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Volume 25 Issue 95

WEDNESDAY 4/1/26

smdp.com

## Santa Monica expands Entertainment Zone to include consumables more entertaining than alcohol in bid to boost foot traffic

BY SLUG DOANE

Facing a downtown corridor that has shed nearly a third of its retail tenants since the pandemic, city officials have Wednesday a sweeping expansion of the Third Street Promenade Entertainment Zone — not in size, but in spirit, and in controlled substances.

Under the proposal, the Downtown Entertainment Zone will extend its permissible public consumption menu beyond alcohol to include cannabis, psilocybin mushrooms, and ketamine, completing what the city's Downtown Retail Upgrade Group described in a press release as "a full portfolio of entertaining substances for the discerning urban pedestrian."

"This is Los Angeles," said Deputy City Manager Adrienne Cho at a Thursday morning press conference held, perhaps optimistically, in front of a vacant storefront on the 1300



Adob Photoski

SEE ENTERTAINMENT ZONE PAGE 8 **ARE YOU NOT ENTERTAINED?:** City Hall is working to bring more entertaining consumables to the Promenade in an effort to boost business.

## Machines make driving look easy Robots rout humans in head-to-head contest

BY HESTER MAVERICK

In what organizers are calling the most lopsided performance in competition history, human competitors were routed again

Saturday in the city's now-legendary man-versus-machine driving competition, leaving the parking structure adjacent to the old Civic

SEE WAYMO PAGE 7

## City Hall announces world's first microplastic life cycle program

BY KRISTOPHER SMYTH

In a bold step toward what city officials are calling "closed-loop environmental stewardship," the City of Santa Monica announced Thursday an ambitious expansion of its water recycling program

that will extract microplastics from the municipal water supply, manufacture them into synthetic turf, and install that turf in places guaranteed to impart those plastics into local youth, thereby continuing the plastic life cycle.

"We think of it as the water

cycle, but for pollution," said Derek Pham, director of the city's newly formed Office of Circular Plastic Innovation. "We impart the plastics into the water supply through every day consumption of goods. We

SEE PLASTIC PAGE 8

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## When The Water Dies - NEW PLAY

*When the Water Dies*, written, starring and directed by Santa Monica native Sebastiano Pigazzi (*HBO's We Are Who We Are, And Just Like That*), comes to the Santa Monica Playhouse for four special performances on April 4, 11, 14, and 16. This powerful family drama unfolds between past and future, centered around a fateful dinner where nothing will ever be the same. Scan for tickets, Or enter the link: [wtwd.ludus.com](http://wtwd.ludus.com)



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# Santa Monica to host Olympic urban poop dodge after volleyball reversal

## City reverses course on Olympics participation, cites 'unparalleled existing infrastructure' in new three-stage endurance event



Lyra Roomé

**RACE TO THE BOTTOM:** Runners may have a hard time under the Pier.

BY ANDERS THOMAN

After declining to host Olympic beach volleyball earlier this year over concerns about parking, noise and what one council member called “the indignity of sand,” the City of Santa Monica announced Tuesday it has reversed course on Olympic participation and will serve as the exclusive host venue for a newly approved event: the Urban Obstacle Triathlon.

The sport, approved by the International Olympic Committee’s Emerging Disciplines Committee last month following a contentious three-hour Zoom call, will send competitors through a three-stage course beginning on the beach, continuing beneath the pier, and culminating in a dog-assisted sprint through Palisades Park.

“We didn’t design this course,” said Councilwoman Fran Paul at a press conference held near the park’s third bench from the south entrance, which is not currently usable due to a widening field of homeless debris. “But we have been curating it for decades.”

### THE COURSE

#### Stage One: The Boardwalk Gauntlet

Competitors begin barefoot on the beach, running along several of the wooden boardwalk sections adjacent to the sand. The stage is timed in the conventional sense, with one critical exception: any athlete who receives a structural wood shard — defined by IOC rules as “a splinter of sufficient mass to require extraction tools or audible profanity” — incurs a 45-second penalty per shard, assessed by a certified judge walking alongside with a flashlight and a pained

expression.

The boardwalk, which the city’s Public Works department describes in maintenance records as “lifethreateningly jagged,” offers what course designers are calling an “unpredictable and therefore fair” challenge. Early test runs conducted last month produced an average of 2.3 shard-penalty events per competitor, with one trial athlete setting what officials believe is a course record before being transported to Providence Saint John’s for a 4 inch shard removal.

“It rewards awareness,” said course director and former Santa Monica Recreation & Parks supervisor Glen Abueg. “Elite athletes will develop a feel for the grain.”

#### Stage Two: The Pier Gauntlet

From the boardwalk, competitors transition beneath the Santa Monica Pier for what the IOC’s technical committee has designated the event’s most mentally demanding segment. Athletes must navigate a 200-meter obstacle field of sun-bleached food containers, tangled fishing line, and — in what judges describe as the segment’s “live variable” — bird corpses in varying states of presentation.

Contact with a food container incurs no penalty but is tracked for sportsmanship scoring. Contact with a bird corpse triggers a 60-second penalty, with an additional 30-second increment applied if the contact occurs while a decaying corpse falls through the decomposing netting above their heads.

“The bird density is what makes this world-class,” said IOC technical observer

# Downtown Santa Monica unveils “Dino-Matic” interactive fountain

## Beloved Promenade Topiaries to Receive \$2.4M Upgrade Funded Partially Through SMPD Budget; Officials Predict “Net-Zero Soakage”

BY TRUDY LUGER

Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. (DTSM) today announced an ambitious reimagining of the Third Street Promenade’s iconic dinosaur topiary fountains, a bold infrastructure investment that organization leadership says will “finally make the dinos earn their keep.”

Under the proposed “Dino-Matic” program, the heads of the Promenade’s water-spouting dinosaur statues will be retrofitted with remotely controlled hydraulic servo mechanisms, allowing members of the public to pay \$0.25 per minute via a dedicated mobile app to manipulate the direction and intensity of each fountain’s water stream in real time.

“We’ve been staring at these things for thirty years asking what they can do for us,” said a DTSM spokesperson who asked to remain anonymous because they are fictional. “The answer, it turns out, is spray.”

To fund the initial installation, DTSM is proposing to draw from a portion of the Santa Monica Police Department’s operational budget — a move officials say is not a cut so much as a “public safety redeployment.”

The rationale, outlined in a 47-page feasibility study, centers on a core behavioral assumption: that internet users given control of a water cannon pointed at a public space will, with high statistical certainty, aim it at unhoused individuals resting on or near the Promenade. DTSM projects this will reduce

the need for traditional public safety responses by as much as 80%, a figure described in the study as “vibes-based” but still as valid as any other data the agency collects about foot traffic or sales on the street.

“We’re not saying we want people to get soaked,” the spokesperson clarified. “We’re saying the market will make that determination organically and there are a lot of residents who just want to spit on homeless people which makes this a safer alternative for all involved.”

DTSM acknowledged that early user testing suggested most participants would simply point the fountains at pigeons and ex-partners, but noted that “even this outcome represents an improvement in Promenade ambiance.”

The dinosaur topiaries, which have required ongoing maintenance since their installation in the 1980s, currently cost the city an estimated sum DTSM has declined to specify. Dino-Matic is projected to generate between \$40,000 and \$4 million annually, depending on assumptions.

A community meeting is planned for a date to be determined, pending the city’s procurement of sufficient rain ponchos for attendees.

The dinosaurs were not available for comment.

The program will be paid for by a new tax that will be levied on residents for the next 20 years.



## Surf report WATER TEMP: 65.3

WEDNESDAY | SURF: 1-2ft  
POOR TO FAIR | Knee to thigh

Watching for a bump in surf with potential fun-zone waves. All day W wind looking likely. An increase in shorter-period NW swell looks likely for the middle of the week, mixing with modest Southern Hemi energy. This could nudge surf up into the knee-waist high+ range and offer some jumbled peaks at the beachbreaks on a favorable AM tide push. Models coming into better alignment on onshore westerly wind picking up early in the morning, picking up and getting strong in the afternoon for rough conditions west of Dume. Tucked-away points should be okay

THURSDAY | SURF: 1-2ft  
POOR TO FAIR | Knee to thigh

Small, jumbled surf. Morning conditions settle before onshores pick back up. A little mix of S and NW swells for the bigger boards. Beachbreaks on the peaky side thanks to the mix, but overall quality is likely pretty low. At least morning winds look better than Wednesday, and line up nicely with a favorable early tide push. Afternoon W/WNW onshores look pretty breezy again, so the tuckedaway points will be the go to if you miss the morning window.

## Weather

**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 66. Light and variable wind becoming west southwest 10 to 15 mph.

**Wednesday Night:** Increasing clouds, with a low around 57. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph decreasing to 5 to 10 mph.

**Thursday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 67. Light and variable wind becoming southwest 5 to 10 mph.

**Thursday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 54.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)High/Low
2026/04/01	Wed	03:41 AM	0.07 L
2026/04/01	Wed	09:41 AM	4.70 H
2026/04/01	Wed	3:39 PM	0.29 L
2026/04/01	Wed	9:52 PM	5.33 H
2026/04/02	Thu	04:17 AM	-0.14 L
2026/04/02	Thu	10:19 AM	4.33 H
2026/04/02	Thu	4:01 PM	0.72 L
2026/04/02	Thu	10:14 PM	5.38 H
2026/04/03	Fri	04:53 AM	-0.22 L
2026/04/03	Fri	10:58 AM	3.91 H
2026/04/03	Fri	4:22 PM	1.15 L
2026/04/03	Fri	10:37 PM	5.33 H
2026/04/04	Sat	05:30 AM	-0.18 L
2026/04/04	Sat	11:39 AM	3.48 H

## Daily Lottery

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Powerball	Draw Date: 3/30 7 11 31 41 57 Power#: 20 Jackpot: 194 M	Fantasy 5	Draw Date: 3/30 1 9 18 31 36
Mega Millions	Draw Date: 3/27 13 27 28 41 62 Mega#: 16 Jackpot: 80 M	Daily 3	Draw Date: 3/30 EVENING: 9 6 6 Draw Date: 3/30 MIDDAY: 2 6 3
Super Lotto Plus	Draw Date: 3/28 4 31 33 41 43 Mega#: 25 Jackpot: 7 M	Daily Derby	Draw Date: 3/30 1st: 12 - Lucky Charms 2nd: 08 - Gorgeous George 3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit Race Time: 1:40.45

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026036144. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: AMLI MARINA DEL REY, 4242 VIA MARINA, MARINA DEL REY, CA 90292, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): PPF AMLI 4242 VIA MARINA GP, LLC, 141 W JACKSON BLVD STE 300, CHICAGO, IL 60604. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 12/2018. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ ALINA EVANGELOU, GENERAL PARTNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 2/17/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 03/18/2026, 03/25/2026, 04/01/2026, 04/08/2026

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026045407. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: THE LASER IMAGE, 1728 S CATALINA AVE #4, REDONDO BEACH, CA 90277, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): PURE AND REFINED INC., 1728 S CATALINA AVE #4, REDONDO BEACH, CA 90277. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/2026. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ DUYEN TRA, SECRETARY. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 02/27/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 04/01/2026, 04/08/2026, 04/15/2026, 04/22/2026

## Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26NWCP00101. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 12720 Norwalk Blvd., Room 101, Norwalk, CA 90650. Petition of Jacob Daniel Diaz for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Jacob Daniel Diaz filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Jacob Daniel Diaz to Jacob Daniel Marin. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 05/11/2026, Time: 8:30, Dept: C, Room: 312. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 03/09/2026. David W. Slayton, Executive Officer/Clerk of Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 03/18/2026, 03/25/2026, 04/01/2026, 04/08/2026

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# Santa Monica's gleaming new beach path unit is here to protect you. Please stop staring

BY ALMON ALTISTA

They emerge from the morning marine layer in a V-formation, eight across, moving in perfect synchrony down the beach bike path at approximately 18 miles per hour. Their helmet lights rotate. Their zippers are open to the sternum.

They are the Aesthetic Safety Squad unit (ASS) and they are here, Lt. Derek Stonewood wants you to know, strictly in a law enforcement capacity.

"We are not a spectacle," said Lt. Stonewood, while creating an absolute spectacle with his implausibly groomed mustache rippling in the ocean breeze. "We are a deterrent."

Launched last month under a City Council directive calling for "proactive multimodal safety stewardship" of Santa Monica's beach corridor, ASS represents what city officials describe as a comprehensive response to an escalating catalog of path violations that have, in the judgment of a 74-page staff report, rendered the beachfront a "mobility hazard zone requiring immediate aesthetic and enforcement intervention."

The initiative has drawn criticism from civil liberties advocates and at least two council members who voted for the underlying ordinance, but city officials note that the program was shaped by multiple overlapping council directives: a 2023 resolution prioritizing pedestrian safety on the beach path, a 2024 motion calling for the expansion of zero-emission city vehicles, and a standing policy of aesthetic stewardship of the beachfront corridor that city attorneys have declined to put in writing.

The unit patrols exclusively on department-issued inline skates, a choice the city attributes to its zero-emission vehicle mandate and which Lt. Stonewood attributes to "pursuit readiness." Officers complete a four-week training program that includes pursuit skating, de-escalation seminars, and a 90-minute elective called "Reading the Path: Threat Recognition at Speed", which one officer described as "mostly just learning to identify dog leashes before you're already inside one."

The leash problem, it turns out, is significant.

"A standard retractable leash at full extension can span the entire width of the bike path," said Officer Trent Calloway, demonstrating the threat using a length of rope during a Wednesday press conference while two firefighters from Station 1 nodded gravely in the background. "You've got a cyclist, a rollerblader, maybe a child on one of those little balance bikes, and then — invisible wire at shin height. It's basically a tripwire. It's basically a military installation, but the commanding officer is a cockapoo who just really wants to eat a seagull."

The cockapoo threat is one of several violations ASS officers are authorized to cite under expanded municipal enforcement powers approved by the council in February. Others include:

Overloaded rental scooters. Vendors operating in the Venice corridor are required by law to post a 250-pound weight limit, a

restriction that ASS officers say is widely ignored. "We see them come across the border moving about four miles an hour, fully loaded, the motor making a sound like a small appliance in distress," Calloway said. "The path speed limit is fifteen. At four miles an hour you are not transportation. You are a furniture hazard."

Unsupervised children in bike lanes. The staff report devoted eleven pages to what it described as the "careen phenomenon" — young children on bikes or scooters who have achieved enough momentum to be dangerous but not enough control to be directional. "They're not going anywhere," said Lt. Stonewood. "They're just going."

Toenail debris. This one required a moment. SMPD confirmed that ASS officers carry citation pads that include a specific code — 10-GROO — for incidents involving personal grooming on public path-adjacent seating that generates, as the staff report put it, "projectile keratin posing a risk to barefoot path users." No one at the press conference made direct eye contact during this portion of the briefing.

The unit's relationship with the Santa Monica Fire Department's own beachfront personnel has drawn perhaps the most sustained public attention. SMFD adopted a near-identical uniform last spring — racing shirt unzipped, spandex shorts, crash helmet with rotating lights — and the two departments now conduct coordinated patrols twice weekly, which features a pair of skaters holding hands as they glide down the path.

"The helmet was actually my idea," said Officer, demonstrating a precision backward crossover during the press conference while maintaining unbroken eye contact with a television camera. "You need presence on the path. You need to be seen."

Officials describe the protocol as a "unified command structure" and which beachfront visitors have described using a range of other terms.

"We share a jurisdiction," said SMFD Battalion Chief Marco Reyes, who was standing very close to Lt. Stonewood during the press conference in a way that the assembled journalists found difficult not to photograph. "It makes operational sense to present a unified front."

The unified front has gone, to put it gently, viral.

Images of the joint patrols have circulated widely across social media, drawing particular enthusiasm from accounts associated with the fanbase of 'Heated Rivalry,' the Netflix hockey/hookup drama with fans that one cultural critic described as "a specific and highly organized viewership with strong opinions about handcuffs."

Santa Monica's tourism office confirmed Thursday that international inquiries have increased 41 percent since the photographs circulated, with Australian, British, and Brazilian markets showing the steepest spikes.

"We are not positioning this as a tourism product," said a city spokesperson, before

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# Shitty Council app



Cavin Affray

**MAP:** In an effort to make downtown and the Promenade more attractive to visitors, the City of Santa Monica is launching Shitty Council, an app to identify and track human feces deposits. Visitors with the app will get real-time alerts when they are within 10 feet of an "incident," thus enabling the user to avoid an unpleasant situation. Originally, the radius was going to be 20 feet, but in early testing the app was in near perpetual alert mode. "Reducing it to 10 feet allows for a more peaceful experience," said Rudy Shites, president of the downtown business district. "Heck, to get more than 20 feet from human poop you'd have to go to Malibu or Manhattan Beach," explained Shites. After 5 years and \$22 million of development, the app is being launched with great fanfare including its own song, written to the tune of The Who's Who Are You, with a chorus of "poo, poo...poo, poo."

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	<b>SHELL</b> 1866 Lincoln Blvd	All the tea in China
	<b>WORLD</b> 1801 Lincoln Blvd	One Philosopher's Stone
	<b>CHEVRON</b> 1732 Lincoln Blvd	Ten ounces of unobtainium
	<b>SHELL</b> 1802 Cloverfield Blvd	Your Soul
	<b>ARCO</b> 332 Pico Blvd	The Hope Diamond
	<b>76</b> 1776 Cloverfield Blvd	A crate of Spice
	<b>CHEVRON</b> 1330 Santa Monica	Four Fifths of a Dragons Hoard

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# Whiplash outbreak: politicians hospitalized after record-breaking ideological pivot

## Several candidates transferred to Santa Monica Urgent Care following what emergency physicians are calling “an unprecedented cluster of political-torsion injuries

BY ARMELLE SHAVARYAN

Emergency rooms across the Westside were overwhelmed this week as a surge of local politicians arrived complaining of severe cervical strain, contorted spines, and what attending physicians described as “acute position-reversal syndrome” — a rare but increasingly common condition triggered by the proximity of a competitive election.

The outbreak, which health officials are now treating as a full-blown disaster event given its scale, has left at least six candidates bedridden, two requiring traction, and one reportedly unable to distinguish his current policy positions from those he held in 2021.

“We’ve seen political whiplash before,” said Dr. Elena Vasquez, chief of emergency medicine at Providence Saint John’s Health Center.

“But this cycle, the rotational speed was extraordinary. Some of these individuals pivoted 180 degrees in under a week or tried to point in two directions simultaneously. Soft tissue cannot handle that.”

Meteorologists at the National Weather Service’s Burbank office said they had no choice but to issue the first-ever Civic Cynicism Advisory for the greater Santa Monica area through Election Day, warning residents of gusty reversals, patchy accountability, and near-zero visibility into what any given candidate actually believes.

The injuries appear concentrated around a cluster of positions that had, until recently, been matters of firm public record.

One candidate, who spent three years championing police reform, reallocation of law enforcement budgets, and what she once called “a fundamental reimagining of public safety,” arrived at urgent care Tuesday with what her campaign manager described as “a scheduling conflict with reality.” She had just unveiled a seven-point plan to hire 40 additional officers, restore mounted patrol,

and explore the acquisition of a helicopter. When asked about the contradiction, she told reporters, “I’ve always supported law enforcement,” before losing consciousness.

A second politician, who had reliably insisted for years that Downtown Santa Monica was “not struggling” and that encampments along the Third Street Promenade were “a symptom of a system, not a deterrent to commerce,” was hospitalized after announcing he would make moving the downtown homeless shelter anywhere else. Witnesses said his neck audibly cracked on the word “deterrent.” Doctors confirmed the fracture was consistent with a force exceeding 200 campaign mailers.

The most severe cases, according to medical staff, involved a pair of council members who were palpably desperate to be quoted as supporting new businesses in town while allowing local labor unions to write new ordinances governing businesses so stringent three restaurants closed before they could finish the paper applications.

Perhaps most confounding to physicians was the case of a longtime incumbent who had spent a decade describing her relationship with developers as adversarial — “I fight them so you don’t have to” was a re-election slogan as recently as 2022 — only to have a local news outlet publish a cache of text messages in which she referred to a luxury condo developer as “babe” and negotiated a building height exemption over what appeared to be lunch at Nobu. She arrived at the ER on a Wednesday exhibiting what neurologists called “narrative collapse,” and spent six hours insisting the text messages were “out of context” before her own phone buzzed with another one.

Interviewed from their hospital beds, however, all of the affected politicians expressed a striking consensus: it was worth it.

SEE WHIPLASH PAGE 11

A gallon of fermented dead dinosaur juice has reached near-burrito pricing at pumps across Los Angeles County, sending residents into a spiral of quiet, car-bound despair.

Gas prices climbed to levels not seen since the last time Angelenos swore they were “seriously considering” public transit, a threat experts describe as “entirely hollow.”

“I’m outraged,” said one Westside resident, seated in an idling Escalade outside a Whole Foods. “Something needs to change.” He then gunned it to pull 10 feet ahead of a neighboring SUV to merge onto the 405.

The crisis has prompted widespread hand-wringing but zero behavioral modification, as alternatives remain stubbornly impractical in a metro area where the bus takes 90 minutes to go four miles and the rail network is perpetually a decade-and-a-half from coherence.

City officials urged residents to consider buying fuel efficient vehicles, carpooling, biking, or walking — statements met with blank stares by a population that had the highest pre-orders of Cybertrucks in the country.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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## WAYMO

FROM PAGE 1

Center strewn with wounded egos and at least three confiscated phones still recording vertical video.

The Santa Monica Autonomous Street Hustle (SMASH) — known on the street as the Wheel Wars, and known in city budget documents as “Multipurpose Civic Infrastructure Revenue Event” — returned for its seventh week to a sold-out crowd, a smattering of food trucks along Main Street, and the kind of ambient smell of overconfidence that has come to define the sport.

The arena itself occupies the footprint of what city planners spent years proposing to turn into a cultural hub, a mixed-use development, a satellite DMV, and, briefly, a “creative incubation campus,” before finally agreeing to just let the engineering department pour additional asphalt on it and charge admission. The location, flanked by the 10 freeway, Olympic Boulevard, and the permanent ambient chaos of Lincoln Boulevard, provides what the event’s rulebook describes as “naturally occurring obstacle conditions” at no additional cost to taxpayers.

Competitors in the human bracket were drawn, as always, from a curated pool of social media users flagged for posting dashcam clips of cars obeying the speed limit or merging safely with captions like “What is WRONG with people???” and “Learn to DRIVE.” Recruitment coordinators say it typically takes about 45 minutes to find enough contestants on any given Tuesday.

### ROAD EVENTS

The morning session opened with the No Left Turn Over a Double Yellow, a classic event that has yet to produce a human winner. Saturday’s human entrant, a 34-year-old from Culver City who had accumulated 280,000 views on a video titled “Literally everyone in LA is braindead,” attempted the maneuver with what judges described as “conviction, and not much else.” His Waymo competitor completed the same course segment without violating the law, citing applicable California Vehicle Code sections in its telemetry log.

The Right-Turn-Only Intersection Challenge saw three human participants disqualified within the first ninety seconds, each attempting to go straight through an intersection posted with signage that one competitor later described as “merely a suggestion if your tires are big enough.” The autonomous vehicle unit completed the course, turned right, and logged the event under the category “routine.”

Perhaps the most anticipated event of the morning was the Merge From the 10 Onto Olympic, which organizers introduced in Season 2 after fans demanded something with genuine emotional stakes. Human participant records indicate a 2019 Ford F-150 attempted the merge at full speed without signaling, shearing a courtesy cone array and spinning into the soft barrier on the east end of the arena. The competing Waymo merged cleanly, yielded to existing traffic as required, and,



Gim Proxley

**DRIVE SAFE:** The robot drivers can’t steal food and understand the basic rules of the road.

witnesses say, seemed almost embarrassed to be there.

The afternoon session elevated the competition with the U-Turn at a Four-Way Stop — School Run Conditions, in which the arena is seeded with child actors attached to bungee tethers for safety. The human driver, a content creator whose profile bio reads “I just tell it like it is,” attempted a three-point turn during a gap in crossing traffic that did not, by any objective measurement, exist. Two of the child actors were launched briefly skyward. Both were fine. The crowd went insane. The Waymo waited its turn and proceeded without incident through the intersection, observing the school zone speed limit to the tenth of a mile per hour, which the announcer described as “almost insulting.”

The Brake Check for the Pedestrian event — widely regarded as Wheel War’s signature challenge — saw the autonomous vehicle register the incursion of a running child in 0.3 seconds. The human competitor was disqualified, not for the impact, but for not noticing they hit anything while staring at their phone.

### OBSTACLE COURSE: THE SANTA MONICA EXPERIENCE

The afternoon concluded with the event most beloved by local spectators: the full

Santa Monica Street Gauntlet, featuring conditions replicated from real-world data collected on a single Tuesday morning on 14th Street between Wilshire and Santa Monica Boulevard.

The human driver encountered, in sequence: two shirtless fitness influencers running northbound in the southbound lane while filming themselves; a DoorDash driver stopped at a 45-degree angle to traffic; three delivery vehicles — UPS, Amazon, and a white van of indeterminate affiliation — double-parked on opposite sides of the residential block simultaneously, reducing the navigable lane to approximately the width of a legal filing cabinet; an individual crossing mid-block in what the official rulebook now formally categorizes as the “Shoeless Zombie Shuffle,” defined as a pace “not fast enough to constitute walking, not slow enough to constitute standing still, and seemingly indifferent to the laws of physics and traffic”; a second food delivery driver who accelerated from a full stop, drove forty feet, stopped again, then slowly reversed into the parking position he had just left; and, at the intersection of 4th and Arizona, a group of cyclists running a red light in a tight formation that one witness compared to “a very slow, very committed peloton of people who’ve never heard of traffic lights.”

The human competitor was found idling on the far end of the block seventeen minutes later, engine running, staring straight ahead while mumbling inaudibly.

The autonomous vehicle completed the Gauntlet in four minutes and eleven seconds, logged every event in its sensor array, yielded to every relevant party including the Zombie Shuffle individual, and simultaneously serenading the crowd with a selection of easy listening music.

### DELIVERY DIVISION

In the food delivery bracket, human riders faced off against autonomous delivery units in a relay involving two burritos, one order of pad thai, and a milkshake. The human competitor was docked twelve points for a tilted bag, eight points for missing fries (which the driver claims to know nothing about despite suspiciously salty fingertips), and fourteen points for a burrito temperature reading of 97°F, four degrees below the minimum threshold. The autonomous unit delivered all items upright, complete, and at temperature.

The event will be paid for by a new tax that will be levied on residents for the next 20 years.

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## ENTERTAINMENT ZONE

FROM PAGE 1

block. “When people say they want to come out to a party, we want them to really be able to party.”

She paused while a tumbleweed did not literally roll by. It just felt that way.

The genesis of the plan, according to internal memos obtained by this reporter, was a frank assessment delivered to the council’s Economic Development Subcommittee last fall: downtown Santa Monica had become so desolate that the only people reliably willing to set up a table and conduct commerce there were drug dealers stationed outside the city’s homeless shelter on Fifth Street. Rather than viewing this as a problem, officials chose to view it as a proof of concept.

“Those guys understood something we didn’t,” said one city staffer who asked to remain anonymous. “Apparently the secret to a thriving open-air retail environment is to sell things people actually want.”

The expansion plan takes direct design inspiration from the shelter-adjacent market model, featuring what the planning documents call “low-infrastructure pop-up vending nodes” — in layperson’s terms, folding tables — positioned throughout the zone and staffed by licensed vendors offering what the proposal terms “specialty substance cocktails.” Suggested pairings include a microdose flight for the “curious creative professional,” a ketamine-and-CBD combination marketed under the working title “The Landlord,” and a mushroom-forward offering described only as “the full Promenade experience.”

The program will be underwritten, in a twist officials called “a natural partnership,” by the social media companies headquartered in Santa Monica and the surrounding Westside. Several of those firms have spent years under congressional scrutiny for allegedly facilitating the sale of illegal drugs through their platforms. City staff noted, with what can only be described as municipal audacity, that this technically makes them the most experienced players in the local drug distribution ecosystem.

“They’ve been doing this for years,” said Cho. “We’re just giving them a chance to do it with permits.”

The county department of public health will also sponsor the opening weekend with a custom designed syringe giveaway that will make whatever is being injected look like the receding tide.

The zone will create a dedicated section at the Downtown Santa Monica Farmers

Market, where the open-air drug market will intersect with the Promenade on Arizona Avenue. That stretch will be designated for what officials described as “artisanal, farm-to-pipe pharmaceuticals” — organically grown, locally sourced, and sold exclusively by vendors in crocheted tops who can speak knowledgeably about terpene profiles, soil biodynamics, and why their mushrooms are fundamentally different from the ones sold twenty feet away by the licensed ketamine pop-up.

“This isn’t just about getting people high,” clarified Farmers Market director Tobi Walsh. “It’s about conscious consumption. Our vendors will know which farm their psilocybin came from.”

Officials acknowledge one unexpected benefit of the program: a potential solution to the city’s persistent homeless population visibility problem. With expanded public intoxication across all demographics and income levels, the distinction between a person sleeping on the sidewalk because they have nowhere to go and a person sleeping on

“You’d basically have to be on drugs to open a business down there,” said Councilman Harry Shell. “So we leaned into that.”

the sidewalk because they had an exceptional time at the Ketamine Lounge becomes, in the eyes of city leadership, productively blurred.

“Community,” said Cho, “is about not knowing which category someone falls into and choosing to see only the humanity.”

Reactions to the decision from business owners was mixed.

Several restaurants said they were excited to capitalize on the new market and said additional menu items would include a bacon mac & cheese burrito stuffed with Cool Ranch Doritos.

However, frequent city critic Joan Street, was not impressed. Street, who is known for wild takes on reality but is not actually on drugs herself said the program was a personal affront because either it would work and they’d no longer be able to attack the city over the Promenade’s decline or it wouldn’t and they’d have been out-crazed by City Hall denying them the ability to make up something equally insane.

The program will be paid for by a new tax that will be levied on residents for the next 20 years.

## PLASTIC

FROM PAGE 1

clean the water, make something beautiful out of it, and eventually we get it back. That’s just good stewardship.”

The program, formally titled the Santa Monica Microplastic Reintegration and Ecological Stewardship Scheme — or SMPRESS — emerged as a compromise after years of bitter debate over synthetic turf fields at local schools and parks. Critics had raised concerns about toxic chemicals leaching into soil, heat island effects on children’s bare feet, and the general principle of covering the ground in plastic and calling it a lawn.

Rather than abandon synthetic turf entirely, the city’s sustainability task force reportedly spent fourteen months and \$8.2 million in consulting fees arriving at what one internal memo described as “the elegant solution of putting the turf somewhere nobody plays soccer, on the sand.”

A key feature of the program will be installing the turf on beach dunes where officials say the plastics will naturally return to the ocean to begin the cycle anew amongst sealife.

“The beach dunes were underutilized open space,” said Pham. “They were just sitting there being natural. We saw an opportunity.”

The dunes, located along a stretch of Santa Monica State Beach, will be replanted with synthetic grass blades manufactured from filtered microplastic fibers — primarily polyethylene and polypropylene recovered from discarded vape refills.

Officials emphasized that the plastic was already a primary source of infill material along the local coast requiring near daily cleaning to account for the trash left by Angelenos who can’t be bothered to walk to a trash can.

Environmental advocates had mixed reactions. Several groups that had spent years opposing synthetic turf on school grounds noted they also wanted the dunes rebuilt and plastics removed from the water supply.

“I guess if we can concentrate it into the ground squirrels and coyotes, maybe we can solve two environmental problems at once,” said local environmentalist Fisher Friends.

Friends initially used a “kill two birds with one stone” metaphor but changed their mind after locking eyes with seagull that appeared to be choking down a plastic bag.

City Council Member Carl Osiris who

voted in favor of the pilot program after what he described as “considerable reflection and two rounds of public comment that I stopped reading halfway through,” said the project demonstrated Santa Monica’s commitment to innovation.

“Other cities take plastics out of the water and then just... throw them away,” she said. “We’re giving them a second life. And then a third life. As ocean debris.”

She said the City would also explore the possibility of incorporating plastic eating algae into the process which would give the city a three-year algae bloom cycle adding to the existing bioluminescent and red tide cycles.

“This is also an equity decision, as everything in Santa Monica must be,” he said “because now people can move next to the beach and complain about existing conditions just like residents near Downtown, the Airport or the Freeway can.”

Under the proposal, Phase One will cover approximately 800 linear feet of dune face with what the city’s design consultant called “coastal-native-inspired synthetic meadow grass” — available in three shades of green, none of which occur in nature within 200 miles of the California coast.

The city estimates the turf will begin fragmenting back into microplastics within two to four years, at which point tidal action and stormwater runoff will carry the particles into the Santa Monica Bay, where they will eventually be ingested by fish, enter the municipal water supply through ocean intake systems, and be filtered back out at the recycling plant — whereupon the cycle begins again.

Officials are calling it “genuinely renewable.”

A \$2M interpretive signage program will explain the cycle to beachgoers through a graphic described in planning documents as “similar to the water cycle poster you had in fifth grade, but the clouds are plastic pellets.”

The school district, which had fought parents for years to install the original turf fields on the grounds that they don’t care about the opinions of parents, issued a brief statement saying it was considering how to turn the situation into a new parcel tax.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony is planned for Earth Day.

The program will be paid for by a new tax that will be levied on residents for the next 20 years.



Sketch Corelle

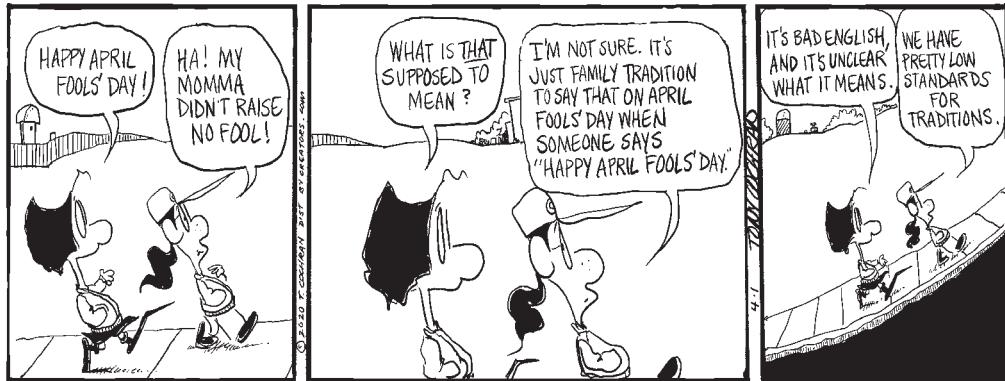
**NATURE:** The process will make for a more pleasing plastic landscape.

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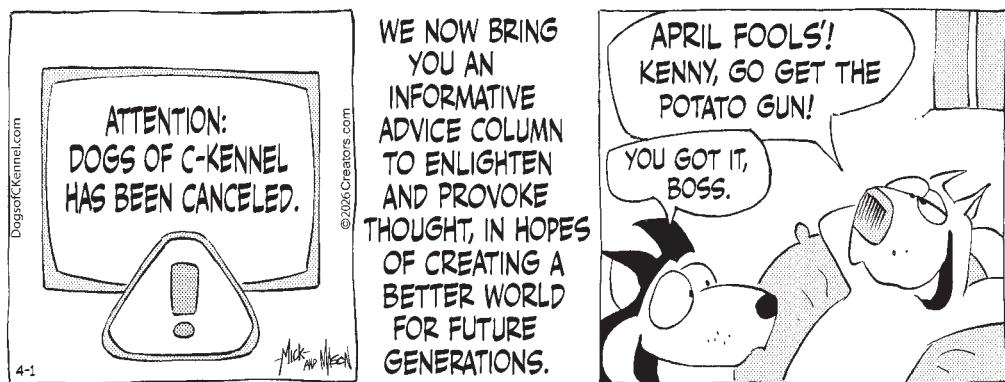
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



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 19 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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## Heading for the tropics

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

- |           |        |          |        |
|-----------|--------|----------|--------|
| Alba      | Dawn   | Mackay   | Retail |
| Alpha     | Dunk   | Mango    | Roma   |
| Alva      | Dysart | Mareeba  | Sharks |
| Atoll     | Eton   | Motel    | Sheep  |
| Bedarra   | Eulo   | Mt Isa   | Shoal  |
| Beef      | Euramo | Nebo     | Tides  |
| Boat      | Farms  | Nelia    | Toads  |
| Calm      | Fish   | Ocean    | Tour   |
| Cape York | Heat   | Paradise | Tuna   |
| Cays      | Hook   | Pawpaw   | Water  |
| Condamine | Laws   | Pool     | Weipa  |
| River     | Laze   | Rain     | Wonga  |
| Coral     | Lucky  | Relax    | Zoos   |

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

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**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 1)**

Welcome to your Year of Inspired Mischief, when wit, originality and a dash of rebellion improve nearly every situation. You'll discover that the playful approach often brings the most practical rewards. More highlights: A clever investment or business idea delivers satisfying profits. Relationships sparkle through humor, surprises, grand gestures and fresh scenes. You'll host a legendary gathering. Gemini and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 25, 37, 10 and 6.

**HOROSCOPES**

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Your confidence is invincible this week — much like a lion whose hide cannot be pierced by any weapon. Sadly, neither can your skull absorb feedback. Mercury urges you to choke out the problem rather than slash at it. Your gym membership remains unused. Bring your own loincloth.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Every problem you solve spawns two more. Your inbox: hydra. Your family group chat: hydra. Your credit card statement: hydra with bonus heads. The stars advise cauterizing each issue immediately rather than walking away and hoping the heads don't grow back. They always grow back, Taurus.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). You have been chasing this golden opportunity for thirteen months. It keeps moving. The stars confirm it is sacred to Artemis and therefore legally untouchable. Perhaps stop pursuing what cannot be caught and try completing the project already on your desk. Gemini: you own three unfinished podcasts.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Your emotions are a giant boar careening down a mountain. Others have been warned. Drive it into deep snow before it destroys the village — that is, before your passive-aggressive energy destroys book club. Venus is sympathetic but also hiding behind a boulder until you calm down.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Your living space has not been cleaned since the previous administration. The stars recommend diverting a river through it. Romantically, this is a metaphor. Professionally, it is not a metaphor. Saturn warns that glamour alone cannot mask thirty years of accumulated filth. Wear boots. Bring Neptune.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your coworkers are man-eating birds with bronze beaks. You have known this. The stars advise rattling your castanets — that is, setting boundaries so loudly they scatter into the sky and become someone else's problem. This week favors efficiency, noise, and a good pair of noise-cancelling headphones.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A powerful and unpredictable force has been unleashed on your relationship. You captured it, hauled it across the sea, and then released it, because you could not commit. It is now rampaging through Attica. Classic Libra. The stars sigh. Make a decision before the bull reaches Marathon.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You are drawn to dangerous, flesh-eating creatures who happen to be beautiful. This is not a coincidence. The stars note you have dated three Diomedes-types in succession. Feed the trainer to the horses, seize the reins, and lead the whole situation to Eurystheus. Then: therapy. Pluto concurs.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Someone was ready to give you exactly what you wanted, freely and with warmth, but you started a war anyway out of sheer restless energy. Jupiter is shaking its head. The belt was right there, Sagittarius. Not everything requires an international incident. Sometimes people are just being nice.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You crossed the known world, erected pillars at the edge of civilization, and stole a rival's prize herd. Productive week. Saturn is impressed, though mildly concerned about the ethical framework. The ox that wandered into Sicily is a sunk cost. Let it go. You have enough cattle, Capricorn.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You convinced a titan to do your work while you held up the sky, then tricked him into taking it back. Aquarius: this is either visionary delegation or a deeply concerning pattern. The apples are obtained. Uranus applauds the lateral thinking. HR would like a word about the temp coverage arrangements.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). You descended voluntarily into the underworld, wrestled a three-headed dog guarding the realm of the dead, and brought it to the surface — only to be told to put it back. Neptune weeps with you. This is, however, a perfect metaphor for your last relationship. You are free now. Mostly.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

**Sudoku**

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

**Newsday Crossword**

LET'S BEGIN by Prasanna Keshava Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**

- 1 Giraffe's African cousin
- 6 London neighborhood
- 10 12/24 and 12/31
- 14 Tot's white frozen dessert
- 15 Love: Sp.
- 16 Short memo
- 17 "Blackboard" metaphor for a beginning
- 19 Disappeared
- 20 Online crafts store
- 21 Light browns
- 22 "Dear Sir or \_\_\_..."
- 23 Courageous
- 25 Peruvian pal
- 27 Brit's "Dear me!"
- 29 "Board game" metaphor for a beginning
- 33 Fairy tale meanie
- 34 Sch. near Beverly Hills
- 35 Call it a \_\_\_ (stop work)
- 36 A lot of nerve
- 37 Disney mermaid
- 39 Bird of peace
- 40 \_\_\_ manner of speaking
- 41 Supper for swine
- 42 Performers' portrayals
- 43 "Infield" metaphor for a beginning
- 46 "\_\_\_ just have to do"
- 47 Appeal earnestly
- 48 Long-extinct flightless bird
- 50 Allege
- 52 Three-person band
- 54 "Sorry to hear that"
- 58 Ranch worker

**DOWN**

- 1 "\_\_\_ upon a time..."
- 2 Bagpiper's garb
- 3 Pub servings
- 4 Ump's "Begin!" shout
- 5 007 creator Fleming
- 6 Appetizers with greens
- 7 Persian Gulf nation
- 8 Tabasco, for instance
- 9 Mined material
- 10 Hire as a consultant
- 11 Black magic's pin target
- 12 Italian volcano
- 13 Appear (to be)
- 18 Mo. city
- 22 Oscar actress Sorvino
- 24 Comics sailor's girlfriend
- 26 Shopping mecca
- 27 Teheran native
- 28 Rooftop power producer
- 30 Witty remarks
- 31 Feature of some oranges
- 32 Observes carefully

- 33 Weekend-welcoming cry
- 37 Film star Jessica
- 38 Auto journey
- 39 Perform perfectly
- 41 Originate (from)
- 42 Get \_\_\_ of (discard)
- 44 Microscope specimens
- 45 Light bulb inventor
- 49 "Wow!"
- 50 In fashion
- 51 Doily fabric
- 53 Job-related move, for short
- 55 Pop singer Del Rey
- 56 Circle sections
- 57 "Don't delete" mark
- 59 Seasonal bug
- 60 Stealer of secrets

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**OLYMPIC**

FROM PAGE 2

Marisela Vance, who visited the site in April. “You cannot manufacture this. You cannot simulate it. You have to spend years trapping birds beneath your Pier to earn this.”

International observers have noted that the corpse distribution shifts unpredictably with the tide, introducing an element of randomness that the IOC’s emerging sports subcommittee described in its report as “chaotic but defensible.”

**Stage Three: The Poop Dodge**

Emerging from beneath the pier, competitors are fitted with a regulation waist leash and paired with a dog — ideally their own, though a loaner program is being developed in partnership with the Santa Monica Animal Shelter — before completing a 400-meter sprint through Palisades Park.

A 30-second time penalty applies each time either the runner or the dog contacts animal waste. Contact with human waste triggers a mandatory stop for hepatitis vaccination, the full duration of which — including wait time at the Westside Urgent Care on Wilshire — is added to the competitor’s final time.

“This gives Santa Monica a structural advantage in the finale,” said Dr. Patricia Wolff, the team’s chief medical officer and a partner at a nearby dermatology practice. “Our local athletes have been training for the third stage involuntarily for years.”

**INTERNATIONAL REACTION**

The announcement drew immediate interest from the global athletics community, though several nations expressed concern that the course may be too advanced for debut Olympic competition.

“We walked the route,” said Klaus Henriksen, head of the Danish Olympic delegation, speaking through a translator and also a surgical mask. “In my country, we have dog waste. We do not have this. That is the size of a small child’s head and there’s visibly undigested corn. This is something else.”

Team USA is expected to field a dominant squad across all three stages. Scouts note that the beach boardwalk segment in particular plays to the strengths of American athletes, who have logged thousands of hours of uncompensated practice at similar municipal

facilities nationwide.

The sport’s scoring system has drawn some criticism from traditionalists. “There is no precedent for a timed medical procedure as a penalty mechanism,” noted former IOC member Gerhard Blum in an op-ed published Tuesday. “Then again, there is no precedent for a city proudly displaying so many animal corpses to tourists or turning parks into latrines so Santa Monica is really breaking new ground here.”

**LOCAL ENTHUSIASM**

Reaction in Santa Monica has been broadly supportive.

“I’ve been complaining to people for years about the state of the water under the Pier,” said longtime resident Daniel Farris, walking his two vizslas along the bluff Wednesday morning and obliviously providing several new obstacles. “If we’re not going to fix it, we might as well feature it.”

The City Council approved \$2.3 million Tuesday night for Olympic preparation, including upgraded timing equipment, a medical tent with fast-tracked vaccination and splinter-extraction protocols, expanded seating along the pier’s shadow line, and what the city engineer described only as “surface assessments” that several council members later confirmed meant someone was finally going to look at the boardwalk.

Ticket sales for the Urban Obstacle Triathlon open Friday. The “Pier Experience” hospitality package — which places spectators directly beneath the structure for the duration of Stage Two — has already generated significant interest and a liability waiver that city attorneys describe as “comprehensive.”

The event is scheduled for August 2028. City officials say they expect the course to be “competition-ready” by then, though they acknowledged conditions may vary.

“We’re cautiously optimistic,” Paul said. “The course essentially maintains itself.”

A bid to install public restrooms along the Stage Three course was tabled for further study as the city feared they’d become additional free housing for homeless beach campers causing an unnecessary distraction from the course.

The program will be paid for by a new tax that will be levied on residents for the next 20 years.

Back on the path, Lt. Stonewood and Chief Reyes concluded their joint press conference by skating in formation toward the water, their helmet lights catching the midmorning sun, their zippers maintaining a studied and precisely identical altitude.

A retractable leash appeared from behind a bench. They split around it without discussion, rejoined on the other side, and continued south in perfect synchrony.

The program will be paid for by a new tax that will be levied on residents for the next 20 years.

“Spiritually, I’m told that could take longer.”

The Santa Monica Daily Press reached out to several voters for comment. Most said they hadn’t voted.

A full-scale electoral weather watch remains in effect. Residents are advised to brace themselves for November.

The program will be paid for by a new tax that will be levied on residents for the next 20 years.

**WEDNESDAY | APRIL 1****BEACHFRONT HOMELESS SERENADE**

Experience the raw, unfiltered entertainment only Santa Monica can offer as a gentleman who rode three buses (but smells like he walked the whole way) delivers an impassioned, wide-ranging monologue to guests of a beachfront hotel he cannot afford. Topics will include: the management’s many personal failings, grievances with an unspecified woman named Deborah, and a sociological commentary on hotel pricing that takes several sharp detours. Escape routes include the early cancellation of your hotel stay and rebooking at Coronado Island.

**BEATING GAS PRICES WITH GAS**

As grocery inflation continues its aggressive climb up your colon, beans have emerged as the cornerstone of a balanced Santa Monica diet — and, potentially, your morning commute. This hands-on workshop explores the cutting edge of flatulence-to-fuel conversion technology, offering practical tips for capturing, compressing, and monetizing your body’s natural byproducts. The session will be held in the stairwell of a downtown parking structure, chosen for its ventilation profile, which our instructors describe as “already a lost cause.” Bring Tupperware. Carpool discouraged.

**COYOTE ENGAGEMENT POST WORKSHOP**

Your neighbor’s Nextdoor post about a coyote got 47 comments and yours got three — and you’ve been thinking about it ever since. This workshop teaches participants how to transform a routine wildlife sighting into a viral community panic event. Learn optimal posting hours, which filter makes a blurry coyote photo look most menacing, and how to pivot smoothly from “I think I saw one near the trash cans” to “our children are no longer safe.” Special breakout session: tagging local news accounts and the mechanics of the slow-burn reply thread.

**AQUARIUM FISH FRY**

The Aquarium invites you to a deeply discounted seafood dinner experience — Friday only, cash preferred. Chef will not be taking questions regarding sourcing, provenance, or why the octopus tank seems a little emptier than last week. Guests are encouraged to enjoy their meal without reading any of the placards on the walls, which describe, in considerable detail, the ecological importance of several fish that may or may not be on tonight’s menu. All proceeds go toward “restocking.” Valet parking available. Do not make eye contact with the docents.

**MALL WALKERS — MORNING FITNESS CIRCUIT**

Join your fellow Santa Monicans for an invigorating power walk through the Third Street Promenade’s vast, echoing retail landscape, where the absence of tenants has created some of the finest unobstructed walking corridors in the greater Los Angeles area. The route winds past seventeen empty storefronts, two pop-up CBD kiosks, and a booth that even Starbucks abandoned. The session concludes with a guided facial stretching workshop designed to help participants replicate the specific expression — somewhere between confusion and grief — worn by tourists who flew in expecting to find a mall.

**YOUTH LIBRARY INTRO — NO CAP THIS PLACE EXISTS**

Okay bestie, so there’s this building where they just give you books for free. You don’t even have to follow them back. Unhinged. This sigma course walks you through holding a book without swiping it into the void, navigating a search system that is giving suffering, and sitting with your thoughts for four minutes with zero notifications. Genuinely terrifying, we’re not sugarcoating it. FAQ: Why is there no For You Page? Can you ratio an author? Is the library dark mode? (No.) Participation trophy: a library card. No algorithm. No ads. Absolutely feral.

**SELF-REFERENTIAL POLITICAL WORKSHOP: CURATING YOUR REALITY**

With November’s election approaching, now is the perfect time to streamline your information diet into a clean, frictionless loop of total confirmation. This workshop walks participants through the practical steps of muting, blocking, and dismissing any source that introduces friction into your worldview, identifying which ideas qualify as dangerous misinformation (hint: the ones you disagree with), and establishing the anonymous secondary accounts needed to say, at volume, the things your primary account technically does not believe. Certificates of completion will be issued in your preferred name, or whatever you’re going by on Reddit.

**BASIC READING COMPREHENSION FOR DOG OWNERS**

A gentle, judgment-free literacy workshop designed to help Santa Monica dog owners decode the short-form signage they encounter daily in public spaces. Session one focuses on two-word phrases such as “dog park,” “no dogs,” “leash required,” and “please clean up,” with particular attention to the conceptual gap between seeing a sign and processing it as personally applicable. Session two covers longer constructions like “dogs must be on leash at all times on the beach,” including a close reading of the word “all.” Homework consists of a walking assignment. Dogs welcome; owner comprehension assessment required at door.

**UNION HOSTED PRE-COUNCIL MEETING**

Get an exclusive preview of Tuesday’s city council deliberations before councilmembers have had a chance to be told what to think about the issues. This intimate briefing walks attendees through the positions council will be adopting on key labor issues, the language they’ll be using to explain those positions as their own, and the rough timeline between this meeting and the moment those ideas appear verbatim in a council comment. Light refreshments provided.

**GREENING THE AIRPORT**

Come celebrate Santa Monica Airport’s transformation into vibrant green space — and we do mean green. Luminously, chemically green, thanks to numerous underground deposits of toxic waste. This informational workshop walks residents through the city’s inspiring vision for parkland, open recreation, and whatever that smell is. Representatives will present conceptual renderings of meadows, bike paths, and children’s play areas while carefully not taking questions about soil remediation timelines, the specific compounds triggering the EPA’s interest, or the mushrooms at the end of the runway are steaming. Bring your kids. Bring a Geiger counter. Bring an open mind and a closed-toe shoe.

**SAFETY SQUAD**

FROM PAGE 4

adding: “but we know that people are glad we have a great ASS on the beach.”

When asked whether the city had been in contact with the ‘Heated Rivalry’ production team, the spokesperson said she could neither confirm nor deny ongoing conversations but noted that Santa Monica has “excellent location infrastructure and hosts regular pickup games of roller hockey at the beach should anyone be interested in getting picked up.”

**WHIPLASH**

FROM PAGE 6

“The alternative was losing,” said one, icing her neck with a bag of frozen peas. “Voters don’t want ideological consistency. They want whoever sounds most like them right now. I just had to get there fast.”

“My physical therapist says I’ll make a full recovery by November,” said another.

# We Are Buying

## Watches, Jewelry, Diamonds

## Rubies, Sapphires, Emeralds

## Gold, Platinum and Silver



**Kyle Amundsen**  
 After attending Art Center College of Design Kyle pursued a career in design and advertising that lead him to work at John Moran Auctioneers for 15 years. It was here he became fascinated with American & California Impressionist art, fine jewelry and diamonds. For the last 15 years Kyle has owned a company in Pasadena brokering estate jewelry, fine art, buying and selling diamonds & cutting diamonds.

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**Hana Goble**  
 Hana attended Gemological Institute of America after graduating from UC Riverside and has been passionate about antique jewelry for over a decade. Her deep interest in the history and craftsmanship of fine jewelry led her to work as a traveling buyer for a prominent estate jeweler, specializing in old-cut diamonds and signed pieces. She especially enjoys researching hallmarks and uncovering the history behind jewelry she encounters.

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**Michael Merritt**  
 Mike is the owner of Place Vendome Jewelers and is co-host of the event. He has 38 years of experience in buying and selling new and vintage jewelry, rare watches, diamonds and exceptional colored gemstones. Mike also puts on events like this all over the western United States.

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**Will Klass**

Will is co-owner of Santa Monica Jewelers and host of this event. He is a Graduate Gemologist From Gemological Institute of America with 24 years of experience buying a very broad range of items. Call for your appointment and he will personally talk to everyone who calls. Will can answer all questions about your items and is dedicated to very personal service.

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