3 **Mask rights**
During protests.

4 **Park Debate**
Next steps.

5 **Strongman event**
To pull BBB.

7 **Boy Scouts**
Earn Eagle award.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 151 TUESDAY 6/24/25 smdp.com

Officials ask for new protest restrictions alongside budget adoption discussion at tonight's Council meeting

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica's bureaucratic stance against leafblowers advances Tuesday with a new proposal to ban leafblowers from public protests.

The Santa Monica City Council will consider new changes to public assembly regulations, approve federal housing funding and adopt a nearly $800 million budget during Monday's meeting as the city grapples with public safety concerns and fiscal challenges.

The council is set to vote on an emergency ordinance that would significantly expand the list of prohibited items at public demonstrations, adding hammers, frozen water bottles, leaf blowers, traffic cones and A-frame barricades to existing restrictions.

Police Chief Ramon Batista and City Attorney Douglas Sloan recommended the measure following tactics observed during recent Los Angeles protests. According to city officials, demonstrators have used leaf blowers to disrupt tear gas effectiveness and placed traffic cones over gas canisters to neutralize crowd-control measures. Gas powered devices are already banned throughout the city due to noise concerns.

Staff reports document multiple videos from recent downtown Los Angeles unrest showing these

SEE **COUNCIL** PAGE 6



SMDP Photo

CITY HALL: Santa Monica's recent protest was peaceful but officials want to restrict some items out of an abundance of caution.

Two juveniles hospitalized after downtown shooting

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Two juveniles victims were hospitalized with non-life-threatening injuries after being shot while riding as passengers in a Waymo autonomous vehicle late Sunday night near downtown Santa Monica.

The Santa Monica Police Department reported the shooting occurred near the intersection of 2nd Street and Broadway around 11:30 p.m. One child sustained a gunshot wound to the arm and another to the torso. Both victims remain in stable condition at a local

SEE **SHOOTING** PAGE 8

Planning Commission unanimously approves RAND request for more commercial uses of property

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica Planning Commission has unanimously approved a development agreement amendment that will allow the RAND Corporation to expand commercial uses at its underutilized headquarters building at 1776 Main Street, while securing $5.5 million in community benefits for the city.

The amendment enables RAND to sell or lease significant portions of its 326,170-square-foot building for business and professional offices, creative offices, research and development facilities, and ground-floor retail uses. The current agreement restricts the building to "institutional office" use essentially limited to RAND-like entities.

"RAND really is Santa Monica," said Commissioner Nina Fresco, emphasizing the organization's historical significance to the city. "RAND came out of Douglas Aircraft and is really one of the defining moments of Santa Monica today."

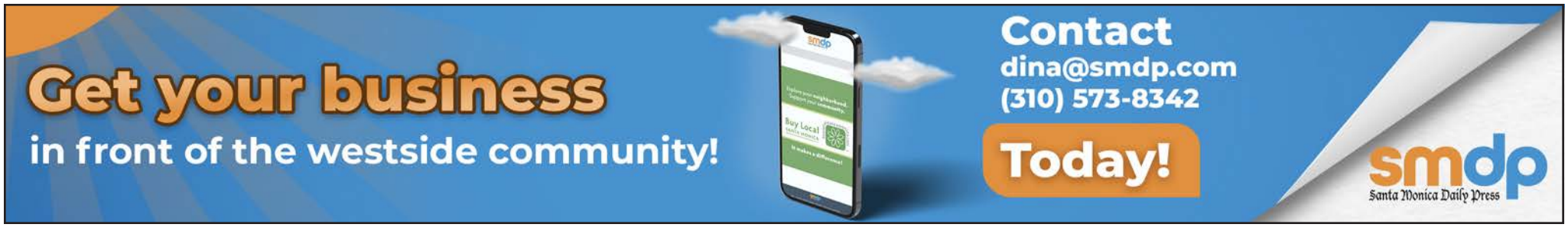
The nonprofit research organization has occupied the five-story building since 2004 under a development agreement that runs until 2055. However, post-pandemic work patterns have dramatically reduced building occupancy, creating what RAND

SEE **RAND** PAGE 8



Courtesy photo

RAND CORPORATION: A development agreement amendment was unanimously approved by the Santa Monica Planning Commission.





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House lawmakers demand answers from Covered California on sending data to LinkedIn



Photo by Adriana Heldiz, CalMatters
INSURANCE: A Covered California Enrollment Center in Chula Vista on April 29, 2024.

Citing an investigation by The Markup and CalMatters, lawmakers in the House of Representatives are questioning why California's state health insurance exchange shared sensitive health data with LinkedIn.

In a letter sent last week to Jessica Altman, executive director of the state's exchange, the lawmakers write they are "deeply concerned about the privacy and security implications" raised by a Markup and CalMatters story published in April.

The story showed through forensic testing how the exchange, Covered California, used trackers that told LinkedIn when visitors entered health information like whether they were blind, pregnant, or used a high number of prescription medications into the website coveredca.com.

The trackers, which operated for more than a year as part of a marketing campaign before being removed, also logged information like whether visitors were transgender or possible victims of domestic violence.

Kentucky Congressman Brett Guthrite, who chairs the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, sent the letter alongside four other Republican lawmakers. "The Committee seeks to understand how such sensitive data could have been transmitted through advertising trackers, what oversight existed to detect or prevent it, and whether Covered California took appropriate steps to protect consumer information," the lawmakers wrote.

The other signatories are Rep. Earl L. "Buddy" Carter of Georgia, who chairs Energy and Commerce's health subcommittee; Rep.

SEE **INSURANCE** PAGE 6

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How covering your face became a constitutional matter: Mask debate tests free speech rights

Many of the protesters who flooded the streets of Los Angeles to oppose President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown wore masks or other face coverings, drawing scorn from him.

"MASKS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED to be worn at protests," Trump posted on his social media platform, adding that mask-wearing protesters should be arrested.

Protesters and their supporters argue Trump's comments and repeated calls by the Republican president's allies to ban masks at protests are an attempt to stifle popular dissent. They also note a double standard at play: In Los Angeles and elsewhere, protesters were at times confronted by officers who had their faces covered. And some U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents have worn masks while carrying out high-profile raids in Los Angeles and other cities.

All of which begs the question: Can something that covers your mouth protect free speech? Protesters say the answer is an emphatic yes. Several legal experts say it's only a matter of time before the issue returns to the courts.

'WHAT DO THESE PEOPLE HAVE TO HIDE, AND WHY?'

Trump's post calling for a ban on masks came after immigration raids sparked protests, which included some reports of vandalism and violence toward police.

"What do these people have to hide, and why?" he asked on Truth Social on June 8.

The next day, Trump raged against the anti-ICE protests, calling for the arrest of people in face masks.

It's not a new idea. Legal experts and First Amendment advocates warn of a rising number of laws banning masks being wielded against protesters and their impacts on people's right to protest and privacy amid mounting surveillance.

The legal question became even more complicated when Democratic lawmakers in California introduced legislation aiming to stop federal agents and local police officers from wearing face masks. That came amid concerns ICE agents were attempting to hide their identities and avoid accountability for potential misconduct.

"The recent federal operations in California have created an environment of profound terror," state Sen. Scott Wiener said in a press release.

Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin called the California bill "despicable."

"While ICE officers are being assaulted by rioters and having rocks and Molotov cocktails thrown at them, a sanctuary politician is trying to outlaw officers wearing masks to protect themselves from being doxed and targeted by known and suspected terrorist sympathizers," McLaughlin said in a statement.

STATE RESTRICTIONS ON MASK-WEARING

At least 18 states and Washington, D.C., have laws that restrict masks and other face coverings, said Elly Page, senior legal adviser with the International Center for Not-For-Profit Law. Since October 2023, at least 16 bills have been introduced in eight states and Congress to restrict masks at protests, the center says.

The laws aren't just remnants of the coronavirus pandemic. Many date back to the 1940s and '50s, when many states passed anti-mask laws as a response to the Ku Klux Klan, whose members hid their identities while terrorizing victims. Amid protests against the war in Gaza and Trump's immigration policies, Page said there have been attempts to revive these rarely used laws to target protesters.

Page also raised concerns about the laws being enforced inconsistently and only against movements the federal government doesn't like.

In May, North Carolina Senate Republicans passed a plan to repeal a pandemic-era law that allowed the wearing of masks in public for health reasons, a move spurred in part by demonstrations against the war in Gaza where some protesters wore masks. The suburban New York county of Nassau passed legislation in August to ban wearing masks in public.

Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost, a Republican, last month sent a letter to the state's public universities stating protesters could be charged with a felony under the state's anti-mask law. Administrators at the University of North Carolina have warned protesters that wearing masks violates the state's anti-mask law, and University of Florida students arrested during a protest were charged with wearing masks in public.

AN UNRESOLVED FIRST AMENDMENT QUESTION

People may want to cover their faces while protesting for a variety of reasons, including to protect their health, for religious reasons, to avoid government retaliation, to prevent surveillance and doxing, or to protect themselves from tear gas, said Tim Zick, law professor at William and Mary Law School.

"Protecting protesters' ability to wear masks is part of protecting our First Amendment right to peacefully protest," Zick said.

Geoffrey Stone, a University of Chicago law professor, said the federal government and Republican state lawmakers assert that the laws are intended not to restrict speech but to "restrict unlawful conduct that people would be more likely to engage in if they can wear masks and that would make it more difficult for law enforcement to investigate if people are wearing masks."

Conversely, he said, First Amendment advocates oppose such laws because they deter people from protesting if they fear retaliation.

Stone said the issue is an "unresolved First Amendment question" that has yet to be addressed by the U.S. Supreme Court, but the court "has made clear that there is a right to anonymity protected by the First Amendment." Few of these laws have been challenged in court, Stone said. And lower-court decisions on mask bans are mixed, though several courts have struck down broader anti-mask laws for criminalizing peaceful expression.

SEE **MASK** PAGE 8



Weather

Tuesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy, with a high near 69. East southeast wind 5 to 10 mph
Tuesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 60. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Wednesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 70.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 61.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2025/06/24	Tue	03:38 AM	-1.53	L
2025/06/24	Tue	10:13 AM	3.71	H
2025/06/24	Tue	2:30 PM	2.26	L
2025/06/24	Tue	8:56 PM	7.07	H
2025/06/25	Wed	04:25 AM	-1.67	L
2025/06/25	Wed	11:01 AM	3.81	H
2025/06/25	Wed	3:21 PM	2.28	L
2025/06/25	Wed	9:42 PM	7.00	H
2025/06/26	Thu	05:10 AM	-1.59	L
2025/06/26	Thu	11:49 AM	3.87	H
2025/06/26	Thu	4:12 PM	2.31	L
2025/06/26	Thu	10:28 PM	6.72	H
2025/06/27	Fri	05:55 AM	-1.33	L
2025/06/27	Fri	12:36 PM	3.94	H
2025/06/27	Fri	5:05 PM	2.36	L
2025/06/27	Fri	11:14 PM	6.27	H
2025/06/28	Sat	06:37 AM	-0.93	L
2025/06/28	Sat	1:22 PM	4.01	H
2025/06/28	Sat	6:01 PM	2.44	L
2025/06/29	Sun	12:01 AM	5.67	H
2025/06/29	Sun	07:18 AM	-0.43	L
2025/06/29	Sun	2:09 PM	4.11	H
2025/06/29	Sun	7:02 PM	2.52	L
2025/06/30	Mon	12:50 AM	4.96	H
2025/06/30	Mon	07:56 AM	0.15	L
2025/06/30	Mon	2:56 PM	4.24	H
2025/06/30	Mon	8:14 PM	2.55	L
2025/07/01	Tue	01:43 AM	4.21	H
2025/07/01	Tue	08:35 AM	0.75	L
2025/07/01	Tue	3:43 PM	4.40	H
2025/07/01	Tue	9:49 PM	2.40	L
2025/07/02	Wed	02:53 AM	3.50	H
2025/07/02	Wed	09:14 AM	1.33	L
2025/07/02	Wed	4:28 PM	4.59	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: 6/21
3 16 32 52 62
Power#: 24
Jackpot: 128 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 6/20
26 49 58 61 63
Mega#: 9
Jackpot: 326 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 6/21
14 19 31 45 47
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 19 M

Fantasy5
Draw Date: 6/22
6 10 13 21 27

Daily 3
Draw Date: 6/22
EVENING: 3 6 6
Draw Date: 6/22
MIDDAY: 8 5 3

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 6/22
1st: 09 - Winning Spirit
2nd: 08 - Gorgeous George
3rd: 11 - Money Bags
Race Time: 1:41.07

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CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that bids will be received by the City of Santa Monica until 3:00 p.m. on the date indicated at which time they will be opened and posted for:

BID #4502 SANTA MONICA PIER STRUCTURAL REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

Submission Deadline is July 28, 2025 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Bids must be submitted on forms supplied by the City of Santa Monica. Bid packages containing all forms, specifications, terms and conditions may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Notice of Inviting Bids and related documents is: OpenGov (https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for bid package and specifications.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed proposals for

RFP: # 453 PLAN REVIEW SERVICES

- **Submission Deadline is August 4, 2025 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is OpenGov (https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca) There is no charge for the RFP package.

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS CALLING FOR BIDS
SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BID: 060925SF HVAC MERV Filters

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named California Community College District, acting by and through its Board of Trustees, hereinafter "the District" will receive up to, but not later than the below-stated date and time, bids for HVAC MERV Filters

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the District bidding website at: https://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=13721#.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF BID PROPOSALS: 07/01/25 by 2:00pm

All Bid Proposals shall be submitted on forms furnished by the District. Bid Proposals must conform with, and be responsive to, the Bid and Contract Documents, copies of which may be obtained from the District as set forth above. Only Bid Proposals submitted to the District via the bidding website, prior to the date and time set forth, shall be considered.

Post Dates: 06/17/25 & 06/24/25

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Next steps, not missteps, towards Santa Monica's Great Park

It's extremely rare that any community ever has a legacy opportunity on the scale that Santa Monica does today.

With 190 acres of public land returning to local control after almost 90 years — once Santa Monica Airport (SMO) officially closes on January 1, 2029 — an incredible Great Park can be created there to address our community's open space and recreation needs — for today and for generations to come.

Santa Monica has long suffered a significant shortage of parks and open space, according to all county, state, and national standards. This is directly experienced by the local sports community, which cannot get sufficient field space; and by the many families who vie for weekend picnic tables and barbecue grills. Fortunately, the large and contiguous SMO parcel would allow Santa Monica to meaningfully address this livability shortage, in a comprehensive, one-time historic manner, and simultaneously enable exceptional park functionality and design.

Indeed, a Great Park on the entire SMO parcel offers the best opportunity to maximize a range of needed community recreational and open spaces. By contrast, reducing the amount of space dedicated to a Great Park would pit such open space uses against each other; and limit our ability to add ecologically-oriented and climate change-responsive elements to our urban environment.

THREAT TO A GREAT PARK?

In 2014 Santa Monica voters passed Measure LC with 60.45%, placing into the City Charter language to "prohibit new development on Airport land, except for parks, public open spaces and public recreational facilities" unless/until there was a future ballot measure otherwise. After LC passed, most Great Park proponents thought the next challenge would be from a 2026 or 2028 ballot measure, sponsored by the aviation industry, to keep SMO from closing in 2029. Such a measure would play upon fears in the community that the SMO land would be used for new development, instead of a park.

Today, some people advocate paving over and developing half the land. They want to build a large housing project, effectively extending Sunset Park into SMO. Paving over much of SMO would irrevocably and exponentially degrade what the remaining park could accomplish. And, according to Santa Monica's most basic urban infill planning principles, embraced for decades, SMO is also exactly the wrong place to add major new density.

For a range of social and environmental reasons, Santa Monica has long prioritized adding new housing along our public transit corridors, and in our downtown and former industrial areas.

By contrast, most of SMO is far from public transit, and from pedestrian-oriented neighborhood markets and community-serving retail — making any new housing development there automobile-dependent. The high cost of new streets, utilities, and water and sewer lines would also need to be added to the already high cost of building new housing, including affordable. This compares poorly to the synergies that new infill housing would realize, where such land use and public transit infrastructure already exists.

PLANNING FOR TODAY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

Not only are the full 190 SMO acres needed to address today's acute open space shortage, but also to balance future population growth.

Santa Monica is already adding new housing density — and will continue to do so for decades. Adding more people will mean the need for even more parks - from more playing fields and recreational facilities, to more barbecues and picnic tables, walking and bike paths, trees, community gardens, contemplative open spaces, and cultural facilities.

Ironically, adding density in the wrong place today would shortchange our ability tomorrow, to provide the needed park space to accommodate current density and future population growth. This is especially the case for the 2/3 of Santa Monicans who are apartment dwellers without private open space.

This will be a core social justice and livability issue for generations.

While housing can be built in many places in Santa Monica - and will be over the next hundred years - it will be virtually impossible for another open space of this size to ever be assembled again in Santa Monica (and probably on the whole Westside). That makes this a once-in-centuries opportunity for Santa Monica to achieve a healthy balance between its open space and housing density.

When the City Council next takes up the matter on July 8, the responsible path is to fully evaluate this open space potential, by making an LC-compliant Great Park the preferred option in the City's Environmental Review process. That way it can be more fully fine-tuned and understood. If later, we want to take from it and do less, we'll know what we would be giving up. But if we don't do our due diligence to fully study it now, we'll be choosing to be ignorant of possibilities.

But there is more.

If the Council doesn't go down an LC-compliant path, we could also lose local control of the land entirely. Read about that real risk next in Part II: "The biggest threat to Santa Monica's Great Park - saying the quiet part out loud"

Michael Feinstein is a former Santa Monica Mayor (2000-2002) and City Councilmember (1996-2004). He can be reached via X/Twitter @mikefeinstein. By Michael Feinstein

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Pier

Strongman to Pull 34,680-Pound Electric Bus at Santa Monica Pier

World-class strongman Martins Licis will attempt to pull a 34,680-pound battery electric Big Blue Bus for 30 feet at Santa Monica Pier on Thursday, June 26, at 8:15 a.m.

The 2019 World's Strongest Man winner and 2022 Arnold Strongman Classic champion will pull the 35-foot-long bus through the pier's parking lot as part of a pre-event program for the upcoming "Pier 360" Beach Festival.

The challenge will feature a Big Blue Bus driver onboard during the pull, showcasing Santa Monica's newly branded fleet of zero-emission buses. The event serves as the official kickoff for the festival weekend.

"The strongman challenge promises an unforgettable display of power, innovation, and spirit," according to event organizers.

The program begins at 8 a.m. with remarks from Jim Harris, executive director and historian of Santa Monica Pier; Mayor Lana Negrete; Anuj Gupta, director of transportation for the City of Santa Monica; and Romark Weis, coach and business partner of the Santa Monica Strongman Classic.

The Big Blue Bus pull is scheduled for approximately 8:15 a.m., with the overall program running until 9:30 a.m. Photo and video opportunities will be available from 7 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

The event precedes the Santa Monica "Pier 360" Beach Festival, returning June 28-29, 2025, for two days of competition and entertainment along the Santa Monica shoreline. The free, all-ages event will feature over 80 male and female athletes competing in strongman contests, along with ocean sports, beachside games, skateboarding, roller skating, live music, food and drinks.

Festival activities explore 90 years of paddleboard racing history, with action beginning at 9 a.m. both Saturday and Sunday.

Attendees are encouraged to travel sustainably and try Big Blue Bus service. Visit bigbluebus.com to plan trips.

The Big Blue Bus pull will take place at Santa Monica Pier, Beach Parking Lot 1 North, 1550 Appian Way, Santa Monica.

For more information, visit santamonicapier.org

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

Broad Stage

Soprano Golda Zahra Returns to Broad Stage for One-Night Concert

Internationally acclaimed soprano Golda Zahra will perform at Broad Stage in Santa Monica on Saturday, July 12, 2025, for a one-night-only concert featuring operatic arias, Broadway favorites and popular virtuoso pieces.

The performance, which begins at 7:30 p.m., will showcase Zahra alongside the Dream Orchestra under conductor Maestro Daniel Suk. The program includes iconic arias from composers Puccini, Verdi and Bellini, as well as Broadway selections from "The Sound of Music," "My Fair Lady" and "Les Misérables."

Zahra, who grew up in Beverly Hills, has been praised by The Hollywood Times as "the rising star of the opera world." She has performed across continents and is known for her vocal range and stage presence.

> As a classical singer, my goal is to make opera accessible for everyone
>
> - Golda Zahra

"As a classical singer, my goal is to make opera accessible for everyone," Zahra said. "Like Pavarotti and Friends who made people smile, warmed their hearts and united them in their love for music."

The Dream Orchestra, recognized for its dynamic programming and sound quality, will also perform overtures and instrumental interludes during the evening. The ensemble will perform at the Eli and Edythe Broad Stage, located at 1310 11th Street in Santa Monica.

The concert marks a homecoming for Zahra, who aims to connect with audiences across different musical genres. Her repertoire will highlight both classical opera traditions and popular Broadway compositions, demonstrating her versatility as a performer.

Tickets for the performance include access to a champagne dessert reception hosted by Urth Caffé during intermission. The event takes place at one of Southern California's acclaimed acoustic venues.

Tickets and more information are available at GoldaInConcert.com.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

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COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

tactics, along with online tutorials instructing protesters how to counter police responses.

The emergency designation allows the ordinance to bypass the typical two-reading process. Violations would constitute misdemeanors punishable by fines up to $500, jail time up to six months, or both.

The expanded restrictions join an already extensive list of banned items including weapons, gas masks, impact-resistant helmets and umbrellas during non-rainy conditions. Civil liberties advocates have previously challenged similar measures as overly broad infringements on free speech rights.

The council will also vote on a five-year plan allocating $1.7 million in federal funds for affordable housing and community improvements, with significant focus on the Pico neighborhood.

The largest expenditure, $500,000, will fund Phase II development of a community garden at 19th Street. Another $207,946 will support playground renovations at Virginia Avenue Park, the only city playground in the Pico neighborhood.

The plan dedicates $412,821 to rental assistance for low-income households, currently supporting more than 40 residents. An additional $174,000 will fund homeless outreach services, including substance abuse treatment.

Federal funding represents a slight decrease from previous years, with Community Development Block Grant funds down 3.2% and HOME Investment Partnership funds down 1.5%. City staff warn that future federal cuts could significantly impact programs.

The council is also scheduled to adopt a $793.3 million biennial budget for fiscal year 2025-26 that implements cost-cutting measures while investing in public safety and infrastructure.

The budget includes a hiring freeze for non-sworn personnel that officials estimate will save approximately $4.8 million in the first year. Residents will face higher costs for city services, with parking permit fees doubling in most cases and administrative citation fines increasing from $75 to $150.

Despite the cost-cutting measures, the General Fund faces a $9.8 million shortfall requiring the city to draw from reserves. The budget includes $3.4 million in public safety investments funded by Measure K revenues, including four new Community Services Officers and security upgrades at public facilities.

Finance Director Oscar Santiago's budget report acknowledges an ongoing operational deficit while expressing optimism about the city's long-term prospects, citing major investments in hotels, housing and pier improvements.

The budget maintains 2,149.3 full-time equivalent positions citywide, with personnel costs representing approximately 76% of departmental budgets.

The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 1685 Main Street.

maaz@smdp.com

INSURANCE

FROM PAGE 2

Gary Palmer of Alabama, who chairs the oversight and investigations subcommittee; Rep. Gus M. Bilirakis of Florida and California Rep. Jay Obernolte.

The letter said "the extended period of data exposure raises serious questions about the adequacy of safeguards that Covered California had in place." Those "circumstances warrant examination of Covered California's actions under federal privacy standards," including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, or HIPAA, the letter continued.

As part of the Affordable Care Act, states must offer health insurance through exchanges that allow residents to shop for and purchase health care plans. States can either let the federal government operate those exchanges or maintain their own, as California and 18 other states do.

In California, millions of people rely on the exchange to find their coverage. But unbeknownst to those signing up for care, the exchange's website used a tool called the "LinkedIn Insight Tag" that sent answers to potentially sensitive questions to the tech company. The tag is widely used for advertising purposes but LinkedIn explicitly prohibits using it to share health data.

In response to The Markup and CalMatters' reporting, Covered California said the exchange had inadvertently shared the data and that it had instituted a review of practices. As the review happens, the organization said that it has paused its use of trackers entirely.

The investigation immediately triggered an outcry. One House lawmaker asked in a letter to the Department of Health and Human Services whether the practice may have violated HIPAA. A proposed class-action lawsuit against LinkedIn and Google alleging privacy violations was also filed one day after the story was published.

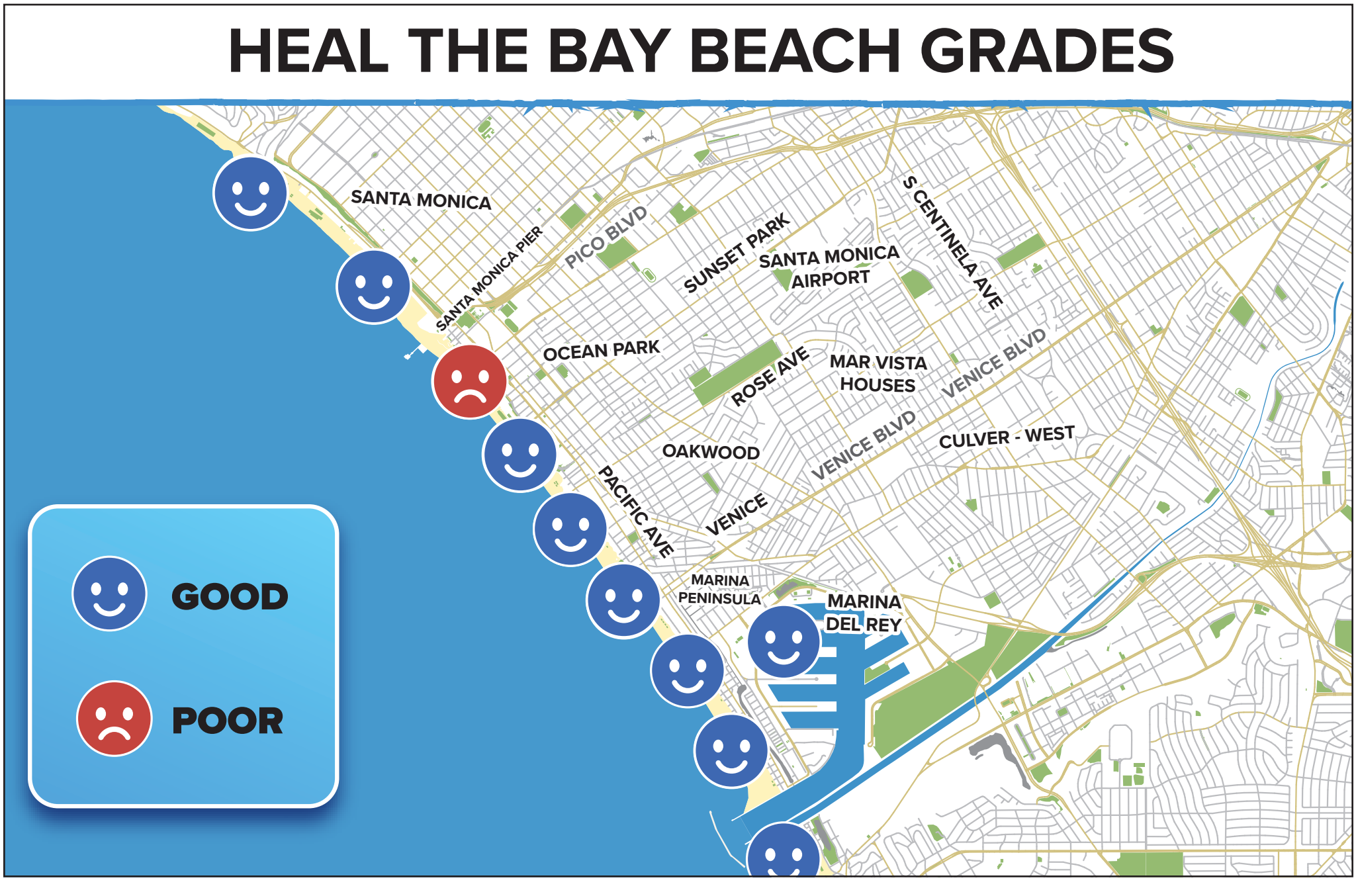
Since then, a followup investigation by The Markup and CalMatters found four other state exchanges also sharing information with tech companies. The stories were produced as part of a series called Pixel Hunt, examining the unexpected ways websites share data.

A spokesperson for Covered California said they had received the letter and planned to respond by the committee's deadline of July 1st. A spokesperson for LinkedIn declined to comment.

The lawmakers asked Covered California to provide answers and documents in response to several questions about the organization's data privacy practices, as well as its use of web trackers generally. The questions included what data was sent to LinkedIn, how many people were affected, and how or whether those affected will be notified.

"Ensuring the confidentiality of health information is a foundational obligation for entities operating within the health insurance ecosystem," the lawmakers wrote.

By Colin Lecher and Tomas Apodaca. This article was originally published by CalMatters.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Citywide

Five Local Teenagers Earn Eagle Scout Rank from Troop 2

Five Santa Monica-area teenagers achieved Scouting America's highest rank this summer, joining an elite group that represents only 8% of all scouts.

Christopher Fresquez, Luke Terlizzi, Ethan Crawford, Jacob Zeitlin and Matthew Zeitlin will be honored at the Troop 2 Eagle Court of Honor in June at Kuruvungna Village Springs on South Barrington in West Los Angeles.

The students attend local high schools, with Fresquez and the Zeitlin brothers at Culver City High School and Crawford and Terlizzi at Santa Monica High School. Graduation years range from 2025 to 2027.

Each scout completed extensive community service projects demonstrating leadership abilities. Crawford designed custom shelving for John Adams Middle School's instrumental music program, providing secure storage for violins and violas while repainting music stands with the school logo.

Fresquez partnered with The Culver Closet, a nonprofit serving Culver City Unified School District families with free clothing and supplies. He built custom shelving to accommodate storage bins, improving organization and accessibility for donations.

The Zeitlin brothers and Terlizzi focused their efforts on Los Angeles National Cemetery. Jacob painted 106 parking space delineations in the visitor lot, designing precise wood frame guides and stencils for consistent spacing. Matthew repainted 176 faded gravesite curb markers to help visitors locate specific graves. Terlizzi repainted more than 120 parking spaces, with improved markings particularly helpful for Memorial Day visitors.

"The completion of this work will help facilitate parking for the thousands of visitors who come to this cemetery each year," Jacob Zeitlin said.

All projects included educational components about the facilities' importance and involved multiple Troop 2 scouts working under the Eagle candidates' direction.

The scouts fondly recalled high-adventure trips to Minnesota's Boundary Waters and Wyoming's Grand Tetons as defining experiences, citing lessons in teamwork, resilience and leadership during challenging weather conditions.

Troop 2, one of the oldest and largest scout troops in the western United States, has awarded Eagle Scout rank to 397 individuals during its 78-year history. The troop operates under Scoutmaster John Matise with support from assistant scoutmasters, including Bob Gunter, who is retiring after 30 years overseeing new scout training.

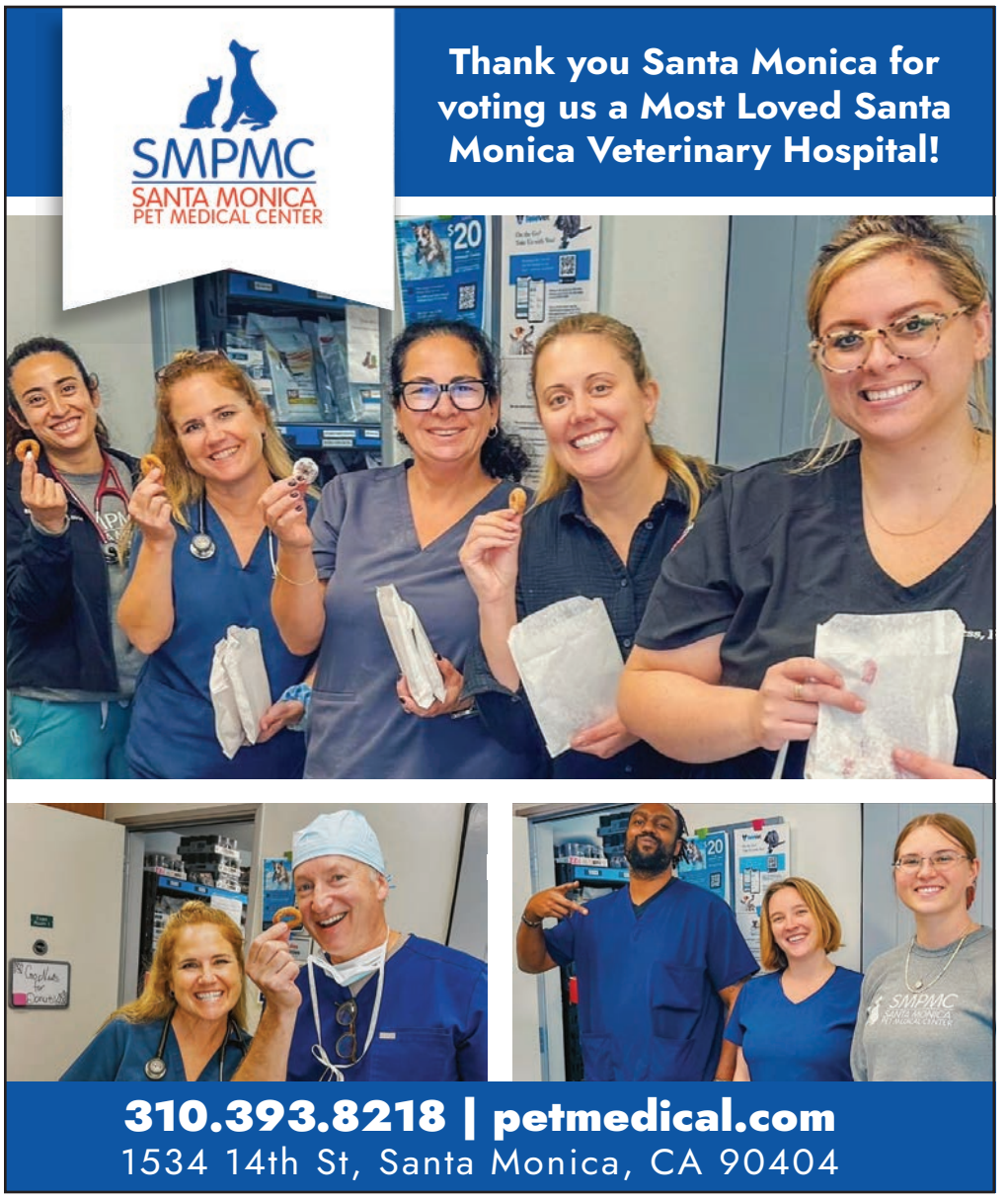
During Gunter's tenure, he supervised the induction of more than 1,000 scouts into Troop 2.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Mark Faries

TEENAGERS EARN EAGLE SCOUT RANK: Matthew Zeitlin, Ethan Crawford, John Matise, Jacob Zeitlin, Luke Terlizzi, Christopher Fresquez.







RAND

FROM PAGE 1

officials described as an inefficient use of resources.

"We now have an average of 225 people coming to a building where we have 800-plus assigned and where 1,300 could work," said Jeremy Rawitch, RAND's Director of Communications and External Affairs, during the public hearing. Pre-pandemic, approximately 700 people came to the office regularly.

Under the amendment terms, RAND will pay the city $3.5 million upon approval and an additional $2 million after Coastal Commission approval or when the property is used for new purposes. The organization will also continue its $40,000 annual contribution to the Santa Monica Early Childhood Lab School through 2065.

Amanda Honda, director of the Early Childhood Lab School, testified that RAND's support is crucial. "Without this money, we couldn't fund the tuition assistance and the tuition subsidies that are so vital to the families that participate in the program," Honda said.

The amendment also includes a provision requiring RAND or future owners to pay the city 4.6% of any sale price if the buyer is exempt from the city's Measure GS transfer tax, ensuring the city receives comparable revenue.

City staff commissioned an independent economic study projecting substantial benefits from increased building occupancy. The analysis estimates $3.3 million annually in various city taxes and $25 million in transfer taxes under Measure GS if the building sells at expected prices, totaling approximately $130 million over the development agreement's life.

"This represents both opportunity cost and also an opportunity to win for RAND and the city," Rawitch explained, noting that unlocking unused resources would allow RAND to invest more in independent research while creating economic benefits for Santa Monica.

The proposed uses align with the city's Land Use and Circulation Element goals for the Civic Center District, which calls for "a diverse mix of uses and activities" including government, residential, retail, and office uses.

Several RAND employees spoke in favor of the amendment, emphasizing how reduced occupancy has affected workplace dynamics and the organization's mission.

"Allowing us to lease or sell would free up critical resources to support the kind of research that supports our communities and informs social policy," said Sangeeta Ahluwalia, RAND's Associate Director of Healthcare.

The amendment allows up to 40% of the building's floor area for wet laboratory use and includes provisions for ground-floor retail, restaurants, and business services that could activate the surrounding area.

Planning Commission Chair Samuel Tolkin noted that RAND representatives reported no opposition to the proposal through stakeholder briefings or public comments.

The item now advances to the City Council for final consideration on July 29, followed by Coastal Commission review. The amendment extends the original development agreement term by 10 years to November 2065.

RAND, founded in Santa Monica in 1948 as a spinoff from Douglas Aircraft Company, conducts nonpartisan policy research on national security, health, education, and other public policy issues.

maaz@smdp.com

SHOOTING

FROM PAGE 1

hospital.

According to police, preliminary information indicates the shooting was targeted and followed a verbal altercation earlier in the evening between the victims and the suspect. The gunman approached the autonomous rideshare vehicle on foot and fired multiple rounds before fleeing the scene.

The incident was the latest attack involving Waymo's autonomous vehicle fleet, marking what appears to be the first shooting involving passengers in the company's self-driving cars. Over the past year, Waymo vehicles have faced sustained attacks across Southern California, though previous incidents targeted empty vehicles.

The most dramatic attack occurred in June during anti-ICE protests in downtown Los Angeles, where demonstrators surrounded five Waymo vehicles near Los Angeles Street. Protesters slashed tires, smashed windows, and spray-painted anti-ICE slogans before setting three vehicles ablaze. Video footage captured thick black smoke billowing from the burning electric vehicles as protesters used makeshift flamethrowers and tore off doors. The Los Angeles Fire Department responded to extinguish the fires while police warned about toxic smoke from burning lithium-ion batteries.

That attack prompted Waymo to immediately suspend service in downtown Los Angeles and expand suspensions across multiple cities including Santa Monica, Marina del Rey, Inglewood, Beverly Hills, and Glendale. The company also temporarily grounded fleets in San Francisco, Phoenix, Austin, and Atlanta as a precaution.

Earlier in 2025, Waymo faced organized resistance from Santa Monica residents frustrated by constant safety beeping noises from the company's fleet of approximately 56 vehicles based in the city. Residents organized "stacking the Waymos" protests, physically blocking vehicles from entering or exiting charging facilities using traffic cones, parked cars, and their own bodies. The standoffs persisted through spring, prompting Waymo to call police at least six times and seek a temporary restraining order against one protester, though a judge denied the request.

Additional attacks have included vandalism in Los Angeles' Beverly Grove neighborhood, where attackers kicked and jumped on an unoccupied Waymo vehicle, tore off a door, smashed windows, and flattened tires. Similar incidents occurred in San Francisco, including a vehicle set ablaze during Lunar New Year celebrations and a man arrested for slashing tires on 17 Waymo cars.

Sunday's shooting is the second in as many months in Downtown Santa Monica after a Promenade shop owner shot and killed a suspect during a botched robbery.

The Third Street Promenade saw serious crimes rise 2% in 2024, with police responding to 8,874 calls for service and making 256 arrests—70% involving homeless individuals. The recent Waymo shooting occurred just one block from the Promenade.

Recent violent incidents across the city include a homeless man shot and killed in a downtown alley in January, a Georgia woman found beaten to death on Santa Monica State Beach in February, and two siblings stabbed multiple times by attackers on scooters near the pier in April. Many incidents have occurred during overnight hours, prompting officials to consider measures such as overnight beach curfews.

The city has responded with increased enforcement, nearly doubling officer-initiated patrols in 2024 and deploying a Drone as First Responder program that conducted 1,551 missions. Authorities also established a Real-Time Crime Center and increased community engagement efforts.

The investigation into Sunday's shooting remains active, with detectives reviewing video footage and pursuing all leads. Anyone with information is urged to contact the Santa Monica Police Department Watch Commander at 310-458-8427.

editor@smdp.com

MASK

FROM PAGE 3

Aaron Terr, director of public advocacy at the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, said the right to speak anonymously has "deep roots in the nation's founding, including when anonymous pamphlets criticizing British rule circulated in the colonies."

Federal agents wearing masks

"The right to speak anonymously allows Americans to express dissenting or unpopular opinions without exposing themselves to retaliation or harassment from the government," Terr said.

First Amendment advocacy groups and Democratic lawmakers have called the masks an attempt by ICE agents to escape accountability and intimidate immigrants. During a June 12 congressional hearing, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, a Democrat, criticized ICE agents wearing masks during raids, saying: "Don't wear masks. Identify who you are."

Viral videos appeared to show residents of Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts confronting federal agents, asking them to identify themselves and explain why they were wearing masks. U.S. Rep. Bill Keating, a Democrat who represents Cape Cod, decried "the decision to use unmarked vehicles, plain clothed officers and masks" in a June 2 letter to federal officials.

Republican federal officials, meanwhile, have maintained that masks protect agents from doxing.

"I'm sorry if people are offended by them wearing masks, but I'm not going to let my officers and agents go out there and put their lives on the line and their family on the line because people don't like what immigration enforcement is," ICE acting Director Todd Lyons said.

By CHRISTINE FERNANDO Associated Press

Santa Monica Daily Press
Classifieds

Name Change

Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No. 25SMCP00366 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Rita Lisa Salvatore for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Robin Joslyn Huntley with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Rita Lisa Salvatore to R. Liza Salvatore . The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 08/01/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: _ The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 1725 Main St Santa Monica, Ca 90401 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press

Name Change

Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No.25SMCP00321 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Jay Michael Muller and Megan Tylr Majd for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Jay Michael Muller and Megan Tylr Majd court for a decree of changing names as follows: Jay Michael Muller to Jay Michael Majd MullerMegan Tylr Majd to Megan Tylr Majd MullerThe court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 7/11/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept:45 Room: 529. The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Courthouse 1725 Main St Santa Monica, CA 90405 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press

Name Change

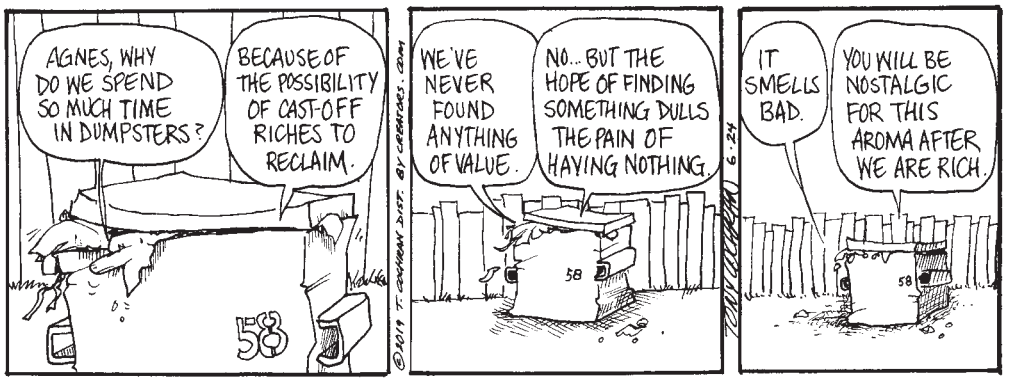
Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No.25SMCP00302 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Se Yeon Kang for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Se Yeon Kang court for a decree of changing names as follows: Se Yeon Kang to Scarlett Seyeon Kang The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 7/25 /2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: _. The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Santa Monica Courthouse 1725 Main St Santa Monica, CA 90401 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press

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

GET IT DAILY...

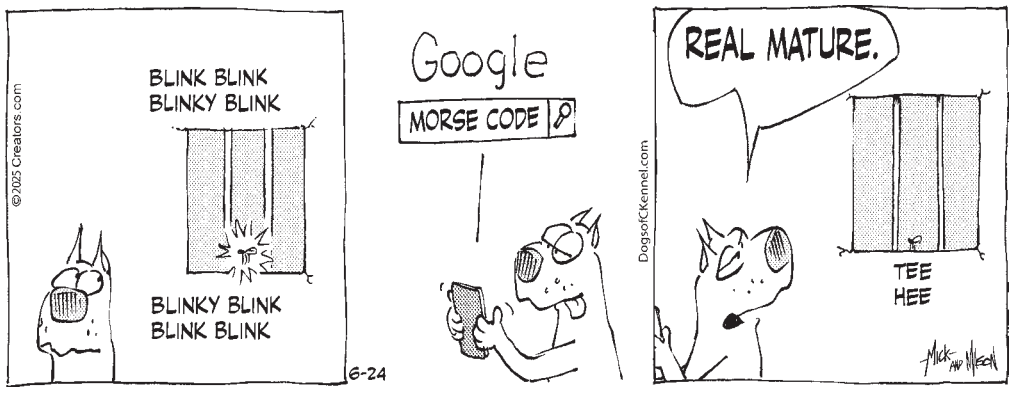
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



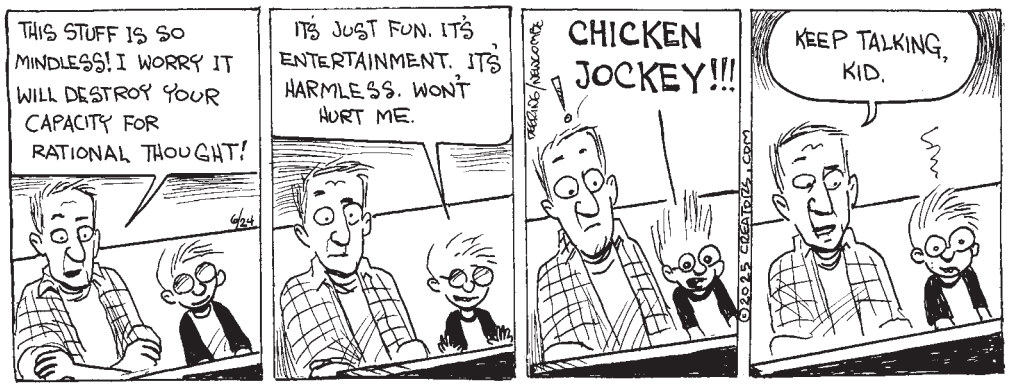
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

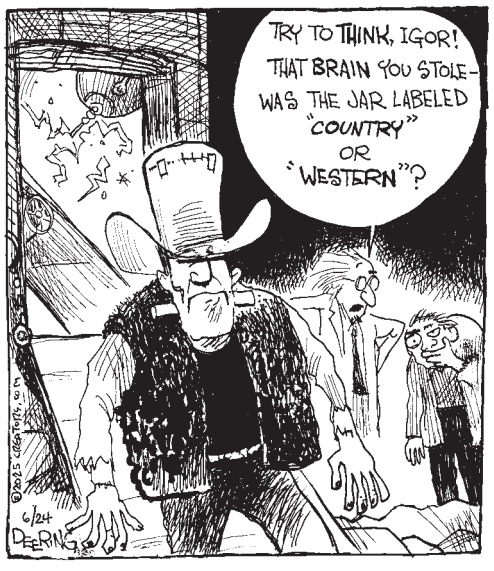
By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE'S GOING WAY OVER THE HAM LIMIT."

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 23 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6616

Sweet or spicy?

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

Ajwan	Curry	Salt
Amchoor	Dill	Season
Aromatic	Dried	Sesame seeds
Basil	Eschalot	Sharp
Black pepper	Ginger	Sorrel
Boquet garni	Korma	Spearmint
Cajun	Mace	Stir fry
Cassia	Nutmeg	Sweet
Cayenne	Onion	Thyme
Chervil	Oregano	Whole
Chili	Pickle	Zahtar
Clove	Rosemary	
Cook	Sage	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 24)

You let go of expectation and fully live what's happening. Through the unknown and in moments of certainty, you will love who you were, who you are and who you are becoming. Stellar relationships galvanize you to do your best work in the world. More highlights: exciting professional promotions, plot twists and hobbies that keep you in glorious shape. Pisces and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 14, 28, 33 and 19.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You don't realize how profound your emotional effect is on others. It's not that you're doing anything over-the-top, but your natural way of connecting, expressing or simply being reaches people in a way that stands out to them.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). There's a delayed cause and effect happening today. Something you did or chose a long time ago is finally bearing fruit. The seeds you planted — intentionally or not — are now coming up, possibly in unexpected ways.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Forget about discernment for a minute. Be open to friendly contribution in whatever size or package it comes in. You don't have to affirm a lifelong allegiance to like something. Liking things has momentum. One thing leads to the next.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Just when you think you know yourself, you will be faced with the realization that you don't even know the half of it. No one does! "You" haven't been fully invented yet. Understanding comes through living. Take a risk — you're lucky today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You want to be appreciated for who you are, not just for what you offer. That's why you hold back a little on the offerings. This way, you can see who leans in, who's generous, who drops interest. You'll see people's true colors.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The "rush" is an illusion imposed by forces of ego and fear. You can change everything with a simple resolve to slow down. Breathe. What's truly meant for you won't disappear if you take a moment to think.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There's an opportunity to make an impression, a connection or a stellar trade today. Just keep talking, listening and enjoying the exchange. Ideas build in the sharing going from fine to fortuitous.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Maybe you didn't want to get specific about what you bring to the table because you thought it would be bragging. But this is exactly what "the table" needs right now — your truth. Your talent. Know and name your value so others will, too.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're checking out a situation, and this is just the beginning. You can tell who the allies are without much investigation or testing. You have a gut-level feeling about this, and you can trust it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Strong relationships aren't built on commonality. True openness means respecting people who don't mirror you. It takes maturity to value different styles, voices and approaches, but that's what real inclusion is — an opportunity to expand.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). This is not a time for extremes. You'll find balance somewhere close to the middle. The far edges are unstable, unsustainable or even harmful. Whether it's temperature, diet, effort, speed or behavior, the ideal point will feel graceful and controlled.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Commit. The process will get frustrating today. Be patient. Changing tactics midway will likely only set you back. Stick to the plan a little longer. You're closer than it feels. Let consistency carry you through the dip.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

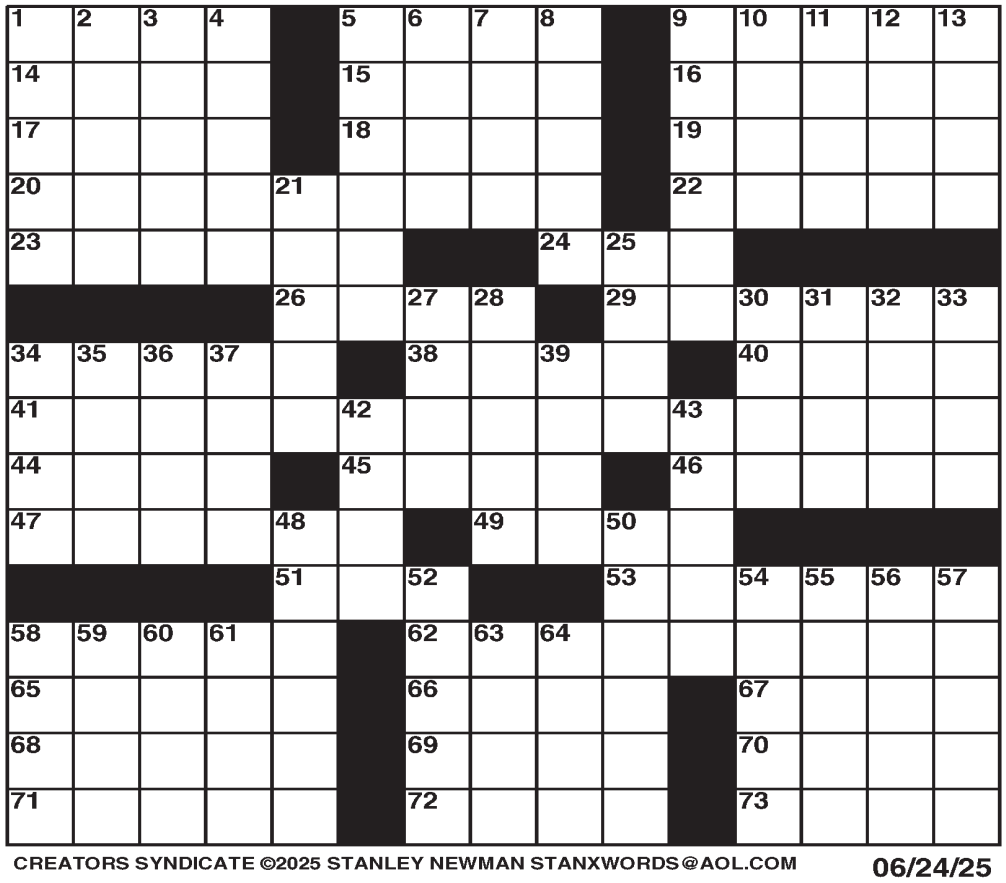
GROWING PLACES by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 The Dalai __
5 Whole bunch (of)
9 Emerge from an egg
14 Make revisions to
15 Barbed __ fence
16 Marry secretly
17 First cousin's mom
18 "Sign me up!"
19 Equally distant
20 Planting area for roses and violets
22 Shake out of sleep
23 Leisurely walk
24 Up to now
26 Computer storage measure
29 On the wrong path
34 Houston baseballer
38 Cheerios grains
40 Freight train rider
41 Planting area for red fruits
44 __ in the neck (pest)
45 Land surrounded by water
46 "Quite true"
47 Person feeding a furnace
49 Holler
51 Needless fuss
53 "Okay with me"
58 Declares firmly
62 Planting area for husk-covered ears
65 Metallic factory worker
66 Locomotive sound
67 Starting poker stake
68 Garlic piece
69 Hesitant refusal
70 Gas in a store window sign
71 Take the wheel
72 Fixes dishonestly
73 Change for a $20 bill

DOWN

1 Flips (through), as a book
2 Grown-up person
3 Unimportant
4 When a late lunch might end
5 Forming spiral shapes
6 Arm or leg
7 Shortest-named Great Lake
8 Peter Pan pal
9 Valentine symbols
10 "In addition..."
11 Soy substitute for meat
12 IRS form experts
13 Roll call response
21 Middle-arm joint
25 Not difficult at all
27 Tips of boots
28 Ahead of schedule
30 "You can say __ again!"
31 Goes bad, as apples
32 Kindergarten basics
33 Start of a pirate chant
34 Egyptian snakes
35 Number in a spreadsheet
36 Threesome
37 Corporal or admiral
39 Family history diagram
42 Egret or eagle
43 Rice serving with shish kebab
48 Holiday after Lent
50 Industries' special vocabularies
52 Come to pass
54 Extremely large
55 Actress Zellweger
56 Pop singer __ John
57 Blissful places
58 Sections of circles
59 Nine-__ battery
60 Woodwind instrument
61 Made on a loom
63 Casual greeting
64 Ladder step



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06/24/25

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

SMC

Three SMC Student Films Selected for LA Shorts International Film Festival

Three Santa Monica College student films have been accepted as official selections in the prestigious LA Shorts International Film Festival, qualifying the works for Oscar and BAFTA competition consideration.

The films "Ends and Means," "Fear and Tremble" and "No Return" will compete in the Live Action category during the festival, which runs July 16-28 at the Regal LA Live in downtown Los Angeles.

Now in its 29th year, the LA Shorts International Film Festival is Los Angeles' longest-running shorts film festival. The event is accredited by the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences, the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, and the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television. The festival screens more than 350 films annually and attracts 10,000 attendees, including Hollywood industry professionals and independent filmmakers.

The selected films were produced through SMC's Film Production Program as part of Film 32 and Film 33 classes. Students work in a professional filmmaking environment under faculty mentorship, including professors Salvador Carrasco and Simone Bartesaghi.

"Ends and Means," directed by Karly Kato Bang, follows Milagros, a Mexican immigrant housekeeper whose working relationship with her employer, a liberal film director, becomes complicated when he invites a mysterious investor to dinner who has a shocking connection to her past.

"Fear and Tremble," written and directed by Alci Rengifo, dramatizes the true story of Salvadoran poet and revolutionary Roque Dalton during his capture and interrogation by a CIA agent.

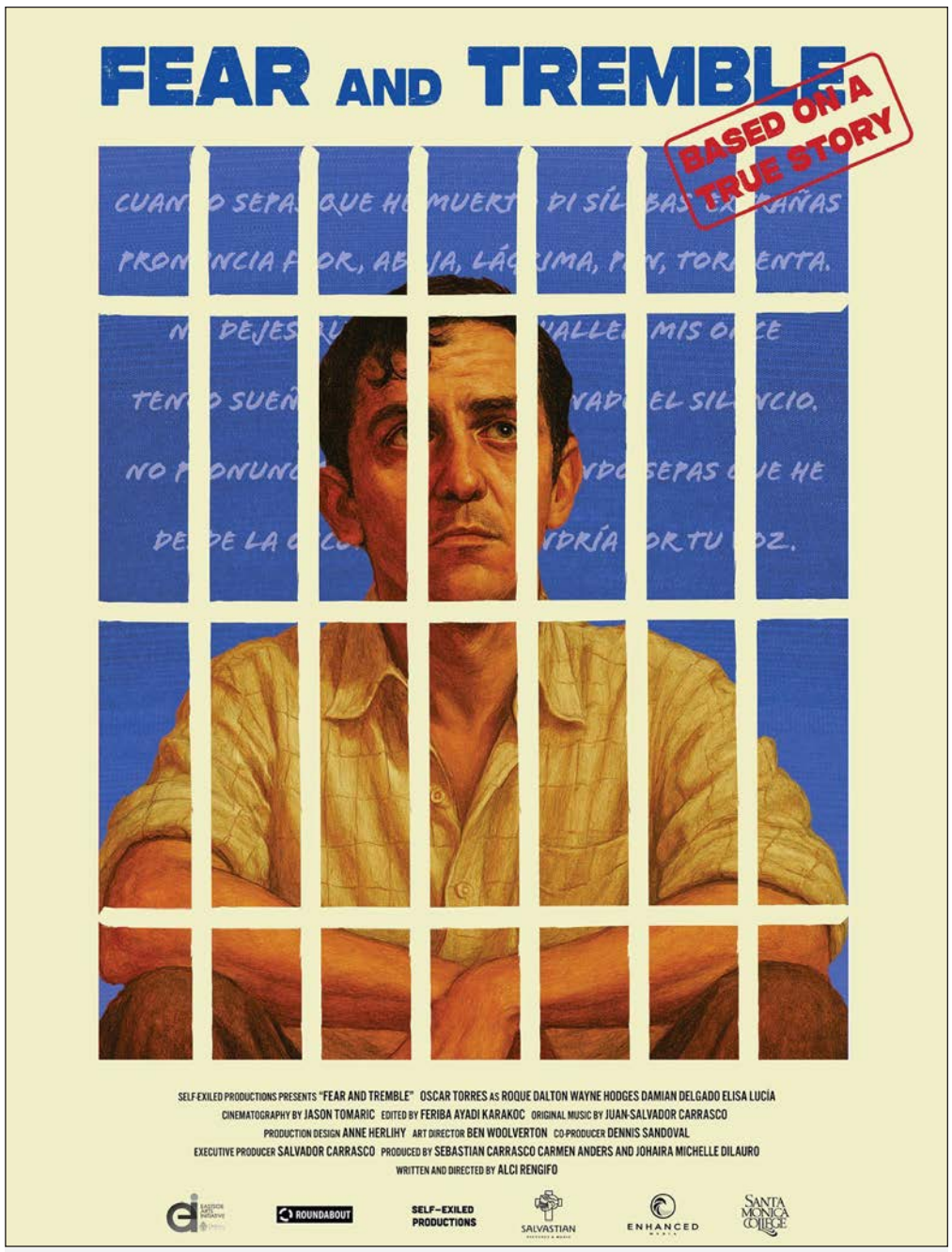
"No Return," directed by Sebastian Carrasco, reimagines a scene from Spike Lee's "25th Hour" set during the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion, featuring a captured American mercenary facing a Cuban commander.

Over the years, 68 filmmakers who presented at the LA Shorts International Film Festival have received Academy Award nominations.

SMC student films have earned numerous honors, including production grants from the Golden Globe Foundation, awards at international festivals in Vienna, Mexico, Houston and India, and recognition at the Ojai Film Festival and San Diego International Film Festival.

The college offers an Associate of Science degree and Certificate of Achievement in Film Production. More information is available at www.smc.edu/filmproduction. Additional details about the festival can be found at www.lashortfest.com.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy image

FILM: The films from local students will be shown at the festival.



TUESDAY | JUNE 24

SINGING FOR FUN GROUP CLASS FOR ADULTS

6:00 p.m. - 6:55 p.m. Electric Lodge 1416 Electric Ave Venice. Were you told you couldn't sing as a kid? Do you love to sing and want to get back into it now that you're older? Then you should join our Singing for Fun Group Class for Adults from Venice School of Music. This class will focus on warm-ups, group exercises for technique & performance of pop songs like Abba and Billie Eilish. You never have to sing alone, but there's always a chance for a solo if you're a true diva. $210.00. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/singing-for-fun-group-class-for-adults/15774946/2025-06-24T18

WEDNESDAY | JUNE 25

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-/14548476/2025-06-25T12

TRIVIA NIGHT AT KAVAHANA

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Kavahana 306 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. Looking for a fun midweek pick-me-up in Santa Monica? Visit Kavahana Trivia Night: Covering a mix of general knowledge, pop culture, history, science, and more! Solo or Team Play: Bring friends or join a team when you arrive. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/trivia-night-at-kavahana/15836892/2025-06-25T18

THURSDAY | JUNE 26

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 27

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-/15793351/2025-06-27T08

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/14165546/2025-06-27T19

SATURDAY | JUNE 28

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET - SATURDAY MARKET

8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Santa Monica Farmers Market - Arizona Ave and 3rd Street Arizona Ave and 3rd Street Santa Monica. Santa Monica Farmers Markets create thriving, vibrant communities that are inclusive, connected, and diverse by promoting the prosperity of California farmers and small food businesses, preservation of the agricultural arts and sustainable food systems. The Saturday Downtown Farmers Market is open from 8:00am to 1:00pm, year-round and operates rain or shine. May be closed for selected holidays. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/downtown-farmers-market-saturday-market/13357377/2025-06-07T08

ARTISTS & FLEAS: VENICE MARKETPLACE

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Westminster Elementary School 1010 Abbot Kinney Los Angeles. Artists & Fleas in Venice is located in the vibrant, artistic heart of Venice at the corner of Abbot Kinney and Westminster Avenue in the outdoor lot of Westminister Avenue Elementary School. Join 50+ merchants every Saturday (rain or shine!) for a fabulous lineup of art, design, food trucks and vintage. Date: Every Saturday Time: 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM Location: Westminster Elementary School - 1010 Abbot Kinney Check our website here for a list of vendors. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/artists-fleas-venice-marketplace/14548485/2025-06-28T11

$5 COMMUNITY DOG TRAINING CLASSES!

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Ave Park 2200 Virgina Ave Santa Monica. People's Dog Training™, a Love At First Sit® host ongoing $5 ongoing Community Dog Training Classes on Saturdays at Virginia Ave Park in Santa Monica. Class proceeds donated to charitable organizations that advocate for animals, and animal shelters and rescues. Sign-up at peoplesdogtraining.com/community-training. $5.00 — General $5.00. First Responders & Wildfire Victims FREE. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/-5-community-dog-training-classes-/11981844/2025-06-28T12

"SHEER ENJOYMENT!" IT'S BARNYARD MADNESS WITH THE THREE LITTLE PIGS

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Santa Monica Playhouse 1211 4th St, Santa Monica. "This is what family theatre is all about and the Santa Monica Playhouse offers the best. Kids will delight in it all as will adults!" The Tolucan Times. It's a finger-snappin', toe-tappin' zany musical romp following the romantic antics and showbiz aspirations of the swingin' singin' McPig Sisters and their canine admirers, complete with exciting audience participation. "Sheer enjoyment... mixes elements of 1940s boogie-woogie, Grand Ole Opry-type vaudeville and a Romeo and Juliet story line." L.A. PARENT. $15.00 to $17.50—$15 kids 12 and under; $17.50 adults. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/-sheer-enjoyment-it-s-barnyard-madness-with-the-three-little-pigs/15355101/2025-06-28T14



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