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Volume 24 Issue 162 WEDNESDAY 7/9/25 smdp.com

Fogo de Chao headlines summer menu revisions as restaurants look to boost their bottom line

SCOTT SNOWDEN
SMDP Staff Writer

Santa Monica restaurants are rolling out new menus and seasonal offerings as the summer dining season heats up, with establishments ranging from intimate cocktail lounges to vegan chains introducing fresh concepts to attract diners.

The economic impact of seasonal menu changes is striking. According to recent industry data from Grubhub, restaurants that introduce seasonal dishes can see a 26% increase in orders from diners, driven by customer excitement for limited-time offerings. Establishments that implement seasonal menu changes see customer return rates about 38% higher than those who don't.

While seasonal menus provide year-round benefits, summer stands out as the critical period for restaurant success. National data from the Federal Reserve shows restaurant sales increase about 19.3% between winter lows in January and the peak of July – representing roughly one-fifth more business during the summer months.

Local restaurants are particularly well-positioned to capitalize on seasonal menu strategies. The region's abundant agricultural output and tourist-driven seasonal demand create ideal conditions for seasonal menu success.

FOGO DE CHÃO

Fogo de Chão has launched a

SEE **RESTAURANT** PAGE 11



Courtesy photo

HOT BRAZILIAN: The drink is part of a new summer menu.

LA County unveils blueprint to speed wildfire rebuilding and cut costs

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

Los Angeles County officials have unveiled a comprehensive rebuilding plan aimed at accelerating construction and reducing costs for thousands of residents displaced by January's devastating wildfires, six months after the Palisades and Eaton fires became the most destructive in county history.

The 'LA County Forward: Blueprint for Rebuilding' includes waiving certain building requirements, expediting property tax relief and undergrounding more than 150 miles of power lines to prevent future fire risks. Officials estimate the measures could save homeowners up to $30,000 in construction costs and $3,000-$10,000 annually in property taxes.

"Thanks to a close partnership with Governor Newsom, governmental coordination at every level, and tireless County teams, we've already led the fastest debris removal in history," said Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath. "Together, we are not just restoring what was lost — we are building back stronger, safer, and more united than ever."

The January fires scorched more than 40,300 acres and destroyed roughly 10,000 structures, displacing nearly 13,000 households. State and federal crews, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, completed debris cleanup from

SEE **REBUILDING** PAGE 6

Planning Commission eyes revisions to sign codes as part of broader economic development strategy

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica Planning Commission is exploring changes to the city's sign code that would give businesses more flexibility to display larger, higher signs as a potential economic development strategy, officials said during a recent study session.

The commission expressed broad interest in allowing upper-level signage for businesses, particularly those in single-occupancy buildings like hotels, as the city grapples with financial pressures and seeks new revenue opportunities.

"I want to find a way or I'm curious about ways that we can see this also as like an economics revitalization concept where businesses who do make investments in our city who do bring high quality retail are

SEE **SIGN** PAGE 7







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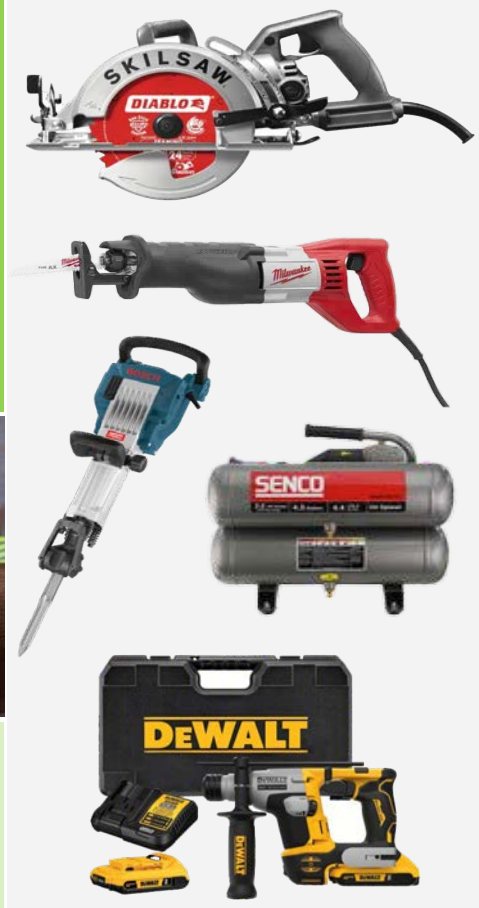
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A New Chapter for SMC's Creative Writing Program



Amy Williams / Santa Monica College

SMC: Professors Susan Caggiano and Mario Padilla.

First-year students and aspiring filmmakers. Beginner poets and published authors.

Songwriters. STEM students, part-time students. Working professionals hoping to put stories to paper. English and business majors. Screenwriters. Those preparing to transfer. Locals who comes to Santa Monica College (SMC), and those who log on from as far away as Italy and Ukraine. Passionate readers and the casually curious.

What could such seemingly disparate people have in common? It is the shared experience of an SMC writing workshop. Each enrolls with an interest in developing as a writer, and once they find themselves together, whether in a campus classroom or online, they also find membership in a supportive and unique creative community.

"One of my specific joys," notes English Prof. Wil Doucet, is watching "artistic relationships form as these students share so much of themselves with each other and begin to get a sense of their capacity to move people through their creative work." Students echo that observation. "The organic building of a community," one wrote, "has enabled me to be braver about the stories I explore, and how I incorporate writing into my life."

After several years of planning, we're excited to announce that SMC's Creative Writing Program is entering a new chapter. Writing faculty in the English Department have developed a 12-unit Creative Writing Certificate, and four new workshop-based creative writing courses to replace the previous two-course series. These new classes will be offered on campus and online.

WRITING A NEW CHAPTER

The first course in the program introduces students to the major genres and the basic elements of craft. The other three courses allow them to choose focused study in a particular literary genre. These are: English 71- Introduction to Creative Writing; English 72 - Writing in Fiction; English 73 - Writing in Poetry; and English 74 - Writing in Creative Nonfiction. Two of these, the Introduction course (English 71) and the fiction workshop, (English 72) debut in Fall 2025, and students have already begun to enroll.

The new 12-unit Certificate of Achievement in Creative Writing will allow committed student writers the opportunity of sustained study and also bolster their transfer experience. Notated on student transcripts, the certificate will boost their applications to creative writing programs at four-year institutions. The certificate will also emphasize their commitment to developing their writing skills and capacity for creative expression, signaling to admissions officers and potential employers their readiness to engage in imaginative thinking and clear communication.

BUILDING ON A STORIED LEGACY

The new slate of classes and the certificate are the culmination of long-term planning, starting with informal brainstorming sessions that began in 2019. Our goal was to build on what was already a thriving program, one that, at the time, was largely synonymous with SMC English prof. Jim Krusoe, a novelist, poet, and founder of the Santa

SEE **WRITING** PAGE 8

Santa Monica Music Festival Debuts with Four-Day Classical Showcase



Courtesy image

MUSIC FESTIVAL: Kaleidoscope Chamber Orchestra launches inaugural event featuring world premieres and timeless works.

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

A new classical music festival will make its debut this summer in Santa Monica, offering four days of performances that blend contemporary compositions with beloved classics just steps from the Pacific Ocean.

The Santa Monica Music Festival, running July 17-20 at First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica, represents an ambitious expansion for the Kaleidoscope Chamber Orchestra, which has been performing regularly at the venue since 2014.

"We have launched the Santa Monica Music Festival to share world-class music with a community that values the arts, offering something beautiful, inspiring, and healing—especially for those affected by the recent fires," said Benjamin Mitchell, who founded Kaleidoscope Chamber Orchestra in 2014. "It's about connection, creativity, and coming together through music."

The festival will feature 16 world-class performers presenting music by 20 composers across four evening and matinee programs. The lineup includes several world premieres and U.S. premieres alongside works by Mozart, Schubert, Brahms, and Bartók.

Opening night on July 17 will feature Will Healy's "Permafrost Ghosts," a world premiere commissioned by Kaleidoscope, paired with Brahms' Piano Quintet in F minor. The festival concludes July 20 with a matinee program anchored by Schubert's Octet in F Major.

Contemporary highlights include world premieres by composers Emma O'Halloran, Libby Larsen, Liza Lim, Pamela Z, and Will Healy. The programming reflects Kaleidoscope's commitment to new music, developed through their call for scores program that has received over 10,000 applications from composers in more than 90 countries.

"We brought together a group of 16 world-class performers that are needed for the repertoire we are performing, including strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion, and pianists," Mitchell said. "Some grew up in Santa Monica and are now based elsewhere, and all have been very accomplished, having worked with other major organizations such as the Berlin Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, and New York Philharmonic."

The festival's venue, First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica, has served as one of Kaleidoscope's regular performance spaces since the orchestra's inaugural concerts in 2014. Located at 1220 2nd Street, the church offers intimate acoustics and convenient

SEE **MUSIC** PAGE 8



Weather

Wednesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny, with a high near 75.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 63.
Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 76.
Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 63.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)	High/Low
2025/07/09	Wed	03:52 AM	-0.58		L
2025/07/09	Wed	10:30 AM	3.55		H
2025/07/09	Wed	2:30 PM	2.65		L
2025/07/09	Wed	8:55 PM	6.22		H
2025/07/10	Thu	04:25 AM	-0.75		L
2025/07/10	Thu	11:00 AM	3.65		H
2025/07/10	Thu	3:09 PM	2.56		L
2025/07/10	Thu	9:31 PM	6.34		H
2025/07/11	Fri	04:58 AM	-0.84		L
2025/07/11	Fri	11:32 AM	3.75		H
2025/07/11	Fri	3:50 PM	2.48		L
2025/07/11	Fri	10:07 PM	6.34		H
2025/07/12	Sat	05:32 AM	-0.82		L
2025/07/12	Sat	12:05 PM	3.89		H
2025/07/12	Sat	4:33 PM	2.41		L
2025/07/12	Sat	10:44 PM	6.17		H
2025/07/13	Sun	06:05 AM	-0.68		L
2025/07/13	Sun	12:39 PM	4.07		H
2025/07/13	Sun	5:22 PM	2.36		L
2025/07/13	Sun	11:25 PM	5.80		H
2025/07/14	Mon	06:38 AM	-0.39		L
2025/07/14	Mon	1:15 PM	4.29		H
2025/07/14	Mon	6:19 PM	2.31		L
2025/07/15	Tue	12:11 AM	5.24		H
2025/07/15	Tue	07:11 AM	0.05		L
2025/07/15	Tue	1:54 PM	4.56		H
2025/07/15	Tue	7:25 PM	2.21		L
2025/07/16	Wed	01:05 AM	4.51		H
2025/07/16	Wed	07:45 AM	0.60		L
2025/07/16	Wed	2:37 PM	4.87		H
2025/07/16	Wed	8:49 PM	1.99		L
2025/07/17	Thu	02:17 AM	3.73		H
2025/07/17	Thu	08:22 AM	1.21		L
2025/07/17	Thu	3:26 PM	5.21		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: 7/7
33 35 58 61 69
Power#: 25
Jackpot: 216 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 7/4
17 20 24 41 42
Mega#: 24
Jackpot: 70 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 7/5
7 13 20 35 44
Mega#: 8
Jackpot: 23 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 7/7
2 8 14 26 33

Daily 3
Draw Date: 7/7
EVENING: 4 3 6
Draw Date: 7/7
MIDDAY: 9 2 9

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 7/7
1st: 03 - Hot Shot
2nd: 05 - California Classic
3rd: 06 - Whirl Win
Race Time: 1:47.08

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Santa Monica Daily Press

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: 23ENT-0137 and 23ENT-0142
Development Agreement Amendment and Civic Center Specific Plan Amendment

1776 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401
APPLICANT/ PROPERTY OWNER: The RAND Corporation, a California non-profit corporation

A public hearing will be held by the Santa Monica City Council regarding the following request:

A proposed Second Amendment to the Development Agreement for RAND's existing institutional office building located at 1776 Main Street to update and expand allowable uses within the existing building, remove barriers to leasing and/or transferring the Project Site, and provide additional community benefits. RAND's request for a broader range of permitted uses would be applicable only to the Project Site, and includes business and professional office, creative office, banks and financial institutions, business services, limited life sciences research and development, media production support facilities, and retail/personal services/restaurant uses. RAND's existing building was approved for construction by the City Council in 2000 via a development agreement that only authorized "institutional office" based on the overriding purpose of the original development which was to provide RAND with new replacement office space when it sold land to the City's Redevelopment Agency where its then-existing building was located (now Tongva Park and the mixed-use Village Project). No new construction or Floor Area is proposed.

A Civic Center Specific Plan Amendment accompanies RAND's proposed Second Amendment to ensure consistency with the site-specific expanded uses requested for RAND's Property at 1776 Main Street. The City Council will also consider adopting a finding of categorical exemption pursuant to Section 15301 of the State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines (Class 1 Exemption (Existing Facilities)).

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, JULY 29, 2025 AT 5:30 PM**

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

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Members of the public unable to attend a meeting but wishing to comment on an item(s) listed on the agenda may submit written comments prior to the public hearing via email or via mail. Written public comment submitted before 12:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be available for online viewing. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item number in the subject line of your written comments. You may also comment in person at the City Council hearing. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment in person.

Address your comments to: **City Clerk**
Re: RAND Development Agreement Amendment

VIA EMAIL: councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov
VIA MAIL: 1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION: If you want more information about this project, please contact Roxanne Tanemori at (310) 458-2201 ext. 8202, or by e-mail at roxanne.tanemori@santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (310) 458-8211 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate languages provided the request is received 72 hours prior to the meeting. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

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

ESPAÑOL: 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.

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Impostor uses AI to impersonate Rubio and contact foreign and US officials

The State Department is warning U.S. diplomats of attempts to impersonate Secretary of State Marco Rubio and possibly other officials using technology driven by artificial intelligence, according to two senior officials and a cable sent last week to all embassies and consulates.

The warning came after the department discovered that an impostor posing as Rubio had attempted to reach out to at least three foreign ministers, a U.S. senator and a governor, according to the July 3 cable, which was first reported by The Washington Post.

The recipients of the scam messages, which were sent by text, Signal and voice mail, were not identified in the cable, a copy of which was shared with The Associated Press.

"The State Department is aware of this incident and is currently monitoring and addressing the matter," department spokeswoman Tammy Bruce told reporters. "The department takes seriously its responsibility to safeguard its information and continuously take steps to improve the department's cybersecurity posture to prevent future incidents."

She declined to comment further due to "security reasons" and the ongoing investigation.

It's the latest instance of a high-level Trump administration figure targeted by an impersonator, with a similar incident revealed in May involving President Donald Trump's chief of staff, Susie Wiles. The misuse of AI to deceive people is likely to grow as the technology improves and becomes more widely available, and the FBI warned this past spring about "malicious actors" impersonating senior U.S. government officials in a text and voice messaging campaign.

The hoaxes involving Rubio had been unsuccessful and "not very sophisticated," one of the officials said. Nonetheless, the second official said the department deemed it "prudent" to advise all employees and foreign governments, particularly as efforts by foreign actors to compromise information security increase.

The officials were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

"There is no direct cyber threat to the department from this campaign, but information shared with a third party could be exposed if targeted individuals are compromised," the cable said.

The FBI has warned in a public service announcement about a "malicious" campaign relying on text messages and AI-generated voice messages that purport to come from a senior U.S. official and that aim to dupe other government officials as well as the victim's associates and contacts.

This is not the first time that Rubio has been impersonated in a deepfake. This spring, someone created a bogus video of him saying he wanted to cut off Ukraine's access to Elon Musk's Starlink internet service. Ukraine's government later rebutted the false claim.

Several potential solutions have been put forward in recent years to the growing misuse of AI for deception, including criminal penalties and improved media literacy. Concerns about deepfakes have also led to a flood of new apps and AI systems designed to spot phonies that could easily fool a human.

The tech companies working on these systems are now in competition against those who would use AI to deceive, according to Siwei Lyu, a professor and computer scientist at the University at Buffalo. He said he's seen an increase in the number of deepfakes portraying celebrities, politicians and business leaders as the technology improves.

Just a few years ago, fakes contained easy-to-spot flaws — inhuman voices or mistakes like extra fingers — but now the AI is so good, it's much harder for a human to spot, giving deepfake makers an advantage.

"The level of realism and quality is increasing," Lyu said. "It's an arms race, and right now the generators are getting the upper hand."

The Rubio hoax comes after text messages and phone calls went to elected officials, business executives and other prominent figures from someone who seemed to have gained access to the contacts in Wiles' personal cellphone, The Wall Street Journal reported in May.

> "The level of realism and quality is increasing"
> - Siwei Lyu

Some of those who received calls heard a voice that sounded like Wiles, which may have been generated by AI, according to the newspaper. The messages and calls were not coming from Wiles' number, the report said. The government was investigating.

By MATTHEW LEE AP Diplomatic Writer. AP writers David Klepper and Eric Tucker contributed to this report.

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR
Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

Gavin Newsom swings through South Carolina, where Democrats will play pivotal 2028 nominating role

California Gov. Gavin Newsom on Tuesday launched a two-day tour of South Carolina, meeting voters across rural areas — and some GOP strongholds — in the early-voting state, the latest signal that the Democrat is eyeing a 2028 run for president.

Over the course of Tuesday and Wednesday, Newsom is slated to make a total of eight stops across the state, a trip that state Democratic Party officials have said includes coffee shops, small businesses and churches.

> I think it's really important for Democrats that we spend time in parts of our states, parts of our country, that frankly, we haven't spent enough time in, and so that's why I'm here
>
> - Gavin Newsom, Gov.

At the first of those, a coffee shop in the city of Florence, Gavin shook hands with nearly all of the roughly 100 attendees, focusing his comments on what he said is the need to address the nation's divisions by being intentional in having conversations with people of diverse viewpoints.

"I think it's really important for Democrats that we spend time in parts of our states, parts of our country, that frankly, we haven't spent enough time in, and so that's why I'm here," Newsom said.

The investment of time in a state pivotal to picking his party's presidential nominees, and Newsom's trajectory across some of its reddest areas, suggest that the term-limited governor is angling to shed his San Francisco liberal image, get out ahead of what is sure to be a crowded 2028 field and make inroads with the diverse Democratic electorate whose buy-in has long been seen as critical for their party's nominee.

Starting in South Carolina's northeast on Tuesday, Newsom then turns on Wednesday toward the conservative Upstate, among the state's most GOP-rich areas. He kicks off that day with an event in the small town of Seneca, which four-term GOP Sen. Lindsey Graham calls home. In last year's general election, President Donald Trump won more than 75% of votes cast in surrounding Oconee County.

Treading in that territory fits with the image that Newsom has been cultivating for himself ahead of a possible 2028 White House bid.

Increasingly willing to break from some of the policies that have defined his brand and his deeply Democratic state, Newsom has hosted Trump's allies on his podcast, even stunning some members of his own party by agreeing with podcast guests on issues such as restricting transgender women and girls in sports. Saying dismantling police departments was "lunacy," Newsom also kept silent when longtime Trump ally Steve Bannon falsely said Trump won the 2020 presidential election against Democrat Joe Biden.

Although the 2028 Democratic primary calendar won't be set for many months, potential candidates for the party's upcoming presidential slate have already started visiting South Carolina, with the expectation that the state will continue to play a pivotal role.

At the urging of Biden — whose 2020 candidacy was saved by his resounding South Carolina primary win — the state led off Democrats' 2024 calendar, and party chair Christale Spain has said that she will renew the argument to keep the state's No. 1 position in the next cycle. South Carolina has long been the first southern state to hold a primary, giving it a unique role in the Democratic nomination process due to its diverse electorate, particularly the significant influence of Black voters.

In May, a pair of governors — Minnesota's Tim Walz and Maryland's Wes Moore — headlined a weekend of events hosted by South Carolina Democrats, introducing themselves and testing out their possible candidacy arguments in front of the party faithful.

Both men also addressed attendees at Rep. Jim Clyburn's World Famous Fish Fry, a storied night of cold drinks, hot fried fish and raucous political stumping in which scores of Democratic presidential hopefuls have participated through the years.

By MEG KINNARD Associated Press.

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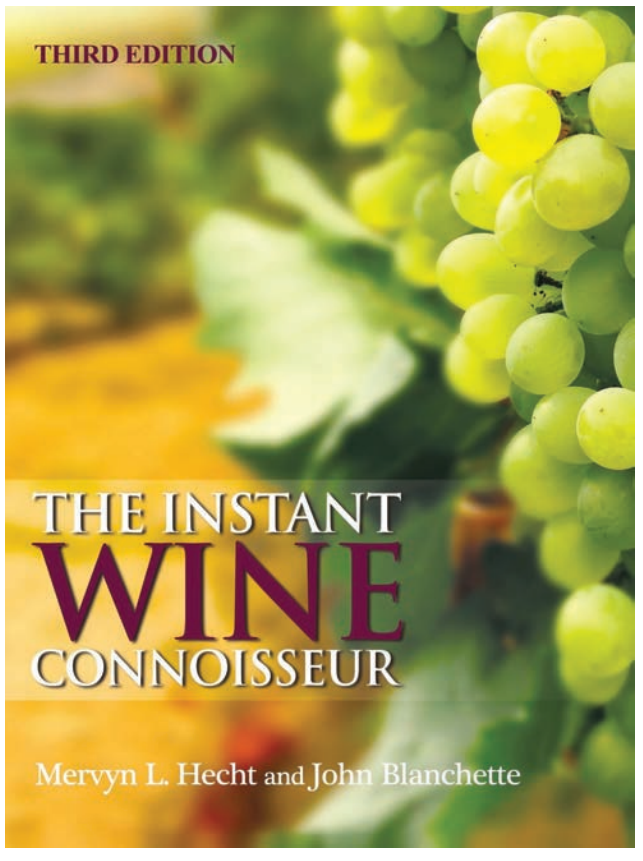
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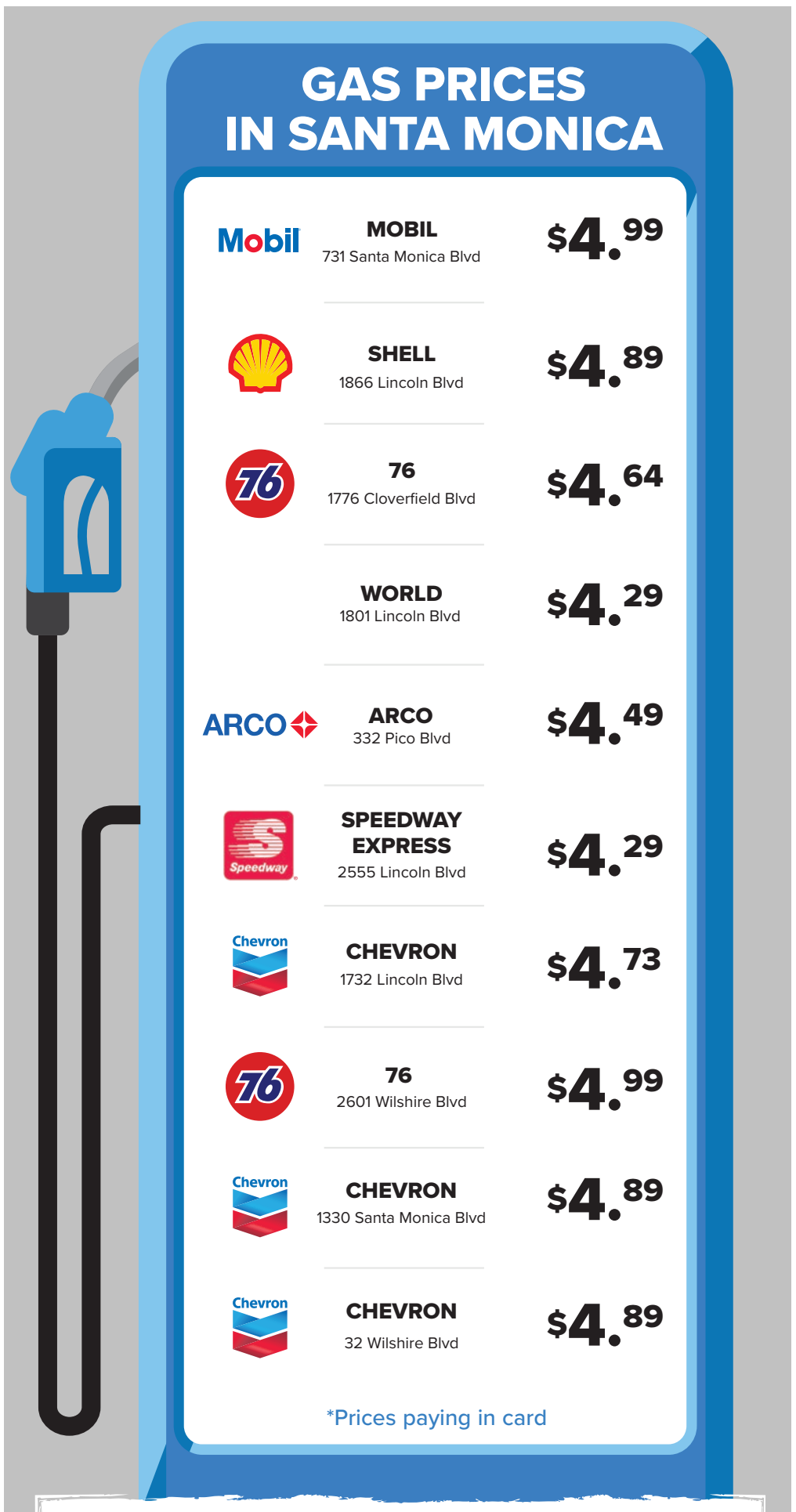
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★★★★★ ...Hecht has a joyful eye and fabulous taste



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Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have fallen 3.0 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $4.50/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 15.8 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 19.6 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has decreased 3.2 cents in the last week and stands at $3.644 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at $3.53/g while the most expensive was $5.79/g, a difference of $2.26/g. The lowest price in the state was $3.51/g while the highest was $6.79/g, a difference of $3.28/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 5.3 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $3.09/g. The national average is down 1.1 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 37.4 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Santa Monica Daily Press

REBUILDING

FROM PAGE 1

the first 1,300 properties in just over 70 days — the fastest disaster debris cleanup in California history.

County Supervisor and Board Chair Kathryn Barger said the debris removal was "only the beginning."

> We are committed to delivering a recovery that is efficient and anchored in the real needs of our residents — and we are counting on our key partnerships with the State and other essential stakeholders to get us there
>
> - Fesia Davenport, LA County Chief Executive Officer

"We must move into the next phase — rebuilding — with the same determination and urgency," Barger said. "Backed by the State of California and other critical partners, our LA County Forward Blueprint will drive a swift, resilient recovery and ensure our communities emerge stronger than ever."

The blueprint addresses six key priorities: supporting financial pathways for residents to return, accelerating permitting and inspections, expanding the pool of builders and materials, ensuring critical infrastructure, mobilizing the workforce and restoring everyday services.

To reduce construction costs, the county is working with the state to waive non-safety building codes, including requirements for rooftop solar panels, battery storage and full electrification. The county has also deferred permitting fees that can exceed $20,000 per household.

"We are committed to delivering a recovery that is efficient and anchored in the real needs of our residents — and we are counting on our key partnerships with the State and other essential stakeholders to get us there," said LA County Chief Executive Officer Fesia Davenport.

Property tax relief has been a priority, with the county proactively reassessing fire-damaged properties. The County Assessor has already lowered tax bills for 17,100 parcels — roughly 75% of properties impacted by the fires. Officials aim to process the remaining 2,900 claims by summer 2025.

The county has deployed more than $50 million in direct financial relief through grants, while $3.1 billion in federal funds has been approved for impacted residents and businesses. The Small Business Administration has provided 11,000 low-interest disaster loans.

However, significant challenges remain. Past California wildfire disasters show that not all displaced residents rebuild, and recovery can be uneven. After the 2018 Woolsey Fire in Malibu, fewer than 40% of the 488 destroyed homes have been fully rebuilt as of spring 2025.

Already, signs of this trend have emerged. In Altadena, the first burned residential lot sold for $550,000 in an all-cash deal after a bidding war, with the owner choosing not to rebuild. Community groups have voiced concerns about "panic selling" and urged fire survivors not to rush into sales.

"The biggest danger is in 10 or 20 years a third of these lots or half of these lots are still empty," said Brock Harris, the realtor who handled the Altadena sale.

To combat this, the county is streamlining permitting processes, contracting additional inspectors and creating expedited reviews for "like-for-like" rebuilds. A public dashboard now tracks permit turnaround times, and a pilot program allows licensed architects and engineers to self-certify certain plans.

The massive utility undergrounding project aims to create more resilient infrastructure less prone to igniting wildfires. Working with utility providers, the county plans to bury electrical, gas and telecommunications lines during the rebuilding phase.

The blueprint reflects extensive feedback from homeowners, renters, business owners and community organizations about their most pressing rebuilding needs, officials said.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Countywide

Board of Supervisors Appoint First Director of New Department of Homeless Services and Housing



Courtesy photo

SARAH MAHIN: LA County Board of Supervisors approved the appointment of Sarah Mahin as the first director of the new Department of Homeless Services and Housing.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved the appointment of Sarah Mahin as the first director of the new Department of Homeless Services and Housing, the county's consolidated department focused on homelessness solutions.

Mahin, currently director of Housing for Health, will lead the county's efforts to consolidate and enhance homelessness service delivery by overseeing the transition of services from multiple county departments into a central agency.

"We need bold, effective leadership to tackle the homelessness crisis and I believe Sarah Mahin is the right choice to lead our County's new Department of Homeless Services and Housing," said Supervisor Kathryn Barger, chair of the Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, chair pro tem, praised Mahin's work on key initiatives including the Skid Row Action Plan, the Skid Row Care Campus and the Every Woman Housed initiative.

"Her leadership as the former Director of the County's Housing for Health Division has already transformed how we serve our most vulnerable residents and has served as the blueprint for the new department she will now oversee," Solis said.

Mahin currently serves as director of Housing for Health in the LA County Department of Health Services, overseeing a $875 million budget, more than 600 staff and contracts with hundreds of community-based organizations. She has worked in homeless services for two decades, including at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority.

At LAHSA, she served as director of policy and systems, coordinating services across hundreds of organizations and multiple county and city departments.

"I am honored to serve as the inaugural director of the Department of Homeless Services and Housing," Mahin said. "For me, this work has always been rooted in innovation, collaboration, and accountability to the people and communities that we serve."

Mahin earned a Master of Public Affairs from the University of Texas at Austin and a Bachelor of Arts in Government from Georgetown University.

The Board of Supervisors approved a motion to establish the county's first-ever department focused on homelessness solutions on April 1, 2025, and approved the department name on July 1, 2025. The Department of Homeless Services and Housing will be officially established by Jan. 1, 2026.

Community meetings will be announced soon. The public may submit questions or comments about the new department here. For more information, visit ceo.lacounty.gov/dh.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

SIGN

FROM PAGE 1

given some flexibility about signage," said Vice Chair Josh Hamilton during the July 2 meeting.

The discussion comes as Santa Monica faces what commissioners described as a "precarious financial position" and looks for ways to help businesses generate additional revenue while potentially creating new income streams for the city.

However, any changes must navigate complex First Amendment protections that significantly limit how cities can regulate signs, Deputy City Attorney Michelle Hugard explained to commissioners.

The city's current sign code is designed to be content-neutral, meaning it regulates the time, place and manner of sign display rather than the message itself. This approach allows the city to regulate signs based on substantial government interests like aesthetics and traffic safety, but limits the types of distinctions that can be made between different businesses.

The commission's interest was sparked partly by a recent case involving the Hilton hotel, which sought to place a sign higher on its building for better wayfinding but was denied under current regulations.

"They just wanted to allow for the sign that they were allowed at 20 ft to be higher up on the building to allow for better wayfinding for their guests as they are crossing Fourth Street or coming in from the freeway the 10 freeway and exiting," Hamilton said.

Planning staff suggested that geographic restrictions, such as proximity to freeways, could provide a content-neutral way to allow more flexibility for certain businesses.

The commission also discussed the city's broader approach to digital signage, particularly plans for the Third Street Promenade. The city council has directed staff to form a special sign district for the Third Street Promenade and Santa Monica Place as "the only geographic area where digital billboards could be considered through a development agreement process," according to Michelle Hugard.

Off-site advertising has been largely prohibited in Santa Monica since 1985, though some grandfathered billboards remain. The potential addition of digital billboards represents a significant policy shift that could generate revenue for both private property owners and the city.

Commissioner Landres raised concerns about light intensity and flashing lights, particularly regarding potential health impacts for people with epilepsy, even as the city considers expanding digital signage options.

The commission also clarified that the city's sign code applies to all property unless specifically exempted, with school districts and Santa Monica College exempt from city review because they are regulated by the state.

Commissioner Landres described the commission's position as "open but cautious" regarding potential changes to the sign code.

"I think the world is changing and we always have to be open to reevaluating," Landres said.

No formal action was taken during the study session, but staff indicated they would consider the commission's expressed interest in further exploring upper-level signage flexibility as part of their ongoing work on sign code revisions.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Downtown

Santa Monica Playhouse Presents Final Hebrew Hillbilly Performance as Benefit

The Santa Monica Playhouse Jewish Heritage Series will present what may be the final performance of "The Hebrew Hillbilly" on July 13, featuring performer Shelley Fisher in her longest-running solo musical.

Fisher, who has transformed from a self-described "blonde bombshell" to "The Memphis Belle of L.A.," will perform her autobiographical show that chronicles her journey through show business. The performance combines music, humor and personal stories about overcoming prejudice and tragedy.

"A dash of Mae West and a pinch of Dolly Parton…the stage vibrates with her songs, anecdotes and charm," according to SanDiegoTheatreReviews. Reviewplays.com called Fisher "a radiant performer."

The July 13 performance serves as a benefit for the Save the Main Stage Fund. Fisher is donating all proceeds to help rebuild the playhouse's main auditorium, which was destroyed in a water damage disaster one year ago.

The show tells the story of Fisher, a Southern Jewish performer who has worked to celebrate diversity and determination throughout her career. Her musical combines rock and country influences with theatrical storytelling.

"The Hebrew Hillbilly" has been running for years as America's longest-running solo musical, making the potential final performance significant for theater audiences.

The benefit performance begins at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, July 13. Tickets cost $39, with military discounts available for current and former service members.

Santa Monica Playhouse is located at 1211 4th Street, one block east of the Third Street Promenade. The venue is accessible by Santa Monica Blue Bus, LA Metro Rapid Line 720 (4th and Wilshire stop) or Metro E Line (4th and Colorado stop).

The playhouse receives support from the We Are Santa Monica Fund, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture, the City of Santa Monica, Santa Monica Arts Commission, Ahmanson Foundation, Rotary Club Foundation and U.S. Bank.

Tickets and information are available at SantaMonicaPlayhouse.com/the-hebrew-hillbilly-benefit.html or by calling the box office at (310) 394-9779 ext. 1.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy photo

HEBREW HILLBILLY: The long running show is approaching the end of its time in Santa Monica.

GET IT DAILY...

WRITING

FROM PAGE 2

Monica Review, a nationally distributed literary arts journal published by the college that still comes out every fall and spring. Jim was and continues to be a mentor and friend to so many writers who passed through his celebrated creative writing classroom at SMC. Under his oversight, it developed into a creative community and a real center of literary energy in Los Angeles.

Jim was part of those early planning sessions but retired shortly after. Covid lockdowns sent some of our writing faculty scrambling to develop online versions of existing workshop courses. These online classes flourished. Now, along with our on-ground versions, they are a widely popular option, enabling us to cast a wider net and reach more aspiring writers.

This goal—of reaching more aspiring writers, wherever they are—and having enough courses for those students seeking deeper engagement with creative writing, were all primary motivations for expanding the program. Our original, longtime courses, English 30A and English 30B, were well established and well attended, but many students who completed both courses expressed disappointment that there were no additional workshops to take, and that left them feeling stymied.

Our new courses and certificate program were developed to meet—and ultimately grow—student demand. They also help us keep pace with other leading community colleges that offer robust programs. Designed to help students develop their skills and explore many types of literary writing, the program will build on its solid foundation and continue to be a welcoming and thriving literary community for a diverse range of writers.

TAKE THE NEXT STEP

Whether they're seasoned or just starting out, once they complete an SMC workshop, many of our writing students have articulated their experiences in compelling ways. One, after completing a class last semester, wrote, "I credit this workshop and [the] professor… for helping me get back into reading closely. I discovered so many writers… I also credit the workshop for helping me inch past my fear of doing and failing." Another wrote, "I am far more confident as a writer than I have ever been at any point in my life. That is due to this workshop."

In our workshops, writers of any experience level will receive invaluable mentorship, discover community, and be given an illuminating education in craft—all in a program that is affordable and accessible. We look forward to empowering countless students to find their voices and forge new opportunities for themselves through SMC's Creative Writing Program, which will continue to innovate and meet changing needs.

Enrollment is already underway for Fall 2025. With English 71, Introduction to Creative Writing, and English 72, Writing in Fiction set to debut this fall, with the other new courses slated to follow shortly after. In Winter and Spring 2026, we plan to offer a mix of courses including English 73, Writing in Poetry, and English 74, Writing in Creative Nonfiction.

We urge anyone interested in writing, whether it's poetry, fiction, memoir, flash, personal essays, or just a general curiosity, to take the next step and learn more about our program. With the rise of AI programs that can generate neatly assembled narratives with the click of a keyboard prompt, it is more valuable than ever to cultivate one's imagination, focus on the rewarding challenge of self-expression, discover and develop one's singular, (human) voice, think deeply about the power and nuance of language, and learn to tell stories and personal narratives in fresh, idiosyncratic ways. As Jim wrote in his essay, "Story & Dream": "…I believe it is our stories, even more than our memories, that define who we are."

BY DIANE ARIEFF AND SUSAN CAGGIANO, SMC ENGLISH PROFESSORS For more information about the program and how to enroll, please visit www.smc.edu/creativewriting. For specific questions, please write Diane Arieff (arieff_diane@smc.edu) or Susan Caggiano (caggiano_susan@smc.edu).

MUSIC

FROM PAGE 3

parking through the adjacent city garage.

"It's an intimate space with wonderful acoustics, steps from the beach and many great restaurants, and very easy parking with the city garage right across the street," Mitchell said.

Kaleidoscope distinguishes itself through its collaborative approach to performance. All concerts, even with full orchestra, are performed without a conductor, creating what Mitchell describes as "a very democratic and collaborative rehearsal process."

Since its founding, Kaleidoscope has performed in over 100 locations throughout Southern California, including Walt Disney Concert Hall, the Broad, the Wallis, The Huntington, Hammer Museum, and Union Station. The organization maintains strong community ties, with traditionally over 75% of their annual concerts taking place at hospitals, homeless shelters, and schools.

Regular community partners include Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, LA Family Housing, and Braddock Drive Elementary School.

For the new festival, organizers face the typical challenges of any cultural startup. "The biggest challenges are raising awareness and raising sustainable funding," Mitchell said. "We are looking far into the future and have a vision to expand this festival in the coming years with more programming and educational initiatives, but none of that is possible without sufficient support from the community."

Mitchell expressed optimism about the festival's prospects in Santa Monica. "Santa Monica has long been respected for its commitment to the arts and education, and we're hopeful that the community will embrace this new festival and appreciate the music we are sharing," he said.

Tickets range from $15 for students and children to $250 for preferred seating festival passes. Individual concert tickets start at $35 for general admission and $75 for preferred seating. Festival passes covering all four programs are available for $120.

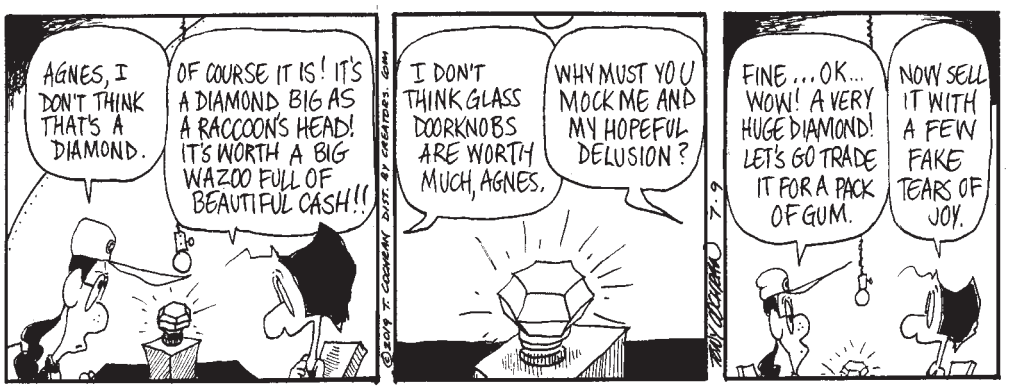
Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, with a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday. Children ages 6 and older are welcome when accompanied by an adult.

More information and tickets are available at www.kco.la.

maaz@smdp.com

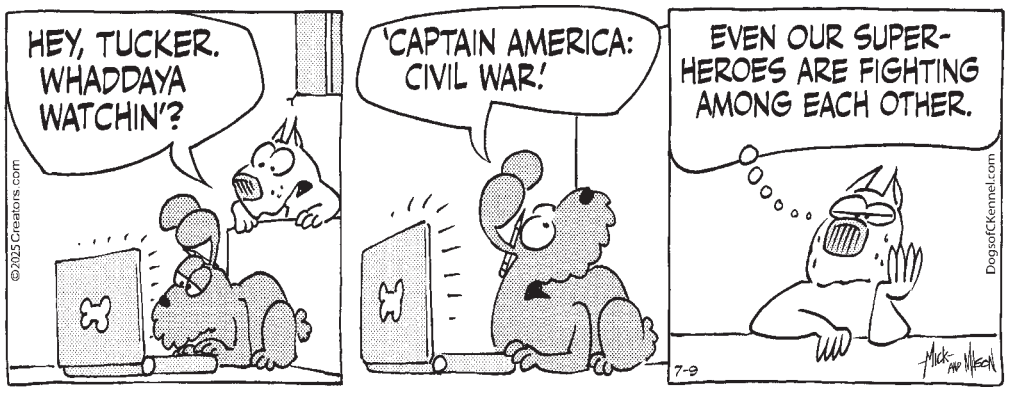
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



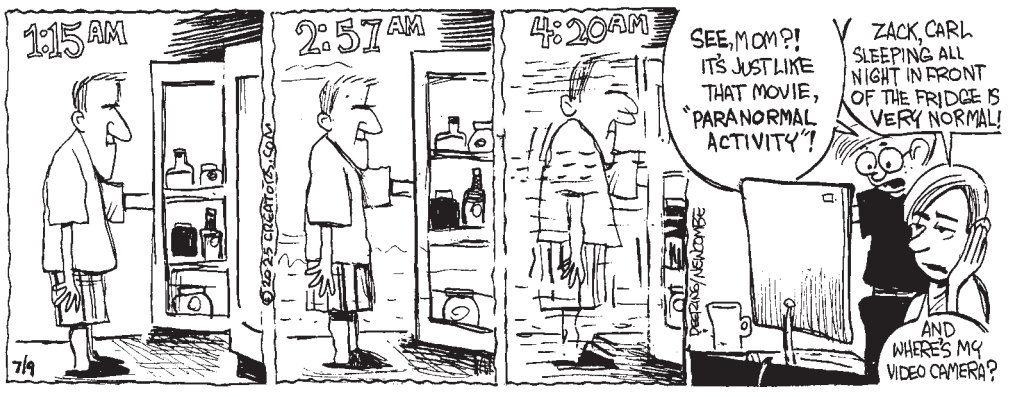
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



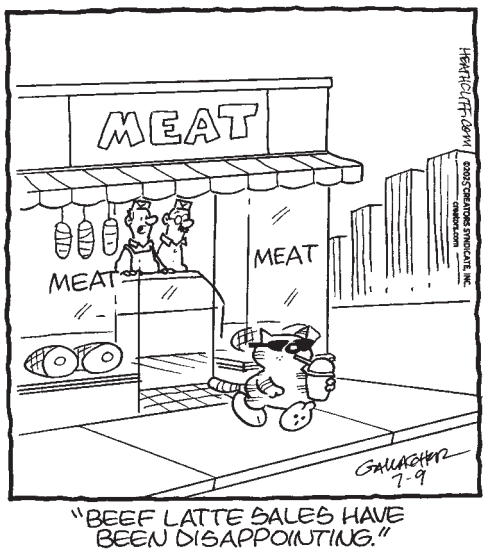
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



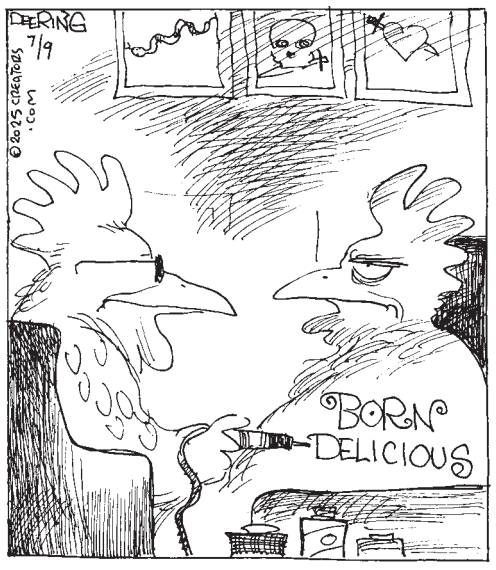
Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6631

Market bargains

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

Arts	City	Golf clubs	Produce
Axes	Craft	Hats	Radios
Basket	Doors	Herbs	Shoes
Bike	Earrings	Jams	Skis
Cage	Eggs	Junk	Soap
Cash	Farmers	Lawnmower	Spend
Chai	Find	Metal	Sunglasses
Cheapest	Fish	Neighbourly	Tacky
Chips	Flute	Pets	Teas
Chocolates	Food	Photographs	Tools
Chutney	Games	Pies	Tyres

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

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 9)

You're tapped into the magic of timing this year. You'll walk into the right place at the right moment on a regular basis, at least once a week. More highlights: Relationships deepen, even those you thought had reached their limit. You'll be trusted with something sacred, and your care will be remembered. Your unusual work that's been hard to place now gets the spotlight and the payment it deserves. Sagittarius and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 11, 20, 38 and 44.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You've learned when to push and when to pause, and you have your finger on the button today. Guided by excellent inner timing, one tap starts a chain reaction. Trust yourself and let momentum carry you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You'll notice what's not being said -- and it matters more than what is. There's an opening here to ask a question no one else is asking. Your curiosity makes others feel seen and shifts the whole mood.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There are those who give you just enough to keep your antennae up, tuned to the station of them. They send a familiar signal, faint but undeniably present. The chances of connection are real enough for you to wonder and slim enough to keep you spinning.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There's a scene you don't want to play out again. Start there. Eliminate the unwanted and let what remains inspire a new kind of moment -- honest, strange, beautiful or maybe all three. You deserve this loveliness.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll get further by letting your instincts lead. Instead of weighing every decision, simply move where you're needed. Focused generosity brings out your signature flair without forcing a single style choice.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). What looks like simplicity is actually an intricate feat of alignment. Pause to marvel at how many unseen elements had to cooperate for things to go smoothly. That awareness changes how you walk through the day.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Telling your story to a new audience unlocks a surprising twist. You'll see your own life differently through their eyes, and the themes that rise up will point you to your next project, your next truth.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're on a roll. Ideas keep bubbling. Don't worry about the duds -- they'll fall away as you tend to the obvious winners. You don't settle, and that's what elevates you. Keep refining until it shines.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It starts with one clear sentence, maybe two. You say what needs saying, and it unlocks the next development. Others have been thinking the same but weren't brave enough to voice it. You're transforming the atmosphere with your talk.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your time is sacred. You knew this when you signed up to help, but this thing snowballed into more than expected. Still, you've learned something vital: you get to renegotiate. In drawing a boundary, there's no shame -- only wisdom.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). That wild spark inside doesn't need a reason. Sometimes, rebellion is its own reward. Change the vibe, break a rule, wear something that screams. You're rewriting your aesthetic -- and it's working. Your world takes on new heat.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). A feeling you couldn't quite name is starting to take shape. Now that it has edges, you can do something with it -- turn it into art, a conversation or your new rules. The moment you act, clarity flows in -- after, not before.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

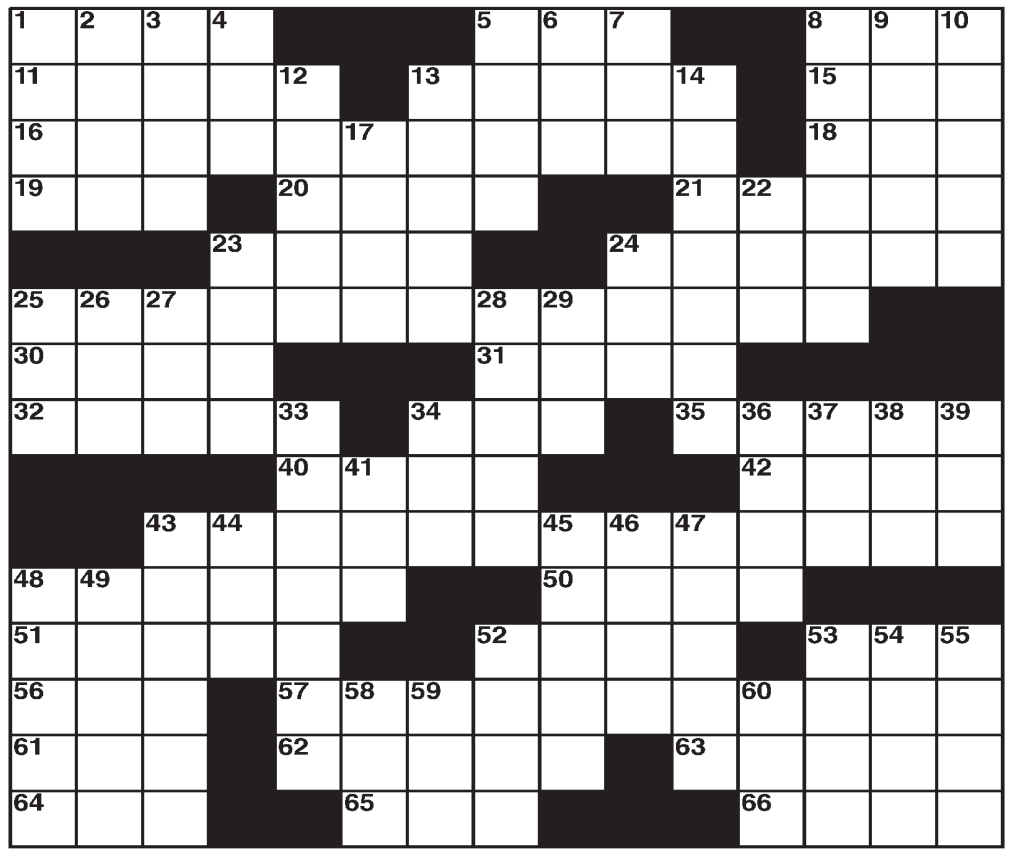
IN THE BALLPARK by Steve Faiella
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Flat-topped hill
5 "I get it now!"
8 Lowest USMC rank
11 Whodunit excuse
13 Rome's __ Fountain
15 Three, on a sundial
16 They provide career advice
18 "__ matter of fact..."
19 Allow
20 Signs, as a contract
21 Mexican mister
23 Chinese lap dog, for short
24 High-latitude sky display
25 "Rear-view" viewer
30 Frankenstein's assistant
31 Remove from power
32 Musical pace
34 Chimp or gorilla
35 Desert spots with springs
40 "Me neither"
42 Spiced tea of India
43 Native American protective hoops
48 Sermon speaker
50 As authorized
51 Safari beast
52 A third of tri-
53 "Most Wanted" list agcy.
56 Egyptian snake
57 Birthday desserts in the making
61 Get a look at
62 Krispy __ doughnuts
63 Urban lodging
64 Last line on a list
65 Sense of self
66 Walk through a pool

DOWN

1 Shopping center
2 Author Wiesel
3 Search closely (through)
4 Prez on Mount Rushmore
5 Curved lines
6 Sound of a snicker
7 Urban map abbr.
8 "Grand" keyboards
9 Baseball cap's brim
10 Small jeweled crown
12 More frosty
13 George of the original *Star Trek*
14 Provide with, as a passport
17 Doing mess hall duty
22 Make a mistake
23 Offender, in police slang
24 Oohs and __
25 Ability to amuse
26 Develop over time
27 Hanks or Cruise
28 Discussion subject
29 Signal to start
33 Annoying laundry leftover
34 Shirtsleeve insert
36 Sore from exertion
37 Pronoun for ships
38 Knack for music
39 Feminine sibling, for short
41 Granola tidbit
43 Immersed briefly
44 Sales __ (commission worker)
45 Maker of Photoshop
46 __ fish sandwich
47 Piece of fabric
48 Full moon or crescent
49 Gotten out of a chair
52 Office note
53 Cheese in Greek salads
54 Raised, as racehorses
55 Land amidst a sea
58 "Ready when you __"
59 Beer barrel
60 Haul from behind



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07/09/25

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

RESTAURANT

FROM PAGE 1

new summer menu at its Ocean Avenue location in Santa Monica, offering a seafood twist on its signature churrasco-style dining experience and adding a seasonal cocktail that comes with a kick.

The limited-time offering, dubbed the Brazilian Surf & Turf, includes a curated selection of fire-roasted meats served alongside either a "butter-bathed lobster tail" or an "all jumbo lump crab cake." The menu is priced at $59 and available now through early August at all US locations, including the Santa Monica branch that opened in April.

The restaurant chain, known for its continuous tableside meat service and prix fixe format, is also rolling out a new cocktail called the "hot Brazilian" made with Reposado tequila, Tempus Fugit citrus liqueur, fresh lime juice and mango habanero, served with a black lava salt rim and mint garnish. The drink is only available upon request through to July 30.

> This summer, many guests are craving experiences that feel like an escape without having to go far from home
>
> - Barry McGowan, Chief Executive Officer at Fogo de Chão

"This summer, many guests are craving experiences that feel like an escape without having to go far from home," said Barry McGowan, Chief Executive Officer at Fogo de Chão. "At Fogo, we're delivering our most indulgent limited-time experience yet, with a curated Brazilian surf & turf that brings together our favorite cuts of Brazil and indulgent seafood. It's joy, connection and celebration, like stepping into the vibrant energy of Brazil, without ever leaving town."

The seasonal promotion builds on the opening of Fogo's newest Southern California outpost at 1551 Ocean Avenue, a 7,200-square-foot restaurant featuring a retractable-roof patio with ocean views, a large open grill and a bar serving shareable Brazilian-style appetizers. Located in the former Del Frisco's Grille space, the venue offers 193 seats, including 15 at the bar.

Founded in 1979 in Porto Alegre, Brazil, Fogo de Chão now operates more than 70 locations worldwide. Its approach to rodízio-style service, where gaucho chefs carve meat tableside until guests indicate they've had enough, remains central to the brand's appeal. The Santa Monica location is the 11th in Southern California.

The seasonal surf & turf additions and "hot Brazilian" cocktail are part of a broader effort to highlight lighter fare and bar-forward offerings during the warmer months. While the décor and meat-heavy menu remain rooted in tradition, Fogo continues to adapt with limited-run features, small plates and flexible dining formats designed to appeal to a wider range of guests.

Fogo de Chão is at 1551 Ocean Ave and is open Mon–Thu 3 – 10 p.m., Fri 3 – 10:30 p.m., Sat 2 – 10:30 p.m. and Sun 2 – 9 p.m.

THE GEORGIAN ROOM

The Georgian Room (https://www.thegeorgian.com/the-georgian-room.htm), the Italian steakhouse beneath The Georgian hotel, has launched a dedicated martini menu featuring inventive twists on the classic cocktail. The venue, which boasts deep red walls, round leather booths and a 1918 Steinway piano, once welcomed 1930s notables including Judy Garland, Clark Gable and "Bugsy" Siegel. The new menu includes sophisticated takes on nostalgic flavors, such as a clarified piña colada and a layered gelatina appletini, created by culinary team members Shahnaz Mouhamou, Natalia Wyman and Brittany Brisbin. The martini menu is available Wednesday through Sunday, with live jazz music until 12:30 a.m. and late nights until 2 a.m. on weekends.

VEGGIE GRILL

Next Level Burger and Veggie Grill are taking their first step toward brand unification with the summer launch of their All American Vegan menu. The new menu combines offerings from both plant-based concepts and will eventually operate under the unified Next Level Veggie Grill name. Developed by Chief Visionary Officer Cierra de Gruyter, the menu features protein-forward plates, including the new whole-cut Beyond Steak Filet and Pan Seared Salmon using Oshi's vegan salmon filet.

Menu highlights include four new protein-packed entree plates available after 3 p.m., new shareables like Fresh Summer Rolls and Fried Cheese Bites, and four new bowls including the Buddha Brunch Bowl. The menu also adds new burgers, including the permanent Sunrise Burger featuring Yo! Egg, plus Mexican plates with choice of vegan steak or chicken. Veggie Grill by Next Level locations will receive the menu July 4, while Next Level Burger locations will get it on a rolling basis this summer. Learn more at www.nextlevelburger.com or www.veggiegrill.com.

SHORESIDE

Shore Hotel has opened Shoreside, a new restaurant and bar on Ocean Avenue led by Executive Chef Todd Bohak. The venue combines California coastal cuisine with ocean views, featuring locally-sourced organic seafood and fresh produce from farmers' markets. Standout dishes include Harris Ranch Prime Filet with Yukon potatoes and California Yellowtail Crudo with ginger ponzu.

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WEDNESDAY | JULY 9

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 10

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 11

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

A SPACE ODYSSEY
7:30 p.m. Aero Theatr 1328 Montana Ave Santa Monica. $14.00 (member) ; $19.00 (general admission). Ticket prices include a $2.00 online booking fee. Aero Theatre | 'Ultra Cinematheque 70 Fest 2025'. The American Cinematheque's own pristine 70mm archival print!

SATURDAY | JULY 12

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

TOUR OF HYPERION WATER RECLAMATION PLANT
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 12000 Vista del Mar, Playa de 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/14548485/2025-06-28T11

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

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Contact dina@smdp.com today!

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