2 **Democratic angst**
Over redistricting.

3 **Tax hike**
Coming soon?

4 **Around Town**
Summer events.

5 **New Owners**
For local auto dealer.

smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 193 THURSDAY 8/21/25 smdp.com

Samohi starts today



Matthew Hall

CLASS: Students at local schools are returning to class today and drivers should prepare for additional traffic.

Dangerous heat wave prompts fire warnings and health alerts

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

A dangerous, multiday heat wave descended on much of California and the U.S. Southwest this week, with near-record temperatures expected through the weekend and officials warning of elevated wildfire risk and serious health threats.

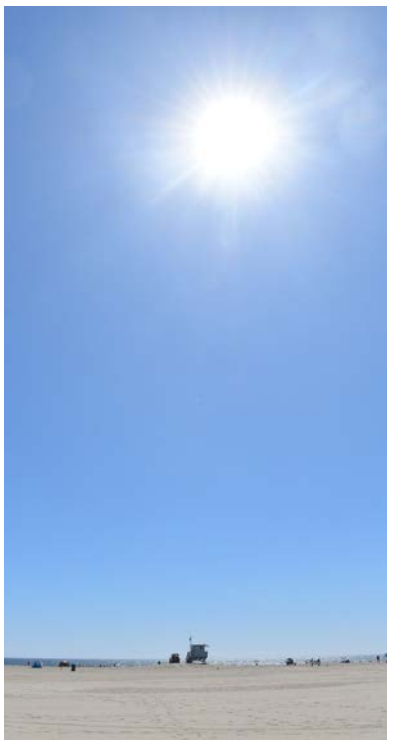
The National Weather Service issued an extreme heat warning for Southern California starting Wednesday, with downtown Los Angeles forecast to reach 97 degrees Friday and valleys to the north bracing for temperatures as high as 108 degrees. Desert areas including Palm Springs will see even hotter conditions.

In Arizona, the peak of the heat wave will hit Thursday and Friday, with temperatures possibly reaching 110 degrees in the southern and western parts of the state. Similar temperatures were expected in Las Vegas. Nearly-always-hot Death Valley could see a severe 120 degrees, the weather service said — 14 degrees shy of its record high of 134 degrees set in 1913.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom ordered state firefighting resources deployed to areas where blazes could ignite as red flag warnings signaling elevated wildfire danger were issued across Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties until Saturday.

"If you live in a high fire danger area in the mountains or foothills, review your evacuation plans and

SEE **WEATHER** PAGE 11



Matthew Hall

WEATHER: The region is in for several days of heat.

Santa Monica Council approves downtown zoning changes to boost business

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica City Council has unanimously approved zoning amendments designed to promote economic recovery in the downtown area, while adding restrictions that will require hotels and motels to obtain conditional use permits on the Third Street Promenade.

The new rules are designed to improve the business environment in downtown as the local economy struggles.

Santa Monica faces significant financial challenges requiring $60.5 million from reserves over five years to maintain current services. The city continues to struggle with economic impacts from Covid era lockdowns and recent wildfires affecting its tourism-dependent revenue streams.



Matthew Hall

IZO BOUNDARIES: Zoning changes intended to encourage economic growth in the downtown area have been unanimously approved by the council.

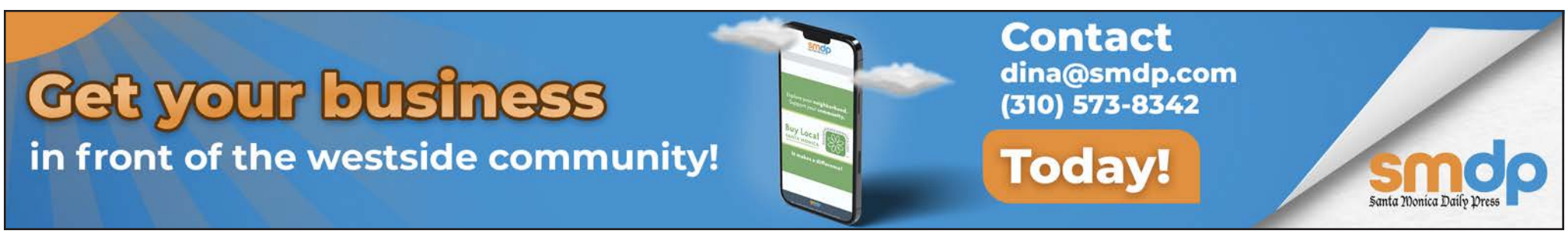
Key revenue sources remain sluggish, with transient occupancy tax recovering slowly despite voter-approved rate increases in 2023. Hotel occupancy is lower than normal, sales tax figures have dropped and parking revenues remain below pre-pandemic levels.

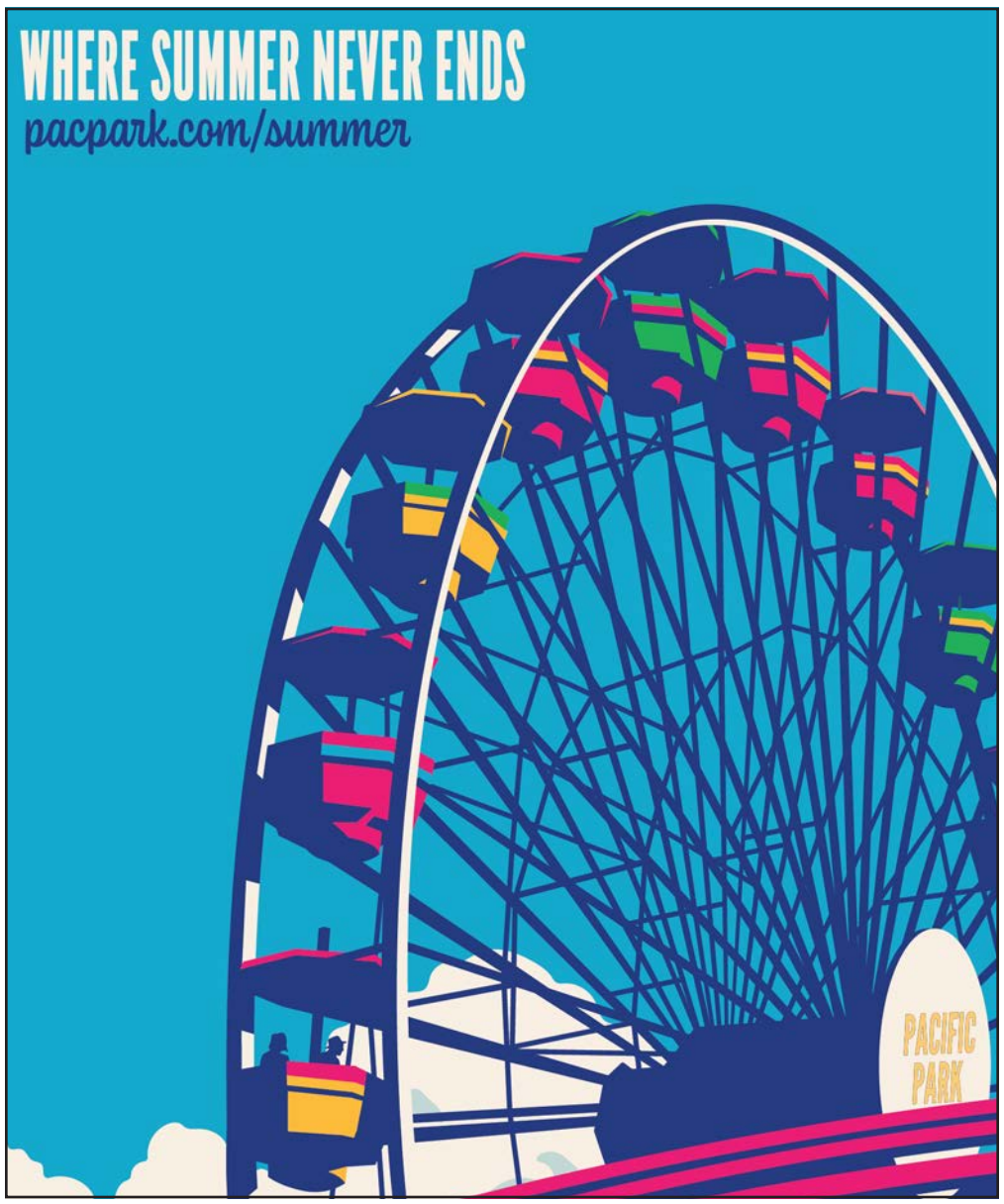
Additional financial pressures include over $230 million in legal settlements related to former employee Eric Uller and potential federal funding cuts.

The amendments passed last week streamline alcohol permits beyond bars/restaurants, reduce restrictions on entertainment within restaurants and eliminate prohibitions on fast food and fast casual restaurants on the Promenade.

The council rejected a staff recommendation that would have

SEE **ZONING CHANGES** PAGE 11





Why many California Democrats are feeling angst over Newsom's redistricting



Photo by Fred Greaves for CalMatters

LAWMAKERS: The Senate Standing Committee on Elections and Constitutional Amendments holds a hearing on a potential special election to redraw the state's congressional districts, at the Capitol Annex Swing Space in Sacramento on Aug. 19, 2025.

As Republicans lambasted California lawmakers for rushing through their effort to gerrymander the state's congressional map, Democrats are facing a quieter angst in their own party.

To counter what they call President Donald Trump's undemocratic power grab for Republican seats in Texas, they're asking voters to temporarily ditch California's nonpartisan map-drawing process — touted as a national gold standard for fair elections and good governance — in favor of a politico-drawn map to tilt seats in Democrats' favor.

At the polls, they'll have to overcome not just Republican opponents but also some Democrats and independent voters who say California shouldn't respond to partisan gerrymandering in Texas with the same frowned-upon tactics at home.

"This is the kind of moral conflict that, if this goes to the ballot, that every California voter is going to be faced with," said Sara Sadhawani, a political science professor, Democrat and former member of the state's independent redistricting commission, at a hearing over the measures Tuesday.

Sadhawani helped draw the state's existing congressional map when she sat on the commission alongside fellow Democrats, Republicans and independents after the 2020 Census. Now she's one of Gov. Gavin Newsom's partisan redistricting effort's most vocal supporters.

Testifying in favor of the plan on Tuesday, she said lawmakers must respond to the "extreme attacks on our core democratic principles" in Texas and other red states that are considering redrawing their own maps.

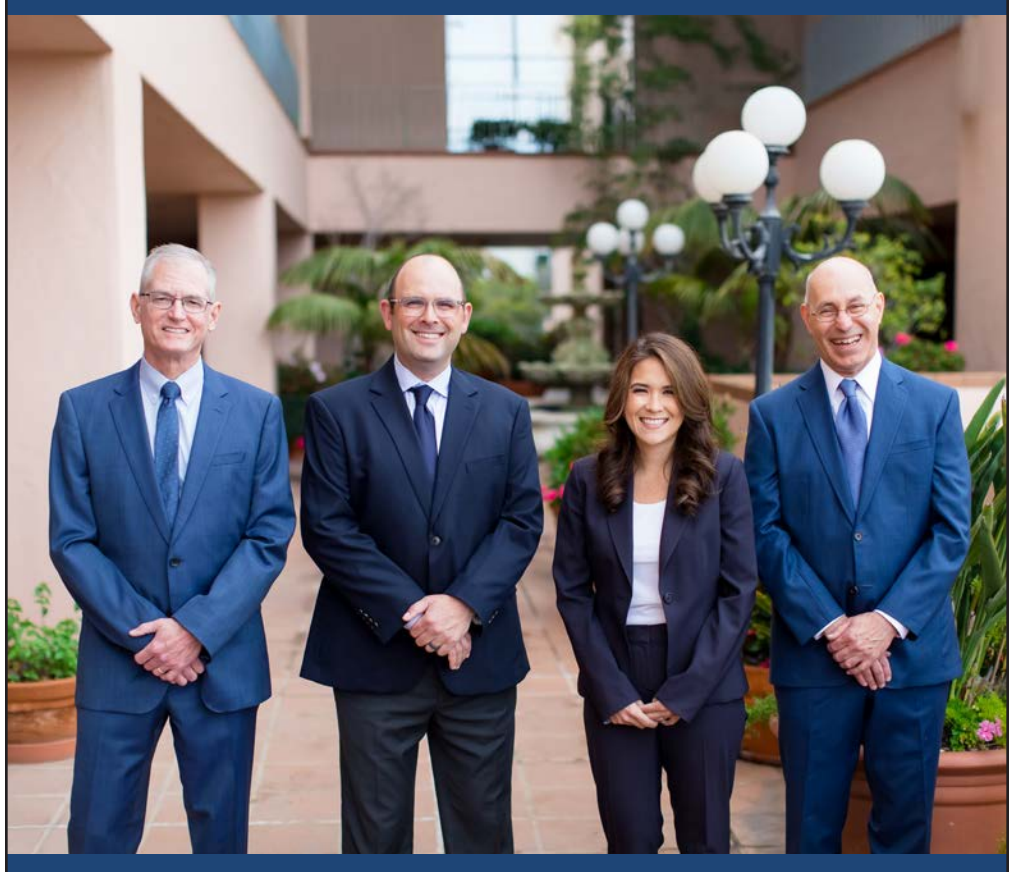
"It brings me no joy to see the maps that we passed fairly by the Commission to be tossed aside," she said. "I do believe this is a necessary step in a much bigger battle to shore up free and fair elections in our nation."

But even as state- and congressional-level Democrats embrace the plan as their answer to voters clamoring for the party to put up a resistance to Trump, there are misgivings among Democrats statewide.

On the other side of the issue in the hearing rooms weren't the Republicans who have vowed to fight Newsom through lawsuits and at the ballot box. Instead, opponents presented members of prior nonpartisan redistricting commissions: Jeanne Raya and Cynthia Dai, who are Democrats, and Connie Archbold Robinson, an independent, to testify against the measures.

SEE **DISTRICTING** PAGE 11

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California's finances face a perfect storm. It could eventually lead to another tax hike



Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters

BUDGET: Construction on the state Capitol in Sacramento on April 29, 2024.

A perfect storm of economic, fiscal and political trends is battering California's already deficit-ridden state budget, leading public employee unions and other interest groups dependent on money from Sacramento to explore hefty tax increases.

The budget has what fiscal authorities call a "structural deficit," meaning that its revenue system, dominated by personal income taxes, cannot generate enough income to fully finance all services and programs in current law.

Estimates of the chronic shortfall range from $10 billion a year to as much as $30 billion. Last fall, the Legislative Analyst's Office calculated that state spending was increasing by about 6% a year while revenue was rising by only 4%.

The current budget, enacted in June, had a $12 billion deficit that was closed by tapping into the state's emergency reserves, borrowing from special funds, postponing some payments and adopting some bookkeeping gimmicks. For instance, the budget eliminates payments to reduce the state's ever-growing unfunded obligations for retiree health care which reached $91.5 billion, up $6.3 billion from a year earlier, Controller Malia Cohen recently revealed.

The permanence of the deficit is one factor that's fueling preliminary cogitating over a tax increase of some kind, which probably would have to be ratified by voters.

Another is the reduction of federal aid to states by President Donald Trump and Congress. Federal funds are more than a quarter of California's $321 billion state budget and the cuts mostly hit health and welfare programs, such as Medi-Cal. Many are looking to Sacramento for money to offset federal reductions.

Finally, a surtax on incomes of California's wealthiest families, approved by voters in 2012 to deal with an earlier budget deficit, was supposed to last only a few years, but a 2016 ballot measure extended it to 2030. Its backers — public employee unions particularly — are planning to seek either another extension or permanent status.

The Franchise Tax Board says revenue from the surtax spiked to more than $16 billion in 2021 — thanks to the odd economics of the COVID-19 pandemic — but returned to a more normal $9-10 billion a year since.

Californians already bear one of the nation's highest tax burdens. Wallet Hub has calculated that California's major state and local taxes are the fourth-highest of any state with an 11% total tax burden.

SEE **GUEST COMMENTARY** PAGE 8



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **71.6**

THURSDAY
FAIR
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Staying fun as reinforcing SSW pulses move in through the end of the week. Size stays in the knee-waist high range for average breaks heading into the weekend thanks to reinforcing SSW pulses. Chest-high surf shows for better spots, and standouts out west are shoulder-high. Better early/mid AM tide pushes set up heading into the weekend, which is when the best winds are expected to show. Not much windswell in the mix, so spots with some structure offer best shape.

FRIDAY
FAIR
SURF: 1-2ft
Knee to thigh

Looking like Thursday with continued SSW pulse. Winds staying on the lighter side in morning. Waves hold in knee-waist high zone for most spots, as SSW pulse continues. Chest-high surf for better spots while standouts out west go shoulder high. Light winds in the morning along with a favorable tide push early. Afternoon W-WNW onshores look to stay manageable. Not much windswell in the mix, so spots with some structure offer best shape.

Weather

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 79. Light and variable wind becoming west southwest 5 to 10 mph.
Thursday Night: Clear, with a low around 70. West southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming light and variable after midnight.
Friday: Partly sunny, with a high near 79. Light and variable wind becoming southwest 5 to 10 mph.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, cloudy, with a low around 67.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2025/08/21	Thu	03:14 AM	-0.83	L
2025/08/21	Thu	09:40 AM	4.42	H
2025/08/21	Thu	2:39 PM	2.04	L
2025/08/21	Thu	8:46 PM	6.58	H
2025/08/22	Fri	03:48 AM	-0.73	L
2025/08/22	Fri	10:08 AM	4.62	H
2025/08/22	Fri	3:20 PM	1.75	L
2025/08/22	Fri	9:26 PM	6.44	H
2025/08/23	Sat	04:18 AM	-0.48	L
2025/08/23	Sat	10:35 AM	4.78	H
2025/08/23	Sat	4:00 PM	1.55	L
2025/08/23	Sat	10:03 PM	6.11	H
2025/08/24	Sun	04:46 AM	-0.12	L

Daily Lottery

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

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 8/18
15 46 61 63 64
Power#: 1
Jackpot: 643 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 8/19
10 19 24 49 68
Mega#: 10
Jackpot: 234 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 8/16
10 12 19 33 36
Mega#: 6
Jackpot: 35 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 8/19
14 22 26 29 33

Daily 3
Draw Date: 8/19
EVENING: 8 4 9
Draw Date: 8/19
MIDDAY: 1 0 6

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 8/19
1st: 06 - Whirl Win
2nd: 04 - Big Ben
3rd: 10 - Solid Gold
Race Time: 1:48.36

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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

Classifieds

Notice

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR

Notice of Divided Publication

NOTICE OF DIVIDED PUBLICATION OF THE PROPERTY TAX-DEFAULT LIST (DELINQUENT LIST)
Made pursuant to Section 3371, Revenue and Taxation Code

Pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code Sections 3381 through 3385, the County of Los Angeles Treasurer and Tax Collector is publishing in divided distribution, the Notice of Power to Sell Tax-Defaulted Property in and for the County of Los Angeles (County), State of California, to various newspapers of general circulation published in the County. A portion of the list appears in each of such newspapers.

I, Elizabeth Buenrostro Ginsberg, County of Los Angeles Treasurer and Tax Collector, State of California, certify that:

Notice is given that by operation of law at 12:01 a.m. Pacific Time, on July 1, 2023, the Tax Collector declared the real properties listed below tax defaulted. The declaration of default was due to non-payment of the total amount due for the taxes, assessments, and other charges levied in tax year 2022-23 that were a lien on the listed real property. Non-residential commercial property and property upon which there is a recorded nuisance abatement lien shall be subject to the tax collector's power to sell after three years of defaulted taxes. Therefore, if the 2022-23 taxes remain defaulted after June 30, 2026, the property will become subject to the tax collector's power to sell and eligible for sale at the County's online auction in 2027. All other property that has defaulted taxes after June 30, 2028, will become subject to the tax collector's power to sell and eligible for sale at the County's online auction in 2029. The list contains the name of the assessee and the total tax, which was due on June 30, 2023, for tax year 2022-23, opposite the parcel number. Payments to redeem tax-defaulted real property shall include all amounts for unpaid taxes and assessments, together with the additional penalties and fees as prescribed by law, or be paid under an installment plan of redemption if initiated prior to the property becoming subject to the tax collector's power to sell.

The Treasurer and Tax Collector's Office will furnish, upon request, information concerning making a payment in full or initiating an installment plan of redemption. Requests must be made at 225 North Hill Street, First Floor Lobby, Los Angeles, California 90012. For more information, please visit our website at ttc.lacounty.gov or contact us at (213) 974-2111.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed at Los Angeles, California, on August 7 , 2025.

ELIZABETH BUENROSTRO GINSBERG
TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Assessees/taxpayers, who have disposed of real property after January 1, 2022, may find their names listed because the Office of the Assessor has not yet updated the assessment roll to reflect the change in ownership.

ASSESSOR'S IDENTIFICATION NUMBERING SYSTEM EXPLANATION

The Assessor's Identification Number, when used to describe property in this list, refers to the Assessor's map book, the map page, the block on the map (if applicable), and the individual parcel on the map page or in the block. The Assessor's maps and further explanation of the parcel numbering system are available at the Office of the Assessor.

The following property tax defaulted on July 1, 2023, for the taxes, assessments, and other charges for the Tax Year 2022-23:

LISTED BELOW ARE PROPERTIES THAT DEFAULTED IN 2023 FOR TAXES, ASSESSMENTS AND 0THER CHARGES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023.
AMOUNT OF DELINQUENCY AS OF THIS PUBLICATION IS LISTED BELOW.

BARARI, FARAH TR FARAH BARARI TRUST SITUS 2519 KANSAS AVE UNIT 107 SANTA MONICA CA 90404-5272 4274-004-067 $5,519.76

BERNSTEIN, ALAN M AND STEPHANIE D SITUS 1127 10TH ST NO 204 SANTA MONICA CA 90403-5302 4281-027-043 $18,319.78

BONNER, THOMAS AND BRIGETTE SITUS 2117 PIER AVE SANTA MONICA CA 90405-6047 4272-011-013 $24,103.20

BOWLIN, PAMELA R AND GONZALEZ, TAMARA C SITUS 3022 STEINER AVE SANTA MONICA CA 90405-5827 4285-032-012 $54,183.48

FISHER, CELIA TR CELIA FISHER TRUST SITUS 2625 4TH ST 4 SANTA MONICA CA 90405-4249 4287-012-074/S2021-010 $6,029.47

FMF HILL PROPERTIES LLC SITUS 817 HILL ST SANTA MONICA CA 90405-4650 4285-001-033 $142,297.10

HITTNER, ROBERT AND SHOESMITH, JOANNE SITUS 852 15TH ST NO 2 SANTA MONICA CA 90403-1829 4281-009-042/S2022-010 $12,426.27

HOMA L P SITUS 1015 19TH ST SANTA MONICA CA 90403-4437 4277-025-001 $37,719.94

LAVI, PARVIZ SITUS 101 CALIFORNIA AVE NO 302 SANTA MONICA CA 90403-3517 4292-027-037 $11,838.02

MOINI, MICHAEL Z SITUS 3018 GOLDSMITH ST SANTA MONICA CA 90405-5627 4287-028-014/S2021-010/S2022-010 $30,173.98

MOWERY, TAMMY K SITUS 2306 11TH ST SANTA MONICA CA 90405-2527 4284-012-026 $36,905.85

NIESTATEK, IRENE M TR IRENE M NIETATEK TRUST SITUS 2446 OCEAN PARK BLVD SANTA MONICA CA 90405-7102 4272-023-021 $9,331.78

PARKER, CRAIG S SITUS 2000 WASHINGTON AVE NO 2002 SANTA MONICA CA 90403-3308 4277-024-052 $7,398.85

RAHEB, MIKE CO TR MAJID AND MAHIN RAHEB TRUST SITUS 201 OCEAN AVE NO 809B SANTA MONICA CA 90402-1464 4293-020-059/S2021-010/S2022-010 $16,844.37

SAMUELS, NOEMAN N TR NOEMAN N SAMUELS TRUST SITUS 1255 PRINCETON ST SANTA MONICA CA 90404-1444 4267-006-027 $14,720.84

SITUS 1327 STANFORD ST 2 SANTA MONICA CA 90404-2513 4267-012-068 $2,196.09

SITUS 1327 STANFORD ST 5 SANTA MONICA CA 90404-2513 4267-012-071 $4,994.33

SAN VICENTE WILCO LLC SITUS 451 SAN VICENTE BLVD SANTA MONICA CA 90402-1743 4293-001-022 $4,381.97

SAV LLC SITUS 2002 4TH ST NO 103 SANTA MONICA CA 90405-1132 4289-013-051 $25,536.24

SCOBAR ADVENTURES LLC AND HW BURBANK LLC SITUS 1443 4TH ST SANTA MONICA CA 90401-2308 4291-018-015 $73,128.34

STARR, M GERHARD AND KRISTIN J SITUS 409 STRAND ST SANTA MONICA CA 90405-3416 4289-008-047 $353.47

STEP UP ON 26TH LLC SITUS 2622 26TH ST SANTA MONICA CA 90405-2843 4270-011-048 $11,799.52

STONE, JAN S TR JAN S STONE TRUST SITUS 713 9TH ST NO 5 SANTA MONICA CA 90402-2849 4280-023-039 $16,276.72

STUDEBAKER BROTHERS LLC SITUS 3317 PICO BLVD SANTA MONICA CA 90405-2115 4274-036-027/S2021-010 $91,773.39

STURMAN, ROBERT C SITUS 2947 DELAWARE AVE SANTA MONICA CA 90404-5014 4268-022-017 $506.39

SUNSET ABBA LLC SITUS 837 11TH ST 6 SANTA MONICA CA 90403-1634 4281-023-068/S2022-010 $31,696.12

TANG, AINA TR AINA TANG TRUST SITUS 1040 4TH ST NO 101 SANTA MONICA CA 90403-3872 4292-019-036 $5,121.19

USKAN, MELIH TR ISMET AND RESA USKAN TRUST SITUS 201 OCEAN AVE NO 1409P SANTA MONICA CA 90402-1439 4293-019-106 $40,280.47

SITUS 201 OCEAN AVE NO 510B SANTA MONICA CA 90402-1460 4293-020-030 $51,918.38

VISTA OCEANO LLC SITUS 757 OCEAN AVE NO 112 SANTA MONICA CA 90402-2652 4293-014-047 $8,234.28

WORTHINGTON, BRADLEY J AND KARI E SITUS 2016 PIER AVE SANTA MONICA CA 90405-5950 4272-005-017/S2021-010 $19,499.99

YOUNG, TERENCE AND CHOU, PEISHAN T SITUS 3007 11TH ST SANTA MONICA CA 90405-5707 4285-030-022 $62,456.48

ZAMAN ZADEH, SHEBA SITUS 1333 14TH ST NO 6 SANTA MONICA CA 90404-1764 4282-016-035/S2022-010 $4,636.10

ZEIDER, SHIRLEY M TR ZEIDER FAMILY DECD TRUST SITUS 1547 15TH ST SANTA MONICA CA 90404-3304 4282-035-013 $17,018.88

1447 2ND STREET LLC SITUS 1447 2ND ST SANTA MONICA CA 90401-2301 4291-016-014 $140,397.68
CN119771 534 Aug 21,28, 2025

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

AROUND TOWN

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

More Summer Events!

SMDP's Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town includes Dog Daze of Summer event on Montana Ave., Endless Summer C.A.M.P., Venice Art Crawl, and much more!



Courtesy image

CAMP: The City sponsored event will be held in Tongva Park.

Santa Monica Forward Summer Family Picnic: Join Santa Monica Forward for a summer picnic in the park. The Colorado Center is an office park with a public park, providing an ideal setting to meet other families and talk about what we can do to make Santa Monica a better place. We will provide pizza, pasta, and salad from Santa Monica Pizza Kitchen. Please bring your favorite non-alcoholic beverages or enjoy some seltzer waters and juice boxes. Saturday, Aug. 23, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Colorado Center, 2450 Broadway Ave. https://actionnetwork.org/events/santa-monica-forward-family-picnic

Westside Chamber Orchestra Free Summer Series: Join the Westside Chamber Orchestra this summer at St. Paul's Lutheran Church for free programs. Saturday, Aug. 23, 7 p.m., 958 Lincoln Blvd. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-westside-chamber-orchestra-barber-mozart-walton-tickets-1329194920789

6th Annual Back 2 School Festival: Join It's Bigger Than Us (IBTU) for a powerful day of healing, service, and community joy—featuring free backpacks, fire relief resources, youth performers, a skatepark activation, wellness services, games, raffles, and more. This event is free and open to the public, with special giveaways for families who pre-register and check in. Saturday, Aug. 23, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., 1 Windward Ave., Venice https://www.eventbrite.com/e/its-bigger-than-us-6th-annual-back-2-school-festival-venice-beach-tickets-1514133015609

Endless Summer C.A.M.P. (Community | Art | Music | Picnic): This festive afternoon in Tongva Park brings together a variety of music, dance and performance from all around Los Angeles in one of Santa Monica's most iconic green spaces. Attendees can participate in a bubble party, watch a comedic opera retelling of "Cinderella", and more. Saturday, Aug. 23, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., 1615 Ocean Ave. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/endless-summer-tickets-1485135402969

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. 23, 11 a.m. https://www.facebook.com/events/2504709806566615/

Anniversary Party at The Surfing Fox: Enjoy an all-day celebration at the Pierside Hotel's restaurant with giveaways, games, birthday cake, specials, live music and more, starting with free La Colombe Coffee iced creations from 7 – 9 a.m., followed by a birthday brunch with live music & celebratory cake cutting, patio games and free portraits, and burgers and beers and patio games. Sunday, Aug. 24, 7 a.m. - 8 p.m., 120 Colorado Ave. https://www.thepiersidehotel.com/events/anniversary-party-at-the-surfing-fox/

Cinema Sundays at Sunset on the Promenade: This summer, Third Street Promenade transforms into Santa Monica's most charming outdoor movie theater. Sunday, Aug. 24, 6 p.m., is Lilo & Stitch in front of the Apple Store, 1415 3rd Street Promenade https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cinema-sundays-at-sunset-tickets-1588204385069

Pickle n Tequila x Sushi Roku Off the Court Happy Hour: Celebrate the launch of three new frozen cocktails, mingle with the community, and dive into the exclusive extended happy hour menu. $8 ticket includes: (1) complimentary cocktail OR beer/

SEE **AROUND TOWN** PAGE 8

COMMUNITY NEWS

Sacramento

California Commits to Cutting Chronic Absenteeism in Half Within Five Years

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond announced Tuesday that California is committed to reducing chronic absenteeism by 50% over five years, releasing new statewide guidance to improve student attendance.

Speaking at Williamson Elementary School in Rancho Cordova, Thurmond was joined by Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi, State Senator Sasha Renée Pérez and education leaders to unveil the guidance developed with Attendance Works and the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence.

> Due to historic investments in student supports and family engagement, California has cut TK–12 chronic absenteeism levels by one-third, from 30% in 2022 to 20% in 2024
> - Tony Thurmond

"Due to historic investments in student supports and family engagement, California has cut TK–12 chronic absenteeism levels by one-third, from 30% in 2022 to 20% in 2024," Thurmond said. "We are on track and committed to reduce chronic absence by 50% over five years."

The superintendent emphasized the state's Community Schools approach, saying it addresses whole-family needs to help students attend school regularly.

Folsom Cordova Unified School District Superintendent Erik Swanson said the district's California Community Schools Partnership Program grant has been a "game changer" for improving attendance. The district's chronic absenteeism rates mirror statewide trends.

Also speaking were Attendance Works Vice President of Programs Cecelia Leong, California Collaborative for Educational Excellence Deputy Executive Director Sujie Shin, FCUSD Child Welfare and Attendance Specialist Maggie Cunin and student representatives.

Thurmond, a former social worker, stressed the importance of Community Schools strategies for boosting attendance.

"When our students aren't showing up to school, our schools need the resources to knock on doors and ask why," he said.

The new guidance aims to provide districts with tools and strategies to address attendance challenges through comprehensive family and community support systems.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

Santa Monica

Sonic Automotive Expands California Presence with Santa Monica Jaguar Land Rover Acquisition

Sonic Automotive announced Monday its acquisition of Jaguar Land Rover Santa Monica, bringing the Fortune 500 company's total Jaguar Land Rover dealerships to 11 and cementing its position as the largest volume retailer of the luxury brands in the United States.

The acquisition strengthens Sonic's footprint in Southern California's luxury automotive market. The Charlotte, North Carolina-based company already holds the title of largest Jaguar Land Rover retail ownership group in the U.S. by volume as of 2024.

"This acquisition marks another important step in Sonic Automotive's growth journey," said David B. Smith, chairman and CEO. "The addition of Jaguar Land Rover Santa Monica strengthens our position in one of the world's most important luxury markets and reflects the energy driving our company forward."

The Santa Monica location follows Sonic's recent announcement of acquiring four additional Jaguar Land Rover dealerships in California, part of an aggressive expansion strategy targeting premium automotive markets.

Sudhir Sood, CEO of Redwood Automotive I, LLC, and dealer principal of Jaguar Land Rover Santa Monica, praised the transition process. "We are incredibly proud of the legacy we've built here in Santa Monica," Sood said. "Their proven leadership in the luxury automotive space makes them a trusted partner to carry our business forward."

Jeff Dyke, Sonic's president, emphasized the acquisition's role in enhancing customer experience across the company's network. "This expansion is about elevating the customer experience and driving innovation," Dyke said. "The Santa Monica dealership will help us better serve the vibrant Southern California market and boost our overall sales."

Sonic Automotive operates 179 automotive and powersports franchises at 126 locations nationwide. The company also runs 18 EchoPark Automotive locations, with EchoPark ranked as the top used car buying experience in America.

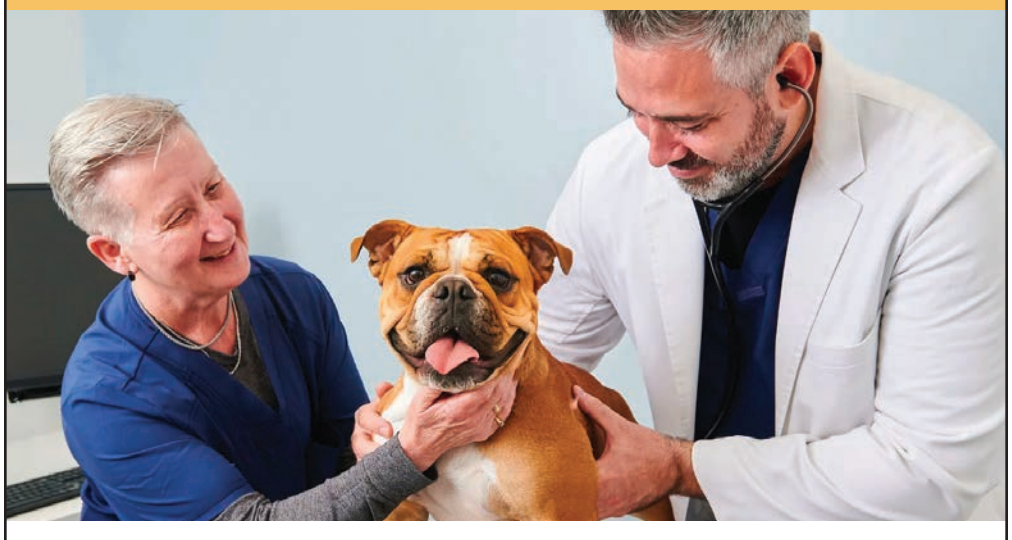
The acquisition supports Sonic's strategic initiatives to strengthen its national market position and drive long-term growth in the luxury automotive segment, where the company continues to expand its influence in shaping premium customer experiences.

More information about Sonic Automotive can be found at sonicautomotive.com and ir.sonicautomotive.com.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

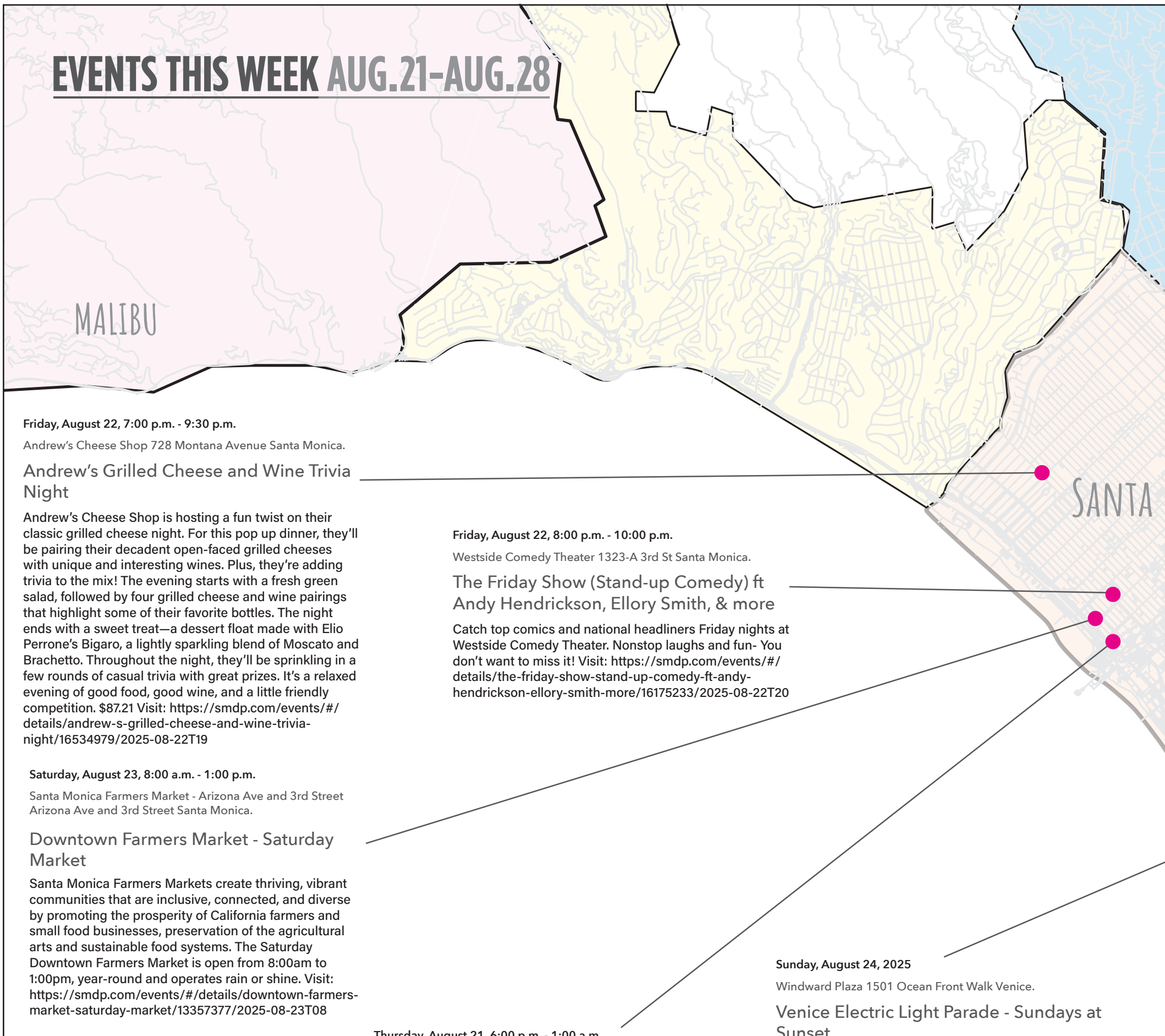
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EVENTS THIS WEEK AUG.21-AUG.28



Friday, August 22, 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Andrew's Cheese Shop 728 Montana Avenue Santa Monica.

Andrew's Grilled Cheese and Wine Trivia Night

Andrew's Cheese Shop is hosting a fun twist on their classic grilled cheese night. For this pop up dinner, they'll be pairing their decadent open-faced grilled cheeses with unique and interesting wines. Plus, they're adding trivia to the mix! The evening starts with a fresh green salad, followed by four grilled cheese and wine pairings that highlight some of their favorite bottles. The night ends with a sweet treat—a dessert float made with Elio Perrone's Bigaro, a lightly sparkling blend of Moscato and Brachetto. Throughout the night, they'll be sprinkling in a few rounds of casual trivia with great prizes. It's a relaxed evening of good food, good wine, and a little friendly competition. $87.21 Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/andrew-s-grilled-cheese-and-wine-trivia-night/16534979/2025-08-22T19

Saturday, August 23, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Santa Monica Farmers Market - Arizona Ave and 3rd Street Arizona Ave and 3rd Street Santa Monica.

Downtown Farmers Market - Saturday Market

Santa Monica Farmers Markets create thriving, vibrant communities that are inclusive, connected, and diverse by promoting the prosperity of California farmers and small food businesses, preservation of the agricultural arts and sustainable food systems. The Saturday Downtown Farmers Market is open from 8:00am to 1:00pm, year-round and operates rain or shine. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/downtown-farmers-market-saturday-market/13357377/2025-08-23T08

Check out more events at: smdp.com/events

Friday, August 22, 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Westside Comedy Theater 1323-A 3rd St Santa Monica.

The Friday Show (Stand-up Comedy) ft Andy Hendrickson, Ellory Smith, & more

Catch top comics and national headliners Friday nights at Westside Comedy Theater. Nonstop laughs and fun- You don't want to miss it! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/the-friday-show-stand-up-comedy-ft-andy-hendrickson-ellory-smith-more/16175233/2025-08-22T20

Thursday, August 21, 6:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.

Loulou Santa Monica 395 Santa Monica Pl #300 Santa Monica.

Tulum Thursdays

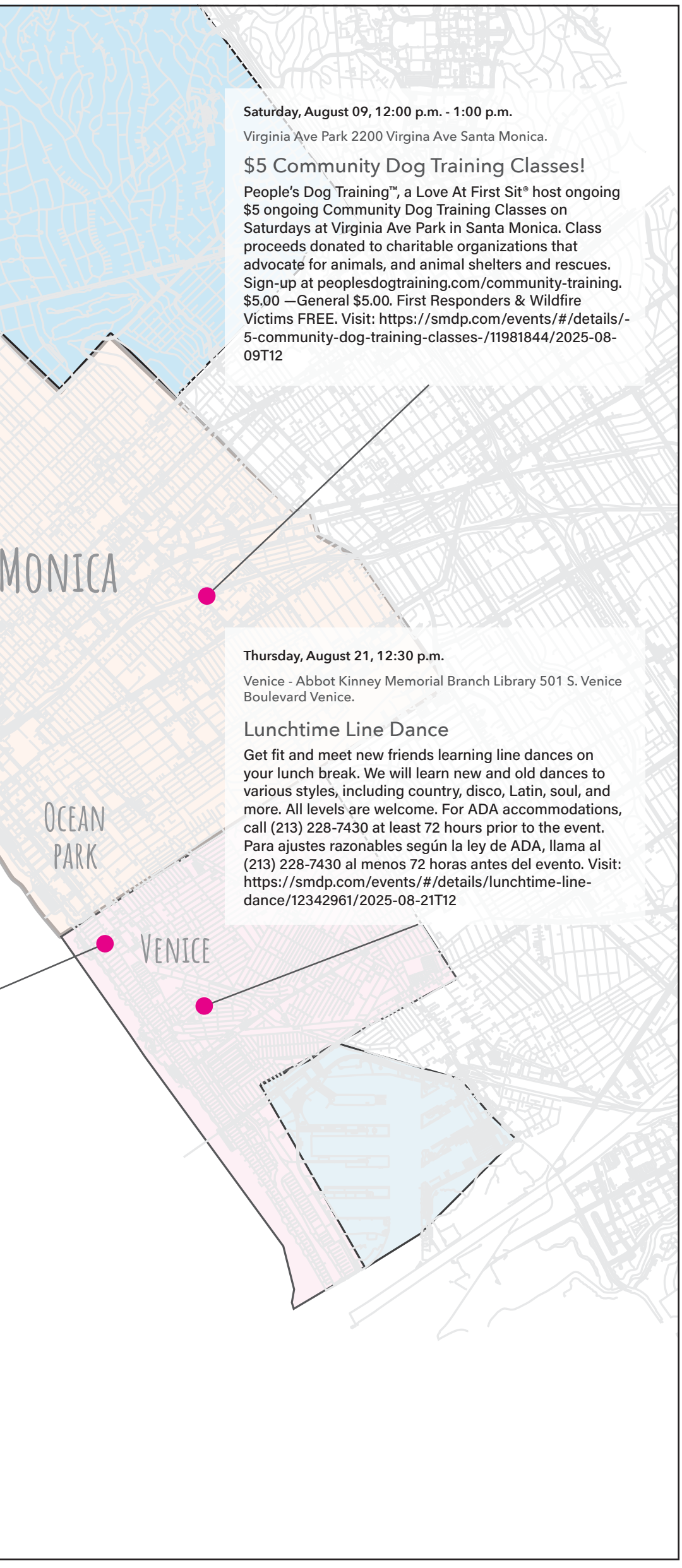
Tulum Thursdays at LouLou Santa MonicaEvery Thursday from 6:00 PM -Step into LouLou's signature Bohemian Chic haven where the elegance of Tulum meets the coastal glamour of Santa Monica.Sunset rooftop vibes Afro-Tribal House beats by DJ Yanicrash Live percussion performancesCocktails, cuisine & curated momentsInspired by the spirit of Ibiza, Mykonos, and the Riviera Maya, Tulum Thursdays are a ritual of rhythm, flavor, and barefoot luxury. Watch the LouLou experience LouLou Santa MonicaTulum Thursdays: Every Thursday from 6:00 PM395 Santa Monica Pl #300, Santa Monica, CA 90401(323) 410 - 2337info@loulousantamonica.comloulousantamonica.comReserve your table now. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/tulum-thursdays/16369530/2025-08-21T18

Sunday, August 24, 2025

Windward Plaza 1501 Ocean Front Walk Venice.

Venice Electric Light Parade - Sundays at Sunset

Join the Magic of the Venice Electric Light Parade Every Sunday Night! Looking for a unique and vibrant way to end your weekend? The Venice Electric Light Parade (VELP) is here to light up your Sunday evenings! Founded by Marcus Gladney, this family-friendly weekly event celebrates community, creativity, and safe cycling. Bring your LED-lit bicycle and join us for an unforgettable ride along the iconic Venice Beach. Details: When: Every Sunday evening. Meet 45 minutes before sunset. Where: Windward Plaza, Venice Beach. Who: Open to everyone! Bring your bike, lights, and good vibes. Cost: FREE to join! Experience the magic of glowing bikes, amazing sound bikes playing great music, and the welcoming energy of the Venice community. The parade follows a strict no-smoking or drinking policy, ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for all. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/venice-electric-light-parade-sundays-at-sunset/14970341/2025-08-24T00



Saturday, August 09, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Virginia Ave Park 2200 Virgina Ave Santa Monica.

$5 Community Dog Training Classes!

People's Dog Training™, a Love At First Sit® host ongoing $5 ongoing Community Dog Training Classes on Saturdays at Virginia Ave Park in Santa Monica. Class proceeds donated to charitable organizations that advocate for animals, and animal shelters and rescues. Sign-up at peoplesdogtraining.com/community-training. $5.00 —General $5.00. First Responders & Wildfire Victims FREE. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/-5-community-dog-training-classes-/11981844/2025-08-09T12

Thursday, August 21, 12:30 p.m.

Venice - Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library 501 S. Venice Boulevard Venice.

Lunchtime Line Dance

Get fit and meet new friends learning line dances on your lunch break. We will learn new and old dances to various styles, including country, disco, Latin, soul, and more. All levels are welcome. For ADA accommodations, call (213) 228-7430 at least 72 hours prior to the event. Para ajustes razonables según la ley de ADA, llama al (213) 228-7430 al menos 72 horas antes del evento. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/lunchtime-line-dance/12342961/2025-08-21T12



THURSDAY | AUGUST 21

SPILL THE TEA WITH THE MAYOR!

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Dr. T House 1709 Pico Blvd Santa Monica. Meet the Mayor of Santa Monica, Lana Negrete and ask her any questions you have on your mind while she "spills the tea" on any happenings going on in the city! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/spill-the-tea-with-the-mayor-/16564626/2025-08-21T17

MONTANA BRANCH BOOK GROUP

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Montana Branch Library 1704 Montana Ave. Santa Monica. This community-led, monthly book discussion group meets in person at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at the Montana Branch Library. This book group discusses a mix of fiction and nonfiction titles, often on topics chosen from current events. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/montana-branch-book-group/14818668/2025-08-21T18

THE THREE BELIEFS OF EGO: A SUFFERER'S GUIDE TO FREEDOM

6:30 p.m. Brentwood Country Mart 225 26th Street, Suite #33 Santa Monica. The Three Beliefs of Ego explores a simple but transformative idea: that the ego, often misunderstood, is structured around three unconscious beliefs — lack, attachment, and control. These beliefs quietly shape how we think, feel, and respond to life, giving rise to emotional pain. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/the-three-beliefs-of-ego-a-sufferer-s-guide-to-freedom/16526553/2025-08-21T18

SUMMER FLORAL ARRANGING WORKSHOP

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Merrihew's Sunset Gardens 1526 Ocean Park Boulevard Santa Monica. Join Kaylyn Garceau of True Vine Studio for a Summer Floral Arranging Workshop! Kaylyn will walk you through general design fundamentals that you can apply for all your DIY floral arranging. We will spend the majority of our time together making a centerpiece in a vase that you can take home with you. No previous experience required; the class is open to all skill levels! Tickets: $150 - flowers, clippers, vases, and simple mechanics will all be provided. Plus all workshop participants receive 10% off all day-of purchases at Merrihew's Sunset Gardens! Kaylyn Garceau is the Owner and Creative Director of True Vine Studio, a floral design company providing garden-inspired styling for weddings, events, productions, and publications. True Vine Studio's clients and collaborators include Vogue, Architectural Digest, The Fifteen Percent Pledge, Washington Post, and many more. Check out True Vine Studio. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/summer-floral-arranging-workshop/16456142/2025-08-21T18

FRIDAY | AUGUST 22

LIVE MUSIC FRIDAYS AT THE SURFING FOX

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. 120 Colorado Ave. Santa Monica. Erinn Alissa performs acoustic folk pop with her guitar Friday nights at The Surfing Fox. Enjoy a night of live music, tasty bites, and Foxtails! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/live-music-fridays-at-the-surfing-fox/14385252/2025-08-22T18

SATURDAY | AUGUST 23

POP UP PILATES & PLUNGE

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Crescent Bay Park 2000 Ocean Avenue Santa Monica. Join us for a Saturday beachside burn with Pop Up Pilates + breath-work, plunges, live DJ, wellness experiences & more. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/pop-up-pilates-plunge/16456160/2025-08-23T09

BEGINNER REFORMER PILATES AT GOOD BODY PILATES STUDIO

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Good Body Pilates Studio 3229 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica Good Body Pilates Studio Santa Monica. Start your Saturday feeling strong, centered, and energized with our Beginner Reformer Pilates Class at Good Body Pilates Studio, taught by expert instructor Kylie. This group class is perfect for those new to Pilates or anyone looking to reconnect with the fundamentals in a welcoming and supportive environment. No experience necessary! Located in the heart of Santa Monica on Pico Boulevard, right across from Trader Joe's, our boutique studio is surrounded by great local coffee shops and restaurants, making it the perfect place to kick off your weekend. Plenty of metered parking available on Pico Blvd, and both metered and free street parking available on Urban Ave. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/beginner-reformer-pilates-at-good-body-pilates-studio/16094481/2025-08-23T10

DISNEY ANIMATED FILMS

11:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. California Heritage Museum 2612 Main Street Santa Monica. Disney Animated Films showcases more than 100 original works of art from the production of Disney's most cherished animated classics including Bambi, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Peter Pan, Lady and the Tramp and more. We offer visitors an intimate glimpse behind the scenes of filmmaking history. All artwork is generously on loan from the prestigious Mark Hilbert Collection. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/disney-animated-films/16449187/2025-08-23T11

DOG DAZE OF SUMMER

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Santa Monica Public Library 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Santa Monica. The Dog Daze on Montana Avenue is back! Join them for sales, treats, giveaways, photo opps and more! It's the perfect way to celebrate an afternoon with your four-legged friend. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/dog-daze-of-summer/15799899/2025-08-23T11

ARTISTS & FLEAS: VENICE MARKETPLACE

11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Westminster Elementary School 1010 Abbot Kinney Los Angeles. Artists & Fleas in Venice is located in the vibrant, artistic heart of Venice at the corner of Abbot Kinney and Westminster Avenue in the outdoor lot of Westminister Avenue Elementary School. Join 50+ merchants every Saturday (rain or shine!) for a fabulous lineup of art, design, food trucks and vintage. Date: Every Saturday Time: 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM Location: Westminster Elementary School - 1010 Abbot Kinney Check our website here for a list of vendors. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/artists-fleas-venice-marketplace/14548485/2025-08-23T11

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

FOR QUOTES PLEASE CALL 310-573-8074

or email **cindy@smdp.com**

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

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 07/29/25 2025136150The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Suite Life Cruises, 1424 Maple St, Santa Monica, CA 90405. . Los AngelesArticles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are 1. Steven A. Schwab 1424 Maple St, Santa Monica, CA 90405 If corporation or LLC- Print State of CA This is Business is Conducted: An Individual . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 07/25. Registrant /Corp/LLC Steven Schwab Title: owner Steven Schwab . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 07/29/2025NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE County CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code).

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2025168289 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on Aug 14 2025 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as ARCRODENTANDPESTCONTROL. 1600 S. PALM AVE, ALHAMBRA, CA, 91803. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: AMERICAN RAT CONTROL, INC 10736 Jefferson Blvd #261 Culver City, CA 90230.. This Business is being conducted by: a Corporation. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:AMERICAN RAT CONTROL, INC-PRESIDENT. Louis Rico AMERICAN RAT CONTROL, INCThis statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on Aug 14 2025. DEAN C. LOGAN, LOS ANGELES COUNTY CLERK. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY

Summons

Summons (Sum 100)(Citacion Judicial)CASE NUMBER(Número del Caso):25SMCV00721NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):ALI SADEGHI, an Individual, 88 TUSCALOOSAAVENUE, LLC, a limited liability company; andEIGHTY8HOME,LLC, a limited liability company; andDOES 1 TO 30, InclusiveYOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁDEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE) JUSTINPORTNOY, an IndividualNOTICE. You have been sued. The court may decideagainst you without your being heard unless you respondwithin 30 days. Read the informationBelow.You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons andlegal papers are served on you to file a written responseat this court and have a copy you served on the plaintiff.A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your writtenresponse must be in proper legal form if you want thecourt to hear yourCase.There may be a court form that you can use for yourresponse. You can find these court forms and moreinformation at the California CourtsOnline Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp),your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. Ifyou cannot pay the filing fee, askthe court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not fileyour response on time, you may lose the case by default,and your wages, money, and propertymay be taken without further warning from the court.There are other legal requirements. You may want to callan attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney,you may want to call an attorneyreferral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you maybe eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legalservices program. You can locatethese nonprofit groups at the California Legal ServicesWeb site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the CaliforniaCourts Online Self-Help Center(www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting yourlocal court or county bar association. NOTE: The courthas a statutory lien for waived fees andcosts on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paidbefore the court will dismiss the case.¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escucharsu versión. Lea la información aContinuación.Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que leentreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentaruna respuesta por escrito en estacorte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante.Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Surespuesta por escrito tiene que estaren el formato legal correcto si desea que procesen sucaso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario queusted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y másinformación en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes deCalifornia (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en labiblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que lequede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota depresentación, pida al secretario de la corteque le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder elcaso por incumplimiento y la corte lepodrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin másadvertencia.Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llamea un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a unabogado, puede llamar a un servicio deremisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado,es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtenerservicios legales gratuitos de unprograma de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puedeencontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio webde California Legal Services,(www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda delas Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) oponiéndose en contacto con la corte o elcolegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la cortetiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentospor imponer un gravamen sobrecualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valorrecibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión dearbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene quepagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la cortepueda desechar el caso.The name and address of the court is:(El nombre y dirección de la corte es):SPRING STREET COURTHOUSE 312 N Spring St LosAngeles, CA 90012The name, address, and telephone number of thepetitioner's attorney, or the petitioner without anattorney, are: (El nombre, direcci6n y número de teléfonodel abogado del demandante, o deldemandante si no tiene abogado, son)LEDERER & NOJIMA LLP12100 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 480, LOS ANGELES, CA90025 310-312-1860Date 02/13/2025 Clerk By, , Executive Officer/ClerkCourt Clerk by (secretario) By.W.Lee Deputy (ajunto)

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED HERE

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

AROUND TOWN

FROM PAGE 4

wine Sushi Roku's extended happy hour menu. Wednesday, Aug. 27, 6 - 8 p.m., 1401 Ocean Ave. https://www.sweatpals.com/event/off-the-court-at-sushi-roku-028

ONGOING: "Two Bit Circus" Pop-Up; LiteBrite Experience; Night Market at The Bungalow (through 8/28); David Bowie Art Exhibit at Santa Monica Art Museum (through 8/31); Wellness & Waves (through 10/11); Penmar Sunset Sessions (through 10/31)

WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

Spill the Tea with the Mayor at Dr. T House: Lana Negrete is hosting a meet and greet and community discussion on Thursday, Aug 21, 5 - 7 p.m., 1709 Pico Blvd. https://www.instagram.com/drteahouse

Wally's Summer Soirée - Midnight Sparkle: Think glamour, golden-hour glow, and a complimentary glass of Prosecco to toast the night. With DJ Nelson providing the soundtrack, it's an evening made to shimmer. Thursday, Aug. 21, 214 Wilshire Blvd. https://www.opentable.com/booking/experiences-availability?rid=1020850&restref=1020850&experienceId=514833

Chai Rave at Fitoor: The Ultimate Desi Daytimer $10 Sip chai, feel the beat, and dance under the stars at the ultimate brunch dance party: Chai Rave, where South Asian flavor meets global sound. Enjoy unique and bold flavors of tea and coffee, an option of Indian and American breakfast staples, and electrifying DJ sets blending Indo-house, Afrohouse, and EDM at the glitzy Fitoor in Santa Monica. Tickets are $10 per person for Music x Bites x Vibes. Saturday, Aug. 23, 9:30a.m. - 2:30 p.m., 1755 Ocean Ave. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/chai-rave-the-ultimate-desi-daytimer-grand-launch-aug-23-fitoor-tickets-1510888390849

Wally's Summer Soirée - Last Party of Summer: Enjoy a grand finale soirée at Wally's Santa Monica with a complimentary glass of Prosecco, dance to the sounds of DJ Nelson, and celebrate the season's end in style. Thursday, Aug. 28, 214 Wilshire Blvd. https://www.opentable.com/booking/experiences-availability?rid=1020850&restref=1020850&experienceId=514834

Tipsy Scholar Chardonnay Master Class: Taste and learn about Chardonnay from resident sommeliers. Flights are $40 and include an AJA Rosé trucker hat. Reservations are $10 per person. Thursday, Aug. 28, AJA Vineyards, 1417 2nd St. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-tipsy-scholar-chardonnay-master-class-tickets-1507756573499

Multiple SaMo Eateries on "The Best Burgers In LA" List: The Infatuation gives love to Fathers Office, Birdie G's and Pasjoli. They describe the Birdie G's burger as "Halfway between a steakhouse and a diner burger, the patty is crusted in peppery steak seasoning, grilled over wood until its edge-to-edge rosy pink, then cradled in a milk bread bun from the dough wizards at Petitgrain Boulangerie" along with onion jam, melted havarti, pickles and tangy steak sauce. https://www.theinfatuation.com/los-angeles/guides/best-burger-la

Further Afield: Fiesta La Ballona: Culver City's annual summer festival returns this Friday to Sunday at Veterans Memorial Park, featuring live performances, carnival rides, pool movie screenings, games, a beer and wine garden, food trucks, and a vendor village with local groups and artisan wares. 4117 Overland Ave. https://www.fiestalaballona.org/Home

Looking Ahead: Red Bull Origin Venice Beach Open (9/5-7); A PIERfect Benefit (9/6); Thai Fest by the Beach (9/20-21); The Other Art Fair (9/25-28); Montana Ave. Art Walk (9/27); Abbot Kinney Festival (9/28); Main St. Day of the Dog Festival (10/18); OTH Santa Monica Seafood Festival (10/19)

If there's something you think is worth highlighting, you can reach out directly to me at sean@smdp.com. Let me know if you have any feedback on Around Town: More Summer Events

GUEST COMMENTARY

FROM PAGE 3

So what kind of tax increase might be proposed? There aren't a lot of options.

Another income tax hike would be unlikely since maintaining the surtax on high-income taxpayers is already virtually certain to be on the ballot, probably in 2028. Increasing the sales tax, already hovering around 10%, would hit low-income families the hardest.

That leaves corporate income taxes as the most likely target — a source that the California Budget & Policy Center, a left-leaning research nonprofit, has been touting for years. Citing federal aid reductions and cuts in federal taxes on corporations and wealthy taxpayers, the organization is trumpeting the closure of what it views as loopholes in the corporate tax system.

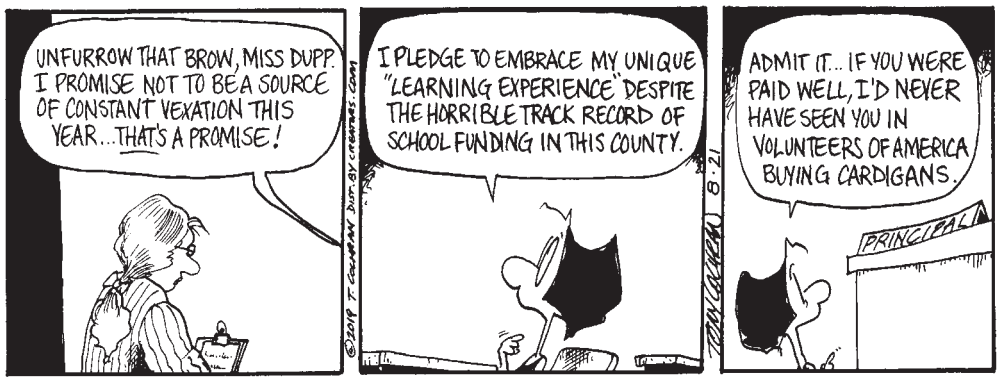
"Given the immense harms that will be done as a result of the recently enacted federal budget bill, state leaders must develop plans to significantly raise state revenues … in order to balance the state budget and protect California residents that are vulnerable to serious harms from the federal cuts to health care, food assistance, and other federal policies," the organization declares in a compilation of federal reductions.

Clearly something has to give. California cannot continue to run up budget deficits as the reduction of federal aid compounds the state's already precarious finances.

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

Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



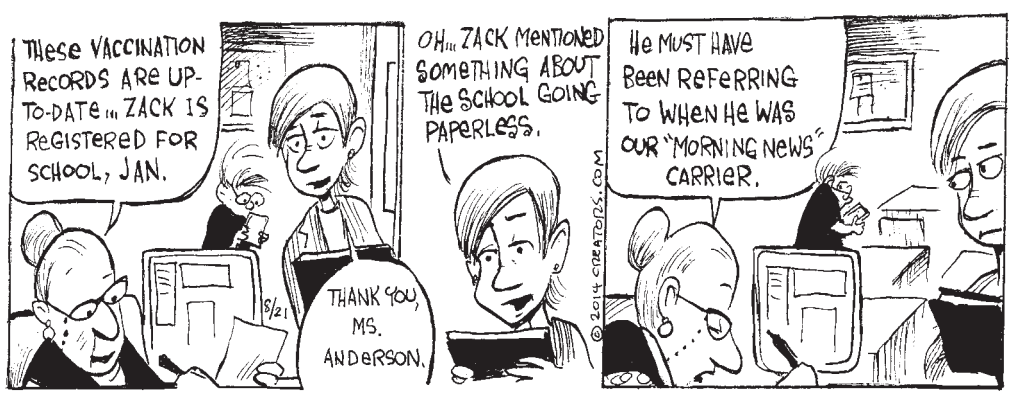
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



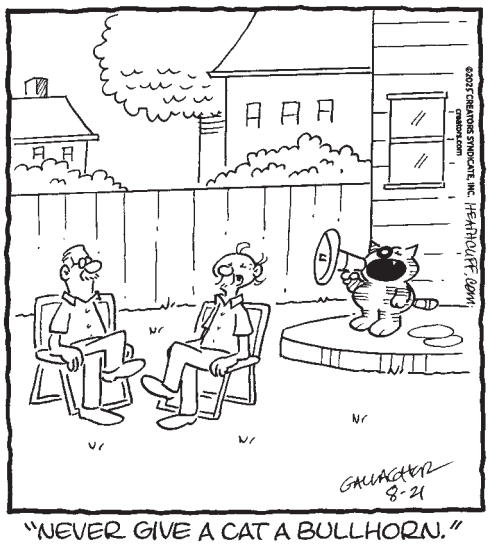
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"NEVER GIVE A CAT A BULLHORN."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



FIND THE WORDS

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

© australianwordgames.com.au 6674

Get some 'me time'

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

Baby	Cats	Expo	Lunch	Shade
Bait	Choices	Game	Nature	Shops
Ball	Clarinet	Happy	Nephew	Song
Bask	Coast	Hikes	Niece	Surf
Beach	Dams	Hose	Noisy	Table
Beer	Dance	Idle	Parks	Trips
Birds	Deep sea	Insects	Praise	Walk
Boat	Dogs	Knit	Radio	Wash
Book	Draw	Lake	Rural	Weather
Bowls	DVDs	Lawn	Scuba	Wind
Calm	Event	Lie in	Seesaw	down

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
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smdp Santa Monica Daily Press

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 21)

This trip around the sun brings spontaneity that sparks new relationships, confidence that opens doors, and strategic fun that leads to deals, power moves and sharp positioning. You'll win a contest. You'll gain ground where others can't. A professional leap puts you on a thrilling new path - possibly one that includes international travel or a lucrative surprise. Sagittarius and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 39, 2, 27 and 11.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Someone you admire holds you to a higher standard. Someone who looks up to you motivates you to lead by example. A competitor ignites your drive to stay sharp. Each person and power dynamic is one to grow from.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Today you're all about efficiency, economy and the most direct route to your goal. Talking about it feels like a leak; you'd rather channel that energy into action. You're in motion, and that's where the magic is.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're tuned in to the vibe, and you also get the undercurrents, which speak to you loud and clear as though they were the headline. This is the talent that shines today, your ability to understand the bottom line.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). A sense of exclusivity will make an experience exciting. Also, you'll be let in on knowledge that only a select few are privy to. It invites a heightened sense of belonging.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're setting the tone for your environment, even if you're not in an official leadership role. People are taking their cues from you. If you're calm and grounded, they feel safer and more at ease, too.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). While smiles and praise feel good, it's also OK when they're absent. Without obvious approval, you dig deeper. That's when you find your true grit. It's a stronger, more lasting resource, and once you access it, you're unstoppable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). In some ways you've been living in a role that the parent needed, the partner preferred, the culture or job demanded, and maybe it no longer fits. Recognizing this today is brave. It challenges expectations and comfort zones.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're warm. You're safe. Because of this, you attract orphans and strays - those in need of care, connection or direction. Your circle grows, but it won't drain you; it will fuel you. The more you give, the more you receive.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). In a sense, you want a sparring partner - someone who meets you with equal intensity but, because you're carrying so much already, without the pressure to reciprocate in a way that strains you. Just knowing this brings the person closer. Soon.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're often called to be creative, to find the opportunity in the challenge, to rise above, all things you do beautifully. Haven't you earned a break? Here comes a stroke of good luck you don't have to earn.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The emphasis today is on emotional discipline - knowing what's necessary and when to give it. Hot emotions need more discretion. Holding back may actually be the stronger, wiser move.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Someone close needs compassion and guidance. You've already walked the path they're just beginning. By helping them, you'll solidify what you've learned - and recognize just how far you've come. It's part of your journey toward mastery.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

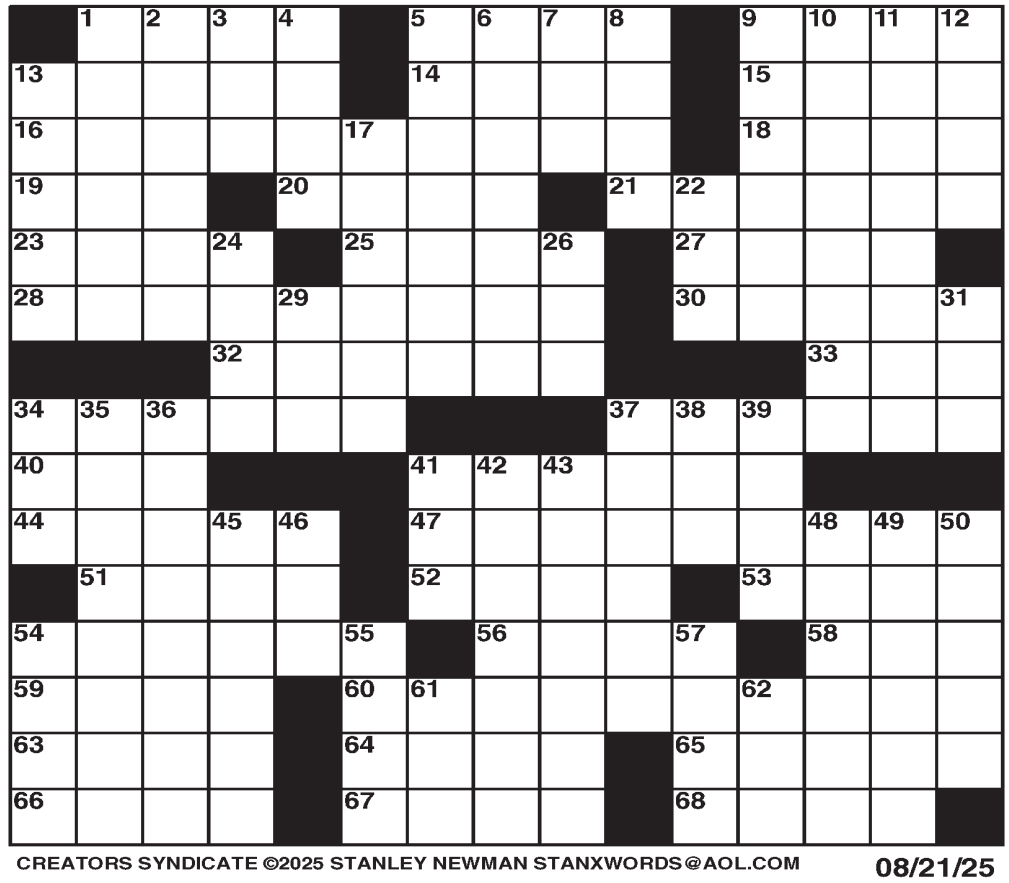
TOPIC OF CAPRICORN by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Influence unfairly
5 Sports standings stat
9 Exxon's ex-name
13 Something simple
14 Got off a horse
15 Trade verbal jabs
16 Elvis' early style
18 Easy to handle
19 UV Index monitor
20 Seaweed-wrapped sushi
21 Event with action sports
23 Where the NFL's smallest city is
25 Monopoly need
27 Six-sided state
28 Second grader, for instance
30 Serbian tennis great
32 Legal rights, from the French
33 *Metal precioso*
34 Cerebral measure
37 Cerebral exterior
40 Cannes consent
41 Albania's capital
44 Mandolin kin
47 Person wrongly blamed
51 Italian tubes
52 Low-carb diet
53 In the hands of
54 Realty account
56 Stats
58 Extremely long time
59 Cuisine with peanut sauce
60 Rural singalong
63 Supporting papers, for short
64 Corn country
65 Low joints
66 Valentine acronym
67 Monique's peak
68 Granitelike

DOWN

1 37-Down or *Gandhi*
2 Way to pay
3 "Good grief!"
4 False front
5 Luau locale
6 Prohibited
7 Nothing at all
8 River of myth
9 Sprawling property
10 Musical with "King Arthur's Song"
11 "Ditto"
12 Metal sources
13 Regatta teams
17 Disreputable bunch
22 __ Goose (Donald Duck cousin)
24 Write software
26 Journal VIPs
29 Interns' workplaces
31 What two MLB teams are called
34 What Apples run on
35 Airing with questions
36 Western Hemisphere's highest lake
37 Hoffman Oscar film
38 Early afternoon
39 Red pasta sauce
41 Vowelless Scrabble play
42 Treat with cubes
43 Knocking sound
45 Imperiled
46 City with a Sambadrome
48 First song
49 Made up (for)
50 Prizes for some producers
54 LAX listings
55 "Cause I feel like it" notion
57 Pharaoh's cross
61 Symbolic hugs
62 Get __ (pass easily)



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08/21/25

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ZONING CHANGES

FROM PAGE 1

allowed existing pawn shops to relocate within the area and voted to require conditional use permits for hotels, motels, bed and breakfast establishments, and liquor stores on the Third Street Promenade, reversing recent changes that had allowed such businesses to operate without special permits.

"I think we spent years on a downtown community plan and as far as I'm aware there's no crisis in secondhand baseball cards or diamonds that we need to address," Councilmember Dan Hall said regarding pawn shops on the street. "It seems like that would be against a decade of community input on what we want to see in our downtown."

Council upheld the permanent elimination of fast-food restaurant restrictions on the Promenade, despite initial concerns from some members about attracting distinctive locally owned businesses.

Steve Mizokami from City Planning explained that the fast-food prohibition had unintentionally restricted smaller businesses like ice cream shops and bakeries, and noted the difficulty in distinguishing between "fast food" and "fast casual" restaurants.

Councilmember Ellis Raskin supported lifting the fast-food ban, citing economic recovery needs. "I think that in this time of economic recovery, it's important to have that flexibility," he said.

The amendments also expand alcohol permit streamlining beyond restaurants to include retail establishments, bars, and entertainment facilities, with boundaries extended to Ocean Avenue for consistency.

City staff had recommended the changes as part of ongoing efforts to support business recovery in Santa Monica's downtown area, which has struggled with vacancy rates in recent years. The amendments build on previous interim zoning changes adopted since 2023 aimed at providing greater certainty and predictability for property owners and prospective businesses.

maaz@smdp.com

WEATHER

FROM PAGE 1

route and stay tuned to your local emergency officials," the weather service said.

The state has sent 10 fire engines and multiple firefighting teams to Los Angeles County to assist local agencies if blazes break out.

"By prepositioning firefighting crews, equipment, and other resources in high-risk areas, we can respond faster and more effectively when needed," said Nancy Ward, director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

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> - Nancy Ward, director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services

California's largest blaze this year, the Gifford Fire, was at 95% containment Wednesday after charring nearly 206 square miles of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties since erupting Aug. 1.

Adding to wildfire concerns, lightning accompanying thunderstorms could spark new blazes, especially in mountain areas. Sam Zuber, a meteorologist with the weather service's San Diego office, said monsoonal moisture and the unstable environment created by extreme heat create perfect conditions for thunderstorms.

"Lightning can strike in dry areas up to 15 miles away from where downpours occur," Zuber said Wednesday.

Officials opened cooling centers this week in Los Angeles, where residents are warned to avoid strenuous outdoor activities. The LA County Library activated cooling centers at 21 locations with extended hours from Aug. 21-23.

"LA County Library is committed to supporting the health and well-being of our neighbors," said Skye Patrick, county librarian and director. "We urge everyone to take advantage of these cooling centers and to take necessary precautions to stay safe during this excessive heat warning."

The American Heart Association issued a reminder about the serious cardiovascular health threats posed by extreme heat, particularly for older adults and people with existing heart conditions. When exposed to high temperatures, the body works overtime to stay cool, putting extra stress on the cardiovascular system.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 1,200 people in the U.S. die each year directly from extreme heat, and that number is rising along with heat-related cardiovascular deaths. A recent study published in the journal Circulation predicts these deaths could more than double in the next two decades if current climate trends continue.

People with heart disease are particularly vulnerable because their hearts may already be compromised, and dehydration thickens blood and makes it harder for the heart to pump effectively. Certain heart medications, including beta blockers and diuretics, can also increase heat sensitivity.

Health officials urged residents to time outdoor activities for early morning hours, wear lightweight and light-colored clothing, stay hydrated and take frequent breaks in shade or air conditioning.

Candice Catlett, who uses a wheelchair, sought shade as temperatures started spiking Tuesday in downtown Los Angeles.

"It's sizzling hot out here," Catlett said. "I have sunblock. Hopefully, I can find some cold water. I'm trying to stay out of the direct sun."

Forecasters warned that heavy rain from thunderstorms could also cause localized flooding and mudslides.

The Associated Press contributed to this report

DISTRICTING

FROM PAGE 2

"Our citizens in other parts of the country, who are being held hostage by politicians who do not represent their interests, have been looking to California as the alternative, as the model," Robinson said. "If we gut the great work that we have been doing there, then not only do we lose our credibility, those efforts actually get stalled and get reversed."

VOTERS BACKED INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING

Voters added the nonpartisan process for redrawing California's political maps to the state constitution by a slim margin in 2008. In 2010 they approved using that same independent system to draw new congressional maps just as Republicans nationally campaigned to flip state legislatures for the purpose of drawing more GOP House seats in states like Wisconsin, North Carolina and Michigan.

Three other states use a similar process as California to draw congressional maps, but just over half of all states give that power directly to their legislatures, meaning the party in power can tilt seats to their advantage.

The current California congressional map gave Democrats a slight advantage. But while Trump and Vice President J.D. Vance have called the map unfair to the GOP, Republicans in California have been, for the most part, satisfied with it. It maintained competitive districts that the GOP has been able to win or put up significant fights for — districts that will be eliminated under the partisan map voters will likely weigh in on this fall.

Statewide, Democratic voters outnumber Republicans nearly 2-to-1. Recent polling shows voters favor independent redistricting by about the same margin.

CALIFORNIA VS. TEXAS

To sell the redistricting measure to the public, Democrats have leaned heavily on framing it as a fight against Trump — and, ironically, in favor of fairer elections nationwide. In the state Senate elections committee, Democrats grilled the former map-drawers on whether it would ever be acceptable for them to draw new districts for political reasons and whether California ought to retaliate to discourage Texas' efforts.

"Texas is actively reducing their own competitive seat count," Sen. Sabrina Cervantes, a Riverside Democrat, said. "So then do you expect our communities to remain silent while their voices are being stripped away from Washington?"

Raya stressed she, too, opposed both the Trump administration and the Republican gerrymandering effort in Texas, which she called "reprehensible."

"We're living with ... the despair that people have about the current political climate," she said. "For me, this is not about declaring an emergency, and now, what do we do? This is, every day, we need to be doing something to make the system work and today what we need to do is protect the independent, nonpartisanship of drawing lines."

But her fellow party members in the Senate said it's not the time to go high.

"I will speak for myself, the conditions have been met for us to take action," incoming Senate President Pro Tem Monique Limón, a Santa Barbara Democrat, said to the former commissioners. "I have utmost respect and recognition for the work that all of you do to protect our democracy."

By Jeanne Kuang. This article was originally published by CalMatters.



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