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Plus Crossword.

Jake Levine makes his case for a different kind of leadership running for Congress

MICHELLE EDGAR
Special to the Daily Press

As a fast moving brush fire triggered evacuation orders in Simi Valley this week, leaders gathered in Pacific Palisades with a message reflecting a broader question surfacing across Los Angeles as communities continue rebuilding after devastating fires, whether government systems are still capable of delivering solutions at the scale communities now need.

Jake Levine, candidate for California's 32nd Congressional District and former Senior Director for Climate and Energy at the National Security Council, has increasingly framed his campaign around that question. Rather than centering his candidacy solely around political differences, Levine argues that voters are looking for



Michelle Edgar

CAMPAIGN: Congressional candidate Jake Levine campaigns on government effectiveness as wildfire recovery challenges LA communities.

SEE **JAKE** PAGE 11

Santa Monica Pier tops polluted beach list for 10th straight year

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica Pier has been ranked among California's most polluted beaches for the 10th consecutive year, according to an annual water quality report released ahead of Memorial Day weekend, raising fresh public health concerns at one of the state's most visited coastal destinations.

The environmental nonprofit Heal the Bay placed the iconic pier at No. 2 on its 2025-2026 Beach Bummer list, a ranking of the 10 California beaches with the worst water quality during summer dry weather. The designation reflects what the group described as "persistent water quality challenges at one of the state's most visited coastal destinations."

"No one should get sick from a weekend in our waters," Heal the Bay CEO Tracy Quinn said. "These findings are a reminder that water quality isn't just a report, it's a public health issue that affects every beachgoer and river user across California."

According to the report, "despite years of investment and remediation efforts, elevated bacteria levels continue to pose a direct public health risk for millions of beachgoers."

The Beach Report Card, which has tracked bacterial pollution for more than 36 years, evaluates fecal indicator bacteria levels at hundreds of beaches from Washington state to Baja California, translating complex water quality data into letter grades from A to F. "A single exposure to bacteria-contaminated water can lead to illness, including rashes, ear infections, respiratory issues, and gastrointestinal symptoms," the report states.

Only Playa Blanca in Tijuana, heavily impacted by transboundary wastewater flows from Baja

California, ranked worse than the Santa Monica Pier. The pier is classified as a storm drain-impacted beach, meaning runoff carrying urban pollutants flows directly into surrounding waters.

Heal the Bay said it is "actively investigating pollution sources near the Pier through its Santa Monica Pier Task Force, in partnership with the City of Santa Monica, to identify long-term solutions."

The pier's poor showing comes against a backdrop of broader statewide water quality declines. The report found that 91% of California beaches still earned A or B grades during summer dry conditions, but "wet weather grades declined statewide, dropping from 67% to 61% during storms." Heal the Bay attributed the slide to increased rainfall, urban runoff and aging stormwater infrastructure.

"Southern California saw some of the largest winter and wet weather declines this year, as stormwater runoff carried more pollution into beaches and waterways," the report said. Six of the 10 Beach Bummer sites this year were in San Mateo County, "many located in enclosed harbor and lagoon systems where limited circulation contributes to chronic bacteria pollution."

The number of beaches earning a spot on Heal the Bay's Honor Roll — reserved for beaches receiving A+ grades across summer dry, winter dry and wet weather conditions — fell sharply this year to 21, "a notable decrease from the 62 beaches last year," according to the report. In Los Angeles County, only Bluff Cove in Palos Verdes Estates earned Honor Roll status.

Most Honor Roll beaches were in Orange and San Diego counties, including sites in Huntington Harbour, Laguna Beach, Carlsbad

SEE **PIER** PAGE 8

Residential burglary rings are using surveillance to select targets in Southern California

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Law enforcement agencies from across Southern California announced charges Thursday against seven suspects linked to three separate organized burglary operations, underscoring a regional surge in sophisticated break-ins attributed largely to South American theft groups targeting affluent neighborhoods.

Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman, flanked by officials from the Los Angeles Police Department, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the Burbank Police Department,

and the Ventura County Sheriff's Department, said the arrests reflect a coordinated, multi-agency response to criminal networks that routinely cross city and county lines.

"There is no city or county where you're going to be out of reach for us," Sheriff Robert Luna said at a news conference.

The cases involve defendants employing an array of surveillance and evasion techniques, including Wi-Fi jamming devices designed to disable cloud-connected home security cameras, hidden cameras disguised inside wooden boxes wrapped in artificial turf, rental vehicles obtained with fraudulent identities, and encrypted messaging

apps.

In the highest-profile case, LAPD officers responding to a May 4 burglary call at a home in the 1500 block of Rexford Drive in Los Angeles apprehended a suspect who was still inside the residence when officers arrived. The victim, who was home at the time, barricaded himself in a bathroom and called 911 after watching surveillance footage of the intruder smashing through a glass sliding door.

The suspect, identified as Byron Gonzalo Syedes Sotomayor, 22, also known as Kevin Diaz, fled on foot but was taken into custody after

SEE **ROBBERY** PAGE 11

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Hilton and Becerra lead in new California governor poll. Steyer trails but isn't out

Two weeks from now we'll probably know which of the 61 candidates for governor have finished 1-2 in the primary election and will face each other in November for the dubious honor of governing a state that may be ungovernable.

The weasel adverb "probably" is warranted because three would-be governors are in a close race, and California is notorious for taking a long time to produce a final election count.

The latest Democratic Party poll, released Tuesday, has Republican Steve Hilton, a British-born former Fox News commentator, and Democrat Xavier Becerra, a former attorney general, virtually tied at 22% and 21% respectively. Billionaire Tom Steyer is still alive at 15%, but all other once-viable candidates are trailing in single digits.

There are three potential outcomes of the June 2 primary, assuming that none of the 58 other candidates defies political gravity and climbs into contention over the next fortnight.

The most likely is that Hilton and Becerra are the top two finishers and will face each other in the November election. Less likely is Hilton and Steyer finishing 1-2 or the two Democrats taking both top places.

Given the state's lopsided Democratic

voter registration advantage, Hilton's only realistic chance of winning in November would be for his Democratic rival to somehow self-destruct. That's an unlikely scenario, but this campaign has already generated a string of unpredictable events, so nothing should be rejected out of hand.

There's been a semi-secret drive underway by Democratic operatives to trumpet Hilton's ties to a very unpopular President Donald Trump, hoping that would spark an outpouring of Republican support that would boost him into one of the two top finishes, thus avoiding a Democrat-vs-Democrat showdown.

That's exactly what happened in a U.S. Senate race two years ago when Democrat Adam Schiff helped Republican Steve Garvey qualify for the November election, thereby avoiding a faceoff with Democrat Katie Porter. Porter is now running for governor but has faded to 7% in the latest poll.

Earlier in the governor's race, Democrats worried about a 1-2 Republican primary finish that would lock them out of the governorship, but that possibility faded when a leading Democrat, Eric Stalwell, imploded among

SEE GUEST COMMENTARY PAGE 4

COMMUNITY NEWS

SMC

SMC Dance Department to host open house showcase May 27

The Santa Monica College Dance Department will hold its Dance Open House Showcase on Wednesday, May 27, from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in SMC Core Performance Center 310, on the SMC Main Campus at 1900 Pico Blvd. The event is free and open to the public.

The showcase will present informal showings of Dance Department coursework along with works by student choreographers. Attendees will also have the opportunity to learn about SMC's Dance program, including its AA Degree and Certificates of Achievement, meet faculty and current students, and hear about performance opportunities.

Santa Monica College is a California Community College accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges.

More information is available at smc.edu/dance or by calling 310-434-4100 or 310-434-3467.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Amy Williams

SHOWCASE: The Santa Monica College Dance Department will hold its Dance Open House Showcase on Wednesday, May 27.

PASS GO TO AN INTERACTIVE TASTING EXPERIENCE

11TH ANNUAL
SUNDAY MAY 24, 2026

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AROUND TOWN

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

MAINopoly, Pier Locals Night Finale, & More Memorial Day Weekend Festivities

SMDP's Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town includes MAINopoly, Pier Locals Night Finale, Dine Latino Restaurant Week, & Many More Memorial Day Weekend Festivities!

Bike Anywhere Day (Thursday, May 21): Big Blue Bus is celebrating its growing community of multimodal riders, by offering free rides to bicyclists! On May 21, your ride is FREE when you board Big Blue Bus with a bike or helmet. Metro Bike Share will offer free 30-minute rides on May 21 across the 225 bike rental stations throughout Los Angeles. All riders can redeem them by selecting '1-Ride' at any Metro Bike Share kiosk, online or in the Metro Bike Share app, and by entering promo 052126 – this code can be redeemed multiple times throughout the day.

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 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/santamonicipier](https://www.instagram.com/santamonicipier)

Rick Crocker 5k Run/Walk: 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://www.santamonicanext.org/2026/02/rick-crocker-5k-run-walk-coming-back-on-5-21/)

"9 to 5 The Musical": Now playing through June 7 at The Morgan-Wixson Theatre as part of the Theatre's 80th anniversary season, brings the high-energy comedy with music and lyrics by Dolly Parton to the stage. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. at 2627 Pico Blvd. [morgan-wixson.org](https://www.morgan-wixson.org)

11th Annual MAINopoly: A Taste of Main Street: This is one of my personal favorite days on Main St. every year. This all-ages community event is a fun take on the classic board game, giving players access to tastings at over 20 participating businesses. Stop at every location for a chance to win a "Taste of Main Street" Prize Package. For the first time ever, MAINopoly guests can sip while they stroll! Thanks to a special City of Santa Monica permit, attendees 21+ can enjoy alcoholic beverages throughout designated areas of Main Street during the event. Grab a drink from the "Go to Jail" Beer Garden or select participating locations and enjoy it as you make your way from stop to stop. \$30 for advanced tickets. Sunday, May 24, 1– 5p.m. <https://mainopolysm.com/>

Handlebar Happy Hour: Close out Bike Month with the second Handlebar Happy Hour at Bodega Wine Bar (814 Broadway) on Thursday, May 28 from 4PM to 6PM. Connect with fellow cyclists, and enjoy a local establishment along the newly constructed Broadway corridor. The City of Santa Monica's Mobility team will be present to answer questions about the Broadway project.

Memorial Day at The Miramar: Enjoy a luau featuring island-inspired cuisine in the Miramar Gardens, experience Mermaid Magic poolside with storytelling, and savor coastal moments thoughtfully designed for all ages under the Santa Monica sun. [fairmont-miramar.com/happening-at-the-miramar-2026/](https://www.fairmont-miramar.com/happening-at-the-miramar-2026/)

Free Mariachi Ensemble Concert: Directed by Mary Alfaro, the ensemble will perform a program of traditional rancheras, boleros and huapangos. Thursday, May 28, 11:15 a.m., SMC Performing Arts Center, 1310 11th St.

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/>

Five-Course Oceanfront Dinner & Nikka Whisky Pairing: Indulge in an evening at The



Surf report WATER TEMP: 64.6

THURSDAY | **SURF:** 2-4ft
FAIR | Thigh to waist

Fun-sized surf holds from Wednesday as modest S swell continues. Southerly energy continues to provide a few fun waves for summer exposures and those top spots continue to see sets around chest high or so. The swell period is forecasted to be a few seconds shorter (12-13s) than the previous run of Southern Hemi, so expect there to be a little less push, but perhaps slightly more broken up/peaky at the beachbreaks. Very little NW energy in the mix.

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

Continued modest mix of southerly energy with minimal NW swell. Selective southerly energy continues but slightly down some from mid-week. Still a few fun waves at summer exposures but nothing much over chest high. Minimal NW swell expected so summer exposures will be best bet.

Weather

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 72. East southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west southwest in the afternoon.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 59. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming light and variable in the evening.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 68. Light and variable wind becoming southwest 5 to 10 mph.

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

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2026/05/21	Thu	12:43 AM	5.64	H
2026/05/21	Thu	08:23 AM	-0.81	L
2026/05/21	Thu	3:36 PM	3.67	H
2026/05/21	Thu	7:53 PM	2.71	L
2026/05/22	Fri	01:52 AM	4.98	H
2026/05/22	Fri	09:27 AM	-0.38	L
2026/05/22	Fri	4:38 PM	3.99	H
2026/05/22	Fri	9:45 PM	2.56	L
2026/05/23	Sat	03:14 AM	4.36	H
2026/05/23	Sat	10:28 AM	0.03	L
2026/05/23	Sat	5:28 PM	4.38	H
2026/05/23	Sat	11:22 PM	2.05	L
2026/05/24	Sun	04:42 AM	3.91	H
2026/05/24	Sun	11:20 AM	0.43	L
2026/05/24	Sun	6:09 PM	4.76	H

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>

<p>Draw Date: 5/18 4 13 34 61 65 Power#: 12 Jackpot: 113 M</p>	<p>Draw Date: 5/19 9 13 15 18 19</p>
<p>Draw Date: 5/19 10 26 34 56 64 Mega#: 6 Jackpot: 296 M</p>	<p>Draw Date: 5/19 EVENING: 4 0 8 Draw Date: 5/19 MIDDAY: 6 3 2</p>
<p>Draw Date: 5/16 14 30 39 40 46 Mega#: 1 Jackpot: 21 M</p>	<p>Draw Date: 5/19 1st: 11 - Money Bags 2nd: 09 - Winning Spirit 3rd: 06 - Whirl Win Race Time: 1:48.02</p>

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Santa Monica Daily Press

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DBA

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

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026099585. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: BOOMBOVA STUDIOS, 1249 CHELSEA AVENUE UNIT C, SANTA MONICA, CA 90404, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): TANYA NOLAN, 1249 CHELSEA AVENUE UNIT C, SANTA MONICA, CA 90404. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ TANYA NOLAN, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 5/6/2026. 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: 5/14/2026, 5/21/2026, 5/28/2026, 6/4/2026

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm
LOCATION 2219A Main St Santa Monica, CA 90405



City of
Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

- **RFP # 475 TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS FOR SMART CURB MANAGEMENT.**
- **Submission Deadline Is July 1, 2026 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

Pacific Palisades

Music Guild at St. Matthew's closes season with Dvořák Violin Concerto May 29

Music Guild at St. Matthew's will conclude its 2025–26 season on Friday, May 29, at 8 p.m. at St. Matthew's Church, 1031 Bienvenida Ave., featuring the Chamber Orchestra at St. Matthew's led by Music Director Dwayne S. Milburn and violinist YuEun Gemma Kim performing Dvořák's Violin Concerto in A minor.

"This is exactly the kind of program I love for a season finale," Milburn said. "It has color, energy, imagination, and tremendous emotional range. Debussy and Ravel give us elegance and sparkle, John Graham's music brings a vivid contemporary voice shaped by storytelling and drama, and Dvořák's Violin Concerto is one of the great Romantic works for the instrument. To close the season with YuEun Gemma Kim at the center of this concerto is especially exciting for all of us."

The concert opens with Claude Debussy's *Danse (Tarantella Styrienne)*, a lively, graceful piece originally written for piano and later arranged for orchestra by Maurice Ravel. The program continues with music from John Graham's award-winning score for "Unbound," the hit Japanese historical drama that aired in 2025 on NHK, Japan's national broadcast network. The evening concludes with Dvořák's Violin Concerto in A minor, featuring Kim, a work full of warmth, energy and memorable melodies.

Kim, an award-winning South Korean violinist, performs internationally as a soloist and chamber musician on both modern and Baroque instruments. Since moving to the United States in 2013 to study with Midori Goto at the University of Southern California, she has appeared with ensembles including Delirium Musicum, American Bach Soloists, Musica Angelica Baroque Orchestra, Boulder Bach Festival and Voices of Music.

She has been recognized as a top prize winner at the Boulder International Chamber Music Competition Art of Duo, a semifinalist at the Qingdao and Michael Hill international violin competitions, and the recipient of the Jeffrey Thomas Award from American Bach Soloists. Kim is a core member of the self-conducted chamber orchestra Delirium Musicum and a former Artist-in-Residence with Musica Angelica.

A free pre-concert talk, "Liner Notes," begins at 7:10 p.m. Hosted by Milburn with guest David Garrett, the talk offers context about the music, composers and historical figures featured in the program and is open to all ticket holders.

Tickets are \$45 general admission, with students paying \$10 at the door with ID. Tickets may be purchased at MusicGuildOnline.org or at the door one hour before the performance. More information: 310-573-0722.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy Image

CONCERT: Music Guild at St. Matthew's closes season May 29 with Dvořák's Violin Concerto featuring violinist YuEun Gemma Kim.

GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 2

allegations of sexual harassment and assault.

Stalwell's exit (his name remains on the ballot) propelled Becerra, who had been languishing in the lower tier of candidates, into contention seemingly overnight.

Ever since, he's been the target of steadily escalating personal attacks from Steyer, who's spending millions from his vast fortune on a nonstop barrage of TV and internet ads accusing Becerra of seemingly everything short of causing the heartbreak of psoriasis.

The most pointed allegation is that Becerra is somehow culpable for a scheme in which money from one of his campaign accounts was siphoned into the pockets of what had been a trusted aide.

Three people have pleaded guilty to federal charges, and prosecutors consider Becerra to have been a victim, not a perpetrator. But that

has not stopped Steyer from attacks that fall just a micrometer short of accusing Becerra.

One Steyer broadside: "Becerra's campaign manager and chief of staff were indicted for stealing from his campaign, raising the question: Was Becerra complicit, or too incompetent to notice?"

While the scenario of a 1-2 Republican finish has vanished with Becerra's rapid rise and the decline of the other GOP candidate, Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco, the possibility of a Republican freezeout has so unnerved Democratic leaders that they now are planning to do away with the top-two system that they — and Republican Party apparatchiks — never liked in the first place, because it leaves too much to chance.

Or, in other words, it is thought to be too small "d" democratic.



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EVENTS THIS WEEK MAY 21 - MAY 28

Monday, May 25, 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Bardonna 1601 Montana Ave Santa Monica.

Weekly Palisadians Gathering in Santa Monica

Displaced Palisadians are welcome to join for connection and discussion. No formal agenda. No RSVP necessary. Organized by Stephanie Kana of Oasis Palisades. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/weekly-palisadians-gathering-in-santa-monica/18461166/2026-05-25T08>

Friday, May 22, 3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Perry's Beach Club 930 Pacific Coast Highway Santa Monica.

Hiyo 5th Birthday Beach Takeover at Perry's Beach Club

Kick off Memorial Day Weekend with Hiyo's 5th Birthday Beach Takeover at Perry's Beach Club in Santa Monica. The four-day oceanfront celebration will feature live DJ sets, beachside drinks, giveaways, sampling moments, and sunset vibes all weekend long. Known for its feel-good social tonics crafted with adaptogens and nootropics, Hiyo is transforming Perry's Beach Club into a lively summer destination designed for music, connection, and social sipping by the beach. \$23.18 — \$23.18 per day (Tickets available on Eventbrite). Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/hiyo-5th-birthday-beach-takeover-at-perry-s-beach-club/18931919/2026-05-22T15>

Saturday, May 23, 7:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

Santa Monica Playhouse 1211 4th Street Santa Monica.

Stand-up Jesus! Blessed be the Punchlines!

"Razor-sharp, whip-smart, irresistible satire!" PBS Chicago. Have you ever prayed that Jesus would come back as a stand-up comedian? Well, your prayers have been answered. The second coming is no longer coming. It's here and it's called STAND-UP JESUS! Sold Out since October - 2026 is the Second Coming! \$25.00 — Includes wine and wafers (the vanilla kind). Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/stand-up-jesus-blessed-be-the-punchlines-/18751462/2026-05-23T19>

Thursday, May 21, 9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Marelle at Sandbourne Santa Monica 1740 Ocean Ave.

Late Night Happy Hour at Marelle - Night Cap Menu

Marelle will be launching a late-night happy hour menu called 'Night Cap' starting Monday, April 6th. Guests can order from this menu exclusively at Marelle, bar and bar lounge only. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/late-night-happy-hour-at-marelle-night-cap-menu/18409321/2026-05-21T21>

Sunday, May 24, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Ashland Hill 2807 Main Street Santa Monica.

11th Annual MAINopoly: Taste of Main Street Returns!

Throw on your top hats and monocles and head to Santa Monica's Main Street for the 11th Annual MAINopoly: Taste of Main Street—an interactive, all-ages culinary walking tour inspired by the classic board game. \$20.00 to \$55.00— (Early Bird pricing ends May 1). Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/11th-annual-mainopoly-taste-of-main-street-returns-/18688384/2026-05-24T13>

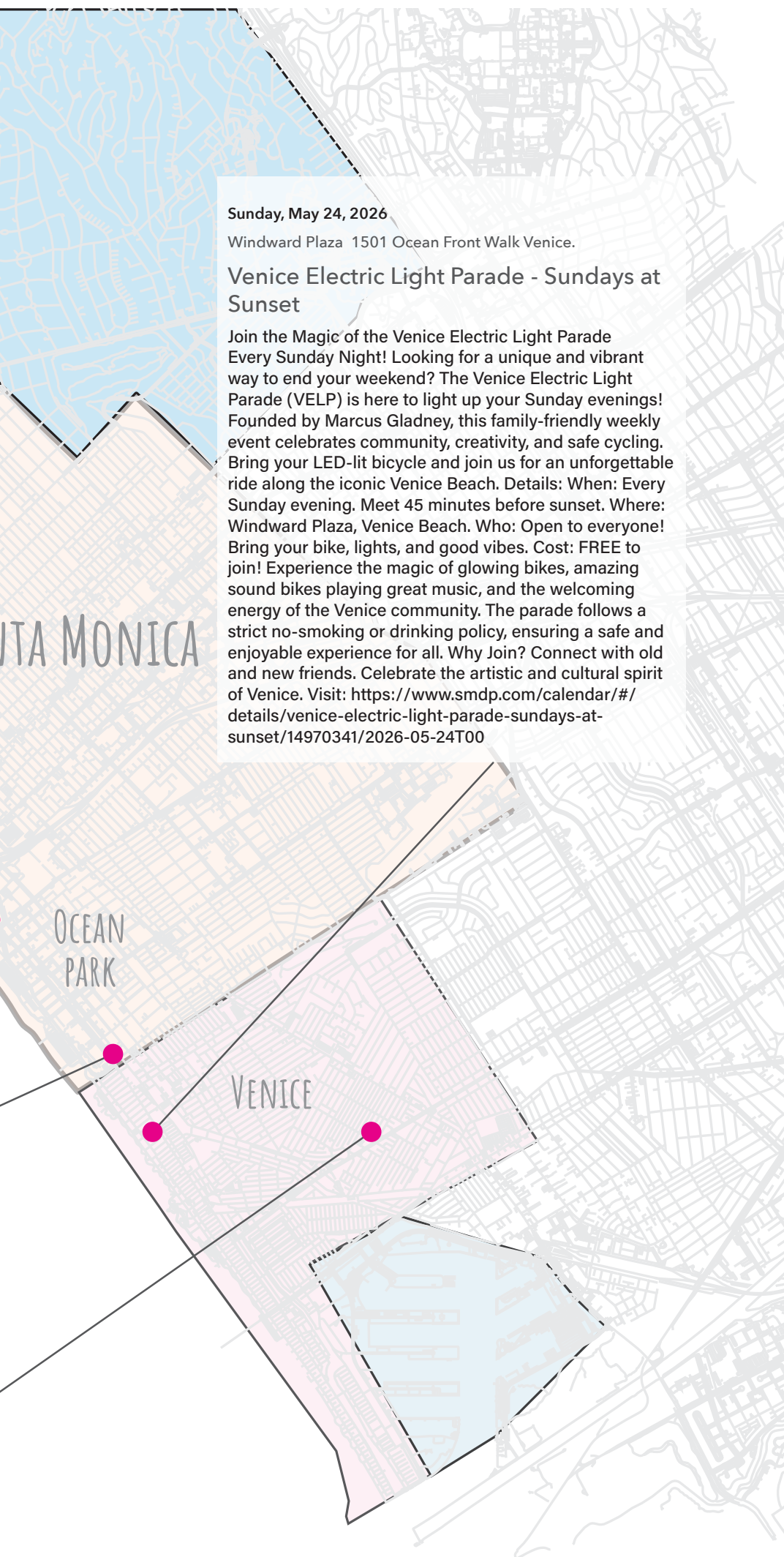
Thursday, May 21, 8:00 p.m.

Pacific Resident Theatre 703 Venice Blvd., Venice.

The Price by Arthur Miller

In Arthur Miller's 1968 tour de force masterwork, THE PRICE, two brothers reunite in the attic of a New York brownstone to sort through their late father's possessions. What begins as a long overdue reunion becomes an unforgettable exploration of the value of success versus personal integrity as four indelible characters struggle to make sense of the past and create a future. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/the-price-by-arthur-miller/18933874/2026-05-21T20>

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



Sunday, May 24, 2026

Windward Plaza 1501 Ocean Front Walk Venice.

Venice Electric Light Parade - Sundays at Sunset

Join the Magic of the Venice Electric Light Parade Every Sunday Night! Looking for a unique and vibrant way to end your weekend? The Venice Electric Light Parade (VELP) is here to light up your Sunday evenings! Founded by Marcus Gladney, this family-friendly weekly event celebrates community, creativity, and safe cycling. Bring your LED-lit bicycle and join us for an unforgettable ride along the iconic Venice Beach. Details: When: Every Sunday evening. Meet 45 minutes before sunset. Where: Windward Plaza, Venice Beach. Who: Open to everyone! Bring your bike, lights, and good vibes. Cost: FREE to join! Experience the magic of glowing bikes, amazing sound bikes playing great music, and the welcoming energy of the Venice community. The parade follows a strict no-smoking or drinking policy, ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for all. Why Join? Connect with old and new friends. Celebrate the artistic and cultural spirit of Venice. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/venice-electric-light-parade-sundays-at-sunset/14970341/2026-05-24T00>



THURSDAY | MAY 21

WELL FED EXHIBITION

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. SMC's Pete & Susan Barrett Art Gallery 1310 11th Street Santa Monica. Well Fed rewrites the antiquated myth of the "starving artist." This exhibition is a testament to what can be created when artists are nourished through creative and intellectual exchange. The work on view challenges the rigid systems that confine us: conventional expression, rampant consumerism, technological encroachment, and informational overload. SMC's Mentor Program provides a uniquely collaborative environment for artists across backgrounds to explore and expand their practice. Here, artists are able to be fiercely committed, vulnerable, and curious as they surrender to their creative calling. The students of the Gallery Program worked with this dynamic group to create this exhibition, developing their own professional abilities along the way. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/well-fed-exhibition/18910662/2026-05-21T11>

CHAIR FITNESS WITH COACH TODD

11:00 a.m. American Legion Ronald Reagan - Palisades Post 283 15247 La Cruz Drive Pacific Palisades, CA. 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/18763133/2026-05-21T11>

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, CA. Power up your Thursday with our free, low-impact group exercise classes — open to all members of the Legion Family, designed for every fitness level, and held from 11:00am to 12:00pm at Palisades Post 283. Come move, recharge, and feel great heading into the rest of your day! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/low-impact-group-exercise-class/18566926/2026-05-21T11>

LEGO CLUB

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Main Library, Youth Activity Room Explore the limits of your building imagination or try out one of our suggested builds. All materials provided. For ages 18 months - 11 years old.

ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH SCREENING: YELLOW ROSE (2019)

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Ocean Park Branch, Community Room This coming-of-age film follows Rose, a Filipina undocumented immigrant, who dreams of leaving her small town in Texas and becoming a country singer. Her life is turned upside down, and her goal is placed on hold when her mother is taken away by ICE officials. Faced with this reality, Rose is forced to leave home and navigate life in Austin as her mother is detained at a detention center. Runtime: 94 min.

ON THE FRONT LINES OF DEMOCRACY: THE LIBRARIANS FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION*

6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. / Santa Monica College Orientation Hall (SSC 183), 1900 Pico Blvd.

Enjoy a screening of *The Librarians*, a documentary that highlights the vital, and often challenging, role librarians play in protecting access to information and intellectual freedom. Following the film, stay for a panel discussion featuring librarians and educators as they explore

democratic values, civic action, and the essential role libraries play in preserving and strengthening democracy. Runtime: 92 mins.

FRIDAY | MAY 22

MOBILE COMMUNITY MEDITATION CENTER - GUIDED MEDITATION

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Santa Monica Beach lot 5 South 2600 Bernard Way Santa Monica. Please join Mobile Community Meditation Center aka Buddhist Boondockers Wednesdays*, Fridays* and Saturdays** at 10 am for a 45 minute fully guided mindfulness meditation, in the park, on the grass, under the shade of the palm trees, with a stunning view of the sparkling blue ocean. Whether you're new to meditation or a seasoned practitioner, everyone is welcomed. Bring your own chair or cushion and try to arrive 5 minutes early. Be ready to enjoy a truly peaceful moment as we relax, be aware and make new friends. Give yourself the love and attention you deserve by developing your mind, finding peace and creating community. Check schedule on FB or IG for any changes or cancellations. We will meet: *WEDNESDAYS and FRIDAYS at the Santa Monica Beach lot 5 South (across the street from the Ocean View Park basketball court). **SATURDAYS meets at South Beach Park at 3400 Barnard Way, Santa Monica. Look for the red, orange, blue and yellow banner or flag attached to the tree. Free—Donations are accepted. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/mobile-community-meditation-center-guided-meditation/16994548/2026-05-22T10>

LA COUNTY REGISTRAR AT PRC - REGISTER TO VOTE

Stop in to ask. How temporary displacement affects voter registration. Whether you need to re-register to Vote. How can you ensure your voter registration is up to date? you can also check registration at, and change it if it is wrong at all info. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/la-county-registrar-at-prc-register-to-vote/18461162/2026-05-22T10>

SATURDAY | MAY 23

WELLNESS & WAVES RETURNS TO SANTA MONICA PIER, FREE SAT. MORNING FITNESS

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Santa Monica Pier 200 Santa Monica Pier, Ste A Santa Monica. 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. With the Pacific Ocean as its backdrop, Wellness & Waves offers a welcoming, energizing way to start the weekend—no membership required. Each Saturday morning begins at the top of the Santa Monica Pier at the intersection of Colorado and Ocean with an easygoing group run from 8 to 9 a.m., open to all levels. Guests can then head to the west end of the Pier for yoga and yoga-pilates fusion classes from 9 to 10 a.m., led by top local instructors. Whether you're looking to break a sweat or simply stretch and reset, participants are encouraged to bring a yoga mat, a towel, and a positive mindset. Wellness & Waves takes place weekly, excluding holiday weekends. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/wellness-waves-returns-to-santa-monica-pier-free-sat-morning-fitness/18475500/2026-05-23T08>

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PIER

FROM PAGE 1

and Point Loma.

Heal the Bay urged beachgoers heading to the coast over the holiday weekend to take precautions before entering the water. The organization recommends three steps: “Avoid swimming within 72 hours after rainfall,” “Stay away from storm drains, river outlets, and enclosed stagnant waters,” and “Always check current water quality conditions before recreating.”

Weekly water quality grades are available year-round through the Beach Report Card app and at beachreportcard.org.

The report’s findings underscore what Heal the Bay described as long-standing infrastructure gaps that allow pollution hotspots to reappear year after year. “Many pollution hotspots identified in previous years reappeared, underscoring ongoing challenges tied to stormwater runoff, stagnant circulation, and aging wastewater infrastructure,” the

report said.

Climate change is expected to compound those challenges. “As climate change intensifies rainfall extremes, wildfire impacts, and urban runoff pressures, sustained investment in water infrastructure and access to clear, reliable public health information, will only become more critical,” the report warned.

Founded in 1985, Heal the Bay is “an environmental nonprofit dedicated to making coastal waters and inland watersheds of greater Los Angeles safe, healthy, and clean.” The organization said its volunteers have removed nearly 4 million pieces of plastic trash from California coastlines over the past four decades.

For the millions of beachgoers expected at California’s coast this Memorial Day weekend, the report card delivers a pointed message about one of the state’s most visited destinations: by Heal the Bay’s measure, the Santa Monica Pier remains among the most polluted beaches in California.

maaz@smdp.com

AROUND TOWN

FROM PAGE 3

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

Florentine Steak Dinner Series at All’Antico Vinaio: The popular Italian sandwich spot has teamed up with Florence Underground for a dinner series at their Santa Monica location centered around bistecca alla Fiorentina. For \$160 per pair, the meal opens with cured meats, cheeses, and house-made schiacciata bread before the main event: a thick T-bone seasoned only with salt and olive oil, served slightly before medium-rare with classic sides family-style. Olive oil cake and crema close it out. Available just three dates, May 29, June 26, and July 30. tables.toasttab.com/all-antico-vinaio-santa-monica-blvd/experience/florentina-night

“Circle Bar’s Triumphant Return To Santa Monica”: This Toddrickallen blog post details “One of Santa Monica’s most legendary nightlife venues is set to return on Friday, May 22. Circle Bar, the longtime OG Main Street bar and nightclub known for its dimly lit, oval-shaped bar, packed dance floor, and historic past, will reopen under new ownership. At the helm are local restaurateurs Mark and Addie Van Gessel, the duo behind the Venice staple Hinano Cafe and Santa Monica’s Tavern on Main.” <https://toddrickallen.com/2026/05/14/circle-bars-triumphant-return-to-santa-monica/>

Italian Gelato Chain Bacio di Latte Opens on Montana Ave.: It’s known for making its product fresh daily in-store with popular offerings including classics such as Stracciatella, Pistachio, Hazelnut, and the signature Bacio di Latte sweet cream, along with rotating fruit sorbets and seasonal items. 1510 Montana Ave.

Pop’s Bagels Opens On Montana Ave.: After two years B&T’s Deli abruptly closed up shop on April 30 at 912 Montana Ave. By some miracle, cult-fave carb purveyor Pop’s Bagels has not only managed to move in but are planning opened up within a couple weeks already. Pop’s Bagels has four other LA locations and is well-known for long lines and bagels described as “fluffy, crispy, and perfectly chewy”. With equally culty H& H Bagels just a block away, and Sam’s Bagels a little over a block in the opposite direction, Montana Ave is turning into something of a carb capital. toddrickallen.com/2026/05/15/pops-bagels-opens-on-montana-ave

Cotti Coffee Plans to Open on Third Street Promenade: Cotti is now the third-largest coffee chain in the world, behind only Starbucks and Luckin, and just entered the U.S. market last year. Their selection of the Promenade alongside their NYC and LA debut sites puts Santa Monica on a very short list of U.S. cities they are targeting.

Further Afield: Live Talks Hosts José Andrés in conversation with Jennifer Garner, discussing his newest book: *Spain My Way: Eat, Drink, and Cook Like a Spaniard*: Enjoy a lively, immersive, and authoritative collection of Chef José’s most beloved recipes from his home country, and the stories of the diverse people and places behind them. Tuesday, May 26, 8p.m., 4401 Elenda St, Culver City eventbrite.com/e/jose-andres-with-jennifer-garner-tickets-1986634208396

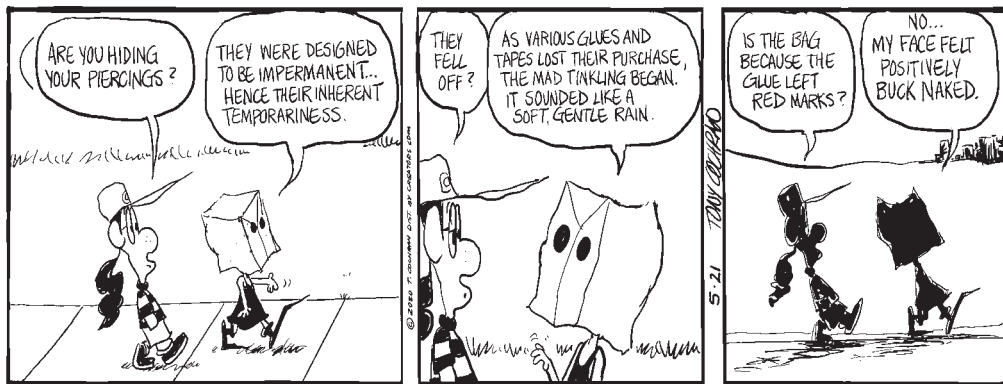
More Further Afield: Street Food Cinema Returns: L.A. State Historic Park hosts weekly outdoor movies along with live performances, comedians, popular food trucks, themed cocktails and more. Saturdays through August, 1245 N Spring St., LA.streetfoodcinema.com

Looking Ahead: 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. Let me know if you have any feedback on Around Town: MAINopoly, Pier Locals Night Finale, & More Memorial Day Weekend Festivities

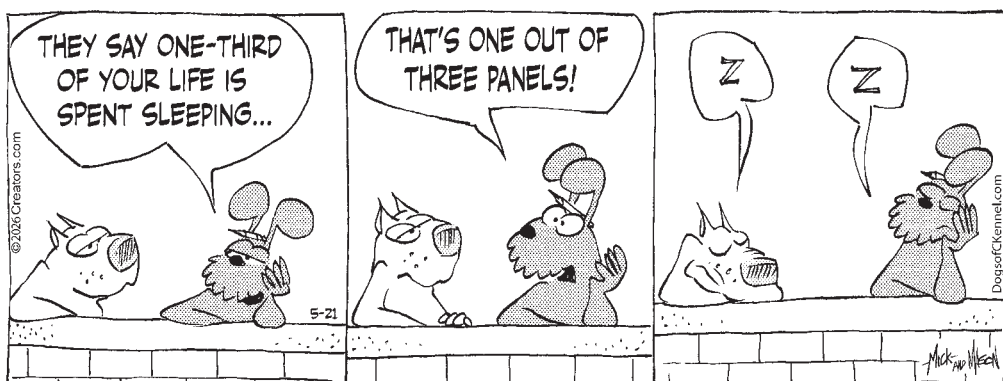
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



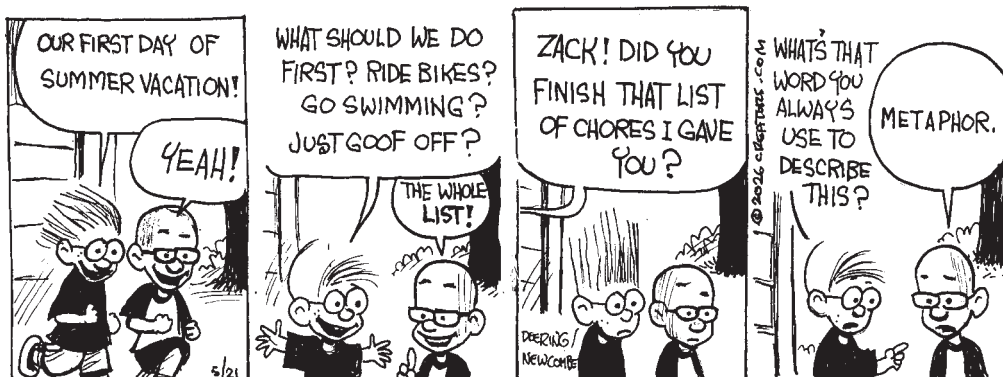
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"GUM GUYS ARE GO."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



"GOODBYE, DAD. I'M RUNNING AWAY TO JOIN THE CIRCUS."

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 21 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6947

Weird town names

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

- | | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Avenue | Draper | Lota | Robe |
| Barry | Drik Drik | Mila | Sandfly |
| Beeac | Geehi | Moe | Shotts |
| Bell | Giru | Nala | Stow |
| Bli Bli | Gray | Nhill | Sunshine |
| Brim | Howlong | Noora | Tyers |
| Broke | Jung | Oaks | Typo |
| Buffalo | Ki Ki | Old Cork | Uki |
| Cheepie | Langi Kal | Orroroo | Wee Waa |
| Cooe | Kal | Pioneer | Wombat |
| Delicate | Lima | Running | |
| Nobby | Loos | Creek | |

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 21)

It's your Year of Remarkable Agreements - some you sign, others you enjoy for the freewheeling vibes. You'll agree with a partner and with a group of those who see a similar big picture. The best agreements will come from reconciling disagreement or finding commonality in diversity. More highlights: You'll experience the emotions you once longed to know more consistently. Victory includes a cash prize. Scorpio and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 44, 1, 2 and 21.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It's not that you're making strange moves; it's just that the others can't see what you're responding to and why. "And those who were seen dancing were thought to be insane by those who could not hear the music." - Friedrich Nietzsche

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you don't want to do something now, chances are you're not going to want to do it later either. So avoid kicking problems further down the road, especially ones that could be handled in under three hours.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've an inner zeal that's so ingrained, you don't even realize how rare it is. But in some environments, people and relationships, there are dangerously low levels of enthusiasm. Avoid them to protect your beautiful beacon of joy.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Politics plays into every situation. You accept it and get in the game - a game you're very good at today. You lead with diplomacy and keep looking for the opportunities to leverage assets, trade favors and fill needs.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's all humming until one wonky piece in the machine stalls the whole operation. Don't spread yourself thin trying to improve everything. Find the problematic hinge and oil that.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Fun doesn't seem to be organically burbling up from the routine. You'll have to create it. Originality will be required. What would you do if your main job was to enjoy yourself? Who is to say that it's not?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It pays to do the work people actually need and want, and today it pays well. Ten people who rely on you will speak louder than a thousand who scroll past. Earn trust in close quarters and it travels outward.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Positioning, expectations and self-assessment are part of the deal today. You'll be setting a price, and it tells a story about what you're selling before you say anything else about it. People will make inferences from the price more than the work.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Even superheroes don't greet every challenge with a smile. Serious situations call for a serious approach. You don't need to fake enthusiasm. You're not here to impress; you're here to understand, so you can make the most effective decision.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You have an idea about who to bring together and why. This is good. People will thank you for it later. Picking the date and the venue is the hardest part. Once you do that, momentum takes over and before you know it, a grand plan is coming together.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The day calls for you to act with courage and restraint in equal measure. Some moments call for directness, others for patience. Reading the situation and adjusting your approach is part of your expert handling of delicate matters.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Envisioning things can be like a test. If you can fall in love with an idea, you can also make others fall in love with it. Furthermore, love gives you energy and the boldness to take risks, experiment, figure things out, work hard and make it real.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 President Madison
- 6 Boundless
- 10 Stats on board game boxes
- 14 Audi alternative
- 15 Popular dunker
- 16 Stitch's Disney pal
- 17 Bandleader's need
- 18 Bona fide
- 19 Approximately
- 20 Driver's comment to mechanic
- 23 Partook of
- 24 Money at risk
- 25 Mechanic's answer
- 31 Number cruncher
- 34 Certain forces
- 35 Any vessel
- 36 Menu selection
- 37 Petty clash
- 38 Ranch nickname
- 39 Weird shine
- 40 Common counter interval
- 41 Sinister
- 42 Dawdle around
- 44 Creative finesse
- 45 Mechanic's news, 30 minutes later
- 47 What's aimed for
- 49 Principal's deg.
- 50 Driver's last words
- 57 Toad feature
- 58 Nickname like Tess
- 59 Big library book
- 61 Six-Emmy Alan

- 62 Series shortener
- 63 First of six popes
- 64 Exercise accessory
- 65 Full of promise
- 66 Percal purchase

DOWN

- 1 Mocking comment
- 2 Fruit in vitamin water
- 3 Pet "mix"
- 4 Cupid alias
- 5 First-founded US state capital
- 6 Whirling water
- 7 Allotted space
- 8 Official mark
- 9 The Buick stops here
- 10 On high

- 11 Brownies, for example
- 12 Frozen queen
- 13 Combustion residue
- 21 Moving walkway brand
- 22 Nonetheless
- 25 Photo-sharing app
- 26 Escapade
- 27 Pushing the envelope
- 28 Trivial points
- 29 Haiti's neighbor, for short
- 30 Bewitch
- 32 Applesauce, e.g.
- 33 Here and there
- 36 Breeze (through)
- 38 Frat letter

TIRE TALK by Lin Josephson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- 41 Prop up
- 42 Certain well-spoken one
- 43 Cartophile's collection
- 45 Go on and on
- 46 In a chilling way
- 48 Coming up soon
- 50 "Jabberwocky" start
- 51 Shut down
- 52 Overrule
- 53 Historical study
- 54 Home to five national parks
- 55 Bit of evidence
- 56 Robust
- 60 Remain unused

Sudoku

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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.

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

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			

CREATORS SYNDICATE ©2026 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 05/21/26

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

JAKE

FROM PAGE 1

a government that can work effectively, coordinate across agencies, and produce tangible outcomes. “We need people who actually want to work effectively rather than just getting a soundbite; people are done with performative politics,” Levine said.

That conversation took on added urgency as Levine joined Rick Caruso, businessman, philanthropist, and founder and chairman of Steadfast LA, at a press conference Monday calling for federal action to underground dangerous overhead power lines across the highest fire risk communities in the district. The proposal focused on communities including Pacific Palisades, Malibu, Encino, Sherman Oaks, Woodland Hills, and surrounding areas increasingly facing wildfire threats.

For Levine, wildfire recovery and resilience have become among the clearest examples of what he sees as larger challenges around government coordination and infrastructure investment. “If you overlay wildfire maps with power line maps, the difference becomes striking. We need federal funding to properly rebuild infrastructure in a way that is more resilient,” said Levine.

Levine, whose childhood home was lost during the fires, argues that rebuilding efforts require more than isolated projects. Instead, he says they require systems and agencies working together in ways that have often been missing. “One thing that has been missing is coordination, legislative staffs at city, county, state and federal levels often do not know one another and are not talking to each other; that should not happen,” Levine said.

Caruso echoed similar concerns around long term resilience efforts and the need for urgency. “The people of Los Angeles deserve leaders who will stand up for them when it matters most and take their safety seriously. Undergrounding power lines in our red flag areas, where the risk to lives and homes is greatest, is one of the most important things we can do to protect these communities,” said Levine.

Caruso also argued that communities recovering from devastating fires require leaders willing to undertake the “heavy lifting” needed to secure long-term protections and funding partnerships, but some of the strongest reflections on what these conversations mean on the ground came from local leaders who have lived through the realities of disaster response and recovery.

Malibu City Council member Haylynn Conrad, who also endorsed Levine’s candidacy alongside Caruso, connected Levine’s message around effectiveness and coordination to what many residents have experienced first-hand. “What I learned was that what we have right now is not working,

We need new energy, a new direction and politics without all of the performative stuff. I want effectiveness. I do not care about appearances if people are not getting results,” said Conrad.

Conrad pointed specifically to concerns surrounding agency coordination and infrastructure vulnerabilities facing Malibu and neighboring communities, noting that major transportation and evacuation routes remain susceptible during disasters. “PCH could literally face major issues and communities could become cut off during future disasters,” Conrad said. “People are asking where resources are going and whether agencies are talking to one another. We need government working for us.”

Her comments reflected a broader concern increasingly surfacing throughout recovery conversations across Southern California; for many communities, resilience is no longer simply about rebuilding structures. It is becoming equally about whether systems, agencies, and leadership can work together effectively when communities need them most.

Levine’s experience spans climate policy, national security strategy, clean energy deployment, and work across federal agencies, including within the Obama administration and the White House. During discussions surrounding wildfire recovery, he repeatedly emphasized that solving challenges of this scale requires bringing agencies and stakeholders together around practical solutions rather than political silos.

Levine has also expanded his message beyond wildfire recovery into broader economic concerns including California’s entertainment industry and workforce displacement. “The economic displacement we are seeing is on the scale of what happened to the Detroit auto industry. These are not just industry jobs; these are restaurants, construction workers, electricians and communities being affected,” said Levine.

For Levine, the conversation ultimately extends beyond policy proposals and infrastructure projects into a larger generational question. “I think about people in Gen Z and what they have lived through. Many have never really experienced a government that has done something productive for them. We can make big changes, but we need people willing to step up and do it,” said Levine

Whether voters embrace that message remains to be seen, but as Los Angeles continues rebuilding from one crisis while preparing for the next, the debate increasingly appears to center on something larger than a single election, whether leadership will ultimately be defined by politics as usual, or by a renewed focus on urgency, collaboration, and getting things done.

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ROBBERY

FROM PAGE 1

officers established a perimeter supported by an airship. Investigators subsequently linked him to 25 burglaries across Los Angeles dating to January 2025, with 14 of them concentrated in the San Fernando Valley.

Hochman said Diaz has been charged with 18 felony counts, including 15 counts of first-degree residential burglary, three counts of attempted first-degree residential burglary, and one count of grand theft of a firearm. Prosecutors noted that in four of the incidents, occupants were home at the time. Diaz is being held on \$1.4 million bail and faces up to 26 years in prison if convicted on all counts.

A second case arose from a joint operation on May 1, when Ventura County Sheriff’s investigators tracking a suspected burglary crew alerted the LA County Sheriff’s Major Crimes Bureau to two vehicles believed connected to recent break-ins in the Santa Clarita Valley area. Sheriff’s detectives and Santa Clarita Station deputies conducted surveillance and eventually stopped a U-Haul traveling southbound on the 5 Freeway at Roxford Avenue. Three suspects fled on foot; two were taken into custody and a third was arrested days later by Ventura County investigators.

Charged in that case are Christopher Sanchez, 26, Owen Rivera Chacon, 26, and Edison Ayoka, 27, each facing one count of first-degree residential burglary. Rivera Chacon faces an additional strike allegation due to a prior burglary conviction and could

face up to 17 years in state prison if convicted. Investigators recovered U.S. currency, jewelry, a luxury handbag, a Wi-Fi jamming device, gloves, and other burglary tools. All four suspects are Colombian nationals, officials said.

A third case, prosecuted through the DA’s Pasadena branch, which covers Burbank, involved suspects who posed as DoorDash delivery drivers to determine whether residents were home before breaking in — a tactic Hochman said is increasingly common among such crews.

Luna said LA County residential burglaries have dropped more than 30% since 2022, when 10,419 were reported to the Sheriff’s Department, compared to 8,453 last year. LAPD Chief Jim McDonnell said citywide figures are also down more than 30%, with San Fernando Valley burglaries down 48%.

Both officials cautioned, however, that statistics provide little comfort to individual victims.

“If somebody broke into your house, you don’t care what statistics say,” Luna said.

Officials urged residents to install hardwired security systems less vulnerable to jamming, keep all doors and windows locked including on upper floors, avoid publicizing travel plans on social media, and report suspicious vehicles, individuals, or drones to police. Luna specifically warned against leaving ladders or chairs outside that could allow access to second-floor windows — a technique used in at least one of the charged cases.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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