2 **Prop. 33**
Fact checking claims.

3 **Employment figures**
An unhealthy labor force.

4&5 **Letters to the Editor**
Residents speak.

7 **Gas Buddy**
Where to fill up.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 23 Issue 239 WEDNESDAY 10/23/24 smdp.com

Latest vehicle-related death echoes sobering Los Angeles trend



Photo by Thomas Leffler

VEHICLE: Pedestrians are increasingly at risk in the LA area.

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

The recent pedestrian death near the Santa Monica Pier has echoed an unfortunate trend in the Los Angeles area.

In advance of World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, the advocacy group Streets Are For Everyone (SAFE) released a report on traffic victims in Los Angeles, stating that 210 people have been killed on the city's streets this

SEE **VEHICLES** PAGE 5

Local officials band together to prioritize election safety

THOMAS LEFFLER
SMDP Staff Writer

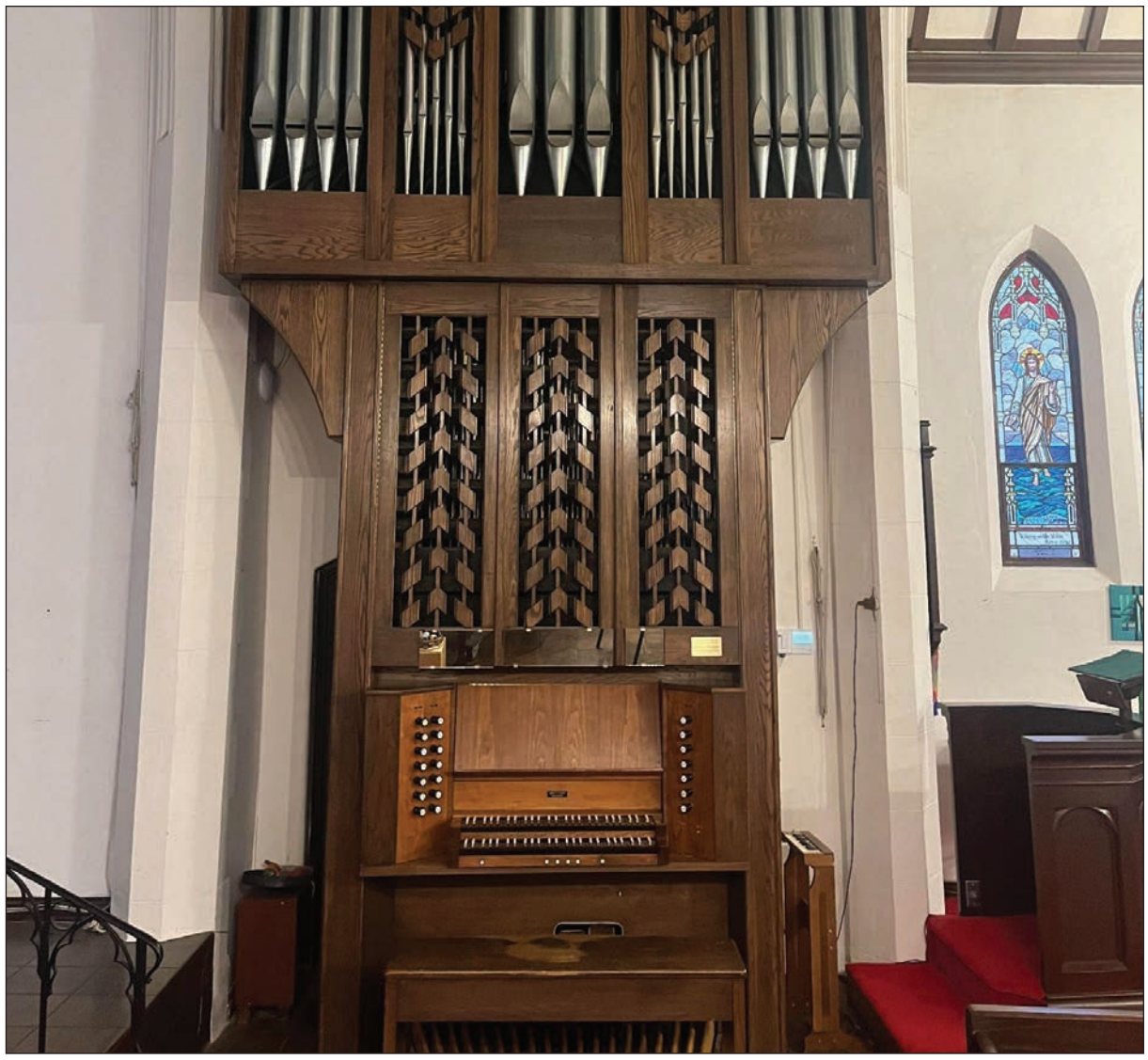
Elections across Los Angeles County, including in Santa Monica, are faced with fighting a culture of rampant election disinformation each cycle.

With the 2024 election just 13 days away, the hotly-contested Presidential race has upped the ante of questioning election safety, with local officials attempting to assuage any concerns in the lead-up. In her third election here in Santa Monica and first as City Clerk, Nikima Newsome says the main Election Day priority is "electioneering," or campaigning within 100 feet of a voting center.

A misdemeanor under the California Elections Code,

SEE **ELECTION** PAGE 7

St. Paul's Lutheran Church celebrates 50th anniversary of Abbott & Sieker organ



Courtesy photo

MUSIC: The congregation of St. Paul's Lutheran Church will celebrate a milestone of its beloved organ this weekend.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

This weekend, as many churchgoers celebrate Reformation Day, the congregation of St. Paul's Lutheran Church will also be celebrating the 50th anniversary of their impressive Abbott & Sieker organ.

The current organ replaced the original ArtCraft organ, which was installed in 1927 after the church was founded and built a year earlier. This 50th anniversary is the first major event on the way to celebrating the centennial of the church itself in October 2026. The service this Sunday is open to all and will be followed by a fundraiser luncheon to raise money for the complete restoration of the organ in time for the celebration.

According to Steven Johnson, President of the St. Paul's Lutheran

SEE **ST PAUL'S ORGAN** PAGE 6



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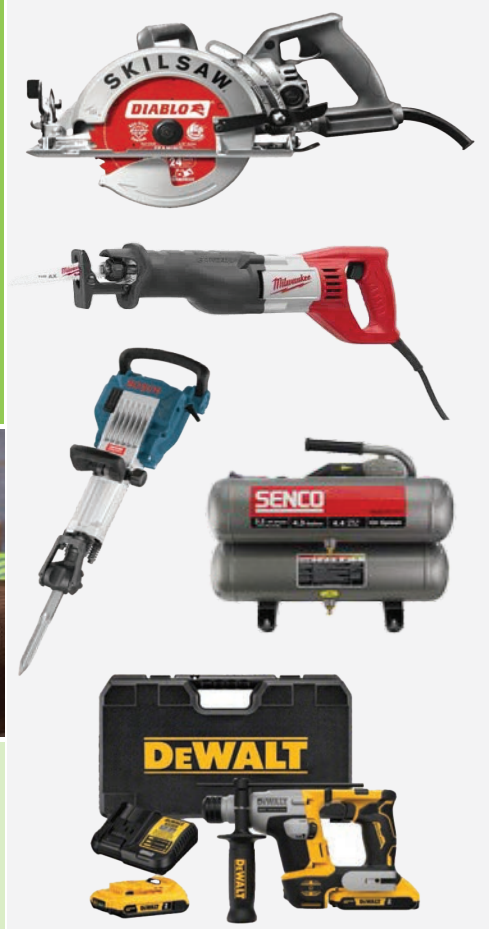
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CalMatters fact-checked the ads about Prop.33, California's rent control ballot measure.



Courtesy image

RENT CONTROL: Many of the claims about Prop. 33 are false.

FELICIA MELLO

Confused about Proposition 33? You're not alone. A recent poll shows the ballot measure to give local governments more ability to limit rent increases is running neck and neck, with nearly a third of voters undecided.

Prop. 33 would repeal a state law known as the Costa Hawkins Rental Housing Act that prevents local governments from controlling rent on single-family homes, homes built after 1995 (or earlier in some cases), and when tenants move out. If it passes, local governments could create whatever measures they want to limit annual rent increases, and the state couldn't intervene.

Tenant advocates largely support Prop. 33. Landlords are bankrolling the campaign against it. Democratic officials are split: Some side with tenants on the importance of keeping rents down on existing homes. Others are more focused on increasing overall housing supply, and want to make sure homes are profitable for developers to build and landlords to operate.

You wouldn't necessarily know all this from the attack ads airing on TV and mailers fluttering into Californians' mailboxes. Both sides say they stand for affordable housing, and some of the arguments have included a few head-scratching claims. We fact-checked some of those claims, so you don't have to.

CLAIM: PROP. 33 WOULD REPEAL MORE THAN 100 STATE HOUSING LAWS, INCLUDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING REQUIREMENTS AND EVICTION PROTECTIONS.

Ken Rosen, a UC Berkeley business school professor, makes this claim in a No on 33 video ad. Opponents of Proposition 33 argue that it would give cities who don't want to build housing a way to undercut new development: by mandating rents so low that developers couldn't afford to build. They say that could make it hard to enforce recent state laws aimed at addressing the housing crisis, such as the "builder's remedy" that relaxes zoning rules in cities whose housing plans haven't been approved by the state.

"A city would be able to create the economic conditions to basically ignore those laws and requirements," says Nathan Click, a spokesperson for the No on 33 campaign.

But that's not the same as repealing those laws. And California courts have held that rent control policies are unconstitutional if they don't allow landlords to earn "a just and reasonable return on their property" — meaning any city that tries to force landlords to charge obviously unfeasible rents, such as $1 per month, could face legal challenges.

Verdict: False.

CLAIM: PROP. 33 COULD CREATE OVER 500 LOCAL RENT BOARDS

A No on 33 mailer makes this claim, pointing out that the rent boards would have the "power to regulate single-family homes, add fees to housing, and even dictate what you can charge to rent out your own home."

There are just under 500 cities in California, and all of them could theoretically create rent boards to regulate local rents, whether or not Prop. 33 passes. Under Prop. 33, those boards would be able to cap rent increases on single-family homes, potentially affecting income for both corporate and mom-and-pop landlords. Rent boards can charge landlords fees to cover their operating costs — in San Francisco, for example, it's $59 per unit — but current law already allows them to do that and would not change under Prop. 33.

Verdict: Mostly true.

CLAIM: 'RENT CONTROL IS AN AMERICAN TRADITION FOR OVER 100 YEARS.'

This, from a Yes on 33 video featuring actor Blair Underwood, is pretty accurate.

SEE **PROP 33** PAGE 11

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Unemployment rate doesn't tell the full story of California's unhealthy labor force



Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters

LABOR: The Sacramento Works job training and resources center in Sacramento on April 23, 2024. The center provides help and resources to job seekers, business and employers in Sacramento County.

DAN WALTERS

California's official unemployment rate — the percentage of jobless workers among the state's labor force — remained unchanged in September at 5.3%.

That doesn't sound alarming, unless one dives more deeply into the data.

For one thing, it means that slightly more than a million California adults who say they want to work can't find jobs, 64,100 more than a year prior, according to California's Employment Development Department. California's jobless rate is consistently among the highest in the nation.

The rate is obviously affected not only by the number of those seeking work and not finding it, but by the size of the labor force, which the federal government defines as those 16 years and older who are either working or looking for work.

The state's labor force participation rate hit a high of 68% of its adults in 1990, has dropped steadily since, and is now below 63%, according to the Public Policy Institute of California. Currently, the state pegs the labor force at 19.4 million, of which 18.4 million are working.

But working at what and how much?

Officially, a person is counted as employed if they are working for wages as little as one hour per week. That minimalist definition makes employment statistics appear more positive than reality warrants.

Although the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics releases the widely cited official unemployment rates each month, the agency also recognizes their limitations and issues other indices that paint a more accurate picture.

The most detailed, dubbed U-6, is defined as "total unemployed, plus all persons marginally attached to the labor force, plus total employed part time for economic reasons, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus all persons marginally attached to the labor force."

Typically, U-6 rates are nearly twice as large as the official unemployment rates. Currently, the traditional unemployment rate for the nation is 4.1% but its U-6 rate is 7.7%. Through the first half of 2024, California's U-6 rate was 9.6%, the highest of any state.

California's high measurement implies that it has disproportionate levels of part-time workers or people who may be counted as potential workers but are not particularly interested in getting jobs.

Combined with the state's declining labor force participation, its high U-6 measure reveals a less-than-healthy employment situation and explains, at least partially, why employers find it difficult to find qualified workers even though there are more than a million people who are theoretically seeking jobs.

But the picture is even cloudier when one overlays an even more nuanced measure advanced by the Washington-based Ludwig Institute for Shared Economic Prosperity, what it calls the "True Rate of Unemployment," or TRU.

TRU calculates the proportion of "functionally unemployed" members of the labor force, defined as "the jobless plus those seeking, but unable to find, full-time employment paying above poverty wages (pegged at $25,000 a year in 2024 dollars)."

SEE **UNEMPLOYMENT** PAGE 11



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **64.2**

WEDNESDAY
FAIR TO GOOD
SURF: Chest to head 4-5FT

Day to target for the summer focal points. Selective, good size round of SSW swell tops out for exposures. Small NW energy in the mix so shape is best at spots with some structure but beachbreaks have a corner. Morning winds look light.

THURSDAY
FAIR TO GOOD
SURF: Waist to chest 3-4FT

SSW swell starts to ease, keeping plenty of size in the water through the day. Structured spots are still the best option for quality. Smaller NW in the mix but could be just enough to open some beachbreak corners.

Weather

Wednesday: Increasing clouds, with a high near 71. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southwest in the morning.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 59. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 70.
Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 58.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)	High/Low
2024/10/23	Wed	05:18 AM	3.64		H
2024/10/23	Wed	07:58 AM	3.50		L
2024/10/23	Wed	2:21 PM	4.90		H
2024/10/23	Wed	10:38 PM	0.26		L
2024/10/24	Thu	06:18 AM	3.98		H
2024/10/24	Thu	10:44 AM	3.35		L
2024/10/24	Thu	4:02 PM	4.61		H
2024/10/24	Thu	11:43 PM	0.30		L
2024/10/25	Fri	06:54 AM	4.29		H
2024/10/25	Fri	12:05 PM	2.84		L
2024/10/25	Fri	5:25 PM	4.56		H
2024/10/26	Sat	12:31 AM	0.36		L
2024/10/26	Sat	07:21 AM	4.57		H
2024/10/26	Sat	12:56 PM	2.28		L
2024/10/26	Sat	6:28 PM	4.59		H
2024/10/27	Sun	01:07 AM	0.49		L
2024/10/27	Sun	07:43 AM	4.82		H
2024/10/27	Sun	1:35 PM	1.75		L

Daily Lottery

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POWERBALL
Draw Date: 10/11
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

SUPER LOTTO 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)
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Re: Members of Congress call on companies to retain DEI programs

Editor:

Substituting one form of discrimination for another is in noone's best interests. DEI ideology—which enjoys privileged status in all major news and entertainment circles—does exactly that.

In fact according to DEI ideology, only those they name "oppressed" and "disadvantaged" have any right to claim "discrimination" in any situation at all. Parents lose any rights to how their children are to be educated in public schools, which are now DEI ideologically focused, even though the schools' funding is paid for by tax dollars, and certain students that ideology presumes to be "privileged" have been publicly shamed and humiliated in front of their classmates just because of their "majority" race, gender, and sexual orientation.

Worse yet, Newsom and state legislature Democrats have signed into law a measure that would strip parents of their parental rights, where the state is free to convince young children that they are of another "gender" and perform sexual mutilation on them without allowing parents any input until after the mutilation has been done.

This is beyond sick and evil, and any company promoting DEI richly deserves public condemnation, if not outright prosecution.

Gregory Fry, Los Angeles

Revenue from the airport park

Editor:

While I have no comment on the various political opinions expressed in Devan Sipher's October 2 piece "Keep the circus on the Pier", I wish to address misleading statements regarding the Airport Conversion Project (SMACP) that Devan attributed to Council candidate Ericka Lesley.

In essence the point made was that the City would lose money if it went ahead with the project. This is false. Quite the contrary, the City stands to derive a steady and greatly increased revenue stream as a result of the project.

Prior to 2015 aviation businesses sub-leased (at full commercial rates) much of the space they occupied at sweetheart City lease rates, to non-aviation business tenants. This had been going on since the 1984 agreement with the FAA, and drove over three decades of huge profits for 'aviation landlords'. Meanwhile Airport losses due to running without such revenues caused the gradual build-up of $13 million in debt to the City's general fund. Before the leasing and fee changes, the entire computed economic benefit of the Airport (which is 5% of the city's total area) was described by then city manager Rod Gould as "equivalent to a medium sized strip mall".

In 2015 this ended and the City took over all leases directly, eliminating the 'aviation landlords'. Each year thereafter, instead of making a loss, the City made a profit leasing these spaces, which is now annually around $20 million. However, prior to closure of the airport, under FAA rules that money is locked up in the Airport Fund and cannot be used for other purposes. After closure, accrued and future revenue streams would be more than enough to cover the costs of running the park and even debt service on revenue bonds to build the park.

The airport space has become a major "Silicon Beach" hub and houses large high technology companies like Snap. The adaptive re-use of the aviation buildings is permitted by Measure LC and the tech-hub trend at the site is expected to continue, contributing to the city's economy in many ways. Consider that beyond direct revenue to the city from taxes and leases, Snap, at 1,667 employees, is now #4 on the City's top employers list.

Many aviation businesses still remain, and are paying reduced 'aviation' rents on their spaces. Upon closure, those spaces too could switch over to commercial rate tenants. The airport today leases 40 acres to non-aviation tenants. According to the SMACP site, with the elimination of all aviation building uses, available commercial lease space could double. This would create significant additional on-site annual lease revenue to the City. At the same time actual airport running costs (est. $6.5m/yr) will drop to zero.

In addition, it is well documented that Great Parks create value in surrounding areas, which will lead to increased tax revenues for the city and our schools.

How we raise the funds to build the park in the first place is under study by the Conversion Project. There are many potential revenue sources, starting with the accumulated monies in the Airport Fund on closure. Most importantly the project plan is designed to be incremental, we build out the Great Park as and when we can afford it, from a shovel ready initial plan on Jan 1, 2029. In the unlikely event that funding cannot be lined up by closure, the initial plan might be as simple and inexpensive as that used for Germany's Tempelhof Airport: simply close the airport and allow public access as the land gradually reverts to nature.

No comparable large parcel of land exists on the Westside, particularly not one fully protected from all development (LC is part of the City Charter). The most expensive aspect of the park was purchased in the 1920s with a park bond; the value of that land is now conservatively estimated to be $2 billion. Santa Monica is park-poor, and with a rapidly densifying population we owe it to future generations not to squander the unique quality-of-life opportunity that bringing back Santa Monica's Great Park represents. The good news is the City will make money doing it!

John Fairweather, Chair - Measure LC, Board Member - Airport2Park

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Sounds like Trump

Editor:

"...I can't even pronounce her last name because I haven't seen her long enough to know who she really is. I don't even know where she comes from." Sound familiar? Like the words of Donald Trump talking about Kamala Harris?

You'd be wrong though. This sentiment was uttered by Santa Monica City Councilmember Oscar de la Torre. The words were said in a public neighborhood meeting, slurring the background of Council candidate Natalya Zernitskaya, an American citizen and Jewish refugee from Belarus.

There are plenty of Americans with complicated last names because we're largely (although not only) a nation of immigrants from across the globe. The question is, do we need a City Councilmember who only respects SOME of us, and not ALL of us? Does Oscar de la Torre know, or care, who we really are?

Postscript: Natalya Zernitskaya has lived in Santa Monica for over a decade and previously served as President of the Santa Monica League of Women Voters, a respected local institution.

Vivian Rothstein, Santa Monica

VEHICLES

FROM PAGE 1

year into October. The number is higher than this time last year, with 2023 already being the deadliest year for traffic fatalities since 2003, when Los Angeles data first became available.

The latest vehicle-related fatality in Santa Monica took place the evening of Oct. 17, when 34-year-old Sherese Allen was struck by a 2015 Infiniti sports utility vehicle on the 1400 block of Santa Monica beach.

Santa Monica Harbor Officers located Allen, believed to be homeless, wedged beneath the vehicle not far from Parking Lot 1 North. Allen was determined deceased at the scene via traumatic asphyxia. The driver, identified as 21-year-old male YuYang Sun from Arcadia, CA, was arrested and preliminarily charged with driving under the influence, reckless driving and gross vehicular manslaughter.

The SAFE report states that 112 pedestrians were struck and killed in Los Angeles through July 28 of this year, a 1% increase from 2023's record-setting year for what the report calls "vehicular violence against walkers."

According to the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), a total of 499 victims were killed and injured in traffic collisions in 2021, the most recent year of publicly-available data on the OTS website. Of those, 70 were pedestrians, which was ranked first out of 105 California cities from OTS rankings based on statistical categories like observed crash counts, population and vehicle miles traveled.

From the 2021 data, 47 of the 499 collision injuries/deaths were bicyclists, an issue that was also present in October 2023 when cyclist Tania Mooser died at the 19th and Idaho intersection. The Mooser incident, as well as four broken and two bruised ribs to Paul Postel at the same intersection a week after Moose's death, led to City Council unanimously voting to strengthen the city's Vision Zero safety commitment.

Vision Zero is something SAFE says needs to be reestablished in Los Angeles "with accountability, transparency and purpose."

"We'd hoped that the sobering numbers in our annual reports would serve as a wake-up call for our elected officials and responsible agencies, but 2024 has proven that our calls to action are not being heard, let alone heeded ... though some agencies and elected officials have proven their desire to fight for safer streets, the little that has been done has been ineffective or too late to make a difference," the SAFE report stated.

thomas@smdp.com

Classifieds

Help Wanted

Sr. Data Scientist - Multiple Openings sought by Snap Inc. (Santa Monica, CA) *Hybrid work permitted - Snap practices a "default together" approach & expects team members to work in Santa Monica ofc at least 80% of time (avg 4 days/wk. Quantitative analysis, data mining & statistical modeling. Base salary: $184,000-$276,000/yr. Eligible for discretionary performance-based bonus award. Eligible for equity in form of RSUs. Our Benefits: https://careers.snap.com/benefits. Email Resume: apply2snap@snap.com. Ref. Job Code #SDS-SM-1024. EOE.

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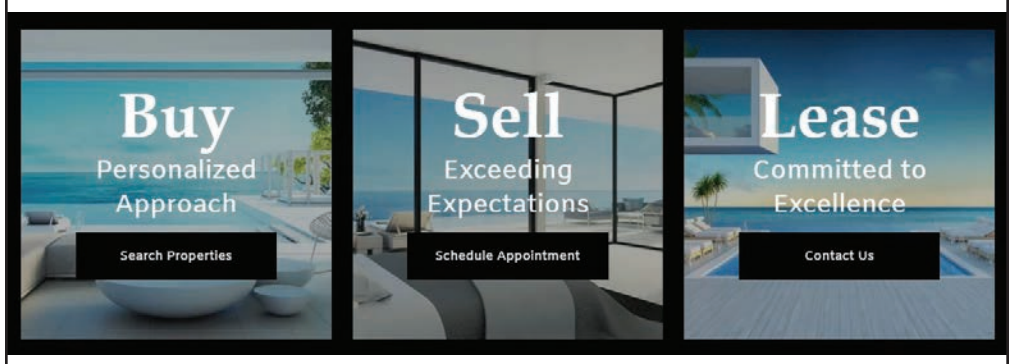
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ST PAUL'S ORGAN

FROM PAGE 1

Church's Congregational Council, organ and choral music is very important to the Lutheran denomination, going back to composer Johann Sebastian Bach who composed hundreds of works ranging from cantatas to oratorios as resident church musician, or cantor, for the major German Lutheran churches of his time.

"I think this is a nice, community story that's not election related, not homelessness related, not drug related and not crime related," said Johnson.

The program on Sunday will feature nationally renowned guest organist Marc Sedio from Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Proposals to rebuild the original 1927 ArtCraft organ were collected in early 1963 when the organ had already deteriorated into poor condition. The cost of rebuilding was about $12,000 (approximately $124,000 today) while the cost of a similar new instrument was $15,000 (around $155,000 today). No decision was made at the time to proceed with either option. Instead, the congregation bought the Baldwin "Hamilton" piano still in use in the parish hall in April 1963 for $669.24 (about $7,000 today).

Several organ builders presented proposals for new organs again in 1969 but the project was derailed at a May 28, 1969 meeting of the congregation amid unclear resolutions and financial concerns. These plans were quickly and successfully revisited in 1971 after the organ breathed its last during a Christmas rehearsal. By March 1972, Abbott and Sieker Organ Builders were commissioned to build a new organ. The church would go for almost three years renting a small portable organ before the new organ could be installed.

The impressive-looking instrument has 17 ranks (or sets of pipes) for a total of 892 pipes. Four ranks of pipes, the blower, swell shutters and pedal windchest are from the original organ, the remainder of which was sold and removed for $750.

The cost of the new organ was $20,995 plus tax in 1974, which is $158,404 in 2024 money. Plus tax. It took about one year to build and two weeks to install in the church. The 25-note chimes and 16' Fagotto of 32 pipes were added in 1974 and 1975.

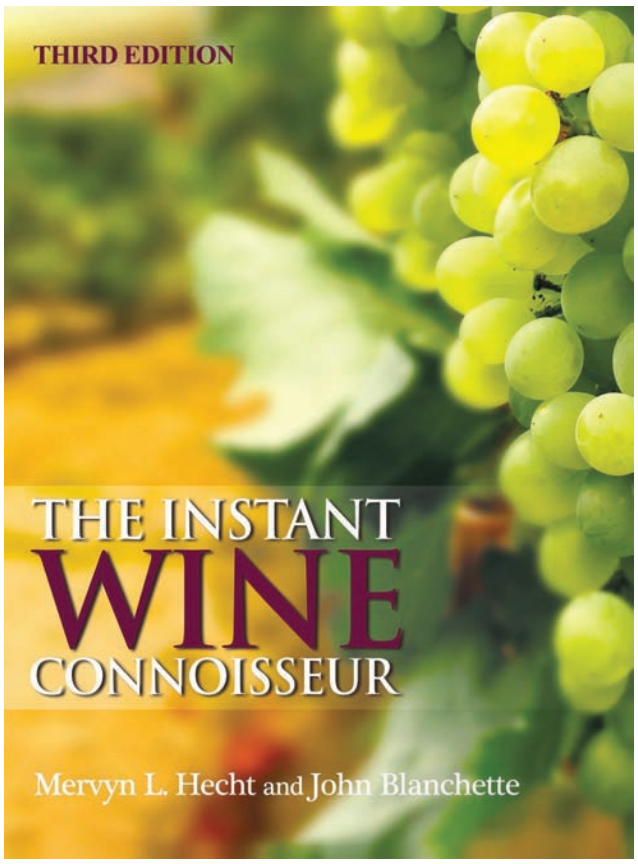
It boasts a mechanical tracker key action, slider windchests, low wind pressure and "clearly voiced unnicked pipes." The organ was dedicated on Reformation Sunday, October 27, 1974. The Reverend S. Richard Baglien, pastor of St. Paul's and the Reverend Howard Weeg of the Pacific Southwest Synod conducted the service and Boude Moore, Director of Music at St. Paul's, gave an organ recital that afternoon including the works of Bach, Mendelssohn and Vicent Lubeck.

In 2019, the organ was rededicated in honor of Barbara Hoffman, St. Paul's Director of Music from 1991 to 2019.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

> "I think this is a nice, community story that's not election related, not homelessness related, not drug related and not crime related
>
> - Steven Johnson, President of the St. Paul's Lutheran Church's Congregational Council

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★★★★★ ...Hecht has a joyful eye and fabulous taste



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ELECTION

FROM PAGE 1

electioneering is defined as either soliciting a vote, speaking to a voter on the subject of marking the voter's ballot, placing a sign relating to voters' qualifications, or circulating a petition.

"We'll just be advising," Newsome said of the Clerk's office role alongside the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC)'s office on Election Day. "We've heard some information about maybe (electioneering) happened a couple of years ago, and so we're just trying to remind people, no electioneering within that 100-foot radius of the vote center."

Per the RR/CC office's vote center reference guide, other prohibited election activities fall under the categories of "interfering with an election official or the election process," intimidating voters and bribing in exchange for a ballot cast. Interference with election officials and process includes corruption of the voting process (preventing the election from being fairly held and lawfully conducted), tampering with voting systems, and falsely acting as an elections official.

Intimidation of voters is defined as "use of any force, violence, or tactic of coercion or intimidation to induce or compel any other person to vote or refrain from voting at any election or in any particular way," and is a felony under the Penal Code with punishment by imprisonment up to three years.

Newsome noted that the City Clerk's office has been working with the Santa Monica Police Department and Office of Emergency Management "keeping the ear to the ground," but hasn't heard of any planned interference.

"I haven't had any issues in the past," Newsome said. "Sometimes we might get a phone call about it, (but) by the time we go out to check it out, it's either over or maybe it didn't actually occur. I can't think of a time in Santa Monica that I've actually seen this occur. I've had heard after the fact certain things, but I have not actually received phone calls or heard in the past two elections that I've been here."

For its part, SMPD Lieutenant Erika Aklufi stated that the department's Planning and Intelligence Team is delivering specialized training to patrol officers "to ensure they are well-equipped for Election Day," including comprehensive lists of polling locations and ballot boxes that are "essential for situational awareness and maintaining the peace."

"As Election Day approaches, the SMPD's focus remains on being prepared, vigilant and collaborative," Aklufi added. "By working with community partners, conducting regular assessments, and providing ongoing training to our officers, we aim to create an environment where every voter feels secure and empowered to participate in the democratic process."

Along with local offices, Newsome added that the "first line of defense" on Election Day are voting center supervisors facilitated by the County.

With the first voting center location set to open Saturday in the SMI Room at the Civic Center Parking Structure, Newsome says her role at the moment is "reminding people to get out the vote." On Nov. 2, six other vote center locations will open at:

Joslyn Park Rec Building Community Room

Lincoln Middle School Theatre and Lobby

Marine Park Auditorium

Rustic Canyon Recreation Center Gallery

Santa Monica College Cayton Center Building Faculty Lounge

Washington Preschool Multi-Purpose Room

Other pre-election roles for the Clerk's office include facilitating calls about the legality of election sign placement and the need for disclaimers on certain political advertising material. Up to and through Election Day, though, the office is committed to alleviating any fears about election interference.

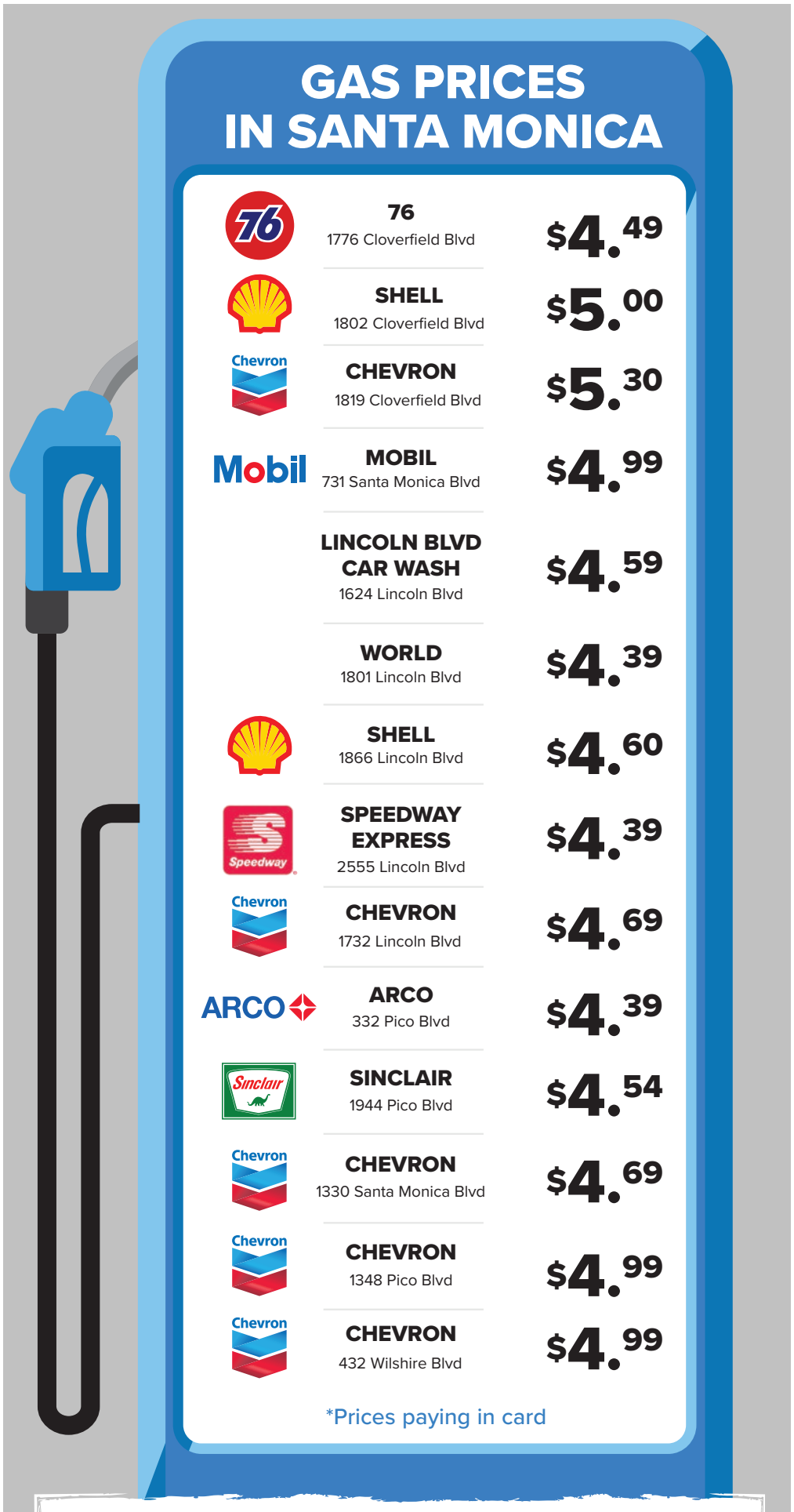
"It's kind of hard because people are going to believe what they want to believe, and unfortunately there's a lot of disinformation, misinformation out there," Newsome said. "I just encourage (voters) to reach out to our office if they have any questions or concerns."

thomas@smdp.com



Photo by Thomas Leffler

VOTING: The SMI Room at the Civic Center Parking Structure will be Santa Monica's first voting center to open on Saturday.



Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have fallen 0.7 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $4.51/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 4.2 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 107.2 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has declined 1.3 cents in the last week and stands at $3.56 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at $3.82/g while the most expensive was $5.57/g, a difference of $1.75/g. The lowest price in the state was $3.65/g while the highest was $6.49/g, a difference of $2.84/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 3.3 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $3.13/g today. The national average is down 6.2 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 39.7 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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3pm – 6:30 P.M.

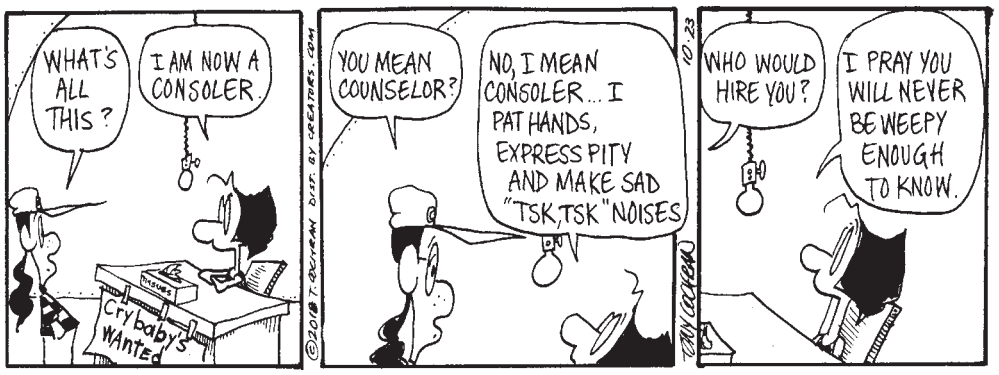
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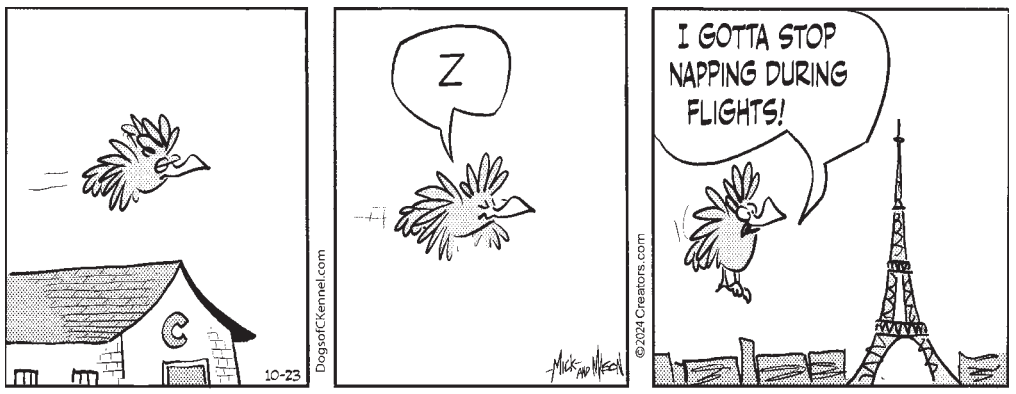
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



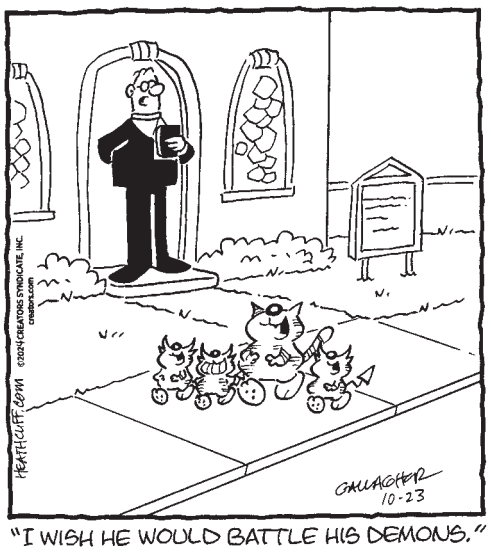
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"I WISH HE WOULD BATTLE HIS DEMONS."

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 6372

Special night out

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

Asparagus
Beer
Bill
Carrot
Cheese
Choko
Corn
Crab
Crepe
Crowd
Dawn
Dear
Dips
Duck
Eggs
Event
Gift
Host
Lamb
Liver
Massage
Merry
Mints
Mise en place
Money
Music
New dress
Nightclub
Nuts
Opera
Pate
Peas
Pies
Port
Rice
Roast
Salad
Satay
Sauna
Signature dish
Snack
Squid
Suit
Syrup
Taxi
Thai
Tip
Treat
Wafers
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 23)

It's the same bright smile but a different you underneath; you burn with new purpose and a goal you'll have reached by spring 2025. You'll also be part of a small alliance that creates big change for people who could not do it without the help. More highlights: a makeover, fixing a generational problem, loving promises kept, and relationships that exceed expectations. Virgo and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 29, 12, 15 and 1.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). When you look around at the many things you have, it seems strange that you should want for anything else — yet you do. Well, not more so much as different. Before you bring in the new, lighten your load. Less stuff, more freedom.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Keep learning because the work becomes enjoyable as you know it better. Frustration just teaches you where the gaps are, and you'll fill them in soon enough. Sharper skills will mean more money and fun.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The reason you'll be given more responsibilities? They believe you can handle it. And since each task you complete adds to your strength and power, this is a trend that will continue. Pace yourself.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The one who hears your ideas and takes a playful approach to finding out what's brilliant and what's weak about them is worth more than gold. Sharing with a person like this will guide you to invest your time and energy in the best direction.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). In the past, a vague desire led you to scattered efforts. You learned from that, and now you approach an ambition with precision and detail. Your focused approach helps you get crystal clear about your goal.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). In the game, the game is all that matters. Out of the game, life matters, and the game is just a game. The trick is in knowing when you're in the game. Many "games" look like life, and sometimes "life" presents like a game.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Comfort is loose clothes and tight relationships. Of course, there's a point when things are too comfortable, and then they get messy. So there's a certain amount of tension to maintain to keep things cozy, not messy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Formality will ease into something more casual, which is a good sign — it means they like you. Let your emotions breathe. You'll find that the mess of feelings is where true connection happens — real, raw and relatable.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's not advisable to put effort into impressing someone because the energy is essentially a rejection of the lovable person you already are. Even so, there are things you want to do better. Do it for you. Don't let them see you try.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Just as glue needs time to dry, relationships grow stronger over time. You can't trust the bonding that occurs in an instant. It might cement over time, and you can just let that happen. Until months have passed, don't lean on it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Though your aim is always to uplift those around you, don't shy away from accepting help yourself. It's a beautiful exchange — you need support, and others will love the opportunity to offer it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It is said that time waits for no man, but this straight arrow isn't a match for imagination. With a little creativity, endings can come first; middles can meander, loop or disappear entirely; and the headlines are added after the story is finished.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

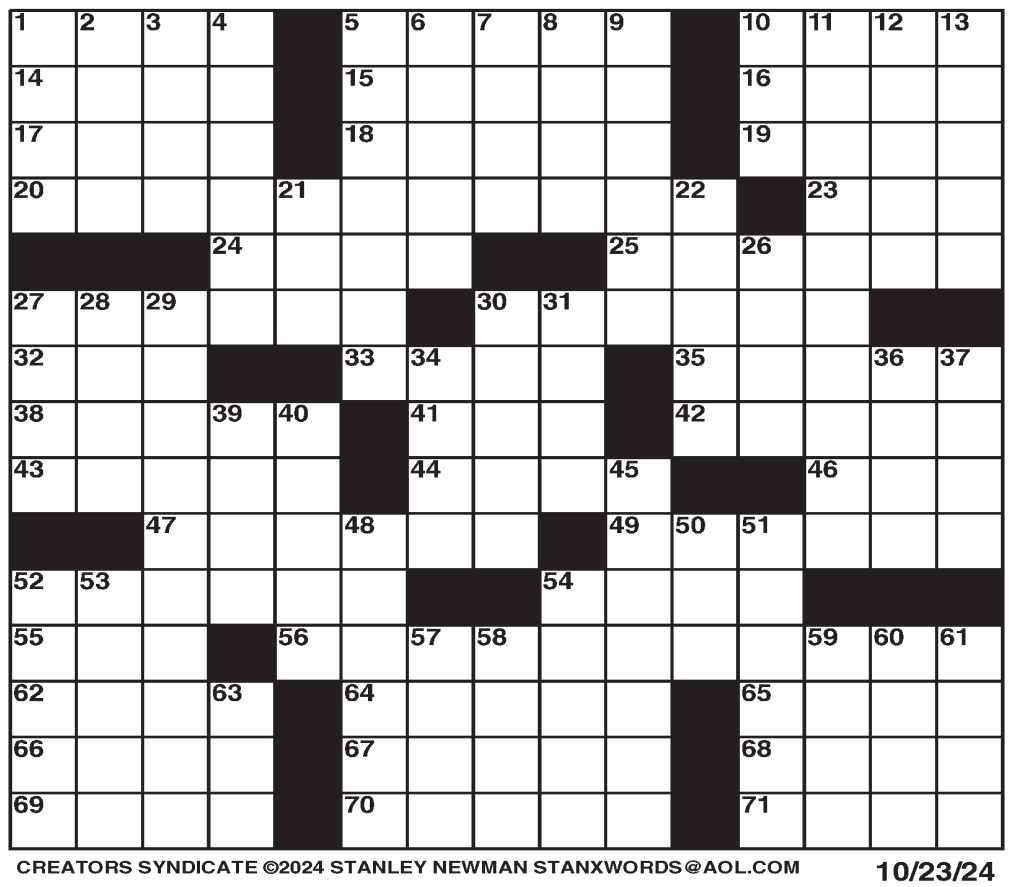
THEY WON'T BITE by Carolyn Stewart
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Mortgage, for example
5 Hound's trail
10 Each, informally
14 Diva's solo
15 Loose-leaf filler
16 Repetitive learning method
17 Scoundrels
18 Splice together
19 Cave sound
20 Carpenter's tool with teeth
23 Jennings of *Jeopardy!*
24 "__ it the truth!"
25 Dissuades
27 Thermometer measure
30 Oust from office
32 Orthodontists' org.
33 Two tablets at a time, often
35 Air vents
38 Contract conditions
41 Crash into
42 Mall tenant
43 Scuttle a project
44 Swelled heads
46 Frat members
47 Pass, as time
49 Arrested
52 French artist Pierre
54 Christmas candy shape
55 "__ the ramparts..."
56 Dinner utensil with teeth
62 Many a Saudi
64 Incredible buy
65 Letting customers in
66 Flood barrier
67 Poke fun at
68 Four-star review
69 Witnessed
70 Held the deed to
71 Alternatively

DOWN

1 Wedding dress frill
2 Face-to-face exam
3 Helper
4 Daytona 500 organization
5 Rebuffed
6 "Shut up!"
7 Grand-scale
8 Circus safety gear
9 Tire patterns
10 "Right you __!"
11 Grooming device with teeth
12 None of the above
13 Unskilled workers
21 Connection
22 Lawn spoilers
26 Fully stretched
27 Fruit from a palm
28 Biblical paradise
29 Landscaper's tool with teeth
30 Gas bill figure
31 *Nautilus* captain
34 Mine loads
36 Arbor Day planting
37 Ship off
39 *Venus de* __
40 Sedate
45 In a tangle
48 Magician's shout
50 Pantry pest
51 Sooner than
52 City map lines
53 Spooky
54 Bring to a halt
57 Slow cooker concoction
58 Penn in pictures
59 Porous gemstone
60 Livens (up)
61 Place for a pants patch
63 Economist Bernanke



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10/23/24

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

PROP 33

FROM PAGE 2

"Fair rent" committees sprang up in dozens of United States cities in the early 1920s, and rent control became widespread during World War II, helping drive an increase in homeownership. However, more than 30 states have since passed laws banning local rent control. In the states that do allow some form of rent regulation — including California and New York — more than 200 local governments have passed measures limiting how much landlords can charge, according to the National Apartment Association.

Verdict: Mostly true.

CLAIM: PROP. 33 WOULD REPEAL THE STRONGEST RENT CONTROL LAW IN THE NATION

No on 33 campaign ads make this claim, saying the proposition would erase California's "progress on housing" by getting rid of a law signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom. Newsom signed a law in 2019 that caps rent increases in California at 5% plus the rate of inflation, or a maximum of 10%. (The No campaign, staffed by the governor's longtime advisor, Click, lists Newsom as an endorser.)

Prop. 33 doesn't repeal this law, which is set to expire in 2030. It would, however, add this sentence to state law: "The state may not limit the right of any city, county, or city and county to maintain, enact, or expand residential rent control."

Proponents say cities need this flexibility to keep annual rent increases below 10%, a rate they say still puts a big burden on tenants. Opponents argue that cities could also use this freedom to allow rents to soar higher than the state cap. But legal experts disagree about whether Prop. 33 might actually allow that: Deepika Sharma, housing clinic director at the University of Southern California's Gould School of Law, said the rent cap "is not preempted by overturning Costa Hawkins," while UC Davis law professor Chris Elmendorf said the proposition could create "a lot of legal murk about how conflicts would be resolved."

Verdict: Mostly false.

CLAIM: 'STANFORD AND UC EXPERTS AGREE PROP.33 WILL MAKE THE HOUSING CRISIS WORSE'

This claim comes from a No on 33 audio ad. The chair of UC Berkeley's Fisher Center for Real Estate and Urban Economics, Ken Rosen, appears in a No on 33 ad and has argued that Costa Hawkins needs to be preserved or construction will slow and landlords will pull rental units off the market. This echoes the view of many economists at California's elite universities and elsewhere that rent control reduces rental supply, a view that's backed by some empirical studies.

But other economics and policy researchers — particularly those who believe in a stronger role for government in solving social problems — see rent control as part of the solution to housing insecurity.

"Rent regulations support those who need it most, including those who are not being adequately and safely served by the current set of regulations that provide landlords substantial market power in the housing market," wrote 32 economists from universities including UC Santa Barbara last year, urging the Biden administration to regulate rents in buildings with federally backed mortgages.

Verdict: Somewhat misleading.

CLAIM: 'PROP. 33 (ELIMINATES) EXISTING PROTECTIONS FOR SENIORS AND VETERANS'

This claim from a No on 33 video ad is not true. Prop. 33 doesn't contain any language about seniors and veterans, and the law it would repeal, Costa Hawkins, doesn't either.

Verdict: False.

CLAIM: HOMELESSNESS IN CALIFORNIA IS UP NEARLY 40% SINCE 2019

This Yes on 33 video ad overstates the crisis. There are nearly 186,000 homeless Californians, according to a CalMatters analysis of the latest federally mandated census, up from about 151,000 in 2019. That's an increase of about 23%.

Verdict: False.

UNEMPLOYMENT

FROM PAGE 3

While the nation's traditionally calculated unemployment rate was 4.1% in September, Ludwig pegged its "true rate" at 23.9%, nearly six times as high — and California was very close to the national rate at 23.5%. Numerous other states were worse.

Ludwig also calculates TRU for the entire adult population, not just the labor force, and in California it's 52.5%, meaning fewer than half are working jobs that pay a living wage.

That is — or should be — a disturbing number, and contributes to California having such a large number of workers earning incomes that cannot cope with the state's incredibly high costs of housing, utilities are other necessities of life.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 23

BALLET STORYTIME WITH TUTU SCHOOL

10:30 - 11 a.m. Youth Activity Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. This story time combines storytelling and imagination with music, movement and lots of twirling. Free tickets available at 10:15 a.m. For ages 18 months to 5 years old.

COMPUTER CLASS

10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Computer Training Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Tips and advice on how to find the best computer/laptop of smartphone for your needs. For all levels.

BALLOT MEASURE PROS & CONS

11 a.m. Palisades Branch Library, 861 Alma Real Dr., Pacific Palisades. Confused by the competing ads for and against measures on the November 5 ballot? Come here the League of Women Voters give an unbiased, nonpartisan explanation of the pros and cons of each measure. Learn about the issues, the context and the arguments for and against each proposition so you can make an informed decision.

STARTOUT DEMO DAY

5 - 7 p.m. SVB Santa Monica, 1437 7th St. Get ready to witness the future of LGBTQ+ entrepreneurship at StartOut Demo Day, live and in person for the first time since 2019, taking place over two days across two cities. This is the event where queer founders will pitch their startups to a panel of expert judges and compete for cash prizes. For a free RSVP, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-startout-demo-day-los-angeles-tickets-1014764416687.

FUTURE AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE

6:05 - 7:30 p.m. Virtual. The City of Santa Monica and Hollywood Community Housing Corporation invite you to a virtual meeting regarding updates on the future affordable housing on City parking lots located at 1217 Euclid St. and 1211-1217 14th St. Presenters will include the City of Santa Monica, HCHC and Kevin Daly Architects. To RSVP, visit: www.HCHCSantaMonica.org/community-meetings/.

METRO 17TH/SMC HOUSING SITE VIRTUAL MEETING

6:30 - 8 p.m. Virtual. Metro invites the Santa Monica community to attend a virtual meeting for an update on Metro's future housing site at 17th St/SMC station. Metro is currently planning new housing near the 17th Street and Santa Monica College (SMC) Station and is seeking input from the community on the architectural design, services and other project considerations. The Zoom link is bit.ly/17SMCMtg and the Call-In number is 888-788-0099.

AN EVENING WITH RICHARD POWERS

8 - 9:15 p.m. Ann and Jerry Moss Theatre at New Roads School, 3131 Olympic Blvd. Richard Powers, an author of fourteen novels and recipient of the Pulitzer Prize, discusses his writing life and his new novel, "Playground." Tickets $25, reserved section ticket plus book with signed book plate $50. To purchase, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-evening-with-richard-powers-tickets-1021713331077.

THURSDAY | OCTOBER 24

LA LAW LIBRARY OFFICE HOURS

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

TECH & TASKS

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

WAGS & WITCHES

5 p.m. Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows, 101 Wilshire Blvd. Enjoy a special Happy Hour menu while your furry friend competes for prizes in our dog costume contest. Capture the moment with on-site doggie portraits and celebrate Halloween in luxury. The top three costumes will win exciting prizes.

LOVE FEST OF THE WESTSIDE

6 - 10 p.m. MUD\WTR, 2515 Main St. Love Fest is a conscious dating event for people who are more serious about dating and are more willing to be vulnerable in their search for love. There will be fun dating games, ice breaking activities, small group exercises and more. Beverages served by MUD\WTR and will have some light snacks. Age ranges between 26-48, this is a heterosexual/monogamous forward dating event. Tickets $40, to purchase visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/love-fest-of-the-westside-fall-edition-tickets-1025079368987.

HAUNTED HOWL-O-WEEN PARTY FOR DOGS

6:30 - 8 p.m. Wag Hotels - Santa Monica, 1653 19th St. We warmly invite you to an unfurgettable night of spooktacular fun at Wag Hotels' 9th Annual Haunted Howl-o-ween Party. Canine and human guests alike will be thrilled and chilled by photos with Cruella de Vil, a costume contest with prizes, a spooktacular silent auction, dog and family-friendly activities, Wag Swag, goodie bags and more. All proceeds will benefit the Frosted Faces Foundation and help them provide shelter, comprehensive veterinary care, and innovative resources to at-risk senior dogs. Children under 17 free, general admission $12. To purchase, visit: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/haunted-howl-o-ween-party-for-dogs-at-wag-hotels-santa-monica-tickets-1015665060537.

FRIDAY | OCTOBER 25

MOVIE IN THE PARK

5 - 9 p.m. Colorado Center Park, 26th St. and Broadway Ave. Get ready for a thrilling evening under the stars as BXP and the Santa Monica Police Department presents "The Nightmare Before Christmas." Bring your picnic baskets, blankets, lawn chairs and your Halloween spirit for a cozy night filled with laughter, chills, and some of your favorite characters. The fun begins with face painting at 5 p.m., movie starts at 6:30 p.m.

SOCCER SKILLS CAMP

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

City of Santa Monica

PAL SANTA MONICA

PAL SPOOKTACULAR

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31 2024
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

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310.458.8988 | pal@santamonica.gov