

Gary Limjap
(310) 586-0339

In today's real estate climate ...
Experience counts!
garylimjap@gmail.com www.garylimjap.com

COLDWELL BANKER REALTY
CalRE # 00927151

3 **Unmuted**
We are not blameless.

4 **Lions Roar**
A sad parting.

5 **Birthday wishes**
106 years young.

7 **New Support**
For foster youth.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 147 WEDNESDAY 6/18/25 smdp.com

Council debates Santa Monica Boulevard safety amid calls for bolder changes

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

Changes are coming to Santa Monica Boulevard to address safety but what and when are still up for debate.

Santa Monica City Council members received a comprehensive safety study last week revealing 435 injury crashes over the past decade on Santa Monica Boulevard, while debating whether proposed improvements go far enough to address the city's Vision Zero goals.

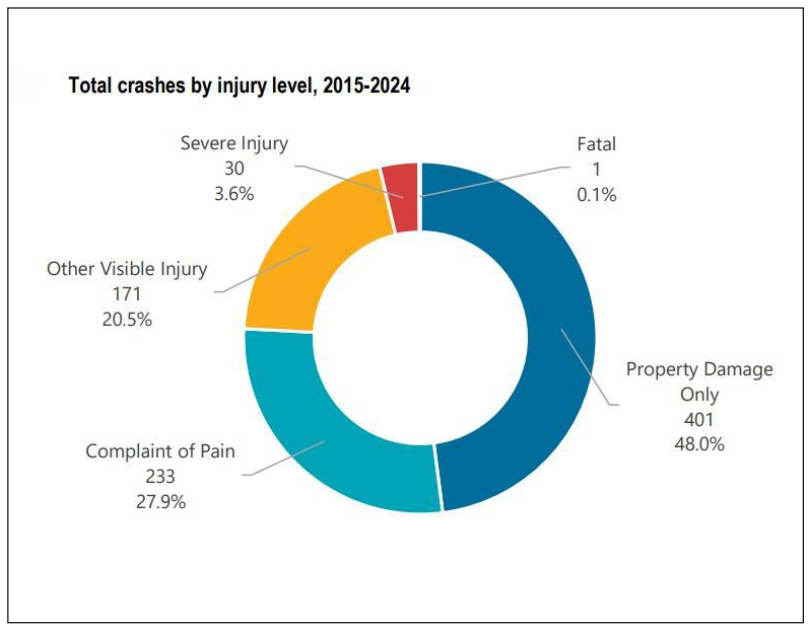
The study, funded by a $522,327 Caltrans grant, analyzed the 2.4-mile corridor from Ocean Avenue to Centinela Avenue and found that right-of-way violations were the primary cause of crashes. One fatality occurred during the 10-year period at 18th Street, with pedestrians overrepresented in serious injury crashes despite accounting for only 11% of all incidents.

"Young people are overrepresented in crashes, while older adults constitute a large percentage of pedestrian-related crashes," said Carlos Hernandez, a transportation planner with the city's Department of Transportation, presenting the findings to council.

The analysis revealed that 83% of crashes occurred at intersections, with injury severity highest at unsignalized intersections where side streets have two-way stops. Speed data showed drivers regularly exceed limits, particularly on the eastern end where 85th percentile speeds reach 35-49 mph in a 30 mph zone.

City staff proposed three

SEE **BOULEVARD** PAGE 11



Courtesy image

DANGER: Officials want to make Santa Monica Blvd. safer.

Santa Monica Landmarks Commission denies historic status for 1912 Craftsman home

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica Landmarks Commission voted 4-3 Monday night to deny landmark designation for a 1912 Swiss chalet-style Craftsman residence at 308 Alta Avenue, citing extensive alterations that commissioners said compromised the building's historic integrity.

The property owner, Aleese Orr, had sought landmark protection for what she called "the last of its kind" in Santa Monica, making an emotional plea to commissioners during the public hearing.

"We feel truly fortunate to call this remarkable house our home," Orr told the commission. "While we plan to live out our days as its caretakers, we need the city's help

SEE **LANDMARKS** PAGE 8



Courtesy image

308 ALTA AVENUE: Aerial view of 308 Alta Avenue (outlined in red), looking east. Source: Google Maps, 2025, edited by Page & Turnbull

State files price gouging charges against Beverly Hills Realtor

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

A Beverly Hills real estate agent has been charged with price gouging after allegedly increasing prices of rental properties by more than 30% following the Palisades Fire.

California Attorney General

SEE **CHARGES** PAGE 11



TAXES
ALL FORMS, ALL TYPES, ALL STATES
BACK TAXES • BOOKKEEPING • SMALL BUSINESS
SAMUEL B. MOSES, CPA
(310) 395-9922
100 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1753 • Santa Monica 90401

Buy Local SANTA MONICA
buylocalsantamonica.com
Support your community!

FINDING A NEW DENTIST IS TOUGH!!!
(BUT WE MAKE IT EASY!!!)

YOUR CHOICE

If you don't like what we have to say we will give you a copy of your x-rays at no charge

DENTAL CARE WITHOUT JUDGEMENT!

WE OFFER UNIQUE SERVICES

*Nitrous Oxide available
*No interest payment plans
*Emergencies can be seen today
*Our dentists and staff members are easy to talk to

TRY OUR NO OBLIGATION
$20 EXAM INCLUDES FULL XRAYS
*Offer to non insured patients

OR

TRY OUR NO OBLIGATION
$99 EXAM AND CLEANING
For New Patients
INCLUDES FULL XRAYS
*Offer to non insured patients

AND OF COURSE WE DO
• Invisalign • Periodontist on Staff • Oral Surgeon on Staff
• Cosmetics and Implants • Zoom bleaching • and more

SANTA MONICA FAMILY DENTISTRY
DR. ALAN RUBENSTEIN
1260 15th ST. SUITE #703
(310) 736-2589



WWW.ALANRUBENSTEINDDS.COM

SANTA MONICA, WE LOVE YOU TOO!!

Thank you for voting us a top 3 Most Loved Business!
Can't wait to serve you soon!



TAVERN - ON - MAIN

2907 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405
www.tavernonmainsm.com | @tavernonmainsm | 310.392.2772

Fundraiser for local youth











Courtesy photos

GOLF: The Police Activities League held its annual golf tournament fundraiser this month. City officials and supporters came out for a day on the links and organizers said the next opportunity to support PAL will be the Annual Poker Tournament on Sat. September 20th at the Moose Lodge.



OPINION **UNMUTED**

Devan Sipher

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

We are not blameless

Mayor Lana Negrete began the City Council meeting last week by acknowledging the unrest in Los Angeles. She affirmed the Council's support for anyone frightened by federal actions, and she clarified that Santa Monica is in no way responsible for those actions.

But that's not exactly true.

To Santa Monica's credit, the Council has been steadfast in its support of immigrants, and Councilmembers past and present have devoted effort to making the city more equitable as well as sustainable. Santa Monica is in many ways a bastion of liberal principles, resulting in Donald Trump receiving only 18% of the votes last November, significantly less than he received even in the cities of Los Angeles (27%) or New York (30%).

Yet the President's Homeland Security Advisor and the primary architect of the administration's crackdown on immigrant rights is a Santa Monica native, Stephen Miller, and I don't believe that's entirely a coincidence.

Those liberal principles, which have resulted in rent control, bike paths, and water conservation among many other praiseworthy objectives, don't represent intrinsic human values but political values. In a city with one-party rule, it's easy to consider the two concepts interchangeable. But they're not.

I actually agree with many of the objectives of the city's leadership. What I object to is the hubris—and the antagonism it incites. According to Newton's third law of motion, for every action there's an equal and opposite reaction, meaning that when you exert force on an object, that object will exert an equal force back in the opposite direction. What's true for physics is also true for politics, because when people are pushed, they push back.

Which brings me back to Miller. All accounts suggest that he started pushing back against the liberal Santa Monica establishment at an early age, and it seems to be the foundation of his political identity. Why the great-grandson of refugees is determined to prevent other refugees from reaching this country's shores, is a question for his conscience, if he has one. But it's not entirely surprising that someone whose ancestors faced life-threatening persecution would be susceptible to feeling victimized, and unfortunately it's not unusual for someone who identifies as a victim to become a victimizer.

He has now set his sights far beyond Santa Monica as he implements his plan for mass deportations. At the No Kings rallies on Sunday, the outrage was directed at the President, but it was Miller's policies that speaker after speaker denounced. At the Santa Monica event, Mayor Negrete delivered heartfelt words about the value of immigrants, and each of the Councilmembers echoed her sentiments, speaking passionately and (much to their credit) pithily. Only Councilmember Dan Hall stuck to the original topic of the protest, riling up the crowd with bellicose brio in an impressive speech lambasting the monarchical impulses of the President: "Don't you dare wrap yourself in the flag while wiping your ass with the rights it stands for."

But as the crowd roared its approval, I found myself wondering if we resort to fighting fire with fire, will we end up with anything more than scorched earth? It's much easier to point fingers than to look in the mirror—or a Samohi yearbook. Miller was still a student there when he attempted to shock people with quasi-racist statements like "Am I the only one who is sick and tired of being told to pick up my trash when we have plenty of janitors who are paid to do this?" His juvenile, misanthropic remarks may have seemed almost humorous at the time, but who's laughing now?

"The Daily Show" often ridicules Miller, making jokes at his expense while depicting him as a vampire or some other demonic entity. But if he's a monster, then he's our monster. He was created in a laboratory of progressive idealism, with a city that prides itself on its empathy becoming the crucible of his cruelty. Surely, there were many factors in his evolution as a partisan warrior, and perhaps some people are born angry. But as a city and as individuals, we need to always remember that actions have reactions.

Devan Sipher can be reached at Unmuted.SMDP@gmail.com

GET IT DAILY...



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **64.4**

WEDNESDAY
FAIR

SURF: 2-3ft
Thigh to waist

Nothing great, but first in series of S'erly swells keep many SoCal breaks rideable to fun. There isn't a single swell in this run that looks remarkable but overlapping SSW to SW swells will be running for something to at least cruise on (waist high'ish) for average breaks, while top spots west of Dume push chest-high. Still enough windswell sticking around for at least semi-peaky surf. Looks like a clean start, but there is potential for some funky E wind along the points in the morning. W PM onshores add some lump west of Dume, keep points clean.

THURSDAY
FAIR

SURF: 2-3ft
Thigh to waist

Watching for modest to potentially fun bump of SSW/SW swell for the 26th-28th timeframe. Mid-range models are in good agreement on storm development east of New Zealand through the middle of the week. Not the best storm position as it'd be in the Tahiti/French Polynesia shadow, taking a chunk out of size/consistency. Early sizing estimates call for knee-waist high surf at average breaks in Southern Ventura, North LA and most spots in OC and SD. Top spots in OC will be in the chest-shoulder high range. We'll slowly refine the details over the next several days.

Weather

Wednesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 73.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 62. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy, with a high near 72.
Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 62.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2025/06/18	Wed	02:29 AM	4.04	H
2025/06/18	Wed	09:25 AM	0.56	L
2025/06/18	Wed	4:29 PM	4.64	H
2025/06/18	Wed	10:48 PM	2.00	L
2025/06/19	Thu	04:04 AM	3.52	H
2025/06/19	Thu	10:14 AM	1.00	L
2025/06/19	Thu	5:10 PM	5.18	H
2025/06/20	Fri	12:05 AM	1.17	L
2025/06/20	Fri	05:42 AM	3.26	H
2025/06/20	Fri	11:04 AM	1.42	L

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: 6/16
17 21 23 27 52
Power#: 19
Jackpot: 101 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 6/13
8 10 22 40 47
Mega#: 1
Jackpot: 280 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 6/14
7 8 30 35 39
Mega#: 4
Jackpot: 17 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 6/16
2 8 18 34 36

Daily 3
Draw Date: 6/16
EVENING: 7 4 0
Draw Date: 6/16
MIDDAY: 6 6 9

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 6/16
1st: 06 - Whirl Win
2nd: 02 - Lucky Star
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:42.12

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Devan Sipher,
Miles Warner.

CIRCULATION
Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Scott Snowden
scott.snowden@smdp.com
Maaz Alin
maaz@smdp.com

LEGAL ADVERTISING
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

MARKETING & ADVERTISING MANAGER
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com
Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

2219A Main St Santa Monica, CA 90405
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

AWARD WINNER

Sustainable Quality Awards
WINNER

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.

PUBLISHED BY NEWLON ROUGE, LLC

© 2023 Newlon Rouge, LLC, all rights reserved.

Santa Monica Daily Press

City of Santa Monica

SANTA MONICA RENT CONTROL BOARD
PUBLIC NOTICE

Please take notice that at its regular meeting of June 12, 2025, the Santa Monica Rent Control Board amended regulation 11200 subdivision (b) to increase the annual registration fee from $228 to $240.

These changes will become effective by promulgation the day after publication in the newspaper.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
ORDINANCE NUMBER 2816 (CCS)
(CITY COUNCIL SERIES)

AN EMERGENCY INTERIM ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA PERMITTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS (ADUS) AS PART OF PROJECTS UTILIZING SENATE BILL (SB) 1123 ON VACANT PARCELS ZONED FOR SINGLE-UNIT RESIDENTIAL RESIDENTIAL

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2816 (CCS) prepared by the Office of the City Attorney:

On September 19, 2024, Governor Newsom approved Senate Bill 1123 (SB 1123) which is available for applicants to use as of July 1, 2025. Primarily, SB 1123 expands upon prior State law (SB 684) to allow a parcel zoned for single-unit residential to be ministerially subdivided to up to 10 parcels. This Emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance was presented pursuant to prior City Council direction to return with an ordinance to allow ADUs in conjunction with projects utilizing SB 1123. In order to ensure that ADUs are available as an option for applications filed as of July 1, 2025, and for reasons explained in the Ordinance and staff report dated June 10, 2025, the ordinance was approved as an Emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance.

The Ordinance was adopted on June 10, 2025, and it became effective immediately upon its adoption. The Ordinance will expire 60 days after adoption, unless extended by the City Council in accordance with Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 9.46.090(C).

The full text of the above Ordinance is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica. Phone: (310) 458-8211.

INSIDE
THE DAILY PRESS
PODCAST
smdp.com/pod
ALSO AVAILABLE ON

LIONS ROAR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com



Courtesy photo

LIONS: Pictured l to r Jamie Lopez, Derrick Beerensteyn and Stephanie Cruz.

The Santa Monica Pacific Palisades Lions meeting for June was filled with a sad parting and exciting hope for the future when we heard from two Santa Monica High School students.

Lion Capt. James stopped by at the meeting before getting ready to head to his new posting in Northern California. While he had only been with us for a few short years, he became an integral part of our club. It is because of the outstanding job he did in Santa Monica, from helping recover from the pandemic and providing a resource following the Palisades Fire he has been reassigned. We wish him well and look forward to meeting the new Salvation Army leadership coming to Santa Monica.

The highlight of the evening was meeting the two Santa Monica High School SMPP Lions scholarship recipients, Stephanie Cruz and Jamie Lopez. Both have attended SAMOHI for four years, excelled in their studies and been active in the campus activities.

Stephanie is one of six siblings and became a member of the Hispanic Honors Society. She dedicated herself to her high school experience participating in Gift Hope, Latinx/Chicanx Club, Spanish Immersion Club, and the RBG Project to help students interested in college and need help navigating the unfamiliar process. In addition, because of her interest in social media, she shared her skills to the help Legado Latino Club and was the social media manager of the Orgullo Oaxaqueno Club and the College Career Center. She was a wonderful speaker and will be attending UC Santa Barbara in the fall to study communications.

Jamie has also been active as a member of the RBG Project, Latinx/Chicanx Club, Young Collegians and as a part of the social media team for the College/Career Center. Also, a good speaker, we were surprised to learn that she had originally been afraid of public speaking. She shared that public speaking didn't come naturally to her at first, but with support from the RBG Project and her advisor, she built the confidence. Jamie plans to attend Pepperdine University to study psychology.

Both young women were accompanied by their mothers, who as we learned from their daughters, are remarkable as well, with their encouragement, support and sacrifice.

Coming up for the SMPP Lions are the 4th of July Parade in Santa Monica and the 4th of July Celebration in the evening at Paul Revere Middle School. We are participating in both activities and hope to see many of you.

The following week, District Governor Nick Mananghaya will join us to install next year's club officers and share his plans for the new term. Our 2025–2026 executive officers are:

Co-Presidents: Pam Andrews and Derick Beerensteyn, Vice President: Kathy Boolen, Secretary: Gail Litvack, Treasurer: Jessica Cunza

If you'd like to learn more about the SMPP Lions Club, join us at our next meeting on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at 6:00 PM, at the Elks Lodge (1040 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica). Dinner will be catered by Teddy's. RSVP by contacting Kingsley Fife at 310-367-2679 or smpplionsclub@gmail.com.

Santa Monica woman celebrates 106th birthday after decades of global teaching



Courtesy photo

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Virginia Stephenson turned 106 last week.

Virginia Stephenson marked her 106th birthday Thursday with a luau celebration at her Santa Monica senior living community, capping a life that took her from the Southern California Gas Company to pulpits around the world.

Born June 19, 1919, in Los Angeles, Stephenson spent more than four decades traveling internationally as one of five teachers selected by spiritual leader Joel Goldsmith to spread his message of "The Infinite Way," a Christian Science-based philosophy.

Stephenson's spiritual journey began in 1951 when she completed formal training in Christian Science. After she and her husband Arthur built a home in Pacific Palisades in 1953, she became active in the local Christian Science congregation, serving on the board of directors for their new church construction and later as Sunday school superintendent.

Her teaching career expanded beyond Pacific Palisades to include Bible lessons in San Diego, Hawaii, San Francisco, Portland, Seattle and Chicago. In 1965, she opened a study center on Wilshire Boulevard in Santa Monica focused on biblical mysticism.

Stephenson retired from active teaching in 2004 and lived in Hawaii before moving to Brookdale Ocean House in Santa Monica in 2023 to be closer to her son John and his wife Sandra. She also has a daughter.

Despite some hearing challenges, Stephenson remains active and independent. She reads lips, uses a cellphone and attends weekly Shabbat services at her residence. Staff at Brookdale Senior Living say she is the second-oldest resident across all their communities.

The Thursday celebration included friends, family and neighbors at the senior living facility where Stephenson has become known for her participation in sing-alongs and advocacy for people with hearing difficulties.

Stephenson worked at Southern California Gas Company before dedicating her life to spiritual teaching and extensive travel that defined her career for decades.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

GAS PRICES IN SANTA MONICA

MOBIL	731 Santa Monica Blvd	$4.99
SHELL	1802 Cloverfield Blvd	$4.99
CHEVRON	1819 Cloverfield Blvd	$5.29
CHEVRON	432 Wilshire Blvd	$4.99
SHELL	1866 Lincoln Blvd	$4.89
SPEEDWAY EXPRESS	2555 Lincoln Blvd	$4.39
CHEVRON	1732 Lincoln Blvd	$4.73
ARCO	332 Pico Blvd	$4.39
CHEVRON	1330 Santa Monica Blvd	$4.99
SINCLAIR	1944 Pico Blvd	$4.59

*Prices paying in card

Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have fallen 5.3 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $4.57/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 24.0 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 18.3 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has increased 4.0 cents in the last week and stands at $3.488 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at $3.83/g while the most expensive was $5.69/g, a difference of $1.86/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was $3.03/g while the highest was $8.20/g, a difference of $5.17/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 1.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $3.08/g. The national average is down 9.5 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 32.7 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Voted one of Santa Monica's Most Loved Pilates Studios for five consecutive years.



ANDREA WHITE
PILATES
andreawhitepilates.com

LiveWell
DENTISTRY

THANK YOU SANTA MONICA!
We're honored to be winners of Santa Monica's Most Loved Dentist.
Your trust and support mean the world to us — we couldn't have done it without you!



Come see why Santa Monica smiles with us!

CALL OR VISIT US ONLINE TO
SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT! - EASY ONLINE BOOKING
(310) 828-2440 | www.livewell.dentist |
2730 Wilshire Blvd Suite 100, Santa Monica, CA 90403

COMMUNITY NEWS

Santa Monica

Big Blue Bus Reaffirms Commitment to Rider Privacy Amid Immigration Enforcement

Big Blue Bus officials announced the transit system does not collect information about passengers' immigration status or travel destinations following recent federal immigration enforcement actions in the region.

The Santa Monica-based public transportation service emphasized its commitment to maintaining an inclusive system where all riders and employees feel welcome and safe, according to a statement released by the agency.

"We are guided by our fundamental values of equity, access, and reliability," the statement read. Officials said the system celebrates contributions of immigrants and refugees to the community alongside the diverse ridership that depends on Big Blue Bus services daily.

The transit authority encouraged passengers to familiarize themselves with their rights while using public transportation. Resources are available through the LA County Office of Immigrant Affairs' Know Your Rights Resource Hub.

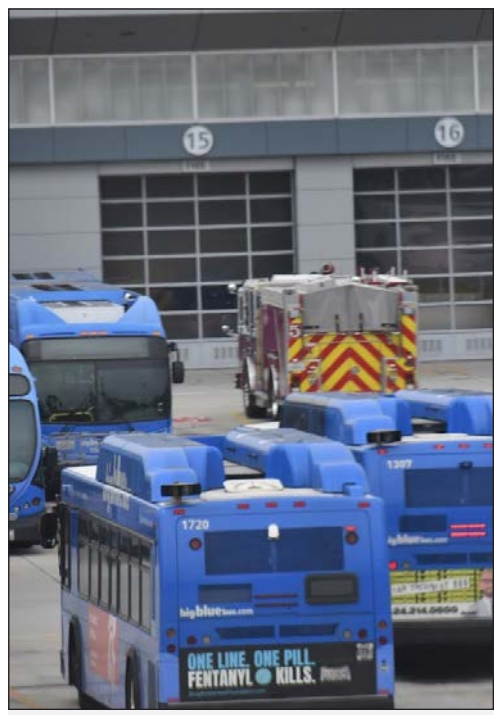
The city of Santa Monica has outlined its commitment to protecting all residents at santamonica.gov/safeathome.

Big Blue Bus serves the Santa Monica area and connects to regional transportation networks throughout Los Angeles County. The system operates multiple bus routes linking residential areas to employment centers, educational institutions and commercial districts.

The statement comes as immigration enforcement activities have increased in various parts of the country, prompting local governments and service providers to clarify their policies regarding data collection and cooperation with federal authorities.

Transportation officials stressed that maintaining rider privacy remains a core principle of public transit operations. The agency said it will continue operating under policies that prioritize accessibility and safety for all community members regardless of background.

The transit system thanked riders for their continued trust and emphasized its mission to provide transportation services "with dignity and respect."



Courtesy photo
BIG BLUE BUS: Big Blue Bus officials announced the transit system does not collect information about passengers' immigration status or travel destinations.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

Los Angeles

LA County Moves to Accelerate Bicycle Safety Improvements

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has approved a motion to speed up implementation of the county's Bicycle Master Plan by requiring safety improvements to be included in routine road maintenance projects.

Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath's motion directs county officials to create an ordinance mandating that pavement preservation projects performed by LA County Public Works include improvements outlined in the updated Bicycle Master Plan and Vision Zero Action Plan. The measure prioritizes roadways where pedestrians and cyclists face the greatest risk.

"Protecting people where they move most – at street level – is how Los Angeles County will build safer communities," Horvath said. "Accelerating implementation of the County's Bike Action Plan begins that work and helps to realize our Vision Zero goals."

The motion addresses a significant implementation gap. Since the Bicycle Master Plan was adopted in 2012, only 22 percent of proposed bikeways have been completed. The new approach requires safety improvements to be integrated into ongoing roadwork rather than creating separate standalone projects.

County Chair Pro Tem Hilda L. Solis co-authored the motion, citing consistent concerns from First District residents about traffic safety, particularly for bicyclists and pedestrians.

"This motion is a critical step toward equity, accountability, and the streamlined implementation of the County's Bicycle Master Plan and Vision Zero Action Plan," Solis said.

The urgency is underscored by recent statistics. From Sept. 1, 2024, to present, 28 pedestrians and one cyclist have been killed on streets in unincorporated LA County, with 62 pedestrians and cyclists seriously injured.

Mark Pestrella, director of LA County Public Works, said the motion reinforces the county's commitment to safety and equity in transportation planning. The measure also mandates quarterly progress updates and creation of a public data portal to track implementation of improvements, adding accountability through transparency.

The initiative follows similar programs in Los Angeles, Seattle and Cambridge, Massachusetts. It builds on Horvath's September 2024 motion that directed Public Works to develop a prioritization methodology scoring mobility and safety improvements based on equity, connectivity and safety needs.

County Public Works is currently updating the Bicycle Master Plan with an estimated release date near year's end.

For more information about the safer streets initiative, visit https://lindseyhorvath.lacounty.gov/safer-streets-vision-zero-la-county/. Details about the Bicycle Master Plan update are available at https://pw.lacounty.gov/tpp/bmp/.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

COMMUNITY NEWS

Los Angeles

Board Approves Program for Young Foster Children

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has unanimously approved a motion to create a specialized countywide program supporting young children in foster care and their families.

The Young Children in Care Birth to Five Program will provide trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate services to the county's most vulnerable children from birth to age 5, according to Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath, who authored the motion with Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell.

"Every young person deserves to grow up safe, supported, and loved. No child should fall through the cracks—especially not those at their earliest stages of development," Horvath said.

The motion directs the Department of Children and Family Services to develop the operational program, including staffing and budget plans, outcome metrics, program structure and collaboration strategies with community partners and individuals with lived experience.

Children under 5 represent a disproportionately high percentage of foster care detentions and face greater risk of negative outcomes, including fatalities, according to county data. African American children under 5 are especially impacted, with significantly higher foster care detention rates than other groups.

"This is a critical step in advancing the well-being of our County's youngest and most vulnerable population," Mitchell said.

The department has already developed what officials call a first-in-the-nation policy, launched staff training cohorts and established groundwork for a specialized consultation framework. The program will expand these efforts countywide.

Brandon T. Nichols, director of the Department of Children and Family Services, said the birth-to-5 age range requires special attention.

"The time between birth and age five is an important developmental stage for children and calls for close observation and thoughtful care," Nichols said. "Little ones cannot fully communicate their experiences, feelings, needs or wants, which is why we are thrilled to now have professionals across agencies who will focus exclusively on this vulnerable age group."

The motion calls for collaborative analysis of service gaps and strengths with First 5 LA, the Department of Public Health, the Office of Child Protection, the Office of Education and other community partners. These findings will inform a community-wide needs assessment and strategic recommendations.

A written progress report on development and recommendations will be submitted to the board in 120 days.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

West Hollywood

Zbur Names JQ International as 2025 Nonprofit of the Year

Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur has selected JQ International as the 2025 Nonprofit of the Year for California's 51st Assembly District.

The West Hollywood-based organization was recognized Wednesday during the State Assembly's annual California Nonprofits Day celebration. Founder and CEO Asher Gellis represented JQ International in Sacramento.

"JQ International is a powerful force for acceptance and community," said Zbur, who serves as Democratic Caucus Chair. "Their work uplifts and supports LGBTQ+ Jews and their allies—not only in my district, but across California and beyond."

Founded in 2004, JQ International works to strengthen and celebrate the lives of LGBTQ+ Jews and their allies through community connection, education and advocacy programs. The organization hosts Shabbat dinners, Jewish holiday celebrations, youth leadership initiatives and virtual support groups.



Courtesy photo

RICK ZBUR: Rick Chavez Zbur has selected JQ International as the 2025 Nonprofit of the Year.

All programming is grounded in Jewish values, particularly Pikuach Nefesh, the imperative to save a life, according to the organization.

JQ International reaches more than 13,000 LGBTQ+ Jews and allies annually through direct services, events and educational programming. The organization provides cultural competency training for Jewish institutions, community organizations and schools nationwide to help foster inclusive environments.

The group's annual JQ Impact Awards recognizes champions of LGBTQ+ inclusion and leadership within Jewish life.

"It was a true honor representing JQ at this year's California Nonprofit of the Year Awards," said Gellis. "We are deeply grateful for the continued support from Assemblymember Zbur and his team and incredibly proud to be recognized as the 51st District's California Nonprofit of the Year."

Gellis said the recognition affirms the impact of the organization's work and inspires continued service to the community.

Each year, California Assembly members select nonprofit organizations from their districts to honor during the statewide celebration, which recognizes the contributions of nonprofit organizations across California.

Zbur represents the 51st Assembly District, which includes parts of Hollywood, West Hollywood and surrounding areas in Los Angeles County.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Thank you for voting us your Most Loved Tires & Auto Parts/Repair Service business in Santa Monica!

1117 Santa Monica Blvd. • Santa Monica, CA
Mon - Fri 8AM - 5:30PM | Sat 9AM - 2PM
310.393.0767

Thank you to our loyal customers for voting us a Most Loved Santa Monica vendor 12 years in a row



Where Real nutrition and Innovative baking come together
Everything we offer is 100% sourdough! We specialize in delicious breads, chips, bagels, & pizza crust!
*Gluten Friendly • No Fat, Sugar, Dairy or Yeast added
• Serving this community for over 30 years.

All handmade, featuring our original recipes and locally sourced ingredients.

Bezian Bakery

www.bezianbakery.com

*Our products are very low in gluten and are suitable for almost everyone with gluten intolerance except those with celiac disease.

FIX YOUR CREDIT CONSULTING

Better Credit.
Better Life.

We are a top rated and fully bonded credit repair consulting company. We are extremely aggressive and also teach you how to maintain good credit. After reviewing your credit report, our Credit Consultants determine a customized fee based on your situation.

5 stars on yelp



Give Us A Call Today! **(877) 212-2450**
fixyourcreditconsulting.com



COMMUNITY NEWS

Beverly Hills

Beverly Hills Councilmember Named 2025 Yom HaShoah Honoree

Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur recognized Beverly Hills Councilmember and former Mayor Lester Friedman as his 2025 Yom HaShoah Honoree for his commitment to public service, Holocaust remembrance and fighting antisemitism.

Friedman, whose parents survived the Holocaust, has dedicated his career to carrying forward lessons from one of history's darkest periods. His parents, Saul and Bella Friedman, survived the Radom ghetto, forced labor camps and Auschwitz before emigrating to the United States and settling in California.

"Lester Friedman embodies the spirit of resilience, remembrance, and hope that Yom HaShoah calls on all of us to honor," Chavez Zbur said in a statement. "As a son of Holocaust survivors, Lester has carried forward the legacy of his parents — fighting antisemitism, building community, and working tirelessly to make California a better place for all of us."

The recognition came as Assemblymember Dawn Addis, representing the California Legislative Jewish Caucus, presented Assembly Concurrent Resolution 59 recognizing April 28 as California Holocaust Memorial Day. The bipartisan resolution had every assemblymember as a co-author.

"In passing the bipartisan resolution with each assemblymember being a co-author, the California State Assembly has once again shown that it is a leader in the fight against antisemitism," Friedman said. "Thanks to the Legislative Jewish Caucus for raising the awareness of the oldest form of hate in the world — antisemitism."

Friedman has served two terms as Beverly Hills mayor from 2020-2021 and 2024-2025, and continues as a city councilmember. Following the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks in Israel, he led the city in hosting a public Shabbat table, supporting a temporary memorial installation and initiating plans for a permanent memorial honoring attack victims.

Outside politics, Friedman has practiced workers' compensation law for more than 40 years. He has served as official scorer for the UCLA men's basketball team since 1996 and is a father of four and grandfather of six.

Friedman's selection as Assembly District 51's Yom HaShoah Honoree reflects his lifetime of service rooted in historical memory and the commitment to "never again."

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

LANDMARKS

FROM PAGE 1

to protect it beyond our time on this earth. It is the last of its kind in our seaside city. Please vote to preserve it for the next generation."

The denial followed a heated debate over whether the property retained sufficient architectural integrity after major renovations in 1993 and 2021 that added 2,200 square feet and significantly altered the front facade.

Commissioner Pam O'Connor argued the changes were too extensive, saying the building lost its original "lightness" and now has "a ponderous front elevation" after porches were enclosed and additions built.

"If you look at the 1983 [version] which is closer to the original, you see there's a lightness about the volume of the house," O'Connor said. "Now you look at the current version 2024, it's a ponderous front elevation because they filled in the porch side with volume, with structure."

Commissioner Jack R. Hillbrand, an architect, agreed the alterations were too significant. "The front elevation no longer has that feeling of integrity of the Swiss chalet style," he said, noting that authentic Swiss chalet structures feature exposed wood as "an integral expression."

However, the property found support from Chair Amy Green and Commissioner Dolores Sloan, who argued the changes weren't overwhelming and that some alterations should be expected over time.

"I find that the changes to the facade are not quite as overwhelming as it's been described by other commissioners," Green said. "I expect over this time that there will be some changes in alterations made to fit changes in aesthetic tastes."

A significant portion of the debate centered on whether the home's association with mathematician Merrill Flood justified landmark status. Flood lived at the property from 1950 to 1954 while working at the RAND Corporation, where he co-developed the famous "Prisoner's Dilemma" game theory concept.

Commissioner Sloan strongly advocated for designation based on Flood's contributions. "Game theory is so basic to so much that we that modern achievements and moving forward in history has been associated with," she said. "He was a pioneer in game theory... and he was connected with the Research Foundation across the street, and so very much a part of our city."

However, city staff and other commissioners questioned whether Flood's work was sufficiently connected to the specific property. Staff planner Stephanie Wright noted that while Flood was important, his "important work" was not "somehow related to the property."

Commissioner O'Connor argued that even if a building has historical significance through a notable resident, "it still needs to retain its architectural integrity."

The property, located in the former Palisades Tract, was originally designed as one of only a few Swiss chalet-influenced Craftsman homes built in Santa Monica. City staff hired preservation consultants Page & Turnbull, who concluded the property "does not retain sufficient integrity" for landmark designation.

The consultants found that the 1993 renovations, which enclosed an open porch, altered window patterns, and added seamless additions, eliminated key characteristics that defined the architectural style. Staff noted the additions were designed to be "seamless," which violates historic preservation standards requiring visual differentiation between old and new construction.

Robert Chattel, representing the property owners, argued the rarity of Swiss chalet examples in Santa Monica—only three others were identified—justified "accepting a greater degree of alterations."

The commission's decision can be appealed to the Santa Monica City Council. The property owners purchased the home in 2019, outbidding developers who planned to demolish it, and have invested significantly in restoration work.

The denial reflects ongoing tensions in Santa Monica between preserving historic character and allowing property modifications in one of the nation's most expensive real estate markets.

maaz@smdp.com

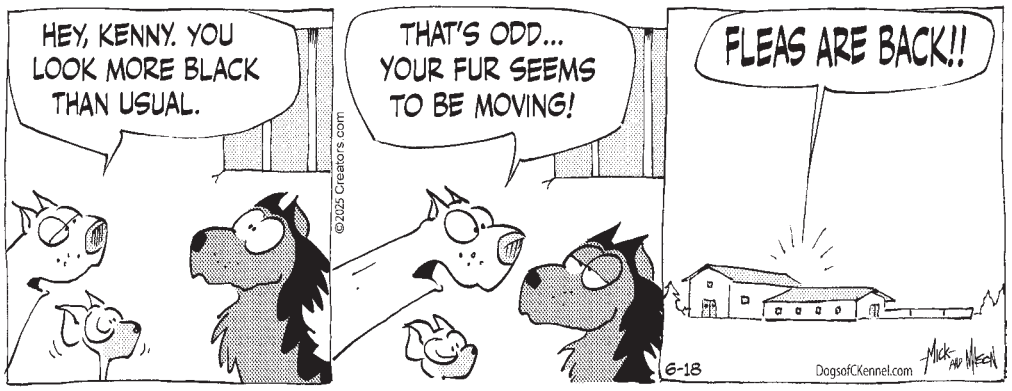
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"HEATHCLIFF, YOU'VE DONE IT AGAIN."

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 22 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6610

Northern Rivers drawcard

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

Arts
Cafe
Colour
Cowper
Dairy
Drought
Escarpments
Famous
Farm
Gaol
Gibraltar
Heat
Heritage trail
Highway
Hiking
Iluka
Industry
Inns
Lilac
Museum
Open
Osprey
Parks
Rich
River
Secluded
Southgate
Sunset
Susan Island
Trenayr
Valley
Vast
Welcome
Woolgoolga
Yamba

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Afternoon tee-off

Covering the city by the bay since 2001.
To advertise, email cindy@smdp.com or call 310.458.7737
smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 18)

Accomplishments run the gamut this year because your passion is at times a blazing fire, and other times a focused beam. More highlights: You thrive in groups and teams. Shared goals energize you, turning collective effort into success for all. You'll also experience the return of someone dear, large checks and the steady rise of your creative power. Aquarius and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 6, 21, 18 and 30.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're in a mirror maze of sorts today, performing to your own reflection, inviting people to see what you want seen while controlling the angles. Even vulnerability may seem stylized, and it's entirely your call. You'll drop the guard when good and ready.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Don't worry about doing the logical thing. It's fascinating when you don't make sense. People will never totally understand or know everything about you. How could they? That's the beauty of it - be the mystery.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Hit pause. It will allow for truth to surface. A rest in the action will invite clarity, trust and connection that activity would only have disrupted. Not knowing what to do next means you're ready to listen to the universe and get on board with a grand plan.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You need the group support for something today, and you will get it, creating just the thing that will have everyone leaning in. Your boldness works first, and subtlety will work later when attention has already been secured.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). A stress-free life isn't the goal. Some stress is fuel. You're facing hard work, but it's doable, and you're fully capable. Remember, you have choices. You're not stuck. You can pivot, pause or try another way whenever you need.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When your mind feels overloaded, getting everything onto paper helps you see what's really there. It might feel chaotic at first, but you can declutter your thoughts by writing them down. Once it's visible, it's manageable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your emotional intelligence is evident in the way you handle relationships. You never stop building trust or being engaged at a meaningful level. Keep asking better questions, reflect and give the answers time to form.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). How things should be does matter, but what you can do about it matters more. It's too soon to tell though. Keep studying and seeking a deep understanding of how things are. The move is "no move." Instead, watch and listen.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). To keep from falling into patterns of communication that verge on lazy or boring, just remember, there are hundreds of ways to relate to the people in your life, and as long as you're coming from love, all will be well.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Finishing will be harder than starting. You've got rhythm, focus and a strange kind of support on your side. Someone's odd way of caring will land just right. The best way to give back is just to complete the mission.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Learning isn't just about accumulation - it's about timing. You'll hear something today that only clicks months later, when life gives it context. Forcing comprehension too early can distort or flatten the insight. But letting it simmer? That's how meaning deepens.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Partnership opens doors and balances your strengths. You're especially good at meeting others halfway - negotiating with grace, staying curious and finding solutions that feel fair to everyone. People feel seen around you, and that makes good things happen.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

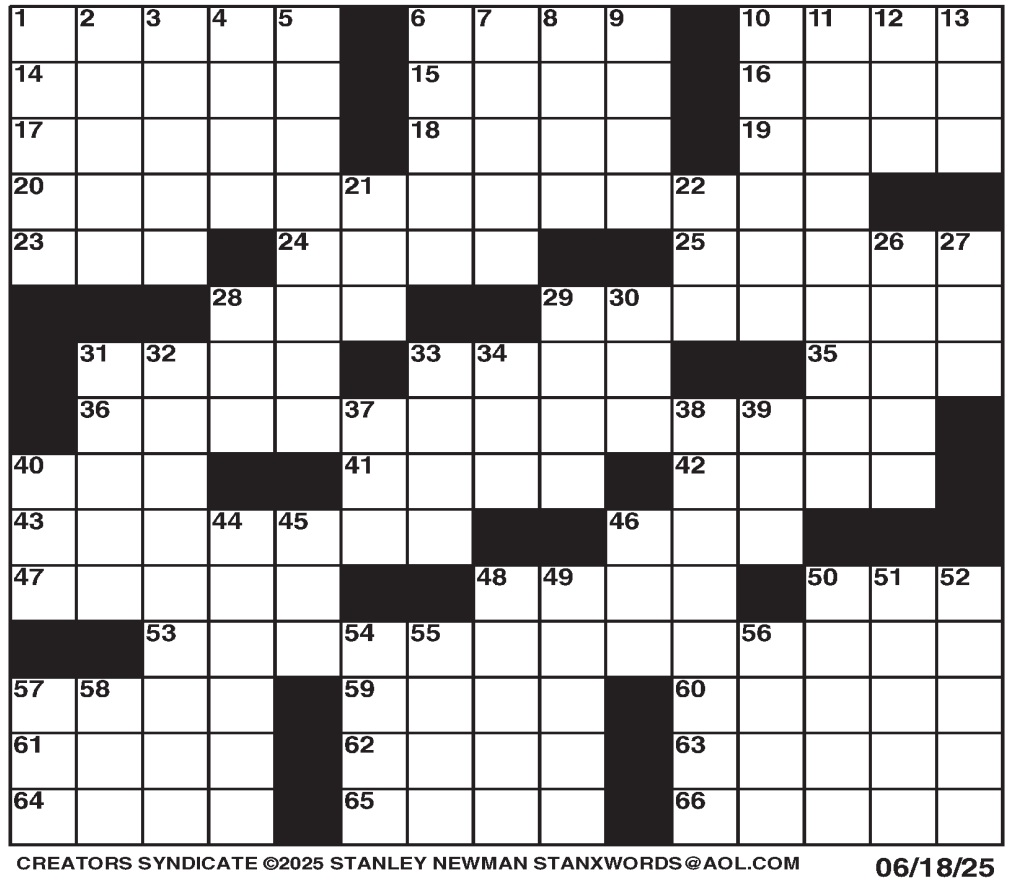
TAKE YOUR CHANCES by Prasanna Keshava
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Muscular twinge
6 Feeling happy
10 Firm hold
14 Acknowledge silently
15 Short skirt
16 Senior citizens advocate
17 Parcel out
18 FBI operatives
19 Podium device
20 Quarter-tossing chance
23 Flash-drive port
24 Sit down for a bit
25 Lower than
28 Lower a lawn
29 Paper-folding craft
31 Three in German
33 Designer Chanel
35 Sgt. or Cpl.
36 Cube-throwing chance
40 Spanish aunt
41 Slightly, in music
42 "That makes sense now"
43 Frankfurters, informally
46 Meat in an omelet
47 With regard to
48 British title below duke
50 __ Moines, IA
53 Card-taking chance
57 Influence unfairly
59 "You know how __"
60 Discontinue
61 Pastureland measure
62 Parcel (out)
63 Wild West Show structure
64 Affirmative votes
65 __ butter (cosmetics ingredient)
66 Refine, as metal

DOWN

1 Major mix-up
2 Opinion surveys
3 Speak off-script
4 DVD player button
5 Auto lubricant
6 Exams for would-be MBAs
7 Easy to lift
8 Poker payment
9 Hockey puck's shape
10 Video arcade activity
11 Native American weather-changing ritual
12 Annoy
13 Set of safety wear: Abbr.
21 Not very many
22 Parisian affirmative
26 Host an event
27 __ de Janeiro
28 Gibson or Brooks of film
29 *Cuatro* doubled
30 Sushi eggs
31 Towels off
32 Driver's emergency illumination
33 Corporate money mgrs.
34 Nonprescription: Abbr.
37 __ for (select)
38 Language variants
39 "School of thought" suffix
40 __ la la
44 Real estate listings
45 Tolkien monster
46 Royal initials
48 Submit to the IRS online
49 Far from shore
50 Window curtain
51 Three-legged stand
52 Sugary
54 Is just joking
55 Texter's "Then again..."
56 Consider to be
57 Sheep's remark
58 Frost-covered



CREATORS SYNDICATE ©2025 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM

06/18/25

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

BOULEVARD

FROM PAGE 1

categories of improvements: systematic changes like consistent pavement markings and right-turn-only restrictions from side streets at 13 unsignalized intersections; concept-level plans for 15 focus intersections; and transit improvements including relocated bus stops and potential bus-only lanes.

Key intersection improvements would include pedestrian scrambles at 6th, 5th and 7th streets, new crosswalks with flashing beacons at locations like 10th Street, and pedestrian refuge islands on the wider eastern segment. Staff noted that left turns and through movements from side streets represent only 1-2% of vehicle movements but account for 80% of injury crashes at unsignalized intersections.

However, several council members and public commenters argued the proposals don't adequately address fundamental safety issues.

"Speed is the problem here," said public commenter Eli Gil, contrasting Santa Monica's $120 million police budget with "few million" for mobility improvements. He cited Hoboken, New Jersey, which has had no traffic deaths in seven years, challenging the council to show "political will" and "do something big" rather than just "talk a good game."

Council Member Jesse Zwick questioned why the study didn't consider reducing travel lanes, noting that wide multi-lane streets like Santa Monica Boulevard are "treated like highways" by drivers. He pressed staff on engineering solutions to reduce speeds, particularly on the eastern portion where current speeds are "alarming."

"When I look at streets like Wilshire, Lincoln, San Vicente, Santa Monica Boulevard... they're all really wide. They have multiple lanes of traffic moving in the same direction, and they're all basically treated like highways as a result," Zwick said.

Council Member Dan Hall advocated for transforming the eastern section into "a boulevard with a great streetscape like we have on Broadway or San Vicente with a median" to reduce lanes and slow traffic while creating a clearer entrance into Santa Monica.

Mayor Pro Tem Caroline Torosis pressed for consideration of "significant tradeoffs" like reducing travel lanes or parking to create a "truly multimodal space."

Public commenter Connor Webb criticized the proposals as a "copy-paste" from Wilshire Boulevard improvements, which he described as still "hostile and dangerous" for pedestrians. He urged the council to direct staff to include "raised intersections and raised crossings" and noted that wide lane widths of 13-20 feet "begs for drivers to speed."

The study's transit analysis found that bus-only lanes could be implemented on the eastern segment from 26th Street to Centinela Avenue, extending planned Los Angeles County peak-hour bus lanes. However, implementing bus lanes further west would require removing travel lanes due to the narrower street profile.

Staff emphasized that the proposed improvements are designed not to preclude future bus-only lanes and that systematic intersection changes would address the specific crash patterns identified in the data analysis.

The project will continue with community engagement through a summer open house before returning to council for final adoption in February 2026. Implementation would require additional grant funding and follow a phased approach similar to the Wilshire Boulevard safety improvements.

Council unanimously approved receiving the study and providing direction to staff for further refinement of the recommendations.

maaz@smdp.com

CHARGES

FROM PAGE 1

Rob Bonta announced the filing of charges against Iman Eshaghyan for price gouging two families who were evacuated in the wake of the Pacific Palisades Fire in a press release.

According to Bonta's office, the investigation by the California Department of Justice revealed that after the Emergency Order was in place, the defendant increased the rental price by over 30% — including to tenants who eventually signed a lease. These increases exceeded the 10% limit laid out in Penal Code section 396. The charge carries a potential penalty of a $10,000 maximum fine and the possibility of 12 months in jail.

"Today, we've announced another price gouging charge, this time against a real estate agent for price gouging two families in the wake of the Pacific Palisades Fire. Profiting off Californians' pain though price gouging is illegal and I will not stand for it," said Attorney General Bonta. "I urge current or prospective tenants to share their stories directly with local authorities like the LA City Attorney or LA District Attorney, or our office by visiting oag.ca.gov/LAfires or calling our hotline at (800) 952-5225."

Bonta's office has sent more than 750 warning letters to hotels and landlords accused of price gouging following the Southern California wildfires, according to the state Department of Justice.

The DOJ has opened investigations into price gouging, fraud, scams and unsolicited low-ball property offers during the state of emergency, working with district attorneys, city attorneys and other law enforcement partners.

Under California Penal Code Section 396, sellers generally cannot charge more than 110% of their pre-emergency prices during a state or local emergency declaration. For items first sold after an emergency declaration, prices cannot exceed the seller's cost by more than 50%.

The law covers food, emergency supplies, medical supplies, building materials, gasoline, repair services, emergency cleanup, transportation, freight, storage, hotel rooms and rental housing. Exceptions exist when businesses face increased costs for labor, goods or materials.

Violators face up to one year in county jail and fines up to $10,000. Civil penalties can reach $2,500 per violation, plus injunctive relief and mandatory restitution.

Californians can report suspected price gouging at oag.ca.gov/LAfires or by calling (800) 952-5225. The attorney general recommends including screenshots of communications, pricing information, contact details for businesses or landlords, and any documentation showing price histories.

A current list of price gouging restrictions is available at https://www.caloes.ca.gov/office-of-the-director/policy-administration/legal-affairs/price-gouging/.

editor@smdp.com



WEDNESDAY | JUNE 18

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET - WEDNESDAY MARKET
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Downtown Santa Monica Arizona Avenue (Between 4th & Ocean) Santa Monica. One of the largest grower-only Certified Farmers Market in Southern California and a favorite for local chefs! Enjoy one of Santa Monica's farmers markets, widely considered to be among the best on the west coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheeses, and more. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/downtown-farmers-market-wednesday-market/12382446/2025-06-04T08

FRIENDS OF VENICE LIBRARY: YOGA FOR EVERYONE!
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Venice Branch Library 501 S Venice Blvd. Venice. Through body awareness, movement, and breath, you will be guided on how to bring your body, mind, and spirit back into balance for overall well-being. All levels are welcome. Generously funded by the Friends of Venice Library. 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/friends-of-venice-library-yoga-for-everyone-/14548476/2025-06-04T12

THURSDAY | JUNE 19

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 20

DRUNK THEATRE: THE WILDEST IMPROV COMEDY SHOW!
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse 1211 4th St, Santa Monica. A comedian takes five shots of whiskey in a row and tries to perform an improvised play with five sober comedians. What could go wrong?! Drunk Theatre is the entirely improvised, unpredictable, and crazy comedy show that'll kick your weekend into overdrive. Reserve your spot now as limited seating and space is available. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/drunk-theatre-the-wildest-improv-comedy-show-/15793351/2025-06-20T08

46TH ANNUAL SMC STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. SMC's Pete & Susan Barrett Art Gallery 1310 11th Street Santa Monica. Don't miss the outstanding imagery featured in this annual juried exhibit of works by SMC photography students. Note: The exhibit fills both SMC's Pete & Susan Barrett Art Gallery (at the SMC Performing Arts Center) and the SMC Photo Gallery (in Drescher Hall on SMC's main campus). Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/46th-annual-smc-student-photography-exhibition/15956728/2025-06-20T11

THE NIGHT SKY SHOW
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Santa Monica College 1900 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. The Night Sky Show is a short program with the latest news in space exploration and astronomy. The program uses freeware sky visualization tools to show you the constellations planets and deep sky objects in the Southern California night sky. The show will last about 30 minutes followed by a short Q&A when guests can type questions into a chat box. We will answer as many questions as possible. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/the-night-sky-show/14165546/2025-06-20T19

SATURDAY | JUNE 21

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

ART-MAKING IN COMMUNITY FOR HEALING
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 18th Street Arts Center 1639 18th Street Santa Monica. What started as a response to the devastating fires that impacted Los Angeles has evolved into a space for the whole community to process current stressors in our lives and the state of the world. Join us again on Saturday, April 19, from 10am-12pm for a series of community art-making gatherings focused on safety, connection, and healing, entitled Art-making in Community for Healing. These open studio-style gatherings provide space to process our experiences as a community through creative expression, with licensed mental health and trained arts healing practitioners available for support. The final 30 minutes will be dedicated to optional sharing in community. Each gathering is FREE and welcomes participants of all ages and offers a nurturing environment. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/art-making-in-community-for-healing/15431720/2025-06-21T10

UC Master Gardeners at Pico Farmers Market
10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Visit with the UC Master Gardeners at the Saturday Pico Farmers Market. he booth is filled with free advice on how to care for plants, how to troubleshoot a gardening problem, and much more. Free seeds and seedlings are available on a limited basis. Market attendance is subject to change based on weather and holidays. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/uc-master-gardeners-at-pico-farmers-market/13766365/2025-06-21T10





SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY

FREE LITERACY PROGRAMS

Build skills, gain confidence, and achieve your goals — all at no cost.

ADULTS

- Improve reading and writing skills
- Earn a high school diploma and career certificate
- Attend ESL & Citizenship classes
- Learn to use a computer or mobile device

FAMILIES

- Attend storytimes and interactive learning programs
- Check out themed backpacks in English, Spanish, and Amharic

NEED MORE INFO?

(818) 255-8142 | smpl.org
literacy.program@santamonica.gov

CALIFORNIA Library Literacy SERVICES
A program of the California State Library

LEAF
Literacy Education for Adults & Families