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COLDWELL BANKER REALTY
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2 **Rite Aid Closures**
Company files bankruptcy.

3 **Insurance rates**
Post-fire increase.

4 **Gas Prices**
Where to fill up.

5 **Tennis award**
For local student.

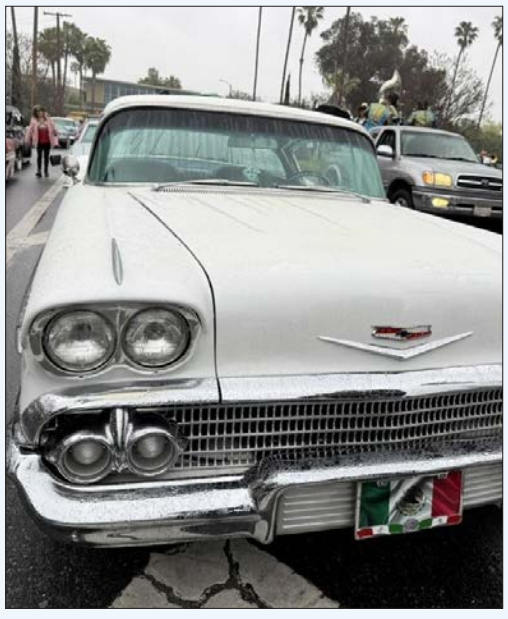
smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 118 WEDNESDAY 5/7/25 smdp.com

Venice celebrates Cinco









Photos by Ross Furukawa

PARADE: Venice celebrated Cinco de Mayo a few days early this year with the annual parade on May 3. Despite some unexpectedly wet weather, the streets were packed for the annual parade along Lincoln.

From São Paulo to Santa Monica, Bacio di Latte brings fresh gelato west

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Bacio di Latte, the Italian-born gelato brand known for its creamy textures and artisanal production, will open a new location in Santa Monica this summer as part of a broader push across Southern California.

SEE **GELATO** PAGE 8

Palisades students reflect on loss and rebuilding more than just their physical homes

ARABELLA JOAQUIN
SMDP Intern

For students who lost everything in the Palisades fire, life has been disrupted in every way imaginable but many have found strength and resilience through the support of their communities.

"I lost everything, and I'm okay," Mae Andrews said. "My entire life, I've had really bad anxiety. It would get to the point where I couldn't go to school. After the fire, I wasn't having anxiety on a daily basis anymore, which is something I haven't experienced since third grade."

Like many of Andrews' peers,

SEE **PALISADES** PAGE 11



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What customers can expect as Rite Aid closes or sells all its drugstores

Rite Aid customers can expect their local store to close or change ownership in the next few months, as the struggling drugstore chain goes through another bankruptcy filing.

The Rite Aid at 1331 Wilshire Boulevard in Santa Monica is closing, with prescriptions transferring to a nearby CVS. This closure follows the 2022 shuttering of another local Rite Aid and comes amid significant financial struggles for the national chain. The company filed its second bankruptcy this week.

> I think what we'll progressively see is the stores will become more and more spartan
>
> - Neil Saunders

Rite Aid first filed Chapter 11 in October 2023, reporting $750 million in losses on $24 billion revenue. During that bankruptcy, it closed hundreds of stores, sold its pharmacy benefit company Elixir, and negotiated settlements with creditors. The company faces ongoing challenges including a Justice Department lawsuit over illegal prescriptions, opioid litigation settlements, staffing shortages, prescription drug shortages, and competition from online retailers like Amazon. Unlike competitors CVS and Walgreens, Rite Aid has been slower to diversify into additional healthcare services.

During this second process the company plans to sell customer prescription files, inventory and other assets as it closes distribution centers and unloads store locations. Stores will remain open for now, but the company isn't buying new inventory so bare shelves are likely become more common.

"I think what we'll progressively see is the stores will become more and more spartan," said retail analyst Neil Saunders.

The company runs 1,245 stores in 15 states, according to its website. It has a heavy presence in New York, Pennsylvania and California, which alone has 347 locations.

Here's what customers can expect next.

HOW LONG WILL STORES REMAIN OPEN?

Rite Aid says a few months for most of its stores. All locations will eventually close or be sold to a new owner.

Until then, customers will still be able to fill prescriptions, get immunizations and shop in the stores or online.

Rite Aid has said that it will stop issuing customer rewards points for purchases. It also will no longer honor gift cards or accept returns or exchanges starting next month.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY PRESCRIPTION RECORDS?

Rite Aid will try to sell them to another drugstore, grocer or retailer with a pharmacy. The company says it is working to put together a "smooth transfer" of customer prescriptions to other pharmacies.

But there's no guarantee those files will wind up at a retailer near the location that is closing.

That may be challenging because some Rite Aid stores are in rural areas, miles away from another pharmacy, noted Saunders, managing director of the consulting and data analysis firm GlobalData.

Prescription files can be valuable assets because they can connect the acquiring drugstore with a regular customer if that person sticks with the new store.

HOW DID RITE AID GET TO THIS POINT?

Philadelphia-based Rite Aid had been closing stores and struggling with losses for years before its first bankruptcy filing in 2023. The company says its "only viable path forward" is a return to Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings.

The company said in letter to vendors that it has been hit with several financial challenges that have grown more intense.

Rite Aid and its competitors have been dealing with tighter profits on their prescriptions, increased theft, court settlements over opioid prescriptions and customers who are drifting to online shopping and discount retailers.

Walgreens, which has more than six times as many stores as Rite Aid, agreed in March to be acquired by the private equity firm Sycamore Partners.

CVS Health also has closed stores.

By TOM MURPHY, AP Health Writer

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Proposals for:

PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE WATER RESERVOIR UPGRADES AND IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
Project No. SP2761

The City of Santa Monica is inviting proposals from firms interested in the Preparation of Environmental Impact Report for the Water Reservoir Upgrades and Improvements Project.

The purpose of the RFP is to select the most qualified consultant to prepare environmental documentation (e.g., CEQA exemption, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or Environmental Impact Report) to evaluate and determine if the City's Water Reservoir Upgrades and Improvement Project would potentially have a significant impact on the environment, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements.

RFP questions to be submitted to via OpenGov, no later than 3:00pm on May 15, 2025.

Proposers shall upload RFP via OpenGov, no later than 3:00pm on June 2, 2025.

RFP Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca.

City of Santa Monica

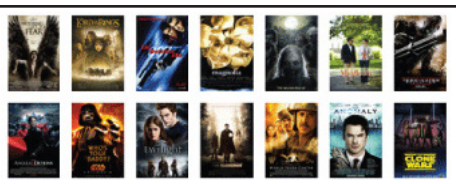
CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

- **RFP # 436 BUS STOP REAL-TIME SIGNS**
- **Submission Deadline Is June 17, 2025 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://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for the RFP package.

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GET IT DAILY...

L.A. fire survivors accuse State Farm of delaying claims. Should it get OK for a rate hike?



Photo by Joel Angel Juarez for CalMatters

INSURANCE: Sam Strgacich, left, and his wife Rossana Valverde, right, at their home in Pasadena on April 26, 2025. Valverde and Strgacich are trying to reach a settlement with State Farm to cover costs associated with repairing damage caused by smoke from the Eaton Fire earlier this year.

Rossana Valverde's Pasadena home of 35 years is still standing after Los Angeles County's devastating January fires — but more than 100 days later, she and her husband still can't move back in.

That's because they're waiting for their insurer, State Farm, to approve and process their claims.

"We were lucky our house made it through," Valverde said. "At first we thought unscathed. But it definitely still smells like smoke. The windowsills have a thick layer of black ash and soot."

After getting their home tested for toxins, they discovered it contains high levels of arsenic, lead and nickel. The cleaning, repair and replacement costs for their hardwood floors, carpet, appliances and more total upwards of $300,000, per some written estimates she shared with CalMatters as well as her own estimates of costs to replace things like their bed and upholstered furniture.

So far, she and her husband have received about $40,000 from State Farm but are having trouble getting the insurance company's adjuster to respond promptly to their requests for more.

She said the company's adjuster — the second one they were assigned — hardly returns emails and phone calls from her or the public adjuster she's enlisted for help.

"He pulls this 'I didn't receive it' BS and then when I press him he suddenly finds it," she said.

She is not alone. There are so many complaints, including a lawsuit, about State Farm delaying or denying claims after the LA-area fires, especially related to smoke damage, that fire survivors, three state lawmakers and others have asked Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara to investigate. They pointed out that the company is awaiting approval for its request to raise its rates on an emergency interim basis and urged Lara to rescind his conditional approval. An administrative law judge is expected to decide on the rate hike soon.

The Insurance Department routinely investigates insurance companies' response to disasters, which can lead to deeper examinations of their conduct and millions of dollars of additional payments. But this time around, State Farm is facing complaints as it happens to be seeking to raise its rates an average 17% for homeowners.

Under growing pressure to investigate, Lara sent a letter to State Farm Chief Executive Dan Krause last week, asking for details about how the company is handling claims. In the letter seen by CalMatters, Lara asked for a copy of the insurer's standards for reviewing, investigating and processing smoke damage claims. He also asked State Farm to commit to providing at least 75% of contents coverage

SEE **STATE FARM** PAGE 7



Weather

Wednesday: Cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 67.
Wednesday Night: Increasing clouds, with a low around 57. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 72.
Thursday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 61.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2025/05/07	Wed	01:22 AM	1.39	L
2025/05/07	Wed	06:59 AM	3.90	H
2025/05/07	Wed	1:10 PM	0.58	L
2025/05/07	Wed	7:41 PM	4.81	H
2025/05/08	Thu	02:02 AM	0.86	L
2025/05/08	Thu	07:50 AM	3.83	H
2025/05/08	Thu	1:37 PM	0.89	L
2025/05/08	Thu	8:02 PM	5.06	H
2025/05/09	Fri	02:37 AM	0.40	L
2025/05/09	Fri	08:35 AM	3.74	H
2025/05/09	Fri	2:01 PM	1.19	L
2025/05/09	Fri	8:22 PM	5.28	H
2025/05/10	Sat	03:09 AM	0.01	L
2025/05/10	Sat	09:14 AM	3.64	H
2025/05/10	Sat	2:23 PM	1.48	L
2025/05/10	Sat	8:43 PM	5.46	H
2025/05/11	Sun	03:40 AM	-0.28	L
2025/05/11	Sun	09:52 AM	3.53	H
2025/05/11	Sun	2:45 PM	1.73	L
2025/05/11	Sun	9:04 PM	5.59	H
2025/05/12	Mon	04:12 AM	-0.47	L
2025/05/12	Mon	10:31 AM	3.41	H
2025/05/12	Mon	3:07 PM	1.95	L
2025/05/12	Mon	9:28 PM	5.64	H
2025/05/13	Tue	04:47 AM	-0.56	L
2025/05/13	Tue	11:13 AM	3.27	H
2025/05/13	Tue	3:31 PM	2.16	L
2025/05/13	Tue	9:54 PM	5.62	H
2025/05/14	Wed	05:25 AM	-0.55	L
2025/05/14	Wed	12:01 PM	3.12	H
2025/05/14	Wed	3:55 PM	2.35	L
2025/05/14	Wed	10:23 PM	5.54	H
2025/05/15	Thu	06:06 AM	-0.46	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

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 5/5
16 34 40 45 66
Power#: 19
Jackpot: 65 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 5/2
14 37 40 41 68
Mega#: 2
Jackpot: 90 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 5/3
3 19 30 39 46
Mega#: 22
Jackpot: 24 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 5/5
3 14 19 26 35

Daily 3
Draw Date: 5/5
EVENING: 0 4 4
Draw Date: 5/5
MIDDAY: 6 7 0

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 5/5
1st: 08 - Gorgeous George
2nd: 03 - Hot Shot
3rd: 11 - Money Bags
Race Time: 1:43.14

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Devan Sipher,
Miles Warner.

CIRCULATION
Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Scott Snowden
scott.snowden@smdp.com

LEGAL ADVERTISING
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

MARKETING & ADVERTISING MANAGER
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

2219A Main St Santa Monica, CA 90405
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

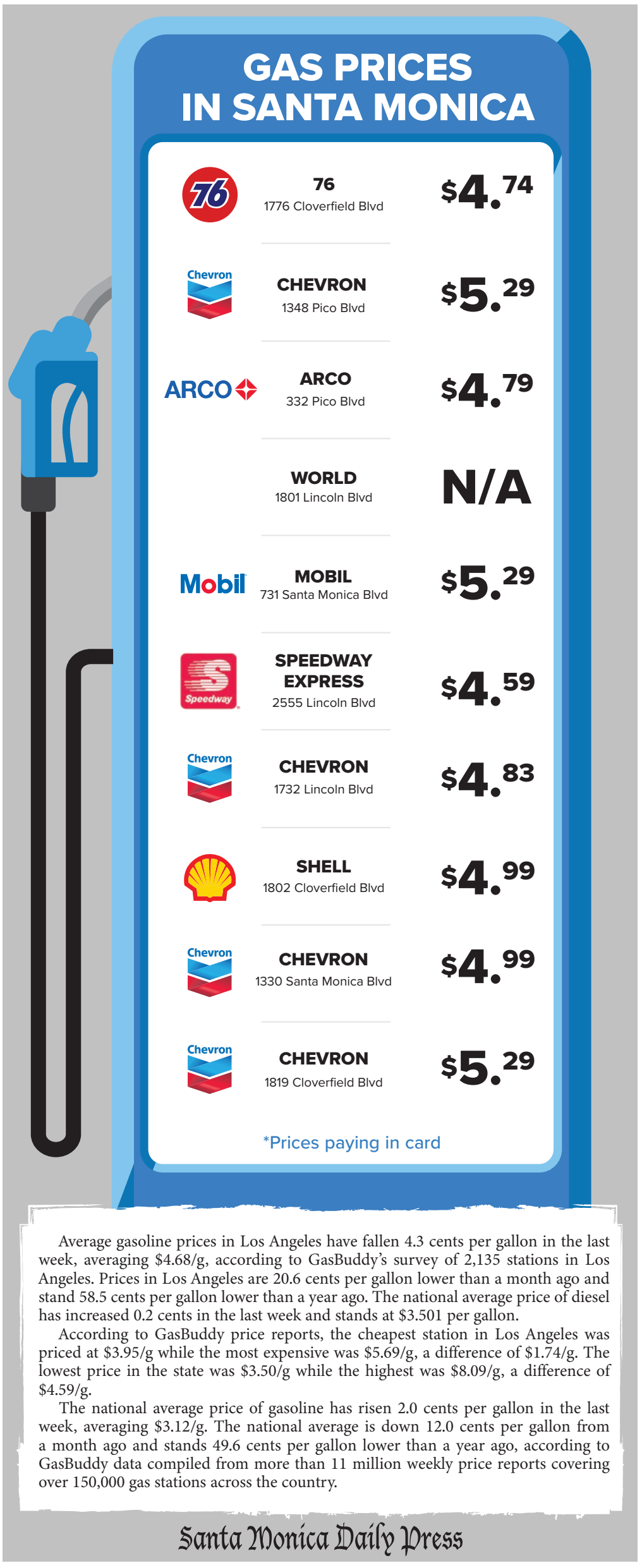
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Santa Monica Daily Press



Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have fallen 4.3 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $4.68/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 20.6 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 58.5 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has increased 0.2 cents in the last week and stands at $3.501 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at $3.95/g while the most expensive was $5.69/g, a difference of $1.74/g. The lowest price in the state was $3.50/g while the highest was $8.09/g, a difference of $4.59/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 2.0 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $3.12/g. The national average is down 12.0 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 49.6 cents per gallon lower 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.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Pass Go, win prizes: MAINopoly celebrates its 10 year anniversary



Courtesy image

FUNDRAISER: The annual event returns to Main Street.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Main Street in Santa Monica will take on a playful new look this Memorial Day weekend as the 10th annual MAINopoly: A Taste of Main Street returns Sunday, May 25. The food-focused, family-friendly event runs from 1 to 5pm and invites attendees to explore five blocks of restaurants, bars and local businesses in an interactive twist on the classic board game.

Participants will receive a game board and "MAINopoly dollars" to exchange for tastings at more than 20 participating locations. Confirmed stops include Triple Beam Pizza, Papille Gustative, Holey Grail Donuts, Library Alehouse, Alfalfa, Rabano and more. Guests who complete the full board will be eligible to win a "Taste of Main Street" prize pack valued at $1,000.

"People come from all over Los Angeles for MAINopoly," Hunter Hall, executive director of the Main Street Business Improvement Association, which hosts the event, told the Daily Press. "They love the gameboard theme, the interactive elements and of course, the chance to win prizes while tasting their way through Main Street."

Created in 2015 by Spin PR Group, MAINopoly was launched as a way to help fund Main Street's annual Summer Solstice Block Party and support free community programming. "Ten years later, it's still going strong and growing," Hall said.

General admission tickets start at $30 and include the official game board, 20 MAINopoly dollars, access to food and drink specials, and photo opportunities. VIP tickets, which start at $55, include all GA perks plus early entry at noon, access to the "Go to Jail" Beer Garden, two cocktails, exclusive food tastings, games and a DJ. Children ages five to 12 can join for $20, and kids under five get in free.

"The event is fun for the whole family and gives folks something unique to do over Memorial Day weekend," Hall said. "The gameboard includes higher-end dining stops like Papille Gustative, our Boardwalk and Park Place and Beyond 02, which is our Waterworks. We also feature beloved Main Street staples like Lula Cocina Mexicana and newer favorites like Edgemar, Triple Beam Pizza and Rabano."

In addition to tastings, guests can enjoy Monopoly-inspired activities including lawn games, a "Just Visiting" photo booth and complimentary rides up and down Main Street courtesy of Green Goddess Pedicabs. Costumes are encouraged, and prizes will be awarded for the best Monopoly-themed attire.

One highlight is the "Go to Jail" Beer Garden, where VIPs can "send a friend to jail" and treat them to a cold drink. According to organizers, deals like 50 percent off at Santa Monica Travel and Tourism will also be available at select stops.

Check-in for the event begins at Ashland Hill, located at 2807 Main St. For tickets and a full list of participating venues, visit www.mainopolysm.com. A portion of proceeds from MAINopoly will benefit the Main Street Business Improvement District, which works to promote, support and sustain Santa Monica's Main Street businesses through marketing and community events.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

SANTA MONICA

Kiwanis Club Donates $200,000 for LA Wildfire Relief

The Kiwanis Club of Santa Monica has donated a total of $200,000 to support wildfire relief efforts, with its most recent $100,000 contribution presented to the American Red Cross Western Los Angeles during its monthly meeting on March 19, 2025.

Kiwanis Charities Chair Abeer Sweis presented the donation check to Sean Inoue, Executive Director of the American Red Cross, Western Los Angeles.

The American Red Cross continues to offer shelter, supplies, emotional care, and recovery assistance to wildfire victims across the region.

The March donation follows an earlier $100,000 contribution to the Salvation Army Santa Monica, presented on February 19, 2025. Kiwanis President Eula Fritz and Charities Chair Abeer Sweis presented the check to Salvation Army Captains James and Katrina Fleming.

"We are blessed to be able to contribute to both the American Red Cross and Salvation Army—two organizations doing tremendous work on the front lines of disaster relief," said Fritz.

Since 1922, the Kiwanis Club of Santa Monica has been contributing over $120,000 annually to children and families through scholarships, grants and activities.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

MALIBU

Arts Commission to Host Sue Wong Fashion Exhibition

The City of Malibu Arts Commission will host "Sue Wong: Glamour & Grace," a celebration of the renowned high-fashion evening gown designer, at the Malibu City Gallery from May 19 through June 27, 2025.

"Sue Wong's artistry elevates fashion illustration to fine art," said Mayor Marianne Riggins. "Her intricate designs and timeless elegance reflect Malibu's creative spirit."

The exhibition will feature Wong's haute glamour evening gowns, which have been worn by Hollywood stars on red carpets including the Emmys, Golden Globe, and Oscar ceremonies. Her designs feature old-Hollywood glamor style with contemporary twists and interpretations of couture dressmaking from various romantic eras.

The Chinese-born designer escaped Communist China to Hong Kong at age five and went on to found a successful clothing line. Her apparel has been worn by celebrities including Taylor Swift, Miley Cyrus, Anne Hathaway, and Jessica Biel.

A free opening reception will be held Sunday, May 18, at 12:00 PM, including complimentary refreshments and a Q&A with Wong. No RSVPs are required.

The Malibu City Gallery is located on the first floor of City Hall and is open Monday through Friday, 8 to 4 p.m. with free admission.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

LOS ANGELES

Chrysalis to Host Charity Poker Tournament

Chrysalis will host its "All In For Changing Lives Poker & Party" on Saturday, May 31, 2025, from 2 to 8 p.m. at the Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club.

The event, hosted by Chrysalis' Young Professionals Advisory Council (YPAC), will bring together community leaders, philanthropists, and poker enthusiasts for competition, entertainment, and giving back.

Proceeds will directly support Chrysalis' workforce development programs, helping individuals experiencing homelessness or facing barriers to employment.

Event highlights include a deepstack, no-limit hold 'em tournament run by The Poker People, poker-themed activities, cocktails from sponsors like Mario's Hard Espresso, catering by Alligator Pear, and a silent auction.

"We're thrilled to bring our community together for a night of high stakes and high impact," said Amanda Mooney, YPAC Event Chair. "This event is more than just a game—it's an opportunity to go 'all in' and truly change lives."

Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available at www.ChangeLives.org/all-in.

Chrysalis serves people navigating workforce barriers through job-readiness programs, supportive services, and paid transitional employment. Since 1984, the organization has served more than 85,000 individuals across Southern California.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

PURCHASE, N.Y.

USTA Awards Althea Gibson HBCU Scholarships

The USTA has announced the recipients of the 2025 USTA Althea Gibson HBCU Scholarship, awarded to current or incoming HBCU students with a demonstrated passion for tennis and academic excellence.

Mia Lynn Parker of Santa Monica, who will attend Clark Atlanta University, and Franchesca Brown of Augusta, Ga., who will attend Howard University, were each awarded $5,000 during a special presentation at HBCU Springcoming in Culver City Park on May 3.

The scholarship honors Althea Gibson, a trailblazer and Florida A&M University graduate who broke tennis's color barrier in 1950, becoming the first African American to play in what is now the U.S. Open.

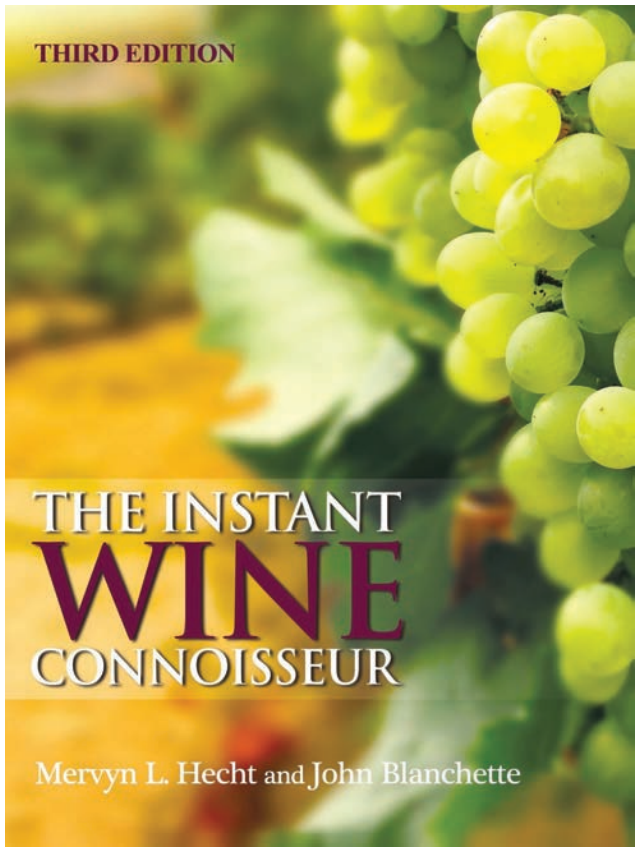
Applicants submitted resumes, academic transcripts, and essays about Gibson's legacy or the future of HBCU tennis programs.

"These students embody the values of hard work, perseverance, and passion that Althea Gibson exemplified both on and off the court," said Marisa Grimes, USTA's Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer.

The scholarships were presented during HBCU Springcoming, an annual festival providing opportunities for college graduates to reunite through activities including music, food, and tennis.

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The federal Bureau of Prisons has lots of problems. Reopening Alcatraz is now one of them

Eleven inmate deaths in less than two months. More than 4,000 staff vacancies. A $3 billion repair backlog.

And now, a stunning directive from President Donald Trump for the crisis-plagued federal Bureau of Prisons to "REBUILD, AND OPEN ALCATRAZ!" — the notorious penitentiary on an island in San Francisco Bay that last held inmates more than 60 years ago.

Even as the Bureau of Prisons struggles with short staffing, chronic violence and crumbling infrastructure at its current facilities, Trump is counting on the agency to fulfill his vision of rebooting the infamously inescapable prison known in movies and pop culture as "The Rock."

Trump declared in a social media post Sunday that a "substantially enlarged and rebuilt" Alcatraz will house the nation's "most ruthless and violent Offenders." It will "serve as a symbol of Law, Order, and JUSTICE," he wrote on Truth Social.

Newly appointed Bureau of Prisons Director William K. Marshall III said Monday that the agency "will vigorously pursue all avenues to support and implement the President's agenda" and that he has ordered "an immediate assessment to determine our needs and the next steps."

"USP Alcatraz has a rich history. We look forward to restoring this powerful symbol of law, order, and justice," Marshall said in a statement, echoing Trump's post. "We will be actively working with our law enforcement and other federal partners to reinstate this very important mission."

ALCATRAZ WAS ONCE AN EXEMPLAR

Alcatraz, a 22-acre islet with views of the Golden Gate Bridge and the San Francisco skyline, was once the crown jewel of the federal prison system and home to some of the nation's most notorious criminals, including gangsters Al Capone and George "Machine Gun" Kelly.

But skyrocketing repair and supply costs compelled the Justice Department to close the prison in 1963, just 29 years after it opened, and the Bureau of Prisons has long since replaced Alcatraz with modern penitentiaries, including a maximum-security prison in Florence, Colorado.

The former and perhaps future penitentiary is now a popular tourist attraction and a national historic landmark. It's controlled by the National Park Service as part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, meaning the Bureau of Prisons could be in for an interagency tug of war if it tries to wrest away control of the island.

Trump's Alcatraz directive is yet another challenge for the Bureau of Prisons as it struggles to fix lingering problems while responding to the president's priorities on incarceration and immigrant detention. The agency's mission, as redefined under Trump, includes taking in thousands of immigration detainees under an agreement with the Department of Homeland Security.

The problems at the Bureau of Prisons transcend administrations and facilities.

An ongoing Associated Press investigation has uncovered deep, previously unreported flaws within the Bureau of Prisons over the last few years, including widespread criminal activity by employees, dozens of escapes, the free flow of guns, drugs and other contraband, and severe understaffing that has hampered responses to emergencies.

Last year, then-President Joe Biden signed a law strengthening oversight of the agency. It remains the Justice Department's largest agency, with more than 30,000 employees, 155,000 inmates and an annual budget of about $8 billion, but the Trump administration's cost-cutting measures have eliminated some pay bonuses that were credited with retaining and attracting new staff.

That has resulted in long overtime shifts for some workers and the continued use of a policy known as augmentation, where prison nurses, cooks, teachers and other workers are pressed into duty to guard inmates.

Infrastructure is buckling, too. A Bureau of Prisons official told Congress at a hearing in February that more than 4,000 beds within the system — the equivalent of at least two full prisons — are unusable because of dangerous conditions like leaking or failing roofs, mold, asbestos or lead.

DEATHS HAVE PLAGUED THE FEDERAL PRISON SYSTEM

Since mid-March, 11 federal prison inmates have died. They include David Knezevich, a 37-year-old Florida businessman who was found dead April 28 in a suspected suicide at a federal jail in Miami. He was awaiting trial on charges he kidnapped and killed his estranged wife in Spain.

And on April 24, inmate Ramadhan Jaabir Justice was killed in a fight at the federal penitentiary in Pollock, Louisiana, where he was serving a nearly 11-year sentence for a conviction related to an armed robbery.

As Trump was ordering Alcatraz's reopening Sunday, correctional officers at the same Miami jail were fighting to curb the spread of tuberculosis and COVID-19, isolating inmates after they tested positive for the diseases. Last month, immigration detainees at the facility ripped out a fire sprinkler and flooded a holding cell during a lengthy intake process.

Meanwhile, about 30 miles east of Alcatraz, the Federal Correctional Institution in Dublin, California, has sat idle for more than a year after the Bureau of Prisons cleared it of inmates in the wake of rampant sexual abuse by employees, including the warden.

In December, the agency made the closure permanent and idled six prison camps across the country to address "significant challenges, including a critical staffing shortage, crumbling infrastructure and limited budgetary resources."

While Trump hails Alcatraz as a paragon of the federal prison system's cherished past, other facilities stand as reminders of its recent troubles.

They include the federal jail in Manhattan, which remains idle after Jeffrey Epstein's suicide there in 2019 exposed deep flaws in its operations, and a troubled federal lockup in Brooklyn, where 23 inmates have been charged in recent months with crimes ranging from smuggling weapons in a Doritos bag to the stabbing last month of a man convicted in the killing of hip-hop legend Jam Master Jay.

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press

STATE FARM

FROM PAGE 3

without requiring an inventory from fire survivors — the company had raised what it pays out in advance contents coverage from 50% to 65%. The commissioner set a May 9 deadline for a written response from the company.

In an interview, Lara told CalMatters that he also spoke with Krause by phone about the letter. He said he asked Krause if State Farm could maintain a visible, physical presence in the area as customers continue to need help with claims and disaster recovery centers close.

"He's going to look at keeping a presence in Eaton and Palisades," Lara said.

When asked whether he planned to tie State Farm's handling of claims to the company's request to raise its rates, the commissioner said: "I'm going to see what they respond, then move accordingly."

Lara said he has to consider that State Farm is California's biggest insurer, and that it has millions of customers in the state. "I want to be clear to the Legislature," he said. "I'm balancing all the facts."

State Sen. Sasha Renee Perez, a Democrat representing Pasadena who co-wrote the letter asking Lara to investigate State Farm and withhold a rate increase, told CalMatters: "Everybody realizes we're in a home insurance crisis. (Nobody is) saying there should never be a rate increase." But she said her constituents have been good customers who "feel like they've been left in the cold."

State Farm spokesperson Sevag Sarkissian did not answer questions about Lara's letter to Krause or his requests of the company. CalMatters also asked about policyholder complaints. Sarkissian sent the following response by email: "We're here to help our customers recover and we empathize with those who are rebuilding their lives. We've received approximately 12,500 total claims related to the fires and have paid over $3.12 billion to our customers."

State Farm has said it expects to pay more than $7 billion in claims from the LA-area blazes.

'A LONGSTANDING FIGHT' ABOUT SMOKE DAMAGE

It's unclear how many State Farm customers are complaining about the company's handling of claims, especially about smoke damage coverage. The insurance department would not disclose exactly how many such complaints it has fielded, with spokesperson Michael Soller saying only that the complaints are in line with State Farm's market share in California, which is about 20%. Soller said the complaints are ongoing and that complaint data is posted annually.

But a group of LA-area fire survivors of the Eaton Fire has a website with at least a couple of hundred detailed — though unverified — complaints, which Perez and other lawmakers cited in their letter to Lara.

That doesn't surprise attorney Amy Bach, the president of San Francisco-based United Policyholders, a national nonprofit organization that advocates for insurance customers. She co-founded the group in 1991, the same year the Oakland Hills fire exposed insurance-coverage problems for survivors.

Bach said smoke damage has been part of "a longstanding fight." Smoke damage's effects can seem less obvious than fire damage, and appears to be one of the factors in LA-area fire survivors having trouble with their claims.

She said the more she finds out about the effects of smoke damage, the more she thinks insurers need to better handle related claims.

Bach and her group now advise policyholders to make sure they get their homes tested by an industrial hygienist before cleaning, adding that if their insurer won't agree to pay for it at first, they should get it done anyway and try to get compensated afterward.

"You have to figure out what you're dealing with," she said. "There's too much at stake: your family's health, your property value."

A California appeals court ruling in February could affect insurance coverage of soot and ash claims. It held that wildfire debris doesn't necessarily mean direct physical loss or damage.

Bach was one of several advocates who recently submitted letters in an attempt to depublish — or strike from the record — the decision by the California 2nd District Court of Appeal. She said she doesn't want insurance companies to be able to point to that court decision as a reason to deny smoke claims.

But last week, the California Supreme Court rejected the depublication requests by Bach and other consumer advocates. They included Consumer Watchdog and Consumer Federation of America, plus an association of public insurance adjusters and a couple of consumer attorneys groups.

The groups that opposed depublication included American Property Casualty Insurance Association and other insurance groups, as well as the FAIR Plan — the fire insurance provider of last resort in California.

Just like State Farm has been accused of delaying claims and payments related to smoke damage, so has the FAIR Plan. LA fire victims sued the FAIR Plan, State Farm and other insurers over smoke damage claims earlier this month.

The FAIR Plan did not immediately return CalMatters' requests for answers about its policies on smoke damage.

In March, Lara issued a bulletin regarding smoke damage claims. It said insurance companies should not take the February court ruling to mean they are off the hook for such claims.

The commissioner told CalMatters last week that he is working with the governor's office and public health officials on establishing statewide standards for smoke damage remediation — of cleaning up and stopping environmental damage. Those standards could help inform insurance policy requirements, but spokesperson Soller said the insurance department has no further details to share yet.

A spokesperson for Gov. Gavin Newsom's office said the commissioner has requested technical support for the effort.

OTHER FIRE SURVIVORS SPEAK OUT

In Altadena, Andrew Wessels is also dealing with delays from State Farm. He and his family are now on their seventh temporary home since the fire because the insurer has not approved their request for long-term housing.

They have relied on friends, a hotel and three Airbnbs, for which they pay the rent out of pocket.

They started submitting receipts to State Farm in January, he said. As of now, they have received about $25,000 of $40,000 in reimbursements they have requested.

They have gotten their home tested and found high levels of lead and possibly chlorine gas exposure — not good for him, his wife and their two children, ages 20 months and 5.

They have requested 100% of their Coverage B, or $355,650, because Wessels said their personal goods are a total loss. He asked the company for the money up front, without having to continue submitting receipts.

Wessels said he and his family are "blocked from the ability to rebuild." He joined other Eaton Fire survivors at a press conference last month, where several State Farm policyholders called on the insurance commissioner to reject the company's request to raise its premiums on an emergency interim basis until it takes care of their claims.

Another survivor, Gail Jamentz, spoke with CalMatters on April 25, sounding discouraged because she said she hadn't heard from State Farm since February.

"I submitted my claim status Jan. 11," she said. "I can't go to FEMA because I don't have a claim status."

Photos the survivors group shared with the media show her home is standing but badly burned, with its roof caved in. She needed State Farm to declare it a total loss. She called the inside of her home "toxic soup."

"There's no roof, it's been raining, it's all mush inside," Jamentz said.

Thursday, she told the Eaton Fire survivors group on Discord that State Farm had finally agreed to let her claim her home as a total loss.

"I have to give you all credit in helping expedite this process these last few weeks as I really think our press conference helped move things along," Jamentz wrote.

By Levi Sumagaysay. This article was originally published by CalMatters.





Santa Monica Daily Press
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Name Change

Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No.25SMCP00182 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Mohsen Moradi Ganjeh and Ryan Moradi Ganjeh for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Mohsen Moradi Ganjeh this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Mohsen Moradi Ganjeh to Mason JohnRyan Moradi Ganjeh to Ryan John . The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall 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 05/23/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: _. The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Courthouse 1725 Main St Santa Monica CA 90401. . 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

Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No.25SMCP00121 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Nicole Lauture for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Nicole Lauture with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Nicole St.Pleur Lauture to Nicole St.Pleur Nehring . The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall 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 06/13/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: _ The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Courthouse 1725 Main St Santa Monica, CA 90401 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

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 04/28/25 2025085480The following person(s) is (are) doing business asAcmeDesign 1077 Pacific Coast Highway #342 Seal Beach, CA 90740 . Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. 2025303The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Constrium Studios, Inc 1077 Pacific Coast Highway #342 Seal Beach, CA 90740 . If corporation or LLC- Print State of CA This is Business is Conducted: A Corporation . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 04/2025 . Registrant /Corp/LLCConstrium Studios, Inc Title: CEO Anton Goss . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 04/28/2025NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS 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 PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code).

Lien

Notice of Self Storage SalePlease take notice Trunk Space Storage - Santa Monica located at 1674 20th Street Santa Monica CA 90404 intends to hold a public sale to the highest bidder of the property stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storagetreasures.com on 5/15/25 at 11:00 AM. Vanessa Acosta. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply.

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 03/19/25 2025056079The following person(s) is (are) doing business as CURRENCY ADVISORY GROUP, 16030 VENTURA BLVD SUITE 320, ENCINO, CA 91436 . Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are THE CULTURE CAPABILITY, INC, 16030 VENTURA BLVD SUITE 320, ENCINO CA, 91436 If corporation or LLC- Print State of DE This is Business is Conducted: a Corporation . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/2025 . Registrant /Corp/LLC THE CULTURE CAPABILITY, INC , LLC Title: PRESIDENT THEODORE CHUNG. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 03/19/2025NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS 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 PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code).

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GELATO

FROM PAGE 1

The Santa Monica gelateria is one of six new stores planned in the region in 2025, with additional locations coming to Studio City, Beverly Hills, West Third Street, Topanga and Costa Mesa. It will be located at 331 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite A, near the Third Street Promenade, previously occupied by Jamba Juice.

The storefront has been undergoing renovations, with signage indicating that the new gelateria is "coming soon." However Sung Choi, Director of Partnerships for Bacio di Latte confirmed to the Daily Press that it will in fact open on Friday, May 30, 2025.

"Santa Monica is like a postcard for the world — iconic, beautiful, and full of energy," said Choi. "We've always had a special connection to this city, so opening here felt like a natural next step."

"We're excited to be part of Santa Monica's next chapter," Choi added. "So many great new restaurants are opening, and we hope to bring a little joy and sweetness to the community."

With its origins in São Paulo, Bacio di Latte has grown into what the company describes as the world's largest artisanal gelato chain, with more than 190 locations across Brazil. The new openings will bring its Southern California footprint to 17 stores.

"Our journey has been driven by a passion for sharing the authentic taste of Italian gelato with the world," founder of Bacio di Latte, Edoardo Tonolli, said. "Each new store represents not just a place to enjoy our creations but a new opportunity to connect with more people and spread the joy that gelato brings."

In Santa Monica, the company promises the same gelateria experience that helped establish its name, including daily in-house production, organic dairy from Clover family farms in Sonoma County and seasonal fruit sourced from California growers such as Tamai Family Farms. Organic cane sugar is imported from Paraguay.

The menu includes more than 20 regular flavors such as Pistacchio, Giandujotto and Cioccolato Belga, along with rotating specials like Salted Caramel Cheesecake. A Sunday-only lineup of small-batch flavors will be available at select locations near operating farmers markets.

For guests looking to sample a range of options, the brand's "Ciocchino" line features waffle cones and cups coated in hazelnut or pistachio spread. A separate "Pistacchio Reserve" menu includes crepes, milkshakes and coffee drinks.

"We look forward to welcoming the vibrant Studio City, Santa Monica, Beverly Hills, West 3rd St, Topanga and Costa Mesa communities into the Bacio di Latte family and continuing to create unforgettable moments, one scoop at a time," Tonolli said.

Tonolli and his brother, Luigi, founded the company after studying traditional Italian gelato-making and forming long-term relationships with experts in the craft. Each store is designed to resemble a rustic Italian kitchen, with hand-glazed tile, white-painted woodwork, exposed beams and shelves stocked with whisks, copper bowls and vintage milk bottles. A rolling library ladder provides access to high shelving. Music playlists rotate throughout the day, shifting from morning jazz to Bossa Nova and tango-infused electronica in the evening.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

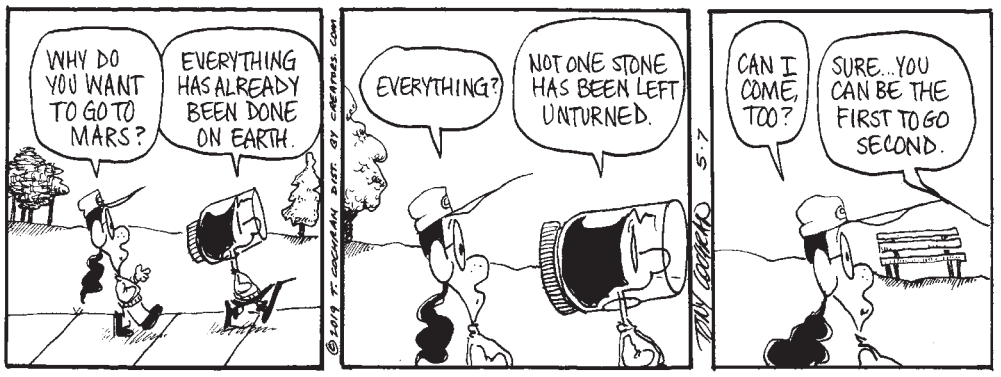


Valerio Architects Inc.

NICE ICE BABY: The Bacio di Latte gelateria on Sawtelle Blvd shows what the decor looks like.

Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



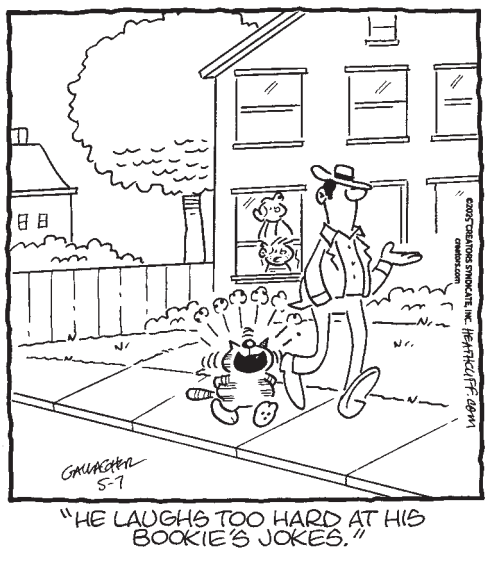
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



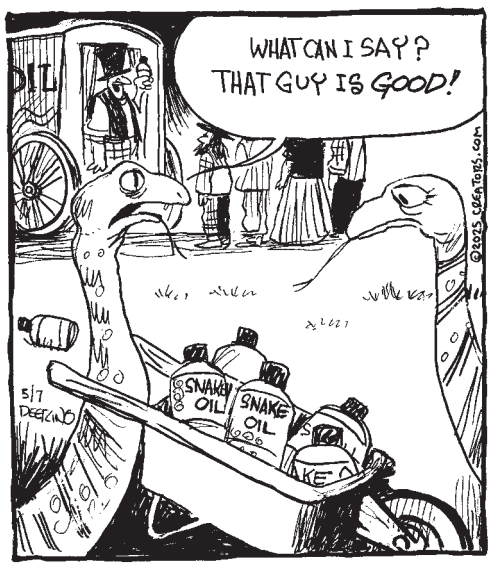
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 19 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 6568

Passion for fashion

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

Adjustable Caps
Air Mesh
Belt
Beret
Brim
Camisole
Coat
Dress
Duck
Egyptian Cotton
Football jersey
Grommet
Gusset
Hand
Hat
Heels
Indigo dyeing
Jeans
Logo
Mini
Nylon
Poplin
Pullover
Shawl
Sheared
Shrinkage
Suit
Taffeta
Tencel
Thongs
Ties
Tights
Tops
T-shirt
Velcro
Vest
Work
Yoke

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 7)

What once felt far off and unattainable will now land with grace and ease. It's because you've changed, and now you're a match for the life you longed for. It still requires patience and tenacity, the work, maintaining the relationships and putting together the plan day after day. More highlights: A windfall of time, then another windfall of money. A creative breakthrough and a sweet romantic turn. Virgo and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 4, 21, 39 and 26.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Persistence counts big time today, and in fact, it may be the only thing that gets you to the goal on time. Maximize and optimize this moment. Keep tending the goal when motivation fades, when it's hard or when it's too easy. Stay in motion.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Brush up on the etiquette of the situation — it goes way back. You're a master diplomat and every interaction is an opportunity to prove it, for instance, by applying sensitivity and avoiding subjects that are potential hot spots.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). If most things are running smoothly, it's wise to go along with the current. This isn't the moment for nitpicking — save that for a day when precision is your job, not your impulse. Today calls for ease, not scrutiny.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Many claim to love unconditionally, but the test comes when the conditions change. Those who hesitate to make bold declarations often do so for good reason — they're too busy offering proof.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The nature of healing is paradoxical — quiet but profound, invisible but life-altering, slow but unstoppable. It's not always a return to what was, but a recreation of what can be. Side note: Healing doesn't always mean fixing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A question rises, childlike in its simplicity but ancient in its ache: Why do they get to do that, and why can't I? Flip it and you get something far more useful: What do I have that others would be so happy to experience? There's the gold.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're not aiming for a Nobel Prize, but you'd like to leave things better than you found them, which is more than enough. Progress lives in small, steady steps. Identify the next right move and take it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll feel chosen, cherished and supported — not by one but by many. Surrounded by care, your confidence will rise. Love will steady you, strengthen your purpose and power your next steps. This is what it feels like to be fueled by connection.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The best relationships aren't tidy — they're lived-in, earned and full of heart. Love will have texture and surprise and will reveal itself in small gestures and imperfect and unforgettable moments.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Think of someone out there who's sitting in the thick of something unfair, stupid and relentless — someone who needs a beam of light. Offer them your words, your warmth, your witness. Even a small kindness can shift the weight they're carrying.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Most of good living comes down to attitude — and it's a lot easier to find a great vibe when the basics are covered. Sleep, water, movement. Do better with just those three, and everything else starts to feel lighter.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your life gets glossier today. You'll be where influence and elegance go hand in hand, or you'll build something that wasn't there before — and people will line up for it.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

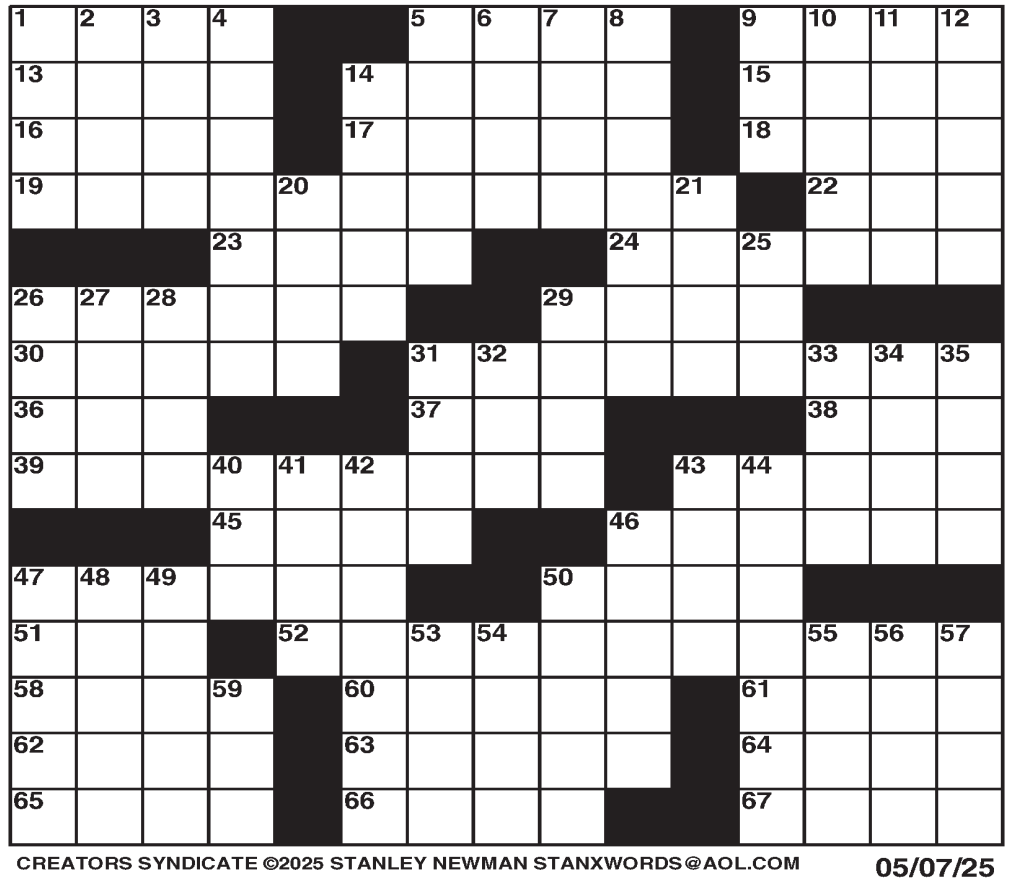
SPEAKING VOLUMES by C.J. Tan
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Go round and round
5 Lasting mark
9 Noteworthy periods
13 "If I __ you..."
14 Pebble or boulder
15 Fallen to the bottom of the sea
16 Thailand's continent
17 88-key instrument
18 __ colada cocktail
19 Person working with volumes of mail
22 Cashew or pistachio
23 Red-headed Norse explorer
24 Hang down loosely
26 Fully prepared
29 Prefix like atmo-
30 Diamonds, hearts, and spades
31 Person shelving bound volumes
36 Nonverbal communication: Abbr.
37 Verse of praise
38 Longtime color TV brand
39 Person calculating volumes of atoms
43 Elephant tusk material
45 Full-time athletes
46 States one's views
47 Paris tower designer
50 Run __ (be raging)
51 Needless fuss
52 Person controlling film actors' volumes
58 Speed competition
60 Color of limes
61 Back of the neck
62 Defrost
63 Manicurist's concerns
64 Great joy
65 Golfer's target
66 French fashion magazine
67 Text-message button

DOWN

1 This-for-that exchange
2 Mexican money
3 Colorful part of the eye
4 Least cluttered
5 Butter in a box
6 Barbecue briquette
7 Actress Hathaway
8 Buy more of
9 Sixth sense, for short
10 Regretting
11 Declare void
12 Glide on a rink
14 Divide evenly
20 Greek god of war
21 Reality TV judge DioGuardi
25 Neither's partner
26 Memo's "immediately"
27 Thick with vegetation
28 "Pad" flower in a pond
29 Assist in wrongdoing
31 Lane of Superman stories
32 Employee badges
33 Laundry appliance
34 Farmland measure
35 Negative votes
40 Letters on sunblock bottles
41 Angry states
42 "Eau de" liquid
43 Apple's music player
44 Minnesota NFL team
46 Prophetic signs
47 Farm soil
48 "Famous Potatoes" state
49 __ point (center of attention)
50 Singing star from London
53 Russia's __ Mountains
54 Astronaut Armstrong
55 Story that might be "tall"
56 Unlock
57 Clarinet accessory
59 Woolly mother



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05/07/25

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

PALISADES

FROM PAGE 1

she did not learn resilience in any striking cinematic moment but instead in the quiet day-to-day changes she made to rebuild her life.

"If you need to scream, if you need to cry, that's okay, but you can't scream and cry for four months," she said. "You need to get up."

Sebastian Gonzales, who also lost his home in the fires, said his family is a model for him.

"It's all about resilience," he said. "I've watched my parents work nonstop in finding us a new place to live, taking care of my family, and keeping a marriage together. I think a lot of kids watched their parents and are finding ways to parallel that strength."

Gonzales, a sophomore, lost all his instruments in the fire and is now restoring his music collection string by string.

"I lost my guitars and grand piano," he said. "Gibson sent me a free guitar, and my uncle bought me a Fender, so my guitar collection is starting to come back. In terms of a grand piano, I am still looking for one."

Gonzales found comfort in helping other displaced families by volunteering at Saint Monica's.

"It reminded me that everyone's going through something," he said.

Sophie Smeeton, a junior at Pali High, had a different experience and process to cope with her losses, using dance as her mode of therapy at The Artist Collective (TAC).

"For me, dance was a great outlet, especially right after the fire. It was the only normalcy I still had in my life, so I took great comfort in that," she said. "Over time, I feel that I have emotionally moved on. Time does heal, and eventually, you have to face reality and make the best of the situation. However, academically, I have struggled with motivation, especially while doing online school. I have always been a very driven and ambitious person, so this sudden shift was foreign and out of character for me."

When Theo Tierney lost his home, he also lost his tennis equipment and piano, which was the centerpiece of his musical development.

"I'm continuing to pursue music through the classes I take at Crossroads—music theory and performance," he said. "Just yesterday, I was at an Emmy concert, watching other musicians at Crossroads perform. Being in that space helps."

Students said they appreciated the support they've found from their school.

"When I tell you everybody stepped up, they truly stepped up," Andrews said.

Classmates arrived at her hotel with bags in hand, and some even door-dashed makeup and toiletries. That's where her community rallied together.

"The most impactful support I received was from TAC. Less than 24 hours after the fire, my whole family had clothes to wear, food to eat, and beds to sleep in, which would not have been possible without the tremendous support from everyone a part of the TAC family," Smeeton said.

> The most impactful support I received was from TAC. Less than 24 hours after the fire, my whole family had clothes to wear, food to eat, and beds to sleep in, which would not have been possible without the tremendous support from everyone a part of the TAC family
> - Sophie Smeeton

For plenty of young athletes, the loss of equipment means a pause in their sports. However, Tierney's tennis community would not let that be his story.

"The tennis place where I take lessons was able to give me a racket and shoes," he said. "So I was still able to play because they were so kind to provide me with equipment."

Other students said continued pursuit of activities helped them process the experience.

"It takes a lot to start over," Connor Shaub said. "It takes a lot to experience trauma and get through it and become a better person for it."

Shaub, a former Pali cheerleader, is now a dancer.

"Every time I dance, that's not just a step forward away from the fires but also a personal testament to show that I won't let the fires take away my opportunities to perform."

He said the experience has taught him good ways to deal with change.

"Change is inevitable in life, and you just have to find the best way to deal with it," he said. "I found that the best way is through gratitude—being thankful for what you have and everything that you enjoy."

To learn how to feature your upcoming event on the SMDP and various digital event calendars

Contact dina@smdp.com today!



WEDNESDAY | MAY 7

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://smdp.com/events/#/details/downtown-farmers-market-wednesday-market/12382446/2025-05-07T08

THINK PINK 2025 FOR WOMEN'S WELLNESS

8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Regent Santa Monica Beach 1700 Ocean Avenue Santa Monica. The Irene Dunne Guild will hold its 19th annual Think Pink for Women's Wellness, a fundraiser for Saint John's Health Center, at newly opened Regent Santa Monica Beach on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. As our community continues to recover from the devastating Palisades and Eaton Canyon wildfires, the Irene Dunne Guild is more committed than ever to creating meaningful gatherings and bringing health education and awareness to women and their families. The Irene Dunne Guild, a support group of Saint John's Health Center Foundation, raises funds for women's health programs, nursing scholarships, medical equipment, programs for care givers and family support services. Tickets are $195.00 per person. Think Pink Chairs are Suzanne Caldwell and Sila Vokshoor. For more information, contact Saint John's Health Center Foundation at 310.829.8424. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/think-pink-2025-for-women-s-wellness/15447092/2025-05-07T08

THURSDAY | MAY 8

LUNCHTIME LINE DANCE

12:30 p.m. Venice - Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library 501 S. Venice Boulevard Venice. Get fit and meet new friends learning line dances on your lunch break. We will learn new and old dances to various styles, including country, disco, Latin, soul, and more. All levels are welcome. For ADA accommodations, call (213) 228-7430 at least 72 hours prior to the event. Para ajustes razonables según la ley de ADA, llama al (213) 228-7430 al menos 72 horas antes del evento. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/lunchtime-line-dance/12342961/2025-05-08T12

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE

7:30 p.m. Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center 1310 11th St Santa Monica. Photographer Babak Tafreshi has spent his career documenting the unbelievable beauty of the night sky and working to connect people through the shared experience of simply looking up. From the Milky Way to the animals that come out after dark here on Earth, experience visual stories of wildlife, humanity, and the cosmos. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/national-geographic-live/13765546/2025-05-08T19

FRIDAY | MAY 9

THE NIGHT SKY SHOW

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Santa Monica College 1900 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. The Night Sky Show is a short program with the latest news in space exploration and astronomy. The program uses freeware sky visualization tools to show you the constellations planets and deep sky objects in the Southern California night sky. The show will last about 30 minutes followed by a short Q&A when guests can type questions into a chat box. We will answer as many questions as possible. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/the-night-sky-show/14165546/2025-05-09T19

SATURDAY | MAY 10

FREE SATURDAY MORNING FITNESS; WELLNESS & WAVES RETURNS FOR 2025 SEASON

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Santa Monica Pier 200 Santa Monica Pier, Ste A Santa Monica. Start your weekend with movement, mindfulness, and ocean views as Wellness & Waves returns to the Santa Monica Pier beginning Saturday, April 5 through October 11, 2025, from 8 to 10 a.m. every week. This popular Free fitness series invites the community to embrace self-care and coastal vibes with group runs, yoga, and fusion fitness—all in the most iconic outdoor setting in Los Angeles. Held beneath the famed Santa Monica Yacht Harbor sign, Wellness & Waves kicks off with a breezy group run from 8 to 9 a.m., perfect for runners of all levels. From 9 to 10 a.m., the energy shifts to the west end of the Pier for Yoga and Yoga-Pilates Fusion classes, led by a rotating lineup of celebrated instructors from some of the Westside's top wellness studios. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/free-saturday-morning-fitness-wellness-waves-returns-for-2025-season/15484766/2025-05-10T08

COMMUNITY DOG TRAINING CLASSES!

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Ave Park 2200 Virgina Ave Santa Monica. People's Dog Training™, a Love At First Sit® program, host their L.A. Wildfires Initiative through their Community Dog Training Classes on Saturdays at Virginia Ave Park in Santa Monica. Class fee is $5.00, then Pay-What-You-Can after that. Wildfire Victims and first responders are always free. Class proceeds are donated to CAMP (Community Animal Medicine Project) who are providing FREE veterinary services to L.A. Wildfire Victims. Sign-up at peoplesdogtraining.com/community-training. $5.00 —General $5.00. First Responders & Wildfire Victims FREE. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/community-dog-training-classes-/11981844/2025-05-10T12

"SHEER ENJOYMENT!" IT'S BARNYARD MADNESS WITH THE THREE LITTLE PIGS

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse 1211 4th St, Santa Monica. "This is what family theatre is all about and the Santa Monica Playhouse offers the best. Kids will delight in it all as will adults!" The Tolucan Times. It's a finger-snappin', toe-tappin' zany musical romp following the romantic antics and showbiz aspirations of the swingin' singin' McPig Sisters and their canine admirers, complete with exciting audience participation. $15.00 to $17.50—$15 kids 12 and under; $17.50 adults. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/-sheer-enjoyment-it-s-barnyard-madness-with-the-three-little-pigs/15355101/2025-05-10T14

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