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Enter Santa Monica's Route 66 song contest.

Volume 25 Issue 195

THURSDAY 8/20/26

smdp.com

Drivers urged to be cautious as school opens

MATTHEW HALL

Daily Press Editor

Santa Monica students return to class this week prompting Santa Monica police and city transportation officials to urge drivers, cyclists and pedestrians to slow down and stay alert amid the seasonal surge in traffic around local schools.

The Santa Monica Police Department said the start of the school year brings a sharp increase in vehicle, bicycle, e-bike and pedestrian traffic near campuses, particularly during morning drop-off and afternoon dismissal, and asked drivers to build extra time into their commutes.

"Getting students safely to school is a responsibility we all share," Santa Monica Police Chief Darrick Jacob



SMDP Photo

SCHOOLS: Santa Monica urges drivers and cyclists to slow down as students return to school this week.

SEE **SCHOOL** PAGE 11

Santa Monica students use their summer to gain career experience

SOPHIA FRIEDMAN

Special to the Daily Press

Summer break gives students a chance to explore different career fields while earning income. This summer, many students in Santa Monica and Los Angeles are using their time off to get a taste of the working world through jobs in corporate settings, food service and local organizations.

While summer jobs have long been a way for teens to earn money, many students are now emphasizing experience and insight as they look for positions. Their jobs show how seasonal work can serve as both a paycheck and a stepping stone toward long-term goals.

Motivations vary by student. Sydney Rodstrom took a job at Cartwheeling Cuties, a gymnastics program for young children, to see

the sport from the coaching side rather than as an athlete. She said the supportive environment made the job appealing.

"The environment was super supportive, and my coworkers are all really kind. And it was definitely a change from how I grew up doing gymnastics. It was much more welcoming and supportive of all different kinds of kids... I'd only seen the gymnast side of it, and I wanted to try the coaching part, and it was definitely very helpful," Rodstrom said.

Many students start the application process online, submitting applications through a company's website before moving to interviews. Once hired, students under 18 must obtain a work permit from their school. Other

SEE **BACK TO SCHOOL** PAGE 5

Santa Monica founder built a vape company on a nicotine-free bet

MAAZ ALIN

SMDP Staff Writer

When Conrad Kurth explains why he started a vape company, he doesn't cite a market study. He points to his friends.

"Honestly? My friends. Around 2018 everyone I knew was on Juul," said Kurth, a former software engineer who studied at USC and spent more than 10 years writing code before founding Cyclone Pods.

Vaping, Kurth had assumed, was supposed to help people quit smoking. He came to believe it did the opposite.

"I figured the point was to help people quit smoking for good. It wasn't. It just traded cigarettes for a Juul habit," he said.

So he went looking for a nicotine-free alternative. Finding none, he

built one himself — tracking down manufacturing and liquid facilities, putting up a website and posting in online forums until orders started to arrive.

"It was niche, but niche is a good place to get your foot in the door," he said. "There have been ups and downs, but we've grown every year since."

That was the start of Cyclone Pods, the Santa Monica company Kurth founded in 2018 and still leads. Eight years on, the brand sells nicotine-free vapes and caffeine-based "Focus" pouches in a market long dominated by nicotine products.

Kurth frames the business less as a hardware company than as a single idea in several forms.

"One idea, several formats," he

said. "The through-line was never the hardware. It's giving adults the habit without the addictive substance."

The product line has widened from a single nicotine-free pod to rechargeable pod systems, disposable vapes, nootropic lip pouches and wellness supplements. Kurth describes the growth as a coherent vision shaped by customer demand rather than a scramble to chase trends. The Focus Pouches, which the company says contain caffeine and adaptogens, were added, he said, "because customers wanted function, not only a substitute."

"So it's a coherent vision, shaped by where our customers pulled us,"

SEE **VAPE** PAGE 11

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First Hand Dealt | 6:00 PM SHARP

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Santa Monica PAL 310.458.8988 | pal@santamonica.gov

What to know about the fake election poll numbers shared and retracted by a mysterious company

Locked in a competitive reelection race, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass declared on social media last week that a new poll was evidence that her campaign was “gaining momentum.”

Just a few days later, the truth emerged: The poll was fabricated.

The California results were among at least three “polls” across three states posted online this month by Median Strategies, a previously unknown organization that admitted to the Los Angeles Times on Monday that the purported results were fake. The company wrote before shuttering its website this week that it “was created as a short-term social experiment examining how purported polling information could enter and spread through the political information ecosystem without independent verification.”

The post offered no explanation of who was behind the “experiment” or for what purpose.

The trajectory of the California poll offers a cautionary tale about the perils of trusting unvetted polling. While high-quality independent polls still exist, they appear amid a slew of other surveys produced by outside groups, campaigns or super PACs or using undisclosed or questionable methodologies. It can be a struggle to make sense of the findings — and as the latest episode shows, even campaigns may end up falling for falsified data.

“This is much bigger than one fake poll,” said Chris Wilson, a veteran Republican pollster who now leads the public opinion firm EyesOver. “It’s never been easier to make invented numbers look legitimate, and campaigns and outside groups have every incentive to amplify anything favorable before anyone verifies it.”

The Median Strategies fake polls, none of which appeared in Associated Press coverage, claimed to evaluate support in the Democratic primary for governor in Wisconsin, the gubernatorial race in Nevada, and the mayoral race in Los Angeles.

The Los Angeles poll, which purported to show Bass, an incumbent Democrat, leading councilmember Nithya Raman, a progressive Democrat, by about 12 percentage points in the mayoral race, was shared by the Bass campaign on social media and covered by the California Post before it was revealed to be bogus.

The Bass campaign has since deleted its social media post promoting the poll, but defended itself by saying that it “was reported on by multiple news outlets.”

“Any bad faith attempts to influence elections should be investigated and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law,” Bass campaign spokesman Alex Stack said.

TRANSPARENCY IS CRITICAL FOR EVALUATING POLL FINDINGS

Median’s “findings” were shared by polling aggregation accounts on social media. They were not, however, included in the databases of major independent aggregators, including The New York Times, Real Clear Politics or FiftyPlusOne.

The New York Times and FiftyPlusOne noted that the polls were released without basic information that was needed for vetting, such as who was running the firm. When

they reached out, Median Strategies did not respond to requests for more information.

“When the poll was released, it lacked basic information about how it was conducted and who was behind it,” Will Davis, director of Election Data Analytics at The New York Times, wrote in an email to the AP. “Releasing this type of information is standard practice for pollsters, and because that information was not provided, we did not include it.”

Mary Radcliffe, Head of Research at FiftyPlusOne, also thought the methodology statement for the Wisconsin poll was missing key details, including the source for the voter file the company claimed to have used and the vendor who fielded part of the sample.

Median did not respond to her questions, so the polls were not included in FiftyPlusOne’s database. But Radcliffe noted that her method for screening polls is not infallible.

“There is a universe where they could have come up with plausible answers to my questions,” she said. “This is an industry built on trust. I have to trust that people are answering my questions in good faith.”

While admissions of falsified polling data are rare, they are not without precedent.

In 2010, for instance, the left-leaning blog Daily Kos said that polling for its website, conducted by a firm called Research 2000, was fraudulent.

But it’s common for pollsters to release polls with minimal information about how the survey was conducted, what questions were asked, or who was behind it. Higher-quality polls rely on expensive methodologies, such as randomized sampling, so many pollsters opt for cheaper solutions. In addition, many election polls are conducted by campaigns or super political action committees with a stake in the outcome of the race. This can leave few — if any — reliable and independent polls to evaluate in contests like midterm primaries.

Before writing about any poll, AP verifies that it meets high standards of transparency and methodological rigor. But even high-quality polls have some amount of error, which underscores the importance of examining each finding with caution.

PREDICTION MARKETS INTRODUCE MORE COMPLEXITY

The introduction of prediction market platforms like Kalshi and Polymarket gives polls a different significance for people betting on election outcomes.

The posts about Wisconsin and Nevada drew little reaction and were not accompanied by any discernible movement on the two prediction markets when they were released, but there were some shifts on both platforms after Bass shared the false Median Strategies numbers.

On Kalshi, the price of a “yes” contract on Bass winning the Los Angeles mayoral election rose two cents, from about 63 cents to about 65 cents, within fifteen minutes of Median’s post. On Polymarket, roughly twenty separate accounts traded thousands of contracts in Bass’s favor six minutes after the tweet.

In the days leading up to Bass’s post about Median, trading on the LA mayoral election had been thin, with a typical trade over that

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Five California propositions ask the same question: Who should pay billions in taxes?

There are 14 statewide measures on California's Nov. 3 ballot, ranging widely in concept and potential impact. Five of them pose a fundamental question: Who should pay hundreds of billions of dollars in taxes to support local public services?

The centerpiece is Proposition 40, which would levy a 5% tax on the personal wealth of about 200 California billionaires, mostly to bolster healthcare programs.

It's drawing national attention as potentially the first U.S. tax on wealth, and its passage would ignite epic legal battles and efforts to extend its concept to other states and perhaps the nation as a whole.

Not since voters passed Proposition 13, an iconic property tax limit, in 1978 and touched off tax revolts in other states has a California measure potentially affected America's taxation policies so broadly.

Many millions of dollars are being spent to sway voters on Prop. 40 and two other measures, Proposition 41 and Proposition 42. The latter two were placed on the ballot by Prop. 40's ultra-wealthy opponents to counteract the wealth tax's effects.

Two other tax measures facing voters, Proposition 3 and Proposition 43, are, in effect, new versions of previous conflicts.

Prop. 3 is the ideological cousin of Prop. 40's underlying rationale that wealthy Californians should be taxed heavily to maintain vital services. The state's income tax rates already embody that concept, resulting in high-income taxpayers providing most of the revenue from that system.

In 2012, with the state budget awash in red ink, Gov. Jerry Brown and voters added another income surtax onto the highest earners to close the budget's shortfall. Brown promised that surtax would be temporary, but later a coalition of public employee unions, led by the California Teachers Association, sponsored a ballot measure that extended it to 2030.

Prop. 3 makes the surtax — raising somewhere between \$5 billion and \$15 billion a year — permanent. The union's allies in the Legislature and Gov. Gavin Newsom improved its chances of passage by elevating it to a top position

on the ballot, though union officials were concerned the Prop. 40 conflict could undermine Prop. 3's chances for approval.

Finally, there is Prop. 43, which embodies the philosophically opposite position on taxes, that they should be limited and relatively difficult to enact, harkening back to Prop. 13 nearly a half-century ago.

In 1996, voters passed Proposition 218, extending Prop. 13's requirement of two-thirds vote for "special taxes" that local governments sought to finance specific services.

It was assumed the two-thirds threshold also would apply to taxes placed on the ballot via initiative petitions. However, in 2017, the state Supreme Court, in a case dealing with a local marijuana tax, obliquely suggested that special taxes proposed by initiative need only a simple majority approval.

That touched off several years of legal confusion, including lower court rulings that disagreed with each other. Finally, in 2020, the Supreme Court endorsed exempting taxes via petitions from the two-thirds rule by refusing to take up an appellate court ruling.

Since then, hundreds of special tax increases — mostly sales taxes — have been enacted with simple majority votes, and dozens more are pending because, if passed, Prop. 43 would reinstate the two-thirds vote requirement.

It's the latest of several efforts by tax limitation groups to overturn the indirect Supreme Court ruling, including an effort that the Supreme Court itself cancelled in 2024.

This year's effort was initially much broader, but a last-minute deal whittled it down to limit certain local taxes in return for legislators' dropping a measure that would have required anti-tax measures to meet a two-thirds threshold.

Prop. 43's outcome could finally put an end to the long-running local tax conflict, but don't count on it. Quarreling over who should be taxed is one of California's perpetual political games.

by Dan Walters



Surf report

WATER TEMP: 71.4

THURSDAY
FAIRSURF: 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.

FRIDAY
FAIRSURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Waves off a notch with easing swell blend.

Winds looking light in the morning. Old SSW swell fades, while persistent NW windswell sticks around, for steady thigh-waist-stomach high surf, showing most size out west. Morning winds expected to be light/variable, moderate WNW afternoon onshores.



Weather

Thursday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 79.

Thursday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 69. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Friday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 78.

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

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
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
2026/08/24	Mon	02:33 AM	0.07	L
2026/08/24	Mon	09:11 AM	3.95	H
2026/08/24	Mon	1:43 PM	2.67	L
2026/08/24	Mon	7:51 PM	5.76	H



Daily Lottery

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



Draw Date: 8/17
8 15 25 49 65
Power#: 22
Jackpot: 48 M



Draw Date: 8/18
5 15 31 38 39



Draw Date: 8/18
5 19 30 38 59
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: 113 M



Draw Date: 8/18
EVENING: 2 0 9
Draw Date: 8/18
MIDDAY: 9 4 4



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



Draw Date: 8/18
1st: 07 - Eureka
2nd: 10 - Solid Gold
3rd: 01 - Gold Rush
Race Time: 1:44:59

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

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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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

AROUND TOWN

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Pier Boxing, Main St. and Montana Events, & More!

SMDP’s Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town includes Pier Boxing, Main Street Sunday Funday Street Event, Montana Ave. Dog Daze of Summer Event, Sunset Swims, Mahjong Classes, and much more!

Venice Art Crawl:

Experience the eclectic soul of Venice as local galleries, studios, and pop-up spaces open their doors for this quarterly community tradition. This volunteer-run sunset tour celebrates the neighborhood’s historic status as a creative haven, offering everything from large-scale murals and fine art to experimental performance pieces and live music. Thursday, Aug. 20, 6p.m. veniceartcrawl.com

Bombas Venice Store Opening:

To celebrate the opening, Bombas will give its first 150 customers a pair of exclusive Sushi Socks. Friday, Aug. 21, 1140 Abbot Kinney Blvd. [instagram.com/bombas](https://www.instagram.com/bombas)

Sunset Swim at the Annenberg Beach House:

Spend your evening poolside at the historic Annenberg Community Beach House, home to the iconic 1920s Marion Davies estate built by media mogul William Randolph Hearst. Sunset Swim invites adults to enjoy an evening of swimming, relaxing, and connecting by the sea at their historic and heated pool. Float under the evening sky, unwind with friends old and new, and enjoy complimentary s’mores and pool floaties while taking in the ocean air and sunset views. Friday, Aug. 21, 415 PCH [santamonica.gov/events/426hjt67wfff7r8y1ypwx6c5/202608211800](https://www.santamonica.gov/events/426hjt67wfff7r8y1ypwx6c5/202608211800)

Introduction to Mahjong with Mahjong Mistress:

Santa Monica Public Library launches a new monthly Mahjong series with an afternoon of guided play, community gathering, and cultural learning hosted by Mahjong Mistress. Saturday, Aug. 22, 2:30 p.m., Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. [santamonica.gov/events/45kmadhkp674g6w9mns9k55knp/202608221430](https://www.santamonica.gov/events/45kmadhkp674g6w9mns9k55knp/202608221430)

Dog Daze of Summer on Montana Ave.:

The event encourages you to “Bring your furry best friend for a day of shopping, treats, and giveaways as you explore the charming boutiques and restaurants along Montana Ave.” Saturday, Aug. 22, 10 a.m. [instagram.com/montanaavesm](https://www.instagram.com/montanaavesm)

Pickleball Speed Dating:

You can snag a spectator seat to cheer on the players in a pickleball tournament that’s doubling as speed dating. Saturday, Aug. 22 3 - 5 p.m., SaMo Pickleball Center (1330 4th St.); Post-tourney drinks at Barney’s Beanery (1351 3rd St. Promenade) [instagram.com/p/Dbn7YhwKj4o](https://www.instagram.com/p/Dbn7YhwKj4o)

New Outdoor Music & Movie Series Saturdays at Tongva Park:

Spend your Saturday nights under the stars at TONGVA TWILIGHT: Sounds & Cinema, a free outdoor series blending live music, iconic films, and summer vibes in Tongva Park. Grab your friends, pack a picnic and enjoy complimentary popcorn on movie nights while supplies last. This week, Son Mayor will bring its high-energy salsa orchestra to Tongva Park, complete with a complimentary salsa lesson before the performance. Saturdays, through Sept. 12, 7 - 10 p.m., 1615 Ocean Ave. [santamonica.gov/events/tongva-twilight-sounds-cinema-series](https://www.santamonica.gov/events/tongva-twilight-sounds-cinema-series)

Marina Movie Nights:

Grab your family, a picnic dinner, and a blanket or low-profile beach chairs and make your way to Burton Chace Park for the free Summer Concerts presented by the L.A. County Department of Beaches and Harbors on select Saturdays from August 22 to September 26, 2026. Movies start at 8 p.m. but arrive by 7 to pick out your spot on the lawn. Free admission. [visitmdr.com/annual-events/marina-movie-nights](https://www.visitmdr.com/annual-events/marina-movie-nights)

Blockprint Music & Arts Festival:

A full-day 21+ street festival taking over Abbot Kinney with live dance music, art, and food while keeping local storefronts open. Saturday, Aug. 22, starting at 3:00 p.m. [tixr.com/groups/blockprint](https://www.tixr.com/groups/blockprint)

Butterfly Brawl Returns to Santa Monica Pier:

Local boxing returns to the oceanfront as Westside Boxing Club hosts the 2026 Butterfly Brawl directly on the iconic Santa Monica Pier deck. This outdoor amateur boxing showcase features a full card of competitive local bout matchups, food vendors, and ocean views. Saturday, Aug. 22; 4 p.m. Santa Monica Pier deck [southerncaliforniaboxing.com](https://www.southerncaliforniaboxing.com)

Main St. Farmers Market in the Street Event:

This Sunday, the Main Street Farmers Market hits the Street for a very special Sunday Fun Day event! Main St. will be closed to traffic from 6 a.m. - 4 p.m. with more than a dozen food vendors

SEE AROUND TOWN PAGE 8

COMMUNITY NEWS

Santa Monica

One month left to enter Santa Monica’s Route 66 centennial song contest

Songwriters and musicians have until Sept. 13 to enter Santa Monica Travel & Tourism’s Route 66 Song Contest, a competition marking the 100th anniversary of the highway that ends in the beachside city.

The contest invites entrants over the age of 18 to submit an original song capturing the spirit of Santa Monica and its connection to the historic road. The winner will receive \$10,000 and will be announced in November.

Artists based in the United States, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand and the United Kingdom are eligible to submit pieces celebrating the route.

Route 66 runs 2,448 miles from Chicago to Santa Monica, where it officially ends at the intersection of Lincoln and Olympic boulevards. An honorary “End of the Trail” marker on the Santa Monica Pier commemorates the terminus. Visitors can stop at the city’s Visitor Information Centers for Route 66 souvenirs, merchandise and a free Certificate of Completion.

The contest coincides with nationwide centennial festivities in 2026. Santa Monica hosted several events this year, including the Santa Monica International Jazz Festival, Route 66 edition, in May; the Santa Monica Welcomes Texas to Route 66 event on the pier in June; and multiple organized caravans that began or ended in the city. Additional events are listed on the city’s calendar of events.

“The centennial anniversary of Route 66 is a once-in-a-generation milestone,” said Misti Kerns, president and CEO of Santa Monica Travel & Tourism. “As the western terminus of this beloved road trip experience, Santa Monica is searching for an original tune capturing the spirit of the Mother Road and our beachside community. We invite musicians from around the world to be a part of this historic celebration and honor Route 66 in a creative way.”

Full contest details are available at santamonica.com/route66.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF



Courtesy of santamonica.com

CONTEST: Santa Monica’s Route 66 Song Contest offers \$10,000 prize; submissions due Sept. 13.

BACK TO SCHOOL

FROM PAGE 1

students said they landed jobs through recommendations from friends.

Training requirements vary by job. Sasha Shiri, a barista at Makenna Koffee, said she completed training days, earned a food handler’s certificate and took a sexual harassment prevention course before starting paid work. Rodstrom’s training was informal, given her years of experience in gymnastics.

A typical workday looks different for each student, depending on their position and the job’s demands. Weekly hours range from six to more than 12.

Rodstrom works two three-hour shifts a week, each one physically active as she leads children through drills, activities and crafts.

At Target, Taylor Summers handles high customer volume and a range of tasks, including checkout, returns and stocking shelves. Depending on her availability, she works four-hour half shifts or eight-hour full shifts.

As a barista, Shiri prepares coffee, takes food orders, restocks inventory and handles in-store and drive-through orders. She works about 12 hours a week over three shifts.

First-time employees are bound to run into challenges. In customer-facing roles, frustrations can build quickly.

Summers said staying calm is the hardest

part of the job, especially with difficult customers.

“The hardest part is keeping your cool when people are being completely unreasonable and annoying — especially when they’re trying to return something with no receipt, no card, no proof of purchase, and you’re just enforcing Target’s policy,” Summers said.

She added that when a situation escalates, she defers to her supervisors.

For Rodstrom, the biggest challenge is helping kids manage their frustration when they struggle to master a new skill — an experience she said has sharpened her adaptability and problem-solving skills.

The work also comes with rewards. Shiri said she takes satisfaction in seeing her own progress.

“A rewarding part is seeing my progress — memorizing orders, learning the recipes better, and seeing customers happy with the drinks I made,” Shiri said.

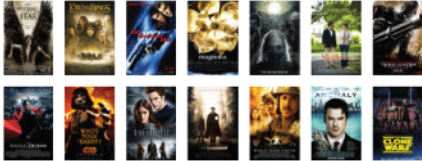
As the school year approaches, students’ schedules will shift to make room for classwork and extracurriculars. But the communication and people-management skills gained from these first jobs will carry beyond the summer — whether students stay in customer service or move into different careers, the lessons in teamwork and relationship-building remain valuable for both their professional and personal lives.

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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)

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:
VIA EMAIL:
VIA MAIL:

Expo/Bundy R1 Parcels
councilmtgitems@santamonica.gov
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

EVENTS THIS WEEK AUG 20 - AUG 27

Saturday, August 22, 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Tongva Park 1615 Ocean Ave Santa Monica.

Tongva Twilight: Sounds & Cinema

TONGVA TWILIGHT: Sounds & Cinema is a free outdoor summer series celebrating live music, outdoor cinema, and community at Tongva Park. The series takes place every Saturday from August 8 through September 12, beginning at 7 p.m., and features an eclectic lineup of entertainment ranging from big band ska, salsa, and New Orleans funk to music-themed films—or a combination of both—all beneath the stars, just steps from the Pacific Ocean. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/tongva-twilight-sounds-cinema/19553972/2026-08-22T19>

Friday, August 21, 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Andrew's Cheese Shop 728 Montana Ave Santa Monica.

Andrew's Grilled Cheese and Wine Night

For this pop up dinner, we'll be pairing our famous grilled cheeses with some of our amazing and unusual wines. \$87.21. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/andrew-s-grilled-cheese-and-wine-night/19549662/2026-08-21T19>

Thursday, August 20, 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

1424 4th Street Santa Monica.

IMPROV 101: Intro to Improv (Thursday Nights)

Jump into Improv! Learn the basics, spark creativity, & your boost confidence with fun exercises and expert guidance. 6 weeks + a Showcase! Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/improv-101-intro-to-improv-thursday-nights-/19666103/2026-08-20T19>

Thursday, August 20, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

LouLou Santa Monica 395 Santa Monica Place Santa Monica.

Westside Digital Mix: August Mixer

Join Westside Digital Mix at the top of LA's Digital Media Triangle on Thursday, August 20 – where you'll find some of the brightest minds in entertainment, media, and technology coming together for great conversations and connections! \$20.00 to \$60.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/westside-digital-mix-august-mixer/19621752/2026-08-20T18>

Saturday, August 22, 2:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

Santa Monica Pier 200 Santa Monica Pier, Ste A Santa Monica.

Butterfly Brawl

All bouts subject to change. Saturday, August 22, 2026. Santa Monica Pier, Doors Open: 2 p.m. Time subject to change. An all-ages event. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/butterfly-brawl/18929377/2026-08-22T14>

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

Friday, August 21, 7:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
302 Pico Boulevard Santa Monica.

Hambone Comedy: The Comedian’s Stand Up Comedy Show
Laugh your way through Santa Monica at Hambone Comedy —top comics, pro vibes, and booze! One epic night of comedy gold! *Taped Set. \$23.18 to \$25.00. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/hambone-comedy-the-comedian-s-stand-up-comedy-show/18890825/2026-08-21T19>

Sunday, August 23, 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Penmar Golf Course 1233 Rose Avenue Los Angeles.

Singles Night @ Penmar | Ages 30+
Penmar after dark — come for the vibes, stay for the chemistry. \$17.85 to \$33.85. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/singles-night-penmar-ages-30-/18996084/2026-08-23T18>

Sunday, August 23, 5:05 p.m.
Windward Plaza 1501 Ocean Front Walk Venice.

Venice Electric Light Parade - Sundays at Sunset
Venice Electric Light Parade - Sundays at Sunset. Visit: <https://www.smdp.com/calendar/#/details/venice-electric-light-parade-sundays-at-sunset/14970341/2026-08-23T17>



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>



Santa Monica Daily Press

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026158452. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: JUNK WAX, 11485 MOORPARK ST UNIT 6, NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA 91602, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): CASTAWAY PRODUCTIONS INC., 11485 MOORPARK ST UNIT 6, NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA 91602. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. 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/ RYAN C. DURANDO, PRESIDENT. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 07/21/2026. 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: 07/30/2026, 08/06/2026, 08/13/2026, 08/20/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026168521. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: THE HOOT CAFE, 1512B W HUNTINGTON DR, ALHAMBRA, CA 91801, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): AMEN INDUSTRIES INC, 1512B W HUNTINGTON DR, ALHAMBRA, CA 91801. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 05/2026. 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/ JUSTIN A AMEN, CFO. 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: 08/06/2026, 08/13/2026, 08/20/2026, 08/27/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026169902. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: PALISADES WINE MIXER, 15015 ALTATA DR, PACIFIC PALISADES, CA 90272, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): WINESTOCK LLC, 15015 ALTATA DR, PACIFIC PALISADES, CA 90272. 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/ LUCAS CHILDERS, MANAGING MEMBER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 08/07/2026. 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: 08/13/2026, 08/20/2026, 08/27/2026, 09/03/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026153333. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: FRESH PRINTS RENTALS, 153 1/2 N ARNAZ DRIVE, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90211, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): MUNYON VENTURES LLC, 153 1/2 N ARNAZ DRIVE, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90211. 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 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/ DANIEL RESNICK-NEILLIE, MEMBER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 07/15/2026. 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: 08/13/2026, 08/20/2026, 08/27/2026, 09/03/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026160881. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: TCTF LLC, 3826 GRAND VIEW BLVD #66573, LOS ANGELES, CA 90066, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): TODAYS CEILING TOMORROWS FLOOR LLC, 3826 GRAND VIEW BLVD #66573, 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 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/ RHONDA RABANAL, 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: 08/13/2026, 08/20/2026, 08/27/2026, 09/03/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026166217. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: TEA FOR STREETS, 5125 BORLAND RD APT 6, LOS ANGELES, CA 90032, County of Los Angeles. AI#ON B20260342199. Registered Owner(s): TFS LIVE, INC., 5125 BORLAND RD APT 6, LOS ANGELES, CA 90032. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 03/2026. 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/ SAFIR WAZED, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 08/03/2026. 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: 08/13/2026, 08/20/2026, 08/27/2026, 09/03/2026

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AROUND TOWN

FROM PAGE 4

expected and the Entertainment Zone activated for people who want to enjoy an adult beverage on the street. Expect live music and DJs all day and a Kid Zone on the lawn featuring City Council Members.

Wellness on the Westside: Spend the day exploring fitness classes, yoga, mindfulness, meditation, sound baths, and recovery treatments. Sip healthy bevs and bites, discover new self-care favorites, and collect stamps in your Wellness Passport for prizes and giveaways. You’ll also receive complimentary professional beauty portraits and enjoy a mindful flower market. Sunday, Aug. 23, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Santa Monica Place eventbrite.com/e/wellness-on-the-westside-tickets-1994242947339

Laughs by the Sea: Gladstones Launches Malibu’s New Weekly Comedy Night: The series is hosted by comedian Lawrence Thomas and features a rotating lineup of established comedians and surprise special guests in one of Southern California’s most iconic oceanfront settings. Comedy Hang Ten brings live stand-up to the beach, offering guests the chance to enjoy dinner, drinks, sunset views and a comedy show all in one evening. Show starts at 8pm. instagram.com/gladstonesmalibu

Weekly Western Wednesdays Line Dancing at Santa Monica Place: No prior dance experience is required, and attendees are encouraged to bring enthusiasm and comfortable shoes. FREE. Every Wednesday through Aug. 26, 6 - 8 p.m., 395 Santa Monica Place, Center Plaza.

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

WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

Dine LA Restaurant Week Continues (Now Through Aug. 28): LA’s premier dining event is back for two full weeks of culinary exploration. Dozens of Westside and Santa Monica favorites are rolling out special multi-course lunch and dinner menus at fixed price points ranging from \$15 to \$65+. Whether you’re looking to revisit an iconic neighborhood staple, check out a newly opened concept, or splurge on a Michelin-starred tasting menu, it’s the perfect excuse to skip cooking and sample the city’s best kitchens. Here are some SaMo offerings and you can browse menus and make reservations directly at discoverlosangeles.com/dinela.

Cheers to 80 Years! Hot Dog on a Stick Celebrates National Lemonade Day with 80-Cent Lemonade On Thursday, Aug. 20, guests who purchase any Original Hot Dog on a Stick or Cheese on a Stick at can get a 16 oz. Original Fresh Hand-Stomped Lemonade for just 80 cents. 1633 Ocean Front Walk hotdogonastick.com

Nespresso x Caffè Panna Venice Pop-Up: The New York ice cream shop is teaming up with Nespresso for a three-day pop-up at 57 Windward from Aug. 21 - Aug. 23, 10 a.m. - 4p.m. daily. The event will feature three limited-edition offerings created for the collaboration. The signature Stracciatella Iced Coffee is made with Nespresso’s Double Espresso Dolce and other flavors include Coconut Double Espresso Crunch and Raspberry Yuzu Swirl. instagram.com/caffepanna

Origins Culinary Series: An Evening in the Napa Garden with Caymus: Indulge in an exclusive multi-course wine dinner celebrating the iconic pours of Napa Valley’s Caymus Vineyards. The evening pairs seasonal garden dishes with select Caymus vintages, highlighting the vineyard’s rich winemaking heritage in an intimate outdoor setting. Wednesday, Aug. 26, 6 p.m., 13534 Bali Way, Marina del Rey eventbrite.com/e/origins-culinary-series-an-evening-in-the-napa-garden-with-caymus-tickets-1995603765583

Farmer’s Market Mimosa Flight at Calabria: Santa Monica Proper’s rooftop restaurant Calabria introduces a farmer’s market-inspired mimosa flight during weekend brunch. Guests get to mix and match seasonal juice combinations with champagne, alongside an elevated brunch menu featuring standouts like tomatillo green shakshuka, Greek fries, and olive oil cake topped with Gaviota strawberries. properhotel.com/santa-monica/restaurants-bars/calabria/

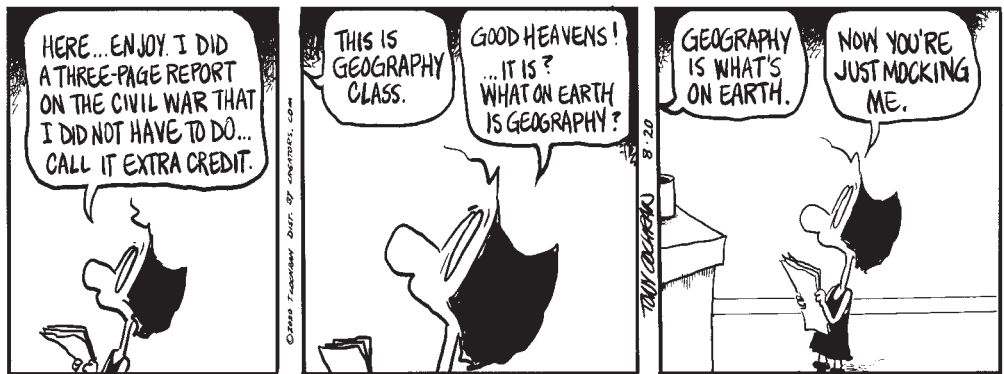
Three SaMo Places Make The Infatuation’s “Best Sandwich Shops In LA” List: Of course Bay Cities is represented, but they also give love to Bread Head (1518 Montana Ave) and Lady & Larder (828 Pico Blvd). Describing Bread Head: “LA is flooded with fancy focaccia sandwiches. But it only takes one bite of the pork-stuffed Combo Grinder to know this spot is doing something special. This glass box of a sandwich shop bakes its loaves daily, blending the soft, airy innards of focaccia and a crackly glazed ciabatta that shines like a polished penny.” theinfatuation.com/los-angeles/guides/best-sandwich-shops-in-la

Looking Ahead: Thai Fest by the Beach (9/19-20); A Pierfect Benefit (9/19); Ocean Way Festival (9/26-27); Off the Hook Seafood Festival (10/11); Main St. Day of the Dog Festival (10/18)

If there’s something you think is worth highlighting, you can reach out directly at instagram.com/seanbesser or email me at sean@smdp.com. Let me know if you have any feedback on Around Town.

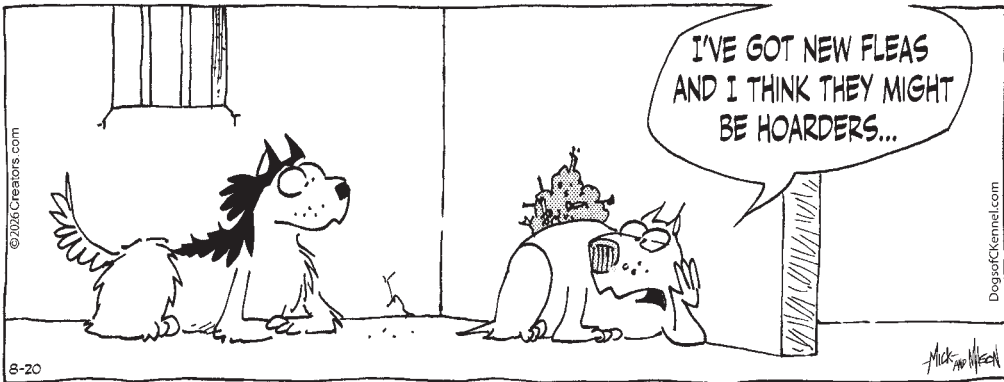
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



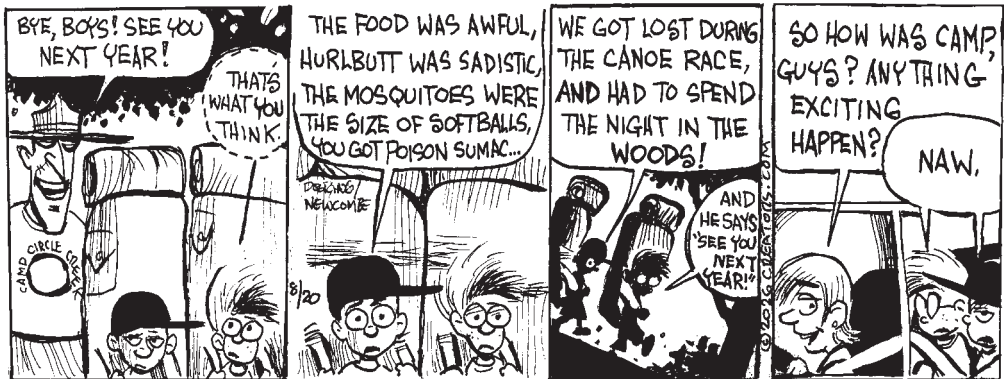
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



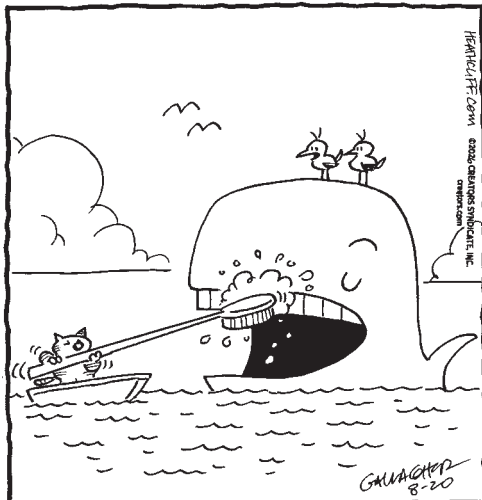
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 16 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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Taste sensations

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

Ales	Cake	Gravy	Pork
Apple	Cashews	Indulgence	Slice
Apricot	Choko	Jams	Spaghetti
Bagel	Cocoa	Lasagne	Steak
Bars	Corn	Leg ham	Sugar
Basil	Cream	Lemonade	Sweet
Beef	Curry	Mint	Taco
Bites	Cut	Pasta	Tarts
Brawn	Duck	Pate	Toffees
Broth	Entree	Peas	Tomato
Buns	Fritter	Pies	Trifle

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.

Fashion Week frivolity

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 20)

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your resources seem limited, and that's exactly what inspires you to embark on the quest. Adventure begins with need. The search will reward you as much as the prize.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Few skills take longer to develop than knowing yourself. Since you are always living from the inside, you need the outside world to fill in the blind spots. Today brings a perspective that helps the picture come into focus.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). People tend to be happy around you, but you cannot make people happy without their cooperation. The same goes for the other emotions. You'll offer your good company without trying to steer their reaction. The rest is up to them.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You have a stellar sense of humor, but humor is not a one-size-fits-all situation. Take a beat to read the room before taking things in a funny direction. A joke intended to charm could put people on the defensive instead.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll have a lovely moment of warm reciprocity. You catch the small signals and bounce them back - a glance across the table, someone reaching for your sleeve during a crowded walk... how exciting!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Why do some people seem to delight in tearing down other groups? Often it's not inherent meanness as much as a lazy way of bonding with teammates. Whatever the reason, avoid the dynamic. The sunshine of social life is kindness.

HOROSCOPES

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Looking back, you can see where the progress stopped and what stopped it. But this time around, you're determined to push through. This time, you treat setbacks as part of the route instead of the end of the road.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Even though butterflies in the stomach doesn't rank among your favorite feelings, you recognize the sensation as a sign that you, too, are about to attempt flight. Only those brave enough to attempt it have a chance at soaring.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You can be whoever you want to be at any moment. It's just easier to invent when people around you aren't keeping you in the same role. Among strangers, you won't have to manage your image. No one there has anything to compare it with anyway.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When you're too comfortable, you want excitement, and when you're overstimulated, you want comfort. At the movies, you can get both at the same time plus a bag of popcorn and a soda pop.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Friendship is shared errands, inside jokes, borrowed tools and long drives with bad coffee. Life doesn't have to be ideal when the company is. Today brings one of those small bonding moments that keeps the tie interesting.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Interaction will be more purposeful and personally satisfying when everyone involved understands what you're about. Find a cool way to reveal your story indirectly so that they feel they are discovering you instead of listening to your pitch.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Self-styled piano man
- 5 Means of control
- 9 Small cheeper
- 13 Boring bit
- 15 Novelist O'Brien
- 16 Casual greeting
- 17 More important business
- 20 Ramadan practice
- 21 Qualifies for
- 22 Arrive unnoticed
- 26 Archer's asset
- 27 About to erupt
- 32 Kolkata coin
- 33 Pitches forcefully
- 34 Puncture preceder
- 37 Medical suffix
- 38 Garfunkel, to Simon
- 39 Sudden taking
- 40 Capital-list word below Denver
- 41 Obliterates, with "out"
- 42 Childish rebuttal
- 43 Shallow thinking
- 46 Nickname like Toni
- 47 Approaching
- 48 Mideast capital
- 51 Mozart's ___ fan tutte
- 53 Ledger larceny
- 60 Native Arizonans
- 61 Flying start
- 62 Shade of brown
- 63 Utopian setting
- 64 Mexican War

- president
- 65 Pantheon city
- DOWN
- 1 Quick punch
- 2 Armand's assent
- 3 Batter's need
- 4 Journey part
- 5 Arbiters on ice
- 6 Do post production work
- 7 Playable serves
- 8 Nonstandard refusal
- 9 Guessing game
- 10 Estrangement
- 11 Brit lit home schooler
- 12 Count against

- 14 Purify
- 18 Tried to reach
- 19 Chamber music groups
- 22 Cape Cod catch
- 23 Scoundrel
- 24 Fond of trickery
- 25 Diner array
- 26 Up to it
- 28 Pulsate
- 29 "I'm ___ here!"
- 30 Take ___ (chance it)
- 31 Rio Grande city
- 35 Docket list
- 36 WWII vessel
- 38 Romeo's partner
- 39 Frightful

- 41 Thin pancakes
- 42 Goes off script
- 44 Luke and Leia's dad
- 45 Move carefully
- 48 Hiking impediment
- 49 Mental disposition
- 50 Be broody
- 51 PC corner key
- 52 "If you insist"
- 54 Day break
- 55 Terra- kin
- 56 Regatta tool
- 57 "Price negotiable" letters
- 58 Air France merger partner
- 59 Consult with

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

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08/20/26

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

SCHOOL

FROM PAGE 1

permitted to ride on public streets. SMPD urged parents to confirm how their child’s vehicle is classified before allowing them on the road, and asked young riders to wear helmets, obey traffic signals, avoid phone use, and never weave through traffic.

National data underscores why officials emphasize this time of year. In 2025, federal transportation researchers found pedestrian deaths among school-age children peak between 3 and 4 p.m. and nearly one in four fatal teen-driver crashes occurs between 3 and 7 p.m.

Locally, the city’s Mobility Division and the GoSaMo Transportation Management Organization set up information tables at Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District registration events this month to help families plan school commutes.

“The first week of school is an exciting time for students and families, but it can also bring heavier traffic and new routines,” Transportation Planning Assistant Edgar Mejia wrote in a city post, encouraging families to consider walking, biking, riding Big Blue Bus, carpooling or combining transit with walking to help ease congestion around

VAPE

FROM PAGE 1

Kurth said. “Supplements are just another avenue to help people along their journey.” Bold flavors are central to the brand — and flavored vapes are precisely the products regulators have targeted over concerns about youth appeal. Asked how a flavor-forward product avoids becoming a gateway for teenagers, Kurth argued the concern is misdirected in his company’s case.

“A gateway to nicotine is the allure of using nicotine,” he said. “Ours has none. ... There’s nothing addictive to graduate to.”

He said the company’s packaging is deliberately restrained. “Our packaging is deliberately clean and mature, not the bright, cereal-box look a lot of nicotine brands use,” he said, adding that the marketing targets adults who already vape rather than new users. “We built this as an off-ramp from nicotine, not an on-ramp to it.”

To back its central claim, Cyclone Pods says it has its products tested by independent, accredited laboratories and publishes the results. The company’s vapes are tested by

RETRACTED

FROM PAGE 2

week being under \$10.

While the price movements were small, the concentration of trading on both platforms shortly after the release of Median’s fake poll was not.

Before it was taken down, the Median Strategies website included a statement claiming that “no individual involved held or traded any position in an election prediction market, betting market, or other financial instrument tied to the races covered by Median Strategies.”

MOTIVATIONS FOR THE FAKE DATA REMAIN UNCLEAR

More than a week after the firm began sharing “results,” it remains unclear who is behind Median Strategies.

No one responded to AP’s questions sent to an email address listed on its website,

schools.

The city also reminded families that students can obtain a GoPass through their school, which provides free, unlimited rides on several transit agencies including Big Blue Bus and LA Metro, and encouraged riders to plan routes and bus stops before the first day.

For drivers, the city repeated many of SMPD’s core reminders: slow down in school zones, watch for students near crosswalks, and follow posted drop-off procedures rather than double parking. Pedestrians and cyclists were advised to use marked crosswalks, wear properly fitted helmets, and make eye contact with drivers before crossing.

Students traveling independently were also encouraged to know their route in advance and avoid distractions while crossing streets, while bicyclists were reminded to ride predictably, use hand signals and remain visible to motorists.

Both the police department and the city’s mobility office framed the effort as a shared responsibility among everyone using Santa Monica’s streets during the transition back to the school routine.

“A safe school year starts with a safe trip to school,” the department said.

editor@smdp.com

Legend Technical Services Inc., an ISO 17025-accredited lab in St. Paul, Minnesota, using a mass-spectrometry method the company says can detect nicotine down to 0.063 micrograms per gram. Of 16 products analyzed under one recent work order, the company says, 15 returned non-detect results for nicotine, and all tested at 0% for diacetyl.

The Focus Pouches are tested separately by Certified Laboratories, an A2LA-accredited facility in Burbank, California, that screens for pesticides, solvents and heavy metals. The company says caffeine content was verified at 113% of its 50-milligram label claim.

For all the growth, Kurth said the company remains rooted in Santa Monica, where he has lived since 2015 and where Cyclone Pods began.

“Because it’s home,” he said. “Santa Monica is where Cyclone started and where I still live. Might as well keep it here where life is great.”

Cyclone Pods products are sold at cyclonepods.com and in retail stores nationwide.

maaz@smdp.com

which was created little more than a week ago. Before it was taken offline, the only content on the site was a statement indicating that the firm “has concluded its polling project and will not publish additional polls.”

“All previously published polling releases have been withdrawn and should not be cited or treated as genuine polling data,” it wrote.

The firm highlighted what it called “a credibility problem” in its first social media post earlier in the month.

“Polling has a credibility problem. Ours is the fix: no partisan clients, no campaign or party money, numbers that go wherever the data takes them even when it’s inconvenient. Trustworthy polling, rebuilt,” it wrote.

By STEVE PEOPLES, AMELIA THOMSON-DEVEAUX and KEN SWEET Associated Press. Associated Press writers Linley Sanders and Michael Reo in Washington, Scott Bauer in Madison, Wis., and Michael Blood in Los Angeles contributed.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026167111. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: DOF ADVISORY, 7316 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD APT 404, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046, County of Los Angeles. Registered Owner(s): XIAOLONG LI, 7316 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD APT 404, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046. 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/ XIAOLONG LI, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 08/04/2026. 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: 08/13/2026, 08/20/2026, 08/27/2026, 09/03/2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2026176835. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: HANNAH AMEN HAIR, 1512B W HUNTINGTON DR, ALHAMBRA, CA 91801, County of Los Angeles. Al #ON B20260250655. Registered Owner(s): AMEN INDUSTRIES INC, 1512B W HUNTINGTON DR, ALHAMBRA, CA 91801. This business is conducted by: a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 05/2026. 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/ HANNAH E AMEN, CEO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 08/17/2026. 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: 08/20/2026, 08/27/2026, 09/03/2026, 09/10/2026

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26STCP02734. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 111 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Petition of Gina Glasmacher Thompson Acuna for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Gina Glasmacher Thompson Acuna filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Gina Glasmacher Thompson Acuna to Gina Rachel Ruth Klein. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 11/02/2026, Time: 8:30am, Dept:529 Stanley Mosk Courthouse. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS . Virginia Keeny, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 07/30/2026, 08/06/2026, 08/13/2026, 08/20/2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. 26SMCP00338. Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica 90401. Petition of Remi Luke Christopher Lawford by Savannah Lawford for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Remi Luke Christopher Lawford by Savannah Lawford filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Remi Luke Christopher Lawford to Jack Luke Lawford. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 09/04/2026, Time: 8:30a, Dept: K. The address of the court is same as noted above. A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS. Date: 07/23/2026. Lawrence H. Cho, Judge of the Superior Court. SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS Publish: 07/30/2026, 08/06/2026, 08/13/2026, 08/20/2026

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF HEARING TO CONDUCT MESSAGE ESTABLISHMENT
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE TO THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION TO CONDUCT ADDRESS OF PREMISES: 586 WASHINGTON BLVD., MARINA DEL REY, CA 90292 NAME OF APPLICANT: SIRINAN MASSAGE DATE OF HEARING: 08/26/2026 TIME OF HEARING: 09:15 A.M. ‘ANY PERSON HAVING OBJECTIONS TO THE GRANTING OF THE LICENSE MAY, AT ANY TIME PRIOR TO THE ABOVE DATE, FILE WITH THE BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION OBJECTIONS IN WRITING GIVING REASONS THEREFOR, AND MAY APPEAR AT THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE HEARING AND BE HEARD RELATIVE THERETO”
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION:
BUSINESS LICENSE COMMISSION 500 W. TEMPLE STREET, RM 374 LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 CN129784 Aug 19,20,21, 2026

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