

Gary Limjap
(310) 586-0339

In today's real estate climate ...
Experience counts!
garylimjap@gmail.com www.garylimjap.com

COLDWELL BANKER REALTY
CalRE # 00927151

2 **Helicopter fleet**
Added for firefighting.

3 **Waymo noise**
Concerns persist.

4 **Union push**
At Uber and Lyft.

5 **National Night Out**
On Aug. 5.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 180 MONDAY 8/4/25 smdp.com

Council approves plans for new uses in RAND building



Matthew Hall

RAND: The building is a fixture of the area but the company wants to add other uses.

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The Santa Monica City Council has approved a major amendment to the RAND Corporation's development agreement that will allow the nonprofit research organization to expand commercial uses at its underutilized headquarters building at 1776 Main Street while securing $5.5 million in community benefits for the city.

The council's action enables RAND to sell or lease significant portions of its 326,170-square-foot building for a broader range of commercial uses, marking a significant shift from the current agreement that restricts the property to "institutional office" use essentially limited to RAND-like entities.

Under the newly approved Second Amendment to the Development Agreement, the building can now accommodate business and professional offices, creative offices, banks and financial institutions, business services, limited life sciences research and development, media production support facilities, and ground-floor retail, restaurant, and personal services.

"I think we've all been briefed on this item extensively over the last several months," said City Council member Caroline Torosis. "I feel confident about the plan laid out here. It's a win, win for the city, and I, for one, would

SEE **RAND** PAGE 8

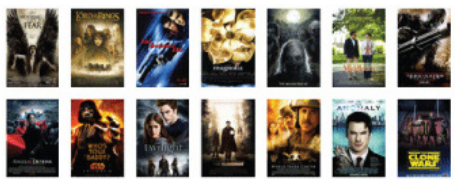


TAXES
ALL FORMS, ALL TYPES, ALL STATES
BACK TAXES • BOOKKEEPING • SMALL BUSINESS
SAMUEL B. MOSES, CPA
(310) 395-9922
100 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1753 • Santa Monica 90401

Buy Local SANTA MONICA
buylocalsantamonica.com
Support your community!

City of Santa Monica
WOODLAWN
Cemetery
Mausoleum
Mortuary
FD #2101
Helping families honor, remember, and celebrate life.

• Traditional Burial • Green/Natural Burial • Cremation
• Funeral Planning & Mortuary Services
ALL IN ONE LOCATION
1847 14th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404 ▪ (310) 458-8717 (on-call - 24/7)
woodlawn.cemetery@santamonica.gov ▪ www.woodlawnsm.com

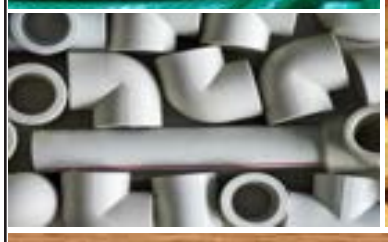
Think Positive |+| for all your printing needs.
positive + existence
PRINTING & DESIGN EXPERTS

We've Moved!
1703 Stewart St., Santa Monica, CA 90404
POSTERS · TRADE SHOW · BROCHURES · MARKETING COLLATERAL
RESTAURANT PRINTING · CALENDARS · BANNERS · STATIONARY · SIGNAGE · VINYL BANNERS

Builder's Supply



Since 1947, your local source for a complete selection of Plumbing Supplies, Hardware Supplies and Building Materials.





Bourget Bros. Building Materials
1636 - 11th Street
Santa Monica, CA 90404 • (310) 450-6556
bourgetbros.com

California completes world's largest helicopter firefighting fleet Amid Federal Cuts



Courtesy photo
FIRE HAWK HELICOPTER: Governor Newsom receives a demo of a CAL FIRE Fire Hawk simulator.

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

California has completed assembly of the world's largest civilian helicopter firefighting fleet with the arrival of two final Fire Hawk helicopters, marking a stark contrast to federal cuts in wildfire response resources under the Trump administration.

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced the completion of CAL FIRE's 16-helicopter fleet as the final two Sikorsky S-70i Fire Hawk aircraft arrived at McClellan Airfield in Sacramento. The milestone caps a multi-year modernization effort that began in 2020 and represents California's most significant aerial firefighting expansion.

"Our fleet of Fire Hawk helicopters – now the largest in the world – is a proven tool in our growing firefighting arsenal," Newsom said. "During the devastating Los Angeles fires, we saw them in action, conducting critical missions at night which stopped the Palisades Fire from dipping into Mandeville Canyon and toward the 405 freeway. Hundreds of homes were saved because of these state-of-the-art helicopters and their heroic pilots."

The completion comes as the Trump administration has implemented significant cuts to federal firefighting resources. The U.S. Forest Service has lost 10% of all positions and 25% of positions outside direct wildfire response, according to state officials. Last week, the administration proposed shuttering the Pacific Regional Forest Service office and other western regional offices.

"With the Trump Administration pulling back on federal firefighting, California continues to step up to protect our communities," Newsom said.

The timing proves critical as the new helicopters have already demonstrated their value during recent wildfire emergencies. In January's Palisades Fire, multiple CAL FIRE helicopters conducted nighttime operations in Mandeville Canyon, dropping more than 375,000 gallons of water while operating under night vision goggles in complex terrain with high-tension power lines.

Had the fire breached Mandeville Canyon, projections indicated rapid spread toward the 405 Freeway corridor, potentially destroying hundreds of homes. The combined nighttime and daylight operations prevented structural losses and showcased the modernized fleet's capabilities in high-risk urban interface zones.

The Fire Hawk helicopters represent a substantial upgrade from the Vietnam-era Huey UH-1H helicopters they replaced. Each Fire Hawk carries nearly three times the water capacity of its predecessors—1,000 gallons compared to roughly 350 gallons—and features enhanced night operation capabilities that extend CAL FIRE's firefighting capacity around the clock.

"The completion of our S-70i Fire Hawk fleet and the transition of all Helitack bases is thanks to the dedication of the entire CAL FIRE aviation program," said CAL FIRE Chief and Director Joe Tyler. "This is about equipping our firefighters with the most advanced tools available to respond to the increasing complexities of wildland fires."

The helicopters also feature expanded crew capacity, permanently affixed external hoists for rescue operations, and improved flight safety systems for both firefighters and communities.

California's investment extends beyond helicopters. The state recently added its second

SEE **FLEET** PAGE 8

Waymo reduces noise inside local storage depots

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Waymo is claiming to have reduced the volume of reversing beeps from its autonomous vehicles at a Santa Monica charging depot following months of noise complaints from nearby residents but neighbors say the problems persist.

The robotaxi company said it made the change "in consultation with federal regulators" and emphasized the reduction applies only to vehicles operating in autonomous mode within its secured depot facilities. The adjustment does not affect federally mandated backup beeping requirements for vehicles on public streets.

"We reduced the vehicles' reversing noise while in autonomous mode in our secured depot facilities, in consultation with federal regulators," Waymo said in a statement. "We strive to be good neighbors in the cities that we operate."

The company said it is "continuing to monitor the site and adjust our operations in response to neighbors' feedback, including reducing congestion near the sites."

However, those living in close proximity to the charging depots say the changes do functionally nothing as the cars continue to make excessive noise into and out of the lots, clog streets when they return en masse and block resident access to alleys.

In a recent email to city council and the police department, resident Dylan Moore said he was trapped by several autonomous vehicles that surrounded his car and while officers listen to resident complaints, nothing is being done despite ample evidence of violations. He said the situation was more than just annoying.

"We're trying to be patient as the City catches up and plans on what to do next," he said. " However: I cannot emphasize enough that this is a ticking time bomb for first responders who need to get down these alley ways. Colorado is a one way street on the other end, which means it would take a long time for a fire truck or ambulance to circle around to a burning apartment complex or to respond to a heart attack. Aside from being an unlawful operation (4.12.150 at a minimum), this is going to get someone killed in an emergency."

Alan Sege also said he had been trapped in the alley by Waymos.

"Waymos blocking the alley is now a constant occurrence," he said in his email. "Santa Monica Ordinance 4.12.150 forbids precisely this sort of business support operations after 11pm and before 6am regardless of decibel level."

Resident Christopher Potter said the noise itself continues unabated despite the company's claims.

"I counted over 35 continuous back-up sounds at 12:53AM inside my living room (presumably by one vehicle). Operation

> "We reduced the vehicles' reversing noise while in autonomous mode in our secured depot facilities, in consultation with federal regulators"
> - Waymo

Quiet as a Mouse, not so quiet," he said.

Waymo said it had previously taken steps to address community concerns, including limiting working hours and overnight activity, purchasing quieter equipment, and planting foliage around the facility to absorb noise and increase privacy. The company said it "consistently engage[s] with policymakers and regulators at all levels" and works with officials and community leaders to adjust operations based on neighbor feedback.

Santa Monica residents had complained for months about disruptive noise from the depot, citing frequent nighttime vehicle movements, loud backup alerts, and excessive light pollution that they said disrupted sleep and raised safety concerns. Some frustrated residents reportedly blocked access to the facility and staged other protests against the robotaxi company's use of the site for staging and maintenance operations.

In addition to reducing backup beeping volume, Waymo said it has implemented quiet periods for car vacuuming and slowed vehicle speeds in nearby alleys. The company stated it remains committed to addressing community concerns while maintaining compliance with federal safety regulations.

editor@smdp.com

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION
Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **67.1**

MONDAY
FAIR
SURF: 2-3tt+
Thigh to stomach

Easing from Sunday but still fairly fun off a little mix of swells w/clean AM conditions. SW/S swell mix eases as the short period NW windswell hangs around. It should be a slightly smaller version of Sunday. Some peaks at the beachbreaks and points still pretty fun. Look for widespread waist high surf, while the top combo spots. (again, mainly west of Dume) get up to chest-shoulder high in the morning. Size tapers off through the day.

TUESDAY
FAIR
SURF: 2-3ft
Thigh to waist

Eyeing a return to stronger SPAC surf as an elongated run of SSW swell kicks off around the 5th. The South Pacific is gearing up for another quality run of swell, making as we move into next week. A pattern we've seen on repeat this summer has flared - robust high pressure anchored below French Polynesia as strong storms cycle around the eastern flank of the high pushing towards SoCal. That's sent another round of mid-sized SSW swell for the 5th-7th timeframe, and likely additional swell for the 9th-11th.

Weather

Monday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 75.
Monday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 64.
Tuesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 76.
Tuesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 64.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2025/08/04	Mon	01:50 AM	0.54	L
2025/08/04	Mon	09:05 AM	3.39	H
2025/08/04	Mon	12:03 PM	3.15	L
2025/08/04	Mon	6:41 PM	5.39	H
2025/08/05	Tue	02:25 AM	0.13	L
2025/08/05	Tue	09:19 AM	3.58	H
2025/08/05	Tue	1:01 PM	2.99	L
2025/08/05	Tue	7:26 PM	5.76	H
2025/08/06	Wed	02:57 AM	-0.23	L
2025/08/06	Wed	09:37 AM	3.74	H
2025/08/06	Wed	1:46 PM	2.75	L

Daily Lottery

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

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 7/30
4 15 35 50 64
Power#: 8
Jackpot: 410 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 7/29
17 30 34 63 67
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 140 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 7/30
12 14 32 35 47
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: 30 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 7/31
3 12 16 18 19

Daily 3
Draw Date: 7/31
EVENING: 5 2 9
Draw Date: 7/31
MIDDAY: 8 0 4

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 7/31
1st: 03 - Hot Shot
2nd: 05 - California Classic
3rd: 04 - Big Ben
Race Time: 1:48.35

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Devan Sipher,
Miles Warner.

CIRCULATION
Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com

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

LEGAL ADVERTISING
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

MARKETING & ADVERTISING MANAGER
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com
Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

2219A Main St Santa Monica, CA 90405
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

AWARD WINNER

Sustainable Quality Awards WINNER

The Santa Monica Daily Press publishes Monday - Saturday with a circulation of 8,200 on weekdays and 8,000 on the weekend. The Daily Press is adjudicated as a newspaper of general circulation in the County of Los Angeles and covers news relevant to the City of Santa Monica. The Daily Press is a member of the California Newspaper Publisher's Association, the National Newspaper Association and the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce. The paper you're reading this on is composed of 100% post consumer content and the ink used to print these words is soy based. We are proud recipients of multiple honors for outstanding news coverage from the California Newspaper Publishers Association as well as a Santa Monica Sustainable Quality Award.

PUBLISHED BY NEWLON ROUGE, LLC
© 2023 Newlon Rouge, LLC, all rights reserved.
Santa Monica Daily Press

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Proposals for:

Charnock Well Destruction Project
Project No. SP2766

The City of Santa Monica is inviting proposals from firms interested in the Charnock Well Destruction Project.

The purpose of the RFP is to select the most qualified consultant to implement the destruction of thirty-three (33) existing groundwater monitoring wells (MWs) owned by City.

RFP questions to be submitted to via OpenGov, no later than 3:00 pm (PST). on AUGUST 20, 2025.

Proposers shall upload RFP via OpenGov, no later than 3:00 pm (PST). on SEPTEMBER 4, 2025.

RFP Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website at: https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/santa-monica-ca.

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS CALLING FOR BIDS
DISTRICT: SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named California Community College District, acting by and through its Board of Trustees, hereinafter "the District" will receive no later than the below-stated date and time, sealed BIDS from General Contractors. The Project encompasses the following overall scope:

Track, Field, and Scoreboard Replacement::
The project includes the following features: Resurfacing the Existing Track Surface-Includes surface preparation, patching, and application of new track surfacing and striping for athletic performance. Replacement of Synthetic Turf Field- Complete removal and disposal of the existing turf system, subgrade preparation, and installation of new synthetic turf with infill. Removal of Existing Scoreboard Assembly: Disconnection and removal of the current scoreboard and associated components. Installation of New Digital Display System Includes furnishing and installing a new ID panel, video display, scoreboard, and clock box on the exterior of the existing Parking Structure "C", with all necessary electrical and data connections.

Procedure:

Tuesday, July 29, 2025, bid packages will be available at ARC West LA Branch located at 1736 S Sepulveda Bivd. Los Angeles, CA 90025.
Contact for all inquiries: **Kyle Whitley, Senior Project Manager, kyle.whitley@vanir.com; Mathew Denuccio, Project Manager, matt.denuccio@vanir.com**
Contractor's License Classification: California Contractors License A or B.
Mandatory Pre-Bid Walk: **Wednesday, August 6, 2025, at 1:00 PM. 2121 16th Street, Santa Monica, CA**

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS: 1:00 PM, September 8, 2025, BID MUST BE HAND DELIVERED

LOCATION FOR SUBMISSION OF BID PROPOSALS: SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT, DISTRICT FACILITIES PLANNING OFFICE, 1510 PICO BLVD, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405, ATTENTION: CHARLIE YEN. **September 8, 2025**

1. Contractors License Classification. In accordance with the provisions of California Public Contract Code §3300, the District requires that contractors possess the following classifications) of California Contractors License **A or B.** Any General Contractor not so duly and properly licensed will result in denial of pre-qualification.

2. Labor Compliance Program (AB 1506). The District has established a Labor Compliance Program ('LCP") pursuant to Labor Code 1771.5. The Contractor qualifying to bid the work shall comply with the LCP and provisions of the Contract Documents relating to implementation, compliance with, and enforcement of the LCP.

3. No Withdrawal of Bid Proposals. Bid Proposals shall not be withdrawn by any Bidder for a period of **ninety (90)** days after the opening of Bid Proposals. During this time, all Bidders shall guarantee prices quoted in their respective Bid Proposals.

4. Award of Contract. The Contract for the Work, if awarded, will be by action of the District's Board of Trustees on **October 7, 2025,** to the responsible Bidder submitting the lowest responsible and responsive Bid Proposal

Publication Date: July 28th & August 4th
Last Day to Submit Bid RFI and Bid Product Substitution Request **August 25, 2025**
Post Bid Review: The week of September 8, 2025

What unionization could mean for California Uber and Lyft drivers — and riders



Photo by Louis Bryant III for CalMatters
UNION: Supporters gather at a rally at the state Capitol in Sacramento, announcing new legislation allowing ride-hail drivers to unionize, on April 8, 2025.

Uber and Lyft drivers in California have been fighting for years for higher wages and better working conditions — in the streets, before state lawmakers, in court and at the ballot.

Now, a bill making its way through the state Legislature would allow ride-hailing drivers to unionize.

If Assembly Bill 1340 passes, California would become the second state to give ride-hailing drivers the right to collectively bargain. Massachusetts was the first to do so after voters there approved a ballot measure last year.

The ride-hailing companies oppose the California legislation, saying it goes against the "spirit" of Proposition 22, the ballot initiative they bankrolled that voters approved in 2020. It cemented gig workers' status as independent contractors in the state. The law also limited state lawmakers' ability to establish collective-bargaining rights for gig workers, but an appeals court struck down that provision.

Drivers and other gig workers gained some benefits when Prop. 22 passed, but their complaints continue, many of them tied to the fact that they are not considered employees. And since the law effectively leaves no state agency in charge of enforcement, many gig workers don't know where to turn to claim unpaid wages or health care stipends, to contest getting kicked off the apps, or to get help with other problems.

Some drivers and advocates say being able to collectively bargain could address those issues. But the gig-work industry warns that would mean big changes to their business model, which would push ride prices higher and affect the availability of rides.

"We can benefit a lot from being unionized," said Hector Lopez, who has driven for Lyft in the Bay Area for the past several years and is involved with the group Gig Workers Rising. "It might be the only way to get fair wages."

A group that represents Uber and Lyft has said drivers in California earn an average of $37 per "active" hour, while research from the UC Berkeley Labor Center found that the average pay for drivers, including tips and taking their entire working shifts and expenses into account, was $9.09 per hour.

Another common driver frustration is limited communication when they need help. Drivers have to use the Uber or Lyft app to message back and forth with a company representative, or in some cases talk with them on the phone. But Lopez remembers being able to get help at a Lyft Hub, a physical location staffed with human beings he could talk to. Those hubs closed down a few years ago.

"We could have a union, which would have an office, where we could get help face to face," Lopez said. "That's something that's really big that they took away from us."

Not all drivers will be on board. There is "a healthy suspicion" around unionizing among California drivers who say they value their status as independent contractors, said Sergio Avedian, senior contributor for the Rideshare Guy, a YouTube channel popular with gig workers.

But he said many drivers also "often express frustration about a lack of representation and leverage, especially when it comes to deactivations, rate cuts and algorithmic transparency."

SEE **UBER** PAGE 11

COMMUNITY NEWS

Santa Monica

Police Department to Host National Night Out with Sports Theme

The Santa Monica Police Department will host National Night Out 2025 on Tuesday, Aug. 5, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street.

This year's theme, "Santa Monica All Stars," will feature a sports-inspired evening with free food, games, music and opportunities for residents to meet officers and staff who serve the community.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie.

"This event is a chance for us to thank our community, strengthen relationships, and enjoy a fun evening together," said Chief Ramon Batista. "Whether you're new to Santa Monica or have lived here for decades, we invite you to come out, bring your family, and be part of the team."

> "This event is a chance for us to thank our community, strengthen relationships, and enjoy a fun evening together
> - Ramon Batista, Chief

The Big Blue Bus will provide free rides to and from City Hall to make the event accessible to all residents.

For more information, visit @SantaMonicaPD on social media or call 310-458-8474.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy image

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2025: Santa Monica Police Department will host National Night Out 2025 on Tuesday, Aug. 5.

FINDING A NEW DENTIST IS TOUGH!!!
(BUT WE MAKE IT EASY!!!)

YOUR CHOICE

If you don't like what we have to say we will give you a copy of your x-rays at no charge

DENTAL CARE WITHOUT JUDGEMENT!

WE OFFER UNIQUE SERVICES
*Nitrous Oxide available
*No interest payment plans
*Emergencies can be seen today
*Our dentists and staff members are easy to talk to

TRY OUR NO OBLIGATION
$20 EXAM
INCLUDES FULL XRAYS
*Offer to non insured patients

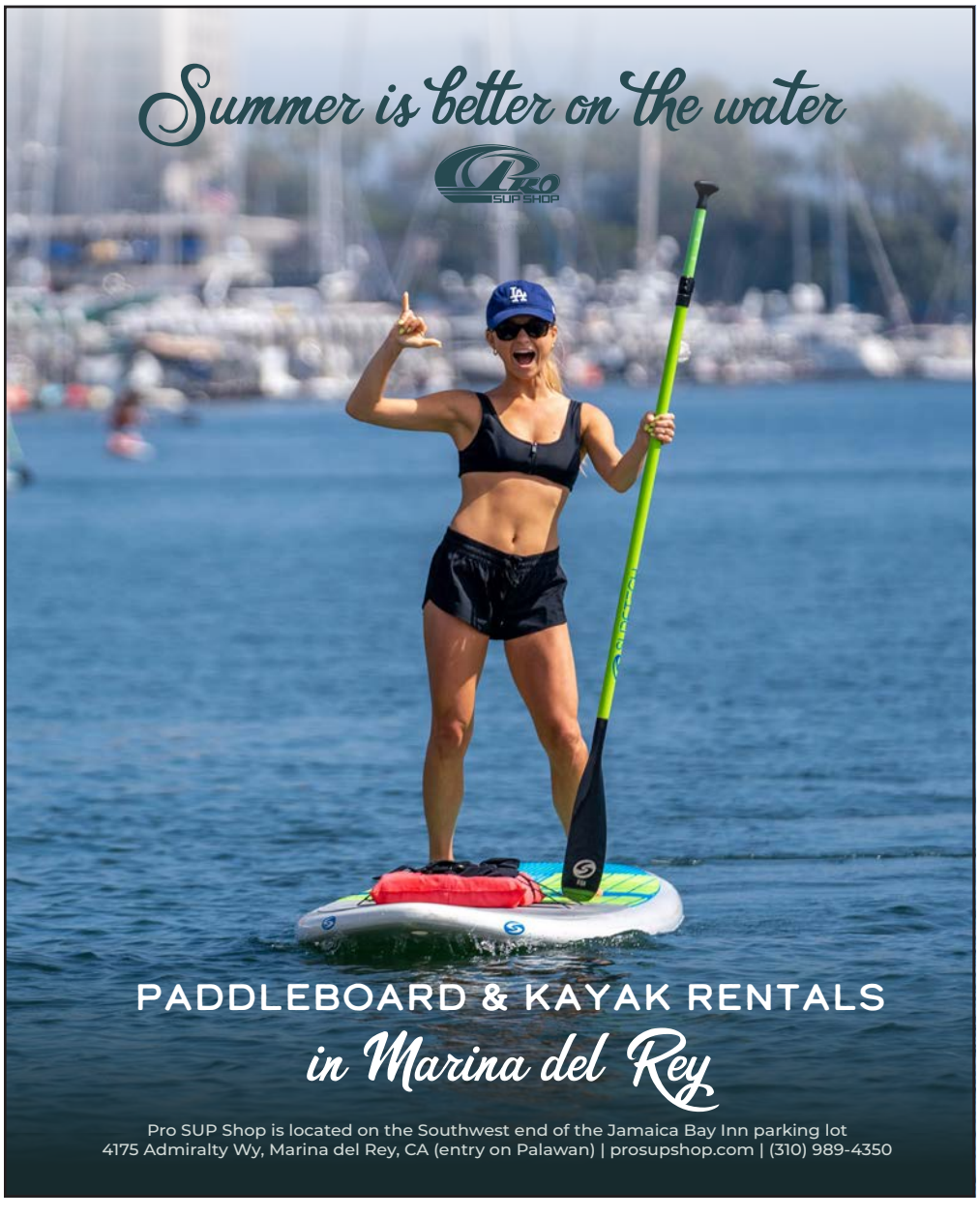
OR

TRY OUR NO OBLIGATION
$99 EXAM AND CLEANING
For New Patients
INCLUDES FULL XRAYS
*Offer to non insured patients

AND OF COURSE WE DO
• Invisalign • Periodontist on Staff • Oral Surgeon on Staff
• Cosmetics and Implants • Zoom bleaching • and more

SANTA MONICA FAMILY DENTISTRY
DR. ALAN RUBENSTEIN
1260 15th ST. SUITE #703
(310) 736-2589
WWW.ALANRUBENSTEINDDS.COM





COMMUNITY NEWS

Malibu

Malibu City Urges Residents to Prepare for Wildfire Season

The city is ramping up emergency preparedness efforts as peak wildfire season approaches, urging residents and businesses to begin preparations now through coordinated outreach and planning with emergency agencies.

"The devastating Woolsey, Franklin and Palisades Fires taught us that every person, household, business and organization in Malibu needs to be prepared so that together, we can protect lives and properties and be more resilient when the next wildfire strikes," said Marianne Riggins. "The good news is, we know when the fire conditions are coming, and we have time to prepare. Now is the time to make your emergency plans and gather supplies so you can be ready."

> The devastating Woolsey, Franklin and Palisades Fires taught us that every person, household, business and organization in Malibu needs to be prepared so that together, we can protect lives and properties and be more resilient when the next wildfire strikes
> - Marianne Riggins

The city emphasizes that community-wide wildfire preparedness requires shared responsibility between municipal government, residents and emergency agencies.

City initiatives include updating evacuation plans and conducting Emergency Operations Center training. Officials are conducting preparedness outreach through public safety fairs, fire season outlooks with Assistant Fire Chief Drew Smith, mailers, social media messaging and advertising.

The city is providing free home wildfire assessments and helping neighborhoods achieve Firewise Community status while coordinating with LA County Fire and Sheriff's Departments. Municipal crews are conducting brush clearance on city property and preparing for Public Safety Power Shutoffs and communications outages. Officials are also exploring additional emergency alerting tools, including indoor alerting technology.

Residents can take several preparedness steps, starting with reviewing and updating emergency and evacuation plans and supplies. The LA County Fire Department's wildfire preparedness guide is available at www.Fire.LACounty.gov/rsg.

Officials recommend preparing "go bags" with prescription medications, essential documents and pet supplies. Residents should monitor news and weather forecasts for fire weather conditions and use monitoring tools including Watch Duty at https://app.watchduty.org/ and Protect Genasys at https://protect.genasys.com/search.

Home protection measures include brush clearance and home hardening. Free home wildfire assessments from the city's Fire Safety Liaisons are available at www.MalibuCity.org/FireSafety. Residents can check their evacuation zones at www.MalibuCity.org/Evac.

Community preparedness includes talking with neighbors and checking on elderly or disabled neighbors to ensure they can evacuate safely.

For Public Safety Power Shutoff preparation, residents should sign up for Southern California Edison alerts and monitor outage status at www.SCE.com/PSPS. Additional power outage information is available at www.Ready.LACounty.gov/power-outage.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

Get the local news that matters to you!

Sign up for The CURRENT

SMDP's free daily newsletter for all your Santa Monica news & events!

POWERED BY smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

Venice

Artist Peter Lodato, Light and Space Movement Pioneer, Dies



Photograph - Rob Brander

PETER LODATO: Peter Lodato in his Venice, CA studio.

Peter Lodato, a defining figure in Venice's art community and a pioneer of the West Coast Light and Space movement, has died. William Turner Gallery, where Lodato exhibited for nearly 30 years, announced his passing.

The artist, who painted daily in his Venice studio, was known for monumental works that explored light, perception and spirituality through refined geometric abstractions. His paintings combined subtle brushwork with vibrant color fields that shifted viewers' sense of space and depth.

Lodato's career began in the late 1960s with environmental light installations. His 1971 piece at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's "24 Young Los Angeles Artists" exhibition used light, mirrors and shadow to garner early acclaim. The oculus of Rome's Pantheon inspired his lifelong pursuit of shaping space through light.

The artist's work was included in the 1981 Whitney Biennial, marking a transition from installations to painting. His visual language drew from Eastern philosophy, often referencing chakra color symbolism—red for vitality and grounding, white for spiritual clarity.

Influenced by Mark Rothko, Barnett Newman and Agnes Martin, Lodato understood painting as both physical and transcendent experience. His works appeared as minimal geometric abstractions but revealed complex emotional resonance upon closer viewing.

The California State University graduate taught at ArtCenter College of Design and UC Irvine. In 2000, the Frederick R. Weisman Foundation presented a major retrospective spanning two decades of his work.

Lodato's paintings are held in permanent collections at the Brooklyn Museum, Seattle Art Museum, Dallas Museum of Art and Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego. His work was exhibited at leading institutions including PS1 in New York and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles.

Beyond artistic accomplishments, colleagues described Lodato as curious, warm and deeply attuned to music, literature and art. In recent years, he had produced what many considered the most profound work of his career.

He is believed to have died peacefully while playing guitar—a fitting end for someone so attuned to harmony, the gallery said.

Lodato is survived by his son Nicholas Lodato, former wife Tatyana Thompson and stepsons Alexander and Theodore Leshnick.

Memorial arrangements will be announced later.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

COMMUNITY NEWS

Los Angeles

County Board Approves Weekly Budget Updates Amid Fiscal Pressures

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a motion Tuesday to provide weekly budget updates during regular meetings as the county faces mounting fiscal challenges.

The motion, co-authored by Chair Pro Tem and First District Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, establishes a standing agenda item to be delivered by County Chief Executive Officer Fesia Davenport. The updates will inform the board and public about the county's financial standing and budget constraint implications.

"This is a necessary step to ensure the Board and the public understand the County's financial standing, amid compounding fiscal pressures and ongoing federal budget cut impacts," Solis said. "The newly established weekly update will allow us to make informed decisions in direct response to the needs of our community."

> This is a necessary step to ensure the Board and the public understand the County's financial standing, amid compounding fiscal pressures and ongoing federal budget cut impacts
>
> - Hilda L. Solis, Chair Pro Tem and First District Supervisor

Solis said the initiative will provide residents with clearer explanations of current fiscal challenges while promoting transparency, accountability and public trust.

During Tuesday's CEO presentation, Davenport highlighted increasing losses across multiple departments, including Health Services, Public Social Services and Mental Health. She emphasized the need for immediate action and anticipated planning for potential service curtailments.

The county faces ongoing pressure from federal budget cuts and other fiscal constraints that have strained department operations. The weekly updates aim to keep supervisors and the public informed as officials navigate these financial challenges.

The motion represents Solis' effort to facilitate greater transparency in county budget processes as departments grapple with funding shortfalls. Officials expect the regular updates will help inform decision-making and maintain public awareness of the county's evolving fiscal situation.

The standing agenda item will begin immediately, providing consistent communication about budget impacts across county services and operations.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy photo

HILDA L. SOLIS: Motion to provide weekly budget updates during regular meetings.

Los Angeles

LA County Assessor's Office Wins Three National Awards for Innovation

The Los Angeles County Assessor's Office received three top national achievement awards from the National Association of Counties, recognizing innovation in government programs that improved public access and transparency.

The NACo Achievement Awards for 2025 highlighted the office's efforts to strengthen communities and enhance residents' lives, particularly during crisis situations.

The office was recognized for three major initiatives:

Technology Modernization The Assessor's Office completed a transition to a new $120 million cloud-based technology system, marking a major milestone in the department's decade-long modernization effort. The Assessor's Modernization Project replaced outdated legacy programs with an integrated digital platform.

The new system replaced a decades-old DOS-based mainframe that featured green screens. The county's 2.5 million property files, previously kept as paper documents, have been digitized.

Since implementation, the system has enhanced cybersecurity and real-time data access while improving internal operations and public engagement.

Online Disaster Relief Filing Property owners previously were required to submit paper applications for disaster-related tax relief, a time-consuming process that proved prohibitive after emergencies.

The January 2025 Eaton and Palisades fires affected thousands of property owners and highlighted inefficiencies in the existing system. The Assessor's Office launched a secure digital process allowing property owners to submit disaster relief claims through an online portal using computers, smartphones or other mobile devices.

Property owners can monitor their claims' status as they move through the system. The Public Affairs and Information Technology divisions collaborated to build the system, resulting in thousands of property owners receiving property tax relief and cash refunds.

Data Science Program The Assessor's Data Science Program is a data-driven initiative aimed at improving transparency, equity and accuracy in property assessments across Los Angeles County. The program analyzes property ownership trends and provides policymakers with insights for fairer decisions.

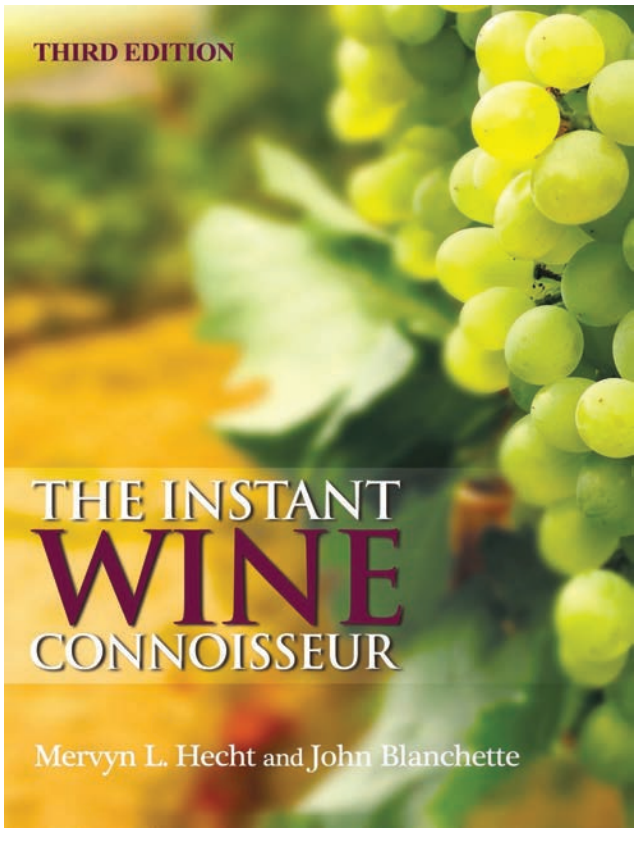
Traditional assessment tools failed to capture complexities in real estate data, prompting the office to pursue a more sophisticated approach. The program has revealed key housing market trends that now guide policy discussions around equitable homeownership access.

Los Angeles County is among the first in California to integrate socio-economic research with property data at this scale.

"These awards are a testament not just to innovation, but to the dedication of public servants working every day to deliver smarter, more responsive government," said Assessor Jeff Prang.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

★★★★★ A light-hearted fun read.
★★★★★ Well written, particularly useful, instantly accessible.
★★★★★ ...Hecht has a joyful eye and fabulous taste



Daily Press Food &Wine Columnist Merv Hecht takes you on an delightful tour of the world of wine. A fun way to increase your appreciation and knowledge of wine.

available at amazon

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

FOR QUOTES PLEASE CALL 310-573-8074

or email **cindy@smdp.com**

CLASSIFICATIONS					
Announcements	Pets	Apartments/Condos	Real Estate Loans	Attorney Services	Wealth and Success
Creative	Boats	Rent	Storage Space	Business	Lost and Found
Employment	Jewelry	Houses for Rent	Vehicles for Sale	Opportunities	Personals
For Sale	Wanted	Roommates	Massage	Yard Sales	Psychic
Furniture	Travel	Commercial Lease	Services	Health and Beauty	Obituaries
	Vacation Rentals	Real Estate	Computer Services	Fitness	Tutoring

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 07/9/25 2025139178The following person(s) is (are) doing business Kess 2040 Stoner Ave Suite B Los Angeles, CA 90025 . Los AngelesArticles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. 2016004327348The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Kessler Corporation 2040 Stoner Ave Suite B Los Angeles, CA 90025 If corporation or LLC- Print State of CA This is Business is Conducted: A Corporation . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 01/2016. Registrant /Corp/LLC Kessler Corporation Title: CEO . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 07/9/2025NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE County CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code).

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 07/7/25 2025136150The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Sand and Paws 1830 112th St 4 Santa Monica, CA 90404. . Los AngelesArticles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are 1. Leah Cabrera-Gelineau 1830 112th St 4 Santa Monica, CA 90404 If corporation or LLC- Print State of CA This is Business is Conducted: An Individual . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 05/25. Registrant /Corp/LLC Leah Cabrera-Gelineau Title: owner Leah Cabrera-Gelineau . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 07/7/2025NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE County CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code).

Name Change

Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No.25SMCP00602 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Natali Patricia Caamal for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Natali Patricia Caamal court for a decree of changing names as follows: Natali Patricia Caamal to Natali Patricia EllisThe court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 9/05/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: _ The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Santa Monica Courthouse 1725 Main st Santa Monica, CA 90405.. 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

Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No. 25STCP02782 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Ana Mendez-Urteaga for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Anabertha Mendez-Garcia, Ana Mendez Urteaga, Ana Mendez-Urteaga, Ana Urteaga, Ana Mendez-Garcia, Ana Bertha Mendez, Ana Bertha Mendez-Garcia with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Anabertha Mendez-Garcia, Ana Mendez Urteaga, Ana Mendez-Urteaga, Ana Urteaga, Ana Mendez-Garcia, Ana Bertha Mendez, Ana Bertha Mendez-Garcia to Ana Mendez . The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 09/29/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: _ The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Stanley Mosk Courthouse 111 N Hill St, Los Angeles, CA 90012 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

Name Change

Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No. 25STCP02782 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Valdez Magne Flagg II for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Valdez Magne Flagg II with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Valdez Magne Flagg II to Tau Valdez Magne Flagg . The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 09/19/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: _ The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Santa Monica Courthouse 1725 Main St Santa Monica, Ca 90405 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

Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No.25NNCP00519 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Bailey Austin Smith for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Bailey Austin Smith court for a decree of changing names as follows: Bailey Austin Smith to Bailey Joan HartThe court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 9/22/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: T Room: _ The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Santa Monica Courthouse 150 W Commonwealth Ave Alhambra CA 91801 . 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

Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No.25NNCP00518 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Salim Haruka Gerald for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Salim Haruka Gerald court for a decree of changing names as follows: Salim Haruka Gerald to Salim Haruka HartThe court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 9/22/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: T Room: _ The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Santa Monica Courthouse 150 W Commonwealth Ave Alhambra CA 91801 . A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED HERE

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

ADVERTISE WITH US TODAY!

Santa Monica Daily Press office **(310) 458-7737**

RAND

FROM PAGE 1

welcome increased economic opportunity in the civic center area, which is not being fully realized with the current footprint that Rand has."

The amendment addresses a dramatic change in building occupancy that has left the five-story facility significantly underutilized. RAND now averages only 225 employees coming to the building on any given day—less than 25% of the project's employee capacity—largely due to pandemic-induced shifts toward remote and hybrid work arrangements.

This underutilization represents what city staff described as "inefficient use of RAND's financial capital" that reduces resources available for the organization's core public policy research mission. The low occupancy also decreases daily foot traffic and patronage of local businesses, impacting the vitality of the Civic Center and Downtown areas.

In exchange for the expanded use permissions, RAND will provide substantial community benefits. The organization will pay the city $5.5 million in two installments: $3.5 million due by the amendment's effective date and $2 million triggered by Coastal Commission approval or when the property is used for new purposes other than RAND's institutional office use.

Additional benefits include RAND's continued $40,000 annual contribution to the Santa Monica Early Childhood Lab School through 2065, extending the current obligation by ten additional years. The funds help offset tuition for low-income Santa Monica families attending the school.

The amendment also includes a provision ensuring the city receives comparable revenue if RAND or future owners sell the property to buyers exempt from the city's Measure GS transfer tax. In such cases, the seller must pay the city 4.6% of the sale price.

City staff projects the increased building occupancy could generate approximately $3.3 million annually in various city taxes and potentially $25 million in transfer taxes under Measure GS if the building sells at expected prices, totaling roughly $130 million over the development agreement's extended life through 2065.

The expanded uses align with the city's Land Use and Circulation Element goals for the Civic Center District, which calls for "a diverse mix of uses and activities" including government, residential, retail, and office uses. The amendment allows up to 40% of the building's floor area for laboratory use and includes provisions for ground-floor commercial activities that could activate the surrounding area.

The proposal received unanimous approval from the Planning Commission in July before advancing to the City Council. RAND, founded in Santa Monica in 1948 as a spinoff from Douglas Aircraft Company, has occupied the building since 2004 under a development agreement originally set to run until 2055.

The amendment removes previous restrictions that limited RAND's ability to lease more than 15,000 square feet to non-RAND users and restricted property transfers to similar institutional office users. These changes are designed to remove barriers to fuller utilization of a property that has been significantly underutilized due to changing workplace norms.

The council also approved a companion amendment to the Civic Center Specific Plan to ensure consistency with the expanded uses for RAND's property. The project is categorically exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act as it involves no new construction or expansion of the existing building's footprint.

The amendment now proceeds to the California Coastal Commission for final review before taking effect.

editor@smdp.com

FLEET

FROM PAGE 2

C-130 Hercules airtanker to operations, with plans for seven total large-capacity aircraft. Since beginning operations, the first C-130 has flown 90 missions responding to 36 fires and dropping 253,702 gallons of retardant.

The helicopter fleet completion represents part of California's broader wildfire resilience investment. Since 2019, the Newsom administration has invested more than $5 billion in wildfire and forest resilience efforts in collaboration with the state legislature.

CAL FIRE has significantly expanded its workforce over the past five years, adding an average of 1,800 full-time and 600 seasonal positions annually—nearly double the previous administration's hiring rate. The department plans to hire thousands of additional firefighters, natural resource professionals and support personnel over the next four years.

Recent months have seen additional investments, with $135 million available for new prevention projects and $72 million distributed to projects statewide. Additionally, 54 new vegetation management projects spanning nearly 12,000 acres have been fast-tracked under streamlined processes established by the governor's March 2025 state of emergency proclamation.

Federal forestlands comprise 57% of California's forests, compared to just 3% managed by the state, making federal resource cuts particularly concerning for statewide wildfire response efforts.

The Fire Hawks began their operational history in 2022 with CAL FIRE's first night mission responding to the Electra Fire, establishing the precedent for the critical nighttime operations that proved decisive in recent Los Angeles area fires.

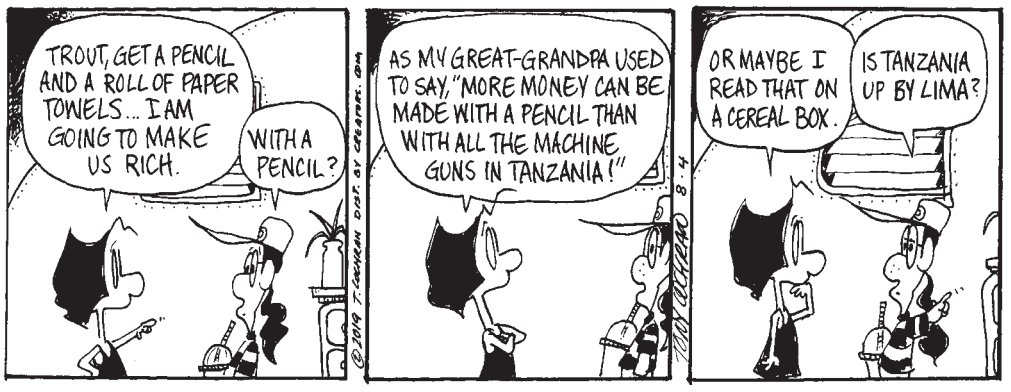
maaz@smdp.com

Correction

The SMDP conflated two issues in a recent story on school funding. During the SMMUSD Board of Education regular meeting on July 15, there was a presentation on the importance of completing applications for free and reduced-price meal program by Oct. 2. It was mentioned that SMMUSD stands to lose up to $3 million in federal money if the Trump administration cuts funding for adult education classes. However, the cuts to adult education are not caused by or connected to the federal money assigned to local schools as a result of the free and reduced-price meal program. The Daily Press regrets the error.

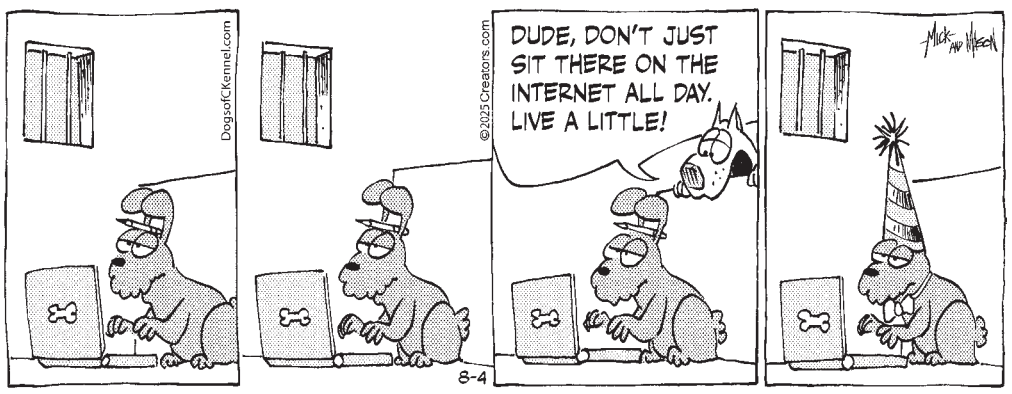
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



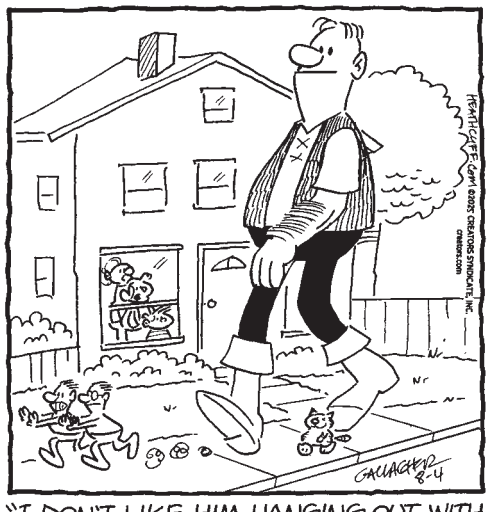
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



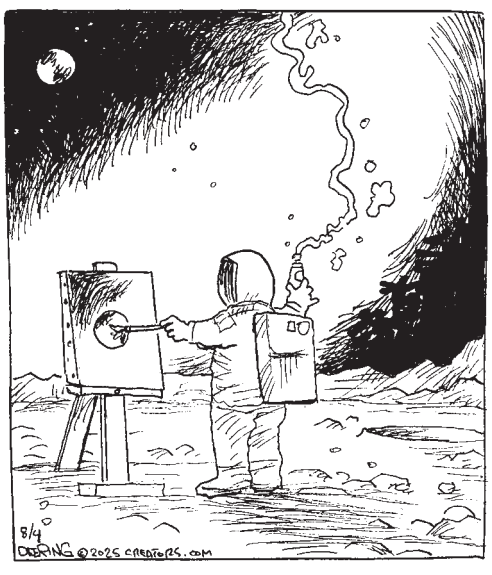
Heathcliff

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6657

The world games

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

Banner	Form	Izzy	O'Neill	Sport
Bids	Games	Batt-	Oslo	climbing
Bouquet	Gary	Doyle	Pace	Stamina
City	Glen	Lanes	Peers	Steve
Crowds	Golf	Lewis	Polo	Strain
Curry	Hand	Lift	Power	Talbot
Dais	Hockey	Lisa	Ryan	Tokyo
Dome	Host	Logan	Set	Tops
Dues	Hurt	Martin	Slalom	Torch
Field	Ideal	Lose	Spirit	Wood
Flags	Judo	Netball	Sprint	

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

Into the great unknown

Covering the city by the bay since 2001.
To advertise, email cindy@smdp.com or call 310.458.7737
smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 4)

A radiant reinvention is underway as a joy you thought was gone returns stronger than ever. You'll try on a new role, and it won't feel like pretending, rather like coming home. More highlights: You'll be praised in private and celebrated in public. You'll find a system that makes life easier and more beautiful. You'll experience a cinematic relationship. Taurus and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 8, 16, 23 and 30.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). A tempting conflict flashes its teeth - sharp, shiny and beneath you. It might feel fun to engage, but it drains more than it gives. Your higher mind knows better. Power moves quietly. Cool heads run the room.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Today, you're the muse, the channel, the artist and architect. It sounds glamorous, but it entails a lot of very unglamorous work, too. The more you respond to this calling, the more inspired you become.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). In terms of attraction and personal magnetism, less is more. Instead of spilling everything you think or feel, follow your inclination to hold back just enough, creating mystery, tension and allure.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Talk to people who have the experience you desire. The map is out there. This thing you want, it's not just a luxury but a true life-enhancer. You haven't cracked the code yet, but you're getting close.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You radiate without trying - not something you do, it's something you are. Kindness, beauty, imagination - it's all in you, as scent is in the flower. Someone will feel better just by being near you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You don't have to escape the world to reconnect with yourself. Just avoid distractions. A solid two hours of focus will open something up, and energy will return. Also, choosing the right task makes all the difference.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Approval can be intoxicating - and fleeting. You're always checking the cost, and that's smart. If applause requires you to shrink, twist, or pretend, it's not worth it. Today, the crowd is loud, and yet you'll still hear and heed your own voice.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You walk in like you belong, because you do. Someone who used to intimidate you now sees you as an equal. You'll get the evidence. There are few things more satisfying than this, so take in the moment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You get a star for holding the line on your dignity, even when you feel fragile and stretched and tired. So what if you yell a little here or trip up a little there? You're still choosing contribution, engagement and vitality. You're still choosing yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Social choreography flows smoothly for you today. You'll quickly pick up on the subtle moves of interaction - knowing when to speak, when to hold back, how to shift tone, how to lead or follow - and the unspoken dynamics.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You've given plenty. You know some will take and take and never turn it around - not because they don't want to but because they are limited in awareness, emotional capacity and intention. So, choose your company well.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Write out your stressors so they're out of your head and visible. Step away for a bit, then return to sort them by what you can control and what you can't. Make a plan for the former. Release the rest. Instant relief.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

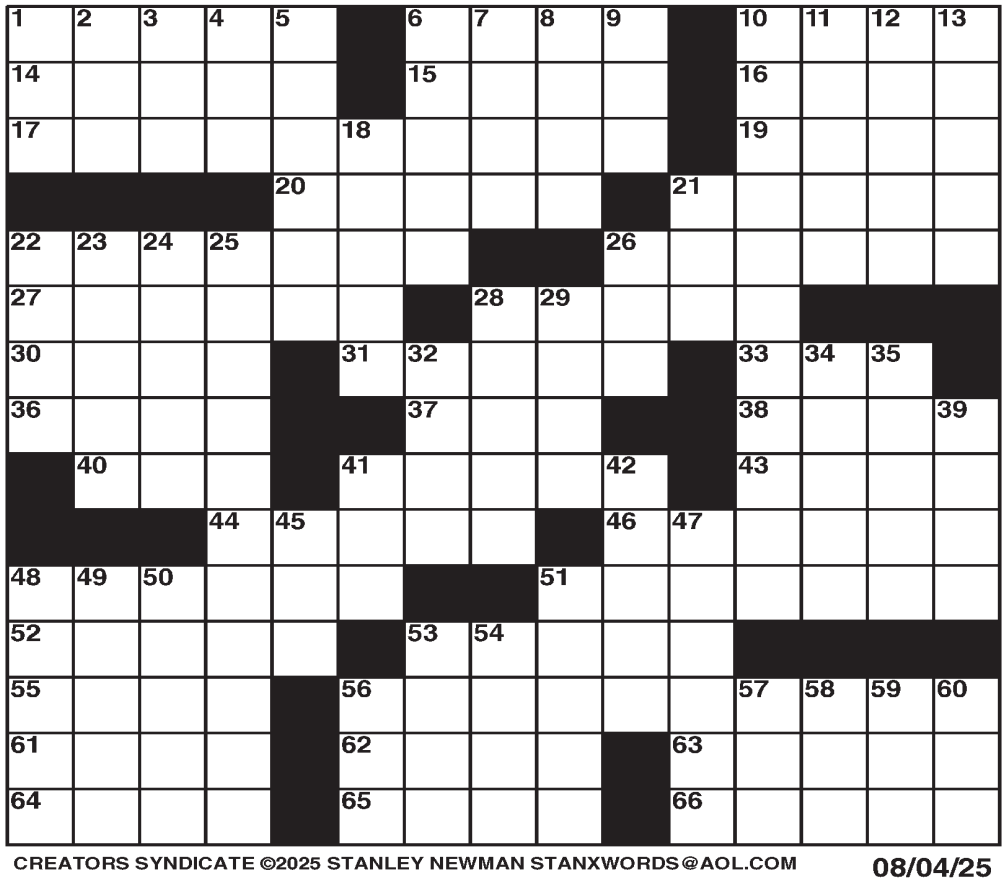
MIRROR MONDAY by Guilherme Gilioli
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Breakfast strip with eggs
6 Diplomatic skill
10 Short-lived crazes
14 Chicago airport
15 Highest poker cards
16 Creative thought
17 Haircut place with mirrors
19 Cash drawer
20 British noblemen above earls
21 Cooktop range
22 Web-spinning crawlers
26 Banquet platforms
27 Noisy summer insect
28 Soup utensil
30 Actor Alda
31 Sneakers' strings
33 Oxygen or neon
36 __ Antony of old Rome
37 Write (down) quickly
38 Dice toss
40 Service charge
41 Removed the rind from
43 Two-tone cookie
44 Tire in a trunk
46 Overacts
48 Restaurant server
51 Make lively
52 Accumulate, as debts
53 Home made of logs
55 Verified an age, in a bar
56 Family vehicle with mirrors
61 Voice of an iPhone
62 Stepped heavily (on)
63 Events on tracks
64 Dog visiting Oz
65 Viral Internet trend
66 Buildings for tools

DOWN

1 Dylan or Hope
2 "Now I get it!"
3 Family vehicle
4 Poetic sphere
5 Required
6 Chores to do
7 Muscle soreness
8 Corporate leaders: Abbr.
9 Sugar measure: Abbr.
10 Space with mirrors for trying on clothes
11 Spanish goodbye
12 Search deeply (into)
13 Store's discount events
18 Of farm life
21 __ Paulo, Brazil
22 Con game
23 Mideast seasoned rice
24 Sympathetic comment
25 Ballet class space with mirrors
26 __ and don'ts
28 Cross home plate
29 Tennis great Sampras
32 Partly open, as a door
34 Major blood vessel
35 Frozen rain
39 Misplace
41 __ for the course (about average)
42 Jeans fabric
45 Lively energy
47 People under 18
48 Place to wear a watch
49 Sound part of a film
50 Motionless
51 "Humble" dwelling
53 Medical breakthrough
54 Part of a molecule
56 Cash dispenser: Abbr.
57 Scrooge's shout
58 Cube of frozen water
59 Went first
60 Letter before tee



CREATORS SYNDICATE ©2025 STANLEY NEWMAN STANXWORDS@AOL.COM

08/04/25

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

UBER

FROM PAGE 4

WHAT THE BILL WOULD DO

The proposal before the Legislature would give ride-hailing drivers the right to form and join a union with which the gig companies would be required to bargain in good faith.

It would also require ride-hailing companies to submit lists of drivers and other driver information to the state's Public Employment Relations Board every three months starting in 2026.

The Protect App-Based Drivers & Services Coalition, an industry group that includes Uber, Lyft, DoorDash and Instacart, opposes the legislation, as do various chambers of commerce and business groups.

In a letter to lawmakers in July, the group said the bill's requirement that companies submit driver information to the state — which would give a potential union a way to directly reach a dispersed group of workers — is "a dangerous violation of driver privacy" and could result in unwanted texts, phone calls and even visits to drivers.

Different drivers groups are expected to vie to be the sole bargaining union of ride-hailing drivers statewide. But provided a group can get 10% of active drivers to approve it as a representative, it would be able to access driver lists, according to analyses of the bill by legislative committees. Each group would be prohibited from sharing that list with third parties.

Nicole Moore, president of Los Angeles-based Rideshare Drivers United, supports the bill's disclosure requirements. "Right now the state has no idea how badly we're being paid," she said. "We could tell you, but that's anecdotal. We need data."

Uber spokesperson Zahid Arab said the bill would mean increased costs because of administrative and compliance burdens, and the fact that the company would have to negotiate with a union over pay and benefits. The industry group said if drivers get the right to unionize, it could lead to higher costs for rides.

A Lyft spokesperson would not comment on the legislation.

The bill, co-authored by Assemblymembers Buffy Wicks of Oakland and Marc Berman of Palo Alto, both Democrats, is set for a hearing before the Senate Appropriations Committee on Aug. 18.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MASSACHUSETTS

In Massachusetts, Uber and Lyft drivers won the right to unionize months ago and are now working to make a union a reality.

Chiem Klot, who has been driving for Uber for a decade, is trying to organize Boston-area drivers. He says his pay "gets worse and worse every year." He said he used to be able to make $300 or $400 a day, and is now driving for 12 hours a day and making about $200 a day.

"There are over 80,000 (ride-hail) drivers in Massachusetts," Klot said. "They all work so hard to make very little money. A lot of them still don't know they're allowed to unionize. Some of them are also scared to — that Uber might retaliate."

The Massachusetts App Drivers Union is a joint effort of Service Employees International Union 32BJ and the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers.

Gabe Morgan, executive vice president of SEIU 32BJ, said through a spokesperson that thousands of drivers in Massachusetts have already signed unionization cards, and that besides fair compensation, drivers deserve transparency.

WILL SECTORAL BARGAINING WORK?

Sectoral bargaining, or negotiating as a group within a certain occupation, has worked in certain places and industries, such as in Los Angeles, where hospitality workers have won wage standards and benefits, said Katie Wells, a tech and labor expert who co-wrote "Disrupting D.C.: The Rise of Uber and the Fall of the City." But Wells said she's concerned that in the ride-hailing industry, sectoral bargaining may not lead to real change.

That's because the big players in the gig economy have fought to keep change "superficial," Wells said. She pointed to Prop. 22, which among other things promised California gig workers health care stipends. But a union-backed survey showed few gig workers actually qualify for or use the stipends, which are not extended to those who get public health benefits. The survey also found that 29% of gig workers surveyed were on Medi-Cal, California's health insurance program for low-income people and those with disabilities. The companies have not released exact numbers about how many workers receive the stipends.

Sectoral bargaining "could work, but it has to be done well," said Laura Padin of the National Employment Law Project, a research and advocacy group for low-wage workers. She said drivers "are subject to a lot of control of the companies" and should be covered under the National Labor Relations Act, but they are not because they're not considered employees. "In this political environment, it may be the best we can hope for," Padin said.

Federal lawmakers have been trying for years to improve gig workers' working conditions. The most recent proposal was introduced last week by Sens. Brian Schatz of Hawaii and Chris Murphy of Connecticut, both Democrats. It would require gig companies to disclose more detailed information about wages and fares to drivers and consumers; cap companies' cut of each ride's fare at 25%, meaning 75% would go to drivers; and more. Other proposed federal legislation that would help strengthen workers' right to organize has languished for years. So other governments are trying to step in. At the state level, besides California, Minnesota and Illinois are also considering bills to give drivers collective-bargaining power.

But even if drivers are able to band together and unionize, they would still likely have to deal with more obstacles, experts say.

"When drivers are able to organize and win labor standards through public policy directly, Uber tries to fight it," said Mariah Montgomery, national campaigns director for PowerSwitch Action, a network of advocacy groups. She mentioned what has happened in New York City, where drivers won minimum pay rates that began in 2019.

Last year, Bloomberg reported that Uber and Lyft were using a loophole in the law and systematically locking drivers out — preventing them from finding work on the apps — during certain periods. Last month, the city's taxi commission established new rules ordering the companies to give drivers 72 hours notice before locking them out.

By Levi Sumagaysay. This article was originally published by CalMatters.



MONDAY | AUGUST 4

ARBOR VENICE MONDAY NIGHT POOL TOURNE

5:30 p.m. 2907 Main Street CA 90405 Join us at the pool table on the Back Patio Santa Monica. Join in the fun as Arbor Venice takes over Tavern on Main. We'll be showing awesome skateboard and snowboarding footage on our screens and hosting a pool tourney with awesome prizes for the winner each week. Monday $9 Burger+Beer special is a great addition to the festivities. Come and play, hang or whatever suits your mood. All are welcome at Tavern on Main. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/arbor-venice-monday-night-pool-tourney/14639005/2025-08-04T17

PIZZA PARTY AT BODEGA WINE BAR

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. 814 Broadway Santa Monica, CA 90401. Every Monday Night at Bodega, every bottle of wine you purchase gets you a pizza half off! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/pizza-party-at-bodega-wine-bar/11526040/2025-08-04T18

SANTA MONICA CHESS & COCKTAIL CLUB

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Weary Livers 2819 Pico Boulevard Santa Monica, CA. Chess & Cocktail Club @ Wearies! Every Monday 6-9PM. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/santa-monica-chess-cocktail-club/15910436/2025-08-04T18

THE GORDONS IMPROV RESIDENCY

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Westside Comedy Theater 1323-A 3rd St Santa Monica. Welcome to The Gordons Improv Show at Westside Comedy Theater! IMPROV RESIDENT TEAM NIGHT! Check out our current lineup of Resident Improv Teams! These teams perform Long-Form Improv all inspired by a suggestion from the audience. Think of it as a sitcom made up on the spot. Catch them before they are gone! These teams rotate every three months!Get ready for a night filled with laughter, spontaneity, and hilarious moments. Join us for an evening of unscripted comedy where every joke is made up on the spot. Our talented improv performers will have you in stitches as they create scenes, characters, and stories based on your suggestions. Don't miss out on this one-of-a-kind experience! Grab your friends and come on down to Westside Comedy Theater for a night you won't forget. $10.00. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/the-gordons-improv-residency/14863274/2025-08-04T19

TUESDAY | AUGUST 5

WALKING MEDITATION

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Beach lot 5 South 2600 Bernard Away Santa Monica. Walking meditation is and has always been a significant alternative to sitting meditation, especially for those starting a new practice. The goal of meditation is to be able to practice in all positions, conditions and activities whether sitting, standing, walking, lying down, or whenever awake. We'll meet Tuesday's and Thursdays at 2 pm by the Mobile Community Meditation and Retreat Center VAN parked in the Santa Monica Beach lot 5 South (by the grass on the east side of the parking lot and across the street from the basketball courts at Ocean View Park) We'll walk silently together for approximately 45 minutes on the shoreline. Everyone is welcome to join whether new to meditation or with many years of experience. Please remember to bring sand shoes if you prefer not to walk barefoot, sunscreen, a hat, a jacket if it's cold and water. Tho there's a dog in the photo, unfortunately dogs are not permitted on the beach. Looking forward to meeting and meditating with you all. please feel free to reach out with any concerns or questions and please arrive 5 minutes early. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/walking-meditation/16206460/2025-08-05T14

GELSON'S WEST LA TO HOST TACO TUESDAYS WITH TACOS, MARGARITAS, AND MEZCALS

4:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Gelson's 12121 W Olympic Blvd, Los Angeles. Every Tuesday from 4 PM to 10 PM, Gelson's West LA Wine Bar will be hosting Taco Tuesdays, bringing together a festive blend of flavors and fun. Enjoy a variety of mouthwatering tacos, refreshing margaritas, and smooth mezcals, all served in a vibrant, welcoming atmosphere. The perfect way to spice up the week—gather friends and enjoy a night of great food, drinks, and good times. Prices vary. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/gelson-s-west-la-to-host-taco-tuesdays-with-tacos-margaritas-and-mezcals/15309564/2025-07-08T16

TUESDAY OPEN MIC

10:00 p.m. Westside Comedy Theater 1323-A 3rd St Santa Monica. The best open mic in Los Angeles! The Tuesday Open Mic is a weekly open mic. Hop onstage and perform your best 3 minutes! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/tuesday-open-mic/16004734/2025-08-05T22

WEDNESDAY | AUGUST 6

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

GET IT DAILY...

BENEFITTING THE YOUTH OF THE

SANTA MONICA POLICE ACTIVITIES LEAGUE



POKER TOURNAMENT

PAL SANTA MONICA

21 & OVER

Saturday, September 20, 2025

Check-In, Dinner & Bar | 5:00 PM

Poker Lessons | 5:30 PM

First Hand Dealt | 6:00 PM SHARP

Santa Monica Moose Lodge | 1600 Ocean Park Blvd.

LIMITED SPACES

2025palpoker.givesmart.com

Santa Monica PAL 310.458.8988 | smpal.org |

@samtamonicapal