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Santa Monica crime rates inch up with serious crimes surpassing pre-pandemic levels

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica police officers are making more arrests this year but according to recent information from Santa Monica Police Chief Ramon Batista, the rate of serious crime has now returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Batista presented Council with an analysis of recent crime statistics this week comparing the first eight months of this year with previous years.

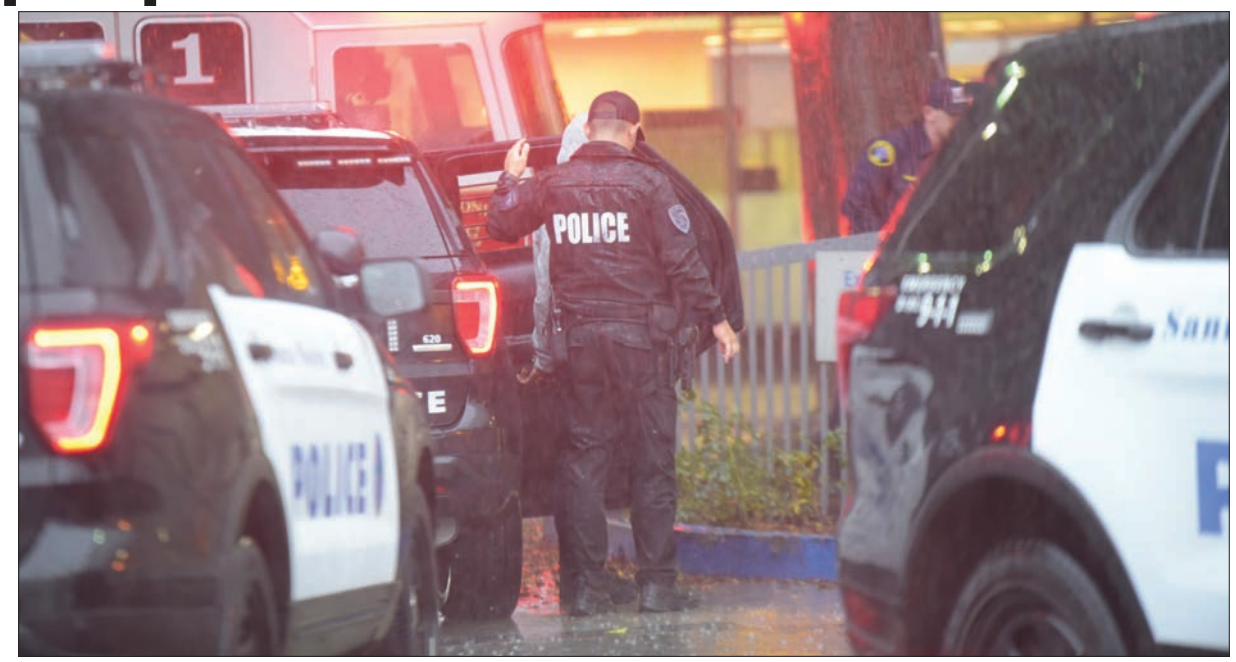
According to Batista, 911 calls to the Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) are down by 7.6%, from 70,101 to 64,744, a return to pre-pandemic levels, with 76% community initiated and 24% officer initiated, approximately the same ratios to last year.

The average call response times were also almost entirely all down. They are broken down into four categories: a priority zero is any life threatening crime that's occurring right at the moment when SMPD receives the call and could be something like an open 911 line, a burglary that is occurring right at that moment or a bomb threat, for instance. A priority two would be burglar alarm, drunk driver or suspicious activity. It's essentially where something is occurring, but there's a slight time delay.

A priority three is all about municipal code violations, which includes disturbing the peace, panhandling, encampment-related reports, urinating in public and so on. Lastly, priority four includes parking violations, speeding tickets and such like.

"And just so you know, 1% of

SEE **CRIME** PAGE 7



SMPD

SMDP: Despite some alarming fluctuations earlier in the year, serious crime is still up on the last 12 months.

SMPD traffic officer injured after being hit by DUI driver

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

A Santa Monica Police Department Traffic Services Officer was transported to a local hospital with significant injuries on Sept. 13 after her vehicle was hit by an allegedly impaired driver.

According to SMPD, officers responded to the intersection of Yale and Santa Monica Blvd. at about 2 p.m. on Wednesday.

"Preliminary investigation indicates a black Audi was traveling westbound on Santa Monica Boulevard and struck a SMPD traffic enforcement scooter as it crossed on a green light," said a statement provided by SMPD. "The officers found the occupant of the scooter, an SMPD Traffic Services Officer, had been ejected from the scooter and was suffering from significant injuries. SMFD transported the officer to a local hospital for treatment. She is currently in stable condition."

Records identify the suspect as Susan Weiss. Weiss was given a DUI exam by LAPD officers who were assisting at the scene and she was ultimately arrested for Felony Driving Under the Influence.

The California Highway Patrol was called to handle the crash investigation and additional reporting as SMPD policy transfers investigations to CHP when it involves their employees.

"Our hearts are with our injured employee as she begins the long road to healing," said Lt. Erika Aklufi in a statement. "This is a hard reminder that we are all at risk, anytime and anywhere, when drivers choose to use drugs or drink and drive. For the safety of all of us in the Santa Monica community, if you see someone who appears to be driving under the influence, call 9-1-1 immediately."

editor@smdp.com

Promenade struggles with talent-optional performers on the public street

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

With questions of quantity or quality, it's certainly not the latter when it comes to the current state of street performers on the Promenade.

The issue of street performance once again featured prominently during a recent Public Space and Placemaking (PSP) committee meeting with the board at Downtown Santa Monica Inc (DTSM) raising issues over the volume and ultimately, quality of local performers.

You may have seen Public Service Officers hanging about from time to time near an over-audible artist holding their phones using a decibel app. The noise level regulations vary a little bit depending on time of day, but from Monday to Friday, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. the maximum noise level as measured 12 inches from the source is 97 decibels, roughly the equivalent of a lawnmower, power tools,

SEE **PERFORMERS** PAGE 6

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California lawmakers move to ban irrigation of some decorative lawns

RACHEL BECKER
Special to the Daily Press

Photo by Larry Valenzuela, CalMatters/CatchLight Local

GRASS: A lawn outside a Taco Be in north Fresno on Sept. 11, 2023. A proposed bill that would ban non-functional grassy lawns at businesses and institutions goes to the governor.

California businesses and institutions will have to stop irrigating decorative grassy areas with drinkable water under legislation approved by state lawmakers.

The bill now goes to Gov. Gavin Newsom for his signature. Newsom's office declined to comment today, but he previously called for an irrigation ban that led to a similar emergency measure that's in effect until next June.

Authored by Assemblymember Laura Friedman, a Democrat from Burbank, the legislation would ban use of potable water — water that is safe to drink — to irrigate ornamental lawns or grasses at businesses, institutions, industrial facilities and certain developments. The grass could only be irrigated with recycled water.

The aim of the legislation is to force businesses to tear out their lawns and replace them with landscapes that use much less water.

Residential yards would not be included in the ban, and neither would cemeteries, parks, golf courses and sports fields where people play, picnic and gather. Other plants like shrubs, flowers, trees, and landscapes irrigated with recycled water are also unaffected.

The ban would roll out in stages, starting in 2027 with government properties, and in 2028 for other institutional, commercial and industrial properties. Common areas of developments like homeowners associations, mobile home parks and some retirement communities would have until 2029.

The bill, AB 1572, passed the Senate 29 to 10 on Monday with no debate, and the final amendments cleared the Assembly 55 to 18 on Tuesday. The final 28 votes in both houses against the bill this week were nearly all Republicans, with only two Democrats rejecting it.

If the legislation is signed by Newsom, California would follow on the heels of Nevada, where lawmakers barred the use of Colorado River water for irrigating nonfunctional grass in Southern Nevada at certain commercial, multi-family, government and other properties.

Jointly sponsored by the Natural Resources Defense Council, Heal the Bay and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the bill enjoyed far more support than opposition — unusual for a bill dealing with the parched state's most precious resource.

Opposition, Friedman said, "hasn't been fierce."

"I haven't had anyone I know in Los Angeles call me with concerns. I haven't had any property owners reach out," she said. "They're all like, 'Yeah, fine, we're already doing this — already starting to move in this direction.'"

As of Sept. 1, the California Business Roundtable, California Landscape Contractors Association, the Community Associations Institute California Legislative Action Committee, and the Santa Margarita Water District were listed as opposition.

In response to an executive order that Newsom issued during the most recent drought, the State Water Board starting in June 2022 banned use of drinkable water to irrigate ornamental grass at commercial, industrial and institutional facilities. The ban was extended through June 2024 unless the board renews or rescinds it before then.

The board also is developing new water conservation rules that would require urban water suppliers to ban the irrigation of non-functional turf with drinking water starting in 2025, spokesperson Edward Ortiz told CalMatters.

Sandra Giarde, executive director of the California Landscape Contractors Association, said the bill is unnecessary because of the state's emergency drought measure.

Giarde said she is concerned that people will replace grass with rocks or other hardscaping, "and that creates heat islands," she said. Grass, she added, "has its place. Just if people would stop over-watering it, that would be really great."

Matt Keller, spokesperson for the Santa Clara Valley Water District, which serves approximately 2 million people in the heart of Silicon Valley, said he expects the bill to ramp

SEE **GRASS** PAGE 8

This fall TV season, there's no new 'Grey's Anatomy' or 'Law & Order.' Here's what's coming instead

ALICIA RANCILIO
Associated Press

Sorry "Abbott Elementary" and "Grey's Anatomy" fans — there won't be new episodes airing anytime soon.

Some viewers may be unaware, but striking screenwriters and actors have brought production to a screeching halt, including on many popular shows like "Law & Order" and "1923." So fans will have to wait to find out if Janine and Gregory can really be just friends on "Abbott" or if Kim Raver's Dr. Teddy Altman survives after collapsing on "Grey's." But there's plenty of new characters and familiar faces heading to screens via already-completed shows that are ready to air.

Some creative programming — including shows imported from other countries, competition series and the broadcast arrival of the Paramount Network hit "Yellowstone" — will round-out gaps in the TV schedule.

Here's a sampling of notable shows debuting in the strike-challenged season ahead:

NEW SHOWS ADAPTED FROM BOOKS

Books remain popular inspiration for Hollywood. " The Other Black Girl, " based on the novel by Zakiya Dalila Harris, follows Nella, (Sinclair Daniel), a Black editorial assistant in publishing who is thrilled by her company's new hire of another Black woman, Hazel (played by Ashleigh Murray). Nella's hope for an ally and confidante is repeatedly squashed, leaving her to wonder if the two are in competition. "The Other Black Girl" is a genre-blending mix of social satire, commentary and creepiness streaming now on Hulu.

Jesse L. Martin returns to NBC in " The Irrational, " playing a behavioral science expert with a keen understanding of what makes people tick. This skill makes him an in-demand problem solver and translator-of-sorts for government agencies and big corporations. The show is based on Dan Ariely's book, "Predictably Irrational" and premieres Sept. 25. Episodes will also stream on Peacock.

In " Wilderness," Jenna Coleman ("Doctor Who" and "Victoria") and Oliver Jackson-Cohen ("Mr. Malcom's List", "Surface") are Liv and Will, a young couple whose marriage is on the rocks. They plan a vacation to set things right but what Will doesn't know is that Liv has cooked up an itinerary he wasn't prepared for. The thriller is adapted from a book of the same name by B.E. Jones, with Ashley Benson and Eric Balfour also starring. "Wilderness" debuts Friday on Prime Video.

Brie Larson brings the Bonnie Garmus novel " Lessons in Chemistry " to life for Apple TV+. It's about Elizabeth, a female scientist in the 1960s who works in a chemical lab, is smarter than most but is only permitted to do menial work by sexist colleagues. A romance with a fellow chemist named Calvin (Lewis Pullman), who sees Elizabeth as an equal, sets in motion her winding, fascinating and empowering road to a fulfilling life and career. The show debuts Oct. 13.

The heartbreaking-yet-hopeful WWII novel " All the Light We Cannot See " by Anthony Doerr has been turned into a four-episode series directed by Shawn Levy for Netflix. It follows the story of Marie (played by newcomer Aria Mia Loberti) as a blind, young woman in hiding in German-occupied France and a Nazi solder named Werner (Louis Hoffman). He's an orphan who was drafted against his will and the show explores how their lives intersect. The limited series also stars Mark Ruffalo and Hugh Laurie and debuts Nov. 2.

SPIN-OFFS, PREQUELS AND SEQUELS

Hollywood loves a safe bet and a number of new shows debuting this fall feature some not-so-new characters or tie-ins to films and other series that have proved popular.

"The Walking Dead" served as a mainstream introduction to several talented actors: Danai Gurira, Steven Yeun, Lauren Cohan, Jon Bernthal and yes, Norman Reedus. Reedus' character Daryl Dixon also emerged as a heartthrob. He now fronts his own spinoff called " The Walking Dead: Daryl Dixon," taking place in France after the events of the original show. Daryl may be in a new country but walkers are still out there, and they've evolved. The show airs Sundays on AMC and streams on AMC+.

The massively popular " John Wick " movie franchise starring Keanu Reeves is getting a three-night prequel event series called " The Continental: From the World of John Wick " on Peacock. It stars Mel Gibson and Colin Woodell as a younger version of Ian McShane's character from the movies. "The Continental" debuts Sept. 22.

Young adult superheroes need education too, and that's the backdrop of the new Prime Video series " Gen V," a spin-off of "The Boys." Superheroes-in-training are enrolled at Godolkin University School of Crimefighting, where they fraternize in between high-stakes competitions of strength and ability. Like "The Boys," the show takes an irreverent approach to its supes. The first three episodes drop Sept. 29.

Kelsey Grammer is back as his most well-known character, Dr. Frasier Crane, in a sequel for Paramount+. In this " Frasier," the character returns to Boston to embark on a new phase of his life. The 10-episode comedy debuts Oct. 12 and the first two episodes will air later that month on CBS.

An eight-episode anime series inspired by the 2010 movie "Scott Pilgrim vs. the World" is coming to Netflix on Nov. 17. " Scott Pilgrim Takes Off " will feature the voices of the film cast including Michael Cera, Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Kieran Culkin, Brie Larson and Anna Kendrick.

SIGNS OF STRIKES

There are also programs coming to TV this fall that are obvious time-fillers to help round out primetime schedules. CBS made some interesting decisions to complete their puzzle.

Kevin Costner's "Yellowstone," which airs on Paramount Network, is now getting a

SEE **TV** PAGE 7

City of Santa Monica

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COMMUNITY NEWS

SAN FRANCISCO

Federal appeals court opens way to block California law on gun marketing to children

A federal appeals court on Wednesday opened the way to block a California law that bans gun ads aimed at children, saying it went too far in restricting lawful speech.

Sporting and gun rights groups and the publisher of a youth shooting magazine had sought an injunction to temporarily stop the law from taking effect, arguing that it blocked the marketing of legal gun events and recruitment for safe and responsible youth sport-shooting and hunting programs.

A lower court denied that request. But on Wednesday a three-member panel of the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed that decision.

That sends the issue back to the lower court for reconsideration.

The measure was signed into law last year. It bars marketing of firearm-related products "in a manner that is designed, intended, or reasonably appears to be attractive to minors."

In its ruling, the appellate court said the law was likely to violate the First Amendment right to free speech and "does not directly and materially advance California's substantial interests in reducing gun violence and the unlawful use of firearms by minors."

"There was no evidence in the record that a minor in California has ever unlawfully bought a gun, let alone because of an ad," the opinion's summary said.

Gov. Gavin Newsom condemned the ruling, citing advertising by a gun-maker that sells a version an AR-15 style rifle that is smaller and lighter and advertised as being "geared toward smaller enthusiasts."

"The court is fighting to protect marketing weapons of war to children," Newsom said in a statement. "It is pure insanity."

> "The court is fighting to protect marketing weapons of war to children
> - Gov. Gavin Newsom

Newsom said he and Attorney General Rob Bonta are looking at options for challenging the ruling.

The law was one of several gun control measures passed by the Democratic-controlled state Legislature last year after the conservative-majority U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Americans have a right to carry firearms in public for self-defense — a major expansion of gun rights.

It was one of four that Newsom asked lawmakers to fast-track in response to mass shootings, including one that killed 19 students and two teachers at an elementary school in Texas in May 2022.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DES MOINES

Feds spread $1 billion for tree plantings among US cities to reduce extreme heat and benefit health

Hundreds of communities around the country will share more than $1 billion in federal money to help them plant and maintain trees under a federal program that is intended to reduce extreme heat, benefit health and improve access to nature.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack will announce the $1.13 billion in funding for 385 projects at an event Thursday morning in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The tree plantings efforts will be focused on marginalized areas in all 50 states as well as Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and some tribal nations.

"We believe we can create more resilient communities in terms of the impacts of climate," Vilsack told reporters in previewing his announcement. "We think we can mitigate extreme heat incidents and events in many of the cities."

In announcing the grants in Cedar Rapids, Vilsack will spotlight the eastern Iowa city of 135,000 people that lost thousands of trees during an extreme windstorm during the summer of 2020. Cedar Rapids has made the restoration of its tree canopy a priority since that storm, called a derecho, and will receive $6 million in funding through the new grants.

Other grant recipients include some of the nation's largest cities, such as New York, Houston and Los Angeles, and much smaller communities, such as Tarpon Springs, Florida, and Hutchinson, Kansas.

Brenda Mallory, chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, planned to join Vilsack at the Iowa event. She told reporters earlier that many communities have lacked access to nature and that all the tree grants would benefit marginalized and underrepresented communities.

"Everyone should have access to nature," Mallory said. "Urban forests can really play a key role in ensuring both that access but also increasing the climate resilience of communities, helping reduce extreme heat and making communities more livable."

The federal money comes from the Inflation Reduction Act.

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Environmental groups urge regulators to shut down California reactor over safety, testing concerns

MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press

Environmental groups called on federal regulators Thursday to immediately shut down one of two reactors at California's last nuclear power plant until tests can be conducted on critical machinery they believe could fail and cause a catastrophe.

Friends of the Earth and Mothers for Peace said in a petition filed with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission that tests and inspections have been delayed for nearly 20 years on the pressure vessel in the Unit 1 reactor at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, midway between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

> "We will not sit idly by while PG&E cuts corners on Unit 1's safety
> - Hallie Templeton, legal director for Friends of the Earth

Instead, the groups argue, operator Pacific Gas & Electric has relied on data from similar reactor vessels to justify continued operations at Diablo Canyon, while dismissing indications that the steel wall in Unit 1 might be deteriorating from sustained exposure to radiation and is becoming susceptible to cracking, a condition technically known as embrittlement.

"We will not sit idly by while PG&E cuts corners on Unit 1's safety," Hallie Templeton, legal director for Friends of the Earth, said in a statement.

The vessels are thick steel containers that hold nuclear fuel and cooling water in the reactors.

The statement from the anti-nuclear groups contended that PG&E "has repeatedly postponed essential metallurgical tests and ultrasound inspections over the past two decades" on the vessel.

PG&E spokesperson Suzanne Hosn said in a statement that the plant has an excellent safe operating record, and that the NRC's current assessment places it among the highest-performing plants in the nation.

"Analysis has demonstrated that the reactor vessels for both Units 1 and 2 currently meet the NRC's acceptance criteria," Hosn wrote. "We are in full compliance with industry guidance and regulatory standards regarding our program to monitor, evaluate and ensure reactor vessel safety."

Hosn said additional testing was planned but didn't provide a date when that would occur.

The petition marks the latest development in a long fight over the operation and safety of the seaside plant, which began operating in the mid-1980s.

PG&E agreed in 2016 to shutter the plant by 2025, but at the direction of the state changed course and now intends to seek a longer operating run for the twin reactors. Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom, who once was a leading voice to close the plant, said last year that Diablo Canyon's power is needed beyond 2025 to ward off possible blackouts as California transitions to solar and other renewable energy sources.

Friends of the Earth, a longtime critic of plant safety, was a central player in negotiating the 2016 closing agreement. The filing comes just weeks after a state judge rejected a lawsuit filed by the group that sought to block PG&E — the state's largest utility — from seeking to extend the plant's operating life.

The petition, filed Thursday in Washington, was accompanied by a 46-page report by Digby Macdonald, a University of California, Berkeley, professor in nuclear engineering and materials science, who wrote that continued operation of the Unit 1 reactor "poses an unreasonable risk to public health and safety due to serious indications of an unacceptable degree of embrittlement."

"The reactor should be closed until PG&E obtains and analyzes additional data regarding its condition," wrote Macdonald, who was retained by the environmental groups.

The petition asks the NRC to convene a hearing to review a 2003 decision by agency staff to extend the testing schedule for the Unit 1 pressure vessel until 2025. According to the groups, the last inspections on the vessel took place between 2003 and 2005. The utility postponed further testing in favor of using results from similar reactors to justify continued operations, they said.

In his report, Macdonald concludes PG&E should have accelerated its testing schedule, not delayed it, to assess possible defects. He noted that unlike most other reactor safety components, the pressure vessel has no independent backup system that can be called upon if it should crack or fracture and lose essential cooling water.

He added that obtaining more testing data on Unit 1 is especially important because its steel has excessive copper and nickel content "that render it more vulnerable to embrittlement."

The "NRC currently lacks an adequate basis to conclude that Diablo Canyon Unit 1 can be operated safely," Macdonald said.

Construction at Diablo Canyon began in the

SEE **POWER** PAGE 7

OPINION **LAUGHING MATTERS**

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

After 30 Years, Might Andrew Go Free?

Courtesy photos

30 YEARS: On the left Andrew's family and on the right Andrew in prison.

Even with quality television via cable and streaming, I'm too busy procrastinating updating my screenplays. Unfortunately I'm a far better procrastinator than I am a writer. However I am addicted to "Dateline," the true crime TV show on NBC which often features correspondent Keith Morrison. I'll try to explain this embarrassing habit.

First, I only watch Dateline when I work out in the gym. So while I can almost feel my I.Q. dwindling, at least I'm burning off calories. I'm also comforted that three of my comedic heroes, Bill Hader, Larry David, and Judd Apatow, are admitted Dateline addicts.

As it happens, Andrew Suh was featured on Dateline eight years ago. His tragic life was so emotionally moving I reached out to him and we've been friends every since.

Andrew was born in S. Korea, the son of a military officer and a pharmacist mother. Prior to Andrew the couple's son died in an horrible accident. Following Korean culture, his father insisted his wife, who was 40, bare him a son or he would divorce her. (How's that for harsh?) And yet the mother took the latest fertility drugs and gave birth to Andrew. Seemingly this infant instinctively knew his life's mission pleasing his parents.

Due to political unrest in S. Korea the family moved to the U.S. and settled in Chicago. As early as grade school Andrew demonstrated remarkable intelligence. On business trips he would accompany his father who would beam proudly when Andrew could quote to the customer the dollar cost of an interest rate loan.

Sadly, when Andrew was 11, his father developed terminal cancer. After school Andrew constantly sat by his ailing father's side in the hospital throughout the night. This absolute devotion was written up in the Korea Times, "The Golden child."

Two years after his father's passing, more tragedy. Andrew's mother was brutally killed after being robbed at her dry cleaning store and stabbed 38 times. I believe the killer was Andrew's sister, Catherine, embittered that in strict Korean culture girls are often slighted because they will grow up, marry and have a family of her own.

Years before, when her father suspected Catherine was no longer a virgin, he poured gasoline over them both, exclaiming, "We will die together!" In horror, Andrew, age 10, witnessed his mother miraculously wrestling the lighter from her husband.

At 13, Andrew was now an orphan with his sister as his legal guardian. Her boyfriend, Robert O'Dubaine, moved in immediately and the two bought an upscale disco stealing from the $800k inheritance Andrew didn't even know he had. At his prestigious Catholic high school, Loyola Academy, Andrew got all A's, was on the football team, was class president and ultimately Student Body President. He received a Martin Luther scholarship to Providence College in Rhode Island and his future was sky's the limit.

However, on Spring vacation in his sophomore year, Andrew came home and listened to Catherine's fake discovery of who murdered their mother... Robert O'Dubaine! Andrew insisted they go to the police immediately but Catherine convinced him that since she has been his alibi, they would put her in jail and then Andrew would have no family at all. She cited old world Korean belief that the only way to rid a family of shame was an eye for an eye. Diabolically, she tried to persuade Andrew to murder Robert which meant all they had stolen would be 100% hers and put Andrew in prison so all that was left would also be hers.

Andrew adamantly refused and returned to Providence. But Catherine phoned him more than 60 times and stressed he owed it to his late parents

SEE **LAUGHING MATTERS** PAGE 7

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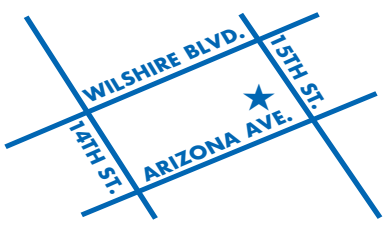

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PERFORMERS

FROM PAGE 1

blenders and air dryers.

However, as the law currently stands, there's no way that any kind of a minimum standard in singing, dancing, juggling or escapology can be enforced. So, to all intents and purposes, a talentless, tone-deaf, screaming banshee could butcher "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful" endlessly, on a broken set of bagpipes, all day.

"The Promenade is public space and anyone is entitled to perform on the Promenade for donations if they secure a permit through the City of Santa Monica. Because the street is public, the performance is protected by the First Amendment," explains the CEO of DTSM, Andrew Thomas.

"DTSM has the ability to monitor and report, but we have no enforcement authority, nor do we have the authority to change a city ordinance, we can make recommendations to the City," said Jeremy Ferguson, DTSM Operations & Placemaking Director.

In London, for example, strict rules apply to street performing and a permit must be obtained, much like Santa Monica. However, since there are many potential locations throughout the UK capital for street performers, or buskers as they're traditionally called, including Covent Garden, Kensington and even Underground platforms, the regulations vary slightly from place to place. That said, most remains the same and regardless of location, every permit application requires an audition. Yes indeed, if your act is awful, filters are in place to protect innocent eyes and ears.

The permit needed in Santa Monica is more about not taking up space within 10 feet of any street corner or a marked pedestrian crosswalk or within 10 feet of a bus stop. They exist as a minimum level of screening to ensure basic safety is maintained and no publicly accessible passage is blocked or obstructed. The permit also allows performers to accept donations, but you don't need a permit to perform if your performance isn't for money.

In London, specific areas are designated for street performers. Moreover, time slots are allocated, so no single busker can monopolize a prime location. In a survey conducted earlier this year that looked at the top 100 city destinations, London came out on top by quite a clear margin. Using data from The Busking Project, local governments and social media, the city offered the highest quality and the most varied genres of acts, from the incredible acoustics of a didgeridoo reverberating through the corridors of Kings Cross Tube station to captivating magic shows in Covent Garden.

However, local laws differ at both the lowest and highest levels.

"The only way to control which performers are allowed to perform on the Promenade is for the street to be privatized. Controls can also be implemented for periods of time when there are events on the Promenade at which times we can program spaces as we choose," says Thomas.

The First Amendment allows the right to free speech and while that's an essential part of modern society, it also provides broad coverage for just about every form of expression, even clog dancing

Tragically, Santa Monica's once legendary Promenade has taken a few hits of late and like everything everywhere, it too changed forever following the Covid Pandemic.

> "The more great destinations we add to the Promenade, the more foot traffic we will see, and that will lead to more performers choosing the Promenade as their venue, and likely adding the quality of the artists as well.
>
> - Andrew Thomas

Just as the area took a hit in foot traffic and tourism spending, many of the pre-pandemic era performers have not returned.

Finally, let's not forget where we are: Santa Monica is still part of the entertainment capital of the world, so why not capitalize on that and have a televised talent contest?

"This is a really interesting idea," laughed Thomas, adding, "I think the challenge is that the Promenade is a very large space and programming all of it is challenging even for big events like Pride and holiday activations. It would take a considerable amount of time, money, and labor to program performers for the entire Promenade.

"The best solution, in my opinion, is to continue to build the Promenade up, to attract great destinations, and encourage users to visit the Promenade. The more people on the street, the greater the chance a performer will receive a donation. With fewer people on the street, the chances of securing a donation are less and thus the better performers are not choosing the Promenade as often, but especially on slow weekdays. On weekends, the quality of our performers tends to go up."

While there have been ongoing concerns about homelessness and petty crime on the street, officials are hoping new programs may address some of those issues.

Covered 6, a private security company, will begin patrols on an as-yet unconfirmed date within the next four weeks.

However, no-one can be arrested for yelling a poorly remembered version of "Single Ladies" into a scratchy microphone.

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TV

FROM PAGE 3

broadcast run on CBS beginning Sunday.

Longtime reality competition staples "Survivor" and "The Amazing Race" return to CBS on Sept. 27 but with longer, 90-minute episodes, filling up a night's three-hour prime-time block.

" NCIS: Sydney " will begin airing on CBS Nov. 13. It's the first international edition of the franchise that originated in the United States.

They've also imported international shows to air in the States. "Ghosts UK," the original version of "Ghosts" that inspired the Rose McIver-led U.S. remake, will debut Nov. 16.

Fox has leaned in heavily to competition shows. "The Masked Singer" is back for season 10, and they've tapped David Spade to host a new game show called " Snake Oil. " It will join other game shows including "Celebrity Name That Tune", "I Can See Your Voice" and " Special Forces: World's Toughest Test."

The CW — once known for superheroes, sci-fi and beautiful people coming-of-age — is also now tapping into international options. Examples include Lea Thompson's " Spencer Sisters " and " Sullivan's Crossing " starring Chad Michael Murray and Scott Patterson — both Canadian-made shows — debuting Oct. 4. The network has also scheduled three Canadian comedies for Monday nights. The German eco-thriller " The Swarm," about a predatory life force in our oceans, is now airing.

Since ABC doesn't have the aforementioned favorites "Abbott Elementary" or "Grey's Anatomy" on its lineup, it's touting non-scripted options like " Dancing with the Stars " (returning to broadcast after a run on Disney+), " The Golden Bachelor " and "Bachelor in Paradise."

Associated Press Writer Hilary Fox contributed to this story.

POWER

FROM PAGE 4

1960s. Critics have long argued that potential shaking from nearby earthquake faults not recognized when the design was approved could damage equipment and release radiation. One nearby fault was not discovered until 2008. The groups argue that the embrittlement assessment is even more critical, given the plant's seismic vulnerabilities.

PG&E has maintained the plant is safe, an assessment endorsed by the NRC.

California is the birthplace of the modern environmental movement and for decades has had a fraught relationship with nuclear power, which doesn't produce carbon pollution like fossil fuels but leaves behind waste that can remain dangerously radioactive for centuries. The Newsom administration is pushing to expand solar power and other clean energy as the state aims to cut emissions by 40% below 1990 levels by 2030.

Newsom and the Democratic-dominated Legislature agreed last year to open the way for a longer operating run at the plant, essentially unwinding the 2016 agreement to close the plant.

However, it's not yet clear if the reactors will continue operating beyond the expiration of their federal operating licenses — 2024 for Unit 1, and 2025 for Unit 2 — since many regulatory milestones and unanswered questions remain.

The utility has said it plans to file for license extensions with the NRC by the end of the year.

According to the NRC, embrittlement occurs as a result of reactor operation when neutrons from the nuclear fuel irradiate the steel plates and welds used to construct the reactor vessel. The irradiation embrittles the steel, making it less tough.

LAUGHING MATTERS

FROM PAGE 5

Finally a very confused Andrew reluctantly agreed. Using a gun and a plan supplied by Catherine, Andrew killed Robert and was given a 100 year sentence. Catherine disappeared and, in absentia, was given a life sentence without parole.

After being featured on "America's Most Wanted" Catherine finally surrendered. Andrew wrote her saying now they were all each other had but she wrote back "I have no brother." (Exceedingly violent, for decades Catherine has been denied visitors.)

Andrew has been a model prisoner helping disabled inmates and volunteering in hospice care for dying inmates. He also passed the Illinois Optician Exam, got his license and has worked in a prison glasses manufacturing factory. Living with forever remorse, how Andrew has remained optimistic and his sense of humor is mind boggling. But good news may be around the corner. (My fingers are crossed, which would explain any typos.)

Cook County prosecutors are not objecting to Andrew's prison term being commuted to time served. Even Robert O'Dubaine's younger brother and Andrew's retired trial judge agree that Andrew was brainwashed by his maniacally manipulative sister.

I pray Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker, in whose hands Andrew's freedom rests, sees his undeniable goodness and sets him free.

Google "Andrew Suh: My Korean Prison Father" an award-winning, non-fiction short story written by Andrew. For guaranteed laughs, Google: "Bill Hader Meets Keith Morrison." Jack is at: jackdailypress@aol.com.

CRIME

FROM PAGE 1

the total calls that we've received are priority zeros, 13% are priority one, 25% priority two, 32% priority three and 29% priority four. So you see that the lion's share of the work that we do lies in priorities two through four," Batista said.

"What is also of note here is that over the course of the last year, the last eight months, we've seen a decline in the number of encampment calls by about 11½ %, which is significant."

However, arrests were up by 32.4% on last year, but remained well below the pre-pandemic levels of 2019 (some 72% lower), with 68% of those being unhoused individuals, remaining very similar to the number last year in 2022 (which was 66%). Moreover, crime was up by 5% and sadly has surpassed pre-pandemic levels just creeping past the number recorded in 2019.

"What I noted is that in the first quarter of the year, I was alarmed because we were seeing about a 15% increase, but since that time, it has leveled off. And so now we're sitting at about a 5% increase in part one crime," Batista said.

"Part one" crimes are about as serious as you can get and include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault and larceny. "Part two" crimes include simple assault, forgery, fraud, vandalism, DUI, vagrancy, weapons and so on and those numbers are up by 10% compared to 2022, but are also still below pre-pandemic levels of 2019.

Part one crimes taking place in the downtown area of the city are down by 7% and part two crimes are down in the same district by an impressive 73%.

"So in summary, I'll tell you, part one crimes are up 5% and as my boss told me today, any number that goes up is not anything I want to look at. And so I apologize for that, but that's where we're at," said Batista adding, "We are looking at over 5,000 calls fewer than last year and I think that's part and parcel to the response from the officers and the work that they're doing."

Mayor Pro Tempore Lana Negrete referenced the recent Downtown Santa Monica Inc meeting where 75 or so business owners and retail representatives voiced their frustrations with the Third Street Promenade and asked, "What can we continue to do as a council?" adding, "What can we do, because our hands are tied, right? There's County, there's state and there's federal laws [sic] that supersede the City Council of Santa Monica. And that can be very frustrating."

> What I noted is that in the first quarter of the year, I was alarmed because we were seeing about a 15% increase, but since that time, it has leveled off. And so now we're sitting at about a 5% increase in part one crime
> - Ramon Batista Police Chief

"I'll tell you that what you do, day in and day out, in that you attend our ceremonies, that you say 'hi' to the police officers, that you show encouragement and support, all go towards their feeling that they're able to go out there and do the work," Batista said.

"And that I tell you goes a long, long way, because they're not just feeling it from you as our community leaders, but that it's echoed within the community. There are very few places that I've been, if any, where there is any feeling that we don't need to have officers there in the area, everybody is supportive and wants them there."

Finally, Batista reminded the residents of Santa Monica to call 911 in the event of an emergency, but to also use the 311 number in a non-emergency event that still requires police intervention.

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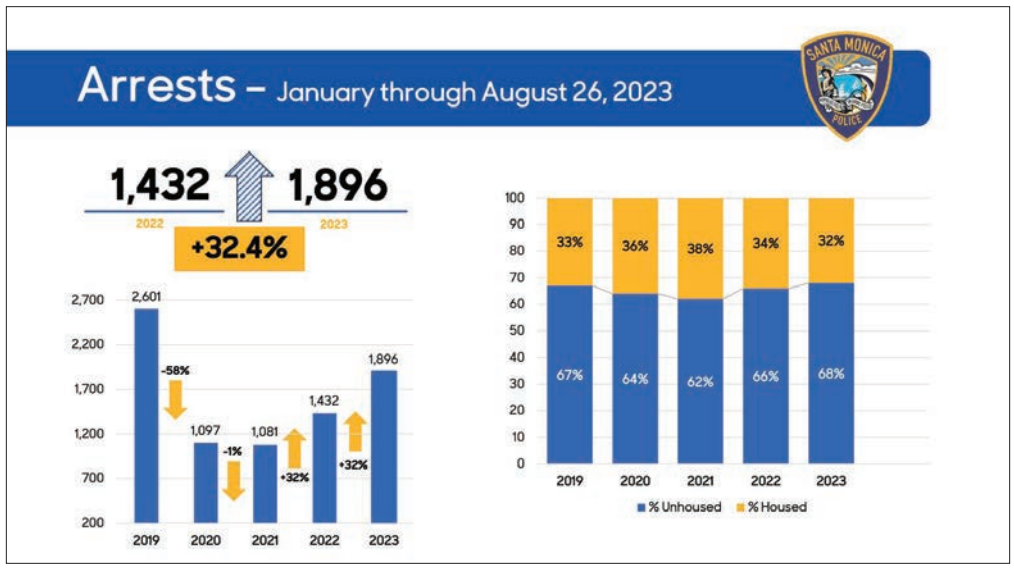


SMPD

ARRESTS: The number of arrests were up compared to the same period last year, but still way below pre-pandemic levels.

GRASS

FROM PAGE 2

up pressure on businesses to remove lawns.

Since June 2022, the district has received more than 100 reports from community members about businesses that have failed to comply.

"That kind of peer pressure is powerful," he said. "I think it's going to be hard to have a giant lawn that no one uses and continue to water it … You're going to stand out, and not in a good way."

THE PROBLEM WITH 'TURF'

Lawns, known by landscapers as "turf," are thirsty, drinking up more water than any other vegetation analyzed in California, according to a state report.

The Pacific Institute, a global water think-tank, estimates that tearing out grass and replacing it with less water-demanding plants would reduce water use across California by about 1 million to 1.5 million acre-feet per year, enough to supply about 4.5 million households. About 400,000 acre-feet of conservation a year could be squeezed out of businesses, institutions and industrial facilities, the report says.

The massive Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, a major water importer and a sponsor of the bill, estimated that tearing out non-residential decorative grass across all of Southern California would save about 300,000 acre-feet per year — enough to serve about 900,000 households.

Under the bill, property owners designate which lawns are considered "functional," and local water systems and governments would be tasked with enforcement.

The State Water Resources Control Board, in certain circumstances, can give three-year extensions if necessary. And state-designated disadvantaged communities don't have to comply until 2031 or when they receive state funding, whichever comes sooner.

Owners of especially large properties must certify to the state every three years that they're meeting the requirements starting in 2030 or 2031.

Whether California's current temporary ban has actually reduced irrigation at businesses isn't clear. Local water suppliers and municipalities are tasked with enforcement, and they are not required to report progress to the state.

Heather Cooley, director of research at the Pacific Institute, an Oakland water supply think tank, said her sense is that awareness of the current ban and compliance with it have been "relatively low."

She said she expects to see more durable changes under the bill's longer deadlines and certification requirements for larger property owners.

"I think the legislation is really oriented towards transforming our landscapes, rather than just an emergency," Cooley said. "It does mean that when we do have a drought, there's not as much pressure than to reduce usage because our supplies are in better shape."

NONFUNCTIONAL GRASS: 'YOU KNOW IT WHEN YOU SEE IT'

Charles Bohlig, water conservation supervisor at the East Bay Municipal Utility District, one of the state's largest water providers, said it's difficult to tease apart the conservation impacts of any one measure like the state's temporary irrigation ban for ornamental grass.

Another challenge for the East Bay district under the new legislation will be identifying all the nonfunctional grass across its 322 square mile service area.

Bohlig said the district is investigating using satellite imagery, which it already uses to measure large landscapes and provide irrigation advice to customers based on weather and evaporation. However, smaller, irregular grassy patches in front of businesses could be harder to spot from above. And identifying grass as functional or nonfunctional will take extra coordination with customers and communities.

For nonfunctional grass, "you know it when you see it," Bohlig said.

"Our feeling is if you're only on it when you mow it, it's clearly not a piece of functional turf that needs to be maintained as such," added his East Bay district colleague, Andrea Pook.

The new legislation would help districts work with customers on making those landscapes less thirsty. "Like, here's particular legislation that's now the law of the land. How can we work together to help convert your landscape into a native garden and protect your trees at the same time?" Bohlig said.

For some, prolonged droughts and landscaping rebates have offered more incentive to tear out grass than the current, temporary irrigation ban.

Many water suppliers like the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, East Bay Municipal Utility District, the city of Long Beach and Valley Water offer customers rebates for tearing out lawns. The state of California currently does not.

But overhauling landscapes is pricey for businesses and institutions.

Converting grass to less water intensive plants costs about $10 a square foot, according to the Metropolitan Water District.

Alameda recently spent about $204,000 tearing out 6,500 square feet of grass outside its city hall and replacing it with native and other low-water plants. Public Works director Erin Smith said the city expects a $7,000 rebate from the East Bay district.

An even larger, 29,000 square foot project is set to begin at Alameda's City Hall West in October, expected to cost around $462,000. Smith said she's hoping for a $15,000 rebate, and she expects to eventually see the city's water bills drop across the two sites by around $8,500.

"It is nice to know that return on investment is on the horizon. But given the cost of construction, it does take a number of years before you're actually starting to see that," she said.

Still, she said, the changes are already obvious. "The new landscape is rich with colors and textures."

That's also what Swanee Edwards loves most about the newly transformed landscaping at her retirement community, the Woodland Estates in Morgan Hill. The 72-year-old board member and resident said overhauling the lawns around their clubhouse was long overdue.

"Now we're not getting nasty letters from the city saying you must have a huge leak somewhere," Edwards said.

The retirement community tore up about 26,000 square feet of lawn and replaced it with crepe myrtle trees, roses and native plants at a cost of about $104,000, Edwards said. Woodland Estates received a rebate of more than $60,000 from Valley Water, some of which was shared with the city.

"It's just beautiful, compared to what we had there before," Edwards said. "The second favorite thing, of course, is the water we saved and that the water isn't wasted, running down the gutters and into the streets."

This article was originally published by CalMatters.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 15)

A year when you'll often have the best kind of automatic responses, which lead you to act without worry or indecision because you already know, from a deep place inside you, exactly what to do. More highlights: You'll be paid to nurture the talents of others. A once-troubling drama will resolve. You'll finally have the money to explore an idea or expand on your pet project. Libra and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 28, 19, 3, 35 and 22.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Before you decide to play harder and smarter to take the win, decide if this game is worth playing at all. What does the winner get? Supremacy is not enough of a prize in and of itself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your dreams are your wings. You'll share them, write about them, plan them and involve others. That last one requires you to put yourself out there, but the next step is even more vulnerable: invest. You go first. You'll be joined.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Mind over emotions doesn't work today. The most expedient way is to feel your feeling, whatever it is, even if it seems inappropriate, embarrassing or too much. It will only last a few minutes and then it will change.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You refuse to take anything too seriously. You know there is no solution for a problem, but the bright illumination of a momentary epiphany is still a pleasure and a cause for bonding with other hearts and minds.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). With diplomacy, you can make a point without making an enemy — but do you even need to do that much? Opinions change over time. This opportunity to connect can be about something more, like playfulness and a shared moment of joy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your thoughtful encouragement inspires people to showcase their finest qualities. To acknowledge seemingly minor actions can elevate relationships and experiences to a higher level, fostering a circle of love.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You won't see eye to eye with your collaborators and that's the whole point. No eyeball can take in the whole picture. Keep asking for different perspectives, especially from those who are outside the world of your project.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Unstructured work, meetings and even conversations will be bothersome. You'll feel freer inside of a plan. You'll prefer to go by the agenda and, where there isn't one, you'll agree on what it should be before you begin.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Part of your routine that once made sense has now run out its usefulness. Go back to the drawing board. A new way of working will serve your purposes much more efficiently.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You choose your friends carefully because you realize how much the people close to you can impact your days, influence your decisions and color your time. Today you'll be glad about your choice.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The transformation you desire is as possible as you are committed to making it happen. Set up some accountability. Enlist the aid of those who will be excited to see you win. Include someone you want to impress.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The answer to "Is it me?" is often, at least to some small degree, "Yes." Not today. It's them entirely. So, you don't have to waste time going over the play by play. Just move on, knowing your side of the street is clean.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

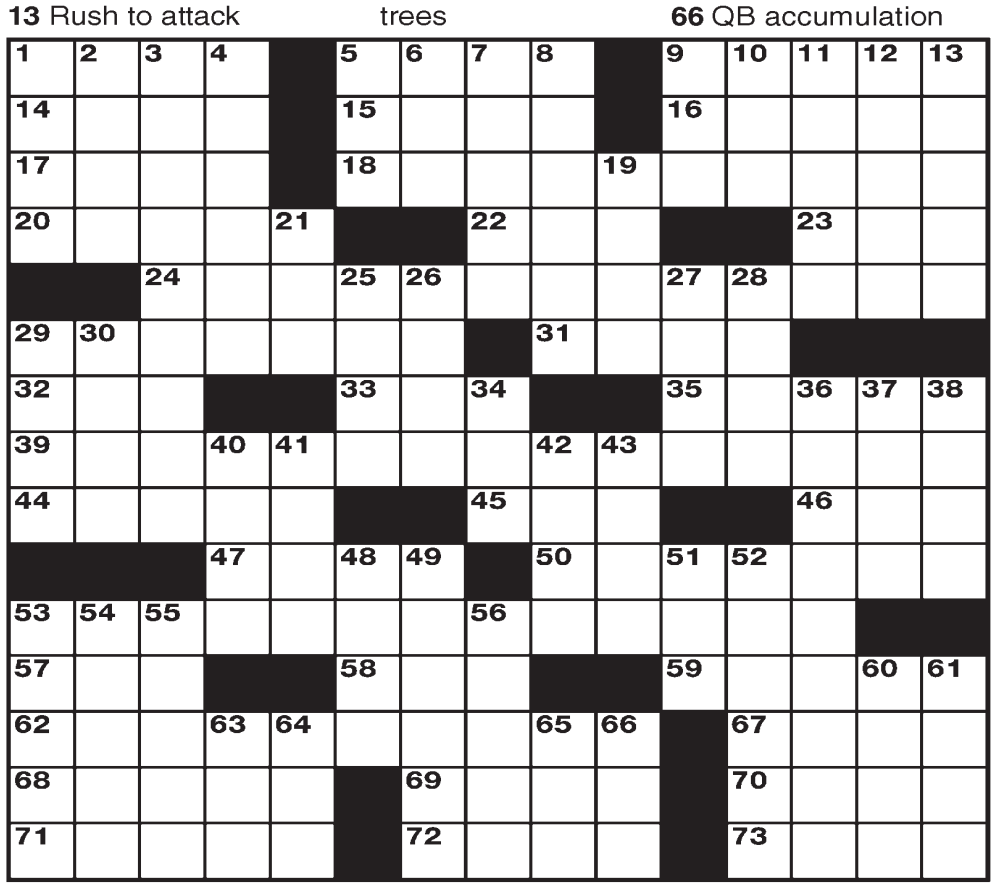
ON FOOT by Kevin Christian
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Letters on old rubles
5 High level
9 What's the matter?
14 Jai __
15 Title akin to emperor
16 200 milligrams of amethyst
17 What may precede the word
18 *Foucault's Pendulum* author
20 Katniss' *Hunger Games* partner
22 What many keep money in
23 Bladed pole
24 Descartes declaration
29 Tex-Mex "stuffed"
31 Great amounts
32 Bar supply
33 BBC World Service standard
35 Volunteer's offer
39 Noshes
44 Jazz great with an Egyptian-inspired name
45 Comparable level
46 Memo opener
47 Fleecy footwear
50 Whom Hamlet dueled
53 "Effect" that won Einstein his Nobel
57 Very long time
58 Long of films
59 Rush off
62 Karamazovs' creator
67 Radiant ring
68 Coming soon
69 Gazed upon
70 Part of some chains
71 Foamy beverage
72 Car wash supply
73 Harbormaster data

DOWN

1 Compound for kids
2 Nine-room game
3 Fessed up
4 Energetic person
5 Tulane rival
6 Piece of resistance
7 Italian male supermodel
8 Pointing-out contraction
9 Do your part
10 Spiritual path
11 Snacks in stacks
12 "Monte Carlo of the East"
13 Rush to attack
19 Unusually fine
21 Store to improve
25 *Young Frankenstein* assistant
26 Pyramid, for example
27 Equestrian pace
28 Munch Museum city
29 Convoy lineup
30 Shade close to beige
34 Fall (over)
36 California's locale
37 Motown superstar
38 Moving walkway maker
40 Champagne designation
41 Starch from palm trees
42 Crumbly mineral
43 Part of QED
48 Inherited bit
49 Very small portion
51 49 follower
52 Commodores soloist
53 Part of antique sewing machines
54 Ado
55 First phase
56 Simple class
60 Cantina pot
61 What's in the five longest answers
63 Ink art
64 Metrical homage
65 Something to tap into
66 QB accumulation



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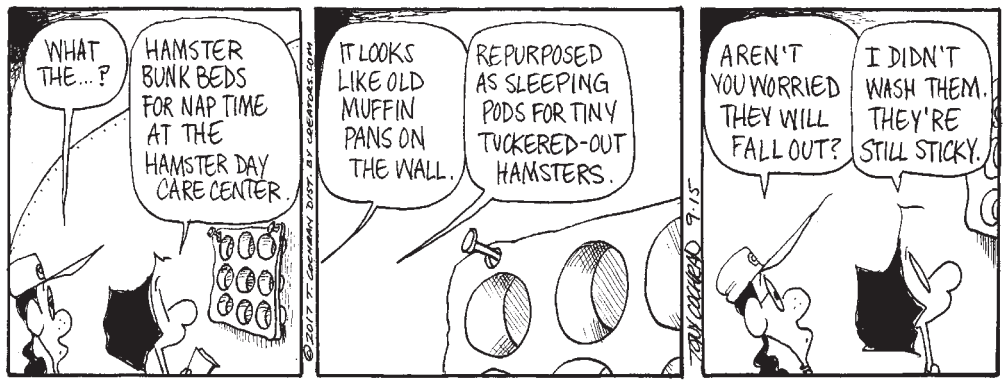
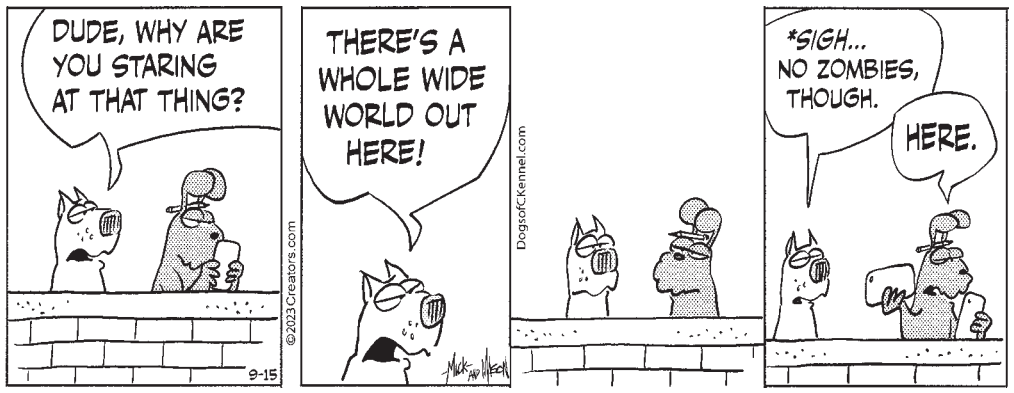
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE

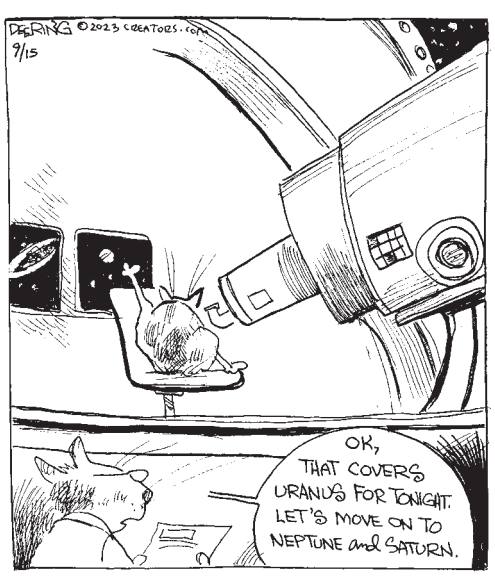
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER

"I PREFER THE LITTLE TREE."

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 22 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 5968

Trip down the Murray

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

Area	Drink	Logs	Rods
Awed	Eagle	Lure	Snag
Berri	Eels	Meal	Spinner
Boat	Environment	Moama	Swim
Boomanoomana	Fish	Monak	Tallangatta
Burst	Flow	Muddy	Tooleybuc
Camp	Frog	Natya	Trees
Carp	Grub	Nets	Weed
Cast	Koondrook	Nyah	Weir
Cray	Lake	Ournie	Worms
Dams	Leeton	Party	
Dinghy	Line	Race	

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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

What's Up Westside
out and about in Santa Monica

FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 15

CELEBRANDO INDEPENDENCIA
Join Familias Latinas Unidas (FLU) as they celebrate de Independence of Latin American Countries. Come dressed in traditional clothing and enjoy history, mariachi, food and the "grito". 6 - 10 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave.

SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 16

SAVING YOUR SUMMER SEEDS
Seed Saving Workshop Begins at 10 a.m. With experts leading through harvesting, cleaning and storing. Kids activities aplenty, whether that's messin' around in the worm bin, flippin' our compost pile or making chalk art on the sidewalk. This event is free and open to the public. 9 - 11 a.m. Ishihara Park Learning Garden 2909 Exposition Blvd.

NOTABLE FICTION BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
Join a community-led discussion of award-winning current and classic fiction, held via Zoom. Contact library@santamonica.gov for the link. September's selection is Trust by Hernan Diaz. 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Virtual.

SEA STAR FEEDING
Come learn about the diet of the local sea stars and help serve them their favorite lunch. Visitors to Heal the Bay Aquarium can help assist aquarium staff as they feed the sea stars in their Tide Pool Touch Tanks, every Saturday at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Heal the Bay Aquarium, 1600 Ocean Front Walk.

RUSSELL STOVER CHOCOLATE AT SANTA MONICA PIER
A custom wrapped vintage photo booth truck will make its way across the country bringing chocolate giveaways, a $100k Giveaway Sweepstakes, a 'Giving Thanks. Giving Back' campaign in partnership with Feed the Children, exclusive Russell Stover merchandise, photo experiences featuring the World's Largest Box of Chocolates and lots of FREE chocolate! 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. 200 Santa Monica Pier

SUNDAY | SEPTEMBER 17

AMERICANA IN THE PARK 2023
Bring a picnic, blanket, and beach chairs for this end-of-summer series that explores Americana styles from its roots to modern forms. In addition to two Southern California acts featured at each concert, there will also be food trucks and a McCabe's Guitar Pop-Up Shop. Opener: folk/pop singalong with McCabe's Hootenanny Collective | Headliner: East L.A ska with The Delirians | Food Trucks*: Creamy Boyz Ice Cream, Pacifico Charbroiled Fish, Cerda Vega. 4 - 7 p.m. Gandara Park, 1819 Stewart St.

PING PONG ON THE PROMENADE
Every Sunday through September, show off your Ping Pong skills on Third Street Promenade! The tables will be out 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. on the 1200 Block (between Arizona & Wilshire.)

MONDAY | SEPTEMBER 18

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. September's selection is Lincoln in the Bardo by George Saunders. Virtual. 7 - 8:30 p.m.

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

CIVIC MEETINGS: ARTS COMMISSION / ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD / COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND THE ENVIRONMENT
Arts Commission: Santa Monica Arts Commission meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. Public Art Committee meeting commences 5:30 p.m. Main Library Community Meeting Room on the second floor - 601 Santa Monica Blvd
ARB: City Hall, 1685 Main Street. 7 p.m.
Commission on Sustainability, Environmental Justice, and the Environment: Civic Center Parking Structure, 333 Civic Center Dr. SMI Room. 7 - 10 p.m.

TUESDAY | SEPTEMBER 19

MEMORY & AGING: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW
Monica Moore, from the Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer's Disease Research of UCLA, discusses how the brain changes with age, the latest research on brain health, and practical tips to stay focused and mentally sharp. Santa Monica Public Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 3 - 4 p.m.

PHANTOM PLANET
This event is 21 and over. Any ticket holder unable to present valid identification indicating that they are at least 21 years of age will not be admitted to this event, and will not be eligible for a refund. $29. The Venice West, 1717 Lincoln Blvd. 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY | SEPTEMBER 20

COMPUTER CLASS: HOW TO USE ZOOM
Learn how to set up an account, schedule a meeting, upload a virtual background, share your screen, and more. For all levels. Main Library. 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

For help submitting an event, contact us at
310-458-7737 or submit to events@smdp.com

SURF REPORT

WATER TEMP: **69.6**

FRIDAY *FAIR TO GOOD*	**SURF:** 4-5ft Chest to head	Fun size at summer magnets all day as SSW swell slowly fades. Enough NW windswell for a few open corners but structured breaks have best shape. AM hosts the cleanest window of the day before onshore WNW flow develops.
SATURDAY *FAIR*	**SURF:** 3-4ft+ Waist to shoulder	Smaller/small day as SSW swell fades to leftovers and short period NW swell also backs down.

WEATHER

Friday: Cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 69.
Friday Night: Cloudy, with a low around 61. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph.
Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 69. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Saturday Night: Cloudy, with a low around 62.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2023/09/15	Fri	04:07 AM	0.45	L
2023/09/15	Fri	10:18 AM	4.96	H
2023/09/15	Fri	4:10 PM	1.25	L
2023/09/15	Fri	10:10 PM	5.28	H
2023/09/16	Sat	04:27 AM	0.73	L
2023/09/16	Sat	10:38 AM	5.12	H
2023/09/16	Sat	4:45 PM	1.10	L
2023/09/16	Sat	10:43 PM	4.90	H
2023/09/17	Sun	04:46 AM	1.09	L
2023/09/17	Sun	11:00 AM	5.23	H
2023/09/17	Sun	5:23 PM	1.02	L
2023/09/17	Sun	11:20 PM	4.42	H
2023/09/18	Mon	05:05 AM	1.50	L
2023/09/18	Mon	11:23 AM	5.30	H
2023/09/18	Mon	6:06 PM	1.01	L
2023/09/19	Tue	12:04 AM	3.89	H
2023/09/19	Tue	05:23 AM	1.93	L
2023/09/19	Tue	11:51 AM	5.30	H

DAILY LOTTERY

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 9/13
22 30 37 44 45
Power#: 18
Jackpot: 596 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 9/12
2 14 21 42 67
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 162 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 9/13
2 11 13 38 46
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 9 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 9/13
2 17 20 29 30

Daily 3
Draw Date: 9/13
EVENING: 4 8 2
Draw Date: 9/13
MIDDAY: 7 7 1

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 9/13
1st: 10 - Solid Gold
2nd: 08 - Gorgeous George
3rd: 04 - Big Ben
Race Time: 1:47.10

ADVERTISE WITH US TODAY!
Santa Monica Daily Press

FREE

LIVE BROADCAST TO SANTA MONICA PIER

Mozart DON GIOVANNI

conducted by JAMES CONLON

OPERA AT THE BEACH

Pack a picnic and lawn chairs for opera outdoors, as *Don Giovanni* is broadcast live in high def from the stage of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion to the Santa Monica Pier

SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH Y ESPAÑOL

LAOPERA

CHRISTOPHER KOELSCH
SEBASTIAN PAUL AND MARYBELLE MUSCO PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

JAMES CONLON
RICHARD SEAVER MUSIC DIRECTOR

DEDICATED TO THE GREATER GOOD — A 501(c)3 NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

LA Opera's *Opera at the Beach* is made possible with generous support from LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND LA COUNTY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY Horvath THIRD DISTRICT

FREE AND OPEN TO ALL AGES

SATURDAY, SEP 23

GATES OPEN AT 4:00PM • OPERA STARTS AT 6:00PM

200 SANTA MONICA PIER, SANTA MONICA CA 90401

RSVP AT

LAOPERA.ORG/OperaAtTheBeach