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Unions object.

5 Unlicensed contractors
Arrested in the Palisades.

Volume 25 Issue 161

THE WEEKENDER 7/3-7/5

smdp.com

Should coastal commission get more power over rebuilding after wildfire? Some lawmakers say yes

\$3.3 million.

That's how much May Sung estimates it'll cost to rebuild her Pacific Palisades home.

With her two-bedroom house atop a hillside abutting the Pacific Ocean, she had what she considered a quaint dwelling since 2005.

She doesn't know if she'll rebuild it on the empty lot there now.

"Because of all the expenses with building on the hillsides, on the coast, I don't know if I'm going to rebuild or not," she said. "I may have to sell."

More than a year after wildfires tore through Los Angeles, state lawmakers are weighing a new proposal that would give the powerful California Coastal Commission more oversight over homes destroyed by future natural disasters. New buyers would need approval from the commission to rebuild, a reversal from current state law that allows homes ruined by fires or other catastrophes to sidestep the controlling state agency.

Buyers today can rebuild homes without commission review as long as they are largely the same as before the disaster and are no more than 10% larger than the original home.

SEE PALISADES PAGE 6

It's time for a parade!



SMDP Photo

JULY 4: The annual Santa Monica Fourth of July Parade will reverse course this year, traveling north on Main Street to align with a new city-sponsored after-party in Tongva Park. The parade, organized by the Ocean Park Association, will start at Marine Street at 9:30 a.m. and proceed north on Main Street before concluding at Pico Boulevard. This year's theme celebrates the community's artistic spirit, the 100th anniversary of Route 66 and the nation's 250th birthday. Following the parade, the city will host Pulse in the Park, its first official Independence Day after-party, in Tongva Park from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free. The event will feature food vendors Level Up Burgers and Ubatuba, a beer garden, face painting, a photo booth, family activities in partnership with the Santa Monica Family YMCA, live DJ sets, dance performances and a live set from The Jane Fondas.

Residents urged to celebrate safely this Fourth of July

MATTHEW HALL

Daily Press Editor

As Independence Day festivities get underway, Santa Monica and Los Angeles County officials are urging residents to leave fireworks to the professionals — warning that illegal use carries stiff fines, potential jail time and the risk of catastrophic injury or death.

All fireworks are illegal in Santa Monica, including those marketed as "safe and sane." Violators face fines of up to \$1,000, up to six months in jail, or both. Residents who witness illegal fireworks use are asked to call the city's non-emergency line at 310-458-8849. For emergencies, dial 911.

"Your firefighters and police officers are here to ensure your safety," city officials said in a statement. "Together, let's keep our community safe this Fourth of July."

The warnings extend beyond legal consequences. Nationally, fireworks start more than 30,000 fires each year and cause thousands of injuries annually. Even sparklers — often considered harmless — account for roughly a quarter of all fireworks-related emergency room visits. Officials also note that fireworks can negatively affect veterans, older adults and children.

KEEP PETS INDOORS

With the holiday approaching, animal welfare advocates are raising alarms about the toll fireworks take

SEE FIREWORKS PAGE 7

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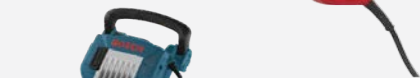
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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California unions want to unwind a landmark pension reform. Who will foot the bill?



Photo by Rahul Lal for CalMatters

PENSION: The state Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) logo on a plaque stating the company's vision and mission at the regional office in Sacramento on June 26, 2023.

The 1998 election of Gray Davis as governor was something of a fluke.

Davis had climbed the political ladder one rung at a time, from serving as Gov. Jerry Brown's chief of staff to a seat in the state Assembly, then a stint as state controller and another as lieutenant governor.

The 1998 primary election was a three-way Democratic slugfest pitting Davis against two wealthy, self-financed rivals, airline executive Al Checchi and Jane Harman, a Southern California member of Congress. Checchi and Harman poured millions of dollars into their campaigns, spending on media attacks against each other.

The press termed it a "murder-suicide pact" that allowed Davis to win the nomination. He then defeated Republican Attorney General Dan Lungren.

"We got a lot of breaks in this campaign," Davis' campaign manager, Garry South, later acknowledged. One big break was that, as Checchi and Harman were spending heavily, the state's labor unions backed Davis with millions of campaign dollars.

It was not unlike the governor's race this year when most unions rallied behind Xavier Becerra, rather than billionaire Tom Steyer.

Davis was a politician with an accountant's focus on political debts — who owed him and what he owed others. Accordingly, after election, Davis quickly showed his appreciation by delivering two high-priority — and high-cost — benefit increases for unions: one in unemployment insurance payments, the other in pensions for public employees.

At the time, the public was told that both could be enacted without any substantial impacts on employers or taxpayers, but both assurances were later proven to be false.

When the Great Recession struck California a half-decade later, unemployment insurance reserves were quickly exhausted and ever since the program has survived on loans from the federal government. The state Unemployment Insurance Fund now owes the feds well over \$20 billion.

The recession also clobbered earnings by the two immense public employee pension funds, the California Public Employee Retirement System and the California State Teachers Retirement System, generating demands that the state shore up their financial viability.

Davis wasn't around when the benefits

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

In fire-prone California, cities like Napa offer a safer way to celebrate July Fourth

There is perhaps nothing more American than celebrating the Fourth of July with parades, apple pie and, of course, fireworks. Fourth of July fireworks have been a longstanding tradition in communities nationwide.

However, many California cities are reevaluating how they celebrate this symbolic day as they consider how to honor traditions while recognizing the state's ever-evolving reality.

This weekend, Napa will host its third consecutive drone show to celebrate July Fourth, which this year marks America's 250th birthday. As concerns with fireworks grow, especially in fire-prone areas, many communities like Napa are exploring or already implementing solutions that provide a safer, greener alternative to celebrating our holiday traditions — without the adverse impacts.

In 2023, the city of Napa launched a robust community conversation centered around three main concerns: fire and safety risks, public health and air quality impacts, and noise disturbance for pets, wildlife and sensitive groups. After reviewing trends from across the country and globally, and careful consideration of safety and environmental factors, the traditional city-organized fireworks program ended.

The city council and city staff had to analyze and weigh the impacts of many different factors before reaching this decision.

The fire risks for the region have increased significantly, and we have lived through numerous large wildfires over the last decade. While fireworks displays are performed by professional vendors, there has been firework debris discovered on private properties near the former launch site.

Hosting community fireworks displays has also not been proven to decrease the use of illegal fireworks. Fireworks caused more than \$35 million in property damage across California in 2024, sparking an estimated 1,230 fires, according to the governor's office.

The smoke produced by exploding fireworks also impacts air quality. It contains inhalable particles that can trigger asthma and affects people with

other respiratory diseases.

To create bright colors, most fireworks contain toxic metals such as strontium, barium, lead, lithium, copper and sometimes mercury. Limiting even the relatively small impact from a single 20-minute fireworks show demonstrates the importance of both small and large actions to improve our environment.

Noise caused by fireworks can cause anxiety and stress, especially people suffering from PTSD. Animals are frequently impacted by the unpredictable and loud noises during fireworks shows, creating stressors for domestic pets and wildlife.

Many community members understandably expressed concerns over changing such an important aspect of our traditional celebration. However, the city council ultimately made the change to stop using fireworks, opting for a safer and more environmentally friendly option.

Napa transitioned to drone lights and now boasts the largest July Fourth drone show in Northern California. Sky Elements produces it. The 15-minute shows incorporate 400 drones, which create a spectacular 3D display. By using music played over local radio and through speakers in designated viewing areas, the shows have created memorable moments and helped distinguish Napa as a destination for Fourth of July celebrations. An estimated 24,000 people gather in downtown Napa for the drone display.

Still, the decision in 2023 was not an easy one.

Over the past two years, several nearby communities have been forced to abruptly cancel firework shows because of hotter temperatures, fire danger and difficulties procuring pyrotechnics.

Napa, now more than ever, is convinced that the transition to drone technology was the right choice for the community. While we might be missing the traditional booms of fireworks, the drone show creates a new kind of magic for residents and visitors to enjoy.

Liz Habkirk is the assistant city manager for the city of Napa. Breyana Brandt is the director of the Parks and Recreation Department for the city of Napa.



Surf report WATER TEMP: 64.4

FRIDAY | **SURF:** 3-4ft
FAIR | Waist to chest

Fun surf for the mid-AM to early PM window. Mind the low tide if you're surfing early. Peaking SSW swell spreads waist-high surf around pretty well as chest-high sets show. Standouts go upwards of head-high on occasion. A little bit of NW energy mixing in, not enough for proper peaks, but the open beachbreaks should at least be in play with workable sections and the odd open corner. Drained down patrol low tide is worth waiting out, evening with some onshore crumble as it builds mid-AM. PM gets lumpy.

SATURDAY | **SURF:** 2-3ft+
FAIR | Thigh to stomach

Fun size sticks around. Hit the AM tide push ahead of likely breezy afternoon conditions. Holding SSW swell keeps plenty of waist-chest high surf in the water as better spots go shoulder-head high+. The mid-AM tide push looks like the sweet spot, after the low tide fills in and before afternoon onshores get breezy and blown out. A little less NW windswell to work with for that AM window, so structured spots look like your best bet for a decent corner - but the beachbreaks shouldn't be a complete write-off.

Weather

Friday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 69.

Friday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 60. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a high near 69.

Saturday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 61.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2026/07/03	Fri	06:30 AM	-0.29	L
2026/07/03	Fri	1:13 PM	3.82	H
2026/07/03	Fri	5:44 PM	2.61	L
2026/07/03	Fri	11:41 PM	5.25	H
2026/07/04	Sat	07:00 AM	-0.01	L
2026/07/04	Sat	1:48 PM	4.00	H
2026/07/04	Sat	6:38 PM	2.60	L
2026/07/05	Sun	12:23 AM	4.75	H
2026/07/05	Sun	07:30 AM	0.37	L
2026/07/05	Sun	2:25 PM	4.24	H
2026/07/05	Sun	7:46 PM	2.52	L
2026/07/06	Mon	01:14 AM	4.13	H

Daily Lottery

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

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 6/29
10 14 41 53 59
Power#: 3
Jackpot: 375 M

Fantasy5
Draw Date: 6/30
11 17 28 35 36

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 6/30
26 41 50 53 62
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: 542 M

Daily 3
Draw Date: 6/30
EVENING: 7 4 5
Draw Date: 6/30
MIDDAY: 1 6 4

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 6/27
16 21 22 25 34
Mega#: 27
Jackpot: 33 M

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 6/30
1st: 11 - Money Bags
2nd: 05 - California Classic
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:45.82

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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COMMUNITY NEWS

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NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

SANTA MONICA ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD REGULAR MEETING SANTA MONICA CITY HALL

DATE/TIME: Monday, July 6, 2026, 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Council Chambers, (wheelchair accessible)
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Room 250

PUBLIC HEARING:

1320 Pico Boulevard (25ARB-0210): Multi-Family Residential:

Review of the design, colors, materials, and landscape for an eight-story, 78'-10" tall, 134,869 square foot residential housing project consisting of 147 units, including 24 affordable units, above 2.5 levels of subterranean parking in the Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Zoning District.

Previously reviewed on November 17, 2025

2716 Ocean Park Boulevard (26ARB-0034): Multi-Family Residential/Mixed Use:

Review of the design, colors, materials, and landscape plans for the construction of an 8-story mixed-use residential development with 456 units, including 46 affordable units, and 6,960 square feet of commercial space, including three levels of above-ground parking in the Office Campus (OC) Zoning District.

More information is available online at <https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Architectural-Review-Board/> (en Espanol tambien at (310) 458-2201 ext. 2431#).

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Those wishing to give written public comment shall email comments to planningcomment@santamonica.gov. Comments received prior to 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Architectural Review Board prior to the meeting and posted online. Please note the agenda item in your comments.

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.

TRANSLATION SERVICE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST. Please contact planning@santamonica.gov at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

SERVICIO DE TRADUCCIÓN DISPONIBLE A PEDIDO. Comuníquese al planning@santamonica.gov al menos 72 horas antes de la reunión programada.

ESPAÑOL: Esto es una noticia pública para revisar aplicaciones 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

Los Angeles

405 lane closures

Caltrans announced overnight lane reductions, ramp closures and connector closures along Interstate 405 through the Sepulveda Pass for K-rail installation the week of July 6.

Crews will work from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. daily Monday through Friday, July 6-10. No closures are planned Friday night due to a World Cup construction moratorium on I-405 between Lakewood Boulevard and U.S. 101.

Speed limits will be reduced to 55 mph in certain sections along northbound and southbound I-405 due to ongoing paving work.

The following intermittent closures are scheduled nightly from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m., Monday, July 6, through Friday, July 10:

- Up to two northbound lanes closed between Sepulveda Boulevard and Victory Boulevard.
- Up to two northbound lanes closed between Wilshire Boulevard and Skirball Center Drive/Mulholland Drive.
- Northbound off-ramp to Getty Center Drive closed.
- Sepulveda Boulevard on-ramp to northbound I-405 closed.
- Burbank Boulevard on-ramp to northbound I-405 closed.
- Up to two southbound lanes closed between Skirball Center Drive/Mulholland Drive and Wilshire Boulevard.
- Up to three southbound lanes closed between U.S. 101 and Skirball Center Drive/Mulholland Drive.
- Up to two southbound lanes closed between Victory Boulevard and U.S. 101.
- Northbound U.S. 101 connector to northbound I-405 closed.
- Northbound U.S. 101 connector to southbound I-405 closed.
- Southbound U.S. 101 connector to northbound I-405 closed.
- Southbound U.S. 101 connector to southbound I-405 closed.

The work is part of the \$143.7 million I-405 Pavement Rehabilitation Project between the Los Angeles communities of Van Nuys and Westwood, which aims to improve safety, mobility and pavement longevity along the corridor.

Schedules are subject to change due to weather or operational conditions. Nearby residents and businesses may experience noise, vibrations and dust. Current road conditions are available at Caltrans' QuickMap. Caltrans reminds drivers to be work zone alert and slow for the cone zone.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

Malibu

Malibu woman pleads guilty to helping boyfriend evade federal custody

A Malibu woman pleaded guilty Tuesday to helping her convicted boyfriend flee to Mexico and later escape to Germany to avoid sentencing in a federal fraud case.

Lucinda Jane Weist Manera, 63, also known as Lucy Weist, entered a guilty plea to one felony count of accessory after the fact.

Her boyfriend, Bernhard Eugen Fritsch, 64, formerly of Malibu, was convicted by a federal jury in April 2025 of wire fraud. Prosecutors said he defrauded investors out of more than \$20 million between 2014 and 2017 by lying about the financial performance of a technology company that developed software to help celebrities and social media influencers monetize brand endorsements. The conviction followed a nine-day trial.

Manera was in the courtroom when the verdict was read. Fritsch remained free on bond, and a hearing regarding his potential remand into federal custody was set for June 2, 2025.

On that date, Fritsch fled the country by car and crossed into Mexico to avoid being taken into custody and to evade any prison sentence stemming from his conviction.

According to her plea agreement, Manera assisted Fritsch from June through September 2025 with the purpose of hindering his apprehension and punishment. She lied to FBI agents, telling them she had not spoken to Fritsch within a day of his scheduled June 2 court appearance.

Manera also made at least 10 payments totaling approximately \$7,475 to a third party at whose home Fritsch was hiding, and authorized a \$534 charge to her bank account for a hotel stay for Fritsch in Mexico. In September 2025, she conducted internet searches on his behalf for information on how he could travel from Mexico to Germany, a country that generally prohibits the extradition of its own citizens.

Fritsch was sentenced in absentia in October 2025 to 15 years in federal prison, fined \$35,000 and ordered to pay \$26,806,901 in restitution. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed his appeal in April 2026 because of his fugitive status — courts generally do not consider appeals from defendants who have fled. Fritsch may move to reinstate the appeal if he surrenders to authorities by Aug. 21.

U.S. District Judge Dale S. Fischer set an Oct. 5 sentencing hearing for Manera, who faces a statutory maximum of five years in federal prison.

The FBI is investigating. Assistant U.S. Attorney Monica E. Tait of the Major Frauds Section is prosecuting the case.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

CORRECTION

In yesterday's story "The coast is clear for COAST 2026 in downtown Santa Monica" we incorrectly reported that DTSM will expand the entertainment zone for July 19. The Board authorized staff to expand the EZ but did not mandate they do so and staff have determined the EZ will not extend beyond the Promenade on that day.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Santa Monica

Grass field pilot advances

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education advanced plans for a natural grass field pilot at Franklin Elementary School and expressed support for a moratorium on new synthetic turf fields at elementary campuses during a June 18 special meeting.

The district will install a temporary natural grass field at Franklin during construction of a new Early Learning Classroom Building, allowing officials to evaluate the performance, maintenance requirements and durability of natural grass in a high-use school environment. The field will remain in place until a permanent one is installed following completion of construction, expected in spring 2028.

“The purpose of this pilot is to gather meaningful data that will help guide future decisions about field surfaces across the district,” Superintendent Antonio Shelton said. “We are committed to reviewing objective information, consulting with experts and ensuring students have access to safe, high-quality outdoor spaces.”

The district consulted with turfgrass specialist James H. Baird of the University of California, Riverside, who recommended a sand-and-peat athletic field rootzone mix, subsurface drainage and bermudagrass overseeded with perennial ryegrass. His recommendations were incorporated into the pilot project design.

The pilot is also part of a districtwide study during the 2026-27 school year comparing field conditions at Franklin, McKinley Elementary School, Roosevelt Elementary School, Grant Elementary School and Will Rogers Learning Community. The study will collect data on field usage, maintenance costs, injuries, surface temperatures and overall field conditions.

The proposed moratorium would apply to future synthetic turf play fields at elementary schools and would not affect existing synthetic turf fields or playground safety surfacing.

Installation of the natural grass field at Franklin is scheduled for late July, with light supervised use anticipated in early September and full use expected later that month.

District staff will present additional information to the board at its regular July 16 meeting regarding implementation of the pilot project, which is expected to cost approximately \$500,000 beyond the temporary field already planned at Franklin.

“The purpose of this pilot is to gather meaningful data that will help guide future decisions about field surfaces across the district

- Antonio Shelton, Superintendent

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

Los Angeles

Six unlicensed contractors charged with illegally operating in Palisades Fire zone

Six unlicensed contractors face felony charges for allegedly soliciting work in the Palisades Fire disaster zone without valid licenses, the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office announced Thursday.

The charges follow a joint sting operation conducted April 15-16 by the DA’s Bureau of Investigation and California’s Contractors State License Board in which investigators posed as homeowners seeking bids on accessory dwelling unit construction and demolition work at a Pacific Palisades residence. The six defendants collectively placed bids totaling approximately \$1.27 million.

Each defendant faces one felony count of contracting without a license during a natural disaster. The charged individuals are Luis Perez Silva, Jecil Cruz-Herrera, Luis Mateo Perez Lopez, Antonio Herman Perez, Santiago Ismael Mejia Urena and Raymond Joshua Castorena.

Five of the defendants face up to three years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000. Castorena faces up to six years because of a prior strike offense.

Investigators said none of the defendants held a valid license under their name or business name, nor had any pending application with the CSLB.

District Attorney Nathan Hochman framed the enforcement as both consumer protection and a labor justice issue.

“As residents in Pacific Palisades and Altadena rebuild from the catastrophic wildfires in January 2025, we have a message for criminal contractors: Stay out of Los Angeles County,” Hochman said. “Unlicensed contracting is often accompanied by labor exploitation such as wage theft, unpaid labor and unsafe working conditions.”

The January 2025 Palisades Fire destroyed more than 16,000 homes and structures and displaced tens of thousands of residents. Prosecutors allege the defendants deliberately targeted victims made particularly vulnerable by the disaster.

Perez Lopez, Mejia Urena and Castorena pleaded not guilty at arraignment June 26. A preliminary hearing is scheduled Aug. 5 at the Airport Courthouse. The three remain released on their own recognizance. Arraignment for Cruz-Herrera, Silva and Perez is set for July 8.

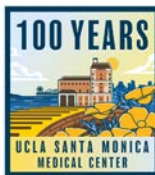
The cases are being prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Eva Jabber Stodel of the Consumer Protection Division.

In December 2025, the DA’s office announced similar charges against five unlicensed contractors allegedly operating in the Eaton Fire disaster zone in Altadena.

The charges are allegations. The defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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PALISADES

FROM PAGE 1

Gov. Gavin Newsom last year broadened these exemptions to include rebuilds that aren't similar to their original design when he suspended the commission's authority over rebuilding efforts in L.A. to speed up what so far has been a grueling slog for the city.

In Malibu and the Pacific Palisades, where many homes hug the Pacific Coast, dozens of parcels of land have been purchased by developers from owners who can't afford to pay what could be millions of dollars to remake their houses from scratch.

More than 40% of homes sold in the Palisades last summer were bought by investors, according to real estate company Redfin, which defined investors as buyers with "LLC," "Inc.," "Corp" or "Homes" in their names.

Some residents have questioned what expanses of investor-owned lots could mean for the character of fire-torn communities, said Sen. Ben Allen, who authored Senate Bill 1229 and represents the Palisades area.

The legislation is one of few bills this session that would broaden the authority of the commission rather than weaken it, bucking a trend of longstanding disdain among top state and federal leaders about how the agency has controlled development along California's invaluable coastline.

Senate Democrats overwhelmingly supported the bill when it passed the chamber last month. San Francisco Sen. Scott Wiener was the sole Democrat to join Republicans in voting against it in a 29-9 vote.

"It could set a troubling precedent that we're more focused on only empowering the original owner to build," Wiener said. "I thought it was a very, very dangerous precedent and that's why I felt the need to

vote 'no.'"

At a Wednesday committee hearing, a lawmaker presenting the bill reiterated that it is intended to target developers.

The new measure "keeps the door open for disaster victims to rebuild their homes without delay, but closes it to speculative developers seeking a profit," said Sacramento Sen. Maggy Krell, a Democrat.

Democrats advanced the bill Wednesday with Republicans opposed. It awaits a floor vote in the Assembly.

A LONG ROAD AHEAD

Rebuilding after disaster has never been easy in California.

Fewer than 40% of homes destroyed in the state's most destructive fires from 2017 to 2020 have been rebuilt, according to a 2025 Los Angeles Times investigation. Low insurance payouts, rising construction costs and permitting requirements are some of the reasons.

For many in L.A., the decision not to rebuild comes down to affordability and practicality, between skyrocketing mortgage rates and a lack of stamina to endure what could be a monthslong, byzantine permitting process.

Before the fire, Sung's property was valued at \$2.5 million. She said she received \$700,000 in Mercury insurance payments after the home was destroyed on Jan. 7, 2025. Although her land isn't up for sale, nearby lots go for around \$1 million. She's considering selling it to a developer.

"There's already so much burden for these properties," Sung said of rebuilds. "People can't afford to build because of all these requirements," such as the higher fire safety and fire codes common in wildfire-prone areas, she said.

A MUDDY REPUTATION ON HOUSING

Critics, including Newsom, accuse the commission of not permitting enough affordable housing or doing so too slowly for years, as lawmakers have gutted numerous housing laws to make it easier to build more apartments quickly.

In the Palisades, where affordable housing was already scant, affordability critiques carried a sharper edge. Just a few hundred units in a town of roughly 28,000 were deemed affordable and local mandates post-fire to build more have become their own flashpoint, separate from the coastal commission.

The 12 voting-member commission is governed by the California Coastal Act, a 50-year-old statute created in the wake of the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill to protect the coast and its natural habitats.

It is one of California's most scrutinized state agencies, as federal and local officials have questioned how it has used its authority over nearly 900 miles of coastline to block certain projects, such as rejecting billionaire Elon Musk's request to increase the number of Space X rocket launches off the Santa Barbara coast.

Newsom and other top Democrats appointed three pro-development officials to the commission last year to help get more housing approved along the coast.

Wealthy Los Angeles real estate developer Jaime Lee was appointed by Newsom last October to replace Effie Turnbull Sanders, an attorney lauded by environmentalists for championing environmental justice issues at the agency.

Last May, Democratic Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas selected Chris Lopez, a Monterey County supervisor, and Chula Vista Councilmember Jose Preciado to the commission, both of whom are seen as pro-development.

Newsom and President Donald Trump have found common cause in attacking the commission. The governor has publicly chided the agency and issued a sharply worded mandate when suspending its authority over rebuilding efforts in the Palisades.

"The scope of destruction of these fires has created a need for immediate shelter and temporary housing that will require unlocking every available strategy to house displaced individuals," he wrote.

Both Democrats and Republicans in the state Legislature have pushed to curb the commission's authority, including an attempt to exempt the entire city of Santa Monica from the commission's purview.

Last week, Newsom's office briefly considered a proposal that would have exempted mixed-use and multi-family housing projects along Santa Monica's coast from the Coastal Act.

The proposal would have assumed all those projects complied with the act unless the commission could prove otherwise within just 30 days, according to a copy of the plan obtained by CalMatters.

Trump has also repeatedly scolded the commission for blocking projects it views as environmentally dangerous. Longstanding tensions between the president and the commission have accelerated in the president's pursuit to extract more oil from the coast. Those tensions accelerated last week when the federal government announced it was

investigating the agency.

'PEOPLE ARE ALREADY STUCK'

Allen, the bill's author, said the governor's orders created an opening that investors can misuse to circumvent coastal rules and build projects harmful to the environment.

"We just want to make sure that we're not rolling back these important protections too far," Allen, who is running for insurance commissioner, said about his legislation, and that it would not apply to homes destroyed by last year's fires, but to future natural disasters.

The bill aims to filter out investors by only allowing the owner of a property before disaster struck to skirt the coastal commission approval.

Environmentalists who support the bill have said the governor's actions put key issues the commission works to protect — natural habitats and public access to the beach — in jeopardy by allowing developers to take advantage of fewer rules.

"An outside developer who buys, say, a burned lot for the low market value, they get the same fast-tracking as a displaced family," said Jennifer Savage, associate policy director at Surfrider Foundation. "And that's not what the law was designed for."

The commission, which had briefly contested Newsom's orders, supports the bill for similar reasons.

"It closes a loophole that could be misconstrued as allowing larger replacement structures to be located in hazardous or environmentally sensitive areas when rebuilding after disaster," spokesperson Joshua Smith said in an emailed statement.

Neither the coastal commission nor Allen could provide examples of investor-owned projects that have misused the law.

"We don't have any record or knowledge of this having happened, although since most disaster rebuilds are handled by local governments, we don't know for certain the extent to which this has been going on," Smith said.

California YIMBY, a pro-housing group, said legislation focused on rebuilding should address why so many fire survivors are opting to sell their land in the first place.

"I'm not sure the emphasis on the Coastal Act makes a ton of sense," spokesperson Matthew Lewis said, saying the problem lies with insurance, construction and permitting costs that make it too expensive for most people to rebuild.

The group, which has endorsed Allen for commissioner, doesn't have an official stance on the bill. Lewis said he doesn't know enough about the issues Allen is trying to address to say if the legislation could make it harder for owners to rebuild.

Sung worries such changes would intimidate developers worried about falling under the commission's authority, making it harder for her and her neighbors to sell.

"If anything, it just makes the landowner stuck. Because you can't afford to sell, and you can't afford to build. And so you're stuck with this property that has absolutely no use to anybody."

CalMatters reporter Yue Stella Yu contributed reporting. Nadia Lathan, CalMatters Politics Reporter



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FIREWORKS

FROM PAGE 1

on pets.

SPCA LA is urging pet owners to take precautions before Saturday, warning that fear and anxiety caused by fireworks frequently cause dogs and cats to bolt from home — driving a surge in animals ending up in shelters every year following the Fourth of July.

The organization recommends ensuring petshavecurrentIDtagsandaremicrochipped, with up-to-date contact information on file. During fireworks, animals should be kept indoors with windows and curtains closed to reduce noise and flashing lights. Owners are encouraged to create a calm, comfortable space with familiar toys, treats, bedding and soft background music.

SPCA LA also cautions against tying up dogs as a way to prevent them from running away, and urges parents to remind children not to tease or frighten pets with sparklers or firecrackers.

“It is ideal if at least one family member can stay home with the pet, and especially so if you know they will be in distress,” the organization said.

Santa Monica echoed those recommendations, advising residents who have pets to keep them indoors and to confirm that microchip ID information is current. Residents whose pets go missing should contact their local animal care services department.

COUNTY CRACKS DOWN ON ILLEGAL OPERATIONS

At the county level, Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan J. Hochman is vowing aggressive prosecution of those who manufacture, transport, store or sell illegal fireworks ahead of the holiday.

His office has filed charges in several recent cases involving staggering quantities of illegal explosives. In late June, four individuals were charged after approximately 8,500 pounds of illegal commercial fireworks — along with improvised explosive devices — were seized from a storage facility in East Los Angeles. Each faces up to 17 years and four months in county jail if convicted.

GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 2

he enacted became unaffordable. In 2003, one year into his second term as governor, voters recalled him and elected Arnold Schwarzenegger as his successor.

The twin crises in unemployment insurance and pension benefits were left to Jerry Brown, Davis' old boss, who regained the governorship in 2010. Brown did nothing on unemployment insurance but in 2012 pushed a landmark pension reform through the Legislature.

The California Public Employees Pension Reform Act contained some curbs on “pension spiking” but more importantly increased employees' shares of costs and reduced pension eligibility and benefits for future employees. The teachers' pension fund was shored up with increases in contributions from the state and local school systems.

The unions that had supported Davis didn't like Brown's reform and some challenged it in court, particularly the crackdown on pension spiking, but the lawsuits failed.

Fast forward 14 years.

In a separate South Los Angeles case, four family members face felony charges after authorities discovered more than 37,000 pounds of commercially manufactured fireworks throughout their residence, including two accessory dwelling units and two storage sheds. A child also lived in the home. Two of the defendants face additional child abuse charges.

Among the largest seizures cited by the DA's office: an anonymous tip in 2024 led investigators to a Gardena storage unit containing 75 tons — 150,000 pounds — of illegal mortar-style fireworks.

The consequences have proven fatal in other cases. On May 9, a garage fire in the Jefferson Park neighborhood of Los Angeles killed a 26-year-old man after explosions and fireworks ignited the structure. In January, two brothers were killed in a massive explosion at a Bell Gardens apartment. And on July 3, 2025, a commercial-grade fireworks blast in the Pacoima neighborhood killed one man, gravely injured a woman, injured four others and destroyed multiple homes.

“Celebrations with illegal fireworks and explosives are not harmless entertainment,” Hochman said. “These devices can kill people, causing devastating injuries and destroying entire neighborhoods.”

All fireworks, including so-called safe and sane varieties, are also illegal for personal use or possession in the City of Los Angeles and throughout unincorporated Los Angeles County.

LEGAL SHOWS AVAILABLE NEARBY

Pacific Palisades. Kids under 6 enter the fireworks show for free. Gates open at 8 pm for the fireworks show; the sky lights up at 9 pm. Bring camping chairs and blankets. VIP parking is available; locals are encouraged to walk due to limited parking. Paid parking available. Tickets at https://palisades4th.com/Strollers_welcome.

Marina Del Rey. Find a spot around Marina Del Rey to watch the fireworks over the water. Public lots open for paid parking. Sound systems for corresponding music set up at Burton Chace Park and around Marina Village.

editor@smdp.com

Public employee unions, particularly those representing police and fire personnel, still chafe at Brown's reform and are trying to loosen its limits on their pensions through Assembly Bill 1383, which sailed through the Assembly on a 70-2 vote. Many Republicans voted for the bill, which is now pending in the Senate.

Assemblymember Tina McKinnor, an Inglewood Democrat, is carrying the measure for a coalition of public safety unions, which argue that the reform has saved billions of dollars and has outlived its usefulness. An equally large coalition of local governments is opposing the bill, citing its potential costs and how it will affect their budgets, but so far to no avail.

AB 1383 is being watched closely because if the public safety unions can leverage the popularity of their members into undoing Brown's reform, other unions will follow suit. Boosting pensions would widen the unfunded liabilities — in essence a multibillion-dollar unpaid debt — that still plague CalPERS even with the reform.

Don Walters, CalMatters Opinion Columnist

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

Name change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00267. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica 90401. Petition of Juanito Maldonado for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Juanito Maldonado filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Juanito Maldonado to John Maldonado. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter 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: 07/24/2026, Time: 8:30a, Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. 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. Date: 06/04/2026. LAWRENCE H. CHO, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 06/12/2026, 06/19/2026, 06/26/2026, 07/03/2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00270. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, 90401. Petition of Jesus Alberto Hernandez Martinez for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Jesus Alberto Hernandez Martinez filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Jesus Alberto Hernandez Martinez to Jesus Alberto Hernandez. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter 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: 07/24/2026, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. 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. Date: 06/05/2026. Lawrence H. Cho, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 06/19/2026, 06/26/2026, 07/03/2026, 07/10/2026

Petition to Admin Estate

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF Marty Kevin Lay Case No. 26STPB06831. To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of Marty Kevin Lay. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Andrea Lay in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Andrea Lay be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. A HEARING on the petition will be held on 07/27/2026 at 8:30 a.m. in Dept. 244 located at 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or

Name change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP002279. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles. Petition of Danae Paige Rico for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Danae Paige Rico filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Danae Paige Rico to Paige Wells Rico. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 08/07/2026, Time: 8:30AM, Dept: K. The address of the court is Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles. 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. Date: 06/11/2026. LAWRENCE H. CHO, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 06/19/2026, 06/26/2026, 07/03/2026, 07/10/2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00288. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of Amanda Lizzette Moulin-Cortes for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Amanda Lizzette Moulin-Cortes filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Amanda Lizzette Moulin-Cortes to Amanda Young. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 08/07/2026, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept: K. The address of the court is the same as noted above. 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. Date: 06/18/2026. Lawrence H. Cho, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 06/26/2026, 07/03/2026, 07/10/2026, 07/17/2026.

a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, or 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. Attorney for Petitioner: Adrienne K. Miller, Esq., Adrienne K. Miller, Attorney at Law APC, 1633 Erringer Road, Suite 205, Simi Valley, CA 93065, (805) 522-1640. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 07/03/2026, 07/10/2026, 07/17/2026

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026135671. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: BROTONER, 1348 3RD STREET PROMENADE, SANTA MONICA, CA 90401, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): BROTONER SANTA MONICA LLC, 1348 3RD STREET PROMENADE, SANTA MONICA, CA 90401. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ TURGAY OZDEMIR, MANAGER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 06/22/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious 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 before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 07/03/2026, 07/10/2026, 07/17/2026, 07/24/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026126183. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: WELLNEZZ-ZOBRA HEMPHILL-WARD, LMFT, 3231 OCEAN PARK BLVD STE 115, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): ZOBRA HEMPHILL-WARD, MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPIST, PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION, 3231 OCEAN PARK BLVD STE 115, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 05/2026. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). /s/ ZOBRA HEMPHILL-WARD, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 06/09/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious 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 before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 07/03/2026, 07/10/2026, 07/17/2026, 07/24/2026

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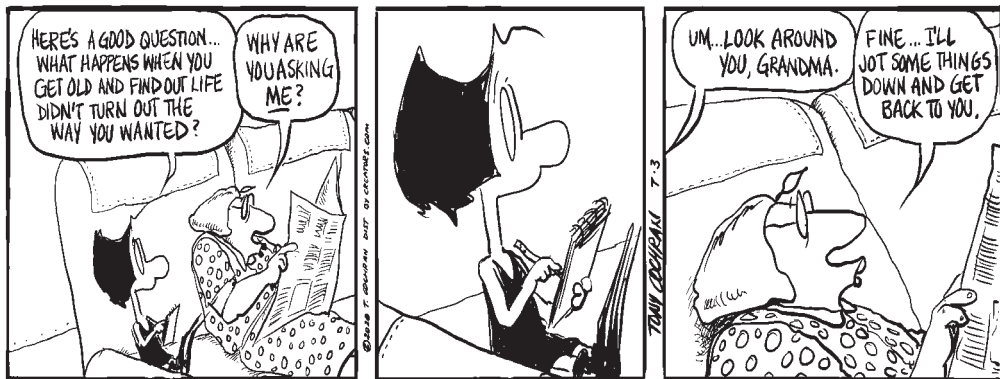
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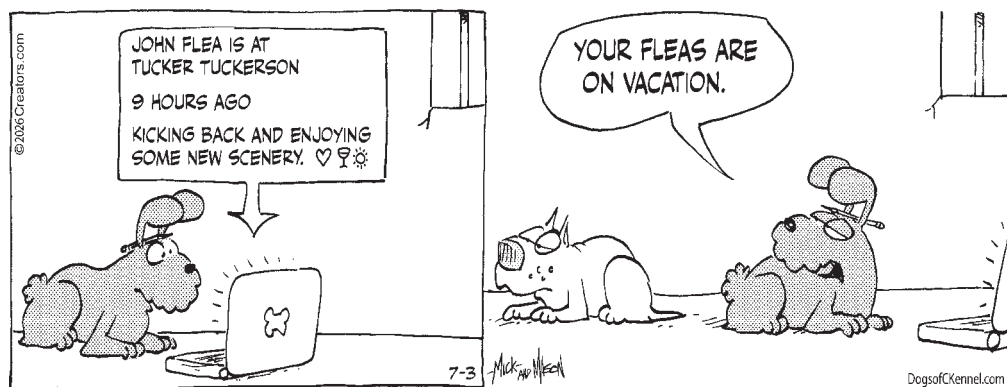
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



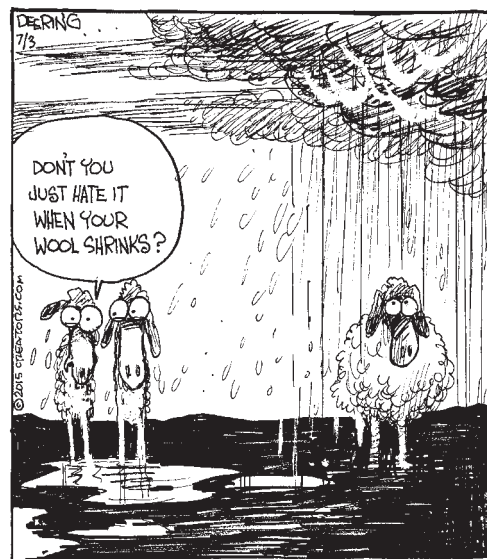
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6990

Boys' names

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

- | | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|--------|-------------|----------|
| Aaron | Christopher | Gael | Levi | Reginald |
| Abel | Cole | Isaac | Louis | Rowan |
| Adam | Dean | Jace | Luca | Ryan |
| Alexander | Douglas | Jake | Luke | Ryker |
| Amari | Dylan | Jason | Mateo | Stan |
| Amir | Edgar | Jaxon | Maximiliano | Steven |
| Amos | Enzo | Jorge | Nash | Thomas |
| Antonio | Eric | Juan | Noah | Timothy |
| Barry | Evan | Jude | Oliver | Trevor |
| Beau | Ezra | Kaiden | Owen | Zane |
| Chance | Felix | Knox | Paul | Zion |

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

Many snack bar purchases



TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 3)

It's your Year of the Vineyard of Dionysus. In Greek myth, the god of wine, theater and celebration taught that pleasure and creativity are close companions. Gatherings become collaborations. Fun turns into opportunity. Joy proves productive. More highlights: You'll make game-changing sales. You'll clear up a cluttered area of your life and have a deep peace. Your powers of attraction grow. Aries and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 15, 20, 41, 6 and 9.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A problem can seem small to everyone else and still feel enormous to the person living it. Because problems don't obey laws of scale. Small things can have tremendous emotional significance. If it's a big deal to you, it's a big deal, period.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). It's an ideal moment to update your surroundings and relationships to match who you are now. Your closet, like your contact list, contains artifacts from previous chapters. Release what no longer reflects your current life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Each individual who interacts with others is both a person, and an idea of a person. We never interact with people completely objectively. We interact with them and our ideas about them at the same time. Today, some of those ideas will need updating.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). What you want is in fine alignment with the interests of those around you. This makes manifestation much easier. You won't have to convince anyone. No hard sell - no soft sell either - just building on the enthusiasm that already exists.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll work without proof that you're doing it right. But you know that even if this idea doesn't work, you'll have another one. Your confidence doesn't depend on success. It depends on your faith in your own ability to keep creating.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's not true that all dark clouds have a silver lining. Sometimes it's black. Sometimes it's gold. Sometimes everything disperses in a fog so diffuse there's no lining at all. But every weather reveals something that sunshine alone cannot.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There are things you know but don't yet know that you know. Writing has a way of revealing them. Once thoughts leave the swirl of the mind and take shape on a page, patterns emerge, priorities become obvious and hidden assumptions introduce themselves.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Smart people sometimes hide behind being smart. You'll be around the dynamic today - people trying to have interesting conversations instead of real ones. Things gets better when nobody is trying to prove anything. So how can you put them at ease?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Where does your responsibility end and theirs begin? Today you can clean up some of the blurred lines between "my job" and "your job." Remember that what you establish in the early stages of a relationship is likely to become the norm.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). What if the universe wants to give you what you ask for, but it doesn't understand the request? In some small way, give the very thing you want. This will serve as an example - a template for the universe to follow and scale up.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Animal trainers know that training a relaxed animal is challenging, while training a stressed animal is near impossible. The human animal also learns better without too much stress and pressure. The education itself is challenge enough.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Throughout history, reasonable people have accomplished unreasonable things - things they never imagined they could do. Don't let a momentary crisis of confidence keep you from going forward. Doubt yourself if you must, but march on anyway.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Newsday Crossword

1776: THE MUSICAL by Jerry Clarkson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Former rival of Blu-ray
- 6 Verbalized
- 10 Avocation, so to speak
- 13 *Peanuts* pal of Peppermint Patty
- 14 "Meeting adjourned"
- 16 Its tallest character
- 18 Look of amazement
- 19 Something chewed
- 20 Inventor of the crossword
- 21 Pole-to-pole flier
- 23 Ceiling support
- 25 John and Abigail's "redundant" romantic duet
- 32 Derby site
- 33 ___ sci.
- 34 Bargain, at times
- 35 Celestial altar
- 36 Novelist named for an essayist
- 40 No Secretariat
- 41 Verbalized
- 43 Not at work, in emails
- 44 Skip successfully
- 46 Its prize haul
- 50 Vowelless summons
- 51 Directional abbr.
- 52 Star-Lord in Avengers films
- 55 City between LA and SF
- 56 Editorial post
- 60 He sings about his "Old Virginia" family
- 64 About 6.5 kilograms, in Coventry
- 65 Eyeshadow annoyance
- 66 Driller designation

- 67 Slightly nutty Dutch export
 - 68 Cast off from the body
- DOWN**
- 1 Laughs
 - 2 Hard candy
 - 3 How many get to Potomac Ave.
 - 4 Heading through
 - 5 Look carefully at
 - 6 Was behind
 - 7 Fault decider
 - 8 Shepherd's comment
 - 9 Margin for error
 - 10 Anchor woman or man
 - 11 In the near future, a while back

- 12 Electron microscope viewing
- 13 Short session
- 15 Dust collector
- 17 Hera analog
- 22 Name related to Amy
- 23 Aramis' arm
- 24 Panamanian pronoun
- 25 What Irish soda bread hasn't
- 26 OW Films boss
- 27 American merger partner of 2013
- 28 Merger
- 29 Humerus' ___ nerve
- 30 Check sum things
- 31 Great thinkers
- 37 Very much
- 38 Ill-gotten proceeds
- 39 Little limb regenerator
- 42 Nadir
- 45 Rubens contemporary
- 47 Big digs
- 48 With 57-Down, Bulldogs' rooting section
- 49 Without delay
- 52 Poker variety
- 53 Organic coat
- 54 Passes by a mile
- 55 Son of Genesis 6
- 57 See 48-Down
- 58 En route, in a way
- 59 Powder holder
- 61 Angling participant
- 62 Electron microscope viewing
- 63 Common 15-Down partner

Sudoku

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S 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.

9	4	3	7	6	8	5	2	1
6	5	2	3	4	1	8	7	9
1	7	8	5	2	9	3	4	6
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2	8	9	4	1	6	7	3	5
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9	8	1	5	7	3	6	2	4
3	4	7	6	2	8	5	9	1
7	6	3	1	8	5	9	4	2
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07/03/26

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



FRIDAY | JULY 3

PALISADIAN COFFEE AND CHAT

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Palisades Garden Cafe 15231 La Cruz Dr Pacific Palisades. An informal hello run by Palisadian resident Rebecca Martin. No Agenda, no powerpoint, just a chance to say hello for those who have moved back to the Palisades, or are working on it. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/palisadian-coffee-and-chat/19242128/2026-07-03T09>

NBC SPORTS' "STAR-SPANGLED SUNDAES"

1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Downtown Santa Monica at the corner of Santa Monica Ave and 3rd Street 1343 3rd Street Promenade SP1D Santa Monica. WHAT: On Friday, July 3, 2026, NBC Sports brings "Star-Spangled Sundaes" to Los Angeles, a delicious dose of summer spirit that invites fans to stop by Downtown Santa Monica from 1pm - 7pm to enjoy complimentary ice cream sundaes served in exclusive NBC Sports-branded baseball helmet bowls. Honoring America's favorite pastime ahead of July 4th weekend, the classic summer treats invite fans to celebrate NBC Sports' upcoming "Star Spangled Sunday," July 5 on NBC, Peacock, and NBCSN – which marks the first time a media company has presented all 15 MLB games nationally in a single day. Coverage begins on NBC and Peacock at 9 AM PT. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/nbc-sports-star-spangled-sundaes-/19268249/2026-07-03T13>

BUNDY TRIANGLE NIGHT MARKET

5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Bundy Triangle 1500 S Bundy Drive Los Angeles. Cayton Children's Museum will offer free, weekly hands-on activities for children and families at the Bundy Triangle Night Market in Sawtelle every Friday from March 27 through the end of October, the museum announced. The programming, offered in partnership with Los Angeles City Councilwoman Traci Park, will run from 5 to 8 p.m. each Friday at the Bundy Triangle, a public space at Ohio Avenue and Bundy Drive. The broader night market, presented by Raw Inspiration, runs from 5 to 9 p.m. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/bundy-triangle-night-market/18490079/2026-07-03T17>

SATURDAY | JULY 4

WELLNESS & WAVES RETURNS TO SANTA MONICA PIER, FREE SAT. MORNING FITNESS

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Santa Monica Pier 200 Santa Monica Pier, Ste A Santa Monica. The Santa Monica Pier Corporation invites the community to move, stretch, and recharge by the ocean as Wellness & Waves returns for its 2026 season. Taking place every Saturday from April 4 through October 17, 2026, from 8 to 10 a.m., this free, all-ages wellness series transforms the iconic Santa Monica Pier into an open-air fitness destination at the most iconic outdoor setting in Southern California. With the Pacific Ocean as its backdrop, Wellness & Waves offers a welcoming, energizing way to start the weekend—no membership required. Each Saturday morning begins at the top of the Santa Monica Pier at the intersection of Colorado and Ocean with an easygoing group run from 8 to 9 a.m., open to all levels. Guests can then head to the west end of the Pier for yoga

and yoga-pilates fusion classes from 9 to 10 a.m., led by top local instructors. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/wellness-waves-returns-to-santa-monica-pier-free-sat-morning-fitness/18475500/2026-07-04T08>

26TH ANNUAL KIDS' FUN RUN

8:30 a.m. Palisades Recreation Center 851 Alma Real Drive Pacific Palisades. Kids 10 years of age and under are invited to run or walk in the Kids' Fun Run, which begins at 8:30 a.m. on July 4th. All kids, whether pre-registered or registering on July 4th, need to check in at the Fun Run Tent, location in the grass area in front of Palisades Recreation Center. Parents must sign the waiver on their child's registration form. The Kids' Fun Run is a non-competitive run emphasizing participation, with each registered child receiving a t-shirt, American flag and participation ribbon at check-in. A patriotic clown will be on hand to entertain the kids at the start line and for balloon animals after the race. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/26th-annual-kids-fun-run/19188582/2026-07-04T08>

MAIN STREET PARADE

9:30 a.m. Marine Street and Main Street. The annual Main Street Fourth of July Parade will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the intersection of Marine Street and Main Street, traveling north toward City Hall and Tongva Park. Spectators can watch from anywhere along the Main Street route, which will feature classic cars, community organizations and city leaders. The official grandstand will be located in front of the Ocean Park Branch Library at the corner of Ocean Park Boulevard and Main Street.

MOBILE COMMUNITY MEDITATION CENTER - GUIDED MEDITATION

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Santa Monica Beach lot 5 South 2600 Bernard Way Santa Monica. Please join Mobile Community Meditation Center aka Buddhist Boondockers Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 10 am for a 45 minute fully guided mindfulness meditation - on the grass, under the shade of the trees, with a stunning view of the sparkling ocean. Whether you're new to meditation or a seasoned practitioner, everyone is welcomed. Bring your own chair or cushion and try to arrive 5 minutes early and be ready to enjoy a truly peaceful moment as we relax, be present and make new friends; giving ourselves the love and attention we deserve by quieting our minds, finding peace and creating community. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/mobile-community-meditation-center-guided-meditation/16994548/2026-07-04T10>

77TH ANNUAL PACIFIC PALISADES JULY 4TH PARADE

4:00 p.m. Palisades Village 15225 Palisades Village Ln Pacific Palisades. Palisades Americanism Parade Association announced the return of the Fourth of July parade through the Historic Village. The parade will begin at 4 p.m. The parade will include Patriotic Pups and Kids on Bikes. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/77th-annual-pacific-palisades-july-4th-parade/19188600/2026-07-04T16>

PALISADES JULY 4TH MUSIC AND DRONE SHOW

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Palisades Charter High School 15777 Bowdoin St Pacific Palisades. Our July 4th celebration,

including music, kids activities, food trucks and a drone show will, once again, be at Palisades Charter High School in the Stadium by the Sea in 2026. (Stadium gates open to ticket holders at 6 p.m.). Lee Dyson of Hey Mister DJ will kick off the event at 6 p.m., followed by music from Vinyl Jam (who appeared at our Palisades event at Paul Revere Middle School in 2025 and a drone show by Magical Light Shows starting at around 9 p.m. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/palisades-july-4th-music-and-drone-show/19188607/2026-07-04T18>

SUNDAY | JULY 5

PARDON MY FRENCH! BRUNCH AT LOULOU SANTA MONICA

11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. LouLou Santa Monica 395 Santa Monica Pl #300 Santa Monica. Pardon My French! Brunch at Loulou Santa Monica- Every Sunday from 11:30 AM -Named one of the 14 Best Buffet Brunches in the USA by Tasting Table magazine.Sundays at LouLou are anything but ordinary.Think: Rooftop Views, French flair, Live DJs, and a decadent buffet featuring Homemade Paëlla, Crêpes, and Omelettes made to order.It's brunch, but elevated with inspiring Energy, Live Performances, and a crowd that knows how to Sunday!Chic. Cheeky. Unexpected. Watch the LouLou experience: bit.ly/loulou-pardon-my-french-yt LouLou Santa MonicaPardon My French! BrunchEvery Sunday11:30 AM - 4 PM\$55 per guest before noon / \$65 after noon395 Santa Monica Pl #300, Santa Monica, CA 90401(323) 410-2337info@loulousantamonica.comloulousantamonica.comReserve your table now: bit.ly/booking-loulou. \$55.00 to \$65.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/pardon-my-french-brunch-at-loulou-santa-monica/18747344/2026-07-05T11>

MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. West Los Angeles Regional Library 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles. Mystery Book Club We meet on the first Sunday of each month to discuss a mystery, thriller, or suspense book picked by the group. For current titles, please contact the West LA Library. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/mystery-book-club/18109287/2026-07-05T14>

VENICE ELECTRIC LIGHT PARADE - SUNDAYS AT SUNSET

5:05 p.m. Windward Plaza 1501 Ocean Front Walk Venice. Looking for a unique and vibrant way to end your weekend? The Venice Electric Light Parade (VELP) is here to light up your Sunday evenings! Founded by Marcus Gladney, this family-friendly weekly event celebrates community, creativity, and safe cycling. Bring your LED-lit bicycle and join us for an unforgettable ride along the iconic Venice Beach. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/venice-electric-light-parade-sundays-at-sunset/14970341/2026-07-05T17>

THE TOLEDO SHOW

9:30 p.m. Harvelle's Santa Monica 1432 4th St, Santa Monica. Online ticket sales end at 7 PM, tix available at the door after 8 PM. 2 drink minimum. Please note, we are 21 and over only! As quoted by the Los Angeles Times, Toledo is "The coolest Cat working in Hollywood". Add to that, "Toledo has learned from the best and it shows in his

performance," "The show is top notch and really must be experienced" and "...it's apparent where he is: establishing himself as one of the hottest acts in modern music." Toledo. Soul singer, Jazz man, poet, dancer, choreographer, connoisseur of haberdashery and probably one of the most dramatic and entertaining performers you will ever see. He's toured the majority of the United States, as well as Australia, and has yet to get anything but a rave review. His vocal stylings have been compared to Tom Waits, Marvin Gaye, Sly Stone and Barry White, while his music has been described as "avant jazz," "acid jazz," "gangsta jazz," "beat poetry," "funked-up spoken word" and probably the most descriptive "smokey-storyteller/laid-back Cab Calloway/Tom Waits killer R&B with jazzy rock 'n' roll dance grooves." Born and raised in Los Angeles, Toledo started dancing at the age of fifteen. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/the-toledo-show/19115804/2026-07-05T21>

MONDAY | JULY 6

COMMUNAL GARDENING @ ISHIHARA PARK

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Ishihara Park 2909 Exposition Blvd Santa Monica. Communal Garden Program Work Days @ Ishihara Park Learning Garden - Mondays and Wednesdays | 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | Free. Come get your hands dirty in the Communal Garden Program at Ishihara Park Learning Garden, a communal spot to learn and acquire gardening skills. Seasoned as well as new gardeners of all ages are welcome. Free drop in activity, no reservation needed. Visit the Ishihara Park Learning Garden site for More Information. Subject to cancellation due to weather. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/communal-gardening-ishihara-park/18461167/2026-07-06T09>

PIZZA PARTY AT BODEGA WINE BAR

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. 814 Broadway Santa Monica. Every Monday Night at Bodega, every bottle of wine you purchase gets you a pizza half off! 6pm-Close. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/pizza-party-at-bodega-wine-bar/11526040/2026-07-06T18>

THE GORDONS IMPROV RESIDENCY

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Westside Comedy Theater 1323-A 3rd St Santa Monica. Welcome to The Gordons Improv Show at Westside Comedy Theater! IMPROV RESIDENT TEAM NIGHT! Check out our current lineup of Resident Improv Teams! These teams perform Long-Form Improv all inspired by a suggestion from the audience. Think of it as a sitcom made up on the spot. Catch them before they are gone! These teams rotate every three months!Get ready for a night filled with laughter, spontaneity, and hilarious moments. Join us for an evening of unscripted comedy where every joke is made up on the spot. Our talented improv performers will have you in stitches as they create scenes, characters, and stories based on your suggestions. Don't miss out on this one-of-a-kind experience! Grab your friends and come on down to Westside Comedy Theater for a night you won't forget. \$10.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/the-gordons-improv-residency/14863274/2026-07-06T19>

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