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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Santa Monica celebrates its Most Loved businesses













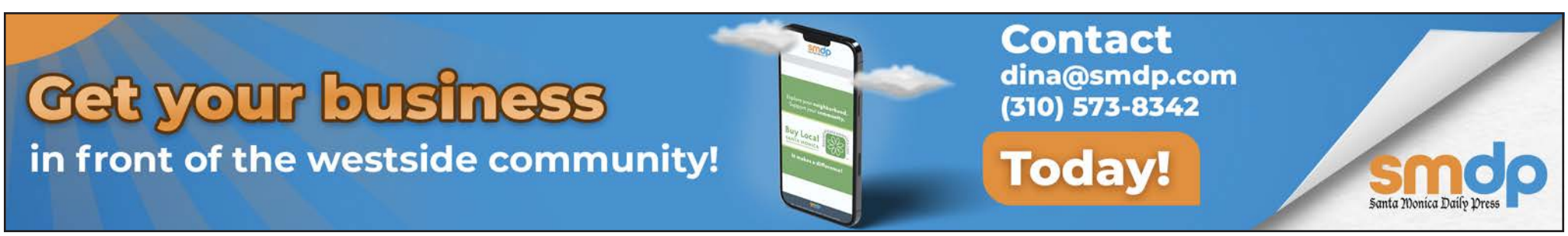
Kathleen Murphy

WHO DO YOU LOVE?: A who's who of Santa Monica's economic and government leaders came out to celebrate the best businesses in town during the 2025 Most Loved awards this week. More than 400 attendees braved some mild rain to enjoy beer and bites at Santa Monica Brew Works while hearing the results of this year's vote.

The 2025 event gave out 111 awards across eight categories as chosen by voters. A complete list of winners can be found online and the top businesses will be featured in the annual Most Loved magazine this weekend.

This year's contest took on special importance for many local businesses as the region recovers from the massive wildfires and the area looks to remind potential customers that Santa Monica remains open for business.

The annual contest has evolved since its 2010 launch and is now a co-production of the Santa Monica Daily Press and the City of Santa Monica's Buy Local Santa Monica Committee.



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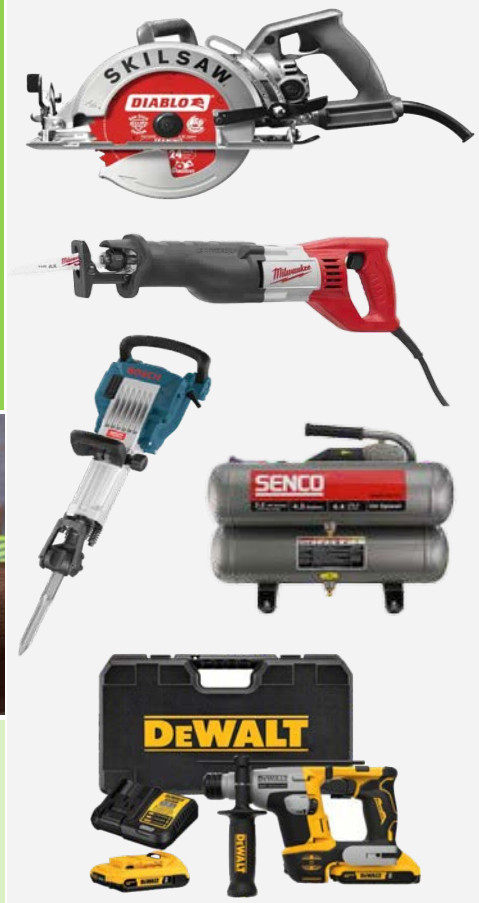
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Santa Monica Animal Shelter fundraiser returns on Saturday with a day of adoptions, auctions and activities



Elizabeth Noble

LA BOMBA: Little Ricky Martin is livin' la vida local and looking for a forever dance partner.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica Animal Shelter will host its fourth annual Open House Fundraiser this Saturday, inviting the community to enjoy a lively afternoon of food, music, raffles and animal adoptions in support of local pets in need.

The event runs from 12 to 3pm at the shelter, located at 1640 9th Street and will feature reduced adoption fees, silent auction items, raffle prizes, face painting, balloon animals and refreshments. Organizers hope the fundraiser will not only generate donations but also raise awareness about the city-run shelter and the many animals awaiting new homes.

"We are so excited that this Saturday is our Fourth Annual Fundraiser to help the animals at the Santa Monica Animal Shelter," said Elizabeth Noble, chair of the Santa Monica Animal Shelter Foundation. "We are looking forward to a fabulous day and hoping for a great turnout."

Visitors will be able to tour the shelter and meet the adoptable animals, including dogs, cats and other pets of various breeds and ages. Former Santa Monica Mayor Gleam Davis will sponsor the adoption fees for the first cat and dog adopted during the event.

"The shelter has so many great dogs and cats of all ages waiting for their forever home," Noble said. "From dog Drogo who is about a year old, very friendly and loves to play fetch to 2-year-old cat Jack who is the life of the party, loves treats and attention. We encourage anyone thinking of adopting a pet to please visit the shelter and take the time to meet the available animals."

> We are so excited that this Saturday is our Fourth Annual Fundraiser to help the animals at the Santa Monica Animal Shelter
> - Elizabeth Noble, chair of the Santa Monica Animal Shelter Foundation

Raffle tickets will be available for a

SEE **SHELTER** PAGE 5

Audit reveals technology gaps and banking delays for infrastructure projects

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

A recent report to the city's audit subcommittee revealed significant technology shortfalls in tracking capital improvement projects and substantial delays in financial operations.

Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs) are long-term investments in the city's infrastructure and facilities, including roads, bridges, water systems, buildings, parks, and equipment that typically last more than one year and cost significant amounts of money. These projects are essential for maintaining and upgrading the public infrastructure that residents and businesses depend on daily, from fixing deteriorating streets to replacing aging water pipes and constructing new community facilities.

Moss Adams, the city's independent auditor, presented findings from its Capital Improvement Program study showing the city lacks adequate technology to monitor its 200-project capital program against budget targets. The firm identified this as a 'high priority' issue requiring immediate attention.

"The city lacks a technology solution to report the capital program against its budget," Steve Mattson of Moss Adams told committee members during the May 20 meeting. The auditor recommended automation or improved data collection methods, suggesting quarterly tracking to help staff focus on problem areas rather than manual oversight of all projects.

The audit revealed that the city's CIP processes lack modern technology solutions deliberately designed for capital projects, making it difficult to track and report on project status. Auditors recommended establishing a formalized project tracking methodology, developing regular reporting on key financial and project data, and investing in a modern project management system when possible.

The technology shortfall was one of several high priority issues and staff said it would be addressed "in the next few months."

The audit also highlighted a critical funding crisis affecting the city's infrastructure needs. Available capital funding is insufficient to address all necessary infrastructure improvements, equipment maintenance, and equipment replacement, while also covering escalating prices due to unprecedented inflation and other priorities.

As a result, the city has been forced to delay numerous projects onto an Unfunded Projects list totaling $459.6 million, including $137.4 million in infrastructure maintenance projects considered deferred maintenance. This massive backlog includes high-priority projects that cannot move forward due to funding constraints.

The audit warned that deferring necessary maintenance leads to greater future costs, with some estimates showing deferred maintenance costs compounding by 7% each year. Unaddressed maintenance can result in emergency repairs, shortened asset life, reduced equipment efficiency, collateral damage, and safety and health risks for the community.

The audit found the city's current capital improvement documentation aligns well with Government Finance Officers Association best practices, but noted significant reporting challenges. The last comprehensive year-end status update was submitted in January 2018, and consistent monthly tracking is absent.

Performance reporting at a consolidated level was not being conducted, primarily happening on an ad hoc basis, the audit found. This makes it difficult to track budget changes, identify recurring issues and communicate effectively with the city council and stakeholders.

> "Cash management is a challenging area for most cities due to high volume, low dollar amounts, and often seasonal employees and staff turnover"
> - Steve Mattson

The city's change order process also lacks reporting protocols, making it difficult for stakeholders to understand the holistic impacts to total project cost and schedule when changes occur. Auditors recommended tracking and reporting on change orders to support clear communication of changes against original budget amounts.

Additionally, the city's capital planning and project prioritization criteria are too broad, creating risks that capital project prioritization and funding are not transparent or consistently aligned with specific city priorities. The current project application process contributes to high workloads for staff and needs procedural improvements.

In a separate cash handling audit, Moss Adams revealed substantial delays in the city's financial operations, with monthly bank

SEE **AUDIT** PAGE 5



Weather

Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 69.
Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 59. West southwest wind 10 to 15 mph.
Friday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 70.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 59.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2025/06/04	Wed	12:04 AM	1.94	L
2025/06/04	Wed	05:16 AM	3.40	H
2025/06/04	Wed	11:26 AM	1.09	L
2025/06/04	Wed	6:17 PM	4.74	H
2025/06/05	Thu	01:01 AM	1.36	L
2025/06/05	Thu	06:34 AM	3.23	H
2025/06/05	Thu	12:03 PM	1.47	L
2025/06/05	Thu	6:47 PM	5.01	H
2025/06/06	Fri	01:47 AM	0.80	L
2025/06/06	Fri	07:42 AM	3.19	H
2025/06/06	Fri	12:36 PM	1.79	L
2025/06/06	Fri	7:14 PM	5.26	H
2025/06/07	Sat	02:24 AM	0.32	L
2025/06/07	Sat	08:36 AM	3.23	H
2025/06/07	Sat	1:06 PM	2.06	L
2025/06/07	Sat	7:40 PM	5.49	H
2025/06/08	Sun	02:58 AM	-0.08	L
2025/06/08	Sun	09:21 AM	3.28	H
2025/06/08	Sun	1:36 PM	2.25	L
2025/06/08	Sun	8:07 PM	5.68	H
2025/06/09	Mon	03:31 AM	-0.38	L
2025/06/09	Mon	10:01 AM	3.31	H
2025/06/09	Mon	2:07 PM	2.38	L
2025/06/09	Mon	8:36 PM	5.83	H
2025/06/10	Tue	04:05 AM	-0.59	L
2025/06/10	Tue	10:40 AM	3.34	H
2025/06/10	Tue	2:39 PM	2.47	L
2025/06/10	Tue	9:07 PM	5.93	H
2025/06/11	Wed	04:40 AM	-0.71	L
2025/06/11	Wed	11:19 AM	3.34	H
2025/06/11	Wed	3:13 PM	2.53	L
2025/06/11	Wed	9:39 PM	5.97	H
2025/06/12	Thu	05:17 AM	-0.76	L
2025/06/12	Thu	12:01 PM	3.34	H

Daily Lottery

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POWERBALL
Draw Date: 6/2
1 7 44 57 61
Power#: 21
Jackpot: 30 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 6/3
16 24 29 36 45
Mega#: 13
Jackpot: 223 M

SUPERLOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 5/31
3 14 29 33 47
Mega#: 17
Jackpot: 13 M

FANTASY 5
Draw Date: 6/3
5 23 29 32 37

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 6/3
EVENING: 8 6 2
Draw Date: 6/3
MIDDAY: 7 6 4

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 6/3
1st: 08 - Gorgeous George
2nd: 12 - Lucky Charms
3rd: 10 - Solid Gold
Race Time: 1:45.89

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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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AROUND TOWN

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Help the Animals Fundraiser, AIDS LifeCycle Finish Line Festival, & More!

SMDP's Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town includes Help the Animals Fundraiser, AIDS LifeCycle Finish Line Festival, O&V CA Opening on Montana Ave., and much more!

Night Market is Back All Summer at The Bungalow: Enjoy food vendors, beverage activations, family-friendly activities, live musical and DJ performances, and celebrity guest appearances all summer long. Free, open to the public for guests of all ages, and pet friendly. Every Thursday from 5 - 11p.m. through August 28. 101 Wilshire Blvd. https://thebungalow.com/santa-monica/#calendar

Drag Bingo Fundraiser at Solidarity Restaurant: The fundraiser will take place to benefit the Trans Equity Scholarship Fund, which provides financial assistance for legal name and gender marker changes in California. Miss Barbie-Q and Mini Horrorwitz will co-host the evening, guiding participants through 10 rounds of competitive bingo. All-ages welcome. Thursday, June 5, from 6:30-9 p.m., 1414 Lincoln Blvd. https://www.instagram.com/p/DKKW1q2y0FG/?hl=en

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/

Santa Monica History Museum and Gabrielino~Tongva Springs Foundation Offer Free Admission and Cultural Tour: The day begins at Kuruvungna Village Springs and Cultural Center, where the President of the Gabrielino-Tongva Springs Foundation will lead a guided tour of the sacred site. Nestled on the campus of University High School in West Los Angeles, Kuruvungna Springshas been a vital part of Tongva life for millennia. In recognition of their cultural and historical importance, Kuruvungna Springs was designated a California State Landmark in 1954. Friday, June 6, 10a.m. Email RSVP@santamonicahistory.org to RSVP.

Nick Gabaldon Day: Join the Black Surfers Collective, Heal the Bay, Surf Bus Foundation, Swim Up Hill, and Santa Monica Conservancy as we unite to celebrate Nick Gabaldón Day! Nick fearlessly pursued his passion for surfing, paving the way for countless others. This event serves as a celebration of diversity in surfing and an opportunity for the community to come together, share stories, and ride the waves in his honor. Let's celebrate his legacy of resilience, determination, and love for the waves. Saturday, June 7, 9a.m. - 4p.m. @ Tower 30 (end of Bay St.) https://www.blacksurferscollective.org/events/

AIDS LifeCycle Finish Line Festival: Get ready to witness an incredible feat of determination and resilience as the extraordinary Cyclists and Roadies conclude their remarkable 7-day journey from San Francisco to Los Angeles. Saturday, June 7, 12 – 6 p.m., Beach Lot 4 South, 2030 Ocean Ave. https://www.aidslifecycle.org/event/aids-lifecycle-2025-finish-line-festival/

Venice Pride to Feature a Block Party, Dance Event, Food Trucks, and More: The Venice Pride Block Party, presented by L.A. County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, will run from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Venice sign, welcoming all ages. Attendees can expect performances by DJ Victor Rodriguez & Friends, a variety of community booths, food trucks, and a queer market. Following the block party, the special Pride month edition of the Gaywatch dance party, hosted by Barry's Santa Monica, will take place from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. at Baja Cantina. Saturday, June 7, 4- 2a.m. https://venicepride.org

Children's Hospital LA 9th Annual Walk & Play LA: This family-friendly event raises vital funds for CHLA's lifesaving work and brings the community together for a day full of fun. Attendees can enjoy a scenic 3K walk, live entertainment, fitness activities, games, and food—all in support of children's health. Whether you're walking in honor of a CHLA patient or just want to get involved, it's a great way to make an impact. Saturday, June 7, Santa Monica Pier walkandplayla.org.

Santa Monica College Musical Theatre Workshop Presents "Gotham": The lively, entertaining revue will feature SMC students performing solos, duets, and group numbers showcasing some of the best of the musical theatre genre. The Santa Monica College (SMC) Musical Theatre Workshop will celebrate live musical theatre with performances of "Gotham" on Friday, June 6, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, June 7, at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, June 8, at 2 p.m. Performances will be held in the Studio Stage at the SMC Theatre Arts Complex, located on the SMC Main Campus (1900 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica). smc.edu/tickets

Ocean of Sound at Annenberg Community Beach House: Back for its second consecutive year, dublab presents Ocean of Sound, an evening of restorative listening–above and below the water. Lay back and lounge poolside, beneath the setting sun, or dive beneath the surface to experience their underwater speakers, resonating with meditative performances from Green-House, Salenta & Aankha, Noah Klein, and Grandfather.'s ambient selections. Sunday, June 8, 5 - 8p.m., 415 PCH https://www.dublab.com/events/112157/ocean-of-sound-at-annenberg-community-beach-house-2

Friends of Ballona Wetlands Migration Celebration: This family-friendly event promises a day filled with educational and entertaining activities celebrating the seasonal migration of birds and wildlife, including free binocular rentals, scavenger hunts, a science lab, and native plant sales. Saturday, May 31, 10a.m. - 2p.m., Ballona Discovery Park, 13110 Bluff Creek Drive, Playa Vista www.ballonafriends.org/calendar

Santa Monica Animal Shelter Foundation Fundraiser: The fundraiser is a very fun afternoon to help the animals at the Santa Monica animal shelter. Adoption fees will be reduced, for a small donation you could win fantastic prizes in the raffle and bid on unique experiences in the silent auction. There will be face painting by The Magical Atelier, balloon animals from Wild About Balloons LA, burgers from Troop 2 Santa Monica, you can meet the Santa Monica Police Department's Mounted Unit and more fun activities. Saturday, June 7, 12 - 3p.m., 1640 9th St. www.smasf.org

Spring Fling Summer Fun: Concert & Ukulele Strum-Along: Cali Rose and The CC Strummers invite you to sing along, play along, and enjoy an afternoon of feel-good music. Bring your own uke, borrow one of theirs, or check out a Library Ukulele RED Kit. Saturday, June 7, 2p.m., Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. https://www.santamonica.gov/events/47q46rwqed2y87mm30m3znq2np/202506071515

DUBLAB Ocean Of Sound: Internet radio station dublab will be setting a chill tone with a curated evening of artists providing restorative listening – above and below the water. Sunday, June 8, 5 – 8 p.m. https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/santamonicarecreation/activity/search/detail/101719

Live Talks: Candace Parker in conversation with Cheryl Miller: Candace Parker is one of the most decorated and celebrated women's basketball players of all time. In her new book, "The Can-Do Mindset: How to Cultivate Resilience, Follow Your Heart, and Fight for Your Passions," she reveals her own deeply inspiring journey and teaches readers how to live bravely, unapologetically, and with purpose. Monday, June 9, 8p.m.,

SEE **AROUND TOWN** PAGE 6

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 05/283/25 2025106677 The following person(s) is (are) doing business Eternal September 1636 Ocean Park Blvd Santa Monica, Ca 90405. Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are x1636 Ocean Park Blvd Santa Monica, Ca 90405. If corporation or LLC- Print State of CA This is Business is Conducted: An individual . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 05/2025 . Registrant /Corp/LLC 1636 Ocean Park Blvd Santa Monica, Ca 90405.Title: Owner Sean Martin . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 05/28/2025 NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE County CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code).

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SHELTER

FROM PAGE 2

donation, with prizes including a $300 gift certificate to Sushi Roku or BOA, four Knott's Berry Farm passes worth nearly $400 and orchestra-level tickets to LA Opera's closing night performance of Rigoletto. Other prizes include gift cards, fitness memberships and themed gift baskets donated by community partners. Winners will be drawn at 3pm and contacted if not present. All items must be claimed from the shelter by June 28.

The silent auction will feature two exclusive experiences: a half-day learning session with the Santa Monica Police Department's forensics team and a private ride-along aboard the Monica 1 with the Santa Monica Harbor Patrol. The forensics lab experience includes fingerprint development, forensic chemistry and evidence collection techniques, while the harbor ride offers up to 10 guests a chance to see the Santa Monica coastline from a rescue vessel.

"You'll have the opportunity to bid on two unique experiences in the silent auction," Noble said. "It's a great way to support the animals while getting a rare look behind the scenes at how public safety teams operate in Santa Monica."

The festivities will include balloon creations from Wild About Balloons LA, face painting by The Magical Atelier and burgers grilled by Troop 2 Santa Monica. Starbucks will provide drinks and pastries from its Colorado Avenue location, plus a local DJ will keep the event upbeat with music throughout the day.

Merchandise such as T-shirts and hoodies will be available for purchase, with all proceeds supporting shelter operations. A plush giraffe toy, a favorite of a gray dog named Weezy who is currently up for adoption, is also featured on the shelter's Chewy wish list.

"Even if you cannot join us this Saturday, you can still help the animals at the shelter by making a donation, or shopping our wish list on chewy.com," Noble said. "We step in regularly to cover the cost of veterinary care, purchase food and supplies and there is a list of necessary and costly facility upgrades we are looking to help complete."

> "You'll have the opportunity to bid on two unique experiences in the silent auction"
> - Elizabeth Noble, chair of the Santa Monica Animal Shelter Foundation

Among those projects is the creation of a dedicated isolation room for cats with medical needs, an effort Noble said is essential to improving care and increasing adoption opportunities.

"We are extremely grateful to our community partners who continue to support us year after year," she said. "Many people do not realize that Santa Monica has an animal shelter and we are hoping that the fundraiser brings attention to the shelter and the animals waiting to be adopted."

To learn more about the event, view available pets or make a donation, visit www.smasf.org. The fundraiser is open to the public and all ages are welcome.

scott.snowden@smdp.com

AUDIT

FROM PAGE 3

reconciliations taking between 68 and 93 days to complete. The audit also found a grant program took 279 days from receiving funds to recording them in city books.

The Department of Transportation's parking operations, which handles approximately $5 million annually in parking meter revenue and bus fare collection, showed additional control weaknesses. Auditors found about 40% of sampled deposit packets lacked proper signature documentation, and some packets were incomplete or unavailable for review.

"Cash management is a challenging area for most cities due to high volume, low dollar amounts, and often seasonal employees and staff turnover," Mattson said, noting it represents a higher risk area. He added that Santa Monica faces elevated risk due to its tourism destination status and extensive parking operations.

The committee approved a customer service performance audit for the upcoming fiscal year, selecting it over other potential projects including economic development and construction contract management reviews. The audit will examine how the city provides customer service and communication efficiency in areas such as permitting.

"Recommendations must be implementable, focusing on process improvements, technology, or resource reallocation due to budget constraints," Mattson explained, noting the city's annual internal audit budget of $50,000 typically allows for only one to two projects annually.

City staff reported progress on addressing previous audit findings, with 332 of 372 total recommendations completed. Twenty recommendations remain in progress and 20 are pending, leaving approximately 11% of findings still open.

The auditor noted the city's risk levels have increased significantly since 2017 due to financial constraints, compounded by human resources challenges, employee engagement issues and staffing shortages.

As the city's CIP funding inches back toward pre-pandemic levels, staff hope to be able to move projects back into the budget from the Unfunded Projects list. The recommendations in this assessment will help the city adjust to its new funding reality, achieve greater operational efficiency with available resources, and prepare to capitalize on any new revenue sources or alternative funding strategies.

Moss Adams, which will merge with Baker Tilly within two weeks, has served as the city's internal auditor since 2015. The firm emphasized that internal audits provide regular assurance over high-risk areas, comparing the function to "brushing your teeth and flossing" while external auditors are like "going to the dentist once a year."

The audit subcommittee will continue monitoring implementation of recommendations and receive regular status reports on outstanding findings.

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AROUND TOWN

FROM PAGE 4

New Roads School, 3131 Olympic Blvd. https://livetalksla.org/events/candace-parker/

Welcoming the Summer: The Lyric Chorus of Santa Monica Emeritus College: Sing along with the Lyric Chorus as they celebrate summer with a performance of favorite Broadway tunes. The Chorus was founded over 50 years ago and is led by conductor Tom Gerhold. Thursday, June 12, 11a.m., Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. https://www.santamonica.gov/events/4fa66temxm8gy5jg53j3y2k040/202506121100

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

WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

Abbot Kinney First Friday Food Truck Fest: About two dozen food trucks are expected to line the street for the monthly event. June 6, starting at 5p.m. https://www.abbotkinneyblvd.com/

Bacio di Latte Opening: The popular Italian gelateria opened its newest location on Santa Monica Blvd. near 3rd St. Promenade last week. This new shop offers coffees, candy treats and over 20 classic flavors like delicious pistachio and rotating specials including Salted Caramel Cheesecake. All gelato is made fresh daily in-house using organic dairy from Clover family farms in Sonoma County and seasonal fruits from local California growers. 331 Santa Monica Blvd. https://www.santamonica.com/restaurants/bacio-di-latte/

Benihana Power Lunch Deal: "Done in 45 Minutes or It's Free": For $15.95, diners get soup or salad, pre-made fried rice, vegetables, and either chicken, tofu, or shrimp; a choice of New York strip or filet mignon costs $19.95. 1447 4th St. https://la.eater.com/2025/5/27/24438251/benihana-power-lunch-45-minutes-los-angeles

Cha Cha Matcha Opening: It offers ceremonial-grade matcha with fun and innovative flavors with the mission of making matcha approachable and a daily source of good energy. It has a Venice location at 1401 Abbot Kinney Blvd and last week opened a flagship location at 475 N Beverly Drive in Beverly Hills that features a matcha mill for the freshest matcha possible and an impressive food offering (I tried the caramelized french toast, the breakfast burrito, and the almond croissant and was really impressed by all of them!). https://chachamatcha.com/

Levain Bakery Debuts 'Levain à la Mode' with Local Ice Cream Partners for Summer: The bakery is teaming up with Wanderlust Creamery to serve its Wanderlust Vanilla, a rich custard-style ice cream made from grass-fed milk and infused with globally sourced vanilla beans, designed to complement any delicious Levain cookie selection. Cookies à la Mode will be available through the summer for $10.50 and include one cookie and one scoop paired together. 1661 Abbot Kinney Blvd. https://www.instagram.com/levainbakery/

Bar Nuda: This is a non-alcoholic cocktail bar set up all summer at Little Lunch in Venice. Open Wednesday through Friday evenings, the pop-up serves mocktails infused with things like lapsang and butterfly pea flower, plus Mexican snacks like tostadas and tamales. They're also hosting weekly mocktail classes if you want to learn how to make your own purple drinks at home. 50 Brooks Ave. https://barnuda.com/

Bludso's BBQ Makes EaterLA's "Best BBQ Restaurants in LA" List: "As an LA institution turning out solid Texas-style smoked meats in a sports bar-like environment, Bludso's is California barbecue royalty. Bludso understands the power of whole beef ribs, brisket, dry-rub wings, and cornbread with strong drinks; his motto, 'Barbecue is always like a party,' should guide any trip to his restaurants." 1329 Santa Monica Blvd. https://la.eater.com/maps/best-barbecue-restaurants-los-angeles-bbq

O&V CA Bringing Gourmet Treasures To Montana Ave.: The new business features a carefully curated selection of fresh, extra-virgin olive oils that have been globally sourced. They also offer barrel-aged balsamic vinegars from Modena, locally made artisan ceramics, and other culinary treasures. They have tastings and classes to help you find the perfect olive oil or gift. 1109 Montana Ave. https://toddrickallen.com/2025/05/30/ov-ca-bringing-gourmet-treasures-to-montana-ave-in-santa-monica/

Further Afield: Late Night! Dirty Dancing at the Skirball: The Santa Monica Mountains transform into the Catskills for one night only as the Skirball Cultural Center presents Late Night! Dirty Dancing. Late Night! will also feature food trucks, dance lessons, shuffleboard courts, drag bingo, and late-night access to the Skirball exhibitions, all leading up to a screening of the classic film Dirty Dancing. Retro-inspired '50s and '60s resort wear highly encouraged! Friday, June 6, 6 – 10:30 p.m., 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd. https://www.skirball.org/programs/late-night-dirty-dancing

Looking Ahead: 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); 'Pier 360' Beach Festival (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: Around Town: Help the Animals Annual Fundraiser, AIDS LifeCycle Finish Line Festival, & More!



THURSDAY | JUNE 5

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/12342961/2025-06-05T12

FRIDAY | JUNE 6

BRUNCH FRIDAYS WITH LIVE MUSIC IN OUR GARDEN PATIO!
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Tiato Kitchen & Venue 2700 Colorado Ave Santa Monica. Our newly launched Brunch Fridays just got vibey-er! Every week enjoy great eats, summer libations, and a featured music artist on our beautiful garden patio! So come toast to summer with our uniquely crafted brunch menu including our Turmeric Spiced Cloud Egg dish, Smoked Gouda Scramble with Smashed Ube, Vietnamese French Toast, along with Mama An classics such as Famous Garlic Noodles, Shaken Beef, and Seafood Egg Fried Rice! And of course, it wouldn't be brunch without bottomless mimosas & summer punch bowls, so grab your brunch crew and enjoy the fair along the beautiful backdrop of Al fresco dining. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/brunch-fridays-with-live-music-in-our-garden-patio-/14639006/2025-06-06T11

SATURDAY | JUNE 7

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET - SATURDAY MARKET
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Santa Monica Farmers Market - Arizona Ave and 3rd Street Arizona Ave and 3rd Street Santa Monica. 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/13357377/2025-06-07T08

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/14548485/2025-06-07T11

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® host ongoing $5 ongoing Community Dog Training Classes on Saturdays at Virginia Ave Park in Santa Monica. Class proceeds donated to charitable organizations that advocate for animals, and animal shelters and rescues. 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-/11981844/2025-06-07T12

"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. $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/15355101/2025-06-07T14

I GOTTA CROW
8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. The Crow 2525 Michigan Ave Unit F4 Santa Monica. The Crow's favorite show curates elevated comedy with comics from HBO, Netflix, Comedy Central, and late night TV. Curated Comedy with comics from HBO, Netflix, Comedy Central and late night TV. THE CROW is listed in the LA Times as one of the best places to see comedy in LA! Read a more about The Crow in this feature article of the LA Times. Directions to The Crow at Bergamot Station: FREE PARKING in the lot at Bergamot Station Arts Center. (You're welcome, Los Angeles.) We are right at the Bergamot Station Metro Stop ! (You are soooo welcome, Los Angeles!) Fun Facts: Safe Space! (Security guards on premises 24/7.) The Crow is located directly behind our favorite restaurant, Birdie G's . If you want to grab a fine dinner there before, we encourage you to make a reservation. 10% off your meal with your ticket to The Crow. $23.88. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/i-gotta-crow/14639013/2025-06-07T20

To learn how to feature your upcoming event on the SMDP and various digital event calendars

Contact dina@smdp.com today!

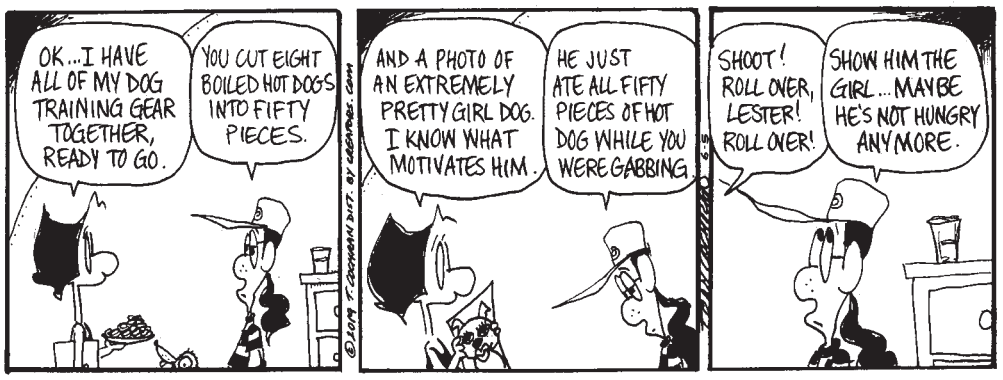





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Providence
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the better you'll get.
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Better ways to treat cancer.
Better maternity care that continues after birth.
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Saint John's
Everything for the Better.™

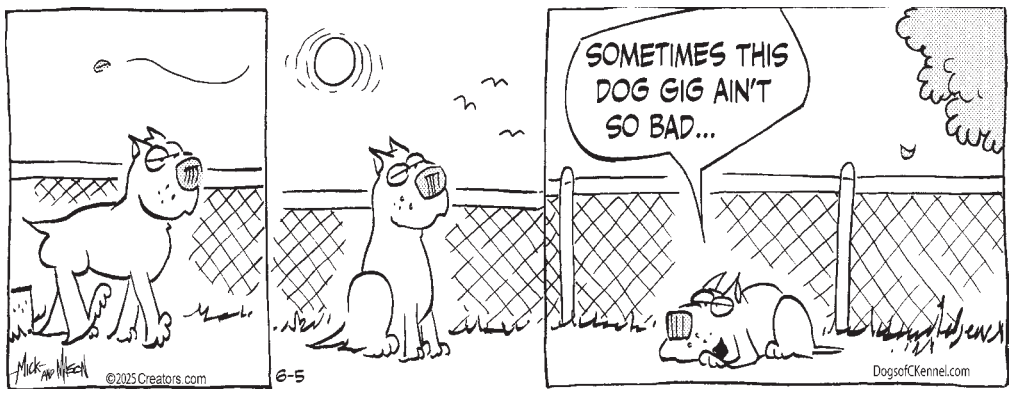
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



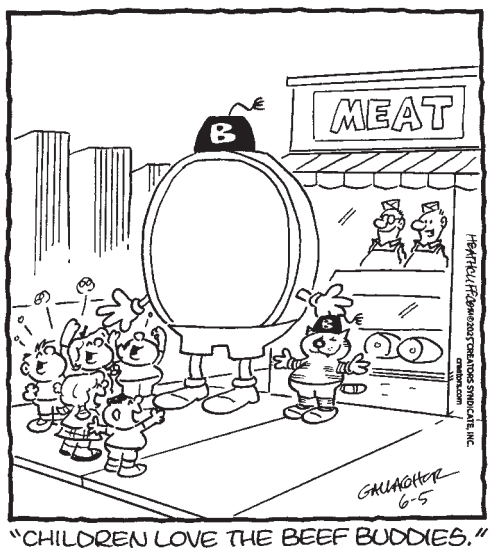
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"CHILDREN LOVE THE BEEF BUDDIES."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

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

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Blooming marvellous

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

Aloe	Forgiveness	Moss	Rose
Alyssum	Fresh	Musk	Sage
Arum	Ginger	Okra	Show
Aster	Grow	Onion	Sorrel
Balsam	Hemp	Open	Stock
Bulb	Henna	Path	Tansy
Card	Holly	Peony	Tulip
Clematis	Iris	Petal	Vase
Cyclamen	Ixia	Phlox	Vine
Dahlia	Leek	Posy	Violet
Design	Lilac	Pots	Weeds
Dill	Lotus	Rakes	Weld
Erica	Lupin	Rhododendron	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 5)

A year when you'll show the mettle you're made of as you keep going - you elevate, you dream and you deliver, every day. You'll attract attention and admiration for your creative work. You'll organize projects and manage people with great skill. You'll build momentum that opens doors, deepens your confidence and proves that your discipline is just as powerful as your imagination. Aries and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 33, 1, 10, 4 and 16.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Effective teams roll to the goal as one because they are balanced and cohesive, not because of the particular qualifications of individual members. Shared work will highlight the mysterious magic of group dynamics.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Being seen is essential. Without a witness, even significant moments - joys, struggles, triumphs - can feel dimmed, as if they didn't fully land. And how you see is just as vital. Your unique perspective shifts the landscape. Don't withhold it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). The room lights up because you walk in. The ideas bounce and dazzle because you meet their minds with yours. You feel lucky to be there, but it's not quite like that. You belong in this space of intelligence.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's been suggested that adolescence encompasses enough suffering to qualify anyone as an artist. The past doesn't vanish; it echoes. Some of your emotional intelligence was earned early, and even old pain leaves behind useful tools.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Today features an ideal match of energies and complementary goals. You'll cross paths with someone on a similar journey, and together you'll find smart, surprising solutions that wouldn't have come to life alone.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You approach the day with cupped hands. You're ready to receive something without grasping for it. It's as if the whole day is an invitation to hold space for discovery, rather than clutching at outcomes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). It's easier to feel comfortable and be yourself when you're not worried about whether another person approves. Maybe it's why people who don't care about being liked are so well liked. You'll achieve the stance today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You lead with heart and clarity. Despite external chaos or unexpected disruptions, you keep going - adapting with grace and precision, holding steady while the world swerves. It's not just resilience; it's a quiet kind of brilliance that others feel.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Sometimes healing is not about getting everything to a different level of being but about accepting that what's going on right now is pretty great. It's not that everything here belongs here exactly; it's that everything here IS here.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Keep in mind: The joke has to be at least a little true, otherwise it wouldn't be funny. "Wit is a treacherous dart. It is perhaps the only weapon with which it is possible to stab oneself in one's own back." - Dorothy Parker

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You know that your personal story isn't central to the universe, and yet it's the only one you've got, so who can blame you for being so attached to it? Still, you'll strive to be mature, selfless and connected to those around you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You wonder why you were chosen for the role you're in, but you can stop that line of inquiry today because it's a waste of precious energy. Assume you're the best person for the job and do the job the way only you can.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

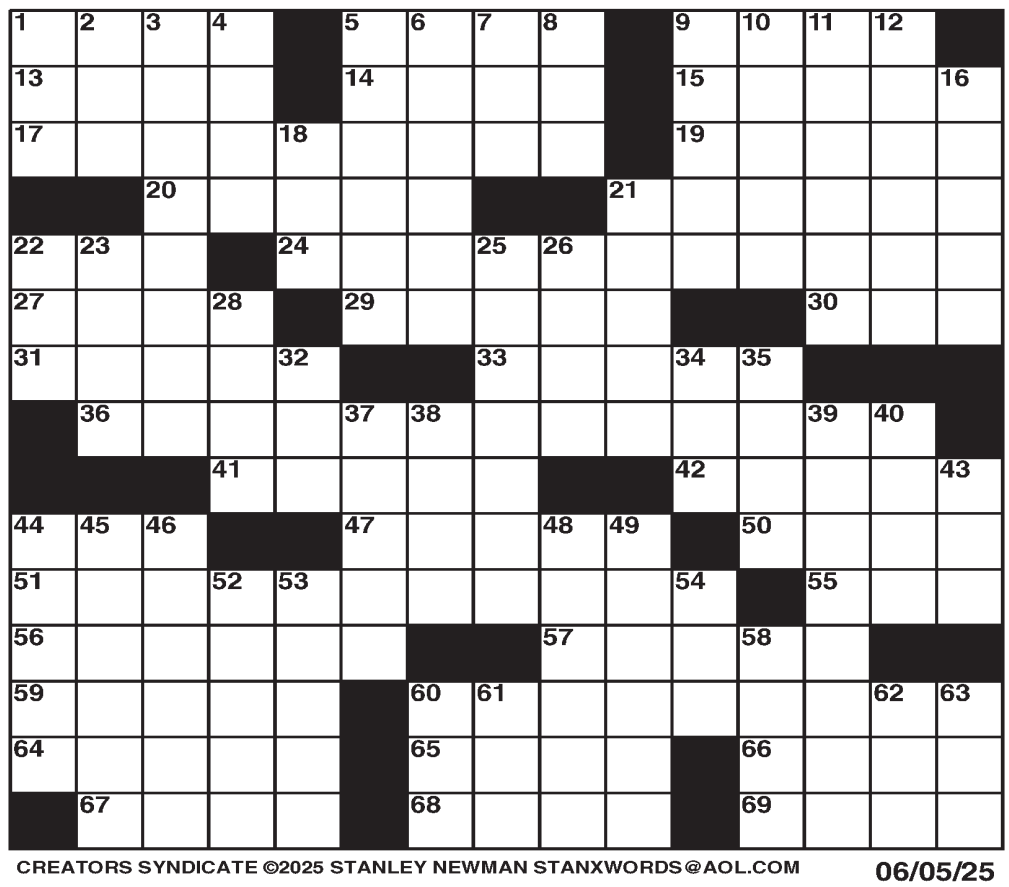
CONFIDENCE BUILDER by Winston Emmons
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Praises for puppies
5 Web exchange
9 The closer thing
13 Water near Detroit
14 *Grapes of Wrath* persona
15 Heritage
17 Zero-confidence comment
19 Bygone
20 Links in a fence
21 Land of Lincoln varsity athletes
22 Direction on deck
24 Less skeptical comment
27 See some sights
29 Insisted absolutely
30 Hairpin curve
31 Righteous
33 Live at this moment
36 Increased-confidence comment
41 Ring in the ocean
42 Gettysburg victor
44 Japanese assent
47 Ticket buyer's choices
50 Two-hyphen IDs
51 Still-more-confident comment
55 Parent's prodding
56 You and me
57 Simmering
59 Banish formally
60 Fully confident comment
64 Typical taxi
65 Miles away
66 Eleven, essentially
67 Where sheep sleep
68 Some cookware
69 Veganism-promoting org.

DOWN

1 Stir-fry morsel
2 NL West team
3 Pharmacy solution
4 Fourth man
5 Vocal groups
6 The Bard's "Sup?"
7 "Pursuing Justice" org.
8 Canine classification
9 Web provocateur
10 Yuletide symbol
11 Medicine chest 3-Down
12 Transcription pros
16 Bad moods
18 Quick break
21 Skyscraper girder
22 Drive-thru device
23 Nutriment
25 Pirated video
26 Handel contemporary
28 Spanish tennis great's nickname
32 Blazing
34 "__ waiting..."
35 Bar display
37 __ *Père* (French prayer)
38 Bjorn contemporary
39 Standard of comparison
40 Author Ferber
43 To-the-max ender
44 Wishful thinking
45 Campaign manager
46 Emphatic assent
48 Find hilarious
49 Gets serious
52 Guava-hitting-ground sound
53 Coeur d'__, ID
54 Any of three in Beijing
58 Breakfast Sampler seller
60 Aloe vera extract
61 Anomalous overhead phenomenon
62 Finish with
63 Federal purchasing agcy.



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06/05/25

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

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