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Volume 24 Issue 182 WEDNESDAY 8/6/25 smdp.com

Now Open: Elder-Well



Sasha Renee

SANTA MONICA: They came. They saw. They participated. Ribbon cutting for new Elder-Well® Adult Day Program in Santa Monica, offering offers support to caregivers of older adults in need of daytime respite. The all-new center provides engaging, community-based programs in a welcoming, supportive group setting for aging adults. Located at 1529 Wilshire Blvd, Santa Monica, CA 90403; tours are available. www.elder-welladultday.com/california/santamonica. Left to right: Manuel Monterrubio, Beni Monaco, Marisa Antonini, Mary Anne Roberto, Judy Kruger, Mayor Lana Negrete, Kara Harvey, Ken Harvey

Chez Jay: Where history has its own seat at the bar

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

In a city where authenticity often falls victim to expedience and celebrity culture can feel manufactured, Chez Jay stands as a beacon of genuine Santa Monica heritage. This isn't just another restaurant trading on Hollywood nostalgia—it's a living piece of cultural history where the Rat Pack once gathered, where Pentagon Papers allegedly changed hands, and where an astronaut's peanut made it to the moon and back.

For 66 years, the nautically-themed dive bar and restaurant has occupied its spot along Ocean Avenue, just steps from the legendary Route 66 and half a block south of the Santa Monica Pier. What makes Chez Jay remarkable isn't just its star-studded past, but its unwavering commitment to remaining a place where beach bums, neighborhood regulars and visitors can comfortably bump elbows with celebrities in a truly paparazzi-free environment.

The restaurant's cultural

SEE **CHEZ JAY** PAGE 7

SMMUSD students pen children's book promoting interfaith friendship

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

Two Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District students have written a children's book aimed at fostering understanding between Jewish and Muslim communities, creating a story of friendship between unlikely symbols in response to growing cultural divisions.

Sadie Gryczman and Rana Kurt, who have been friends since ninth grade, authored "Brighter Together," a tale following a Jewish star and Muslim crescent who meet at a magical place called Sky School and discover common ground through their differences.

"We've witnessed division between our cultures firsthand, and we don't want it to continue," said Kurt. "We believe Brighter Together can help change the way future generations see the world."

The book emerged from the students' response to the events of Oct. 7, 2023, and the cultural tensions that followed. The timing coincided with their receipt of the Julie Beren Platt Teen Innovation Grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, which provided financial support to bring their vision to life.

"After witnessing the impact of the events on October 7, 2023, we

SEE **BOOK** PAGE 11

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

LA County repealed its own justice reforms. Restoring them would require a shaky electorate

An unfathomable drafting blunder threatens to wreck years of painstaking work to make Los Angeles County government more responsive to the needs of its 10 million people. The magnitude of the screw-up, which became public last month, is slowly coming into focus.

There may be nationwide repercussions.

At issue are two ballot measures, each of them drafted by L.A. County's lawyers and each of them amending the county charter. Measure J, adopted by voters by a healthy margin amid the "reckoning" of 2020, commits a significant chunk of the county budget each year to repairing generations of economic and racial injustice through mandatory spending on health care, housing, job training and alternatives to incarceration.

Measure J makes L.A. County stand apart. Other state and local governments made symbolic gestures toward systemic reform during the heady and chaotic months following the police murder of George Floyd and the protests calling for government to redesign how it serves marginalized communities.

Few actually did anything substantive. But with Measure J, L.A. County put its money where its mouth is.

And then, last November, Measure J was stupidly overwritten by Measure G, which will expand the Board of Supervisors and create an elected chief executive and an ethics commission.

The goal is to make county government more accountable by finally imposing the same checks and balances that Americans take for granted in other levels of government. We elect the president, the governor, the mayor. We will now elect a county executive, and a larger Board of Supervisors will scrutinize that person's performance.

The two important measures cover very different ground and ordinarily wouldn't cancel each other out — except for the fact that the county's lawyers drafted 'G' to be put in exactly the same place in the charter that was already occupied by 'J.' So when a principal part of 'G' becomes effective in December 2028, it will repeal 'J.'

Don't worry, county lawyers said in a statement. "As a practical matter, the repeal would have no impact," given that the Board of Supervisors can just keep spending as though Measure J remains in place.

That misses the point, as the lawyers surely know. Measure J was meant to bind all future Boards of Supervisors, allowing long-term planning and budgeting for ongoing programs. Without it, future supervisors can shift spending elsewhere whenever the political winds change and it's no longer fashionable to dismantle racial inequity.

And isn't that where we are now? The spirit of 2020 is a distant memory. Democratic lawmakers are back to writing tough-on-crime bills, public attention has turned to fires and floods, and municipal budgets are strapped.

And more to the point, President Trump is steamrolling over anything that strikes him as "woke," including health funding, care for the mentally ill, housing for the homeless and, most especially, "DEI" — diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives of the sort proudly championed by Los Angeles County and funded by Measure J.

As the nation's largest local government, and with Measure J as its standard, L.A. County was a Noah's Ark to protect and sustain the spirit of 2020 through the storms of Trumpism, an ambassador to the rest of the nation of equity and justice programs. L.A. County, standing firm, could conceivably help other state and local governments find their backbones.

But instead, the ballot measure fiasco tosses culture war crusaders an unearned win. It puts at risk the tenuous and hard-won trust between L.A.'s community activists, county officials and employees — and to some extent even law enforcement, who came together in the name of health-based alternatives to incarceration. The drafting error means the Reimagine L.A. Coalition that organized support for Measure J may have to go back to the ballot to re-do what they already did. They are understandably angry at the prospect.

And because times have changed, it's by no means certain that voters would pass Measure J a second time. Or, for that matter, Measure G. Seven months into the bellicose second Trump administration, L.A. voters may have second thoughts about strong executive power.

LA COUNTY MOVES TOO SLOW AND TOO FAST

There is now tension between champions of each charter amendment, and open talk about which measure should be scrapped in order to preserve the other.

As the mayor of West Hollywood in 2020, testifying in favor of Measure J, Lindsey Horvath called on the Board of Supervisors to put it on the ballot. "Systems of care and systems of accountability must go hand in hand," she told the board.

Four years later, as a county supervisor,

SEE **LA COUNTY** PAGE 8

EDITORIAL

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

An audacious hypocrisy

The Santa Monica city council executed a good ol'fashioned power grab last week with the purging of six political appointees from the Downtown Santa Monica (DTSM) Board and the installation of a proxy Board who will better do the Council's bidding.

Why should the average resident care if some business owners and Council cronies played musical chairs in a conference room you don't know exists? It's a good question but the answer is simple. Money. Without money the City simply can't do anything. Whether you want housing, bike lanes, police officers or clean beaches, it all costs money. Money the city largely doesn't have due to an extended period of failed fiscal leadership and external costs. So control of the DTSM Board is both a source of direct income through the taxes levied on businesses and an indirect revenue generator as it should be attracting high-spending tourists who in turn pay taxes to support local services.

Revitalizing the City's flagship economic zone is hugely important and the Council's coup is both about shifting responsibility for the city's economic fortunes and solidifying their grip on power.

The decision, backed by a group of Councilmembers that actually campaigned on "good governance" as a platform, was surprising, not for its hypocrisy, but for its audacity.

When Dan Hall, Ellis Raskin, Natalya Zernitskaya and Barry Snell were elected, they specifically criticized the incumbents they sought to replace for violating governmental norms, undermining staff and undermining opposing voices.

So far this council has belittled staff reports they didn't like, rewritten the budget from the dais and now mounted a Trumpian purge of appointees. Do as I say not as I do.

The only reason we're not calling it a stunning hypocrisy is because their hypocrisy is to be expected given other decisions. This council's steadfast adherence to social justice melts into quicksilver when it comes to district based voting, a cause universally endorsed by every social justice advocate and organization yet opposed by the Santa Monica City Council.

Their "support" for public safety didn't translate into the additional officers the Police Chief wanted.

We're not saying they are without principles. We are saying that like a caricature of the impacts of absolute power, there are some principles they're entirely willing to abandon when their authority is threatened.

To cite something they are committed to, this group remains strongly committed to housing production and we can all pretend to be surprised when the feasibility study for the airport comes back claiming it's impossible to build a park without revenue sources and suddenly housing will be a necessary part of that plan.

The Councilmembers are also adept politicians as evidenced by the way this happened. Nothing about the timing is illegal and the manipulation of the process is what you'd expect from politicians trying to quash dissent.

Snell submitted his memo on the 25th, one of the City's off-Friday's where most staff are not at work. The Clerk's office scheduled the discussion as soon as they did receive it and "special" meetings can be scheduled at any time, for any reason as long as they're noticed 24 hours in advance. The item was published at 5:15 p.m. on the 28th and it just so happens, late enough to prevent DTSM from scheduling a response before the Council's special meeting on the 29th.

The appointment of replacements was made possible by the fortuitous timing of candidate applications. With five of the six coincidentally applying a week before the memo was submitted.

Entirely legal and entirely underhanded.

As to why the purge was needed, Councilmembers have failed to articulate any emergency situation that would warrant such an extreme action.

They can articulate opportunity and authority.

Council wants to control the selection of a new DTSM CEO and the DTSM bylaws allow action. Opportunity and authority are not an emergency. Nor are nebulous accusations of wrongdoing. Actual wrongdoing is absolutely a reason to remove people. But to get to that point, you'd have to make specific accusations, investigate and follow through. You know, good governance.

The real motivation here is that the City has thoroughly pooped the bed when it comes to the local economy. They've failed to create an environment where retail businesses can flourish, they've failed to protect the City's reputation for tourism and with the pending downsize if not departure of RAND, they're in the running to medal in a new failure event, brain drain (which will be the only medal they see after also failing to understand the value of the Olympics).

They want to shift responsibility and like an overly floral air freshener in an office bathroom, they want to mask the stink of failure before they ask the property owners to keep giving them money.

It has been suggested behind the scenes that the current board wants to dismantle DTSM. That may be true, but if that is the reason for the mass firing, it should be stated in public and with evidence. Council should then have the decency to explain why business owners should voluntarily pay taxes to support City Hall if the Council consistently refuses to address issues like the perception of crime and homelessness that make running a business in Santa Monica so difficult (not to mention the byzantine permitting processes, high fees and general disdain for the business community).

SEE **EDITORIAL** PAGE 8



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **66.5**

WEDNESDAY
FAIR
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Fun-zone surf on tap as fresh SSW swell fills in further to a peak. Light AM wind, nice tide push. New, longer-period SSW swell is up a notch to start and builds to a late morning peak. Still some NW windswell in the mix, smaller than the past couple of days. Expect surf at the beachbreaks to be a bit more lined up as a result. Look for waist-chest high+ surf at the summer points, with sets running head-high+ for standouts west of Dume. Clean AM conditions expected on the tide push, most likely the best window. PM onshores don't look too strong.

THURSDAY
FAIR
SURF: 3-4ft+
Waist to shoulder

More mid-sized surf on tap as SSW swell lingers. Clean morning, spots w/ structure best. Plenty of push as SSW swell keeps waist-chest high+ surf running at better breaks, still upwards of head-high to a bit over-head out west. Even less NW windswell running, so spots with structure remain for your best shot at a corner. Light/variable wind looks likely for the morning tide push, again likely the best window of the day. Moderate to breezy W wind in the afternoon adds a good amount of lump outside of the summer points, open beachbreaks probably get too chewed up.

Weather

Wednesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy, with a high near 74.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 65. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph.
Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 76.
Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 66.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
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
2025/08/06	Wed	8:05 PM	6.11	H
2025/08/07	Thu	03:27 AM	-0.50	L
2025/08/07	Thu	09:57 AM	3.92	H
2025/08/07	Thu	2:26 PM	2.48	L
2025/08/07	Thu	8:42 PM	6.39	H
2025/08/08	Fri	03:57 AM	-0.68	L
2025/08/08	Fri	10:20 AM	4.12	H

Daily Lottery

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

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 8/4
8 9 19 31 38
Power#: 21
Jackpot: 449 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 8/1
18 27 29 33 70
Mega#: 22
Jackpot: 150 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 8/2
3 11 12 18 46
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: 31 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 8/4
4 8 10 17 21

Daily 3
Draw Date: 8/4
EVENING: 3 8 7
Draw Date: 8/4
MIDDAY: 7 7 4

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 8/4
1st: 01 - Gold Rush
2nd: 03 - Hot Shot
3rd: 09 - Winning Spirit
Race Time: 1:47.11

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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.

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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

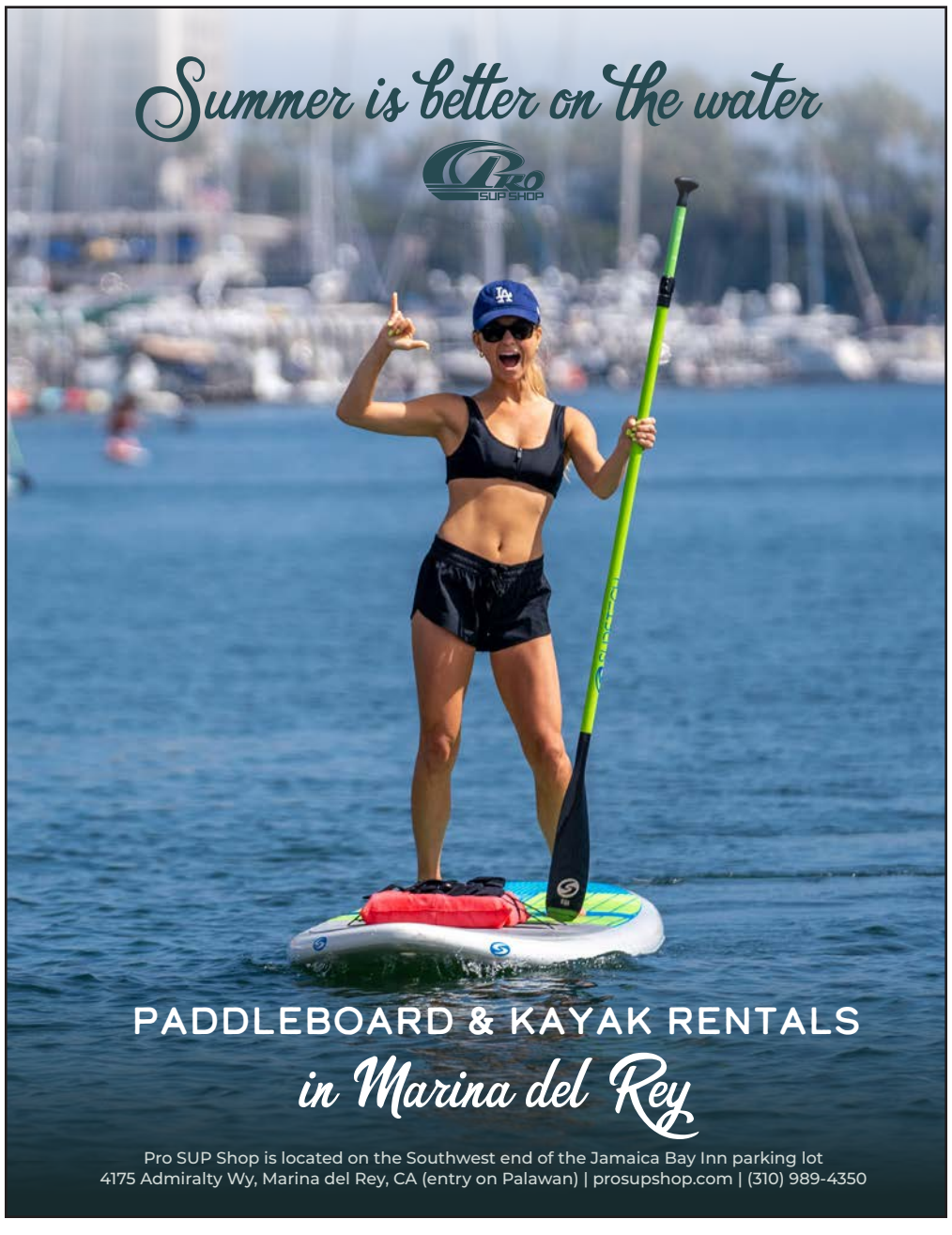
The City of Santa Monica is inviting proposals from firms interested in the Charnock Well Destruction Project.

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.



GET IT DAILY...

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

With Kamala Harris out, who will emerge as frontrunner in California governor's race?



CalMatters

ELECTION: With Kamala Harris out, who will emerge as frontrunner in California governor's race?

Kamala Harris' penchant for strings of abstruse verbiage — popularly known as word salads — was one of several reasons her presidential campaign failed last year.

Her tendency was on display again last week when she announced she would not run for California governor after making other candidates, political media and voters wait for months for her decision. Harris bowed out of the 2026 race in a written statement, saying, "I look forward to getting back out and listening to the American people, helping elect Democrats across the nation who will fight fearlessly, and sharing more details in the months ahead about my own plans.

"As we look ahead, we must be willing to pursue change through new methods and fresh thinking — committed to our same values and principles, but not bound by the same playbook," she added.

A day later, Harris continued her parade of vague statements during a softball interview with late night talk show host Steven Colbert, declaring that the American system of government was broken. Pressed mildly to explain, Harris responded, "Well, but it's also evident, isn't it? But it doesn't mean we give up."

Whatever persuaded Harris not to seek the governorship, her announcement finally allows those who want the job to shift into a higher gear. Had she run, several of the hopefuls would probably have dropped out.

With her out of the picture, the field remains crowded without a clear frontrunner.

"None of these candidates start out with statewide name recognition," Garry South, a veteran Democratic strategist, told the Los Angeles Times.

That said, there does appear to be two fairly distinct levels of candidacy: Democrats with genuine shots at winning versus those who face an uphill struggle to be taken seriously.

At the moment, the higher tier includes Katie Porter, a former Orange County congresswoman who fell short in a U.S. Senate bid last year; Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis, who has substantial private wealth and is backed by former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi; and Antonio Villaraigosa, the former mayor of Los Angeles.

The lower tier includes Xavier Becerra, a former state attorney general and Biden cabinet member; Toni Atkins, the former president pro tem of the state Senate; state schools Superintendent Tony Thurmond and former state Controller Betty Yee.

SEE **HARRIS** PAGE 8

COMMUNITY NEWS

Santa Monica

Street Artists Rojas, WRDSMTH Collaborate on Gallery Exhibition

Bruce Lurie Gallery will present "Carpe Every Single Diem," a collaborative exhibition by Los Angeles street artists Ruben Rojas and WRDSMTH, opening Saturday with a reception from 6 to 8 p.m.

The exhibition marks one of the first major shows since the gallery reopened after losing everything in the Palisades fire. A fellow Palisades resident offered the gallery its new Santa Monica space, enabling the reopening with community support.

"I've always loved street art, and what sets both WRDSMTH and Ruben Rojas apart is the positivity and thoughtfulness in their work," said Bruce Lurie, gallery owner. "When WRDSMTH told me he and Ruben had always wanted to collaborate, it felt meant to be."

> "I've always loved street art, and what sets both WRDSMTH and Ruben Rojas apart is the positivity and thoughtfulness in their work"
> - Bruce Lurie, gallery owner

The exhibition combines Rojas' "Love" imagery and vivid colors with WRDSMTH's typewritten wisdom, creating what the artists describe as an immersive body of work promoting connection and conversation.

"This show is about merging hearts and words," Rojas said. "It's a reminder that love isn't passive—it's something we choose, say and show."

WRDSMTH, known for his typewriter stencil and motivational phrases painted worldwide, said their collaboration extends beyond the gallery walls.

"Working with Ruben through the years on collaborations in the streets of LA and London has always proved to be a fulfilling partnership," WRDSMTH said. "Our styles and messages intersect well, delivering positivity and hope."

Rojas left corporate work in 2013 to focus on art centered on love, transforming blank walls into uplifting murals. WRDSMTH aims to inspire passersby with daily motivation through his street art.

This marks the first time the two artists have exhibited together in a gallery setting. The show will feature limited-edition prints, immersive installations, collaborative works and individual pieces by each artist.

The exhibition runs Aug. 9 through Sept. 2 at Bruce Lurie Gallery, 608 Santa Monica Blvd. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, noon to 6 p.m.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

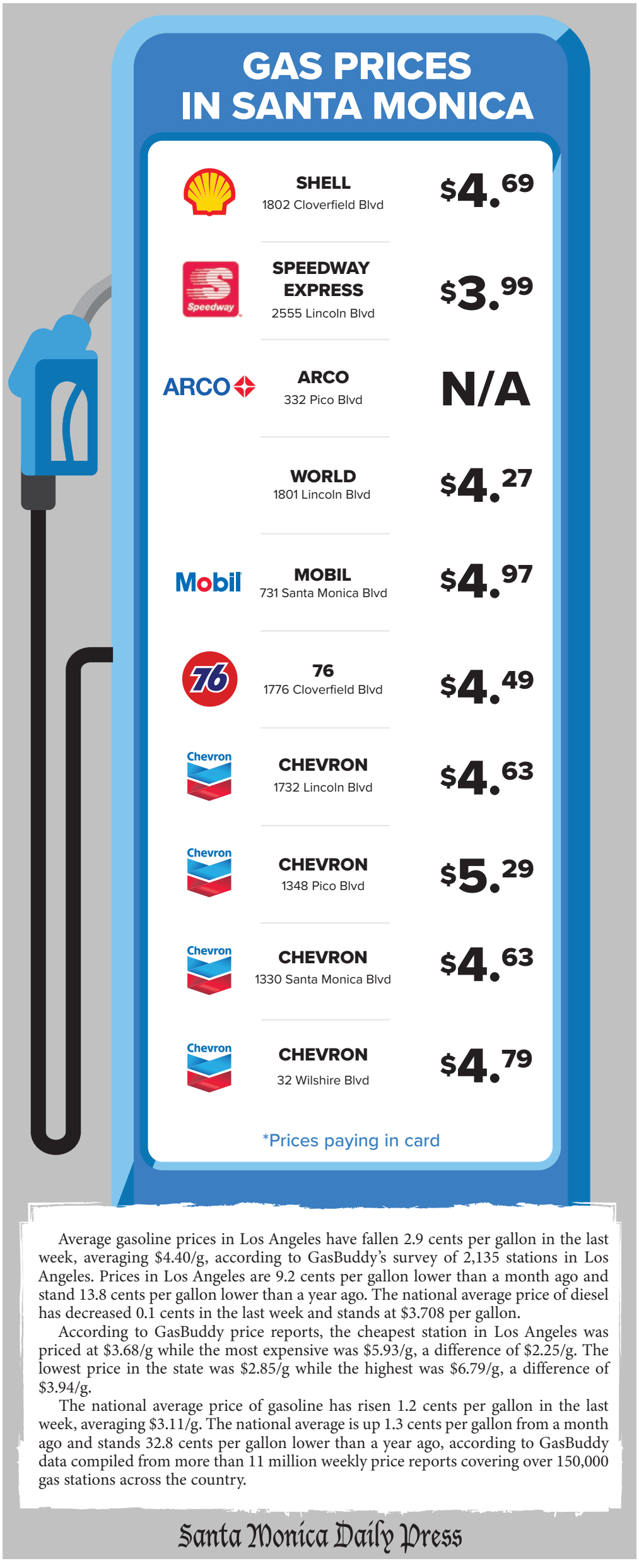


Courtesy image

CARPE EVERY SINGLE DIEM: Ruben Rojas & WRDSMTH, Carpe Every Single Diem, mixed media.

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Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have fallen 2.9 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $4.40/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 9.2 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 13.8 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has decreased 0.1 cents in the last week and stands at $3.708 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at $3.68/g while the most expensive was $5.93/g, a difference of $2.25/g. The lowest price in the state was $2.85/g while the highest was $6.79/g, a difference of $3.94/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 1.2 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $3.11/g. The national average is up 1.3 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 32.8 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Santa Monica Daily Press

COMMUNITY NEWS

Santa Monica

Swig Company Renews 17,000-Square-Foot Lease at Wilshire Boulevard Property

The Swig Company announced Monday it has renewed a 17,000-square-foot lease with Provident Financial Management on the top floor of 3130 Wilshire Boulevard in Santa Monica.

Provident Financial Management provides business management services to clients including multi-platinum musical groups, songwriters, producers, touring artists, movie and television actors, writers, and high-net-worth individuals and executives.

Deron White of CBRE represented The Swig Company while Jeff Cowan of Savills Inc. represented Provident Financial Management in the lease renewal.

The Swig Company acquired the six-story, 97,000-square-foot creative office building in 2022. The property holds LEED Silver certification and has earned Fitwel One Star, WELL Healthy-Safety and ENERGY STAR ratings.

Recent extensive renovations include a complete building seismic upgrade and a remodeled main lobby and outdoor patio. The company also added a tenant lounge with gaming tables, a wellness room, mother's room and two conference rooms. The lounge can accommodate up to 91 people for larger meetings.

The improvements are designed to enhance the tenant experience and foster community within the building, according to the company.

The property is located near Interstate 405 and Interstate 10 freeways and offers parking. It sits close to Bristol Farms, Erewhon and various restaurants.

The Swig Company is a privately owned, San Francisco-based real estate operator with an 89-year history of investment, development, partnership and management of commercial real estate properties in major U.S. markets. Benjamin H. Swig founded the company in 1936.

The company's vertically integrated operational platform includes investment, asset and property management, and leasing expertise. It uses what it calls flexibility, generational thinking and sensitivity to sustainable practices to stay current with emerging trends in the commercial real estate industry.

More information is available at www.swigco.com.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

Los Angeles

LA County Assessment Roll Grows $82 Billion Despite Wildfire Devastation

The Los Angeles County Assessment Roll increased by $82 billion or 3.91% in 2025 despite devastating wildfires that destroyed thousands of homes across Altadena, Pacific Palisades and Malibu, County Assessor Jeff Prang announced.

The growth marks 15 consecutive years of increases, bringing the total net value to $2.176 trillion. This will generate more than $20 billion in property tax revenue for public services including education, first responders and healthcare.

"This has been a very challenging year, highlighted by the devastation of the January wildfires that laid to waste large sections of Altadena and the Pacific Palisades," Prang said. "The wildfires impacted more than 23,000 property parcels, including the total loss of over 10,000 homes, which significantly decreased property tax revenue."

> "This has been a very challenging year, highlighted by the devastation of the January wildfires that laid to waste large sections of Altadena and the Pacific Palisades"
> - Jeff Prang

The wildfires created significant challenges for the assessment process, but Prang committed to ensuring affected property owners receive timely assessment relief.

Despite the housing market showing signs of slowing, median home sales prices remained strong at $950,000. Property transfers contributed $51 billion to this year's roll growth, representing the single largest factor in the increase.

The inflation adjustment required under Proposition 13 added another $41 billion. California's Consumer Price Index exceeded the Proposition 13 cap, triggering the maximum 2% inflation factor.

New construction contributed $8 billion to the roll despite wildfire response efforts diverting resources. The Assessor's Office implemented new strategies to maintain productivity and prioritize high-value projects.

The assessment establishes taxable property values as of Jan. 1, 2025, creating an inventory called the Assessment Roll that provides insight into real estate markets and the local economy. Local governments use this data to prepare annual budgets and anticipate property tax revenues.

The growth does not translate to corresponding increases in property tax bills for most owners, who will see only the 2% adjustment prescribed by Proposition 13.

The 2025 Assessment Roll includes 2,398,007 taxable real property parcels, 160,367 business property assessments, 32,733 boats and 3,037 aircraft.

To access the 2025 Assessment Roll, visit: https://assessor.lacounty.gov/news-information/annualroll

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

CHEZ JAY

FROM PAGE 1

significance extends far beyond its celebrity clientele. Designated as a Santa Monica Historical Landmark, Chez Jay represents one of the Los Angeles area's oldest, longest-running, family-owned independent restaurants. In an era when multigenerational eateries like Vienna Pastry Shop, Enterprise Fish Co, and Pacific Dining Car have fallen to various pressures, Chez Jay's survival speaks to something deeper than mere nostalgia—it represents the power of authentic community connection.

"Our whole goal is to create a melting pot," said Chris Anderson. "At any given moment, you'll see people in their 20s to 70s, from all different kinds of backgrounds, and that's what we've always tried to maintain."

A LEGACY BORN FROM A DOLLAR AND A DREAM

The Chez Jay story began in 1959 when flamboyant actor, hot-air balloonist and raconteur Jay Fiondella purchased what was then the struggling "Dawn Cafe" for just $1. The opening party was pure Hollywood spectacle, complete with show girls and a circus elephant munching on free peanuts from the bar—those same peanuts that would later become part of the restaurant's legendary lore.

One of those signature peanuts, dubbed the "Astro-Nut," was smuggled to the moon and back with Alan Shepard on Apollo 14. Steve McQueen later threatened to swallow it, adding another layer to the restaurant's growing mythology. The stories seem endless: Marilyn Monroe and JFK allegedly had secret rendezvous here, the curtained-off Table 10 reportedly witnessed the passing of Pentagon Papers to a New York Times reporter, and weekly jazz sessions included luminaries like Chet Baker and Slim Gaillard.

The restaurant's name itself was an homage to the supper club "Chez Joey" from Frank Sinatra's film "Pal Joey," setting the stage for what would become a regular gathering spot for the Rat Pack. But beyond the celebrity tales, screenwriters like Matt Damon, Ben Affleck, and Warren Beatty found creative inspiration in the cherry-red booths, while countless neighborhood regulars made it their second home.

Jay's mother Alice became a beloved fixture and partner who ran operations until 1991, while Jay handled the flashy promotion. Current co-owner Michael Anderson originally joined as a manager in the 1980s and bought into the restaurant with Jay in 2000. After Jay's passing in 2008, his shares passed to his children Anita and Chaz, who remained partners with Michael until 2019, when Michael's son Chris bought the Fiondella shares.

The restaurant's survival hasn't been without challenges. It has weathered numerous financial crises, navigated shifts of management, and overcome threats to its highly coveted lease. The pandemic posed perhaps the greatest test, as Chez Jay's business model centers on atmosphere—the cracking of peanut shells, the dim glow of rainbow string lights, the soft cushion of cherry red booths, and the steady hum of Temptations tunes.

CELEBRATING 66 YEARS WITH STORIES AND COMMUNITY

This Saturday, Aug. 9, Chez Jay will celebrate its 66th anniversary with an all-day retro-themed party from 3 p.m. to midnight. While the restaurant itself is sold out for the celebration, the adjacent parking lot will host "The Lot" with free entertainment, live music featuring Motown, jazz and oldies hits, a classic Route 66 car display, and a mini Chez Jay museum.

The celebration also features an interactive "Rumor Has It" video booth where attendees can don Old Hollywood accessories and share their own Chez Jay memories. It's this invitation to become part of the story that exemplifies what makes the restaurant special—everyone who walks through those Dutch doors becomes part of the continuing narrative.

The restaurant is encouraging people to submit their own stories about the beloved establishment, recognizing that the real magic of Chez Jay lies not just in its celebrity encounters, but in the countless personal moments that have unfolded within its walls. While free, guests should still RSVP at https://chezjays.com/66anniversary.

TALES FROM BEHIND THE BAR

Some of the most cherished stories come from the staff who've dedicated years to maintaining Chez Jay's special atmosphere. Jeff Oliver, a longtime bartender, recalls his first solo shift when a grease fire broke out in the kitchen. "Six, maybe seven old-timers drinking around the bar," he remembers. "All of them ran to the kitchen to help put out the flames—they were not going to let it burn." While Oliver's instinct was to head for the front door, he found himself following the regulars, grabbing a fire extinguisher and passing it to Warren Queeny. "Another small debate on how to use the extinguisher, he pulled the tab, the flames were out, everyone cheered and went back to the bar for more drinks."

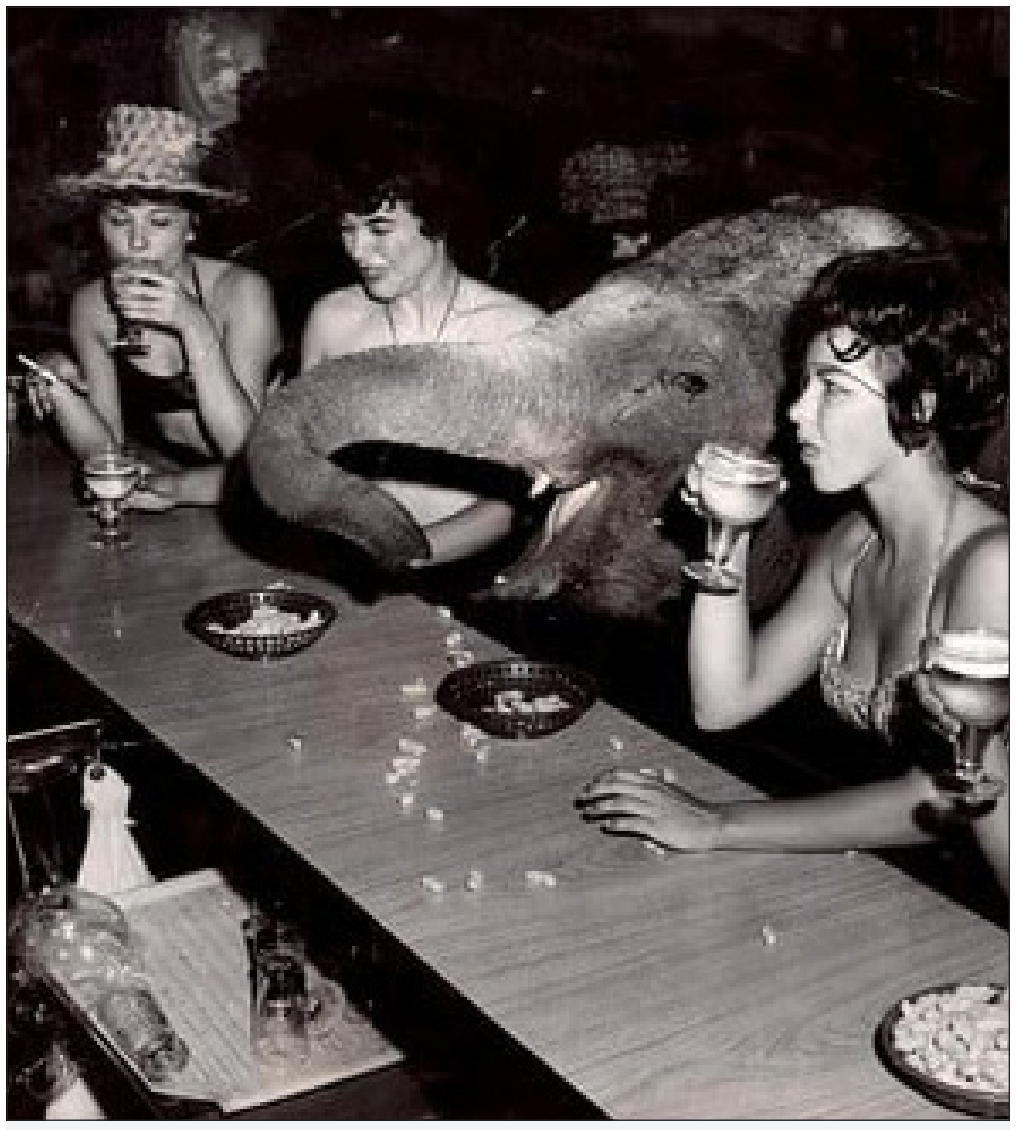
Fellow longtime bartender Petter Wickman has his own collection of memorable encounters. About 15 years ago, during a Saturday breakfast shift, a tour bus pulled up and took four parking spots. The tour manager asked permission to park, explaining the bus wouldn't fit at the band's hotel. When Wickman protested about the lost spots, the manager revealed the band was Robert Plant of Led Zeppelin. "Of course you can park there," Wickman quickly changed his tune. Hours later, a long-haired man in shorts and a t-shirt walked in, thanked him for the parking spot in an English accent, and handed him two tickets to that night's Hollywood show. It was Robert Plant himself.

Another Wickman encounter involved a couple ordering vodka rocks at the bar. While telling jokes to other patrons, the woman complimented his humor. When she introduced herself as Catherine, he recognized Catherine Keener immediately. Her companion introduced himself as "Brent"—or so Wickman thought. Jokingly, he told Keener, "I'm off in an hour. Why don't you lose this guy and you and I go for a drink?" When the man removed his glasses for the next round, Wickman realized he wasn't "Brent" but Brad Pitt. Ever the comedian, he then turned to Pitt: "Hey, why don't you lose Catherine and you and me go for a drink?"

These stories—both legendary and everyday—illustrate why Chez Jay has endured. As Chris Anderson notes, "You can't just build history." In a rapidly changing Santa Monica, Chez Jay remains a place where authentic connections happen naturally, where regulars become family, and where every patron becomes part of a story that's been unfolding for more than six decades.

At Chez Jay, that specialness is alive and well, ready to welcome the next 66 years of stories.

editor@smdp.com



Courtesy photo

THE STORY: The bar at Chez Jay has many a story to tell.



Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 05/28/25 2025108808 The following person(s) is (are) doing business Advancing Women Executives 11846 Ventura Blvd Ste 302 Studio City, CA 91604 . Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/ are AWE Solutions, LLC 11846 Ventura Blvd Ste 302 Studio City, CA 91604 If corporation or LLC- Print State of DE This is Business is Conducted: A Limited Liability Company . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 05/2025 . Registrant /Corp/LLC AWE Solutions, LLC Title: CEO Member MeikoTakayama . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 05/28/2025NOTICE: 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.25STCP01212 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Jhee Hae Grace Choi for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: Jhee Hae Grace Choi court for a decree of changing names as follows: Jhee Hae Grace Choi to Grace Jhee Hae ChoiThe 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: 45 Room: 529 The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Courthouse 111 N Hill St Los Angeles, CA 90005. 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

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LA COUNTY

FROM PAGE 2

Horvath led the effort for Measure G. She was correct — care and accountability, 'J' and 'G,' should complement one another.

A careless drafting error puts them at odds.

Supervisor Kathryn Barger opposed putting both measures on the ballot, arguing that they were slapped together in haste, with insufficient time for vetting.

She, too, is correct.

But it's worth remembering that in January 2023, the Board of Supervisors commissioned a study of L.A. County governance in order to improve transparency, representation and ethics. A year and a half later, the county had not even hired a contractor to do the study. It may take a little haste to break that kind of maddening stasis.

Los Angeles County moves simultaneously too slow and too fast, and as a consequence accomplishes too little of its leaders' lofty and laudable goals. Was it too fast ordering up Measure G, leaving the lawyers too little time to realize they were overwriting Measure J? Or too slow in putting Measure J in the charter, so that the lawyers had no idea that it was there when they put Measure G in the same spot?

The County Counsel's Office blames the mess on the board's clerk for not updating the charter, even though the lawyers not only wrote Measure J, but lived with it every day for three years as it was nullified in trial court and revived in the Court of Appeal in July 2023. It's hard to believe that they wouldn't remember it a year later, or that they had no duty to discover it, when they plopped Measure G on top of it.

A Governance Reform Task Force has been meeting to flesh out the details of implementing Measure G. Its three meetings so far seem to underscore the ongoing battles over 'J' and 'G,' well after the elections are over. At its first meeting, about a third of the members revealed that they had voted against the measure, or represented organizations that opposed it. At its second meeting, one of its members reported the drafting error that seems likely to doom Measure J, or Measure G, or both.

At the third meeting, three lawyers from the Office of County Counsel were prepared to offer the task force a preliminary report on what happened and what might be done to rectify the situation. They waited patiently through three hours of discussion about committee assignments.

And then the audio crew had to leave, and the meeting came to an abrupt end without the lawyers' report. Apparently, nobody had thought about the audio crew. It was a very Los Angeles County moment — and another reminder that the nation's largest local jurisdiction is badly in need of a revamp.

By Robert Greene. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

EDITORIAL

FROM PAGE 3

But City Hall doesn't want a DTSM Board with ideas of independence. They want a vassal state who will ask "How high?" every time they're told to jump. They don't want a CEO who will advocate for the Board when they want to question the City. They want a suitably subservient lackey advocating for the Council's whims.

We'll have to see what they actually get as the next move belongs to the elected DTSM boardmembers who are outside City control. They will have to choose how, or even if, they interact with the current seatwarmers while Council drums up suitable permanent puppets and we'll all have to wait to see what arguments the new hive-mind will make to convince property owners to keep sending their tithe to City Hall.

— SMDP Editorial Board

HARRIS

FROM PAGE 4

WHAT ABOUT REPUBLICANS?

Riverside Sheriff Chad Bianco and former Fox News host Steve Hilton are running, but the chances of a GOP win next year are infinitesimal. However, were the Democratic field to remain large, fragmenting the Democratic vote, a Republican could finish second in the primary and win a spot on the general election ballot, essentially guaranteeing the Democratic nominee an easy win.

That's what happened last year when Democrat Adam Schiff indirectly helped Republican Steve Garvey place second in the U.S. Senate primary, thereby foregoing a general election duel with Porter.

When a clear Democratic frontrunner emerges in next year's campaign for governor, the other Democrats will be competing for second place in the primary and a spot on the November ballot.

Meanwhile, another potential candidate could change the post-Harris dynamics: Los Angeles businessman Rick Caruso, a Republican-turned-Democrat who lost the mayor's race in 2022 and is reportedly weighing either another mayoralty bid next year, challenging incumbent Karen Bass, or a shot at the governorship.

Caruso is very wealthy and could draw heavy support from California's business community, particularly if he were to survive the primary and face a liberal Democrat such as Porter.

We waited for months to learn whether Harris would run. Now we're waiting for Caruso.

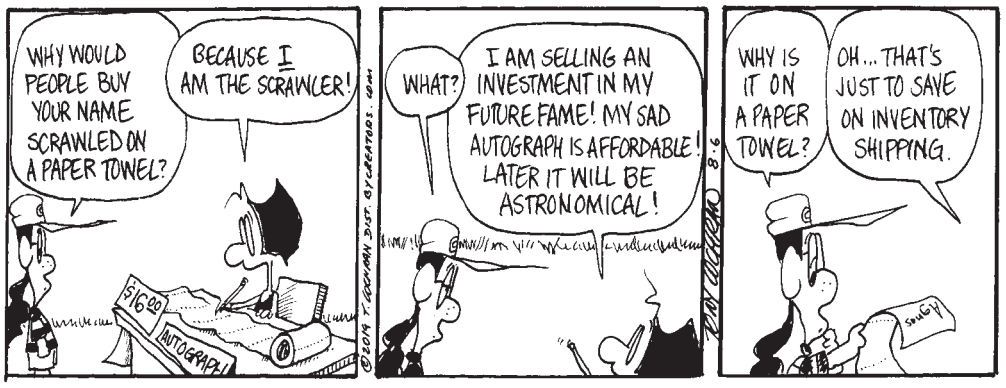
By Dan Walters. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

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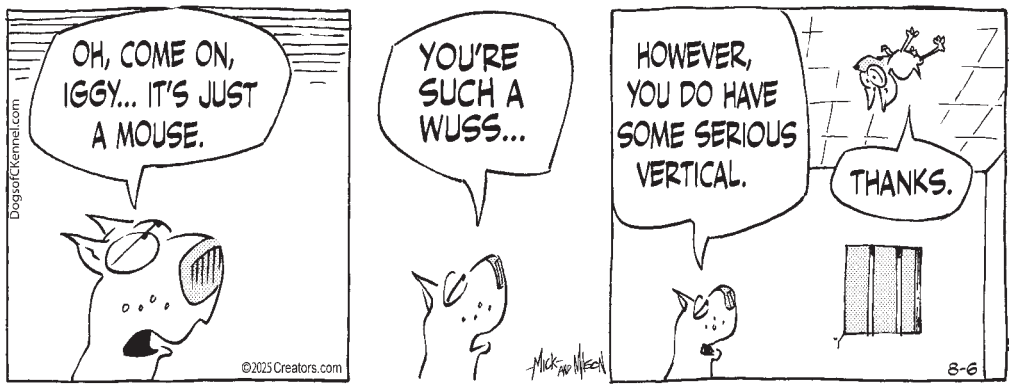
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



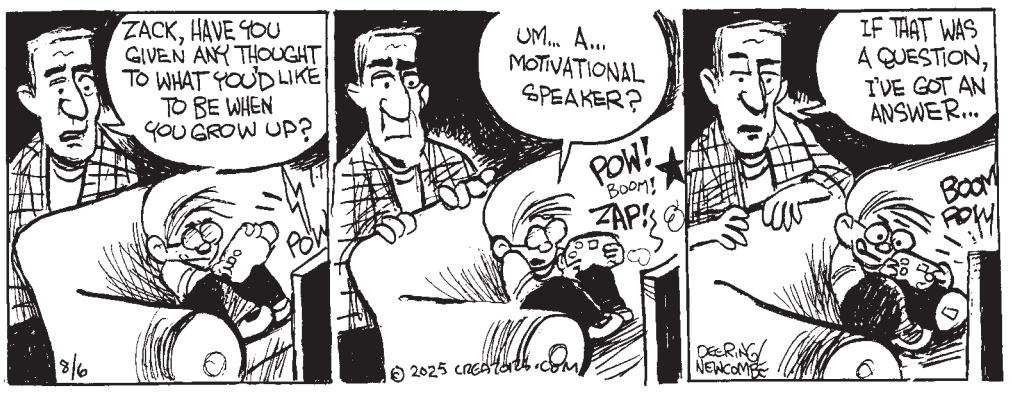
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"PUG-PEDE!"

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 23 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6659

Islands of the Pacific

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

Atiu	King	Manus	Relax
Birds	Kiwai	Mehetia	Tahaa
Buka	Koror	Merir	Teraina
Chuuk	Kosrae	Moala	Tiga
Cook	Leeward	Nassau	Tobi
Corfu	Lifou	North	Tupai
Daru	Luau	Ouvea	Tuvalu
Drinks	Maiao	Peleliu	Ua Pou
Euba	Majuro	Pitt	Vostok
Gambier	Malden	Polynesia	Yasawa
Guam	Mariana	Pool	
Heron	Trench	Private	

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 6)

Confidence is the norm in this year of powerful decisiveness. You'll know what to do and have the supporters to help you execute the plan. A creative risk pays off. Formerly slow projects suddenly speed up and become viable entities. More highlights: What you once called a flaw becomes your key to connection, and your charm takes over rooms. A close relationship transforms for the better. Scorpio and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 10, 21, 4, 19 and 7.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You feel it - the invisible tether, the pulse of someone in your orbit. Whether they're far away or right next to you, the connection is active. There's no need to analyze it. Just receive it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You thrive within your own rhythms today. While others train in groups, you'll get sharper in solitude. You're competing only with past versions of you - and you'll surprise yourself with how far you've come and glimpse where you're going next.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're highly adaptable - so much so that you can adjust to almost anything without noticing it's not ideal. Something that once felt fine now feels dull or heavy. Don't normalize the discomfort. Let it point to change. Let it tell you your next move.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The rhythm of a relationship shifts - suddenly, you're not the one doing all the chasing. Something about the dynamic flips, and it feels good. Balanced. Right. Let the game be playful again.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). There's an upgrade on the edge of your imagination - something that would ease the friction and sweeten your days. You haven't summoned it yet, but you're circling closer. Daydream, ask, listen. It wants to meet you halfway.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Keeping up appearances is positive when the way you want people to see you also happens to be who you want to be. Today, you're doing what you'd do if there was no one around to impress, but it still gets attention.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You thrive when you're being of service. You want to know that what you do or give genuinely helps someone. New opportunities or connections - outside your current circle - will be the fit that affirms the value of what you give.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The way you'd like people to treat you? It's not a universally known standard. But communicating your needs and modeling this behavior consistently will make a difference. Soon your preferences will be well known to those around you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're attractive, and extra energy is directed your way. The decision to ignore someone or engage with them can alter destiny. Use your truly prescient imagination to envision the future of your decisions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The truth may not be tidy. People can be contradictory, confusing, unclear, and still love deeply. Instead of jumping to conclusions, soften. Allow nuance. Leave room for poetry.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Do not be swayed by those incapable of putting themselves in the shoes of others. Their limited perspective has them assuming their inner world experience is universal. They speak of subjective experience as though stating fact.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your mind is open, but not wide open - and that's a good thing. There's too much noise and information out there, so you don't have the luxury of giving equal weight to everything. Let only the most useful information in.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

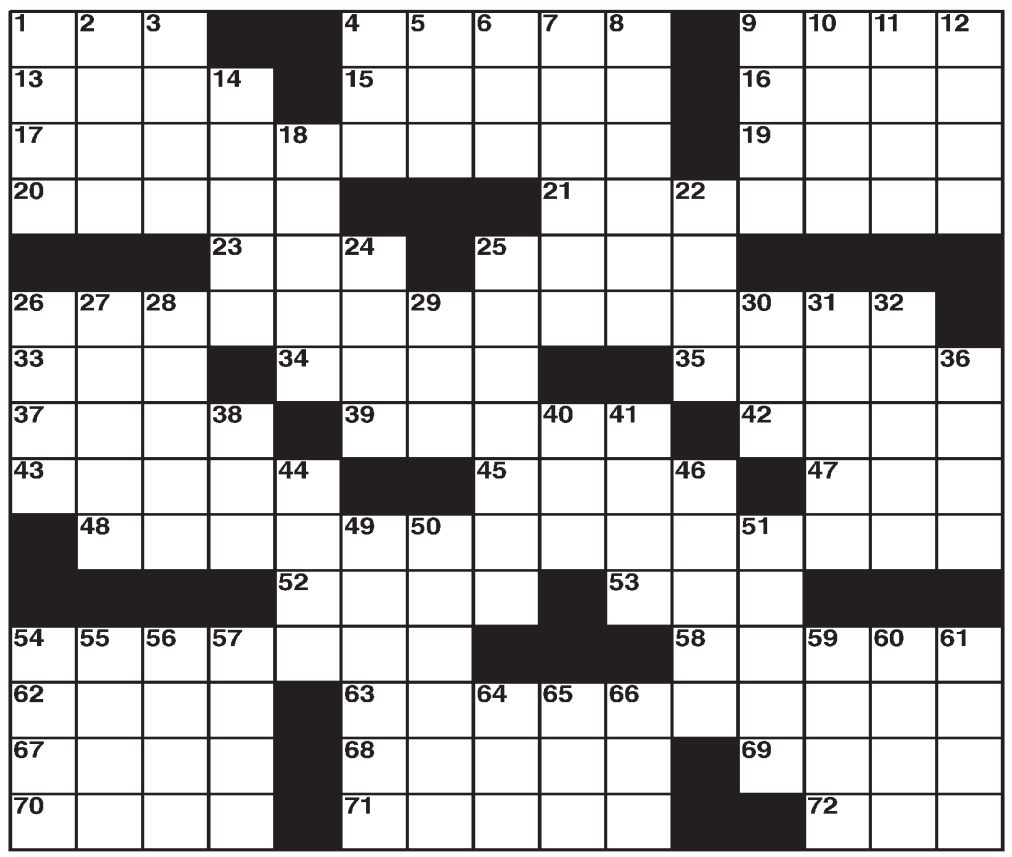
MAXIM-IZING by Fred Piscop
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Unruly crowd
4 Book of maps
9 Open-handed hit
13 Smallest bills
15 Molar, for instance
16 Grow wearisome
17 "Eureka," for California
19 __ spumante wine
20 "Guided" vacations
21 Sir Walter Scott novel
23 Egyptian snake
25 "Cool" rapper
26 "I Like Ike," in the '50s
33 Needless fuss
34 Thumbs-up votes
35 "Mass" news sources
37 Letters before sigmas
39 Curry or nutmeg
42 Computer pro, for short
43 Cotton footwear
45 Physicians, for short
47 Field for grazing
48 Words from Confucius
52 Acorn producers
53 Prefix for cycle
54 Ghastly, as Poe tales
58 New Delhi's country
62 Admired celebrity
63 Adage in Poor Richard's Almanack
67 Extremely hard to find
68 Battery terminal
69 Doily fabric
70 MasterCard rival
71 Crosses off
72 Young fellow

DOWN

1 MVP part
2 Not fooled by
3 Boyfriend
4 24-hr. cash source
5 In addition
6 Land parcel
7 House's top stories
8 Snow removal tool
9 Reach across
10 Eyelid hair
11 Voice above tenor
12 Ballet bend
14 Handbag handle
18 Opinion piece
22 Place for protons
24 Crusty desserts
25 What x-rays reveal
26 Elevator compartments
27 Temporary, as a committee
28 Be a freeloader
29 Empty interval
30 See the point of
31 British singing star
32 More congenial
36 Melville whaler
38 Glide down slopes
40 Person on patrol
41 Light brown
44 Snooty person
46 Justice Sotomayor
49 Auditory canal buildup
50 Yarn packages
51 Linoleum material
54 Oscar actress Sorvino
55 Eden guy
56 Apple's center
57 Haley who wrote *Roots*
59 Lessen, with "down"
60 Ancient Andean
61 Stored before selling
64 Extended "Anyway..."
65 End of MIT's URL
66 Harden, as concrete



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BOOK

FROM PAGE 1

felt compelled to step in and help bridge the growing divide," Gryczman said. "We wanted to create something gentle and hopeful for children in a world that felt increasingly chaotic and divided."

In the story, the Star and Crescent share stories about their respective holidays, including Shabbat and Eid, while exploring universal themes of kindness, family and helping others. As the characters develop understanding for one another, their light grows stronger—a metaphor the authors hope will resonate with young readers.

The collaboration grew naturally from the students' existing friendship and shared commitment to interfaith dialogue. In 2023, they co-founded a Jewish-Muslim Alliance at their high school, where they first discussed the book concept.

"Writing the book together was a natural extension of that," Kurt said. "It wasn't always easy, especially with everything happening in the world, but it brought us even closer."

The authors chose the star and crescent as central characters because of their instant recognizability, but wanted to reimagine these symbols as friends rather than representatives of opposing sides.

"We hope readers understand that friendship doesn't require being the same; it grows stronger when we appreciate what makes us different," Gryczman said. "The Star and Crescent don't become friends despite who they are; their friendship grows because of who they are."

The book has already generated discussion in schools and community events, prompting conversations about empathy and coexistence among young readers. The authors believe such messaging is particularly crucial given current social and political tensions.

"The world feels more divided than ever, and children are seeing that," Kurt said. "We wanted to offer a different message, one that shows it's still possible to choose friendship and understanding, even when everything around you says otherwise."

The students have ambitious plans for expanding the book's reach. They are working to translate "Brighter Together" into Hebrew and Arabic, making it available as a free ebook to increase accessibility for diverse communities.

"Why stop here?" Gryczman said. The duo plans to share the book through readings in classrooms, mosques, synagogues and interfaith spaces, hoping to spark similar conversations across religious and cultural boundaries.

The project maintains an Instagram presence at @brightertogetherproject, where the authors share updates and engage with readers interested in their interfaith message.

Through their work, Gryczman and Kurt demonstrate how young people can address complex social issues through creative storytelling, offering hope that future generations might approach cultural differences with curiosity rather than fear.

The book encourages children to embrace interfaith friendship and shows that differences can serve as sources of strength rather than division—a message the authors believe is essential for building a more understanding world.

maaz@smdp.com



Courtesy photo

BRIGHTER TOGETHER: Sadie Gryczman and Rana Kurt, authored "Brighter Together," a tale following a Jewish star and Muslim crescent.



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

DAVID BOWIE ART EXHIBIT AT SANTA MONICA ART MUSEUM

12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Santa Monica Art Museum 1219 3rd St Promenade Santa Monica. A DAY WITH DAVID BOWIE: Step into the orbit of one of music's most iconic figures. This intimate photographic exhibition explores David Bowie's essence and artistic energy through rare images, featuring moments captured by Christine de Grancy during Bowie's time with Brian Eno and the artists of Gugging. A tribute to imagination, rebellion, and reinvention. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/david-bowie-art-exhibit-at-santa-monica-art-museum/16449189/2025-08-06T12

THURSDAY | AUGUST 7

NOMA MEETING THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2025

7:00 p.m. Zoom N/A Santa Monica. SM Fire Chief Matthew Hallock and Fire Marshal Joe Cavin will be addressing fire threats to our city and strategies for fire prevention at the next North of Montana Avenue Neighborhood Council meeting this Thursday at 7pm. The public is invited; entry to the Zoom session available at smnoma.org. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/noma-meeting-thursday-august-7-2025/16452492/2025-08-07T19

FRIDAY | AUGUST 8

THE NIGHT SKY SHOW

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Santa Monica College 1900 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. The Night Sky Show is a short program with the latest news in space exploration and astronomy. The program uses freeware sky visualization tools to show you the constellations planets and deep sky objects in the Southern California night sky. The show will last about 30 minutes followed by a short Q&A when guests can type questions into a chat box. We will answer as many questions as possible. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/the-night-sky-show/14165546/2025-08-08T19

SATURDAY | AUGUST 9

BEGINNER REFORMER PILATES AT GOOD BODY PILATES STUDIO

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Good Body Pilates Studio 3229 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica Good Body Pilates Studio Santa Monica. Start your Saturday feeling strong, centered, and energized with our Beginner Reformer Pilates Class at Good Body Pilates Studio, taught by expert instructor Kylie. This group class is perfect for those new to Pilates or anyone looking to reconnect with the fundamentals in a welcoming and supportive environment. No experience necessary! Located in the heart of Santa Monica on Pico Boulevard, right across from Trader Joe's, our boutique studio is surrounded by great local coffee shops and restaurants, making it the perfect place to kick off your weekend. Plenty of metered parking available on Pico Blvd, and both metered and free street parking available on Urban Ave. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/beginner-reformer-pilates-at-good-body-pilates-studio/16094481/2025-08-09T10

ARTISTS & FLEAS: VENICE MARKETPLACE

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Westminster Elementary School 1010 Abbot Kinney Los Angeles. Artists & Fleas in Venice is located in the vibrant, artistic heart of Venice at the corner of Abbot Kinney and Westminster Avenue in the outdoor lot of Westminister Avenue Elementary School. Join 50+ merchants every Saturday (rain or shine!) for a fabulous lineup of art, design, food trucks and vintage. Date: Every Saturday Time: 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM Location: Westminster Elementary School - 1010 Abbot Kinney Check our website here for a list of vendors. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/artists-fleas-venice-marketplace/14548485/2025-06-28T11

I GOTTA CROW

8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. The Crow 2525 Michigan Ave Unit F4 Santa Monica. The Crow's favorite show curates elevated comedy with comics from HBO, Netflix, Comedy Central, and late night TV. Curated Comedy with comics from HBO, Netflix, Comedy Central and late night TV. THE CROW is listed in the LA Times as one of the best places to see comedy in LA! Read a more about The Crow in this feature article of the LA Times. Directions to The Crow at Bergamot Station: FREE PARKING in the lot at Bergamot Station Arts Center.) Fun Facts: Safe Space! (Security guards on premises 24/7.) The Crow is located directly behind our favorite restaurant, Birdie G's . If you want to grab a fine dinner there before, we encourage you to make a reservation. 10% off your meal with your ticket to The Crow. More info can be found at: www.CrowComedy.com Lineup subject to change. No drink minimum. The Crow is owned and operated by a female/mom/stand-up comic. I Gotta Crow occurs most Saturday's. $23.88. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/i-gotta-crow/14639013/2025-08-09T20

To learn how to feature your upcoming event on the SMDP and various digital event calendars

Contact dina@smdp.com today!

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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.

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