2 **Meta on Trial**
States mount biggest fight over harms to children.

3 **Californians Paid First**
Newsom's wildfire recovery proposal sets priorities.

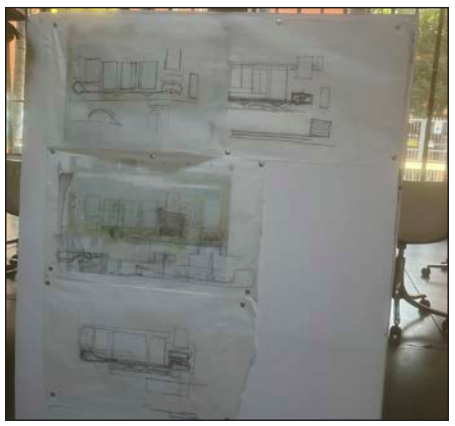
4 **Benefit Concert**
Salvation Army rehab center hosts Aug. 30.

5 **Pier Awards**
Two families honored at September gala.

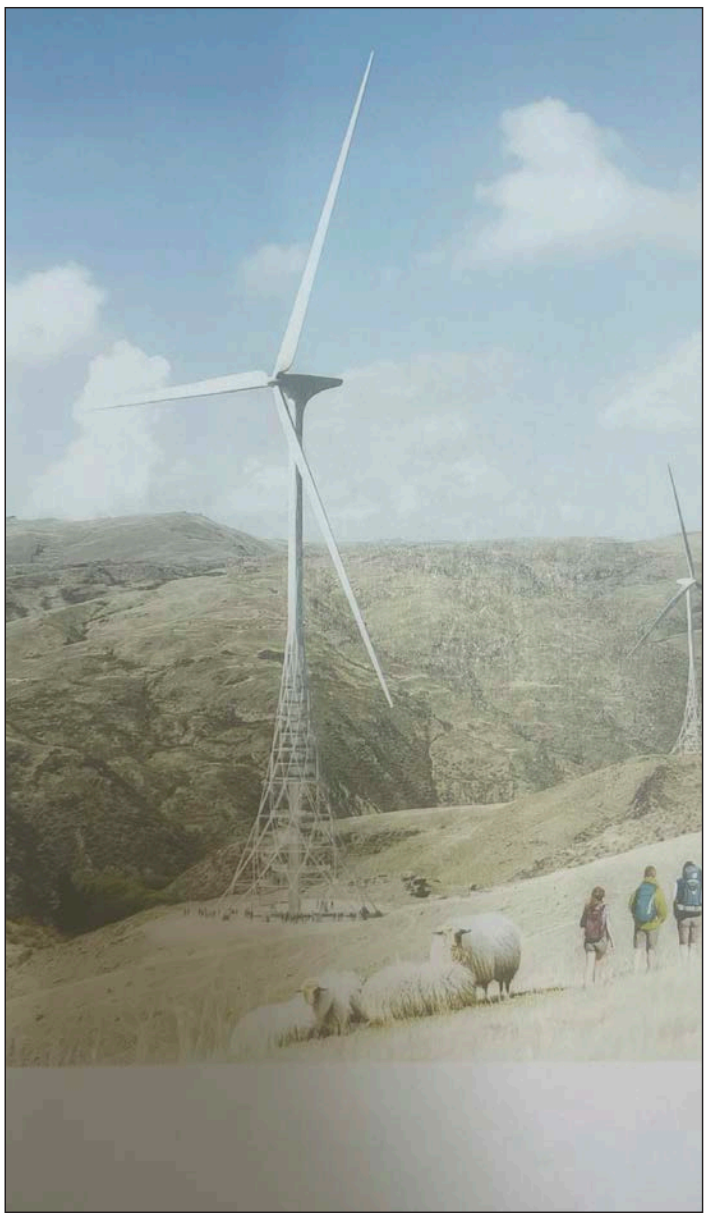
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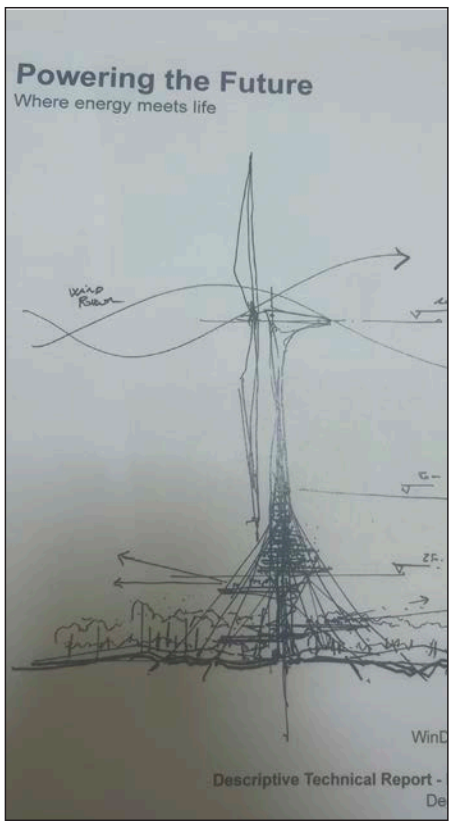
Volume 25 Issue 193 | TUESDAY 8/18/26 | smdp.com

Students trade summer jobs for internships, choosing experience over income











Courtesy images

INTERNSHIP: Adria Bini spent her summer as an intern at an architecture firm in Italy.

SOPHIA FRIEDMAN
Special to the Daily Press

Summer break gives students a chance to explore different career fields, and many are choosing internships over traditional paid jobs to do it.

Internships can offer valuable hands-on experience, professional connections and industry knowledge, but they often come without pay. As more students opt for internships over summer jobs, many are weighing long-term career benefits against the immediate need to earn money.

Unlike jobs, which are typically secured through a formal application, internships are often introduced through a connection — a family member or friend. But landing the internship still comes down to the student's own initiative, whether that's an email or a phone call.

SEE **BACK TO SCHOOL** PAGE 8

The $5 billion rebuilding gap: new mortgage pilot aims to bring LA wildfire survivors home

MICHELLE EDGAR
Special to the Daily Press

More than a year and a half after wildfires devastated communities across Los Angeles County, rebuilding has exposed another crisis: for thousands of homeowners, the money simply does not add up.

Insurance proceeds can fall hundreds of thousands of dollars short of rebuilding costs. Some survivors are still carrying mortgages on homes that no longer exist while paying for temporary housing. Others have the income and equity to rebuild but cannot qualify for traditional construction financing because their post-

SEE **MORTGAGE** PAGE 6

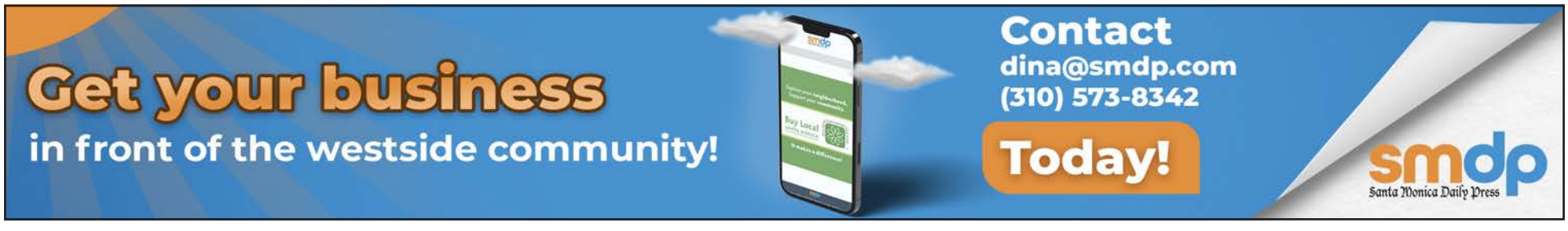
School board backs November parcel tax, adopts budget revision and tax-collection deal

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education voted unanimously Aug. 6 to endorse a citizen-initiated parcel tax on the Nov. 3 ballot, part of a fiscal agenda that also included a rare mid-summer budget revision and the renewal of a delinquent-tax collection agreement.

The board's central action was Resolution No. 26-04, a statement

SEE **SMMUSD** PAGE 7



SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS CALLING FOR BIDS
SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

RFP# 080426SF Program and Construction Management Services

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 up to, but not later than the below-stated date and time, Proposals for the Contract for the Work of the Project generally described as: Program and Construction Management Services in accordance with RFP document.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF THE BID PROPOSALS: 08/28/26, 2:00pm

All Bid Proposals shall be submitted on forms furnished by the District. Bid Proposals must conform with, and be responsive to, the RFP and Contract Documents, copies of which may be obtained from the District as set forth above. Only Proposals submitted to the District in the manner specified and at or prior to the date and time set forth shall be considered.

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the District bidding website at: https://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=13721#.

Post Dates: 08/11/26 & 08/18/26



States take Meta to trial in California in the biggest fight yet over social media harms to children

Of the thousands of lawsuits Meta faces over child safety on its platforms, none may be more consequential than one going to trial this week in California.

States are seeking extensive financial damages that could, in theory, total as much as $1.4 trillion, plus changes to how the company operates Facebook and Instagram.

The lawsuit accuses the social media giant of contributing to the youth mental health crisis by knowingly and deliberately designing features that get children addicted to its platforms. It also claims that Meta routinely collects data on children under 13 without their parents' consent, in violation of federal law.

"Meta has harnessed powerful and unprecedented technologies to entice, engage, and ultimately ensnare youth and teens. Its motive is profit, and in seeking to maximize its financial gains," the lawsuit says.

Dozens of states filed the lawsuit three years ago. The trial set to begin Tuesday in federal court in Oakland, California, features four of the states as plaintiffs — California, Colorado, Kentucky and New Jersey. The other 25 states are expected to have trials later.

Meta said it disputes the allegations, and the trial evidence will show its commitment to supporting young people. "We've listened to parents, worked with experts and law enforcement, and conducted in-depth research to understand the issues that matter most," the company said in a statement.

STATES SEEK TO LAND A MAJOR BLOW AGAINST META

For Meta, which already lost two pivotal cases over harms to children and teens this year, the stakes are high. The company reported a rare profit decline last month, in part due to $2.4 billion in legal expenses.

The $1.4 trillion figure, which Meta disclosed in a legal filing, is almost as high as the Menlo Park, California, company's entire market capitalization — that is, the value of all its outstanding shares on the stock market. Paying it would inevitably put Meta Platforms in bankruptcy and perhaps put the company under state ownership.

"The state attorneys general are going for the gusto," said Eric Goldman, a professor and co-director of the High Tech Law Institute at Santa Clara University School of Law. "They are trying to set the definitive precedent in this case and they have asked for extraordinary damages and they are going to seek extraordinary structural remedies if they succeed."

Meta calls the possible penalty "untethered to any claimed violation" by the states.

"A sanction of that size has no analog in the history of consumer protection enforcement," Meta said in a July 6 filing with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

If Meta loses the trial, the court would have wide discretion over the size of any financial penalty, and legal experts say anything close to $1.4 trillion would be unlikely.

"It's not plausible in the sense that Meta doesn't have that much money and could not get it," said James Grimmelmann, a law professor at Cornell Law School and Cornell Tech. "An award that large would put Meta into bankruptcy, wipe out its owners, and effectively result in the states owning Meta."

As a practical matter, Grimmelmann added, "that seems extremely unlikely to happen."

In other cases that have involved high potential damages for multiple individual offenses, he said courts have stopped short of imposing the maximum penalties. One example is the Anthropic artificial intelligence training case, where plaintiffs were claiming damages of $150,000 per book that Anthropic copied, but the penalty ended up being $3,000 per book, totaling about $1.5 billion.

TRIAL SEEKS TO HOLD META ACCOUNTABLE ON STATE AND FEDERAL STATUTES

The federal trial this week is more complex than one earlier this year, in Los Angeles, where a state court awarded $6 million in damages from Meta and Google's YouTube to a single plaintiff, a young woman who testified she became addicted to social media as a child.

That case was a bellwether, or test case, picked from thousands of similar civil tort lawsuits to give both plaintiffs and the defendants an idea of how their arguments fare in court. The jury determined that Meta and YouTube were negligent in the design or operation of their respective platforms, and that the negligence was a substantial factor in causing harm to the plaintiff. They also determined each company knew their platforms could be dangerous when used by a minor and that they failed to adequately warn of that danger.

SEE **META** PAGE 8

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Newsom's wildfire recovery proposal will make sure Californians get paid first



Photo by Jules Hotz for CalMatters

WILDFIRE: A person uses a hose to spray water on the flames of a house to prevent the Eaton Fire from spreading to other homes in Pasadena on Jan. 8, 2025.

Six years ago, the Creek Fire tore through the Sierra National Forest. Tens of thousands of people were forced to flee with almost no warning, leaving their homes with only what they could carry.

The fire burned 13 acres of my family's ranch, and many of my friends and neighbors lost homes and structures. In the years that followed, our community began the long process of rebuilding and recovering.

California hasn't learned from what happened to us in 2020. I'm worried we're running out of time before the next catastrophic fire.

That's why I support the wildfire recovery reforms Gov. Gavin Newsom and state leaders are discussing, because they'll ensure victims get paid first. Any serious reform must put victims ahead of out-of-state interests like hedge funds, trial attorneys and insurance companies, who've profited while victims in communities like mine were left waiting.

I've spent most of my life caring for the land. I've seen the devastation caused by wildfires while working in and around the Sierra — as a firefighter with the U.S. Forest Service and Cal Fire, as a river guide and as a member of the community.

When I talk about wildfire risk and forest management, it's from lived experience. I spend a lot of time thinking about what it takes for our community to be resilient — not just to survive a fire, but to recover from one.

What I've seen, both personally and professionally, is a recovery system in California that is not built for the realities we're facing.

In Fresno County, our schools feel it when families who can't get coverage, or can't afford what little coverage is left. They decide they can't afford to rebuild here and move away. Our local economy feels it when businesses that depend on those families don't have enough customers to stay open.

Fire takes a toll on communities beyond physical destruction.

In the wake of the fire, families across the Sierra Nevada foothills watched their insurance policies get canceled, or their premiums climb past what they could afford.

Many of us were pushed onto the state's FAIR Plan, the insurer of last resort, and it's expensive for what little it actually covers. I've heard enough from neighbors to know I'm not the only one worried it won't be able to pay out if another major fire strikes.

Then there's the rebuilding process. Instead of a straightforward path to recovery, too many Creek Fire victims were met with years of litigation and

SEE **GUEST COMMENTARY** PAGE 7



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **73.6**

TUESDAY
FAIR

SURF: 2-3ft+
Thigh to stomach

SSW swell reinforcements keep surf fun through midweek, peakier with NW windswell. With a couple more troughs moving through the parent low that kicked off the weekend's SW swell, we're in for fun SSW swell through most of the week. With the shift in direction size gets more selective. Waist-chest high waves expected for better zones, while standouts (mostly in OC) go head-high to a bit overhead. We're expecting a bit more NW windswell, so beachbreaks should have better shape than over the weekend. Light AM wind.

WEDNESDAY
FAIR

SURF: 3-4ft+
Waist to shoulder

Fun waves off combo of SSW swell, holding NW windswell. Winds looking fairly light, best in the AM. Blend of fair size SSW Southern Hemi and persistent NW windswell maintains widespread waist to chest high surf, while top combo breaks out west push head high. Light/variable morning winds, followed by a light+ WSW sea breeze.

Weather

Tuesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy, then gradually becoming mostly sunny, with a high near 77.
Tuesday Night: Patchy fog. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 68. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southeast after midnight.
Wednesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 78. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 69.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2026/08/18	Tue	01:44 AM	3.49	H
2026/08/18	Tue	06:58 AM	2.04	L
2026/08/18	Tue	1:54 PM	5.00	H
2026/08/18	Tue	9:22 PM	1.56	L
2026/08/19	Wed	03:31 AM	2.94	H
2026/08/19	Wed	07:10 AM	2.60	L
2026/08/19	Wed	2:48 PM	4.84	H
2026/08/19	Wed	11:13 PM	1.37	L
2026/08/20	Thu	4:04 PM	4.76	H
2026/08/21	Fri	12:32 AM	1.00	L
2026/08/21	Fri	5:23 PM	4.88	H
2026/08/22	Sat	01:25 AM	0.62	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: 8/15
5 8 27 29 63
Power#: 13
Jackpot: 35 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 8/14
3 23 27 46 60
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 100 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 8/15
6 8 17 18 31
Mega#: 19
Jackpot: 47 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 8/16
2 5 14 31 39

Daily 3
Draw Date: 8/16
EVENING: 5 9 6
Draw Date: 8/16
MIDDAY: 2 3 6

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 8/16
1st: 04 - Big Ben
2nd: 03 - Hot Shot
3rd: 01 - Gold Rush
Race Time: 1:49.15

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Santa Monica Daily Press
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Furniture	Travel	Commercial Lease	Services	Health and Beauty	Obituaries
	Vacation Rentals	Real Estate	Computer Services	Fitness	Tutoring

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026140260. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: FUTURE VINTAGE, 1112 MONTANA AVENUE #330, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): LUCKY MUSTARD LLC, 1112 MONTANA AVENUE #330, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 06/2026. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000)). /s/ EZE BAUM, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 06/26/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 07/28/2026, 08/04/2026, 08/11/2026, 08/18/2026 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026140260. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: FUTURE VINTAGE, 1112 MONTANA AVENUE #330, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): LUCKY MUSTARD LLC, 1112 MONTANA AVENUE #330, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 06/2026. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000)). /s/ EZE BAUM, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 06/26/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 07/28/2026, 08/04/2026, 08/11/2026, 08/18/2026

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026149761. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: HEYUYEAHU, LLC, 1307 MAPLE STREET, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): HEYUYEAHU, LLC, 1307 MAPLE STREET, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 06/2026. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000)). /s/ DAVID MALCOLM SHANER, MANAGING MEMBER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 07/10/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 07/28/2026, 08/04/2026, 08/11/2026, 08/18/2026

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026160928. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: JOIE DE VIVRE CONSULTING, 17879 RIDGEWAY RD, GRANADA HILLS, CA 91344, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): JOIE DE VIVRE PRODUCTIONS, 17879 RIDGEWAY RD, GRANADA HILLS, CA 91344. This business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 07/2026. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars ($1,000)). /s/ JOI CARR, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 07/24/2026. NOTICE: This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 07/28/2026, 08/04/2026, 08/11/2026, 08/18/2026

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Pico

Salvation Army rehab center to host benefit concert Aug. 30

The Salvation Army Santa Monica Adult Rehabilitation Center will host its 2nd Chance Benefit Concert on Sunday, Aug. 30, an afternoon of music and fellowship supporting men and women working to rebuild their lives through recovery.

The free event runs from 4 to 6 p.m. at The Salvation Army Santa Monica Corps, 1533 4th St. The Christian band “Hill To Die On” will perform. A free-will offering will be collected to support the center’s mission of recovery, restoration and second chances.

The Santa Monica center runs a residential rehabilitation program that helps people struggling with alcohol and drug dependence build stability, life and work skills, spiritual strength and a foundation for reentry into the community. The 59-bed, six-month, faith-based work-therapy program helps men address social and spiritual challenges, including substance abuse.

For more than 100 years, The Salvation Army has provided spiritual, emotional and social assistance to people facing life’s challenges. Its more than 80 rehabilitation centers nationwide are funded primarily by the sale of donated goods in thrift stores, online thrift auctions and monetary gifts. Each year, thousands of graduates transform their lives, reunite with families and bring hope to their communities.

Services are offered on a charitable basis, generally at no cost and without the need for insurance. Organizers said every donation and every thrift store purchase help make the programs possible.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy Image

CONCERT: Salvation Army Santa Monica hosts free 2nd Chance Benefit Concert Aug. 30 supporting addiction recovery programs.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

Virginia Avenue Park Playground Replacement
Project No. SP2745

The City of Santa Monica is inviting proposals from firms interested in design and construction services for the Virginia Avenue Park Playground Replacement.

The purpose of the RFP is to select the most qualified design-build team to provide professional design services, including conceptual design of the playground areas and final design; community outreach (a minimum of 2 surveys and 2 in-person community workshops); survey services; construction work; installation of surfacing; geotechnical investigations; ADA compliance review; permitting; inspections; and estimating. Key considerations for this project include: sustainability (environmental and human health); accessible and inclusive design; community input; shade covering; operations, maintenance and replacement (including responsiveness with replacing parts); and schedule and costs (both upfront and ongoing).

RFP questions to be submitted to via OpenGov, no later than 2:00 PM. on September 4, 2026.

Proposers shall upload RFP via OpenGov, no later than 5:00 PM. on September 11, 2026.

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

Pier

Two families to receive 2026 Santa Monica Pier Awards at September gala

Two families whose commitment has helped define the Santa Monica Pier will be recognized Sept. 19 during the second annual A PIERfect Benefit, the Santa Monica Pier Corporation announced.

The 2026 Santa Monica Pier Awards will go to the Gordon Family, owners of Playland Arcade for more than seven decades, and the Whiting Family, descendants of the Newcomb Family whose support has helped preserve the Pier's history for generations.

Established in 2025, the awards recognize individuals, families and organizations whose dedication has helped preserve and strengthen what the corporation calls America's last great pleasure pier.

Playland Arcade was founded in 1954 by brothers George and Eugene Gordon and their father, Morris "Pops" Gordon. More than 70 years later, it remains the longest-running family-owned business on the Pier, now led by four women of the family's fourth generation: Marlene Gordon, Joanie Gordon, Dana Picore and Monique Giroux. The family is being honored for its stewardship, resilience and commitment to creating memories through decades of changing trends, coastal storms and redevelopment proposals.

The Whiting Family descends from the Newcomb Family, which owned and operated the Pier's commercial district for nearly three decades. Rather than through ownership, the Whitings continued that tradition through support during physical, political and financial challenges. Their recent contribution made possible the book "Santa Monica Pier: America's Last Great Pleasure Pier."

"Buildings can be restored. Attractions can change. But what truly defines the Pier are the people who dedicate their lives to protecting it," said Jim Harris, executive director and historian of the corporation. "The Gordon and Whiting families represent generations of commitment, generosity and love for this remarkable place."

This year's gala invites guests aboard the legendary SS Rex, transforming the historic Merry Go-Round Building into a floating casino. The evening will feature a Casino Night with signature cocktails, culinary offerings, live entertainment, casino gaming and auctions. Guests who buy gaming tickets in advance receive 50% off the day-of price, and table winners earn raffle tickets for prizes.

Guests are encouraged to wear vintage attire inspired by the grand ocean liners of the 1920s and 1930s. Adele's of Hollywood, a costume house since 1945, is offering 15% off rentals and purchases with the code PIER.

Proceeds support the corporation, an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides free, year-round programming, including Youth Day for underserved children across Los Angeles County and the annual Pier 360 Beach Festival.

Early Bird pricing is available through Aug. 19, with 20% off admission using the code EARLYBIRD. Tickets, gaming packages, sponsorships and tax-deductible donations are available at givebutter.com/pierfectbenefit2026.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Photos courtesy of Santa Monica Pier Corporation

AWARD: The Whiting Family (from left to right) Linda Whiting and Kathy Whiting.

GET IT DAILY...

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: **An Interim Zoning Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Santa Monica Extending Emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance ("EIZO") 2860 (CCS) Establishing (1) Standards and Procedures for Light Fleet-Based Service for Autonomous Vehicles and (2) a new Light Fleet-Based Service for Autonomous Vehicles Land Use Classification. Adoption of an Extension to the EIZO May Include Revisions and Clarifications to the Ordinance.**

A public hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Santa Monica to extend Emergency Interim Zoning Ordinance ("EIZO") Number 2860 (CCS) which (1) establishes standards and procedures for Light Fleet-Based Service for Autonomous Vehicles in Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 9.31.165 and (2) creates a new Light Fleet-Based Service for Autonomous Vehicles land use classification. The proposed EIZO extension may include revisions and clarifications to the original ordinance. The Council adopted the EIZO on July 14, 2026, which will expire on September 10, 2026, unless extended by Council in accordance with Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 9.46.090(C).

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, September 8, 2026, AT 5:30 PM**

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

HOW TO COMMENT:
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Members of the public unable to attend a meeting but wishing to comment on an item(s) listed on the agenda may submit written comments prior to the public hearing via email to councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov or via mail to City Clerk, 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, California 90401. Written public comment submitted before 12:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be available for online viewing. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item number in the subject line of your written comments.

You may also comment in person at the City Council hearing. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment in person.

Address your comments to:

City Clerk
Re: Autonomous Vehicles
VIA EMAIL: councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov
VIA MAIL: 1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION: If you want more information about this project, please contact Ross Fehrman by e-mail at ross.fehrman@santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (310) 458-8211 or (310) 917-6626 TDD at least 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

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

ESPAÑOL: Esto es una noticia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si desea más información, favor de llamar a Ana Fernandez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-2201 ext. 2431 o envíe un correo electrónico a ana.fernandez@santamonica.gov

MORTGAGE

FROM PAGE 1

disaster finances no longer fit conventional lending models.

Research from Department of Angels, a nonprofit tracking the financial realities facing wildfire survivors through a quarterly recovery survey, points to an estimated $5 billion overall financing shortfall. The median gap is approximately $500,000 to $600,000 per household, while roughly two-thirds of survivors remain displaced and two in five cite out-of-pocket costs as their biggest barrier to rebuilding.

Los Angeles-based mission-driven lender is testing a new approach to closing part of that gap.

Lendistry Home Loans has launched a Disaster Recovery Mortgage pilot, initially targeting homeowners affected by the fires in Altadena and Pacific Palisades. The program begins with $20 million in seed capital and is designed to combine traditional mortgage financing with subsidized patient capital and public support.

The ambition is larger than the more than 40 homes the initial funding is expected to finance. Lendistry sees Los Angeles as a proving ground for a disaster-recovery financing model that could eventually be deployed following future catastrophes across California and beyond. “The core problem LHL seeks to solve is a significant financing gap: insurance proceeds and other recovery funds are not fully covering the expense of rebuilding for many homeowners in LA,” said Lynn von Koch-Liebert, Head of Public Economic Development at Lendistry.

Across four listening sessions with wildfire survivors, she said, insufficient funding repeatedly emerged as one of the greatest obstacles to returning home.

The Department of Angels survey data underscores the scale of that challenge. More than a year and a half after the fires, approximately two-thirds of survivors remain displaced, while two in five identify out-of-pocket costs as their biggest barrier. The research estimates the overall rebuilding financing shortfall at roughly $5 billion, with a median gap of approximately $500,000 to $600,000 per household.

The disparity can become even greater in some of the region’s most expensive communities. According to the Department of Angels data cited by Lendistry, the median total-loss homeowner faces a roughly $500,000 shortfall after insurance payouts, while in Malibu and Pacific Palisades the median gap exceeds $1 million, which can put even homeowners with significant equity in an unusual financial position.

Consider a homeowner facing a $750,000 rebuilding bill but receiving only $450,000 from insurance. That leaves $300,000 to finance before accounting for other expenses. The same homeowner may simultaneously be paying rent, carrying an existing mortgage or waiting for insurance or settlement proceeds that have yet to arrive. “Conventional lenders may decline to fund this individual given the homeowner’s existing obligations, limited liquidity, or the loan amount relative to current property value,” von Koch-Liebert said.

The Disaster Recovery Mortgage is designed around those circumstances. Rather than requiring a homeowner to obtain a construction loan and later refinance into a conventional mortgage, the program is structured as a construction-to-permanent mortgage. One closing finances construction and ultimately converts into long-term financing.

Depending on the borrower’s circumstances, financing can combine a first mortgage with a subsidized “silent second,” on which principal and interest can be deferred. An interest reserve may also reduce mortgage costs during construction - a potentially significant benefit for displaced homeowners already paying rent.

First mortgages range from approximately $100,000 to $3 million, with silent-second financing from $50,000 to $250,000 and loan terms running from 15 to 30 years.

The program covers owner-occupied single-family homes, two- to four-unit properties and accessory dwelling units built alongside a primary residence. Underwriting can also recognize additional qualifying income sources, including anticipated ADU rental income.

The structure reflects a central challenge emerging from the recovery: financial programs designed for ordinary home construction do not necessarily work after an extraordinary disaster.”Existing recovery resources each solve part of the problem but not the whole equation,” von Koch-Liebert said. “Insurance covers only insured losses, public assistance has eligibility and funding limits, and conventional lenders underwrite construction loans to standards built for ordinary circumstances, not disaster recovery.”

Some homeowners have land value and insurance or settlement proceeds coming but still face a shortfall. Others have sufficient long-term income but cannot satisfy conventional liquidity requirements or afford another payment during construction.

The program was designed to blend private lending, patient capital and public support rather than relying on any single source.

It can also support construction before certain insurance or settlement proceeds arrive and requires participating homes to meet Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety Wildfire Prepared standards, connecting financing with future resiliency.

The initial $20 million comes from a $15 million commitment from Bank of America and $5 million from the California Community Foundation. Lendistry estimates that funding can support more than 40 home rebuilds.

The next objective is approximately $150 million to finance more than 250 homes, followed by an expansion to roughly $250 million and more than 450 homes.

Nearly 12,000 homes were destroyed in the Los Angeles fires, and Department of Angels’ research points to a multibillion-dollar gap between the resources available to survivors and the cost of rebuilding. Based on that broader need, Lendistry estimates approximately 6,000 homeowners could struggle to obtain the gap financing necessary to rebuild without a program like the Disaster Recovery Mortgage.

The model is intended to leverage private capital rather than replace it. Private financial institutions provide senior lending capital for first mortgages, while philanthropic and impact investors can supply patient capital supporting silent-second mortgages. Public resources can provide credit enhancements and affordability support designed to reduce risk to lenders.

California’s 2026-27 budget provides $100 million for the Disaster Rebuilding Assistance Program under the California Housing Finance Agency, which can include construction loan-loss guarantees and construction loan rate buydowns.

Lendistry estimates every dollar of patient capital can unlock at least four dollars of private financing, with the potential for additional leverage as loans are repaid or sold and capital is recycled into additional rebuilds.

The program grew out of conversations with residents rather than beginning solely as a financial product, according to Lendistry.

The organization held public listening sessions with survivors in Altadena and Pacific Palisades and consulted community organizations, construction and resiliency experts, housing and mortgage professionals, philanthropic organizations, financial institutions and state and local policymakers.

Those discussions included California legislators, the California Housing and Homelessness Agency and Gov. Gavin Newsom’s office. What emerged, von Koch-Liebert said, was that survivors needed more than cheaper capital.

They needed underwriting capable of recognizing the financial disruption caused by a disaster. That feedback led to features including interest reserves during construction, silent-second financing, broader underwriting parameters, recognition of ADU income, homeowner counseling and construction-navigation assistance.

The model also raises an important question: whether offering additional debt to families who have already suffered catastrophic losses creates another financial burden.

Von Koch-Liebert said the program is structured around borrowers’ ability to sustain the financing. “DRM does two critical things: it pays off any existing mortgage on a home that no longer exists, and it finances a new home on the same lot, so homeowners aren’t carrying two mortgages, or a mortgage plus rent, while also building new equity,” she said. “As a matter of law and principle, Lendistry will never lend to someone it doesn’t believe can repay.”

Borrowers also complete home-loan education, meet with a licensed mortgage loan officer and can access triage, technical assistance and construction-navigation support through The Center by Lendistry, the lender’s affiliated nonprofit, but the stakes of rebuilding extend beyond individual mortgages.

Every month residents remain displaced can affect the broader economic ecosystem of neighborhoods recovering from the fires.”Permanent displacement damages community health well beyond the individual homeowner,” said Teddy Larkin, Senior Government Relations Manager for Lendistry.

Small businesses supported by The Center by Lendistry have already seen reduced foot traffic and customer retention since the fires, she said.”At scale, prolonged displacement means families leaving for good, schools losing students, businesses losing customers, vacant properties, and a weakened local tax base and community institutions,” Larkin said. “Rebuilding restores that crucial economic and social fabric.”

That dynamic is particularly consequential in places such as Pacific Palisades and Altadena, where the recovery conversation increasingly extends beyond how quickly buildings can be reconstructed to who will ultimately be able to return. “In communities like Altadena and the Palisades, the real question isn’t just how many structures get rebuilt, but whether the people who lived there before the fire can afford to come back,” Larkin said. “Reducing that risk of permanent displacement and lost homeownership is the program’s specific aim.”

That is also what makes the Los Angeles pilot potentially significant beyond this disaster. Underinsurance, soaring construction costs, delayed insurance payments and homeowners whose post-disaster finances no longer fit traditional underwriting criteria are not unique to the January 2025 fires.

Lendistry intends to use the first phase to determine whether borrowers can be successfully underwritten, financed through construction and transitioned into sustainable long-term mortgages. If the model performs, the organization hopes additional lenders and investors will participate. “LA is deliberately the proving ground for a model meant to extend to future disasters,” von Koch-Liebert said.

The roadmap calls for moving from the $20 million launch to a $150 million pilot and then a $250 million expansion, with the longer-term objective of bringing other lenders into the market.

Applications for the initial Disaster Recovery Mortgage pilot are expected to become available in early fall 2026 as Lendistry continues raising private, philanthropic and public capital to expand the program.

But Everett Sands, CEO of Lendistry, said the ultimate measure of the program will not be how much money is loaned.

“We’ll know the program has worked when families return to rebuilt homes and stay there sustainably,” Sands said. “Dollars deployed and loans originated matter as near-term indicators that capital is reaching homeowners, but they’re not the end goal - completed rebuilds, restored homeownership, and reduced permanent displacement are.”

Near-term measures will include applications, loans originated, capital deployed and construction starts. Longer term, Sands said, Lendistry will look at homes completed, families returned and whether borrowers can sustain their mortgages after construction.

“That’s why our targets are expressed in homes financed and rebuilt, not just dollars lent,” Sands said.

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SMMUSD

FROM PAGE 1

of support for the "Excellent Santa Monica Public Schools Parcel Tax Measure," which would levy $495 a year on each taxable parcel in Santa Monica, adjusted for inflation. Chief Operations Officer Carey Upton, reading the resolution into the record, said the measure "does not create any new funding; it replaces the source of funding previously provided through the master facility use agreement."

That agreement, known as the MFUA, currently sends the district roughly $12 million a year — the equivalent of about 5% of its workforce — but is scheduled to end June 30, 2027. The Santa Monica City Council declared local fiscal distress in September 2025, and district leaders warned that losing the money without a replacement would be devastating.

"Losing the master facilities use agreement would be catastrophic," board member Stacy Rouse said, describing a budget she called tight even in a "basic aid" district that draws excess local property tax.

Board member Jon Kean framed his support as a way to end the district's financial reliance on the city. "In the past eight years, I have been in dozens of meetings where the master facility use was used as a cudgel," he said. "It was used as a carrot and a stick." He added that he did not want the city to have "that sort of Damocles over our head anymore."

Board member Jennifer Smith tied her vote to the volatility of California school funding. "We need to stabilize school funding as much as we can," she said, arguing the measure "actually creates more stability." Board member Maria Leon-Vazquez said local control was essential to preserving what she called "a community school district," one that enrolls the children of city, college and district employees who live outside district boundaries.

The measure, brought forward by the nonprofit Santa Monicans for Reliable School Funding, includes exemptions for qualifying seniors, affordable housing, nonprofits and religious organizations, and bars spending on administrator salaries, land acquisition or capital construction. It requires independent oversight and annual performance audits. If approved, it is estimated to generate about $11 million a year.

Board members stressed that community use of school facilities is protected by law and does not depend on the measure. Upton said district and city staff have already begun discussing an agreement to preserve city-run programs if the tax passes. Board Vice-President Laurie Lieberman said a new facilities agreement would be difficult to negotiate until voters decide the measure's fate, warning that if it fails, "we're in a much, much deeper hole." Board member Rouse suggested a nominal agreement "even if it's for $1" to signal good faith.

Board President Alicia Mignano called the roll on each item. On the parcel tax, Rouse voted yes but added "with humility as a Malibu resident" that she "wouldn't carry the burden that other people carry." Malibu student board member Parker Kaplan abstained.

The board also approved its first 45-day budget revision in four to five years, a step required when the enacted state budget differs significantly from the spending plan the board adopted in June. Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Gerardo Cruz — who quipped, "I will not make this 45 minutes. Don't worry, we'll make it 10" — said the revision reflects about $11.23 million in newly finalized state and federal funding. Most is restricted, he cautioned, and cannot flow to the district's day-to-day operating fund.

The largest piece, roughly $7.49 million, is a one-time Student Support and Professional Development Block Grant. About $3 million in additional special education money, passed through the Tri-City SELPA shared with Beverly Hills and Culver City, is the only portion that meaningfully eases the general fund. Cruz said special education is "woefully underfunded, not only at our district, not only across the state, but across the nation." Smaller amounts include about $280,000 for expanded learning and $490,000 in learning-recovery funds. A school-level equity multiplier allocation for Olympic High School remains pending state certification. The revision passed unanimously and will be formally booked into the district's ledger at the First Interim report in December.

Finally, the board adopted Resolution No. 26-05, assigning delinquent property-tax receivables to the California Statewide Delinquent Tax Finance Authority for the fiscal years ending in 2026, 2027 and 2028. Cruz said the district, which has participated since 2002, contracts the collection of late payments through School Services of California, as do "99% of all school districts in California." Board member Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein moved the resolution and Smith seconded it; it passed with no dissenting votes.

maaz@smdp.com

GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 3

disputes, watching attorney fees and outside investors eat into their settlements before they ever saw a dime.

Families who lost everything were left behind by the system that was supposed to help them.

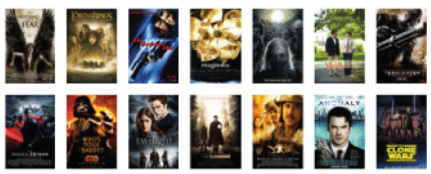
The recovery wasn't straightforward, but the solution is: real reform that invests in wildfire prevention, fixes the insurance market so coverage is affordable and available, and overhauls the recovery system so victims come first.

Every fire season that passes without reform is another season where a community like mine could go through exactly what we did — and come out the other side with even less to rebuild with.

California has the chance to change that before it happens again. I hope our leaders take that chance this year, not after the next fire forces their hand.

by Joe Denham

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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: **Proposed Amendments to the Text of the City's Zoning Ordinance to Increase Development Standards for 89 R1-Zoned Parcels in the Expo/Bundy Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Zone to Exclude the TOD Zone from Senate Bill 79 Implementation Until One Year Following the Adoption of the 7th Cycle Housing Element Pursuant to Government Code Section 65912.161(b)(1)**

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to adopt amendments to the City's Zoning Ordinance to allow eligible sites in the Expo/Bundy TOD Zone to be temporarily excluded from Senate Bill 79 implementation until 2030 – one year following the adoption of the 7th Cycle Housing Element. The proposed amendments shall include, but are not limited to, revisions to Santa Monica Municipal Code Chapter 9.06 (Transit-Oriented Development Zones) and strategic increases to local development standards for 89 R1-zoned parcels in the Expo/Bundy TOD Zone located north of the I-10 Freeway and east of Dorchester Avenue. On July 28, 2026, Council reviewed potential options regarding increases to development standards to qualify the Expo/Bundy TOD Zone for temporary exclusion from Senate Bill 79 and provided direction regarding the proposed amendments.

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 08, 2026 AT 5:30 PM**

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

HOW TO COMMENT:
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. Members of the public unable to attend a meeting but wishing to comment on an item(s) listed on the agenda may submit written comments prior to the public hearing via email to councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov or via mail to City Clerk, 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, California 90401. Written public comment submitted before 12:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting will be available for online viewing. All written comments shall be made part of the public record. Please note the agenda item number in the subject line of your written comments.

You may also comment in person at the City Council hearing. Please check the agenda for more detailed instructions on how to comment in person.

Address your comments to:
City Clerk
Re: Expo/Bundy R1 Parcels
VIA EMAIL: councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov
VIA MAIL: 1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION: If you want more information about this project, please contact Rachel Kwok by e-mail at Rachel.Kwok@santamonica.gov. For disability-related accommodations, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (310) 458-8211 or (310) 917-6626 TDD at least 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines serve City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is located at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, and is a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive, and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

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

ESPAÑOL: Este es un aviso público sobre las nuevas regulaciones para desarrollos residenciales en Santa Mónica. Si desea más información, favor de llamar a Ana Fernandez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-2201 ext. 2431 o envíe un correo electrónico a ana.fernandez@santamonica.gov

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00329. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Petition of Olivia Irene Montgomery for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Olivia Irene Montgomery filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Olivia Irene Montgomery to Olivia Irene Lynch. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 09/04/2026, Time: 8:30AM, Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 07/20/2026. Lawrence Cho, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 07/28/2026, 08/04/2026, 08/11/2026, 08/18/2026

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00348. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, 90012. Petition of Shireen Shekouh Heiba for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Shireen Shekouh Heiba filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Shireen Shekouh Heiba to Shireen Shekouh Heiba Nassiri. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 09/11/2026, Time: 8:30 AM, Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 07/28/2026. LAWRENCE H. CHO, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 08/11/2026, 08/18/2026, 08/25/2026, 09/01/2026

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NO. 26SMCP00366 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. PETITION OF OLIVIA TAE-HEE KIM FOR CHANGE OF NAME TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Olivia Tae-Hee Kim filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Olivia Tae-Hee Kim to Olivia Moon THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: September 18, 2026. Time: 8:30 AM. Dept.: K. The address of the court is as noted above.A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition, in the Santa Monica Daily Press, a newspaper of general circulation printed in this county.Date: August 5, 2026 LAWRENCE H. CHO Judge of the Superior Court SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 08/11/2026, 08/18/2026, 08/25/2026, 09/01/2026

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BACK TO SCHOOL

FROM PAGE 1

Student Adria Bini said a connection through her grandfather helped her secure an internship at the Mario Cucinella Architects firm in Bologna, Italy. She used that connection to email the head of the firm herself and began working as an intern shortly after.

For many students, the goal is to gain experience in a field they're considering for the future. Student Emma Berline said she approached her internships hoping to explore marketing and public relations before committing to a college major.

"I wanted to start figuring out what to study in college," Berline said. "Doing social media gave me a glimpse into that world, and working at a PR firm showed me the other side of how influencers and promotion work — it helped me see what I do and don't want to major in."

Through those experiences, Berline said she realized she preferred social media PR over traditional business PR — something she could see herself pursuing in the future.

A typical workday looks different for every intern, depending on the tasks they're given.

Student Audrey Shamooilian works at a clean beauty brand, where she spends two to three hours screwing caps onto products, organizing shelves and opening packages. Simple as the tasks are, she said they help her feel like part of a real work environment.

"It definitely does feel good to be a part of a work environment because it kind of motivates me even further for my future," Shamooilian said. "I see how well the team works together and how cool it is to have a really nice office space — it's definitely motivating."

Bini's hours looked different. Her internship spanned the full workday — arriving at the busy architecture office at 9 a.m. and working until 6 p.m. on research, presentations, model-making and observation.

Despite the hands-on experience, both students said they felt some initial discomfort starting out.

Bini said she felt intimidated as the only high school intern at the firm and was determined to prove her value to the team.

"I would definitely say it was intimidating being the only high school intern — being so young and feeling kind of out of place, also in a foreign country, and having to interact with these professionals and try and show that I'm worthy of being there," Bini said.

Berline faced a similar learning curve entering the PR field with little prior knowledge, saying she had to learn "on the spot."

Still, she said the reward has come in seeing the results of her work.

"What's been rewarding is looking at what my work has done for people — actually seeing views, actually seeing change," Berline said. "I'm actually making an impact."

Through their internships, the students said they've picked up skills and lessons beyond their specific fields — including how to handle rejection during the outreach process itself. For Shamooilian, that lesson proved especially valuable.

"When I'm applying in the future, it's taught me not to be afraid to reach out twice," she said. "Sometimes you email once and you don't get a response, but it's always okay to go back and get out there again, because it's not embarrassing at all — it's really only helping you gain, not lose."

Berline said those lessons are exactly why she encourages other students to pursue internships when they can.

"If any teen has the opportunity for an internship or a job experience anywhere in their high school career, they should do it," she said. "You'll learn something you won't learn in school or through your parents."

META

FROM PAGE 2

The Oakland case, meanwhile, has state attorneys general as the plaintiffs and centers on state and federal statutes they allege Meta violated, which lay out potential penalty amounts for each violation.

"And there's a lot of them because it's four different states and at least three different kinds of statutes. There's a child privacy statute, there's a false advertising statute and there's unfair competition statutes," said Rebecca Allensworth, a professor at Vanderbilt University Law School.

META HAS ADDED SAFETY TOOLS — BUT STATES WANT MORE

An outcome that leads to changes in how Facebook and Instagram operate could be as consequential as any financial penalty.

Meta has introduced a slew of new features in recent years designed to protect minors. In 2024 it launched teen accounts on Instagram, which are private by default and come with messaging and content restrictions, and parental controls. The company also uses artificial intelligence to determine if kids under 13 are using Instagram or if teenagers are lying about their age to access adult accounts.

Safety advocates have called on the company to do more. A New Mexico judge earlier this month ordered new safety measures on the platforms including time limits for minors, AI chatbot restrictions, and mandatory warnings on the platforms, but his order applied only to users in the state.

"These AGs have a real chance at fixing the product," Laura Marquez-Garrett of the Social Media Victims Law Center said Friday in a virtual discussion with advocates hosted by the Tech Oversight Project. "For these companies, this is a real point of reckoning. As these cases go forward, this is a leap forward, folks, not a step."

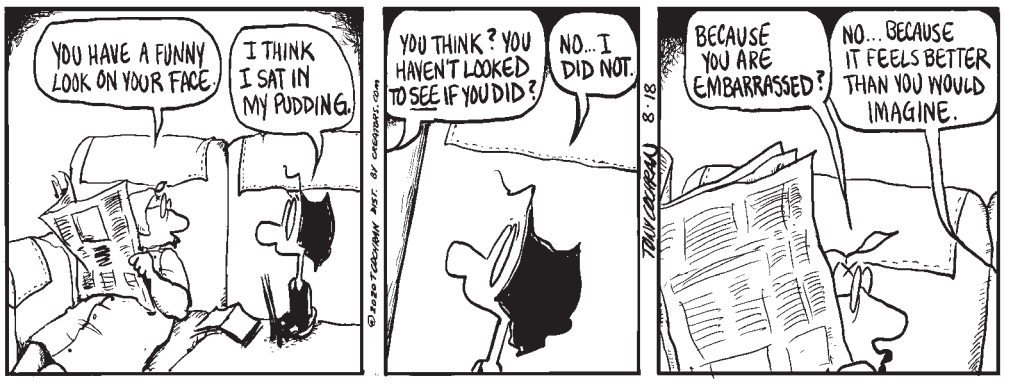
During jury selection last week, prospective jurors were asked whether and how much they believe Meta has contributed to the youth mental health crisis. While many agreed that it did, they also put responsibility on parents, and said things like climate change and the state of the world are also causing children's and teenagers' mental health issues.

By BARBARA ORTUTAY AP Technology Writer. AP Technology Writer Kaitlyn Huamani contributed to this report.

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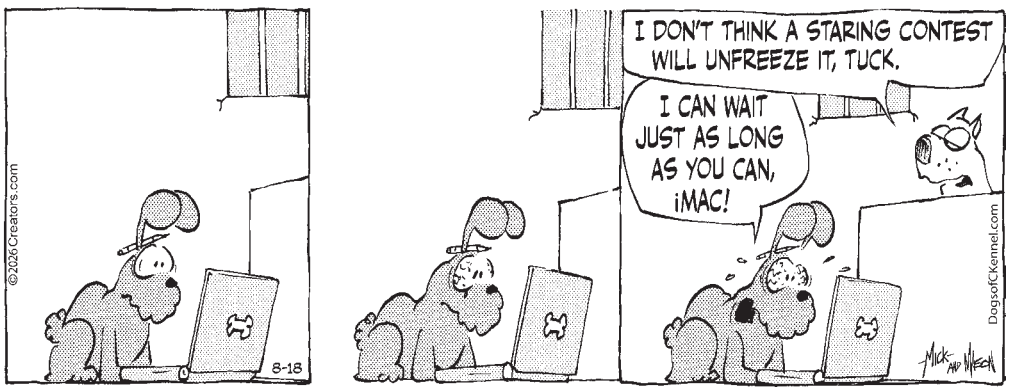
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



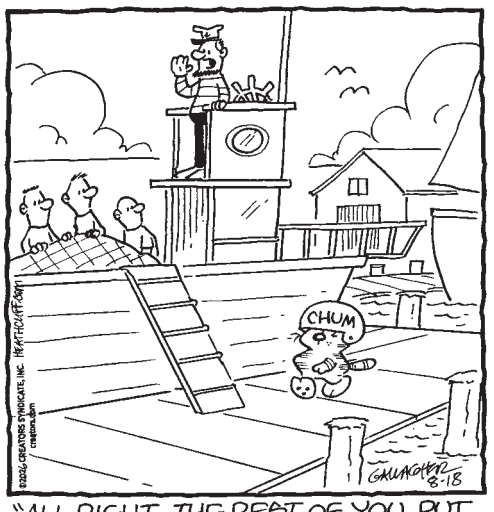
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By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"ALL RIGHT. THE REST OF YOU, PUT YOUR HELMETS ON."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 18 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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Fresh produce

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

Arts
Axes
Banana
Basil
Beans
Beet
Bike
Cash
Chai
Cherry
Chips
Citrus
Corn
Cos
Craft
Dill
Doors
Eggplant
Figs
Find
Fish
Flute
Food
Games
Garlic
Glass
Grow
Hats
Junk
Knives
Leek
Lemon
Lime
Lollies
Mint
Nectarine
Onion
Orange
Peach
Pets
Pick
Quilt
Roots
Sage
Scones
Shoes
Skis
Soap
Space
Spend
Treasure

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Random obscure character

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 18)

It's your Year of the Sun Throne. You've a radiant nurturing spirit others orbit and a steadfast rhythm they count on. Though you are widely and dearly loved, you never let it go to your head. More highlights: Invitations - some glamorous, some down-home, all fun. Your work becomes easier to value and easier to sell. A creative obsession drives the happiest parts of your year. Pisces and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 25, 9, 36, 14 and 48.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). People tolerate remarkable inconveniences until one lands in the middle of the morning commute. You'll be reminded that theoretical scenarios produce theoretical outcomes. But you don't really know how people will react to real life until they are.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Because you're alert, astute and open-minded, the day is flush with possibility. You're willing to take a chance at a long shot and risk missing entirely. The fails are the price of entry for a big, interesting life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Appreciation is often expressed to the people who get most of the credit anyway. Tending best to the powerful is lazy diplomacy. You'll lend a sense of balance as you acknowledge the work of the underdog.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). People feel your confidence in the simple choices, like deciding what to do and then doing it without explaining the decision. Your power moves are as subtle as the pause you take between one sentence and the next.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Before you get swept into the day's itinerary, check in on yourself. Ask: "What would make today count most to me?" Once you're centered in your own values and priorities, the rest is gravy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Maybe it's effective in dating apps, but in real life, people who want to make new friends don't typically lead with a list of requirements. You learn more in a 10-second face-to-face interaction than in hours of digital interaction.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're ramping up the productivity. Make sure you also increase your means of support, your access to resources and the organizational elements that allow you to scale. It's only progress if it's sustainable.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Why is it so hard to achieve happiness alone lately? Maybe because it's not an achievement so much as a byproduct. These days, it pops up in moments of service. The best moments will be collective.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Don't waste time scrutinizing your motive or anyone else's. Most decisions won't have a single noble cause or a single selfish one either. Ambition mixes with fear, generosity with pride. You don't need a perfect motive to make a good decision.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A trusted entourage can provide the buffer that protects you from harsh realities. But today, you crave the truth and don't want anyone to soften it. By taking things head on, you will move on. Make haste.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're not seeking the shiny prize, the big-dollar bottom line or the admiration of your peers. Those are just different ways of getting to what you're really after: freedom. Which path allows the most room to be yourself?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Today's uncertainty isn't so scary. It's the blindfold that takes away one of your senses, only to make the others stronger. Your psychic feelers are extended, and they go first, like hands patting to find the way in the pitch-black dark.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

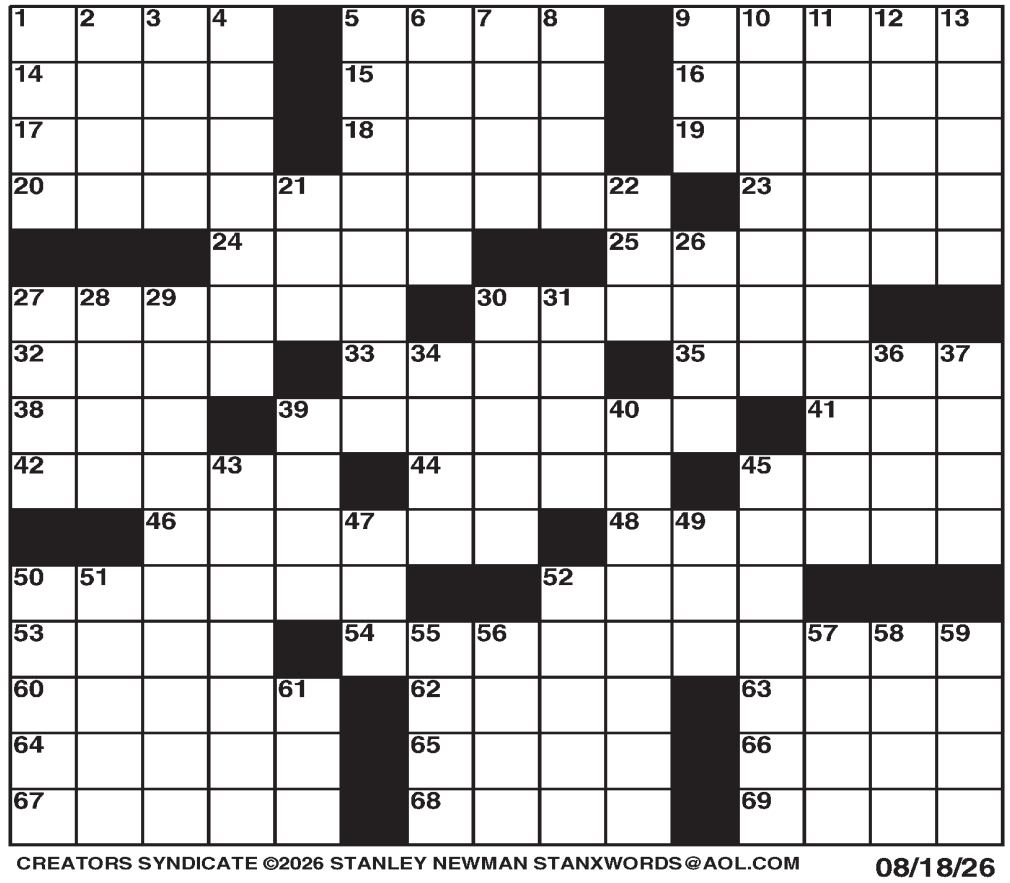
MONEY-SAVING SPOTS by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Antlered animal
5 Untidy room
9 Scrub thoroughly
14 Enthusiastic review
15 Three-layer cookie
16 Shake out of sleep
17 Top poker pair
18 Countrywide: Abbr.
19 Throw __ towel (give up)
20 Store selling donated goods
23 Ran away
24 Needing urgent attention
25 Scornful looks
27 Show to be false
30 Swear (to)
32 Not doing anything
33 General's fighting force
35 Clear __ (not clear at all)
38 Meet with
39 Cinderella's shoe
41 Chimp or gorilla
42 Special talent
44 Adolescent
45 Imperfection, as in a diamond
46 Stamped and sent
48 "Not __" (courtroom pleading)
50 Thinly scattered
52 Detective's job
53 Makes a mistake
54 Suburbanite's fundraiser
60 Helps oneself to
62 "Half" prefix for circle
63 Cereal brand "for kids"
64 Perfect example
65 Sharp, as eyesight
66 Apex
67 Stylishly dressed
68 Walk wearily
69 Mares and fillies

DOWN

1 "Darn it!"
2 Per person
3 "...happily __ after"
4 Leftover trace, as of dirt
5 Quebec's largest city
6 Rub clean
7 Cain and Abel's brother
8 Song for one person
9 Asian country __ Lanka
10 Admit wrongdoing
11 Center with many brand-name stores
12 Theater attendant
13 Swamp grasses
21 __ as a fiddle (healthy)
22 L.A. summer clock setting
26 Very close
27 Jeopardize
28 Adam's first home
29 Outdoor space with secondhand dealers
30 Very excited, with "up"
31 Work at a keyboard
34 Solemn ceremony
36 Show __ (attend)
37 Moist, as morning grass
39 Glides down snowy slopes
40 Hiring, as a consultant
43 Chair for an on-the-road tot
45 Mexican parties
47 Turkey drumstick
49 Try out
50 __ stone (unchangeable)
51 Gucci handbag rival
52 Small role for a big star
55 Poses a question
56 Fishing rod spool
57 Curve of a foot
58 Green citrus fruit
59 Former partners
61 Crafty



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08/18/26

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



TUESDAY | AUGUST 18

LADIES GOLF CLINIC
9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Four Wood Golf 828 Pico Blvd, Suite 5 Santa Monica. Join us every Tuesday from 9:30–11:00 AM for a relaxed, social golf experience designed for women of all skill levels. Whether you're picking up a club for the first time or looking to build confidence in your game, Matchas & Mulligans is all about learning, connecting, and having fun in a welcoming, pressure-free environment. Led by our in-house golf pros, you'll learn new skills each session. Blend of light instruction with a social atmosphere — the ladies' clinic is perfect for improving your skills while meeting like-minded golfers. $60.00. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/ladies-golf-clinic/19572527/2026-08-18T09

ACRYLIC/OIL PAINTING WORKSHOP TUESDAY
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Paint Lab 1453 14th St Santa Monica. In this workshop each student will work on their own project with guidance from an instructor. The adult acrylic/oil workshop is $48.00 plus the cost of canvas (canvas available for purchase in studio). Workshop cost includes easel set up, paint, brushes, apron, 2 hours of instruction and clean up. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/acrylic-oil-painting-workshop-tuesday/19429773/2026-08-11T13

WALK-IN TUTORING WITH LAURIE
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. West Los Angeles Regional Library 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles. Walk-In Tutoring With Laurie Walk-in tutoring is available for any adult who needs help with internet searches, filling out forms, English conversation, reading, writing, resumes, and applications. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/walk-in-tutoring-with-laurie/17128550/2026-08-04T14

ELEMENTARY ART STUDIO 3:30-4:20PM
3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Palisades Community Renewal Center 3212 Nebraska Ave Santa Monica. Open to all skill levels, sparking creativity through drawing, color work, collage, and mixed-media techniques. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/elementary-art-studio-3-30-4-20pm/18825639/2026-08-04T15

WEEKLY WALKING CLUB
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Near Palisades Recreation Center Toyopa Drive and Alma Real Drive Pacific Palisades. A weekly walking club will meet on Tuesdays for approximately one hour to walk 1.5 to 2 miles. The group will meet at the corner of Toyopa and Alma Real. All levels are welcome. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/weekly-walking-club/19106860/2026-08-04T16

LET'S BINGO AGAIN TUESDAYS 7-10 PM
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Ace Hotel Los Angeles 929 S Broadway, Los Angeles. Show up. Eat good things. Mark squares. Win things. It's that simple. Bingo at King's Highway hosted by our sparkly girl Vanity Halston this Tuesday 12.27.25. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/let-s-bingo-again-tuesdays-7-10-pm/18565296/2026-08-11T19

SHESPEAKS
8:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. The Crow 2525 Michigan Ave #Unit F4 Santa Monica. A comedy and storytelling community for women with open mic, hosted by Tergel Purevdorj and Amy Jin. Stories. Community. Connection. $28.45. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/shespeaks/19518096/2026-08-18T20

WEDNESDAY | AUGUST 19

MOBILE COMMUNITY MEDITATION CENTER - GUIDED MEDITATION
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Santa Monica Beach lot 5 South 2600 Bernard Way Santa Monica. Please join Mobile Community Meditation Center aka Buddhist Boondockers Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 10 am for a 45 minute fully guided mindfulness meditation - on the grass, under the shade of the trees, with a stunning view of the sparkling ocean. Whether you're new to meditation or a seasoned practitioner, everyone is welcomed. Bring your own chair or cushion and try to arrive 5 minutes early and be ready to enjoy a truly peaceful moment as we relax, be present and make new friends; giving ourselves the love and attention we deserve by quieting our minds, finding peace and creating community. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/mobile-community-meditation-center-guided-meditation/19479748/2026-08-05T10

TODDLER STORYTIME AND SONGS
10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. West Los Angeles Regional Library 11360 Santa Monica Boulevard Los Angeles. Toddler Storytime and Songs Join us for storytime on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. We share stories, songs, and movement activities to build early literacy skills for toddlers aged 18 months to 3 years. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/toddler-storytime-and-songs/18526513/2026-08-05T10

PALIBU RIBBON CUTTIN
1:00 p.m. Swarthmore Avenue Pacific Palisades, CA. Malibu Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce will host a ribbon cutting for the return of the Pacific Palisades Farmers Market. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/palibu-ribbon-cutting/19481194/2026-08-19T13

MIDDAY YOGA ON WEDNESDAYS
1:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Palisades Community Renewal Center 3212 Nebraska Ave Santa Monica. Free Community Yoga created with care for those impacted by the Palisades Fire In case this event has been updated, please visit https://www.pcrcsm.org/event/midday-yoga-on-wednesdays-b7af2 for full details before arriving. Thank you! Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/midday-yoga-on-wednesdays/19509303/2026-08-12T13

MAHJONG OPEN PLAY AT HOMESTATE SANTA MONICA X MAHJONG LOS ANGELES
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. HomeState 720 Wilshire Boulevard #Suite 101 Santa Monica. You're invited for a night of mahjong, friends + food. Play BIG.....with The BIG Card or your NMJL card. You're invited to GO BIG and practice with the 2026 NMJL Card. Each ticket includes - Food/Drink ticket for 1 cocktail + 2 vegetarian tacos Exclusive 2026 NMJL Card Overview from The Mahjong Line Ambassador, Carolyn of Mahj Los Angeles. Mahjong sets from The Mahjong Line used for play. Experienced players only. Book as group of 4 OR book as an individual to be matched with a group. Additional food & drinks available for purchase. $55.20. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/mahjong-open-play-at-homestate-santa-monica-x-mahjong-los-angeles/19545752/2026-08-19T17

THURSDAY | AUGUST 20

LOW IMPACT GROUP EXERCISE CLASS
11:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. American Legion Ronald Reagan-Palisades Post 283 15247 La Cruz Drive Pacific Palisades. Power up your Thursday with our free, low-impact group exercise classes — open to all members of the Legion Family, designed for every fitness level, and held from 11:00am to 12:00pm at Palisades Post 283. Come move, recharge, and feel great heading into the rest of your day! Sign up here to receive emails about upcoming exercise classes and cancellations: post283.com/exercise. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/event-3/#/details/low-impact-group-exercise-class/18566926/2026-08-06T11

HAMA SUSHI - MUSIC OPEN MIC (THURSDAYS)
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. 352 Westminster Ave Venice. Thursday nights in Venice! Open Mic at Hama Sushi. Exciting things are happening at Hama Sushi! Open Mic every Thursday 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. Come on down to Hama. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/event-3/#/details/hama-sushi-music-open-mic-thursdays-/18526607/2026-08-06T18

AUGUST OIL CHANGE SOCIAL
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. The Wanderwell Society 2481 Lincoln Boulevard Los Angeles. It's our monthly party where we welcome the public into our Venice Workshop, cook up some tasty grub, and change a few lucky people's oil! $0.00 to $23.18. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/august-oil-change-social/19549657/2026-08-20T18

COUPLES SCRAMBLE
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Four Wood Golf 828 Pico Blvd, Suite 5 Santa Monica. Get ready for a date night with a twist—join us for our Couples Night Two-Person Scramble! Whether you've been together for years or just matched last week, this event is all about spending quality time with your partner, side by side on the course—showing them who's really got the best drive... sign up for our next Couples Night on Thursday, August 20th. Time: 6:30 PM – 9 PM. Tee time: 7:00 PM. Free for members and 1 guest, $30 for non-members, free for spectators. Highlights: Team up and play side-by-side with "scramble" rules. Prizes for standout pair and best team name. $30.00 — $30 for non-members, free for spectators. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/couples-scramble/19572524/2026-08-20T18

KIMBERLY HAYNES: INTO THE LIGHT - ALBUM CELEBRATION & RELEASE CONCERT
6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. The Village | Village Studios 1616 Butler Avenue Los Angeles. Join Kimberly Haynes to celebrate the release of "Into The Light" — an evening of live music, story, reception and signed CD's. $15.18 to $28.52. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/kimberly-haynes-into-the-light-album-celebration-release-concert/19545753/2026-08-20T18

COMEDY ON TAP: LAST CALL
7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p0m. JuneShine 2914 Main Street Santa Monica. The best standup comedians in LA tell jokes at the coolest hard kombucha taphouse in the world. DOORS @ 7:00pm, SHOW @ 7:30pm. $14.64. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/comedy-on-tap-last-call/19580786/2026-08-20T19

CASTANEA SICILIAN CAFE - EARLY BIRD SPECIAL
9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Castanea Cafe 1307 Ocean Front Walk Venice. Enjoy 50% OFF all coffees at Castanea Venice Beach ?? Early Bird special every Mon–Thu from 9–10am. Start your morning with premium coffee at a special price – limited time offer! Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/castanea-sicilian-cafe-early-bird-special/18847307/2026-08-20T21

FRIDAY | AUGUST 21

PALISADIAN COFFEE AND CHAT
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Palisades Garden Cafe 15231 La Cruz Dr Pacific Palisades. An informal hello run by Palisadian resident Rebecca Martin. No Agenda, no powerpoint, just a chance to say hello for those who have moved back to the Palisades, or are working on it. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/palisadian-coffee-and-chat/19242128/2026-08-07T09

SUMMER FAMILY MOVIE NIGHTS AT THE CAYTON
Join us every Friday this summer for family movie night! Featuring after-hours museum access, themed activities, snacks, and favorite films. Perfect for little ones who can't sit through a full movie! (Movie nights run from 5-8PM) Summer Movie Schedule: 6/26 Space Jam, 7/3 Homeward Bound, 7/10 Encanto, 7/17 Lyle, Lye Crocodile, 7/24 Honey, I Shrunk the Kids, 7/31 Happy Feet, 8/7 Ratatouille, 8/14 Hook, 8/21 Coco, 8/28 Matilda. Private Movie Screenings. Bring movie night to your next celebration. Private screenings are available for birthday parties, group events, and special gatherings Contact our team to create a custom movie experience at Cayton Children's Museum.

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POKER TOURNAMENT

PAL SANTA MONICA

21 & OVER

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Poker Lessons | 5:30 PM

First Hand Dealt | 6:00 PM SHARP

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