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What it means.

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Needed for justice.

6 Gas Prices
Where to fill up

Volume 25 Issue 105

WEDNESDAY 4/15/26

smdp.com

State Housing Law, local alternative both on agenda as Santa Monica planners weigh future of residential neighborhoods

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica's Planning Commission will confront two

competing visions for the future of the city's residential neighborhoods Wednesday evening — one imposed by the state, the other proposed by a resident — when it

takes up a sweeping new housing law set to take effect in less than three months and a locally crafted

SEE **PLANNING** PAGE 7

Cousins plead guilty to national rental scam

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Two cousins pleaded guilty Tuesday to federal crimes stemming from a years-long double-booking bait-and-switch scheme run through online short-term rental

platforms that targeted properties across the country, including in Marina del Rey, Venice and Malibu.

Shray Goel, 37, of Calabasas, pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud. His cousin Shaunik Raheja,

SEE **CRIME** PAGE 8

Taco Bell Cantina files permits to open in Downtown Santa Monica

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Taco Bell Cantina, the chain's upscale urban spinoff featuring alcohol service and a modernized dining experience, has filed for commercial building permits to open a location at 318 Santa Monica Blvd., adding to a growing roster of national restaurant chains moving into downtown Santa Monica as the city continues to relax restrictions on formula retail.

The address is currently home to the Britannia Pub, a British bar and restaurant known for catering to Philadelphia sports fans. Managers or owners from The Brit (as it is known to locals) were unavailable at press time.

However, permit filings show the project would convert 1,510 square feet of existing office space into a restaurant and bar with a mezzanine level, along with

175 additional square feet for a new walk-in cooler. The work includes electrical, mechanical and plumbing improvements, new grease traps and removal of existing interior and exterior finishes. The job is valued at nearly \$400,000.

The Cantina format differs substantially from Taco Bell's roughly 8,000 traditional U.S. locations. Rather than drive-thrus and standalone buildings, Cantinas occupy street-level storefronts in high-foot-traffic urban corridors and serve beer, wine and frozen cocktails — branded Twisted Freezes — spiked with rum, tequila or vodka. The menu also includes shareable, tapas-style appetizers not available at standard locations. Interiors feature communal seating, local artwork, digital ordering kiosks and exposed food-preparation areas.



SMDP Photo

SEE **TACO BELL** PAGE 8 **CLOSING?:** Permits have been filed to convert the Britannia into a Taco Bell.

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What to know about Eric Swalwell's exit from Congress and the California governor's race

Democratic Rep. Eric Swalwell announced this week that he's leaving Congress and the crowded contest for California governor following sexual assault allegations, which he denies, and a swift exodus of his supporters.

Days ago, the 45-year-old congressman was among a group of leading Democrats in the race to replace Gov. Gavin Newsom, who cannot seek a third term at the helm of the nation's most populous state.

Swalwell's campaign unraveled within about 48 hours after the San Francisco Chronicle reported allegations that he had sexually assaulted a woman twice, including when she worked for him. Later Friday, CNN reported that other women accused him of various forms of sexual misconduct.

He suspended his gubernatorial campaign on Sunday, saying in a social media post, "I will fight the serious, false allegations that have been made — but that's my fight, not a campaign's."

Former U.S. Rep. Katie Porter and billionaire financier Tom Steyer, a 2020 presidential candidate, are among other top Democrats seeking to snatch up Swalwell's former backers as the primary nears with no clear front-runner.

Swalwell said Monday he would leave Congress on his own terms as lawmakers pushed for a bipartisan vote to expel him.

Here's what is known about the allegations against Swalwell and the possible political implications.

Allegations include sexual assault, nude

photos and explicit messages

The Chronicle interviewed a woman who alleged that Swalwell sexually assaulted her in 2019, when he was her boss, and again in 2024. She said she was too intoxicated to consent to sex in both cases and did not go to police at the time because she was afraid she would not be believed.

CNN reported allegations that appeared to come from the same woman. Neither outlet named her, and her lawyer declined to comment.

CNN also spoke to several other women who accused Swalwell of sending them inappropriate messages and nude photos.

A California woman then held a news conference on Tuesday, identifying herself and saying she was sexually assaulted by Swalwell in 2018 and now plans to make a report to law enforcement. She said she believes Swalwell drugged her before raping her.

Swalwell has maintained that the allegations are false. He said it would be unfair to his constituents if he remained in Congress while he's distracted from his duties.

Elias Debaie, an attorney for Swalwell, did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment on the new allegations.

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S RACE REMAINS FLUID

Swalwell's exit from the race presents an opening for his former rivals to pick up

support ahead of the June 2 primary.

Democrats Steyer and Porter, and two leading Republicans, Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco and former Fox News host Steve Hilton, who is endorsed by President Donald Trump, are among more than 50 candidates vying for just two spots on the November ballot.

Under California's primary system, only the top two vote-getters advance to the general election, regardless of party affiliation.

There are still seven established Democrats in the primary. Swalwell's departure narrows the field of top contenders, but it's too late for his name to be removed from the ballot.

Newsom has acknowledged fears within the party that the large field of candidates could split the Democratic vote into fractions small enough to open a path for a Republican to hold the top office in one of the nation's most solidly Democratic states. It's still possible — though a long shot — that the two leading Republicans could lock out Democrats in November.

SPECIAL CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION TO COME

Swalwell, a seven-term lawmaker, did not say when he would leave the U.S. House. Once he does, the governor must call a special election in Swalwell's district "within 14 calendar days of the occurrence of the vacancy," according to California election law.

His announcement came as the House Ethics Committee said it had begun investigating whether Swalwell engaged in sexual misconduct toward an employee. The future of the investigation is uncertain, as the committee often stops investigating when lawmakers resign.

Republican Rep. Tony Gonzales of Texas also announced Monday that he would retire from Congress after bipartisan calls to expel him. Several lawmakers had suggested expelling both Swalwell and Gonzales simultaneously, in an even trade-off for the parties.

Gonzales had already said he would not seek reelection after admitting to an affair with a staff member who later died by suicide.

THE RISE BEFORE THE FALL

Swalwell, who is originally from Iowa, was first elected to Congress in 2012 and represents a House district east of San Francisco.

He launched a presidential bid in April 2019 but dropped out after just a few months.

Swalwell served as a House manager in Trump's second impeachment trial in early 2021. He also played a role in investigating ties between Trump associates and Russian officials as a member of the House Intelligence Committee.

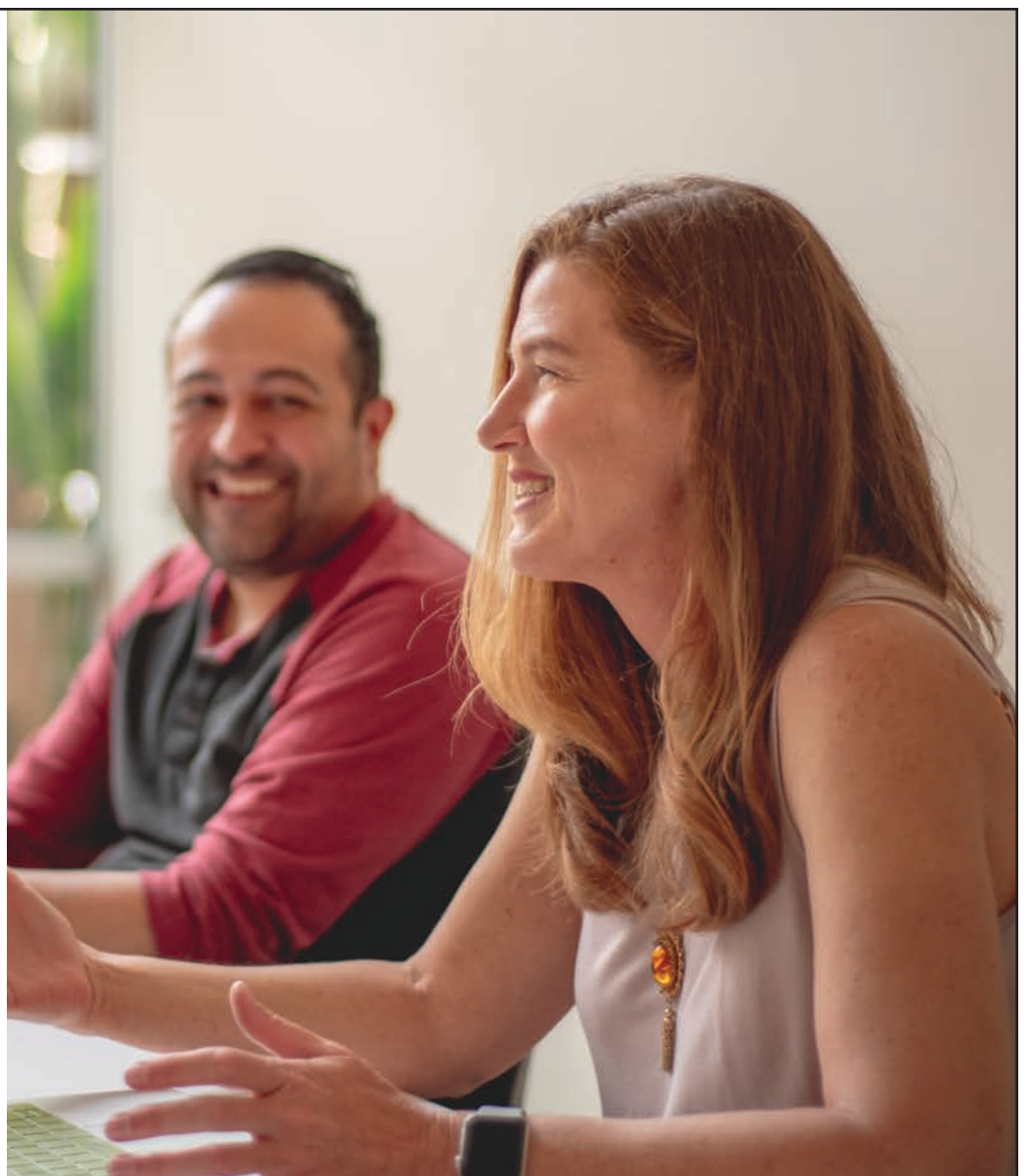
By HANNAH SCHOENBAUM Associated Press

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Here's who benefits from Swalwell's downfall and the shakeup of the California governor race

Sunday afternoon, during the television broadcast of a San Francisco Giants-Baltimore Orioles baseball game, an ad popped up, accusing Rep. Eric Swalwell of ducking tough votes in Congress.

The ad came from Tom Steyer, a billionaire investor who saw Swalwell as his toughest opponent among the candidates for governor this year. The two rivals and former Congressman Katie Porter have been the only Democrats not mired in low, single-digit support in polls of voters.

A few hours later, after the Giants lost, Swalwell posted a statement on X, saying he is suspending his candidacy in response to allegations he had sexually harassed or assaulted several women. Monday afternoon, Swalwell announced he is resigning from Congress.

Detailed accounts of those transgressions had been published by the San Francisco Chronicle and CNN on Friday, confirming rumors that had swirled in political media for several days.

Swalwell had denied any misconduct prior to Friday's revelations and after they emerged had posted a video continuing that denial, but apologizing to his wife for "mistakes in judgment" and to the public "if in any way you have doubted your support for me."

"But I think you know who I am," he continued, an odd statement in light of what had been published.

His denials had absolutely no effect. His major supporters — unions most notably — and Democratic Party leaders called on him to drop his campaign.

"I am suspending my campaign for governor," Swalwell posted on X Sunday evening. "To my family, staff, friends, and supporters, I am deeply sorry for mistakes in judgment I've made in my past. I will fight the serious, false allegations that have been made — but that's my fight, not a campaign's."

Swalwell is obviously political toast. But suspending his campaign for governor may not arrest his downfall.

There is already pressure for him to resign from Congress, or for congressional leaders to banish him. And a prosecutor in New York has opened a criminal

investigation for an alleged assault in that city.

Outside of his congressional district in the eastern suburbs of the San Francisco Bay Area Swalwell was known, if at all, as a media-mongering, ambitious politician who made a name for himself as a vocal critic of President Donald Trump.

On that single basis, his campaign exemplified a strategy almost completely devoid of any serious debate about California's numerous issues, such as homelessness, poverty, water supply, a sluggish economy and a state budget awash in red ink.

That said, where does the campaign go now, with voting in the state's top-two primary beginning in a few weeks?

Swalwell's withdrawal — although he will still be one of the 61 candidates listed on the ballot — means that whatever support he had — voters and campaign financiers — will assumedly go elsewhere.

At first glance, Porter would seem to benefit, because the allegations against Swalwell surely enrage women, given the pattern of men in high places being outed as serial abusers. And Porter could use an injection of support since she has not fared well in recent polls.

A Democratic Party poll released last week found that she has slipped by several percentage points to 7%, while Steyer and Swalwell were tied at 10%. The poll also found that Republicans Steve Hilton and Chad Bianco still led the pack at 16% and 14% respectively.

Steyer, the only other candidate in the top tier, is spending lavishly from his own fortune, so he doesn't need money from Swalwell's former backers.

If anyone from the five-member Democratic lower tier prospers from Swalwell's departure, it might be San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan. His campaign is planning a major media push with support from Silicon Valley.

Here's hoping that the weirdest election for governor in recent history will finally focus more on substance and less on image and sound bites.

Dan Walters, CalMatters Opinion Columnist



Surf report WATER TEMP: 61.2

WEDNESDAY SURF: 1-2ft
FAIR 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.

THURSDAY SURF: 1-2ft
FAIR Knee to thigh

Surf up a notch with some more swell moving in. Winds staying on the lighter side. SSW swell edges up as a little NW swell lingers, for mainly thigh-waist-stomach high waves, bogged down some on the mid morning high tide. Possible light E wind for points in the morning. Light+ SW sea breeze due in the afternoon.



Wednesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny, with a high near 67.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny, with a high near 67. .
Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny, with a high near 67. .
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 54.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2026/04/17	Fri	10:07 AM	4.32	H
2026/04/17	Fri	3:34 PM	0.83	L
2026/04/17	Fri	9:48 PM	6.21	H
2026/04/18	Sat	04:43 AM	-1.17	L



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 Draw Date: 4/13 38 43 59 63 64 Power#: 15 Jackpot: 58 M	 Draw Date: 4/13 3 13 20 29 37
 Draw Date: 4/10 3 18 36 42 49 Mega#: 6 Jackpot: 120 M	 Draw Date: 4/13 EVENING: 0 3 4 Draw Date: 4/13 MIDDAY: 3 7 6
 Draw Date: 4/11 1 21 22 23 39 Mega#: 13 Jackpot: 11 M	 Draw Date: 4/13 1st: 12 - Lucky Charms 2nd: 09 - Winning Spirit 3rd: 08 - Gorgeous George Race Time: 1:44.30

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City of
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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.

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 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
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. 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.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

When criminal justice falls short, California’s civil courts must step in

Los Angeles City Controller Kenneth Mejia recently posted about an \$18 million settlement stemming from a high-speed crash involving a Los Angeles Police Department patrol vehicle. Mejia noted the settlement — the largest liability payout for the city this fiscal year — arose after an LAPD officer sped through an intersection and crashed his cruiser into another car, leaving two elderly brothers with life-threatening injuries.

The case went to trial. The city fought it. And then, in the middle of the trial, the city decided to settle. The controller’s post raised an important question: Why do municipalities often choose to settle these cases only after fighting victims in court for years?

The answer is uncomfortable but important. In many cases involving government misconduct or negligence, the criminal justice system provides little meaningful accountability. Charges may be reduced, penalties may be minimal and the conduct that caused devastating harm can fade from public view long before victims receive answers. When that happens, the civil justice system becomes the only place left where accountability can occur.

The public often misunderstands the role civil litigation plays in these situations. Lawsuits are frequently portrayed as opportunistic or excessive, particularly when they involve large settlements paid by public entities. But civil cases exist precisely for situations where serious harm occurs and other mechanisms fail to provide meaningful consequences.

The criminal justice system serves an essential purpose. Its role is to punish wrongdoing, and it operates under the highest standard of proof in our legal system — guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. That standard protects against wrongful convictions and ensures that criminal punishment is imposed only when the evidence is overwhelming.

But that high standard also means many cases involving negligence, dangerous conduct or institutional failures do not result in criminal penalties that reflect the severity of the harm caused.

Civil courts exist to fill that gap. In civil cases, juries evaluate whether it is more likely than not that a defendant’s actions

caused injury or death. Victims and their families can subpoena documents, take sworn testimony and examine evidence in a transparent forum that often reveals facts the public would never otherwise see.

Civil cases often expose failures that would otherwise remain hidden — failures in training, supervision, safety policies or institutional decision-making. When those failures are brought into the open, they can lead to reforms that make communities safer.

The Encino crash highlighted by Mejia’s post illustrates the stakes. The city chose to fight the case in court, as it often does, before ultimately agreeing to settle the lawsuit during trial. But compensation alone cannot answer the deeper questions families and communities often have after tragedies like this.

What exactly happened? What policies allowed it to occur? And what changes will prevent it from happening again? Transparency within law enforcement and government agencies is essential to answering those questions.

In the criminal case connected to the crash, the officer ultimately pleaded to a misdemeanor. There was no jail time. As part of the resolution, the officer reportedly agreed to record a public service announcement about safe police driving — a step that, at least in theory, could have served as a public acknowledgment of the seriousness of the incident.

Yet that recording has never been released publicly. And the agencies involved have declined to make it available. If the point of such a requirement is public education and accountability, keeping it hidden defeats the purpose.

Civil litigation cannot replace the criminal justice system, nor should it have to. But when criminal consequences are minimal or nonexistent, civil courts often become the only venue where evidence is fully examined and responsibility is determined.

That is not a flaw in our system. It is one of its safeguards.

Robert Glassman is a Los Angeles attorney at Parish Shea Ravipudi LLP who represented the plaintiffs.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

SMC

Santa Monica College to host free Masanga Marimba concert April 21

Santa Monica College will host Masanga Marimba in a free outdoor concert titled "A Musical Journey from Africa to Latin America" on Tuesday, April 21, at 11:15 a.m. in the SMC Quad, located on the main campus at 1900 Pico Blvd.

The ensemble, led by CSU Northridge ethnomusicologist and SMC Music instructor Dr. Ric Alviso, will trace the history of the marimba from its role in Zimbabwean music education in the 1960s to its place as a cornerstone of Latin American dance music and the national instrument of Guatemala.

Masanga Marimba is the only marimba ensemble in Southern California to combine Latin and African musical traditions using traditional instruments including the marimba, mbira and marimbol. The ensemble performs with seven giant marimbas, drums, percussion, trombone, trumpet and additional instruments, drawing from musical traditions of Zimbabwe, South Africa, Cameroon, Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico.

The group has performed at the Hollywood Bowl, Grand Performances, Getty Center, Skirball Cultural Center and Ford Amphitheatre, and has opened for artists including Neil Young, Stephen Stills, John Mayer, Nora Jones, Father John Misty, Los Lobos, Ziggy Marley, Pink Martini and others.

The event is sponsored by the SMC Associates. It may be rescheduled or cancelled without notice.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy Image

MASANGA: Santa Monica College will host Masanga Marimba, led by CSU Northridge ethnomusicologist Dr. Ric Alviso, in a free concert on Tuesday, April 21, at 11:15 a.m.

Malibu

Malibu Library Speaker Series to Feature Climate Advocate Bill McKibben on Earth Day

The City of Malibu and LA County Library, in partnership with Pepperdine University, will present climate journalist and author Bill McKibben as the Earth Month special edition of the 2026 Malibu Library Speaker Series on Wednesday, April 22 at 5 p.m. at Elkins Auditorium at Pepperdine University.

The event is free and open to the public. RSVPs are not required.

McKibben, a recipient of the Right Livelihood Prize, is widely recognized as one of the world's leading voices on climate change. His book "The End of Nature," considered the first on the topic written for a general audience, has been translated into 24 languages. Time magazine has called him perhaps the planet's best green journalist, and he has lectured and organized on every continent, including Antarctica.

His recent works include "The Flag, the Cross, and the Station Wagon" and the New York Times best-seller "Falter," which examines both the climate crisis and challenges posed by emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence.

In his talks, McKibben offers practical, hopeful approaches to climate action, encouraging collective efforts around fossil fuel divestment and renewable energy expansion. Through storytelling, he highlights communities worldwide working toward a more just and sustainable future.

"Bill McKibben has helped shape the way the world understands climate change, and Malibu is proud to bring a global voice on climate action to our community during Earth Month," said Malibu Mayor Bruce Silverstein. "This event reflects our ongoing commitment to environmental leadership, education, and meaningful community dialogue."

The event is part of the City of Malibu's Earth Month programming and Pepperdine's Climate Calling 2026 conference, which is presented in conjunction with the W. David Baird Distinguished Lecture Series and Pepperdine's Center for Sustainability.

For more information on Pepperdine's Climate Calling events, including parking and a campus map, visit pepperdine.edu/climate-calling. For information on all City of Malibu Earth Month events, visit MalibuCity.org/EarthMonth.

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	LINCOLN BLVD CAR WASH 1624 Lincoln Blvd	\$6.35
	SHELL 1866 Lincoln Blvd	\$6.09
	WORLD 1801 Lincoln Blvd	\$5.94
	CHEVRON 1732 Lincoln Blvd	\$6.25
	SHELL 1802 Cloverfield Blvd	\$6.09
	CHEVRON 432 Wilshire Blvd	\$6.25
	ARCO 1776 Cloverfield Blvd	\$6.49
	CHEVRON 332 Pico	\$6.19

*Prices paying in card

Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have fallen 4.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$5.95/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 41.8 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand \$1.16/g higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has increased 4.1 cents compared to a week ago and stands at \$5.617 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at \$5.15/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$8.29/g, a difference of \$3.14/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$4.49/g while the highest was \$9.79/g, a difference of \$5.30/g.

The national average price of gasoline is unchanged in the last week, averaging \$4.07/g today. The national average is up 39.1 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 93.4 cents per gallon higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Pier

Santa Monica Pier's 'Locals' Night' returns April 16 with music, art, salsa, and live theater

The Santa Monica Pier will host the spring edition of Locals' Night on Thursday, April 16, from 3:30 to 10 p.m., featuring two stages of live music, a Spring Art Mart, salsa dancing, a classic car show, and a live theatrical performance.

Presented by Pacific Park in partnership with Harvelle's, the free, all-ages event transforms the Pier into an open-air celebration of music, art, and community.

Musical acts include No Reaction and a secret headliner on the Punk Stage, and No Chasers and Alligator Beach Band on the Harvelle's Stage. DJ URL will open the evening. The Spring Art Mart runs 4-8:30 p.m. on the Pier Parking Deck, featuring local artists, vintage finds, and handmade goods.

Salsa Way at Patio 66 at Pacific Park offers free salsa lessons and an open dance floor from 6-9:30 p.m., with beer, wine, and a margarita special available for purchase. A classic car show runs 4-8 p.m.

The evening also includes a special performance of "Save the Pier!" a live theatrical production celebrating the history and community spirit of the Santa Monica Pier, from 8-9 p.m. at the West End behind Mariasol. Books & Cookies Musical Storytime for families takes place at 3:30 and 4:30 p.m. at the Merry Go-Round Building.

April's Locals' Night also spotlights the 100th anniversary of Route 66, the legendary highway that ends at the Santa Monica Pier. More information is available at www.santamonica.com/route66.

"Locals' Night is where the community comes to life on the Pier," said Jim Harris, Executive Director and Historian of the Santa Monica Pier.

Free tickets are available at eventbrite.com/e/locals-night-at-the-santa-monica-pier-tickets-1035331714027. The Santa Monica Pier is located at 200 Santa Monica Pier, Suite A.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

Santa Monica

Santa Monica welcomes 24 new arts and culture producing partners for community activations

The city of Santa Monica has selected 24 new arts and culture producing partners to develop new activations and reimagine community events at the beachside destination over the next five years.

The Producing Partner Program is part of the city's two-year Realignment Plan revitalization effort and complements a large-scale events plan announced in late 2025. Partners were identified through a request for proposals process launched in October 2025, with a panel of four professionals reviewing 28 submissions.

Selected partners include 18th Street Arts Center, Blue Note Entertainment Group, dublab, Los Angeles Nomadic Division, McCabe's, Santa Monica Pier Corporation, Superbloom Collective, and 17 others spanning a diverse range of genres and disciplines.

Upcoming activations include:

June 6: Ocean of Sound, a meditative listening event at the Annenberg Community Beach House with dublab

June 12: Golden Hour at Third Street Promenade, a free World Cup public event with Revel Republic

June 19: A Juneteenth musical event at the Miles Memorial Playhouse and Reed Park with Blue Note Entertainment Group

June 20: The 34th annual Juneteenth Celebration at Virginia Avenue Park with Go As If Productions

July 19: COAST, an open-streets event across Downtown Santa Monica with Revel Republic

Sept. 13: Americana in the Park at Gandara Park with McCabe's

"Santa Monica is open for business, and these producing partnerships are proof of that," Mayor Caroline Torosis said. "Through the Realignment Plan, we're bringing in creative partners who will deliver fresh activations, grow our local economy and make sure our residents and visitors have more reasons to enjoy Santa Monica."

The program is administered by the Recreation and Arts Department's Cultural Affairs Division through the Art of Recovery initiative, which was launched during the pandemic to support artists and arts organizations.

For more information, visit santamonica.gov/programs/art-of-recovery or the city's online event calendar at santamonica.gov/events.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

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PLANNING

FROM PAGE 1

alternative designed to work alongside it.

Senate Bill 79, the Abundant and Affordable Homes Near Transit Act, signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom on Oct. 10, 2025, takes effect July 1, 2026. The law automatically upzones properties within a half-mile of qualifying transit stations, allowing buildings of up to 85 feet at densities as high as 140 dwelling units per acre near station entrances, stepping down to 55 feet and 80 units per acre at the half-mile boundary. All four of Santa Monica's Metro E Line stations — Downtown, 17th Street/Santa Monica College, Bergamot, and Expo/Bundy — qualify under the law.

Staff has identified 2,602 parcels eligible for the upzoning across the four transit zones. The law's impact on commercial properties will be modest; Santa Monica's non-residential districts were already upzoned as part of the city's 2021-2029 Housing Element and largely meet or exceed SB 79's standards. The full force of the law falls on residential parcels, where current R2 zoning allows roughly 29 dwelling units per acre and SB 79 would permit up to 100 — potentially more than doubling permitted density depending on a parcel's distance to the transit stop.

That residential impact concentrates heavily in the Pico neighborhood. In the 17th Street zone, 389 of 576 residential parcels within a half-mile of the station are in Pico. In the Bergamot zone, 434 of 682 residential parcels within that radius are also in Pico. City staff noted that SB 79 "will impact this adopted housing strategy and would have the potential to change land use patterns, particularly in the Pico Neighborhood."

Staff has presented three options for responding to the law. The first is to accept SB 79's default standards on all eligible parcels, requiring no local action. The second would allow the city to temporarily exclude certain parcels — including locally designated historic resources and those already meeting half of SB 79's density thresholds — until 2030, potentially allowing the city to make more informed, long-term land use decisions pending completion of a TOD Alternative Plan or the 7th Cycle Housing Element. The third would have the city develop a transit-oriented development alternative plan that would establish development standards valid through the 7th Cycle Housing Element period, redistributing density from residential neighborhoods to commercial corridors, subject to review and approval

by the California Department of Housing and Community Development. Staff has not recommended a specific approach.

Also on the agenda Wednesday is a proposal by Planning Commissioner Shawn Landres called the Missing Middle Housing Realignment Plan, or MMHRP, which Landres argues could serve as a complementary local pathway regardless of which SB 79 approach the commission ultimately recommends.

The MMHRP would allow homeowners on standard residential lots to build clusters of up to seven detached cottages on a 7,500-square-foot lot in exchange for a deed restriction making one unit available to households earning between 150 and 200 percent of the area median income — a workforce tier that falls between deeply subsidized affordable housing and market-rate development, and one that SB 79 does not address.

Where SB 79 favors institutional developers capable of financing five- to six-story apartment buildings with construction timelines of 36 to 48 months, the MMHRP is designed for owner-occupants. Pre-approved plans, ministerial review, and a state environmental exemption would compress the timeline to 18 to 24 months. The owner would live in one cottage, sell most of the rest, and rent one at the workforce rate.

Landres's proposal would also extend to approximately 4,200 residential parcels citywide that fall outside the half-mile transit radius where SB 79 has no effect — including neighborhoods such as North of Montana and western Sunset Park — making it the only local pathway producing deed-restricted workforce housing beyond the transit zone.

A conflict preemption clause in the proposal would bar any project receiving MMHRP concessions from simultaneously claiming benefits under SB 79 or other state housing statutes, ensuring that the city's incentives flow only to projects that accept the workforce covenant.

Also on Wednesday's agenda, Commissioner Landres will share a presentation titled "8 Essential Tools for Vibrant Places," prepared by placemaking expert Craig Lewis of Arcadis, examining principles for thriving downtowns including pedestrian experience, shared vision, and creating compact critical mass.

The commission meets at 6 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers, 1685 Main St., Room 250. Wednesday's meeting is open to the public.

maaz@smdp.com



City of
Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A SPECIAL COMMUNITY MEETING OF
THE SANTA MONICA LANDMARKS COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Special Landmarks Commission Preservation Justice Workshop

Join the Santa Monica Landmarks Commissioners and Preservation Working Group members for a Special Landmarks Commission Community Meeting about Social Justice and Historic Preservation in Santa Monica

This Community Meeting is a product of the Working Group on Social Justice/Equity in Preservation, established in June 2022 by the Landmarks Commission following City Council direction. The Working Group presented their findings to City Council on February 11, 2025, in a report titled "[A Place for Everyone in Santa Monica's History](#)."

According to the report, "telling truthful stories from history presents an opportunity to interpret what has come before, understand how it impacts us today, and presents an opportunity for reparative improvement in the future."

The meeting represents a small but meaningful step toward connecting communities across Santa Monica; we still have a lot to learn from each other.

The meeting will feature two parts:

- Part One:** A presentation from the Working Group about their findings, a summary of the Landmarks process in Santa Monica, and group discussion about a wide range of ways to recognize history.
- Part Two:** Small-group workshops facilitated by the Working Group and City Planning staff. Participants will be asked to consider:
1. What qualities might raise an application marked by the City's exclusionary development history to the Landmarks Commission's special review?
 2. Are there significant places in Santa Monica that should be recognized or remembered, even if the place no longer exists?

Please RSVP [here](#). View the flyer [here](#)

DATE/TIME: SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026 FROM 2-5PM

LOCATION: Marine Park Auditorium, 1406 Marine 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 or via mail to City Planning, 1685 Main Street, Mail Stop 28, Santa Monica, California 90401. Written public comment submitted before 12:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be available for online viewing. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item number in the subject line of your written comments.

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

Address your comments to:

Landmarks Commission Liaison

Stephanie Reich, Design and Historic Preservation Planner

Re: Preservation Justice Workshop

VIA EMAIL: planningcomment@santamonica.gov

VIA MAIL: 1685 Main Street, Mail Stop 28

Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION: If you want more information about this project, please contact Stephanie Reich by e-mail at Stephanie.Reich@santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodation, please contact the City at (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.

ESPAÑOL: Conozca el proceso de designación de hitos históricos de Santa Mónica y las iniciativas de justicia social y la conservación. Discutir formas alternativas de abordar la historia en Santa Mónica. Esto es una noticia pública para revisar aplicaciones proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Mónica. 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



New Play Opens To Sold Out Crowd!

When the Water Dies, written, starring and directed by Santa Monica native, Sebastiano Pigazzi (HBO's *And Just Like That*), opened to a sold out audience on April 4th at the Santa Monica Playhouse. Spectator's left the performance laughing, crying and raving about the show. This powerful family drama unfolds between two families who clash over past vs future, technology, and race. Limited seats left for April 14th and April 16th. Use discount code- SMLOCAL for 15% off. Get tickets now! wtwd.ludus.com

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NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Approval of the FY 2026-27 Action Plan for use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership Act (HOME) funds

Notice is hereby given that the City of Santa Monica will hold a public hearing as the City Council considers approval of the 2026-27 Annual Action Plan. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides annual CDBG and HOME entitlement funds to the City of Santa Monica. The Annual Action Plan delineates the City's specific projects and activities for one-year use of \$1,120,953.00 in CDBG and \$486,060.07 in HOME funds to address the City's housing and community development high-priority needs as specified in the Council-adopted 2025-29 Consolidated Plan. Plans and associated documents can be viewed at <https://www.santamonica.gov/community-development-block-grant-and-home-investment-partnership-programs>. The 2026-27 Annual Action Plan is due to HUD on June 1, 2026.

DATE/TIME: TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026 AT 5:30 PM

Check agenda at www.smgov.net/council/agendas prior to meeting to confirm start time

LOCATION: City Council Chambers, 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 meeting via email to councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov or via mail to City Clerk, 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, California 90401. Written comments received from the public by 12 PM on the day of the City Council meeting will be distributed to the City Council prior to the meeting and posted online. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item number in the subject line of your written comments. You may also comment in person at the City Council hearing. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment in person. All written comments shall be made part of the public record and will be included in the final submission to HUD.

ACCOMODATIONS

Agendas and reports are accessible on the City's webpage at www.smgov.net/council/agendas. They are also available at the City Clerk's Office and in alternate formats upon request at (310) 458-8211 or clerk@santamonica.gov.

City Hall and the Council Chambers are wheelchair accessible. If you require any special disability related accommodations to either attend or provide public testimony at a Council meeting (i.e. sign language interpreting, access to an amplified sound system, remote option, etc.), please contact the City Clerk's Office at (310) 458-8211 or TDD: (310) 917-6626 or via email at clerk.mailbox@santamonica.gov at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting. Best efforts shall be made to accommodate requests received after the 72-hour deadline.

City of Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines and the Metro Expo Line serve City Hall. Parking is available on Main Street, Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

ESPAÑOL Esto es un aviso de audiencia pública para invitar a cualquier parte interesada a participar en el repaso del Plan de Acción Anual del Año Fiscal 2026-27. Si necesita más información, por favor llame a Lupe Madrid en el Departamento de Vivienda y Servicios Humanos al número (310) 458-8310.

TACO BELL

FROM PAGE 1

Taco Bell opened its first Cantina in 2015 and the concept has since grown to roughly 60 locations across more than a dozen states, with flagship stores on the Las Vegas Strip and in New York's Times Square.

The business model has proven lucrative with company officials claiming it generates four times the revenue of a traditional location. Buildout costs remain comparable to a standard store because savings on parking lots and drive-thru infrastructure offset the cost of experiential upgrades.

A BAN BORN, MADE PERMANENT, THEN REPEALED

The permit filing arrives as the regulatory landscape governing chain restaurants in downtown Santa Monica has undergone a dramatic reversal over the past several years.

Downtown Santa Monica had restricted traditional fast food since roughly 1988, but the modern push for stricter controls intensified after quick-service chains exploited definitional loopholes and more than doubled their population by 2018.

In 2018, the council unanimously adopted an urgency ordinance barring chain restaurants with more than 100 domestic locations from opening on the Third Street Promenade with business officials saying large chains could outbid independent operators for prime storefronts. In an ironic twist, Taco Bell was used by name as an example of the kind of business that could push out smaller operators. The council made the ban permanent in January 2021, raising the threshold to 150 locations.

The pandemic rewrote the calculus. Promenade occupancy plummeted as anchor tenants including ArcLight Cinemas, Gap and Bloomingdale's went dark. The city

began loosening zoning restrictions and the council unanimously suspended the fast food ban drawing support from councilmembers who had once decried the industry. By late 2023, all formula retail limits had been lifted citywide, and in August 2025 the council made the elimination permanent.

City planners acknowledged during those discussions that the prohibition had unintentionally restricted smaller businesses such as ice cream shops and bakeries, while noting the inherent difficulty in distinguishing between "fast food" and "fast casual" restaurants. The January 2025 Palisades Fire added further urgency, with quick-service restaurant sales dropping nearly 14% year-over-year.

RAISING CANE'S ALSO ON THE WAY

Taco Bell Cantina is not the only national chain capitalizing on the changed environment. Louisiana-based chicken chain Raising Cane's has announced plans to open its first Santa Monica location on the Third Street Promenade, continuing the company's aggressive California expansion.

The new Raising Cane's will occupy the former Bibimbap space and several adjacent units, including the former Yogurtland location — a business that was itself a casualty of the old restrictions, having been blocked from moving onto the Promenade proper and ultimately leaving Downtown entirely. The chain, which operates roughly 900 locations nationwide, is set to open this summer at 1401 Third Street Promenade, making it the first major fast food arrival since the ban's repeal. California now ranks as the chain's second-largest state market, with roughly 117 locations, behind only Texas.

editor@smdp.com

CRIME

FROM PAGE 1

36, of Denver, pleaded guilty to one count of obstruction of justice.

According to their plea agreements, Goel and Raheja launched an online rental business in 2013, listing properties through short-term rental platforms under various legal entities and business names, including Abbot Pacific LLC and Jet Set Work LLC. In addition to local properties, the scheme extended to San Diego, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Milwaukee, Nashville, Austin, Savannah, Georgia, and Bloomington and South Bend, Indiana.

From October 2017 to November 2019, the cousins used fake host names and, in some cases, stolen identities to post listings, fabricate positive reviews and conceal their identities. The fake accounts also allowed them to continue operating after at least one platform banned them in 2015 following repeated cancellations and guest complaints.

The core of the scheme involved posting multiple listings for the same property across platforms at varying daily rates, then renting to the guest who booked at the highest price while leaving overbooked reservations in

place. When the defendants chose not to host a guest, they fabricated excuses — such as a plumbing emergency or other sudden problem — then canceled the reservation, pressured the guest to cancel, or redirected them to a different property.

The cousins also listed fictional addresses, including locations with no rental housing or that did not exist, to create duplicate listings, evade local short-term rental regulations and control property access.

To suppress criticism, Goel and Raheja posted bogus negative reviews targeting guests who complained, and periodically pulled negatively reviewed listings and re-listed them under new identifiers to erase the bad reviews.

Raheja additionally admitted to lying to federal investigators in April 2023, falsely claiming he never intentionally overbooked properties and had no knowledge of any deliberate overbooking.

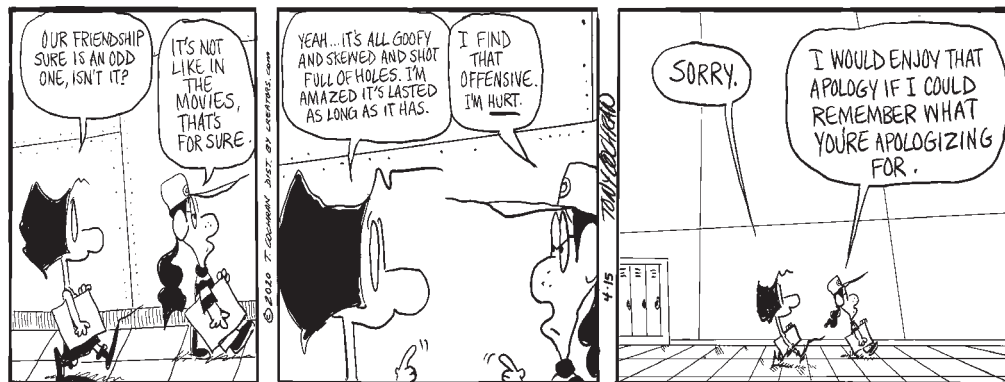
U.S. District Judge Wesley L. Hsu set an Aug. 14 sentencing hearing for Goel, who faces up to 20 years in federal prison. Raheja is scheduled to be sentenced Sept. 11 and faces a maximum of 10 years.

editor@smdp.com

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE

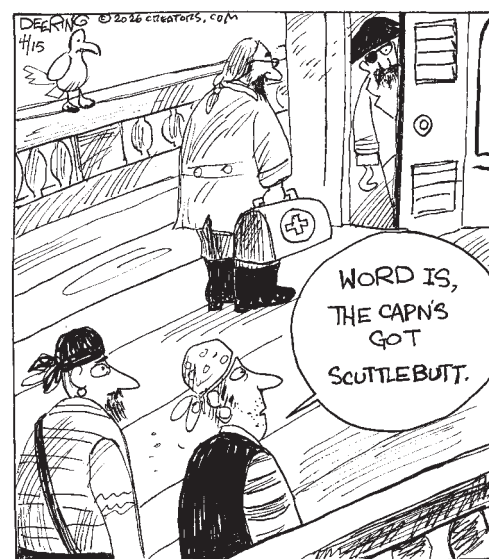


Heathcliff

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

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Sports carnival

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

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|
| Absent | Final | Sack |
| Activities | Funny | Sneakers |
| Bags | Games | Spectators |
| Ball | Gym | Stadium |
| Bats | Heat | Steeplechase |
| Blades | Hurdles | Stopwatch |
| Boys | Laps | Strength |
| Cardiovascular | Lightweight | Team |
| Cheer | Ocean | Third |
| Class | Physical | Travel |
| Crew | Rest | Whistle |
| Discipline | Ribbon | Yell |
| Fast | Roll | |

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 15)

It's your Year of the Tidal Gift, when provision arrives in waves, precisely when needed. Trust life's timing and your own instincts. More highlights: a home life filled with warmth and meaningful rituals, a steadily growing financial cushion, and intuitive clarity that guides wise, well-timed financial and professional decisions. Nature and quiet moments restore you. Scorpio and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 15, 22, 31 and 42.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You feel the wind in your hair as you glide to your next evolution, the one in which you gain what you've been wanting. At the same time, you're letting go of what you're ready to trade for the upgrade.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It can be very frustrating to see the result you're going for in your mind and know that you're far from it. Can you just focus on the next step up? One more check on the to-do list, one more mile, one more pound lost or gained or lifted - you're doing great.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). As you work that smile, you generate warmth and a sense of belonging everywhere you go. And though this lifts loved ones and strangers alike, most of all, it lifts you. You just feel better because your smile tells the rest of you that you should.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Ancient humans were excellent listeners. They listened to nature to escape weather, to find food and to keep from becoming food. Today, you'll listen very well to find opportunity and steer away from trouble.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). They say that the only difference between a comedy and a tragedy is the way the story ends. Of course, this isn't true. A comedy is fun and funny all along, and a tragedy gives you beautiful things to watch and cry over. Today, you're in a position to choose your genre.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Some interactions take years to fully process. They seem to mean one thing, then years later you look back and see something else. Time and memory have a way of showing you truths or stripping away falsehoods.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). One day, you'll look back at this and laugh. Even so, that's no reason to endure the discomfort any longer than necessary. The future will bring another perspective, but only because you assert yourself in the present.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). A polite smile here, a kind laugh, a supportive word - it's all part of the social facade that has relationships running smoothly. The mask is your own design, allowing you to hide or show what helps the situation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It is said that a drowning man isn't picky about who throws him a rope. You're not desperate like that, but you could still use an assist. But if you accept some form of common decency, this should not come with future obligation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Even as you stand in what you've built, you still remember when you had far less and knew very well the aching experience of need. This feeds the compassion you have for someone currently in need.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You contain multitudes. Is the person you're being in a relationship intrinsic to who you are? Or are certain behaviors showing up just because of this particular dynamic? Take yourself out of it and see.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Expressing yourself will come easily today, not because you're in a supportive environment, lifted by receptive people who get you. Not because you've practiced your talent and feel confident - no. Because you've been brave time and again. Courage is a muscle.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Vehicle for a general
- 5 Squander
- 10 Any theatrical accessory
- 14 No higher than
- 15 Type of dental filling
- 16 *Les Misérables* author
- 17 Old-style parade confetti
- 19 Scandinavian capital
- 20 Element-specialist scientists
- 21 Spy's gathering, for short
- 22 Fish eggs
- 23 Heroic pilot
- 24 Took a chair
- 27 Previous experience
- 34 Exclusive group
- 36 Golden State, informally
- 37 Floor measure
- 38 Frosty coating
- 39 Glaringly vivid
- 40 Raise, as kids
- 41 Skeptic's comment
- 42 Neighbor or Iraq
- 43 Get a pet from a shelter
- 44 S&L investment
- 47 Radiator sound
- 48 Thin battery
- 49 Sports judge
- 51 Short-tempered
- 54 Most frightening
- 59 Wheel shaft
- 60 Warm Atlantic current

- 62 Small stain
- 63 Love, in Italian
- 64 Pumpkin pie spice
- 65 Hoops great Bryant
- 66 Food package emblems
- 67 Space on a schedule

DOWN

- 1 Protrude, as a chin
- 2 Cast-of-thousands movie
- 3 Inscribe with acid
- 4 Gambling game with flushes
- 5 More lean and muscular
- 6 Industrious insects
- 7 Narrow plank

- 8 Faucets
- 9 Hurricane's center
- 10 Caller's prepaid access purchase
- 11 Iron corrosion
- 12 Stare at
- 13 Swim-meet locale
- 18 Overact
- 21 Rink surface
- 23 Rarely rained on
- 24 Typeface flourish
- 25 Courtroom claim
- 26 Casio competitor
- 28 Upscale Honda
- 29 Gemologist's measure
- 30 Oscar actor Kevin
- 31 Three-part cookies
- 32 Gathers, as crops

MIXED MUSIC MEDIA by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- 33 Pub game
- 35 Two-person talk
- 39 Former Italian money
- 43 Grant entrance to
- 45 Diary page
- 46 Witch's hexes
- 50 Long-lasting hairdos
- 51 Any errand to run
- 52 Convention center show
- 53 Messy type
- 54 Japanese ring sport
- 55 Plumbing stop-up
- 56 Puffy hairdo
- 57 Emblem "of approval"
- 58 Tex-Mex folded food
- 60 Four qts.
- 61 Chanced upon

Sudoku

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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.

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

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
	20									21				
24	25	26		27		28	29	30				31	32	33
34			35			36					37			
38					39						40			
41					42						43			
44					45					46			47	
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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

Santa Monica Daily Press

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CLASSIFICATIONS	Pets	Apartments/Condos	Real Estate Loans	Attorney Services	Wealth and Success
Announcements	Boats	Rent	Storage Space	Business	Lost and Found
Creative	Jewelry	Houses for Rent	Vehicles for Sale	Opportunities	Personals
Employment	Wanted	Roommates	Massage	Yard Sales	Psychic
For Sale	Travel	Commercial Lease	Services	Health and Beauty	Obituaries
Furniture	Vacation Rentals	Real Estate	Computer Services	Fitness	Tutoring

DBA

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/ DUYN TRU, 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. 26SMCP00157. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petitioner Ariel Johanna Palin for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Ariel Johanna Palin filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Ariel Johanna Palin to Ariel Johanna Bergh. 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: 04/01/2026. LAWRENCE H. CHO, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 04/08/2026, 04/15/2026, 04/22/2026, 04/29/2026

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm
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Help Wanted

BIOTECH/SCIENCES.Kite Pharma Inc., a biopharmaceutical company, has an opening in Santa Monica, CA for Director, Marketing Sciences (DIR23): Utilize data science to facilitate the development and implementation of best-in-class strategies for omnichannel customer engagement. Position is based out of headquarters in Santa Monica, CA, but may be assigned to various unanticipated locations throughout the U.S. as determined by management. Telecommuting permitted. Position may require up to 10% domestic and/or international travel. Annual salary range for this position is \$250,000 to \$290,280. For all positions listed, compensation will vary depending on experience and qualifications, and for benefits visit: <https://www.kitepharma.com/careers/culture-and-benefits>. Ref. code and email resume to globalmobilityservices@gilead.com.

IT Project Manager (Santa Monica, CA) Plan & execute IT projects, develop guidelines for system implementation etc. Bachelor's in Computer Science, Computer Systems Engineering, or IT (foreign equivalent degree acceptable). 2 years' experience in IT project management. Familiar with Jira, Salesforce. Apply to Denovo Digital, 233 Wilshire Blvd, Ste 100, Santa Monica, CA 90401.

Storage Auction Sale Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION - ABANDONED PERSONAL PROPERTY Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to California Civil Code sections 1983-1991 and applicable California law, the personal property listed below is believed to be abandoned by Molly-Ann Leikin, and all other owners, occupants, partners, tenants, and/or subtenants at address: 241 Ramble Ridge Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360. Sale will occur only after expiration of the former tenant's statutory right to reclaim personal property. Property remains reclaimable until Tuesday, April 21st, 2026. If not reclaimed by that date, the property will be sold at public auction by the property owner/landlord, offered in bulk and/or bulk lots through a competitive online auction facilitated by MEGA Auctions, conducted on Thursday, April 23rd, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. Auction access: WWW.MEGA AUCTIONS.NET Items to be sold are to include but are not limited to: Bakeware, Bags, Bathroom Caddy, Bed Frame & Mattress, Blu-Ray Player, Books, Bowls, Bric-A-Brac, Bucket, Candles, Cleaning Supplies, Coffee & Side Tables, Computer Cables, Cordless Phones & Answer Machine, Cups, Cushions, Décor, Dining Table with Chairs, Dressers, Dry Food, Drying Rack, Exercise Ball, Fire TV Stick, Floor & Table Lamps, Floor Mats, Framed Music Awards and Plaques (Molly-Ann Leikin), Framed Pictures & Album Art, Glassware, Grabber Tool, Handheld Blender, Hat Stand, Herman Miller Aeron Chair, HON Filing Cabinet, Humidifier, Hutches, KitchenAid Artisan Mixer, Kitchenware & Utensils, Knife Block & Knives, Laundry Basket, Linens, Logitech H390 Headset, Microlife Blood Pressure Monitor, Monitor, Oven Mitts, Office Desk & Riser, Office Supplies, Pans, Plates, Potted Plants, Pots, Power Blocks, Rabbit Air MinusA2 Purifier, Remote Controls, Riccar R60 Vacuum, Roku Stick, RIAA Gold and Platinum Record Awards (Plácido Domingo, Anne Murray), Samsung UN46D6000SF LCD TV, Shark UZ355H Vacuum, Silverware, Simplehuman Trash Can, Sofa & Armchairs, Step Stool, Stuffed Toys, Suitcase, Tablecloth, Towels, Travel Kit, Utensils, Wall & Framed Art, Wall Mirror, Walker, Women's Clothing, Yamaha PSR-330 Keyboard, Ziplock Bags, Various Unopened Items.



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>

BIZ@SUNSET MIXER

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Lunetta 2420 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. Get ready for a fantastic evening at this month's Biz@Sunset Mixer at Lunetta! Join us for an unforgettable night of networking. \$25.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/biz-sunset-mixer/16613817/2026-04-15T17>

JAZZ A GO GO AT LOULOU SANTA MONICA

7:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. LouLou Santa Monica 395 Santa Monica PI #300 Santa Monica. JAZZ A GO GO at LouLou Santa Monica. Every Wednesday · From 7 PM till late - Live Jazz that turns into a Vibe. Music you Feel. People you Meet. Amazing Food. Nights that Flow. JAZZ A GO GO (@jazzaggonight) by Loulou Santa

Monica, Gilles Signature & Gilles Los Angeles - curated by the creator of @jazzeclectica. Every Wednesday · From 7 PM till late Watch the LouLou experience: <https://bit.ly/loulou-jazz-a-gogo> . Book Now: bit.ly/booking-loulou LouLou Santa Monica JAZZ A GO GO Every Wednesday From 7 PM till late 395 Santa Monica PI #300, Santa Monica, CA 90401(323) 410-2337/info@loulousantamonica.com/loulousantamonica.com Reserve your table now: bit.ly/booking-loulou. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/jazz-a-go-go-at-loulou-santa-monica/18476815/2026-04-08T19>

WINE WEDNESDAY AT THE WHALER

101 Broadway CA 90401 Contact Info (424) 330-0166 info@venicewhaler.com Does not apply on holidays Santa Monica. \$15 wine flights & half off bottles of wine all day every Wednesday. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/wine-wednesday-at-the-whaler/16952883/2026-04-01T00>

THURSDAY | APRIL 16

LOW IMPACT GROUP EXERCISE CLASS

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. American Legion Ronald Reagan-Palisades Post 283 15247 La Cruz Drive Pacific Palisades. Power up your Thursday with our free, low-impact group exercise classes — open to all members of the Legion Family, designed for every fitness level, and held from 11:00am to 12:00pm at Palisades Post 283. Come move, recharge, and feel great heading into the rest of your day! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/low-impact-group-exercise-class/18566926/2026-04-16T11>

'LOCALS' NIGHT' RETURNS WITH LIVE MUSIC, ART, SALSA, & 'SAVE THE PIER' PLAY

3:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Santa Monica Pier 200 Santa Monica Pier, Ste A Santa Monica. Spring has officially sprung at the Santa Monica Pier as Locals' Night returns Thursday, April 16, transforming the Pier into a vibrant, open-air celebration of music, art, and community from 3:30 to 10 p.m. Presented by Pacific Park in partnership with Harvelle's, this free, all-ages event brings together two stages of live music, a Spring Art Mart, salsa dancing, a classic car show, and a special performance of the "Save the Pier!" play—all in one unforgettable night over the ocean. From local artists and vintage vendors to live bands and dance floors, Springtime at the Pier invites guests to explore, connect, and celebrate the creative spirit of Santa Monica. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/locals-night-returns-with-live-music-art-salsa-save-the-pier-play/18561855/2026-04-16T15>

VENICE ART CRAWL NETWORKING MIXER - THE SIDEWALK CAFE

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. 352 Westminster Ave Venice. Let's connect! Join us for the Venice Art Crawl Networking Mixer at The Sidewalk Cafe One of the best things about Venice is the people, and we want to bring everyone together for a fun, casual evening! On Thursday, April 16th, we re hosting a community networking mixer at The Sidewalk Cafe. \$10.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/venice-art-crawl-networking-mixer-the-sidewalk-cafe/18526454/2026-04-16T18>

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