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2 **Man pulls bus**
At the Pier.

3 **Budget approval**
In a split vote.

4 **PCH safety**
In Malibu.

6&7 **Homes for sale**
With a pool.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 154 THE WEEKENDER 6/27-6/29 smdp.com

Santa Monica's beloved but battered dinosaurs face uncertain future as city weighs repairs, conservation

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

A longstanding and highly visible public art installation on the Third Street Promenade, known as the Dinosaurs of Santa Monica, is in line for long-overdue repairs and possible reimagining, as city officials and downtown stakeholders wrestle with maintenance challenges, legal constraints and diverging public sentiment.

The six dinosaur sculptures, originally commissioned through Santa Monica's Percent for Art program and installed between Broadway and Wilshire, include four integrated water fountains and two topiary elements. Once considered playful and iconic centerpieces of the Promenade's landscape, the sculptures have fallen into disrepair in recent years, with some fountains out of service, tiles missing or stained and infrastructure compromised by years of deferred maintenance.

At a May 20 meeting of the Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. (DTSM) Public Space & Placemaking Committee, officials from the city's new Department of Recreation and Arts acknowledged the visible deterioration and laid out the obstacles they face in restoring the sculptures. Among

SEE **DINOSAUR** PAGE 11



Scott Snowden

DINOSAUR: The topiary along the Promenade may soon be as extinct as the dinosaurs they represent.



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Strongman pulls 34,680 lbs electric bus to kick off Santa Monica's Pier 360 festival



Scott Snowden

BBB: The event was a preview for Pier360 this weekend.

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

As the early morning marine layer began to lift over the Santa Monica Pier on Thursday, a crowd gathered to watch something somewhat unusual: a 34,680 lbs battery-powered electric Big Blue Bus being pulled across the pier parking lot by a single person.

Martins Licis, the 2019 World's Strongest Man and 2022 Arnold Strongman Classic champion, took on the task in front of television cameras, festival staff, city leaders and early risers. The spectacle marked the official launch of this weekend's Pier 360 beach festival and served as a kinetic showcase for the city's zero-emissions transit program.

"This is one of our 15 new 100 percent zero-emissions battery electric buses," said Anuj Gupta, director of the Santa Monica Department of Transportation. "We already have 19 in our fleet, so this will take us to 34 total. That's about one sixth of our entire fleet. We're on track to be fully electric by 2032, if not sooner."

The event blended promotional flair with civic messaging, beginning with remarks from Jim Harris, executive director of the Santa Monica Pier Corporation, who welcomed the public and press to what he described as "an unforgettable show of strength, spirit and sustainability."

Harris said Pier 360 was more than a beach festival. "It's a celebration of what brings us together," he said. "It's about connecting people of all ages and backgrounds through free, accessible programming that's as diverse and dynamic as the community we serve."

SEE **BUS** PAGE 8

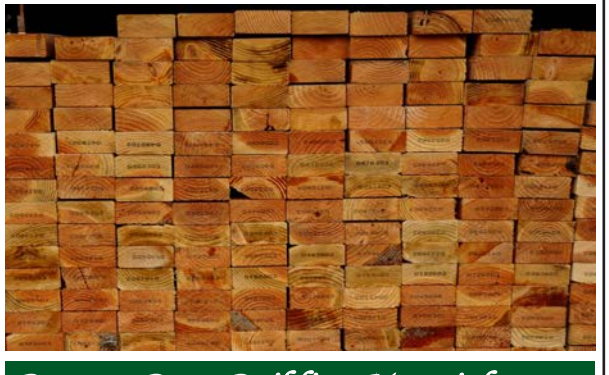
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Council approves $800M budget after divisive vote on $50,000 for neighborhood associations

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Three Santa Monica City Council members voted against the city's fiscal year 2025-27 budget Tuesday night, citing concerns over taxpayer funding for neighborhood organizations that make political endorsements.

Council members Dan Hall, Caroline Torosis and Jesse Zwick cast the dissenting votes on the $793.3 million budget after a heated debate over whether the city should continue providing $49,000 annually to neighborhood associations that can legally engage in political activities.

> I think it's incredibly inappropriate to use taxpayer dollars to subsidize organizations that make political contributions and political endorsements
> - Dan Hall, Council members

"I think it's incredibly inappropriate to use taxpayer dollars to subsidize organizations that make political contributions and political endorsements," Hall said during the meeting, explaining his opposition to the funding.

Torosis echoed similar concerns, stating she did not believe "the city of Santa Monica should fund any organizations that can perform lobbying functions." The council member noted that as 501(c)(4) organizations, the neighborhood groups are permitted to engage in political campaigns and lobbying activities.

Zwick suggested forcing the neighborhood associations to convert their nonprofit status to one that prohibits political activity but ultimately the three opponents were outvoted.

The debate over funding stemmed from an 11th hour revision to the budget that restored funding to the groups. Going into the meeting, funding had been revoked due to the city's budget crisis but after realigning some public safety positions, additional money was made available.

Santa Monica's neighborhood associations were initially funded to send out physical newsletters to members but over the years the groups have used the money for other purposes like community events. Staff said that historically, receipts were submitted that prevented the money from being used for political actions and that they could go back to that process again to ensure public money was not used during a campaign.

The neighborhood association funding debate highlighted ongoing tensions over the role of these community groups, which receive $7,000 each annually for membership building and communication activities.

Five of Santa Monica's seven recognized neighborhood organizations hold tax-exempt status, allowing them to engage in political activities as long as such activities don't constitute their primary purpose. The city requires signed agreements stipulating that grant funds cannot be used for political purposes and mandates annual reporting of expenditures.

Supporters of the funding, including the Police Chief, said the organizations provide valuable community services and help residents engage with local government. They noted that the groups contribute significant volunteer hours to community activities and serve as important communication channels between residents and city officials.

City Attorney staff noted that the neighborhood associations are independent entities and that questions about their tax status should be addressed with their own legal counsel.

The maneuver that opened the door to funding the groups was less controversial.

The council opted for an alternative police staffing proposal that adds one sergeant and one community service officer instead of the originally planned four Community Service Officers. Police Chief Ramon Batista had requested five sworn officers at the start of the budget process but expressed support for the compromise, noting that the sergeant would provide needed supervision while the Community Service Officer would free up patrol officers for other duties.

The staffing change generated $73,000 in savings from Measure K public safety funds, which council members allocated to restore the neighborhood grants and police training programs. Measure K, approved by voters to increase public safety, provides the city with dedicated revenue for law enforcement initiatives.

Batista said he supported funding the neighborhood groups with the Measure K money as their communication efforts were often aligned with public safety needs.

"The sergeant would need to be assigned depending on staffing, where the vacancy is, where the shortage of supervisory personnel ends up being," Batista explained to the council.

Several public speakers during the meeting's lengthy public comment period urged the council to hire additional police officers, arguing that voters expected Measure K funds to go toward more sworn personnel.

The budget approval caps months of difficult deliberations as Santa Monica

SEE **BUDGET** PAGE 5



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **64.4**

FRIDAY *FAIR*
SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist

Fun waves continue off holding swell. SE shifting SSW winds expected to stay on the lighter side. Nice shot of SSW swell, along with a little lingering NW windswell, maintains chest to shoulder high surf at good exposures. Winds expected to shift from SE early morning to SSW for the afternoon, while staying on the lighter side for decent conditions. Negative low tide drains the dawn patrol.

SATURDAY *FAIR*
SURF: 2-3ft Thigh to waist

Slow fading but still fun waves at well exposed spots, showing best in AM. Lightest winds early AM. Slow easing SSW swell, plus a little NW windswell, is still good for waist to shoulder high waves at good exposures in the morning. That surf gradually eases as the day goes on. Light ESE/SE winds due early morning for some crumble. Winds shift S and rise to low-end moderate levels in the afternoon, for a little more bump at exposures. Negative low tide drains the dawn patrol.

Weather

Friday: Patchy fog. Otherwise, cloudy, with a high near 72. East southeast wind 5 to 10 mph.
Friday Night: Patchy fog. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 62. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Saturday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy, with a high near 73. Light and variable wind becoming southwest 5 to 10 mph.
Saturday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 62.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
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

Daily Lottery

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POWERBALL
Draw Date: 6/25
2 12 37 51 61
Power#: 22
Jackpot: 155 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 6/24
10 11 18 24 60
Mega#: 20
Jackpot: 348 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 6/25
12 13 23 39 42
Mega#: 24
Jackpot: 20 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 6/25
13 24 29 30 39

Daily 3
Draw Date: 6/25
EVENING: 0 6 9
Draw Date: 6/25
MIDDAY: 3 6 6

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 6/25
1st: 02 - Lucky Star
2nd: 08 - Gorgeous George
3rd: 05 - California Classic
Race Time: 1:45.24

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Santa Monica Daily Press

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA LANDMARKS COMMISSION

SUBJECT: 25ENT-0069 Structure of Merit Designation Nomination
1125 18th Street
APPLICANT: Santa Monica Conservancy
PROPERTY OWNER: Joseph Houshmand

A public hearing will be held by the Landmarks Commission to consider the following request:

Consideration of designation application 25ENT-0069 for the property located at 1125 18th Street to determine whether the residential structure in whole or in part, should be designated as a Structure of Merit. The Landmarks Commission will consider the application based on whether the application, research and public testimony presented demonstrates that the building meets one or more of the required criteria for Structure of Merit designation pursuant to SMMC Section 9.56.080. Consideration of compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), including an exemption under CEQA Guideline 15061(b)(3) (Common Sense Exemption).

DATE/TIME: **MONDAY July 14, 2025 AT 7:00 PM**

LOCATION: City Council Chamber, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Members of the public unable to attend a meeting but wishing to comment on an item(s) listed on the agenda may submit written comments prior to the public hearing via email to planningcomment@santamonica.gov or via mail to the address listed below. Comments received prior to 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Landmarks Commission prior to the meeting and posted online. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

You may also comment in-person at the Landmarks Commission hearing. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment.

Address your comments to: **Stephanie Reich, Design and Historic Preservation Planner**
Re: 25ENT-0069, 1125 18th Street
Structure of Merit Designation Nomination
VIA E-MAIL: planningcomment@santamonica.gov
VIA MAIL: City Planning Division
1685 Main Street, Mail Stop 28
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Stephanie Reich at (310) 458-2200 extension 5460 or by email to: Stephanie.Reich@SantaMonica.gov. The Zoning Ordinance is available on the City's website at www.santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (866) 311-7266 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate languages provided the request is received 72 hours prior to the meeting. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL: Este es un aviso de una audiencia publica sobre una solicitud para remodilar un edifecio que tiene valor historico importante. Para más información: planning@santamonica.gov

ESPAÑOL: Esto es una noticia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si desea más información, favor de llamar a Ana Fernandez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-2201 ext. 2431 o envíe un correo electrónico a ana.fernandez@santamonica.gov

GET IT DAILY...

Malibu tackles PCH safety crisis with emergency declaration, major road projects and Federal enforcement grant



Courtesy photo

PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY: Malibu City Council voted to extend a local emergency declaration addressing what officials call a dangerous driving crisis on Pacific Coast Highway.

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

The Malibu City Council has voted to extend a local emergency declaration addressing what officials call a dangerous driving crisis on Pacific Coast Highway, as new data revealed 22 deadly crashes that killed 23 people between 2018 and 2022.

The emergency declaration, first adopted in November 2023, gives the city additional authority to coordinate with state and county agencies to address reckless driving on the 21-mile stretch of PCH running through Malibu.

"PCH has become increasingly dangerous to residents and visitors due to the common occurrence of drivers speeding, driving recklessly, or driving while distracted," Mayor Marianne Riggins said during the meeting. "We've got to bring that cost down."

The declaration followed the October 2023 deaths of four Pepperdine University students who were struck by a speeding driver while walking along PCH. According to authorities, the driver was traveling in excess of 100 mph when he lost control and crashed into the group.

California Highway Patrol data shows 49 fatalities along PCH in Malibu from 2012-2022, while the Los Angeles Times reported 170 combined deaths and serious injuries between 2011 and 2023. The city experiences approximately one crash per day on the highway.

"We can't weather another disaster," said Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Silverstein, noting the city's ongoing recovery from multiple wildfires. "If we expect future disasters, we might as well not even be thinking about a budget."

Separately, California Department of Transportation representatives presented plans for extensive PCH rehabilitation projects aimed at improving safety and extending pavement life. The two-phase project will cost tens of millions of dollars and span four years.

Project I, running from Cross Creek Road to the Ventura County line, will rehabilitate 63 lane-miles with construction scheduled from summer 2026 through summer 2028. Project II covers 57 lane-miles from Santa Monica's McClure Tunnel to just south of Cross Creek Road, with construction planned from summer 2027 through summer 2029.

The projects include controversial intersection realignments at Malibu Road and Civic Center Way, changing them from angled merges to 90-degree "tee" intersections. Caltrans officials said the changes will improve pedestrian visibility and safety.

Council Member Doug Stewart questioned the intersection changes, asking about "the benefit of 'teeing up' intersections when vehicles currently have on-ramps to gain speed." He expressed concern about vehicles entering the 45-55 mph highway from a complete stop.

The projects also call for 37 new street lights at nine locations, raising concerns about Malibu's dark sky ordinance. "Malibu is a dark sky community, so what kind of lights are you putting in?" Riggins asked. "Are they going to be consistent with what we're doing in trying to do in the rest of the city?"

Stewart also questioned proposed bike lanes in the rural community, citing a 1996-1997 study that concluded PCH "is not a good place for bicyclists due to 'choke points' and fatalities."

SEE **PCH** PAGE 8

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Just Fix the Leaky Pipe SMMUSD!

I applaud the young leaders interviewed in SMDP's June 25, 2025, article "SMASH community rallys to save school name'"(https://smdp.com/featured/smash-community-rallys-to-save-school-name/).

SMMUSD would be wise to listen to them!

I understand plumbing is complicated. But can anyone explain why the smartypants at SMMUSD want to merge John Muir Elementary School and SMASH into a completely new school to fix water damage from 2021? Can't they just fix the pipe and put the schools back on their campus?

Originally, the District said after leaks and water damage were fixed, both schools would move back to the shared campus on Ocean Park Boulevard like before. However, in a breathtaking sleight of hand, SMMUSD now wants to dissolve SMASH and John Muir to create a whole new school on the old campus.

Beyond the misdirection and confusing change in plan, there is a major problem with SMMUSD's strategy: SMASH is an alternative school (as the name suggests) and John Muir is a traditional school. SMASH is an admirable achievement by SMMUSD, as it pioneers alternative education techniques for the entire district. Historically, the school has been available to adventurous parents who are willing to try something different, but not necessarily "better." Enrollment is decided through a lottery system for interested families. It isn't for everyone, which is why it isn't required for anyone. John Muir, on the other hand, has been a neighborhood school for Ocean Park residents that offers high quality traditional education. Because not everyone wants to go to SMASH, Santa Monica voters thought it made sense for one campus to house the two separate schools in 1990. The two schools started sharing one campus, in harmony, in 1997 until the leak and water damage was discovered.

The way I see it, the two schools co-existed on an old campus before, and today it makes sense for the two schools to co-exist on a new campus now.

Why is SMMUSD working so hard to fix a problem that it is also creating? Why not just fix the pipe and maintain the legacies of John Muir Elementary School and Santa Monica Alternative School House, respectively? Why can't the new campus house John Muir Elementary and SMASH as it did before?

It is what parents want. It is what SMASH and John Muir alumni want. And, most importantly, it is what students want.

Why isn't it what SMMUSD wants?

Kabir Chopra

BUDGET

FROM PAGE 3

grapples with a structural deficit requiring $60.5 million from reserves over the next five years. The city has struggled to recover financially from the COVID-19 pandemic, with key revenue sources including sales tax, hotel occupancy tax and parking fees remaining flat or declining.

City staff emphasized the need for revenue generation and cost-cutting measures throughout the budget process. The final budget includes a hiring freeze for non-sworn positions in general, beach and pier funds, while preserving core city services.

The budget also addresses other community priorities, including maintaining community garden fees at current levels through an alternative funding approach and allocating $15,000 for the city's Fourth of July parade.

editor@smdp.com

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS CALLING FOR BIDS
SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BID: 061325SF Athletics Events Charter Transportation

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 Athletics Events Charter Transportation 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: 07/07/25 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.

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Contact: 3106637896

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$22,995,000

938 Palisades Beach Rd,
Santa Monica, CA 90403

7 BR 8.5 BA, 5,269 Sq Ft

Listed by Steven Bohbot •DRE #01859235 • Standard Oil Realty •310-710-4666 (agent) •steven@thestandardoil.com (agent)

SANTA MONICA

$22,995,000

940 Palisades Beach Rd,
Santa Monica, CA 90403

4 BR 5.5 BA, 5,200 Sq Ft

Listed by Steven Bohbot •DRE #01859235 • Standard Oil Realty •310-710-4666 (agent) •steven@thestandardoil.com (agent)

SANTA MONICA

$1,699,000

2910 Neilson Way #503,
Santa Monica, CA 90405

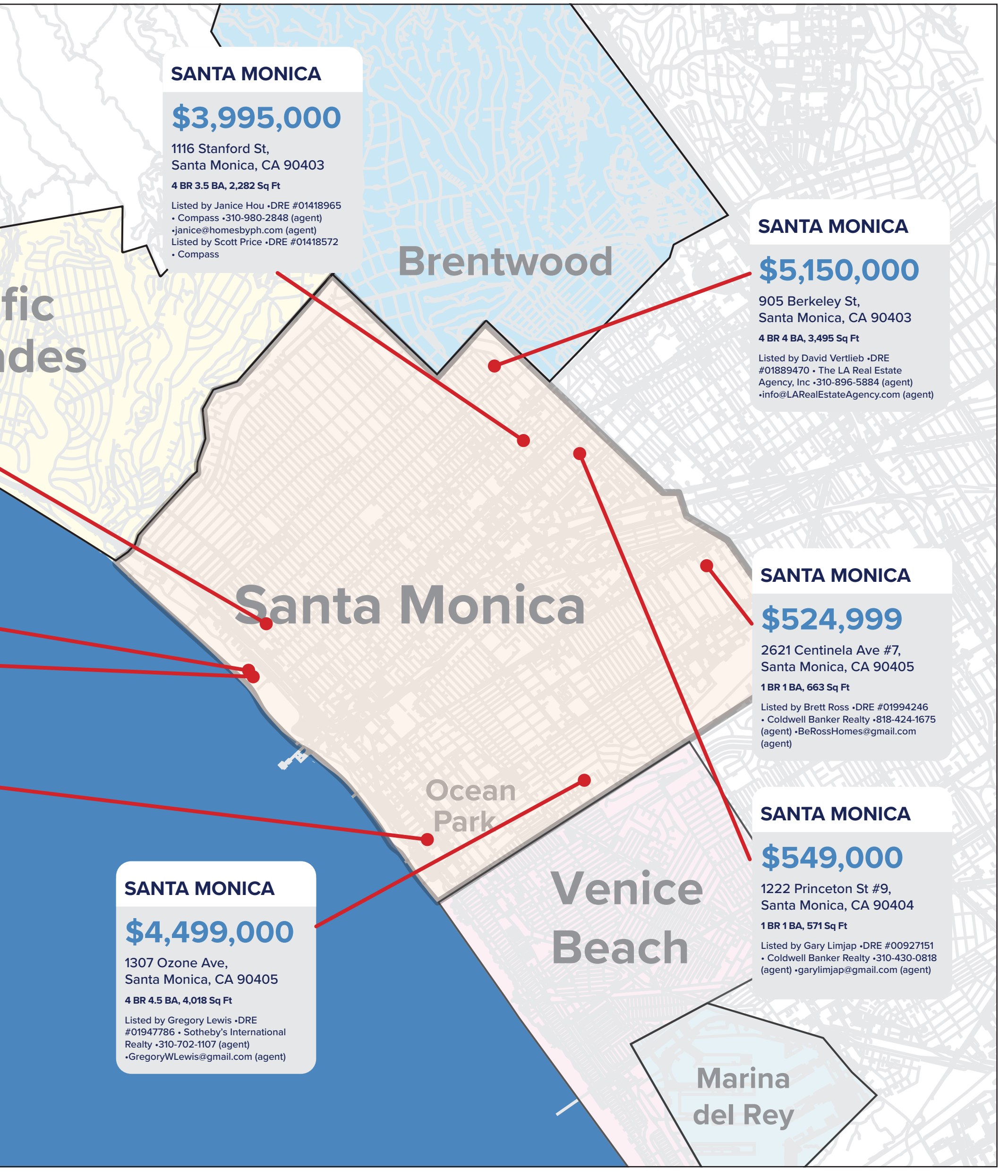
2 BR 2 BA, 1,513 Sq Ft

Listed by Laura Jacobson •DRE #01420610 • Standard Realty
Contact: 818-738-8444

● FOR SALE

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Santa Monica Daily Press



SANTA MONICA

$3,995,000

1116 Stanford St,
Santa Monica, CA 90403

4 BR 3.5 BA, 2,282 Sq Ft

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Listed by Scott Price •DRE #01418572 • Compass

SANTA MONICA

$5,150,000

905 Berkeley St,
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4 BR 4 BA, 3,495 Sq Ft

Listed by David Vertlieb •DRE #01889470 • The LA Real Estate Agency, Inc •310-896-5884 (agent) •info@LARealEstateAgency.com (agent)

SANTA MONICA

$524,999

2621 Centinela Ave #7,
Santa Monica, CA 90405

1 BR 1 BA, 663 Sq Ft

Listed by Brett Ross •DRE #01994246 • Coldwell Banker Realty •818-424-1675 (agent) •BeRossHomes@gmail.com (agent)

SANTA MONICA

$549,000

1222 Princeton St #9,
Santa Monica, CA 90404

1 BR 1 BA, 571 Sq Ft

Listed by Gary Limjap •DRE #00927151 • Coldwell Banker Realty •310-430-0818 (agent) •garylimjap@gmail.com (agent)

SANTA MONICA

$4,499,000

1307 Ozone Ave,
Santa Monica, CA 90405

4 BR 4.5 BA, 4,018 Sq Ft

Listed by Gregory Lewis •DRE #01947786 • Sotheby's International Realty •310-702-1107 (agent) •GregoryWLewis@gmail.com (agent)



Congratulations
on your retirement from Cindy Moreno and everyone here at SMDP

Classifieds

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 06/09/25 2025116899The following person(s) is (are) doing business Hollander Clinic 2730 Wilshire Blvd 265 Santa Monica, CA 90403. Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Dr. Karyn I. Grossman & Jennifer Hollander A. Medical Corporation 2730 Wilshire Blvd 265 Santa Monica, CA 90403. If corporation or LLC- Print State of CA This is Business is Conducted: A Corporation . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A . Registrant / Corp/LLC Dr. Karyn I. Grossman & Jennifer Hollander A. Medical Corporation Title: Vice President Jennifer Hollander . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 06/9/2025NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE County CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code).

Name Change

Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No.25TRCP00273 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Horace Neal Presley for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Horace Neal Presley court for a decree of changing names as follows: Horace Neal Presley to Horace Neal Muhammed 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 7/11/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept:45 Room: 529. The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Courthouse 825 Maple Ave Torrance, CA 90503 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

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED HERE

Notice

In compliance with California Business and profession, code section 21700 through 21707 Inclusive and/or California civil code section goods will be auctioned. Auction will be held on Saturday, July 12, 2025, at 736 W. Del Amo Torrance, CA 90502. Units B214 Gerry Imura Torrance, CA. B220 Patricia Agramon Wilmington, CA. B233 Victor Silva Carson, CA. B266 Martin Haro Compton, CA. B281 Destiny Smith Los Angeles, CA. C3 Felipe Rosas Hawthorne, CA. C11 Samantha McCellven San Pedro, CA. C28 Imelda Bassey Inglewood, CA. D364 Daja Saragus Gardena, CA. F442 Katsumi Haitsuka Torrance, CA. K665 Estrelita Dapar Carson, CA. J600 Faanumi Jordan Carson, CA. N18 Christopher Free San Pedro, CA. N43 Doug Mulipola. N53 Aurelio Villalobos Rancho Pls Vrds, CA.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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

BUS

FROM PAGE 2

Thursday morning's pull took place in Lot 1 North, just steps from the sand, with a bus driver seated inside and volunteers roped off on either side of a 30-foot lane. Mayor Lana Negrete said the event spoke to the strength and resilience of Santa Monica after a challenging year.

"We've had an amazing and also very tough year, from the fires to social unrest and everything that's going on in the news," Negrete said. "This event right now shows the resilience of our community, the resilience of what Santa Monica stands for in terms of sustainability and the progress we are making."

The new electric buses, built by California-based manufacturer Gillig, are shorter 35-foot models with seven battery packs instead of five, offering over 200 miles of range. They are replacing the city's aging 30-foot diesel vehicles and are designed to handle all Big Blue Bus routes. Gupta said the transition goes beyond swapping vehicles and includes retraining drivers and maintenance crews, as well as a complete redesign of the Big Blue Bus yard for on-site overnight charging.

"This is a really exciting opportunity," Gupta told the Daily Press. "It's part of Big Blue Bus and Santa Monica leading the way in sustainability."

California transit agencies are required by law to transition to fully zero-emissions fleets by 2040, but Santa Monica expects to beat that deadline by eight to 10 years. Gupta said that planning ahead on infrastructure has helped the city stay ahead of the curve.

"We are one of the leaders in the state when it comes to converting our fleet," he said. "Most agencies are on track for 2040. We're ahead of that and we're doing the work now to ensure we can charge every bus on site."

Thursday's bus pull served as both a marketing stunt and a physical demonstration of the city's push toward clean transportation. It also gave local organizers a media-friendly lead-in to the two-day Pier 360 festival, which returns Saturday and Sunday with strongman competitions, roller skating, food trucks, live music and ocean sports.

Matt Iseman, host of "American Ninja Warrior" and the day's special guest host, took over the microphone just before the pull to rally the crowd and introduce Licis.

"What you see behind me is a Big Blue Bus that weighs almost 35,000 pounds," Iseman said. "A human being is going to pull this thing. Now that's zero emissions."

Licis, dressed in sunglasses and compression gear, took position at the rope line as chants and applause swelled around him. After a brief delay for television coverage, the signal was given and the bus lurched forward. With firefighters standing by and dozens of onlookers filming from behind safety barriers, Licis dug in and began to move the vehicle. Within seconds, the front tires had cleared the finish line and the crowd erupted in cheers.

> What you see behind me is a Big Blue Bus that weighs almost 35,000 pounds
>
> - Matt Iseman

"This is a city where dreams come true, but those dreams require hard work," Iseman said. "Martins has put in that work year after year, and he's paid the price. Torn muscles, injuries and still he gets back up. That's what strength looks like."

Pier 360 organizers estimate that more than 80 athletes will compete across multiple events this weekend, including Sunday's West Coast Strongest Firefighter competition. The festival opens both days at 9am and remains free to the public.

City officials encouraged attendees to use transit to get to the pier, with fares on Big Blue Bus reduced to $1.10 for the weekend.

Gupta, who said he would be bringing his family to the festival on the bus, called the event "a journey toward a cleaner, safer and more sustainable future," adding, "This bus is built to pull us forward and today, it did."

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PCH

FROM PAGE 4

The council authorized Mayor Riggins to execute an $87,089 federal grant agreement with the California Office of Traffic Safety for enhanced enforcement operations through September 2025.

The grant will fund two DUI checkpoints, five DUI saturation patrols, five traffic enforcement operations, two bicycle and pedestrian enforcement operations, and two motorcycle radar devices through a contract with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Public Safety Director Susan Duenas said the grant activities will focus on the Pacific Coast Highway corridor, where speed violations are the most frequent primary crash factor.

The Selective Traffic Enforcement Program grant comes as the city grapples with mounting public safety challenges. Southern California Edison anticipates increased Public Safety Power Shutoffs this year, which disable traffic lights and cell towers during high fire-risk periods.

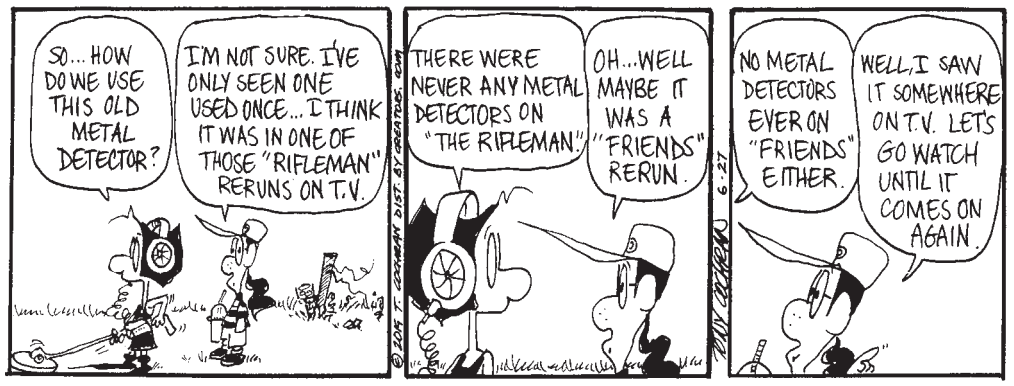
"We got to find a way to keep those lights running," said Council Member Steve Uhring. "Same thing with the cell towers — power goes out, cell towers die, and that is another dangerous situation."

The emergency declaration requires council review every 60 days and will remain in effect until terminated. City officials said they will continue working with Caltrans, the sheriff's department and California Highway Patrol to implement safety improvements on the state-controlled highway.

maaz@smdp.com

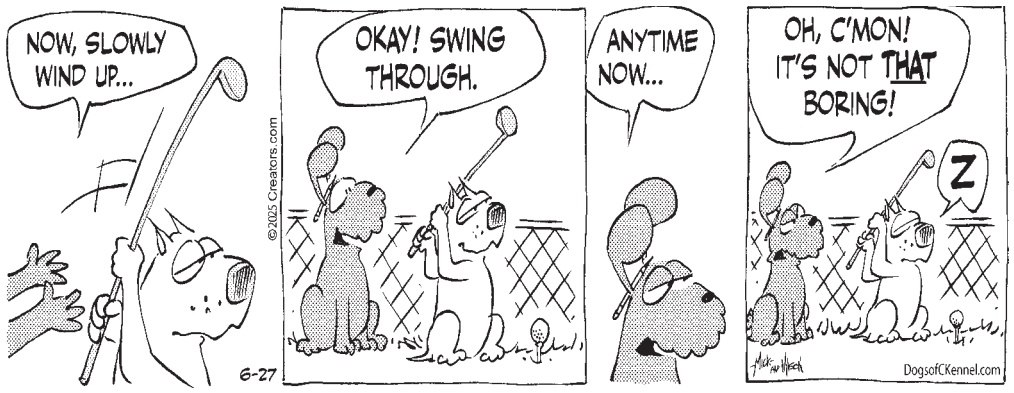
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



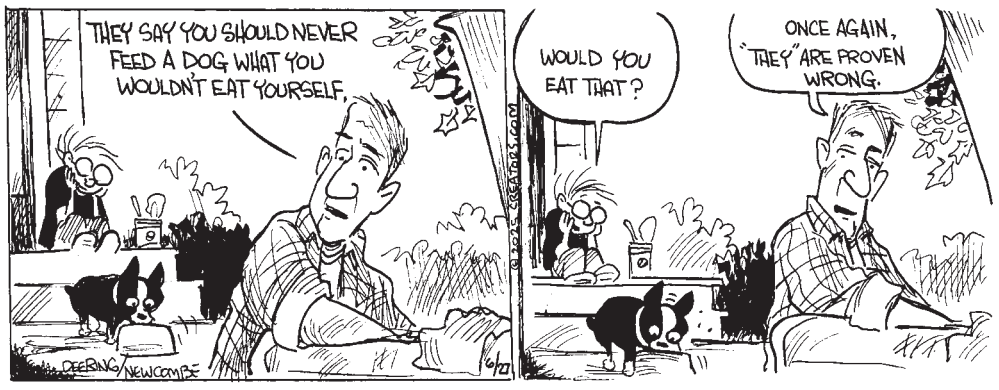
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

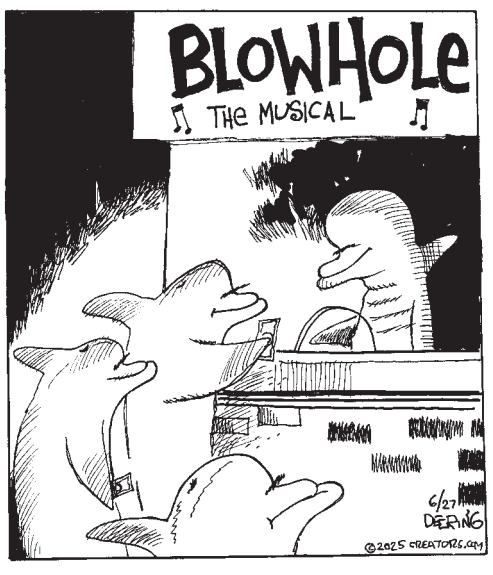
By PETER GALLAGHER



"DOWNWARD SPIRAL."

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 14 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 6619

Race day

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

Arab	Evens	Hats	Photo	Russia
Ascot	Fall	Hock	Post	Sire
Boots	Fast	Horses	Prize	Slow
Brew	Fields	Lose	money	Start
Champion	Foal	Malua	Quick	Steed
Clap	Fodder	Mane	Race	Stud
Club	Gait	Mazu	Reins	Walk
Colt	Gate	Mosht Up	Risks	Whip
Debts	Grass	Norwegian	Roan	Wotan
Encounter	Grey	Bliss	Rodeo	Zulu
Enjoy	Hands	Neigh	Romary	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Where to next?

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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 27)

People want to be a part of your world. Spontaneity is alive, fun is a constant and the muses love you most. You'll keep people wondering, checking in, joining and initiating the happenings you love to be a part of. More highlights: Strong social connections of mutual benefit; two savvy, significant and beneficial financial moves; and family growth. More highlights: Capricorn and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 13, 27, 33, and 19.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll strike a deal pleasing to all. How? You'll demonstrate genuine respect. You'll take the time to find out what others want - and more importantly, what they need. Then, you'll customize your offering or find a customer that's a better fit.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Don't waste time being myopic about your scene. Open the conversation. Valuable insight comes from people who see what you're doing with objectivity. Distance brings clarity, whether it's physical, emotional or ideological.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You live in a way others can feel - even if you never explain it. Even when you slip (as all humans do), you correct with grace and keep showing up as someone worth learning from. Your integrity radiates.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll bring about a change, first by talking about it, because talking leads to doing. Sometimes, you'll be talking only to yourself - perfect! Use kind and constructive terms - not too intense. Call the work "light" and it will be.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Authentic connection is the theme; what unfolds when people drop the performance and just show up. You have the emotional intelligence to accept and value people for how they think and express themselves, even when it's different from your own process.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your emotions run deep and strangely specific today. Your body picks up what your mind can't yet name - a shiver, a tug, a pause. Pay attention. These subtle cues are your map forward.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Listen closely; there's more to the story than you're being told. Fortune favors the curious. Get to the bottom of it and you'll be shown many interesting and useful truths along the journey.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Wind blows, water rushes, sand shifts - you expect it. But when the ground moves, it's a surprise because such seismic changes aren't as common. The same principle applies though: Your stability comes from flexibility, not rigidity. Blessed be the benders.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You've had wilder moments, but a kind of maturity settles over your personal life. You're treating love like something you nurture, not something you chase. That mindset - sustained care, not constant thrill - is what gives love a chance to endure.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Ambitious people like you aren't afraid of "no." If that's the answer, you want it fast so you can move on. The goal isn't to coax a lukewarm yes; it's to find the big, clear yes that actually leads somewhere. A half-hearted yes is just a slow no.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Just because someone has the capacity for greatness, speed or elevation doesn't mean they always need to use it. Sometimes the wiser or more effective choice is to move slowly, steadily and deliberately. How many times have you seen a winged bug crawl? Many.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You have the instincts to spot the real deal, the time savers and time wasters. Trust your read, and don't second-guess it. Your judgment has been sharpened by experience. You no longer need proof to know what you already feel.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

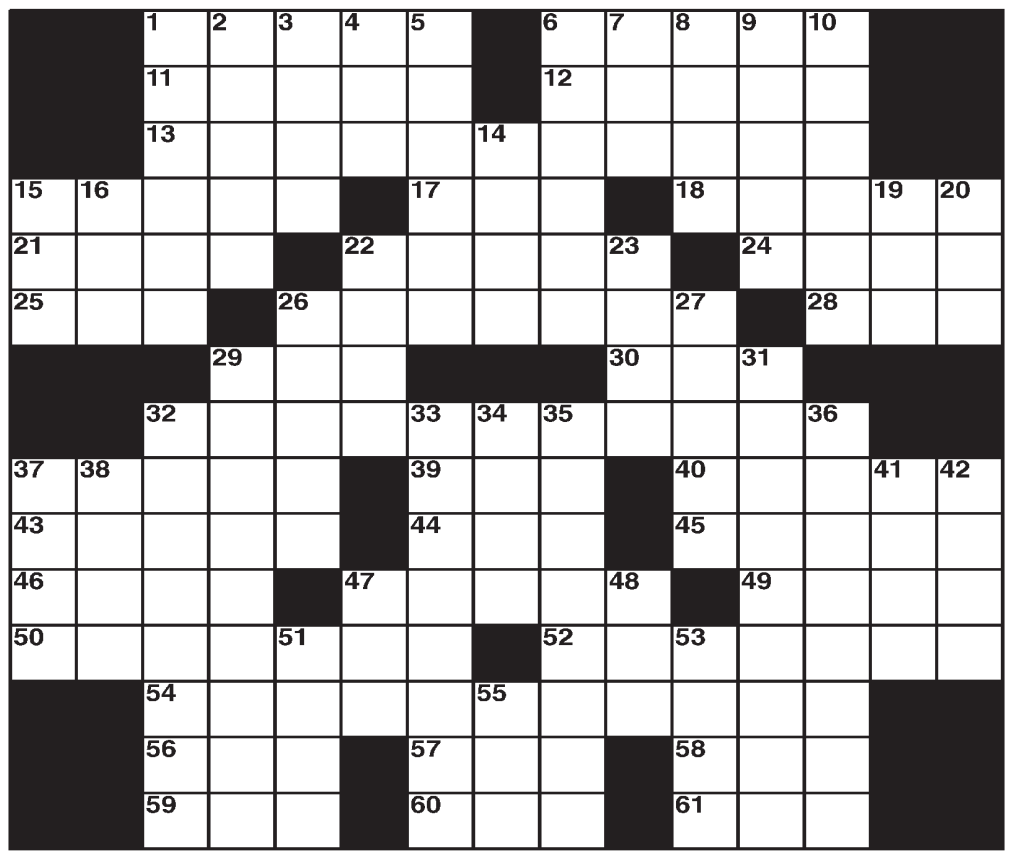
SHORTENING SUGGESTED by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 *Muppet Show* dog
6 Cardio-boxing routine
11 Allergic outburst
12 Spring shape
13 Start of a legendary unfavorable literary review
15 Cream's category
17 Wet beads
18 Text attachment
21 Agatha's investigator
22 Very small things
24 Historical study
25 Begin to tire
26 Bird revered by the Mayans
28 JAMA subscribers
29 Questionable, these days
30 Foldable furniture
32 Middle of review
37 National candidate of '92 and '96
39 Have or hold
40 Subject to assessment
43 Educational octet
44 Pantheon personage
45 Clued in about
46 Tips of pens
47 Carpenter's pin
49 Fewer than few
50 Stumblebums
52 Prayerful chants
54 Conclusion of review
56 Guess wrong
57 Spy-fi author Deighton
58 Cobbler cousin
59 Huge quantity
60 Break off
61 National Humor Mo.

DOWN

1 Stars awarded
2 Earthy colour
3 Milk by-product
4 ___ cit. (footnote notation)
5 Feasting fad follower
6 "Ease on Down the Road" show
7 Atm- kin
8 Other than those
9 Rainforest or desert
10 Tolkien alma mater
14 Let off some steam
15 Party planner's hires
16 Skinny cell size
19 Unsettle
20 Orbiter since '98
22 Rumple up
23 Burlap product
26 Bows out
27 Disinclined
29 Where pumps are purchased
31 Conductor's venue
32 Testimonials
33 Supermarket promotion
34 "That stings!"
35 Streamable anytime
36 Container ship client
37 Red + white
38 No good at all
41 Italian hot spot
42 Carries out
47 Telephonic trio
48 Once around
51 Novelist ___ Neale Hurston
53 City near Sacramento
55 Faire focus, for short



CREATORS SYNDICATE ©2025 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 06/27/25

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

DINOSAUR

FROM PAGE 1

the most pressing is a California contractor licensing requirement that has inadvertently stalled the city's ability to hire qualified art conservators.

"This is the context that we're living in right now," said Sofia Klatzker, head of cultural affairs for the city. "There is currently no straightforward legal path for contracting with specialists like conservators because the state's licensing board only recognizes licensed contractors and not the kind of professionals trained in art conservation."

The California State Licensing Board requirement, rooted in a 1979 law and recently reinforced by a lawsuit in Sacramento, prohibits unlicensed individuals from working on building-adjacent public installations. While a bill now moving through the state legislature may eventually exempt muralists, it does not currently extend to three-dimensional artworks like the dinosaurs, Klatzker said.

> "I believe we would be in violation of the original agreement with the artist if these fountains are not operating"
>
> - Eric Sedman

The city's team has identified several potential workarounds, including leveraging DTSM's contractor partnerships or seeking exemptions from the state board. Klatzker noted that some cities have pursued a model where a licensed contractor supervises a team of artists or conservators, allowing their work to proceed under that umbrella.

In the meantime, key fountain components remain offline. A city facilities staff member told the committee that corroded electrical systems at the dinosaur vaults forced the city to shut off power due to safety concerns. Public Works is seeking a cost estimate from Cal Waters, a longtime city contractor, to determine what repairs would be needed to bring the fountains back into service. That assessment has not yet been funded.

"I believe we would be in violation of the original agreement with the artist if these fountains are not operating," said committee member Eric Sedman. "This needs to be a priority. One phone call should get this going."

Committee members repeatedly emphasized the urgency of restoring the dinosaurs, both as a matter of civic pride and as part of broader revitalization efforts aimed at boosting the Promenade's appeal.

"When you walk down a pedestrian mall area like this and you see this kind of deferred maintenance, it's not a good look for anybody," Sedman said.

City officials echoed that sentiment. Jenny Rogers, director of the Department of Recreation and Arts, acknowledged that the installation had become polarizing in recent years but argued that it still holds cultural and emotional value for many residents.

"I think if these weren't feeling like an albatross, if they weren't such a heavy lift to maintain, they would once again be an asset," Rogers said. "There's joy when people see them at their best."

Rogers noted that the dinosaurs are closely associated with the city's identity and family-oriented culture and she floated the idea of securing a dedicated maintenance fund or even a long-term endowment to ensure future upkeep. The estate of original artist Claude Lalanne has previously expressed interest in maintaining a connection to the sculptures and may be amenable to further discussions, she added.

At the time of the meeting, city officials floated a temporary visual fix for the dormant fountains: placing lined planters with succulents or other drought-tolerant greenery inside the empty basins to improve their appearance while repairs remained pending. Committee members emphasized the need for an interim solution ahead of increased foot traffic tied to the launch of the Entertainment District.

"We're going to get a lot of attention because of the new district," said Lucian Tudor, who chairs the committee. "We need a solution that doesn't look like neglect."

DTSM staff indicated they are already coordinating with the city on interim landscaping options. Long-term fixes, however, will depend on navigating the state's regulatory framework and clarifying contract obligations that date back decades.

According to city staff, the original commission contract has been reviewed with the city attorney, but the artist's written maintenance directions have not yet been located in the municipal archives. Staff also noted that roles and responsibilities for maintenance became muddled after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, when citywide budget cuts and staffing reductions disrupted standard operations.

Prior to the pandemic, Public Works was responsible for maintaining the dinosaur fountains. After 2020, DTSM assumed responsibility for basic maintenance but not capital repairs or electrical infrastructure. That gap has left key components inoperable for nearly a year.

"We've been in a holding pattern almost as long as I've been here," said Klatzker, who joined the department nearly two years ago.

While longer-term decisions are still pending, officials said they are committed to restoring the dinosaurs to a standard that reflects both the city's artistic legacy and its evolving priorities for public space.

"We want the art to be a feature that people look forward to," said Klatzker. "Something you can feel proud to showcase, not something that looks like it's not ready for prime time."

scott.snowden@smdp.com



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

SUNDAY | JUNE 29

THE WATERFRONT - SUNDAY REAL FUNDAY BRUNCH BUFFET
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The Waterfront 205 Ocean Front Walk Venice. Enjoy a bottomless brunch buffet Sundays at The Waterfront! The Waterfront Venice is a full-service restaurant celebrating Californian cuisine with views of the Pacific Ocean. Situated between Rose and Navy on the famous Venice Beach Boardwalk, our food & beverage menus celebrate California with carefully selected seasonal produce from local farms. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/the-waterfront-sunday-real-funday-brunch-buffet/14894114/2025-06-29T11

MONDAY | JUNE 30

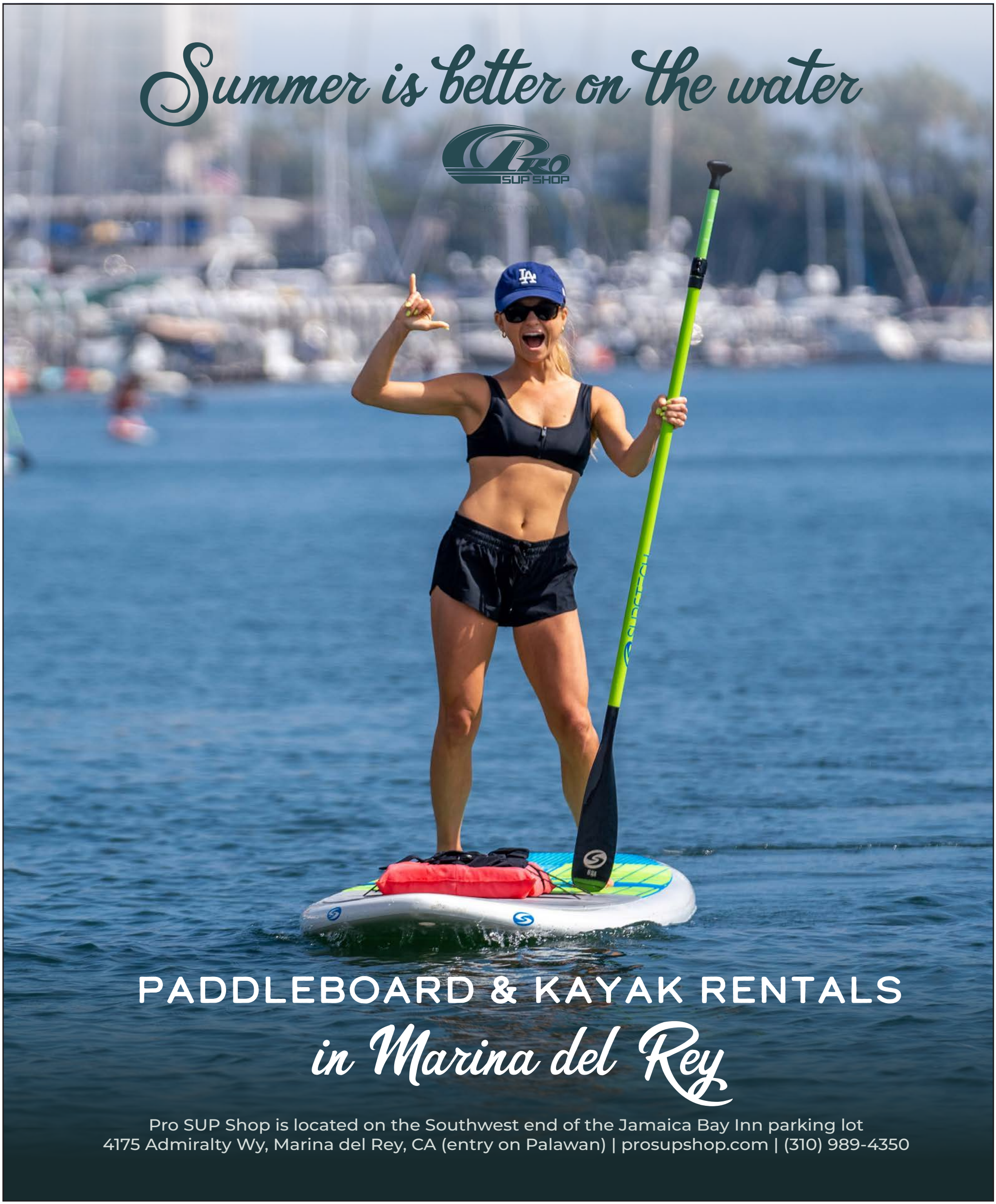
TRIVIA NIGHT AT KAVAHANA
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Kavahana 306 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. Looking for a fun midweek pick-me-up in Santa Monica? Visit Kavahana Trivia Night: Covering a mix of general knowledge, pop culture, history, science, and more! Solo or Team Play: Bring friends or join a team when you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

TUESDAY | JULY 1

GELSON'S WEST LA TO HOST TACO TUESDAYS WITH TACOS, MARGARITAS, AND MEZCALS
4:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Gelson's 12121 W Olympic Blvd, Los Angeles. Every Tuesday from 4 PM to 10 PM, Gelson's West LA Wine Bar will be hosting Taco Tuesdays, bringing together a festive blend of flavors and fun. Enjoy a variety of mouthwatering tacos, refreshing margaritas, and smooth mezcals, all served in a vibrant, welcoming atmosphere. The perfect way to spice up the week—gather friends and enjoy a night of great food, drinks, and good times. Prices vary. https://smdp.com/events/#/details/gelson-s-west-la-to-host-taco-tuesdays-with-tacos-margaritas-and-mezcals/15309564/2025-07-01T16

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