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Jazz Bakery.

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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 133 THURSDAY 5/29/25 smdp.com

Neighbors invited to weigh in as 1320 Pico Blvd project adds nearly 50% more housing

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

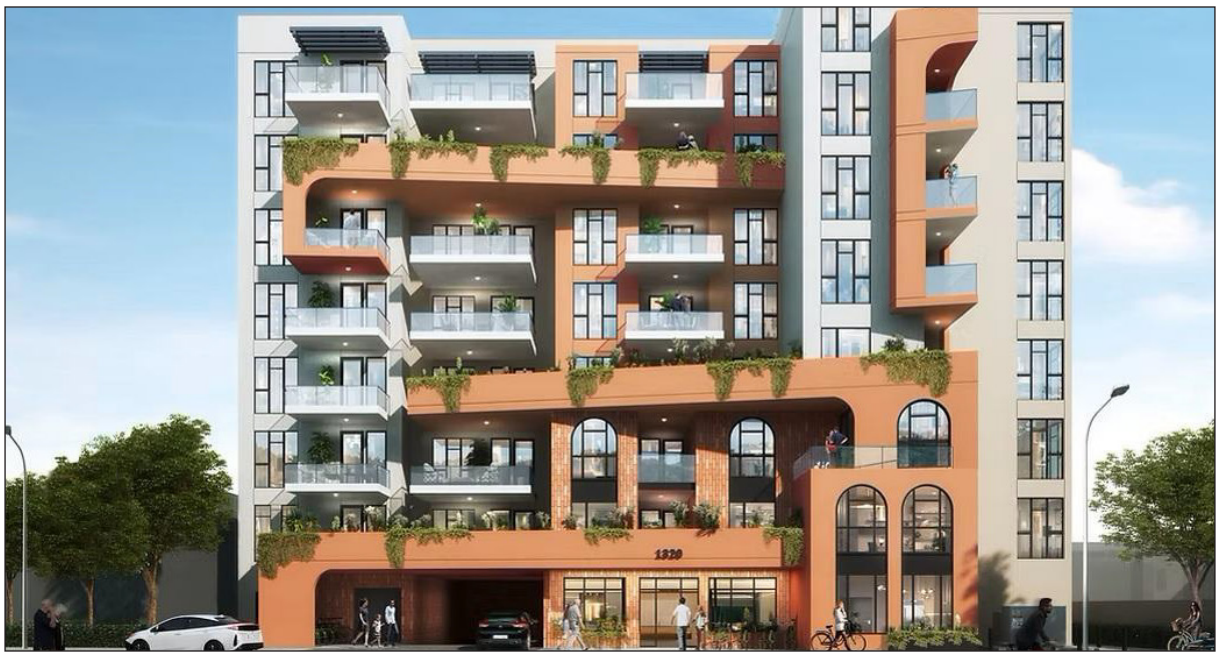
A proposed residential complex just west of Santa Monica College has been significantly upsized, with new plans calling for nearly 50 percent more housing units than previously announced.

According to project materials posted online, the revised development at 1320 Pico Boulevard would rise eight stories and include 147 apartments above a two-and-a-half-level subterranean garage with 175 parking spaces. The site, currently occupied by a commercial building, sits along a busy stretch of Pico Boulevard near the college's arts campus, which remains under construction at 14th Street.

The applicant, Dylan Investments, originally submitted plans in 2024 for a 100-unit project with 78 parking spaces. The updated design increases the unit count by 47 and more than doubles the parking total. The plan also includes 269 bicycle parking spaces, with 244 designated for long-term use and 25 for short-term.

The development is being designed by DFH Architects and is described as a contemporary, podium-style building. Renderings show a structure fronting Pico Boulevard, with a secondary four-story component at the rear of the lot. Amenities are expected to include a gym, a pool, and multiple terrace decks.

To accommodate the larger scale, the project is seeking density bonus incentives, including provisions allowed under AB 1287, which permit taller and more



DFH Architects

DEVELOPMENT: The revised 1320 Pico Blvd project at would rise eight stories and include 147 apartments.

SEE **PROJECT** PAGE 8

Council approves new City Manager contract

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The Santa Monica City Council unanimously appointed Oliver C. Chi as the city's new manager Tuesday evening, approving a compensation package worth more than $400,000 annually despite the circulation of past allegations questioning his previous municipal service.

The 7-0 vote came after council members met in closed session to discuss Chi's appointment, which

SEE **COUNCIL** PAGE 11

Entertainment Zone to debut Downtown, FIFA 'Futpool' pitch made to DTSM board

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

After more than a year of planning, Santa Monica's long-anticipated Entertainment Zone will officially launch on June 13, bringing a new suite of programming and regulatory flexibility to the Third Street Promenade.

City Council formally approved the ordinance earlier this month, greenlighting a three-block district where outdoor performances, alcohol service and branded activations will be permitted under expanded guidelines. The designation, covering weekends from Friday to Sunday, allows outdoor drinking between 11 a.m. and 10 p.m. and authorizes extended patio service hours for bars and restaurants.

"This is something we've been working toward for over a year," said Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. (DTSM) CEO Andrew Thomas during the May board meeting. "We want to activate the district in ways that we think will bring people in and support the businesses that are here."

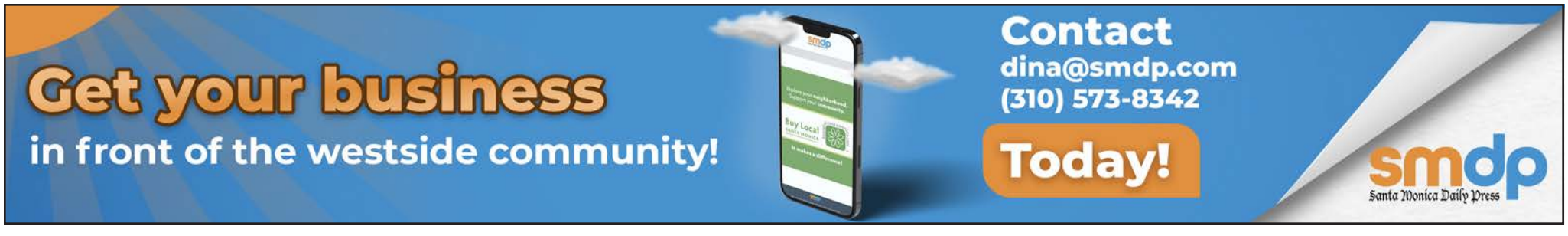
Thomas said the initial soft launch will begin Friday, June 13, with a fuller schedule ramping up through the summer. The first major event under the new framework is "Pride on the Promenade," set for June 21 and

SEE **DTSM** PAGE 8



Futpool

ACTIVATION: Los Angeles is hosting the 2026 FIFA Club World Cup.



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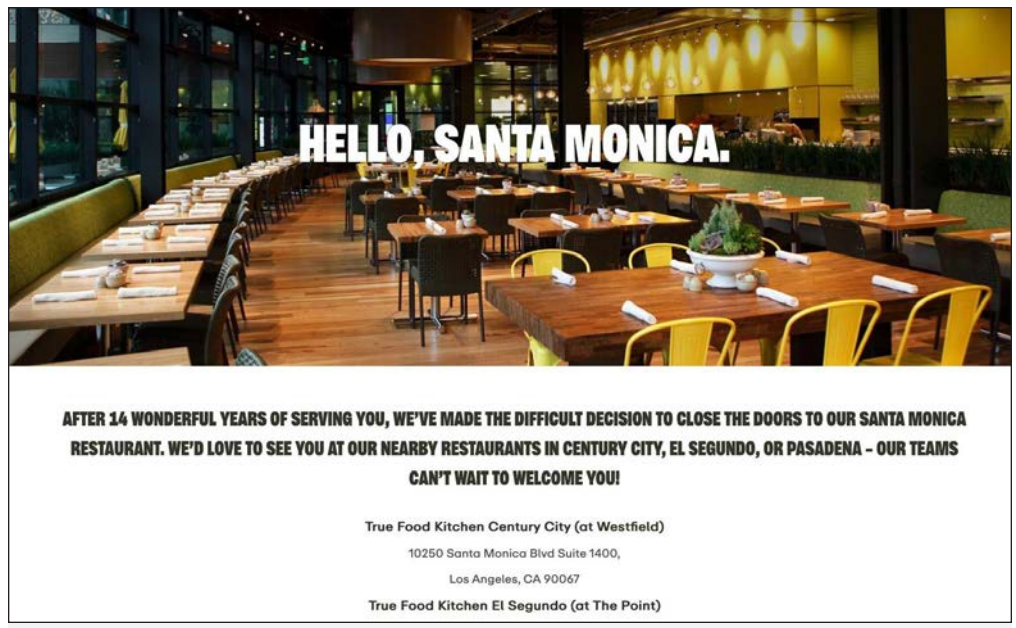


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More retailers exit struggling Santa Monica Place mall



SMDP Photo

SHOPPING MALL: Santa Monica Place has lost more stores during its ongoing fiscal distress.

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

Two more retailers announced closures at the troubled Santa Monica Place shopping center recently, underscoring the ongoing challenges facing the 527,000-square-foot property as new management takes control of the financially distressed mall.

True Food Kitchen closed its Santa Monica location after 14 years, directing customers to nearby restaurants in Century City, El Segundo and Pasadena. Luxury skincare retailer Aesop also announced it has closed its Santa Monica Place store on Monday, May 26, though the company has recently opened a new location on Montana Avenue.

The closures come as Prism Places, a commercial real estate management firm with $2.8 billion in assets under management, was appointed to manage the struggling shopping center. The property is now under control of court-appointed receiver Trigild after previous owner Macerich Co. defaulted on a $300 million loan.

The management change represents the latest chapter in the decline of what was once a flagship property for Macerich, which owned the center since 1999. The mall currently has a vacancy rate of almost 70%, with its biggest remaining draws being the Cayton Children's Museum, Cheesecake Factory and the recently opened Din Tai Fung restaurant.

Santa Monica Place, originally designed by renowned architect Frank Gehry, underwent a $265 million renovation in 2010 to transform from an enclosed mall into an open-air center. The property was once home to luxury retailers, dining options, department stores and a movie theater, but has struggled to maintain tenants in recent years.

While permanent tenants have been difficult to secure, the mall has found some success with rotating pop-up attractions on the lower levels.

Prism Places brings experience in repositioning distressed assets in Southern California, having previously revitalized RUNWAY Playa Vista and currently managing other regional shopping centers including Pasadena Commons, Paseo Nuevo in Santa Barbara, and properties on Rodeo Drive.

The company's strategy typically involves balancing global and local brands for retail and dining, optimizing internal property design and utilizing locally produced events to draw visitors.

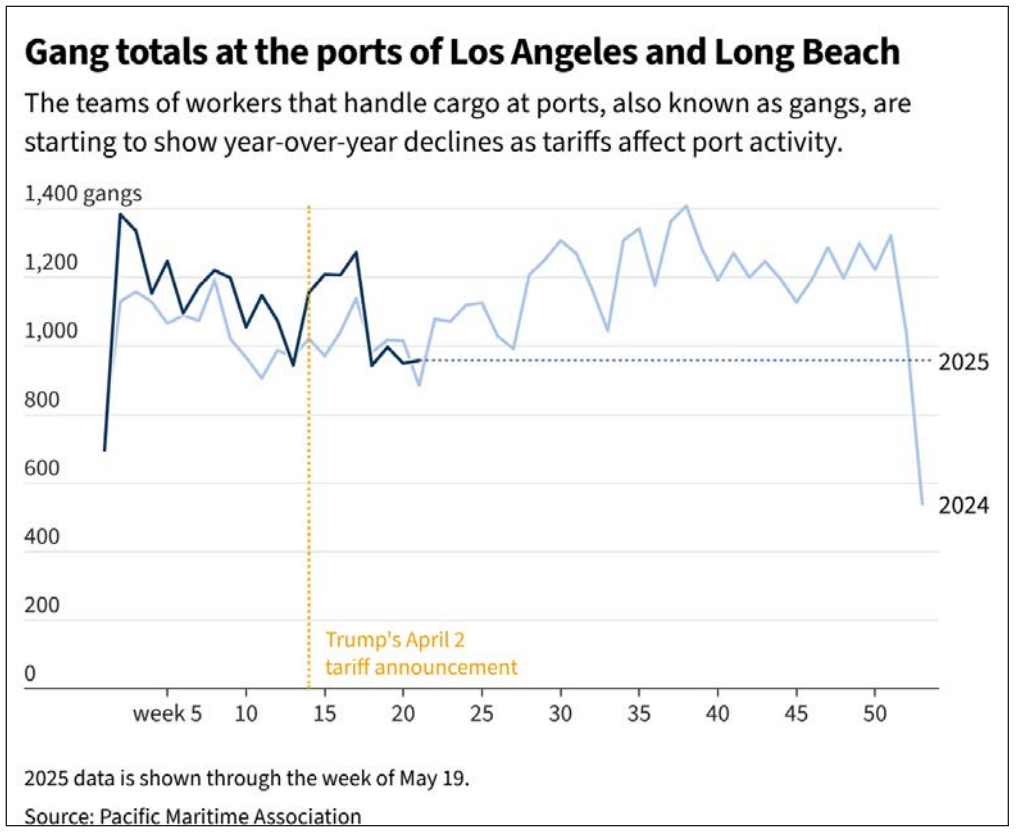
Prism did not reply to request for comment on the departures.

The shopping center's troubles reflect broader economic challenges facing Santa Monica. The city continues to operate with a structural deficit despite new tax measures, requiring an additional $60 million from General Fund reserves over the next five years to balance the budget, according to a recent staff report.

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Trump trade war has already had huge effect on CA ports



California's port traffic is beginning to look worse now, under the effects of President Donald Trump's fickle tariff policy, than it did at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The vessel calls, or cancellations, that we're seeing today (are) starting to exceed the number that we saw in COVID-19," Mario Cordero, chief executive of the Port of Long Beach, said in an interview with CalMatters in early May.

At Port of Los Angeles, Executive Director Gene Seroka said during a media briefing last week that the port expected 80 ships to arrive in May, but 17 have been canceled. By comparison, last year through May there were a total of 12 cancellations. There are 10 cancellations for June already, he added.

Farther north, the Port of Oakland saw a 15% month-over-month drop in container activity in April, spokesperson Matt Davis said. It was the first significant decline this year, as tariffs went into effect.

The challenges presented by Trump's tariffs are "not like COVID," said Martha Miller, executive director of the California Association of Port Authorities, at a business roundtable last week. The unpredictability of Trump's edicts means there won't be a surge of cargo, she said; many businesses are waiting to act, including to order goods for import.

Data for the state's three biggest ports confirm that jobs are dwindling for longshore workers up and down the state. The numbers of gangs — teams of varied sizes that work to handle cargo — at each of the ports have declined in the past few weeks, and have dropped year over year. Besides the numbers of containers at the ports, gang numbers are another indicator of the amount of work available.

Gary Herrera is president of the International Longshore Workers Union Local 13, which represents port workers in both Long Beach and Los Angeles.

Part-time workers are not getting any hours right now, Herrera said during a media briefing with Long Beach officials. He told CalMatters that full-time workers — who get first dibs on jobs — may not be getting 40 hours a week, either. Herrera was also speaking on behalf of a couple of other locals; altogether they represent about 9,000 full-time and 6,000 part-time port workers.

As the tariff drama drags on, the impact will be felt by other workers along the supply chain, from truck drivers to the staff at warehouses to rail workers and those who work in retail. If and when people don't have enough work or lose their jobs, their communities and local economies will suffer, port officials and workers say.

"We live and we work in our community," Herrera said during a recent media briefing with Long Beach officials. "We spend in our community."

GANG TOTALS AT THE PORTS OF LOS ANGELES AND LONG BEACH

Luisa Gratz is the president of International Longshore Workers Union Local 26, which represents most of the security on the docks in Los Angeles and Long Beach. The port security workers — who drive other longshore workers from parking lots to the ships, among other things — told CalMatters that her constituents are also struggling.

"When there's no work for longshoremen, there's very little work for us except gate monitoring," she said. "It's heartbreaking. It's putting people out of work."

Truckers are also feeling the squeeze from the tariffs.

Eric Tate is secretary-treasurer of Teamsters Local 848, which represents about 8,000 truck drivers in Southern California. He said truckers, especially part-timers who aren't guaranteed any hours, are seeing less work, though he did say truckers saw a bit of a pickup in work after Trump temporarily reduced tariffs on China.

"We're trying to gear up and quickly move

SEE **PORT** PAGE 11



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **64.4**

THURSDAY — ***FAIR***
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Decent leftovers for the smaller wave gear. Worth a surf, just smaller than the past few days. SSW swell is on the way down, putting up some knee-waist high waves into the mix for average spots, going chest+ for summer standouts in the morning. There's a slow fading trend through the day so you'll want to get on it early to maximize size potential That said, the dawn patrol is drained out on a negative low tide, so it'll probably be worth letting it fill in some before paddling. AM conditions look clean at this point.

FRIDAY — ***FAIR***
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Watching for a little bump in mid-period NW swell mix for the 30th-31st. A blend of NW swell looks to potentially bump up through the afternoon on Thursday the 29th, the pulse of late season energy strongest Friday into Saturday. Still not much but decent upside so late in the season. Should also be plenty to set up nice peaks as modest SSW swell blends in Fri/Sat. The early read is for decent conditions under light - especially by Spring - winds.

Weather

Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 71.
Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 60. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Friday: Patchy fog. Otherwise, cloudy, with a high near 76. Northeast wind 5 to 15 mph.
Friday Night: Patchy fog. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 63.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
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
2025/05/30	Fri	6:09 PM	2.64	L
2025/05/31	Sat	12:20 AM	5.61	H
2025/05/31	Sat	07:58 AM	-0.70	L
2025/05/31	Sat	3:10 PM	3.68	H
2025/05/31	Sat	7:23 PM	2.79	L
2025/06/01	Sun	01:20 AM	4.96	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: 5/26
13 47 52 64 67
Power#: 25
Jackpot: 189 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 5/27
6 28 34 48 62
Mega#: 9
Jackpot: 189 M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 5/24
3 4 5 7 35
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 11 M

FANTASY 5
Draw Date: 5/27
13 20 25 34 35

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 5/27
EVENING: 2 3 4
Draw Date: 5/27
MIDDAY: 8 8 9

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 5/27
1st: 11 - Money Bags
2nd: 10 - Solid Gold
3rd: 04 - Big Ben
Race Time: 1:40.90

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Santa Monica Daily Press

AROUND TOWN

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Locals Nights at AJA Vineyards & Blue Plate Oysterette, and More!

SMDP's Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town includes Locals Nights at AJA Vineyards & Blue Plate Oysterette, and much more!

"Marina Culture Jam": Marina del Rey celebrates 60 years with free community festival featuring music, art and cultural performances at the waterfront. The family-friendly event will showcase internationally recognized performers and attendees can also participate in interactive drumming sessions, enjoy live DJ sets, and engage with various art stations throughout the park. Saturday, May 31, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Burton Chace Park, 13650 Mindanao Way https://beaches.lacounty.gov/marinaculturejam/

A Summer Kickoff Pool Party at The Pierside Hotel: The Pierside is kicking off summer in style beachside in Santa Monica. Their "High Tides & Vibes" summer kickoff pool party will feature poolside beats, coastal bites from The Surfing Fox and cocktails from Mission Craft Cocktails. Saturday, May 31, 4 – 7 p.m., 120 Colorado Ave. https://www.thepiersidehotel.com

Saturday by the Sea with WHEAT Boutique: Join Us For A Shopping Experience Where Chic Meets Coastal Charm Thoughtfully designed activations and shopping featuring Citizens of Humanity providing custom embroidery, Tom Ford and Pucci Sunglasses, Aviator Nation, Hunza G, Jennifer Meyer, Karen Lazar, and Lady Cuir. A live DJ, mimosa bar, and light bites Saturday, May 31, 11a.m. - 2p.m., Hotel Casa del Mar rsvp@etchotels.com

Chrysalis Annual All In For Changing Lives Poker Tournament: Come to the Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club, where chip leaders play their best hands in hopes of making it to the final table and all friends of Chrysalis can get in on the fun at the party. This event is for both poker players and non-players to come together and support changing lives through jobs. Saturday, May 31, 2 - 8 p.m., 1210 4th St. https://www.changelives.org/all-in/

Live Talks: Jeffrey Seller with Josh Groban: They will be discussing "Theatre Kid: A Broadway Memoir", a coming-of-age memoir from Jeffrey Seller one of the most successful theatrical producers of our time- the only producer to have mounted two Pulitzer Prize–winning musicals—Hamilton and Rent. Thursday, June 5, 8p.m., New Roads School, 3131 Olympic Blvd. https://livetalksla.org/events/jeffrey-seller/

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

WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

AJA Vineyards Locals Night: Kick off the summer right with the perfect evening at your local Santa Monica winery. If you live in Santa Monica or the surrounding Los Angeles area, come enjoy 2 glasses of wine and get the 3rd for $1. Friday, May 30, 1417 2nd St. https://ajavineyards.com/upcoming-events/

Nipsey Hussle's Popular Marathon Burger Opening on Venice Boardwalk: Samiel "Blacc Sam" Asghedom (brother of the late rapper Nipsey Hussle) and his team will sling crispy-edged wagyu smash burgers on the Venice Beach Boardwalk next to the pickup basketball courts and Muscle Beach starting Saturday, May 31, 1827 Oceanfront Walk, Venice. https://la.eater.com/2025/5/27/24438223/marathon-burger-nipsey-hussle-venice-restaurant-opening-los-angeles

Blue Plate Oysterette Community Dinner Series: Join a gourmet dinner at sunset for $29. Enjoy a chef-curated meal, mingle with your Santa Monica neighbors, and soak in the sunset from our communal table. This dinner will feature shrimp tacos, rice and beans, chips with specialty salsas, watermelon and cucumber agua frescas and more. Monday, June 2, 6 - 8p.m., 1355 Ocean Ave. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bpo-community-dinner-series-tickets-1333332235609



Courtesy image

MDR: There's a party to celebrate Marina Del Rey this weekend.

Edgemar Restaurant on Main St. Launching Lunch: Their goal is to balance fresh, seasonal ingredients with satisfying portions whether you need to be back at your desk in an hour or want to linger over a glass of wine and extend your escape. They are open for lunch Wednesday through Friday 11:00a.m. - 3:30p.m. plus weekends all day. 2435 Main St. https://www.edgemar.la/menu

The Infatuation Declares the SaMo "New Din Tai Fung Is The Best One Yet": Some restaurants have loyal customers. Din Tai Fung has believers: people who will wait an hour-plus for dumplings without batting an eye, know each of their XLB has exactly 18 pleats, and refer to it exclusively as "DTF". You could argue that there are better dumplings in the SGV, and you'd probably be right. But that's not the point. You're here to eat delicious soup dumplings with an ocean view and fill up on other Taiwanese staples you can depend on. 395 Santa Monica Place https://www.theinfatuation.com/los-angeles/reviews/din-tai-fung-santa-monica

Jyan Isaac Bread Makes EaterLA's "Best Bagels in LA" List: "In addition to coveted sourdough rolls, Horwitz bakes brioche buns, baguettes, challah, and multi-grain porridge loaves. He also branched out into bagels, serving them loose or topped with options like schmear, tomato cultured butter, and house jam. On the sweeter side, the bakery offers glossy croissants with mesmerizing curves and cruffins topped with seasonal fruits." 1620 Ocean Park Blvd. https://la.eater.com/maps/best-bagels-los-angeles

Further Afield: WeHo Pride: WeHo Pride gets into full swing this Friday to Sunday with the OUTLOUD Music West at West Hollywood Park (night one is free, the next two are ticketed), plus the Dyke March, the Women's Freedom Festival, and the WeHo Pride Parade on Sunday. https://www.wehopride.com/events

Looking Ahead: AIDS/LifeCycle Finish Line Festival (6/7); Rosé on Rose Fest (6/14); Cardboard Yacht Regatta (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. Let me know if you have any feedback on Around Town: Locals Nights at AJA Vineyards & Blue Plate Oysterette, and More!

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OPINION | NOTEWORTHY

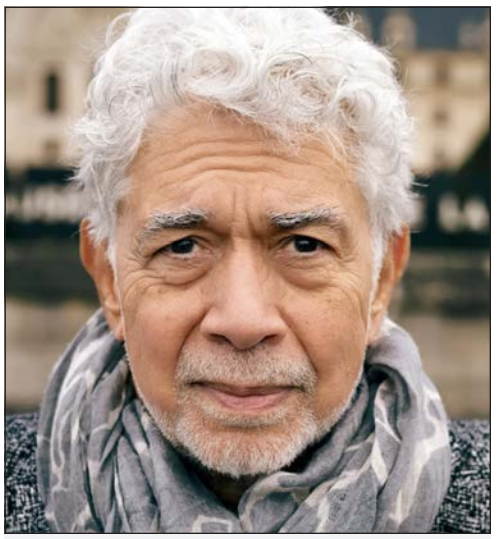
Charles Andrews | Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Jazz Bakery, Verdi, Love, Gervais: 5/31

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME!!!!!

Thank you, thank you, tusen takk! May 29: JFK, CK Chesterton, TH White, Patrick Henry, Danny Elfman, King Charles II, Austin Reeves and of course Tenzing Norgay, first man to look down on the world from the summit of Everest. I am in a village on an island south of Bergen, Norway. Why not?

It will be a relief to get away from the daily, escalating ravages of the Orange Oligarch for a bit. He continues to spend his time finding new ways to decimate the arts, education, our national security, veterans, hungry children, free speech and all the other freedoms so many fought and died for the last 250 years. (Cue a sharp salute to my pop, Charles "Andy" Andrews, who served in WWII at FDR's summer White House at Hyde Park, NY, enlisting in his mid-30s, and also a couple years in the US Navy, at age 15. Neither a "sucker" nor a "loser," Mr. Commander-in-Chief Bone Spurs.)



Courtesy photo

MUSIC: The Amazing Monty and Jazz Bakery.

LOCAL LOSSES

The havoc caused by "Rump" (that's what's writ large on the face of his new eponymous $600 watches) and his Chainsaw Chum will soon affect nearly everyone, and many will die, but it is already hitting Santa Monica hard. The venerable Jazz Bakery, begun 33 years ago by famed vocalist Ruth Price, still booking and leading it vigorously at 87, got notice a couple weeks ago that their annual $25,000 NEA (National Endowment for the Arts) grant was being immediately cancelled and clawed back, a blow so crippling for this invaluable Santa Monica music institution that Price had to announce that her scheduled May 31 performance by revered Jamaican pianist Monty Alexander and his group... might be their final one. So she declared it a fundraiser for JB (see below), a last attempt to have this important cultural jewel remain with us.

I have been uplifted, enlightened, entertained and sometimes floored by attending most of their performances of the last nine years in the beautiful, acoustically superb Moss Theatre on the campus of New Roads School, at the SM east end of Olympic (and a few before that, when it was at Culver City's Helms Bakery). I never saw a single performance that wasn't an A or an A+. Can't say that about any other venue, in my long life of live music.

CLASS ACT

In their email blast this week, classy jazz venue Sam First, near LAX, urged their fans to attend that fundraiser. Across the music spectrum, and all aspects of our nation and society, we're much better off if we cooperate, not compete, dontcha think?

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

MONTY ALEXANDER – I suggest you go to the JB page to get more information on this revered Jamaican-born pianist, and the fundraiser he is doing for the beloved but beleaguered Jazz Bakery, another victim of Trump's anti-arts actions. This will be a very special show, and you will be fighting back with your donation. Sat 7:30 p.m., Nate Holden Performing Arts Center, LA, $50-300.

LOVE – Of all the great bands that came out of LA in the '60s, Love may have been the most underrated. The only reason I became aware of them was because I was in a communications group in the Army stationed in Germany – with a bunch of guys from SoCal who were getting the latest best LPs from home. It helped to have someone explain lyrics like, "Oh, the snot has caked against my pants..." Just kidding. The explanation was often a shrug and a raised eyebrow and, well, they take a lot of drugs. But, the music. Many industry veterans and music journalists put their "Forever Changes" album on lists of Best 10 Ever. (Me, Best 5. And when I got an FM radio gig my name was The Good Humor Man.) But why are they worth seeing, really worth seeing, now, nearly 60 years later? Because founding guitarist Johnny Echols was wise enough years ago to hook up with a talented band named Baby Lemonade who were huge Love fans and very willing to learn to play the music note for note. Rare, and very rewarding. Sat 6 p.m., The Echo, LA, $42/

RICKY GERVAIS – You probably either love him or hate him. I used to be in the "eh" camp but either he's gotten better or I've gotten smarter. I think he's stepped back a bit from going nuclear offensive.

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 8

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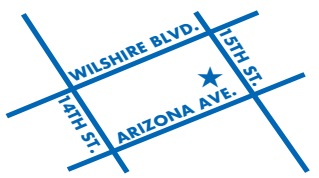
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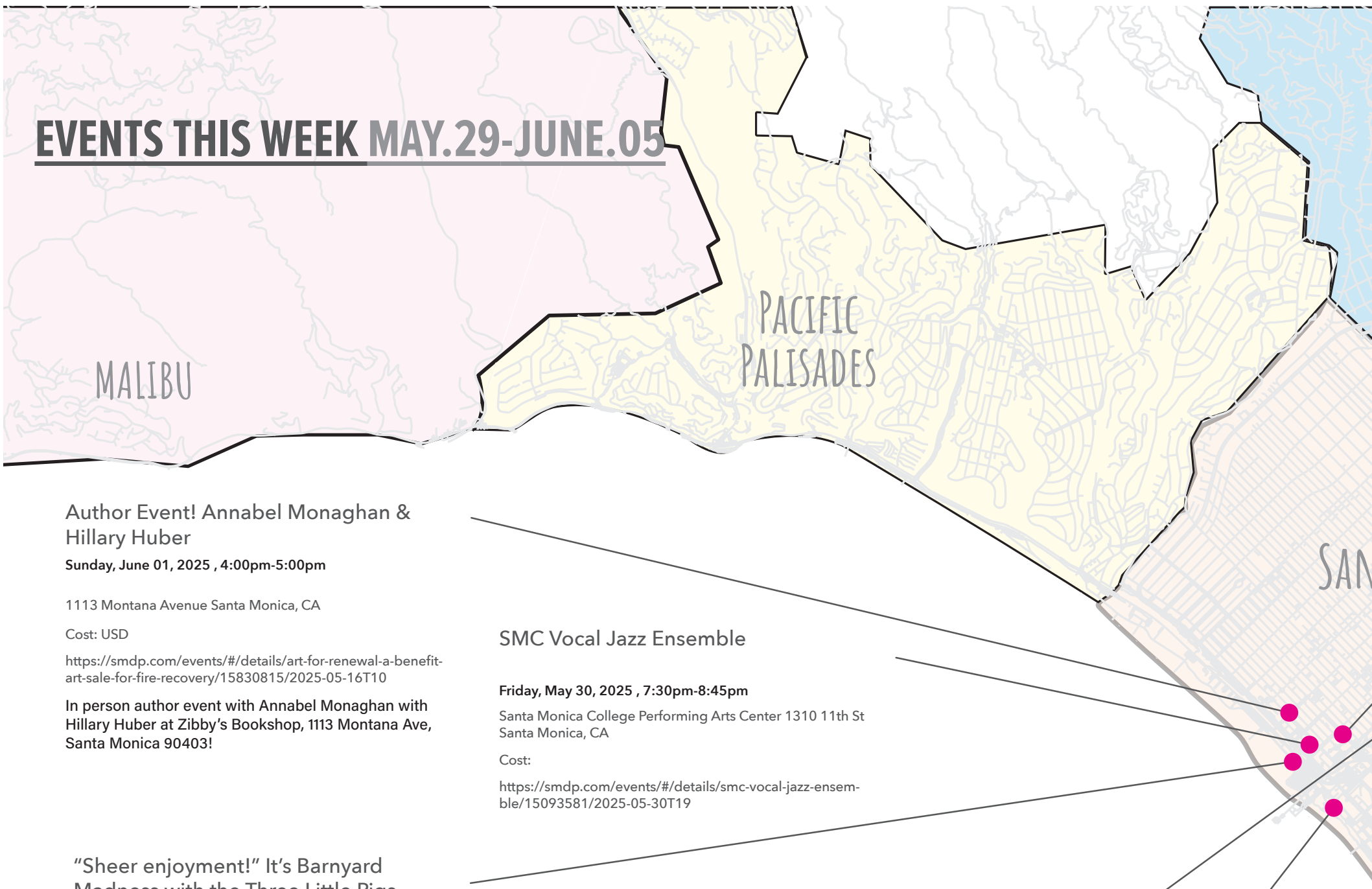
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EVENTS THIS WEEK MAY.29-JUNE.05



Author Event! Annabel Monaghan & Hillary Huber

Sunday, June 01, 2025 , 4:00pm-5:00pm

1113 Montana Avenue Santa Monica, CA

Cost: USD

https://smdp.com/events/#/details/art-for-renewal-a-benefit-art-sale-for-fire-recovery/15830815/2025-05-16T10

In person author event with Annabel Monaghan with Hillary Huber at Zibby's Bookshop, 1113 Montana Ave, Santa Monica 90403!

SMC Vocal Jazz Ensemble

Friday, May 30, 2025 , 7:30pm-8:45pm

Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center 1310 11th St Santa Monica, CA

Cost:

https://smdp.com/events/#/details/smc-vocal-jazz-ensemble/15093581/2025-05-30T19

"Sheer enjoyment!" It's Barnyard Madness with the Three Little Pigs

Sunday, June 01, 2025 , 12:30pm-2:00pm

Santa Monica Playhouse 1211 4th St, Santa Monica, CA 310-394-9779

Cost: $15.00 to $17.50–$15 kids 12 and under; $17.50 adults

https://smdp.com/events/#/details/-sheer-enjoyment-it-s-barnyard-madness-with-the-three-little-pigs/15355104/2025-06-01T12

Description
"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.

"Sheer enjoyment...mixes elements of 1940s boogie-woogie, Grand Ole Opry-type vaudeville and a Romeo and Juliet story line." L.A. PARENT

Arts/Crafts

Thursday, May 29, 2025 , 11:00am-1:00pm

Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave Santa Monica, CA
Cost: Free
https://smdp.com/events/#/details/arts-crafts/14712446/2025-05-29T11

Venga, aprenda, y diviertase cada jueves de 11 AM a 1 PM el el salón 3 del parque Virginia.

PIER PLAY presented by RASA

Saturday, May 31, 2025 , 3:30pm-10:30pm

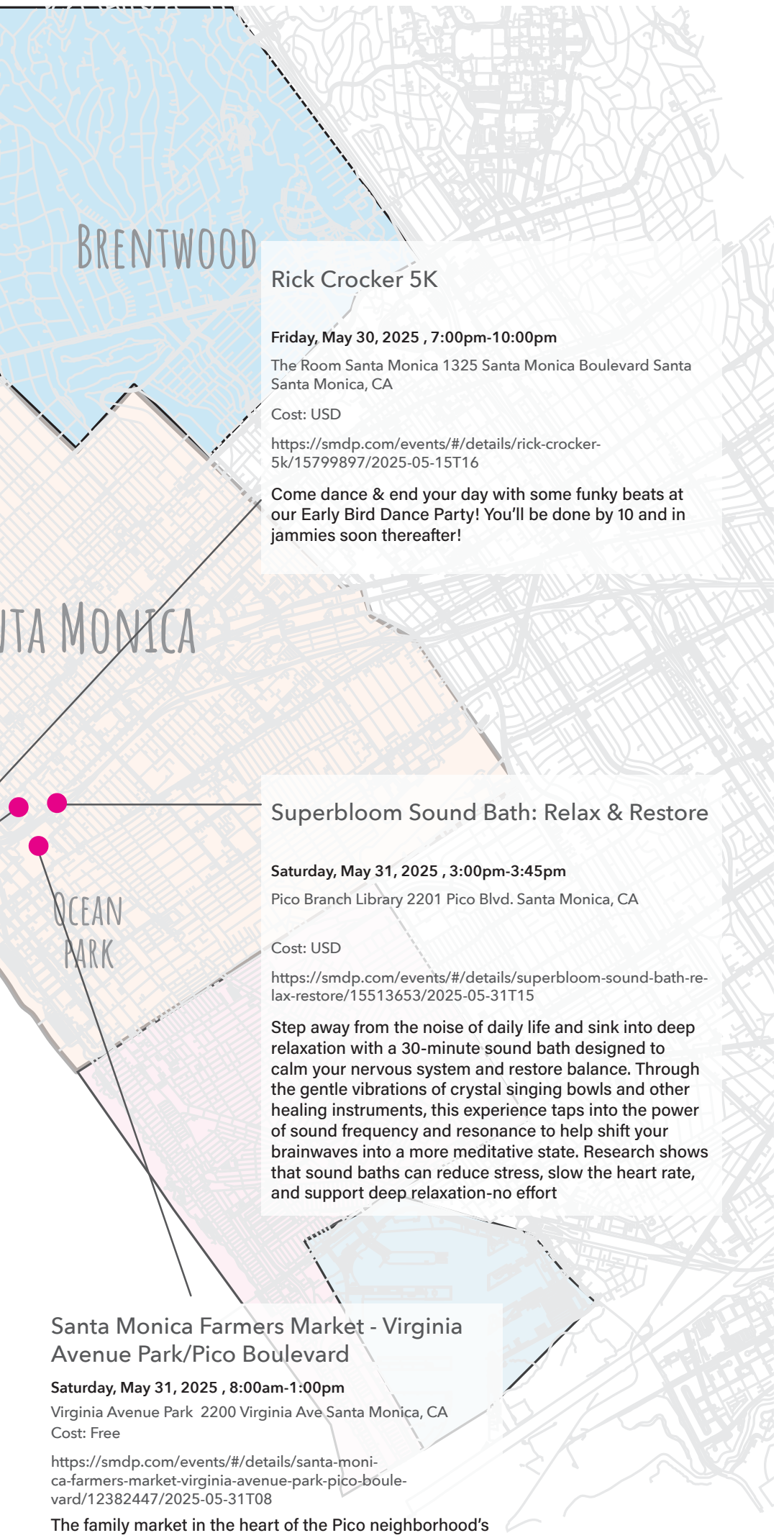
Santa Monica Pier 200 Santa Monica Pier, Ste A Santa Monica, CA

Cost: USD

https://smdp.com/events/#/details/pier-play-presented-by-rasa/15814446/2025-05-31T15

Pier Play at Santa Monica Pier is BACK and better than ever!

Check out more events at: smdp.com/events



Rick Crocker 5K

Friday, May 30, 2025 , 7:00pm-10:00pm

The Room Santa Monica 1325 Santa Monica Boulevard Santa Santa Monica, CA

Cost: USD

https://smdp.com/events/#/details/rick-crocker-5k/15799897/2025-05-15T16

Come dance & end your day with some funky beats at our Early Bird Dance Party! You'll be done by 10 and in jammies soon thereafter!

Superbloom Sound Bath: Relax & Restore

Saturday, May 31, 2025 , 3:00pm-3:45pm

Pico Branch Library 2201 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica, CA

Cost: USD

https://smdp.com/events/#/details/superbloom-sound-bath-relax-restore/15513653/2025-05-31T15

Step away from the noise of daily life and sink into deep relaxation with a 30-minute sound bath designed to calm your nervous system and restore balance. Through the gentle vibrations of crystal singing bowls and other healing instruments, this experience taps into the power of sound frequency and resonance to help shift your brainwaves into a more meditative state. Research shows that sound baths can reduce stress, slow the heart rate, and support deep relaxation-no effort

Santa Monica Farmers Market - Virginia Avenue Park/Pico Boulevard

Saturday, May 31, 2025 , 8:00am-1:00pm

Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave Santa Monica, CA
Cost: Free

https://smdp.com/events/#/details/santa-monica-farmers-market-virginia-avenue-park-pico-boulevard/12382447/2025-05-31T08

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.



THURSDAY | MAY 29

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. For ADA accommodations, call (213) 228-7430 at least 72 hours prior to the event. Para ajustes razonables según la ley de ADA, llama al (213) 228-7430 al menos 72 horas antes del evento. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/lunchtime-line-dance/12342961/2025-05-29T12

FRIDAY | MAY 30

THE NIGHT SKY SHOW

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Santa Monica College 1900 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. The Night Sky Show is a short program with the latest news in space exploration and astronomy. The program uses freeware sky visualization tools to show you the constellations planets and deep sky objects in the Southern California night sky. The show will last about 30 minutes followed by a short Q&A when guests can type questions into a chat box. We will answer as many questions as possible. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/the-night-sky-show/14165546/2025-05-30T19

SATURDAY | MAY 31

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/15484766/2025-05-31T08

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/14548485/2025-05-31T11

COMMUNITY DOG TRAINING CLASSES!

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Ave Park 2200 Virgina Ave Santa Monica. People's Dog Training™, a Love At First Sit® program, host their L.A. Wildfires Initiative through their Community Dog Training Classes on Saturdays at Virginia Ave Park in Santa Monica. Class fee is $5.00, then Pay-What-You-Can after that. Wildfire Victims and first responders are always free. Class proceeds are donated to CAMP (Community Animal Medicine Project) who are providing FREE veterinary services to L.A. Wildfire Victims. Sign-up at peoplesdogtraining.com/community-training. $5.00 —General $5.00. First Responders & Wildfire Victims FREE. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/community-dog-training-classes-/11981844/2025-05-31T12

"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. "Sheer enjoyment…mixes elements of 1940s boogie-woogie, Grand Ole Opry-type vaudeville and a Romeo and Juliet story line." L.A. PARENT. This rib-tickling Family Theatre Musical for Kids 2 to 102, created by the internationally acclaimed team of Chris DeCarlo and Evelyn Rudie, proves once and for all that friendship doesn't depend on size, color, background, "species" or nationality. $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/15355101/2025-05-31T14

SUNDAY | JUNE 1

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/14894114/2025-06-01T11

MONDAY | JUNE 2

ARBOR VENICE MONDAY NIGHT POOL TOURNEY

5:30 p.m. 2907 Main Street CA 90405 Join us at the pool table on the Back Patio Santa Monica. Join in the fun as Arbor Venice takes over Tavern on Main. We'll be showing awesome skateboard and snowboarding footage on our screens and hosting a pool tourney with awesome prizes for the winner each week. Monday $9 Burger+Beer special is a great addition to the festivities. Come and play, hang or whatever suits your mood. All are welcome at Tavern on Main. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/arbor-venice-monday-night-pool-tourney/14639005/2025-06-02T17

NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 5

Seemed his hobby used to be saying the most godawful shocking things to celebrity audiences. Mellowed some now, perhaps? Less angry? Less to prove? And now more effective as a social satirist, and funnier. He's now one of my very favorites. Makes atheism hilarious, and hard to argue against. He's got a lot of heart. Sat 7:30 p.m., Hollywood Bowl, $30-516.

LA OPERA's "RIGOLETTO" – Oh great, one more "don't miss" on the same night. I need a clone. Fortunately, this Verdi classic will be performed five more times in June. With baritone star Quinn Kelsey in his signature role. "Seduction, murder, revenge - decadence and corruption" – sounds like today's headlines, but with more class, I'm sure, and a better soundtrack. You'll hear some of the most famous music passages ever. Sat 8 p.m., Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, LA, $84-450.

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.

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): LOVE, Echo, 5/31; LA OPERA's "RIGOLETTO," Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 5/31, 6/8, 12, 15, 18, 21; RICKY GERVAIS, Hwd Bowl, 5/31; TOLEDO DIAMOND, Harvelle's, 6/1, 8, 15, 22, 29; HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES, Cinema Bar, 6/3, 10, 17, 24; 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, Terrace Theater, 7/7, Disney, 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



PROJECT

FROM PAGE 1

densely populated structures in exchange for providing below-market-rate housing. The revised proposal calls for 24 units to be reserved for very low, low, and moderate income households. According to project documents, that includes four units priced at 50 percent of area median income (AMI), four at 80 percent AMI, and 16 at moderate-income levels.

The project adds market-rate housing in an area that has recently seen a surge in affordable developments. Nearby examples include Brunson Terrace, a fully affordable apartment complex completed by Community Corporation of Santa Monica at 1819 Pico Boulevard, located just a few blocks east of the 1320 site.

A virtual community meeting to discuss the revised proposal is scheduled for Thursday, May 29, at 6pm. Residents can RSVP or request additional information by emailing 1320pico@dylaninvestments.com. The Zoom meeting will be accessible at https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82999223211?pwd=NThr8f8D-9ko4ba7YgLJc3EhXkkde5P.1.

If approved, the project would bring a substantial increase in housing density to the mid-Pico neighborhood, a corridor where Santa Monica's evolving housing policies continue to spur multifamily development.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

DTSM

FROM PAGE 1

expected to include music, dance and other family-friendly entertainment.

Marketing staff confirmed that alcohol will be permitted at Pride this year, a first for the annual event.

Although DTSM and City staff emphasized a cautious rollout, several board members and members of the public used the recent DTSM meeting to float broader ambitions, including an expanded footprint and high-profile activations tied to global sporting events.

Mari Miranda, co-owner of the mobile batting cage startup SportsFest, presented a proposal during public comment calling for a fan-centric installation during the upcoming FIFA Club World Cup. The international tournament, which runs from June 15 to July 13, will feature matches in the Los Angeles area and is considered a key lead-in to the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Miranda and her business partner, Christina Holt, are proposing to install a "futpool" court, a soccer and billiards hybrid game, directly on the Promenade during the tournament's early days.

"We wanted to present the idea of putting out the futpool courts, which would be custom built at 10 feet by 18 feet, to be put within the street on the various blocks," Miranda said. "Those would provide spaces for anyone who's going to be here on the entertainment zone to maintain and have a space on the Promenade that's not a bar. It's exclusive, it's nowhere else, it's innovative, and it's really relevant."

Miranda said she invited representatives from Coca-Cola, Adidas, and Fanatics to see a prototype activation at Two Bit Circus over Asian American and Pacific Islander weekend. She noted their interest in potential sponsorships timed to the Club World Cup.

"Those sponsors that came by this weekend were actually interested in activating something June 15 through June 25," she said. "FIFA is going to be hosting the Club World Cup in Pasadena. We would love to provide an activation that showcases the Promenade as the fan zone for the World Cup in 2026."

Miranda emphasized that the Futpool concept was designed specifically for downtown Santa Monica's layout, noting that her mobile installations occupy a shipping container footprint and were originally conceived as assets for the LA28 Olympic cycle.

The board responded favorably, although no formal action was taken. DTSM staff indicated the event calendar would evolve throughout the summer, with flexibility to incorporate additional activations based on feasibility and sponsor interest.

Meanwhile, City staff stressed that the Entertainment Zone's success will depend on early implementation data. Community Development Director Armine Chaparyan said metrics including trash volume, calls for service, and pressure on public infrastructure would be closely monitored before any consideration is given to expanding the zone beyond its initial boundaries.

"Our goal is to have a soft launch... and really try to figure out what the kinks are," Chaparyan said. "We won't know until we actually get it going."

Chaparyan said staff would return to City Council with a report within six months to evaluate the Entertainment Zone's impact and revisit the possibility of expansion. During the meeting, DTSM board member Luke Cain raised concerns about alcohol limitations on blocks with fewer bars, and suggested consideration be given to extending the designation to adjacent streets for large-scale events like Pride.

Chaparyan acknowledged the idea but cautioned against overcommitting too soon. "Right now, we're basing all of our numbers and estimates on what's currently happening in downtown," she said. "But until it starts to get used and we see the impact, we won't know if we have the capacity to extend it."

Beyond programming, staff also reported progress on related infrastructure upgrades. Thomas highlighted the rediscovery of an RGB-enabled lighting canopy installed two years ago, which may now be outfitted with audio for immersive performances. "It's not quite going to be a Fremont Street Experience," he said, "but it is a fully programmable overhead [system]."

Other updates included enhanced sanitation efforts, expanded safety patrols and installation planning for new padel courts on 13th and 4th streets, which could be operational later this summer.

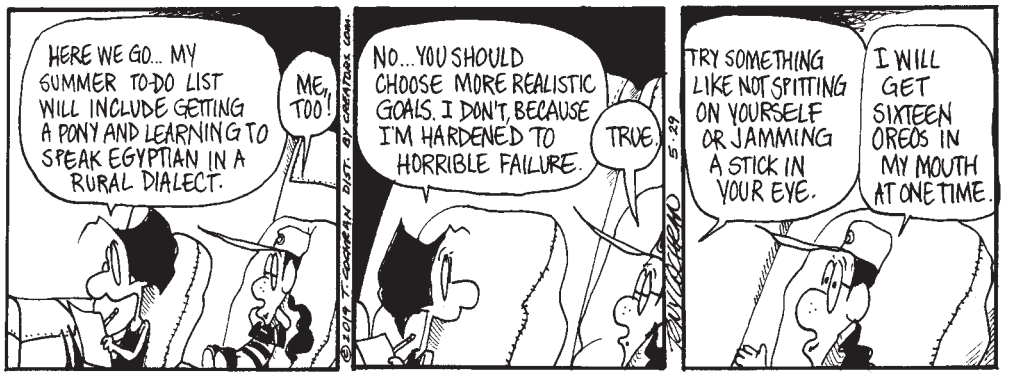
Though board discussion ranged widely, from digital signage policies to board election procedures, the Entertainment Zone remained the centerpiece of the meeting. With summer around the corner and international attention on Los Angeles sports, board members signaled their intent to treat the zone as both a proving ground and a launchpad.

Thomas emphasized that the upcoming months would be critical in assessing the district's performance and refining future programming. "We're extremely excited about what's in store," he said.

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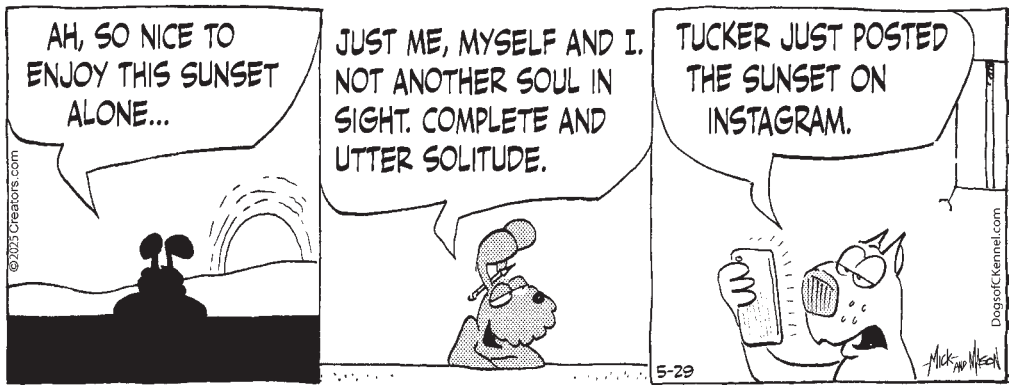
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



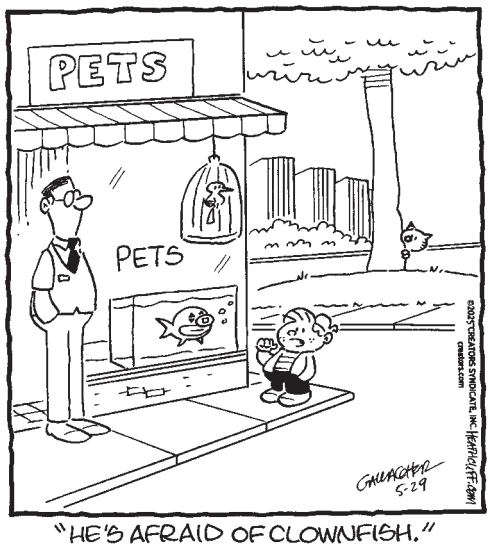
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE'S AFRAID OF CLOWNFISH."

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 17 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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Household names

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

Bana
Bird
Bond
Bryce
Carr
Cash
Crowe
Eales
Fenech
Flynn
Forde
Fraser
Gould
Hawke
Hazlehurst
Holt
Hume
Jackman
James
Kennedy
Korea
Lane
Laws
Ledger
Lewis
McCullough
McMahon
Melba
Morse
Murdoch
Page
Perkins
Phar Lap
Rees
Richie
Rudd
Rush
Smart
Stanley
Taylor
Vaile
Vanstone
Ward
Webber
Weir
Williamson

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Happily ever after

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 29)

You don't need all the answers to begin; you only need your spark. You're the initiator with the talent for wanting the right things - the things that bring people together in thriving, produce beautiful outcomes and new chances to make the world a lovelier place. More highlights: the money to do your favorite projects right, a special, tender relationship and fitness highs. Cancer and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 2, 21, 15 and 11.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll let something go. The "ending" won't be some big grand finale. It might even feel like a low-key, forgettable fade-out. That's best for all involved. There's something soothing in a slow disappearing act.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). People are driven by rewards, that's true. But even more so, efforts are driven by their beliefs. Your crew will put in great heart and energy because they feel aligned with a purpose and higher calling.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You are emotionally endowed, with high sensitivity to nuance, beauty, humor, and injustice. In short, you have big feelings - and that's part of your magnetism. People are drawn to your vivid reactions. Tonight, you'll light up a room.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Forget how it looks - seriously. Let feeling be the boss today. Even if it's awkward, messy or totally misunderstood, if it feels right in your gut, that's your green light. You're not auditioning for anyone. You're living your own story.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Some feelings can totally exist together - like joy and pain, sweet and bitter. But some things just can't. You can't stay the same and still grow. Change asks you to move, to stretch, to let go. You're ready for it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). People who make you laugh get a VIP pass straight to your heart. It's wild how much more you'll let slide just because someone's funny. Humor makes its own rules and makes everything feel a little lighter.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Even if things don't look promising right now - maybe you feel out of place, behind or like you're not going to succeed - you shouldn't give up or walk away. You're close to a breakthrough.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). This isn't the time to go full soap opera. Keep it cool, skip the dramatics and glide through like the smooth operator you are. Once calm, your mind will be like a clear mirror and the way through will reflect itself without force or noise.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Stuck in business? Don't look within your field - talk to someone from a different industry. Stuck in love? The same friends with familiar advice can't help - seek fresh insight. The breakthrough won't come from within the echo chamber.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll zoom out to get clarity. When you focus on the larger vision, the little annoyances lose their grip. You don't need to control every detail. Today things either fall into place or stop mattering.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Right move, wrong move - it hardly matters if you're learning. Life's a game of bounce and return, and staying present is the win. As long as you're responsive instead of rigid, it becomes a game you can't lose.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You strive to be the most attractive version of yourself, not to get the whole world's attention, but you do want one particular person to notice. You wish to be understood, desired and chosen by someone whose opinion holds weight in your private mythology.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

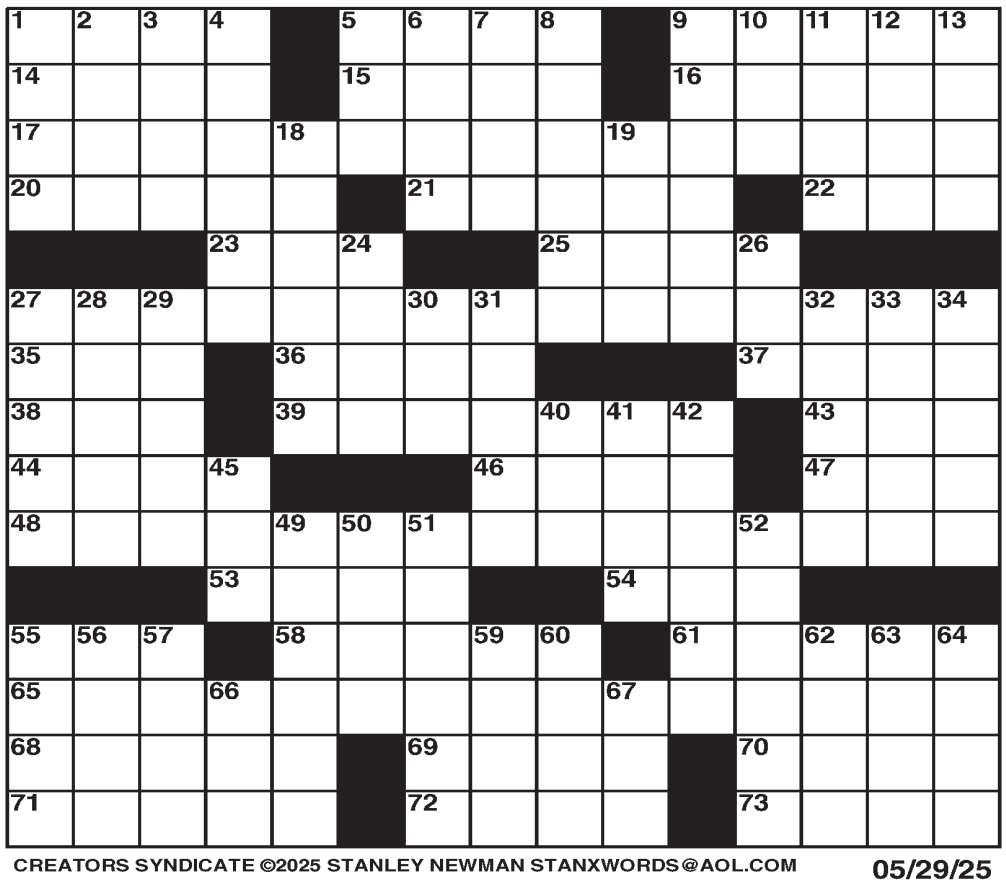
POSITIVELY by Mark McClain
Edited by Stanley Newman
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ACROSS

1 Anjou alternative
5 Planning, informally
9 Biscotti flavoring
14 "...against __ of troubles"
15 Certain phone voice
16 Long bone
17 Thematic elements of orchestral music
20 Power or play preceder
21 Taiwanese, e.g.
22 Rural enclosure
23 Press coverage
25 Bowl game org.
27 Hilly region north of the Big Apple
35 Gloater's cry
36 Crowd noise
37 Command to a canine
38 Brita competitor
39 Not too often
43 Cable channel since the '70s
44 *Topaz* author
46 Move merchandise
47 Humdrum pattern
48 Fish found in Alaskan waters
53 Nickname like Kristy
54 Major fuss
55 Nocturnal flyer
58 Conclusion of *Hamilton*
61 Big key
65 Familiar admonition ignored here
68 Acoustical
69 __ mater
70 Aired
71 Bone prefix
72 Bothersome person
73 Tide table word

DOWN

1 Fugue master
2 Nobel Institute city
3 Brown somewhat
4 Currant liqueur
5 Tire pressure abbr.
6 Affluent, in Aragon
7 Important spans
8 Bridge's support structure
9 Having no key
10 Insignificant matter
11 Pelican cousin
12 Look (through)
13 Very manageable
18 Tijuana title
19 Airspeed unit
24 Tied thing
26 Remark of relief
27 Amplify, informally
28 *Star Trek* officer
29 Parthenon's style
30 Topper
31 Liam's language
32 Gandhi contemporary
33 Operatic opening
34 Casino array
40 Apology intro
41 Panamanian pronoun
42 Tricky pitch
45 Warm a chair
49 Utter failure
50 Ancient South American
51 Brief break
52 Chocolaty sphere
55 "It's wrong __ many levels"
56 Wines and dines
57 Fuzzy buildup
59 At leisure
60 Schools of thought
62 Ditty
63 "Short" musical suffix
64 Host's request
66 Quaint oath
67 Fodder morsel



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COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

takes effect July 14, 2025. Chi will receive an annual salary of $410,640 plus benefits including up to $60,000 in temporary rental assistance and access to a home loan of up to $2 million at 3.5% interest.

The appointment follows the January departure of former City Manager David White and concludes a months-long recruitment process. Elaine Polachek has served as interim city manager since January 21.

Santa Monica has had a rotation of City Managers, both interim and permanent, in recent years. Before White, Former City Manager Rick Cole resigned in March 2020, citing an inability to preside over budget and staffing cuts the City was facing. City Attorney Lane Dilg took over the position until leaving in June 2021, when John Jalili took over as Interim City Manager.

However, the decision was not without controversy as some residents have questioned Chi's qualifications based on past reporting of his time in Irvine. A pair of articles appearing on irvinewatchdog.org have questioned Chi's ethics and abilities during his career. The articles began circulating among some neighborhood groups over the Memorial Day weekend and an anonymous email sent to the Council urged the city not to hire Chi.

Council made no direct mention of the allegations during their brief approval of Chi's contract. They expressed confidence in their decision and enthusiasm about Chi's leadership potential.

"I just want to say that I think it's a reflection on our amazing staff that we had no shortage of really, really excellent applicants for this position," said Councilwoman Caroline Torosis. "I think we felt really lucky to be able to meet so many qualified folks and I feel very, very confident that Mr Chi is going to come here and lead in a new and prosperous direction for our city so just thank you for all of our staff for your trust and I think this is going to be the start of a really positive relationship and we're excited."

Mayor Lana Negrete welcomed Chi to the city and took a moment to thank interim City Manager Elaine Polachek for her work.

"Welcome to the city of Santa Monica Oliver Chi we're super excited and thank you Elaine. I know we'll have another opportunity to give you a long thank you but I just wanted to say that tonight since we're welcoming our new city manager we're looking forward to the new transition, a smooth transition and we're really excited."

The appointment represents a critical leadership change for Santa Monica as it navigates financial pressures and works to implement the council's vision for economic recovery and municipal improvements. Chi will oversee city staff implementation of council priorities while managing ongoing budget constraints and labor negotiations that have reportedly stalled.

City staff described the budget situation as "serious" during the same meeting, with ongoing threats to the tax base and substantial legal liabilities, including a large litigation settlement reported during the same session.

The council has outlined priorities focusing on economic development, clean streets, safe neighborhoods and affordable housing. Officials emphasized the need for staff to "challenge long-standing norms," "cultivate a culture of yes" and "streamline processes" to expedite the city's recovery.

Chi's employment agreement specifies he will serve at-will and receive nine months' severance pay if terminated without cause. In addition to his base salary, the package includes up to $5,000 in moving and relocation expenses and temporary rental assistance of up to $5,000 monthly for up to 12 months within Santa Monica or within three miles of city boundaries.

> "I just want to say that I think it's a reflection on our amazing staff that we had no shortage of really, really excellent applicants for this position"
>
> - Caroline Torosis, Councilwoman

The comprehensive benefits package also includes access to the city's executive pay plan benefits beyond the specified salary and housing assistance.

During his tenure in Irvine, Chi established the $1.2 billion, 300-acre Great Park expansion project, implemented housing initiatives under the Irvine Cares program, and created a city-led land development process for the $600 million Gateway Village project.

Chi previously held leadership roles in Huntington Beach, Monrovia, Rosemead and Barstow. He holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Southern California and a bachelor's degree in political science from UCLA.

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PORT

FROM PAGE 3

stuff around," he said in an interview with CalMatters. "We're trying to save Christmas."

He said the continued uncertainty means many truck drivers are barely working 40 hours a week. Some shipper drivers, who transport cargo off ships to ease congestion on ports, may be working one to two days a week, Tate said. "When there's no ship, there's no congestion," he added.

But in the Bay Area, the Port of Oakland is seeing a possible pickup in activity in June — as of last week, the planned canceled ships for that month have been reduced from 12 to five, port spokesperson Davis said.

The decline in cargo traffic at the ports could change depending on how different industries and businesses respond to an agreement the Trump administration reached with China on May 12, which lowers the tax on imports from China from 145% to 30% for 90 days.

THE VOLATILITY IS A PROBLEM

Besides a decline in imports from places such as China, the ports are handling fewer exports from the state's agricultural industry, thanks to retaliatory tariffs on U.S. goods. Stephanie Magnien Rockwell, chief of staff at the Port of Los Angeles, said in mid-May that California farmers are taking a hit.

"One of our greatest exports are soybeans to China," she said at a hearing held by State Treasurer Fiona Ma about tariffs. "(But) Brazil, in the month of March, exported more soybeans to China than they have in their entire history."

The U.S. trade war with China has an outsize effect on California ports: Chinese goods have accounted for 40% of the imports at the Port of Los Angeles, 63% at the Port of Long Beach and 45% at the Port of Oakland.

Despite the temporary deal with China, the lack of clarity is a problem — and tariffs remain high, officials, business owners and others say. Continued changes in the costs of goods make it hard for businesses to plan. And only certain size businesses may be able to afford to take a leap and order goods from overseas now.

"We can't generalize here, because of those 125,000 importing companies (whose) goods come through the Port of Los Angeles," Seroka said to CalMatters. "But safe to say, if there was a little bit of a shortage on stock, or if some felt that the 30% average tariff might go higher, sure, people jump back in."

But the uncertainty persists, Seroka said. Case in point: On May 23, Trump complained about not being able to reach a deal with Europe on tariffs and threatened a 50% tariff on European goods — which he said over the weekend would be delayed to July 9. He also threatened a 25% tariff on iPhones unless Apple begins to make the devices in the United States.

A BIG DEAL

Long-term, the stakes are high and wide-ranging. Port of Long Beach CEO Cordero said a 10% decline in cargo could mean a 10% decline in jobs. "If you use a round figure of a million jobs stemming from the port operations, that's a 100,000 job reduction," he told CalMatters.

His port supports jobs worth tens of billions of dollars in income in the five surrounding counties, according to a report recently released by the port. The report estimates that in 2023, port activity contributed $84.4 billion in local, state and federal taxes. Those were taxes paid by individuals and businesses, said Kimberly Ritter-Martinez, the port's manager of economics and funding, during the Long Beach media briefing.

"When workers and business owners earn income from working at the port or as one of our suppliers, they spend those dollars on groceries, entertainment, travel... and all of that activity supports the broader economy," she said.

By Levi Sumagaysay. This article was originally published by CalMatters.



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