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Volume 23 Issue 200

WEDNESDAY 8/28/24

smdp.com

Haibu's dome dreams deflated by lack of funding



Haibu Media Group

HAIBU SPHERE: The installation was to be located at the former Parking Structure 3 on 4th St between Santa Monica Blvd and Arizona Ave.

SCOTT SNOWDEN

SMDP Staff Writer

The company behind the 360 degree immersive 'dome' entertainment activation set for the former site of Parking Structure 3 has pulled out of its agreement with Downtown Santa Monica, Inc (DTSM) because of difficulties with funding. The project had already faced delays and missed its original opening date of March of this year.

A Request for Proposals (RFP) appeared on the DTSM website late last week, for

"Immersive Outdoor Temporary Use (1318 4th Street)" — the address of the Parking Structure 3 site.

Once upon a time, the project consisted of two, 360 degree immersive entertainment domes, very much like the Sphere in Las Vegas, that has been attracting a lot of attention. However, for a variety of reasons that stemmed from the search for the best interactive experience possible, the layout was changed to feature two domes, each 50ft in diameter plus four smaller domes.

The activation was to focus around a brand

new animated universe aimed at children that centers around an indigenous little girl, named Haibu, who possesses the ability to speak to animals. The DTSM board of directors voted unanimously to move ahead with the activation in November of last year.

"Haibu's World has withdrawn from the agreement with DTSM, Inc. We wish them the best in all of their future endeavors. We are re-issuing the RFP and hope to identify a suitable operator for the site as quickly as possible," DTSM CEO Andrew Thomas said in a statement to the Daily Press.

Blake Freeman, founder of Haibu Media Group, said, "The immersive park was being funded by a third party and unfortunately the timing of the funding commitment couldn't meet the timeline to open. We are disappointed and would have liked to see the original idea come to fruition but it was out of the control of our company."

He added, "We are very supportive of DTSM and have elected not to hold up another project that can activate the site for

SEE HAIBU PAGE 8



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Yes, Color Me Mine is for sale, but not because of that paint incident



Courtesy image of COLOR ME MINE: Many children in Santa Monica have grown up with Color Me Mine, some of whom now bring their own children.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Up until May of this year, you might not have heard of the pottery and painting store on Main Street. However, one fateful afternoon, an employee pouring a ceramic glaze rinse down a storm drain was captured on video and soon went viral on social media.

Despite initially appearing like an act disrespectful to the environment, with many immediately jumping to the incorrect conclusion that it must be paint, in fact it wasn't. However, that didn't stop a virtual tirade of abuse and even death threats from some extremely unsavory types on various social media platforms.

Now, three months later, eagle-eyed users on Reddit have noticed that Color Me Mine is up for sale, with user *norse_noise* posting in the Santa Monica forum, "It looks like the bad press from employees dumping glaze in street drains hit Color Me Mine really hard."

And while it is true, the store is indeed up for sale, it has nothing to do with that unfortunate misunderstanding and has actually been up for sale for a number of years.

"My store owner has been trying to sell the store for a while now. Unfortunately, she had some passings in the family and it made it really hard for her to be here as an owner," said store manager Adelaide Gault, 25, adding, "She has a lot going on ... and she just can't, she can't do this. So it's really rather a lot on me that I'm running her store for her."

When the Daily Press spoke to Gault back in May, she was unsurprisingly distressed

“My store owner has been trying to sell the store for a while now. Unfortunately, she had some passings in the family and it made it really hard for her to be here as an owner”
- Adelaide Gault, store manager

over the death threats she and other staff were getting. And even now, she appeared visibly exhausted.

Returning for a moment to the subject of that earlier unpleasantness, Gault said, "As soon as we'd answer the phone, they'd start screaming ... and threaten and curse at you. And some would say that 'I hope you die.'

High rents are forcing small businesses into tough choices like raising prices or changing location

MAE ANDERSON
AP Business Writer

While many costs have come down for small business, rents remain high and in some cases are still rising, forcing many owners into some uncomfortable decisions.

“Every time the rent goes up, we have to raise prices, to keep up with the cost,” said Adelita Valentine, owner of HairFreek Barbers in Los Angeles. “But with the cost of living, it makes it difficult on our customers.”

Other owners are choosing to be late on payments or seeking out new locations where the rent is lower. A few are pushing back against their landlord.

Although inflation is easing, it remains a top concern for small businesses. According to Bank of America internal data, rent payments per small business client rose 11% year-over-year in July. That’s more than twice the increase for renting and owning a residence, a metric known as shelter, according to the government’s monthly Consumer Price Index. That figure rose 5.1% in July.

And although the situation has improved since the height of the pandemic, a survey by business networking platform Alignable of more than 6,000 small business owners found that 41% could not pay their July rent on time and in full. And 52% said they’ve encountered rent spikes in the past six months.

The rent for Valentine’s barbershop rose to \$4,000 in January from \$3,600 in December, the fifth increase in the past eight years. She had to raise the price for her cuts from \$35 to \$40.

Two months ago, she moved locations for a cheaper \$3,200 rent, but her space is smaller now and she sees fewer families coming in.

“A lot of people can’t afford to take a whole family to get haircuts,” after the price increase, she said.

Peter Yu has owned iPAC Automotive, an auto repair and detailing shop in Ontario, Canada, for six years. He said the rent on the shop typically went up about 4% a year. But when his landlord sold the property to a new owner, Yu’s rent jumped from about \$1,800 (2,500 Canadian dollars) to about \$2,700 (3,700 Canadian dollars) after three months.

He contemplated moving, but decided that the cost of a move would be more than just paying the extra rent.

Yu tried to raise prices a month ago, but customers would come in and say “Oh, its too expensive,” and leave, he said. So, he had to drop the price increase in order to get those customers back.

“When we do try to raise our prices, consumers don’t have the money to pay for it. They’re looking for financing options,” he said. Yu’s services run the gamut from paint correction that costs a few hundred dollars to

troubleshooting problematic EV battery and electric drive units for out-of-warranty Teslas that can cost up to \$15,000.

So instead, he’s going to try to improve his marketing, close more sales, and find a way to offer more financing.

Standing firm against a landlord sometimes works. Janna Rodriguez has run her home-based The Innovative Daycare Corp. in Freeport, New York, since 2018. When she first signed her lease, she paid \$3,500, plus costs including landscaping and maintenance. In 2020, the pandemic began, and her landlord raised her rent to \$3,800 and also made her start paying half of the homeowner’s insurance. Last year, the landlord raised her rent to \$4,100, plus the additional expenses.

Rodriguez raised her prices for the first time, by \$10 per child per week, to help offset the rising rent.

This year she successfully pushed back when the landlord wanted to raise the rent yet again.

“I said to them, if you do that, then I’m going to find another property to move my business to, because at this point now you’re trying to bankrupt a business, right?”

It’s worked – so far. But Rodriguez is worried about the future.

For others, negotiating a late payment is an option. Nicole Pomije owner of Minneapolis-based The Cookie Cups, which makes cookie kits for kids, has a 4,000-foot office space along with a warehouse where she develops her line of baking kits. Her rent rose 10% this year to \$4,000 monthly. Then there are unanticipated bills, such a \$1,500 for snow plowing.

“There’s so much stuff that pops up that you just you never expect,” she said. “And it’s always when you never expect it.”

Pomije hasn’t raised prices, but instead tried to mitigate the higher rent costs by buying materials in bulk – like ordering 5,000 boxes instead of 1,000 boxes for a 40% discount — and finding cost savings elsewhere.

Still, there have been several months the past couple of years where she couldn’t pay rent on time. So, far the landlord has been amenable.

“If we have a conversation like hey, we don’t know if we’re going to make it for the first this month. It might be closer to the tenth,” she said.

Asked if she thinks costs might ease in the future, Pomije said she is focused on the present.

“It’s weird, but I’m trying not to think about the future too much and I’m trying to just do what we have to do, and get ready for a holiday season and just, like, get everything paid on time now,” she said. “And then we’ll kind of reevaluate everything in January.”

Every time the rent goes up, we have to raise prices, to keep up with the cost

- Adelita Valentine, owner of HairFreek Barbers in Los Angeles



Surf report WATER TEMP: 71.4

WEDNESDAY FAIR SURF: Knee to thigh 1-2FT

Eyeing the tropics for another modest to locally fun round of SSW swell. If the tropics don't deliver it'll be a pretty slow day with just minor SW swell and trace NW windswell in the water.

THURSDAY FAIR SURF: Knee to thigh 1-2FT

Potential for SSW tropical swell, stay tuned. Otherwise, it's another small day with a meager SW and NW swell mix. Early morning winds look light.



Wednesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 72.

Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 60.

Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 71.

Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 61.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2024/08/28	Wed	12:54 AM	0.09	L
2024/08/28	Wed	08:08 AM	3.76	H
2024/08/28	Wed	11:57 AM	3.14	L
2024/08/28	Wed	6:06 PM	5.64	H
2024/08/29	Thu	01:46 AM	-0.21	L
2024/08/29	Thu	08:40 AM	4.05	H
2024/08/29	Thu	1:05 PM	2.85	L
2024/08/29	Thu	7:06 PM	5.84	H
2024/08/30	Fri	02:28 AM	-0.36	L
2024/08/30	Fri	09:06 AM	4.25	H
2024/08/30	Fri	1:53 PM	2.50	L
2024/08/30	Fri	7:54 PM	6.00	H
2024/08/31	Sat	03:02 AM	-0.38	L
2024/08/31	Sat	09:29 AM	4.40	H
2024/08/31	Sat	2:31 PM	2.18	L
2024/08/31	Sat	8:33 PM	6.07	H
2024/09/01	Sun	03:30 AM	-0.28	L
2024/09/01	Sun	09:50 AM	4.52	H

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Draw Date: 8/26
2 4 23 68 69
Power#: 15
Jackpot: 54 M



Draw Date: 8/26
2 4 13 15 17



Draw Date: 8/23
28 30 44 66 69
Mega#: 2
Jackpot: 582 M



Draw Date: 8/26
EVENING: 3 5 4
Draw Date: 8/26
MIDDAY: 1 5 2



Draw Date: 8/24
15 20 23 24 46
Mega#: 9
Jackpot: 17 M



Draw Date: 8/26
1st: 05 - California Classic
2nd: 08 - Gorgeous George
3rd: 04 - Big Ben
Race Time: 1:48.29

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Jack Neworth,
David Pisarra.

CIRCULATION
Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com

Keith Wyatt
ross@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Scott Snowden
scott.snowden@smdp.com

Thomas Leffler
thomas@smdp.com

DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

MARKETING MANAGER
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

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



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Santa Monica Daily Press



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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit statements of qualification for the:

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Request for Qualification documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca>. The Contractor is required to have a Class A and/or C-10 license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.



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OPINION
Charles Andrews

CURIOUS CITY
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Jack can count to 4, Katz can't




Courtesy graphic

MAJORITY: It takes four votes to control the City Council.

I MISS JACK NEWORTH

No - he's still with us. The esteemed, very popular longtime humor columnist for the Santa Monica Daily Press has been suffering for many months from a series of medical problems that have kept him out of his cherished home at The Shores North Tower (he may have been the very first resident there when it opened - in 1969?), and bouncing between too many medical facilities to count, occasionally landing at home, but not for very long.

We've been close friends for a long time, though I haven't seen him in person for years. That's not unusual. Jack has always kept a very low profile - Man of Mystery - despite being known by so many in Santa Monica. I hung out with him a few times in the lobby of his building, and despite hiding under a big floppy hat obscuring his face, nearly everyone who walked by in that well-trafficked lobby said, "Hello, Jack!" If he backed some candidate or issue, you could count on hundreds of votes from The Shores.

came back with a sardonic, "I'll tell the jokes around here."

What I miss most about talking to Jack, is when we would muse and grouse over this screwy thing we both do, that few do, writing a regular newspaper column. And so he popped into my mind once more as I stared at yet another mocking, torturing "blank page." So many times in our conversations one of us would, after a silence, plead, "So, what are you writing about this week?" And of course the reply was always, "Hell, I don't know, what are you going to write about?"

I sure hope we get to have those conversations again, soon. We've had a couple since all this started but they were brief, and it's hard to be lightheartedly cynical when so many things are going bad with your health. Jack Neworth is the most loved curmudgeon I have ever known, a legend in this small beach city of so many legends. He has told me he is itching to write more columns. Hang in there, Jack. You've got a big fan club out here.

IT'S GETTING HARD TO KEEP UP

With my mission of calling out misinformation and "lies, damn lies, and statistics" on the local political landscape. But unless you do, unless someone does, if they are allowed to stand, they take on the veneer of truth.

"Retired Former Mayor" Kevin McKeown kept me busy for a while with his many letters to the editor at the Daily Press, so busy I haven't had a chance to get around yet to John Alle, self appointed global press officer for

TOP COMIC

We talked on the phone often, usually late at night. If it was getting closer to midnight I would lose him because he was pretty faithful about hitting the gym at The Shores before it closed. We would talk about politics, national and local, sports, Idyllwild, and life. If you think Jack has a sense of humor in print, "in person" he's as good as any top Catskills comic ever was. Superb timing and delivery. I love to try to make famously funny folks laugh, and I knew I landed a good one when there was a long pause and he

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

As Kamala Harris ascends to presidential nominee, Gavin Newsom's political future remains cloudy



REUTERS/Alyssa Pointer

POLITICS: Governor of California Gavin Newsom applauds during Day one of the Democratic National Convention (DNC) in Chicago, Illinois, U.S., August 19, 2024.

DAN WALTERS

Last week, in conjunction with the Democratic National Convention that nominated Vice President Kamala Harris as a successor to President Joe Biden, California Gov. Gavin Newsom sat down for a podcast interview to discuss what had just happened.

"How are you feeling about the switch," Jon Favreau, the "Pod Save America" host and former White House speechwriter asked Newsom.

The tone of Newsom's voice changed from jocular to staccato as he replied, "Now we went through a very open process, a very inclusive process. It was bottom-up, I don't know if you know that. That's what I've been told to say."

It may have just been a throwaway quip, or perhaps it was a bitter lament that his party quickly and undemocratically anointed Harris without giving anyone else a chance.

Newsom had been one of Biden's staunchest defenders while others in the party demanded that Biden step away.

While the governor had often expressed "sub-zero interest" in running for president, he was doing all the things that a presidential aspirant would be

doing, and it paid off with a flurry national political media attention.

Many pundits speculated that while stoutly defending Biden — especially in post-debate kibitzing with reporters — Newsom wanted to be considered as a replacement should the president drop out.

During the convention that ratified Harris as the party nominee many other Democratic figures were given opportunities to address the delegates — a time-honored way for ambitious politicians to gain televised exposure to millions of voters.

Newsom was not on the speakers list, however, and we'll never know whether he wasn't invited or didn't seek a slot. His only time in the spotlight was announcing the California delegation's unanimous support for Harris during the mock roll call, continuing the hoary tradition of a nominee's home state providing the decisive vote.

It would be understandable if Newsom, as his comments imply, is miffed that Harris was anointed without having to run the gauntlet. Harris has lived a charmed political life, moving from office

SEE **NEWSOM** PAGE 11

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Los Angeles

City of Los Angeles Agrees to Pay \$38.2 Million to Resolve False Claims Act Suit for Alleged Misuse of HUD Grant Funds

The City of Los Angeles has agreed to pay \$38.2 million to resolve allegations that it knowingly failed to meet federal accessibility requirements when it sought and used U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant funds for multifamily affordable housing, the Justice Department announced today.

"Municipalities that receive federal grant money for affordable and accessible housing must comply with federal law and honor the rights of people with disabilities," said First Assistant United States Attorney Joseph T. McNally. "The nearly \$40 million settlement here demonstrates our commitment to ensuring municipalities receiving federal funds comply with federal law. We will continue to work with the City of Los Angeles to ensure equal access for individuals with disabilities."

HUD provides grant funds to Los Angeles and other cities to support housing and community development, including building and rehabilitating affordable multifamily housing units. Recipients of federal housing development funds must comply with federal accessibility laws, including Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Fair Housing Act. These laws prohibit discrimination against people with disabilities in activities receiving federal financial assistance.

For example, the laws require five percent of all units in certain federally-assisted multifamily housing be accessible for people with mobility impairments and an additional two percent be accessible for people with visual and auditory impairments.

Recipients of federal funds must also implement other housing-related accessibility requirements, including maintaining a publicly available list of accessible units with a description of their accessibility features, adopting policies and procedures to ensure that people who need the accessibility features of particular units occupy them, and designating at least one city employee to coordinate accessibility efforts.

In 2017, the United States intervened and filed a complaint in a whistleblower action filed under the False Claims Act alleging that, for over a decade, the City of Los Angeles failed to follow federal accessibility laws when building and rehabilitating affordable multifamily properties and failed to make its affordable multifamily housing program accessible to people with disabilities. The United States alleged that the housing was not structurally accessible because of failures like slopes that were too steep, counters that were too high, and thresholds that did not permit wheelchair access. The United States further alleged that the city failed to maintain a publicly available list of accessible units and their accessibility features. The United States alleged that the city, on an annual basis, knowingly and falsely certified to HUD that it complied with these grant requirements despite its failure to do so. Today's settlement resolves the pending lawsuit.

"This settlement shows that we will hold accountable jurisdictions receiving federal grant money

to ensure they satisfy their obligations to make affordable housing accessible to people with disabilities," said Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Brian M. Boynton, head of the Justice Department's Civil Division. "Our years spent litigating this case demonstrate the department's steadfast commitment to this effort."

"By failing to make certain that HUD-funded multifamily housing was appropriately built or rehabilitated to meet federal accessibility requirements, the city discriminated against people with disabilities," said HUD Inspector General Rae Oliver Davis. "HUD's Office of the Inspector General will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to hold accountable those who fail to meet their legal obligations for the housing needs of people with disabilities."

"The settlement announced today sends a clear message that HUD and its partners at the Department of Justice will work tirelessly to protect the integrity of HUD's programs and demonstrates the importance of providing accessible housing," said General Counsel Damon Smith of HUD. "In this instance, HUD determined that the City of Los Angeles fell far short of its responsibilities to provide HUD-funded accessible housing, but the settlement agreement provides a fresh start for HUD and the City to work collaboratively to address the City's pressing housing needs."

The settlement resolves a lawsuit filed under the qui tam or whistleblower provision of the False Claims Act, which permits private parties to file suit on behalf of the United States for false claims and share in a portion of the government's recovery. The Act permits the United States to intervene and take over responsibility for litigating these cases, as the United States did in 2017 here. The qui tam case is captioned United States ex rel. Ling, et al. v. City of Los Angeles, et al., No. CV11-00974 (C.D. Cal.), and was brought by a Los Angeles resident who uses a wheelchair and the Fair Housing Council of San Fernando Valley, a nonprofit disability rights advocacy group. A relator share has not yet been determined.

In 2020, the United States settled for \$3.1 million allegations against another defendant in the lawsuit, CRA/LA, the successor of the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles, a local redevelopment agency that financed and assisted in the development of multifamily affordable housing using local tax monies and federal grants.

The resolution obtained in this litigation was the result of a coordinated effort between the Justice Department's Civil Division, Commercial Litigation Branch, Fraud Section and the United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of California, with assistance from HUD's Office of General Counsel and Office of Inspector General.

The matter was handled by Assistant United States Attorneys Karen Y. Paik and Paul B. La Scala of the Civil Division's Civil Fraud Section and Justice Department Fraud Section attorneys William C. Edgar, Jennifer Chorpeneing, Daniel W. Kastner, and Wesley J. Heath of the Civil Division.

The claims resolved by the settlement are allegations only. There has been no determination of liability.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Malibu

City of Malibu Arts Commission Hosts the Opening Reception of “Derek Schimming: An Artist Retrospective”

The City of Malibu Arts Commission invites all of Malibu to the free opening reception of the City’s fall public art exhibition at the Malibu City Gallery, “Derek Schimming: An Artist Retrospective” on September 14.

The exhibition is a tribute to Derek Schimming, a beloved Malibu artist with a deep love for surfing and belief in its healing powers. Derek passed away unexpectedly in May 2024, and was known to express himself through his paintings. He conveyed his life events, emotions, and important locations, through paint and canvas. Working primarily with oils and acrylics, Derek’s non-traditional methods and style produced unique and vivid works with layers of detail and depth.

Mayor Doug Stewart commented, “Derek Schimming’s art was a reflection of his vibrant spirit and profound connection to Malibu. His works captured the unique essence of our community. As we gather to celebrate Derek’s life and artistic legacy, we remember not only his incredible talent but also his dedication to enriching our town. His influence on Malibu’s artistic landscape will continue to inspire us all.”

Fifteen of Schimming’s large abstract expressionist works will be on display along with various artworks from members of the Malibu Art Association, where Derek Schimming was an active board member.

“Derek Schimming: An Artist Retrospective” will be on display from September 16 through October 25, 2024.

The community is invited to join the free opening reception on Saturday, September 14, 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM at City Hall to celebrate Derek and his work. City Hall is located at 23825 Stuart Ranch Road. Enjoy complimentary refreshments and live music by the Martini Kings. RSVPs are not required.

Arts Commission Chair Fireball Tim Lawrence spoke about Derek’s commitment to Malibu: “Derek Schimming was a shining example of the very essence of Malibu, not only with his art and love of people, but in his ever-present, helping gestures that served the community and its residents and children, and the betterment of the town we cherish. He will be greatly missed.”

The Malibu City Gallery is on the lower level of Malibu City Hall (23825 Stuart Ranch Road) and is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Admission to the gallery is free. Tickets and RSVPs are not required.

For more information, visit MalibuArtsCommission.org/Schimming.

SUBMITTED BY MATT MYERHOFF

CURIOUS CITY

FROM PAGE 4

slamming Santa Monica to the world. I agree with many of his criticisms and issues, but it seems like odd, self destructive behavior for a businessman who owns property here, specifically at the struggling Third Street Promenade, to hang a huge banner on one of them that reads, “Santa Monica is Not Safe.” A long term strategy, I suppose. But that image of the banner has gone around the world, news broadcasts everywhere, and certainly harms the reputation of all businesses here, our tourism revenue, even our Olympic hopes. But Alle also floods the email waves with very frequent diatribes that blame everything on a handful of his favorite punching bags, telling only half the story.

But now, I want to focus on one incessant lie that can be a very powerful weapon if people take it at face value, and many do. It is, that the “Change Slate” of Christine Parra, Oscar de la Torre and Phil Brock, elected to City Council in 2020, includes Lana Negrete, and constitutes a “conservative majority” on the Council. If that were true, they could be blamed for everything that has gone wrong in our city for the last four years.

I HAVE TO CHUCKLE

As I contemplate that funny fallacy. If you have even the slightest acquaintance with the records and philosophies of The Slate, you know they are anything but “conservative.” But like “Republican,” that’s a “bad word” in Santa Monica politics, a powerful pejorative lately being thrown about by a whole passel of shaky movers here who present themselves as “liberals,” “progressives,” and certainly “Democrats.” But so many of them are anything but. It’s like the myth that Santa

Monica is “compassionate,” “diverse,” “progressive.” How compassionate is it to let people who can’t take care of themselves live on the streets?

It’s the same Big Lie that autocrats, oligarchs, MAGA and our local “Dems” and “progressives” employ. No, they are not about to vote red, but they are not above using those labels to slander their opponents. But let’s just talk about their math skills.

You have seven people on our City Council, so a majority would be four, right? That “conservative majority” comprising The Slate is so ridiculous, except it is being used to persuade a lot of low information voters.

Lana Negrete was appointed to fill an open seat in June 2021. In 2022 she won election to the Council. The Slate was elected in 2020, and Brock and de la Torre are up for re-election this November, 2024. As part of a different slate of four. Negrete is not; she serves until 2026. She’s an independent and always has been. She may often vote with The Slate, and often, dramatically, does not. She has never been a part of The Slate. It is a Big Lie, and you might think they would be embarrassed to even float it. But, we set the bar very low in Santa Monica politics. The Big Lie – who does that remind you of?

And speaking of “Democrats,” now the head of the SM Democratic Club, Jon Katz, is using a letter to my paper to spread that same “majority” lie. He’s part of the reason there is now a new refuge for disaffected SM Dems, the Blue Wave Democratic Club. I’ve heard that part of the admission requirement is that you can count to four.

Charles Andrews has lived in Santa Monica for 38 years and wouldn’t live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmr-music@gmail.com



GAS PRICES IN SANTA MONICA

	76 1776 Cloverfield Blvd	\$4.67
	SHELL 1802 Cloverfield Blvd	\$4.81
	CHEVRON 1819 Cloverfield Blvd	\$5.80
	MOBIL 731 Santa Monica Blvd	\$5.00
	LINCOLN BLVD CAR WASH 1624 Lincoln Blvd	\$4.59
	WORLD 1801 Lincoln Blvd	\$4.09
	SHELL 1866 Lincoln Blvd	\$4.69
	SPEEDWAY EXPRESS 2555 Lincoln Blvd	\$4.29
	CHEVRON 1732 Lincoln Blvd	\$4.99
	ARCO 332 Pico Blvd	\$4.29
	SINCLAIR 1944 Pico Blvd	\$4.59
	CHEVRON 1330 Santa Monica Blvd	\$4.99
	CHEVRON 1348 Pico Blvd	\$4.99
	CHEVRON 432 Wilshire Blvd	\$4.99

*Prices paying in card

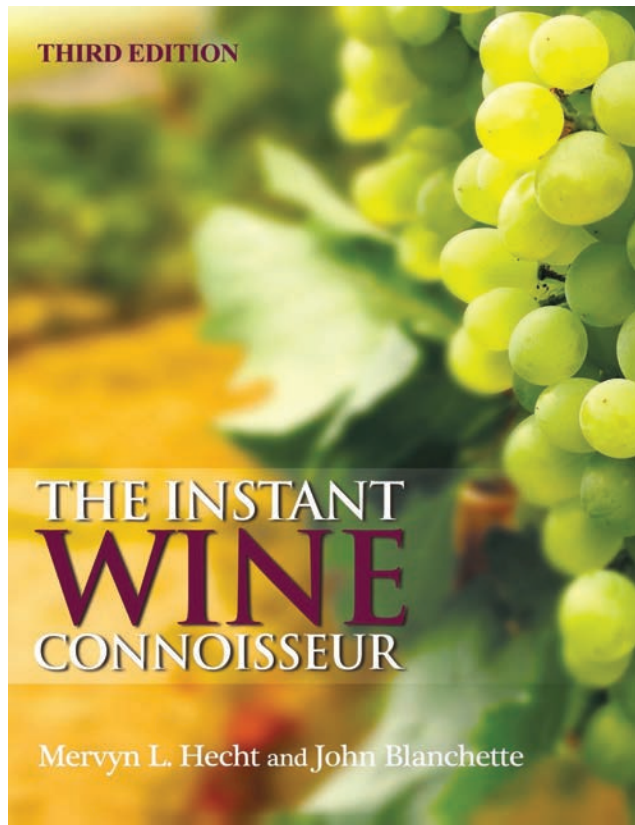
Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have fallen 3.5 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$4.48/g, according to GasBuddy’s survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 12.9 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 81.6 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has declined 2.6 cents in the last week and stands at \$3.69 per gallon- the lowest level in 940 days. According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at \$3.75/g while the most expensive was \$5.67/g, a difference of \$1.92/g. The lowest price in the state was \$3.59/g while the highest was \$6.79/g, a difference of \$3.20/g. The national average price of gasoline has fallen 4.2 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.37/g today. The national average is down 11.4 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 47.8 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Santa Monica Daily Press

★★★★★ A light-hearted fun read.

★★★★★ Well written, particularly useful, instantly accessible.

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



Daily Press Food & Wine Columnist Merv Hecht takes you on an delightful tour of the world of wine. A fun way to increase your appreciation and knowledge of wine. available at 

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HAIBU

FROM PAGE 1

future use.”

It is not yet known if, or how, this will affect the other, related Haibu projects.

The deadline for any RFPs is Friday, September 13, 2024 at 4pm PT. According to the DTSM instructional PDF, follow-up interviews, as needed, will take place on Wednesday, September 18 and a notification of intent to award will be issued on Monday, September 23, in time for the next DTSM board of directors meeting scheduled to take place on Thursday, September 26.

The demolition of Parking Structure 3, located on 4th Street between Santa Monica Blvd and Arizona Ave, began in March 2022 following a failed legal effort to stop the project. Since 2018, the City has been working on a plan to demolish the 50-year-old parking garage and replace it with a multi-level affordable housing project, which would include ground floor retail and subterranean

parking.

However, since demolition was completed in November 2022, the site has remained empty amid continued concern over the local economy. According to DTSM, the City is expected to break ground in 2025, which is why in the original request for proposals — that Haibu ultimately won — it was made clear that the license agreement would be for a period of 18 months.

Consequently, any new installation that does move into this space, will only be able to remain there for a limited amount of time. This is confirmed in the RFP guidelines. “The term of the proposed license agreement for the 1318 4th Street outdoor temporary use will be for up to (10) months, with the possibility of a month-to month extension thereafter, if authorized by the developer of the site, EAH Housing, and the City of Santa Monica,” it says.

scott.snowden@smdp.com



Thomas Leffler / Courtesy image

VACANT: The lot near the corner of 4th and Arizona, initially pegged for the Haibu spheres concept, will remain empty after the concept failed to materialize.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Downtown

Hammer wielding suspect subdued with taser

The Santa Monica Police Department used less-lethal options to subdue and detain a suspect who threatened employees of a local hotel with a hammer today.

According to SMPD, officers responded to a call at the Hilton Santa Monica on 4th Street and Civic Center Drive at about noon for a report of a suspect threatening hotel staff with a hammer.

The hotel is adjacent to Santa Monica High School and SMPD said the suspect fled towards the Santa Monica High School 4th Street Breezeway but did not enter the campus and thankfully, no students were nearby.

“Despite repeated commands, the suspect refused to drop the hammer and continued making threats,” said the statement. “Officers used a taser and 40mm projectiles to safely take the suspect into custody. The suspect was evaluated by the Santa Monica Fire Department and in accordance with department policy, transported to a local hospital for further evaluation. Assault with a deadly weapon charges are pending.”

SMPD said they are in continuous contact with SMMUSD and the SAMOHI gate is locked during the school day..

Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN

Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART

Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE

Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING

FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6316

Increasing conflicts

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

Active	Ensign	Jets	RAAF
Army	Europe	Lost	Sabre
Arrows	Fight	Major	Safe
At war	Firing	Mess	Spear
Attack	General	Nauru	Tanks
Base	Grit	Navy	Tradition
Bomb	Guard	Orders	Unit
Club	Guns	Pilots	Valour
Conscripts	Hero	Platoon	Vietnam
Defend	Ills	Ports	
Deployment	Infantry	Rats of	
Enlist	Iraq	Tobruk	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
A strange alien landscape

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 28)

Your affinity for fine things will guide you to interesting places and people this year. You'll be lavished in elegance, swayed by loveliness, and in a position to pay for superior design. More highlights: Many enlightening conversations, the ability to make deep, emotional connections more easily than ever, and two important contracts. Leo and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 30, 2, 21 and 14.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The way things look and function is very important to you, and your sophistication in this area will influence others. Your attention to detail will serve you well, though not everyone will appreciate it as they should.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There's beauty hiding in plain sight, waiting for you to discover it, and when you do, it will seem like it was meant just for you — and who is to say it wasn't? Beauty if often available only to those with an eye for it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Complaining is the first instinct. Your next one will be far more useful, though. You'll describe a problem to the people who can help and suddenly find yourself in the company of fixers, and you may just be the head fixer yourself.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll find yourself in a unique position to bring harmony where it's needed. Your mood is even, your action logical, your position stable. This will be attractive to solid supporters and agents of chaos alike, but you can handle what comes.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There is no "after" without the "before." Take pictures even if you don't think there's a reason to. This will all change, and you'll be happy for the record. Tonight is ideal for making plans, especially the grand kind.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It is possible to live in a castle and still feel poor inside because true wealth involves riches of the soul. The heart-guided decisions you make today will grow the riches that matter.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Sometimes, we don't realize what we truly want until we see others having it. Use envy as a compass, guiding you toward your buried desire so you can bring it to the surface, pursue and embrace it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You've been known to lead others without appearing to, which is brilliant, though in your case could also be a subconscious instinct that even you don't realize it yourself. The result will be a devoted following.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Rarely do fully formed ideas fall down from the sky, causing us to know exactly what to do next. You'll be glad for the exciting adventure that happens because you were in a position to find, figure out and perhaps invent the answers.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Even when you'd rather play it safe and stay cozy at home, you will still push yourself to do a little more because there are no memories to be made at home. The exciting moments are out in the world.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Contrary to the saying, love isn't blind, but infatuation is. When the ego creates an idea of the person companion and projects it onto the object of affection, this is a stage of romance, not to be confused with true love.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll feel as though your life is a movie and you are both a star and a casting director in a position to fill a certain role. Avoid the comfortable trap of merely filling the slot with someone you know who doesn't have the ideal qualifications.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Website with much film info
- 5 Blast from the ____ (song oldie)
- 9 Wristwatch holder
- 14 Genuine
- 15 Spark of inspiration
- 16 Electric car company
- 17 Part of AD
- 18 Emeralds and opals
- 19 "Come in!"
- 20 Appears to be just what it is
- 23 Suffix for favor or meteor
- 24 Brewpub beverage
- 25 Delicate, as a doily
- 29 \$ fractions
- 31 Blackjack pack
- 35 "Otherwise..."
- 36 ____ away from (avoided)
- 38 "I get it now!"
- 39 Ford Mustang's muscle car rival
- 42 Sch. near Providence
- 43 Loud racket
- 44 Wood for a model plane
- 45 Bartlett or Bosc
- 47 Spinning speed, briefly
- 48 Most enormous
- 49 Prez on Mount Rushmore
- 51 Harden, as concrete
- 52 Loosely fastened woman's wear
- 61 Assists
- 62 Be boastful

- 63 Ark builder

- 64 Closeup map in an atlas
- 65 Scary fairy-tale character
- 66 Diminutive suffix
- 67 Oscar actress Julianne
- 68 Snaky swimmers
- 69 Simple to do

DOWN

- 1 Neighbor of Turkey
- 2 Dessert list
- 3 Comedian Carvey
- 4 Voting alliance
- 5 Structure for swine
- 6 British superstar singer

- 7 Prefix for final or sweet
- 8 Small job to do
- 9 Big bargain
- 10 Took care of
- 11 Q followers
- 12 Actor Baldwin
- 13 Yosemite or Yellowstone
- 21 Baby tabby
- 22 Art studio stand
- 25 Adorned fancily
- 26 Earlier than, in poetry
- 27 Mumbai's country
- 28 Yuletide eggy drink
- 29 Deep ravine
- 30 Roofing square
- 32 National bird
- 33 Game with knights

- and kings

- 34 Gold measure
- 36 Ocean liner
- 37 First appearances
- 40 Apple utensil
- 41 Remind persistently
- 46 Hip-hop performer
- 48 Fences of bushes
- 50 Keep a roast moist
- 51 Warning from a dog
- 52 Impulsive notion
- 53 Nevada casino city
- 54 "Additionally..."
- 55 Orchestral woodwind
- 56 Strong craving
- 57 Joint above a shin
- 58 Least bit
- 59 Tattles (on)
- 60 Those folks

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20					21					22				
				23					24					
25	26	27	28				29	30			31	32	33	34
35						36				37		38		
39					40						41			
42					43					44				
45				46		47				48				
				49	50				51					
52	53	54				55	56				57	58	59	60
61						62					63			
64						65					66			
67						68					69			

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08/28/24

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

COLOR ME MINE

FROM PAGE 2

“There was even a mention of a bomb threat. And there were a lot of really crazy threats, but there were some people who actually would listen. And once they listened, you would explain to them the whole situation, and they would be like, ‘Oh, I’m glad you guys are doing something about it. And that sounds good.’ So when people listened, it was nice, but ... not everyone did.”

According to Gault, the owner of the store is very much hoping to sell the franchise, so that a Color Me Mine remains at the 2525 Main St location. However, she says that a sale of the site in its entirety, effectively removing the Color Me Mine outlet is also not of the question.

“We had a few offers, but she really wants to find the right person, the right owner,” Gault said, adding that the ceramic glaze rinse storm drain incident thankfully doesn’t seem to have deterred interest.

“What was awesome was that there was a potential buyer and they ... were very supportive of us and we were going to sell to them, but I don’t know what happened to that, I wasn’t told ... but they were really nice people and they were telling my store owner to not fire those people or anything like that,” Gault said.

“I love her (the owner) and I care about her so much, and I love the store, and this place has shaped so many individuals from Santa Monica who have visited this store and my experience with Color Me Mine as a kid is unforgettable. So that’s why I’m here and working so hard and trying to make this store memorable for others,” Gault said.

When asked how all of this was affecting morale of the staff, Gault said, “We all understand the hardships the owner is going through right now, so we’re just trying to do our best to be a good team for her, while she’s going through so much.”

Acknowledging that the ongoing uncertainty wasn’t really helping matters very much, Gault said, “I try to keep everyone in order and make it as professional as possible in this environment, because at the end of the day, we don’t have the store owner, or any real

“I love her (the owner) and I care about her so much, and I love the store, and this place has shaped so many individuals from Santa Monica who have visited this store and my experience with Color Me Mine as a kid is unforgettable. So that’s why I’m here and working so hard and trying to make this store memorable for others

- Adelaide Gault, store manager

management, so it’s all basically, up to me, right now.”

According to the website BizBuySell, the asking price for the franchise is \$475,000 and the potential gross revenue is \$562,755. Interested parties are instructed to fill out a franchise Inquiry at <https://colormeminefranchising.com-inquiry> for more details.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

run for governor in 2010 when former Gov. Jerry Brown, Newsom’s quasi-uncle from decades of family interconnection, shouldered him aside.

Newsom spent eight years as Brown’s lieutenant governor, California’s least visible statewide office, before finally running for governor in 2018.

Maybe Newsom would be content to complete the final 28 months of his governorship and return to peddling wine. But having invested half his life in politics, that seems unlikely.

A cabinet position in a Harris administration? An ambassadorship? Somehow those options don’t compute for a man with an outsized ego.

If he really wants to be president, his only realistic chance would be 2028, but then only if Harris loses this year. However, were she to lose, there would be a multi-player scramble inside the party — including some of those who did have a speaking slot at the convention.

This article was originally published by CalMatters.



WEDNESDAY | AUGUST 28

COMPUTER CLASS- INTRO TO GOOGLE DOCS

10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Computer Training Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Learn about Google’s free application, Google Docs, for creating and editing documents. Learn how to store documents in the cloud. For intermediate level.

URBAN FOREST TASK FORCE MEETING

6:30 - 8:15 p.m. Multi-Purpose Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. The Urban Forest Task Force discusses items affecting public trees in Santa Monica. To view an agenda packet, visit: <https://www.santamonica.gov/events/4pjc1yywaw2pdzqg44rsh5z1x1/202408281830>.

THURSDAY | AUGUST 29

LOS ANGELES CANNABIS INVESTING FORUM

10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Famecast Creator Brand Accelerator, 1533 26th St. The Los Angeles Investor Conference is a one-day in-person and live webinar conference with over 400 investors and investment attendees. Includes speakers, presenting companies raising capital, investor judges, sponsors, exhibitors and more. Live webinar registration is free, general admission to the event \$49. To purchase or register, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/los-angeles-cannabis-psychedelics-investing-forum-tickets-792214253157>.

LEGO CLUB

4 - 5 p.m. Youth Activity Room, Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Join us as we relaunch the popular LEGO club. Explore the limits of your building imagination or try out one of our suggested builds. All materials provided. For ages 18 months-11 years old.

HOEDOWN THROWDOWN

6 - 8 p.m. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Highway. Enjoy an end of summer Hoedown Throwdown by kicking off your flip flops and kicking up your heels with Tina Michelle & The Rhinestone Cowgirls. Line Dance and 2-Step lessons from 6 - 7:30 p.m. (jump in anytime) and Open Dancing from 7:30 - 8 p.m. Dance partners not required, bring a picnic and meet new friends. No alcohol, glass or dogs allowed.

SOUNDS OF SANTA MONICA

12 - 6 p.m. Santa Monica Place Center Plaza, 395 Santa Monica Pl. Santa Monica Place is excited to present a new year-long live music series taking place in Center Plaza. The series showcases a diverse range of musical talents including interactive kid-friendly entertainment, energetic DJ sets, emerging local artists and student performances. For more information, visit: <https://www.santamoniacaplace.com/SoundsOfSantaMonica>.

BROAD HUMOR FILM FESTIVAL

6 - 10:30 p.m. Illusion Magic Lounge, 1418 4th St. The Broad Humor Film Festival takes place every Labor Day Weekend, focusing exclusively on comedic films written and directed by women. Shorts programs take place 6 p.m. on the 29th, 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Aug. 31 and 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. on Sept. 1. A feature presentation of Brenda Lee’s “Fortune Cookies” takes place 8 p.m. on the 29th. For tickets and more information, visit: <https://www.broadhumorfilmfest.com/>.

SALSA & BACHATA CLASSES

9:30 p.m. - 1:30 a.m. The Victorian, 2640 Main St. Get your dance shoes on and meet at The Victorian every Thursday for 21 and up Salsa and Bachata classes. Enjoy music spun by The Victorian’s featured DJs and stay after the lesson to participate in open floor dancing and other amazing dancers and great food and drink. Tickets \$15, to purchase visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/salsa-bachata-at-the-victorian-tickets-391011675447>.

FRIDAY | AUGUST 30

MARION DAVIES GUEST HOUSE TOUR

12 - 2 p.m. Marion Davies Guest House, 415 Pacific Coast Hwy. Step back in time as Santa Monica Conservancy docents share the rich history of the Beach House site from the 1920s onward. Free 20-minute docent tours are available on a walk-up basis, for groups of up to six people. Schedule subject to change with short notice, call 310-458-4904 to confirm dates and closures.

MAGIC BY THE SEA

7 - 9 p.m. Illusion Magic Lounge, 1418 4th St. Get ready to unlock a full evening of magical entertainment via the “Nifty and Shifty” Comedy Magic show by the sea with John Rotellini and Dave Johnson. The intimate Court Room space hosts a formal close up show, a unique format rarely seen outside the Magic Castle in Hollywood. General admission \$45, children ages 3-18 \$35. To purchase, visit: <https://illusionmagiclounge.com/show/dave-johnson-and-john-rotellini-magic-by-the-sea-aug-30-2024/>.

LOBBY LOUNGE LIVE

7 - 10 p.m. Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows, 101 Wilshire Blvd. Guests are invited to immerse themselves in the ambiance of the Lobby Lounge as they enjoy handcrafted cocktails, delectable bites and the unparalleled talent of master pianist Jason Pelsey. As a special treat, six lucky attendees will have the opportunity to join Pelsey at the piano for an unforgettable musical experience (first come, first serve). For more information, visit: <https://www.fairmont-miramar.com/events/lobby-lounge-live-piano/>.

NEWSOM

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to office and now winning the presidential nomination without proving herself in a truly contested political duel.

The only time she tried to do so was in 2020, when she briefly ran for president and quickly stumbled out of consideration, only to be chosen by Biden as his running mate.

Newsom could argue that as governor of the nation’s most populous and most complex state, he would be better qualified than Harris. But he never got the chance.

So where does Newsom go from here?

He has spent exactly half of his 56 years patiently climbing the political ladder, beginning in 1996 when Willie Brown, then the mayor of San Francisco and mentor to both Harris and Newsom, appointed him to the city’s Parking and Traffic Commission.

From that start, he won a seat on San Francisco’s Board of Supervisors, later became mayor and was poised to

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