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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 129 | THURSDAY 5/22/25 | smdp.com

Synthetic turf field approved for Franklin despite parent criticism

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) Board of Education has approved a controversial campus renovation plan for Franklin Elementary School that includes replacing the natural grass field with synthetic turf, while simultaneously ordering an independent study to verify safety claims made by the product manufacturer.

The board adopted the staff-recommended plan last week during their regular meeting after a six-year development process.

The renovation plan addresses challenges posed by Franklin's limited 5.6-acre campus, which is less than half the 11.7 acres recommended by the California Department of Education for a school serving 600 students. At full buildout, the project will increase campus building area by approximately 29,286 square feet, from 63,002 to 92,288 square feet.

District officials argue the current grass field faces severe overuse problems, receiving up to 10 hours of heavy use daily, seven days a week, with less than a month of rest annually. School officials said this has resulted in an uneven surface with bare patches of hard dirt and muddy areas that potentially increase injury risks.

Franklin Principal Eran Zeevi said the field is overused and that he has no concerns about an artificial surface impacting the use of the space as the fake grass is still usable for most activities and the school has access to other open spaces on campus.

"There's a lot of, like, potholes, a lot of mud areas, and that causes

SEE **ASTROTURF** PAGE 11

From Dogtown to the global stage, skateboarding comes home this Friday



Courtesy photos

TRICKS: It's a big weekend for the Pier with Street League Skateboarding coming to town.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

One of the world's most iconic street skate spots is about to take center stage as Street League Skateboarding (SLS) transforms the Pier into a one-day, high-energy festival and elite skate competition.

The event, set for Friday, May 23, will mark the first time SLS has staged an outdoor contest in Santa Monica, the first in its new "takeover" format. A custom-built course modeled after the legendary Santa Monica Triple Set is being constructed this week, drawing global talent and fanfare to a setting steeped in skateboarding history.

"This triple set is one of the most famous skate spots in the world," said Frank Fertitta, CEO of Thrill One Sports & Entertainment, which oversees SLS. "Our goal was to recreate it almost identically. It's a proving ground, almost every one of our skaters has a story about it."

The single-day event is expected to draw thousands of spectators, with organizers aiming for nothing short of a packed pier. Free to attend and open to the public, the event blends pro-level competition with a festival-style atmosphere, including music, food, merch drops and casual fan access to some of the biggest names in the sport.

Among those slated to compete are Olympic champion Yuto Horigome, seven-time Super Crown World Champion Nyjah Huston, Chris Joslin and Braden Hoban. Ryan Sheckler, one of skateboarding's most recognizable figures, will participate in a newly announced wild card jam round.

The competition itself will unfold in three parts: a men's wild card jam beginning around 3pm, followed by a six-skater women's final, then the men's final, where top performers from the jam session will join eight SLS pros to compete for the title. Doors open at 2pm, with food vendors, music and merchandise available throughout the day.

"This is a new format for us and the backdrop couldn't be better," Fertitta said. "You've got the pier, you've got Memorial Day weekend, the birthplace of skateboarding. It's the perfect collision of culture, history and competition."

SLS has gone to great lengths to make the event feel rooted in Southern California's identity. In addition to the replica triple set, a stairway that has tested and defined generations of skaters, the vendor village will showcase collaborations with local legends and brands. Limited edition merchandise will include pieces co-designed with visual artist Joshua Vides, Los Angeles-based label Disorder

SEE **SKATEBOARDING** PAGE 7

Archer Aviation to provide air taxi services for LA28 Olympic and Paralympic Games

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Electric aircraft developer Archer Aviation will play a key role in the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles, following the announcement that it has been named the official air taxi provider for the LA28 Games and Team USA.

The San Jose-based company, which has been developing electric vertical takeoff and landing aircraft since 2018, will use its piloted eVTOL vehicle, known as the Midnight, to shuttle VIPs, stakeholders and fans to and from Olympic venues throughout Los Angeles. The initiative will also include infrastructure upgrades such as the installation of vertiport takeoff and landing hubs at key locations across the city, including Santa Monica, Inglewood, the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and Los Angeles International Airport.

Archer's Midnight aircraft is designed to carry four passengers and a pilot on short urban trips of around 20 miles. Powered by six independent battery packs and 12 electric engines, it can reach speeds of 150 miles per hour and perform back-to-back flights with only 12 minutes of charge time in between. The aircraft is quieter and produces fewer emissions than traditional helicopters and is being developed to meet safety standards similar to commercial airliners, according to the company.

"We want to transform the way people get around Los Angeles and leave a legacy that shapes the future of transportation in America," said Adam Goldstein, founder and CEO

SEE **OLYMPICS** PAGE 8





Santa Monica celebrates Memorial Day with multiple entertainment options

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Residents and visitors in the Santa Monica area will have a wide variety of events to choose from during the upcoming Memorial Day weekend, ranging from culinary experiences to solemn commemorations of military service.

AWARD-WINNING PIZZERIA HOSTS EXCLUSIVE BEACHFRONT POP-UP

Acclaimed Dana Point pizzeria Truly Pizza will transform the Patio del Mar at Hotel Casa del Mar in Santa Monica into a two-day pop-up restaurant on May 25-26. The pizzeria, recognized as one of the "50 Best Pizzerias in the USA" by 50 Top Pizza, will offer a never-before-seen menu featuring their signature pies alongside new creations specifically developed for the event.

"Our goal has always been to create experiences that bring people together through beautiful, intentional food," said Donna Baldwin, Co-Owner of Truly Pizza. "Casa del Mar offers such a timeless, elegant setting—it's the perfect place to share what we do in Dana Point with a new audience."

The menu includes starters such as Cacio e Pepe Gem Salad and Sicilian Citrus Crudo, along with their award-winning Champion Cheese pizza and special creations like Crab del Mar. The pop-up will be open for both lunch and dinner service, with limited reservations available through Resy.com. For more information on upcoming events, visit www.trulypizza.com.

MAINOPOLY CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

The MAINopoly: A Taste of Main Street event celebrates its 10th anniversary on Sunday, May 25, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. This all-ages tasting event offers an interactive twist on the classic board game, allowing attendees to experience a culinary walking tour of Main Street in Santa Monica. Participants receive an official game board and exchange "MAINopoly dollars" for tastings at 20 restaurants and eateries, with the chance to win a prize package valued at $1,000 by completing their game board.

Local eateries are embracing the holiday weekend with special celebrations. 1212 Santa Monica is hosting a Bottomless Brunch with a DJ on Saturday and Sunday, while Belles Beach House in Venice invites visitors to their Memorial Day Summer Luau featuring Hawaiian-inspired favorites, hand-crafted cocktails, outdoor grilling, and a DJ on their Windward Patio from noon to 6 p.m.

Visit https://mainopolysm.com/ for more information.

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE HONORS VETERANS WITH EARLY COMMEMORATION

Santa Monica College will hold its Memorial Day Commemoration on Thursday, May 22, at 11:15 a.m. in the SMC Quad on the Main Campus. The event will feature a Presentation of Colors by the UCLA Air Force ROTC Color Guard and a keynote address by Rocio V. Palmero, Program Coordinator for Women Vets on Point at U.S. VETS.

The commemoration is free and open to the public, with seating available on a first-come, first-served basis. The event is sponsored by the SMC Veterans Success Center.



Courtesy photo
PIZZA: Popular pop-up this weekend.

PUBLIC TRANSIT ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE HOLIDAY

In observance of Memorial Day, Big Blue Bus will operate on a weekend schedule on Monday, May 26. Customer Service and Blue: The Transit Store will be closed, with normal operations resuming on Tuesday, May 27.

Travelers should note that Rapids 3, 7, and 10 and Routes 5, 15, 16, 43, and 44 will not be in service on the holiday. Due to wildfire impacts, Route 9 will continue to operate with modified service, with all stops north of San Vicente Avenue in both directions not being served and express trips remaining suspended. Additionally, Route 14 will not serve stops north of Montana Avenue in both directions, including Paul Revere Middle School.

UCLA riders should be aware that the Hilgard Terminal will be closed, with Routes 1, 2, and 8 serving Charles E. Young/P2 Hub instead. Rapid 12 and Route 18 will serve Gateway Plaza as usual, while Route 17 will continue to serve Macgowan Hall Terminal.

For additional information about public transportation during the holiday weekend, travelers are encouraged to visit the Big Blue Bus website.

editor@smdp.com



Pacific Coast Highway to reopen Friday

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) is expected to reopen Friday morning, ending a months-long closure caused by the devastating Palisades Fire.

The reopening comes significantly ahead of schedule, following Governor Gavin Newsom's announcement that the route would be accessible by the end of May.

The highway has been closed to non-residents since early January, with access limited to residents within the burn zone, essential workers and authorized cleanup crews. Security checkpoints have been in place at both ends of the closure zone and security plans for the zone are still in flux.

The Los Angeles Times first reported the reopening saying State officials have been left out of security plans for the area as the City of Los Angeles prepares for the reopening.

The accelerated reopening is part of California's "all-in fire response," a coordinated operation involving Caltrans, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. More than 100 USACE crews have been working around the clock, removing approximately 1,284 truckloads of debris daily.

Crews have focused on demolishing damaged structures, removing toxic ash, restoring roadway surfaces and reinstalling utility infrastructure. Officials prioritized parcels adjacent to the highway to clear critical bottlenecks.

The PCH serves as a vital transportation link between Los Angeles, Pacific Palisades, Malibu and Orange County. Beyond its practical importance, the scenic route is a key economic artery supporting tourism and local businesses that have suffered during the closure.

"The Pacific Coast Highway is a major artery that serves hundreds of thousands of Angelenos and visitors from around the world daily," Newsom said in announcing the pre-Memorial Day goal. "This effort will support businesses and tourism by expediting fire cleanup."

While the highway will likely initially operate at reduced capacity, the reopening is expected to significantly ease regional congestion and support ongoing recovery efforts in communities affected by the Palisades Fire.

Updates are available at ca.gov/LAfires.

Charity poker tournament aims to deal new hand for homeless

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

A local nonprofit is betting on poker to help change lives for those experiencing homelessness and employment barriers in Southern California.

Chrysalis' Young Professionals Advisory Council will host "All In For Changing Lives Poker & Party" on May 31 at the historic Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club, combining high-stakes poker with philanthropy to support workforce development programs.

The six-hour event will feature a deepstack, no-limit Texas hold 'em tournament alongside a cocktail party with games, entertainment and a silent auction.

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

Since 1984, Chrysalis has served more than 85,000 individuals across Southern California, focusing on job-readiness training, individualized support services and paid transitional employment opportunities.

The poker tournament, managed by professional organization The Poker People, will be the centerpiece of the fundraiser. Around it, attendees will enjoy poker-themed activities, games and networking opportunities.

Event organizers have assembled an array of sponsors, including Mario's Hard Espresso providing cocktails and Alligator Pear Catering serving tray-passed appetizers and a buffet.

Beyond poker, guests can participate in additional games, relaxation stations and bid on "exclusive items and experiences" during the silent auction, according to event materials.

The fundraiser arrives as Los Angeles continues to grapple with one of the nation's most severe homelessness crises. Recent initiatives have emphasized employment pathways as a crucial component in addressing homelessness alongside housing solutions.

Workforce development programs like those offered by Chrysalis aim to provide sustainable solutions by equipping individuals with the skills and support needed to secure and maintain employment.

The organization operates six centers throughout Southern California, creating a regional network of support for individuals facing barriers to employment. Programs focus on building confidence and skills while providing practical assistance with job searches, interview preparation and workplace navigation.

"By participating, attendees and sponsors will contribute to life-changing programs that empower individuals and strengthen the community," a Chrysalis spokesperson said.

The Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club, where the event will be held, has served as a historic gathering place for community service and philanthropy since its founding in 1905. The venue's classic architecture provides an elegant backdrop for the fundraiser.

Chrysalis' Young Professionals Advisory Council, which organizes the event, consists of emerging community leaders committed to supporting the organization's mission through fundraising, advocacy and volunteer engagement.

The "All In For Changing Lives" event runs from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, May 31. Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are currently available through the organization's website at www.ChangeLives.org/all-in.

For additional information about Chrysalis and its programs, interested parties can visit www.ChangeLives.org.



Weather

Thursday: Patchy dense fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 73.
Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 63.
Friday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 71.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 58.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2025/05/22	Thu	12:18 AM	1.55	L
2025/05/22	Thu	05:52 AM	3.85	H
2025/05/22	Thu	12:02 PM	0.55	L
2025/05/22	Thu	6:39 PM	5.20	H
2025/05/23	Fri	01:13 AM	0.62	L
2025/05/23	Fri	07:05 AM	3.84	H
2025/05/23	Fri	12:43 PM	0.82	L
2025/05/23	Fri	7:13 PM	5.83	H
2025/05/24	Sat	02:04 AM	-0.28	L
2025/05/24	Sat	08:10 AM	3.85	H
2025/05/24	Sat	1:23 PM	1.13	L
2025/05/24	Sat	7:49 PM	6.37	H
2025/05/25	Sun	02:52 AM	-1.02	L
2025/05/25	Sun	09:08 AM	3.85	H
2025/05/25	Sun	2:03 PM	1.43	L
2025/05/25	Sun	8:27 PM	6.77	H
2025/05/26	Mon	03:40 AM	-1.54	L
2025/05/26	Mon	10:04 AM	3.80	H
2025/05/26	Mon	2:45 PM	1.71	L
2025/05/26	Mon	9:08 PM	6.96	H
2025/05/27	Tue	04:29 AM	-1.78	L
2025/05/27	Tue	11:01 AM	3.71	H
2025/05/27	Tue	3:29 PM	1.97	L
2025/05/27	Tue	9:51 PM	6.92	H
2025/05/28	Wed	05:20 AM	-1.77	L
2025/05/28	Wed	12:00 PM	3.62	H
2025/05/28	Wed	4:16 PM	2.21	L
2025/05/28	Wed	10:37 PM	6.65	H
2025/05/29	Thu	06:11 AM	-1.54	L
2025/05/29	Thu	1:01 PM	3.56	H
2025/05/29	Thu	5:08 PM	2.43	L
2025/05/29	Thu	11:26 PM	6.20	H
2025/05/30	Fri	07:04 AM	-1.16	L
2025/05/30	Fri	2:04 PM	3.57	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

Powerball
Draw Date: 5/19
13 14 37 50 60
Power#: 11
Jackpot: 146 M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 5/20
18 30 33 55 64
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 154 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 5/17
11 17 18 40 44
Mega#: 24
Jackpot: 9 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 5/20
3 9 21 29 32

Daily 3
Draw Date: 5/20
EVENING: 7 7 5
Draw Date: 5/20
MIDDAY: 4 7 2

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 5/20
1st: 01 - Gold Rush
2nd: 04 - Big Ben
3rd: 06 - Whirl Win
Race Time: 1:49.28

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The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 8,200 on weekdays and 8,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Legal Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS COASTAL ZONE DISASTERRECOVERY ORDINANCE PROJECT NO. PRJ2025-000134-(3)ADVANCE PLANNINGCASE NO.RPPL2025000161Notice is hereby given thatthe Board of Supervisorswill conduct a publichearing on the matterreferenced above onTuesday, June 24, 2025at 9:30 a.m., in Room381B of the Kenneth HahnHall of Administration, 500West Temple Street, LosAngeles, CA 90012.Interested persons will begiven an opportunity totestify in person orremotely. Please visithttps://bos.lacounty.gov/board-meeting-agendas/ fordetails on how to listen tothe meeting and/oraddress the Board. Writtencomments may besubmitted to the addressabove, Attention: BoardServices Division. Forinformation regarding thehearing, you may call(213)974-1426. If the finaldecision on this matter ischallenged in court,testimony may be limitedto issues raised before orat the public hearing. Location: Santa MonicaMountains Coastal ZoneGeneral Description ofProposal: An ordinanceamending the SantaMonica Mountains LocalImplementation Program(LIP) within Title 22(Planning and Zoning) ofthe Los Angeles CountyCode to facilitate disasterrecovery in the SantaMonica Mountains CoastalZone. The Board will consider the statutory exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15265, 15269, and Public Resources Code Sections 21080(b)(3). For questions, contact the Department of Regional Planning, Cameron Robertson at (213) 974-6461 between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday (office is closed Fridays) or crobertson@planning.laco unty.gov directly for questions or additional information. Selected materials are available at https://bit.ly/PRJ2025-000134. Si necesita más información en Español, por favor llame al (213) 974-6427. If you needreasonableaccommodations, such asassistive listening devices,agenda in Braille,interpreters, disabilityrelated accommodationsor other auxiliary aids,please contact theExecutive Office of theBoard at (213) 974-1411or (213) 974-1707 (TTY),Monday through Fridayfrom 8:00 a.m. to 5:00p.m., at least threebusiness days prior to theBoard meeting. Laterrequests will beaccommodated to theextent feasible. Máquinasde traducción estandisponibles o si necesitaintérprete para las juntasdel Condado de LosAngeles, por favor llame al(213) 974-1426, de lunesa viernes de 8:00 a.m. a5:00 p.m., con tres días deanticipación. Edward Yen,Executive Officer LosAngeles County Board ofSupervisors5/22/25CNS-3929110#SANTA MONICA DAILYPRESS

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MAINopoly, Street League Skateboarding, Truly Pizza Pop-Up & More!

SMDP's Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town includes MAINopoly, Street League Skateboarding, Truly Pizza Pop-Up, and much more!



Courtesy image
MAIN: The event returns on Sunday.

Dave Barry with Paul Levine: They will be discussing "Class Clown: The Memoirs of a Professional Wiseass: How I Went 77 Years Without Growing Up." America's most beloved wiseass finally tells his life story with all the humor you'd expect from a man who made a career out of making fun of pretty much everything. Thursday, May 22, 8p.m., Vista Del Mar, 3200 Motor Ave. https://livetalksla.org/events/davebarry/

Street League Skateboarding at the Pier: They are transforming the iconic Santa Monica Pier in the league's first-ever 'Spot-Takeover' event. A custom-built course will rebuild the Santa Monica Triple Set — one of skateboarding's most iconic spots — right on the Santa Monica Pier for a FREE festival that pays homage to the place that shaped skateboarding into what it is today. Friday, May 23, 1:30 - 6:30p.m. https://www.streetleague.com/santamonica

Memorial Day Weekend Swim at Annenberg Community Beach House Pool (Saturday, Sunday, Monday): Take a dip in the pool all Memorial Day Weekend long! The historic pool is open from 10am - 6pm each day. Passes go on sale at 9am, all members of your party must be present. $4/youth (1-17), $10/adult (18-59), $5/sr. adult (60 and up) Babies under one are free! 415 Pacific Coast Highway https://www.santamonica.gov/how-to-purchase-a-beach-house-pool-pass

10th Annual MAINopoly: A Taste of Main Street: This is one of my personal favorite days on Main St. every year. Experience the best restaurants, bars & eateries at the 10th Annual "MAINopoly: A Taste of Main St." 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. There is also beer garden featuring craft cocktails, food, games, DJ & more tastings. Monopoly-themed attire is encouraged! $30 for advanced tickets. Sunday, May 25, 1 – 5p.m. https://mainopolysm.com/

Memorial Day Muscle Beach International Classic: For decades competitors have traveled from all over the world to compete at the historic Muscle Beach Competitions. These events are highlighted by a warm friendly local atmosphere while providing quality competition. Free for spectators. Monday, May 26, 1:00p.m. @ 1800 Ocean Front Walk https://www.musclebeachvenice.com/

Santa Monica Chef Featured in "Yes, Chef!" - a New José Andrés and Martha Stewart's Show: Twelve rebellious chefs compete for $250,000 in a cooking competition, including Michelle Francis of Santa Monica who formerly worked at Jar and now is doing private catering. Mondays on NBC.

Craft & Connect Mixology Class: Come to learn new cocktail recipes and stay for a good time! The Surfing Fox's bartender, George, will guide you through the techniques and secrets of making balanced and delicious cocktails through 2 examples - which you will taste and enjoy, of course. All tools are provided along with family-style bites and take-home recipes. Tuesday, May 27, 7pm, 120 Colorado Ave. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/craft-connect-mixology-class-tickets-1316957237549

ONGOING: "Two Bit Circus" Pop-Up; LiteBrite Experience; Penmar Sunset Sessions (through July 18); Wellness & Waves (through Oct 11)

SEE **AROUND TOWN** PAGE 11



OPINION | NOTEWORTHY

Charles Andrews | Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Go hear music, give time, money

WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

For it to get really bad? That will be the call to arms? Better turn your ringer up. That call went out a while ago.

People here legally are being snatched off the street by armed men wearing masks, and "disappeared." Journalists sued for billions. A U.S. Congress member arrested and charged while performing her sworn duty of oversight at an immigrant detention center. One of Trump's first acts was to fire the 17 Inspector Generals charged with oversight and finding fraud and waste in government, billions every year. But now we have Elon now, and his chainsaw, as he merrily drains all our personal data and protects his multi-$B government contracts. The mayor of Newark was arrested and detained by ICE just for showing up at their detention center, while on public property. 13,700,000 of the poorest Americans, mostly elderly, children and disabled, are about to be forced off medical coverage and blocked from buying it on the open market (yes, cruelty is the point). You can no longer get updated COVID vaccinations. Measles, pretty much eliminated for decades by a safe, effective vaccine, has now gone epidemic, yes blame nut job Health czar RFK Jr.. 27 dead from one horrible huge tornado because residents got only 20 seconds warning, because of massive layoffs at the US weather bureau.

HYPERBOLE? PARTISAN RHETORIC?

Get real. Maybe you're not paying attention, maybe you are in deep denial, you decide. But every body is needed, right now, men and women, young and old. If I lost you to eye rolling on that partial list of fast fading democracy from the last 125 days, you have become part of the problem.

You can't wait until your dad loses his government job after 25 years, until your grandma gets kicked out of her assisted living home for lack of Medicaid, until your friend from university disappears for saying the wrong thing. You snooze, we all lose.

ART ATTACK

But this is an arts column, and that is already hitting home in Southern Cal. The Jazz Bakery is forced to have a fundraiser May 31 (great show, y'all go: jazz pianist Monty Alexander), Venice literary center Beyond Baroque has also had its NEA grant pulled, as has Tim Robbins' boundary-breaking The Actors' Gang in Culver City, PBS and NPR are defunded, and a lot more. The culture war has gone nuclear and none will be spared.

It's standard procedure for would-be dictators: divide the people and get them fighting each other (and control the media, fight judges, even arrest some, diminish education and critical thinking, establish your "brown shirts" thug enforcers/ICE to do the violent, armed dirty work) while you gild your throne. The arts encourage creativity and self-expression, and the understanding that we are all at our human core the same, with a diversity that is precious. People just want to be free, girls just want to have fun, mind your own business and let us have Elmo and Ken Burns, thank you.

At a loss, what can I do? Support the arts like crazy, contribute as best you can, and participate. SMC Emeritus has a fantastic art class, by zoom, for all levels, with truly gifted, very supportive teacher Jesse Benson. A lovely group gathers once a week at Virginia Park to sing Latin American folk songs. Our treasured Ruskin Group Theatre at the airport is trying to make the move to a bigger, better space and needs support. Get creative, and get moving.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

GERSHWIN, Strauss' "Also Sprach Zarathustra," LA PHIL – Don't be fooled, ye less than seasoned classical music dabblers, because you don't see a "major" name here, a Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms,Vivaldi. Richard Strauss was a heavyweight of the late Romantic turning into modern German school, often thrown into discussions along with Mahler and Wagner. Not to be confused with the Austrian Strausses, who danced up the charts with the "Blue Danube" and hundreds more waltzes and polkas. Director Stanley Kubrick was probably holding his breath hoping no one else would grab the cinematic opening movement of Strauss's "Also Sprach Zarathustra" because it turned out to be iconic for his "2001: A Space Odyssey." If you've never heard the rest of the composition, you are in for a major treat. Gershwin — years ago I wondered, why is he considered a "classical" composer by some? And now he is one of my favorites. Nothing tops "Rhapsody in Blue" for me, but this "Concerto in F" comes pretty close, and you hear in it echoes of "Rhapsody." Featured pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet fell in love with it at 14 and has been playing it for four decades. Those are the kinds of soloists the LA Phil attracts. Opening on the last two performances is Caroline Shaw's "The Observatory," an LA Phil commission that was inspired by a night at Griffith Observatory, looking at the shapes of the lit city below and the stars above. Who needs Beethoven? Fri, Sat 8 p.m., Sun 2 p.m., Walt Disney Concert Hall, LA, $50-249.

HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES – You can go to the Cinema Bar any Monday night, 9-11:30, for almost 14 years now, and hear these hot players run through Django Reinhart-style '30s jazz. This amazing ensemble is a treasure. Mon 9 p.m., Cinema Bar, Culver City, free.

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 11

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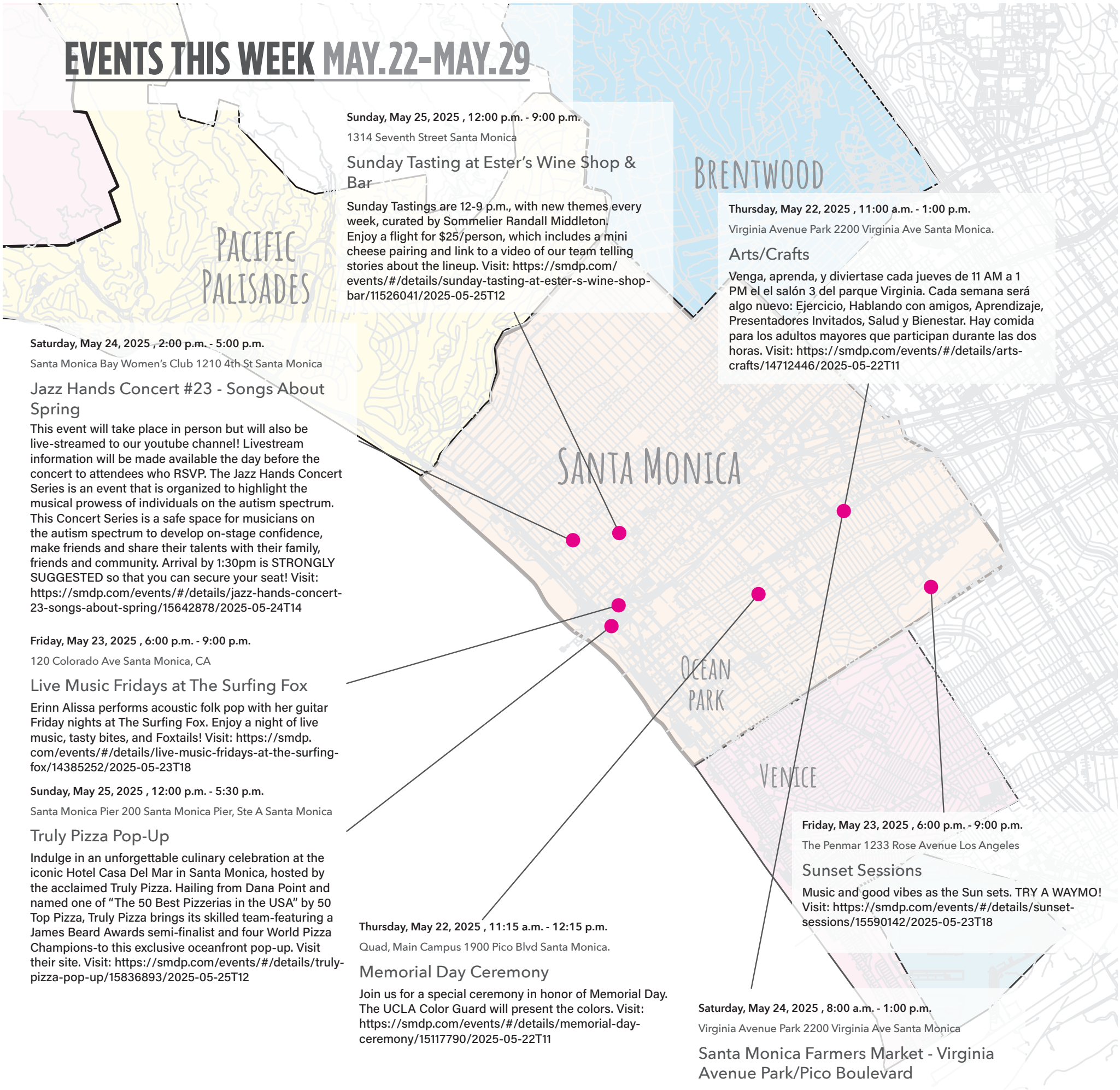
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EVENTS THIS WEEK MAY.22-MAY.29



Sunday, May 25, 2025 , 12:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

1314 Seventh Street Santa Monica

Sunday Tasting at Ester's Wine Shop & Bar

Sunday Tastings are 12-9 p.m., with new themes every week, curated by Sommelier Randall Middleton. Enjoy a flight for $25/person, which includes a mini cheese pairing and link to a video of our team telling stories about the lineup. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/sunday-tasting-at-ester-s-wine-shop-bar/11526041/2025-05-25T12

Thursday, May 22, 2025 , 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave Santa Monica.

Arts/Crafts

Venga, aprenda, y diviertase cada jueves de 11 AM a 1 PM el el salón 3 del parque Virginia. Cada semana será algo nuevo: Ejercicio, Hablando con amigos, Aprendizaje, Presentadores Invitados, Salud y Bienestar. Hay comida para los adultos mayores que participan durante las dos horas. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/arts-crafts/14712446/2025-05-22T11

Saturday, May 24, 2025 , 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Santa Monica Bay Women's Club 1210 4th St Santa Monica

Jazz Hands Concert #23 - Songs About Spring

This event will take place in person but will also be live-streamed to our youtube channel! Livestream information will be made available the day before the concert to attendees who RSVP. The Jazz Hands Concert Series is an event that is organized to highlight the musical prowess of individuals on the autism spectrum. This Concert Series is a safe space for musicians on the autism spectrum to develop on-stage confidence, make friends and share their talents with their family, friends and community. Arrival by 1:30pm is STRONGLY SUGGESTED so that you can secure your seat! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/jazz-hands-concert-23-songs-about-spring/15642878/2025-05-24T14

Friday, May 23, 2025 , 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

120 Colorado Ave Santa Monica, CA

Live Music Fridays at The Surfing Fox

Erinn Alissa performs acoustic folk pop with her guitar Friday nights at The Surfing Fox. Enjoy a night of live music, tasty bites, and Foxtails! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/live-music-fridays-at-the-surfing-fox/14385252/2025-05-23T18

Sunday, May 25, 2025 , 12:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

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

Truly Pizza Pop-Up

Indulge in an unforgettable culinary celebration at the iconic Hotel Casa Del Mar in Santa Monica, hosted by the acclaimed Truly Pizza. Hailing from Dana Point and named one of "The 50 Best Pizzerias in the USA" by 50 Top Pizza, Truly Pizza brings its skilled team-featuring a James Beard Awards semi-finalist and four World Pizza Champions-to this exclusive oceanfront pop-up. Visit their site. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/truly-pizza-pop-up/15836893/2025-05-25T12

Thursday, May 22, 2025 , 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Quad, Main Campus 1900 Pico Blvd Santa Monica.

Memorial Day Ceremony

Join us for a special ceremony in honor of Memorial Day. The UCLA Color Guard will present the colors. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/memorial-day-ceremony/15117790/2025-05-22T11

Friday, May 23, 2025 , 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

The Penmar 1233 Rose Avenue Los Angeles

Sunset Sessions

Music and good vibes as the Sun sets. TRY A WAYMO! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/sunset-sessions/15590142/2025-05-23T18

Saturday, May 24, 2025 , 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave Santa Monica

Santa Monica Farmers Market - Virginia Avenue Park/Pico Boulevard

The family market in the heart of the Pico neighborhood's Virginia Avenue Park! Enjoy one of Santa Monica's farmers markets, widely considered to be among the best on the west coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheeses, delicious foods, live music and more. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/santa-monica-farmers-market-virginia-avenue-park-pico-boulevard/12382447/2025-05-24T08

Check out more events at: smdp.com/events

SKATEBOARDING

FROM PAGE 1

Skateboards and Interscope Records.

One standout for this event is a new hat inspired by the vintage Santa Monica Airlines logo. "We wanted everything to feel hyper-local and unique to this event," Fertitta said. "From the food to the fashion, this is a celebration of the skate community and the city it helped build."

Organizers have confirmed that prominent Los Angeles eateries including Prince Street Pizza, Heavy Handed, Tacos 1986, Uncle Paulie's and 27 Club Coffee will be serving food on-site. There will also be music throughout the day and interactive fan zones.

While the event is free, a limited number of preferred viewing tickets were offered in advance, including early access to watch practice, bleacher-side seating and exclusive SLS-branded gift bags. They sold out within days, according to Fertitta.

One of the core goals of the new Takeover format is accessibility, not just in terms of cost, but in experience. Unlike traditional arena-based skate events, the pier will remain open, allowing fans to move freely, grab food, meet athletes and absorb the atmosphere at their own pace.

"This isn't just about putting on a contest," Fertitta said. "It's about building a cultural moment. We want this to be the kind of event where even people who don't know much about skateboarding wander down, soak it in and come away understanding why this sport means so much."

He added that casual fans should expect a relaxed vibe, skaters mingling with crowds, impromptu signing sessions and plenty of photo opportunities. "We want people to feel like they're part of the community, not just spectators."

This event is the second stop in the 2025 SLS Championship Tour and the first of four "Takeover" events scheduled this season. Next up is Brasilia, Brazil, where the capital's expansive government lawn will host a two-day version of the format in June. The tour then continues with planned stops in Paris, Japan and the Super Crown World Championship in São Paulo in December.

Fertitta said Santa Monica was selected not only for its ability to draw large crowds, but for its deep connection to skateboarding culture. The Santa Monica Triple Set, which has appeared in countless skate videos and magazines, is widely regarded as one of the most iconic real-world features in modern street skating.

"This spot shaped the way people skate," Fertitta said. "And now we're turning it into a course that honors that legacy while putting it on the global stage."

Despite the event's brief, one-day run, organizers say the impact could be lasting. Fertitta hinted that if Friday goes well, future Takeover stops in Santa Monica, perhaps expanded to a weekend format, aren't off the table.

"This is the first time we've done it here, but I can tell you we'd love to come back," he said.

"You don't want to miss this. It's not just a competition, it's a celebration of skateboarding in a city that helped define it."

The event will be streamed live on YouTube and through SLS broadcast partners worldwide. Organizers encourage attendees to arrive early, consider biking or using public transit and be prepared for large crowds. Check out Street League Skateboarding on Instagram, Facebook and YouTube.

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THURSDAY | MAY 22

SMC GUITAR SHOWCASE

11:15 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center 1310 11th St Santa Monica. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend this epic concert with SMC guitar students performing classical, rock, pop, blues, and reggae. Space is limited. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/smc-guitar-showcase/15093583/2025-05-22T11

LUNCHTIME LINE DANCE

12:30 p.m. Venice - Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library 501 S. Venice Boulevard Venice. Get fit and meet new friends learning line dances on your lunch break. We will learn new and old dances to various styles, including country, disco, Latin, soul, and more. All levels are welcome. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/lunchtime-line-dance/12342961/2025-05-22T12

FRIDAY | MAY 23

LIVE MUSIC FRIDAYS AT THE SURFING FOX

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. 120 Colorado Ave Santa Monica, CA. Erinn Alissa performs acoustic folk pop with her guitar Friday nights at The Surfing Fox. Enjoy a night of live music, tasty bites, and Foxtails! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/live-music-fridays-at-the-surfing-fox/14385252/2025-05-23T18

SATURDAY | MAY 24

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

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Santa Monica Pier 200 Santa Monica Pier, Ste A Santa Monica. Start your weekend with movement, mindfulness, and ocean views as Wellness & Waves returns to the Santa Monica Pier beginning Saturday, April 5 through October 11, 2025, from 8 to 10 a.m. every week. This popular Free fitness series invites the community to embrace self-care and coastal vibes with group runs, yoga, and fusion fitness—all in the most iconic outdoor setting in Los Angeles. Held beneath the famed Santa Monica Yacht Harbor sign, Wellness & Waves kicks off with a breezy group run from 8 to 9 a.m., perfect for runners of all levels. From 9 to 10 a.m., the energy shifts to the west end of the Pier for Yoga and Yoga-Pilates Fusion classes, led by a rotating lineup of celebrated instructors from some of the Westside's top wellness studios. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/free-saturday-morning-fitness-wellness-waves-returns-for-2025-season/15484766/2025-05-24T08

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET - SATURDAY MARKET

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Santa Monica Farmers Market - Arizona Ave and 3rd Street. Santa Monica Farmers Markets create thriving, vibrant communities that are inclusive, connected, and diverse by promoting the prosperity of California farmers and small food businesses, preservation of the agricultural arts and sustainable food systems. The Saturday Downtown Farmers Market is open from 8:00am to 1:00pm, year-round and operates rain or shine. May be closed for selected holidays. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/downtown-farmers-market-saturday-market/13357377/2025-05-24T08

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND SWIM AT ANNENBERG COMMUNITY BEACH HOUSE POOL

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Annenberg Community Beach House 415 Pacific Coast Hwy Santa Monica. Take a dip in the pool all Memorial Day Weekend long! The historic pool is open May 24, 25 & 26 from 10am - 6pm each day. Passes go on sale at 9am, all members of your party must be present. $4/youth (1-17), $10/adult (18-59), $5/sr. adult (60 and up) Babies under one are free! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/memorial-day-weekend-swim-at-annenberg-community-beach-house-pool/15541565/2025-05-24T10

ARTISTS & FLEAS: VENICE MARKETPLACE

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Westminster Elementary School 1010 Abbot Kinney Los Angeles. Artists & Fleas in Venice is located in the vibrant, artistic heart of Venice at the corner of Abbot Kinney and Westminster Avenue in the outdoor lot of Westminister Avenue Elementary School. Join 50+ merchants every Saturday (rain or shine!) for a fabulous lineup of art, design, food trucks and vintage. Date: Every Saturday Time: 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM Location: Westminster Elementary School - 1010 Abbot Kinney Check our website here for a list of vendors. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/artists-fleas-venice-marketplace/14548485/2025-05-24T11

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

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse 1211 4th St, Santa Monica. "This is what family theatre is all about and the Santa Monica Playhouse offers the best. Kids will delight in it all as will adults!" The Tolucan Times. It's a finger-snappin', toe-tappin' zany musical romp following the romantic antics and showbiz aspirations of the swingin' singin' McPig Sisters and their canine admirers, complete with exciting audience participation. $15.00 to $17.50—$15 kids 12 and under; $17.50 adults. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/-sheer-enjoyment-it-s-barnyard-madness-with-the-three-little-pigs/15355101/2025-05-24T14

SUNDAY | MAY 25

THE WATERFRONT - SUNDAY REAL FUNDAY BRUNCH BUFFET

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The Waterfront 205 Ocean Front Walk Venice. Enjoy a bottomless brunch buffet Sundays at The Waterfront! The Waterfront Venice is a full-service restaurant celebrating Californian cuisine with views of the Pacific Ocean. Situated between Rose and Navy on the famous Venice Beach Boardwalk, our food & beverage menus celebrate California with carefully selected seasonal produce from local farms. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/the-waterfront-sunday-real-funday-brunch-buffet/14894114/2025-05-25T11

MONDAY | MAY 26

THE GORDONS IMPROV RESIDENCY

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Westside Comedy Theater 1323-A 3rd St Santa Monica. Welcome to The Gordons Improv Show at Westside Comedy Theater! IMPROV RESIDENT TEAM NIGHT! Check out our current lineup of Resident Improv Teams! These teams perform Long-Form Improv all inspired by a suggestion from the audience. Think of it as a sitcom made up on the spot. Catch them before they are gone! These teams rotate every three months!Get ready for a night filled with laughter, spontaneity, and hilarious moments. Join us for an evening of unscripted comedy where every joke is made up on the spot. Our talented improv performers will have you in stitches as they create scenes, characters, and stories based on your suggestions. Don't miss out on this one-of-a-kind experience! Grab your friends and come on down to Westside Comedy Theater for a night you won't forget. $10.00. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/the-gordons-improv-residency/14863274/2025-05-26T19

OLYMPICS

FROM PAGE 1

of Archer. "There's no better time to do that than during the LA28 Games. I can't wait to see Midnight flying passengers over Los Angeles, emblazoned with the Team USA logo and the Olympic Rings and Paralympic Agitos."

With more than 15 million visitors expected during the Games and billions more watching around the world, Archer's involvement positions the company for a major international debut. The agreement includes promotional exposure through NBCUniversal's coverage of the Games, including during the 2028 Opening and Closing Ceremonies. The company will also support emergency services and security efforts through its operations during the event.

The announcement is the latest in a series of high-profile moves for Archer, which has partnered with United Airlines and fixed-base operator Atlantic Aviation to develop a national infrastructure network for its eVTOL service. In late 2023, Archer and Atlantic revealed plans to develop infrastructure at multiple sites across the country, including Santa Monica Municipal Airport, a location Archer has repeatedly identified as a critical hub due to its dense population, regional importance and aviation history.

"We think Santa Monica, in particular, is really interesting," said Nikhil Goel, Archer's Chief Commercial Officer, at a press conference last year. "You've got such a rich and vibrant community here. A flight from Santa Monica to Malibu, which can take over an hour by car, would take about five minutes and cost each passenger roughly between $30 and $40."



Archer Aviation

TRANSPORT: Archer will debut its electric air taxis at the LA28 Olympics, flying fans and VIPs to venues via vertiports in Santa Monica, Inglewood, LAX and more.

The company has emphasized that its aircraft will not operate autonomously. A certified pilot will fly each aircraft, offering an experience more akin to a traditional air taxi than a drone or rideshare model. The goal is to reduce congestion in major cities while offering an affordable, environmentally friendly transportation option.

Archer's collaboration with United includes a billion-dollar purchase of aircraft and the development of initial "trunk" routes between major airports and urban centers. These include a planned route between Newark Liberty International Airport and downtown Manhattan, where United and Archer have already begun laying groundwork. Once those primary routes are established, Archer intends to add "branch" routes to surrounding areas, including connections from Santa Monica to Westside and South Bay communities.

Midnight aircraft are being manufactured at Archer's facilities in San Jose, California, and Covington, Georgia. The company is also collaborating with NASA to develop the highest standards of battery safety and efficiency for next-generation aviation systems. Recent statements from company officials suggest that improvements in battery technology have been accelerating, with performance gains of 6 to 8 percent annually.

While electric vehicles and even autonomous cars have struggled to gain mainstream adoption, Archer believes its model addresses key pain points for both city planners and travelers. Goel, who previously led Uber Elevate before that project was shelved in 2020, said lessons from earlier ventures have informed Archer's approach.

The LA28 Olympic and Paralympic Games will mark the third time Los Angeles has hosted the Olympics and the first time it will host the Paralympics. The event is independently operated by a privately funded nonprofit and aims to showcase innovative approaches to accessibility, sustainability and technology.

"At LA28, we're building a platform for constant innovation and creativity, which is why we've partnered with forward-thinking companies like Archer," said Casey Wasserman, chairperson and president of LA28. "Our vision is to fundamentally reimagine the Olympic and Paralympic Games experience, and this partnership represents an incredible opportunity to deliver something unprecedented, showcasing the very best of what Los Angeles has to offer on the world stage."

Archer plans to certify Midnight with the Federal Aviation Administration ahead of the 2028 Games and to begin commercial operations by 2025. A full list of planned vertiport locations has not yet been disclosed, but the company has stated that Santa Monica will play a major role in its Los Angeles network. Whether for residents commuting to work or international visitors traveling between venues, Archer says its goal is to make aerial urban transport as seamless and accessible as hailing a car.

scott.snowden@smdp.com



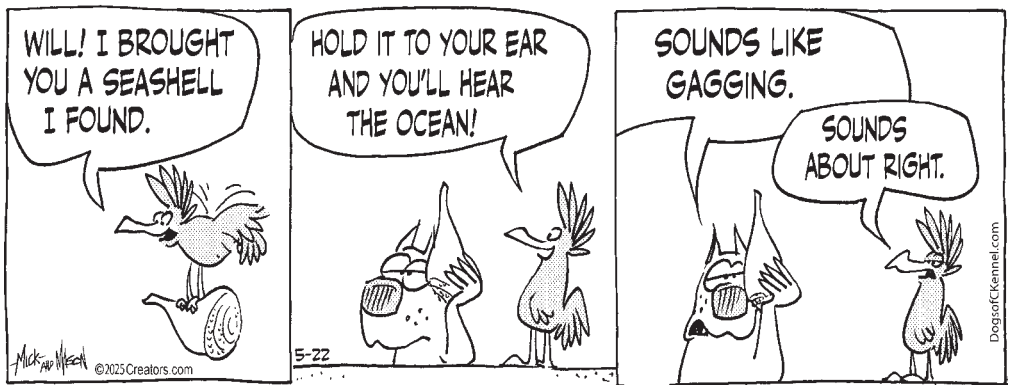
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



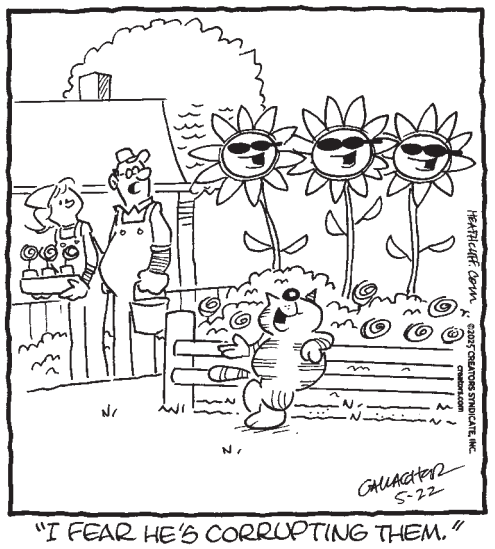
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



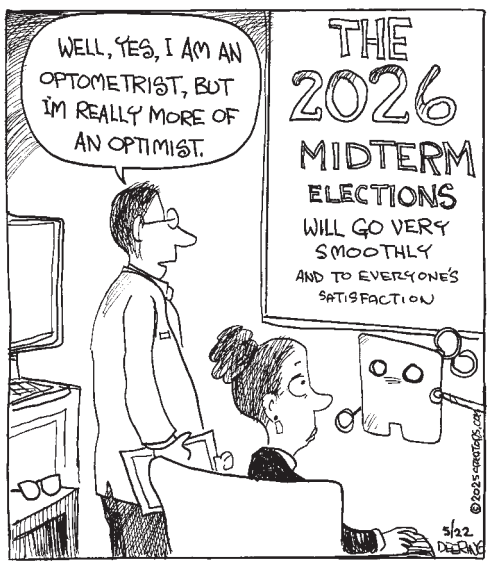
Heathcliff

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 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6583

Special night out

L	O	H	O	C	L	A	T	C	R	U	I	S	E	S
P	T	N	E	M	N	I	A	T	R	E	T	N	E	S
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Alcohol
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Balsamic
Beans
Beer
Bill
Cabanossi
Choko
Cocoa
Corn
Crowd
Cruise
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Dear
Dips
Dish
Duck
Eggs
Entertainment
Facial
Garlic
Gift
Goose
Heat
Host
Hot dog
Jigs
Lamb
Mango
Massage
Mousse
Nuts
Opera
Pasta
Peas
Pies
Play
Pork
Prawns
Rice
Satay
Sauce
Smoked salmon
Steaks
Suit
Taxi
Thai
Tip
Wine

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 22)

This is a solar return of unapologetic selfhood. You know who you are and who you want to be, and all aligns to carry you there. You'll start small and end up somewhere spectacular, all because you followed a glimmer. More highlights: A moment of generosity comes back tenfold, you'll speak something into being and a once-intimidating person becomes your biggest advocate. Aries and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 3, 26, 19, and 40.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). If someone keeps telling you how good they are, start checking for exits. The truly good don't need to announce it. The trustworthy ones are usually too busy being good to bother branding it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Being fussy and specific will be very lucky for you today, as long as you keep your tone light. Use humor. And even when you're asking for better from a piece of work, honor the human behind it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). If you're awake for the sunrise and/or sunset, it will be extremely lucky for you to go outside and watch the horizon give birth to, or swallow, the star you orbit. The pretty colors splashed across the horizon last but minutes; your good fortune will stretch for days.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There's power in communication and collaboration, especially when you're in a leadership or creative role. People want to help, and you've never been so clear about what they can do. They'll follow your confident lead.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll get sucked into tales of danger, drama and glamorous chaos — and for a moment, you might wonder if you're missing out. But by the end, you'll be deeply grateful for the comforts of a low-stakes day.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It feels strange to say, "I did it" and even stranger to say, "I did it all myself." But the fact of the matter is if you don't take credit for your work, someone else will, and then they'll mess up the works by being promoted to positions they aren't qualified to take on.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There's a lot of ground to cover, but don't rush, stick to the path and watch your step. Surfaces that look solid could be the spiritual equivalent to quicksand. Heed all flags: red ones, white ones, sinking ones, too.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). When you don't like the way a situation is going, throw on the brakes immediately. You're so creative now that you'll be able to come up with several alternatives. Be bold.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The world can be an uncontrollable place, which is why it's important to feel powerful in your domain. You need peace at home. Today brings inspiration for making it a cozier, more beautiful place to land.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're not responsible for everyone's loneliness, but your kindness can make someone feel a little less alone. And when you offer connection, even in small ways, you'll feel it, too. What you give comes back beautifully.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). What you like today you might change up tomorrow, and that's what makes the world go around. Favorites shift. Needs come and go. But those who truly love you give you space to grow, to live by your own rhythm and to keep discovering yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There are people you enjoy; then there are people essential to your joy. Obeying the dictates of your heart, you're drawn to them with a sense of duty. Tend to the bonds that anchor you. This is what love, in its rawest form, really asks of you.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

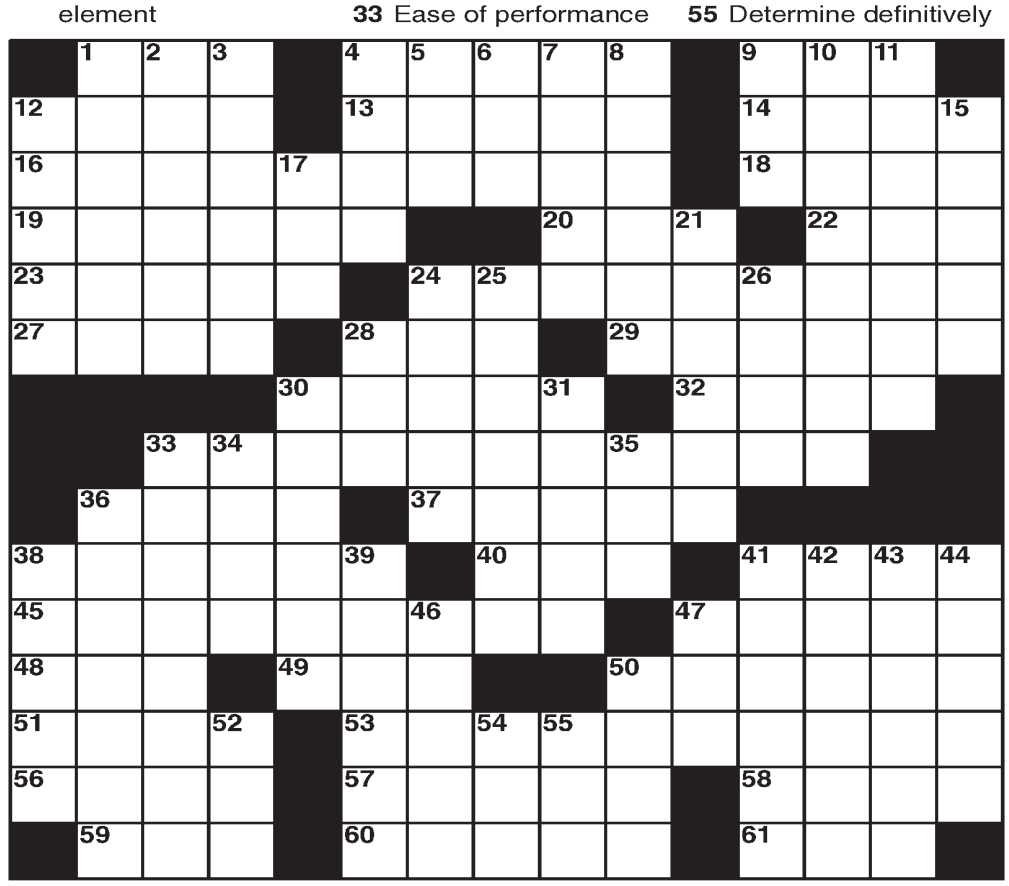
SASSY MOOD by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 CD follower
4 Prohibitions
9 Cul-de-__
12 Warm and snug
13 Novelist Jong
14 Medicinal unit
16 Wise investors
18 Sphere of interest
19 Possible sequel subtitle
20 Grafton's __ *for Lawless*
22 Doorway decoration
23 Instep neighbor
24 Attention-getting lettering
27 Snoop (around)
28 Carpool lane letters
29 Threat ender
30 Jazz pianist Chick
32 Olympics weapon
33 Quarterback's throw
36 Yuletide candy shape
37 Unable to escape
38 Court agenda
40 Austrian peak
41 London's __ Modern gallery
45 Early portable communicator
47 Composer Mendelssohn
48 "UR a riot!"
49 Strong affinity
50 Modern "leave a message"
51 Prone to dust storms
53 Fish category
56 "Mambo King" Puente
57 Major blood group
58 E-tail icon
59 Dec. ender
60 Sellout's lack
61 Out-of-date: Abbr.

DOWN

1 Parmesan alternative
2 Missouri range
3 __ Beach, SC
4 It means "half"
5 *Metal precioso*
6 French diarist
7 Immune system element
8 Get wed
9 Vacation destination
10 Flier's accumulation
11 Sanitize
12 Nonprofit cable network
15 Hot concoction
17 Indecisive outcome
21 Distribute widely
24 Baron Cohen character
25 Inundated
26 Account execs
28 What beginners need to be shown
30 Spine-tingling
31 British singing star
33 Ease of performance
34 Doing mess prep
35 Verve
36 Finish by inking
38 Key beside C
39 Wrongful removals
41 Chevron sister brand
42 Task-switching PC shortcut
43 Microwave functions
44 Apply with intensity
46 Sandwich specification
47 Nearly none
50 Start of an Edison autograph
52 Female squirrel
54 MPG monitor
55 Determine definitively



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05/22/25

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

ASTROTURF

FROM PAGE 1

injuries when it's slippery and there's no grass and it's just mud, we do have quite a bit of injury," he said.

The approved plan proposes using TenCate Pivot Play synthetic turf or a similar product, which the district describes as the latest generation of artificial playing surfaces. Officials emphasize this newer turf contains no infill materials, complies with California Proposition 65 and international toy standards, and is manufactured without PFAS "forever chemicals."

District materials also claim the synthetic field can be played on "from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., 365 days per year, rain or shine, on an even, well-maintained safe playing surface."

However, a significant number of community members remain unconvinced or outright opposed to the synthetic material. Parents and community members attending the meeting said they didn't believe the plastic grass was safe, no matter what the manufacturer said, and claimed the surfaces increased the risk of injury.

Critics have circulated a petition urging reconsideration, citing concerns about exposure to microplastics, extreme surface temperatures on sunny days, and potential environmental impacts including microplastic shedding into soil and nearby waterways.

Some opponents suggested converting asphalt areas to green space instead. Others advocated for organic, drought-tolerant natural grass alternatives.

The district responded to the concerns saying the modern synthetic turf has been reformulated to eliminate toxic materials, will be managed through regular cleaning, and reflects "current industry improvements to retain less heat and increase user safety over natural turf."

Boardmembers and staff repeatedly cited the multi-year planning process for the plan and said the current wave of last-minute criticism is something that happens frequently.

"It is a problem that we consistently have, and as a problem we consistently have across the board, where it is hard to get people to pay attention to the projects we're working on," said Carey Upton, Chief Operations Officer.

Upton said that community meetings draw a few people and that plans are made based on that participation. He said large changes at this point in the process would both delay and increase costs for the project.

Community members at the meeting said the characterization of their lack of participation was insulting and that any approval of the plan should at least delay decisions on the field material.

However, those concerns were largely ignored by the School Board who approved the staff recommendation, including the synthetic field.

"I'm sorry, I know there are people here who dislike turf. I understand that. I understand it, but I don't believe that our educators would come to us and present something that had not been vetted in any capacity," said Boardmember Jon Kean who said the material chosen is an educational decision. "If a turf field allows us to educate our children better in the day, then that's what we should do."

In an attempt to allay fears, the board did direct staff to conduct an independent review of the proposed material's safety claims. While the Board is not required to alter the plan based on the result of that study, staff said they had about a year to revisit the decision and that swapping to grass is possible even after approving the overall plan.

Aside from the field, the four-phase renovation plan includes removing and demolishing seven permanent buildings, two modulars, and seven portable buildings; constructing seven new buildings; removing approximately 11 ornamental and non-native trees while planting at least 11 new trees.

Officials said that despite the artificial turf, the campus plan anticipates an overall increase in grass and natural areas for play, reflection, and learning, with outdoor learning green space increasing by eight percent.

Implementation will not increase the school's capacity or change attendance boundaries. The district plans to move forward with design and engineering of the first phase immediately, with the remaining three phases occurring when funding becomes available.

The synthetic turf surface is scheduled for replacement every eight to 10 years, with district officials arguing that over a 20-year period, the installation and replacement costs are comparable to maintaining an overused grass field.

SMDP Editor Matthew Hall contributed to this report.

NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 5

RECOMMENDED:

TOLEDO DIAMOND – His decades-long Sunday night residency at Santa Monica's Harvelle's, the oldest blues bar in LA (almost a century!), is a treasure that you shouldn't assume will always be there. Toledo choreographs (literally) a truly unique show, a blend of '50s hipster jazz and his dancing dames and a most modern smokin' hot band that gets better all the time. Every Sunday 9:30 p.m., Harvelle's, Santa Monica, $12.

COMING ATTRACTIONS (also recommended): GERSHWIN, "Also Sprach Z," LA PHIL, Disney, 5/23, 24; TOLEDO DIAMOND, Harvelle's, 5/25, 6/1, 8, 15, 22, 29; HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES, Cinema Bar, 5/26, 6/3, 10, 17, 24; LOVE, Echo, 5/31; RICKY GERVAIS, Hwd Bowl, 5/31; LA OPERA's "RIGOLETTO," Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 5/31, 6/8, 12, 15, 18, 21; TROMBONE SHORTY & ORLEANS AVENUE, Greek, 6/8.

DOWN THE ROAD (also recommended): PACIFIC OPERA PROJECT's "H.M.S. PINAFORE," Heritage Square Museum Lawn, 6/13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22; BLUE NOTE JAZZ FEST Day 2, GRACE JONES, STANLEY CLARKE N.4EVER, others, Hwd Bowl, 6/15; RHIANNON GIDDENS, STEVE MARTIN, others, Hwd Bowl, 6/18; LYLE LOVETT & HIS LARGE BAND, Orpheum, 6/20; MAKE MUSIC DAY, global, 6/21; GETTY VILLA MUSEUM reopens, Pacific Palisades, 6/27; DAN NAVARRO, McCabe's, 6/28; JOHN FOGERTY, Hwd Bowl, 7/6; PAUL SIMON, Disney, 7/7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16; ALISON KRAUS, UNION STATION, Greek, 7/13; LIBRARY GIRL, Ruskin, 7/13, 8/10, 9/14, 10/12, 11/9, 12/14; BRAHMS, GRIEG, LA PHIL, Hwd Bowl, 7/17; GERSHWIN, DVOŘÁK, LA PHIL, Hwd Bowl, 7/22; "THE PLANETS,", LA PHIL, Hwd Bowl, 7/24; DAVE ALVIN, JIMMY DALE GILMORE, McCabe's, 7/25, 26, 27;

Charles Andrews has listened to a lot of music of all kinds, including more than 3,000 live shows. He has lived in Santa Monica for 39 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Not even Kauai. Send love and/or hate mail to: therealmrmusic@gmail.com

AROUND TOWN

FROM PAGE 4

WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

Truly Pizza Pop-Up at Hotel Casa del Mar

Esters Wine School: What Happens in the Vineyard - Farming Matters: Want to learn more about Esters' obsession with great farming? This class will focus on how winemakers farm without relying on chemicals and make amazing wines while preserving the health of the soil, animals and the planet. $90. Thursday, May 22, 7p.m., 1314 7th St. https://resy.com/cities/los-angeles-ca/venues/esters-wine-shop-and-bar/events/esters-wine-school-what-happens-in-the-vineyard-farming-matters-2025-05-22

Brewer Clifton Winemaker Dinner at the Lobster: Chef Govind Armstrong and Winemaker Greg Brewer are joining together to create an evening to remember. Beginning at 6:30 p.m., the dinner is priced at $180 per person plus tax and gratuity, featuring a four-course, pre-fixe menu crafted specially for this dinner, complementing Brewer Clifton's California Central Coast wines perfectly. Thursday, May 22 https://resy.com/cities/los-angeles-ca/venues/the-lobster/events/brewer-clifton-wine-dinner-2025-05-22

Andrew's Cheese 101 Class: Join shop owner and passionate cheese expert Andrew for a 90-minute class where he will guide you through the history, origins, and fundamentals of cheese, with the chance to taste some of the world's most famous cheeses, paired with wine and beer. Expect plenty of laughs, great flavors, and fascinating facts along the way. Friday, May 23, 7p.m., 728 Montana Ave. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/andrews-cheese-101-class-tickets-1329130798999

Truly Pizza x Patio del Mar Collab: Hailed as one of the "50 Best Pizzerias in the USA," this celebrated team from Dana Point brings their signature artisanal pies and inventive desserts to Hotel Casa del Mar on May 25 and 26, from 11a.m. - 8p.m. https://resy.com/cities/santa-monica-ca/venues/patio-del-mar/events/truly-pizza-2025-05-25

Wally's Launches Pre-Fixe Lunch Menu: Enjoy a two-course lunch for $29 with starters like Paul's Endive Salad and Avocado Toast, and mains like Petit Steak Frites or a French Omelette Roulee. Upgrade to three courses for $35 to add dessert. 214 Wilshire Blvd. https://www.wallywine.com

Pasjoli Closing, but "plans to reopen with a new look and menu": On May 31, Beran will close Pasjoli, with plans to reopen with a revamped dining room and an entirely new menu two weeks later. "It was starting to become this thing that maybe wasn't the restaurant that I was trying to shape it into," Chef Beran says. "In my head, I'd always had a vision for it. Over time, the neighborhood evolved one way, I evolved one way and the restaurant evolved one way. And the visions weren't really aligned." More details here.

LA's Best Lunch Deal Is Fogo de Chão's All-You-Can-Eat Brazilian Barbecue Buffet: The full churrasco experience costs a hefty $54 for lunch at Fogo de Chão, although it comes with at least six different kinds of meats, including picanha (prime top sirloin), bone-in ribeye, lamb chops, and garlic chicken. But the salad bar, which is probably the best salad bar buffet to be found in Los Angeles, costs just $18. And once you add on the $14 single-meat option, you essentially get something close to an all-you-can-eat Brazilian barbecue lunch for just $32 before tax and gratuity. https://la.eater.com/2025/4/22/24414169/fogo-de-chao-brazilian-barbecue-bargain-lunch-all-you-can-eat-los-angeles

Further Afield: WeHo Pride 2025 kicks off this Thursday by celebrating Harvey Milk Day with the 3rd annual José Julio Sarria Drag Pageant. Then this Friday to Sunday, Pride continues with the WeHo Pride Arts Festival, a three day celebration of theatre, poetry, and art hosted at the Los Angeles LGBT Center's Village at Ed Gould Plaza. FREE. https://www.wehopride.com/

Looking Ahead: AIDS/LifeCycle Finish Line Festival (6/7); Rosé on Rose Fest (6/14); Main St. Summer Soulstice Festival (6/21); The Venice Fest (6/21); SaMo Pride (6/21); Make Music Day (6/21); SaMo Chamber of Commerce "Toast to 100 Years" (6/26); Eeeeeatscon (6/28-29)

If there's something you think is worth highlighting, you can reach out directly to me at sean@smdp.com and let me know if you have any feedback on Around Town: MAINopoly, Street League Skateboarding, Truly Pizza Pop-Up, & More!

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