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- 3 **Guest Commentary**  
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For local clergy

Volume 25 Issue 123

MONDAY 5/11/26

smdp.com

# Tickets are coming for blocking bike lanes

**MATTHEW HALL**  
Daily Press Editor

Santa Monica launched automated enforcement of bike lane parking violations this month, becoming the first city in California to use camera technology mounted on parking enforcement vehicles to cite drivers who block cyclists.

The program, developed with San Francisco-based Hayden AI, began issuing warning notices May 1. Fines of \$93 take effect July 1.

Two forward-facing cameras mounted on the roofs of city traffic services vehicles automatically detect

and record vehicles illegally stopped or parked in bike lanes. When a violation is identified, an evidence package is generated and reviewed by a city Parking Enforcement officer before any citation is issued.

"This initiative will bolster our growing network of bicycling infrastructure, enhance user comfort, and improve compliance with regulations intended to keep everyone safe on our roads," said Trevor Thomas, the city's senior transportation planner.

The city's pilot of the technology



SMDP Photo

SEE BIKE PAGE 6

**CARS:** Cars frequently block bike lanes throughout the city.

# Santa Monica's Oldest Flight School marks 30 years as Airport's 2028 closure looms

**MAAZ ALIN**  
SMDP Staff Writer

For three decades, Proteus Flight School has trained pilots at Santa Monica Airport, outlasting competitors and weathering regulatory shifts that shuttered other operators at the field. Now, as the airport's scheduled 2028 closure approaches, the school's leadership says a generation of aviation education in Santa Monica hangs in the balance.

Founded in 1996 at 3025 Airport Avenue, Proteus is the oldest

continuously operating flight school at the airport. It has since expanded to a primary location at 2501 Airport Avenue and a maintenance and instruction hangar at 3147 Donald Douglas Loop South. The school's database includes nearly 3,000 people who have trained there at some point in their aviation careers.

"This is our thirtieth year in operation, and we have outlasted many schools on the field," said Urooj Naveed, operations manager



Courtesy Image

SEE FLIGHT SCHOOL PAGE 6

**AIRPORT:** Proteus Flight School faces uncertain future as Santa Monica Airport's 2028 closure approaches after 30 years of training pilots.

# Santa Monica Council approves \$1.8 million federal housing and Community Development Plan

**MAAZ ALIN**  
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica City Council unanimously approved a \$1.797 million federal funding plan Tuesday night that will direct Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnerships

SEE COUNCIL PAGE 8

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# US employers defy economic shock from Iran war and add a surprisingly strong 115,000 jobs in April

America's employers delivered a surprising 115,000 new jobs last month despite an economic shock from the Iran war.

Hiring beat the 65,000 jobs forecasters had expected, though it decelerated from the 185,000 jobs created in March. The unemployment rate remained at a low 4.3%, the Labor Department reported Friday.

The Iran war has caused the biggest disruption of global oil supplies in history and sent average U.S. gasoline prices surging past \$4.50 a gallon this week. But the conflict hasn't done much damage to the American job market so far. And the import taxes — tariffs — that President Donald Trump imposed last year haven't turned out to be as high and as damaging as originally feared.

"The labor market is not booming, but it is proving harder to break than many feared," said economist Olu Sonola of Fitch Ratings.

Healthcare added 37,000 jobs last month and transportation and warehousing companies 30,000. However, manufacturers cut 2,000 jobs in April and have shed 66,000 jobs over the past year despite Trump's protectionist policies aimed at creating factory jobs.

"Businesses to some extent are viewing the conflict in Iran as temporary," said Gus Faucher, chief economist at the financial firm PNC. "We're seeing strong business investment, particularly around tech and AI. The economy continues to expand. We've weathered some shocks. The worst of the tariff impact is likely over."

Still, Faucher cautioned that "the longer

conflict in Iran lasts, the higher energy prices go, the longer they stay elevated the greater the drag on the economy."

“

The labor market is not booming, but it is proving harder to break than many feared

- Olu Sonola, economist

”

Among those worrying is Michael Cramer, co-founder and CEO of online retailer Adagio Teas. He expects to freeze hiring this year. He typically adds anywhere from five to six workers per year to help pack up online tea

orders at the company's warehouse in East Rutherford, New Jersey. Adagio Teas, which has about 50 workers, has seen a slight drop in sales after the Iran war drove up gasoline prices and squeezed shoppers, particularly those in lower-income brackets. Cramer is worried that shoppers are opting for less expensive supermarket tea to cut costs.

"You only hire when you have more orders that you can fill," he said. "I don't envision us being in that position for the remainder of the year. I think the remainder of this year is going to be fairly bumpy."

Labor Department revisions shaved 16,000 jobs from February and March payrolls.

Average hourly earnings rose 0.2% from March and 3.6% from April 2025, consistent with the Federal Reserve's 2% inflation target.

The number of people in the U.S. labor force dropped last month, and the share of those working or looking for work — the so-called labor force participation rate — dropped to 61.8%, lowest since October 2021.

After the U.S. and Israel launched their attacks Feb. 28, Iran shut down the Strait of Hormuz, through which about a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas passes. The disruption has caused a painful increase in the price of energy and led many economists to downgrade their estimates for global and U.S. economic growth.

But the job market keeps chugging along this year.

The economy is getting a boost from big tax refund checks this spring, arising from Trump's tax cut legislation last year;

the refunds allow consumers to spend more freely, giving companies an incentive to add workers in response to rising sales.

The job market is showing intermittent signs of recovery after a bleak 2025. Employers last year created just 9,700 jobs a month, fewest outside a recession year since 2002. High interest rates and uncertainty over Trump's economic policies held back hiring.

The March and April hiring figures marked the first consecutive months of job growth above 100,000 since the end of 2024.

The recent uptick in hiring raises hopes that the job market will break out of a recent rut — in which Americans who have jobs are relatively secure from layoffs but jobseekers struggle to find work.

Angela Paniccia, 33, of Queens in New York City was laid off by an educational travel company in December. The job search can be frustrating. "You'll never hear back or you'll get just a generic 'We're moving on with someone else' without feedback," she said.

Many of the openings at colleges and other employers in her field simply don't pay enough to support someone living in one of the country's most expensive cities. To help with the rent, she's been working part-time for a caterer. "I've always had a full-time job," he said. "Admittedly, I'm struggling with the loss of daily routine."

U.S. hiring has been dominated by one industry: Healthcare companies, catering to an aging American population, have

SEE JOBS PAGE 8

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# Personal injury lawyers distort our mistakes and the price Californians pay for them

I am sitting here staring at a letter addressed to my family and me. My stomach is sewn in knots and I haven't had a full night's sleep in weeks. What I thought was a minor fender bender has turned into a feast for predatory personal injury lawyers.

I am maddened. How could a man who looked me in the eye and said he was fine later demand the full amount of my insurance policy? Despite minor damage to our vehicles — we were going less than 5 miles per hour — he has accrued thousands of dollars in chiropractic fees.

Here's how: It's the same reason people race around one another and flip each other off when driving, the same reason people say things through a keyboard and a screen that they wouldn't have the audacity to speak aloud.

There is no person-to-person relationship. This man thinks he's suing the insurance industry. He is using a law firm as the bad guys. I have no doubt that if we sat at a table across from one another he would be unable to lie about his injuries. He would see the stress it has caused me and my family and think twice on whether the check — much of which he will not see — is worth it.

I acknowledge that suffering an injury during an accident is a real and terrible scenario. People whose lives are dramatically altered undoubtedly deserve compensation.

But injury law firms are polluting the industry, watering down words that should pack a punch, using dramatized language when there is clear evidence that plaintiffs have resumed their normal lives. It's an insult to those who have actually sustained harm or lifelong disabilities, and it's a scare tactic that works less on insurance companies and more on the individuals at fault.

Furthermore, there is a clear, incentivized arrangement between doctors, medical imaging centers, chiropractors and injury lawyers. Lawyers refer the accident victims to doctors under their payroll and the doctors use

expensive imaging and ambiguous soft tissue damages to rack up bills.

This leads to higher insurance premiums for all of us. In fact, due to litigation, as well as increased traffic and higher repair costs, California has one of the highest car insurance rates in the nation.

Thanks to social media, I was able to see that the man who somehow accrued what he deems is \$300,000-worth of damages has been riding a motorcycle with one hand as he films himself for an Instagram story with the other, all while billing for chiropractic adjustments. The lawyer whose name is on the letterhead of his demand letter is also on his list of friends.

Do I let it go? Life is, after all, unfair. The dishonest seem to win all the time.

Luckily, the landscape here in California may be changing. An Uber-backed ballot measure addressing the referral agreements between injury law firms and doctors is up for a vote in the 2026 elections.

It would prevent a treating physician from having a prior relationship or financial agreement with a plaintiff's attorney, hopefully decreasing the amount of fraudulent claims. It also would cap the lawyer's percentage to 25%; currently they take about a third of the payout.

There are, however, some issues with the bill, including caps on financial damages, which could harm those who actually are seriously injured in an accident.

The bill addresses a core issue, however: the outlandish medical billing agreements with billboard law firms leading to costly insurance premiums. Regardless of whether the ballot measure passes, we are all in need of some reflection on the way we treat one another. We are neighbors, fellow citizens and fallible humans trying to get it right in a world where things can feel so wrong.

Tracy Mulholland is a teacher who lives in Southern California.



## Weather

**Monday:** Sunny, with a high near 77.

**Monday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 59.

**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 71.

**Tuesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 58.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)High/Low
2026/05/11	Mon	12:02 AM	2.19 L
2026/05/11	Mon	05:24 AM	3.77 H
2026/05/11	Mon	12:01 PM	0.52 L
2026/05/11	Mon	6:42 PM	4.45 H
2026/05/12	Tue	12:52 AM	1.43 L
2026/05/12	Tue	06:31 AM	3.81 H
2026/05/12	Tue	12:36 PM	0.66 L
2026/05/12	Tue	7:07 PM	5.00 H
2026/05/13	Wed	01:37 AM	0.60 L
2026/05/13	Wed	07:32 AM	3.87 H
2026/05/13	Wed	1:10 PM	0.85 L
2026/05/13	Wed	7:35 PM	5.58 H
2026/05/14	Thu	02:20 AM	-0.21 L
2026/05/14	Thu	08:27 AM	3.91 H
2026/05/14	Thu	1:45 PM	1.08 L
2026/05/14	Thu	8:07 PM	6.12 H
2026/05/15	Fri	03:05 AM	-0.92 L
2026/05/15	Fri	09:20 AM	3.90 H
2026/05/15	Fri	2:22 PM	1.34 L
2026/05/15	Fri	8:42 PM	6.54 H
2026/05/16	Sat	03:51 AM	-1.43 L
2026/05/16	Sat	10:13 AM	3.82 H
2026/05/16	Sat	3:00 PM	1.60 L
2026/05/16	Sat	9:21 PM	6.79 H
2026/05/17	Sun	04:39 AM	-1.71 L
2026/05/17	Sun	11:09 AM	3.68 H
2026/05/17	Sun	3:41 PM	1.86 L
2026/05/17	Sun	10:04 PM	6.83 H
2026/05/18	Mon	05:31 AM	-1.74 L
2026/05/18	Mon	12:09 PM	3.54 H
2026/05/18	Mon	4:27 PM	2.11 L
2026/05/18	Mon	10:51 PM	6.62 H
2026/05/19	Tue	06:25 AM	-1.56 L
2026/05/19	Tue	1:15 PM	3.46 H
2026/05/19	Tue	5:21 PM	2.35 L
2026/05/19	Tue	11:43 PM	6.21 H
2026/05/20	Wed	07:23 AM	-1.23 L
2026/05/20	Wed	2:24 PM	3.49 H
2026/05/20	Wed	6:27 PM	2.58 L

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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## 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: 5/6  
18 27 51 65 68  
Power#: 5  
Jackpot: 47 M

**Fantasy5**  
Draw Date: 5/7  
3 8 12 26 29

**MEGA MILLIONS**  
Draw Date: 5/5  
12 22 50 51 55  
Mega#: 10  
Jackpot: 215 M

**Daily 3**  
Draw Date: 5/7  
EVENING: 1 2 3  
Draw Date: 5/7  
MIDDAY: 0 7 1

**SuperLotto PLUS**  
Draw Date: 5/6  
1 3 10 25 46  
Mega#: 11  
Jackpot: 18 M

**Daily Derby**  
Draw Date: 5/7  
1st: 06 - Whirl Win  
2nd: 11 - Money Bags  
3rd: 04 - Big Ben  
Race Time: 1:41.34



CITY OF SANTA MONICA  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

**The Beach and Pier Needs Assessment Project**  
Project No. SP2795

The City of Santa Monica is inviting proposals from firms interested in providing professional services for the Beach and Pier Needs Assessment.

The purpose of the RFP is to select the most qualified consultant to provide a comprehensive analysis of community participation in current events, recreation and arts programs, formal and informal classes and camps, and informal general beach and pier recreation offered at the beach and pier and identify near-term and long-term prioritization of capital and program improvements based on community interest. The results of the needs assessment will be used to 1) inform The Beach and Pier Vision Plan guiding principles and 2) prioritize actionable goals and implementation strategies to meet community needs at the beach and pier.

RFP questions to be submitted to via **OpenGov**, no later than **5 p.m. on May 20, 2026**.

Proposers shall upload RFP via **OpenGov**, no later than **3 p.m. on May 28, 2026**.

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

## After the Los Angeles wildfires, clergy crossed denominational lines and forged new bonds

Rabbi Amy Bernstein says the wind-whipped fire in January 2025 that scorched much of the Pacific Palisades, destroying her home and damaging her synagogue, “blew everything open” for the community’s faith leaders.

“If our hearts must break, let them break open,” said the rabbi, who leads Kehillat Israel where 300 families out of 900 lost their homes. “This tragedy has really pushed us closer to one another. We’re working to change the things we need changed.”

Faith leaders both in the Pacific Palisades and in Altadena and Pasadena — devastated by the pair of fires that tore across Southern California — have relied on interfaith and community partnerships to rally congregants who are picking up the pieces 16 months later.

“

It’s a sense of mutual affection and respect, learning from each other and leaning on one another

- Grace Park, Rev.

”

They’ve had to learn on the fly about insurance coverage and local land use regulations while still trying to keep their scattered flock together and raising money for basic needs. Pastors in Altadena have had to fight to protect the rights of Black people who decades ago found pathways to home ownership in that community despite redlining — but now risk losing their land to outside developers who sense an investment opportunity.

And throughout this span, faith leaders have had to cater to the emotional and spiritual needs of their communities and think about how they want to rebuild their sanctuaries that were lost or damaged in the fire. More than a dozen houses of worship burned to the ground or were damaged.

### INTERFAITH RELATIONSHIPS HAVE BECOME STRONGER AFTER THE FIRES

This would have been difficult for faith leaders to handle but for the interfaith relationships that became closer and

stronger after the fires, said the Rev. Grace Park, associate pastor at Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church, which burned down.

Methodists, Presbyterians, Catholics, Jews and yogis have not just found common ground in human suffering and loss, but have learned how to lean on one another in a time of dire need, she said.

“It’s a sense of mutual affection and respect, learning from each other and leaning on one another,” Park said. “We’re sharing the joys and the deep valleys of what it means to lead through a time of tragedy.”

Brother Satyananda, a senior monk at the Self Realization Fellowship, lost his living quarters and belongings in the fire. Much of the campus, started by Paramahansa Yogananda who brought ancient spiritual practices from India to the West, fortunately survived the fire.

Satyananda recalls one day when Bernstein picked up on his sadness and offered him “motherly compassion.”

“We share the same profession where we’re tuned to people in need,” he said. “Now, our relationship has changed because we’re tuning into each other. There’s a greater level of trust.”

Pastor BJ King, who leads LoveLand LifeCenter, worked with the late Rev. Cecil B. Murray to heal communities and build interfaith coalitions after the 1992 Los Angeles riots.

“Back then, there was a choice whether or not to get involved,” he said. “But with these fires, there is no choice. It has affected everybody.”

### PASTORS HAVE HAD TO ACQUIRE NEW SKILLS

King’s congregation has switched to online services after their leased church building in Altadena suffered smoke damage. Twelve families lost their homes. In addition to helping meet people’s basic needs, King has created a program organizing gatherings to connect therapists with those in need of mental health.

“Many people didn’t even know they needed that,” he said.

One of the most powerful roles faith leaders have played after the fire is to “continue to talk with power, people in charge,” said Pastor Jonathan DeCuir, who leads Victory Bible Church in Pasadena. He and others in the region have continued to meet with local officials and even conferred with Gov. Gavin Newsom to keep things moving for their communities.

DeCuir chairs the board of a nonprofit called Legacy Land Project, which provides financial aid, legal support and guidance on building contractors, as well as medical care to those affected by the fires.

The disaster has brought a level of camaraderie that DeCuir says he has never seen among the region’s clergy.

“Denominational lines have been crossed,” he said. “Even if we have different theological stances or approaches to ministry, we are all now looking at how to care for our people and community. If we don’t come together,

SEE CLERGY PAGE 8

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Los Angeles

#### JPMorganChase Becomes Founding Partner of LA28 Olympic and Paralympic Games

JPMorganChase announced that it has become the Official Bank of Team USA and the LA28 Olympic and Paralympic Games, as well as a Founding Partner of the LA28 Games, marking a partnership the firm says will support athletes and create economic impact in Los Angeles and across the United States.

The announcement coincides with America's 250th anniversary. In addition to its Founding Partner role in the Retail Banking category, JPMorganChase is joining as a Worldwide Olympic Partner and will become the first Global Banking Partner in Olympic history.

"Team USA represents the very best of our country: resilience, excellence and the belief that sport can unite and inspire communities across the nation," said Sarah Hirshland, CEO of the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee. She said partnerships like this strengthen the foundation that allows athletes to pursue greatness while advancing the broader Olympic and Paralympic Movement.

Jennifer Roberts, CEO of Chase Consumer Banking at JPMorganChase, said the partnership continues the firm's centuries-long history of investing in American people, businesses and communities. "Our unmatched scale, resources and expertise will help ensure the benefits of the LA28 Games extend far beyond the Closing Ceremony, for generations to come," Roberts said.

LA28 CEO Reynold Hoover said the Games are about championing athletes, expanding opportunity and leaving a lasting legacy. "Together, we're building an LA28 Games that rise to the scale of Los Angeles and redefine what the Olympic and Paralympic Movement can achieve," Hoover said.

JPMorganChase has been investing in America for 227 years. The firm serves more than 86 million consumers and 7.4 million small businesses through more than 5,000 branches in 48 states and the District of Columbia. In greater Los Angeles, it serves more than 5 million customers and 589,000 small business clients through more than 330 branches and 6,000 employees, with investments in affordable housing, wildfire recovery and the entertainment industry.

The firm plans to host financial health workshops at branches and other locations to help athletes plan their financial futures beyond the Games.

JPMorganChase will also partner with NBCUniversal to support multi-platform coverage of the LA28 Games. Mark Marshall, chairman of Global Advertising & Partnerships at NBCUniversal, said the collaboration will deliver storytelling that elevates the Games and inspires viewers.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

### Montana Ave

#### Montana Avenue Wellness Walk and Sidewalk Sale returns May 16

Montana Avenue will host its annual Wellness Walk and Sidewalk Sale on Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., stretching along the avenue from 6th Street to 17th Street in Santa Monica.

The free, open-to-the-public event blends fitness activations, wellness experiences, creative workshops, and sidewalk sale promotions from local retailers. Visitors are encouraged to stroll the avenue at their own pace.

Fitness and movement offerings will include pop-ups from Good Body Pilates, Stretch Lab, FITstop, DMN8, Mighty Pilates, Andrea White Pilates, pickleball clinics, and sound baths. Wellness and beauty experiences will feature facials, cryotherapy, and red light therapy from Restore Hyper-Wellness. Paint:LAB will offer creative workshops, while Kik'N Juice and Kreation Organic will provide healthy refreshments.

Participating retailers offering exclusive one-day promotions include Estell Boutique, Laya, Brentwood General, and Margaret O'Leary, among others.

"The Wellness Walk is about more than just a day on the avenue — it's about bringing people together in a meaningful, energizing way," said Michelle Kelly, chair of the Montana Avenue Merchants Association. "It's a day where the community can shop and connect, truly a celebration of everything that makes this neighborhood so special."

Unlike traditional street festivals, Montana Avenue will remain open to traffic during the event.

Admission is free and no RSVP is required for general attendance. To register for specific classes and activities, visit Eventbrite. For more information, visit [www.montanaave.com](http://www.montanaave.com) or the Montana Avenue Wellness Walk event page.

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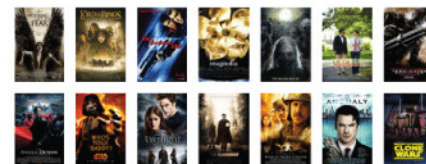
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**Team USA** represents the very best of our country: resilience, excellence and the belief that sport can unite and inspire communities across the nation - Sarah Hirshland, CEO of the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee

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<sup>1</sup> "Medicare & You," Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2020  
Includes the Participating (in GA: Designated) Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Product not available in all states. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, LA, NY; call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for similar offer. Certificate C250A (ID: C250E; PA: C250Q); Insurance Policy P150 (GA: P150GA; NY: P150NY; OK: P150OK; TN: P150TN); Rider kinds B438/B439 (GA: B439B).  
6255

## BIKE

FROM PAGE 1

in May 2024 flagged nearly 1,700 violations in just six weeks across two enforcement vehicles, underscoring what officials described as the scale and urgency of the problem. Vehicles stopped in bike lanes force cyclists into active traffic lanes, increasing the risk of collisions.

The program is funded by Measure K, the parking facility tax approved by Santa Monica voters in 2024 to support local public safety initiatives. Payment plans are available for low-income residents who receive citations.

The bike lane enforcement program follows Santa Monica's Automated Bus Lane and Bus Stop Enforcement program, which launched in September 2025 using the same Hayden AI platform. That program, known as ABLE, deploys forward-facing cameras on Big Blue Bus vehicles to detect parking violations obstructing bus lanes and stops.

ABLE has shown measurable results. Bus lane parking violations dropped 67% between July 2025 and March 2026, while bus stop violations fell 40% over the same period. At the location with the highest concentration of bus lane violations, infractions fell 73%. At the

worst-performing bus stop location, violations declined 49%.

Hayden AI CEO Marty Beard said keeping bike lanes clear benefits not only cyclists but also people with disabilities who use powerchairs and motorized scooters.

"It also encourages more people to ride bikes — getting cars off the road as a result," Beard said.

The launch coincides with two active infrastructure projects aimed at improving cycling conditions in the city. The city is upgrading the Broadway bike lane with concrete protection between 5th and 26th streets and constructing a new protected one-way bike lane on westbound Colorado Avenue between 17th and 5th streets.

Registered vehicle owners who receive warning notices during the two-month grace period will be notified by mail. Beginning July 1, violations will carry the \$93 fine.

Hayden AI, founded in 2019 and headquartered in San Francisco, describes itself as the largest provider of mobile automated bus zone and bike lane enforcement systems in the United States.

[editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@smdp.com)

## FLIGHT SCHOOL

FROM PAGE 1

of Proteus Air Services, Inc. She attributed the school's endurance to "our unwavering focus on quality instruction and prioritization of safety."

Roughly half of the school's students transferred from other flight schools to complete their training at Proteus, Naveed said, and former students from the 1990s now enroll their own children at the school.

Proteus operates a fleet of Piper Cherokee aircraft and an FAA-approved Redbird TD2 simulator. While the school has changed ownership twice, founding members remain involved to preserve institutional knowledge, Naveed said. The school employs career instructors rather than pilots simply building flight hours toward airline jobs, she added, though instructors who do move on to commercial carriers often return to fly with former students.

The school's future, however, is clouded by the planned closure of Santa Monica Airport at the end of 2028. Naveed said the shutdown threatens to end a century of aviation education at the field and would make it difficult to retain the school's experienced staff if operations relocated.

"Proteus has always existed in the context of the history of aviation in Santa Monica," Naveed said. "It is not easy or possible to replicate such an environment in other places."

Naveed pointed to a series of city actions she said have already eroded operations at the airport. The runway was shortened by 1,500 feet in 2017, greatly reducing jet traffic. The city has also reduced the number of available tie-downs, or aircraft parking spots, and imposed what Naveed called "outrageous landing fees" administered by a private company called Vector. Funds, she said, have been directed toward repaving projects rather than improving the quality of flying at the airport.

Despite a public narrative suggesting

widespread opposition to the airport, Naveed cited a January 2026 poll indicating that 67% of Santa Monica residents want the airport to remain open.

She said the school adheres strictly to noise-abatement procedures, including curfew hours and designated flight routes designed to minimize disruption to surrounding neighborhoods. The airport, she added, plays a role in emergency preparedness, serving as a potential alternative if Los Angeles International Airport were forced to close, or during fires and earthquakes.

The airport currently houses four flight schools, maintenance facilities, offices and flying clubs. It also hosts community programming, including weekly chess classes for homeschooled students held at Proteus and STEM classes at other schools on the field. Nearby amenities include soccer fields, Cloverfield Park, the Cloverfield restaurant, the Airport Art Center Studios and the Santa Monica Trapeze School, which is relocating across the street from Proteus.

Naveed questioned whether the city has the budget to convert the land into a park, noting that the site has been contaminated by fuel and chemicals over a century of operations. She also pointed out that existing parks in Santa Monica go underused and that the airport's presence caps nearby building heights, preserving the low-rise character of surrounding neighborhoods.

"We hope the community can understand the true motivations behind shutting down the airport have more to do with real estate developers' concerns than the actual community," Naveed said.

Revenue from leases on hangars, offices and studios at the airport would be lost if the field is converted, she said.

"We need pilots for the airlines, cargo, firefighting, military operations," Naveed said, "and we need good quality instruction for that."

[maaz@smdp.com](mailto:maaz@smdp.com)

## LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Santa Monica Daily Press

[editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@smdp.com)



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**JOBS**

FROM PAGE 2

added 456,000 jobs over the past year; other employers have combined to cut 205,000 over the 12 months that ended in April.

Still, Heather Long, chief economist at Navy Federal Credit Union, noted that last month's job gains extended beyond healthcare. Retailers, for example, added 22,000 jobs and construction companies 9,000. "America's hiring recession appears to be over," she wrote. "Average job gains in 2025 were an anemic 10,000 a month. So far in 2026, the average is 76,000."

Simbe Robotics Inc., which deploys five-foot tall robots that scan shelves for out-of-stock items in more than 1,000 stores worldwide, is eager to hire. Co-founder Brad Bogolea started the company with a handful of workers and now has 100, many of them software and artificial intelligence engineers. Simbe has its pick of candidates. Applications more than doubled over the past year, partly because of layoffs elsewhere in the technology industry. Applications for robotics software engineer jobs are up 127% over that time period, Bogolea said.

**CLERGY**

FROM PAGE 4

Altadena will never ever be the same. The people won't be there anymore. That, to me, is terrifying."

While a church is more than a building, physical churches do appear as "beacons of hope" in traumatized communities, said Pastor Mayra Macedo-Nolan, executive director of Clergy Community Coalition in Pasadena. Her group has lobbied for houses of worship to be prioritized on the same footing as businesses in the rebuilding plan.

"When people start seeing churches rebuilding in Altadena, they're going to feel like it's going to be OK because the churches are coming back," she said.

Reimagining a purposeful future

On April 26, the Altadena Fountain of Life Church broke ground to build a new sanctuary after their house of worship, which had stood for over three decades, was destroyed in the fire. Pastor Jonathan Lewis, who ministers to about 75, hopes the church will be ready in time for Easter next year.

"It'll be a Resurrection Sunday for our church, too," he said.

Alexis Duncan, who grew up in Altadena attending that church, came to the groundbreaking with her 6-year-old daughter. She lost both her home and her church building.

"It means everything to me that they're rebuilding because I want the church to be there for my daughter as she grows up," she said. "This new beginning gives me and my family hope and the encouragement to come back."

Some churches like Altadena Community Church, a United Church of Christ congregation, are pausing to rethink their

The jobs data will likely keep the Fed on the sidelines, as it holds its key rate unchanged while evaluating the economic impact of the Iran war. Fed officials are increasingly focused on inflation, which has risen quickly since the war, driven higher by spikes in gasoline prices.

Inflation jumped to 3.3% in March, a two-year high and far above the Fed's target. The Fed typically keeps its rate unchanged - or even raises it - to combat inflation, while it cuts rates to spur more growth and hiring. Early this year many Fed policymakers were worried the job market was stalling and leaned toward rate cuts. But in more recent months hiring has stabilized, undermining the case for cuts.

Friday's jobs report, PNC's Faucher said, "actually makes it less likely that we see a rate cut anytime soon because the Fed can say, 'The job market is solid. Let's get inflation back down to 2%. This is not the time to cut rates.'"

By PAUL WISEMAN AP Economics Writer. AP Retail Writer Anne D'Innocenzo in New York and AP Economics Writer Christopher Rugaber in Washington contributed to this story.

future purpose. The Rev. Michael Lewis, who took over in February after the previous pastor retired, said the congregation is looking into several possibilities for the one-acre lot, including affordable housing.

"We know that a church is not intended to be a landlord and the pastor is no property manager," he said. "But, we're also thinking about who is able to return to Altadena? How will this rich, economically diverse community that was scattered by the fire come back?"

The church has been around since the 1940s. A haven for actors, poets and musicians, the former sanctuary also served as a vibrant performance space. Lewis said they hope to incorporate a performance stage into the new facility.

"It'll look different from what we had before," he said. "Once we figure out how to build community, we can decide what physical structures will help us support that community."

As for Kehillat Israel, on May 15, members will carry their Torah scrolls back to their sanctuary, marking one of the first returns by a house of worship to the Palisades since the disaster.

Judaism has had "a long history of starting over," Bernstein said.

"It's encoded in our cultural approach to the world, that there are things that can always be taken away from you," she said. "But what you become can never get taken away."

By DEEPA BHARATH Associated Press. Associated Press religion coverage receives support through the AP's collaboration with The Conversation US, with funding from Lilly Endowment Inc. The AP is solely responsible for this content.

**COUNCIL**

FROM PAGE 1

Act funds toward park improvements, small business assistance and housing aid for the city's most vulnerable residents.

The council voted 7-0 to adopt the proposed 2026-27 Annual Action Plan, which allocates a combined total of federal CDBG and HOME funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The plan must be submitted to HUD by June 1.

The funding is divided between two federal programs. The city received a CDBG allocation of \$1.12 million for the 2026 program year — a modest increase of one-half percent over last year's award — along with \$110,000 in prior-year funds and \$40,000 in projected program income, bringing total CDBG resources to just under \$1.28 million. On the HOME side, the city received \$486,060, a decrease of 3.3 percent from the previous year, which when combined with projected program income yields total HOME resources of \$526,060.

The largest single expenditure under the plan is \$500,000 in CDBG funds for Phase III of the Virginia Avenue Park Playground Replacement project, which will update aging playground equipment, install an accessible surface and add shade covering to benefit children of all ages and abilities. An additional \$318,762 is earmarked for park improvements at other CDBG-eligible sites in the Pico Neighborhood, with funds designated for replacing the Gandara Park basketball court and possibly adding a small dog park at either Gandara or Virginia Avenue Park.

Other allocations include \$170,000 for CLARE|MATRIX to operate outreach and substance abuse treatment services for people experiencing or recently exiting homelessness, \$50,000 for the city's Small Business Assistance and Tenant Improvement Program, and \$400,545 in HOME-funded tenant-based rental assistance for low-income households at risk of losing their housing.

Before moving to approve the plan, council members raised pointed questions about the stability of the federal funding amid ongoing uncertainty in Washington.

Council member Ellis Raskin asked staff whether the grants had been vetted for potentially problematic conditions — a concern that has shadowed other federal funding approvals before the council this year. "This is really, really important money," Raskin said, asking whether the city had ensured "there are no conditions that could potentially be problematic."

Acting CDBG and HOME Coordinator Marc Amaral told the council that when the city executed its grant agreements last year, staff worked closely with the city attorney's

office to explicitly flag and redline any terms and conditions the city would not comply with. The city informed its local HUD field office that acceptance of the funds was contingent on those requirements not applying, Amaral said, adding that a court injunction supporting the city's position remains in place and that staff intends to follow the same approach for the upcoming grant agreements.

Council member Caroline Torosis noted that earlier this year the Trump administration had proposed eliminating CDBG funding entirely before an agreement was reached to maintain level funding. She pressed Amaral on whether the city had contingency plans should future allocations be cut.

Amaral said he was confident the current allocation would come through, telling the council that "for this particular allocation, this is coming" and that the funding is approved as part of the federal budget. He expressed more concern about the HOME-funded rental assistance, however, noting that it has already declined 20 percent over the past three years and that the \$400,000 currently keeping 40 households stably housed remains vulnerable. The city's housing team, he said, is actively working to transition those residents to more stable housing voucher programs as a hedge against further cuts.

Torosis called on the city to ensure CDBG dollars continue to flow to the Pico Neighborhood and urged the city's management and federal lobbyists to protect the funding. "I think CDBG is an opportunity to plug into our economic development priorities," she said, stressing the importance of "economic opportunity, particularly for people in our highest opportunity areas, which is the Pico Neighborhood."

Council member Natalya Zernitskaya asked whether the Virginia Avenue Park playground redesign would include accessible seating options for people with disabilities and those who are breastfeeding. Amaral said those design details would be determined through a future community engagement process when the Public Works team returns to council with a design-build contract recommendation.

Public comment came from Harvey Eder, founder of the Public Solar Power Coalition, who urged the council to prioritize homeownership opportunities for low- and middle-income residents and argued that the city's current approach to affordable housing falls short of state law requirements.

The plan was approved without dissent. Staff will prepare the final document for submission to HUD ahead of the June 1 deadline.

maaz@smdp.com



**SAVE THE KITTENS**



#SAVETHEKITTENS

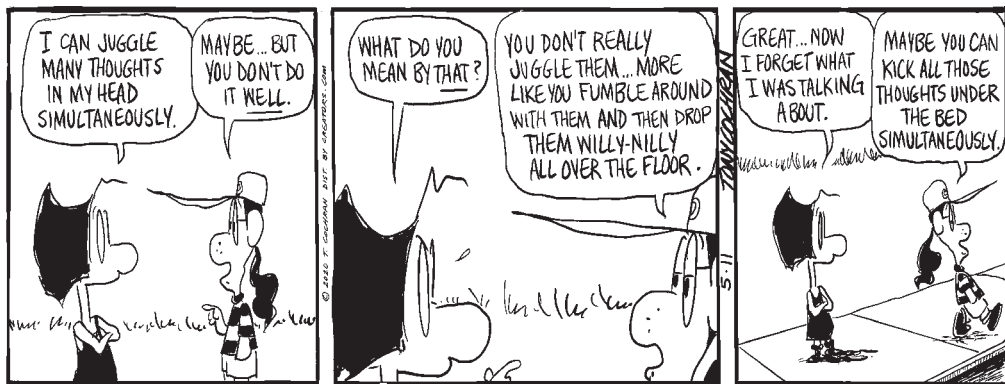
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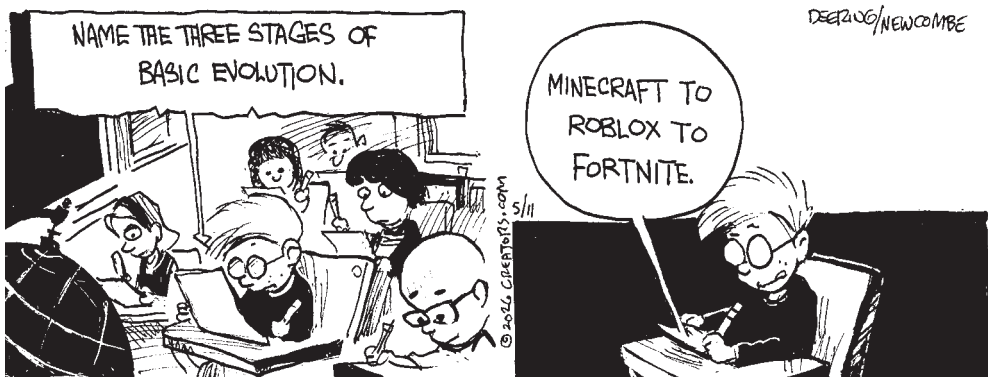
### Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



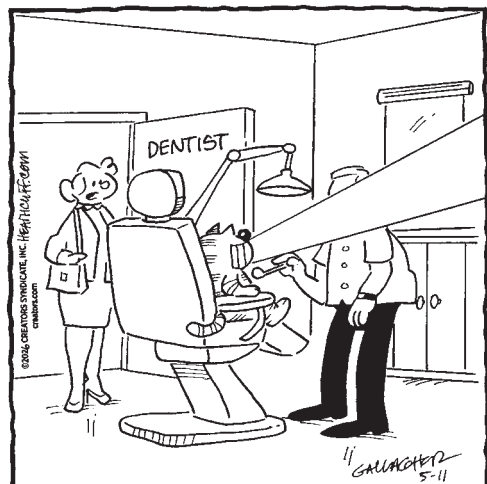
### Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



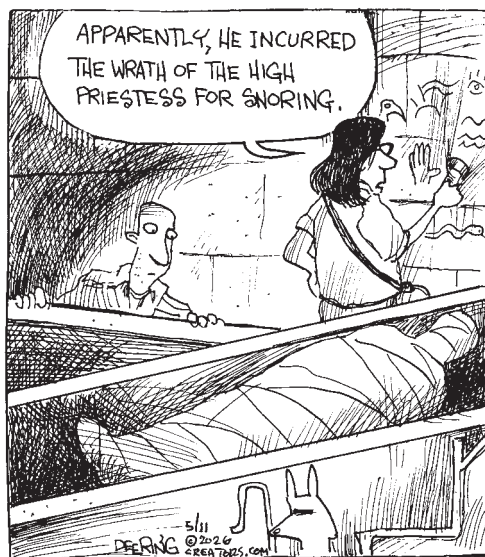
### Heathcliff

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 24 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6937

## Transport logistics

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

- |           |               |            |             |
|-----------|---------------|------------|-------------|
| Axle      | Ford          | Mt Isa     | Speed       |
| Bend      | Fuel          | North      | Stock       |
| Bunk      | Gates         | Pies       | Taxes       |
| Cabin     | Goods         | Police     | Triple      |
| Cows      | Heat          | Race       | Volvo       |
| Damage    | Horses        | Rest areas | Weary       |
| Depot     | Hubs          | Rims       | Weighbridge |
| Dips      | Idle          | Roos       | Wheels      |
| Dirt      | International | Secured    | White       |
| Dogs      | Load          | Semi       |             |
| Dolly     | Loner         | Sleep      |             |
| Exhausted | Mack          | South      |             |

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**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 11)**

Welcome to your Year of Magnificent Magnetism, when opportunities find you and adhere - with no effort from you. The kind of relationships you used to put so much work into is now more like an experience that opens inside your life, or a ride you're on. Your projects attract support and funding. More highlights: Travel leads to interesting collaboration. A bold idea turns into a profitable venture. Taurus and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 14, 28, 33 and 41.

**HOROSCOPES**

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You can't do it all at once, but you can juggle. You'll handle business and lob the personal into the air. You'll handle the personal and bounce the business up. Anything that gets dropped will be picked up in the next round.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). It's nice when ideas come to you fully baked, but a half-baked one will be delicious, and a no-bake one will have its sweet charms, too. The important part is that you act on your ideas because today you're brilliant.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Wins inform, losses inform, and neither defines you. Detach identity from outcome. You are the operator, not the scoreboard. This separation protects momentum. The work will continue with the same intensity regardless of recent results.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Your life is unfolding to produce a new and intentional version of you. You'll have a positive effect on others. It's subtle but will become more evident as you go. You act, and they adjust. You move, and things change. Stay aware of your effect.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You would love to cruise along in life, unimpeded by worry or doubt. However, that would make you vulnerable to unnecessary mistakes. Looking out for what could go wrong is intelligent. The trick is in making a quick and actionable assessment, then moving along.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your need can be a gift to others. Someone else will provide what you're missing. Maybe at one point they were just like you. And now, being in a position to help is a source of pride and self-esteem.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Outcomes are not fully within your control today. You act with integrity and care, and the other person brings their own will. Focusing on your actions instead of more internal aspects will keep you anchored.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When life gets hectic or starts to trend in an unusual direction, it can be easy to forget the essentials. Let existential angst be a cue to circle back to the checklist: Did you get enough sleep, nutrition, fresh air and exercise?

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Turn comparison into calibration. When others succeed, you study. You try to see what they do differently, what they prioritize and how they recover from mistakes. Use their results as a measuring tool.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The goal today is to bring people together. It's easier when you remember that connection doesn't mean agreement. Two people can see things differently and still bond in a meaningful and lasting way.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Standing up for your circle shows heart. It takes a bigger heart to care for people everywhere and live like their well-being is tied to yours. It is. Your strong sense of personal responsibility shows up today, and you'll act in service of humanity.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Being understood requires the right audience. This isn't about proving your depth to those who don't engage with it. It's about reserving that richness for connections that have the capacity to meet you where you are.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

**Newsday Crossword**

WITH POCKETS by Guilherme Gilioli  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

**ACROSS**

- 1 Number in a spreadsheet
- 5 Firecracker sound
- 9 Garden implement for digging
- 14 Shoestring
- 15 General region
- 16 Shy with people
- 17 Martial \_\_\_ (karate, judo, etc.)
- 18 Hammer target
- 19 Make amends (for)
- 20 Billiards surface
- 22 Occupied, as a seat
- 23 Transportation on a track
- 24 Movie ticket remnant
- 26 Book leaf
- 29 Ventilate, as a lawn
- 33 Road test turns
- 37 End a plane flight
- 39 Give off, as light
- 40 Black-and-white cookie
- 41 Epic stories
- 42 Feels unwell
- 43 Grain storage tower
- 44 Poetic tributes
- 45 In a weird way
- 46 Vendor
- 48 Surprise attack
- 50 Hill-building insects
- 52 Become inedible
- 56 Adjust to change
- 59 Photographer's carryall
- 63 Any music category

**DOWN**

- 1 High-five sound
- 2 Fortune-teller's \_\_\_ cards
- 3 Performer in a movie
- 4 Electric car brand
- 5 Yellow-peel fruit
- 6 Typical Saudi
- 7 Astronaut Armstrong
- 8 Strong winds
- 9 Sculpture in a park
- 10 Greek sandwich holder
- 11 Run \_\_\_ (go wild)
- 12 Have a fine meal
- 13 Garden in Genesis
- 21 Waiter's rewards
- 25 Very small amounts
- 27 Very pleased
- 28 Raring to go
- 30 At the center of
- 31 Money drawer
- 32 Handicrafts website
- 33 Sports team's defeat
- 34 A Great Lake
- 35 Took a tumble
- 36 Workwear holding

**ACROSS**

- 8 Strong winds
- 9 Sculpture in a park
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- 25 Very small amounts
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- 28 Raring to go
- 30 At the center of
- 31 Money drawer
- 32 Handicrafts website
- 33 Sports team's defeat
- 34 A Great Lake
- 35 Took a tumble
- 36 Workwear holding

- wrenches and screwdrivers
- 38 Astronauts' agency
- 41 Arrange in some order
- 45 Strong scent
- 47 Walks inside
- 49 "That makes sense"
- 51 Loads (of)
- 53 Relay-race stick
- 54 Higher than
- 55 Palm tree fruits
- 56 FBI workers: Abbr.
- 57 Profound
- 58 Karenina of fiction
- 60 Adam's second son
- 61 *Venus de* \_\_\_
- 62 Well-mannered man

**Sudoku**

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

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43					44					45				
46				47			48		49					
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63						64					65			
66						67					68			
69						70					71			

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## MONDAY | MAY 11

### COSMIC MATCHA AT BOULEVARD

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/18697697/2026-05-11T06>

### WEEKLY PALISADIANS GATHERING IN SANTA MONICA

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Bardonna 1601 Montana Ave Santa Monica. Displaced Palisadians are welcome to join for connection and discussion. No formal agenda. No RSVP necessary. Organized by Stephanie Kana of Oasis Palisades. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/weekly-palisadians-gathering-in-santa-monica/18461166/2026-05-11T08>

### COMMUNAL GARDENING @ ISHIHARA PARK

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Ishihara Park 2909 Exposition Blvd Santa Monica. Communal Garden Program Work Days @ Ishihara Park Learning Garden - Mondays and Wednesdays | 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | Free. Come get your hands dirty in the Communal Garden Program at Ishihara Park Learning Garden, a communal spot to learn and acquire gardening skills. Seasoned as well as new gardeners of all ages are welcome. Free drop in activity, no reservation needed. Visit the Ishihara Park Learning Garden site for More Information. Subject to cancellation due to weather. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/communal-gardening-ishihara-park/18461167/2026-05-11T09>

### VENICE FAMILY CLINIC ART EXHIBITION + AUCTION

11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Venice Family Clinic Art Exhibition + Auction Gallery 910 Abbot Kinney Blvd Venice. This year's exhibition celebrates the depth and diversity of Los Angeles' creative community across generations. From influential pioneers to bold emerging voices, we honor the past, spotlight the present, and champion the future, all in support of the Clinic's mission. We are proud to feature a compelling selection of established, mid-career, and emerging artists, including Helen Pashgian, Ed Ruscha, Laddie John Dill, Ed Moses, Frances Stark, Max Hooper Schneider, Sula Bermúdez-Silverman, Nancy Evans and many others. The full artist list will be announced in mid-April. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/venice-family-clinic-art-exhibition-auction/18616281/2026-05-11T11>

### PIZZA PARTY AT BODEGA WINE BAR

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. 814 Broadway Santa Monica. Every Monday Night at Bodega, every bottle of wine you purchase gets you a pizza half off! 6pm-Close. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/pizza-party-at-bodega-wine-bar/11526040/2026-05-11T18>

### THE GORDONS IMPROV RESIDENCY

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Westside Comedy Theater 1323-A 3rd St Santa Monica. Welcome to The Gordons Improv Show at Westside Comedy Theater! IMPROV RESIDENT TEAM NIGHT! Check out our current lineup of Resident Improv Teams! These teams perform Long-Form Improv all inspired by a suggestion from the audience. Think of it as a sitcom made up on the spot. Catch them before they are gone! These teams rotate every three months! Get ready for a night filled with laughter, spontaneity, and hilarious moments. Join us for an evening of unscripted comedy where every joke is made up on the spot. Our talented improv performers will have you in stitches as they create scenes, characters, and stories based on your suggestions. Don't miss out on this one-of-a-kind experience! Grab your friends and come on down to Westside Comedy Theater for a night you won't forget. \$10.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/the-gordons-improv-residency/14863274/2026-05-11T19>

## TUESDAY | MAY 12

### COFFEE CONNECTION

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Espresso Cielo Santa Monica. Coffee Connections Networking Event. \$10.00 to \$20.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/coffee-connection/18207369/2026-05-12T09>

### LADIES GOLF CLINIC

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Four Wood Golf Club 828 Pico Blvd, Suite 5 Santa Monica. Join us every Tuesday from 9:30–11:00 AM for a relaxed, social golf experience designed for women of all skill levels. Whether you're picking up a club for the first time or looking to build confidence in your game, Matchas & Mulligans is all about learning, connecting, and having fun in a welcoming, pressure-free environment. Led by our in-house golf pros, you'll learn new skills each session. Blend light instruction with a social atmosphere — the ladies' clinic is perfect for improving your skills while meeting like-minded golfers. \$60 per person per session. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/ladies-golf-clinic/18482158/2026-05-12T09>

### TEA TIME WITH TRANSFER

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Transfer Lounge SSC 230 Student Services Center, SMC Main Campus, 1900 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. Thinking about transfer? Join Tea Time with Transfer for a warm, welcoming space to get personalized guidance, explore resources, and ask questions — no matter where you are in your transfer journey. Let's make it a success, one cup of tea at a time. Food will be provided. (while supplies last) Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/tea-time-with-transfer/18689663/2026-05-12T10>

### MEMORIES & MOVEMENT SENIOR CLUB

10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Come, learn, and have fun every 2nd and 4th Tuesday from 10:30 AM to 1:00

PM in The Patio room at Virginia Avenue Park. Each week there will be something new: Exercise, Talking with Friends, Learning, Guest Presenters, Health & Wellness! For more information call (310) 458-8688

### AUTHOR TALK WITH DR. VIVIENNE MING

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Santa Monica College 1900 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. Award-Winning Theoretical Neuroscientist, Inventor, and “Demented” Author During the live event (and for 15 minutes after) viewers will be able to enter into a drawing for a free copy of Robot-Proof. Join us for a timely conversation on AI, humanity, and the next steps towards building a better future with self-proclaimed “mad scientist” Dr. Vivienne Ming as we discuss her new book, Robot-Proof: When Machines Have All the Answers, Build Better People. In Robot-Proof, Dr. Vivienne Ming helps readers grasp the ugly and the amazing of how individuals, companies, and societies will respond to the changes that are already taking hold due to the advent of AI. Robot-Proof is a book about people, exploring what it means to be human in an increasingly automated world. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/author-talk-with-dr-vivienne-ming/18437788/2026-05-12T11>

### TECH & TASKS

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Pico Branch Library 2201 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica. Volunteer tutors provide help with reading documents or written tasks, using mobile devices, navigating government websites, filling out forms, using email, writing resumes and more. Assistance provided on a drop-in. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/tech-tasks/16225799/2026-05-12T16>

### CITY COUNCIL MEETING

5:30 p.m. Santa Monica City Hall 1685 Main St. Santa Monica. The City Council is made up of seven members elected at-large for staggered four-year terms. Every two years, after each election, the City Council selects one of its members to serve as Mayor and another to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore. The City Council also sits as the following bodies for the City of Santa Monica. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/city-council-meeting/13799967/2026-05-12T17>

## WEDNESDAY | MAY 13

### CASTANEA SICILIAN CAFE - PETS N' COFFEE

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Castanea Cafe 1307 Ocean Front Walk Venice. Join us every 2nd Wednesday of the month from 9 AM – 12 PM at our Castanea Cafe Venice Beach store for a pet-friendly morning! Bring your furry friend and enjoy a complimentary coffee on us. A cozy community moment you won't want to miss. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/castanea-sicilian-cafe-pets-n-coffee/18526604/2026-05-13T09>

### ONE BOOK, ONE COAST: BOOK DISCUSSION

11:00 a.m. - Noon . Main Library, Multipurpose Room.

This Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, join us for a book discussion of George Takei's graphic memoir, They Called Us Enemy, with Director of Library Services Erica Cuyugan. The book, which focuses on Takei's childhood experience in Japanese American internment camps during World War II, was selected for One Book, One Coast, a collaborative West Coast initiative encouraging shared reading, community, and civil discourse.

### PREMIERE! WE MET AT GROSSINGER'S WITH ELON GOLD, MELISSA RIVERS & PRODUCERS

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Laemmle Monica Film Center 1332 2nd Street Santa Monica. LA Premiere of WE MET AT GROSSINGER'S + Q&A with comedian Elon Gold, Melissa Rivers (daughter of the iconic Joan Rivers) & Producers. \$21.05. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/premiere-we-met-at-grossinger-s-with-elon-gold-melissa-rivers-producers/18818764/2026-05-13T19>

### JAZZ A GO GO AT LOULOU SANTA MONICA

7:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. LouLou Santa Monica 395 Santa Monica Place 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 @jazzeclecticla Every Wednesday · From 7 PM till late. 📺 Watch the LouLou experience: <https://bit.ly/loulou-jazz-a-gogo>. Book Now: [bit.ly/booking-loulou](https://bit.ly/booking-loulou) 📍 LouLou Santa Monica JAZZ A GO GO Every Wednesday From 7 PM till late 395 Santa Monica Pl #300, Santa Monica, CA 90401(323) 410-2337info@loulousantamonica.comloulousantamonica.com Reserve your table now: [bit.ly/booking-loulou](https://bit.ly/booking-loulou). Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/jazz-a-go-go-at-loulou-santa-monica/18476815/2026-05-13T19>

### WINE WEDNESDAY AT THE WHALER

101 Broadway CA 90401 Contact Info (424) 330-0166 info@venicewhaler.com Does not apply on holidays Santa Monica. \$15 wine flights & half off bottles of wine all day every Wednesday! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/wine-wednesday-at-the-whaler/16952883/2026-05-13T00>

## THURSDAY | MAY 14

### BREAKFAST WORKSHOP

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Lo/Cal Coffee & Market 2214 Pico Boulevard Santa Monica. We have a new breakfast workshop coming up. Open to all in the LA area and beyond. \$7.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/breakfast-workshop/18818765/2026-05-14T10>



Santa Monica Education Foundation  
11th Annual  
WINE AUCTION SANTA MONICA

*Thank you!*

TO THE WINERIES,  
RESTAURANTS,  
CATERERS & PARTNERS  
THAT HELPED MAKE THE  
2026 EVENT A SUCCESS

RESTAURANT PARTNERS

- Beethoven Market
- Big Sur Grill
- Blue Plate Taco
- BOA
- Calabria
- Diner Antonette
- Good Gracious!
- Ida Bakes Studio
- Jyan Isaac
- Lunetta
- Milo & Olive
- Palma
- Rabano
- Sorry Not Sorry
- Sushi Roku
- Vucacious

WINE & SPIRIT PARTNERS

- Bushong Vintage
- Cervantes Family Vinyards
- Cimento
- DAOU
- Dassai Sake
- Delmas Wines
- Frank Family
- Hamel Wines
- Hourglass
- Kastral Elion Vodka
- Lasseter
- Linne Calodo
- Nicora
- ONX Wines
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