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**Most Loved  
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**3 Santa Monica**  
City or pinball machine?

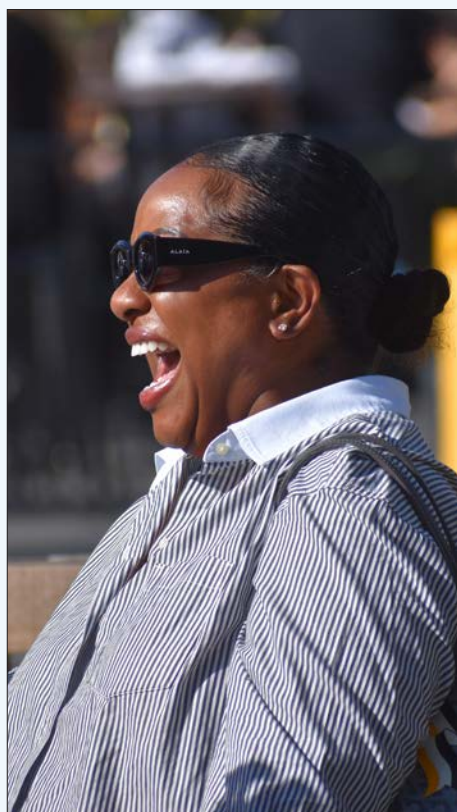
**5 Route 66 beer**  
At Santa Monica Brew Works.

Volume 25 Issue 141

**THE WEEKENDER 6/5-6/7**

**smdp.com**

# Santa Monica celebrates its Most Loved businesses



SMDP Photos

**AWARDS:** The annual Most Loved Awards brought hundreds of attendees to Santa Monica Brew Works this week to celebrate the best of local businesses. The awards are chosen by residents and are an annual recognition of the importance of businesses to the community. For more information, see the official magazine inside this edition.



## Fans of fries can get them with burgers or chicken at two new restaurant openings

**MATTHEW HALL**  
Daily Press Editor

Residents who love food but hate their arteries will have new options for heart-stopping delights next week with the opening of both Raising Cane's and The Win~Dow.

Raising Cane's will open its first Westside Los Angeles location at 1401 Third Street Promenade on Wednesday, June 10, while

The Win~Dow, a Venice-born smashburger chain, is set to debut its seventh location at 930 Montana Ave. on June 9.

### RAISING CANE'S

The Louisiana-based chicken finger chain will occupy a 1,401 Third Street Promenade address in the former Bibimbap space, marking

SEE **FOOD** PAGE 11

## New trial moves ahead for homeless man accused of hate crime

**MATTHEW HALL**  
Daily Press Editor

A man accused of a racially motivated rampage that left one victim permanently disabled will face trial after the state's highest court refused to hear his case.

The lack of action by the California Supreme Court means a previous ruling by a state appellate court that a trial judge abused her discretion by granting the suspect

entry into a mental health diversion program now stands.

As of this month, Job Uriah Taylor, 28, is charged with the willful, premeditated and deliberate attempted murder of Christian Hornburg, along with three counts of assault with a deadly weapon and one count of assault causing great bodily injury. The charges stem from a now three-year old case and carry multiple hate crime enhancements that mean if convicted as charged,

Taylor faces a potential life sentence in state prison.

The California Supreme Court declined May 27 to review the Second District Court of Appeal's March 5 decision in *People v. Taylor*, leaving in place a published ruling that directs the Los Angeles County Superior Court to vacate its diversion order and deny the motion. Because the

SEE **TRIAL** PAGE 6

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# Council directs oversight of troubled affordable housing rehab and orders broader accountability framework

**MATTHEW HALL**  
Daily Press Editor

City Council has direct staff to engage with Community Corporation of Santa Monica regarding a troubled affordable housing rehabilitation project that has left dozens of longtime residents displaced for months, while also ordering the creation of a broader accountability framework for all city-funded affordable housing projects.

The unanimous vote came after more than an hour of tense debate over a request by Councilmember Lana Negrete calling for a public accounting of how more than \$37 million in city housing trust funds are being spent on the Generations at Virginia Avenue Apartments project at 2033-2101 Virginia Ave.

The motion directed city staff to present a comprehensive update to the council, coordinate resident meetings with CCSM sooner than a previously scheduled date, and return within 90 days with a proposed community benefits framework applicable to all future affordable housing projects using city funds.

The project, a rehabilitation of roughly 40 rent-controlled units in the Pico neighborhood, has drawn complaints from residents about uninhabitable conditions, a lack of communication from CCSM project managers, and millions in budget overrun.

## RESIDENTS: 'SIX YEARS AND WE CAN'T GET THIS RIGHT'

Resident Diana Flores said she was glad the item had come to council as it prompted the actions she has been demanding.

"Everything changed for me tonight because Tara from CCSM came and approached us outside before the meeting," Flores told the council. "She's willing to give us everything — she agrees that everything on Item 16-B should be given, full access to the finances."

But Flores made clear that the willingness expressed that evening came only after a prolonged fight to be heard.

"We asked for accountability and transparency every time we came up here asking for that loan, and the fact that we still have to ask once we're this far into the project is ridiculous," she said. "Six years, you guys, and we can't get this right."

Resident Brittany de Guzman, who had been

corresponding with CCSM and city officials since at least October 2025 about relocation concerns, said residents had repeatedly sought communication and been met with silence or delay.

"When we asked for help getting these issues on an agenda and requested meetings to discuss them, those requests were delayed until after tonight's meeting or ignored altogether," de Guzman said. "Many of us still feel like we are treated as a backdoor agenda item when this project should be fully visible to the public."

She thanked Negrete for bringing the matter forward publicly. "Without her advocacy, many of us would not have had the chance to stand here tonight and speak for our neighbors, our families, and our homes."

## CCSM: 'NOBODY ASKED ME'

CCSM Executive Director Tara Barauskas, who addressed the council directly, acknowledged communication failures but pushed back on the need for a formal council action to prompt a response saying no one had spoken to her about the project.

"I don't think we needed a 16 item necessarily to have that conversation," she said. "Now that I know what the concerns are, I'm going to work with the residents and make sure we address the concerns."

Barauskas said a project manager had received resident concerns that were not passed up the chain of command — a breakdown she said the organization needed to fix.

"I'll take the blame that my project manager did receive some concerns and they didn't get passed along," she said. "That's something we have to improve on."

She said she had offered to meet with residents the following week and to conduct a walkthrough of the construction site, and expressed support for developing a transparency framework across all of CCSM's city-funded projects.

"What does this look like for all of our affordable housing projects — not just Virginia Avenue, but every project?" she said. "Let's make sure we figure out what is the information that we should be sharing and let's share it together."

On the budget overrun, Barauskas said cost

SEE HOUSING PAGE 8



### CITY OF SANTA MONICA NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS TO THE NEWLY CREATED

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Two seats available for initial terms ending **June 30, 2028**. Thereafter, these seats would be for 4-year terms.

One seat available for a term ending **June 30, 2027**. Thereafter, these seats would be for 2-year terms.

- Applicant must be a Santa Monica resident and an Affordable Housing program participant who is at least 62 years old

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- Applicant must be a Santa Monica resident and an Affordable Housing Program participant who is unsheltered or formerly unsheltered

Applications due by noon, **July 7, 2026**.

Appointments to be made by City Council, **July 14, 2026**.

No Santa Monica City Employee may serve as a member of any Board or Commission.

The State Political Reform Act requires certain officeholders to disclose their interest and income which may be materially affected by their official action. The applicants appointed to serve in these positions will be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) upon assuming office, and annually thereafter.

Applications are available on-line at: [www.smgov.net/boards](http://www.smgov.net/boards)  
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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# Santa Monica: City by the Sea or Civic Pinball Machine

Santa Monica's image may be coastal calm, but navigating its streets is anything but.

All one need do is look at the redesigned bike lane on Broadway. For one thing, Broadway already had a bike lane. A continuous one. From the beach east through Santa Monica, extending well past 26th Street. Cyclists used it. It worked. In fact, by the city's own data, Broadway had the highest bicycle and scooter ridership of any east-west corridor in Santa Monica — a statistic the city then used to justify the Broadway Safety Project, an overhaul that removed two lanes of traffic, relocated parking into the street, and installed concrete barriers that have made the corridor more dangerous for everyone who uses it.

What the city seemed to overlook is why Broadway had the highest ridership.

It wasn't a mystery. It wasn't a revelation. It wasn't even a trend.

It was a bike lane. Broadway had one. Santa Monica Boulevard, Wilshire, and Colorado did not. Cyclists chose the only continuous, manageable east-west route that actually got them to the beach. Anyone who has ever ridden a bike in Santa Monica could have told the city this. The city apparently did not ask.

And that's the part that still astonishes me. The city didn't misread a trend or misinterpret a study. It overlooked the most obvious fact in the entire transportation network: cyclists were using Broadway because Broadway already had a bike lane. Instead of recognizing success, the city treated it as failure — and overhauled the only corridor that was functioning exactly as intended.

Parking was relocated away from the curb and into the street, to the left of the concrete slabs. The city's own project page instructs drivers to "park or stop your vehicle in marked parking stalls or loading zones to the left of the buffer zone and bicycle lane." In practice, this means drivers must now peer across a full lane of green-painted bike infrastructure to determine whether a space exists — and then guess which meter governs which spot. The city claims only four non-metered spaces were lost. Anyone who drives Broadway regularly is invited to test that assertion.

And for all the upheaval — the cost, the loss of lanes, the relocation of parking — the city has yet to publish the one statistic that would justify any of it: the actual number of cyclists using the new lane. We are told ridership is "up 52%," but 52% of what? Two riders an hour becoming three? Four riders a day becoming six? Or 200 becoming 300? These are not interchangeable numbers. One justifies an overhaul. The others justify a memo.

For context: in a 45-minute window on a Sunday afternoon while sitting outside the co-op on Broadway, I counted seven cyclists, three scooters, and one gentleman tripping over a concrete block. Of course, I have no idea how many

were traveling this same route before the supposed Safety Project overhaul, but I'm certain no one was tripping over massive concrete blocks that only recently appeared. Just as notable, the city has released no before-and-after safety statistics — no collision data, no injury trends, no evidence that the redesign has reduced accidents of any kind. Having biked on this street myself, I would guess the incidents are up, not down.

And then there is the bike lane that connects to Broadway at 17th. The city has installed double concrete blocks at every intersection — spaced just far enough apart that you initially think you're meant to drive between them, until you realize there isn't actually room — I know, because I tried. The layout creates an obstacle so large that a simple right turn now requires the turning radius of a delivery truck.

And here's another part no one seems to have considered: cyclists can't actually make a left turn from inside the new concrete trench. To turn left, they have to exit the protected lane, merge into the single remaining car lane, ride in traffic until they reach the intersection, and then cut across oncoming cars. I even saw several cyclists riding toward me in the opposite lane, outside the bike path entirely. At first I told them to use the bike lane, and only later did it occur to me that they were making a left turn. The alternative — trying to turn left from the far right side of the street — would get someone killed. This isn't a safety lane. It's a design flaw that forces cyclists and drivers into unforeseen danger.

Predictably, they didn't stop with Broadway.

Combine it with the separated concrete blocks on 17th and the recently installed forest of yellow and white posts on Wilshire — posts that either force drivers into right turns or prevent parking in red zones that were already designated as no-parking — and you begin to see the city's new design philosophy: Santa Monica as obstacle course. A civic pinball machine. Dodge the post, avoid the car, clear the concrete island, and then try to locate the parking space that's been relocated into the middle of the street — followed by the meter that may or may not be anywhere near it. The question is no longer whether the streets work. The question is why do we have to work so hard to navigate them.

Before the overhaul, Broadway worked for cyclists and drivers alike.

After it, this driver will be using other streets. When enough drivers make the same choice, the city will point to reduced car traffic on Broadway and call it a success.

The cyclists were already there. Nothing changed for them except the lane got a whole lot more dangerous — and someone got a whole lot richer.

Charlotte Johnson, Santa Monica



## Surf report WATER TEMP: 64.2

**FRIDAY** | **SURF:** 4-5ft  
**FAIR TO GOOD** | Chest to head

Solid day of waves, conditions look best in the AM. PM onshores manageable either side of Dume. SSW swell tops out for waist-chest high waves at average spots. Better breaks head-high with some overhead sets in the mix. Not a lot of NW energy in the mix so the open beachbreaks are pretty walled - especially around the early/mid-AM low tide. Variable to light southerly AM wind, clean at the points with some crumble out west. A little more S wind in the afternoon, but looks manageable on either side of Dume.

**SATURDAY** | **SURF:** 4-5ft  
**FAIR TO GOOD** | Chest to head

Surf stays solid, more southerly wind issues possible in the morning. SSW swell sticks around, keeping waist-chest high waves running for average zones and head-high waves at better breaks. Standouts continue to pull in occasional sets pushing overhead. Shape stays walled at open beachbreaks with only minor NW energy mixing in. Still SE wind potential in the morning, and it could start lumpier west of Dume. Another drained mid-morning low tide to work around too. Evening window worth watching.

## Weather

**Friday:** Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 69.

**Friday Night:** Patchy fog. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 60. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Saturday:** Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy, with a high near 68.

**Saturday Night:** Patchy fog. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 59.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)High/Low
2026/06/05	Fri	07:45 AM	-0.02 L
2026/06/05	Fri	3:05 PM	3.40 H
2026/06/05	Fri	6:42 PM	2.96 L
2026/06/06	Sat	12:42 AM	4.60 H
2026/06/06	Sat	08:28 AM	0.24 L
2026/06/06	Sat	3:51 PM	3.64 H
2026/06/06	Sat	8:09 PM	2.96 L
2026/06/07	Sun	01:41 AM	4.13 H
2026/06/07	Sun	09:13 AM	0.52 L
2026/06/07	Sun	4:29 PM	3.99 H
2026/06/07	Sun	10:00 PM	2.65 L
2026/06/08	Mon	03:02 AM	3.65 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: 6/3  
14 16 38 55 64  
Power#: 12  
Jackpot: 212 M

**Fantasy5**  
Draw Date: 6/3  
9 17 28 29 33

**MEGA MILLIONS**  
Draw Date: 6/2  
15 26 43 48 60  
Mega#: 12  
Jackpot: 368 M

**Daily 3**  
Draw Date: 6/3  
EVENING: 3 6 9  
Draw Date: 6/3  
MIDDAY: 4 8 5

**SuperLotto PLUS**  
Draw Date: 6/3  
3 15 17 36 41  
Mega#: 13  
Jackpot: 26 M

**Daily Derby**  
Draw Date: 6/3  
1st: 04 - Big Ben  
2nd: 03 - Hot Shot  
3rd: 08 - Gorgeous George  
Race Time: 1:49.90

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Santa Monica Daily Press

# Classifieds

## DBA

NOTICE OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMEFILE NO. 2026109493The following person(s) has (have) abandoned the use of the fictitious business name: BOURGET FLAGSTONE CO., 1838 COLORADO AVENUE, SANTA MONICA, CA 90404.The fictitious business name referred to above was filed on January 29, 2024, in the County of Los Angeles. Original File No. 2024020130. Full name of Registrant(s): BOURGET BROS. BUILDING MATERIALS, INC., 1636 11TH STREET, SANTA MONICA, CA 90404.This business was conducted by: a Corporation.I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)/s/ JOHN BOURGET, CEO BOURGET BROS. BUILDING MATERIALS, INC.This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 05/18/2026.NOTICE — In accordance with subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a fictitious business name statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except, as provided in subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).Publish: Santa Monica Daily Press Pub Dates: May 22, May 29, June 5, June 12, 2026

## Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00235. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, Santa Monica Courthouse, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of Heaven Dampier and Jarelle Lesean Timothy Dampier for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Heaven Dampier and Jarelle Lesean Timothy Dampier filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Ronin El Dampier to Ronin El Taeyang Dampier. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: [HEARING DATE TO BE SET], Time: [HEARING TIME TO BE SET], Dept: [DEPARTMENT TO BE SET]. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: [ORDER DATE TO BE SET]. [JUDGE NAME TO BE SET], Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 05/22/2026, 05/29/2026, 06/05/2026, 06/12/2026

## DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026086251. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: USHA'S KITCHEN, COPPER & CARDAMOM, RICE & SPICE, SHREEMAN'S TABLE, SPICE & RICE, 12516 206TH STREET, LAKEWOOD, CA 90715, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): USHA'S KITCHEN LLC, 12516 206TH STREET, LAKEWOOD, CA 90715. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ USHA NATARAJAN, PRESIDENT. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 04/20/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 06/05/2026, 06/12/2026, 06/19/2026, 06/26/2026

## Summons

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION TRANSACTIONNOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to California law and Section 1.3 of those certain Redemption Agreements dated effective May 7, 2026 and May 29, 2026 (the "Redemption Agreement"), by and between Green Commuter, Inc., a California corporation ("GC"), and the redeemed shareholder identified therein. GC has entered into the Redemption Agreement pursuant to which GC intends to redeem certain shares of common stock of GC held by the redeemed shareholder in exchange for shares of common stock of EVCS Holdings, Inc., a Delaware corporation ("EVCSH"), currently owned by GC.The transaction remains subject to the conditions set forth in the Redemption Agreement, including:Publication of this notice in accordance with California law;Absence of third-party objections received by GC within two (2) weeks following the initial publication of this notice;Approval of the transaction by the Board of Directors of Green Commuter, Inc.;Approval of the transaction by the Board of Directors of EVCS Holdings, Inc.; andExecution by the redeemed shareholder of all ancillary agreements required under the Redemption Agreement.Any objections relating to the transaction contemplated by the Redemption Agreement must be submitted in writing within two (2) weeks following the initial publication date of this notice to:Green Commuter, Inc. Attn: President 11800 Clark Street, Arcadia, CA 91006This notice is being published once per week for two (2) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in Los Angeles County, California.Dated: May 29, 2026 GREEN COMMUTER, INC. By: Naveed Eghterafi, PresidentSANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS — Publish: 05/29/2026, 06/05/2026

## DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026040770. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: BREAKTHROUGH THERAPY, 11482 MOORPARK ST UNIT 08, STUDIO CITY, CA 91602, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): IAN TURLEY, 11482 MOORPARK ST UNIT 08, STUDIO CITY, CA 91602. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ IAN TURLEY, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 2/23/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 05/22/2026, 05/29/2026, 06/05/2026, 06/12/2026

## Storage Auction Sale Notice

Abandoned Personal Property Auction NoticeNotice is hereby given that under and pursuant to California Civil Code Sections 1983-1991, California Civil Code Section 1988, Government Code Section 6066, and any other applicable California statutes, that the items of property listed below are believed to be abandoned by INCIPPIO, LLC, VINCI BRANDS LLC, and all other owners, occupants, partners, tenants and/or subtenants at address: 1351 Railroad Street, Corona, CA 92882. Items will be sold at a Public Auction by George E. Renfro III, to be offered in bulk, bulk lots, pallet lots, and individual lots at a competitive bid sale through an Online Auction.Online bidding will begin closing at 9:00 AM on June 23, 24, and 25, 2026.Preview and inspection will be held Thursday, June 18, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM and Friday, June 19, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM at 1351 Railroad Street, Corona, CA 92882.Auction access via WWW.MEGAAUCTIONS.NET Items to be sold are to include but are not limited to:Approximately 2.5 million units of commercial inventory and consumer products, including inventory and products marketed under the Incipio, Incase, and Griffin brands, mobile phone cases, tablet cases, computer cases, laptopsleeves, laptop bags, consumer electronics accessories, computers, laptops, tablets, servers, networking equipment, monitors, televisions, printers, thermal label printers, barcode scanners, warehouse and material handling equipment, conveyors, packaging equipment, pallet jacks, utility carts, platform trucks, loading ramps, safety ladders, shipping scales, packing stations, industrial workbenches, lockers, office furniture, shelving, warehouse racking, industrial storage systems, 3D printers, milling machines, laboratory and testing equipment, warehouse fixtures, shipping supplies, packaging materials, toner, printer parts, safety equipment, maintenance supplies, bicycles, appliances, first aid equipment, display systems, trade show displays, various items unsearched.

## GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# What election night results mean in the race for California's next governor

An interrogation is a staple scene in TV cop shows, with a detective often telling a suspect that "we can do this the easy way or the hard way."

That phrase pretty much described Democrat Xavier Becerra's situation going into Tuesday's primary election for governor.

It seemed almost certain that he would finish either first or second given pre-election polls and the early returns on Election Day, and thus move on to the November general election. But it was uncertain whether billionaire Democrat Tom Steyer or Steve Hilton, a British-born former television commentator, would also be one of the top two.

Were it Hilton, Becerra would likely have an easy November win, given the state's very lopsided Democratic voter registration margin versus Republicans — the latest count at 45% to 25% — and Hilton's association with uber-unpopular President Donald Trump.

Facing Steyer in November would be a much different scenario. He spent more than \$200 million on his primary campaign, much of it on TV and internet ads that portrayed Becerra as incompetent or potentially corrupt. If given the chance, he would spend even more on attacks.

Wednesday morning, 12 hours after the polls closed, it seemed very likely that Hilton would be Becerra's November rival if results hold, and thus just as likely that the former congressman, attorney general and Biden administration cabinet member would succeed Gov. Gavin Newsom.

As votes were counted throughout the night, Becerra and Hilton ran neck-to-neck with shares in the mid-20% range — Hilton slightly ahead this morning — while Steyer was about seven or eight percentage points behind.

Late Tuesday night, appearing before a throng of cheering supporters in Los Angeles, Becerra came close to declaring himself a primary winner. He portrayed himself, if winning in November, as "a working-class governor with a law degree and a union card."

He also would be California's only Latino governor in the state's modern era and thus a symbolic figure for the state's

largest ethnic group, which he celebrated by delivering some of his remarks in Spanish.

Becerra's rise to the top of a 61-candidate field of would-be governors has been one of many unforeseen aspects of a campaign unlike any other we've seen in the post-World War II era.

For months, we didn't even know who was running. The race had no natural frontrunner as potentially dominant figures such as former Vice President Kamala Harris weighed their chances but gave it a pass. Sen. Alex Padilla and Attorney General Rob Bonta also steered away. Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis announced she would run, then dropped out to run for state treasurer, a race she leads with more than half of ballots counted.

The field narrowed itself down to 10 serious candidates. Two months ago, Becerra was merely one of several politicians in the lower tier with just a 4% share of support in an April 5 tracking poll by the state Democratic Party. Congressman Eric Swalwell was the leading Democrat in that poll at 12%, followed closely by Steyer.

Just days later, however, Swalwell suspended his campaign and resigned from Congress after several women accused him of sexual harassment or assault. By mid-April, Becerra had shot up to the top of the Democratic heap, tied at 13% with Steyer in a later poll.

From then on, it was a one-on-one duel with Steyer. Despite his rival's ceaseless barrage of personal invective, Becerra continued to gain and by the last pre-election Democratic tracking poll on May 16, he led Steyer 21% to 15%, roughly the same margin in the election tally so far.

While it's still arithmetically possible for Steyer to claim one of the top two positions, nothing in the overnight results pointed in that direction.

That means we will soon turn to November and what likely will be an easy win for Becerra, who would then learn how difficult it is to govern such a complex state.

Dan Walters, CalMatters Opinion Columnist

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Santa Monica

#### Santa Monica Brew Works Releases Commemorative Route 66 Centennial Ale

Santa Monica Brew Works is marking the 100th anniversary of Route 66 with the release of End of the Trail Pale Ale, a limited-edition beer available beginning June 5.

The 5.6% ABV pale ale was crafted by head brewer Avery Colomb and features notes of bright citrus, floral aromatics and subtle tropical fruit. The label was designed by local artist Matthew Ehrmann, a lifelong Santa Monica resident whose work draws on the spirit of the American West.

Santa Monica is widely recognized as the western terminus of Route 66, the legendary highway stretching from Chicago to the Pacific. The city is marking the centennial with a yearlong celebration.

The beer made its exclusive debut June 4 at the Santa Monica Pier during a Route 66 Centennial event. Beginning June 5, it is available on draft and in limited-release 16-ounce cans at the brewery's tasting room, where Ehrmann will also host a pop-up gallery exhibition.

"Crisp, refreshing and endlessly drinkable, End of the Trail Pale Ale is a toast to the miles traveled and the stories collected along Route 66," said Co-Founder and CEO Scott Francis.

Visitors and locals are invited to explore the citywide centennial celebration by visiting [santamonica.com](http://santamonica.com).

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026122370. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: ALPHA GROUP CONTRACTING, 28942 HANCOCK PKWY, VALENCIA, CA 91355, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): UNLIMITED CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, INC., 30505 JASMINE VALLEY DR, CANYON COUNTRY, CA 91387. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 06/2026. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ DAMON VARGAS, PRESIDENT. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 06/04/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date

it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 06/05/2026, 06/12/2026, 06/19/2026, 06/26/2026

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declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ JUSTIN COHEN, PRESIDENT. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 06/04/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 06/05/2026, 06/12/2026, 06/19/2026, 06/26/2026



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## TRIAL

FROM PAGE 1

opinion was certified for publication, it stands as binding precedent throughout California.

### THE ATTACKS

Prosecutors allege that on the morning of March 3, 2023, Taylor went on a violent, racially motivated rampage targeting multiple victims near the Downtown Santa Monica Expo Line station, attacking at least four people with a metal pipe within the span of approximately one hour.

According to the appellate opinion, Taylor attacked Hornburg, who is Black, while he slept and struck him over the head with the pipe, then stomped on his head while Hornburg lay on the ground. When Jade Carter, also Black, tried to help, Taylor attacked her with the pipe as well, hurling racial slurs throughout. Both Hornburg and Carter were transported to a hospital. Hornburg sustained life-altering injuries and was subsequently confined to a rehabilitation facility.

Police body camera footage showed Taylor continuing his racist outburst until he was taken into custody and prosecutors also allege that earlier that same morning, Taylor threatened a third victim, Michael Okyere, with the metal pipe and shouted racial slurs at him before nearby firefighters intervened and chased him away.

Following his arrest, Taylor told investigators he had been sent to Santa Monica to target Black residents.

### MENTAL HEALTH HISTORY

Court records detail Taylor's extensive history of mental illness, substance abuse and repeated failures to comply with treatment.

Taylor's records show psychiatric symptoms dating to childhood, including auditory and visual hallucinations, mood instability and diagnoses that included schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder and psychotic disorders. He had previously been hospitalized after threatening his mother and destroying the family home, and after threatening bystanders with a rebar club in 2021 — an incident in which he tested positive for amphetamine, cannabis and cocaine.

Taylor's sister told investigators that she and their mother had admitted him to mental health facilities in Louisiana as an adult on multiple occasions, but that he always signed himself out within 24 hours. Medical records showed he repeatedly refused prescribed medications.

By Taylor's own account, he was discharged from a psychiatric facility shortly before the March 2023 attacks. He told a defense psychologist he had not followed through on hospital discharge instructions because he left them on a bus, and that at the time of the attacks he was using methamphetamine and PCP and had been experiencing hallucinations.

### THE DIVERSION PROCEEDINGS

Taylor's attorneys filed a motion for mental health diversion in June 2024 under Penal Code Section 1001.36, which allows courts to postpone or permanently set aside prosecution for defendants with qualifying mental disorders who agree to treatment and do not pose an unreasonable risk of danger to public safety.

In support of the motion, defense psychologist Robin Rhodes Campbell concluded that Taylor suffered from a qualifying, treatable mental health condition that played a significant role in the offenses. However, Campbell's opinion on public safety risk was conditional — she wrote that Taylor

would not pose an unreasonable risk "if his psychiatric symptoms were controlled with treatment" and "if the defendant abstains from substance use." She did not opine that such control was likely.

The trial court appointed Dr. Montgomery from the Office of Diversion and Reentry to independently evaluate Taylor. Montgomery testified that Taylor was stable while in custody and on medication and that the ODR program, which includes long-acting injectable medications, could treat his condition. She acknowledged, however, that the ODR facility was unlocked and that if Taylor chose to leave, staff could attempt to intervene but could not physically stop him. When prosecutors pressed her on whether Taylor would pose an unreasonable risk if he left the facility and stopped taking medication, Montgomery declined to offer an opinion. The trial court discouraged further questioning on the point, noting that witnesses could not "predict the future."

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Lana Kim granted Taylor's diversion motion on March 12, 2025, ordering him into a residential, medically assisted treatment program and setting monthly court appearances to review his progress. The court made no express finding on whether Taylor would pose an unreasonable risk to public safety if released into the community.

### THE APPEAL

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office appealed, arguing that no evidence supported the trial court's implicit finding that Taylor would be safe to release for community treatment given his documented history of abandoning facilities and refusing medication.

The Second District Court of Appeal agreed. In an opinion authored by Presiding Justice Rothschild and joined by Justices Bendix and M. Kim, the court held that the obligation to determine whether a defendant poses an unreasonable risk to public safety necessarily includes determining whether the defendant will follow through on a treatment agreement — and that the trial court had failed to make that determination.

"The obligation to determine whether a defendant will pose an unreasonable risk of danger to the public if granted diversion necessarily includes determining whether the defendant will abandon treatment," the court wrote.

The court noted that while the defense's expert offered only a conditional opinion and the court-appointed expert declined to assess future risk at all, the record contained substantial evidence that Taylor would abandon treatment — including his history of signing out of facilities within 24 hours and his admission that he was discharged from a psychiatric hospital and stopped taking his medication shortly before the attacks.

The court emphasized that its ruling was not based on the severity of Taylor's alleged conduct but on the absence of any evidence that he would comply with a voluntary treatment program.

The appellate court issued its initial ruling Sept. 30, 2025, then vacated it and granted a rehearing. Following additional briefing, the court reaffirmed its decision March 5. The California Supreme Court declined review May 27, leaving the published opinion in place as statewide precedent.

The case is being prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Steve Dickman of the Hate Crimes Unit and will now be heard at the Airport Courthouse.

editor@smdp.com

### COMMUNITY NEWS

#### City Hall

### Santa Monica, Coastal Commission Sign MOU to Complete Local Coastal Program

The Santa Monica City Council voted last week to authorize the city manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the California Coastal Commission, setting a collaborative path toward certifying the city's first comprehensive Local Coastal Program.

The LCP consists of a Land Use Plan, containing coastal policies, and an Implementation Plan, which functions as a zoning ordinance for the coastal zone. Building on a draft Coastal Land Use Plan from 2018, the MOU establishes communication protocols and coordination frameworks between the city and the commission.

Once certified, the LCP would give Santa Monica greater local approval authority over temporary events, commercial improvements, outdoor dining, residential development and transportation projects in the coastal zone — which includes much of downtown Santa Monica, including Third Street Promenade — while maintaining protections consistent with the California Coastal Act.

“By committing to work directly with the California Coastal Commission to complete our Local Coastal Program, we are building a faster, clearer path for projects in our coastal zone,” said Mayor Caroline Torosis. “That means less delay, less uncertainty, and more local decision-making power.”

The city plans to begin the new process with the Coastal Commission in July 2026, with a goal of certifying the final LCP by the end of 2027.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

#### LA Country

### Officials Outline Public Safety Plan for 2026 FIFA World Cup

Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman joined law enforcement leaders and FIFA officials to brief the public on safety preparations ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup, which begins next week across 16 North American cities.

Tens of thousands of fans are expected in the Los Angeles area for the five-week tournament.

“Los Angeles is ready to shine on the world’s biggest stage,” Hochman said, warning those who plan to commit crimes that “bad choices could land you a red card and a one-way ticket to watch the games from the inside of a jail.”

Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna and LAPD Chief Jim McDonnell echoed that message, pledging a coordinated response from local, state, federal and international agencies.

Officials urged fans to check bag and prohibited-item rules at SoFi Stadium before arriving, guard against petty theft in crowds, buy tickets only through official FIFA channels, and report human trafficking, hate crimes, counterfeit merchandise or other scams to law enforcement.

To receive World Cup safety notifications, U.S. residents can text FIFALA26 to 888-777. International travelers without a U.S. data plan can download the Everbridge Public Safety app and enter the keyword FIFALA26.

Crimes can be reported online through: LAPD | LASD | FBI | City of Inglewood

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## HOUSING

FROM PAGE 2

increases were a predictable consequence of rehabilitation work. "You open up the walls, you find things," she said, adding that CCSM had not asked the city for additional funds but had jointly applied for other funding sources.

CCSM board member Ralph Mechur, a professional architect, told the council that standard oversight mechanisms were already in place, including weekly construction meetings and monthly draw reviews at which city staff verify completed work before releasing payment.

"The money doesn't get issued to Community Corp to pay the contractor until your staff have approved it," he said. He invited any council member to tour the site, saying he had walked through earlier that day and found the progress encouraging.

### A LONG-SIMMERING DISPUTE GOES PUBLIC

Negrete, who brought the item forward alone after failing to secure co-sponsors, said the dispute had been building since at least October 2025, when residents first began emailing her office with concerns. She said she had copied City Manager Oliver Chi and the Housing and Human Services department on communications with Barauskas, but responses had been repetitive and uninformative.

"They're driving by and they're seeing drywall going up and maybe all the right things are being done, but when they're not being told, how do they know that?" Negrete said.

She said she had been asked multiple times to pull the item from the agenda — a fact she said reinforced rather than undercut her decision to proceed.

"And all of a sudden now there's a response at the eleventh hour on the council meeting — so that's why we're here," she said.

## COUNCIL DIVIDED ON PROCESS, UNITED ON SUBSTANCE

The discussion revealed friction among council members over how the matter was handled, even as all six expressed support for its goals.

Councilmember Barry Snell said he had never received communications from Virginia Avenue residents and questioned why the dispute had come to a public session rather than being resolved privately.

Councilmember Ellis Raskin, who lives a block from the project, said he had spoken that day with both residents and Barauskas, and believed a productive path forward was at hand. He cautioned, however, that any financial disclosures from CCSM would likely be voluntary.

"I just want to set expectations that what we're asking CCSM to do here is to provide some things voluntarily," he said. "It sounds like they will."

Councilmember Natalya Zernitskaya, who had been invited to co-sponsor the item, said she had urged a narrower scope to focus on Virginia Avenue residents' specific concerns. She noted the project appeared unique — she was unaware of any comparable instance in which the city had lent more than \$38 million for a rehabilitation of this type.

Mayor Caroline Torosis suggested tying a new community benefits policy to the city's housing scorecard to publicly track outcomes on all housing trust fund projects.

HHS Director Aileen Reynolds confirmed that her department already conducts monthly site visits to verify draw requests are supported by completed work and offered to return with a broader accountability framework within 90 days.

[editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@smdp.com)

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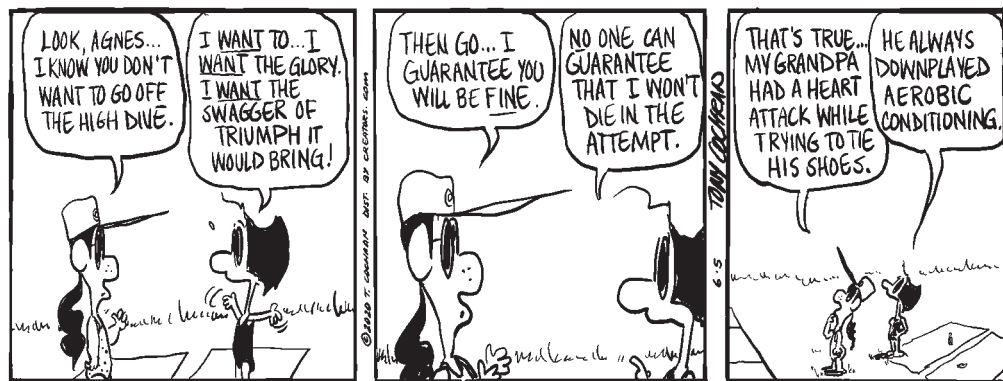
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### Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



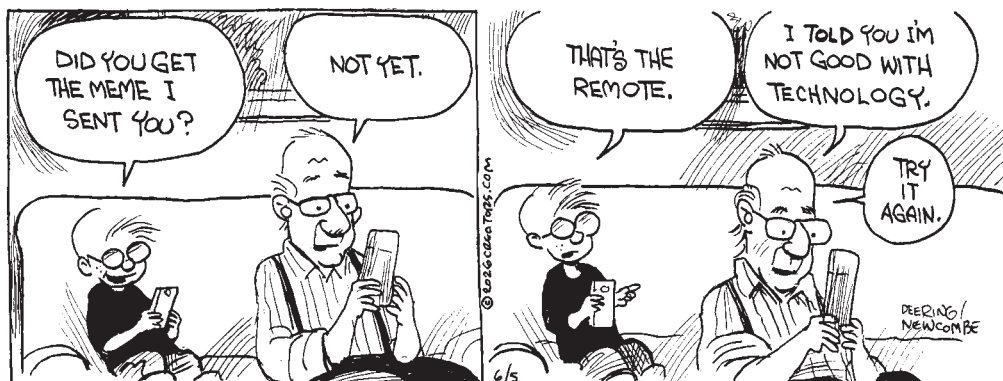
### Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



### Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



### Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



### 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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- |        |            |          |          |
|--------|------------|----------|----------|
| Army   | Driver     | Mess     | Rifle    |
| At war | Egypt      | Mortar   | Safe     |
| Attack | Enemy      | Nauru    | Ships    |
| Badge  | Evacuation | Navy     | Staff    |
| Base   | Garrison   | Nuclear  | Unit     |
| Bombs  | Grit       | Orders   | Valour   |
| Cadets | Heroes     | Patrol   | Victoria |
| Cannon | Ills       | Pistol   | Cross    |
| Club   | Iraq       | RAAF     | Wounded  |
| Corps  | Kokoda     | Rank     |          |
| Defend | Lost       | Remember |          |
| Depot  | Major      | Respect  |          |

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**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 6)**

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**HOROSCOPES**

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). With a little sleuthing, you'll gather the evidence you need to draw a conclusion. But is it the correct answer? The key to that is staying open-minded, which is much easier when you're not invested in any particular outcome.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). Not making a move is also a decision - one that keeps everything in a holding pattern, and there's nothing wrong with that. Such patterns cannot hold indefinitely. So far, the new day has always come. It won't disappoint.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). Even when you play it low-key, the spotlight finds you. Or maybe it's actually coming from inside you, this glow that follows you wherever you go. That would make more sense. It's the ever-present presence you don't have to perform.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). It's a day to watch your words. Offer perspective, not control. Ask questions; don't issue verdicts. Leave them room to decide. If they struggle, you may choose to say something. Do it gently and without assuming you're the authority.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). You're curious, adventurous and emboldened to try new things. It may seem counterintuitive, but it's your familiar behaviors, rituals and routines that make it possible for you to feel at home in new circumstances.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Something that is very easy to you is quite laborious to others. This is your gift, even though it might be hard to see it as such right now. You will leverage your talent and efficiencies to ease the load for others.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The boundaries will be made clear. Either the world will show you where they are, or you'll show the world where they are. You get to choose where this is a proactive or reactive situation.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your team feels small today, and you're not sure how to grow it. You'll wonder: Who can help and why would they? There's a way to include others that benefits everyone without you being on the line for every salary or reward.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You wouldn't dream of relying on anyone but yourself to fulfill your wishes, compound your joy or stoke the fires of your happiness. But when they do chip in and make you smile, you'll be over the moon.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Today you're a little psychic and a lot psychologically astute. No one totally knows what's going on in another person's mind, but you come close with your excellent guesses. Act on your prediction.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Protect your current projects by saying no to new ones. Don't forget that you tend to give things your all, and many things take two to three times as much time and energy than advertised.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20). Sometimes you can get a better understanding of what you're dealing with by backing up for a wide view. And sometimes getting closer to it is what helps you more. Instinct and answers kick in after you magnify certain details.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

S	A	L	S	A		B	A	L	M		U	S	M	C	
O	C	E	A	N		O	R	E	O		N	O	A	H	
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V	E	R	Y		S	E	A	S			P	S	A	T	S

**Newsday Crossword**

**ACROSS**

- 1 Leafy shelter
- 6 Comprehend
- 12 Podcast conclusion
- 13 Pungent, perhaps
- 14 Thing with a ring
- 16 Sippy cup part
- 17 Pushed hard
- 21 Bard's "venomous fool"
- 24 Thing with rings
- 27 Dominion
- 30 Sister of Helios
- 31 Hold up
- 32 Alaska's \_\_\_ Peninsula
- 33 Hobbyist
- 35 Threat to crops
- 36 Thing with rings
- 39 Doesn't dawdle
- 42 Like a London fog
- 43 Ghastly
- 47 She met Verne in 1889
- 48 He inspired Verne
- 49 Japanese dumplings
- 50 Thing with rings
- 55 Highly successfully
- 56 Wind up, in a way
- 57 Sneaker features
- 60 Thing with rings
- 66 Praiseful music
- 67 Legal ability
- 68 Something cast in stone

**DOWN**

- 1 Weigh (down)
- 2 First "O Canada" pronoun
- 3 Global commerce grp.
- 4 Youngest Greek god
- 5 Lighthearted movie
- 6 Fairy tale chant ender
- 7 Novelist Brookner
- 8 An Oscar, mostly
- 9 Non-sharer
- 10 Outdoes
- 11 New Testament gift
- 15 Help-wanted announcement
- 18 1990s Bush successor

**THINGS WITH RINGS** by Billie Truitt

- Edited by Stanley Newman  
www.stanxwords.com
- 19 Grandson of Eve
  - 20 Arrears
  - 21 It was left in Genesis 19
  - 22 "I told you!"
  - 23 Work (out)
  - 25 Put back in a skillet
  - 26 Vegan staple
  - 28 Muscles rowers use
  - 29 Fallen orbiter
  - 33 Tam cousin
  - 34 Arapaho foe
  - 35 Scenic rte.
  - 37 Fonts of arrogance
  - 38 Constant critic
  - 39 Basic training
  - 40 Scene snippet
  - 41 39-Down learner
  - 44 Sort of door opener
  - 45 Action film weapon
  - 46 Run late
  - 48 Tug
  - 51 Pens with no ink
  - 52 *Recruiting Insider* ainer
  - 53 Clatter
  - 54 Special attention
  - 58 Discern in the distance
  - 59 Apricot cousin
  - 61 Pro vote
  - 62 Dirt trapper
  - 63 Reign over in competition
  - 64 Appreciate
  - 65 NBA Southeast team

**Sudoku**

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

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

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11					
12						13										
14						15										
			16							17		18	19	20		
21	22	23				24			25	26						
27			28	29					30				31			
32							33	34					35			
			36			37						38				
39	40	41				42						43	44	45	46	
47				48								49				
50				51					52	53	54			55		
56									57			58	59			
						60		61	62					63	64	65
						66								67		
						68								69		

CREATORS SYNDICATE ©2026 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 06/05/26

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

## FOOD

FROM PAGE 1

the brand's first foothold on the Westside and a symbolic milestone for a downtown district still rebuilding its retail and dining base.

The chain, which operates more than 1,000 locations worldwide and counts California as its second-largest market with roughly 117 locations, is known for a deliberately narrow menu built around chicken fingers marinated for at least 24 hours and cooked to order with no heat lamps or warmers. Every location serves the same core lineup: chicken fingers, Cane's Sauce — which the company claims is the most craved sauce in the restaurant industry — coleslaw, toast and fresh-brewed tea and lemonade.

The Santa Monica outpost was designed with the city's surf-and-skate culture in mind, featuring a Ferris wheel mural inspired by the nearby pier, surfboard disco light installations and California-themed merchandise. The dining room also traces owner Todd Graves' origin story, from his early career as a boilermaker and sockeye salmon fisherman to opening the first Raising Cane's in 1996.

Opening day festivities begin before the 10 a.m. doors, with a drawing from 8 to 9 a.m. to award 20 customers free Cane's for a year. The first 200 combo purchasers will receive a custom Santa Monica beach towel and a free box combo card for a future visit. The restaurant will also present \$1,000 checks to the Boys & Girls Club of Santa Monica and the Santa Monica Education Foundation. Hours will run daily from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m.

## THE WIN~DOW

A day earlier, The Win~Dow will open at 930 Montana Ave., taking over a space previously occupied by the Go Get Em Tiger coffee shop. The 50-seat location was designed by the Klein Agency and features murals by Los Angeles artist

KC Haxton.

Founded in Venice in March 2019 by Paul Hibler and Jeff Goodman as a walk-up window attached to their upscale Rose Avenue steakhouse American Beauty, The Win~Dow was built around a single, affordable cheeseburger — a flat-top griddled patty smashed with onions, topped with American cheese, pickles and a pink house sauce on a soft potato bun. It launched at \$3.95 and has risen incrementally to around \$4.50.

The concept earned early recognition from Eater LA, which named it the No. 1 new burger in the city, and took the top prize at LAist's 2025 Tournament of Cheeseburgers. The chain is operated under parent company American Gonzo Food Corp., which also runs Pitfire Pizza, Superba and Pie Society.

The Santa Monica location expands on the original concept with a weekend breakfast menu featuring burritos and egg-topped burgers, with weekend service beginning at 9 a.m. The menu currently runs about nine items total, including a vegetarian option, fried chicken sandwich, fries, shakes and soft-serve.

## A BROADER REVIVAL

Raising Cane's will be the first major fast food chain to open on the Promenade since the ban's repeal, but it is unlikely to be the last. Taco Bell has filed permits to open a Cantina-format location at 318 Santa Monica Blvd., currently home to the Britannia Pub. The Cantina concept — which features alcohol service, shareable appetizers, communal seating and digital kiosks but no drive-thru — operates at roughly 60 locations nationally and generates four times the revenue of a traditional Taco Bell, according to the company. Plans call for converting 1,510 square feet of office space into a restaurant and bar with a mezzanine level, valued at nearly \$400,000.

editor@smdp.com



## FRIDAY | JUNE 5

## MOBILE COMMUNITY MEDITATION CENTER - GUIDED MEDITATION

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Santa Monica Beach lot 5 South 2600 Bernard Way Santa Monica. Please join Mobile Community Meditation Center aka Buddhist Boondockers Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 10 am for a 45 minute fully guided mindfulness meditation - on the grass, under the shade of the trees, with a stunning view of the sparkling ocean. Whether you're new to meditation or a seasoned practitioner, everyone is welcomed. Bring your own chair or cushion and try to arrive 5 minutes early and be ready to enjoy a truly peaceful moment as we relax, be present and make new friends; giving ourselves the love and attention we deserve by quieting our minds, finding peace and creating community. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/mobile-community-meditation-center-guided-meditation/16994548/2026-06-05T10>

## LA COUNTY REGISTRAR AT PRC - REGISTER TO VOTE

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Palisades Recovery Coalition - Community Center 15233 La Cruz Dr Pacific Palisades. Stop in to ask. How temporary displacement affects voter registration. Whether you need to re-register to Vote. How can you ensure your voter registration is up to date? you can also check registration at, and change it if it is wrong at all info at Collapse description. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/la-county-registrar-at-prc-register-to-vote/18461162/2026-06-05T10>

## SATURDAY | JUNE 6

## WALK &amp; PLAY L.A.

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Santa Monica Pier 200 Santa Monica Pier, Ste A Santa Monica. Walk & Play L.A., brings family and the community together for a day of fun and philanthropy on behalf of the young patients at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. Enjoy a day full of family-friendly activities, including a 3K walk, to support life-changing health care for kids who need it most—and need it now. The event features a 3K walk along the iconic Ocean Front Walk, free parking, free t-shirt, live music, special guests, food and more. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/walk-play-la-18565532/2026-06-06T08>

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

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Santa Monica Pier 200 Santa Monica Pier, Ste A Santa Monica. The Santa Monica Pier Corporation invites the community to move, stretch, and recharge by the ocean as Wellness & Waves returns for its 2026 season. Taking place every Saturday from April 4 through October 17, 2026, from 8 to 10 a.m., this free, all-ages wellness series transforms the iconic Santa Monica Pier into an open-air fitness destination at the most iconic outdoor setting in Southern California. With the Pacific Ocean as its backdrop, Wellness & Waves offers a welcoming, energizing way to start the weekend—no membership required. Each Saturday morning begins at the top of the Santa Monica Pier at the intersection of Colorado and Ocean with an easygoing group run from 8 to 9 a.m., open to all levels. Guests can then head to the west end of the Pier for yoga and yoga-pilates

fusion classes from 9 to 10 a.m., led by top local instructors. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/wellness-waves-returns-to-santa-monica-pier-free-sat-morning-fitness/18475500/2026-06-06T08>

## ROUTE 66 'PIER TO PIER' CELEBRATION AT PACIFIC PARK

10:00 a.m. - 11:06 a.m. Pacific Park on the Santa Monica pier 380 Santa Monica Pier Santa Monica. Two of America's most iconic piers — the historic Santa Monica Pier and Chicago's Navy Pier — will unite coast-to-coast on Saturday, June 6, 2026 (6/6/26), for a special Route 66 "Pier to Pier" celebration honoring the Centennial anniversary of the legendary highway connecting Chicago and Santa Monica. Beginning at 10 a.m. local time, free rides will be offered for 66 minutes aboard the world-famous Navy Pier Centennial Wheel and Pacific Park Pacific Wheel in celebration of Route 66. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/route-66-pier-to-pier-celebration-at-pacific-park/19059811/2026-06-06T10>

## PEAK HEALTH TO HOST BEACH PILATES EXPERIENCE IN SANTA MONICA

10:00 a.m. Santa Monica Beach Near Lifeguard Tower 26 Santa Monica. Peak Health, a Los Angeles-based wellness platform focused on making evidence-based health practices accessible, social, and sustainable, will host a Beach Pilates experience in Santa Monica on Saturday, June 6. Led by Peak Health Founder & Executive Director Jill Aida Horn, MPH, the event will feature a 45-minute beachfront Pilates class designed to bring together movement, mindfulness, and community in an outdoor setting overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Following the class, attendees will also have the option to participate in an ocean dip. Attendees are encouraged to bring a yoga/pilates mat, water, sunscreen, and comfortable workout attire. The class is open to all fitness levels. Jill Aida Horn, MPH, Founder & Executive Director of Peak Health. \$20.

## SUNDAY | JUNE 7

## VENICE ELECTRIC LIGHT PARADE - SUNDAYS AT SUNSET

Windward Plaza 1501 Ocean Front Walk Venice. Join the Magic of the Venice Electric Light Parade Every Sunday Night! Looking for a unique and vibrant way to end your weekend? The Venice Electric Light Parade (VELP) is here to light up your Sunday evenings! Founded by Marcus Gladney, this family-friendly weekly event celebrates community, creativity, and safe cycling. Bring your LED-lit bicycle and join us for an unforgettable ride along the iconic Venice Beach. Details: When: Every Sunday evening. Meet 45 minutes before sunset. Where: Windward Plaza, Venice Beach. Who: Open to everyone! Bring your bike, lights, and good vibes. Cost: FREE to join! Experience the magic of glowing bikes, amazing sound bikes playing great music, and the welcoming energy of the Venice community. The parade follows a strict no-smoking or drinking policy, ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for all. Why Join? Connect with old and new friends. Celebrate the artistic and cultural spirit of Venice. Enjoy a safe and fun environment for all ages. So, light up your ride, bring your friends, and join us this Sunday at Windward Plaza. Don't forget to turn on your lights and practice safe cycling at night! Let's ride into the sunset together! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/venice-electric-light-parade-sundays-at-sunset/14970341/2026-06-07T00>

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