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In Governor vote

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Airport and a park



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From AB 1740

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Exposes universities

Volume 25 Issue 125

WEDNESDAY 5/13/26

smdp.com

The Iran war is hitting home as gasoline prices fuel inflation surge of 3.8% in the US

U.S. consumer prices climbed sharply again last month as the 10-week war with Iran delivered higher gasoline prices and more pain for Americans.

The Labor Department's consumer price index rose 3.8% from April 2025, the biggest jump in three years, and up from a 3.3% year-over-year gain in March. On a month-to-month basis, April prices rose 0.6% from March as gasoline prices rose

SEE INFLATION PAGE 7

US hotel operators say promised boon from hosting World Cup hasn't materialized yet

The promised economic boon from the World Cup hasn't matched expectations, at least not yet, for U.S. hotels.

Room bookings have been lighter than expected in most of the 11 U.S. cities hosting the world's most watched sporting event, according to an April survey by the American Hotel & Lodging Association.

In several cities, including Kansas

SEE WORLD CUP PAGE 7

Planning Commission rejects Boulevard Housing Plan but backs Downtown density



Courtesy Image

PROPOSAL: Santa Monica's Planning Commission feared proposed changes would undermine affordable housing production.

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica Planning Commission has rejected key portions of a city staff proposal

that would have lowered building heights along commercial boulevards in exchange for waiving affordable housing fees, with commissioners warning that the plan could undermine the city's

affordable housing program and accelerate the displacement of vulnerable residents.

After extensive debate, commissioners stripped all provisions related to the Boulevard

Low-Scale Housing Incentive from two Resolutions of Intention before voting 5-0 to adopt the amended measures, which will now focus

SEE PLANNING COMMISSION PAGE 11

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Panicked California Democrats are pushing a risky strategy: Wait 'til the last minute to vote

Some California Democrats have a plan to avoid disaster in the governor's race: Wait until the last minute to vote.

With no one candidate emerging as a clear favorite and an open primary where the top two advance regardless of party affiliation, panic has set in for some who plan to vote Democratic.

To avoid a dreaded scenario in which Democrats are locked out of the November general election, many Democrats coalesced around former Rep. Eric Swalwell, who ultimately flamed out after multiple women accused him of sexual assault.

That fear has morphed into wariness, leading some party activists and influencers to encourage people to hold off on voting early, watch the polls, then vote for the candidate with the most support just before Election Day.

In a "normal year," Katie Evans-Reber of San Francisco said she would probably back former U.S. Rep. Katie Porter even though the Democrat is not likely to advance to November given her current polling. But this year the stakes are higher, she said, and as a lesbian woman, any of the Democrats would be more aligned with her core values than a Republican.

She fears supporters of President Donald Trump who have soured on him could back Republican Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco, giving him enough of a boost to match the power of Trump's endorsement for Steve Hilton, the former Fox News host who is leading all other candidates in the polls. That would send both Republicans to the runoff.

"The thing that flipped for me was going from, 'I don't really know what to do,' to, 'I



DEBATE: From left, candidates Xavier Becerra, Katie Porter, Matt Mahan and Antonio Villaraigosa on stage for the gubernatorial debate on the campus of Pomona College in Claremont on April 28, 2026.

strategically am not making a decision," Evans-Reber said.

In pole position is Xavier Becerra, the former Health and Human Services secretary who surged from single digits to the top of the polls following Swalwell's downfall. As his popularity soared, so has the scrutiny of his record at HHS and as California's former attorney general.

Behind Becerra are progressive Democratic challengers Tom Steyer, a former businessman turned billionaire activist and Porter. San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan has also positioned himself as a tech-friendly moderate and ally of

Silicon Valley.

Evans-Reber and other impassioned Democrats have been urging others to follow the same "wait and see" strategy by sharing videos and posts on social media.

One post even falsely attributed the strategy to Heather Cox Richardson, a political historian and popular Democratic influencer who writes the substack "Letters from an American." That erroneous post was the first one Evans-Reber saw and forwarded. She later had to follow up with a disclaimer that Cox Richardson was not the author.

"It's not like, bad advice, but it's 100%

not coming from me," Cox Richardson told CalMatters in an interview.

Democratic political consultant Paul Mitchell disagrees.

"It's just a bad message," he said. "I think they should always have a message of, 'As soon as you get your ballot, fill it out, turn it in, mail it in and get it done.'"

Mitchell said although activists might talk about and push for a strategic voting plan, trying to organize a movement like that at scale would likely not produce significant results.

"I think people vote for whoever they were going to vote for anyway," said Mitchell, whose company tracks how many ballots are turned in each day statewide.

The push to vote late flies in the face of recent pleas from election officials and Gov. Gavin Newsom for voters to get their ballots in early in the hopes of speeding up California's notoriously slow vote-counting process. Attorney General Rob Bonta, a fellow Democrat, told reporters last week that the social media posts urging late voting could be misinformation, disinformation, and "potentially unlawful," and Secretary of State Shirley Weber said her office would "look into" those social posts.

"Time is of the essence in preventing election lies from taking hold," Newsom wrote in a recent letter addressed to all 58 county registrars urging them to "tabulate and release results quickly and accurately."

Turning in a mail-in ballot on Election Day, as some activists propose, is the worst possible

SEE GOVERNOR PAGE 5

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GUEST COMMENTARY

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We can have both the Airport and a park, and we can't afford not to

There is a great deal of misinformation circulating about the future of the Santa Monica Airport (SMO). Residents are being told the airport is closing and will simply become a park. That is not true.

The City does not have to close the airport. And residents have not been meaningfully presented with another viable option: keeping the airport while expanding park space. We can have both.

Before the City Council takes an irreversible step, residents deserve clear, honest answers especially about how any of this would actually be paid for.

Our neighbors already understand this. A recent survey of Santa Monica voters found that 67% support keeping part of the airport open. That majority holds across every neighborhood, age group, and income level including among those living closest to the airport. When two out of three voters support a balanced approach, their voices deserve to be heard.

Then there is the fundamental question: who is going to pay for this park?

Independent analyses estimate that a park-only conversion would cost hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars over many years. Before any final decision is made, residents deserve to know how that cost will be covered. More importantly, why would the City move to close the airport before securing the funding to replace it?

In the meantime, what happens? Do taxpayers fund years of fencing, security, and maintenance for an empty site while plans remain uncertain?

Will taxes be raised even higher? At a time when the City is already struggling to fund core services and public safety, how will it afford a project of this scale? Will voters be asked to approve a new bond, parcel tax, or sales tax? Who absorbs the risk when costs inevitably run over? Who pays for soil testing, environmental remediation, and cleanup across 227 acres of runway and tarmac? And who funds long-term upkeep and security once the park is built?

These are not small questions. These are the questions the City should be discussing with us.

At the same time, we should be asking a different question: why not build on what already works? SMO is not vacant land waiting for a better idea. It is a productive public asset that already supports innovation, economic activity, and community benefit and it can coexist with expanded park space. Hangar 7 is home to UP.Labs, a venture studio building AI

transportation startups in partnership with companies like Porsche, Alaska Airlines, and J.B. Hunt. Loft Dynamics operates its North American headquarters at SMO, training LAPD Air Support pilots on the nation's first FAA-qualified virtual reality helicopter simulator. The Velis Electro is the field's first FAA-exempt electric aircraft and is already flying zero-emission missions at just 60 decibels. Angel Flight West, founded at SMO in 1983, provided nearly 5,000 free medical flights in 2022 to help patients access lifesaving care.

This is not obsolete infrastructure. It is a living example of Santa Monica's past, present, and future and it can coexist with more park space.

Closing the airport also raises real economic and public safety concerns. What happens to the small businesses that rely on SMO, from flight schools and mechanics to caterers and hangar tenants? What happens to the tens of millions of dollars in annual economic activity it generates?

And what happens in an emergency? When the next wildfire, earthquake, or mass-casualty event strikes the Westside, where will medevac, firefighting aircraft, and disaster response teams' stage?

Then there is the quietest and most important question of all: once SMO is gone, can we ever get it back? The answer is no.

We do not have to choose between a park and an airport. Santa Monica can expand green space at the airport while preserving a vital public asset. We can support local jobs, small businesses, emergency response, and a cleaner, quieter future for aviation - all at the same time.

And we can do it without new taxes, new bonds, or new subsidies.

SMO is part of our history and it can be a part of our future. It is where Donald Douglas built aircraft that helped win World War II. It is where emergency crews stage helicopters that save lives. It is where young people are introduced to aviation through programs like Civil Air Patrol Squadron 51 and where the future of zero emission aviation is being innovated.

It generates revenue, supports jobs, and keeps Santa Monica on the map as a place that still builds, tests, and innovates.

We should not close it. We should transform it. Expand the parks. Keep the airport. We can have both.

By Val and Alan Glick



Surf report WATER TEMP: 63.5

WEDNESDAY FAIR SURF: 2-3ft+ Thigh to stomach

Surf dips as swell eases, still fun. Light winds due early morning. SSW swell slowly fades, along with a little NW swell mix, for waves mainly running thigh-stomach high, while top open exposures hit chest-shoulder high in the morning. Light+ SE shifting S winds in the morning, for cleanest conditions west of Dume. Low-end moderate WSW-W onshores in the afternoon favor the points.

THURSDAY FAIR SURF: 2-3ft+ Thigh to stomach

Waves up a notch with more swell moving in, most size in PM. Winds stay on lighter side, AM best. Morning mainly running thigh to stomach high, then for the afternoon, a mix of fresh SSW Southern Hemi and shorter-period WNW swell rolls in with more waist-chest high surf. Light/variable to gentle sea breeze expected much of the morning, followed by light+ W onshores for the afternoon.

Weather

Wednesday: Cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny, with a high near 60.

Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 56. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 60. East wind 5 to 10 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 57.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)High/Low
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

Daily Lottery

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POWERBALL
 Draw Date: 5/11
 24 30 37 56 64
 Power#: 7
 Jackpot: 69 M

Fantasy 5
 Draw Date: 5/11
 14 17 19 29 38

MEGA MILLIONS
 Draw Date: 5/8
 37 47 49 51 58
 Mega#: 16
 Jackpot: 232 M

Daily 3
 Draw Date: 5/11
 EVENING: 0 8 1
 Draw Date: 5/11
 MIDDAY: 2 6 2

SuperLotto PLUS
 Draw Date: 5/9
 12 18 24 25 43
 Mega#: 4
 Jackpot: 19 M

Daily Derby
 Draw Date: 5/11
 1st: 02 - Lucky Star
 2nd: 01 - Gold Rush
 3rd: 12 - Lucky Charms
 Race Time: 1:42.89

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Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00222. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of Jamie Leibeth Tierney for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Jamie Leibeth Tierney filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Jamie Leibeth Tierney to Jamie Leibeth Veloz. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 06/26/2026, Time: 08:30 AM, Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 05/05/2026. LAWRENCE H. CHO, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 05/13/2026, 05/20/2026, 05/27/2026, 06/03/2026

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GUEST COMMENTARY

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We grew up in this ocean. We want our children to have the same opportunity.

We are sixteen, seventeen and eighteen years old, and the Pacific Ocean is not a backdrop for us.

It is not a weekend activity or an Instagram post. It is where we go to connect with nature. It is where we figured out who we are.

Between the three of us, we have surfed Santa Monica Bay for a combined two decades. We learned to read swells before we learned to drive. The water has been our gym, our classroom, and our social circle, the place we find peace and clear our minds. The ocean does not care how popular you are or how badly you did on a test. It just asks you to show up and pay attention.

That is what surfing gives you: presence. You cannot think about anything else when a set is breaking. You cannot be anywhere else. For teenagers applying to college which demands more and more, that kind of clarity is not a small thing. Surfing keeps us grounded.

The Santa Monica Pier consistently ranks among the most polluted sites in California.

Bacterial advisories are going up not just after rain events, but during dry weather, on warm, sunny days with no storm in sight. Toxic runoff from fire debris has entered the ocean. An undisclosed amount of large fire debris still covers the ocean floor, including personal possessions and burned pieces of homes that washed out to sea. After the fires, roughly 300 burned properties remained along the Malibu shoreline for nearly six months before being addressed, washing ash and debris into the water with every high tide.

This is not just environmental. It is our health. Surfers often get sick. Rashes, ear infections, stomach problems, staph infections. These are not rare cases. They are common enough that we talk about them like a risk we have just accepted.

We watch the warning flags go up. We check Department of Public Health Ocean Water Advisories the way most people check the weather. The current state of Santa Monica Bay is concerning. We notice when the ocean shows signs of stress. We are not scientists yet, but we are paying attention, and what we are seeing is a coastline carrying more than it should.

Last July, we got a group of friends together who love the ocean and want to protect it so we could organize a cohesive message. All of us went before Santa Monica City Council to advocate for stronger ocean protections, not weaker ones. We did not just point out problems. We offered solutions and made clear that we, as students and surfers, are willing to help. We asked for more resources, more

focus, and policies that support strong ocean protections instead of weakening them.

Santa Monica has always prided itself on being one of the most environmentally conscious cities in California. Now Santa Monica risks becoming part of a broader political movement to weaken the very protections that have safeguarded California's coastline for generations. Whether through AB 1740 or future legislation like it, efforts to reduce Coastal Act oversight threaten the long-term health, accessibility, and resilience of our coast. Leading the charge to undermine coastal protections is not something we will be proud of.

The storm drain systems that empty into Santa Monica Bay have been problematic for years, unloading hundreds of tons of plastic and trash from city streets directly into the ocean. The amount of plastic pollution in the water is overwhelming. We see sick and dying shorebirds starving because rising water temperatures have pushed the fish they depend on into deeper, cooler water that the birds cannot dive down to reach. We see dolphins less frequently while sitting on our boards waiting for a wave, and when we do see them, many have scars from boat propellers, lesions that look like chemical burns, and parasites attached to their dorsal fins. The Santa Monica bottlenose dolphins are not in good condition.

In March 2025, after the devastating fires, the ocean experienced another enormous tragedy: a domoic acid algae bloom that killed thousands of marine mammals and birds. It was not limited to sea lions and dolphins. On Santa Monica beaches, we saw not just sea lions and dolphins, but birds, rays, leopard sharks, large deep dwelling crabs, and tropical fish washing ashore. It is hard to forget watching that unfold on our own coastline.

These toxic blooms are fueled by excess nutrients from human sources, including agriculture, fertilizers, and untreated wastewater. As concrete and impermeable surfaces have replaced wetlands and green spaces, we have lost the natural filters that once protected the ocean. When we spoke before Santa Monica City Council, we asked the city to partner with us to identify priority sites, like parks near the beach, for new green infrastructure: rain gardens, bioswales, and permeable pavement. These nature based solutions slow runoff, filter pollution, and restore balance. AB 1740 does the opposite. It allows for more development and more impermeable surfaces, and it does so without Coastal

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Canvas hack exposes cybersecurity flaws across California's universities

The last message I expected to receive Thursday afternoon was a request by a student to postpone an assignment because of a cyberattack. Canvas, the tool where millions of students around the world submit their work, check their grades, watch lectures and take quizzes was inaccessible to faculty and students in the waning days of the school year.

People were posting ransom note screenshots on social media. Something like this was bound to happen eventually. It's an inevitable consequence of information centralization.

About an hour after I got the message, I was trying to assess the damage. For me, it was not that bad. I give paper tests and quizzes and I've been regularly creating Slack workspaces for my classes. I mainly use Canvas to link to documents and allow students to check their scores and ponder about their grades. It was a real hassle when the only answers to "How am I doing in this class" sat in a private gradebook in the instructor's office.

But I am probably in the minority. Many of my colleagues are heavily dependent on Canvas, especially for bigger or online classes — those that have no live lectures. For them this was "deeply disruptive," as the California Faculty Association put it.

I had never heard of the parent company Instructure before, and until this hack, I didn't realize Canvas content was centrally stored. It's been at least a decade-long trend to move services off campus to save on costs. All kinds of records and student databases are offsite now.

The pitch is always the same: save money by doing things at scale. Cut out expensive maintenance and data storage. Why pay for servers and IT staff for

technology that will be obsolete in a few years? The vendors who contract with university campuses swear up and down that it's safe, secure and it won't be used to train AI.

The risk of having millions of student records and multiple terabytes of data in one place is rarely even contemplated by decisionmakers. Experts have warned about these vulnerabilities for well over a decade. And that's not the only problematic vendor doing business with universities.

Many students and faculty began reporting normal service restoration by Friday afternoon, almost 24 hours later. By Monday, Instructure had announced how the hackers pulled it off. Everyone knows how this works when major breaches occur. Our personal information is surely already out there, like so many old passwords we receive warnings about. Even if the hackers are paid, can we really believe they deleted the data?

The real question is whether California officials and university administrators are any wiser now. Will our schools and offices continue to offload personal data to outside companies to save a few bucks?

Of course, huge companies already store our emails and credit card transactions. We accept the risk and cope with the breaches. But do they also have to store our school grades, food orders, security footage, license plates? And which ones can we trust?

Some are great at security. Some are clearly not.

Foaad Khosmood is a Cal Poly professor and research director for the Institute for Advanced Technology and Public Policy.

gubernatorial primaries, plus a potentially confusing array of 61 candidates for governor alone, make it difficult to determine who the likely voters will be and account for that in their surveys.

"This election's got all the elements you have to deal with," DiCamillo said. "It's a challenge for the polling profession."

Despite the concerns about a slow vote count and imprecise polling, Evans-Reber says she still plans to stick to her last-minute voting strategy. She doesn't trust that mailing her ballot will reach the county elections office in time. She plans to bring her completed ballot to the office or one of the county's vote centers and hand it directly to an election official.

"I am going to cast the ballot at the very last possible moment," Evans-Reber said. "I'm going to wait until polling day."

Maya C. Miller, CalMatters Politics Reporter

GOVERNOR

FROM PAGE 2

scenario for election administration officials.

It creates what Kim Alexander, president of the California Voter Foundation, calls the "pig in the python effect." County election offices are inundated with in-person ballots on Election Day, as well as mail-in ballots that require a meticulous process of signature matching, envelope opening and extracting the ballot before it can be counted.

Returning ballots even a few days earlier can give counties a head start, Alexander said at a recent CalMatters forum on election integrity.

Mark DiCamillo, who runs polling for the Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies, said pollsters are doing their best to produce accurate results, but in an election with so many variables, even the best surveys could be off-base.

The past trend of low voter turnout in

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COMMUNITY NEWS

**GAS PRICES
IN SANTA MONICA**

	CHEVRON 1819 Cloverfield Blvd	\$6.27
	SHELL 1802 Cloverfield Blvd	\$6.29
	CHEVRON 1348 Pico Blvd	\$6.39
	SHELL 1866 Lincoln Blvd	\$6.29
	SINCLAIR 1944 Pico Blvd	\$6.09
	CHEVRON 1732 Lincoln Blvd	\$6.19
	WORLD 1801 Lincoln Blvd	\$6.17
	CHEVRON 432 Wilshire Blvd	\$6.69
	ARCO 332 Pico	\$6.29
	76 1776 Cloverfield Blvd	\$6.14

*Prices paying in card

Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have risen 3.7 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$6.17/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 18.3 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand \$1.43/g higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has increased 0.2 cents compared to a week ago and stands at \$5.623 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at \$5.39/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$7.31/g, a difference of \$1.92/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$4.49/g while the highest was \$9.79/g, a difference of \$5.30/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 5.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$4.48/g today. The national average is up 37.3 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands \$1.40/g higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Citywide

DoorDash Report Finds Platform Supported \$130 Billion in U.S. Economic Activity in 2025

DoorDash supported more than \$130 billion in economic activity across the United States in 2025, along with nearly \$25 billion in tax revenues and over 1.5 million full-time equivalent jobs, according to a new economic impact report commissioned by the company.

The report, produced by independent consultancy Public First, draws on anonymous surveys of 559 merchants, 1,210 Dashers and 1,333 consumers, along with merchant interviews and economic modeling. It examines the platform's impact on local businesses, delivery workers and consumers nationwide.

Merchants generated more than \$60 billion in sales on DoorDash Marketplace in 2025, with more than 600,000 local merchants connected to consumers through the platform as of December. Of merchants surveyed, 81% operate a single location, 64% have fewer than 10 employees and 41% are family-owned.

Nearly 1 in 5 businesses, or 19%, said their businesses would not exist today without the platform. Ninety percent of merchants said DoorDash helped them reach new consumers, while 77% said they would have lower overall revenue without the platform. Among non-restaurant merchants, 93% said DoorDash helped them reach new consumers and 82% said it helped establish a bigger presence in their local community.

DoorDash also reported that more than 8 million people dashed in the U.S. in 2025, collectively earning nearly \$20 billion including tips. Dashers averaged about four hours per week on the platform during the fourth quarter, with the typical Dasher active for roughly 10 weeks during the year.

The survey found that 85% of Dashers have other income sources or responsibilities, including full- or part-time jobs, retirement, self-employment, parenting or schooling. Women represent 63% of the Dasher workforce, and 24% of Dashers reported having a disability or long-term illness.

Flexibility emerged as a central theme. Ninety-three percent of Dashers said dashing offers more flexibility than other earning opportunities, and 91% said they would prefer to remain independent contractors rather than become employees. Among Dashers who have used the platform to make up for lost income, 46% said they would have to borrow from friends or family without it, and 42% said they would have to take on credit card debt.

For consumers, the report estimates DoorDash saved more than 650 million hours in 2025. Ninety percent of surveyed consumers said the platform gives them more control over their time, and 86% of parents said it helped them care for loved ones and spend more time with family. Eighty-five percent said DoorDash makes it easier to support local businesses in their community.

The report also highlights Project DASH, DoorDash's social impact program, which has completed more than 8 million deliveries and provided over 135 million meals since 2018 in partnership with food banks, food pantries and nonprofits including United Way, Feeding America partner food banks and Meals on Wheels providers.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

SMC

SMC Vocal Jazz Ensemble to Perform May 15

The Santa Monica College Music Department will present the SMC Vocal Jazz Ensemble in a concert blending Latin rhythms, R&B, and the energy of Swing and Bebop on Friday, May 15.

The performance will be held at 7:30 p.m. at The Eli & Edythe Broad Stage at the SMC Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th Street.

Under the direction of SMC music instructor Marisa Bradfield, who is also associate conductor of the University of Southern California Concert Choir, 54 SMC vocalists will present an eclectic program celebrating the diversity and breadth of jazz with both ensemble arrangements and solo performances. The vocalists will be accompanied by Nate Laguzza on drums.

Tickets are \$10 for general admission, plus a modest service charge, and \$5 for students with any student ID. Advance tickets can be purchased online at smc.edu/tickets or by calling 310-434-3005. Tickets may also be purchased starting 45 minutes before the performance at The Broad Stage Box Office. Free parking is available on premises, with seating on a first-arrival basis.

More information is available by calling 310-434-4323. All performances are subject to change or cancellation without notice.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy Image

JAZZ: The SMC Vocal Jazz Ensemble will perform on Friday, May 15, at 7:30 p.m. in The Eli & Edythe Broad Stage at the SMC Performing Arts Center.

WORLD CUP

FROM PAGE 1

City, Boston, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Seattle, a majority of hotel operators said bookings were actually running behind typical seasonal demand. In others, including New York City, Los Angeles, Dallas and Houston, demand was flat so far compared with a regular spring and summer, according to the association.

Santa Monica's hotel occupancy rate increased year on year for March and April as did the average room rate. Officials said while Santa Monica is also seeing a decline in international tourists, the lack of FIFA specific bookings wasn't impacting their estimates that the local occupancy rate would hit the mid 80's

“I think everyone had hoped the games would lead to an influx of bookings, but with all going on in the world and the USA's involvement, events are playing out differently for everyone

- Michael Black, general manager at the Cloud One hotel in Manhattan

over the summer.

The hotel association blamed travel concerns from international fans, worries about wait times for a U.S. visa and the cost of attending the tournament — including high ticket prices and transit costs in some cities — as major factors in the softer-than-expected demand.

“I think everyone had hoped the games would lead to an influx of bookings, but with all going on in the world and the USA's involvement, events are playing out differently for everyone,” said Michael Black, general manager at the Cloud One hotel in Manhattan.

Concerns about softer-than-expected bookings extend to Mexico, which is co-hosting the games with the U.S. and Canada. Hotels in Mexico City, which hosts the tournament's opening match on June 11, are about 30% to 36% booked, according to the Asociación de Hoteles de Ciudad de México.

HIGH PRICES MAY BE A FACTOR

Many hotels jacked up their prices after the tournament's schedule was announced, anticipating that soccer fans would pay exorbitant rates if they were able to score tickets to a match.

Near MetLife Stadium in New Jersey, for example, one hotel that normally charges around \$200 a night was advertising a rate of \$800 on nights around June World Cup matches. The costs soar to more than \$1,300 a night ahead of the July 19 final.

Many seasoned fans are probably still waiting for those prices to drop, said Ronan Evain, executive director of Football Supporters

Europe, a Germany-based fan advocacy group.

“Fans that are used to traveling for tournaments know that this price will always go down,” Evain said. “There are many examples of hotel owners regretting that they priced too high and then panicking at the last minute and reducing prices.”

Others have already likely secured cheaper lodging farther from the stadiums or through Airbnb and other short-term rental platforms, he added.

Indeed, the metropolitan regions around Kansas City, Seattle, San Francisco, Dallas/Fort Worth and Miami/Ft. Lauderdale are all enjoying an uptick in short-term rental bookings compared with the same period last year, according to a recent report from AirDNA, a rental data firm that tracks bookings on Airbnb and Vrbo.

Airbnb said last week that the number of guests expected to stay at its rental listings during the tournament is expected to exceed earlier estimates and even end up surpassing the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris as the biggest hosting event in the company's history.

UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

More than 5 million tickets have been sold for the tournament so far, out of the more than 6 million expected to be offered for all 104 matches, according to FIFA.

While many of those attending the tournament will be travelers who need hotel rooms, global events like the World Cup also tend to discourage other types of visitors, said Andrew Zimbalist, an economics professor at Smith College in Massachusetts.

“The general problem is that soccer tourists — and expected congestion, high prices and security concerns — push away normal business travel and tourism,” he explained.

Vijay Dandapani, president of the Hotel Association of New York City, said city hotels are seeing a modest upswing in summer bookings — around 10% compared with the previous year — but nowhere close to the windfall promised by FIFA and other tournament boosters.

In Vancouver, Canada, which is hosting seven matches, hotel occupancy is down from the same time last year, but the industry is optimistic business will pick up closer to the games, says Paul Hawes, CEO of the British Columbia Hotel Association.

In Kansas City, where some 90% of respondents to the American Hotel & Lodging Association survey reported bookings below expectations, tourism officials are still holding out for a record-breaking number of visitors.

“While hotel occupancy in Kansas City has not followed the trajectory originally predicted by FIFA, there are positive indicators for Kansas City on the horizon,” said Derik Detter, market research director at Visit KC.

Jon Bortz, CEO of Pebblebrook Hotel Trust, a real estate investment company that owns dozens of hotels nationally, is equally positive.

Overall, he said, occupancy rates are up at its many host city properties compared with last year, though he acknowledged cities like Boston with more marquee matchups are performing better than cities like San Francisco that host less in-demand games.

“We haven't seen anything that would cause us to think it's going to be less than what we were expecting,” he said. “Maybe other people had much grander expectations.”

By PHILIP MARCELO Associated Press. Associated Press reporters David Skretta in Kansas City, Missouri, Carlos Rodriguez in Mexico City and Jim Morris in Vancouver contributed to this story.

INFLATION

FROM PAGE 1

5.4%, according to the data released Tuesday. The month-over-month gain was down from a 0.9% increase in overall prices from February to March, when the initial financial shock from the war hit the U.S. economy.

Labor Department figures showed that gasoline prices are up more than 28% compared with a year ago. However, the AAA motor club listed the average regular gallon of gasoline above \$4.50 on Tuesday, about 44% more than it cost last year at this time.

Excluding volatile food and energy costs, so-called consumer core prices rose 0.4% last month from March and 2.8% from April 2025, relatively modest readings that suggest the energy price burst has yet to spill over more broadly into prices for other goods.

Grocery prices rose 0.7% from March to April as meat prices rose after they had declined slightly in the month before.

Prices are rising at a time when Americans are already frustrated by the high cost of living. Affordability is likely to be a key issue when voters go to the polls Nov. 3 to determine whether President Donald Trump's Republican Party maintains control of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

“Inflation is the key drag on the U.S. economy now,” Heather Long, chief economist at Navy Federal Credit Union, wrote. “There is a real financial squeeze underway. For the first time in three years, inflation is eating up all wage gains. This is a setback for middle-class and lower-income households and they know it. They are having to cut back on spending and stretch every dollar.”

In April, average hourly wages fell 0.3% from a year earlier after accounting for inflation — the first year-over-year drop in three years.

Inflation had been dropping more or less steadily since peaking with a 9.1% year-over-year spike in June 2022, a surge caused by supply chain bottlenecks at the end of COVID-19 lockdowns and a jolt for energy prices following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. But inflation has remained above the Federal Reserve's 2% target.

Then, the United States and Israel attacked Iran on Feb. 28, and Tehran responded by shutting off access to the Gulf of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas passes. That has sent oil prices, and most visibly gasoline, racing higher.

The Fed, which had been expected to cut its benchmark interest rate in 2026, has turned cautious as it waits to see how long the conflict lasts and whether higher energy prices spill over into other products and cause a broader inflationary outbreak.

Trump has lambasted the Fed and its outgoing chair, Jerome Powell, for refusing to slash rates to boost the economy. Kevin Warsh, the president's hand-picked choice to succeed Powell, is expected to be confirmed by the Senate this week; but it's unclear whether Warsh would pursue lower rates given the uncertainties arising from the war — or whether he could persuade his colleagues on the Fed's rate-setting committee to go along if he tried.

Some companies are also starting to feel the pain.

Whirlpool, which makes KitchenAid and Maytag appliances, reported last week that revenue dropped nearly 10% in its most recent quarter and said that the war has caused a “recession-level industry decline” that has undermined consumer confidence.

Grace King of Ames, Iowa, said that higher prices in the food aisle and at the pump are making her cut back on spending for things like clothing. The administrative assistant, 31, used to spend \$200 per month on clothing, mostly on Amazon, but not anymore.

“There's pressure basically everywhere from the groceries that I buy to the gas to fill up the tank,” she said. “I've severely cut back on my frill spending.”

For example, King noted that while it's only a five-minute drive to work, she makes the trip twice a day. And if she needs to do any big shopping, that's a 40-minute drive to malls in Des Moines, Iowa.

By PAUL WISEMAN AP Economics Writer. AP Retail Writer Anne D'Innocenzio in New York contributed to this story.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 4

Act protections or Coastal Commission oversight.

Harmful algae blooms are a direct consequence of environmental imbalance. These blooms are a national concern because they affect not only the health of people and marine ecosystems, but also the economic health of coastal communities that depend on fishing and tourism.

This is what Santa Monica beaches have experienced in the last two years, and this is with

Coastal Act protections in place. We cannot imagine what it would look like without them.

This is not new information. It is the exact reason that, fifty years ago, California voters and

lawmakers created the Coastal Act. The anniversary this year is not just a number. It represents a generation of Californians who looked at what was happening to this coast and decided that public access, environmental protection, and accountability to the people who actually live here were worth writing into law. That decision shaped the coastline we inherited.

Legislation that weakens Coastal Act protections threatens that foundation.

We will not pretend to be experts on every provision of the bill. But we know enough to understand that legislation which weakens the California Coastal Commission's authority does not work in our favor. The Coastal Act is the reason developers cannot simply wall off the coast and why environmental review exists for projects that could affect water quality and public access. When you chip away at the structure that enforces those protections, you are not just changing policy for this legislative session. You are changing what the coast will look like in ten years, in twenty, and in the decades when we will be the ones with kids learning to surf.

Decisions made now will shape whether future generations inherit living beaches or coastlines defined by pollution, privatization, erosion, and ecological collapse.

We also plan to make the ocean part of our professional lives. Between us, we are looking at marine biology, environmental law, and developing AI driven technologies that can aid in preserving our environment as pathways forward. The ocean is not just where we play. It is where we intend to

work, contribute, and build something meaningful. We need it to be accessible and healthy enough to support the kind of future we are trying to imagine.

The challenges facing our coastline did not appear overnight, and they will not disappear after one vote, one hearing, or one news cycle. Climate change, pollution, habitat destruction, and mounting development pressure are accelerating at the exact moment California should be strengthening coastal protections, not weakening them. Our generation will live with the consequences far longer than the politicians currently debating these decisions.

Santa Monica is a beach city. The health of our water is the foundation of our local identity and livelihood. We need real investment, not just in long term plans, but in immediate action to make the ocean healthy again. Instead, AB 1740 threatens coastal protections.

We love this ocean. We are asking the adults in Sacramento to love it too, or at least to leave its legal protections intact for the people who do.

We will continue showing up at Coastal Commission meetings and local hearings to advocate for strong coastal protections, and we encourage our community to do the same.

Founded by Teal Green and Joseph Holscher at Pacifica Christian High School SurfersWhoServe is a student-led organization that empowers young surfers to create positive change through community service, environmental stewardship, and leadership. We believe in making a difference both in and out of the water by using our passion for surfing to support our communities, protect our oceans, and inspire others to serve.

Founded by Arshayan Desai at Brentwood High School, The Blue Goal Initiative inspires action through soccer, surfing, and conservation where passion meets purpose, leading the change towards sustainability. We believe in providing opportunities to youth through cross-cultural exchange, building a generation of young leaders ready to protect our blue planet. We champion youth driven ocean and coastal protection with real environmental solutions, raising awareness to keep our coastline healthy, our communities safe, and our future sustainable.

By Teal Greene & Joe Holscher, students at Pacifica Christian High School, and Arshayan Desai, student at Brentwood High School

SAVE THE KITTENS



#SAVETHEKITTENS

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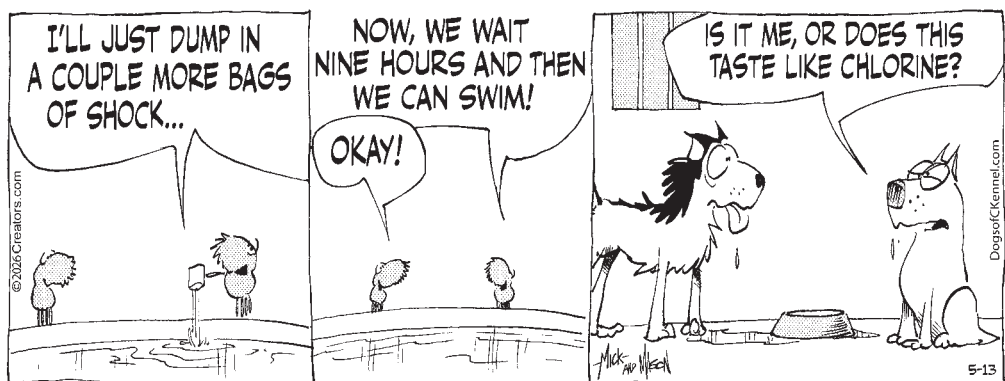
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



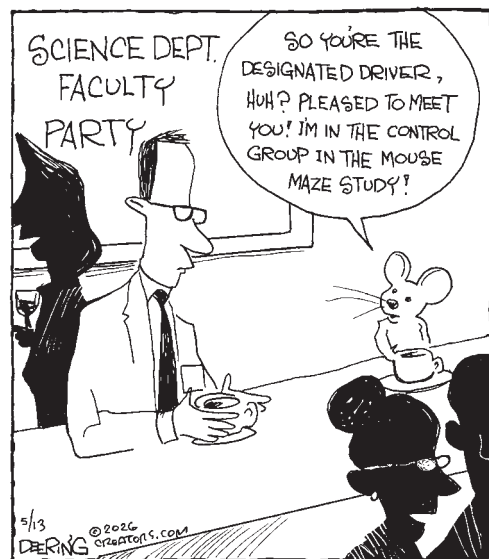
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 18 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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University conundrum

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

- | | | | |
|----------|---------|----------|----------------|
| Acts | Dean | Leisure | Pass |
| Arts | Diagram | Library | Prioritise |
| Award | Diploma | Lunch | Quadrangle |
| Benefit | Donor | Major | References |
| Bond | Fair | Maps | Responsibility |
| Books | Fees | Mark | Scan |
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 13)

It's your Year of Electric Connection, where people enter your life sparking and you know just how to wire up and plug in the powerful collaborations, teams and deals. It's exciting. It's lucrative. And it animates more than just your world. More highlights: A long-term plan reaches completion. Your reputation grows, attracting a variety of new and different offers. You'll travel in a small group. Capricorn and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 6, 29, 3 and 33.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're willing to revisit an old conversation. Returning with new insight makes a difference. Silence will do some of the work. Space gives people time to process. See what remains after the initial wave of reaction passes.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Making it look easy is the essence of mastery. Today, there is simply no question about it - you've mastered the skill. You also happen to look cool and effortless in its execution, so of course this invites imitation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). When you take responsibility for your part in things, you don't bother to qualify it. And you're willing to do whatever it takes to repair what's broken and resolve what's conflicted. Owning your actions builds credibility.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Go back to the beginning. Define your original goal with numbers, dates and conditions. Make the target concrete again, and your mind will stop drifting and start building pathways that connect current reality to the destination.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You've taught yourself so much through trial and error. You're good at figuring things out without getting permission or formal training. It does take courage. It also takes extra resources. Invest. Set yourself up for success.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Things don't come together all at once. This project has stages. Stage one is the front door. Stage two shows you who you can trust. Stage three has you learning what to leverage. Each stage has rules and rewards.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). People's feelings are very important to protect today, mostly by keeping interactions light and positive. Watch your tone as closely as your words. A steady voice can keep a difficult exchange from tipping into something too charged to contain.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Deadlines can be stressful, but it's even more stressful to think a timeline might stretch on and on. Of course big goals often demand seasons of work. You'll be considering practicalities and deciding what you're willing to take on.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Someone could use a moment of grace, and you'll know exactly how to offer it, whether with a word, a pause or a choice that preserves dignity. Acts like these build a reputation that opens doors and returns value over time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Complexity is the enemy of progress. A system you actually use beats the fancy one that sits untouched. Better organization gives your mind space for creative and strategic thinking. Simple tools help, too, such as a notebook, a calendar or a short list.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You have your own ideas about what constitutes success, and society's notions are much too narrow for you. You'll be reminded that just because there's a consensus, it doesn't make an idea correct for all - or indeed for any.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A dynamic that once felt promising reveals itself to be something different from what you thought it would be. Maybe it's no one's fault; it's just a misunderstanding or mismatched needs. Now your interest drifts, seeking a better fit.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Much-admired celebrity
- 5 Small jeweled crown
- 10 Hard work
- 14 Eatery's list
- 15 Starting stage
- 16 "Not only that..."
- 17 Area for growing "straw" fruit
- 19 Close chums
- 20 Hesitant agreement
- 21 Lubricate
- 22 Thumbs-up votes
- 23 WNW's opposite
- 24 Faux __ (minor mistake)
- 26 People walking, for short
- 28 Holder of Commandments
- 33 Castaway's escape vehicle
- 37 Resort with saunas
- 38 Recyclable PCs and Macs
- 39 Sci-fi visitor
- 41 Letters on sunscreen
- 43 Shred, as cheese
- 44 Ashen-faced
- 46 "A mouse!"
- 48 Greatly surprise
- 49 Historic cache for the far future
- 52 Salon's mani-__
- 53 JFK or FDR
- 54 Subj. for new immigrants
- 57 Big hairdo

DOWN

- 60 Cookbook amt.
- 62 Shout of discovery
- 64 Lion's comment
- 65 Can brand opened on Thanksgiving
- 67 "What's __ for me?"
- 68 Entertainer Midler
- 69 Tiny amount
- 70 Throws in
- 71 County near London
- 72 Crystal ball user
- 1 Saturate (with)
- 2 Regards as
- 3 Ham sandwich order
- 4 Entice
- 5 Formal headwear
- 6 Once __ blue moon

TAKE YOUR MEDICINE by Prasanna Keshava
Edited by Stanley Newman
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- 7 On the topic of
- 8 Cookbook entry
- 9 Any Olympics competitor
- 10 Restaurants serving Spanish snacks
- 11 Jergens rival
- 12 Dot on a Caribbean map
- 13 Tax write-off
- 18 Talks a lot
- 25 Soaks (up)
- 27 "Canine" dude
- 29 Backs of necks
- 30 Future DA's exam
- 31 Caesar's rebuke
- 32 Adolescent
- 33 Totally engrossed
- 34 Jai __ tournament
- 35 College's cinema major
- 36 Travels fast, in sci-fi
- 40 "Well done!"
- 42 Long-running quarrel
- 45 Expectant father
- 47 Tissue brand
- 50 Fish constellation
- 51 Aussie birds
- 54 Strange and spooky
- 55 Rink shoe
- 56 Coat of paint
- 57 Operatic solo
- 58 Affectionate
- 59 Police incursion
- 61 Parrots and poodles
- 63 Tach readings
- 66 Devoured

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

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

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

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

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PLANNING COMMISSION

FROM PAGE 1

solely on increased downtown height limits and flexibility for city-owned sites.

The study session was the first formal review of draft concepts to implement the city's Realignment Plan, adopted by the City Council in October 2025. Staff had proposed three major strategies: encouraging lower-scale housing along boulevards, transferring that "lost" height to downtown projects, and exempting city-owned downtown parcels from standard zoning rules.

The most contentious element was a proposal to waive Affordable Housing Production Program, or AHPP, fees for boulevard developers who agreed to cap buildings at roughly 55 feet and include two- and three-bedroom ownership units. Under current rules, projects of 20 or more units must set aside 15% of units as affordable on-site or 20% off-site.

Commissioner Nina Fresco said broad exemptions from the affordable housing program would amount to "the death knell of progressive Santa Monica," arguing that prioritizing market-rate housing without mandatory affordable contributions threatened economic diversity and could push out longtime residents. Vice Chair Peer Chacko echoed those concerns, warning that the waivers could effectively gut the city's affordable housing program and leave it producing few actual affordable units.

Several commissioners called on staff to model the financial trade-offs before moving forward, including comparing potential lost AHPP revenue against funds expected from Measure GS, a local real estate transfer tax that funds affordable housing and homelessness prevention.

Commissioner Jacob Wasserman criticized the boulevard proposal as a reversal of prior city strategy. He said the city had previously agreed to direct density to commercial boulevards specifically to protect single-family neighborhoods from upzoning, making it counterproductive to now incentivize developers to build less housing along those corridors. Chacko added that asking developers to build shorter buildings while requiring larger, family-sized units created a financial mismatch that would make projects difficult to finance.

Commissioner Shawn Landres raised legal concerns, warning staff that lowering allowable heights along corridors such as Pico Boulevard could run afoul of California's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing mandate, which requires cities to direct housing to high-opportunity areas rather than downzone them. He also urged staff

to stop using the term "family-sized" units, calling it a recognized fair housing trigger, and recommended the city instead refer to "two- and three-bedroom units."

Landres and Fresco also raised concerns about commercial displacement, saying rapid redevelopment along boulevards has replaced longstanding neighborhood businesses such as tailors, appliance repair shops and barbers with large ground-floor commercial spaces affordable only to corporate chains. Landres suggested the city explore requiring smaller commercial floor plates and consider commercial rent control on city-owned sites.

While rejecting the boulevard incentives, commissioners broadly supported staff's downtown proposals. Those concepts include increasing baseline downtown building heights by approximately 10 to 20 feet, creating a local density bonus program, and exempting city-owned downtown parcels — including the Downtown Station site, Parking Structure 1, the old Fire Station 1 and the Fourth/Fifth and Arizona site — from the zoning ordinance to allow more flexible public-private partnerships.

Commissioners also expressed cautious support for staff's recommendation to establish a 130-foot height limit for both housing and non-housing projects within the Gateway Master Plan area, which includes The Pierside Hotel site, the former Sears property and the Downtown Station site near the Expo Line. Several commissioners said taller buildings fit downtown's existing character and could help revitalize an underperforming commercial core.

As an alternative to broad density bonuses, Landres proposed a tiered "ratchet" structure under which the city would grant specific incentives only as developers delivered specific community benefits, such as exact affordability mixes or larger units. Wasserman and Fresco urged staff to consider introducing the incentives as temporary pilot programs, allowing the city to test their effects on a limited number of projects before permanently changing the zoning code.

The commission voted 5-0 to adopt Resolutions 26-006 and 26-007 as amended, with Chair Josh Hamilton, Vice Chair Peer Chacko and Commissioners Fresco, Landres and Wasserman in support. A separate motion directing staff to incorporate commissioner feedback into final recommendations also passed 5-0. Staff is scheduled to return to the commission on June 3 or June 17 with a formal recommendation. The City Council is expected to consider final adoption on July 14.

maaz@smdp.com



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>

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

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>

CHAIR FITNESS WITH COACH TODD

11:00 a.m. American Legion Ronald Reagan - Palisades Post 283 15247 La Cruz Drive Pacific Palisades. Chair Fitness with Coach Todd. Register with American Legion. Email jimkirtley@ymcala.org for more information. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/>

[details/chair-fitness-with-coach-todd/18763133/2026-05-14T11](https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/chair-fitness-with-coach-todd/18763133/2026-05-14T11)

LOW IMPACT GROUP EXERCISE CLASS

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. American Legion Ronald Reagan-Palisades Post 283 15247 La Cruz Drive Pacific Palisades. Power up your Thursday with our free, low-impact group exercise classes — open to all members of the Legion Family, designed for every fitness level, and held from 11:00am to 12:00pm at Palisades Post 283. Come move, recharge, and feel great heading into the rest of your day! Sign up here to receive emails about upcoming exercise classes and cancellations: [post283.com/exercise](https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/low-impact-group-exercise-class/18566926/2026-05-14T11). Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/low-impact-group-exercise-class/18566926/2026-05-14T11>

HENNA TATTOOS WITH MANJUSHREE NORMULWAR

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Palisades Branch Library 861 Alma Real Drive Pacific Palisades. Join us for a talk and demonstration by artist Manjushree Normulwar, who will share a brief history of henna art and culture. Manjushree will offer participants temporary henna tattoos on their hands and arms. She uses organic henna and 100% natural essential oils to create a henna paste that is safe for all skin types and ages. This workshop is recommended for participants aged 11 to 18. 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://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/henna-tattoos-with-manjushree-normulwar/18762896/2026-05-14T15>

STAND UP 101: FIND YOUR VOICE (THURSDAYS)

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. 1424 4th Street Santa Monica. In this first level of Stand Up Class, students will work on discovering their own comedic sensibility and shaping that into a clear and unique point of view. While using material from their own lives, as well as observations from the world around them, each student will leave this level with an understanding of the basics of writing and performing stand up. The class culminates in a showcase where each comedian performs the material they created in class. Courses are taught by veteran instructors who are long-time performers. Classes meet at The Westside or at one of our classroom spaces a block away. Class sizes are limited. Enrollment is dependent upon availability. For enrolled students a confirmation welcome email will be sent 48 before the start of the first class. There are no refunds or transfers on tuition. \$345.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/stand-up-101-find-your-voice-thursdays-18818771/2026-05-14T19>

ANNUAL SMC EMERITUS STUDENT ART EXHIBITION 2026 - PART 1

Emeritus Campus 1227 Second Street Santa Monica. Join us for Part 1 of our popular annual group exhibition of creative works by students in SMC's Emeritus program. The show will be presented in the Emeritus Art Gallery. In-Gallery Reception: May 14, 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Additional Details are available at smc.edu/emergitusgallery or by calling 310-434-4306. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/annual-smc-emeritus-student-art-exhibition-2026-part-1/18044893/2026-05-14T00>

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