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**COLDWELL BANKER
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CalRE # 00927151

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Qualifies for ballot
- 3 **Homeless spending**
In the dark



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Can she survive her mistakes?
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New ticket drop

Volume 25 Issue 115

WEDNESDAY 4/29/26

smdp.com

Two more big brands leave the Promenade

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Doc Martin's and It's Sugar have closed their locations on the Third Street Promenade contributing to the vacancy rate on the City's flagship economic street, even as officials point to millions of dollars in revitalization investments and a wave of new tenants preparing to open their doors.

The departures add to a growing list of vacancies on a street that has struggled to regain its footing since the pandemic. The closures of the Misfit and Anthropologie prompted community debate while the replacement of the Britannia with Taco Bell has also generated significant conversation.

Anthropologie will move to a Marina del Rey location in July and the owners of The Britannia have said they will look for a new location.

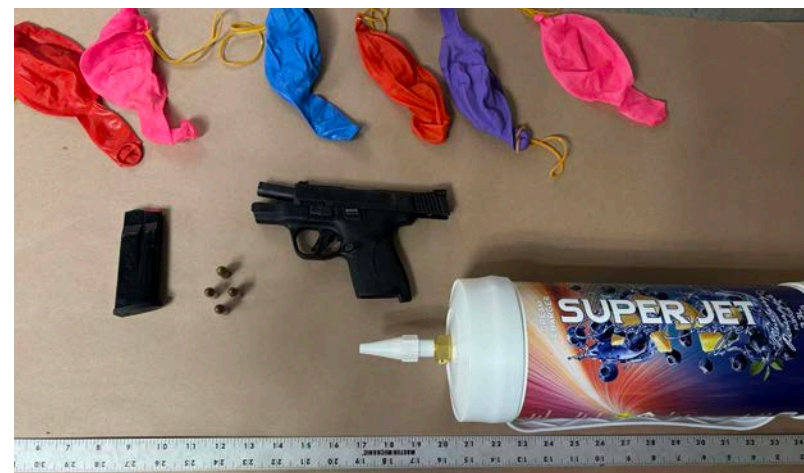


SMDP Photos

LEAVING: Officials say there's momentum building downtown despite several businesses closing this month.

SEE PROMENADE PAGE 11

Traffic stop leads to gun arrest



SMPD Photos

GUNS: The suspect was arrested for drug and gun crimes.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

A traffic stop on the 2000 block of Ocean Avenue Thursday resulted in the arrest of a suspect already on diversion for a prior robbery charge, Santa Monica police said. Officers conducting a proactive patrol discovered a loaded firearm

concealed under the driver's seat, along with nitrous oxide and drug paraphernalia. The suspect was taken into custody and faces charges of carrying a loaded firearm, inhalation of nitrous oxide and possession of drug paraphernalia in a vehicle.

editor@smdp.com

Eva Longoria announces \$1M investment at Inc.'s inaugural Founders House

MICHELLE EDGAR
Special to the Daily Press

Eva Longoria opened Inc. magazine's first-ever Founders House LA summit with a challenge to the room: time, she said, is not equally distributed — and that inequality is precisely what founders need to change.

"Time is our greatest asset, but not everyone has equal access to it,

and that's what we have to change," Longoria said at the event, held in Santa Monica.

She then turned the observation into a pledge. The Eva Longoria Foundation announced a \$1 million grant to the UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Institute, launching a three-year initiative aimed at advancing Latina economic mobility through research, leadership development and narrative change.

"This grant is going to fund economic research and policy work for Latina entrepreneurs because we need to know what our economic power is," Longoria said. "We need to understand the problem, be able to measure it, quantify the economic power of Latina entrepreneurs and remove the barriers they face."

The initiative will generate data on the structural barriers Latina entrepreneurs face in

building wealth, while establishing advisory groups, fellowships and mentorship pipelines designed to translate research into real-world opportunity. "Sometimes it's not about millions of dollars," Longoria said. "Founders just need a small amount of capital to get to the next step."

The inaugural event drew more than 1,400 registrations and reached capacity — a signal, organizers say,

of unmet demand for a curated, cross-industry founder community in Los Angeles.

Inc. Editor-in-Chief Mike Hofman said the concept grew from a smaller founder dinner in Santa Monica the prior year. "We walked out of that first dinner in Santa Monica and knew there's something special here," he said. "Founders

SEE FOUNDERS PAGE 7

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Billionaire tax proposal in California is on track to qualify for the ballot, backers say

A controversial proposal in California to temporarily increase taxes on billionaires has enough signatures to qualify for the November ballot, a labor union backing the measure said Monday.

“

California's health is at stake

- Liz Perlman

”

The proposal, backed by the Service Employees International Union Healthcare Workers West, would impose a one-time, 5% tax on individuals whose net worth exceeds \$1 billion and who were living in the state as of Jan. 1, 2026. The goal is to generate \$100 billion in revenue, which would largely be used to offset federal funding cuts to healthcare for low-income people.

“California's health is at stake,” said Liz Perlman, executive director of a chapter of the American Federation of State, County

and Municipal Employees, a major labor union. “Hospitals are closing and people will die. Why? So billionaires can get another tax cut that they don't need.”

The California Secretary of State still has to verify the signatures and officially place the measure on the ballot. Backers say they collected more than 1.5 million signatures, well over the roughly 875,000 they needed. California allows ballot initiative campaigns to pay people per signature they gather. The cost of gathering petition signatures can vary widely, but it typically runs around \$15 for each signature.

If the measure goes before voters in November, it could prompt one of the costliest ballot fights ever and will draw national attention as a litmus test for voter attitudes on raising taxes on the rich. An effort to oppose the tax has already raised millions and led to proposals designed to nullify the tax. Meanwhile, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders has campaigned in support of the idea.

Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom and Silicon Valley tech moguls are adamantly opposed. They warn it will drive California's wealthiest residents out of the state. Nearly half of California's personal income tax revenue comes from the top 1% of earners. Some have already purchased properties out of state in case it passes.

“After playing with matches since October the SEIU has succeeded in lighting a ‘Tax the Rich’ wildfire by getting enough signatures,”

“

After playing with matches since October the SEIU has succeeded in lighting a ‘Tax the Rich’ wildfire by getting enough signatures

- David Lesperance

”

said David Lesperance, a tax consultant who's advised some of his wealthy clients who left California because of the proposal. “The many billionaire targets of their efforts have already responded by executing fire escape plans by relocating to other states.”

Brian Brokaw, a longtime Newsom adviser who is leading a political committee opposing the tax, said the measure was poorly constructed and would deal a huge blow to the state's budget.

“Enacting a so-called wealth tax in just one state wouldn't target a small group - it would impact all 40 million Californians,” he said in a statement. “This proposal trades a short-term revenue bump for long-term losses.”

At least 25 billionaires listed among Forbes magazine's 2025 rankings of the world's 500 wealthiest people either lived in California or had some significant ties to the state, based on a review by The Associated Press. But determining whether they were full-time residents or just frequent visitors could turn into a matter of dispute, since many of them own property elsewhere.

The big tax and spending cuts law President Donald Trump signed last year will cut more than \$1 trillion nationwide over a decade from Medicaid and federal food assistance.

By SOPHIE AUSTIN Associated Press, Associated Press writer Michael R. Blood in Los Angeles contributed.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California spends billions preventing homelessness, but it's fighting in the dark

Gov. Gavin Newsom recently announced the state would be distributing \$145.4 million to eight California regions in an effort to end homelessness. This is the sixth round of Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention grants since 2019. The state legislature has appropriated \$5 billion for the program, to fund shelter beds, social services, rental assistance and subsidies.

Rental assistance is a key part of homelessness prevention for good reason — eviction for nonpayment of rent is driving homelessness across the state, because of high housing costs.

A third of the state's unhoused adults were long-term leaseholders who had been evicted, many for the first time, a recent study by the UC-San Francisco Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative found. In fact, an eviction order increases the probability of becoming homeless by more than 300%, relative to those who are not evicted, and these effects can persist years after eviction.

Last year 13% of low-income households in California — more than 800,000 renters — reported facing eviction. If California is going to fix its homelessness crisis, it must thoroughly understand this phenomenon.

Unfortunately policymakers responsible for curbing evictions and lowering rates of homelessness are too often working in the dark. They lack critical information about eviction cases across the state.

When a landlord files a notice to evict, courts typically record and report that information to the California Judicial Council, the policymaking body for the state's 58 county superior court systems.

But not all eviction filings result in evictions, and there is no standard to report what happens after the paperwork is served. The Judicial Council does not mandate reporting legal outcomes, so counties have adopted various approaches to documenting and making this information available to the public.

And counties with the largest number of eviction cases — Los Angeles, Riverside, Sacramento, and San Diego — don't report outcomes at all.

Eviction court outcomes are different, and in many ways more important, than filings.

Filings represent the number of evictions initiated, while outcomes indicate what actually happened during the legal process — whether a tenant lost their home, settled with their landlord, or had their case dismissed, for example. Outcomes provide a much more detailed picture about who evictions are hurting, where they are happening most and what is driving them.

Without a full picture of why evictions are happening across the state, it's hard to craft effective policy solutions that keep people housed. And policymakers who can't observe the difference between eviction filings and actual evictions risk misdirecting the state's finite resources.

In recent years, legislators have tried to fix this problem. A bill introduced in 2023 would have standardized reporting across the state, but Newsom vetoed it, citing budget concerns. Two years later, a similar bill died in the state Senate Appropriations Committee.

The governor and Legislature are making it difficult for jurisdictions to understand one of the primary drivers of homelessness by obstructing eviction data accessibility.

But help may be on the way. In February, state Sen. María Elena Durazo sponsored Senate Bill 1160, which would require California's county superior courts to provide the Judicial Council with information about eviction cases — called unlawful detainer cases — aggregated by ZIP code, each month.

If passed, this bill would go a long way toward helping California embrace a data-driven homelessness prevention policy.

Relevant data is not limited to eviction filings and outcomes. Local municipalities should develop comprehensive rent registries and dashboards that present data on rental harassment and habitability complaints and other issues that advocates say are closely related to evictions.

The more Californians know about what is driving housing insecurity in the state, the better new policy solutions can prevent it.

Kyle Nelson is a director of policy and advocacy at Strategic Actions for a Just Economy.



Surf report WATER TEMP: 61.3

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

A little nudge up with generally small surf. Clean early w/ decent tide push first thing. SSW swell creeps up overnight for small to locally fun waves, with some playful corners on the early tide push, softening up some and moving to inner bars mid-morning as the tide tops out. Knee-thigh high waves, standouts go waist-high with some stomach-high+ waves in the mix west of Dume. AM window looks clean, moderate lump in the afternoon outside of the sheltered points.

THURSDAY | SURF: 2-3ft
FAIR | Thigh to waist

Looks similar to Wednesday. Small surf, cleanest early w/ manageable PM lump. SSW swell sticks around, best on the tide push in the morning when winds are lightest. There's a little bit of NW swell mix blending in, enough for some corners, but it doesn't look like a particularly peaky day. Knee-thigh high surf, better spots waist+ on the tide push - mostly west of Dume. PM gets mushy outside of the sheltered points as onshores pick up with a little less size showing.

Weather

Wednesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 67.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 56. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south southeast in the evening.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 68. East wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southwest in the afternoon.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 59.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)High/Low
2026/04/29	Wed	02:58 AM	-0.00 L
2026/04/29	Wed	08:58 AM	4.03 H
2026/04/29	Wed	2:31 PM	0.93 L
2026/04/29	Wed	8:48 PM	5.54 H
2026/04/30	Thu	03:33 AM	-0.32 L
2026/04/30	Thu	09:39 AM	3.84 H
2026/04/30	Thu	2:54 PM	1.28 L
2026/04/30	Thu	9:11 PM	5.64 H
2026/05/01	Fri	04:07 AM	-0.51 L
2026/05/01	Fri	10:19 AM	3.64 H
2026/05/01	Fri	3:17 PM	1.61 L
2026/05/01	Fri	9:34 PM	5.64 H
2026/05/02	Sat	04:41 AM	-0.57 L

Daily Lottery

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at <http://www.calottery.com>

 Draw Date: 4/27 18 31 33 36 62 Power#: 3 Jackpot: 143 M	 Draw Date: 4/27 2 4 5 10 31
 Draw Date: 4/24 7 16 32 35 40 Mega#: 12 Jackpot: 163 M	 Draw Date: 4/27 EVENING: 8 9 3 Draw Date: 4/27 MIDDAY: 3 4 8
 Draw Date: 4/25 1 6 8 23 38 Mega#: 22 Jackpot: 15 M	 Draw Date: 4/27 1st: 11 - Money Bags 2nd: 08 - Gorgeous George 3rd: 07 - Eureka Race Time: 1:48.77

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026082199. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SAVANNAH OKADA THERAPY, 720 WILSHIRE BLVD. SUITE 204, SANTA MONICA, CA 90401, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): OKADA MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY, INC., 720 WILSHIRE BLVD. SUITE 204, SANTA MONICA, CA 90401. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. 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/ SAVANNAH OKADA, PRESIDENT. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 04/14/2026. 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: 04/22/2026, 04/29/2026, 05/06/2026, 05/13/2026

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION – ABANDONED PERSONAL PROPERTY Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to California Civil Code §§1983–1991, Government Code §6066, and other applicable California statutes, the personal property listed below is believed to be abandoned by Mo Rahman, and all other owners, occupants, partners, tenants and/or subtenants, located at 2219½ West Court Street, Los Angeles, CA 90026. The property will be sold at public auction by The Rick & Beverly Sperling Living Trust, offered in one or more lots through a competitive online public auction facilitated by MEGA Auctions, to be conducted on Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. via online public auction. Auction access : WWW.MEGAAUCTIONS.NET Items to be sold are to include but are not limited to: Apple iMac, Aprons, Arm Chair, Art Supplies, Batteries, Beauty Supplies, Beds, Bidet Toilet Seats, Blender, Blu-Ray Player, Bookcases,

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026080318. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: SHAMAN DANCE, SHAMAN DANCE ACADEMY, 2309 5TH STREET, SANTA MONICA, CA 90505, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): MARCELA LILIANA BONILLA LARA, 2309 5TH STREET, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. 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/ MARCELA LILIANA BONILLA LARA, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 04/13/2026. 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: 04/22/2026, 04/29/2026, 05/06/2026, 05/13/2026

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. Petition of 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

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Can LA Mayor Karen Bass survive her mistakes and climb the political ladder?

One might think that becoming mayor of the nation's second largest city would catapult someone into the upper ranks of American politics.

However those who've captured the mayoralty of Los Angeles sooner or later discovered that navigating the city's bewildering array of cultural, ethnic and socioeconomic fragments is difficult at best and often impossible, making it a dead end job.

Here's a bit of trivia that illustrates that harsh reality: Every one of the five Los Angeles mayors who preceded current Mayor Karen Bass tried to climb another rung on the political ladder but failed.

That list includes the most recent former mayor, Eric Garcetti, who flirted briefly with running for president but had to settle for ambassadorship to India, and his predecessor, Antonio Villaraigosa, who lost a bid for governor in 2018 and is running again this year but barely registering in the polls.

We'll see whether Bass tries to succeed where others have failed. But first we'll see whether she can even win a second term as mayor after making some spectacular mistakes in handling the incredibly destructive and deadly wildfires that swept through Los Angeles and its suburbs early last year.

The first was waltzing off to Ghana to attend the inauguration of its new president, even though the National Weather Service had issued warnings that Santa Ana winds were creating "critical fire conditions."

Bass later blamed others for not warning her about the peril. But as Los Angeles Times columnist Steve Lopez wrote, "She should have called me. I had all the information I needed, along with a garden hose at the ready, and so did everybody else."

During her time in Congress Bass had a penchant for international junkets. But when running for mayor she promised that "the only places I would go would be D.C., Sacramento, San Francisco and New York, in relation to L.A."

Bass bumbled again a year later when the Los Angeles Times published revelations about a report that was supposed to be a factual account of mistakes made during the 2025 fires.

The newspaper first revealed that a draft of the Los Angeles Fire Department's after-action report was massaged "in what amounted to an effort to downplay the failures of city and LAFD leadership in preparing for and fighting the Jan. 7 fire, which killed 12 people and destroyed thousands of homes."

Subsequently, the Times dropped another bombshell, reporting that Bass "told then-interim Fire Chief Ronnie Villanueva that the report could expose the city to legal liabilities for those failures. Bass wanted key findings about the LAFD's actions removed or softened before the report was made public, the sources said — and that is what happened."

As Bass began her campaign for a second term this year, it appeared that her lapses could be fatal to her political career — but that depended, of course, on whether a credible challenger would appear.

For weeks, the names of would-be challengers surfaced and faded — very similarly to what was happening at the state level among potential candidates for governor. In fact one name, that of Los Angeles businessman Rick Caruso, was prominent in both.

Eventually, Caruso bowed out of both contests and Bass wound up, instead, with an opponent from the left, City Councilmember Nithya Raman. She filed at the last moment, even though she had endorsed Bass and hopes to emulate New York's leftist mayor, Zohran Mamdani.

How that came about is chronicled in precise detail by Julia Wick, a veteran journalist and cofounder of a new Los Angeles news site called L.A. Material. It's a must-read for anyone interested in Bass' struggles, or just the political minefield that is Los Angeles.

Dan Walters, CalMatters Opinion Columnist

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Dear park officers

We are very happy with the new and renovated Douglas Park, but it should be called Doglax Park. Dog owners do not care or read signs that clearly state that "dogs are not allowed in the playground". When confronted, these dog owners feel entitled and privileged and are often rude and dismissive. A few months ago, my two year old grandson was attacked by an unleashed dog near Lifeguard 22 in Santa Monica, another place where we don't see any enforcement whatsoever. Not only dogs can be dangerous, but they are not very hygienic in a playground full of toddlers. Before we have accidents in this beautiful playground I would encourage the city to strictly enforce the NO DOG policy at this park and everywhere where dogs are not allowed.

Thank you very much,

Luca Bentivoglio, Santa Monica

COMMUNITY NEWS

Los Angeles

LA28 Opens Registration for Second Olympic Ticket Drop Ahead of August Sale

More than 4 million tickets were purchased during the initial LA28 Olympic Games ticket sale this month, and registration is now open for the next ticket draw, organizers announced.

Drop 2 opens in August 2026 and will include refreshed inventory across all Olympic sports at a range of price points. Fans who did not register, were not selected in the first sale or did not reach their ticket maximum will have another opportunity to purchase.

Registration is open through July 22 at Tickets.LA28.org. Fans who already registered for the locals presale or Drop 1 and who have not purchased their maximum ticket allowance will be automatically entered and do not need to re-register.

Key sale details include a maximum of 12 Olympic event tickets per purchaser, plus up to 12 Football (Soccer) Tournament tickets that do not count toward that limit. A four-ticket-per-ceremony limit applies and counts toward the 12-ticket maximum. Each purchaser's maximum is cumulative across all presales and drops.

During the initial sale, 95 percent of tickets priced under \$100 were sold during a locals presale, with roughly 500,000 tickets at \$28 going to Los Angeles and Oklahoma City area residents. Tickets sold across 85 countries and all 50 states and U.S. territories, with top international sales from the United Kingdom, Canada, Mexico and Japan.

Women's Olympic sessions outsold men's sessions 93 percent to 88 percent. Flag Football, Lacrosse, Softball and Squash, all new to the Olympic program, sold all available inventory.

Premium hospitality packages are available through On Location, LA28's Official Hospitality Provider. Visa is the official payment method.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

Ocean Park

Viceroy Santa Monica and More Than Matcha Launch Exclusive Pop-Up at Sugar Palm

Viceroy Santa Monica is partnering with More Than Matcha, a premium woman-owned matcha brand, on a limited-time daytime pop-up at Sugar Palm, the hotel's all-day dining destination, launching May 2 in celebration of National Matcha Day.

The collaboration marks More Than Matcha's first hotel partnership and its first ongoing hospitality offering beyond previous short-run pop-ups. Founded by Los Angeles native Rosie Goldwasser, More Than Matcha features 100% ceremonial-grade, organic, first-harvest matcha shade-grown and freshly ground in Kagoshima, Japan.

The pop-up will spotlight a curated menu of matcha beverages led by the Summer Cloud Series, a seasonal lineup of cream-top drinks including Classic Matcha, Lavender Matcha, Strawberry Matcha and a Tropical Mango Matcha — an exclusive signature created for Viceroy Santa Monica. More Than Matcha's at-home whisking kits will also be available for purchase at the hotel. Consumers who purchase from More Than Matcha's website during the collaboration will receive a co-branded recipe card for the Tropical Mango Matcha.

To mark the debut, the two brands will host a public launch event Saturday, May 2, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Sugar Palm, produced in collaboration with Groove Events. The morning celebration will feature a live DJ, complimentary matcha for the first 50 guests, light bites and specialty drinks. RSVPs are available [HERE](#).

The collaboration is expected to expand with a matcha martini mixology class, a specialty matcha dessert and additional offerings to be announced. More Than Matcha offerings will be featured at the hotel throughout the month of May.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy Image

LAUNCH: Viceroy Santa Monica launches matcha pop-up at Sugar Palm May 2 for National Matcha Day.

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	SPEEDWAY EXPRESS 2555 Lincoln Blvd	\$6.07
	CHEVRON 432 Wilshire Blvd	\$6.59
	ARCO 1776 Cloverfield Blvd	\$5.99
	76 2601 Wilshire Blvd	\$6.39

*Prices paying in card

Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have risen 8.3 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$5.97/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 1.8 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand \$1.25/g higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has decreased 9.2 cents compared to a week ago and stands at \$5.408 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at \$5.14/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$8.29/g, a difference of \$3.15/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$4.29/g while the highest was \$9.79/g, a difference of \$5.50/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 7.0 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$4.04/g today. The national average is up 5.7 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 94.3 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

Downtown Santa Monica

Award-Winning Alt-Circus Variety Show Finds New Home in Santa Monica

Scot Nery's Boobietrap, the variety show that ran for 254 consecutive weeks before COVID lockdown, has returned with a new weekly residency at Illusion Magic Lounge, 1418 4th St., Santa Monica.

The show runs every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$40 and the show is suggested for audiences 17 and older.

Each 90-minute performance features 15 acts drawn from productions including Cirque du Soleil, America's Got Talent and the Magic Castle. Host Scot Nery and house band Diaperwolf lead the show, which the Los Angeles Times described as a comedic whirlwind.

The show has been named Best Variety Arts Show in Los Angeles by Los Angeles Magazine and received the Outstanding Variety Show award from San Diego Fringe. Previous featured performers have included Tom Arnold, Reggie Watts and Kate Flannery.

Nery is a professional entertainer with more than 30 years of experience who has appeared on The Tonight Show and The Late Late Show with James Corden and has worked with companies including Disney, McDonald's and Mattel.

Tickets are available at boobiela.com.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy Image

SHOW: Scot Nery's Boobietrap variety show returns with weekly residency at Illusion Magic Lounge in Santa Monica.



City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed proposals for

RFP: # 472 Fire Engine and Tractor Drawn Aerial Proposal

- **Submission Deadline is June 11th, 2026 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL**. The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is OpenGov (<https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca>) There is no charge for the RFP package.

FOUNDERS

FROM PAGE 1

were hungry to come together across industries, to share what they're building and what they're navigating."

For Inc., the choice of Santa Monica is intentional. "Los Angeles is a big, sprawling place, and there's an opportunity to create a consistent space for founders to connect and build community," Hofman said.

Inc. Editorial Director Bonny Ghosh described Founders House as part of a broader strategic shift within the company — away from traditional editorial coverage and toward what she called live journalism for founders.

"We lean into service journalism — these conversations are meant to be live journalism for founders," Ghosh said. "There are very few spaces where founders of fast-growth companies can come together to network with true peers, and that's the entire impetus behind Founders House."

The initiative sits within a broader expansion that includes Inc.'s membership-based Leadership Forum and a growing events portfolio. Kristin Mooney, senior vice president of events at Inc. and Fast Company, said Founders House operates as a national series. "It's about creating spaces where entrepreneurs can connect, learn and grow — not just for a moment, but throughout the year," Mooney said.

What distinguishes the format, organizers say, is its deliberate cross-sector construction. Unlike industry-specific conferences, Founders House brings together founders from media, wellness, consumer products and technology — a structure designed to encourage learning across industries rather

than within competitive silos.

The model mirrors Los Angeles itself, a city where creativity, commerce and technology intersect daily. And it arrives at a moment of particular consequence for the region.

"People talk about Austin and Miami, but California continues to be a powerful engine of entrepreneurship," Hofman said.

Los Angeles is approaching a period of unprecedented global visibility, with the FIFA World Cup and the 2028 Olympic Games on the horizon — events expected to bring new capital and attention to the region. Yet, as conversations throughout the day made clear, access to that opportunity remains uneven, particularly for small and mid-sized businesses outside traditional venture networks.

The question Longoria posed at the opening — who has the time and access to build? — threaded through the day's programming without a clean resolution, which may have been the point. For Inc., Founders House LA is not a one-time activation. It is, by the publication's own framing, the beginning of a longer-term presence in the city, supported through events, editorial programming and community-building.

For Santa Monica, the event represents something more specific: a positioning as a hub for a new generation of founders operating at the intersection of culture, commerce and innovation — and a reminder that the next chapter of American entrepreneurship may not be written in Silicon Valley.

"The most important tool every founder has is their own ingenuity," Hofman said, "and spaces like this help fill in the gaps."

michelle@smdp.com



Courtesy Image

FOUNDERS: The event was an opportunity for a new generation to network.

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WELCOME TO THE WORLD



Baby Noah James
Alvarez

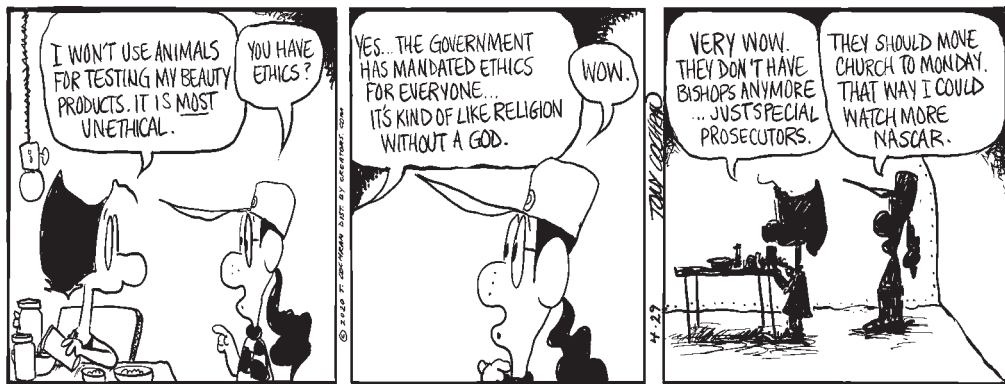
with love from
Dina Araniva and Jesse Alvarez
April 26th, 2026 | 6:09 PM

CONGRATS FROM THE SMDP!



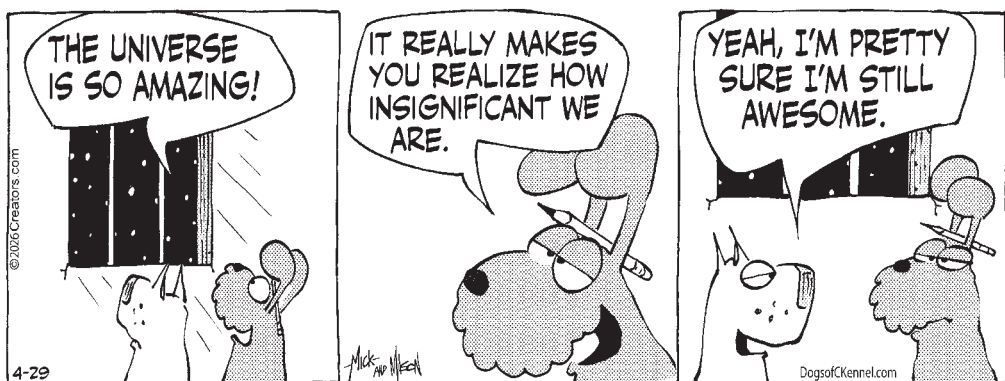
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



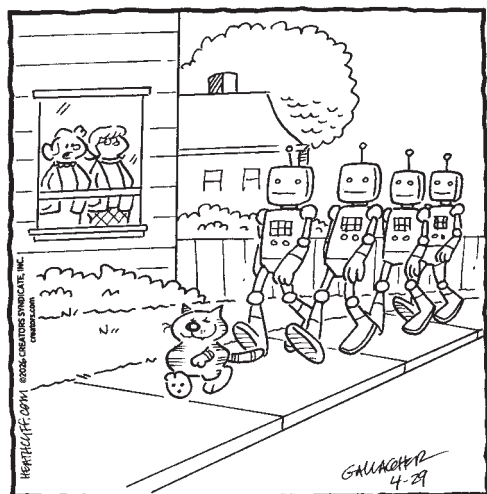
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



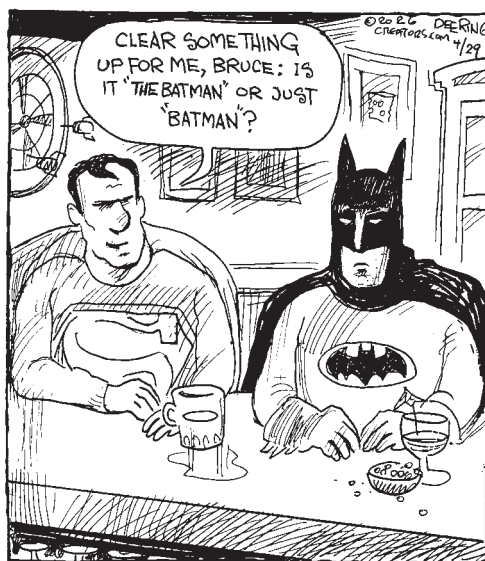
Heathcliff

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 26 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6925

Visiting the "Sunny Coast"

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

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|-----------|
| Bald Knob | Ilkley | Orchids |
| Beaches | Kiamba | Palms |
| Berwah | Kuluin | Reesville |
| Bli Bli | Maleny | Sunny |
| Caloundra West | Mapleton | Tours |
| Coolum | Maroochydore | Triathlon |
| Cycads | Meridan Plains | Witta |
| Eudlo | Minyama | Wootha |
| Fern | Mons | Yandina |
| Ginger | Ninderry | |
| Golf | Obi Obi | |

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (April 29)

Your Year of Cosmic Communication will have you receiving signals and interpreting your way into beautiful relationships, stellar professional situations and gold that's just waiting for you to claim it. Your environment points you to the perfectly poetic next move. More highlights: You'll ink an auspicious deal and have the means to make a difference for the ones you love the most. You'll take home a trophy. Sagittarius and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 20, 5, 16, 4 and 10.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You want to add something of value, or nothing at all. You can accomplish either aim. If you contribute, you'll be sure to do it right. And if you sit this round out, you'll learn something. You can't lose.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you were a pop song, your chorus would hang in a listener's mind long after the DJ faded the last chord into the next ditty. You're making an impression on everyone you meet today, superstar.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll teach by example, perhaps unknowingly. When someone imitates you, they aren't necessarily taking from you. It could be flattery, a tribute, or a signal from the universe to open your eyes to the very real influence you have.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll be busy for much of the day with some version of keeping your word. It's the small things that will build trust, especially showing up when you said you would. Your reliability has a magnetic quality people return to.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You ask good questions today, the sort that invite a real answer. You'll listen for details and follow one thread a little deeper. You're getting to something real. Conversations become discovery instead of routine.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It does seem you were happier when you weren't as worried about the schedule. How important is it, really, that you hit all the mile markers along the way? If you loosen your grip, you'll still make the deadline.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The African proverb suggests that things are more easily laid straight when they are green than when they are dry. You'll learn the correct method from the get-go to avoid picking up bad habits or losing your way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). "Fake it till you make it" is only necessary in atmospheres where showing vulnerability and ignorance will get you ousted. In healthy learning environments, it's OK to admit what you don't know. In fact, that's the most efficient place to start.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Improvements are not isolated events. Today you'll experience what is known as the Diderot effect, when one upgrade you make suddenly has you seeing everything around it as, well... a bit shabby comparatively.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll share a bit of your own experience without turning the spotlight. A short story that relates to others builds connection. Keep it concise and loop back to them. You're an expert at building bridges.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Kindness doesn't always boomerang back in the moment. And people who behave terribly aren't always met with timely and proportionate consequences. But you can bet that today's karma will eventually balance in unique and unpredictable ways.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Medical science is constantly reiterating what mother told us all along - a good night's sleep is a game changer. Health, mood, work, relationships - it's all better when built on solid, sound, consistently excellent rest. Today proves the point.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Newsday Crossword

TROOP GROUPS by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Remarkable things
- 5 Each, informally
- 9 Look happy
- 14 Mail off
- 15 Stare in amazement
- 16 Warm and comfy
- 17 Slightest trace
- 18 Singles in a wallet
- 19 ___ and kicking (robust)
- 20 Corporation with subsidiaries
- 23 "Science Guy" Bill
- 24 "___ the ramparts we watched..."
- 25 Mix together
- 29 "Darn it!"
- 32 Bed-support strip
- 36 Ventilate
- 38 Came in for a landing
- 40 Preholiday time
- 41 Mid-America section of a sports league
- 44 NFL tiebreakers
- 45 Snow queen in *Frozen*
- 46 Draw out, as an answer
- 47 Make mention of
- 49 Author Vonnegut
- 51 Tablets from Apple
- 52 Sundial's top numeral
- 54 Have possession of
- 56 Human chain of firefighters
- 63 Batman's partner
- 64 Metallic rocks
- 65 Coffee, slangily

67 Caused by

- 68 Take a bold chance
- 69 Iowa campus city
- 70 Scatter, as seeds
- 71 Distinctive scent
- 72 Baby boomers' kids

DOWN

- 1 Air pump abbr.
- 2 Breakfast restaurant chain
- 3 Mideast bread
- 4 Punch for practice
- 5 Deep distress
- 6 Breathed like a hot dog
- 7 Oil cartel
- 8 Cash in Mexico
- 9 In good ___ (physically)
- 10 Types of teeth
- 11 "Sign me up!"
- 12 Assess, as a tax
- 13 Needle's hole
- 21 Persist through time
- 22 Reason for a crime
- 25 Breakfast strip
- 26 Deceive
- 27 Modern artist Max
- 28 "Ready or ___..."
- 30 Storm-tracking device
- 31 ___ Baba
- 33 German camera brand
- 34 Steer clear of
- 35 Outdoor party enclosures
- 37 Nickname for an

early film with voices

- 39 Ceramic floor pattern
- 42 Baton Rouge sch.
- 43 Sample with a straw
- 48 Stir up emotionally
- 50 Bullfighting fellow
- 53 "That's obvious"
- 55 More sensible
- 56 Boxing match
- 57 Rival of Lyft
- 58 Chore list heading
- 59 Thin nail
- 60 Comet cleanser competitor
- 61 British noblewoman
- 62 In any way
- 63 They meet at jcts.
- 66 Long-eared equine

Sudoku

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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.

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

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
	20			21					22					
				23					24					
25	26	27	28			29	30	31			32	33	34	35
36					37		38			39		40		
41						42					43			
44				45					46					
47			48		49			50		51				
			52	53				54	55					
	56	57				58	59				60	61	62	
63						64					65			66
67						68					69			
70						71					72			

CREATORS SYNDICATE ©2026 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 04/29/26

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

PROMENADE

FROM PAGE 1

FAST FOOD FILLS THE GAP

Against that backdrop, two national quick-service chains are preparing to plant flags on the Promenade — a development that local officials and business leaders are framing as a pragmatic, if imperfect, response to chronic vacancies.

Taco Bell Cantina has filed for commercial building permits to open at 318 Santa Monica Blvd. Permit filings show the project would convert 1,510 square feet of existing office space into a restaurant and bar with a mezzanine level, valued at nearly \$400,000. The Cantina format serves beer, wine and frozen cocktails alongside tapas-style appetizers not found at standard locations. Roughly 60 Cantinas operate nationwide, with the Las Vegas Strip flagship generating nearly four times the average Taco Bell's sales volume.

Louisiana-based Raising Cane's has also announced plans to open its first Santa Monica location this summer at 1401 Third Street Promenade — just steps from the planned Cantina. Unlike Taco Bell, which is displacing an existing restaurant, Raising Cane's will occupy a previously empty unit.

The arrivals mark a striking reversal for a corridor that banned chain restaurants with more than 100 domestic locations in 2018, later raising that threshold to 150. Pandemic-driven vacancies prompted the council to suspend the ban in March 2023, and in August 2025 the elimination was made permanent.

MILLIONS COMMITTED TO RECOVERY

City officials have put the Promenade's recovery at the center of Santa Monica's broader Realignment Plan. In March, the City Council unanimously approved an eight-point economic development package that includes a \$3 million economic development fund for restaurant attraction incentives, tenant improvement assistance, and business recruitment efforts focused on downtown.

Among the package's most significant

elements is the elimination of the city's \$1,000-per-seat wastewater capacity fee for new and expanding restaurants — a cost that previously reached \$70,000 for a 50-seat establishment before opening its doors. The city also expanded its entertainment zone program, which permits open-container alcohol consumption during designated events, from the Promenade to the broader downtown core, the Santa Monica Pier, Main Street, and Montana Avenue.

Additional measures include extended discounted parking, elimination of sidewalk dining fees, and a temporary film permit fee waiver. The council also accepted Metro grants totaling \$750,000 to fund activations tied to the 2026 FIFA World Cup and 2028 Olympic Games, with a five-week World Cup event planned for June through July.

There are a handful of businesses announced to open on the Promenade including HQ Gastropub, a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles-themed pizzeria, and the Arte Museum, an immersive experience venue slated to open later this year. Club Studio gym is opening on the ground floor of Santa Monica Place and is taking early signups now. Sand 'N Surf plans to reoccupy its currently vacant space on the Promenade when seismic retrofits are complete and The Moo Korean BBQ has rapidly replaced Gyu-Kaku.

Officials said the Promenade is currently 76% occupied, with positive momentum building.

"Seventeen new businesses are expected to open in Downtown Santa Monica in the coming months, including Raising Cane's, a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles-themed pizzeria, and the Arte Museum," said Sydney Kovach Director, Communications & Public Affairs Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. "We're focused on supporting and retaining existing businesses while continuing to attract new and exciting additions. We're confident in the Promenade's long-term strength as we look ahead to major events coming to the Los Angeles region."

editor@smdp.com



WEDNESDAY | APRIL 29

COSMIC MATCHA AT BOULEVARD - NEIGHBORHOOD COFFEE

6:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Boulevard Coffee 2321 Abbot Kinney Blvd Venice. Join us to celebrate Astrid & Miyu in Los Angeles. Meet us at Boulevard Coffee, soak up the Venice energy, and explore our latest collections—designed for effortless stacking and self-expression. We can't wait to see you there. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/cosmic-matcha-at-boulevard-neighborhood-coffee/18697697/2026-04-29T06>

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/18330379/2026-04-29T08>

COUSINS MAINE LOBSTER AT BRENTWOOD NEAR CVS (SIDE OF MCCARTHY PHARMACY)

11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. 12025 San Vicente Blvd Los Angeles. Cousins Maine Lobster at Brentwood Near CVS (Front of McCarthy Pharmacy) Cousins Maine Lobster is cruisin' into Brentwood — Near CVS (Front of McCarthy Pharmacy)! Find us right in front of McCarthy Pharmacy near CVS — don't miss it! Serving up buttery lobster rolls, tasty tacos & golden tots — hot, fresh & full of flavor! Skip the line — order on the Cousins Maine Lobster app (same-day events only) App opens 1 hour before the event (after our previous stop) Earn rewards with every mobile order! App not working? No worries — order right at the truck! Cashless truck — Debit, Credit & Apple Pay only Don't miss your lobster fix in Brentwood — Near CVS! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/cousins-maine-lobster-at-brentwood-near-cvs-side-of-mccarthy-pharmacy/18733619/2026-04-29T11>

JAZZ A GO GO AT LOULOU SANTA MONICA

7:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. LouLou Santa Monica 395 Santa Monica Pl #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 (@jazzagogonight) 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 MonicaJAZZ A GO GOEvery Wednesday From 7 PM till late395 Santa Monica Pl #300, Santa Monica, CA 90401(323) 410-2337info@loulousantamonica.comloulousantamonica.comReserve your table now: bit.ly/booking-loulou

WINE WEDNESDAY AT THE WHALER

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THURSDAY | APRIL 30

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/18566926/2026-04-30T11>

CLUB LATINO PARA ADULTOS MAYORES

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Venga, aprenda, y diviertase cada jueves de 11 AM a 1 PM el el salón 3 del parque Virginia. Cada semana será algo nuevo: Ejercicio, Hablando con amigos, Aprendizaje, Presentadores Invitados, Salud y Bienestar. Hay comida para los adultos mayores que participan durante las dos horas. Para más información llame al (310) 458-8688. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/club-latino-para-adultos-mayores/13943928/2026-04-30T11>

OAKWOOD ROOTS FARMERS AND WELLNESS MARKET

11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. 685 Westminster Ave Venice. Oakwood Roots Venice Farmers' and Wellness Market is a hub for local foods, wellness classes, and holistic healing. We are dedicated to fostering a strong community, supporting local businesses, and advocating for sustainable practices. Join us in creating a healthier and more connected neighborhood. This is part of a larger effort to revitalize the abandoned parking lots across the street from the park into a community hub, in partnership with Community Corporation of Santa Monica and Hoopbus. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/oakwood-roots-farmers-and-wellness-market/14548473/2026-04-30T11>

WESTSIDE DIGITAL MIX: APRIL MIXER

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. LouLou Santa Monica 395 Santa Monica Place Santa Monica. Meet us at the end of the historic Route 66 on Thursday, April 30, at LouLou Santa Monica. Even as the seasons change... well, as much as they do in SoCal, one thing hasn't changed: Westside Digital Mix remains Los Angeles' go-to digital media & entertainment gathering for smart people, lively conversations, and a convivial vibe you won't find anywhere else. We're excited to have as our Featured Guest this month — Darren Cross, Co-Founder of distllr and author of "No One Planned This: How Platforms Rewired Entertainment." He is a media operator and strategist with two decades of experience across streaming and the creator economy, including roles at Maker Studios, Fandango, and Blip. \$30.00 to \$60.00— Advance \$30, Advance Twofer 20% off, Door \$60. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/westside-digital-mix-april-mixer/18610704/2026-04-30T18>

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