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2 Fake AI Cases

State Farm lawyers admit fabrication in LA lawsuit.

3 Shaping National Conflicts

How California's midterm election could ripple outward.



4 Local Emergency Declared

Malibu speeds encampment removals as fire conditions worsen.

5 Office of Gender Equity

Horvath moves to explore new LA County plan.

Volume 25 Issue 194

WEDNESDAY 8/19/26

smdp.com

Back-to-School shoppers tighten belts even as spending hits record highs

SOPHIA FRIEDMAN

Special to the Daily Press

Back-to-school shopping is back in full swing as students and parents prepare for the upcoming school year. But the 2026 season is increasingly defined by disciplined spending, even as some forecasts point to record-breaking totals.

The National Retail Federation expects the market to reach an all-time high of \$43.3 billion. Still, parents are taking a more cautious approach as inflation — which rose 4.2 percent in May — shapes their decisions.

That economic pressure has fueled growing pessimism among buyers. According to the 2026 Deloitte Back-to-School Survey, 57 percent of buyers believe the economy will continue to worsen.

The Deloitte survey found spending per child at \$557, largely stagnant compared with previous years. The National Retail Federation, by contrast, found spending at \$863.86 per family, reflecting an increase in dollar terms.

Deloitte projected the K-12 market to reach \$30.4 billion, a 6 percent decline, compared with the National Retail Federation's \$43.3 billion projection. The two organizations attribute the gap to

SEE **BACK TO SCHOOL** PAGE 6

Waitlist for Home-Delivered meals nears 100 as senior hunger deepens on Westside



Courtesy Image

FUNDS: Meals on Wheels West waitlist nears 100 seniors for first time in 50-year history amid funding shortfall.

MAAZ ALIN

SMDP Staff Writer

A waitlist for home-delivered meals to homebound seniors across

the Westside is approaching 100 people, a milestone that a local nonprofit says reflects a deepening senior hunger crisis and a federal funding formula that has not

kept pace with the region's aging population.

Meals on Wheels West said 93

SEE **MEALS** PAGE 7

Instagram-born book club walks its way across Los Angeles

MAAZ ALIN

SMDP Staff Writer

When Samantha Dockser and Morgan Messing set out to fix a problem in Los Angeles' literary scene, they started on Instagram.

The two founded Preoccupied LA after discovering that author talks and book events across the city were underattended. The obstacle, as they saw it, was that there was no single place to find out about them.

"There was no central place to see the book events happening all across LA on a given week," Dockser said.

Their account, @ThePreoccupied, began as a weekly roundup of literary happenings and has grown into a hub that connects readers with authors and independent bookstores. The community now counts more than 7,000 followers and has expanded to more than eight cities nationwide, with a Canadian chapter set to launch this fall.

At the center of the operation is the Preoccupied Walking Book Club, a monthly gathering that brings online followers together in person. Each month, readers meet a featured author for a neighborhood walk, building a connection before the group gathers at a local independent bookstore for conversation and a book signing.

"It's just a nice way to take that online community and bring it offline for an hour once a month,"

SEE **BOOK CLUB** PAGE 8

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DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026177100. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: PEAK ELECTRIC & CONTROLS, 5306 ALDRICH RD, SOUTH GATE, CA 90280, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): HENRY GONZALEZ, 5306 ALDRICH RD, SOUTH GATE, CA 90280. This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. 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/ Henry Gonzalez, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 08/18/2026. 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: 08/19/2026, 08/26/2026, 09/02/2026, 09/09/2026

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State Farm defense lawyers admit AI generated fake cases in LA lawsuit

Lawyers for a Los Angeles firm representing State Farm in a lawsuit involving the rebuilding of a home after a fire have apologized for artificial intelligence hallucinations in their filings.

The homeowner's lawyers discovered in motions filed by State Farm "cases that do not exist, quotes that do not exist, and holdings that do not exist," according to a filing by Eric Khodadian, who is representing Faalagilagi Meni-Siliga.

Meni-Siliga filed her lawsuit in July 2024, naming a contractor and the contractor's insurance company, a public adjuster and her homeowners insurance company, State Farm, as defendants.

A fire in her home in Carson, in Los Angeles County, in 2020 caused her home to become uninhabitable, according to the lawsuit. While her contractor was working on the home, a storm caused water damage. After what she said were delays getting State Farm's approval for repairs, the work on her home was never completed, according to a January court filing. She and her husband have drained their savings and retirement accounts, declared bankruptcy and lost their home to foreclosure, she wrote.

"My family and I have lost forever our family home," Meni-Siliga, a U.S. Postal Service carrier, wrote. "We do not come from money... It took many years and sacrifice for our family to purchase our home."

In its original answer to her complaints, State Farm said negligence by the plaintiff, her contractor and public adjuster led to the injuries and damages she suffered. The insurer also said she failed to bring her legal action within a year of the original loss or damage.

The case is set to go to trial in October.

The legal industry is increasingly turning to AI: 41% of law firms and 47% of corporate legal departments said they are using generative AI, according to one recent survey.

That has meant legal hallucinations have become more prevalent, said Daniel Ho, a law professor at Stanford University who has researched the issue. In one paper Ho co-wrote last year, he and fellow researchers found that a couple of companies "overstated" that their legal research tools could guarantee hallucination-free legal citations.

A database of legal hallucinations around the world maintained by a Paris-based legal researcher has found 1,922 cases so far; most of them occurred in the United States.

I was not aware that AI had been used, but as lead trial counsel I accept full responsibility for our filings

- Kenneth Katel

Last year, a California attorney was fined a record amount, \$10,000, for using ChatGPT in an opening brief that contained 21 made-up quotes out of 23.

Khodadian shared his findings at an Aug. 7 conference in Los Angeles Superior Court. He wrote in a filing later that a State Farm lawyer was "visibly enraged" afterward and followed him and his co-counsel down the hall, "repeatedly demanding to see the list" of mistakes they had found.

That lawyer was Kenneth Katel of the firm

SEE LAWSUIT PAGE 5

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GUEST COMMENTARY

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How California's midterm election could shape national political conflicts

When a professional political operative describes an election as "nationalized," it means the outcome could have consequences far beyond the locality in which it occurs and therefore is drawing outside attention and resources.

This year's congressional elections in California are a prime example, with two distinct and unusual aspects.

First and most obviously, Democrats are hoping to gain as many as five California seats in the House of Representatives due to a partisan gerrymander of the state's 52 districts last year. Thus the outcome in California could determine whether their party regains control of the House, where Republicans now hold a paper-thin majority.

Meanwhile, outside the five districts that Democrats hope to switch, there are safely Democratic districts where progressive candidates are jousting with mainstream rivals, a subset of the national party's ideological conflict.

One example is the duel between progressive state Sen. Aisha Wahab and Melissa Hernandez, president of the Bay Area Regional Transit board, over the East Bay Area congressional seat Eric Swalwell held until resigning amid allegations of sexual misconduct.

Another is in San Francisco, where state Sen. Scott Wiener faces San Francisco Supervisor Connie Chan for the seat that former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is vacating. While both are self-proclaimed progressives, there are specific issues dividing them, such as housing. Wiener has long championed making housing easier to build, but in San Francisco resisting development is a bedrock cause for those on the city's left.

There's another conflict on California's November ballot that's become nationalized: Proposition 40, which would impose a 5% tax on the wealth of California's roughly 200 billionaires. Once again, it's on two distinct levels.

First, it tests a concept of taxation that, if enacted, could spread to other states or even become a national issue. It has drawn attention in national political media and from national political figures, such as progressive icon Bernie Sanders.

Secondly, Prop. 40 has divided California Democrats and their political allies, somewhat mirroring the party's aforementioned national conflict.

Attacking the wealthy is a long-held tenet of left-leaning politics. In California, progressive politicians see Prop. 40 as an embodiment of that attitude. However, not-so-progressive Democrats — such as Gov. Gavin Newsom and Xavier Becerra, Newsom's almost-certain successor — are concerned about driving high-income taxpayers out of the state and undermining the state budget.

The state's unions are also divided. While Prop. 40 is sponsored by SEIU-UHW, a union of healthcare workers — and it would direct most of its new revenue to healthcare programs — the California Teachers Association and other influential unions are opposed because of that financial slant.

Prop. 40 joins three other California ballot measures in the last half-century that became nationalized: Proposition 13, the state's iconic tax limits adopted in 1978, sparked a national tax revolt; Proposition 187, passed in 1994, would have denied public services to undocumented immigrants had it not been overturned in the courts — it foretold an immigration policy debate that continues to rage — and Proposition 209, approved in 1996, prohibited affirmative action preferences by race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin in college admissions, public employment and public contracting.

Were it to pass, Prop. 40 could also reverberate nationally, but its approval remains uncertain as the 2026 campaign season narrows. Mail voting will begin in just seven weeks.

Seemingly countless millions of dollars are being spent on the measure, particularly by its wealthy opponents. And the latest poll, conducted by the Institute of Governmental Studies at UC Berkeley, found 48% of likely voters support it, 41% oppose it and 11% are undecided.

That translates into a maybe — maybe a win, maybe a loss and maybe a national impact.

By Dan Walters



Surf report WATER TEMP: 71.4

WEDNESDAY
FAIR | **SURF:** 2-3ft+
Thigh to stomach

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.

THURSDAY
POOR TO FAIR | **SURF:** 2-3ft
Thigh to waist

Surf staying fun as swell mix continues. Southerly winds expected to stay on the lighter side. SSW swell holds along with homegrown NW windswell, for widespread waves running in the waist-chest high range, as top combo breaks out west see some better sets. Light SSE winds due in the morning, go light+ SW for the afternoon.



Wednesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 78.

Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 60.

Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 79.

Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 69.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2026/08/22	Sat	08:49 AM	3.63	H
2026/08/22	Sat	12:15 PM	3.27	L
2026/08/22	Sat	6:25 PM	5.14	H
2026/08/23	Sun	02:03 AM	0.31	L
2026/08/23	Sun	08:58 AM	3.79	H
2026/08/23	Sun	1:06 PM	3.00	L
2026/08/23	Sun	7:12 PM	5.46	H



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 Draw Date: 8/17 8 15 25 49 65 Power#: 22 Jackpot: 48 M	 Draw Date: 8/17 7 15 21 33 34
 Draw Date: 8/14 3 23 27 46 60 Mega#: 11 Jackpot: 100 M	 Draw Date: 8/17 EVENING: 8 4 5 Draw Date: 8/17 MIDDAY: 4 5 7
 Draw Date: 8/15 6 8 17 18 31 Mega#: 19 Jackpot: 47 M	 Draw Date: 8/17 1st: 07 - Eureka 2nd: 10 - Solid Gold 3rd: 08 - Gorgeous George Race Time: 1:40.86

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Name Change

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026134808. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: HANAMI AT HOME, 13204 1/2 RIVERSIDE DR, SHERMAN OAKS, CA 91423, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): ALEXANDER LEO GIVENS-BARAN, 13204 1/2 RIVERSIDE DR, SHERMAN OAKS, CA 91423. This business is conducted by: an Individual. 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/ ALEXANDER LEO GIVENS-BARAN, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 06/22/2026. 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: 08/12/2026, 08/19/2026, 08/26/2026, 09/02/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026168113. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: FUTURE DAZE VINTAGE, 12218 VENICE BLVD, LOS ANGELES, CA 90066, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): FUTURE DAZE VINTAGE LLC, 12218 VENICE BLVD, LOS ANGELES, CA 90066. 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 08/2026. 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/ CAROLINE OVERBECK, PRESIDENT. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 08/05/2026. 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: 08/12/2026, 08/19/2026, 08/26/2026, 09/02/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026168624. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: CASTINE SECURITY, 440 N BARRANCA AVE #8180, COVINA, CA 91723, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): CASTINE LABS LLC, 440 N BARRANCA AVE #8180, COVINA, CA 91723. 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 08/2026. 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/ WILLIAM LOVELY, MANAGER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 08/05/2026. 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: 08/12/2026, 08/19/2026, 08/26/2026, 09/02/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026172432. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: DREAMS VENDING SOLUTIONS, 1531 15TH STREET 2, SANTA MONICA, CA 90404, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): CALIFORNIA FOOD AND SERVICES, LLC, 1531 15TH STREET #2, SANTA MONICA, CA 90404. 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 08/2026. 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/ MARIE ESPINO, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 08/11/2026. 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 to publish on: 08/19/2026, 08/26/2026, 09/02/2026, 09/09/2026

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Malibu

Malibu Declares Local Emergency to Speed Encampment Removals as Fire Conditions Worsen

The Malibu City Council unanimously approved a declaration of local emergency on Aug. 10 after live fuel moisture levels in the Santa Monica Mountains fell below 65%, the threshold the council set for hazardous fire conditions.

The declaration allows the city — all of which lies within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone — to act more quickly to remove homeless encampments and reduce the risk of fires tied to unpermitted camping.

"Declaring a local emergency provides an important proactive measure to reduce wildfire risk and protects lives and homes in Malibu as fire conditions worsen as we move towards the peak fire season," Mayor Bruce Silverstein said. He said the declaration lets the city act swiftly while maintaining a balanced approach that protects both public safety and vulnerable community members.

Live fuel moisture measures the percentage of water in living plants and is a key wildfire threat indicator. The Los Angeles County Fire Department takes fuel samples every two weeks. At 60% moisture, vegetation burns as if dead, allowing fires to grow rapidly and posing a greater risk to lives, property and the environment. The most recent sample came in at 63%, down from 67%.

Under normal conditions, state law requires a more extensive noticing process before removals. The emergency declaration allows them to be completed within a day.

The 2026 Homeless Count found Malibu's unhoused population had declined to 27 individuals and 16 dwellings — including tents, cars, RVs, vans and makeshift shelters — the lowest since the city began tracking in 2016. The figure is down from 46 in 2025, 69 in 2024, 71 in 2023, 81 in 2022 and 157 in 2021. The city's Homeless Outreach Team, operated by The People Concern, connects individuals with permanent housing, interim placements and family reunification services.

Working with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Malibu cleared 44 encampments in 2025, 44 in 2024 and 29 in 2023.

The declaration remains in effect until the city receives at least two inches of rain, live fuel moisture reaches at least 80%, and there have been no Fire Weather Watches or Red Flag Warnings for two weeks, with none in the forecast. The staff report is available at <https://www.malibucity.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/8256?fileID=91260>.

Residents are urged to monitor conditions via Watch Duty at <https://app.watchduty.org>, prepare emergency plans and supplies, and sign up for alerts from the city at www.MalibuCity.org/news and the county at <https://alertlacounty.genasys.com/portal/en/register>. Learn more about power outages at <https://ready.lacounty.gov/power-outage/> and fire safety at www.MalibuCity.org/FireSafety.

Declaring a local emergency provides an important proactive measure to reduce wildfire risk and protects lives and homes in Malibu as fire conditions worsen as we move towards the peak fire season

- Bruce Silverstein, Mayor

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COMMUNITY NEWS

LA County

Supervisor Horvath moves to explore new LA County Office of Gender Equity

Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath introduced a motion to study whether the county should create an Office of Gender Equity, a new office that would coordinate gender equity efforts across county departments.

The proposed office would build on the county's work implementing the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, known as CEDAW, and its Gender Impact Assessment Program, which the county describes as nationally and internationally recognized. The office would provide centralized leadership and subject-matter expertise.

"Los Angeles County has a responsibility to lead on gender equity — and to make it real in the policies, programs, and services we deliver," Horvath said. "We have built a strong foundation for this work, but we need sustained leadership to carry it forward and embed gender equity across County government. That means building systems that work for everyone, including women, girls, transgender, gender-expansive, and gender-nonconforming people."

Horvath said the county has an opportunity "to ensure that gender equity is not just a goal, but a standard for how we govern," pointing to a moment when she said fundamental rights, health care and safety are under attack.

The proposal follows the 2024 sunset of the county's Women and Girls Initiative. The proposed office would help coordinate existing county programs and resources, support departments in identifying and addressing gender disparities, and keep gender equity a sustained priority across county government.

The motion was accepted with an amendment directing the chief executive officer, the Department of Public Health and county counsel to report back on the feasibility of establishing the office, including its purposes and opportunities to build on existing county programs.

“Los Angeles County has a responsibility to lead on gender equity — and to make it real in the policies, programs, and services we deliver

- Lindsey P. Horvath, Los Angeles
County Supervisor

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

LAWSUIT

FROM PAGE 2

Musick, Peeler & Garrett, who in his filing apologized to the court and to the plaintiff, explaining that his co-counsel told him she used AI to help prepare some filings.

"I was not aware that AI had been used, but as lead trial counsel I accept full responsibility for our filings," Katel wrote. He also told the court that his firm has updated its policy about AI use but did not provide specifics.

Katel disputed Khodadian's characterization of what happened after the hearing, though he wrote "it is accurate to say I was upset given the seriousness of the allegations."

Khodadian and Katel declined to answer questions from CalMatters.

The lawyer who used AI in motions on behalf of State Farm, Jacqueline Robinson, wrote in a filing that she confirmed there were seven case citations across eight filings "that

simply didn't exist," as well as some incorrect titles of cases and quotes that were not found in cases she cited.

Robinson said she used an AI tool called Irys, which she incorrectly thought was tied to her law firm's subscription to a legal research tool called Westlaw, which she thought "performed an internal cite check." She was mistaken, she wrote.

State Farm is reviewing what happened, spokesperson Tom Hartmann said. "State Farm expects its external counsel to conform to the highest level of ethical standards and professionalism, including confirming the accuracy of all legal filings," he said.

Hartmann did not respond to questions about how many external law firms represent State Farm, and whether the company asks about their AI policies before hiring them.

By Levi Sumagaysay. Levi Sumagaysay covers the California economy for CalMatters with an eye on accountability and equity.

An advertisement for Puroserve water filtration systems. The background is a light blue gradient with a stylized wave of water at the top. The main headline reads "CLEAN HEALTHY WATER" in large, bold, blue capital letters. Below it, the phrase "in your home or office" is written in a smaller, italicized blue font. A white rectangular box in the center contains a bulleted list of services: "Earth Friendly home water systems", "Reverse Osmosis drinking water (removes pharmaceuticals, impurities)", "Whole home water softeners", and "Water filtration". Below the list is the Puroserve logo, which consists of a blue water drop icon with a white checkmark inside, followed by the word "Puroserve" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. To the right of the logo is a square QR code. At the bottom of the advertisement, there is a dark blue horizontal bar containing a white telephone handset icon and the phone number "855-864-6800".

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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:

VIA EMAIL:

VIA MAIL:

Autonomous Vehicles

councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov

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 aplicaciones proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si desea más información, favor de llamar a Ana Fernandez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-2201 ext. 2431 o envíe un correo electrónico a ana.fernandez@santamonica.gov

GAS PRICES IN SANTA MONICA

	CHEVRON 432 Wilshire Blvd	\$5.99
	76 1776 Cloverfield Blvd	\$5.64
	CHEVRON 1732 Lincoln Blvd	\$5.69
	LINCOLN BLVD CAR WASH 1624 Lincoln Blvd	N/A
	CHEVRON 1732 Lincoln Blvd	\$5.69
	SPEEDWAY EXPRESS 2555 Lincoln Blvd	\$5.89
	CHEVRON 1330 Santa Monica Blvd	\$5.89
	MOBIL 731 Santa Monica Blvd	\$6.19
	ARCO 332 Pico Blvd	\$5.99
	CHEVRON 1819 Cloverfield Blvd	\$5.87

*Prices paying in card

Average gasoline prices in Los Angeles have fallen 2.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$5.60/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 2,135 stations in Los Angeles. Prices in Los Angeles are 9.2 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand \$1.18/g higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has increased 14.3 cents compared to a week ago and stands at \$5.418 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Los Angeles was priced at \$4.89/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$6.83/g, a difference of \$1.94/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$3.99/g while the highest was \$7.99/g, a difference of \$4.00/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 7.7 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$4.02/g today. The national average is up 3.6 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 93.1 cents per gallon higher 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

LA County

Poll finds rising public trust in LA County Superior Court

Public confidence in the Superior Court of Los Angeles County is climbing, according to a 2026 poll the court commissioned.

Sixty-seven percent of respondents said they had "a great deal" or "some" trust in the court, up from 64% in 2025 — again the highest rating among the government institutions surveyed. The poll also showed gains in how residents view the court's innovation, transparency and impartiality.

Sixty-one percent agreed the court is committed to protecting individual and civil rights, up from 60%, while 55% agreed it serves as an appropriate check on other branches of government, up from 53%. Among respondents with first-hand court experience, 70% said they were satisfied with the fairness of the process regardless of outcome, up from 69%. Half rated the court's job performance "excellent" or "good," up from 47%. Each gain was modest, but together they mark a consistent upward trend since 2025.

"A cornerstone of the Court's 2025-2028 Strategic Plan is building public trust and confidence in the judiciary," Presiding Judge Sergio C. Tapia II said. He said the priority remains "ensuring equal access to justice through the fair, timely, and effective resolution of all cases."

The poll also flagged room for improvement. Forty-seven percent said the court needs to do better at adopting new technologies and breaking down barriers with the public, down from 49%, while perceptions of inefficiency improved by a net 7 points.

Outside factors weighed on access. Sixty-eight percent said rising gas prices made them less likely to travel to a courthouse, and 57% said they were less likely to appear in person when federal immigration enforcement is near courthouses. While 61% preferred in-person visits, many showed interest in remote options through the court's website (54%), phone (40%) and local offices or kiosks (33%).

On artificial intelligence, 46% expressed general concern about its growing use in daily life, but 57% supported AI tools that help users find information, complete forms or access services. Court Executive Officer David W. Slayton said fostering innovation and improving efficiency remain priorities.

The full poll and information on the court's approach to AI are available on the court's website. The survey of 1,000 Los Angeles County adults was conducted May 7-18, 2026.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

A cornerstone
of the Court's
2025-2028
Strategic Plan
is building
public trust and
confidence in
the judiciary

- Sergio C. Tapia II, Presiding Judge

BACK TO SCHOOL

FROM PAGE 1

differences in survey size and timing: Deloitte surveyed a smaller pool in May, while the National Retail Federation surveyed a larger pool in June, capturing spending activity from major sales events such as Prime Day.

Parents' priorities are clear in how they're allocating their budgets. Within K-12 households, apparel spending is up 22 percent as families replace worn items, while spending on technology upgrades is being deferred, with an expected 16 percent decrease. The National Retail Federation, however, predicts electronics spending will rise among both K-12 and college students, noting more college shoppers plan to spend in that category.

Rather than spending all at once, 23 percent of consumers plan to spread their purchases over time, and 47 percent plan to buy only essentials and replenish supplies throughout the year, according to the National Retail Federation.

Much of this year's spending is being driven by what Deloitte calls "hyper-value seekers" — shoppers who rely on four or more cost-saving methods. Deloitte found 31 percent of shoppers fall into that category, and 54 percent said they used major June sales events, such as Prime Day and Target Circle Deal Days, specifically for school-related purchases.

Despite their focus on cutting costs, hyper-value seekers actually spend more: \$610 per

child on average, 14 percent above the overall figure.

Parents who use social media also tend to spend more, according to Deloitte, which found that shoppers using search engines, social media and generative AI spend \$737 per child, compared with \$381 for those who don't use those tools. Even so, the intent to buy online hasn't fully translated into purchases: Only 50 percent of K-12 shoppers and 41 percent of college shoppers who research online actually complete purchases there.

Retailers are adjusting to these cost-conscious trends by rolling out early promotions and value offerings to win over shoppers. Walmart, for example, has marked down select back-to-school items to 25 cents and cut prices on 14 of its most popular products, while Kohl's has listed thousands of items below \$25. Beyond price cuts, retailers are also courting hyper-value seekers with wider product assortments and more convenient shopping options.

In California, families are navigating a mix of regional inflation and state support this school year. Fuel prices have jumped 23.6 percent and shelter costs 2.8 percent, but the 2026-27 fiscal budget signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom aims to ease some of that pressure through universal school meals, tax relief and expanded student support.

Those efforts may help soften the blow, but for now, economic uncertainty continues to shape how parents spend — and that's expected to hold true through the rest of the school year.

MEALS

FROM PAGE 1

seniors in Santa Monica and surrounding communities are now waiting for the deliveries that keep them fed and safe, and the organization expects the list to reach 100 by the end of August. It is the first waitlist in the group's more than 50-year history. The list was created in November 2025 and has grown steadily since.

"When I hear we have 93 seniors waiting, I don't hear a number. I hear 93 people whose independence is hanging in the balance," said Kaylee Hawkins, the organization's executive director.

The people on the list are among the region's most vulnerable residents. The median age of current clients is 78, and nearly 8 in 10 live with a disability, most often mobility problems or chronic pain. Some 83% cannot safely cook for themselves. More than one in five are veterans or the spouses of veterans, and nearly one in four have experienced homelessness.

Isolation compounds the danger. Some 84% of clients eat alone almost always or often, and for 53% of them, the Meals on Wheels West volunteer or caller is one of the only people — sometimes the only person — checking on them at all.

Each week, the nonprofit delivers meals and wellness checks to hundreds of homebound seniors, veterans and people with disabilities in Santa Monica, Venice, Pacific Palisades, Marina del Rey and Malibu. Every meal arrives with a knock at the door, often a client's only in-person contact of the day, along with referrals to community resources. The approach is designed to catch small problems before they become medical emergencies. Feeding a client for a full year costs an average of \$3,360, typically less than a single overnight stay in a local emergency room.

The shortfall reflects strains across the region's safety net. Federal Older Americans Act funding, which flows to local agencies, has not grown as fast as the number of seniors who qualify. Many donors have shifted support toward recovery from the 2025 fires, and rising costs have made it harder for everyday givers to contribute at past levels. Local government partners have remained supportive, but their funding has not kept pace with demand.

Hawkins said the core problem lies with Washington, not city hall. "This isn't a story about government failing to write a check, but instead about funding formulas that haven't caught up to the rapidly changing demographics to write the right-sized check," she said.

The Older Americans Act, the backbone of senior nutrition funding nationwide, was written for a smaller, younger senior population than exists today, Hawkins said. Meals on Wheels America, the national organization that leads federal advocacy for member groups, has calculated that meeting true demand would require funding the act at \$2.285 billion a year. Instead, it has held flat at about \$1.059 billion.

The pressure is expected to intensify. Los Angeles County is undergoing a demographic

shift some call the "silver tsunami." By 2030, nearly one in four county residents will be 60 or older — a wave of aging residents colliding with rising food costs and a higher cost of living. For many homebound adults, the organization said, that means facing isolation and food insecurity alone, without nearby family or the means to keep up with grocery prices.

“

When I hear we
have 93 seniors
waiting, I don't
hear a number.
I hear 93
people whose
independence
is hanging in
the balance

- Kaylee Hawkins, the
organization's executive director

”

Meals on Wheels West has set an immediate goal of moving its 10 most vulnerable, longest-waiting neighbors into meal delivery by the end of the year. Hawkins was blunt that the target is a starting point, not a solution.

"Moving ten clients off the waitlist immediately isn't the ceiling — it's the floor," she said. "At \$3,360 a year per client, clearing our current list of 93 would take roughly \$312,000 in new annual funding," and that figure does not account for demand still to come.

Money is not the only way to help, Hawkins said. Volunteers are the organization's backbone, filling more than 40 delivery routes each day, and a separate friendly caller program offers social connection to clients who need it. She also urged residents to press elected officials to plan for an aging population and invited businesses to sponsor meals or connect the group with workplace giving programs.

The organization is asking for donations at mealsonwheelswest.org/endthewaitlist.

Meals on Wheels West is a community-based nonprofit serving homebound neighbors in Santa Monica, Venice, Pacific Palisades, Marina del Rey and Malibu.

maaz@smdp.com

GET IT DAILY...



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

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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6255

BOOK CLUB

FROM PAGE 1

Dockser said.

The path from a social media follower to a reader standing on a sidewalk runs through the platform. By following the account, Dockser said, people can find out exactly when and where the group will meet and which author will join them. Authors and brand partners reach out through the same channel.

"Instagram has been invaluable," Dockser said. "That is where our community lives."

Though Preoccupied LA shares book events across the greater Los Angeles area, its roots run deepest in Santa Monica, where the founders host their monthly walk and where they live.

"Santa Monica functions as our home base because it is in fact our home," Dockser said.

Even so, the pair make a concerted effort to support book events across the city. Their "Preoccupied Picks" shelves now appear in bookstores around greater Los Angeles, and Walking Book Club locations have begun popping up in other parts of the region.

The founders met, fittingly, at a book event.

"Fittingly, we met through a book event here in Los Angeles," Dockser said.

Together, the two also run Logue Social, an author-exclusive social media marketing agency.

Scaling a venture built on in-person connection has meant leaning on people who live in each community. Preoccupied LA relies on local chapter leaders who organize events on the ground, while the founders provide administrative support, facilitate relationships with authors and secure branded partnerships.

"We have nationwide — and starting this fall in Canada, too — chapter leaders who are

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We have nationwide — and starting this fall in Canada, too — chapter leaders who are local and organize the events in their cities

- Samantha Dockser

”

local and organize the events in their cities," Dockser said.

Wherever the walks take place, Dockser said, the core of the event stays the same. No matter the city, she said, readers build connections with one another and with authors while taking a walk.

maaz@smdp.com



FOUNDERS: Samantha and Morgan at Walking Book Club.

Courtesy Image

Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN

Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART

Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE

Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING

FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 20 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 7037

The rag trade

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

Aje	Draft	Lisa Ho	Seasons
Artistic	Fabric	Magazine	Sell
Bags	Face	Mini	Shawl
Bias	Fantasy	Ngali	Shoes
Boots	Flair	Orange	Sneakers
Catwalk	Fold	Overalls	Stars
Chic	Heels	Pins	Style
Clap	Jacket	Pleat	Suede
Coat	Jeans	Pose	Tops
Cotton	Jiinda	Saba	Wear
Design	Ksubi	Sales	White
Diet	Latest	Scarves	Yoke

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Local farmer's market

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 19)

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Some people need the headline. Others need the whole story. Start with the short version and watch what happens next. The questions they ask will tell you which kind of listener you're talking to and how much detail they want.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). People usually choose the path that's most appealing in the moment. Arrange your environment so the easiest choice is also the one you want. A bowl of fruit on the counter gets eaten. A guitar on a stand gets played.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Every conversation is an imperfect translation. We turn thoughts into words, then words back into thoughts. Some meaning gets lost along the way. Give each other a second chance to explain and you might discover a different story entirely.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll be settling a question of boundaries. Everyone wants some say over their own corner of the world. Territorial disputes usually calm down when people feel heard. You'll ask good questions before drawing conclusions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The message in your heart feels important, urgent and larger than words. Consider that its strongest communication may be wordless. A warm welcome, a steady hand, a knowing smile or beautiful work can say everything that needs saying today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Sometimes the argument is about the wrong thing. Before defending your position, make sure everyone is answering the same question. Half the battle ends once people discover they've been talking about different problems.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There are experiences that seem inconvenient but are nonetheless worthwhile: a crowded restaurant, a long drive, sore muscles, a second draft. You can put up with a fair amount of inconvenience when you know why you're doing it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Every conversation leaves a few loose threads. Before you assume you know what someone meant, pick up one of them and ask. A single follow-up question can spare everyone an afternoon of wrong assumptions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The "main character" energy is all around you today. It's funny how lines that work on screen seldom play in the full dimension of reality, but reality can look beautiful on screen.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). A misunderstanding can become today's funniest story if nobody rushes to protect their pride. Laugh first. Explain second. People forgive confusion, but they have a much more difficult time with defensiveness.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's impossible to keep the end goal in mind if you don't have an end goal in mind in the first place. Today feels a bit adrift. If you can't pick a direction, start ruling things out. By declaring what you're not into, you'll get a clearer picture of what fits.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Every time you say yes, you spend something valuable. Sometimes it's cash. Sometimes it's an afternoon. Sometimes it's your attention. Before you spend anything today, ask yourself what you're buying.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Summit or apex
- 5 Major ATM maker
- 8 Coral reef island
- 13 Frog’s cousin
- 14 British beer
- 15 Unusual knickknacks
- 17 Seem genuine
- 19 Not subject to taxes
- 20 Stepped in to mediate
- 22 Follow orders
- 23 Carne ___ (Mexican grilled meat)
- 24 Brazilian city, familiarly
- 26 Large suitcases for cruises
- 34 Eyed impolitely
- 38 Say “Welcome!” to
- 39 Actor Grant or Elwes
- 40 Muslim holy city
- 43 Vicinity
- 44 Assumed name
- 46 (Known) for the entire time
- 48 Oil painter’s starting point
- 51 007 author Fleming
- 52 In the know
- 57 Verdi opera
- 61 Spoke very clearly
- 65 Banks’ large safes
- 67 Research company once owned by AT&T
- 68 Aviator Earhart
- 69 Aussie flightless bird
- 70 Swiss artist Paul
- 71 More devious

72 Steal from

73 Find a buyer for

DOWN

- 1 Skylit hotel lobbies
- 2 Nickels and quarters
- 3 ___ ray (type of fish)
- 4 Just barely beat
- 5 Anti-drug cop, for short
- 6 Helpful hint
- 7 Oboe accessory
- 8 Did great on a test
- 9 Wedding usher’s rental
- 10 Black-and-white cookie
- 11 Arm or leg
- 12 Leisurely gait
- 16 Pigpen
- 18 Slight remnant
- 21 Directional suffix
- 25 Association: Abbr.
- 27 USN high rank
- 28 Modern “sweetie”
- 29 “Now ___ be told”
- 30 Russia’s ___ Mountains
- 31 Notorious Roman emperor
- 32 Razor-sharp
- 33 Fawn’s father
- 34 Sign of healing skin
- 35 Skyscraping
- 36 57-Across solo
- 37 TV host Seacrest
- 41 155, in old Rome
- 42 In the style of
- 45 Slalom footwear
- 47 Go for ___ (use your

yacht, say)

49 ___ salad (leafy

course with croutons)

50 Raggedy doll

53 Takes a stroll

54 ___ of *Two Cities*

55 Defy authority

56 Unsuccessful ’50s Ford

57 Top-10 baby girl name in the 2010s

58 Purina competitor

59 Fencing contest

60 Wartime partner

62 Rival of Lyft

63 “Found” fish in a Disney film

64 Dues-paying group

66 Even score

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



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.pccrsm.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](https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/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](https://www.smdp.com/event-3/#/details/low-impact-group-exercise-class/18566926/2026-08-06T11). 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 p.m. 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

BAKE AND BRING: A MORNING NETWORKING EVENT FOR THERAPISTS

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. 619 Marr Street Los Angeles. A cozy morning pastry potluck for therapists to share treats, sip coffee, make friends, and build new referrals. Not everyone can—or wants to—come out at night. If you're more of a coffee-and-chat person, this relaxed morning networking event is for you. Bring a pastry to share, whether you baked it yourself or picked it up on the way. I'll provide the coffee and a cozy space in Venice where local therapists can connect, make new friends, and build referral relationships in an easy, low-pressure setting. Come as you are, enjoy something delicious, and spend the morning with good people. Looking forward to seeing you there! Plenty of free street parking. \$7.18. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/bake-and-bring-a-morning-networking-event-for-therapists/19666104/2026-08-21T09>

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.

BUNDY TRIANGLE NIGHT MARKET

5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Bundy Triangle 1500 S Bundy Drive Los Angeles. Cayton Children's Museum will offer free, weekly hands-on activities for children and families at the Bundy Triangle Night Market in Sawtelle every Friday

from March 27 through the end of October, the museum announced. The programming, offered in partnership with Los Angeles City Councilwoman Traci Park, will run from 5 to 8 p.m. each Friday at the Bundy Triangle, a public space at Ohio Avenue and Bundy Drive. The broader night market, presented by Raw Inspiration, runs from 5 to 9 p.m. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/bundy-triangle-night-market/18490079/2026-07-24T17>

SUNSET SESSIONS- AUGUST 7TH

5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. The Penmar 1233 Rose Avenue Los Angeles. Golden hour, good music, and one of our favorite Friday traditions. This week's Sunset Sessions is presented by FX's The Shards, Ryan Murphy's seductive new drama set in 1980s Los Angeles, where glamorous high school seniors send their days chasing beauty, parties and the city's coolest spots. Sounds familiar? Join FX and Camber at The Penmar for a special edition of Sunset Sessions. Grab your ticket and then add yourself to Camber's guest list here: <https://www.handstamp.com/e/camber-penmar-fx> for free first drink tickets, koozies, a photobooth and an exclusive blanket (while supplies last). Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/sunset-sessions/18537173/2026-08-14T17>

THE_NDA_SHOW

8:00 p.m. The Crow 2525 Michigan Ave #Unit F4 Santa Monica. The NDA Show is a night of comedy about the nightmares and miracles that can happen while working in film and TV production. This is an intimate celebration of storytelling. And stories about storytelling. These are the stories reserved for dinner parties and dark editing rooms, that deserve a slightly wider audience. Recommended for 18 + (material is mature and can be compared to content seen in rated R films). \$23.11. Visit: https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/the_nda_show/19152436/2026-08-21T20

SATURDAY | AUGUST 22

WELLNESS & WAVES RETURNS TO SANTA MONICA PIER, FREE SAT. MORNING FITNESS

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Santa Monica Pier 200 Santa Monica Pier, Ste A Santa Monica. The Santa Monica Pier Corporation invites the community to move, stretch, and recharge by the ocean as Wellness & Waves returns for its 2026 season. Taking place every Saturday from April 4 through October 17, 2026, from 8 to 10 a.m., this free, all-ages wellness series transforms the iconic Santa Monica Pier into an open-air fitness destination at the most iconic outdoor setting in Southern California. With the Pacific Ocean as its backdrop, Wellness & Waves offers a welcoming, energizing way to start the weekend—no membership required. Each Saturday morning begins at the top of the Santa Monica Pier at the intersection of Colorado and Ocean with an easygoing group run from 8 to 9 a.m., open to all levels. Guests can then head to the west end of the Pier for yoga and yoga-pilates fusion classes from 9 to 10 a.m., led by top local instructors. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/wellness-waves-returns-to-santa-monica-pier-free-sat-morning-fitness/18475500/2026-08-08T08>



*Grazie mille
for voting us*
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