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Volume 25 Issue 180

THURSDAY 7/30/26

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City pursues homeless services at Palm Motel while voting to delay closure of downtown shelter

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The Santa Monica City Council voted late Tuesday to bring the Palm Motel under city control as part of a new local homeless services system, while adding a directive that the city not shut down its longtime SaMoShel shelter until officials identify replacement housing and present a more concrete transition plan.

The council approved all seven staff-recommended actions tied to the proposed Housing Focused System of Care, including authorizing the city manager to negotiate agreements with the Palm Motel's owner and with The People Concern to run services there, and with The Salvation Army to fund shelter bed activation at its Bell Shelter in the city of Bell. Councilmember Dan Hall recused himself from the item, saying his rented residence sits between 500 and 1,000 feet of SaMoShel and could be affected by any relocation of shelter capacity away from the downtown site.

After passing the broader package, the council took up a separate motion, brought by Councilmember Ellis Raskin, directing staff not to demobilize SaMoShel until the results of a forthcoming request for expressions of interest, or RFEI, are known and a "robust plan" for what comes next is presented to the council. That motion passed on a split vote, with Councilmember Lana Negrete and Mayor Caroline Torosis opposed. Negrete said the direction was unnecessary because staff had already made clear "they're not in the business of closing shelters and sending people elsewhere."

Torosis said the final motion didn't capture her original intent



SMDP Photo

MOTEL: The facility on Pico has been operating as a County-run shelter and the City of Santa Monica wants to take over operations at the location.

when she asked for a discussion of keeping the shelter open.

City Manager Oliver Chi said the council's direction would push back the timeline for winding down the 60-bed congregate shelter, which had been initially targeted for the end of this calendar year, but that the city remains committed to ensuring no one is displaced onto the street. Aileen Reynolds, director of the city's Housing and Human Services Department, told the council she could commit to

updating them on the RFEI process within 30 to 90 days.

The vote caps months of city work aimed at overhauling how Santa Monica delivers homeless services, as the regional system undergoes what Reynolds' presentation described as its most significant restructuring in a generation. Over the past year, Los Angeles County withdrew hundreds of millions of dollars in funding from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority and

created a new county Department of Homeless Services and Housing, then approved nearly \$200 million in cuts to homeless services amid a budget shortfall. In June, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development suspended federal funding to LAHSA and the Los Angeles Continuum of Care, adding further strain.

Locally, the city has been building toward this moment since a 2022 assessment from Moss Adams and a subsequent Homelessness Strategic

Plan developed with consultant BerryDunn and published in March 2025. The October 2025 Realignment Plan called for moving away from SaMoShel's congregate shelter model toward a "healing center" approach pairing shelter with treatment and a direct pipeline into permanent housing. In March, the council directed staff to conduct community engagement before finalizing any changes; staff held

SEE **COUNCIL** PAGE 8

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Court halts overnight charging operations at Waymo facilities in Santa Monica

MATTHEW HALL

Daily Press Editor

A Los Angeles County Superior Court judge on Monday granted the City of Santa Monica's request for a preliminary injunction barring Waymo from running its Broadway autonomous vehicle charging facilities overnight, delivering a legal win to residents who have complained for more than a year about noise, light and traffic from the sites.

The order, issued July 27, prohibits Waymo from operating its charging lots at 1222 and 1310 Broadway between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. while the underlying public nuisance case proceeds toward trial.

In granting the injunction, the court found the city had established a reasonable probability of prevailing on its public nuisance claim, determining that the ongoing noise, lights and traffic generated by overnight operations at the two sites interfere with nearby residents' ability to comfortably enjoy their homes. The court also found that the harm to residents outweighs any harm to Waymo from the restriction, noting the company can continue offering overnight ride service in Santa Monica using vehicles charged and serviced during daytime hours.

The dispute dates to November 2024, when Waymo began using the two lots — operated by charging company Voltera Power on property owned by SMF Property Holdings LLC — to charge autonomous vehicles serving greater Los Angeles. Residents soon began reporting reverse-beeping, humming, workers talking at night, flashing lights and traffic congestion in a nearby alley.

The Santa Monica City Council voted 6-0 in November 2025 to order overnight operations shut down between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m., declaring the facilities a public nuisance. Waymo did not comply, arguing the city had misunderstood its permitted use, and sued the city Dec. 17, 2025, seeking a ruling that its operations were lawful and could not be shut down. The city countersued a week later, asking the court to declare the lots a nuisance and to enjoin overnight operations — the claim on which Monday's injunction was based. The city has maintained that overnight operations substantially interfere with residents' sleep and quality of life in violation of municipal and state nuisance law, and that it repeatedly proposed operational changes short of a full shutdown that Waymo declined to adopt.

Mayor Caroline Torosis said the ruling validates concerns residents have raised for more than a year.

"Our residents' ability to sleep peacefully in their own homes is not negotiable," Torosis said. "This ruling affirms what our neighbors have been telling us for more than a year, and it delivers relief while the case moves forward. I'm grateful to the residents who came forward, and to our City Attorney's Office for its steadfast work on behalf of the community."

A Waymo spokesperson said the company was disappointed by the ruling.

"We are disappointed in the judge's order,

which may restrict our ability to provide visitors and residents with a safer, more accessible transportation option during some of the most dangerous hours of the day for road users," the spokesperson said. "We will explore all available options to ensure we can serve the tens of thousands of Angelenos who depend on our service."

The company said it remains in full compliance with local requirements and will comply with the new order while continuing to operate out of the Broadway sites. Waymo has pointed to its own research indicating that the most dangerous hours on the road fall between midnight and 4 a.m., a finding the company says is supported by local data. Los Angeles Department of Transportation data shows roughly 22% of serious injury or fatal crashes involving pedestrians occur between 9 p.m. and midnight, and Santa Monica's own analysis has found that nighttime pedestrian-involved injury crashes along Santa Monica Boulevard account for about 22% of all pedestrian-related injury crashes in the city.

Waymo has said it has worked to be a good neighbor, including reducing vehicle noise in consultation with federal regulators and turning off most vehicle lights while cars charge overnight. The company has also noted that Voltera is seeking a city permit for additional curb cuts that would allow vehicles to enter and exit the sites without traveling the length of the neighboring alley; part of that project has already been approved, and the court's Oct. 23 status conference is expected to include an update on it. Waymo has said that even after mitigation measures were put in place, certain individuals continued to create disruptive conditions at the sites, including honking horns late at night, using smoke detectors to simulate vehicle noise, and blocking the public roadway in ways that interfered with vehicles' sensors. The company has said it has invested millions of dollars in the Santa Monica community, where it serves tens of thousands of riders each week.

In its statement following the ruling, the city emphasized that the case was never about whether autonomous vehicles belong in Santa Monica.

"Santa Monica welcomes the future of transportation, and autonomous vehicles and the infrastructure that supports them have an important place here," Torosis said. "This outcome reflects what we've said from the beginning: new technologies thrive in Santa Monica when they're designed to operate compatibly with the neighborhoods around them. We remain ready to work with Waymo on solutions that let their operations and our residents' quality of life coexist."

The court has scheduled a status conference for Oct. 23 to review potential remediation measures at the Broadway sites. The preliminary injunction will remain in effect pending trial, at which the city's public nuisance claims will be fully adjudicated.

editor@smdp.com

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

What California can learn from LA's hot mess era of governmental reforms

Los Angeles this summer is the epicenter of both sweeping municipal governance overhaul and stultifying governmental stasis.

The foot-dragging comes from the L.A. City Council, which shut down a series of broadly popular charter reforms in late June because, members said, the proposals hadn't been sufficiently vetted — despite nine grueling months of commission hearings and debates and, frankly, years of discussion over the biggest-ticket items, like expanding the council.

By contrast, the county Board of Supervisors is finalizing a clean-up measure for the November ballot after having moved too fast and broken too many things with a 2024 charter reform that created new offices and new official duties, but that threatens to wreck the county's signature justice reforms because of rushed and careless drafting.

It's a surprising role reversal, at least in image, with the traditionally plodding, state-sized county government looking suddenly more urgent and creative (but accident-prone) than the smaller and comparatively scrappier City Hall.

Which of the two governments landed on the right formula? Is it better to be swift than certain? Should politics or policy set the pace?

These are questions other California municipal governments would be wise to consider over the coming months. Voters are restless and have shown a degree of volatility since 2020, a chaotic year in which the way we manage public resources and apportion public responsibilities and benefits came into serious question.

Cities and counties around the state have begun dusting off their charters to keep up. San Bernardino and Shasta counties sent their voters major reforms over the last four years, and San Francisco and San Diego County have charter measures on this November's ballot.

Los Angeles County moved at a speed somewhere between breakneck and reckless. Supervisors Lindsey Horvath and Janice Hahn presented their colleagues with a historic restructuring plan a day before the Fourth of July holiday in 2024 and were ready, immediately after the break, with some showbiz flash and pre-arranged testimony by academics, community leaders and, in a 1972 video, even Hahn's late father. Kenneth Hahn, for whom the county Hall of Administration is named, served on the Board of Supervisors for 40 years.

"You do not need to study, study, study," the elder Hahn said in the recording. "They've been studying county government since 1851, and there's time for change and the change and the time

is now."

The county proposal called for expanding the board from five members to nine, creating a new elected executive, establishing an independent ethics commission, and numerous other changes in procedure and administration. The stated goals were greater responsiveness, accountability and efficiency.

The board was to fill in the details after the fact, after hearing recommendations from an appointed task force. Voters passed the Measure G revamp in November 2024 by a little more than a sliver.

Then the task force began its work and discovered that the measure inadvertently overwrote a previous charter reform that set a spending floor for alternatives to incarceration. The task force also learned that the independent ethics commission would be impossible without a follow-up ballot measure. And members are grappling with various other items that probably should have been in the restructuring plan but were not. For example, the auditor's role is oversight. Shouldn't that office report to the board rather than to the elected executive?

The attempted fixes include a lawsuit and new ballot language. Each clean-up costs money and makes it more challenging to keep reformers' implied promise to keep implementation cost-neutral. (Measure G actually guarantees only that it won't result in new costs to taxpayers. The wording is open to interpretation.)

Meanwhile, down the street at City Hall, the L.A. City Council in June 2024 launched what it called a once-in-a-generation charter reform process to study how to modernize city government and rebuild the public trust that had been lost following a series of scandals and long-simmering dissatisfaction with the delivery of city services.

The city Charter Reform Commission was slow getting off the ground, in part because Mayor Karen Bass was slow in appointing members. But once the panel began its work last summer, it got the kind of news coverage and public participation that the county's task force can, so far, only dream of.

Many of the proposals the commission delivered in March were familiar, having been discussed for literally decades. For example, expanding the City Council was rejected by voters in 1999. Granting certain noncitizens the right to vote in city or school elections, lowering the voting age to 16 and implementing ranked-choice voting came before two charter reform commissions in the 1990s but did not proceed to the ballot.

SEE GUEST COMMENTARY PAGE 11



Surf report WATER TEMP: 75.6

THURSDAY
FAIR TO GOOD**SURF:** 4-6ft
Chest to overhead

Genevieve swell holds solid, SPAC swell eases. Semi broken up shape but NW windswell fades a bit. Expecting Genevieve swell to trend more SSE/S through the day and hold. Even though NW windswell will likely drop from the first half of the week, the SPAC swell is west enough that the beachbreaks have some sections/corners on offer. Genevieve ticking most of the boxes for good tropical swell. Head high-overhead surf at decent breaks. Good spots are 2' overhead and standouts push well overhead.

FRIDAY
FAIR TO GOOD**SURF:** 4-5ft
Chest to head

Genevieve swell still expected to be pumping. Shape straightens out a bit as SPAC, NW swells ease. Tropical swell has good size, trends S through the day. NW windswell drops further and SPAC swell is down so shape starts to straighten out a bit for the beachbreaks. Summer points improve. Expect nice size sticking around from Genevieve. Decent breaks shoulder-head high, good spots comfortably overhead.



Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 77.

Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 67.

Friday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 81.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 68.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2026/07/30	Thu	04:55 AM	-0.44	L
2026/07/30	Thu	11:18 AM	4.15	H
2026/07/30	Thu	4:10 PM	2.17	L
2026/07/30	Thu	10:17 PM	6.01	H
2026/07/31	Fri	05:22 AM	-0.29	L
2026/07/31	Fri	11:44 AM	4.32	H
2026/07/31	Fri	4:50 PM	2.08	L
2026/07/31	Fri	10:51 PM	5.69	H
2026/08/01	Sat	05:47 AM	-0.02	L
2026/08/01	Sat	12:12 PM	4.51	H
2026/08/01	Sat	5:35 PM	2.00	L
2026/08/01	Sat	11:28 PM	5.22	H
2026/08/02	Sun	06:13 AM	0.36	L



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Draw Date: 7/27
6 26 46 58 65
Power#: 25
Jackpot: 663 M



Draw Date: 7/28
5 14 21 30 34



Draw Date: 7/28
34 48 49 59 70
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: 50 M



Draw Date: 7/28
EVENING: 2 5 4
Draw Date: 7/28
MIDDAY: 7 9 9



Draw Date: 7/25
3 27 28 29 34
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: 41 M



Draw Date: 7/28
1st: 03 - Hot Shot
2nd: 04 - Big Ben
3rd: 05 - California Classic
Race Time: 1:47.91

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DBA

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Hearing

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AROUND TOWN

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National Night Out, Steak Series & Beachside Beats

SMDP’s Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town includes National Night Out, award-winning pancakes, beach concerts, and much



Courtesy image

EVENT: Santa Monica Police hosts National Night Out Aug. 4 at City Hall.

more!

Annenberg Beach House Community Picnic: Enjoy games, crafts, a “pie” walk, and epic tug-of-war for “some good old-fashioned summertime fun.” All are invited to pack a dinner and grab some pals or join a solo-friendly communal table to enjoy this free event, with s’mores. Thursday, July 30, 5 - 8 p.m., 415 PCH eventbrite.com/e/community-picnic-tickets-1989055370156

Last Thursday Venice Summer Concert Series: Grab your friends, family, dogs, blankets, chairs and whatever else you like, and pull up to the boardwalk and Dudley for an evening of live music and friends outside on the beach. Music starts at 4:45 p.m. and ends at sunset. Thursday, July 30. [instagram.com/lastthursdayvenice](https://www.instagram.com/lastthursdayvenice)

A Cinderella Summer at Santa Monica Playhouse: The classic Rudie-DeCarlo musical returns with a high-energy multimedia twist, comedic silent movie sequences, and interactive magic for kids and families. Kicks off weekends this Saturday, Aug. 1, 2:00 p.m., 1211 4th St. [santamonicaplayhouse.com/cinderella.html](https://www.santamonicaplayhouse.com/cinderella.html)

Country Night at Perry’s Beach: Perry’s Beach on PCH turns into an open-air venue, hosting a live afternoon Country Night set right on the sand. Grab a spot on the deck or patio starting at 3p.m. this Saturday, Aug. 1, @ 930 Pacific Coast Hwy. <https://posh.vip/e/country-nights-perrys-beach-sun-july-26th>

50th Annual The Festival of Chariots Celebrates Ancient Indian Tradition: Dancers in colorful clothing, music, a multicourse feast, 40-foot tall hand-drawn floats — The Festival of Chariots will be an explosion of culture and celebration. Sunday, Aug. 2, 10 a.m. Parade begins at 1855 Main St. and the festival takes place at 1530 Ocean Front Walk. <https://www.larathayatra.com/parade>

National Night Out: The annual community-building event promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. This year’s event has a “Lights. Camera. Community.” theme. Expect FREE music, food, and activities for all

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm
LOCATION 2219A Main St Santa Monica, CA 90405

How artists transformed a former hospital in Los Angeles to examine human emotions

EDITOR'S NOTE — This story includes discussion of suicide. If you or someone you know needs help, the national suicide and crisis lifeline in the U.S. is available by calling or texting 988. There is also an online chat at 988lifeline.org

Just beyond an ambulance and wheelchair ramp wait Dr. Moodswing and Dr. Feelgood, dressed in starched white lab coats and ready to check you in with a neon orange patient wristband.

At this hospital though, it's not your vitals that will be examined, but your feelings.

The "Hospital of Emotions" is an immersive art experience that explores different facets of being human inside the long-shuttered St. Vincent Medical Center near downtown Los Angeles.

The former hospital was founded in 1856 by the Daughters of Charity religious order to treat poor people before it went bankrupt in 2020 and was bought by private investors. The site will be redeveloped into a homeless shelter and mental health and drug treatment facility, with the first phase opening later this year.

But until the end of September, the hospital rooms are filled with 80 installations by 70 artists. Each artist received around \$14,000 to transform four floors of clinical space into explorations of feelings around everything from medical and family trauma to grief over climate change and immigration detention centers.

STERILE HOSPITAL SPACES ARE TURNED INTO COLORFUL ART INSTALLATIONS

The project was created in the spirit of Meow Wolf and other for-profit amusement centers that approach art as entertainment.

As in Pixar's "Inside Out," color-coded creatures sprinkled throughout the show personify a range of emotions from joy and hope to anger and sadness. A fuzzy orange monster winks from behind a nurse's station, while dueling green giants symbolizing jealousy face off in an otherwise normal exam room, their faces decorated with absurd, clownlike expressions.

IV bags are full of rainbow-colored liquids, overhead exam lights are festooned with a canopy of artificial flowers, and crutches are draped with campy, cartoonish wigs.

Enter the "Resilience Department" and you'll find a prismatic, glass butterfly that refracts light, accompanied by an unsettling interactive audio piece about an artist's experience having an epileptic seizure. The sound of grunts and labored breathing in headphones contrasts with screams, recorded and replayed in the room to create a surreal, out-of-body effect.

In the neighboring room, a thousand sunny-side up eggs are splayed all over the bed, walls and floor, which the artist, Melan Allen, said represent the eggs she was forced to eat during her childhood despite hating them. The room especially resonated with Sharon Maxwell, who drove from San Diego to see the show.

"I have lots of egg stories," she said. "I'm in recovery from an eating disorder, so I've been in treatment, I've been in hospitals. It's all very sterile."

While going to the hospital can be an isolating experience, Maxwell said visiting an art show in one made her feel a renewed sense of connection. There aren't nurses, surgeons or patients here, and everyone is on equal footing as viewers.

"Being the person in the bed, being treated for mental health stuff, you're kind of like a spectacle," she said.

A SENSITIVE LOOK AT ANXIETY, FEAR AND TRAUMA

In the "Fear Department," a virtual character based off a real person gives a vulnerable speech about post-traumatic stress from serving in a combat zone and then reads a suicide note that combines multiple veterans' experiences using AI. The installation is titled "The Ward That Never Closed."

Down the hall, another room is covered floor to ceiling in black-and-white portraits drawn with frenetic lines by an artist who spent 15 months at a U.S. immigration detention center.

"I left Russia in 2022 because of my political views and because I am gay. What I thought would be a search for safety became a prolonged encounter with fear," Grisha Stepanian said.

His installation examines "how fear settles into the body, how it stays, even when there is no immediate danger. How safety, when it appears, feels temporary, almost unreal."

The most successful rooms play with the visual language of a medical space without prescribing what to feel.

In another room in the "Fear Department,"

artist Dongpu Ling created an eerie installation of transparent figurines — molded from packing tape — to bring a vision of her grandfather's to life. He died years ago in Shanghai, where he described seeing ghosts around his hospital bed just before dying.

Torqued into myriad positions, the blank-faced figures occupy gurneys and disappear into institutional-gray ceiling vents. The work was also informed by Ling's experience as a child spending 10 days in the hospital with a fever.

"I almost died. I couldn't eat," she said. "I threw up blood three times a night."

The process of creating the installation was intense, Ling said. When she tried to go to her studio room and accidentally went to the basement, where bodies are typically stored before going to funeral homes, she said she found something chilling: "It was freezing cold and dead silent."

RECOGNIZING A PARADOX OF EMOTIONS

Ondrea Boggs, an ultrasound tech, said the installations reminded her of people's tenacity and resilience even in the face of death — something she witnessed working in an intensive care unit and emergency room.

"I'm confronted with people struggling every day and getting through and being strong," she said.

Boggs is moved when she sees a patient or their family able to stay hopeful during a difficult time.

"It's encouraging for me to remember

SEE ART PAGE 8



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EVENTS THIS WEEK JUL 30 - AUG 6

Thursday, July 30, 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

The Chestnut Club 1348 14th St Santa Monica.

LA Singles - Millennials and Gen Z Speed Dating.

La Singles - Millennials and Gen Z - Meet someone amazing the modern way! \$0.00 to \$55.17. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/la-singles-millennials-and-gen-z-speed-dating/19228394/2026-07-30T19>

Friday, July 31, 9:00 p.m.

Harvelle's Santa Monica 1432 4th St, Santa Monica.

REVIVAL Presents

Doors open at 8 PM. Show starts at 9:00 PM. 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! 5 BAND FRIDAY!! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/revival-presents/19192992/2026-07-31T21>

Thursday, July 30, 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

The Recording Club by Tiny Room Studios 1660 9th Street Santa Monica.

Jenna Night Live

Get ready for a night of cocktails, comedy, live music, and great company. Live from Santa Monica... this is Jenna Night Live! \$28.52. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/jenna-night-live/19418998/2026-07-30T19>

Saturday, August 01, 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Shul on the Beach 505 Ocean Front Walk Venice.

Shabbat & Chill -Shabbat Lunch at the Beach

Shabbat & Chill. Kick off the first Saturday of every month with an elevated Shabbat experience. Featuring delicious catered cuisine, amazing people, and plenty of time to schmooze, connect, and unwind. Rabbi Rubanowitz returns with his popular lunch discussion series, Shabbat and Love: How Shabbat Can Transform Your Dating and Relationships. \$15.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/shabbat-chill-shabbat-lunch-at-the-beach/19459474/2026-08-01T12>

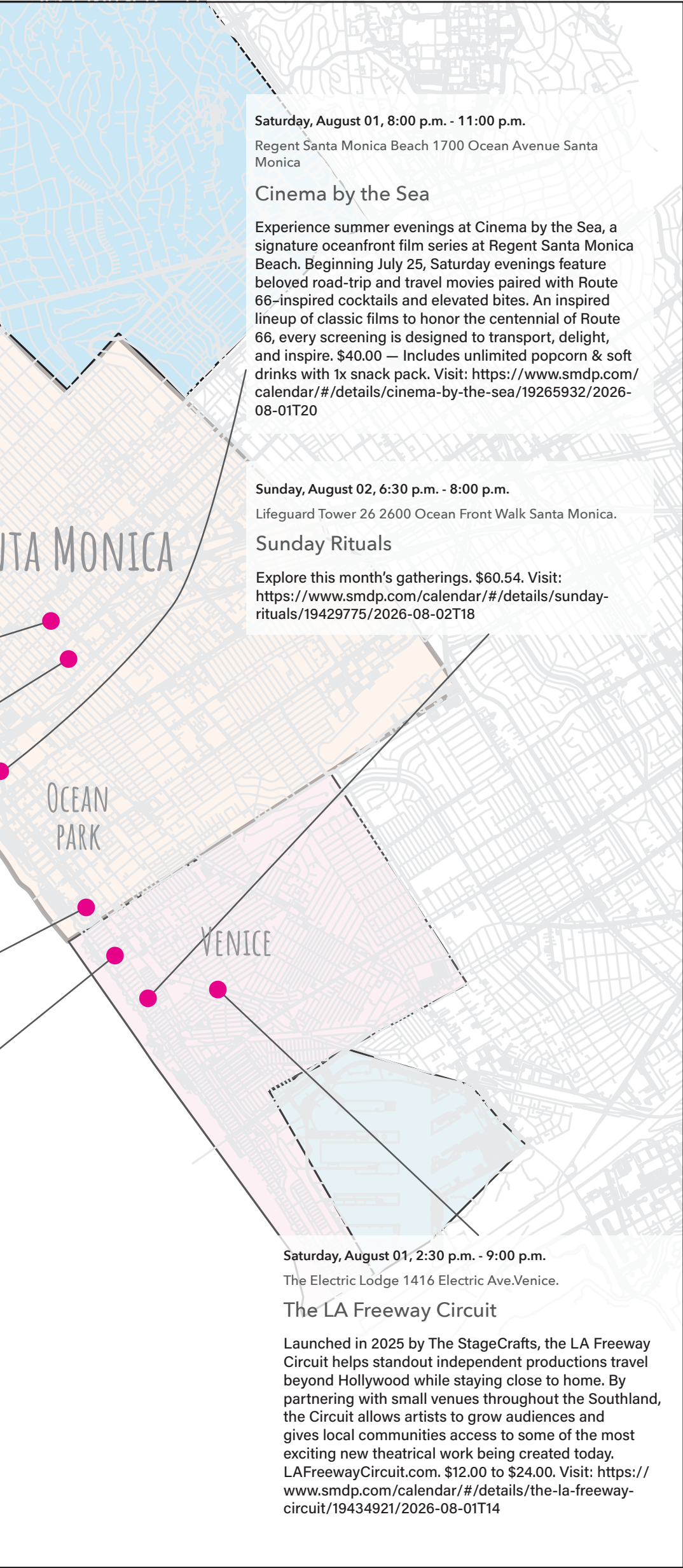
Friday, July 31, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Mishkon Tephilo 206 Main Street Venice.

Jewish Comedy Night

Join us for an evening of hilarious stand-up comedy, produced by Nicole Blaine and The Crow, featuring some of the best Jewish comedians in Los Angeles. Whether you're a longtime Mishkon member or joining us for the first time, this promises to be a fun-filled night of laughter, community, and connection. \$25.00 to \$35.00— Ticket prices increase on Wednesday, July 29. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/jewish-comedy-night/19462682/2026-07-31T18>

Check out
more events at:
[smdp.com/events](https://www.smdp.com/events)



Saturday, August 01, 8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Regent Santa Monica Beach 1700 Ocean Avenue Santa Monica

Cinema by the Sea

Experience summer evenings at Cinema by the Sea, a signature oceanfront film series at Regent Santa Monica Beach. Beginning July 25, Saturday evenings feature beloved road-trip and travel movies paired with Route 66-inspired cocktails and elevated bites. An inspired lineup of classic films to honor the centennial of Route 66, every screening is designed to transport, delight, and inspire. \$40.00 — Includes unlimited popcorn & soft drinks with 1x snack pack. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/cinema-by-the-sea/19265932/2026-08-01T20>

Sunday, August 02, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Lifeguard Tower 26 2600 Ocean Front Walk Santa Monica.

Sunday Rituals

Explore this month's gatherings. \$60.54. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/sunday-rituals/19429775/2026-08-02T18>

Saturday, August 01, 2:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
The Electric Lodge 1416 Electric Ave.Venice.

The LA Freeway Circuit

Launched in 2025 by The StageCrafts, the LA Freeway Circuit helps standout independent productions travel beyond Hollywood while staying close to home. By partnering with small venues throughout the Southland, the Circuit allows artists to grow audiences and gives local communities access to some of the most exciting new theatrical work being created today. LAFreewayCircuit.com. \$12.00 to \$24.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/the-la-freeway-circuit/19434921/2026-08-01T14>



THURSDAY | JULY 30

LOW IMPACT GROUP EXERCISE CLASS

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. American Legion Ronald Reagan-Palisades Post 283 15247 La Cruz Drive Pacific Palisades. Power up your Thursday with our free, low-impact group exercise classes — open to all members of the Legion Family, designed for every fitness level, and held from 11:00am to 12:00pm at Palisades Post 283. Come move, recharge, and feel great heading into the rest of your day! Sign up here to receive emails about upcoming exercise classes and cancellations: [post283.com/exercise](https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/low-impact-group-exercise-class/18566926/2026-07-16T11). Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/low-impact-group-exercise-class/18566926/2026-07-16T11>

CLUB LATINO PARA ADULTOS MAYORES

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Venga, aprenda, y diviértase cada jueves de 11 AM a 1 PM el el salón 3 del parque Virginia. Cada semana será algo nuevo: Ejercicio, Hablando con amigos, Aprendizaje, Presentadores Invitados, Salud y Bienestar. Hay comida para los adultos mayores que participan durante las dos horas. Para más información llame al (310) 458-8688. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/club-latino-para-adultos-mayores/13943928/2026-07-16T11>

ELEMENTARY ART STUDIO SUMMER CAMP

1:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Palisades Community Renewal Center 3212 Nebraska Ave Santa Monica. Join us for our summer art workshops for elementary age kids! In case this event has been updated, please visit <https://www.pccrsm.org/event/elementary-art-studio-summer-camp-6d445> for full details before arriving. Thank you! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/elementary-art-studio-summer-camp/19066074/2026-07-16T13>

STORY-CRAFT TIME

3:00 p.m. 861 Alma Real Drive Pacific Palisades. Listen to a story and create something inspired by it! Recommended for children ages 3 and older. For ADA accommodations, please call (213) 228-7430 at least 72 hours prior to the event. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/story-craft-time/19018567/2026-07-23T15>

HAMA SUSHI - MUSIC OPEN MIC (THURSDAYS)

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. 352 Westminster Ave Venice. Thursday nights in Venice! Open Mic at Hama Sushi. Exciting things are happening at Hama Sushi! Open Mic every Thursday 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. Come on down to Hama. The world is waiting! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/hama-sushi-music-open-mic-thursdays-/18526607/2026-07-23T18>

LA TECH MIXER 2026

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. LouLou Santa Monica 395 Santa Monica PI #300 Santa Monica. KICK OFF THE SUMMER 2026. KICK OFF THE NEW YEAR 2026 THE RIGHT WAY WITH THE BEST NETWORKING IN LA!!! As seen in Entrepreneur Magazine. We're LA's premier tech networking event with one of the largest membership groups in Southern California and growing every month! Don't miss this opportunity

to meet your next big business connection!. \$0.00 to \$36.06. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/la-tech-mixer-2026/19317956/2026-07-30T18>

TULUM THURSDAYS AT LOULOU SANTA MONICA

7:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. LouLou Santa Monica 395 Santa Monica PI #300 Santa Monica. Tulum Thursdays at LouLou Santa Monica- Every Thursday from 6:00 PM - Step into LouLou's signature Bohemian Chic haven where the elegance of Tulum meets the coastal glamour of Santa Monica. Sunset rooftop vibes Afro-Tribal House beats by DJ Yanicrash Live percussion performancesCocktails, cuisine & curated moments. Inspired by the spirit of Ibiza, Mykonos, and the Riviera Maya, Tulum Thursdays are a ritual of rhythm, flavor, and barefoot luxury. Watch the LouLou experience: bit.ly/loulou-tulum-thursdays-yt. LouLou Santa MonicaTulum ThursdaysEvery Thursday from 7:00 PM395 Santa Monica PI #300, Santa Monica, CA 90401(323) 410 - 2337info@loulousantamonica.comloulousantamonica.comReserve your table now: bit.ly/booking-loulou

MRS. WARREN'S PROFESSION

8:00 p.m. Pacific Resident Theatre 703 Venice Blvd., Venice. Mrs. Warren's Profession by George Bernard Shaw Directed by Michael Rothhaar In Victorian England, when women enjoy few legal rights, Kitty Warren has built an international business empire. When her daughter Vivie, who has been "boarded out her whole life," graduates from Cambridge, she presses her mother for answers as to her existence. The truth of how her mother survived poverty is difficult to hear; but it's not the whole story. Mrs. Warren's Profession takes a hard look at the choices a woman must make, faced with little or no options before her, and the moral implications of economic survival. \$25.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/mrs-warren-s-profession/19416313/2026-07-30T20>

LATE NIGHT HAPPY HOUR AT MARELLE - NIGHT CAP MENU

9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Marelle at Sandbourne Santa Monica 1740 Ocean Ave Santa Monica. Marelle will be launching a late-night happy hour menu called 'Night Cap' starting Monday, April 6th. Guests can order from this menu exclusively at Marelle, bar and bar lounge only. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/late-night-happy-hour-at-marelle-night-cap-menu/18409321/2026-07-23T21>

FRIDAY | JULY 31

Palisades Seniors Luncheon

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Pacific Palisades Woman's Club 901 Haverford Ave Pacific Palisades. Presented by Pali Long-Term Recovery Group in partnership with the American Red Cross and California Community Foundation. Enjoy a delicious lunch and catch-up with friends, neighbors and fellow Palisadians while listening to guest speaker Sam Laganà explore Coach John Wooden's timeless principles for living a life of purpose, character and integrity while sharing a compelling vision of hope, healing and renewal for the future of Pacific Palisades. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/palisades-seniors-luncheon/19431410/2026-07-24T11>



COMMUNITY NEWS

Downtown Santa Monica

Author to share publicity tips at Santa Monica book talk

Bestselling author and Goody PR founder Liz H. Kelly will discuss her new book, “Award-Winning Publicity: 8 Media Boosters to Magnify Your Story,” at Barnes & Noble Santa Monica on Wednesday, Aug. 5, from 5 to 7 p.m.

The free event at 1318 Third Street Promenade will feature a discussion from 5 to 6 p.m., followed by a question-and-answer session and a meet-and-greet book signing until 7 p.m.

Kelly, who is based in Santa Monica, started her public relations agency after being laid off by Myspace in 2008 during the Great Recession. Rather than look for another corporate job, she launched Goody PR, which helps small business owners, thought leaders and brands earn media coverage on television, in print, and on radio and podcasts.

Kelly said the career change grew out of a light-hearted dating book she wrote 20 years ago. For that project, she hired two publicists, three media trainers and a website designer and attended book marketing seminars, eventually landing a literary agent, a New York City publisher and 500 interviews across three versions over five years.

To learn how to build a company, Kelly said she attended a Rich Dad conference for entrepreneurs in Arizona hosted by “Rich Dad Poor Dad” author Robert Kiyosaki, where she met mentors and future clients.

The book draws on national coverage Kelly has secured, including on the TODAY Show, CNN, BBC World News, NewsNation, NPR and Bloomberg Radio, and in People, Forbes, Fast Company and Psychology Today.

One example is an award-winning campaign for eclipse glasses maker American Paper Optics tied to the 2024 total solar eclipse. Kelly said the program produced 54 television interviews in 8.5 months, won six PR industry awards and contributed to the sale of 75 million eclipse glasses.

“Earned media coverage means that you earned the respect of the reporter to tell your story,” Kelly said, adding that such coverage is more valuable than paid advertising and often appears in both AI and organic search results.

Kelly defines award-winning publicity as positive press tied to measurable business goals, earned media that builds positive sentiment through storytelling, and a creative campaign that breaks through with social impact and third-party validation.

“PR is a marathon, not a sprint,” Kelly said.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1

14 meetings between April and July before returning with Tuesday’s recommendations.

Under the plan, the Palm Motel — which has operated for two years as county-funded interim housing under the Pathway Home program — would come under city control once county funding for that program lapses this summer. The city would limit placements to people who meet the Santa Monica Program Participant, or SMPP, definition, referred exclusively through the city’s own outreach and first-responder teams. The 34-room motel can accommodate up to 48 occupants. Separately, the city would fund the activation of 35 currently unfunded beds at the Salvation Army’s Bell Shelter, which would be available to any Los Angeles County jurisdiction partnering with the organization, giving Santa Monica outreach teams a referral option for unhoused people who don’t meet the SMPP definition. A third action directs staff to issue the RFEI seeking non-congregate housing sites in and around Santa Monica to eventually replace SaMoShel’s capacity.

Reynolds told the council that the county’s 2026 point-in-time count, released last week, found 718 people experiencing homelessness in Santa Monica in January, an 11.6% decrease from 2025, with unsheltered homelessness falling 18.7%. She said roughly 10% of SaMoShel’s 60 beds are typically occupied by people who meet the SMPP definition, with the rest serving people referred from elsewhere in the region.

Several council members voiced support for taking direct control of the Palm Motel while raising concerns about the broader plan. Raskin argued that closing SaMoShel without a firm replacement in place would effectively strip the city of 60 shelter beds, leaving people to end up “living in cars, living on maps” without anywhere else to go. Mayor Pro Tem Jesse Zwick, who made the motion to approve the seven staff actions, said he wanted assurance that any future

non-congregate sites be sought “both in and outside the city” rather than concentrated in any one neighborhood, and added language directing staff to prioritize locations outside the areas that have historically hosted such facilities. Councilmember Barry Snell said he supported keeping SaMoShel open until the city has identified where displaced residents could go.

Negrete, who said she lives and walks her children to school within blocks of the Palm Motel, described years of frustration that the county converted the site to interim housing without notifying neighbors, but said crime and disorder near the property had improved markedly under the current on-site security and no-visitor policies compared with when it operated as a motel. She said she wanted to see the city diversify its roster of service providers beyond The People Concern going forward and reiterated her support for closing SaMoShel without further delay. Torosis asked staff to publicize crime data from before and after the Palm Motel’s conversion to interim housing and confirmed that on-site security would continue under city management.

For residents, city officials said day-to-day conditions are not expected to change significantly, since the site would continue operating with the same on-site provider, security staffing and a similar population as it has under the county’s program. For people experiencing homelessness, the changes mean SaMoShel will remain open for now, while the city works to stand up a locally controlled continuum intended to move people from street outreach through stabilization, interim housing and ultimately permanent housing, rather than relying on the fragmented, county-run system currently in place.

The council also authorized a budget amendment shifting \$3,458,150 from the Providence Saint John’s Development Agreement fund to help cover the roughly \$9.5 million in combined costs for the three agreements.

editor@smdp.com

Former Golden Globes owners sue Penske Media alleging fraud in acquisition of awards show

Members of the Hollywood Foreign Press, which founded and for decades owned the Golden Globe Awards, have sued Penske Media Corporation and others, alleging they engaged in fraud to acquire the valuable awards show in an attempt to create an entertainment industry monopoly.

The lawsuit filed in federal court in California on Tuesday alleges that Penske Media and owner Jay Penske colluded with holding company Eldridge Industries and its CEO Todd Boehly to fuel a backlash and boycott against the Globes to devalue it and acquire it, and to deceive the HFPA about a sale they were pressured into accepting.

“This case arises from a clandestine scheme to fraudulently acquire the prestigious and valuable 80-year-old Golden Globe Awards,” the lawsuit says, “and exert monopolistic control over the Hollywood trades, awards, and advertising markets, all in violation of state and federal unfair competition and antitrust laws.”

It alleges Boehly and Eldridge hid the involvement of Penske in the 2023 deal from the HFPA board, which never would have approved it if they had known of it. Penske Media’s assets include Variety, Deadline, The Hollywood Reporter, Rolling Stone, Billboard and Dick Clark Productions, which owns or produces several awards shows including the American Music Awards and is now part owner of the Globes.

The lawsuit says the HFPA members were promised lifetime Golden Globes tickets and voting privileges, along with other perks, which Penske reneged on by attaching unworkable conditions. And it says the buyers infiltrated the HFPA leadership to push through the deal.

A representative of the Golden Globes’ current owners said in a statement that the lawsuit “continues the absurdity and irrationality that the industry has come to expect from the defunct organization formerly known as the HFPA.”

The Golden Globes, long treasured as a glitzy, champagne-soaked opening of Hollywood’s awards season, has had a

turbulent 2020s full of lawsuits and public controversies. In 2021, a Los Angeles Times investigation revealed the group had only one Black member.

That brought a public outcry and boycott that led to NBC refusing to air the awards in 2022. The lawsuit claims that Boehly and Penske “surreptitiously instigated” the boycott and used Penske’s publications to fuel it.

After the 2023 acquisition and reorganization of the Globes, the show got a new broadcast home on CBS.

Boehly, who is also part owner of sports franchises including Chelsea FC and the Los Angeles Dodgers, was not named as a defendant, nor was his Eldridge Industries. The reasons weren’t immediately clear, and the plaintiffs declined to comment. There was also no immediate reply to an email seeking comment from Boehly and his company.

The lawsuit also alleges that Penske and Boehly manipulated and misused California’s nonprofit laws. It says the Golden Globe Foundation, established as the successor to the HFPA’s philanthropic arm, was used to drive down the price of the acquisition, and that it functions a de facto extension of the for-profit entity established by Penske and Boehly, Globes LLC.

“This latest act of duplicity is a new low, even for the HFPA,” the Golden Globes statement said in response. “The attempt by former HFPA members to leverage the Golden Globe Foundation, an independent nonprofit, simply to secure Golden Globes tickets is an unfortunate distraction that inappropriately diverts resources from legitimate charitable causes.”

The statement adds, “We remain troubled that the HFPA, an organization so widely criticized for ethical failures, non-inclusivity, racism, and misconduct involving talent, continues to find attorneys willing to push such illegitimate claims.”

The lawsuit seeks at least \$150 million in damages and asks the court to cancel the agreement to dissolve the HFPA.

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

ART

FROM PAGE 5

that that’s possible,” she said. “Even amongst moments of sadness you can still experience joy, it’s not like an isolated experience where you have to get through the sadness to experience joy, right? Both can be shared at the same time and both can be honored.”

For other visitors, the installations also

reflected that paradox of emotions.

“There’s solace in someone else seeing our emotion — whether it’s joy and celebration or sorrow and pain. There’s something about the human experience where we need to be seen,” Maxwell said. “This art exhibit really shows that in a profound way. I think it put humanity on display in a really powerful way.”

By ANNA FURMAN Associated Press

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 7017

A spot on a map

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

Accra	Doha	Kiev	Philippines
Alaska	Ghana	Laos	Riga
America	Haiti	Libya	Rome
Angola	India	Lima	Spain
Ankara	Iran	London	Taiwan
Belize	Israel	Malta	Togo
Brunei	Italy	Minsk	Tokyo
Canberra	Jerusalem	Nairobi	Tonga
Chad	Kathmandu	New York	Victoria
Crete	Kazakhstan	Oslo	Vietnam
Cuba	Kenya	Perth	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Rates and red tape

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 30)

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your predictive guesses are more accurate than not. Use that today. Let it cue your preventative measures. As good as you are at solving problems in the moment, you get even better results if you prevent them before they happen.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Every group has someone setting the direction. Today's advantage comes from understanding that vision and helping move it forward. You don't have to be the loudest voice to become an indispensable one.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Small choices have outsized effects. Stay aware. Double-check your work. Keep reminding yourself what matters most. It's easier to steer a moving ship than to reroute one that's drifted miles off course.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Did you mess it up in some way? Good. Until you have a collection of interesting mistakes, you're not yet a master. The thing that doesn't work today may become the missing piece of something better later.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). People think refinement is something you're born with, but it's more about small, respectful choices made over and over. Today your lovely instincts and steady self-control make a favorable impression that will linger for years to come.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Talk can be cheap, and it can be expensive, too. The price is paid in attention. You'll notice who is asking for it and who is earning it. You're inclined to give your attention to the people who say less.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You've established a method that works, though it's not the only one that will. Switch the order. The beginning doesn't always belong at the beginning. Rearranging familiar pieces can reveal a stronger story, a better argument or a clearer path forward.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There are very few things in this world that "always" or "never" happen. So the hyperbole may be unhelpful, especially today when the odd chance is the one that actually transpires and the open mind is richly rewarded.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Your first impulse is often worth following, but not always. Today it's those second through hundredth thoughts that are the most auspicious to follow. Well-considered strategies will be worth the time it takes to put them together.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You will sharpen your skills against the challenge of an equal. The match may end with a winner and a loser, but everyone walks away better for the match. A worthy opponent is a gift regardless of the outcome.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's OK to leave a project unfinished until tomorrow or next week. Returning with fresh eyes helps you notice what today's version missed. Distance doesn't solve every problem, but it will make the next step rather obvious.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll deal with machines today, perhaps so much so that you'll develop a craving for the human voice, touch, and yes, the human foibles too. Because without human mistakes, there is no real connection.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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.

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Solar energy collector
- 6 Importunes
- 10 Arrived in time for
- 14 Cobra pose or Crescent Moon
- 15 Legendary lawman
- 16 Hopkins in *Thor*
- 17 Sedately dignified
- 18 Actor Morales
- 19 Christen
- 20 Quarters for one
- 23 Pope's priests
- 24 Audio sensors
- 25 A few laughs
- 28 Sweater, often
- 34 Ending like -ian
- 35 Turn brown
- 36 Kitchen strainer
- 37 Plugging away
- 39 Abalone eater
- 42 Tibia's place
- 43 Free from
- 45 Wall St. intro
- 46 Merlot, for instance
- 47 Uncommon inning ender
- 50 Touse
- 51 Valentine intro
- 52 Noisy distraction
- 54 Rink coup
- 60 Qualify for
- 62 Work honoring the Suez Canal
- 63 Way up a creek
- 64 Mug warmer
- 65 Squirrel away
- 66 Deflect
- 67 Parlor decorations
- 68 Some pheasants

69 Positive feedback

DOWN

- 1 Go by
- 2 City near Turin
- 3 Persian pita
- 4 Head-scratcher
- 5 Dish out
- 6 *EastEnders* airer, affectionately
- 7 Comfortable state
- 8 Lesser apples or eggs
- 9 Rotini shape
- 10 Snowboard cousins
- 11 First Islamic prophet to sin
- 12 Darken
- 13 Compass reading
- 21 Put an ___ (stop)
- 22 Rock band discoveries
- 25 Ticker
- 26 In motion
- 27 Sleepwalking Swiss miss
- 29 Fiber source
- 30 Not beyond
- 31 "Architect of India"
- 32 Brown and Penn
- 33 Cultivates
- 38 Common camp accommodations
- 40 AQI monitor
- 41 Palace person
- 44 Poodle pest

MULTIPLIERS by Ruth Warham
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

- 48 Hyphen kin
- 49 Rock found near quartz
- 50 Santa Ana winds' origin
- 53 What declining orbits do
- 54 Pre-U queue
- 55 Tempura noodle
- 56 Source of many snow prints
- 57 Some: Fr.
- 58 Seconds or thirds
- 59 Some rats or rabbits
- 60 Ambulance transporter
- 61 Usual toll-increase opponent

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13		
14						15					16					
17						18					19					
20						21					22					
			23					24								
25	26	27				28	29	30					31	32	33	
34						35					36					
37			38			39			40	41		42				
43					44			45					46			
47						48	49					50				
				51						52	53					
			54					55	56					57	58	59
60	61					62					63					
64						65					66					
67						68					69					

CREATORS SYNDICATE ©2026 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM 07/30/26

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

AROUND TOWN

FROM PAGE 4

ages. SMPD will showcase their various police vehicles and equipment and invite the community to meet police personnel (human and 4-legged alike). The parking structure at Olympic & 4th St. is free that night and Big Blue Bus will be providing free bus rides all night when you mention National Night Out. Tuesday, August 4, 5 - 8 p.m. @ City Hall, 1685 Main St. <https://www.santamonica.gov/press/2026/06/30/santa-monica-police-department-invites-community-to-national-night-out-2026>

Comedy camp? Why this unique Santa Monica program is about so much more than laughs: NBC4 visits The Crow, where kids are learning stand-up, improv, sketch, and storytelling while discovering their voices. Founder Nicole Blaine shares how comedy can foster confidence, creativity, communication skills, and self-expression, both on and off the stage. <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/video/california-live/comedy-camp-why-this-unique-l-a-program-is-about-so-much-more-than-laughs/3919575/>

ONGOING: Museum of Illusions; The CUBE VR; Splatter Studio;

WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

Florentine Steak Dinner Series at All’Antico Vinaio: The popular Italian sandwich spot has teamed up with Florence Underground for a dinner series at their Santa Monica location centered around bistecca alla Fiorentina. For \$130 per pair, the meal opens with cured meats, cheeses, and house-made schiacciata bread before the main event: a thick T-bone seasoned only with salt and olive oil, served slightly before medium-rare with classic family-style sides. Olive oil cake and crema close it out. I went last month and it felt like a deal at that price. They have a variety of very reasonably priced wines available as well. Available just two more dates: July 31 and Aug. 28. 316 Santa Monica Blvd. [tables.toasttab.com/all-antico-vinaio-santa-monica-blvd/experience/fiorentina-night](https://www.tables.toasttab.com/all-antico-vinaio-santa-monica-blvd/experience/fiorentina-night)

Le Dîner en Blanc Returns to LA: The iconic, secret all-white pop-up picnic returns with thousands of guests dressed in head-to-toe white gathering at a secret location—revealed only moments before the event begins—bringing their own tables, white linens, and gourmet spreads for an evening under the stars. Saturday Aug. 1 [losangeles.dinerenblanc.com/city](https://www.losangeles.dinerenblanc.com/city)

Ina Bakes August Pop-Up: Summer’s in full swing, and so are the pastries. Join their monthly pop-up for fresh, seasonal bakes. Sunday, Aug. 2, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., 535 Rose Ave, Venice [inabakes.com/popup](https://www.inabakes.com/popup)

Xuntos’ An Evening with Winemaker Rajat Parr: Meet Raj and taste his singular San Luis Obispo coastal wines. Come any time and taste any of 6 special wines by the glass, flight and bottle à la carte pintxos and tapas menus. Raj’s wines are bright and quick, humble and surprising. Wines open will include two unreleased vintages of Phelan Farm Mencía (grafted from vine cuttings from Envínate’s Camiño Novo vineyard in Ribeira Sacra, Galicia); a Phelan Farm Chardonnay aged in a 100yo Manzanilla Sherry cask; a Phelan Farm Pinot Noir; a Brij Garnacha, named for Raj’s father; and a Printemps Rosé. Wednesday, Aug. 5, 5 - 9 p.m., 516 Santa Monica Blvd. [barxuntos.com](https://www.barxuntos.com)

Hot Dog on a Stick Comeback Roadmap - New owner, rapid expansion — and lobster on a stick: The fast food joint — with roots in Santa Monica’s Muscle Beach and known for its corn dogs and hand-stomped lemonade — has plummeted from its glory days as a staple food at food courts across the state. The rise of competition and decline of malls has slashed its presence, but its new owner has big plans for a comeback. [latimes.com/business/story/2026-07-22/hot-dog-on-sticks-comeback-plan-aggressive-expansion-with-new-menu-that-includes-lobster-on-stick](https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2026-07-22/hot-dog-on-sticks-comeback-plan-aggressive-expansion-with-new-menu-that-includes-lobster-on-stick)

Breakfast By Salt’s Cure Listed on The Infatuation’s “The Best Pancakes In LA” List: Their “oatmeal griddle pancakes are famous on both coasts, and for good reason. This Santa Monica café makes its griddle cakes thin, lacy at the edges, and so moist in the center that it feels like you’re cutting through a warm lava cake at Chili’s. Don’t ask for syrup, because they don’t need any.” I wholeheartedly agree and have long said they are my favorite, most crave-worthy pancakes in LA. 714 Montana Ave. [theinfatuation.com/los-angeles/guides/best-pancakes-la](https://www.theinfatuation.com/los-angeles/guides/best-pancakes-la)

Trying all the Best SaMo Bakeries: Instagrammer audris_lim posts about what she tried at Bread & Butter, Petitgrain, and others: [instagram.com/reels/DbENBIIPHKW](https://www.instagram.com/reels/DbENBIIPHKW)

Further Afield: LA Brewsology Festival “Night at the Museum”: The after-hours event at the California Science Center features more than 50 breweries pouring over 150 different beers, giving attendees the unique opportunity to sample local crafts while exploring the museum’s exhibits. Saturday, Aug. 1, 8 - 11 p.m., 700 Exposition Park Dr. [brewsology.com/los-angeles](https://www.brewsology.com/los-angeles)

Looking Ahead: SaMo Oceanfront Arts Festival (8/8); Dine LA Restaurant Week (8/14-28); Main St. Farmers Market in the Street Event (8/23); Thai Fest by the Beach (9/19-20); A Pierfect Benefit (9/19); Ocean Way Festival (9/26-27); Main St. Day of the Dog Festival (10/18)

If there’s something you think is worth highlighting, you can reach out directly at [instagram.com/seanbesser](https://www.instagram.com/seanbesser) or email me at sean@smdp.com. Let me know if you have any feedback on Around Town: National Night Out, Steak Series & Beachside Beats

GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 3

Nearly 30 years later, the City Council delayed each of those proposals for further study. The council also rejected a plan to give it more direct authority over Police Department policy, and a host of other reforms.

A smattering of proposed changes will proceed to the November ballot, including things like contracting rules and meeting schedules. None constitute the broad city government reform that was promised, nor are they likely to cause excitement at the ballot box. Their relative puniness may in fact exacerbate anger at City Hall’s perceived resistance to change and play a role in the run-off campaigns of Bass and challenger Nithya Raman.

The City Council, with its look-before-you-leap — and maybe never leap — strategy, comes off as unresponsive. The county’s vote-in-haste, repent-at-leisure attitude appears for the present to be politically smarter, given that county

voters (many of whom are also city voters) may be only too happy to vote for ethics reforms one more time.

But it’s not yet clear which approach makes the soundest local government policy. The county reforms are still in the midst of a multi-year rollout, and we’re a long way from learning whether they will work.

The city, meanwhile, has another chance to “study, study, study” its proposals and meld them into a more comprehensive and internally consistent package than the somewhat scattershot reforms proposed by the charter reform commission.

The city needs to keep taking the political temperature of its constituents. This is Los Angeles, birthplace of the voter initiative and home to periodic voter revolts. If the council doesn’t want to change how it operates, its members may find change imposed without their input.

Robert Greene, CalMatters Contributor

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Name Changes

Name Changes

Legal Notices

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26STCP02734. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 111 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Petition of Gina Glasmacher Thompson Acuna for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Gina Glasmacher Thompson Acuna filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Gina Glasmacher Thompson Acuna to Gina Rachel Ruth Klein. 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: 11/02/2026, Time: 8:30am, Dept:529 Stanley Mosk Courthouse. 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 . Virginia Keeny, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 07/30/2026, 08/06/2026, 08/13/2026, 08/20/2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00338. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica 90401. Petition of Remi Luke Christopher Lawford by Savannah Lawford for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Remi Luke Christopher Lawford by Savannah Lawford filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Remi Luke Christopher Lawford to Jack Luke Lawford. 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: 09/04/2026, 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: 07/23/2026. Lawrence H. Cho, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 07/30/2026, 08/06/2026, 08/13/2026, 08/20/2026

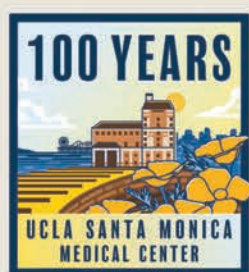
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALSNotice is given that proposals for Request For Proposals (RFP) On-Call Technical and Environmental Services for Solid Waste Facilities and Planning (BRC0000659) will be received by the County of Los Angeles Public Works on September 16, 2026 by 5:30 p.m. To access RFP documents, visit the link at <https://dpw.lacounty.gov/general/contracts/opportunities/aspx>. For additional information, call (626) 300-2330.7/30/26CNS-4062170#SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

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