG-AFTRA proposal would cost companies an additional $800 million a year and create "an untenable economic burden," the statement said.

In a letter to members sent early Thursday, SAG AFTRA said that figure was overestimated by 60%. The union said its negotiators were "profoundly disappointed" the studios had broken off talks.

"We have negotiated with them in good faith," the letter read, "despite the fact that last week they presented an offer that was, shockingly, worth less than they proposed before the strike began."

Actors have been on strike over issues including increases in pay for streaming programming and control of the use of their images generated by artificial intelligence.

The AMPTP insisted its offers had been as generous as the deals that brought an end to the writers strike and brought a new contract to the directors guild earlier this year.

But the union letter to actors said the companies "refuse to protect performers from being replaced by AI, they refuse to increase your wages to keep up with inflation, and they refuse to share a tiny portion of the immense revenue YOUR work generates for them."

From the start, the actors talks had nothing like the momentum that spurred marathon night-and-weekend sessions in the writers strike and brought that work stoppage to an end. Actors and studios had taken several days off after resuming, and there were no reports of meaningful progress despite direct involvement from the heads of studios including Disney and Netflix as there had been in the writers strike.

The writers did have their own false start in negotiations, however. A month before the successful talks, the initial attempt to restart ended after just a few days.

Members of the Writers Guild of America voted almost unanimously to ratify their new contract on Monday.

Their leaders touted their deal as achieving most of what they had sought when they went on strike nearly five months earlier.

They declared their strike over, and sent writers back to work, on Sept. 26.

Late night talk shows returned to the air within a week, and other shows including "Saturday Night Live" will soon follow.

But with no actors, production on scripted shows and movies will stay on pause indefinitely.

GET IT DAILY...

COMMUNITY NEWS

Sunset Park

Local agencies prepare for potential unrest

In response to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East and a call for global protest on Friday the 13th, the Santa Monica Police Department is increasing deployments and staffing although they said there is no specific threat to the local community.

Santa Monica schools remain open as normal on Friday although SMMUSD sent out a letter to parents saying safety is a top priority and listing tips to talk to students about the situation.

"Our police department uniformed personnel will be more visible throughout our local area schools and places of worship; more police personnel are being deployed throughout the city," said SMPD Chief Ramon Batista. "Our goal is community safety and normalcy during this turbulent period abroad. We implore our community to be proactive, if residents see something that is out of the ordinary we ask them to call."

SMDP STAFF

Citywide

Community Corp. and WHCHC awarded $4M to create revolving loan fund

Community Corporation of Santa Monica (Community Corp.) and West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation (WHCHC) are proud to announce they have been selected by the United States Department of the Treasury to receive $4 million to create a revolving loan fund to support affordable housing predevelopment expenses. Community Corp. and WHCHC applied as a consortium to maximize the opportunity and leverage resources to create quality affordable housing, specifically in high resource neighborhoods.

"Our affordable housing pipeline is constrained in part by the lack of available low-cost predevelopment funding," said Tara Barauskas, Community Corp.'s Executive Director. "As costs continue to skyrocket, this collaborative revolving loan fund will save both organizations time and money so that we can continue to be part of the solution to the severe housing crisis."

"Unlike traditional competitors, both Community Corp. and WHCHC put mission first, and we are excited to join forces to transform affordable housing production," continued Jesse Slansky, WHCHC President and CEO.

On October 4, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund awarded 52 organizations $321.2 million for the development of affordable housing and community facilities serving low-income individuals, families, and communities. These awards were made through the Fiscal Year 2023 round of the Capital Magnet Fund, and will support financing for the preservation, rehabilitation, development, or purchase of affordable housing as well as related economic development and community service facilities such as day care centers, workforce development centers, and health care clinics.

Community Corporation of Santa Monica (Community Corp.) is a non-profit organization that restores, builds, and manages affordable housing for people of modest means. Founded by community leaders in 1982, Community Corp. has built or restored more than 90 properties throughout Santa Monica and the Westside, creating over 2,000 affordable homes and transforming the lives of more than 4,000 people every year. For more information, please visit our website at www.communitycorp.org.

West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation (WHCHC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community housing development organization. WHCHC has been building homes and providing services that move community members from insecurity to stability since 1986. WHCHC currently houses over 1,200 residents in 785 units in 22 affordable apartment communities in three cities. WHCHC has four projects in development. For more information, please visit, www.whchc.org.

SUBMITTED BY RACHEL TOCHTERMAN

Downtown

Police chase unfolds along Lincoln Blvd as suspect is pursued by LAPD

A police pursuit unfolded along the streets of Santa Monica this Thursday as units from both the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and the Santa Monica Police Department chased a suspect northbound back and forth along Lincoln Blvd before the suspect's vehicle turned onto Colorado Ave.

Law enforcement officers attempted to throw down a spike strip along while the suspect's black Honda was stationary, however the suspect accelerated, narrowly missing officers and the vehicle appeared to be undamaged.

The suspect, a man of as-yet undetermined age, was eventually apprehended and taken into custody after a successful attempt to lay a spike strip at the intersection of Euclid and Colorado Ave. Earlier, before the chase began, he appeared to be driving erratically, driving in circles on Lincoln Blvd, just north of Ocean Park Blvd.

According to early reports from the LAPD, a police department civilian employee was driving a vehicle near Lincoln Blvd and West Jefferson Blvd when the suspect tried to run them off the road.

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What was Hamas thinking? For over three decades, it has had the same brutal idea of victory

JOSEPH KRAUSS
Associated Press

In the three and a half decades since it began as an underground militant group, Hamas has pursued a consistently violent strategy aimed at rolling back Israeli rule — and it has made steady progress despite bringing enormous suffering to both sides of the conflict.

But its stunning incursion into Israel over the weekend marks its deadliest gambit yet, and the already unprecedented response from Israel threatens to bring an end to its 16-year rule over the Gaza Strip.

> I hope and I believe that Israel will not stop until Hamas has been defeated in the Gaza Strip, and I don't think that this was their expectation before the operation
> - Shaul Shay

Israel's retaliation for the Hamas assault, in which over 1,200 people were killed in Israel and dozens dragged into Gaza as hostages, will likely bring a far greater magnitude of death and destruction to Gaza, where 2.3 million Palestinians have nowhere to flee and where 1,100 have already been killed.

Hamas officials say they are prepared for any scenario, including a drawn-out war, and that allies like Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah will join the battle if Israel goes too far.

"I don't think anyone really knows what the endgame is at the moment," said Tahani Mustafa, a Palestinian analyst at the Crisis Group, an international think tank. But given the amount of planning involved in the assault, "it's difficult to imagine they haven't tried to strategize every possible scenario."

Shaul Shay, an Israeli researcher and retired colonel who served in military intelligence, said Hamas "miscalculated" Israel's response and now faces a far worse conflict than it had anticipated.

"I hope and I believe that Israel will not stop until Hamas has been defeated in the Gaza Strip, and I don't think that this was their expectation before the operation," Shay said of Hamas.

FROM UPSTART INSURGENCE TO PROTO-STATE

From its establishment in the late 1980s, on the eve of the first Palestinian intifada, or uprising, Hamas has been committed to armed struggle and the destruction of Israel. At the height of the peace process in the 1990s, it launched scores of suicide bombings and other attacks that killed hundreds of Israeli civilians. The violence only intensified with the breakdown in peace talks and the far deadlier second Palestinian uprising in 2000.

Hamas attacks were met with massive Israeli military incursions into the occupied West Bank and Gaza that exacted a far heavier death toll on Palestinians. But as the violence wound down in 2005, Israel unilaterally withdrew its soldiers and some 8,000 Jewish settlers from Gaza, while maintaining tight control over access to the enclave by land, air and sea.

Hamas claimed the withdrawal as vindication for its approach, and the following year it won a landslide victory in Palestinian elections. In 2007, after bitter infighting, it violently seized Gaza from the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority.

Over the next 16 years, through four wars and countless smaller battles with Israel that rained devastation upon Gaza, Hamas only grew more powerful. Each time it had more rockets that traveled farther. Each time its top leaders survived, securing a cease-fire and the gradual easing of a blockade imposed by Israel and Egypt. In the meantime, it built a government — including a police force, ministries and border terminals with metal detectors and passport control.

And what of the thousands of Palestinians killed, the flattened apartment blocks, the crumbling infrastructure, the suffocating travel restrictions, the countless dreams deferred in Gaza, a 40-kilometer (25-mile) coastal strip sandwiched between Israel and Egypt?

Hamas blamed Israel, as did many Palestinians. The Hamas government has seen only sporadic protests over the years and has quickly and violently suppressed them.

NEGOTIATIONS AND THEIR DISCONTENTS

If Hamas' armed struggle against Israel looks like a failure — or much worse — consider the alternative.

The Palestinian leadership in the West Bank recognized Israel and renounced armed struggle over three decades ago, hoping it would lead to a state in the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem, territories seized by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war.

But the talks repeatedly broke down, partly because of Hamas' violence but also because of Israel's relentless expansion of settlements, now home to more than a half million Israelis. There have been no serious peace talks in well over a decade, and the Palestinian Authority has become little more than an administrative body in the 40% of the occupied West Bank where it is allowed to operate.

> Despite conducting attacks against civilians in the past and fighting previous wars against Israel, (Hamas) did also simultaneously engage in political tracks
> - Hugh Lovatt

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, an 87-year-old moderate, has been powerless to stop settlement expansion, settler violence, home demolitions or the unraveling of longstanding arrangements around a sensitive Jerusalem holy site. He has been sidelined during every Gaza war — including this one — and the Palestinian Authority is widely seen as a corrupt accomplice to the occupation.

"Palestinians have tried everything from elections to boycotts to the (International Criminal Court) to engaging in a supposed peace process," said Mustafa, of the Crisis Group. "You've had one of the most conciliatory leaderships in the entire history of the Palestinian national movement, and that still hasn't been enough."

Still, the scale of last weekend's attack takes Hamas' approach into uncharted territory.

"It is unclear what Hamas' endgame is beyond either fighting to the death or liberating Palestine," said Hugh Lovatt, a Mideast expert at the European Council on Foreign Relations.

The latest attack marks a "complete strategic rupture," he said.

"Despite conducting attacks against civilians in the past and fighting previous wars against Israel, (Hamas) did also simultaneously engage in political tracks," including negotiations with Abbas' Fatah movement and even tacit coordination with Israel, Lovatt said.

"Now it appears to have fully embraced open-ended violence as its long-term strategic choice."

FOR ISRAEL, VICTORY COULD AGAIN PROVE ELUSIVE

Israel appears increasingly likely to launch a ground offensive in Gaza. It could reoccupy the territory and try to uproot Hamas, in what would surely be a long and bloody counterinsurgency. But even that might just drive the group — which is also present in Lebanon and the West Bank — back underground.

And Hamas has a horrifying trump card that could give Israel pause.

Hamas and the more radical Islamic Jihad militant group are holding some 150 men, women and children who were captured and dragged into Gaza. Hamas' armed wing claims some have already been killed in Israeli strikes and has threatened to kill captives if Israel attacks Palestinian civilians without warning.

Hamas may succeed — as it has in the past — at trading them for thousands of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel in a lopsided deal that Palestinians would see as a triumph and Israelis as agony.

Israel has faced virtually no calls for restraint in the wake of the Hamas attack, but that could change if the war drags on.

In the end, the two sides could find themselves returning to the status quo: An internationally mediated truce, with Hamas ruling over a devastated and aid-dependent Gaza, and Israel redoubling security along its frontier.

That too, for Hamas at least, would look like a victory.

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CHORUS

FROM PAGE 3

that they had the soul and the mind to be able to take this depth on and interpret it well," Ketchum said.

Ho admittedly wasn't too familiar with Dickinson, who riveted mid-19th century readers with her expressive, experimental poetry. While interpreting the material herself, she tried to not get "lost in the depth" of the performance.

"It's finding that balance between, as a singer when you're going to perform this, how deep am I willing to go?," she asked herself. "How deep am I available to go? How deep can I go while still being present, so that I can be here with my audience and share this with them."

Sunday's audience will be along for a journey that Ho called a "kaleidoscope of emotions," and McDonald said will be a "very emotional, beautiful and melodic journey." Bass noted that preparing for the performance has forced her to expend mental and physical energy to connect with the poet.

"Not only (is) the poetry so hard, it's so beautiful, and you're really just diving deeper and deeper into each meaning and what it could be, but you're also learning the intricate notes and it's not easy ... but it's exciting ... and I'm really excited to see how the audience interprets all this because the music is not your average concert," McDonald said.

Tickets for the show, which begins at 4 p.m. Sunday, are available to purchase on the Verdi Chorus website, www.verdichorus.org.

thomas@smdp.com

BLACH CONSTRUCTION

INVITATION FOR SUBCONTRACTOR BIDS

Pursuant to California Education Code 17406, notice is hereby given that subcontractor bids will be received by Blach Construction – 3090 Bristol Street, Costa Mesa 92626. Bids must be received in accordance with Blach Construction's instructions by **Thursday, November 16th, 2023 at 2PM.** It is the bidder's responsibility to ensure timely delivery via Building Connected.

SMASH-Muir ES Water Intrusion Repairs
Bids Due: Thursday, November 16th, 2023
at 2PM

Project Scope:
Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning, Exterior and Interior Painting, Rough Carpentry, Cast-in-Place Concrete, Structural Steel Framing, Miscellaneous Metals, Flashings, and Railings, Exterior and Interior Finish Carpentry, Architectural Cabinetry, Roofing, Sheet Metal Flashing, Traffic Coatings, Insulation, Waterproofing, Fire Protection, Window Frames and Glazing, Doors, Frames and Hardware, Lath and Plaster, Drywall, Signage, Tiling, Acoustical Ceilings, Flooring, Signage, Wheelchair Lift, Plumbing, Electrical, Landscaping, Earthwork, Final Cleaning

Subcontractors Required:
C-2 Insulation and Acoustical, C-5 Framing and Rough Carpentry, C-6 Cabinet, Finish and Millwork Carpentry, C-7 Low Voltage Systems, C-8 Concrete, C-9 Drywall, C-10 Electrical, C- 11 Elevator, C-12 Earthwork and Paving, C-15 Flooring and Floor Covering, C-16 Fire Protection, C-17 Glazing, C-20 Warm-Air Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning, C-27 Landscaping, C-33 Painting and Decorating, C-35 Lathing and Plastering, C-36 Plumbing, C-39 Roofing, C-43 Sheet Metal, C-45 Sign, C-50 Reinforcing Steel, C-51 Structural Steel

Job Walk (Non-Mandatory): TBD. Information on the job walk to be provided through Building Connected. The job walk to be held at John Muir Elementary School located at 2526 6th St. Santa Monica, CA 90405.

Requests for Information (RFI's): Pre-bid requests for information for this project due date is TBD. Information to be provided through Building Connected. Bidders are required to indicate the project name in the title of your request submission. Submit all requests for information to Justin Gilbert at justin.gilbert@blach.com

Contract Bid Documents: Copies of the bid & contract documents including drawings and specifications are available through Building Connected. Contractors are required to submit Blach Construction prequalification questionnaire in order to be selected for the project. Please reach out to Justin Gilbert with Blach Construction at (209) 505- 2551 or justin.gilbert@blach.com for access as needed.

Prevailing Wage and Skilled & Trained Workforce Requirements: Per Public Contract Code 2601 and 2602 as well as Senate Bill 693, all subcontractors at every tier must adhere to Skilled & Trained Workforce Requirements. Additionally, prevailing wage is required on this project. Additional information is provided in Blach Construction's Bid Documents.

The Contractor and all Subcontractors under the Contractor shall pay all workers on all work performed pursuant to this Contract not less than the general prevailing rate of per diem wages and the general prevailing rate for holiday and overtime work as determined by the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations, State of California, for the type of work performed and the locality in which the work is to be performed within the boundaries of the District, pursuant to sections 1770 et seq. of the California Labor Code. Prevailing wage rates are also available from the District or on the Internet at: <http://www.dir.ca.gov>.

The successful bidder will be required to have the appropriate State of California Contractor's License to perform the work current at the time of submission to bid.

Newsom signs laws to fast-track housing on churches' lands, streamline housing permitting process

TRÂN NGUYỄN
Associated Press

Religious institutions and nonprofit colleges in California will be allowed to turn their parking lots and other properties into low-income housing under a new law aimed at combating the ongoing homeless crisis.

The law, signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom Wednesday, rezones land owned by nonprofit colleges and religious institutions, such as churches, mosques, and synagogues, to allow for affordable housing. Starting in 2024, they can bypass most local permitting and environmental review rules that can be costly and lengthy. The law is set to sunset in 2036.

> California desperately needs to ramp up housing production, and the Governor's actions today help put us on a path to achieve that goal
> - Sen. Scott Wiener

California is home to nearly a third of all homeless people in the U.S. The crisis has sparked a movement among religious institutions, dubbed "yes in God's backyard," or "YIGBY," in cities across the state, with a number of projects already in the works.

But churches and colleges often face big hurdles trying to convert their surplus land and underutilized parking lots into housing because their land is not zoned for residential use.

Proponents said the new law will serve as another tool to help build much-needed housing in the state. A recent study by the University of California, Berkeley, Terner Center for Housing Innovation estimated California religious and higher education campuses have more than 170,000 acres (68,797 hectares) of land that would be eligible under the bill.

Several cities opposed the bill and said it would take away local control over housing developments.

Newsom also signed another high priority housing bill authored by Sen. Scott Wiener to extend the life of a landmark law streamlining rules about housing projects that has led to construction of thousands of homes aimed at easing the state's housing crisis.

"California desperately needs to ramp up housing production, and the Governor's actions today help put us on a path to achieve that goal," Wiener said in a statement. "The era of saying no to housing is coming to an end. We've been planting seeds for years to get California to a brighter housing future, and today we're continuing strongly down that path."

The original law, which took effect in 2018 and is set to expire in 2026, allows housing developers to bypass most local permitting processes for multifamily housing projects in cities falling short of the state-mandated housing goals. The law has helped fast-track more than 19,000 homes, with roughly 60% of them being affordable housing, according to the bill's author, Democratic Sen. Scott Wiener. The new law would extend the existing rules by 10 years.

The new law would also remove the requirement to hire "skilled and trained workers" for a number of projects, a provision typically sought by the powerful construction trades union. Instead, it requires workers to be paid prevailing wage, which is the average wage paid to workers, laborers and mechanics in a particular area. Facing opposition from labor groups, Wiener added amendments to bolster labor regulations on bigger projects.

The bill had also met fierce opposition from the state Coastal Commission and environmental groups in July because it would remove the exemption on streamlined housing development in coastal zones. Opponents had worried the bill would place housing in areas prone to sea-level rise or wildfires and make way for luxury apartments, not affordable housing, along the coastline.

Wiener worked with the commission to clarify the legislation won't apply to environmentally sensitive or wildfire-prone areas. The commission withdrew its opposition, but a number of cities in Southern California continued to oppose the bill, arguing it would take away local control.

The governor signed these bills on the same day his administration and Sacramento leaders announced the location of the first group of 1,200 tiny homes he has vowed to build in four cities to address homelessness.

Cosmic ballet continues as 'ring of fire' solar eclipse sweeps across West Coast

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

This Saturday, October 14, the West Coast of the country will be able to observe a spectacular cosmological event known as an annular eclipse. The path of the shadow created by the Moon passing in front of the Sun will sweep across the country in a south-east direction from Eugene, Oregon to San Antonio, Texas.

The shadow at its fullest will arrive at the Oregon coast at 9:13 a.m. and departs the Texas coastline just 50 minutes later (crossing over three different time zones). Folk in California will be able to see between 70 to 80% of the phenomena so long as the weather permits and due to line of sight, we'll be able to see the beginnings of the eclipse from about 8 a.m. onwards.

A solar eclipse occurs when the moon covers the face of the Sun as seen from Earth. By a staggering, mind-boggling coincidence, the moon (2,158 miles in diameter) — as seen from Earth (a typical distance of 238,900 miles) appears the same size as the sun (864,340 miles in diameter) as seen from Earth (a typical distance of 93 million miles).

However, because the universe is extremely complicated, the distance from the Earth to the Moon actually changes throughout the course of a year, thus creating some pretty spectacular variations on both solar and lunar eclipses.

During an annular eclipse, the Moon is still centered in front of the Sun, but doesn't completely obscure it, instead a spectacular ring of sunlight is visible around the Moon's outer edges. This circle of light is called an annulus, or sometimes a "ring of fire" and only happens when the Moon is at the furthest point from Earth (at its apogee) making it appear slightly smaller than usual.

> It doesn't matter what kind of eclipse you're watching, it is so important to have adequate eye protection. Staring directly at the sun can easily cause permanent and irreparable damage to your retinas
>
> - Jed Laderman of the Santa Monica Amateur Astronomy Club

"Annular eclipses actually happen all the time," Jed Laderman of the Santa Monica Amateur Astronomy Club said, adding, "But they happen all across the world. The last one was in June 2021, but that was over Northern Canada, Greenland and the North Pole. To see another one that falls more or less along a similar path as this one on Saturday, you'd probably have to wait 400 years or so."

Laderman stresses that because this is not a total eclipse and that from here in Southern California it will only be partial, safe, certified glasses should absolutely be worn.

"It doesn't matter what kind of eclipse you're watching, it is so important to have adequate eye protection. Staring directly at the sun can easily cause permanent and irreparable damage to your retinas," Laderman says.

There's a temptation to look somewhere online like Amazon for a cheap pair of solar-eclipse glasses, but Laderman doesn't recommend that. Instead look for products that have been approved by the American Astronomical Society, to ensure that they meet current safety standards that block harmful radiation, which is very different to putting a pair of shades on if it's sunny outside.

> "It's an unbelievable phenomenon that reminds us a bit of our small place in the cosmos
>
> - Jed Laderman of the Santa Monica Amateur Astronomy Club

"It's an unbelievable phenomenon that reminds us a bit of our small place in the cosmos," Laderman says. "You know, the speed of the Moon's shadow as it races across North America will vary from more than 550,000 mph [more than twice the speed of a bolt of lightning] to 5,683 mph [about three times the speed of a rifle bullet]. And as it leaves the coast of Texas, it will have slowed down to 1,772 mph [more than twice the speed of sound]."

scott.snowden@smdp.com

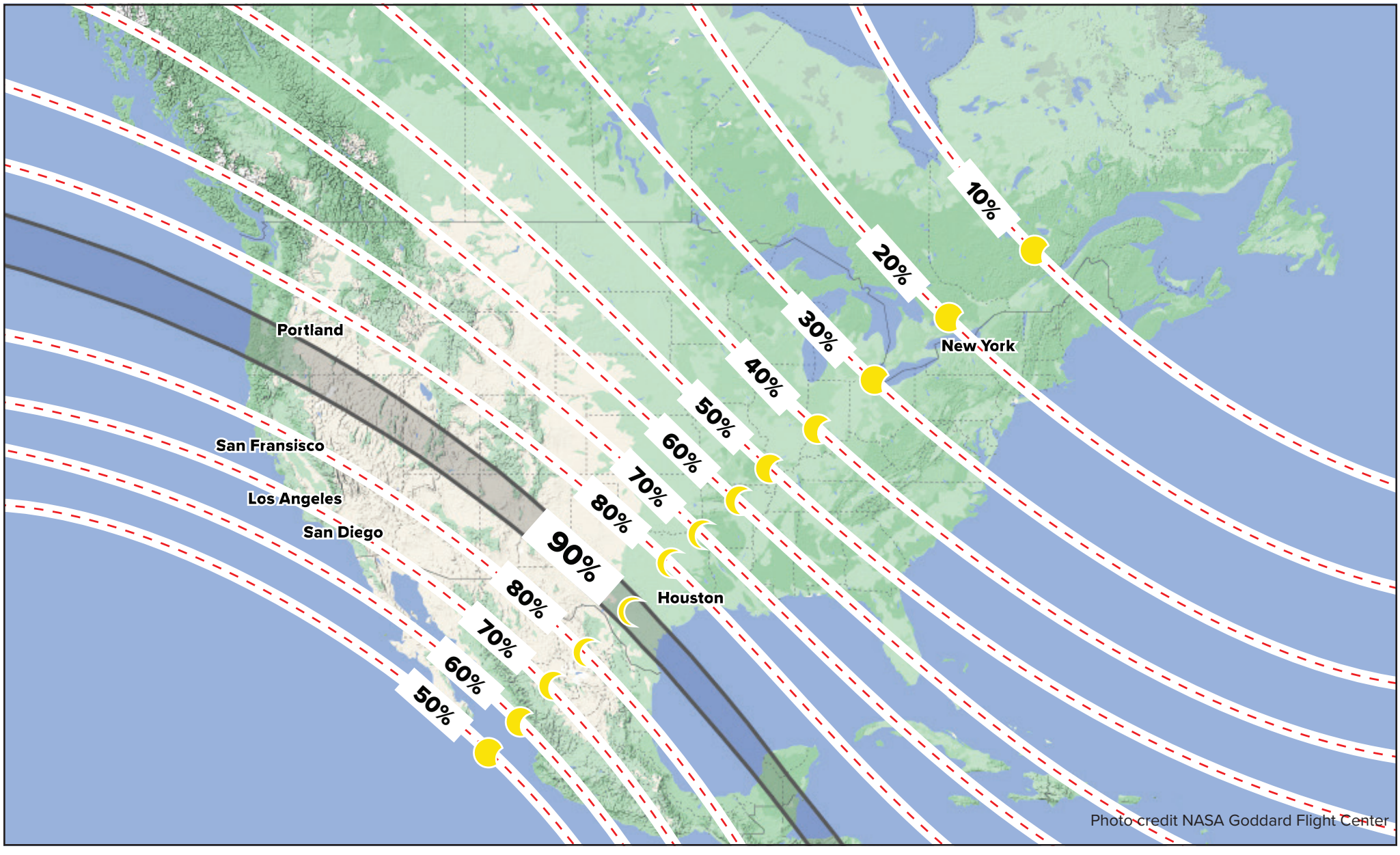


Photo credit NASA Goddard Flight Center

Santa Monica REAL ESTATE MAP

Highest Single-family Home Sold $5,709,000



6	6.5	4,603	7514	$1,240
Beds	Bath	Sq Ft	Lot Size	Price/Sq.Ft.

527 9th St

Listed by Anita Lischak
- DRE #02031743
- Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Propert
- 310-210-2307 (agent)
- anitamlischak@gmail.com (agent)

Bought with Christina Graziano
- DRE #02072713
- Keller Williams Beverly Hills

Highest Condo Sale $1,700,000



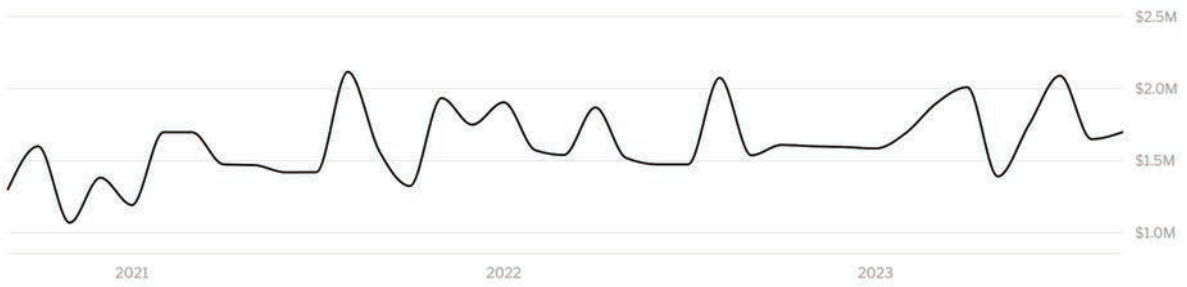
2	2.5	1,413	16000	$1,203
Beds	Bath	Sq Ft	Lot Size	Price/Sq.Ft.

1108 18th St #8

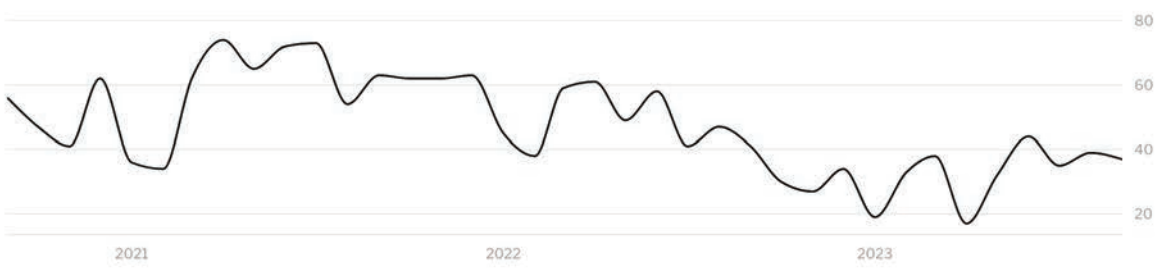
Listed by Michael Pines
- DRE #01965604
- The Condo Experts
- 310-359-6696 (agent)
- mike@CondoSalesExperts.com (agent)

Bought with Silvia Tovar-Chavez
- DRE #02025244
- Keller Williams Larchmont

SEPTEMBER MEDIAN SALE PRICE $1,700,000



SEPTEMBER # OF HOMES SOLD 37



Based on Redfin calculations of home data from MLS and/or public records.

Moving to Santa Monica



Moving from Santa Monica



All data gathered at redfin.com

Santa Monica Daily Press

Santa Monica Rent Report: October 2023

Apartment List has issued its Rent Report for the month of October.

In Santa Monica, the overall median rent in the city stands at $2,203, after rising 2.1% last month. Prices remain down 1.4% year-over-year.

The median rent in Santa Monica rose by 2.1% over the course of September, and has now decreased by a total of 1.4% over the past 12 months. Santa Monica's rent growth over the past year has been similar to both the state (-2.3%) and national averages (-1.2%).

Nine months into the year, rents in Santa Monica have risen 1.6%. This is a slower rate of growth compared to what the city was experiencing at this point last year: from January to September 2022 rents had increased 10.5%.

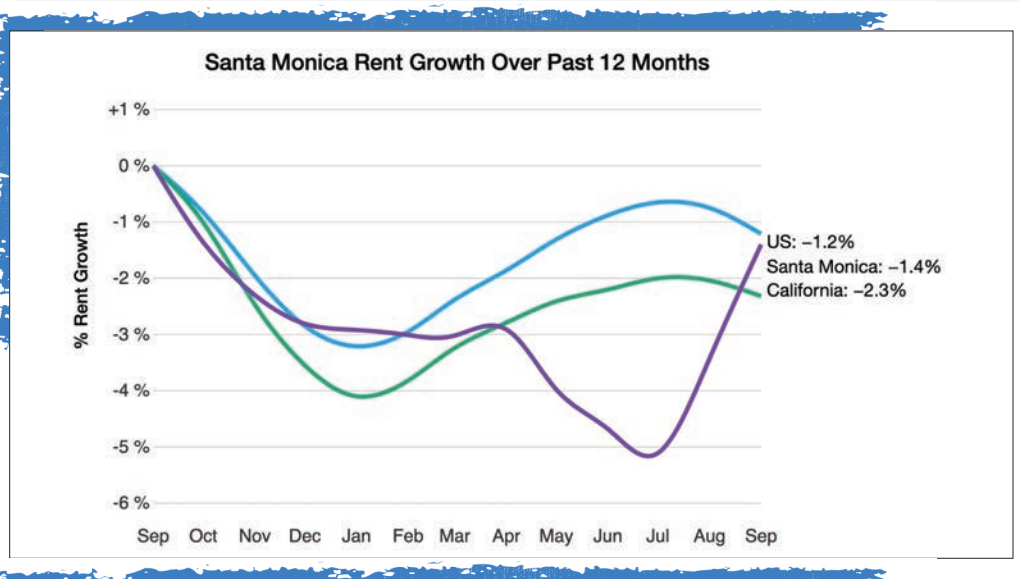
If we expand our view to the wider Los Angeles metro area, the median rent is $2,100 meaning that the median price in Santa Monica ($2,203) is 4.9% greater than the price across the metro as a whole. Metro-wide annual rent growth stands at -1.8%, below the rate of rent growth within just the city.

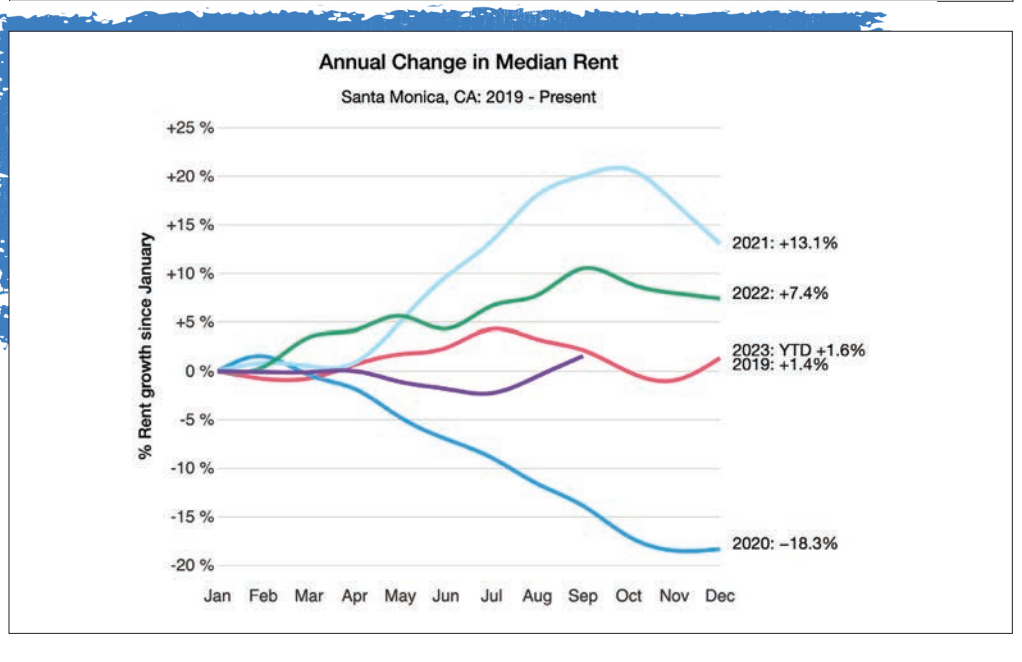
Among the 26 area cities in the Apartment List database, Marina del Rey is currently the most expensive, with a median rent of $4,715. Long Beach is the metro's most affordable city, with a median rent of $1,671. The metro's fastest annual rent growth is occurring in Torrance (4.7%) while the slowest is in Long Beach (-5.1%).



Apartment List

RENT TRENDS: Santa Monica rents are still down overall despite an uptick this month.





Santa Monica - Pacific Palisades
Lions Club
Invites you to step back in time 100 years to 1923
...the year our club was founded!

Lions Roaring 20s Speakeasy Gala
Centennial Celebration
1923–2023



Sunday, October 29th
6:00pm - 9:00pm

At the: Santa Monica Elks Lodge
1040 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica 90405

$75 per person

Roaring 20s Hors d'Oeuvres & Dinner
No-Host Bar
Live Jazz featuring the Jazz Cliffhangers!

For tickets and more information scan the QR code,
or call Kathy 310-493-8004,
or email smpplionsclub@gmail.com

Proceeds benefit Lions Club
non-profit community projects.

Credit Card Debt Is Locking Americans Out of Homeownership, Long-Term Savings

FRANKLIN SCHNEIDER
Special to the Daily Press

A new survey reports that 22% of U.S. credit card users are sinking deeper into debt each month — with credit card debt preventing many from reaching financial milestones, such as buying a home or building a retirement fund.

The findings come from a survey of 1,000 American credit card users by Clever Real Estate. The survey also reveals that 61% of U.S. card users are in credit card debt, carrying an average balance of $5,875.

As inflation forces consumers to spend more on essential goods, Americans report spending 30% of their take-home pay on their credit card bills in 2023. In short, credit card users are sacrificing long-term goals to afford short-term necessities. About 37% of card users say their credit card debt is preventing them from living the life they want.

Credit card debt is especially disruptive for Americans who want to achieve homeownership, an important wealth-building milestone that younger adults are already struggling to save for. More than four in five Americans have been in credit card debt at some point, and 22% of that group said credit card debt has prevented them from purchasing a home, leaving many to pay high rent prices without the benefit of building equity.

How Credit Card Debt Is Derailing Homeownership

The financial perks of homeownership are well-known. As home prices have risen over the past decade, homeowners have gained about $100,000 in wealth since 2012, according to the National Association of Realtors.

But the extent of American credit card debt is locking out many would-be home buyers, despite financial incentives to help people invest in a home.

"Millennials are already taking longer to achieve homeownership than recent generations," said Matt Brannon, data analyst and author of Clever's report. "Now, they're facing high mortgage rates and record credit card interest rates, making saving for a down payment that much harder."

Brannon said the average millennial with credit card debt owes $6,794, the most of any generation. The study found millennials spend an average of $2,410 monthly on their cards. That's about $600 more than the average monthly mortgage payment of $1,768. So, even if they could afford a down payment, many would need help maintaining their regular mortgage payments without falling even further behind financially.

Credit Card Debt Is Stopping Americans From Building Savings

Homeownership isn't the only priority Americans sacrifice to pay down credit card debt and make ends meet. About 47% of those with credit card debt say their debt has prevented them from building emergency savings. A similar share, 39%, say it has prevented them from saving for retirement.

Those findings are consistent with national trends. In fact, Federal Reserve data shows Americans are saving the lowest portion of their income since 2008. On average, Clever found that people without credit card debt have $2,000 more in savings than people with credit card debt.

Americans' lack of savings can also be tied closely to the rising cost of basic living expenses. Clever's survey found that two in three Americans say inflation is partially responsible for their credit card debt. Consumers pay higher prices for goods, so they rely more on credit cards to cover the difference. About 48% of credit card users said they depend on their credit cards for essential living expenses like food, rent, and utilities.

How Rising Interest Rates Make Credit Card Debt Worse

Meanwhile, to combat inflation, the Federal Reserve has raised interest rates to slow down consumer spending. But Americans behind on their credit card payments have been caught in the fiscal policy crossfire, facing high credit card interest rates.

Given today's interest rates, Brannon said a person making minimum payments on a $3,000 debt would need almost 10 years to pay off the principal while accruing an added $4,000 interest.

That massive upcharge helps explain why 57% of credit card users reported concerns about the effects of rising interest rates on credit card debt. Once a consumer falls behind on scheduled payments, getting out of credit card debt is rarely a quick process.

The survey found 51% of those in credit card debt expect they'll still be in debt one year from now. At the same time, the number of people missing payments is on the rise, according to Mary E. Hansen, an economics professor at American University.

"The worrying thing right now is that, for the first time since the pandemic, there has recently been an increase in the amount of credit card (users) entering delinquency, meaning that people are having a harder time paying off their debt."

Clever's report emphasizes that the pain of high credit card debt and interest rates won't subside overnight. Consumers struggling with debt now will still feel repercussions in the future when trying to accomplish larger financial goals.

As Americans put more of their paychecks toward catching up on debt and affording essential goods, it's becoming harder to put money away for important long-term priorities, such as a down payment, an emergency fund, or retirement savings. For many Americans, failing to achieve those financial goals would come with its own set of consequences.

This article was produced by Media Decision and syndicated by Wealth of Geeks.



After delays, California unveils first site of state tiny home project to relieve homelessness

TRÂN NGUYỄN
Associated Press

An abandoned office park in Sacramento will be the site of the first group of 1,200 tiny homes to be built in four cities to address California's homelessness crisis, the governor's office announced Wednesday after being criticized for the project experiencing multiple delays.

Gov. Gavin Newsom is under pressure to make good on his promise to show he's tackling the issue. In March, the Democratic governor announced a plan to gift several California cities hundreds of tiny homes by the fall to create space to help clear homeless encampments that have sprung up across the state's major cities. The $30 million project would create homes, some as small as 120 square feet (11 square meters), that can be assembled in 90 minutes and cost a fraction of what it takes to build permanent housing.

More than 171,000 homeless people live in California, making up about 30% of the nation's homeless population. The state has spent roughly $30 billion in the last few years to help them, with mixed results.

Under Newsom's plan, Sacramento will receive 350 homes, Los Angeles will get 500, San Jose will get 200 and San Diego will get 150. But seven months after the announcement, those homes haven't been built, and the state has yet to award any contracts for builders, the Sacramento Bee reported.

> “When it comes to projects like this, it’s just not overnight
>
> - Hafsa Kaka, a senior advisor to Newsom

Newsom's administration said the state is "moving with unprecedented rate" on the project and will finalize the contracts this month, with plans to break ground at the Sacramento location before the end of the year. Officials also pointed to a new law signed by Newsom in July to streamline construction of tiny homes.

"When it comes to projects like this, it's just not overnight," Hafsa Kaka, a senior advisor to Newsom, said at a news conference Wednesday. "There's no holdup. We've been continuing the momentum."

On Wednesday, city leaders said 175 tiny homes will be placed at the 13-acre vacant office park, part of which will eventually be built into a medical campus with treatment beds, a health center and other services run by WellSpace Health, a nonprofit health system.

"This is going to be a whole person approach," Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg said Wednesday. "It's going to help thousands of people who are going to benefit because of the comprehensive nature of the approach here."

Sacramento and the state have also agreed to place the other 175 tiny homes at the California state fairgrounds.

San Jose this month has secured a 7.2-acre lot owned by the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority for its 200 homes. Newsom's administration on Wednesday didn't say when it would start on the projects in Los Angeles and San Diego.

CONDUCTOR

FROM PAGE 2

and get an orchestra to sound better.”

Learning that technique first sent him across the country to Yale University, where he was able to work with student-run orchestras and have “a lot of time on the podium to … make a lot of mistakes.” Organizing concerts on campus, he eventually found himself wanting to be an “agent of change” within the classical landscape, a statement he’s had to refine throughout the years.

“I’ve always wanted to kind of shake things up, do things a bit differently,” he said. “I think when a lot of people think about classical music, (they) think about an institution that is kind of resistant to change. I think that was kind of a challenge for me to negotiate my relationship (with).”

Challenging himself took the young conductor worldwide, working in places like Berlin and London during his overseas tenure. Prior to his return to the Los Angeles area, he was also assistant conductor of the Korean National Symphony Orchestra in Seoul, South Korea, during the 2022-23 season. He earned the role after winning First Prize at the Korean International Conducting Competition.

A “full circle” arrival back to the area has him rediscovering Los Angeles, particularly his appreciation for local food and weather after spending time in “dark, rainy, cold places.” His BroadStage performance of “The Soldier’s Tale” is seen as a “lovely opportunity” to reconnect with a piece he’s conducted before. Brown finds the folk and ragtime elements of the music intriguing, along with Stravinsky’s Los Angeles presence that inspired generations of composers and performers.

“The thrust of the story is basically a soldier who makes (a deal with) the devil and loses everything as a result … and he gives up his fiddle in exchange, so the fiddle plays a huge role musically and theatrically,” he said.

Tickets for “The Soldier’s Tale” performance, beginning at 11 a.m. on Sunday, can be found at the BroadStage’s website, broadstage.org.

thomas@smdp.com



FRIDAY | OCTOBER 13

READ THE ROOM: A TAROT + COMEDY SHOW WITH JARED GOLDSTEIN
A professional tarot reader and a slightly less professional comedian team up each month to interpret the tarot cards of audience members. The Crow Comedy Club, 2525 Michigan Ave., F4, $20. 8 - 9:30 p.m.

FORMULAE & FAIRY TALES
Formulae & Fairy Tales reimagines Alan Turing’s mind, life’s work, and mathematical discoveries through projections, original music, and choreography. The Broad Stage, 1310 11th St, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. $25 to $70.

MOVIE FRIDAYS
Freaky Friday. 1200 Block of Third Street Promenade (between Arizona & Wilshire) WHEN: Doors open at 6:30, the movie will start at 7:30

SATURDAY | OCTOBER 14

BREAKTHROUGH FOR BRAIN TUMORS (BT5K) WALK
The annual BT5K raises critical funding for research and supports services for patients, caregivers, and families. 8 a.m. Tongva Park.

ABSOLUTELY HALLOWEEN! FOR AGES 2 TO 102
the classic Family Theatre Halloween musical for Kids 2 to 102 – the heartwarming Rudie-DeCarlo tale of the aptly-named Candy, a sweet young girl who learns some surprising lessons about life, love, laughter, and sugar, from a delightful array of characters who take her on a magical All Hallow’s Eve adventure $12.50 to $15.00—Kids $12.50; Adults $15 Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th Street. 2 - 3:15 p.m.

USED OIL RECYCLING EVENT
Join organizers for the City of Santa Monica’s Oil Recycling & Filter Exchange Event Saturday, October 14th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at: O’Reilly Auto Parts, 2018 Lincoln Blvd. Santa Monica residents may bring their used oil filter & exchange it for a new filter for free (exclusions apply). 9 - 3 p.m.

UKULELE 101 FOR ADULTS
Learn a few chords and basic strums, and start played the ukulele today! Bring your own uke or borrow one of ours. Instructor Cali Rose is the founder of CC Strummers, a Los Angeles-based ukulele group with an international following. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. 2 - 3:30 p.m.

SUNDAY | OCTOBER 15

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS OFRENDA
Visit the Main Library Youth Services department to contribute to an ofrenda, a traditional altar, to celebrating life and death. Feel free to bring something to contribute like paper flowers, photos, or drawings of deceased loved ones. No perishable items, please.

SHARK FEEDING
Feast on a little knowledge while our swell sharks, horn sharks, and round stingrays chow down. Come and watch the Aquarium staff feed these important keystone species and learn about the part sharks play in marine ecosystems, every Sunday at 1 pm and 3 pm. Heal the Bay Aquarium, 1600 Ocean Front Walk

MONDAY | OCTOBER 16

BABY TIME
Introduce your child to storytime with interactive books, bounces, and more! Free tickets are available at 10:15 a.m. For ages 0-17 months. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 10:30 - 10: 50 a.m.

MAIN LIBRARY BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION
Join a community-led online discussion of a wide range of books, chosen by the members. To register, email library@santamonica.gov. October’s selection is Homage to Catalonia by George Orwell. 7 p.m.

SANTA MONICA ARTS COMMISSION
Santa Monica Arts Commission meeting starts at 6:30pm. Public Art Committee meeting commences 5:30pm. Main Library Community Meeting Room on the second floor - 601 Santa Monica Blvd

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
The Architectural Review Board established in 1974, acts “to preserve existing areas of natural beauty, cultural importance and assure that buildings, structures, signs or other developments are in good taste, good design, harmonious with surrounding developments, and in general contribute to the preservation of Santa Monica’s reputation as a place of beauty, spaciousness and quality.” City Hall, 1685 Main Street, 7 p.m.

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND THE ENVIRONMENT
The Commission on Sustainability, Environmental Justice and the Environment shall act in an advisory capacity on sustainability, environmental programs and policy issues. Civic Center Parking Structure, 333 Civic Center Dr. 7 p.m.

VIRGINIA AVE PARK ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
The Virginia Avenue Park Advisory Board (VAPAB) serves as an advisory body to the Recreation and Parks Commission and the Director of Housing and Human Services Department. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. 7 - 8:30 p.m.

TUESDAY | OCTOBER 17

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS CLUB
Learn how to play Dungeons & Dragons at the library, from crafting the perfect character to participating in a short campaign. Materials provided. No registration necessary. For ages 10-18. Montana Branch Library, 1704 Montana Avenue. 4:30 - 6 p.m.

OCTOBER WORKSHOP ON SANTA MONICA BELOW MARKET HOUSING (BMH) PROGRAM
The Santa Monica Housing Division staff will be hosting informational workshop about the City’s Below Market Housing (BMH) waitlist and program. The workshop is intended for applicants to learn more about the process of this important program which connects qualified households with vacancies occurring in more than 2,600 affordable residences across the City. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave. 6 - 8:01 p.m.

RAND

FROM PAGE 1

Street but its original office space began to deteriorate, both from age and damage from the 1994 Northridge earthquake. True to their nature, RAND produced a wealth of studies on potential futures over several years and finally struck a deal with the City to create the Civic Center Plan. Included in that deal was approval for their current building, the adjacent housing units and the creation of what would become Tongva Park.

The building's elliptical design is supposed to increase chance-encounters between staffers as they travel along the floors and almost all offices are the same size (about 10x14) as part of the group's equality ethos.

The eventual deal was the city's first development agreement, a document that governs the rules and uses of a particular property. The agreement was modified in 2012 to allow RAND to convert part of the parking structure into additional office spaces but has remained otherwise unchanged leaving the organization with little ability to adapt to modern work requirements.

The agreement is binding through 2055 and RAND is asking the City for revisions that would let them be more flexible with uses inside the space.

"The way the agreement is written doesn't give us a whole lot of leeway to adjust," said RAND spokesman Jeffrey Hiday.

He said the goal isn't to sell the building but any alternative uses, such as bringing in other tenants, is very limited under current rules. Hiday said the building is now underutilized due to both the pandemic prompting a push to remote work and trends in RAND's hiring and space needs. The first step to addressing the underutilized capacity is to address the rules of the development agreement.

"Given the pandemic, like many employers we're looking at a different environment in the way that our workplace will be set up," he said. "As it stands right now, we wouldn't have any flexibility to make any meaningful changes."

According to the City, RAND has applied to "terminate the Development Agreement No. 00-001, amend the Civic Center Specific Plan to clarify allowable uses if the Development Agreement is terminated, and amend the Zoning Ordinance to elaborate on allowable uses within the Existing Building. No new development is proposed."

The proposal will eventually go to the Planning Commission although no date has been set for that hearing.

editor@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press

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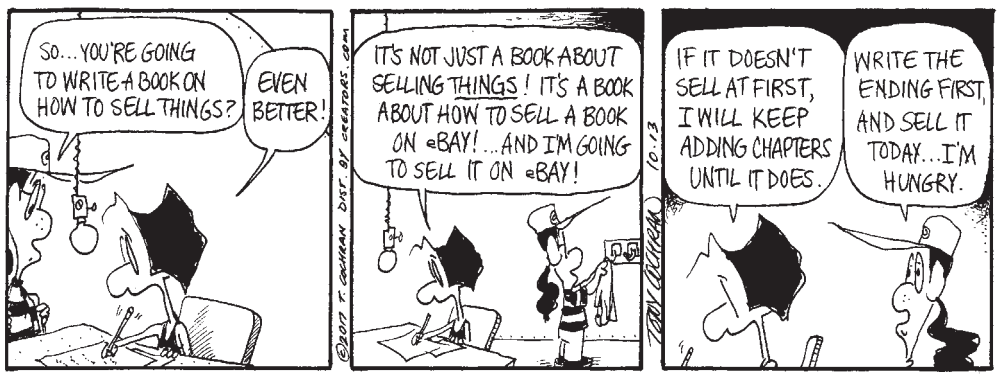
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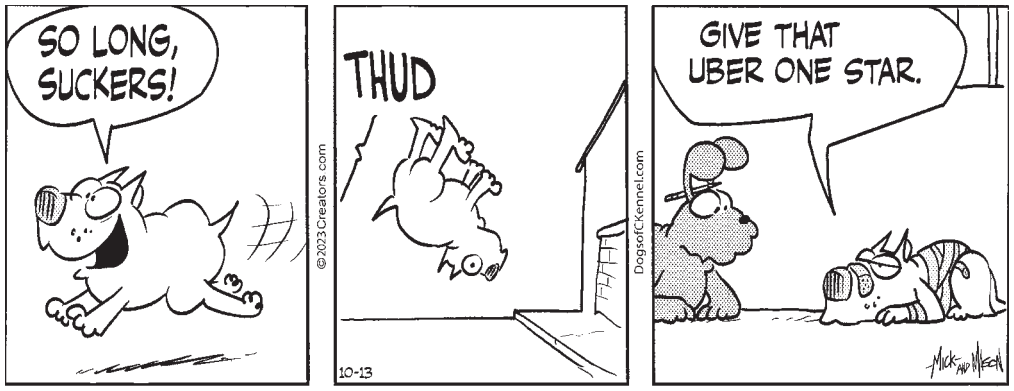
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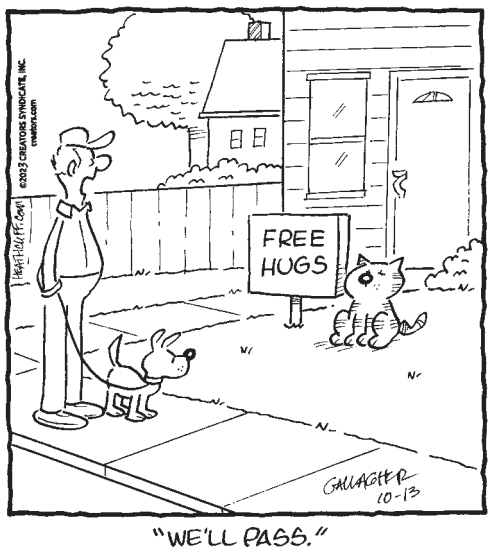
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"WE'LL PASS."

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.

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Sweet treats

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

Addict	Churro	Lollies	Spumoni
Aero	Coconut	Milk bottles	Sugar
Bars	kisses	Musk	Sweet
Biscuits	Dirt	Nausea	Syrup
Bites	Fete	Pants	Topping
Buns	Frog	Party	Treat
Busy	Hard	Raspberry	TV mix
Caramel	Jaffas	Reliable	Wine gums
Cash	Jams	Repairs	
Chew	Layer	Soft	
Chips	Licorice	Spearmint	

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 13)

It will be like you're in a reverse-reality show where conflict is eased, harmony is seeded, and the challenges play to your strengths. More highlights: You'll team with supportive and easygoing bright minds for meetings, dates and mirthful events. Love is a puzzle, then a dance. Hard work is a pleasure, sweat is a hobby. Aries and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 20, 14, 36 and 7.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You've worked on a problem long enough. Now it's time to walk away and let the quiet parts of you have a turn while the rest of you does something else. Brilliant solutions emerge from your subconscious at the most auspicious times.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Even the best memory is slippy-slide when it comes to recalling sensations. They are so of-the-moment that they can never be completely remembered, which is what makes you keep coming back for the real experience.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your actions surprise you. As your priorities announce themselves, you'll realize they are not quite what you thought they were, and you'll examine the logic to understand if it still makes sense given the new way things are rolling.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Time's winged chariot has its own rhythms today and while it feels like you're just along for the ride, the driver is more open to requests than it would seem. State your wish then watch the action adjust to accommodate you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). If nothing you're doing is working, consider this an omen -- an invitation to the next exciting adventure. Explore new realms. Take a number of small risks and double down on the ones that pay off.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Just as you've learned not to trust people who say "trust me," you sense that people who talk a lot about their own qualities may not have the ones they claim to. You'll believe what you notice by yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Cynicism isn't any more insightful, helpful or true than an uplifting contribution, but for some, it's easier to think of the negative side. Go where people are speaking the supportive language of optimism. You'll fit right in.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You will find satisfaction in achievement, though your public-facing reaction will be more centered on who to thank and what you've learned that others can take inspiration from.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You treat people with the warmth you'd give to family and the attention typically bestowed on honored guests. Your list of favorite people is growing longer and you're making it onto the lists of others too.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There is no benefit to drawing attention at this point. Run your business under the radar today and your distractions and hindrances will be few. When you give the opposition nothing to resist, you create ease for yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). One way you know your goal is worthy: Stretching into it will entail a fair number of rejections. If you're not getting rejected enough, you're not aiming high enough.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Social contrivances like dates and events will help you get to know someone, but there's nothing that will teach you more about a person than the work you do together. A joint project makes clear what kind of match you are.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

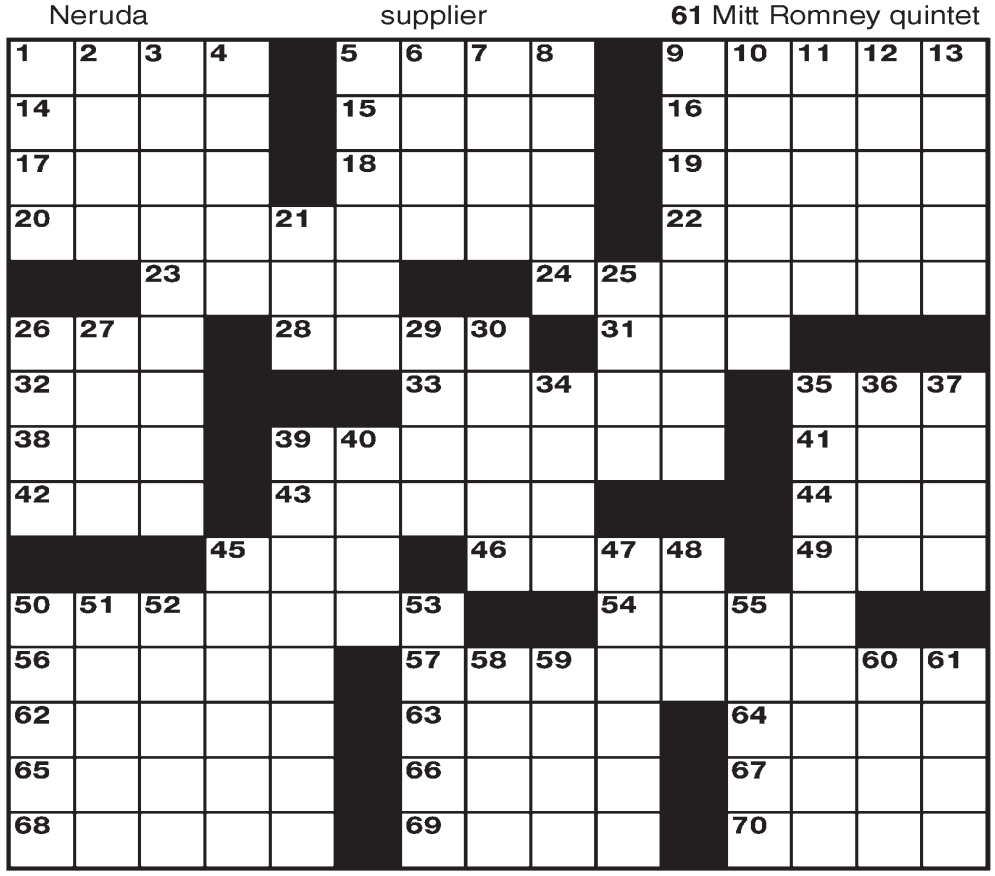
FEATHERED FELLOWS by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Study (for)
5 2005 Wonka
9 Lyricist Cahn
14 At this point
15 Pastel shade
16 Degrade
17 Humid and chilly
18 Lily or onion
19 All's opposite
20 Wading bird
22 Dieter's concern
23 Sincere
24 Largest bird
26 Seasonal bug
28 Takes the action
31 Facilitate
32 Barbecue add-on
33 Essential part
35 Cause of some blowups
38 "Thrilla in Manila" winner
39 Noisy bird
41 Make public
42 Loud laugh
43 It comes from the 33 Across
44 Snowmobile attachment
45 Pack animal
46 Word-of-mouth
49 Frat party delivery
50 Barnyard bird
54 Tick off
56 Knight weapon
57 Largest-wingspan bird
62 *My Fair Lady* locale
63 Egyptian port
64 Double Stuf treat
65 Oldest of the Beatles
66 Equal to it
67 Close examination
68 Within easy reach
69 Slackens, with "up"
70 Sawbucks

DOWN

1 Many profs.
2 Obtain as profits
3 Inventor from Budapest
4 Export from India
5 Putter around
6 Prefix like iso-
7 Influence, so to speak
8 Literature Nobelist Neruda
9 Holiness
10 On the bus
11 Language that gave us "kiwi"
12 *Morning Joe* channel
13 Exclamation of frustration
21 Put the collar on
25 Country singer Evans
26 Start to unravel
27 Pip
29 Calendar col.
30 Address well
34 Open slightly
35 Ad-hoc committee
36 NFL uniform supplier
37 High school class
39 Summer camp activity
40 Fail to keep
45 Meeting of the minds
47 Bowls over
48 Opposite of "extinguished"
50 Conflict
51 Till, in Guayaquil
52 Pizarro opponent
53 Sounding congested
55 "Mending Wall" poet
58 Garage activity
59 Elongated region
60 Combs of music
61 Mitt Romney quintet



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