

Darkness provides little relief in SoCal heat wave

Experts say overnight warmth raises health, fire risks. Significant cooling is days away.

By HANNAH FRY

A sweltering heat wave that's baked parts of Southern California with triple-digit temperatures during the day continues to punish the region with an unrelenting heat that continues after dark.

Temperatures in the Santa Monica Mountains didn't drop below 95 degrees from Thursday night to Friday morning. At midnight Thursday, it was still 100 degrees in Malibu Hills. Lower elevations along the coast, including Redondo Beach and Huntington Beach, saw a bit of a cooldown, but it was still balmy with temperatures in the 70s at night. Inland Los Angeles County ranged from the mid-70s to the high 80s at midnight, according to the National Weather Service.

While it's not uncommon to have high overnight temperatures during heat waves this time of year, it can prove uncomfortable, said Ryan Kittell, a meteorologist with the weather service in Oxnard.

"What happens is we get our marine layer squashed so low, that really warm and dry layer we have above the marine layer now gets into the populated areas as opposed to being way up in the mountains," he said.

Daytime temperatures, while sweltering, have not been record-shattering in most places. This is because a heat wave in 2020 brought slightly higher temperatures to much of Southern California.

[See Heat wave, A8]



ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

THE 388-ACRE campus is home to a UCLA baseball stadium and a Brentwood School athletic facility.

Judge calls for more housing on VA's West L.A. campus

He says the agency's leases to UCLA and Brentwood School are illegal



LUIS SINCO Los Angeles Times

DURING the three-week trial, plaintiffs recounted the history of Veterans Row, a collection of tents that sprang up just outside the campus during the pandemic.

By DOUG SMITH

A federal judge on Friday ordered the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to build more than 2,500 units of housing for low-income veterans on its West Los Angeles campus.

In a 124-page decision following a nonjury trial, U.S. District Judge David O. Carter also ruled that leases to UCLA, Brentwood School and others on the VA property are illegal because they don't principally serve veterans.

UCLA's Jackie Robinson baseball stadium is on 10 acres leased from the VA, and Brentwood School's [See VA, A6]

Electronic recordings cleared amid a court reporter shortage

Judge's order conflicts with a state law that she has held is unconstitutional.

By KEVIN RECTOR

In an attempt to combat the disproportionate harm that a statewide court reporter shortage is having on low-income litigants, Los

Angeles County's top judge cleared the way Thursday for electronic recording devices to be used in certain family, probate and civil proceedings for the first time.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Samantha P. Jessner's order, denounced by court reporters and their union, is in clear conflict with established state law that explicitly precludes the use of recording devices in such proceedings. Based on Jess-

ner's determination, that law is unconstitutional.

"Where such fundamental rights and liberty interests are at stake, the denial of [electronic recording] to litigants who cannot reasonably secure a [court reporter] violates the constitutions of the United States and the State of California," Jessner wrote in her order.

The decision, which applies only to proceedings where a court reporter is un-

available to transcribe the verbatim record, is a surprising escalation in a years-long battle among court officials, state lawmakers and unionized labor leaders over what to do about a chronic shortage of court reporters statewide.

Cindy Tachell, a working L.A. County court reporter and president of the Los Angeles County Court Reporters Assn., said in an interview with The Times that the

order came as a surprise to her organization — and will be reviewed closely before the group decides on next steps or legal options.

Shanna Gray, also a working county court reporter and the association's vice president, noted that state lawmakers have already rejected proposed legislation that would have made similar changes. She said L.A. County officials [See Recordings, A8]

August job numbers for individual states won't be available for two weeks, but the national data suggest that California may again trail the country in job growth.

Nationally, motion pictures and the broader information sector lost some jobs, and employment in other sectors important to California, such as professional and business services and transportation and warehousing, was flat last month.

Also, California's job [See Job growth, A10]

GOP pressures Harris at home

Immigration is highlighted in California visit. **PERSPECTIVES, A2**

Bass to name police chief soon

Mayor lists her priorities for next LAPD leader. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Buehler taking the 'next step'

Dodgers right-hander regains command of his pitches. **SPORTS, B12**

Weather

Mostly sunny and hot. L.A. Basin: 98/79. **B8**

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COLUMN ONE

Before helping the law, informant was suspected in gang member's killing

Authorities believe that Ralph Rocha, a mobster who flipped for the feds, ordered slaying in 2009.

By MATTHEW ORMSETH

Lucio Rodarte's death was not a mystery. Two days after his body was found in an alley in Compton in 2009 — hands cuffed behind his back, bandannas tied around his eyes and stuffed in his mouth, shot twice in the head

— an informant went to the FBI. The source said he'd seen a member of the Mexican Mafia threaten and extort from Rodarte inside a tattoo parlor just before he was killed, according to an FBI report.

His name was Ralph "Perico" Rocha, the report said.

After six years of interviewing confidential sources and witnesses, including some who were inside the tattoo shop, a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department homicide detective testified at a preliminary hearing that evidence indicated Rocha had ordered

[See Rocha, A5]



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