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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 148 THURSDAY 6/19/25 smdp.com

2025 tourism summit touts gains and increase in spending, but warns of decline and uncertain trends



Santa Monica Travel & Tourism

PANEL: (L-R) Lauren Salisbury, VP Communications SMTT, Jot Condie CEO CA Restaurant Assc, Rachel Michelin, CEO CA Retailers Assc, Lynn Mohrfeld CEO CA Hotel & Lodging Assc.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Nearly 200 hospitality leaders, city officials and industry partners gathered at the Jonathan Club recently for the 16th annual Santa Monica Travel & Tourism Summit, where speakers highlighted a year of economic resilience while acknowledging the mounting challenges facing the city's visitor economy.

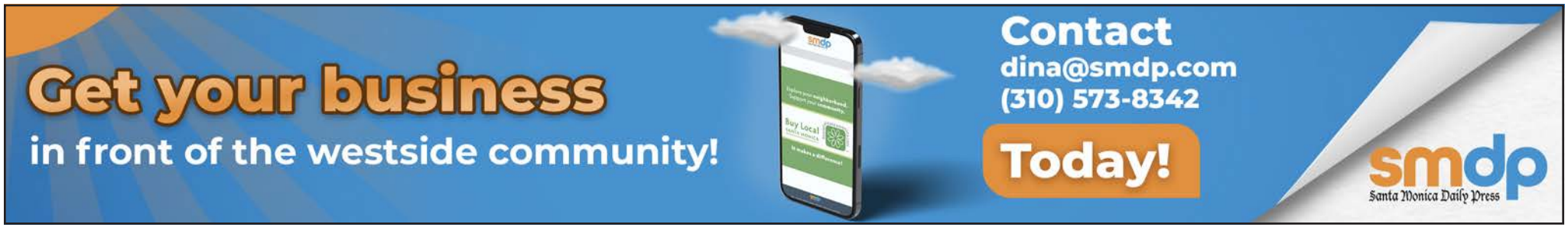
Santa Monica Mayor Lana Negrete opened the event by reaffirming the city's support for tourism, which she called "the lifeblood of our community." Visit California CEO Caroline Beteta followed with a keynote that stressed the need to adapt, saying California's tourism sector is in a "reset" phase and must work harder to maintain its global market share.

"California tourism is a cornerstone of what is now the world's fourth-largest economy," Beteta said, adding, "Santa Monica is an iconic experience that draws visitors from around the globe."

According to Santa Monica Travel & Tourism's (SMTT) annual economic impact report, the city welcomed 4.2 million visitors in 2024. Visitor spending totaled $916.6 million, generating $62.7 million in transient occupancy taxes that feed into the city's general fund. Hotel guests made up only 13 percent of total visitors, but accounted for more than three-quarters of all visitor spending.

Tourism supported 6,487 local jobs last

SEE **TRAVEL & TOURISM** PAGE 6



Central Compounding Pharmacy

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AROUND TOWN

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

So Many Festivals!

SMDP's Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town includes the Main St. Summer Soulstice Festival, 2025 Pride on the Promenade, The Venice Fest, and much more!

Main St. Summer Soulstice Festival: The iconic Summer Soulstice returns with live music, vendors, beer garden, activities for kids & more. Get ready to kick off summer with this FREE, car-free celebration that transforms the street into a pedestrian paradise. Saturday, June 21, 12 - 7p.m. Main St. from Pico Blvd. to the Venice border https://www.mainstreetsm.com/

2025 Pride on the Promenade: Enjoy live music, free swag, games, and more as local orgs + service providers will be out showing love and support. This is a space to celebrate our vibrant identities, uplift one another, and connect with the services that help us thrive! The Entertainment Zone will be fully activated for the first time so kick off the day with a drink from participating businesses starting at 11a.m. Saturday, June 21, 2 - 7p.m., Third St. Promenade https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-pride-on-the-promenade-tickets-1364921178989

Rosé & DJ Party Summer Kickoff at Wally's: Celebrate French National Music Day with a day of rosé, live DJ beats, and the lively ambiance of the French Riviera. Sip your way through a curated selection of Provence and Bandol rosés while enjoying games, giveaways, and more. $45. Saturday, June 21, 3 - 5p.m., 214 Wilshire Blvd. https://www.opentable.com/booking/experiences-availability?rid=1020850&restref=1020850&experienceId=481831

Make Music LA: Multiple neighborhood organizations are participating, including OPA (on the lawn of the Ocean Park Library at 2601 Main St.), Mid City Neighbors (4-8 p.m. at Colorado Center Park at 26th and Broadway), and NOMA (5 -8 p.m. in Palisades Park on Ocean Ave. at Georgina). Saturday, June 21

The Venice Fest: This is your go-to celebration for the first day of summer — a free, all-

SEE **AROUND TOWN** PAGE 8



Setting the tone for a healthier future

Kaiser Permanente is honored to be named Santa Monica's most loved medical office in 2025. We're happy to serve the Santa Monica community and beyond.

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MAIN STREET SANTA MONICA

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PETTY THEFT • RED HOT TRIBUTE • MANNY B. THE KID

HELLO MY NAME IS LANA! • BEAU LEPAIGE • JANE FONDA'S • DJ MOZO

PRESENTED BY LA COUNTY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY HORVATH & MAIN STREET BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION



OPINION **NOTEWORTHY**

Charles Andrews | Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Verdi, Lyle, Shakespeare & Sly



Courtesy photo, LA Opera

OPERA: HUNCHBACK JESTER RIGOLETTO (far R).

R.I.P. TWO GREAT ONES, SLY STONE, BRIAN WILSON

That was from my previous NOTEWORTHY column, and I had to leave it at that because of time and space considerations. They left us within two days of each other, June 9 and 11, both 82. In many ways they couldn't have been more different, but both changed not only music but culture.

A documentary by Questlove, who attended the Q&A, "SLY LIVES (aka THE BURDEN OF BLACK GENIUS)" screened at our gem of a movie palace, The Aero, just two months before Sly's death. Making the release and title several times ironic, since I don't think I was the only one in the audience who didn't know if Sly was still alive. I knew something about him, even saw Sly & The Family Stone once, in a baseball stadium in Albuquerque. But when he emerged in the '60s, there were so many bands doing so many things previously not attempted that it has taken the passing years, at least for me, to fully recognize his innovative thinking. Black and white musicians, and nearly a third of the band was female, his siblings Rose and Freddie were there, Cynthia Robinson played a ferocious and precise trumpet, Larry Graham became a prominent bass player, and in a psychedelic rock soul funk R&B band the drummer was white. We all know of Sly's long list of hits, but this doc drove home the cultural content of his lyrics and stories. Sly Stone was a major civil rights beacon.

Wealth, fame and drugs became major impediments and Questlove documents that part of his story too, in the larger context of "the burden of black genius." This is one of the best documentaries I've ever seen, and I urge everyone to find it and watch. It's about so much more than just music.

As for Brian, I had a fascinating interview (and more) with him for the release of his first solo album in 1988 and bizarre. I may have to devote an entire column to that. After all, he was our Beach Boy, and was the first artist to lend his name to saving our historic Santa Monica Civic.

SORRY

To have deceived you about a new CURIOUS CITY column "Tuesday." But you will see it tomorrow, in the SMDP Weekend edition.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

Last Performance! - VERDI's "RIGOLETTO," LA OPERA – With baritone star Quinn Kelsey in his signature role. "Seduction, murder, revenge - decadence and corruption" – sounds like today's headlines, but with more class, I'm sure, and a better soundtrack. You'll hear some of the most famous music passages ever. Really sorry to have missed this one, between Norway and COVID. But I have no problem recommending it, highly. In nine years, I've never seen LA Opera miss yet. Sat 8 p.m., Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, LA, $59-450.

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

RECOMMENDED:

LYLE LOVETT & HIS LARGE BAND – This is one of those, you're a huge fan, or haven't a clue. My advice is, go, and you will walk away a fan, thank me, and see him every chance you get. You blew

SEE **NOTEWORTHY** PAGE 11



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **64.4**

THURSDAY
FAIR
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Modest S swell continues, touch less windswell in the water. Should still be kinda peaky. Similar to slightly smaller size than Wednesday as a mix of mid-period S and shorter-period NW swell rolls in with broken up knee-waist-chest high surf. Clean morning conditions expected. Afternoon onshores look a bit stronger than Wednesday. Points/beachbreaks with decent inner sandbars seem the best option for the early window.

FRIDAY
FAIR
SURF: 2-3ft
Thigh to waist

Mix of SSW swell and NW windswell is up a notch, for a little more size and peaks. Uptick in a blend of long-period SSW swell and short-period NW windswell, for more widespread waist high+ waves, while top combo breaks west of Dume see shoulder high peaks. Looks like some light sea breeze texture early morning, followed by manageable W onshores in the afternoon.

Weather

Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy, with a high near 70.
Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 62. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Friday: Patchy fog. Otherwise, cloudy, with a high near 70. Light and variable wind becoming southwest 5 to 10 mph.
Friday Night: Patchy fog. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 60.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2025/06/20	Fri	5:52 PM	5.73	H
2025/06/21	Sat	01:07 AM	0.28	L
2025/06/21	Sat	07:12 AM	3.26	H
2025/06/21	Sat	11:54 AM	1.77	L
2025/06/21	Sat	6:36 PM	6.24	H
2025/06/22	Sun	02:01 AM	-0.53	L
2025/06/22	Sun	08:24 AM	3.41	H
2025/06/22	Sun	12:46 PM	2.03	L
2025/06/22	Sun	7:22 PM	6.67	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: 6/16
17 21 23 27 52
Power#: 19
Jackpot: 101 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 6/17
16 23 39 46 55
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: 302 M

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

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 6/17
5 12 19 22 27

Daily 3
Draw Date: 6/17
EVENING: 6 2 1
Draw Date: 6/17
MIDDAY: 0 9 7

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 6/17
1st: 10 - Solid Gold
2nd: 03 - Hot Shot
3rd: 02 - Lucky Star
Race Time: 1:42.23

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

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Santa Monica Daily Press



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

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

Contact dina@smdp.com today!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Citywide

Orchestra Santa Monica Extends Music Director's Contract Through 2030

Orchestra Santa Monica announced that Music Director Roger Kalia will continue leading the ensemble through the 2029-30 season, extending a partnership that began in 2018.

Under Kalia's direction, the orchestra has performed regular sold-out concerts and received widespread acclaim for his conducting talent, creative programming and ability to connect with diverse audiences.

"I am honored and thrilled to continue my relationship with Orchestra Santa Monica for the next five years," Kalia said. "Over the past seven seasons, I've been so proud of what we've accomplished together—from commissioning bold new works to performing beloved masterworks, and collaborating with an incredible range of guest artists across musical genres."

Kalia praised the musicians' versatility and dedication, saying their talent "never cease to inspire me - they really can do it all."

Orchestra Board Member Raymond Knapp said Kalia "has been incredibly responsive to initiatives from us, sensing what we want to accomplish and adding his own vision to enhance our own."

OSM President Fred Scholder expressed his respect for the maestro, noting that "Roger connects wonderfully with our musicians and audiences, and he really makes the orchestra shine."



Courtesy photo
ROGER KALIA: Orchestra Santa Monica announced that Music Director Roger Kalia will continue leading the ensemble through the 2029-30 season.

Founded in 2012, Orchestra Santa Monica's mission focuses on building a community of classical music lovers and making a positive impact through accessible live performances in the classical tradition.

The orchestra's next performance, "Mozart and Gershwin," is scheduled for June 29 at 3 p.m. at the Eli & Edythe Broad Stage, SMC Performing Arts Center.

For more information, visit https://orchestrasantamonica.org.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

FOR QUOTES PLEASE CALL 310-573-8074

or email **cindy@smdp.com**

CLASSIFICATIONS					
Announcements	Pets	Apartments/Condos	Real Estate Loans	Attorney Services	Wealth and Success
Creative	Boats	Rent	Storage Space	Business	Lost and Found
Employment	Jewelry	Houses for Rent	Vehicles for Sale	Opportunities	Personals
For Sale	Wanted	Roommates	Massage	Yard Sales	Psychic
Furniture	Travel	Commercial Lease	Services	Health and Beauty	Obituaries
	Vacation Rentals	Real Estate	Computer Services	Fitness	Tutoring

Notice

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Notice is given that Los Angeles County Public Works is requesting proposals from qualified firms to provide Architectural/Engineering Services, Utilizing Construction Manager at Risk Delivery Method for the Pitchess Detention Center South Renovation Project. The RFP may be obtained at the following link: https://dpw.lacounty.gov/Contracts/aed_rfp/ProjectDetail.aspx?project_id=BRC0000588 or emailed to you by calling (626) 476-0378. Proposals must be received by Public Works by July 15, 2025 by 5:30 p.m. 6/19/25 CNS-3933937# SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

Notice

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Notice is given that proposals for On-Call HCAI Inspector of Record Services for Various County Healthcare Projects (BRC0000577) will be received by Los Angeles County Public Works on June 25, 2025, by 5:30p.m. To access RFP documents, visit the link at https://dpw.lacounty.gov/g eneral/contracts/opportunit ies/aspx. For additional information, call (626) 458-2180. 6/19/25 CNS-3936375# SANTA MONICA DAILY

Notice

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Notice is given that proposals for Request For Proposals (RFP) DesignBuild Services Olive ViewUCLA Medical Center Continuum of Care Facility (BRC0000596) will be received by the County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works, on July 3, 2025 by 5:30 p.m. To access RFP documents, visit the link at https://dpw.lacounty.gov/g eneral/contracts/opportunit ies/aspx . For additional information, call (626) 300- 2330. 6/19/25 CNS-3933914# SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm
LOCATION 1640 5th Street, Suite 218, Santa Monica, CA 90401

COMMUNITY NEWS

DTSM

Tova Capital Acquires Downtown Retail Building for $5

Tova Capital Inc., a Los Angeles real estate investment firm, has partnered with Shopton Capital to purchase a 7,500-square-foot retail building in downtown Santa Monica for $5.5 million.

The single-story building, constructed in 1981, sits on a 15,000-square-foot corner lot at the intersection of Wilshire and Lincoln boulevards. The property features surface parking and frontage along Wilshire Boulevard, which connects the Pacific Ocean to downtown Los Angeles.

> The ability to acquire a free-standing building with surface parking in downtown Santa Monica is rare, especially at such a highly visible signalized corner and at a historically low land basis
> - Ron Harari, Tova's founding partner

The acquisition comes as downtown Santa Monica experiences renewed retail activity following pandemic-related challenges. More than 2,300 multifamily units are under construction in the area, and major retailers including Fogo de Chao, Din Tai Fung and Google have recently signed leases.

"The ability to acquire a free-standing building with surface parking in downtown Santa Monica is rare, especially at such a highly visible signalized corner and at a historically low land basis," said Ron Harari, Tova's founding partner.

The property was 40% leased to Commercial Bank of California at closing. The joint venture plans improvements including new storefront features, exterior lighting upgrades, paint and façade enhancements to attract tenants and stabilize occupancy.

Trevor Chang, principal at Shopton Capital, said the partnership represents an opportunity in a supply-constrained market. "In uncertain markets, the best buying opportunities often surface in generational, supply-constrained locations, which can provide pockets of asymmetric upside," Chang said.

Ally Commercial's Luc Hawkshaw, Eric Mandell and Jeffrey Ahn represented Tova Capital in the transaction. CBRE's Ryan Gurman will handle leasing activities.

Founded in 2017, Tova Capital focuses on value-add commercial acquisitions in Southern California markets, specializing in rehabilitating and repositioning older industrial, retail and office buildings.

Shopton Capital, established in 2021, targets value-add and opportunistic real estate transactions. The firm's principals have over $3 billion in experience acquiring, developing and operating various property types, primarily in Southern California.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

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TRAVEL & TOURISM

FROM PAGE 1

year, and several new retail and hospitality businesses opened, including the Regent Santa Monica Beach, Google Store Santa Monica, Din Tai Fung, Outlandish and SELINE on Main Street. SMTT President and CEO Misti Kerns described the growth as "a sign of confidence in Santa Monica's future."

> The travel industry and the people behind it are a cornerstone of our national, state and local economies
>
> - Misti Kerns, SMTT President and CEO

"The travel industry and the people behind it are a cornerstone of our national, state and local economies," Kerns said. "As our industry faces continued hurdles, I am encouraged by our community's strength to adapt."

Despite the upbeat figures, Beteta warned that international visitation is projected to decline by more than 9 percent this year, driven largely by shrinking demand from Canada and Mexico. In response, Visit California partnered with Expedia on a targeted campaign, offering travel packages in conjunction with more than a dozen Santa Monica hotels. Early performance data showed strong engagement, particularly from Canadians.

"The California brand is strong," Beteta said. "But we have to continue to earn our place."

Santa Monica's emergency services were honored with this year's Jeff King Tourism Champion Award for their response during the January wildfires. Deputy Fire Chief Tom Clemo accepted the award alongside Emergency Operations Coordinator Lindsay Call and members of the Santa Monica Police and Fire Departments. Although the fires never reached city limits, Clemo said local teams mobilized quickly to house evacuees and coordinate logistics across the region.

"There was incredible collaboration," Clemo said. "And that's what you want when disaster strikes."

Tourism consultant Lauren Schlau presented a market analysis that showed while domestic visitation fell in 2024, international tourism surged by 67 percent and now represents 44 percent of total visitors. That group contributed 51 percent of all visitor spending. Hotel occupancy rose slightly to 75 percent, with average nightly rates hovering around $331.

"Hotel guests continue to drive the bulk of the city's tourism revenue," Schlau said. "They stay longer, spend more and support our local economy in ways day visitors typically do not."

Transient occupancy taxes generated nearly $63 million for the city in 2024, helping fund public services including emergency response, park maintenance and homeless support programs. Schlau said the economic outlook is mixed heading into 2025, with global instability, visa delays and increased outbound US travel creating uncertainty. However, she pointed to new hotel developments and retail expansion as signs of confidence in the local market.

Executive chef Vittorio Lucarelli of Shutters on the Beach received the Thelma Parks Spirit Award for his work feeding evacuees and first responders during the wildfires and his continued community service. "It was something that came from my heart," Lucarelli said. His award included a $1,000 scholarship and a Santa Monica staycation package provided by SMTT and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

The Jeff King Tourism Champion Award was presented to Police Chief Ramon Batista, Emergency Operations Coordinator Lindsay Call and Deputy Fire Chief Tom Clemo in recognition of their leadership and coordination efforts during January's wildfire evacuations.

US Travel Association CEO Geoff Freeman, speaking via pre-recorded video, reported a 14 percent decline in international arrivals to the United States in March, followed by an 8 percent rebound in April. He called on federal leaders to improve visa processing and border procedures to support recovery.

The summit concluded with a California-focused panel featuring leaders from the state's restaurant, retail and hospitality sectors. Panelists included Rachel Michelin of the California Retailers Association, Jot Condie of the California Restaurant Association and Lynn Mohrfeld of the California Hotel & Lodging Association. Speakers addressed consumer uncertainty, ongoing labor shortages and the need to reimagine the guest experience in an increasingly competitive landscape.

SMTT also unveiled new priorities from its 10-year Experience Management Plan, including the formation of two new committees focused on Route 66-themed marketing and year-round community engagement. Kerns urged local businesses and residents to get involved and shape the future of tourism in Santa Monica.

scott.snowden@smdp.com



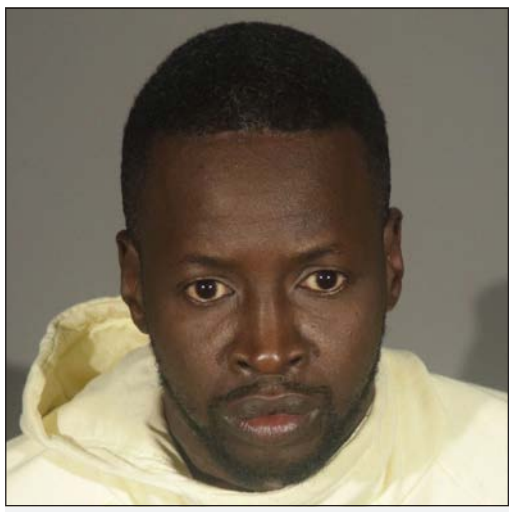
COMMUNITY NEWS

Santa Monica

Elderly woman escapes sexual assault

A 39-year-old Long Beach man has been charged with multiple felonies in connection with the attempted sexual assault of an 84-year-old Santa Monica woman earlier this month.

Pape Tall was arrested June 5 after Santa Monica police officers responded to reports of a woman screaming for help near the intersection of 6th Street and Wilshire Boulevard at approximately 9:30 p.m.



Courtesy photo

ARREST: Pape Tall was arrested on June 5.

Police said the elderly victim reported being grabbed from behind by a male suspect who dragged her into a nearby alley and attempted to sexually assault her. Multiple witnesses corroborated the victim's account and observed the suspect fleeing northbound from the scene.

Officers quickly located and detained Tall near 5th Street and California Avenue.

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office filed charges against Tall on June 9, including kidnapping with intent to commit rape, assault with intent to commit rape, and violation of probation.

Tall had previously pleaded no contest in December 2022 to assault with a deadly weapon, likely to cause great bodily injury. The case stemmed from a violent domestic incident on June 13, 2022. Three additional charges—felony spousal abuse, misdemeanor vandalism, and misdemeanor domestic battery—were dismissed as part of a plea agreement.

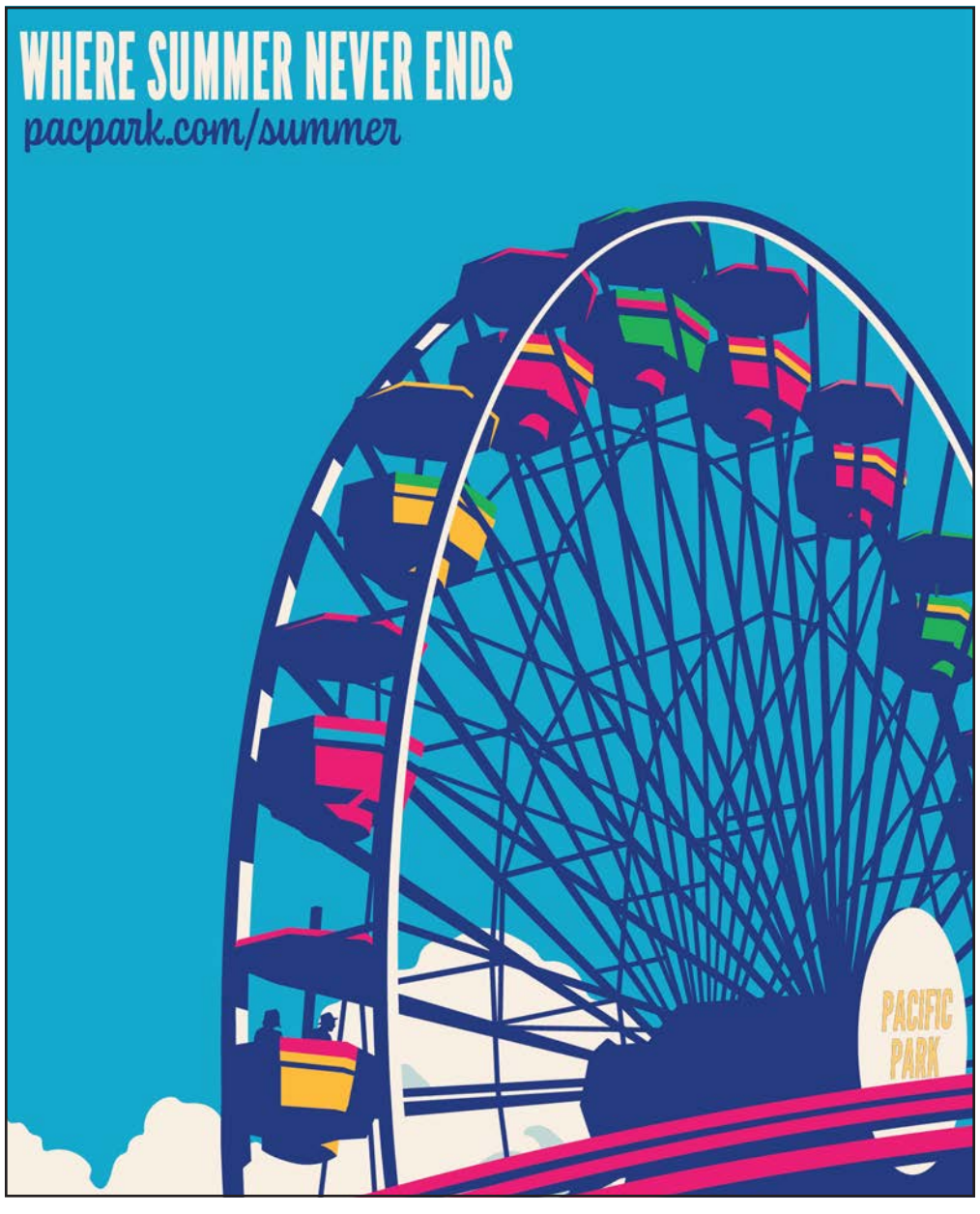
As part of the December 2022 plea, Tall was placed on formal probation for three years. The court's post-disposition proceedings show that probation was revoked following his June arrest in Santa Monica.

Tall remains in custody of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department without bail. He is scheduled to appear in court July 9.

The Santa Monica Police Department is asking anyone with additional information about the incident to contact Detective Maricela Orta at (310) 458-2293, Sergeant Chad Goodwin at (310) 458-8931, or the Watch Commander's desk at (310) 458-8427.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE WESTSIDE CURRENT







AROUND TOWN

FROM PAGE 2

ages community event that brings together the best of the Westside in one unforgettable day. Enjoy live music, outdoor yoga, wellness experiences, local artisan vendors, delicious eats, and good vibes under the sun. Saturday, June 21, 12 - 7p.m., 12257 Venice Blvd. https://www.thevenicefest.com/

Pride on the Pier Dance: With the ocean as the backdrop and the Pier as the stage, this unforgettable event brings together the entire community to celebrate love, unity and the beautiful diversity of Santa Monica's LGBTQIA+ family. A portion of the proceeds from this spectacular event will go directly back into the community, supporting local LGBTQIA+ organizations and initiatives to ensure that the spirit of Pride continues long after the celebration ends. Sunday, June 22, 12 - 8 p.m., Santa Monica Pier https://wl.seetickets.us/event/PRIDE-ON-THE-PIER-SANTA-MONICA/648376?afflky=JustinDavidPresents

Broadway Voices Unite - A Harvest Home Benefit Concert: The event features Broadway and TV stars including Jason Alexander, Rachel Bloom, and Alex Newell, and benefits Harvest Home, a nonprofit supporting homeless pregnant women and their children. Sunday, June 22, 7p.m, Eli & Edythe Broad Stage, 1310 11th St. https://www.tix.com/ticket-sales/tix/4134/event/1424211

The Crow's Family Comedy Show: A comedy show, full of fart jokes and silliness, just for families. Tuesday, June 24, 3 - 4 p.m., Montana Branch Community Room, 1704 Montana Ave. https://www.santamonica.gov/events/4k6jkxzm9t5gv624s4ktchytc9/202506241500

ONGOING: "Two Bit Circus" Pop-Up; LiteBrite Experience; Penmar Sunset Sessions (through 7/18); Night Market at The Bungalow (through 8/28); Wellness & Waves (through 10/11)

WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

Junior Cookies Now Open on Main St.: The beloved West Hollywood bake shop, famous for its fresh, made-to-order bite-size cookies, has officially opened its second location in Santa Monica—moving into the former Sweet Rose Creamery space and offering rotating flavors like Banana Pudding, KitKat Tiramisu, and Salted Almond Chocolate Chip. 2726 Main St. https://www.instagram.com/thejuniorcookies

Brunch at Birdie G's is Back: The menu includes favorites like their matzo ball soup, hangtown brei, bruleed brioche, Birdie burger, and more. Starting Saturday, June 21 https://resy.com/cities/los-angeles-ca/venues/birdiegs

Bottomless Mimosas Saturdays at Edgemar: Every Saturday from 11a.m. -4p.m., they are offering endless mimosas for $19 per hour, plus boozy brunch favorites along with live Music by Chase Hall. 2435 Main St. https://www.instagram.com/edgemar.restaurant

Fitoor Collab with Chef Aarthi Sampath: The NY-based renowned chef, food truck expert, and TV personality is teaming up with Fitoor's Executive Chef Surya Kumar to create a four-course immersive dining experience. Each course will offer guests two dishes - one created by each chef. $105 / person. Sunday, June 22 https://www.instagram.com/fitoor_santamonica/

Wally's Rosé & DJ Party: Celebrate French National Music Day with a day of rosé, live DJ beats, and the lively ambiance of the French Riviera. Sip your way through a curated selection of Provence and Bandol rosés while enjoying games, giveaways, and more. $45. Saturday, June 21 3p.m., 214 Wilshire Blvd. https://www.opentable.com/booking/experiences-availability?rid=1020850&restref=1020850&experienceId=481831

Bay Cities Deli Re-Opens: The deli was abruptly shut down three weeks ago, on May 21, by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health due to multiple health violations, including alleged evidence of a "rodent and insect infestation." Inspectors cited the deli for 13 violation points, 11 of which were classified as major. The closure left loyal customers without access to the popular Godmother sandwich and other Italian staples that have made the Lincoln Blvd store a local institution. https://smdp.com/breaking-news/finally-some-good-news-bay-cities-deli-is-back-open/

How did Pasjoli flip from being a fancy prix-fixe restaurant to reopen as casual in just two weeks? This LA Times report is a play-by-play coverage of the project where Pasjoli reopened this past weekend after a two-week closure meant to reset and rebrand the lauded Main St. restaurant. https://www.latimes.com/food/story/2025-06-12/pasjoli-reopening-behind-the-scenes-story

Further Afield: Miznon Opens at Grand Central Market in Downtown LA: Chef Eyal Shani's celebrated Mediterranean street-food concept from Tel Aviv has opened its first West Coast location, serving its signature stuffed pitas—such as charred cauliflower with tahini, smash-burger-style cheeseburger, and a steak & egg version—alongside non-pita dishes like lamb kebabs and brisket platters. 317 South Broadway, 11a.m. – 9p.m. https://www.instagram.com/p/DJXdOxSyuwl

Looking Ahead: SaMo Chamber of Commerce "Toast to 100 Years" (6/26); Eeeeeatscon (6/28-29); 'Pier 360' Beach Festival (6/28-29); Main St. 4th of July Parade (7/4); Summer Venice Beach Run (7/19)

If there's something you think is worth highlighting, you can reach out directly to me at sean@smdp.com. Let me know if you have any feedback on Around Town: So Many Festivals!



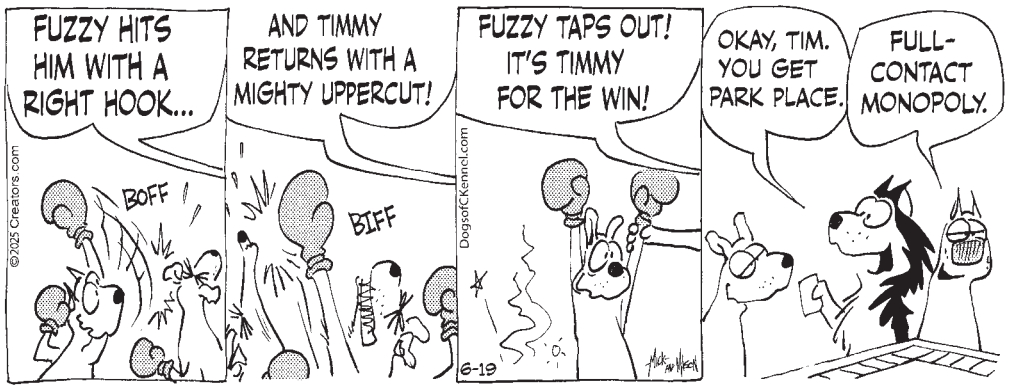
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



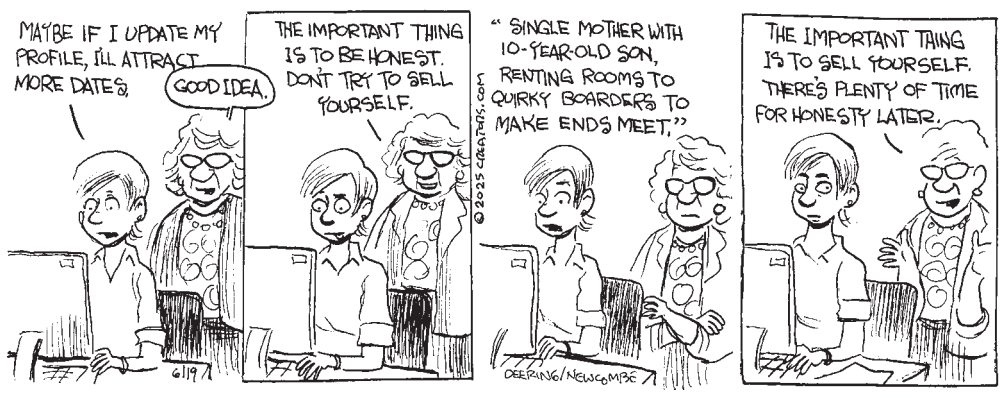
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



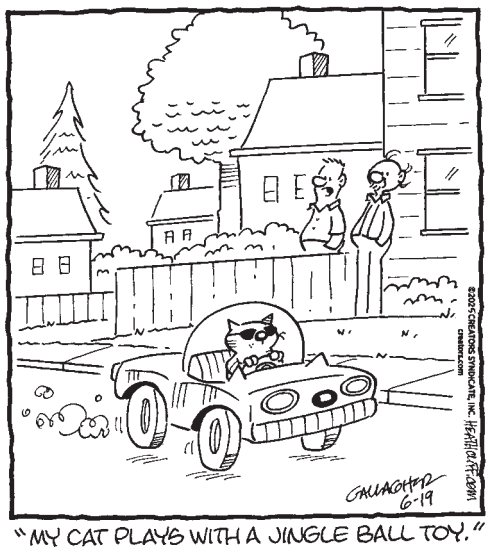
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

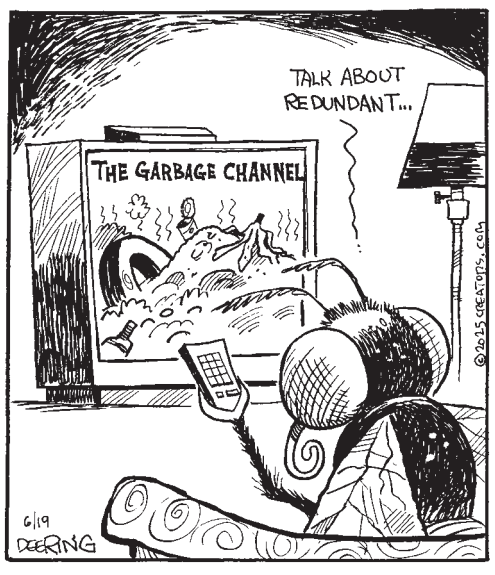
By PETER GALLAGHER



"MY CAT PLAYS WITH A JINGLE BALL TOY."

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 6611

Grocery shop grief

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

Aisle	Crowds	Menu	Search
Asked	Eggs	Olive oil	Shop
Basil	Entree	Onions	Specials
Bins	Fish	Pasta	Spinach
Carrot	Flour	Peanuts	Steak
Chat	Frankfurt	People	Sultanas
Choko	Fruit	Plums	Tags
Cocoa	Garlic	Quiche	Tier
Copha	Groceries	Rissole	Tomato
Costly	Mall	Rush	sauce
Cream	Meat	Sale	Total

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Purple rain in late October

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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 19)

The cosmic gifts keep dropping in, a few a month. You'll receive such things as poetic justice, a long-awaited "yes" and the money to back your next move. More highlights: You'll invest in your education, thrive in tutelage and be as beautiful as the mind you inhabit. You'll add so much specialness to the lives of others, which makes you proud, fulfilled and rich. Capricorn and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 29, 1, 19 and 40.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Distinguish between real and imagined problems so you can handle them correctly. A real problem will be solved with the right action. Research and experiment to figure it out. An imagined problem will be solved with any action at all.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're willing to ask, "In what ways might I be complicit in creating the conditions that I say I don't want?" Your spirit of self-inquiry and personal responsibility will help you notice unwanted behavior or choices and transcend.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You'll move easily through tasks with support that flows naturally. You won't even have to ask for it. Cooperative relationships are a reward you've earned. What you gave with heart now returns to you with grace. Let it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). How do you know you're around someone important to your destiny? The scene sharpens a little. Beauty crystallizes. Time softens. It's all very subtle, and you have to be paying attention to let joy in — which you certainly are today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Courage over avoidance is the motto. You're brave. You're willing to look into truth, even when it's uncomfortable. By exploring the reality of a situation, you'll gain an advantage that helps others, too.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You are a giver. It's not that you're giving too much. It's just that you need to make sure your gifts have a solid place to land — one that won't let them scatter or sink. A fellow earth sign has the grounding to hold your offer.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Being good to yourself isn't always as fun as it could be. Make it fun for yourself today! You'd do that for any friend. When you feel yourself taking things in too-serious a direction, turn on the music, entertainment, treats and the like. Life is a dance!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Yours is a life of substance. So excellence isn't always dramatic, but it's always real. It's in the way you show up and keep things running, tend to ordinary things, give when no one's watching, listen deeply and finish the boring parts of your work.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There are those who say, "I'm here for you" and then, in fact, aren't. Then there are those who just show up. When you spend time with the kind of people who are interested in your thoughts, values and goals, you'll be avoiding the false-advertising type.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Claim peace, relaxation and focus like you deserve it. Do you? Well, there's no cosmic system handing out what people "deserve," so you may as well believe the things that bring ease to your world. Everyone around you will benefit, too.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Familiarity will blind you to what an outsider can see straight away. That's why spending time with strangers is helpful. You'll be reminded how each social combination is a unique highlight and every human interaction is one-of-a-kind.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Healthy relationships and roles require flexibility, yes, but not constant compromise of your core self. If you always feel like you're performing or contorting, that's not growth; it's erosion. Tend to your truth and to those who are a good fit for it.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

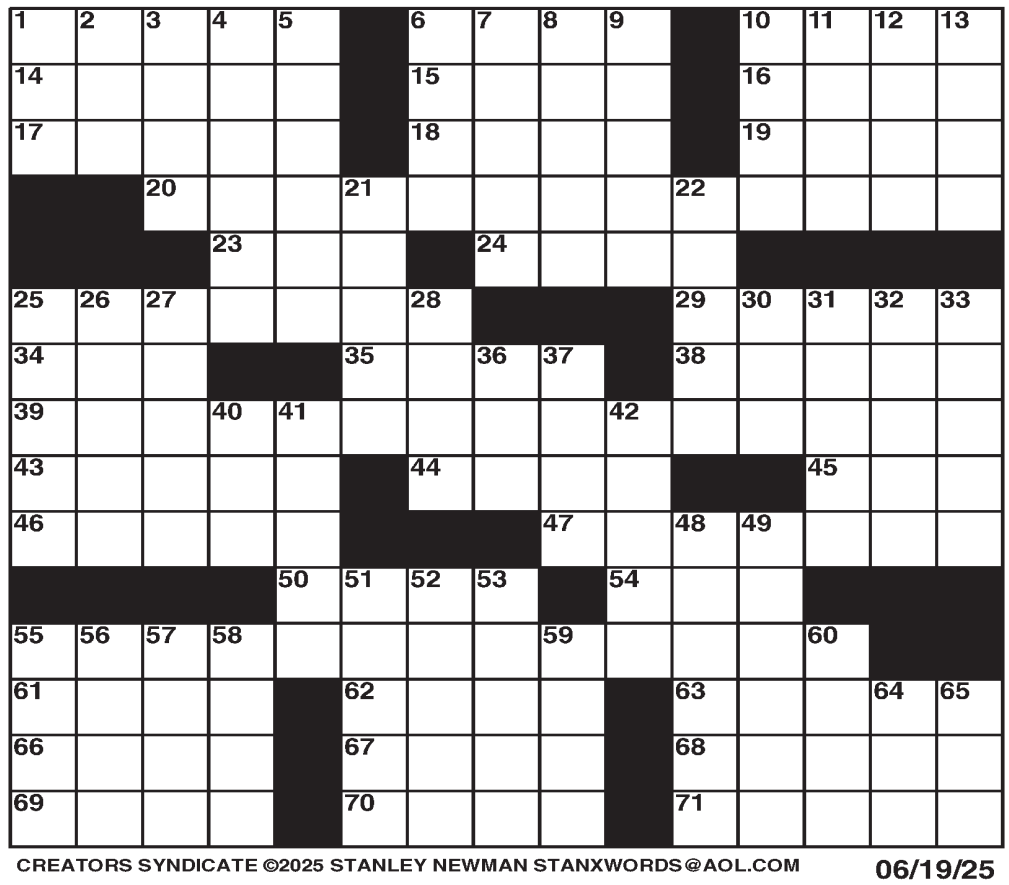
LOWER LEVELS by Steve Faiella
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Low-tech sect
6 Khaki cousins
10 Some donations
14 Conductor's concern
15 Plenty
16 Not made up
17 Provide for permanently
18 Morsel of cheese
19 Prepare to fly
20 Abyss
23 Pond swimmer
24 Move goods
25 Minded moppets
29 Midwestern metropolis
34 Exercise advocacy org.
35 Insurgents, for short
38 Some daycare deliverers
39 Jazz musician
43 Ancient consumer of chocolate
44 Snack chip source
45 Common conjunction
46 Get done
47 Longtime peace advocate
50 Pair of propellers
54 24-hour reporter
55 Meditative practice
61 Well-equipped
62 Zebra's parent
63 Shifts course
66 Brewer's supply
67 Outer area
68 Word-for-word
69 Scopes out
70 Stained, say
71 Get sidetracked

DOWN

1 Filled up on
2 Most Marines
3 Film facts website
4 Hair-raising
5 Bookstore section
6 Fiesta fare
7 Class Notes subjects
8 High-minded
9 Blue hue
10 Philanthropic focus
11 Sudden increase
12 Extra-long nickname
13 Mask part
21 Part of a Wonder Woman costume
22 Playback technique
25 Rum cakes
26 Bedazzle
27 Roasting direction
28 Biblical excerpt
30 Prov. n. of ND
31 Essential ___ acids
32 Wears
33 Nautical prefix
36 Feathery accessory
37 Energetic
40 Decided on
41 Toon Great Dane's nickname
42 Moonshiner's product
48 Kitchen assortment
49 Coming right up
51 Positioned to detect intruders
52 Primed for action
53 Platoon nickname
55 Woman's title
56 Resource for many a collector
57 *La femme*
58 Vet visitors
59 Irate, with "off"
60 Customize
64 NBC originator
65 Untidy place



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06/19/25

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

NOTEWORTHY

FROM PAGE 3

it, Julia. Fri 8 p.m., Orpheum Theatre, $62-195.

THEATRICUM BOTANICUM: "STRIFE" Sat, "MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING" Sun, "A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM" Sun – Hooray and hallelujah, in a summer that is so far looking a bit disappointing for great performances, we can always count on Will Geer's Theatricum Botanicum, outdoors in the Topanga Canyon woods, now in their 50th year. It is one of the very best theatre companies in LA, with a mastery of The Bard and great topical lesser-known but so memorable productions that will stay with you. Even though you have all summer, don't delay. You really don't want to miss any of these (unless maybe you've seen "Misdummer" 50 times).

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

COMING ATTRACTIONS (also recommended): LYLE LOVETT & HIS LARGE BAND, Orpheum, 6/20; PACIFIC OPERA PROJECT's "H.M.S. PINAFORE," Heritage Square Museum Lawn, 6/20, 21, 22; LA OPERA's "RIGOLETTO," Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 6/21; MAKE MUSIC DAY, global, 6/21; THEATRICUM BOTANICUM: "STRIFE" 6/21, 28, 7/5, 13, 20, 8/1, 10, 15, 22, 20 - "MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING" 6/22, 29, 7/6, 13, 20, 31 - "A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM" 6/22, 29, 7/6, 12, 8/14, 20 - "THE SEAGULL: MALIBU" 7/12, 19, 25, 8/3, 8, 17, 24, 28, 9/6, 12, 22, 28, 10/3, 5 - "WINE IN THE WILDERNESS" 8/9, 16, 24, 30, 9/7, 14, 20, 27, 29, 10/5, 12; TOLEDO DIAMOND, Harvelle's, 6/22, 29; HOT CLUB OF LOS ANGELES, Cinema Bar, 6/24; GETTY VILLA MUSEUM reopens, Pacific Palisades, 6/27; DAN NAVARRO, McCabe's, 6/28.

DOWN THE ROAD (also recommended): JOHN FOGERTY, Hwd Bowl, 7/6; Disney, 7/9, 11, 12, 14, 16; ALISON KRAUS, UNION STATION, Greek, 7/13; LIBRARY GIRL, Ruskin, 7/13, 8/10, 9/14, 10/12, 11/9, 12/14; BRAHMS, GRIEG, LA PHIL, Hwd Bowl, 7/17; GERSHWIN, DVOŘÁK, LA PHIL, Hwd Bowl, 7/22; "THE PLANETS,", LA PHIL, Hwd Bowl, 7/24; DAVE ALVIN, JIMMY DALE GILMORE, McCabe's, 7/25, 26, 27. FATHER JOHN MISTY, LUCINDA WILLIAMS, Greek, 7/25; MEKONS, JILL SOBULE, Lodge Room, 7/26; FEMI KUTO, Fonda, 8/8; TEDESCHI TRUCKS BAND, Greek, 8/13; BEN HARPER & THE INNOCENT CRIMINALS, Orpheum, 8/24; FLAMING LIPS, MODEST MOUSE, Greek, 9/4; NEIL YOUNG, Hwd Bowl, 9/15; NINE INCH NAILS, Kia Forum, 9/18, 19; DWIGHT YOAKAM, Greek, 10/1.

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








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Everything for the
Better.™