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Pacific Palisades reservoir back online

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Ynez Reservoir in Pacific Palisades returned to service after more than a year of repairs, ending a prolonged outage that left the critical water storage facility empty during January's devastating firestorm.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power announced June 26 that the 117-million-gallon reservoir is operational again following extensive work on its synthetic rubber floating cover, which had suffered significant damage since early 2024.

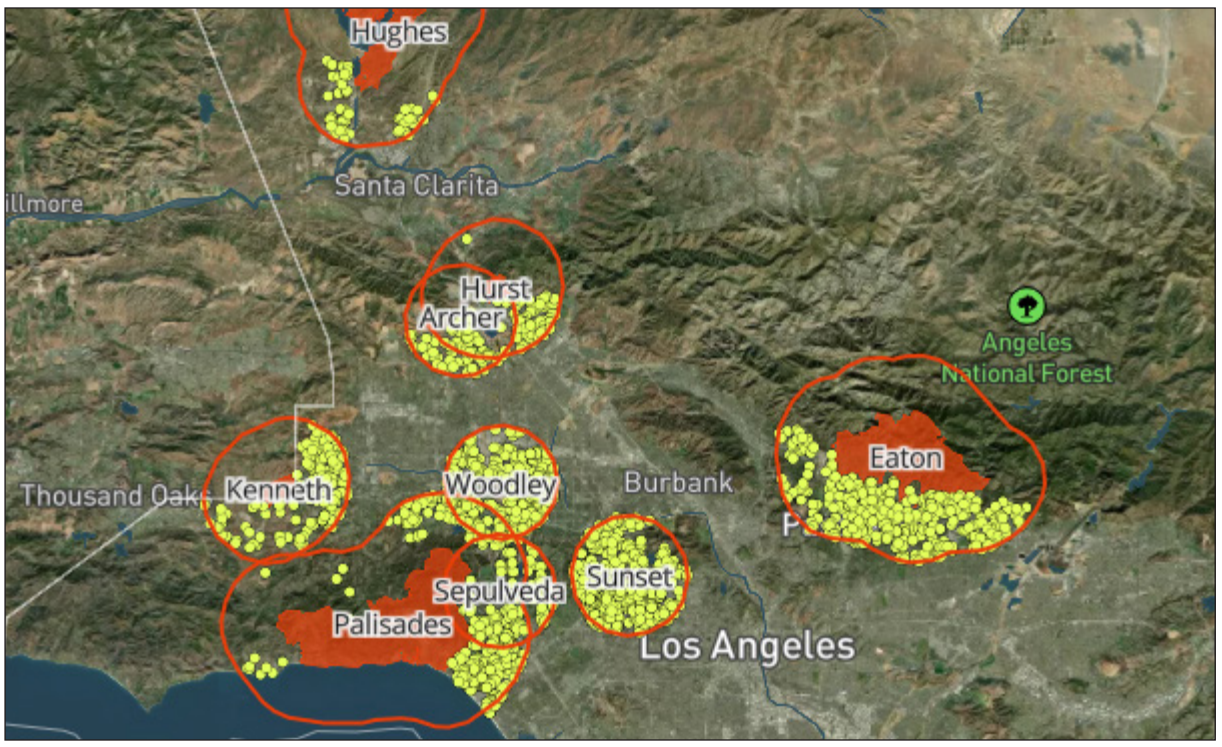
The reservoir's absence during the Palisades Fire has sparked questions about the city's water infrastructure preparedness, as firefighters encountered hydrants that lost pressure or ran dry during the emergency.

"While I'm glad it's now back in service, the reservoir has been offline since early 2024, including on the one day in history it was needed most," said Los Angeles City Councilmember Traci Park, who represents Pacific Palisades. "Our water infrastructure must be emergency-ready, every day. Anything less puts everything we hold dear at risk."

The reservoir had been drained

SEE **RESERVOIR** PAGE 7

Home prices rise near wildfire zones despite disaster risk



Courtesy graphic

BURN ZONES: Proximity to burn zones has not deterred buyers from high-demand neighborhoods.

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

Home prices in areas surrounding Los Angeles' devastating early 2025 wildfires have defied expectations, rising 4% year-over-year in the immediate aftermath of the disasters, according to a new analysis by PropertyShark.

The counterintuitive market behavior suggests that proximity to burn zones has not deterred buyers from high-demand neighborhoods, with some areas seeing dramatic price increases even as memories of the fires remain fresh.

Properties within three miles of the nine largest fires reached a median sale price of $1.33 million between February and April, well above Los Angeles County's $900,000 median. The 4% price growth near fire perimeters also slightly outpaced the county's overall 3% gain during the same period.

The Palisades Fire area

SEE **WILDFIRE** PAGE 11

Suspect in Downtown shooting faces multiple attempted murder charges

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The homeless man accused of shooting three people in the past week, identified as 31-year-old David John Hairston II, could face at least three charges of attempted murder according to the Santa Monica Police Department.

Hairston was arrested on Wednesday following a multi-hour manhunt triggered by Hairston shooting a Santa Monica Police officer who was attempting to arrest him in connection with a prior shooting in Downtown Santa Monica.

In the initial incident, two teens had a verbal argument with Hairston near 2nd and Broadway before entering a Waymo autonomous taxi. Once the victims were in the vehicle, Hairston approached the car and fired several shots into the back seat. Both victims received non-life threatening injuries and were transported to a local hospital.

According to SMPD, an officer observed a suspect matching the description of the Waymo shooter near 2nd and Colorado. The suspect, later identified as Hairston, initially ran from the officer. After about two blocks, Hairston is alleged to have ambushed the

SEE **SHOOTING** PAGE 11



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Will California ban ultra-processed foods in school meals?



Photo by Semantha Norris, CalMatters

FOOD: School food service workers train at the Culinary Institute of America as part of Farm to School, an initiative to provide healthier lunches in California schools, in Napa on Aug. 3, 2023.

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During the school year, kids attending schools in the Tahoe region are served cafeteria meals of ground turkey tacos, chicken or tofu bowls with brown rice, a salad bar filled with locally grown produce and other healthy items.

About 80% of breakfasts and lunches served at Tahoe-Truckee Unified School District are made from scratch without food additives such as dyes and preservatives, and nutrition workers have worked to eliminate prepackaged foods and serve minimally processed meals.

"The health of your entree is your ingredients, so we control those ingredients by cooking or making our own," said Kat Soltanmorad, food and nutrition services director with the district.

Tahoe-Truckee Unified is part of a small but growing group of school districts in California trying to make the billion meals served in public K-12 schools every year healthier and less processed. The schools have relied on nearly $15 billion in state and federal funding over the past few years to begin making some of these changes.

Now lawmakers have set their sights on mandating improvements in school meals. A measure introduced by Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel, a Democrat from Encino, aims to start phasing out some ultra-processed food at schools by 2028 and remove them by 2035. The bill targets foods with chemical additives, such as stabilizers, coloring and flavoring agents.

The bill doesn't list specific foods or additives that would be banned. Instead, it tasks the state's environmental health agency with identifying "particularly harmful" ingredients by next July. But there's controversy brewing between the bill's supporters and the agriculture and food manufacturing industries that worry safe products could be targeted.

For example, pizza — a favorite among students — often contains many ingredients like dough conditioners and stabilizers that manufacturers say are needed to produce the foods and keep them shelf-stable. Health experts say some are linked to cancer and other health harms.

The bipartisan measure passed the Assembly in a 65-1 vote, with 13 members not voting, and is now being considered by the Senate. It comes on the heels of a January executive order from Gov. Gavin Newsom directing the state health department to recommend how to limit harm from ultra-processed foods. The proposal also coincides with U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s "Make America Healthy Again" campaign, which prioritizes chronic disease, including obesity and diabetes.

"There is a growing national awareness, particularly among parents, about how deeply what we feed our kids impacts their physical and mental health," Gabriel said. "Even though Republicans and Democrats can't agree on much, one of the things they can agree on is this common sense notion that we should be protecting our kids."

James Gallagher, Republican Assembly leader and co-author of the bill, said he used to be skeptical about state efforts to regulate additives like food dyes, but as he reviewed the evidence, he became convinced that kids should not consume them.

"Our kids should be eating better," said Gallagher, a sixth-generation rice farmer from Chico. "What we all agree on really is let's get out the most harmful ingredients

SEE **FOOD** PAGE 6

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

From Airport to Great Park: Reclaiming Life, Healing our City



Michael Brodsky

PARK: Residents are pushing to turn the airport into a park.

When I had the honor to screen my film Love Thy Nature at the Aero Theatre in 2016 in partnership with Sustainable Works, our sold-out event gave me a sense of the community here: I perceived Santa Monicans to be ecologically conscious, community-oriented, and devoted to social and environmental justice. I was elated. That experience helped bring my desire to move here to fruition.

Sadly, even our conscious city is suffocating under the weight of "progress": 95% of Santa Monica is now asphalt and concrete. Most children spend their free time hunched over screens. As Americans, our sense of isolation has become so severe that our Surgeon General Vivek Murthy declared we're in an epidemic of loneliness. As if that weren't enough, we're painfully witnessing the unraveling of our planetary systems, as the January fires still smolder in our collective memory. Santa Monica is in a moment of reckoning. It is the last open space left in our city—and what we do with it will echo for generations to come

Nestled in the heart of our extensive hardscape is a rare sliver of possibility: nearly 200 acres of open public land, soon to be reclaimed after the closure of Santa Monica Airport in 2028. It is the last open space left in our city and what we do with it will echo for generations to come.

> "We did not come into this world. We came out of it, like a wave from the ocean."
>
> – Alan Watts

Returning this small piece of Santa Monica to the public and restoring it as a natural space is the most powerful action we can take for healing our personal, social, and planetary crises: this could be our Emerald Sanctuary.

Providing access to natural spaces is environmental justice, social justice, and a public health imperative

Regenerating the airport site is a moral issue for our city. Santa Monica has a serious scarcity of natural open space. While the national average is 10.6 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, our city offers a mere 1.4 acres. With an increasing number of us living in homes without gardens or backyards, providing access to natural spaces is environmental justice, social justice, and a public health imperative.

Studies show that access to nature reduces anxiety and depression—while improving focus, memory, and resilience.

SEE **GUEST COMMENTARY** PAGE 8



Weather

Monday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 71.
Monday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 61.
Tuesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 70.
Tuesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 61.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)	High/Low
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
2025/07/02	Wed	11:24 PM	1.98		L
2025/07/03	Thu	04:31 AM	3.00		H
2025/07/03	Thu	09:56 AM	1.85		L
2025/07/03	Thu	5:10 PM	4.79		H
2025/07/04	Fri	12:36 AM	1.44		L
2025/07/04	Fri	06:22 AM	2.83		H
2025/07/04	Fri	10:43 AM	2.27		L
2025/07/04	Fri	5:49 PM	5.02		H
2025/07/05	Sat	01:29 AM	0.89		L
2025/07/05	Sat	07:58 AM	2.96		H
2025/07/05	Sat	11:32 AM	2.56		L
2025/07/05	Sat	6:28 PM	5.26		H
2025/07/06	Sun	02:10 AM	0.40		L
2025/07/06	Sun	08:54 AM	3.15		H
2025/07/06	Sun	12:20 PM	2.73		L
2025/07/06	Sun	7:06 PM	5.51		H
2025/07/07	Mon	02:46 AM	-0.00		L
2025/07/07	Mon	09:31 AM	3.32		H
2025/07/07	Mon	1:07 PM	2.77		L
2025/07/07	Mon	7:43 PM	5.77		H
2025/07/08	Tue	03:19 AM	-0.33		L
2025/07/08	Tue	10:01 AM	3.45		H
2025/07/08	Tue	1:50 PM	2.74		L

Daily Lottery

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 6/25
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: 6/26
8 22 23 28 32

Daily 3
Draw Date: 6/26
EVENING: 5 1 6
Draw Date: 6/26
MIDDAY: 8 4 3

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 6/26
1st: 08 - Gorgeous George
2nd: 04 - Big Ben
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:42.88

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Devan Sipher,
Miles Warner.

CIRCULATION
Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com

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

LEGAL ADVERTISING
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

MARKETING & ADVERTISING MANAGER
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

2219A Main St Santa Monica, CA 90405
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
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Santa Monica Daily Press

COMMUNITY NEWS

Los Angeles

Board Extends Wildfire Price Gouging Protections Through July

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a motion to extend housing price gouging protections through July 31, 2025, for residents still displaced by the devastating January 2025 wildfires.

Supervisors Lindsey P. Horvath and Kathryn Barger sponsored the motion, which builds on the board's initial declaration of a local emergency on Jan. 7, 2025. That declaration activated housing price gouging protections under state and local law.

The extension is authorized under state law, which permits local governments to renew protections every 30 days when necessary to protect life, property or public welfare.

"The fires may have been six months ago, but for too many, recovery is still ongoing—and unfortunately, that's exactly when bad actors try to strike," Horvath said. "Price gouging protections are essential to making sure our communities can rebuild without being exploited."

Horvath urged residents to report suspected price gouging to the county's Department of Consumer and Business Affairs.

Board Chair Kathryn Barger said wildfire survivors deserve protection from being priced out of their communities during recovery.

"Extending these protections is a vital step that provides stability and dignity as families continue their rebuilding journey," Barger said. "We have a responsibility to stand with them and ensure that recovery is not exploited for profit."

The motion extends county enforcement of housing-related price gouging protections that limit rent and hotel rate increases during a declared emergency. The protections also prohibit evictions followed by relisting properties at higher prices.

The January 2025 wildfires caused widespread destruction across Los Angeles County, displacing thousands of residents. Six months later, many families remain in temporary housing while working to rebuild their homes and lives.

Price gouging protections during emergencies are designed to prevent landlords and hotel operators from taking advantage of vulnerable residents when housing demand increases dramatically due to displacement.

The board's action ensures continued oversight of housing costs for wildfire survivors as the community works toward long-term recovery.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

Los Angeles

LA County Supervisor Honors LGBTQ+ Advocates During Pride Month

Los Angeles County Chair Pro Tem and First District Supervisor Hilda L. Solis recognized four individuals and one organization for their advocacy and leadership supporting LGBTQ+ communities across the region.

The presentation occurred during the Board of Supervisors meeting following a breakfast reception where Solis emphasized the importance of community visibility and resilience amid rising challenges to LGBTQ+ rights.

"These are deeply challenging times for many in our communities, especially LGBTQ+ individuals, immigrant families, and others who are simply trying to live with dignity, safety, and joy," Solis said. "Coming together today in solidarity and shared purpose is not only meaningful, it is necessary."

Solis honored Emmanuel Estrada, councilmember for the City of Baldwin Park, for his equity-centered leadership and work on behalf of working-class families.

Camila Camaleón, president of the San Gabriel Valley LGBTQ+ Center and director of policy at California Latinas for Reproductive Justice, was recognized for organizing work uplifting queer and trans communities of color.

Hans Johnson, president of Progressive Victory and vice chair of the Los Angeles County Civilian Oversight Commission, received recognition for his civil rights advocacy.

Julia Diamond, vice president of The Music Center Arts, was honored for leadership in making public art more accessible and community-focused.

El Sereno Greengrocer, co-founded by Patricia Torres and Erika Crenshaw, was recognized for promoting food justice and mutual aid.

"Each of today's honorees leads with heart, vision, and purpose," Solis said. "They remind us just how essential LGBTQ+ voices are to the future of Los Angeles County."

Solis highlighted several milestones achieved during her tenure, including creation of Los Angeles County's first LGBTQ+ Commission, expanded access to gender-affirming care, and ongoing efforts to improve services and protections for LGBTQ+ residents.

The recognition ceremony reinforced the county's commitment to supporting LGBTQ+ communities through policy initiatives and community partnerships.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy photo

CHAIR PRO TEM AND FIRST DISTRICT SUPERVISOR: Recognizing four individuals and one organization for their advocacy and leadership supporting LGBTQ+.

Santa Monica-Malibu School District saves $22 million with high credit ratings

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District will save taxpayers more than $22 million over the life of its bonds after both Moody's Investors Service and S&P Global affirmed high credit ratings on the district's general obligation bonds, officials announced Wednesday.

Moody's maintained its Aa1 rating while S&P affirmed its AA+ rating for the coastal Los Angeles County district, which serves approximately 8,555 students across Santa Monica and Malibu. The strong ratings resulted in lower borrowing costs than originally projected when the school board approved the bond sale in February.

"We are so pleased to continue to receive strong ratings from both Moody's and S&P," said School Board President Jennifer Smith. "S&P highlighted the district's good management practices, and they were impressed with our long-term financial planning."

The ratings updates came as part of the district's successful $200 million general obligation bond issuance to fund planned modernization projects at schools in both cities. The bond sale attracted more than $350 million in orders from 37 separate investors for the $200 million offering, according to John Baracy, managing director at Baird, the district's senior managing underwriter.

Both rating agencies praised the district's financial stability despite challenges including recent wildfire damage and declining enrollment. The Franklin and Palisades fires destroyed around 1,600 structures in Malibu earlier this year, though no school buildings were damaged.

"The district's debt burden is well above average on a per capita basis relative to that of peers; however, the debt burden remains affordable, in our view, given the affluent population and sizeable tax base," S&P stated in its report.

The district benefits from its "community funded" or "basic aid" status, which means it relies primarily on local property taxes rather than volatile state funding. This designation provides greater financial stability compared to most California school districts that depend on state revenue.

S&P highlighted the district's "extremely strong and resilient local tax base, with very strong incomes, focused in one of Southern California's main economic centers." Resident incomes are nearly 130% of the U.S. median, while assessed value per capita reaches $721,283.

The district generates substantial revenue beyond property taxes through diverse local sources. In fiscal 2024, these included $14.6 million from a parcel tax with no sunset date, $17.6 million from a Santa Monica sales tax, $11 million from facilities agreements, and $10 million from a new property transfer tax.

Moody's noted that despite projected operating deficits through fiscal 2027, the district's reserves will remain stable with total general fund balance staying around 25%. The agency expects enrollment to continue declining at about 3% annually due to high housing costs and low birth rates.

"We continue with many facility improvement projects at our schools to create future ready learning spaces for all students to have access, opportunity and a sense of belonging," said Superintendent Dr. Antonio Shelton.

The district faces some challenges, including elevated debt levels and ongoing discussions about potentially separating into two districts. In September 2024, Santa Monica-Malibu USD and the City of Malibu agreed on documents outlining a proposed separation into Santa Monica Unified and Malibu Unified school districts, though the process requires multiple governmental and voter approvals.

> We continue with many facility improvement projects at our schools to create future ready learning spaces for all students to have access, opportunity and a sense of belonging
>
> - Superintendent Dr. Antonio Shelton

Environmental risks also factor into the ratings, with both agencies noting exposure to wildfires, particularly in the Malibu area. However, Moody's said the district would need to lose close to $7.3 billion in assessed value - nearly 10% of its total tax base - to lose its community funded status, which is "highly unlikely."

The successful bond sale comes at a time when many California school districts face financial pressures from declining state revenues and enrollment drops. The strategic timing of the sale during global uncertainty helped taxpayers save an additional $500,000 in interest costs, officials said.

Municipal Advisor Jon Isom called the investor response "very pleased," noting the district saw interest rates drop more than half a percentage point from initial discussions to the final sale.

The ratings affirm the district's strong financial management practices, including long-term planning, fiscal oversight committees, and diverse revenue streams that provide unusual flexibility for a public school system.

maaz@smdp.com

California begins final phase of world's largest wildlife crossing



Courtesy photo

WILDLIFE CROSSING: Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing before phase two.

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

California has entered the final phase of construction on what will become the world's largest wildlife crossing, a groundbreaking project designed to save mountain lions and other species from extinction while protecting hundreds of thousands of daily commuters.

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced the milestone for the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing, which spans U.S. Highway 101 in Agoura Hills and is expected to open by fall 2026.

"Today, the state is beginning the final phase of construction for what will soon be the largest urban wildlife crossing in the world – all thanks to the visionary work of state, federal, and private partners," Newsom said. "The Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing will soon protect Los Angeles' native wildlife and over 300,000 drivers daily, as well as provide a cutting-edge model for urban wildlife conservation."

The $90-93 million project addresses a critical conservation crisis. National Park Service biologists have found extremely low genetic diversity among mountain lions in the Santa Monica Mountains, with one study estimating the isolated population could go extinct within 50 years without new genetic exchange.

The 10-lane freeway has created a deadly barrier between the Santa Monica Mountains to the south and the Simi Hills and Sierra Madre ranges to the north, effectively isolating animal populations on either side for decades.

Construction began on Earth Day 2022, but the project faced delays from heavy winter rains and flooding in 2022 and 2023 that forced crews to repeatedly halt work. Originally planned for completion in 2025, the timeline was extended as engineers dealt with complex utility relocation and creek stabilization work.

The first construction phase, completed this year, installed 82 massive concrete girders weighing 26 million pounds total across the freeway span. Workers laid 6,000 cubic yards of living soil across the bridge structure in preparation for fall planting of more than 50 native species.

The final phase involves extending the wildlife crossing over two-lane Agoura Road, requiring significant earthmoving, restoration of natural water flow, protection of century-old heritage oak trees, and coordination with multiple agencies to relocate utilities along the freeway corridor.

The project represents a remarkable public-private partnership. The state of California has contributed $58.1 million, while philanthropic donors have provided over $34 million. The crossing bears the name of its largest private donor, Wallis Annenberg, whose foundation made a record $25 million challenge grant that jump-started fundraising in 2021.

Additional private support came through the #SaveLACougars campaign led by the National Wildlife Federation and Santa Monica Mountains Fund, attracting contributions from over 5,000 people, foundations and businesses.

The vegetated bridge will create nearly one acre of native habitat over the freeway, with plans calling for about 5,000 native trees, shrubs and plants including coast

SEE **WILDLIFE** PAGE 8

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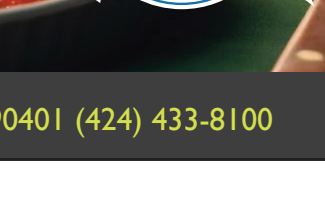
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FOOD

FROM PAGE 2

that might be present in foods that are going into kids lunches."

A coalition of grocers, farmers, food and beverage manufacturers, and business groups has risen in fierce opposition to the measure. They say that creating a system that designates most groceries as ultra-processed will give consumers the false impression that their food is unsafe.

More than 80% of products sold in grocery stores would be considered ultra-processed under the state definition, said Dennis Albiani, president of lobbying firm Capitol Advocates representing the coalition.

"The definitions are so broad and so vague that many both healthy and determined healthy products are going to be pulled in and labeled as ultra-processed, which in the lexicon of America means dangerous and unhealthy," Albiani said.

For example, manufacturers inject small amounts of nitrous oxide into the top of olive oil bottles to prevent the oil from oxidizing, he said. Canned goods like tomatoes and other vegetables often contain citric acid and other preservatives. Vegan and vegetarian meat supplements, which are touted as being healthy and environmentally friendly, also rely on thickeners, flavors and binders. Under the state's proposed legislation, all of these added ingredients could classify those foods as ultra-processed, Albiani said.

FIRST IN THE WORLD TO DEFINE ULTRA-PROCESSED

The measure would make California the first government in the world to define ultra-processed foods, according to the bill's sponsor, the advocacy and research organization Environmental Working Group.

Researchers generally consider ultra-processed foods to include ingredients like starches, fats and proteins that have been substantially modified from their original form, as well as additives like chemical binders, food dyes and flavors, and high levels of salt or sugar. Often they are high in calories and low in nutritional value.

But there is no standardized definition.

Under California's definition, a food would be considered ultra-processed if it contains ingredients in nine categories: stabilizers, propellants, emulsifiers, colors, flavoring agents, flavor enhancers, surface-active ingredients, surface-finishing agents and non-nutritive sweeteners. Other food additives monitored by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration would also count.

California and federal laws already include requirements that regulate the nutrition content of meals such as how much salt, fat, sugar and calories are in a serving.

The measure would require the state Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment to identify and maintain a list of "particularly harmful" ultra-processed ingredients — ones linked to cardiovascular disease, cancer, obesity, diabetes and other serious health problems. Schools would be required to begin phasing them out by 2028 with complete elimination by 2035. Vendors would also be prohibited from selling schools food with the identified substances.

Bernadette Del Chiaro, a senior vice president with the Environmental Working Group, said the measure is "chemical neutral." Rather than specifying which ingredients may be harmful, it allows the state's expert toxics agency to follow the science and make that determination, she said.

The legislation builds on recent laws passed in California to eliminate synthetic food dyes from school meals and certain additives from all food sold in the state that are associated with cancer, reproductive harm and behavioral problems in children.

"What we're talking about now in the 21st Century is a threat of food that isn't really food. So it doesn't matter if it's low in fat or high in fat if it's loaded with chemicals," Del Chiaro said.

Gabriel acknowledged that the bill needs work to "sharpen the definitions" as it moves through the Senate, but he also said it doesn't ban any food, even from schools. The reality, he said, is that the environmental health agency will identify harmful ingredients that school districts and vendors will have to remove from products.

"A lot of what this may boil down to is switching from one brand of oatmeal to another, or switching from this type of maple syrup product to a different product that is just maple syrup," Gabriel said.

Although the authors say the measure is focused on school meals, Daniel Conway, vice president of government relations for the California Grocers Association, said he's concerned that it will have implications beyond school nutrition. The ultra-processed food definition would apply to all food sold in the state even if the prohibition on "particularly harmful" ultra-processed foods is for schools only.

"This is going to incorporate foods that we have otherwise been encouraging people to eat," Conway said. "Really focus it on school nutrition and school meals, and that would go a long way to address our concerns."

Gabriel, whose previous nutrition bills have at times drawn both praise and political scorn, such as the so-called "Skittles ban," said California's commitment to removing harmful substances from food predates Kennedy's rhetoric. But it helps that many of his Republican colleagues are supportive.

Gallagher, the Republican co-author, said the "MAHA movement" in the Trump administration has helped give this bill momentum but agrees with Gabriel that California lawmakers have been paying attention to the issue for years.

LINK BETWEEN CHILDHOOD OBESITY AND ULTRA-PROCESSED FOODS

One in five children in America is obese, and the ubiquity of processed and ultra-processed foods are a significant contributing factor, said Dr. Rohit Kohli, chief of gastroenterology at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and an expert in fatty liver disease among children.

Kohli thinks efforts to remove or limit ultra-processed foods from school meals, which low-income children in particular rely on, are a good idea. "We would see societal-level benefits from a societal change," he said.

"In large population studies, we are seeing, unfortunately, the higher the rate of (ultra-processed food consumption) the higher the rate of obesity," Kohli said. That's because ultra-processed foods are usually calorie dense, he said.

Obesity and severe obesity rates among children and teens steadily increased between 1999 and 2016 in the U.S. despite some studies showing slowing growth, according to a 2018 study published in the journal Pediatrics. Severe obesity, in particular, increased among all child and adolescent age groups and populations during the study period, according to the authors.

Children from low-income families are also more likely to have lower physical fitness and a higher risk of obesity, studies show. One of the reasons is little availability of affordable healthy food.

That makes lifestyle changes very difficult for most children and their families, Kohli said. When he speaks to overweight or obese children about their favorite foods, sugary beverages and pre-made, ultra-processed meals like pizza or fast food top the list. Those types of food are designed to be cheap, convenient and hyper-palatable, he said, which makes it hard for families to remove from their diets.

WHAT SOME SCHOOLS ARE ALREADY DOING

Some districts in California are already trying to improve upon the state and federal standards governing school meal nutrition. They're using state grants to build new kitchens, hire chefs, train staff and renegotiate contracts with vendors and local farms.

Michael Jochner, nutrition director for Morgan Hill Unified School District, said food costs have dropped 30% over the past five years because the district switched to whole foods or "clean" packaged items. A lot of the savings come from working with local farmers, he said.

"When you start shopping locally you have more control over the local market. You can go to a local farmer and say 'Hey this is what I need,' and we negotiate the price," Jochner said.

The changes in his district's menu have also eliminated more than 34 pounds of sugar consumed per student each year. They did it primarily by removing sugary beverages like juice and chocolate milk and replacing sweet breakfast foods like cereal and banana bread with savory items. Breakfast includes sausage patties, bagel sandwiches and plain Greek yogurt with fruit.

Removing items high in sugar also often removed ultra-processed ingredients like binders and anti-caking agents, Jochner said. "One amazing move took out a bunch of stuff simultaneously," he said.

In Fresno Unified School District, the third largest district in the state, 14 million meals are served to kids annually. Nutrition director Amanda Harvey said her program has also worked to reduce sugar and remove food additives. They've increased the whole grains served to students and do more scratch cooking. For their most popular item — a spicy chicken sandwich — they swapped out a pressed chicken patty with a breaded whole muscle, such as a thigh or breast, to eliminate a preservative that may be linked with respiratory harm and liver damage.

But Harvey said it's unlikely any district could make 100% of meals in-house.

Schools will still need vendors, and this legislation would force them to comply or lose schools as customers. At one point, Harvey said she approached one vendor to see if it could remove several food additives and was told no.

"This would put the impetus on vendors to clean up their product," Harvey said.

By Kristen Hwang. Supported by the California Health Care Foundation (CHCF), which works to ensure that people have access to the care they need, when they need it, at a price they can afford. Visit www.chcf.org to learn more. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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RESERVOIR

FROM PAGE 1

in early 2024 after workers discovered a significant tear in its floating cover, which is required by federal regulations to protect drinking water from contamination. Winter storms worsened the damage, expanding the tear to roughly 100 feet and complicating repair efforts.

A competitive bidding process for the repairs took nine months, with only one vendor, Layfield Group, submitting a proposal. The contract wasn't finalized until late 2024, and actual repair work had not begun when the Palisades Fire erupted on Jan. 7, 2025.

The January firestorm tested the city's water infrastructure as firefighters battled flames across hillside neighborhoods. Hurricane-force winds grounded water-dropping aircraft, forcing crews to rely entirely on ground-based hydrants and tank reserves. Water demand surged to roughly four times the normal rate for 15 hours straight, quickly depleting three 1-million-gallon hilltop tanks and causing dangerous drops in water pressure.

The fire ultimately claimed at least 30 lives and damaged or destroyed more than 18,000 homes and buildings across Pacific Palisades, Altadena and nearby areas.

Even after the initial cover repairs were thought complete in March, crews discovered additional tears and pinhole leaks in April when they began refilling the reservoir for testing. This forced another drainage and repair cycle.

"Repairs took longer than expected, as rainstorm damage, sun exposure and wildfire embers had further deteriorated the cover's condition," said Adam Perez, LADWP's interim director of water operations. "It was a delicate balance between expediting repairs while ensuring there are no remaining issues with the cover when we put the reservoir back in service."

The final repair effort required divers to locate and seal tiny leaks in the cover's fabric. The reservoir is now partially filled with about 45 million gallons — roughly 38 percent of its total capacity — and has passed extensive inspections and water quality testing.

Santa Ynez Reservoir serves as supplementary storage during peak demand periods and provides backup if trunk lines or other infrastructure face problems. Unlike open-air emergency storage tanks used for firefighting, the covered reservoir is part of the drinking water distribution system and must remain sealed for safety and regulatory compliance.

LADWP officials said the agency's primary water supply remained operational during the fire and continued to meet fire code requirements even with the reservoir offline. However, the timing of the outage has prompted calls for infrastructure improvements.

California Governor Gavin Newsom ordered an independent investigation into the water pressure failures and the reservoir's deactivated status immediately after the fire. The Los Angeles City Council also demanded a formal analysis of the city's water infrastructure resilience.

"This points to a need for improvement in how the city manages infrastructure," Park said, noting that water facilities must be "emergency-ready" whenever disaster strikes.

LADWP engineers are now exploring enhanced floating cover designs to improve durability and extend service life, aiming to prevent similar prolonged outages in the future.

The reservoir's return to service comes as the region continues recovering from the January fires and preparing for the ongoing wildfire season.

maaz@smdp.com



SMDP Photo

WILDFIRE: Aircraft were pulling water from the Pacific Ocean during the Palisades fire as firefighters lacked enough water to battle the blaze.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Citywide

SMMUSD Names Brandyi Phillips Chief Communications Officer

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District appointed Brandyi Phillips as chief communications officer during its June 24 regular meeting.

Phillips brings more than 15 years of strategic communications and public relations experience from the Maryland and Washington, D.C., areas. She has worked in communications leadership roles at multiple federal agencies, including the departments of Commerce, Housing and Urban Development, Agriculture, and Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection.



Courtesy photo

BRANDYI PHILLIPS: Brandyi Phillips as chief communications officer.

At these agencies, Phillips managed communications during high-pressure situations, including the humanitarian crisis involving record migrant border crossings. She created policy, handled crisis communications and served as agency spokesperson while supervising teams and multi-million-dollar budgets.

"After more than a decade of fulfilling years working in strategic communications and public affairs in the federal government, I am honored to join the SMMUSD team," Phillips said. "We have a unique opportunity to tell our story through compelling communications that meet our parents, students, employees and community members where they are."

Phillips is a Navy veteran who served four years of active duty from 2009 to 2013 aboard the USS Bataan, homeported in Norfolk, Virginia. She deployed twice and participated in Operation Unified Response, providing humanitarian assistance in Haiti following a 7.0 magnitude earthquake near Port-au-Prince in 2010.

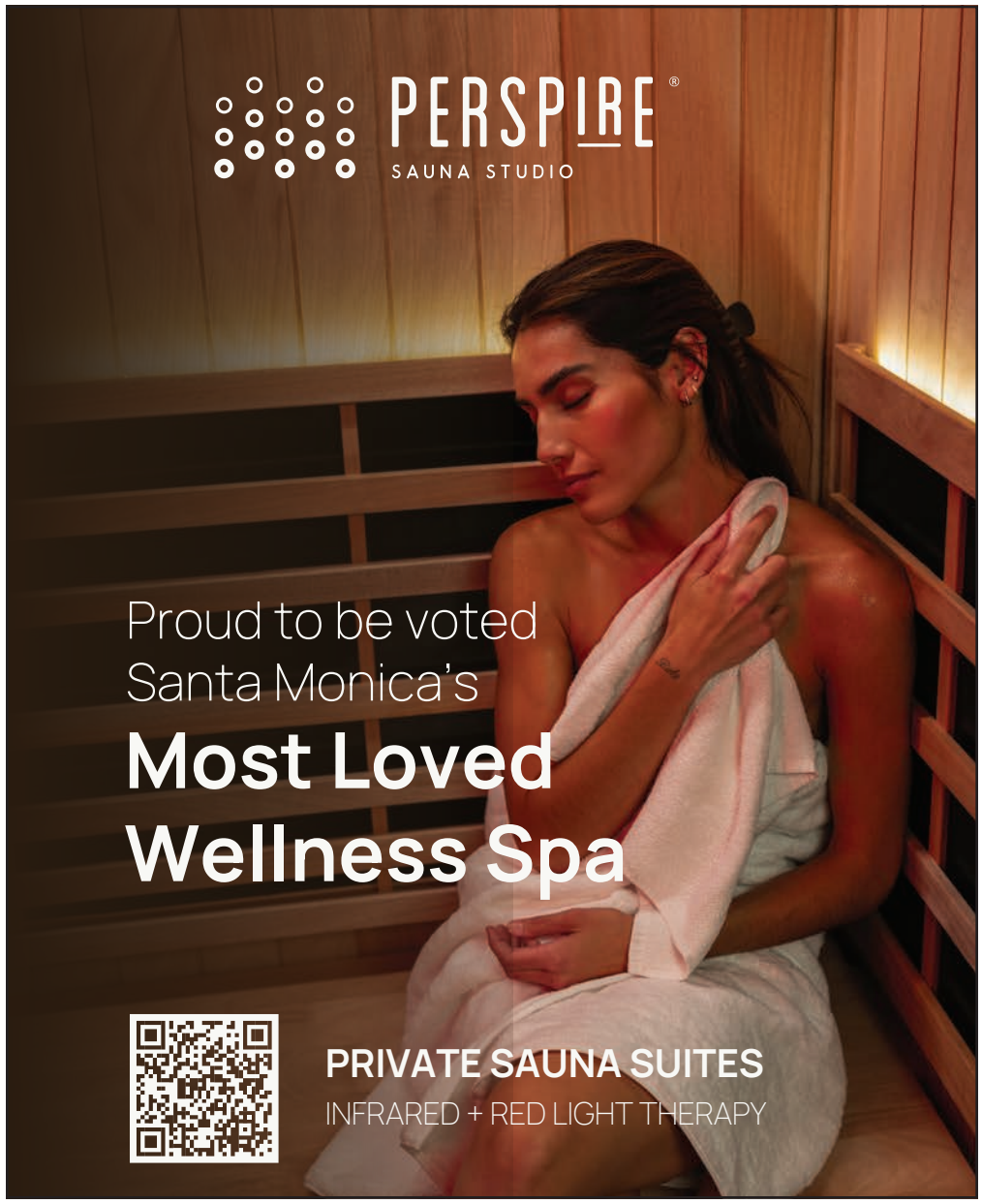
She earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Loyola University Chicago and a master's degree in marketing management from University of Maryland Global Campus, along with a graduate certificate in public relations.

Superintendent Dr. Antonio Shelton welcomed Phillips, saying her federal government experience has prepared her for SMMUSD's communications needs. Phillips will begin her role July 1.

She replaces Gail Pinsker, who is retiring after 10½ years with the district. Pinsker was the first person to hold the position and built what officials describe as an award-winning communications program recognized throughout California.

Phillips said she looks forward to leveraging her experience to support the district's mission "at a time when trust, transparency and community engagement are more important than ever."

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Santa Monica Daily Press
Classifieds

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or email **cindy@smdp.com**

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DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 05/23/25 2025105905 The following person(s) is (are) doing business Vital Health Massage Therapy 225 San Vicente Blvd #212 Santa Monica, CA 90402. Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Laurie Connie Delgado 225 San Vicente Blvd #212 Santa Monica, CA 90402 If corporation or LLC- Print State of CA This is Business is Conducted: An individual . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/2024 . Registrant /Corp/LLC Laurie Connie Delgado Title: Owner Laurie Connie Delgado . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 05/23/2025NOTICE: 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).

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 05/29/25 2025109883The following person(s) is (are) doing business The Speech Institute 27 Westminster Ave 205 Venice, CA 90291 Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Rene Mkhitaryan 27 Westminster Ave 205 Venice, CA 90291 If corporation or LLC- Print State of CA This is Business is Conducted: An Individual . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A . Registrant /Corp/LLC Rene Mkhitaryan Title: Owner Rene Mkhitaryan . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 05/29/2025NOTICE: 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).

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 06/27/25 2025130033The following person(s) is (are) doing business Kimi & Boku 2108 N St STE N Sacramento, CA 95816 Sacramento County Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Little Mountain LLC, 2108 N St STE N Sacramento, CA 95816 If corporation or LLC- Print State of CA This is Business is Conducted: A Limited Liability Company . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. Registrant /Corp/LLC Little Mountain LLC, Title: President Michi Oyama . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 06/27/2025NOTICE: 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).

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 06/5/25 2025115198The following person(s) is (are) doing business Lockton Running 518 Pier Ave #4 Santa Monica, CA 90405.. Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are William Lockton 518 Pier Ave #4 Santa Monica, CA 90405. If corporation or LLC- Print State of CA This is Business is Conducted: An individual . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A . Registrant /Corp/LLC 1William Lockton Title: Owner William Lockton . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 06/05/2025NOTICE: 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).

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 06/16/25 2025121528 The following person(s) is (are) doing business Slackademic 928 6th St 8 West Los Angeles, CA 90403. Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Slackademic LLC, 928 6th St 8 West Los Angeles, CA 90403. If corporation or LLC- Print State of CA This is Business is Conducted: A Limited Liability Company . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 06/25. Registrant / Corp/LLC Slackademic LLC, Title: Member Jim Galii . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 06/16/2025NOTICE: 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 ChangeCase No.25VECP00175 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Cameron Afrasiabi for Change of Name.TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:Petitioner or Attorney: Cameron Afrasiabi this court for a decree of changing names asfollows:1. Cameron Afrasiabi to Cameron Samii. The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before thiscourt at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change ofname should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 05/23/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: 0 Room:511. The addressof the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELESCourthouse 14400 Erwin St Mall Van Nuys, CA 91401. A copy of this Order to ShowCause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to thedate set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation,printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press

Help Wanted

ognosphere LLC d/b/a HoYoverse seeks a Director – US FoF Investments in Santa Monica, CA to apply experience & background in investments, assets, & wealth management. Research investment strategies for various asset classes in the US market, including but not limited to equities, bonds, alternative assets, etc. Position is based out of our HQ in Santa Monica, CA, but role holder is eligible to work remotely. SALARY RANGE: $230,000 - $250,000 per year. APPLICANTS: Email resume to: recruiting_na@hoyoverse.com. Reference code # 9096844 when applying.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 3

Research has also shown that time in nature reduces aggressive tendencies in youth and promotes kindness and collaboration. Time in nature deepens our sense of belonging with each other, our community, and the natural world.

Just imagine – kids leaving their screens behind so they can play together in natural playgrounds; adults gathering to share ideas, art, and music at a small amphitheater; Tongva/Gabrielino elders teaching youth how to grow native medicinal herbs; people playing sports, games, and music; the park's trees and plants purifying our city's air with their freshly "exhaled" oxygen.

Our Emerald Sanctuary will offer not only play, well-being, and togetherness—but also a place of beauty, wonder, and awe - reminding us that we belong to something so much bigger than ourselves.

As our city grows and more housing is added, the need for public open space becomes even more urgent. The denser our city becomes, the more nature we need.

Our Great Park makes economic sense. Parks raise nearby property values, improve public health, and revitalize local economies. Thanks to the "Park Effect", our Great Park would attract a sea of visitors, bringing revenues to our hotels, restaurants, shops, and cultural centers.

The idea of pouring concrete over our Great Park feels as senseless—and as sorrowful—as paving over the beach

Some have proposed building below-market-rate housing on this land. And while affordable housing is vital, justice is not only about putting up walls - it's also about clean air to breathe, food to grow, places to play, and spaces where community and spirit can be restored. As our city grows, the Great Park offers these essential forms of nourishment.

Parks are not a barrier to equity—they are its roots. In a city starved for nature, new development should rise from the 95% of Santa Monica already paved - not from the rare, open land we so desperately need for healing and regeneration. The idea of pouring concrete over our Great Park feels as senseless - and as sorrowful - as paving over the beach.

If we truly believe in social equity, we must ensure every resident - now and in generations to come - has a chance to walk among trees or under an open sky to rest, heal, play, and find freedom from the demands of modern life.

This land was once respectfully tended by the Tongva/Gabrielino peoples, whose way of life was shaped by relationship, not domination. While governance is complex, we can still honor this land by restoring it in the spirit of sacred reciprocity—planting native species, supporting traditional food and medicine gardens, and welcoming community to deepen our bonds with each other and nature.

This is our one and only chance to transform nearly 200 acres of urban land back to a healthy, vibrant, life-giving ecosystem.

Our Emerald Sanctuary would be medicine for people and planet, bringing to life Santa Monica's Sustainability Rights Ordinance, which recognizes the rights of nature and the rights of the community as fundamental. It is our duty to safeguard trees, soil, and species to offset what we've already lost or is being threatened. A regenerative park would help cool rising temperatures, sequester carbon, manage stormwater, and restore habitat corridors. In essence, the Great Park is a living climate solution.

This is our one and only chance to transform nearly 200 acres of urban land back to a healthy, vibrant, life-giving ecosystem—originally stewarded for millennia by the Tongva/Gabrielino peoples. We can honor their legacy while creating a new one: that of a modern city with visionary leaders who are unafraid to replace a toxic airport with a thriving ecological sanctuary - for the benefit of all beings.

When I offer Q&A sessions after screening Love Thy Nature, I always ask the audience if they can define the core message of the film in just three words. Among Santa Monicans, the answer comes easily. Inevitably someone in the audience offers the answer: "We are nature." No doubt about it.

As a proud Santa Monican who loves this city deeply, I offer you this invitation: Let us not build over what's sacred. Let us be rooted into it—and bring more life to our children, our community, and our ecosystem. Let us come together and create our Emerald Sanctuary.

Wishing you Nature. And Love.

Sylvie Rokab, Santa Monica

WILDLIFE

FROM PAGE 5

live oak, toyon, ceanothus, sagebrush and buckwheat. The total project includes restoration of 12 acres of habitat on the bridge and surrounding areas.

A dedicated nursery was established using locally collected seed stock from over 1.1 million seeds representing more than 50 native plant species. Mycologists even collected local fungi to create soil inoculum as part of recreating a "hyper-local" habitat.

Wildlife expected to benefit includes mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes, foxes, mule deer, lizards and birds. The crossing will also reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions on the busy highway stretch.

Nature may already be embracing the structure. A wild Western fence lizard was recently spotted basking atop the unfinished bridge – potentially the project's first user.

The crossing excludes human access, with no hiking trails or public walkways planned. Sound walls and berms will buffer traffic noise, while textured, matte materials will dampen light and sound to help animals feel safe crossing.

Similar wildlife crossings worldwide, from Canada's Banff grizzly bear overpasses to Europe's "ecoducts," have demonstrated that animals readily adapt to such structures.

California's Natural Resources Agency has praised the project as a model "nature-based solution" that will help wildlife adapt to climate change by securing larger, connected habitats in a rapidly urbanizing region.

maaz@smdp.com

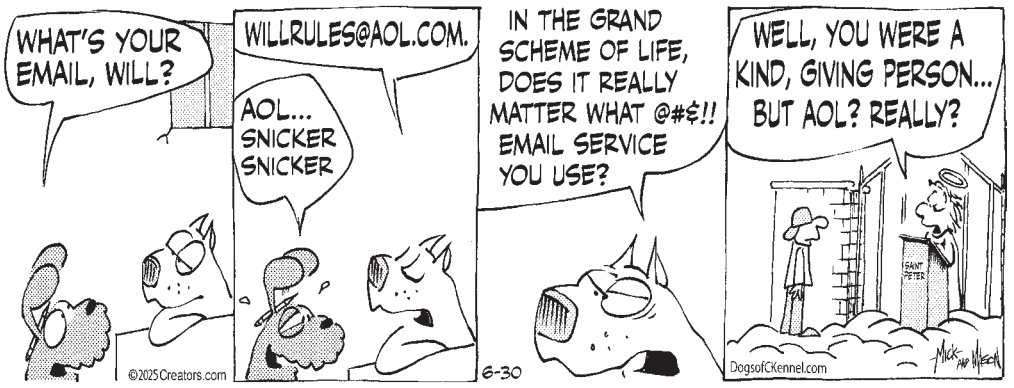
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



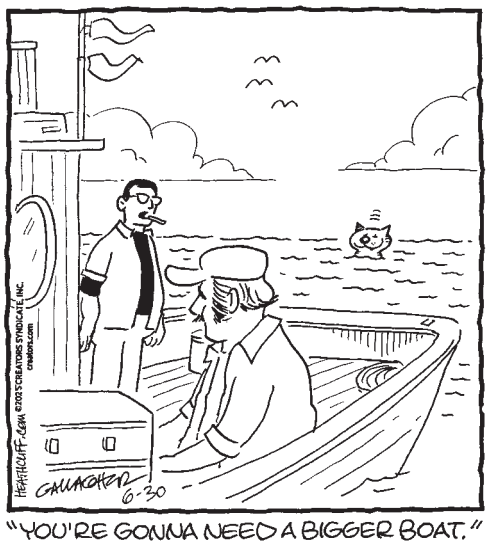
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"YOU'RE GONNA NEED A BIGGER BOAT."

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 6622

Aussie wilderness

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

Ants
Beetles
Birdlife
Bogged
Boxwood
Cedar
Change
Creek
Desert
Fish
Flies
Heat
Hills
Koala
Leaves
Lizards
Mallee
Midden
Moss
Nature
Nests
Paperbark
Peaceful
Plateau
Rainstorm
Ridge
Rivers
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Snake
Snow
Spider
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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 30)

You're the master sculptor this year, reforming the shape of your days, and finding the edges and boundaries that allow you many more hours with your favorite and happiest pursuits. More highlights: You'll leverage key relationships to fit a position. You'll save and make money by solving an old problem in a new way. You and a group develop your own culture of belonging and healthy competition. Libra and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 12, 4, 7 and 16.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Secrets get heavy. If there's something you're carrying alone, you might share it selectively -- not so for resonance. From that point on, you won't feel quite so alone in it. Who is safe? The one you never hear betraying the confidence of others.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Maybe it wasn't a conscious choice, but you've trained yourself to notice what others overlook and it's helped you avoid trouble, maximize the potential in work and relationships and do a superior job, too. You tend to details, and everyone wins.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Psychologists call it "intersubjective rupture" when emotional realities clash so hard, connection breaks. You might just call it frustrating. No one has to be wrong -- but it's a sign to protect your peace or seek more compatible company.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The meandering path holds the richest material. Trust the detour -- it knows something you don't yet. You'll stumble on something you never would've found on a straight line. What once felt like a delay will reveal itself as perfect timing.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your optimism is not naive -- it's earned. You've lived enough to know that outlook changes outcome, and you make a conscious decision to think that things will probably work out. After all, they usually have.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Sometimes you do things by not doing anything much, and that's perfect. Let your mind drift, your schedule loosen, your senses guide you. A beautiful idea will find you in the in-between.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). When the facts aren't enough, your instincts kick in. You'll answer today's quandary without doing much research. The right way just feels right, if a little impulsive. Your gut is smarter than most people's group chats.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You'll be asked to weigh in on a problem affecting the group. You should know that your perspective will be sought not just for its clarity and kindness but also for political reasoning. You're needed. Things won't happen the same way without you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll get a dose of raw personality, yours and someone else's. This candor is what love is really about -- not just supporting others by being agreeable but supporting them with telling the truth of your real self.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When you're around chaotic people you'll protect yourself with a psychic shield so you won't be overly influenced. Your steadiness will stand out -- and you'll be remembered, not because you were a saint, but because you were real and resilient.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's fun being wanted, but it's better being respected. A new opportunity may seem flattering, but take a beat. Is the arrangement equitable? Does it honor your contributions with a fair price? A real offer is the one that feels specific to you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's love in your corner and you'll know it by the thoughtful thing someone saved just for you. Don't rush to reciprocate. Aim to be as thoughtful as others, which will require the time to delve deeper for the right answer.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

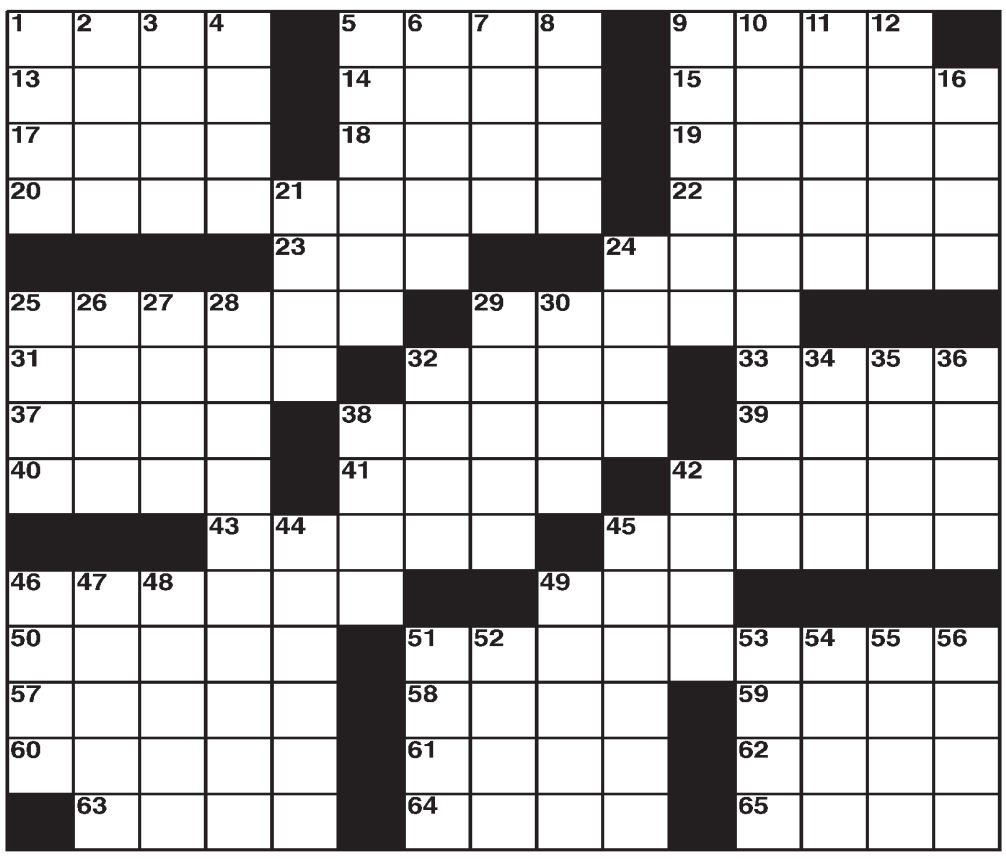
ABOVE THE NECK by Guilherme Gilioli
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Insect that stings
5 Pets that meow
9 Caribbean and Mediterranean
13 "That makes sense now"
14 Very often
15 Travel by bike
17 Clock display
18 "Huge" prefix for bucks
19 Place a new price on
20 Aerosol applied at a beauty parlor
22 Maturing, as wine
23 Allow
24 Divides evenly
25 Touched lightly on the head
29 Assertive personality
31 Middle-arm joint
32 Horse-stopping shout
33 Tools for cutting wood
37 "Are not!" response
38 Groups of two
39 "Three-piece" business attire
40 Totally attentive
41 Vampire novelist Rice
42 High-IQ club
43 What gloves are worn on
45 Female sibling
46 Ceramic holder for Earl Grey
49 Feel unwell
50 Speed-measuring device
51 Liquids to treat a cold's congestion
57 Engage in __ of strength
58 Commotions
59 Black-and-white cookie
60 Island country near Italy
61 "__ you dare!"
62 Standard golf scores
63 Golfer's pegs
64 Region
65 Ticklish red Muppet

DOWN

1 Accompanied by
2 India's continent
3 "Half" prefix for final
4 Social equal
5 Slept in a tent
6 Fully attentive
7 Sheet garment in old Rome
8 Stick around
9 Remove, as ice from a windshield
10 Vision aid worn for reading
11 Second part of a play
12 Tilt somewhat
16 Omelet's main ingredients
21 Whole bunch (of)
24 Resorts with hot springs
25 Bartlett or Bosc fruit
26 __ mater (school you went to)
27 Cookbook measure: Abbr.
28 Dental product in a tube
29 Waters down
30 Days of __ (long ago)
32 Magician's stick
34 First cousin's mother
35 Full of good sense
36 Play the lead role
38 Breathe rapidly
42 Not very spicy
44 Major blood vessels
45 Mexican's nap
46 Airport shuttle
47 Really annoy
48 Top pop singer from London
49 In unison
51 Nothing, from the Spanish
52 Strong smell
53 Rodeo lasso
54 Spoken out loud
55 Long-lasting salon style
56 Just adequate



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WILDFIRE

FROM PAGE 1

exemplified this trend most dramatically. Despite being classified by CalFire as one of the top three most devastating fires in California history, homes within three miles of the Palisades burn zone saw median prices jump 15% to $2.13 million.

"Despite natural disaster risks, areas near burn zones remain desirable for buyers," the PropertyShark analysis concluded.

The Palisades area's resilience was particularly striking given the fire's destruction. Single-family home sales in the three-mile radius around the Palisades Fire increased 23% year-over-year, while median prices for those homes surged 26%. Condo prices in the area also climbed 23%.

Market performance varied significantly across different fire zones, however. While some areas like Sepulveda saw the highest increases — with prices jumping 24% to $3.1 million and sales rising 20% — others experienced sharp declines.

Areas near the Hughes Fire saw the steepest drops, with home prices falling 8% and sales plummeting 23%. The contrast highlights how local factors and neighborhood desirability continue to drive real estate outcomes even in disaster-affected areas.

The sustained buyer interest surprised analysts, particularly given the scale of destruction from fires like Palisades and Eaton, which together destroyed around 6,000 homes and contributed to real estate losses estimated to exceed $30 billion.

Sales activity near fire zones remained nearly unchanged overall, with transactions inching up just 1% to 2,167 sales between February and April. These fire-adjacent sales represented 17% of all home transactions across Los Angeles County during that period.

The data suggests that affluent communities proved most resilient to fire proximity concerns. Areas around the Sepulveda Fire, where median prices reached $3.1 million, saw particularly strong demand despite the recent devastation.

Single-family homes and condos drove much of the price appreciation near fire zones, with values rising 7% and 6% respectively. However, two- to four-family homes saw prices decline 6%, indicating varied impacts across property types.

The Eaton Fire area, despite being among the most destructive blazes, showed mixed results. While overall sales dipped 7%, median prices still managed a modest 2% increase to $1.27 million. Single-family home prices in the area rose 8% to $1.51 million, even as sales of those properties fell 10%.

Not all fire-affected areas saw positive trends. Beyond Hughes, areas near the Archer Fire experienced both declining sales (down 14%) and falling prices (down 3%). The Kenneth Fire vicinity saw sales drop 15% despite a 6% price increase to $1.35 million.

Real estate experts say the patterns reflect Los Angeles' broader housing dynamics, where location, property type and tight inventory continue to shape outcomes more than short-term disaster exposure.

The analysis examined residential sales within three miles of fire boundaries for the nine largest blazes: Palisades, Eaton, Hughes, Kenneth, Hurst, Sepulveda, Sunset, Woodley and Archer. Fire boundaries were sourced through CalFire, with the study comparing February-April 2025 sales to the same period in 2024.

The findings suggest that while wildfires create immediate devastation and displacement, they may have less long-term impact on real estate desirability in established, affluent markets than conventional wisdom might suggest.

For buyers and investors, the data indicates that fire risk has not fundamentally altered Los Angeles' competitive housing market, where location and prestige continue to command premium prices even in the shadow of natural disasters.

maaz@smdp.com

SHOOTING

FROM PAGE 1

officer and shot him.

Following the second shooting, officers from multiple agencies flooded the area. The Santa Monica Place mall was evacuated and streets throughout the Downtown area were closed as armed officers conducted a search.

At approximately 4:20 p.m., officers received a timely tip from a community member who saw someone matching the suspect's description near Palisades Park. Officers responded immediately and took the suspect into custody following a short foot pursuit and the firearm used in the assault was recovered.

The Santa Monica Police Department has issued a statement thanking the public and the assisting agencies including the Los Angeles Police Department, California Highway Patrol, Beverly Hills Police Department, El Segundo Police Department, Hawthorne Police Department Torrance Police Department, Los Angeles District Attorney Bureau of Investigation, Gardena Police Department, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Culver City Police Department and UCLA Police Department.

Hairson is currently being held on $1,000,000 bail. The case will be presented to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office for filing consideration and SMPD said anticipated charges include, but are not limited to three counts of attempted murder and firearms violations.

Anyone with additional information about this incident, should contact Det. Reyes (Isaac.Reyes@santamonica.gov), Det. Kayondo (Lawrence.Kayondo@santamonica.gov), Detective Sergeant Lozano (Alfonso.Lozano@santamonica.gov) at (310) 458-8774, or the Watch Commander 24 hours a day at (310) 458-8427.

editor@smdp.com

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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

WEDNESDAY | JULY 2

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-/14548476/2025-07-02T12

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SINGIN' AND WINGIN

9:00 p.m. - 11:55 p.m. Tavern on Main 2907 Main St Santa Monica. Wednesdays are made for chicken wings and belting out your favorite songs! Join us for a fun filled evening of Karaoke, hosted by none other than Karaoke Star! $0.50 wings special all day long - 7 flavors to choose from Happy Hour from 4p-6p. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/wednesday-night-singin-and-wingin/14639011/2025-07-02T21

THURSDAY | JULY 3

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/12342961/2025-07-03T12

FRIDAY | JULY 4

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-/15793351/2025-07-11T08

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/14165546/2025-07-11T19

SATURDAY | JULY 5

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/13357377/2025-07-12T08

TOUR OF HYPERION WATER RECLAMATION PLANT

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 12000 Vista del Mar, Playa del Rey. Join Heal the Bay and LA Sanitation & Environment for an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant, the largest wastewater treatment facility in the Western United States. This guided tour offers a unique look into the intricate processes that transform millions of gallons of wastewater each day into a valuable resource for Los Angeles. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/tour-of-hyperion-water-reclamation-plant/15985891/2025-07-12T10

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/14548485/2025-07-12T11



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