Inflation marches upward, but at a slower pace

Prices for almost everything in the Los Angeles region continue to increase but the rate of growth is slowing dramatically offering a glimmer of hope to price-strapped consumers.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, prices in the Los Angeles area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), increased by 0.5 percent in June. Over the past 12 months, the CPI-U in Los Angeles increased by 2.5 percent.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services in a given region. The CPI-U is the broader of two data sets provided by federal regulators and covers about 93 percent of the total U.S. population including wage earners, clerical workers, professionals, managers, tech workers, the self employed, short-term workers, unemployed residents and retirees. The data covers a 12-month period and provided month by month measurements.

Annually, food prices in Los Angeles increased by 4.5 percent, with food at home increasing by 2.7 percent and food away from home rising by 7 percent.

In the monthly comparison, food prices increased by 0.4 percent in June. Prices for food at home rose by 0.5 percent, driven by higher prices for nonalcoholic drinks as well as meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.

With temperatures set to soar, experts warn of the dangers of not being prepared

This weekend the greater Los Angeles metropolitan area will see record temperatures with excessive heat warnings of 105°F or higher being issued to both the Antelope and Santa Clarita Valleys together with the San Gabriel Mountains.

The heat event which will begin Friday and will continue through Monday will “rival some of the worst heat waves this area has ever seen” according to the National Weather Service.

Sure, a dip in the cool blue waters of the Pacific Ocean will offer some relief as no doubt many land-locked

Actors agree to mediation, but strike may be unavoidable

Unionized Hollywood actors on the verge of a strike have agreed to allow a last-minute intervention from federal mediators but say they doubt a deal will be reached by a negotiation deadline late Wednesday.

“We are committed to the negotiating process and will explore and exhaust every possible opportunity to make a deal, however we are not confident that the employers have any intention of bargaining toward an agreement,” the Screen Actors Guild -American Federation of Radio and Television Artists said in a statement Tuesday night.

The actors could join the already striking Writers Guild of America and grind the already slowed production process to a halt if no agreement is reached with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers. The sides agreed to an extension before the original contract expiration date on June 30, resetting it to Wednesday at 11:59 p.m.

Growing pessimism surrounding the talks seemed to turn to open hostility when SAG-AFTRA released a statement Tuesday night. It came in response to a report in Variety that a group of Hollywood CEOs had been the force behind the request for mediation, which the union said was leaked before its negotiators were informed of the request.

The AMPTP declined comment through a representative. It’s not clear whether federal mediators have agreed to take part, but such an intervention would presumably require more time than the hours left on the contract.

“The AMPTP has abused our trust and damaged the respect we have for them in this process,” the SAG-AFTRA statement said. “We will not be manipulated by this cynical ploy to engineer an extension when the companies have had more than enough time to make a fair deal.”

Issues on the table in the talks include residual pay and the threat of unregulated use of artificial intelligence.
After deinstitutionalization, California has tragically come full circle on mental illness treatment

ALICE FELLER

Robbie, our young patient at the county hospital in San Mateo, believed his parents were trying to poison him. He refused to come into the house and foraged in the neighbors’ garbage cans for all his meals. Nevertheless, since he was able to survive on garbage, he was judged no longer in need of treatment.

I was shocked. It was so callous – such a breach of our usual standard of care. But then I spent a year working as a staff psychiatrist at the county hospital in Oakland. I learned that Robbie’s experience was not out of the ordinary; it was the usual state of care in California.

In the 1960s, American psychiatric hospitals began to close their doors. The movement began in California, first with the large state hospitals and then the small community hospitals as well.

By 1994 nearly half a million former patients had been sent back to live with their families, who were often unable to care for them. A quarter million newly discharged patients ended up on the streets or behind bars. So many were incarcerated that jails and prisons have become our de facto mental hospitals. Today, the vast majority of inpatient psychiatric care in America is provided behind bars.

“Deinstitutionalization,” as the movement to close these hospitals is known, began as a cost-saving measure. In 1965 the federal government abruptly withdrew its financial support for the state hospitals, as well as the small community hospitals providing psychiatric care. This was accomplished through a little-known law, the Medicaid IMD exclusion, passed by Congress in 1965 along with the creation of Medicaid. The provision forbids the use of Medicaid dollars to pay for care in a mental hospital. Any psychiatric hospital with more than 16 beds is forbidden to take Medicaid.

Hospital treatment for severe mental illness can mean the difference between life and death, but because of this law such treatment is specifically denied to the people who need it most. No other severe illness is subject to such discrimination.

We have come full circle from the early 19th century, when Dorothea Dix campaigned to rescue the mentally ill from the prisons where they languished, often
Sarah Silverman and novelists sue ChatGPT-maker OpenAI for ingesting their books

MATT O’BRIEN
AP Technology Writer

Ask ChatGPT about comedian Sarah Silverman’s memoir “The Bedwetter” and the artificial intelligence chatbot can come up with a detailed synopsis of every part of the book.

Does that mean it effectively “read” and memorized a pirated copy? Or it scraped so many customer reviews and online chatter about the bestseller or the musical it inspired that it passes for an expert?

The U.S. courts may now help sort that out after Silverman sued ChatGPT-maker OpenAI for copyright infringement this week, joining a growing number of writers who say they unwittingly built the foundation for Silicon Valley’s red-hot AI boom.

I think what OpenAI has done with books is awfully close to what Google was allowed to do with its Google Books project and so will be legal
- Deven Desai, associate professor of law and ethics at the Georgia Institute of Technology

Silverman’s lawsuit says she never gave permission for OpenAI to ingest the digital version of her 2010 book to train its AI model built by Facebook and Instagram parent company Meta, which also declined comment.

It may be a tough case for writers to win, especially after Google’s success in beating back legal challenges to its online book library. The U.S. Supreme Court in 2016 let stand lower court rulings that rejected authors’ claim that Google’s digitizing of millions of books and showing small portions of them to the public amount to “copyright infringement on an epic scale.”

“I think what OpenAI has done with books is awfully close to what Google was allowed to do with its Google Books project and so will be legal,” said Deven Desai, associate professor of law and ethics at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

While only a handful have sued, including Silverman and bestselling novelists Mona Awad and Paul Tremblay, concerns about the tech industry’s AI-building practices have gained traction in literary and artist communities.

Other prominent authors — among them Nora Roberts, Margaret Atwood, Louise Erdrich and Jodi Picoult — signed a letter last month to the CEOs of OpenAI, Google, Microsoft, Meta and other AI developers accusing them of exploitative practices in building chatbots that “mimic and regurgitate” their language, style and ideas.

“Millions of copyrighted books, articles, essays, and poetry provide the ‘food’ for AI systems, endless meals for which there has been no bill,” said the open letter organized by the Authors Guild and signed by more than 4,000 writers. “You’re spending billions of dollars to develop AI technology. It is only fair that you compensate us for using our writings, without which AI would be banal and extremely limited.”

The AI systems behind popular products such as ChatGPT, Google’s Bard and Microsoft’s Bing chatbot are known as large language models that have “learned” by analyzing and picking up patterns from a wide body of ingested text. They’ve awed the public with their strong command of the human language, though they’re also known for a tendency to spout falsehoods.

While the models have also been trained on news articles and social media feeds, books are particularly valuable, as OpenAI acknowledged in a 2018 paper cited in Silverman’s lawsuit.

The earliest version of OpenAI’s large language model, known as GPT-1, relied on a dataset compiled by university researchers called the Toronto Book Corpus that included thousands of unpublished books, some in the adventure, fantasy and romance genres.

“Crucially, it contains long stretches of contiguous text, which allows the generative model to learn to condition on long-range
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendments to the Text of the Santa Monica Municipal Code to Provide Incentives for Certain Housing Projects That Filed an Application Prior to Implementation of the City’s 6th Cycle (2021-2029) Housing Element

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to consider the following request:

Introduction and first reading of an ordinance amending the text of the Zoning Ordinance to provide incentives for certain housing projects that filed an application prior to implementation of the City’s 6th Cycle (2021-2029) Housing Element. More specifically, the following local incentives would allow:

1) A 15% inclusionary requirement for the development of off-site affordable housing units, giving the owners more flexibility to pool off-site affordable housing units into one 100% affordable housing project to satisfy off-site inclusionary requirements for multiple market-rate projects;
2) The grant of State Density Bonus waivers and concessions for the market rate projects as if the off-site units were provided on-site; and
3) An increase in the Downtown Community Plan maximum parking requirement from 0.5 to 1.0 spaces.

The local incentives would apply to new housing projects with applications filed between June 1, 2023 and two years after the effective date of the proposed ordinance located on parcels that meet the following criteria:

1) A preliminary application was filed for a housing development project pursuant to Government Code Section 65941.1 between September 30, and October 13, 2022; and
2) The preliminary application asserted eligibility for processing under the “builder’s remedy” provision of the Housing Accountability Act, Government Code Section 65899.5(g).

As explained more fully in the proposed ordinance, the incentives, with the exception of the “parking” incentive, would terminate and be of no further force and effect upon issuance of administrative approvals for 965 “additional units”. For purposes of the proposed ordinance, “additional units” means the total amount of units provided by one or more eligible projects, including market rate, affordable, on-site and off-site units, that exceed the collective unit capacity allocated to the properties associated with eligible project subject to the proposed ordinance under the Suitable Sites Inventory for the City’s 6th Cycle (2021-2029) Housing Element.

COMPLIANCE WITH CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

The City of Santa Monica will be asked to consider compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), including whether to adopt a finding that no subsequent environmental review is required pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section15162 based on a determination that the adoption of development incentives as set forth in the proposed ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance was analyzed as part of the 2021-2029 6th Cycle Housing Element Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (EIR No. SCH No. 2021000575) that was certified by the City Council on October 12, 2021 with an Addendum to the EIR approved by the City Council on October 11, 2022.

DATE/TIME: TUESDAY, JULY 25, 2023 AT 7:00 PM
LOCATION: City Council Chamber, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT: The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Members of the public unable to attend a meeting but wishing to comment on an item(s) listed on the agenda may submit written comments prior to the public hearing via email to councilcomments@santamonica.gov or via mail to City Clerk, 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, California 90401. Written public comment submitted before 12:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be available for online viewing. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item number in the subject line of your written comments.

You may also comment in person at the City Council hearing. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment in person.

Address your comments to:
City Clerk
Re: Housing Projects Development Incentives Ordinance

VIA EMAIL: councilcomments@santamonica.gov
VIA MAIL: 1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION: If you want more information about this project, please contact Roxanne Tanemori at (310) 458-2200 ext 8202, or by e-mail at roxanne.tanemori@santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact the City Clerk’s Office at (310) 458-6211 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate languages provided the request is received 72 hours prior to the meeting. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65099(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL: Esta es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar aplicaciones proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si desea más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-2275.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Countywide
Board of Supervisors strengthens renter protections to prevent homelessness

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously supported strengthening the County’s Rent Stabilization and Tenant Protections Ordinance on Wednesday to shore up additional protections to prevent vulnerable renters from falling into homelessness.

The ordinance impacts unincorporated Los Angeles County and is intended to model protections for cities to prevent greater numbers of Angelenos from falling into homelessness. This comes as evictions increase countywide and the Greater LA Homeless Count results demonstrated that inflow into homelessness remains a challenge in scaling our response.

“As those who profit from renters find ways to increase their profits, we are meeting the moment with stronger protections that give renters a fighting chance,” said Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath. “Rent stabilization measures for unincorporated communities are one additional way Los Angeles County is addressing the homelessness crisis with urgency and demonstrating what’s possible for all our cities — an essential partner in solving homelessness. Together, we must make every effort to take homelessness prevention seriously by tackling the issue of inflow head on.”

The strengthened protections under the revised Rent Stabilization and Tenant Protections Ordinance, include:

- Requiring that any tenant in the unincorporated areas of the County when presented with a voluntary buyout agreement be offered an amount equal to or greater than the relocation assistance amount a tenant would be entitled to under a no-fault eviction.
- Clarifying that tenants have an affirmative defense to an unlawful detainer action should a landlord fail to provide a copy of the notice of termination or eviction to the LA County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA) as required under Section 8.52.090.
- Requiring that for any at-fault termination of tenancy, the termination notice must include the reason for eviction, including the date, place, witnesses and circumstances of concern.
- The meeting included another homelessness prevention motion introduced by Supervisors Mitchell and Solis calling for a Right to Counsel ordinance to expand eviction defense services for unincorporated LA County.

“The majority of Los Angeles County residents are tenants and three years after the COVID-19 pandemic hit, many are still struggling to pay back rent and figure out a way to keep a roof over their heads,” said Supervisor Hilda L. Solis. “Strong evictions protections that give renters a fighting chance.”

- As those who profit from renters find ways to increase their profits, we are meeting the moment with stronger protections that give renters a fighting chance

- Lindsey P. Horvath Supervisor

SUBMITTED BY CONSTANCE FARRELL

GET IT DAILY...
It takes a village ... people

YMCA: SO politically incorrect.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

TONIGHT! - RICK SHEA — Rick’s been landing in Santa Monica-adjacent more frequently lately, and ain’t that great. One of my favorite SoCal country folk Americana crooners, and he plays a good gee-tar too. Next Thurs 9 p.m., Cinema Bar, Culver City, free.

KOOL & THE GANG, VILLAGE PEOPLE - Some who know me may see this recommendation and think I’ve lost my mind, and that’s probably the case, I mean, sit through an entire set just to hear “YMCA”? (But you know the entire Bowl audience will leap to their feet to gleefully form the letters…) I figure VP and Kool are not touring venues like the Hollywood Bowl without a show to show us, so I’m ready to check my brain and let my feet take over, ‘cause sometimes, we all just wanna have fun. Fri, Sat 8 p.m., Hollywood Bowl, $29-229.

“QUEEN MARGARET’S VERSION OF SHAKESPEARE’S WAR OF THE ROSES” — Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear, I just hate to say anything at all negative about any of the consistently superb productions done in beautiful Topanga Canyon for lo this past half century, but… this Theatricum production encompassing Henry VI Part I, II, III, and Richard III, is stitched together in a way that becomes a bit confusing for all but medieval English royal history buffs, and as far as it “centers on Queen Margaret and the women and children of Shakespeare’s civil war saga,” well, a whole lot of them wound up dead, and it became commonplace to hear, Oh so you killed my husband and two children and now you want to wed me? … where exactly is your castle, sir? The acting is, as always, top notch, with barely a word or two stumbled over in nearly three fast paced hours, but, nearly three hours is just a bit long despite the fantastic sword fights. Sun 7:30 p.m., Theatricum Botanicum, Topanga Canyon, $15-60.

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Truly outstanding. Aren’t we lucky?
Prosecutors won’t seek death penalty against men charged in Whitey Bulger’s prison killing

ALANNA DURKIN RICHER
Associated Press

Federal prosecutors will not pursue the death penalty against two men charged with the prison killing of notorious Boston gangster James “Whitey” Bulger, according to court papers filed Wednesday.

Prosecutors said in a court filing that in the event Fotios “Freddy” Geas, a former Mafia hitman, and Paul J. DeCologero, a Massachusetts gangster, are convicted of murder in Bulger’s killing, they will not seek a death sentence.

Geas also faced a possible death sentence if found guilty of an additional charge of murder by a federal prisoner serving a life sentence. But prosecutors said they would not seek it in the event he is convicted of that charge either.

Geas and DeCologero were charged last August in the 2018 slaying of Bulger, who ran the largely Irish mob in Boston in the 1970s and ’80s and served as an FBI informant who ratted on his gang’s main rival. Bulger went into hiding and was later found in a Santa Monica apartment.

Bulger was killed just hours after he was transferred to a prison in West Virginia from another lockup in Florida and placed in the general population.

Geas and DeCologero are accused of striking Bulger in the head multiple times while a third man, Sean McKinnon, acted as a lookout. An inmate told authorities that DeCologero said he and Geas used a belt with a lock attached to it to beat Bulger to death.

Geas, DeCologero and McKinnon are all charged with conspiracy to commit murder, which carries up to life in prison. McKinnon, who is charged separately with making false statements to a federal agent, did not face a possible death sentence. The men are scheduled to go on trial in December 2024 in federal court in West Virginia.

Patrick Nash, an attorney for DeCologero, called it the “correct decision by the Department of Justice.”

“We are looking forward to our day in court. We trust the system and trust the fairness of the system and will put the facts in front of the jury,” Nash said.

Attorneys for Geas didn’t immediately respond to emails seeking comment on Wednesday. An attorney who has represented Bulger’s family also didn’t respond to an email.

Attorney General Merrick Garland in 2021 placed a moratorium on federal executions.

WeekendNTU

COMMUNITY NEWS

Los Angeles
Virginia Tech Researcher Discovers New Millipede Species in the Los Angeles Metropolis

We hope that this discovery will encourage conservation efforts to protect these unique creatures and their habitats.

- Paul Marek, associate professor in the Department of Entomology

We hope that this discovery will encourage conservation efforts to protect these unique creatures and their habitats.

The findings were published in the journal ZooKeys.

The team captured a video of the millipede burrowing and moving through small spaces and crevices underground. This is the first-ever video of this species in action and provides insight into the unique behaviors of these fascinating creatures.

This research discovery highlights the importance of habitat preservation efforts to protect the environment and prevent the loss of biodiversity. The millipede was found in two parks in the Los Angeles and Orange counties but almost certainly lived in other parts of the metropolis in the past.

The fact that populations of this species are living in two small well-known areas that are near constant development emphasizes the need for conservation efforts to protect this and other threatened organisms.

Photo by Paul Marek for Virginia Tech.

INSECT: This minute critter, the Los Angeles Thread Millipede has gone unnoticed beneath feet until now.
COMMUNITY NEWS

Los Angeles

West L.A. Man Charged with Running Decade-Long $4.5 Million Timeshare Telemarketing Scheme That Scammed Elderly Victims

A federal grand jury has returned an indictment against a West Los Angeles man who allegedly ran a decade-long telemarketing scam primarily targeting elderly victims that fraudulently obtained more than $4.5 million via false promises to help victims sell or rent their timeshare properties.

Michael Alexei Dragunov, 44, whose aliases include “Michael Anthony Farole,” “Michael LeFleur,” “Victor Romanos,” and “James Logan,” is charged in the 10-count indictment along with Christopher Michael Lang, 42, of Hays, Kansas, whose aliases include “Scott Graham,” “Don Lewis,” and “Jack Morgan.”

Both defendants are charged with one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and nine counts of wire fraud in connection with telemarketing and email marketing targeting the elderly.

Dragunov was arrested on a federal criminal complaint in this matter on June 28 and was ordered jailed without bond. His arraignment is scheduled for July 18 in United States District Court in downtown Los Angeles. Lang was arrested in Kansas on June 28 and is expected to be arraigned in Los Angeles in the coming weeks.

According to the indictment, from August 2013 to June 2023, Dragunov and Lang purported to represent companies that provided advertising and other services to current or former timeshare owners. The companies included Premier Marketing LLC, CML Marketing Specialists Inc., Condo Rental Associates LLC, and Paramount Media LLC.

Dragunov and Lang allegedly contacted victims, many of whom were elderly, and, to conceal the fraudulent scheme and their true identities, the defendants also used Skype messaging service phone numbers and user names instead of their true names.

Victims were induced to enter into agreements with the defendants’ telemarketing companies – agreements that were formalized in documents that were faxed or sent electronically – by falsely representing that the telemarketing companies would assist the victims with selling or renting their timeshare properties for a “one-time” advertising fee.

To dupe victims into sending them more money, Dragunov and Lang allegedly told their victims a series of lies, including that the fees being requested would be refunded or reimbursed to the victims upon completion of the sale or rental of the victims’ timeshare, that the victims still owed taxes on the timeshare properties, and that the victims needed to disburse payments to the telemarketing companies, the victims would automatically lose their disputes and lose all funds paid and any proceeds from a sale or rental of their timeshares.

To create the false impression that the telemarketing companies were legitimate, Dragunov and Lang pretended to be the companies’ customers and engaged in hundreds of phony small transactions with the companies’ payment processing accounts, according to the indictment.

Dragunov and Lang also allegedly concealed material facts from the victims, including the fact that their money was being used to personally enrich themselves.

If convicted of all charges, Dragunov and Lang would face a statutory maximum sentence of 30 years in federal prison for each count.

An indictment is merely an allegation. All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

If you or someone you know is age 60 or older and has been a victim of financial fraud, help is available at the National Elder Fraud Hotline: 1-833-FRAUD-11 (1-833-372-8311). This Department of Justice hotline, managed by the Office of Victims of Crime, is staffed by experienced professionals who provide personalized support to callers by assessing the needs of the victim and identifying relevant next steps.

Case managers are available to help victims through the recovery process. Case managers help victims identify appropriate reporting agencies, provide information to callers to assist them in reporting, coordinate with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, and work with the Department of Justice to recover money lost due to fraud.

The Department of Justice’s Elder Fraud Initiative is also available at www.justice.gov/elderjustice.

NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 5

Theatricum Botanicum, Topanga Canyon, $15–60.

TOLEDO DIAMOND – Unique, riveting, first class act. There’s nothing like it, it is high performance art and great fun.

Degeneracy is rarely so well disciplined. Could be the most memorable 12 bucks you ever spent. Sun 9:30 p.m., Harvelle’s, $12.

DIANA KRALL - One of the very finest jazz pianist - vocalist of any age or gender, Elvis doesn’t deserve her, or to be more famous than her. Wed 8 p.m., Hollywood Bowl, $10–15.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: CELSO SALIM & DARRYL CARRIERE, Harvelle’s, 7/20; "MACKETH," Theatricum Botanicum, 7/21, 30; LA SANTA CECELIA, Levitt Pavilion, 7/22; "A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM," Theatricum Botanicum, 7/23, 28; "QUEEN MARGARET’S VERSION OF SHAKESPEARE’S WAR OF THE ROSES," Theatricum Botanicum, 7/23, 30; TOLEDO DIAMOND, Harvelle’s, 7/23, 30; REGGAE NIGHT XXI with BERES HAMMOND, STEEL PULSE, Hollywood Bowl, 7/23; HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES, Cinema Bar, 7/24, 31; GERSHWIN, DVORAK, LA PHIL, Hollywood Bowl, 7/25; STEVE EARLE & THE DUKES, Troubadour, 7/30; DAKHABRAKHA, Ford Theater, 8/4; "HANSEL & GRETTEL," Pacific Opera Project, 8/4, 5, 6; YNGWIE MALMSTEEN GLENN HUGHES, Saban Theatre, 8/8; LUCINDA WILLIAMS, Ford Theatre, 8/10; ROY ZIMMERMAN, McCabe’s, 8/11.

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 3,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 30 years and wouldn’t live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmusicg@gmail.com (The real mr music...)

HEAT WAVE

FROM PAGE 1

Angelinos will make a weekend pilgrimage to the oceanfront Eden that is sunny Santa Monica, but that creates a different set of problems.

Dr. Anu Seshadri, lead physician at UCLA Century City, advises that you stay in the shade during the sun's peak hours, typically between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. and she also recommends that you wear a sun protection factor (SPF) of 30 or higher because sun damage occurs even on cloudy days.

“You should choose something that says ‘broad-spectrum sunscreen’ and be mindful of anything that you might be allergic to, say any scented sunscreen. Sprays tend to be easier to reapply as well, but use a gel, serum or cream for your face,” Seshadri says, adding, “You should reapply every two hours, especially if you’ve been in the water.”

Finally, remember to cover up with comfortable, light-colored clothing, especially a broad-brimmed hat and UV-blocking sunglasses. Moreover, in addition to liberally applying lashings of sun lotion, if you’re driving either to or from Santa Monica this weekend, the hot weather can also play havoc on your road trip.

According to Doug Shupe, Los Angeles-based spokesperson for the AAA, heatstroke is actually the leading cause of non crash vehicle fatalities and of course, extreme heat can push a vehicle beyond its breaking point.

“You need to inspect your vehicles before those road trips. You want to make sure that your battery is prepared for the warmer temperatures. Summer heat can have a more negative impact on your battery than freezing winter temperatures. Heat and vibration are a battery’s worst enemies, because they lead to internal breakdown and eventual failure,” Shupe says.

He stresses that in the sort of temperatures that we’re expecting this weekend to treat even short to medium distance car journeys like long road trips and plan accordingly. Check tire pressures and make sure all fluids in the car are topped up.

“It’s important to make sure that your engine is cool, make sure that your cooling systems are in good shape and ensure that your coolant levels are filled up properly. So things like motor oil transmission fluid, power steering fluid, brake fluid, any fluids that need to be topped off and make sure that you’re using the fluid that’s specified in your vehicle owner manual,” Shupe says.

And whatever you do, do not leave a child or a pet in a vehicle that is itself in direct sunlight. “The inside of a car that’s in sunlight can exceed 130°F and children are particularly susceptible to heat stroke because their bodies heat up three to five times faster than an adult’s body,” Shupe says, adding, “A cracked window is simply not good enough.”

However, even at home, you need to take into account the considerations of others, in particular, your pets. “It’s important to remember that the hot temperatures affect our pets and can turn serious very quickly,” says Elizabeth Noble, Chair of the Santa Monica Animal Shelter.

“Make sure that your pet has access to lots of fresh, cool water. I like to place several water bowls out in different places around the apartment for my cat during the summer months to make sure she is drinking enough water,” Noble says.

“Not everyone has AC, so it really helps to have a bowl or a bucket of cold ice water in front of a fan, it really makes a difference in helping keep the place cool. And never, ever leave your pet unattended in a vehicle.”

She also stresses that the temperature of sidewalks or any tarmac can get extremely hot and can easily burn your pet’s paws.

“Refrain from taking your dog with you on a run or a hike on these hot summer days,” Noble says, adding, “Try to time your walk to when the temperature is not so hot, so in the morning or later in the day and maybe even consider investing in some booties for your dog’s paws.”

Beware of and know what to do for heat-related illness, such as heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Call 911 right away if you see these symptoms: high body temperature, vomitting, dizziness, confusion, and hot, red, dry, or damp skin. Heat stroke is a medical emergency. Also, call 911 if you see a child or pet in a car alone, regardless of how little or how much the window may be opened.

scott.snowden@smdp.com
INFLATION
FROM PAGE 1
Food prices away from home increased by 0.3 percent during the same period.

Energy prices were the only category to decrease over the year, by 14.8 percent, mainly due to a drop in gasoline prices. Prices for natural gas service declined by 24.9 percent, while electricity prices increased by 9.9 percent.

While energy dropped over the course of the year, it has ticked up recently. Energy prices saw a 1.3 percent increase in June, mainly due to higher gasoline prices. Electricity prices rose by 1.6 percent, and natural gas service prices advanced by 1.2 percent during the same month.

Over the year, the index for all items excluding food and energy increased by 4 percent, with notable contributions from other goods and services and shelter. However, there was a decrease in prices for used cars and trucks.

The regional numbers are on par with national trends. Inflation was at its lowest point during early 2021, 3 percent in June compared with a year earlier — thanks in part to easing prices for gasoline, airline fares, used cars and groceries. Nationwide, the 3 percent rate was down from 4 percent in May but still above the Federal Reserve’s target of 2 percent.

HOMELESS
FROM PAGE 2
under shockingly inhumane conditions. Due to her work, people with mental illness were rescued from prisons and cared for in hospitals.

But that trend has been reversed. Once again, Americans with serious mental illness are being warehoused out of sight in our prisons. And many more are living unsheltered on our streets. A third of our homeless population today suffer from untreated severe mental illness, mostly commonly schizophrenia.

Schizophrenia is a brain disorder. It affects 1 out of every 100 human beings, unable to tell reality from delusion. Lives are derailed. Suicide is common.

Treatment requires early intervention by a specialized team of clinicians who collaborate on patient care. Unfortunately these dedicated programs are rare. Despite mountains of evidence showing their effectiveness, insurers refuse to cover early intervention programs.

While medical care can provide stabilization and enable the patient to use outpatient treatment, insurance coverage for inpatient treatment is rare.

California can rectify this situation by mandating early intervention programs and cover early intervention programs.

These two interventions would do more than anything else to help our mentally ill homeless citizens. It is not a simple life for those who become so many homeless. Like Robbie, who ate out of garbage cans, they are unable to use available housing due to their mental illness.

Alice Feller is a psychiatrist and writer based in Berkeley. Her work has appeared in the Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association, East Bay Express, Laney Tower and the opinion pages of the San Francisco Chronicle and New York Times. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

Nationally, prices increased by 0.2 percent for the month of June. Housing was the largest contributor to the monthly all items increase, accounting for over 70 percent of the increase, with the index for motor vehicle insurance also contributing to cost increases. The food index increased 0.1 percent in June after increasing 0.2 percent the previous month. The price for food at home was unchanged over the month while the price for food away from home rose 0.4 percent in June. The energy costs rose 0.6 percent in June.

While eating at home got more expensive (by 4.7 percent) annually, it was still cheaper than eating out where prices rose by 7.7 percent.

When eating at home, prices for cereals and bakery products rose 8.8 percent over the 12 months ending in June. Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs declined 0.2 percent over the year. The remaining major grocery store food groups posted increases ranging from 2.7 percent (dairy and related products) to 7.6 percent (nonalcoholic beverages).

Prices for full service meals eaten at a restaurant rose 6.2 percent over the last 12 months, and prices for limited service meals rose 7.8 percent over the same period.

editor@smdp.com
Today's Birthday (July 13)

Aries (March 21-April 19). Even though you are quick on your feet today, improvisation works best when it follows certain guidelines. Within those guidelines your spontaneous solutions will be brilliant, your whims inspired.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Everything glows around people who see you in the best light. Those who celebrate your accomplishments and highlight the sparkle of your personality are worth more than gold. If you don’t have them in your life, find them.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Communication is the answer. A misunderstanding will get further blown out of proportion unless you talk about it. You might not come to terms about the issue, but you’ll keep it from getting worse.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). The easy life makes for weak people. You embrace challenge because you want to be the strong person who can help others. On busy days like today, it’s good to remind yourself that this work ultimately benefits you.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). No one can bother you quite like family can. Close relationships come with a set of challenges including, but not limited to, competition and territorial issues. Don’t try to solve anything when feelings are heated. Back off and let it cool.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). To serve the big picture you’ll have to gloss over finer points. When you’re handling things in broad strokes, the pettiness ends. A million tiny details will be handled, and the small problems will seem to solve themselves.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Do what you want to do. You’ll never be more ready than you are right now. You have everything you need to get started. Trust in future you. That person will acquire the resources and knowledge to adventure on.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Don’t judge yourself or buy into anyone else’s assessment. Focus on where you want to go and whether your actions are taking you there. All the rest is noise. Tune it out. You’re a genius at focusing now.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your impulse to move is tempered by caution. He who hesitates may lose out, but that can be a good thing if what you’re losing out on is a gigantic hassle.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Complaining is a habit that robs people of happiness, though it’s also a habit that bonds people. To be bonded in negativity can be a powerful tie indeed, and it’s hard to break, but relationships become more fun once you do.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You are witty and charming with the right words right at the tip of your tongue. Social life involves a giddy high. You cherish the ride all the more knowing that what goes up must eventually come down.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). You’re creative and your complex mind can solve problems in ways others wouldn’t think to. You may be met with incomprehension, but don’t let it get to you. Keep working and eventually you’ll find a way to simplify and explain.

Solutions to Yesterday’s Sudoku

ACROSS
1 Receipt of a sort
5 Bank check for the Dutch
9 In essence
14 City section, for short
15 Potent prefix
16 Speechify
17 Name similar to Sandy
18 Electronic instrument
19 Jocularly
20 Where decisions must be made
23 Out of view
24 Likewise
25 Mutually obligatory situation
32 Cellular messenger
35 Defense Dept. unit since 2019
36 Largest dolphin
37 Stock stat service, for short
39 Very skilled one
41 Right-of-center piano note
42 Oscar role for Marlon
43 Pull up stakes, informally
45 “I like, I like!”
46 Risky pursuit of pleasure
51 Sushi bar tuna
52 Lost it
56 Where nostalgic thoughts go
61 Daydreamed, with “out”

DOWN
1 Major muddle
2 Raptor’s gripper
3 Doesn’t get a Lyft
4 Sainted Archbishop of Canterbury
5 Pizza Hut alternative
6 “That’s my cue!”
7 Complicated problem
8 Top keno number
9 Christie sleuth
10 Cubic Rubik
11 Netster Nadal’s nickname
12 Wall support
13 Poetic nightfall
16 Camping
t8 Mini-maelstrom
28 Male monarch
29 Introduction to a conclusion
30 Sound rebound
31 Cockpit dial
32 “Let us know” letters
33 India-born director
34 Kin of counter
38 “Realm” suffix
40 Led ___ (British rock band)
41 With great fervor
44 Many maze runners
47 Was out of ideas
48 Bit of resistance
49 Reddish brown
50 Distress call
53 Got one’s feet wet
54 In need of a meal
55 Ikosome
56 Well-behaved kid
57 Not thrown by
58 Erosion, for instance
59 “Is this OK?”
60 Page of views
61 Move erratically

More of Stan’s Crosswords! Play free from Stan’s archives of Easy, Hard and Sunday puzzles at: tinyurl.com/stan-newman-crosswords

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FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 19 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

Melbourne and beyond


Bars
Bass
Baw Baw
Plateau
Baxter
Bell
Boats
Brighton
Burwood
Capital
Centre

Channel
Cliffs
Cold
Docks
Eltham
Eureka
Tower
Fitzroy
Gatum
Genoa
Greta

Gull
Hawthorn
Hesse
Lakes
Lalor
Lara
Lime
Lurg
Moolap
Olympics
Parks

Port Phillip
Bay
River
Rural
Sale
Skye
Snow
Sprawl
Trams
Urban
Wine

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY’S WORDS PUZZLE.
Head for the hills

Agnes By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE

Dogs of C-Kennel By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART

Zack Hill By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE

Heathcliff By PETER GALLAGHER

Strange Brew By JOHN DEERING

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THURSDAY | JULY 13
SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
The Library Board consists of five members appointed by the City Council for a four-year term. The Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:00 P.M. at the Main Library, Administrative Conference Room, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica. The public is welcome to attend. Current and past agendas and minutes are available on smpl.org.

FRIDAY | JULY 14
OPEN MIC MUSIC
Open mic music every Friday from 7pm to 10pm. At Unurban coffeeshouse 3301 pico Blvd Santa Monica ca. 90405. Open to all ages no alcohol, open to all. With a professional sound system and lighting system now. Just come in and play. Tickets will for sale for the event until there is no more room. You get 2 songs or ten mins.

MOVIES IN THE PARK
Join organizers at Virginia Avenue Park (2200 Virginia Ave.) for Movie Night! They will be playing Wukanda Forever. Mats & snacks will be provided for the first 150 guests. Feel free to bring your own snacks, drinks, blankets/chairs if you would like This event is in partnership with Providence Medical Group and free healthcare screenings will be available. Movie starts at 7:30 p.m. Reserve free tickets online at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/movies-in-the-park-tickets-672732369627

SATURDAY | JULY 15
PICKLE ME SILLY!!
Whether you like your pickles sweet or sour, this event is sure to be a big hit. There will be a demonstration on making Full Sour Dills as well as materials on hand for all little hands to make a small jar of quick pickles. Cool Cucumbers hang out in July. Will you dare make Pickle Pancakes? You can bet your gherkin that you will. Event can be found on our website at: https://santamonic.ca.gov/events/pickle-me-silly Sponsored by City of Santa Monica Community Garden Program Ishihara Park Learning Garden, 2909 Exposition Blvd, Santa Monica

CHECK OUT A HUMAN BOOK
Check out a human book for a one-on-one, 30-minute conversation that challenges stereotypes and prejudices. Follow on Twitter @SantaMonicaLibr for updates. 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Pico Branch Amphitheater.

CHARLOTTE’S WEB
You too will be exclaiming “Terrific” when you join the “radiant” (yet “humble”) cast of Morgan-Wixson Theatre’ Y.E.S. Youth Theatre for their summer play CHARLOTTE’S WEB! The Y.E.S. program’s young actors bring the beloved characters from this immortal children’s classic to life — from Wilbur, the irresistible young pig who desperately wants to avoid the butcher and Templeton, the gluttonous rat who can occasionally be talked into a good deed; to Fern, a girl who understands what animals say to each other and Charlotte, who proves to be “a true friend and a good writer.” https://www.morgan-wixson.org/charlothesweb

SUNDAY | JULY 16
SHARK FEEDING
Feast on a little knowledge while our swell sharks, horn sharks, and round stingrays show down. Come and watch the Aquarium staff feed these important keystone species and learn about the part sharks play in marine ecosystems, every Sunday at 1 pm and 3 pm.

MONDAY | JULY 17
SANTA MONICA ARTS COMMISSION
The Arts Commission of the City of Santa Monica exists to ensure a regular and ongoing assessment of arts programs in the City, develop arts programs of innovative form, recognize and encourage the arts as a service of local government and enrich the lives of all citizens by exposure to art in its various forms. Civic Center Parking Structure. 333 Civic Center Dr Santa Monica, CA

TUESDAY | JULY 18
DROP-IN EVENT: HANDS-ONLY CPR
The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is coming once a month to provide drop-in hands-only CPR training. Come anytime between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., it only takes about 10 minutes to complete the training This training is:
- A life-saving skill that will help you feel more confident to respond in an emergency.
- CPR without mouth-to-mouth breaths
- Only to be used on teens or adults
- No documents are required from anyone who would like to be trained

AN EVENING WITH LISA SEE
Renowned author Lisa See speaks on her process and the research behind her new book Lady Tan’s Circle of Women, one of this year’s Santa Monica Reads selections. Ms. See will sign books after her talk, and copies will be on sale. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 6 - 7 p.m.

WEATHER

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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 website. Visit the California State Lottery website at http://www.calottery.com.
Secure Your Future

Classes start August 28
On-campus and online
smc.edu/fall