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## Lease for California Roadhouse stalls after labor union opposes terms



Courtesy image

**STILL VACANT:** The City has delayed a lease for a new business that wants to open on the Pier with the latest problem stemming from objections by a labor union.

**MATTHEW HALL**  
Daily Press Editor

Six months after being selected as the new tenant for a vacant restaurant space on the Santa Monica Pier, California Roadhouse owner Sean Ahaus is still waiting for a draft lease with the latest delay coming after labor union Unite Here Local 11 secured an emergency meeting with senior city staff days before a scheduled City Council vote that prompted officials to pull the item from the March 24 agenda entirely.

The lease was agendized for City Council approval at that meeting, with the city manager's

office recommending the council authorize a five-year agreement with a five-year extension option for the space at 256 Santa Monica Pier, the former home of Rusty's Surf Ranch, which closed in 2025. Instead, the item was yanked without public explanation after Unite Here met with City Manager Oliver Chi and the city attorney to discuss concerns about the proposed terms.

No detailed explanation of objections or a reason why Unite Here's feedback warranted pulling the item has been provided.

"There was no official explanation," Ahaus said. "I asked and was told they were working on it."

### A PROCESS THAT BEGAN WITH A HANDSHAKE

Ahaus said the path to the current impasse began in the summer of 2025, when the city's leasing agent marketed the pier space at \$6.50 per square foot triple net. He submitted a letter of intent at the asking price, which was accepted by the Santa Monica Pier Corporation Board following a competitive process that drew nine proposals, was narrowed to five, then two finalists.

According to the city's staff report, California Roadhouse was ultimately selected due to its commitment to reviving live music at the pier and its ability to

quickly activate the space after lease execution.

After the Pier Corporation voted unanimously in his favor, Ahaus said staff told him the lease was his.

"She shook my hand and said, 'You are the new tenant at 256 Santa Monica Pier,'" Ahaus recalled.

That assurance would prove premature.

In November 2025, Ahaus said he was informed that the hospitality union Unite Here Local 11 had challenged the procedural validity of the Pier Corporation's initial vote, contending the agenda notice was improperly posted. Out of an abundance of caution, the city asked the Pier Corporation

to re-notice and re-vote on the matter. At a December 15 meeting, the Pier Corporation again voted unanimously in favor of California Roadhouse.

While Ahaus and city staff thought the process was complete, he was informed within days of the revote that council members had taken an interest in the lease and wanted to take a more active role.

### COUNCIL PUSHES LABOR PROVISIONS

According to Ahaus, the council's primary demand was the inclusion of a labor peace agreement and a

SEE ROADHOUSE PAGE 11

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# Santa Monica Council to consider World Cup, Olympics events, new tenant protections

**MATTHEW HALL**

Daily Press Editor

The Santa Monica City Council will consider Tuesday approving license agreements for a World Cup fan festival at the Pier, a major beach music festival and an Olympic-era international broadcast hub, along with a raft of housing and zoning measures at its April 14 meeting.

## MAJOR EVENTS PACKAGE

Council members are being asked to authorize City Manager Oliver Chi to negotiate and execute three separate license agreements as part of a broader strategy to capitalize on a multi-year pipeline of high-profile events tied to the 2026 FIFA World Cup and the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The most imminent activation is a “Pitchside Club” fan experience on the Santa Monica Pier sponsored by Michelob ULTRA, the official beer sponsor of the FIFA World Cup 2026. The three-week installation in June would offer free entry to guests 21 and older, featuring match-viewing parties, interactive soccer programming and food and beverage service. The city would collect a license fee of approximately \$1.09 million for use of the pier deck, plus \$192,658 in permits and event service fees paid by the organizer.

Goldenvoice, the AEG Presents subsidiary best known for producing Coachella and Stagecoach, is proposing a two-day ticketed music and cultural festival on Santa Monica Beach in September 2026. The event would draw up to 35,000 attendees daily and occupy the Sandbox, the Pier parking deck and adjacent beach parking lots. The city would receive a land license fee of approximately \$1.34 million plus a per-ticket revenue share of \$2 for single-day tickets and \$4 for two-day tickets.

Looking further ahead, the council will also consider approving an agreement with Silverback LLC and LOIDL LLC — operating as Hochsitz — to develop a Nations Village at Crescent Bay Park and portions of Lot 4 South during the 2028 Games. The approximately 103-day activation would include an International Olympic Committee satellite broadcast center, national Olympic committee hospitality houses and brand activations. The all-in license fee, covering land use, permits and operational costs, is set at \$1.15 million. As part of the deal, the organizer would also restore the historic pergola at Crescent Bay Park.

Staff described a “full cost recovery” principle underlying all three agreements, with no city subsidy anticipated. All three sites fall within the California Coastal Zone, requiring review and approval by the California Coastal Commission. The city has retained a coastal permitting consultant, funded through producer deposits, to assist with that process.

To facilitate these and future events, the council is also being asked to adopt municipal code amendments affecting noise, park and beach use, community events, street performers and signage. A key provision would create explicit council authority to

grant event-specific exemptions from certain code requirements when defined public benefit findings can be made.

## TENANT PROTECTIONS

In a separate action, the council will consider a first reading of an ordinance that would strengthen enforcement tools for tenant habitability standards.

The proposed amendment to the city’s Property Maintenance Code would make violations of California Civil Code Section 1941.1 — the state’s standard for what constitutes an untenable dwelling — directly enforceable under local law. Currently, city code enforcement officers lack a direct municipal hook to act on certain state habitability violations, limiting their ability to respond efficiently.

Among the conditions newly covered: functioning refrigerators and stoves. Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 628 in October 2025, requiring landlords to provide and maintain working refrigerators and stoves in units governed by leases entered into, amended or extended on or after Jan. 1, 2026. The ordinance would bring that requirement within the city’s enforcement reach.

The amendment also clarifies the threshold for declaring a unit uninhabitable, which determines when landlords must provide temporary relocation benefits to displaced tenants under the city’s existing code.

## HOUSING AUTHORITY PLAN

The council, sitting as the Santa Monica Housing Authority Board, will hold a public hearing and vote on adoption of the fiscal year 2026-27 Annual Public Housing Authority Plan, which must be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development by April 17.

The Santa Monica Housing Authority administers more than 1,690 rental assistance vouchers across six federal programs. Notable developments highlighted in the plan include Berkeley Station, a new 13-residence development leasing in April that will house eight vulnerable youth households and five vulnerable families, and a commitment of 40 project-based vouchers to an 82-unit affordable housing development planned for 1402 Wilshire Blvd.

## SB 9 ZONING UPDATE

The council will also take up a first reading of an ordinance aligning Santa Monica’s local implementation of Senate Bill 9 — the state law allowing duplexes and lot splits on single-family zoned parcels — with updated state law as modified by the city’s 6th Cycle Housing Element.

Key changes include reinstating the owner-occupancy requirement for lot splits and reducing the guaranteed minimum unit size from 1,500 square feet back to the state-mandated 800 square feet, though the council retains discretion to preserve the larger figure. The Planning Commission voted 6-1 in March to recommend the amendments.

Council meets at 5:30 p.m. on April 14 in City Hall, 1685 Main Street.

editor@smdp.com

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# California shouldn't water down justice for these child sexual abuse survivors

The recent revelation from 95-year-old Dolores Huerta that César Chávez sexually abused her decades ago is a stark reminder of what research has long shown: the ramifications of sexual abuse are profound and lifelong, and it often takes survivors decades to speak out about what they experienced when they were young.

But even as California legislators pledge support for Huerta and other survivors, they are preparing to introduce legislation that would block an entire class of sexual abuse survivors from ever seeking justice.

Last year, Los Angeles County reached a record \$4 billion settlement with survivors of sexual abuse in its foster care and juvenile justice systems. New claims continue to pour in from survivors of abuse inside state systems.

Now the county is pushing legislation that would create new deadlines, damage limits and immunity provisions, making it nearly impossible for those abused at the hands of the state to seek accountability.

It's a stunning betrayal for those who have already endured unimaginable harm.

For much of my own life, I have been connected to the foster care system in one way or another, first as a foster youth, later as a caregiver and now as a professional advocate.

Over the years, I have seen the very best of humanity in this system. I have watched foster parents, social workers, and advocates go the extra mile to comfort and care for children who have experienced unthinkable trauma.

But I have also witnessed the very worst. I've seen children who were removed from their homes in the name of "protection" be abused again by the very systems meant to keep them safe.

This new legislation would add to that trauma by denying survivors redress for harms that are well-documented and could have been prevented.

For generations, children placed in county-run facilities experienced widespread abuse, neglect, and exploitation. As far back as 1984, staff members at the notorious MacLaren Children's Center were arrested on

charges of child molestation, yet the abuse continued.

When the state takes custody of a child, it assumes one of the most fundamental responsibilities imaginable: keeping that child safe. L.A. County has failed to fulfill that most basic obligation.

Now, instead of confronting that failure honestly and fairly, policymakers want to change the rules by denying a particular subset of survivors the right to seek civil damages for the harm they suffered as children.

County representatives are framing the proposal as a fiscal necessity in the face of California's expanded statute of limitations for childhood sexual abuse, which brought a wave of claims against everyone, from the county to the Boy Scouts, to the Catholic Church.

But the proposed law wouldn't limit the rights of scouts or altar boys to seek damages for abuse they suffered as children. Instead, it singles out the disproportionately Black and brown youth who grew up in the custody of the county — a blatant attempt to balance the budget on the backs of the very children the government failed to protect.

The notion that young people who grow up in the care of public systems should have fewer rights than other survivors is outrageous. If anything, they should have more rights. No fiscal pressure justifies telling these young people that their suffering matters less or their rights are less valid than everyone else's.

The forces that kept Huerta silent for decades can be overwhelming for youth in the foster care and juvenile justice systems who often lack stable adults, resources, or legal support. California recognized this reality when it expanded the statute of limitations.

This new law would do just the opposite. It tells the public that when government institutions fail children, the solution is not reform, but immunity.

Worst of all, it tells survivors their trauma is less important than a balance sheet.

Chantel Johnson is a directing advocate at the Youth Law Center



## Surf report WATER TEMP: 64.2

TUESDAY FAIR SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist

Kinda fun AM surf, a little more lined up as NW energy eases. Early morning looks easterly. SW swell continues to slowly wind down, still looking good for knee-waist high waves at better breaks, standouts up around chest-high. Less NW energy in the mix, so the open beachbreaks get a little more lined up. Think sectiony with some corners instead of proper peaks. Points could get a bit of E wind crumble in the morning, cleaning up with WSW onshores in the afternoon. Spots west of Dume would be the opposite, cleaner AM, crumbly PM.

WEDNESDAY FAIR SURF: 1-2ft Knee to thigh

Smaller day of waves, should be decent for the bigger boards. AM conditions look fairly clean. SW swell takes another dip as modest NW energy lingers and some fresh SSW swell creeps in. Less Southern Hemi energy means shape should get a little peakier, in the knee-thigh high range as better breaks go waist-high. Mid morning high tide slows most spots. Still some E wind potential for the points in the AM, looks lighter than Tue though. Mellow PM onshores adding some crumble west of Dume, keeping points clean.

## Weather

**Tuesday:** Sunny, with a high near 66. North northeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southwest in the morning.

**Tuesday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 54. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming light and variable after midnight.

**Wednesday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 67. East southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south southwest in the afternoon.

**Wednesday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 55.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)High/Low
2026/04/14	Tue	01:55 AM	1.01 L
2026/04/14	Tue	07:51 AM	4.63 H
2026/04/14	Tue	2:08 PM	0.03 L
2026/04/14	Tue	8:25 PM	4.96 H
2026/04/15	Wed	02:34 AM	0.31 L
2026/04/15	Wed	08:36 AM	4.66 H
2026/04/15	Wed	2:35 PM	0.21 L
2026/04/15	Wed	8:49 PM	5.46 H
2026/04/16	Thu	03:14 AM	-0.33 L
2026/04/16	Thu	09:20 AM	4.55 H
2026/04/16	Thu	3:04 PM	0.48 L
2026/04/16	Thu	9:17 PM	5.90 H
2026/04/17	Fri	03:57 AM	-0.85 L

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**POWERBALL**  
 Draw Date: 4/11  
 6 47 49 53 60  
 Power#: 6  
 Jackpot: 45 M

**Fantasy 5**  
 Draw Date: 4/12  
 14 16 20 22 38

**MEGA MILLIONS**  
 Draw Date: 4/10  
 3 18 36 42 49  
 Mega#: 6  
 Jackpot: 120 M

**Daily 3**  
 Draw Date: 4/12  
 EVENING: 0 2 8  
 Draw Date: 4/12  
 MIDDAY: 9 6 5

**SuperLotto PLUS**  
 Draw Date: 4/11  
 1 21 22 23 39  
 Mega#: 13  
 Jackpot: 11 M

**Daily Derby**  
 Draw Date: 4/12  
 1st: 07 - Eureka  
 2nd: 05 - California Classic  
 3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit  
 Race Time: 1:46.37

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## GUEST COMMENTARY

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### State should probe L.A. County's \$4 billion sex abuse settlement

A recent report by The Los Angeles Times raised concerns about potentially false claims tied to Los Angeles County's \$4 billion sexual abuse settlement. It should serve as a wake-up call for state leaders.

This is not simply a local issue.

Los Angeles County is a political subdivision of the state of California and receives substantial state funding to operate its juvenile and adult justice systems. When failures of this magnitude occur, the state not only has the authority to act, it has the responsibility.

AFSCME Local 685 and Teamsters Local 986 represent the probation officers and supervisors who carry out this work every day. These workers supervise youth, protect communities and operate in increasingly difficult conditions.

They are also now dealing with the fallout of a settlement process that denied them the most basic element of fairness — the ability to defend themselves.

The county approved a \$4 billion settlement without depositions, without evidentiary hearings and without a meaningful independent review. Thousands of claims were resolved in bulk, and the employees implicated were never given the opportunity to respond.

Now, with questions emerging about the legitimacy of some claims, the consequences of that approach are becoming clear.

Accountability matters. Survivors deserve justice.

But justice requires a process that distinguishes between substantiated claims and those that are unverified or false. When that distinction is lost, public trust erodes and the state's justice system is weakened.

The state cannot look away from this.

For years, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has mismanaged the probation department through hiring freezes, chronic understaffing and policy decisions that weakened the workforce. Today, the department faces roughly 700 vacancies and a staffing shortage approaching 30%.

Even more troubling, the county has failed to build a sustainable workforce pipeline. In a recent hiring cycle, just 88 candidates were hired out of more than 8,500 applicants. Entry-level officers can wait up to a decade for promotion.

At the same time, more than half the field workforce is nearing retirement age, and the county has refused to grant safety retirement, forcing officers to work longer than peers in other jurisdictions.

These are not isolated management issues. They are policy choices that directly impact the state's ability to ensure safe and effective juvenile and community supervision systems.

The consequences are already evident. A court is now considering whether to place Los Angeles County's juvenile division into receivership. That alone should trigger immediate concern in Sacramento.

The state has the tools and the obligation to act.

First, the California State Auditor should conduct a full forensic audit of the settlement process. Billions in taxpayer dollars, including funds that intersect with state-supported systems, were committed without sufficient transparency or verification.

Second, the Legislature should hold oversight hearings to examine how this settlement was negotiated and approved, and whether state funding streams are being used in a manner consistent with accountability and public safety.

Third, the state should condition future funding on measurable improvements in staffing, hiring, retention and operational stability. If the county cannot maintain a functional probation system, the state must require corrective action.

Finally, safeguards must be established to ensure that future large-scale claims processes include independent verification and basic due process protections. No public employee should be placed in this position again.

This is about more than one settlement. It is about whether California will ensure that its local partners operate systems that are fair, accountable and capable of delivering justice.

Los Angeles County's failures are now affecting not only its workforce and its residents, but the integrity of the broader state system. The warning signs are clear.

Regino Torres Jr. is president of the Supervising Deputy Probation Officers Union, Teamsters Local 986. Curtis Chambers is president of the Los Angeles County Deputy Probation Officers Union, AFSCME Local 685.

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# Swalwell's exit shakes up a chaotic California governor's race

Democratic Rep. Eric Swalwell's abrupt exit from the race for California governor left his rivals scrambling to lock down his former supporters in a crowded contest with no clear leader, injecting more turmoil into the campaign to lead the nation's most populous state.

Swalwell's decision to suspend his campaign Sunday followed allegations that he sexually assaulted a woman twice, including when she worked for him, that were published Friday in the San Francisco Chronicle and later by CNN. While pulling out of the race he remained defiant in a post on the social platform X, saying, "I will fight the serious, false allegations that have been made — but that's my fight, not a campaign's."

For rival candidates in a wide-open race, the key issue is where Swalwell's supporters will go. He was among the most prominent Democrats in the contest, with mail ballots scheduled to go to voters in early May in advance of the June 2 primary election. All of the well-known candidates are expected to appear on stage together Tuesday during a forum in Sacramento.

Katie Porter, one of the leading Democrats, posted a line from a San Francisco Chronicle column on X, "Democrats can pull victory from the jaws of defeat by coalescing around Porter." Billionaire hedge fund manager-turned-liberal activist Tom Steyer said he secured the support of Rep. Jared Huffman, a Democrat whose coastal district runs north of San Francisco, not far from Swalwell's home turf. Antonio Villaraigosa, the former Los Angeles mayor, pitched a new ad promising to lower gas and grocery costs in a state known for its punishing cost of living.

With seven established Democrats and two leading Republicans on a primary ballot with more than 50 candidates, the race remains fluid. While Swalwell has suspended his campaign, his name cannot be removed from the ballot.

"Nobody has really caught fire," said Democratic consultant Andrew Acosta, who is not involved in the campaign. Swalwell's supporters "will scatter out to other candidates."

## MANY VOTERS REMAIN DISTANT FROM GOVERNOR'S RACE

Swalwell is perhaps best known nationally as a House manager in President Donald Trump's second impeachment trial during his first term in early 2021. But in a media environment dominated by Trump, the race remains distant from many California voters.

After the publicity about sexual misconduct allegations, "I think there are probably more people who know who Eric Swalwell is than can articulate a Tom Steyer position paper," Acosta added.

Swalwell was considered a leading contender along with fellow Democrats Steyer and Porter and two Republicans, Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco and conservative commentator Steve Hilton, who landed Trump's endorsement. But Republican activists haven't yet rallied around Hilton; at a California Republican Party convention over the weekend the party declined to endorse.

Democrats have feared the party's large number of candidates could lead to them getting shut out of the general election in November. That's because California has a top-two primary system in which two candidates advance to the general election, regardless of party.

Swalwell had become a clear target for his Democratic rivals as he began to lock up institutional support. Some had seized on rumors of sexual misconduct that circulated on social media for weeks before the Chronicle's report.

The San Francisco Chronicle spoke to a woman who alleged Swalwell sexually assaulted her in 2019, when she worked for him, and again in 2024. The woman said she did not go to police at the time of the assaults because she was afraid she would not be believed. In both cases the woman said she was too intoxicated to consent to sex. CNN reported on allegations that appeared to come from the same woman, and spoke to several other women who accused Swalwell of other sexual misconduct.

Neither outlet named the woman, and The Associated Press has not been able to independently verify her account and identity. Her lawyer declined to comment.

The alleged 2024 incident occurred in New York, and the Manhattan District Attorney's Office said it's investigating. That office urged anyone with knowledge to contact its special victims division. The Alameda County District Attorney's office, which covers Swalwell's California district, said no one has reached out to the office with allegations against Swalwell.

## HOUSE COLLEAGUES CALL FOR SWALWELL TO RESIGN

As Swalwell's campaign flailed over the weekend, Huffman and fellow California Reps. Ro Khanna and Sam Liccardo said Swalwell should resign, as did Reps. Teresa Leger Fernández of New Mexico and Pramila Jayapal of Washington state.

"This is not a partisan issue," Jayapal said Sunday. "This cuts across party lines. And it is depravity of the way that women have been treated."

Some representatives said they would support the rare step of expelling him from the U.S. House should he refuse to step aside. The House Ethics Committee opened an investigation Monday.

It all added to the mounting political pressure on Swalwell, which began with allies like Sen. Adam Schiff and Rep. Jimmy Gomez cutting their support. Gomez had helped run Swalwell's campaign and said he was immediately ending his role.

Swalwell, who is originally from Iowa, was elected in 2012 and represents a House district east of San Francisco. He launched a presidential run in April 2019 but shuttered it a few months later after failing to catch on with voters.

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD AP Political Writer. Associated Press writer Ben Finley in Washington contributed to this report.

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# Classifieds

### Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00151. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica CA 90401, Santa Monica Courthouse. Petition of Alon Nachshon for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Alon Nachshon filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Alon Nachshon to Alon Meir. 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: 10/15/2026, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept: K. 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: 10/01/2026. LAWRENCE H. CHO, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 04/07/2026, 04/14/2026, 04/21/2026, 04/28/2026

### Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No.26SMCP00150. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica CA 90401. Petition of Donna Marie Marshall for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Donna Marie Marshall filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Donna Marie Marshall to Donnamarie Fontaine. 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: 05/15/2026, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept: K. 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: 10/10/2025. LAWRENCE H. CHO, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 04/07/2026, 04/14/2026, 04/21/2026, 04/28/2026

### Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26NNCP00096. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 300 East Walnut St., Pasadena, CA 91101. Petition of Nefize Sayula and Carlos Sayula for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Nefize Sayula and Carlos Sayula filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Sophia Alya Sayula to Sophia Elisa Sayula. 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: 04/24/2026, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept: P. 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: 02/09/2026. ROBERTO LONGORIA, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 04/07/2026, 04/14/2026, 04/21/2026, 04/28/2026

### COMMUNITY NEWS

#### Santa Monica

### Santa Monica Public Library learners earn honors at Southern California literacy conference

Two Santa Monica Public Library program participants were recognized at the Southern California Library Literacy Network Conference and Annual Writer to Writer Awards luncheon March 14 at the Doubletree Hotel in Buena Park.

The Writer to Writer Challenge invites adult learners throughout Southern California to read a book of their choice and write a personal letter to its author.

Michelle Robertson, an adult literacy learner, took first place in the Emerging Writer category for her letter to interior designer Marie Flanigan, author of "The Beauty of Home." Robertson wrote about how Flanigan's work rekindled a lifelong dream of becoming an interior decorator — one she had shared with her late sister over morning coffee and magazine clippings. She also wrote of her goal to overcome dyslexia and improve her reading and writing skills in order to launch her own interior design business. Robertson's letter was dictated to her volunteer tutor, Dave Silver, who read it aloud to more than 250 conference attendees.

Maribel Palomares, an English as a Second Language learner, earned runner-up honors in the Intermediate Writer category for her letter to Sandra Cisneros, author of "The House on Mango Street." Palomares drew parallels between the novel's protagonist and her own experience leaving her family in Mexico at age 7 to build a new life while holding onto her roots. She took the day off work to attend the luncheon and was accompanied by her tutor, Mimi Sabo.

Both women had been reluctant to enter the contest and did not initially consider themselves writers. Their letters have since been published in the "2025 Southern California Library Literacy Network Writer to Writer Anthology," available for purchase online.

The Santa Monica Public Library delegation included three staff members, four learners and five tutors, who attended morning presentations on topics including dyslexia, artificial intelligence, job seeking and incorporating arts and poetry into tutoring sessions.

The Santa Monica Public Library's Adult Literacy & ESL Program offers free one-on-one support from volunteer tutors to help adult learners meet their reading, writing and English conversation goals.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy Image

**LIBRARY:** Two Santa Monica Public Library participants honored at Southern California Library Literacy Network Awards.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Montana Ave.

EverBank Opens 10th Southern California Branch in Santa Monica

EverBank, N.A. has opened a new financial center in Santa Monica, marking the nationwide specialty bank's 10th location in the Southern California market.

The Santa Monica Financial Center, located at 1630 Montana Ave., will offer consumer and commercial banking products and services, staffed by a team of experienced bankers under the management of Ashley Shirinian. A walk-up ATM is also available at the location.

"Opening in Santa Monica represents an important milestone in our continued growth across the region," said Patrick Nygren, senior vice president and head of retail banking at EverBank. The bank's strategy pairs its digital banking platform with physical locations in communities it describes as aligned with its mission.

The new branch will provide access to EverBank's online and mobile banking platforms alongside in-person services.

EverBank, a Member FDIC, provides banking services to consumer and commercial clients nationwide, with financial centers in California, Florida and New York.

For more information, visit [everbank.com/locations](http://everbank.com/locations).



Opening in Santa Monica represents an important milestone in our continued growth across the region

- Patrick Nygren, senior vice president and head of retail banking at EverBank



EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

Malibu

Malibu Releases Fact Sheet on Wireless Facility Regulations

The City of Malibu has published a fact sheet and FAQ to help residents understand the regulatory process governing wireless facility installations.

"The City takes community concerns about quality of life and environmental impacts seriously," Mayor Bruce Silverstein said. "Our priority is safety first."

The document explains that wireless providers — not the city — select proposed facility locations. The city's role is limited to reviewing applications for compliance with federal, state and local requirements. Under federal law, the city is legally required to approve facilities that qualify as eligible under 47 U.S. Code § 1455, and applications cannot be denied on health grounds if they meet federal radio frequency safety standards.

The city notes that reliable wireless service is particularly important during Public Safety Power Shutoffs and wildfire emergencies. The federal government classifies wireless infrastructure as critical infrastructure. Details are available at [https://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/nipp\\_commun.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/nipp_commun.pdf).

Malibu's wireless facilities ordinance, updated in 2021, requires detailed technical reports for proposed installations, reviewed by city staff and an independent RF consultant. Following installation, carriers must conduct a live RF study with city staff present. Permits require ongoing federal compliance, with removal required for any violations.

Residents who receive a mailed notice about a proposed facility are advised that it indicates a project is under review, not that it has been approved.

The FAQ is available at [www.MalibuCity.org/WirelessFacilitiesFAQ](http://www.MalibuCity.org/WirelessFacilitiesFAQ) and [https://malibucity.org/DocumentCenter/View/37568/Wireless-Fact-Sheet-and-FAQ\\_3202026](https://malibucity.org/DocumentCenter/View/37568/Wireless-Fact-Sheet-and-FAQ_3202026). Pending applications can be viewed at <https://www.malibucity.org/1041/Pending-WCF-Applications>.



The City takes community concerns about quality of life and environmental impacts seriously

- Bruce Silverstein, Mayor



EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



City of Santa Monica

COURTESY NOTICE OF A STUDY SESSION BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Planning Commission Presentation regarding the requirements of SB 79, including its impacts on Santa Monica and potential implementation options.

Senate Bill 79 (SB 79), the Abundant and Affordable Homes Near Transit Act, was signed by Governor Newsom on October 10, 2025. The new legislation establishes minimum guaranteed development standards for qualified housing projects located near specified transit stops in urban transit counties. SB 79 will go into effect July 1, 2026 and will establish new minimum floor area ratios, heights, and density standards for properties located within 1/2 mile of a "transit-oriented development" (TOD) stop.

The City has published a new webpage with information on the local effects of SB 79, including a draft map of affected areas in the City of Santa Monica. For more information, please visit the City's SB 79 website at <https://www.santamonica.gov/sb79-transit-oriented-development>.

The Planning Commission will receive an overview of SB 79, discuss the local effects on Santa Monica, and potential implementation options for this new State law. Community members are encouraged to provide comments at the meeting. Alternatively, written comments can be submitted to [planningcomment@santamonica.gov](mailto:planningcomment@santamonica.gov).

DATE/TIME: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

LOCATION: City Council Chamber, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Members of the public unable to attend a meeting but wishing to comment on an item(s) listed on the agenda may submit written comments prior to the public hearing via email to [planningcomment@santamonica.gov](mailto:planningcomment@santamonica.gov) or via mail to the address listed below. Comments received prior to 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Planning Commission prior to the meeting and posted online. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

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

Address your comments to:

Re: SB 79 Updates  
 VIA E-MAIL: [planningcomment@santamonica.gov](mailto:planningcomment@santamonica.gov)  
 VIA MAIL: City Planning Division  
 1685 Main Street, Mail Stop 28  
 Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION

If you want more information about SB 79, please contact [housingupdates@santamonica.gov](mailto:housingupdates@santamonica.gov). For disability-related accommodations, please contact (866) 311-7266 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate languages provided the request is received 72 hours prior to the meeting. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL

Esto es una noticia pública para revisar aplicaciones proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si desea más información, favor de llamar a Ana Fernandez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-2201 ext. 2431 o envíe un correo electrónico a [ana.fernandez@santamonica.gov](mailto:ana.fernandez@santamonica.gov).

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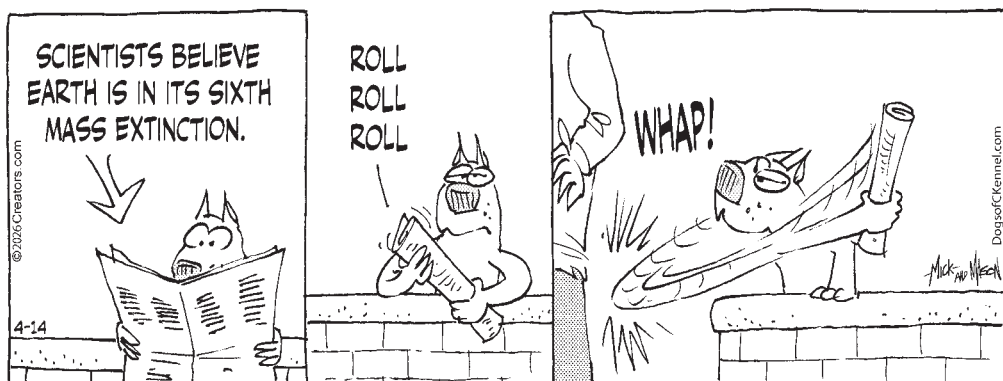
### Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



### Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



### Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE

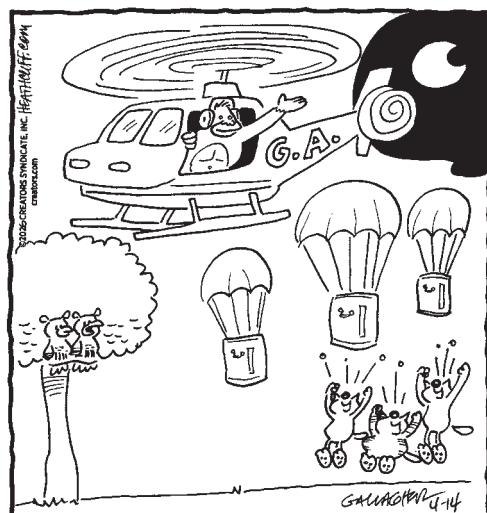


### Heathcliff

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

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## End of an era

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

- |            |             |          |             |
|------------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| Acne       | Curfews     | Late     | Report      |
| Alert      | Disco       | Learn    | Scholarship |
| Altruistic | Dress       | Lines    | Speed       |
| Anger      | Educational | Luck     | Suit        |
| Asia       | Escape      | Move     | Sulky       |
| Backpack   | Factory     | Nerds    | TAFE        |
| Beach      | Free        | Noise    | Taxes       |
| Blues      | Goodbye     | Office   | Travel      |
| Bonds      | Grant       | Pals     | Work        |
| Break      | Hobby       | Phone    | Zits        |
| City       | Hopeful     | Planning |             |
| College    | Jobs        | Relax    |             |

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**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 14)**

Welcome to your Year of the Brilliant Casting. You decide who you want to be. No more accepting the "casting decisions" of others. You choose the role, and if it's not there, you write it for yourself. More highlights: a soulmate-level bond and ample dollar amounts flowing to where they will multiply and do good in the world. Breakthroughs strengthen your position and voice. Aquarius and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 13, 20, 34 and 47.

**HOROSCOPES**

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You'll do the things today that make you more gorgeous tomorrow. It's not just about health, fitness or better skin. It's a soul-deep effort involving self-examination, compassion turned inward and behaviors of support and kindness aimed at you, from you.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). A single good negotiation changes the trajectory. Small percentage gains compound. Ask for more than you're used to asking. Raises, higher rates, better terms. Money appears simply because you finally ask for it.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). What's needed isn't obvious, and your last evaluation no longer fits the moment. Conditions have changed. Step back and reassess. A quick recalibration now puts you ahead of anyone still acting on old information.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Opportunities travel through people. Expand your circle of collaboration. New partnerships, introductions and communities will bring possibilities you wouldn't find on your own. The focus should align with what you want to do both creatively and financially.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). In relationships or environments where second-guessing is the norm, life gets stressful. Every decision and interaction becomes twice the emotional labor, which causes you to move slowly and tire out quickly. You deserve to be in environments of trust.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Labeling a thing can help you to understand, organize and manage it. But be aware that the definition can also put a limit on what a thing is or cause it to show up in only the ways that match the name.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). If you even wonder for a second if there's a better use of your energy and talent, then of course you're right. The challenges that are a good fit for you are out there. Don't doubt it, and don't settle for the boring same ol' thing.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Physical pain is a signal you instinctively respect. You pull back. You protect yourself. Emotional pain deserves the same credibility. If something hurts your feelings, don't pretend otherwise. Get away first, analyze later.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's one thing to do the right thing when everyone is watching, and quite another to do the right thing alone. The first is expected. The second signals character. Those with integrity don't think about being good. They just are.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The work may not seem inherently interesting to you, and that is precisely what makes it a perfect vehicle for your sparkling personality. It's an ideal channel for your creativity. It's an excellent mechanism for interpersonal bonding.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). In the world of computer viruses, a little nefarious code has the potential to corrupt the whole system. Negative self-talk is a little like this. Deal with it head-on. Find the phrase that's not helping and rewrite, replace or delete.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Being honest about what you want and really going for it - that's a thrill. But if you can only do the first part, you'll have done more than most people. Start by noticing your micro-reactions. What do you linger on, envy, avoid or replay?

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

**Newsday Crossword**

**DELIGHT-FUL** by Billie Truitt  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**

- 1 Dual-power, as an appliance
- 5 Picked from a police lineup
- 9 Camera lens setting
- 14 Ireland nickname
- 15 "Tiny" prefix for second
- 16 Spanish male pal
- 17 Optimistic aspect
- 19 Pepper grinders
- 20 Poem of praise
- 21 "...that \_\_\_ flag was still there"
- 22 Frying pan
- 24 Lying under oath
- 26 Yale student
- 27 Metal-filled rock
- 28 Remain in the vicinity
- 33 Signals sounded in schools
- 36 Took a photo of
- 37 Monopoly or Clue
- 38 And others, for short
- 39 Rips in paper
- 40 Puts into service
- 41 General's fighting force
- 42 Had a good cry
- 43 Paid cash (for)
- 44 One of a bicycle's wheels
- 46 Overly
- 47 Hold the deed to
- 48 Mass \_\_\_ (trains and buses)
- 52 Celery, carrots, etc.
- 56 Puppy's bark
- 57 Med. coverage plan
- 58 Ranchland measures
- 59 Tavern's discount period

- 62 Garment with arms
- 63 Revered celebrity
- 64 Approximately
- 65 \_\_\_-turvy (overturned)
- 66 Aroma detector
- 67 Parakeets and hamsters

**DOWN**

- 1 Source of ancient fables
- 2 Lacking tact
- 3 Casual restaurant
- 4 Anderson Cooper's channel
- 5 Get coverage for, as a car
- 6 Milk farm
- 7 Finale

- 8 Fawns' mothers
- 9 Aunts, cousins, etc.
- 10 Showing favor for
- 11 Cash drawer
- 12 Stare at
- 13 Facebook entry
- 18 \_\_\_ truly (letter sign-off)
- 23 "Grecian Urn" poet
- 25 Pirate flags
- 28 Triangle or square
- 29 Legal wrong
- 30 Lighten, as burdens
- 31 Last word of a prayer
- 32 Take a break
- 33 Winnie-the-Pooh, for one
- 34 To be, in France
- 35 The Dalai \_\_\_

- 36 Fortune-teller
- 39 Strong string for packaging
- 43 Full of lather
- 45 Winding, as roads
- 46 Multiply by three
- 48 Keyboarding mistakes
- 49 Where land meets sea
- 50 "No other choice for me"
- 51 Spanish bulls
- 52 Immense
- 53 Twice-heard sound
- 54 Grasp firmly
- 55 Front of the lower leg
- 60 "Without further \_\_\_"
- 61 Move like a rabbit

**Sudoku**

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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.

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

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			

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

## ROADHOUSE

FROM PAGE 1

right-to-recall provision, requirements he said were communicated to him in December before the City Council had formally enacted the ordinances that would create those obligations.

While the Council delayed the lease to implement the protections, neither was ultimately applicable to the Roadhouse negotiations. The labor peace idea that would have prevented businesses from opposing unionization efforts was dropped due to legal concerns and the right to return, rules that mandate rehiring workers who used to work in the city, do not apply as Ahaus began his lease process prior to their adoption.

The city's staff report acknowledges that the displaced Rusty's Surf Ranch workers do not qualify for protections under the right to return ordinance because they lost their jobs before it took effect. California courts have rejected retroactive application of ordinances that impose new liability for pre-enactment conduct, the report notes. Instead, staff and Ahaus negotiated lease provisions that create a parallel framework — requiring structured interviews, mandatory minimum hiring percentages and a 90-day retention guarantee for former Rusty's employees who are rehired.

Ahaus said he is not opposed to hiring back former Rusty's workers. His objection is to the bureaucratic apparatus that enforcement of the ordinance would create.

"I'll likely hire 90 to 100% of the people back. I just don't know because I haven't met them, I haven't interviewed them," he said. "What if people show up for their interview drunk? Do I still have to hire them back?"

He said he ultimately agreed in concept to a provision requiring him to hire back 80 to 90% of former workers, subject to objective performance standards. The draft lease reflected that framework.

### PROPOSED LEASE TERMS

The staff report submitted to council for the March meeting detailed the proposed terms: a five-year initial lease with a five-year extension option at \$26,728 monthly beginning six months after commencement, based on \$6.25 per square foot for interior and patio space, subject to annual Consumer Price Index adjustments and a 3% annual base rent increase.

The city proposed a one-time capital contribution of up to \$500,000 — structured in three disbursement stages — to fund eligible improvements including kitchen systems, HVAC and electrical upgrades, stage and sound infrastructure, and bar improvements. All city-funded improvements would become city property at the end of the lease. The financial contribution is projected to generate \$325,000 in annual rent revenue to the Pier Fund, according to the staff report.

Ahaus said the \$500,000 also incorporates compensation for disruption during the upcoming Pier Bridge construction project, which he said would significantly impact foot traffic and business operations.

However, none of those terms are included in the April agenda and instead the item is written as a negotiation over terms, a reversal from the March agenda that asked for approval of terms.

### UNION'S ROLE DISPUTED

While the union has no legal standing in the lease negotiations, several city officials referenced the past unionization efforts at Rusty's as justification for the union involvement.

After the draft lease was published, the union contacted local officials and were given a meeting before the scheduled vote.

In a statement, the union's community director, Pastor Bridie Roberts, said the workers who staffed the prior restaurant "have been speaking out for months to ensure that they are able to return to work when it reopens." Roberts added that because the restaurant sits on publicly owned land, workers and the public have a right to weigh in on how it is used.

Chi, in a written statement, said the city did not consult with the union on lease terms but did listen to its feedback and the lease approval was pulled from the March agenda after that meeting.

"As you may recall, Unite Here had previously organized the workforce that worked at the prior Rusty's Surf Ranch restaurant on the Pier, which is the same property that the City is considering leasing to the California Roadhouse," said Chi. "Further, Unite Here was one of the advocates for the new Worker Retention / Recall regulations that were recently adopted by the City as being applicable to businesses located on the Pier."

Councilmember Dan Hall said in a statement that he spoke briefly with Ahaus and characterized the union's engagement as a natural outgrowth of its prior relationship with Rusty's workers.

"As you know, workers under the previous proprietor attempted to organize this location before that business ended their lease," he said. "Seems to be an understandable reason for the workers and their union to weigh in on what they saw in the staff report, just like dozens of other stakeholders did, some of whom, like Mr. Ahaus, also spoke with senior staff."

Mayor Caroline Torosis said in a statement that city staff regularly engage with stakeholders on agenda items of community interest and that the final lease terms reflect closed-session guidance from the full council.

"Unite Here worked with the workers at Rusty's Surf Ranch, the prior restaurant at this location on the Pier," she said. "Those workers lost their jobs when that establishment closed. Given that history, hearing their perspective was a natural part of the process."

Both Unite Here and City Hall refused to provide details on the union's specific concerns or any potential legal threats. The City has also delayed production of documents discussing the Union's objections.

### MOUNTING COSTS

The prolonged process has come at a price. Ahaus said the delay has burned through much of his financing, forced him to decline other business opportunities and led to the departure of his key staff.

"It is hurting us tremendously," he said.

He said it's also taking a toll on the City as dozens of people could have been back at work months ago and the City is in desperate need of business revitalization.

Ahaus said he had submitted a revised response to the city's latest draft lease and is awaiting a reply. The April 14 council meeting agenda lists the item as a closed-session real estate negotiation over price and terms — a step back from where things stood three weeks ago, when a signed lease seemed within reach.

"I could sit down with the council and we could have this deal hammered out in 30 minutes," Ahaus said. "This doesn't need to be a six-month process."

editor@smdp.com



## TUESDAY | APRIL 14

### MEMORIES & MOVEMENT SENIOR CLUB

10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Come, learn, and have fun every 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM in The Patio room at Virginia Avenue Park. Each week there will be something new: Exercise, Talking with Friends, Learning, Guest Presenters, Health & Wellness! For more information call (310) 458-8688. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/memories-movement-senior-club/14853634/2026-03-03T10>

### WALK-IN TUTORING WITH LAURIE

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. West Los Angeles Regional Library 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles. Walk-In Tutoring With Laurie Walk-in tutoring is available for any adult who needs help with internet searches, filling out forms, English conversation, reading, writing, resumes, and applications, studying for. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/walk-in-tutoring-with-laurie/17128550/2026-04-07T14>

### AUTHOR TALK WITH BRAD TAYLOR

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Santa Monica College 1900 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. Join us in conversation with acclaimed author Brad Taylor on his latest work, Shadow Strike, book 20 (yes, you read that right!) of the bestselling Pike Logan series. After its proxies are devastated and its offensive capability pummeled in the latest war in the middle east, a rogue group of Iranian regime officials create a brazen plot to strike back at their hated enemies once and for all. They envision a series of operational dominos culminating in a devastating attack, and the first step is the assassination of the Israeli prime minister. And there's only one assassin with the skills to pull it off: Abdul Rahman, known in the shadows as the Ghost. When a routine prison transfer is ambushed, the Ghost escapes and is given the assignment. The only Operator who can hunt him down is the man who stopped him before: Pike Logan. Pike and his team soon learn that the mission involves something bigger than just the escape of his old enemy. Working with Mossad agents, the pursuit leads the Taskforce to Argentina. They work to unravel the scope of the attack, and the chase leads them through the tempestuous waterfalls of Iguazu and the Triple Frontier, to the vibrant streets of Buenos Aires, and the tiny village of Ushuaia at the "End of the World". Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/author-talk-with-brad-taylor/18437772/2026-04-14T16>

### COUNCIL MEETING

5:30 p.m. Santa Monica City Hall 1685 Main St. Santa Monica. The City Council is made up of seven members elected at-large for staggered four-year terms. Every two years, after each election, the City Council selects one of its members to serve as Mayor and another to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore. The City Council also sits as the following bodies for the City of Santa Monica: Housing Authority. Parking Authority. Public Financing. Redevelopment Successor Agency. Audit Subcommittee. The City Council meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month starting at 5:30 P.M., in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/city-council-meeting/13799967/2026-04-14T17>

### 8PM FREE "ROXY'S GOT BALLS" BINGO TUESDAYS @ TINY'S HI-DIVE IN LOS ANGELES!

8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Tiny's Hi-Dive 12012 West Pico Boulevard Los Angeles. 8pm TUESDAYS "Roxy's Got Balls!" Drag Queen BINGO is LIVE & FREE at Tiny's Hi-Dive in Los Angeles w/ Roxy Wood! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/8pm-free-roxy-s-got-balls-bingo-tuesdays-tiny-s-hi-dive-in-los-angeles-/14857154/2026-04-07T20>

### TUESDAY OPEN MIC

10:00 p.m. Westside Comedy Theater 1323-A 3rd St Santa Monica. The best open mic in Los Angeles! The Tuesday Open Mic is a weekly open mic. Hop onstage and perform your best 3 minutes! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/tuesday-open-mic/16004734/2026-04-07T22>

## WEDNESDAY | APRIL 15

### BEACH WALK MEDITATION

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Santa Monica Lifeguard Tower 22 2400 Ocean Front Walk Los Angeles. Walking meditation is and has always been a significant alternative to sitting meditation, especially for those starting a new practice. The goal of meditation is to be able to practice in all positions, conditions and activities whether sitting, standing, walking, lying down, or whenever awake. Developing mindfulness doesn't have to happen in a quiet room without any distracting sights or sounds. In fact we can develop our mindfulness while out in nature; feeling the warmth of the sun on our backs and the cool ocean splashing around our feet.. Let's practice meditation in motion while creating a potent wellness experience that enhances mental clarity, alertness, and overall well-being. We'll meet Wednesdays and Fridays at 8 am at lifeguard tower 22 -see a red, yellow, blue, orange, white FLAG. After some basic instructions we'll walk silently together for approximately 45 minutes on the shoreline at a natural pace from tower 22 towards the Santa Monica Pier and back. Free—Donations are accepted. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/beach-walk-meditation/16206460/2026-04-01T08>

### DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET - WEDNESDAY MARKET

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Downtown Santa Monica Arizona Avenue (Between 4th & Ocean) Santa Monica. One of the largest grower-only Certified Farmers Market in Southern California and a favorite for local chefs! Enjoy one of Santa Monica's farmers markets, widely considered to be among the best on the west coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheeses, and more. Downtown Farmers Market Locations: Wednesdays at Arizona Ave & 2nd St and Saturdays at Arizona & 3rd St. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/downtown-farmers-market-wednesday-market/18330379/2026-04-01T08>

### TODDLER STORYTIME AND SONGS

10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. West Los Angeles Regional Library 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles. Toddler Storytime and Songs Join us for storytime on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. We share stories, songs, and movement activities to build early literacy skills for toddlers aged 18 months to 3 years. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/toddler-storytime-and-songs/18526513/2026-04-15T10>

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