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Plan your weekend.

## Council creates Restorative Justice Commission and overhauls advisory bodies

**MAAZ ALIN**  
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica City Council voted Tuesday to establish a new Restorative Justice Commission to oversee programs addressing historic inequities in the city, the centerpiece of a sweeping overhaul of the city's boards and commissions that also consolidated housing and human services bodies and triggered a heated debate over compensating commissioners from marginalized communities.

The new seven-member commission, created by ordinance on first reading, will develop program criteria, eligibility standards and oversight mechanisms for a broader Restorative Justice Program funded through a deal with the RAND Corporation. The council in January allocated \$3.5 million in one-time funds toward the program and reserved an additional \$2 million in future RAND funds for the initiative.

Each appointee must be a Santa Monica resident with either subject-matter expertise in restorative justice or lived experience representing communities affected by past and present inequities. The new commission replaces a former staff-developed Landback and Reparations Task Force.

The creation of the commission prompted Council Member Natalya Zernitskaya to call for financially compensating its members, saying she did not want to be "asking folks from marginalized backgrounds to do the heavy lifting without any sort of compensation." Mayor Caroline Torosis backed the idea, saying,

SEE **COUNCIL** PAGE 11

## Boy Scout troop volunteers at Santa Monica homeless services organization



Asher Lord

**SCOUT:** Troop 223's Cougars Patrol volunteers at The People Concern in Santa Monica as part of their community service mission.

Members of the Cougars Patrol from Boy Scout Troop 223 recently volunteered at The People Concern in Santa Monica.

Scout members said one of the

most important parts of Scouting is giving back to the community through service. Scouts are taught the value of doing a "Good Turn" daily, helping others without

expecting anything in return. The local troop stays active in community service projects

SEE **SCOUTS** PAGE 11

## Drug counselor who delivered 'Friends' star Matthew Perry ketamine that killed him gets 2 years

A licensed drug addiction counselor who delivered "Friends" star Matthew Perry the doses of ketamine that killed him was sentenced Wednesday to two years in prison.

Judge Sherilyn Peace Garnett handed down the sentence to 56-year-old Erik Fleming in a federal court in Los Angeles.

"It's truly a nightmare I can't wake up from," Fleming told the judge before the sentence. "I'm haunted by the mistakes I made." He wore a black suit and spoke at the podium with a deep, somber voice.

A judge ordered Fleming, who has been free on bond for about two years, to turn himself in to serve his term in 45 days. He was also sentenced to three years of probation.

Fleming was the fourth defendant sentenced of the five who have pleaded guilty in prosecutions over the actor's 2023 death in the Jacuzzi at his Los Angeles home. Fleming connected Perry to Jasveen Sangha, the convicted drug dealer prosecutors called "The Ketamine Queen." She was sentenced last month to 15 years in prison.

Fleming gave up Sangha to investigators the same day they found him at his sister's house, where he was sleeping on the couch several months after Perry's death. He became the first defendant to plead guilty in August 2024, admitting to one count of distribution of ketamine resulting in death. That was before arrests in the case were even announced, and Wednesday was his first court appearance since his role became public knowledge.

His attorney Robert Dugdale told

SEE **CONVICTION** PAGE 11

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## From 'The Hills' villain to LA mayoral contender: Spencer Pratt's viral video-fueled campaign

On the reality television show "The Hills," Spencer Pratt played something of a villain, blamed for spreading a salacious rumor and driving a wedge between his girlfriend and her best friend.

Pratt is casting himself as a hero in his latest venture, a bid to be mayor of Los Angeles, in which he's promising to rid the nation's second most populous city of disorder and dysfunction.

Originally greeted with bemusement, Pratt is now upending the race with early voting underway ahead of the June 2 election. The Republican is riding a wave of buzz fueled by viral videos taking aim at Mayor Karen Bass, Gov. Gavin Newsom and others.

Pratt's goal is to turn the chatter into a ticket to a November runoff against Bass, a Democrat who is struggling to recover from a widely panned response to devastating wildfires.

He would face long odds in a city that last elected a Republican mayor in 1997. But during last week's debate, Pratt was one of only three candidates onstage, alongside Bass and progressive City Council member Nithya Raman.

"As crazy as this will sound, I'm the adult in the room," Pratt said.

### A POPULIST CAMPAIGN AGAINST LIBERAL GOVERNANCE

Pratt and his supporters are making a populist appeal to voters, emphasizing day-to-day concerns about life in Los Angeles and leaning on visceral imagery of drug use and homeless encampments from the grittier corners of the city of nearly 4 million residents.

He blames the city's Democratic leaders and pledges to "stop these corrupt politicians from destroying our city." He advocates a hard line against homelessness, pledging to eliminate encampments and pursue criminal investigations of nonprofit organizations that serve people living on the streets.

"These people do not want a bed," he said in last week's debate. "They want fentanyl or meth."

Pratt announced his campaign in January at an event marking the one-year anniversary of the deadly Palisades Fire, which destroyed his home and thousands of others.

In an ad released late last month, Pratt stands in cozy neighborhoods where Bass and Raman live. He contrasts them with an Airstream trailer parked on a flattened lot, where he says he's living after his house was destroyed.

"They let my home burn down," Pratt says in the ad. "I know what the consequences of failed leadership are."

Pratt is actually living at the swanky Hotel Bel-Air and has never lived in the Airstream trailer, TMZ reported Wednesday. Pratt told the celebrity gossip site that the arrangement is necessary because of unspecified security concerns.

Over the past week, viral videos created with artificial intelligence have portrayed Pratt as the city's savior from hapless Democrats and violent socialists. In one, Pratt is portrayed as Batman saving a dystopian Los Angeles from Bass, portrayed as a villainous Joker.

Jeb Bush, the former Florida governor and onetime Republican presidential candidate, called it "maybe the best political ad of the year" in a post on X.

That video and others were shared on social media by filmmaker Charles Curran, and Pratt has reposted them from his own accounts. Curran did not respond to an email and direct messages on X.

"He's playing on the most powerful emotion, which is anger, and LA voters are angry right now," said Matt Klink, a Republican strategist based in Los Angeles.

### A BACKGROUND IN REALITY TV

Pratt, 42, is well-versed in the art of generating buzz and entertainment.

He first rose to prominence in 2007 as Heidi Montag's boyfriend on "The Hills," a hit reality series built around the lives of young women as they navigated young adulthood in Southern California. He was portrayed as driving a wedge between Montag and her roommate, Lauren Conrad, leading to the disintegration of their friendship.

He went on to marry Montag, and they have two children together. They have appeared on a variety of other scripted and reality television series since "The Hills" ended in 2010, and they each have more than 1 million followers in their social media accounts.

Pratt points to a 2013 political science degree from the University of Southern California as evidence of his readiness to lead a massive city.

His campaign did not respond to interview requests.

### BASS SEEKS A SECOND TERM

Bass, the first Black woman to lead Los

SEE MAYOR PAGE 11

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## AROUND TOWN

Send comments to [editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@smdp.com)

# Sidewalk Sales, EEEEEATSCON, & More!

**AJA Vineyards Trivia Night:** Rounding off the first quarter of the 21st century with some fun 2000s until now trivia! Winners will receive special AJA prizes- bottles of wine, merch and more. Thursday, May 14, 6:30p.m., 1417 2nd St. [ajavineyards.com/event/trivia-night](http://ajavineyards.com/event/trivia-night)

**EEEEEEATSCON:** The Infatuation's signature food event returns to The SaMo Airport Barker Hangar, treating foodies to a music-festival-style culinary experience with headlining restaurants, live music, thought-leader panels, and exclusive chef collaborations. Saturday & Sunday, May 16 & 17 [eeeeeeatscon.com/los-angeles](http://eeeeeeatscon.com/los-angeles)

**Montana Ave. Sidewalk Sale:** The beloved Montana Avenue Sidewalk Sale is BACK, and it's the perfect occasion to support local shops while snagging amazing deals on new arrivals! Join us on Saturday for a day filled with great shopping and explore some of the best dining the West Side has to offer. Enjoy the neighborhood's vibrant atmosphere and welcome the season in style with friends and family. Saturday, May 16, 10a.m. - 6p.m. <https://www.facebook.com/events/958566380036309/>

**Beach Boys 5K Wellness Race:** This year marks the 60th anniversary of The Beach Boys' iconic album Pet Sounds! Join the celebration with a lively health and wellness day featuring a wellness- and pet-themed festival, live music, energizing fitness experiences, and a fun community 5K run. Bring your friends, bring your pets, and let's get to running! ♀ Saturday, May 16, Third Street Promenade <https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/SantaMonica/TheBeachBoys5KWellnessDay>

**Kidical Mass Family Bike Ride:** Celebrate the 5th Annual Kidical Mass for a fun-filled morning with family-friendly activities and a group ride for all ages. Participants are encouraged to wear green for mental health awareness month. The bike ride will meet on the west side of Clover Park near 25th Street and Oak Street and start at 9:00AM. Kidical Mass + Mental Health & Wellness Fair Sunday, May 17, 9 - 11:30a.m., Clover Park, 2600 Ocean Park Blvd. <https://events.humanitix.com/kidical-mass-for-mental-health-2026>

**Run Venice Beach:** More than 5,000 participants are expected to take part, with race options including the Half Marathon, 5K, 1-Mile Junior Jog & Family Walk, and the quarter-mile "Grunion Run" for young runners. All participants receive a commemorative race shirt. Sunday, May 17 [runvenicebeach.com](http://runvenicebeach.com)

**Celebrate the 10th Birthday of the Shotgun House:** It's been ten years since local residents saved this City landmark from demolition. Celebrate with a free block-party-style event with birthday cake, live music, and a chance to spend time with Mayor Torosis, neighbors, and other community leaders. Sunday, May 17, 2 - 4 pm [smc.givecloud.co/10thbirthday](http://smc.givecloud.co/10thbirthday)

**Santa Monica Pacific Palisades Lions Comedy Night:** Join the Lions for a fun-filled evening of laughter and comedy and help raise funds to support local community projects and services. Past beneficiaries include the SM YMCA, Meals on Wheels West, Step Up on Second, Westside Food Bank, and Westside Family Health Center, among many others. Sunday, May 17, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., The Crow, 2525 Michigan Ave. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/santa-monica-pacific-palisades-lions-club-comedy-night-fundraiser-tickets-1984781609222>

**Viceroy Mixology Cocktail Making Class:** Sip into May with a hands-on whiskey Monthly Mixology Class designed for both beginners and whiskey lovers. You'll learn how to craft classic cocktails that highlight whiskey's rich flavor while learning how to make it your own - with bright ingredients and creative twists. Enjoy a relaxed, social atmosphere as you mix, taste, and discover cocktails that are perfect for entertaining or elevating your home bar. Sunday, May 17, 4 - 5:30p.m., 1819 Ocean Ave. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/monthly-mixology-class-sip-into-may-whiskey-cocktails-tickets-1984820554709>

**Annual Soundwaves Concert Series - Vicki Ray's Rilke Project:** Enjoy a compilation of works by various composers inspired by Rainer Maria Rilke's poetry, and kover: multimedia artist Carole Kim's improvising group with saxophonist M. A. Tisenga, Kazoue Matsumoto on koto, and gamin on Korean reed instruments. Tuesday, May 19, 7:30p.m., 12424 Wilshire Blvd. [soundwavesnewmusic.com](http://soundwavesnewmusic.com)

**Pier Locals' Night Season Finale:** Some nights on the Santa Monica Pier just feel like summer. Thursday, May 21 is one of them, as Locals' Night returns for its spring season finale from 3:30 to 10 p.m., bringing together live music, storytelling, classic cars, and community celebration across the Pier in one unforgettable evening—free and open to all ages. This special edition also marks the beginning of Pacific Park's



## Surf report WATER TEMP: 63.5

**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.

**FRIDAY FAIR** | **SURF:** 3-4ft Waist to chest

Fun surf off fair size swell mix. Morning winds look light, more onshores due in the afternoon. Combo of primary SSW Southern Hemi and secondary, shorter-period WNW swell continues, for widespread waist-chest high waves, as standouts go shoulder high+. Morning winds looking light offshore, moderate WNW onshores due in the afternoon.

## Weather

**Thursday:** Cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 67. East wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Thursday Night:** Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 57.

**Friday:** Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 68. East southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Friday Night:** Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 57.

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

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

**Fantasy 5**  
Draw Date: 5/12  
8 17 25 31 33

**MEGA MILLIONS**  
Draw Date: 5/12  
17 32 35 40 47  
Mega#: 17  
Jackpot: 251 M

**Daily 3**  
Draw Date: 5/12  
EVENING: 3 6 0  
Draw Date: 5/12  
MIDDAY: 8 2 9

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

**Daily Derby**  
Draw Date: 5/12  
1st: 06 - Whirl Win  
2nd: 01 - Gold Rush  
3rd: 02 - Lucky Star  
Race Time: 1:44.72

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026089387. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: RIDGE, THE RIDGE, RIDGE WALLET, 2448 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405, County of Los Angeles. AI #ON 6517938. Registered Owner(s): THE RIDGE WALLET LLC, 2448 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405, DE. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 04/2013. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ AVI GOLAN, CFO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 04/23/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 04/30/2026, 05/07/2026, 05/14/2026, 05/21/2026

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026101293. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: EMILY SHOJI CONSULTING, 1812 ARMACOST AVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90025, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): EMILY SHOJI, 1812 ARMACOST AVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90025. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 05/2026. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ EMILY SHOJI, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 05/07/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 05/14/2026, 05/21/2026, 05/28/2026, 06/04/2026

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Malibu

#### City of Malibu to host 2026 Poetry Summit

The City of Malibu will host the 2026 Poetry Summit: Vibrant Cycles on Saturday, May 16, at noon at Malibu City Hall. The city's premier annual poetry event will bring together poets, musicians and artists for an afternoon of spoken word, live music and dance exploring the theme of "Vibrant Cycles."

The event will be hosted by Malibu Poet Laureate Charlotte Ward.

"Malibu's Poetry Summit is a wonderful celebration of creativity, culture and community," said Mayor Bruce Silverstein. "We are proud to support an event that brings people of all ages together through the arts and highlights the incredible talent in Malibu and beyond."

The program will feature readings by local poets including Ann Buxie, Malibu's fourth Poet Laureate; Eileen Fiori; DeForest Wright III; Pamela Goldsmith; Jolynn Regan; Tracy Katz; Debbie Pommer-Siegel; Malibu's first Poet Laureate Ricardo Means Ybarra; and Patricia Davis, among others. The event will also showcase selected student poets from local schools who have been taught and mentored by Regan, Means Ybarra and former Poet Laureate Nathan Hassall.

The event is free and open to all ages. RSVPs are not required, and light refreshments will be served following the program.

The Malibu City Council approved the creation of the Poet Laureate program in November 2016, following a recommendation from the Malibu Arts Commission. The commission's goal is for the Poet Laureate to keep poetry as an integral part of Malibu's artistic landscape and expand support for poetry within community arts programming.

The Poet Laureate serves as the official Consultant in Poetry to the City of Malibu and the Malibu Library, helping create or participate in an annual Poetry Invitational event. The Poet Laureate also represents the city at literary and poetry events and works with the Laureate Committee to promote poetry and literary arts in local schools and throughout the community.

For more information, visit [www.malibucity.org/poetry](http://www.malibucity.org/poetry).

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

### SMC

#### SMC Percussion Ensemble to Perform Free Concert May 15

The Santa Monica College Music Department will present a free, high-energy concert featuring the SMC Percussion Ensemble on Friday, May 15.

The performance will be held at 1 p.m. in the Music Hall at the SMC Performing Arts Center, located at 1310 11th Street. Free parking is available on premises, with seating on a first-arrival basis.

Under the baton of SMC music instructor Megumi Smith, the ensemble will present a vibrant, creative performance of percussion music showcasing a bold mix of styles intended to keep the audience engaged from start to finish.

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

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Courtesy Image

**CONCERT:** The Santa Monica College Percussion Ensemble will present a free, high-energy concert on Friday, May 15.



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SANTA MONICA BEACH DUNES

## EVENTS THIS WEEK MAY 14 - MAY 21

Saturday, May 9, 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Virginia Avenue Park (fitness room inside the Park Center)  
2200 Virginia Avenue Santa Monica.

### DadTime

Very Saturday morning dads come together to let their young children (0-3) explore, socialize, and learn from uninterrupted play. StrongStart Facilitator on hand to answer questions. Free coffee, and the Pico Boulevard Farmer's Market is just outside! Provided FREE by Early Engagement & SMMUSD. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/dadtime/17327106/2026-05-02T09>

Thursday, May 14, 6:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.

Santa Monica Place 395 Santa Monica Pl, Santa Monica.

### Tulum Thursdays at LouLou Santa Monica

Tulum Thursdays at LouLou Santa Monica - Every Thursday from 6:00 PM - Step into LouLou's signature Bohemian Chic haven where the elegance of Tulum meets the coastal glamour of Santa Monica. Sunset rooftop vibes Afro-Tribal House beats by DJ Yanicrash Live percussion performances Cocktails, cuisine & curated moments Inspired by the spirit of Ibiza, Mykonos, and the Riviera Maya, Tulum Thursdays are a ritual of rhythm, flavor, and barefoot luxury. Watch the LouLou experience LouLou Santa Monica Tulum Thursdays: Every Thursday from 6:00 PM 395 Santa Monica Pl #300, Santa Monica, CA 90401 (323) 410 - 2337. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/tulum-thursdays-at-loulou-santa-monica/18673410/2026-05-14T18>

Saturday, May 16, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Santa Monica Pier 200 Santa Monica Pier, Ste A Santa Monica.

### Wellness & Waves Returns to Santa Monica Pier, Free Sat. Morning Fitness

The Santa Monica Pier Corporation invites the community to move, stretch, and recharge by the ocean as Wellness & Waves returns for its 2026 season. Taking place every Saturday from April 4 through October 17, 2026, from 8 to 10 a.m., this free, all-ages wellness series transforms the iconic Santa Monica Pier into an open-air fitness destination at the most iconic outdoor setting in Southern California. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/wellness-waves-returns-to-santa-monica-pier-free-sat-morning-fitness/18475500/2026-05-16T08>

Thursday, May 14, 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Beyond Baroque Literary Arts Center 681 Venice Blvd, Venice Beach Los Angeles

### Goat, Goddess, Moon: Poetry with Catherine Strisik & Guest Features

Beyond Baroque welcomes poet Catherine Strisik, celebrating her book "Goat, Goddess, Moon". Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/goat-goddess-moon-poetry-with-catherine-strisik-guest-features/18818772/2026-05-14T19>

Saturday, May 16, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Laughing Frog Yoga 12217 Santa Monica Blvd Los Angeles.

### Puppy Yoga with French Bulldogs

Who let the dogs out?? We DID! Come practice yoga with man's best friend, while playful and adorable French Bulldog puppies join every pose! \$49.87. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/puppy-yoga-with-french-bulldogs/18845960/2026-05-16T13>

Friday, May 15, 5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

The Penmar 1233 Rose Avenue Venice.

### Sunset Sessions

Music and good vibes as the Sun sets. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/sunset-sessions/18758750/2026-05-15T17>

Thursday, May 14, 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Venice Art Walk Gallery 910 Abbot Kinney Blvd Venice.

### Venice Family Clinic's Art Exhibition + Auction

The 47th annual Venice Family Clinic Art Exhibition + Auction marks a milestone in the organization's nearly five-decade commitment to the intersection of art and health care. What began in 1979 as the grassroots Venice Art Walk has grown into Los Angeles' longest-running charity art exhibition, bringing together artists, collectors, and community leaders to support access to quality health care for Angelenos in need. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/venice-family-clinic-s-art-exhibition-auction/18613644/2026-05-14T11>

Check out  
more events at:  
[smdp.com/events](https://www.smdp.com/events)

Friday, May 15, 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

### Bundy Triangle Night Market

Cayton Children's Museum will offer free, weekly hands-on activities for children and families at the Bundy Triangle Night Market in Sawtelle every Friday from March 27 through the end of October, the museum announced. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/bundy-triangle-night-market/18490079/2026-05-15T17>

SANTA MONICA

OCEAN PARK

VENICE



## 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](mailto:jimkirtley@ymcala.org) for more information. Visit: <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/emeritusgallery](http://smc.edu/emeritusgallery) 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>

## FRIDAY | MAY 15

### VENICE FAMILY CLINIC ART EXHIBITION + AUCTION

11:00 a.m. - 6:00p.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. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/venice-family-clinic-art-exhibition-auction/18616281/2026-05-15T11>

### PALISADES SENIORS MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. American Legion Palisades Post 283 15247 La Cruz Drive Pacific Palisades. Join us May 15 to celebrate all the moms and mother figures in our lives at this month's Pali LTRG Seniors Luncheon. Enjoy a delicious lunch and catch-up with friends, neighbors and fellow Palisadians, while celebrating the moms and mother figures in our lives. The afternoon promises to be filled with music, sweet treats and connection. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/palisades-seniors-mother-s-day-luncheon/18845944/2026-05-15T12>

### ELECTRIC LODGE - THE SECOND BEST SCHOOL SHOOTING

3:00 p.m. Electric Lodge 1416 Electric Avenue Los Angeles. The Second Best School Shooting 3G Productions proudly announces a limited engagement of The Second Best School Shooting, written by Alice Stanley Jr. and directed by Lauren Johansen. The Second Best School Shooting is the story of Parker and Ava, two high school friends on the precipice of bright. \$40.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/electric-lodge-the-second-best-school-shooting/18847288/2026-05-15T15>

### TOUR OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM PART 1: "THE INNER SYSTEM"

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Math & Science Building (MSB 126 Planetarium). Earth, home to the only known life in the universe, is surrounded by three fellow rocky planets. Do any of these hold the potential for life beyond Earth? Tonight's show explores the Sun, the rocky inner planets, and what makes Earth so special. General Admission: \$10. Children (3-12): \$7. Show Combo (Include the Night Sky Show at 6 p.m.): \$16 adults, \$10 children (3-12). There will be a short intermission prior the start of the Feature Program. Visit: \$7.00 - \$10.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/tour-of-the-solar-system-part-1-the-inner-system/18846448/2026-05-15T19>

## AROUND TOWN

FROM PAGE 3

30th anniversary celebration, with select moments woven into the evening, including a community “thank you” tribute on the Ferris wheel and the debut of Sweet Rose Creamery for guests. Thursday, May 21, 3:30-10p.m. [instagram.com/santamoniacapier](https://www.instagram.com/santamoniacapier)

**Rick Crocker 5k Run/Walk Coming Back on 5/21:** Lace up and join us for the 6th Annual Rick Crocker 5K Challenge in support of the Santa Monica Police Activities League (PAL). Thursday, May 21, 3:30-10p.m., SaMo Pier [santamonicanext.org/2026/02/rick-crocker-5k-run-walk-coming-back-on-5-21/](https://santamonicanext.org/2026/02/rick-crocker-5k-run-walk-coming-back-on-5-21/)

**ONGOING:** Museum of Illusions; The CUBE VR; Splatter Studio;

### WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

**Dine Latino Restaurant Week:** Now through Sunday, May 24, more than 200 local restaurants representing the culinary traditions of 20 Latin American countries, are offering prix-fixe menus and special dishes. The Latino Restaurant Assn. aims to celebrate and provide essential support to participating Latino restaurants across L.A. County, which have faced mounting challenges since ICE raids began last year. Participating SaMo spots include La Monarca Bakery (1300 Wilshire Blvd.) and Fogo De Chao (1551 Ocean Ave.). <https://dinelatinomap.tiiny.site/>

**Menotti’s Coffee Stop Opening:** Menotti’s will celebrate opening week with a series of special activations, including free oat milk lattes in partnership with Minor Figures and Hatchet Hall cookies for the first 75 customers on each day of Friday and Saturday, May 15 & 16, 12121 W Olympic Blvd, West LA. [menottis.com](https://menottis.com)

**Andrew’s Grilled Cheese and Wine Night:** This event is a twist on their popular Grilled Cheese event - each course is paired with some of our amazing and unusual wines. Friday, May 15, 7p.m., 728 Montana Ave. [eventbrite.com/e/andrews-grilled-cheese-and-wine-night-tickets-1987102019632](https://eventbrite.com/e/andrews-grilled-cheese-and-wine-night-tickets-1987102019632)

**Five-Course Oceanfront Dinner & Nikka Whisky Pairing:** Indulge in an evening at The Lobster on a five-course dinner paired with Nikka Whisky & Spirits. \$160/person. 21+ only. Thursday, May 21, 6p.m., 1602 Ocean Ave. [resy.com/cities/los-angeles-ca/venues/the-lobster](https://resy.com/cities/los-angeles-ca/venues/the-lobster)

**Newly Opened - ROLL D Sushi:** This is the first Australian-inspired grab-and-go hand roll concept on the West Coast. Here’s the format: an uncut hand roll, tightly packed, wrapped in nori and eaten with your hands at the beach, on your lunch break or on-the-go. No chopsticks! All rolls are gluten free, \$6.50 each, 3 for \$17, or 4 for \$21. It opens on May 16 at 1307 Montana Ave. [rolldsushi.com](https://rolldsushi.com)

**Newly Opened - Pontu:** This casual walk-up window is all about Peruvian rotisserie chicken with sides like fries, beans, and beet-topped salad. There’s a surprisingly large patio tucked in back, with walls covered in Peruvian magazines and newspaper clippings. They’re currently open from lunch to 6p.m., with plans to launch an expanded dinner service featuring ceviches and tiraditos soon. 3117 Ocean Park Blvd. [theinfatuation.com/los-angeles/reviews/pontu](https://theinfatuation.com/los-angeles/reviews/pontu)

**Santa Monica’s Mel’s Drive-in celebrates 100 years of Route 66:** This NBC4 Video report highlights Mel’s role as the endpoint for the cross-country road and its centennial celebration. It’s a fun story to learn about people ring the bell at the restaurant to mark completion of the full drive.

**West Side Oyster Club Opening This Summer:** The space formerly home to Blue Plate Oysterette in Santa Monica will receive new life this summer. Local entrepreneurs Greg and Yunnie Morena will open new seafood concept West Side Oyster Club at 1355 Ocean Avenue in mid-June, according to a release. <https://whatnow.com/los-angeles/restaurants/santa-monica-entrepreneurs-opening-west-side-oyster-club/>

**Further Afield:** California Strawberry Festival (May 16–17): Now settled into its new home at the Ventura County Fairgrounds, this is a massive draw for Westside foodies. Mention the strawberry beer and build-your-own shortcakes—they’re always a hit.

**Looking Ahead:** MAINopoly Taste of Main Street (5/24); U.S. Women’s Open Golf Championship (6/2-5); World Cup Street Parties; Main St. Summer SOULstice Festival (6/20)

If there’s something you think is worth highlighting, you can reach out directly to me at [sean@smdp.com](mailto:sean@smdp.com). Let me know if you have any feedback on Around Town: Sidewalk Sales, EEEEEATSCON, & More!

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Pacific Palisades

#### Kehillat Israel returns to Pacific Palisades 16 months after fire

On May 15, nearly 900 families of Kehillat Israel will carry their Torah scrolls back into their sanctuary, marking one of the first returns by a religious institution to Pacific Palisades since the January 2025 fire. Of KI’s member families, 250 lost their homes entirely and another 250 were temporarily displaced.

The reopening event coincides with the celebration of Cantor Chayim Frenkel’s 40th anniversary of service to the congregation.

“Returning home as a community is deeply emotional and personal for me,” said Frenkel. “Music and prayer have carried us through these past 16 months. Now, to be welcomed back into our cherished holy space, my family’s spiritual home for the past 40 years, is a blessing.”

Architecture firm Herman Coliver Locus Architecture, led by Principal Steven Rajninger and Project Manager Megan Costello, redesigned the 4,700-square-foot sanctuary to accommodate more than 400 congregants. New features include “The Portal,” an entry designed as a gateway into sacred space; a new ark; updated memorial walls; reconfigured acoustics through a suspended “Sound Cloud”; and enhanced audiovisual capabilities for in-person and virtual events.

“This is more than a physical reopening,” said Senior Rabbi Amy Bernstein. “It is a moment to gather again in a familiar space that has been transformed to meet our community members where they are now, a place of calm, reflection, and belonging.”

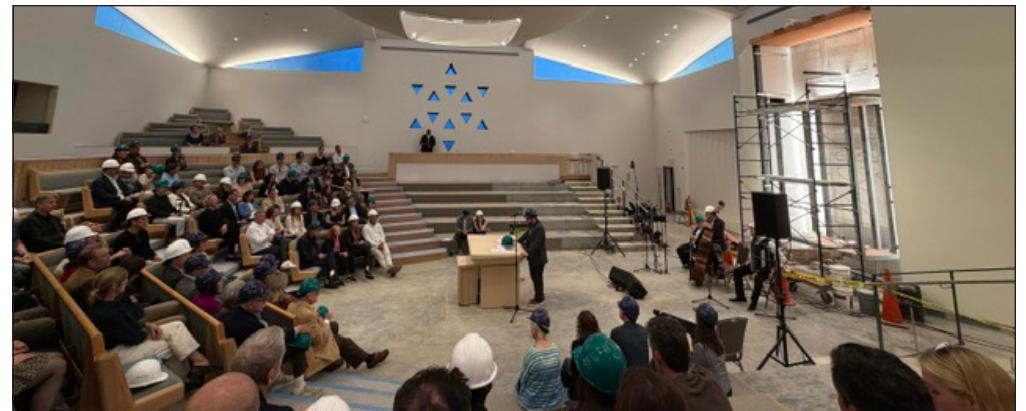
Since the fire, the KI community has continued to prioritize in-person gatherings, meeting in several temporary locations across Los Angeles.

“At KI, our congregants, clergy, and staff have held each other close and relied on one another for support ever since the fire devastated the Pacific Palisades last year,” said Board of Trustees President Matthew Ross. “It’s been a long road to our reopening, but now that we’re back in our reimagined building, we’re excited once again to have a central gathering place for our beloved community.”

KI’s return will be marked by several community gatherings and spiritual services, starting with the May 15 sanctuary rededication and continuing throughout the year.

Founded in 1950 by several Pacific Palisades families, Kehillat Israel is an inclusive Jewish community grounded in Reconstructionist tradition.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy image

**SANCTUARY:** Kehillat Israel returns to its Pacific Palisades sanctuary May 15, among the first religious institutions back after the 2025 fire.

### Santa Monica

#### Bosch Wiper Blades announces Route 66 grant program

Bosch Wiper Blades announced a three-year, \$30,000 grant program through the Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership to support independent automotive and repair shops along historic Route 66.

The announcement coincides with the completion of the Bosch Impressive Innovation Centennial Road Trip, which featured YouTubers Engineering Explained and Gears and Gasoline and marked the 100th anniversary of both Route 66 and Bosch’s introduction of the electric windshield wiper.

The Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership will begin accepting grant applications from independent automotive and repair shops this summer and will award five \$2,000 grants for qualifying businesses. Funds can be used to revitalize facilities — from service bay restorations and diagnostic tool upgrades to advanced technician training — or to restore automotive business signage to ensure shops remain visible icons along Route 66.

The Road Ahead Partnership’s mission is to revitalize and sustain Route 66 as a national icon and international destination through collaborative partnerships focused on promotion, preservation, research, education and economic development.

“As we mark the Centennial, our mission is to turn this moment of celebration into a moment of investment — supporting the people and places that will keep this historic highway alive for the next 100 years,” said Bill Thomas, Chair of the Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership. “By strengthening the shops that maintain vehicle performance and the signs that guide the way, Bosch Wiper Blades and the Road Ahead Partnership are reinforcing a shared commitment to driver confidence and safety. In other words, together we’re leveraging 100 years of history to build the next 100 years of opportunity.”

Scott Sullivan, Bosch Senior Marketing Team Lead, said independent automotive and repair shops have served as a lifeline for Route 66 travelers for a century.

“The Impressive Innovation Centennial Road Trip has given us the opportunity to not only look back, but also to join forces with the Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership to renew our commitment to keeping drivers safe for all the miles ahead,” Sullivan said.

Established in 2016 with support from the National Park Service and the World Monuments Fund, the Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership works through promotion, preservation, research, education and economic development.

For more information, visit [route66centennial.org](https://route66centennial.org).

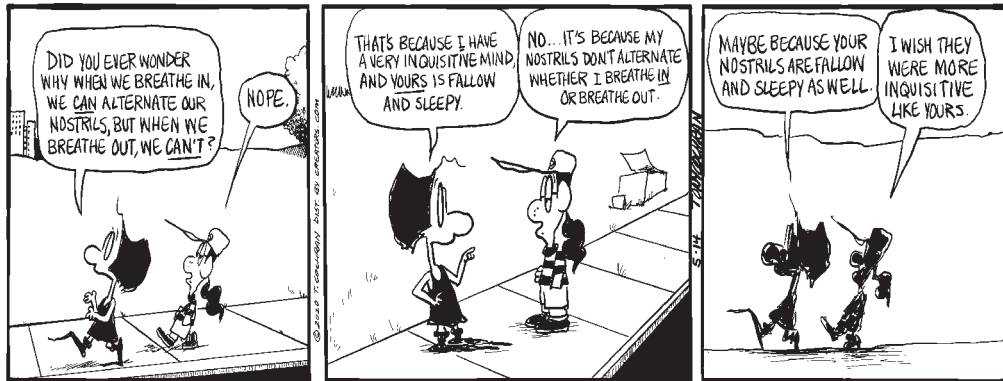
EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

# GET IT DAILY...



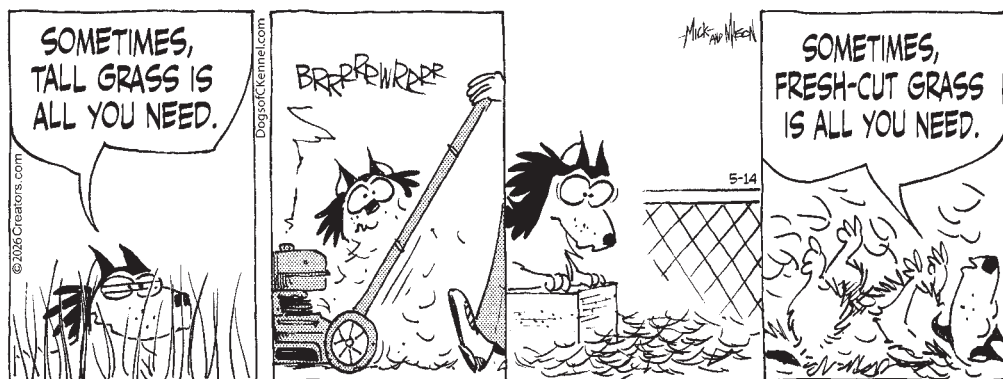
### Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



### Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



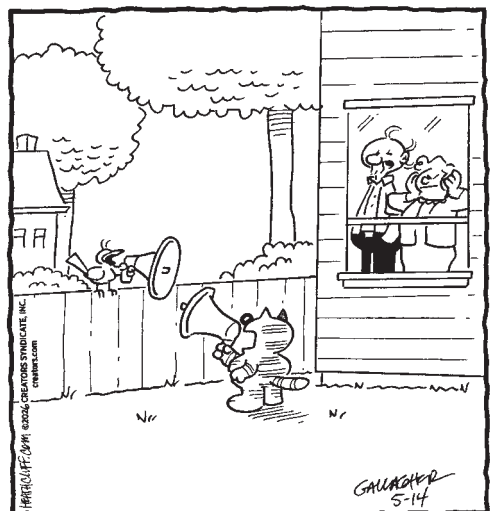
### Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



### Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



### Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



# FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 26 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6940

## Try before you buy

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

Alfa Romeo  
 Alvis  
 Battery  
 Brakes  
 Buying  
 Cadillac  
 Calais  
 Check  
 Classic  
 Club  
 Condition  
 Dealer  
 Dodge

Ford  
 Frame  
 Heritage  
 Holden  
 Horns  
 Jaguar  
 Keen  
 Lights  
 Lincoln  
 Mags  
 Manual  
 Minx  
 Nash

NRMA  
 One owner  
 RACQ  
 Rare  
 Renault  
 Roadworthy  
 Rolls-Royce  
 Rust  
 Saab  
 Show  
 Tarago  
 Test  
 Utility

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

My huge student loans

Covering the city by the bay since 2001.

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**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 14)**

It's your Year of Creative Fireworks, bursting with ideas that demand expression. Some are routines or lifestyle hacks that brighten your days. Then there are meaningful projects of various sizes. You build at least three of your visions. One becomes vibrant and lasting. More highlights: Relationships are relaxed and golden, except for the very exciting and eventful connection. P.R. brings sales and attention beyond your usual sphere. Cancer and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 3, 11, 40 and 20.

**HOROSCOPES**

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). You can acknowledge someone's perspective without saying it's wrong or right. Recognizing others doesn't change your position; it simply acknowledges that yours isn't the only one. This reduces tensions and helps everyone find a way forward.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). No one can deny that your past efforts are delivering visible rewards. You're still not entirely satisfied with the results, but keep tweaking, adjusting and experimenting and you'll get there. You'll soon be collecting wins across several areas of life.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). There's often a difference between what you do for fun and what you do for money, but not today. The activity that falls into both categories will expand your fortunes.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). It doesn't benefit you to give your trust too readily or too early in the relationship. It would be a gift to make them work for it. You're offering others a chance to earn your trust, which is a very rewarding experience.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). How you incorporate or ignore feedback will make all the difference in today's outcomes. It's really OK to let down your defenses. Go into learning mode. Also, people don't have to be totally right to have a point.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Replace "why can't I?" with "what would make this outcome inevitable for me?" You have the mind for design. You can create the system, meet the people, forge the alliances, execute the reps; it's all within your ability.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). People will show you who they are, not in one moment or with one comment, but with their actions over time. Clock the results, but don't spend a lot of energy analyzing one or two moves. This is a long game, a game of patterns.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Study the failures of others, not to scare yourself, but to know what to avoid. Find out where the traps are. Where did they run out of money, attention or support? You can build buffers of protection.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You can point to many moments when worry ran wild and nothing came of it. Today you recognize the pattern and refuse to feed it. You'll move forward with steadiness, letting evidence guide your energy instead of fear.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A crush isn't always on a person. A food, a hiking trail, a shirt could be crushworthy - anything that inspires you. You're open to what lights you up today and when you follow it, your attention attracts.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You can elevate a room without spending a dollar. It has to do with how you treat people, the attention you give, the ease you create. You put others at the center for a moment. Add charm. Watch the whole scene rise.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). No need to hold back or play the game with less energy than you have. Life can take the full-strength version of you. Things start to move in a good direction when you show up with everything you've got.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

**Newsday Crossword**

**ACROSS**

- 1 Farm baby
- 5 Question of confirmation
- 9 Sound of a loud impact
- 14 Adidas alternative
- 15 First-century despot
- 16 Speak up with
- 17 Some cheeses' exterior
- 18 "Doggone it!"
- 19 Balzac's boulder
- 20 Golfer's storage unit
- 23 Isn't cramped
- 24 "How wonderful!"
- 25 Slip up
- 26 Band instrument
- 28 Rite answer
- 31 What a spy often assumes
- 34 Geese formations
- 35 Short cut
- 36 Uber-brain
- 39 Big game in Utah
- 40 Put on
- 41 Formal pledges
- 42 Conniving
- 43 Do the same as
- 44 Among the busiest US airports
- 45 Barnyard comment
- 46 Military depot
- 50 Aromatic Caribbean cocktail
- 55 City near Venice
- 56 Caesar adversary
- 57 "It's wrong \_\_\_ many levels!"

**DOWN**

- 1 Fir relative
- 2 City near Madrid
- 3 Reduced by
- 4 Tough luck
- 5 \_\_\_ skiing (Dubai diversion)
- 6 Vaccine medium
- 7 Certain cash stashes
- 8 Swag holder
- 9 Remote location
- 10 Prohibition potation
- 11 Burning braid
- 12 Longing
- 13 Someone like you
- 21 Polo participant
- 22 Scoundrel
- 26 Oppose orally
- 27 Apt rhyme for "restrain"
- 28 Still competitive
- 29 Eloper of rhyme
- 30 Decides (to)
- 31 Amazons' father
- 32 Idle-ize?
- 33 Quite unpleasant
- 34 Brandy designation
- 35 Laughless lines
- 37 Wee hour

**ANCIENT WEAPONRY** by Mark McClain  
Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com

- 38 A pack of lies
- 43 200-milligram measures
- 44 Close kin of 46-Across
- 45 Hawaiian for "peak"
- 46 Where a fan is often found
- 47 Number spoken by pilots
- 48 Fully befuddled
- 49 Pelican cousins
- 50 Any time period
- 51 Legal prefix
- 52 Utopian setting
- 53 Keeps chilled
- 54 Word following brand or big

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

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

FROM PAGE 1

“Too often we are expecting people of color to do work for free, and that is not acceptable to me.”

Council Member Lana Negrete pushed back on the framing, cautioning colleagues against “presuming that people of color always lack finances or resources.” The city attorney noted that the charter limits stipends to the Planning Commission and said staff would research whether other commissions could be compensated.

Any recommendations or policies developed by the Restorative Justice Commission will return to the City Council for public review and formal adoption before implementation.

The vote came as part of a comprehensive review of the city’s advisory bodies launched in January. Among the most significant structural changes, the council voted to dissolve the Housing Commission and Human Services Commission and consolidate them into a new seven-member Housing and Human Services Commission effective July 1. Two seats must be filled by affordable housing participants — one age 62 or older, and one who is unhoused or formerly unhoused.

Other changes reduce the Arts Commission and Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission to seven members each, convert the Urban Forest Task Force into a standalone commission and consider reducing the Disabilities Commission from 11 members to seven.

Teresa Clark, a Disabilities Commission member, urged the council in written comments to keep that body at 11 seats, writing that the larger membership functions as “an accommodation for the disability community” by allowing for absences while still meeting quorum.

The meeting’s most contentious moment came over Section 1.G of the city’s commission policies, a long-standing rule barring close

family relatives of council members from serving on boards and commissions.

Councilmember Dan Hall, whose partner previously served on the personnel board and stepped down to avoid the appearance of a conflict, urged colleagues to keep the rule. Hall moved to retain the anti-nepotism provision and drew support from Torosis and Negrete.

However, they were outvoted by Councilmembers Snell, Raskin, Zwick and Zernitskaya.

Raskin called the original rule “a targeted attack on a specific Commissioner” — the husband of a former councilmember and former mayor — and said it was “discriminatory in a lot of ways, to think that spouses and family members of people serving on this dais... can’t make substantial contributions to the community.”

The decision drew sharp public criticism. “Read the room,” Santa Monica resident Nikki Kolhoff wrote to the council, citing “an unprecedented time of nepotism, graft, and erosion of democracy.” Tricia Crane, chair of Northeast Neighbors, asked, “Which City Council relative is seeking a position on a board or commission?”

The Airport Commission also drew significant public comment, with speakers criticizing the body for lacking aviation expertise as the Santa Monica Airport heads toward its scheduled Dec. 31, 2028, closure. Resident Eve Lopez told the council the commission costs roughly \$67,270 annually — the city’s most expensive advisory body — and argued the council can prioritize aviation expertise without a charter amendment. Staff said formally requiring aviation experts would require a voter-approved charter amendment, estimated at \$77,225 on the November 2026 ballot.

The ordinance returns to the council for a second reading before taking effect July 1.

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**SCOUTS**

FROM PAGE 1

throughout the year, and Patrol Leader Asher Lord said he wanted to organize a meaningful Good Turn trip that would allow the patrol to make a real impact while learning more about challenges facing people in the community.

When the scouts first reached out about volunteering, People Concern staffer Ryan Daniels helped make it happen. When they arrived, he gave them a tour of the facility and explained the organization’s mission. The People Concern supports individuals experiencing homelessness through services including housing assistance, mental health care and job programs.

Before their visit, the patrol collected donations including towels, toiletries and clothing to contribute to the organization.

Lord said it felt good knowing they could help even before they arrived. Organizing the donation drive also showed how scouts can work together as a team to support those in need.

After the tour, the scouts served lunch, helping set up, handing out meals and greeting people as they came through. At first, some were unsure what to expect, but they quickly realized how much something as simple as a warm meal and a friendly smile can mean.

What stood out most was the sense of respect and dignity with which everyone was treated — not just giving out food, but making people feel seen and valued.

Lord said as patrol leader, he was proud to help organize the Good Turn trip and hoped it inspired scouts to continue serving their community.

Submitted by Asher Lord. Edited by SMDP Staff.

**CONVICTION**

FROM PAGE 1

the judge he “handed over the Ketamine Queen on a silver platter.”

“They didn’t have a clue who she was before that day,” Dugdale said.

He would have gotten about four years in prison if it weren’t for his cooperation, according to federal sentencing guidelines.

The prosecution said he deserved credit for doing the right thing, but argued that he did so only when confronted and cornered by authorities.

“Mr. Fleming didn’t cooperate because he had a benevolent motive, or because he wanted justice for Mr. Perry,” Assistant U.S. Attorney Ian Yanniello said. “He wanted to save himself.”

The judge also pointed out that Fleming didn’t come forward in the months after Perry’s death, that he didn’t create new evidence by making phone calls to co-conspirators or anything similar, and that the information he provided might have been obtained anyway simply through the seizure of his phone.

But all agreed that he sped up and smoothed the investigation with his cooperation.

Prosecutors said in a sentencing memo that his role as a drug counselor who “deliberately undertook to sell illegal street drugs to a victim who had a public, well-documented battle with drug addiction” should count against him, even if Perry wasn’t one of his regular clients.

Defense lawyers emphasized that he had no criminal record and repeatedly pointed out that he only spent 11 days of his life dealing drugs and to a single customer. Fleming told the judge it was an act of desperation “in the midst of the worst time of my life.”

They had asked for a sentence of three months in prison and nine months in a residential drug treatment facility.

Fleming told the judge his great remorse “can’t compare to the agony I’ve caused.”

Outside the courthouse, he said “my chest and heart hurt every day for the pain I caused

not only his family but the millions of people who adore him.”

He and his lawyers also highlighted what they called his extraordinary work towards rehabilitation, spending 20 months sober and helping to establish a sober living home. After the hearing, he hugged several friends who were in the courtroom to support him.

Perry had been receiving ketamine treatments for depression — an increasingly common off-label use.

A few weeks before his death, Perry was seeking more of the drug than he could get through doctors and asked a friend to help him get more. She was in a treatment facility, so introduced Perry to Fleming. He was a former film and television producer whose career had been ravaged by addiction. He got sober and became a drug counselor, but had relapsed after the 2023 death of a beloved stepmother who had rescued him from a traumatic childhood, his lawyers said.

Fleming would get ketamine from Sangha, mark up the price to make a profit, and deliver it to Perry’s house, where he sold it to the actor’s live-in personal assistant Kenneth Iwamasa.

His deliveries included 25 vials for \$6,000 four days before Perry’s death.

Iwamasa would inject Perry from that batch on Oct. 28, 2023, and hours later, he found the actor dead. A medical examiner’s report found that Perry died from the acute effects of ketamine, a surgical anesthetic, and drowning was a secondary cause.

Iwamasa is set to be the last defendant sentenced in two weeks.

Perry, who died at 54, became one of the biggest stars of his generation as Chandler Bing on “Friends,” NBC’s culture-changing sitcom that ran from 1994 to 2004.

An auction of his valuables including “Friends” memorabilia will go to benefit the foundation founded in his name after his death.

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

**MAYOR**

FROM PAGE 2

Angeles, is a wounded incumbent continuing to deal with fallout from the wildfires and general frustration with City Hall.

She was in Ghana on a diplomatic mission when the fires began tearing through her city, prompting a fierce backlash, and her administration was accused of watering down an after-action report by the fire department, which she denies.

Still, Bass has much of the Democratic establishment firmly behind her, including most of the city’s powerful labor movement. A group of unions is funding an advertising campaign attacking Pratt in terms that seem calibrated to increase his appeal to Republicans and help lift him ahead of Bass’s progressive challengers, a potential bet that he might be easier to defeat in November.

The rising attention on Pratt shakes up a race that, until recently, was shaping up to pit Bass against a rival to her left rather than her right.

“I feel like he’s exploiting the grief of people in the Palisades, and I think that’s reprehensible. That’s the main thing. And I think he is about his own celebrity. He’s famous now again,” Bass told Fox News last week.

Pratt has run a fun and imaginative campaign that has effectively parlayed his celebrity into attention, the lifeblood of politics, just as Donald Trump and Arnold Schwarzenegger did before him, said Michael Trujillo, a Los Angeles-based Democratic strategist. He said that has put him in a strong position to get through the first round of voting and face Bass one-on-one in the runoff.

But, eventually, Pratt will have to face a stark reality as a Republican — Los Angeles is an overwhelmingly Democratic city.

“Not to diminish the creativity and imagination that they’re putting into their campaign,” Trujillo said, “but they’re going to run into a big math problem.”

By JONATHAN J. COOPER Associated Press

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