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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 196 TUESDAY 8/26/25 smdp.com

Police Chief resigns citing disagreement with "new administration"

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

Santa Monica Police Chief Ramon Batista announced his resignation Friday, citing philosophical differences with the "new administration" after nearly four years leading the department.

Batista, the 18th police chief in the city's 127-year history, will step down Oct. 4. Deputy Chief Darrick Jacob has been named acting chief to facilitate the transition.

In his resignation letter to new City Manager Oliver Chi, Batista said his nearly 40 years of experience in public safety and policing and deeply held sense of justice appear to be at odds from demands set by the new administration.

"In that light, the right path is to transition leadership here, as I look forward with purpose, conviction, and optimism to my next challenge," Batista wrote.

That paragraph was omitted from the letter released to the public announcing his resignation and no clarification has been given as to why the two letters differ.

"I am grateful to Chief Batista for his service to Santa Monica and commend him for his many contributions," City Manager Chi said. "His dedication, kindness and vision have shaped our Police Department in positive ways, and on behalf of the entire organization, we honor and thank him for his service."

The chief cited numerous accomplishments during his tenure, including rebuilding department staffing from a critical low of 177 working officers in October 2021 to 231 sworn officers out of 233 authorized positions by 2024. The department hired 73 new officers in 2024, with 25% being women, increasing overall female representation to 15%.



Courtesy photo
CHIEF: Ramon Batista has issued his resignation.

Batista oversaw the implementation of recommendations from the Office of Independent Review following events in 2020, launched a new computer-aided dispatch and records management system, and secured a $6 million grant to establish the city's first Real-Time Crime and Information Center.

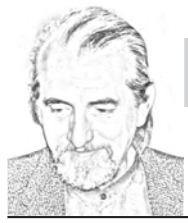
Under his leadership, the department responded to more than 128,000 calls for service in 2024 while making over 50,000 proactive contacts. Officers made more than 2,800 arrests and achieved a 2% reduction in Part 1 Crime.

The chief reinstated the Crime Impact Team to address quality-of-life issues and expanded the Homeless Liaison Team to operate seven days a week for the first time in department history. He also created the Directed Action Response Team (DART) to address concerns about fire safety, crime and disorder on Santa Monica Pier.

"What started as a targeted response has grown into one of our most successful deployments, with DART now serving as a model of excellence across the Pier, beach, Palisades Park, and downtown," Batista wrote.

The department deployed mobile security cameras throughout parks and downtown areas and implemented a Drone as a First Responder program. Officers also protected the community during recent Palisades fires and managed numerous public protests, including "highly charged demonstrations."

SEE **POLICE** PAGE 5



OPINION | **CURIOUS CITY**

Charles Andrews | Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Gone, Bye Bye

FORGOTTEN?

Gosh, I hope not, not too soon anyway, after 14 years and 870 columns for the Santa Monica Daily Press.

You didn't even notice I was gone, did you? Don't feel bad. We all have busy lives. Dropped by the paper around the 4th of July. Let's hear it for Independence!

Why did they drop you? I have been asked. Was it something you wrote about the School Board, or

SEE **CURIOUS CITY** PAGE 7



Courtesy photo
LAST WORD: Columnist Charles Andrews bids farewell.

As Santa Monica supports housing bill, protests mount in neighboring communities

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

More than 50 residents gathered in Pacific Palisades on Saturday as part of statewide demonstrations against Senate Bill 79, California's controversial transit-oriented housing legislation that has split cities in the region.

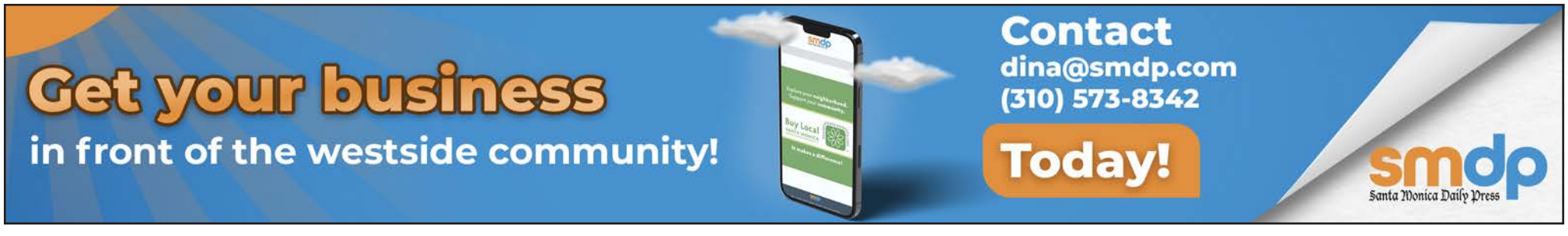
The rally, organized by Our Neighborhood Voices, was one of more than a dozen protests held across the state, including in San Diego, San Francisco, and Marin County.

"This bill lets developers pack massive developments into neighborhoods with no guarantee of infrastructure, fire safety, or affordability," said Marcella Bothwell, chair of Neighbors for a Better California, one of the organizing groups. "It's a one-size-fits-all mandate from Sacramento that puts short-term profit over long-term safety."

The protests highlighted opposition to SB 79, authored by State Senator Scott Wiener, which aims to address California's housing crisis by encouraging high-density development near public transit. The bill would override local zoning rules to allow multi-family buildings up to seven stories tall within a quarter-mile of major rail stations or rapid bus stops, and up to four stories within a half-mile. It also empowers transit agencies to set zoning standards on land they own near transit lines, streamlining approvals for projects in these areas.

Supporters argue the legislation

SEE **SB79** PAGE 11



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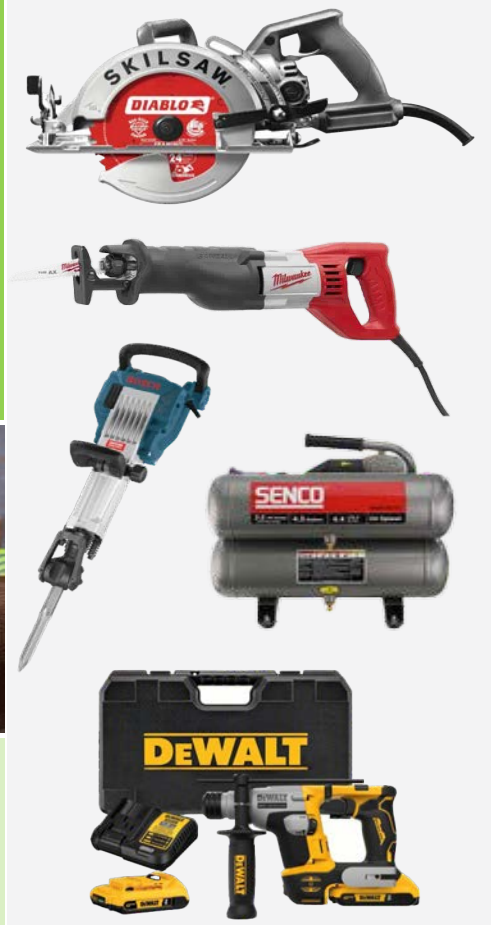

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Three bills would protect California workers from AI management, but will costs stand in the way?



Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters

LAWMAKERS: The state Capitol on May 31, 2022.

Committees in both houses of the California Legislature will decide this week whether more than half a dozen bills that seek to protect people from AI will move on to final votes.

One closely watched bill before the Assembly appropriations committee, Senate Bill 7, would require employers to give workers 30 days notice before they use AI to make decisions related to employment such as compensation, hiring, firing, or promotions. It would also give workers the right to appeal decisions made by AI and prevent employers from making predictions about a worker related to their immigration status, ancestral history, health, or psychological state.

A recent audit of algorithmic management tools sold to companies suggests that many use AI to determine pay, a trend that started among gig workers nearly a decade ago that researchers say is now becoming widespread. Tests have found that AI that sifts through resumes can disqualify or downgrade a job applicant for arbitrary reasons like race or sex or because they're wearing glasses. Inferences based on brain data, which can reveal a person's health or the words or images they form in their mind, would also be prohibited under the legislation, which will be considered in a hearing scheduled for Friday, Aug. 29.

SB 7 is one of a trio of bills supported by the California Federation of Labor Unions, AFL-CIO, this year that attempt to regulate automated systems in the workplace. The federation represents more than two million workers statewide and made more than $2.1 million in political donations to Assembly and Senate members last year, according to the CalMatters Digital Democracy database.

The other two bills, Assembly Bill 1331 and AB 1221 both involve regulating workplace surveillance.

Federation president Lorena Gonzalez told CalMatters that employers shouldn't be allowed to predict if you're pregnant or what you think about your employer or boss and use that information against you.

"We have to set up guardrails against every kind of surveillance and AI tool to ensure that workers have the privacy and respect and autonomy that they deserve," said Gonzalez, who continues to work with labor unions in other states to prevent AI from harming frontline workers.

A RACE TO USE AI?

Sen. Jerry McNerney, the bill's author, said there seems to be a race to use AI to displace workers or squeeze more efficiency out of them.

The Stockton Democrat told the audience at a CalMatters event last month in San Francisco that "there's tremendous opportunity for productivity, for making people more comfortable and safe, but your imagination can run wild with what can go wrong here."

In response to questions about criticism that SB 7 will drive costs up, McNerney told CalMatters in a statement that he plans to introduce amendments that will substantially reduce the cost of implementing the bill, including the elimination of a process for workers to appeal decisions made by AI, a major point of contention for business groups like the California Chamber of Commerce.

SB 7 is one of a number of bills on what is known as the suspense calendar. Each year, hundreds of bills with a price tag above $50,000 are added to the calendar. Appropriation committees in the Assembly and Senate then have the power to designate some bills as too expensive or otherwise use cost to justify holding or effectively killing the legislation. Roughly two out of three bills make it from the suspense calendar to a final vote on the floor of the California Assembly or Senate, but the fact that this process happens with little debate and out of public view has led some to call it undemocratic and corrupt.

Making sure private companies comply with SB 7 could cost the state $600,000 or more, according to an assembly appropriations committee staff analysis

SEE **AI** PAGE 6

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

An Open Letter to new ICE officer and Malibu Native, SaMoHi's Own Dean Cain

DEAR DEAN:

It's been over 40 years since we shared Mrs. Gleason's math class at Malibu Park Jr. High, where I tried to keep a low profile before boarding at a school in Ojai in part to avoid getting bussed into Santa Monica High, the urban seaside petri dish that cultivated you and, later, the current White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller. Full disclosure, at MPJHS I liked a girl with a terrific smile named Nada who was also in Mrs. Gleason's math class, but Nada, and everyone else, including Mrs. Gleason, liked you. As an adult I marveled at your career as Superman on cable television, and as a movie publicist in NYC grew to admire the authenticity your affiliation with law enforcement brought as you gained stature in more militaristic roles, such as your rogue first responder in the frenetic, 2006 natural disaster thriller 10.5 APOCALYPSE, currently on Prime. Today, as if your hometown was not already hurting enough from a real apocalypse, I see you are joining ICE. In the name of our shared status as Malibu natives, here are my Top 5 Malibu ICE Raid Targets that will help you score points with your new boss, DHS Secretary Kristi Noem, and The Big Boss.

WHOLE FOODS – Not a raid target per se but point out to Noem the owner, Jeff Bezos, donated a million dollars to The Big Boss' inauguration, so his parking lot should be a safe space for your tactical unit in a Jay Penske van, disguised as delivery vehicle for print editions of Variety, to stage after chilling with an açai smoothie or carb-loading at Prince St. Pizza. Who knows what working brown people from Woodland Hills or Santa Clarita your unit might apprehend as they end their shift, head towards the bus stop? Also Ms. Noem should be made aware of the Free People boutique kitty corner to the parking lot, they have super-cute stuff, she'd look great in all of it.

CAFETERIA AT NEW MALIBU HIGH – This spanking new, multi-million dollar, architecturally woke facility with stunning ocean views took years to build, sparked massive local controversy over rainy season construction during – get this – an historic drought and ran more over budget than DC's Federal Reserve building. As the campus opens its doors to first students you can count on criminals working in the kitchen. The Big Boss' "brain," Stephen Miller, used a bullhorn to call out those scary Mexican lunch ladies when he was at Santa Monica High and look where that got him !

FIRE REBUILD SITES, BUT NOT WHERE YOU'D EXPECT – Noem and The Big Boss LOVE interagency cooperation. Where did all that Woolsey FEMA money go, anyway? I vividly recall watching CNN as the Big Boss touched down here as Woolsey fire rubble still smoldered and we know how much he appreciates fine real estate. Any brown people still working Woolsey rebuilds? Cleaning the infinity pool? Shaping the Bougainvillea?

NOBU – Were POTUS to touch down in Malibu for a photo op with you and Ms. Noem, may I suggest shutting down PCH south of the Malibu Pier, conducting an ICE raid at Nobu (sticking it to the owner, who The Big Boss can call The UN-Talented Mr. DeNiro on Truth Social !) then navigating The Beast to the window at the MacDonald's Drive Thru before a magic hour glide up the coast to Point Mugu Naval Air Station where Air Force One is waiting and where, on the tarmac, bathed in the dirty orange light of a classic SoCal sunset, POTUS can recall this is where Ronald Reagan "came home."

KBUU BROADCAST STUDIOS – Own the narrative by busting in on a weekday at 7:17am just as Malibu's only source of daily local news airs live. Many people say host Hans Laetz is a communist.

Jeremy Walker, Malibu

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed proposals for

- **RFP # 459 FINANCIAL ADVISOR SERVICES**
- **RFP # 460 460 MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSESSMENT ADVISOR**

Submission Deadlines Are September 23, 2025 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **CITY'S ONLINE VENDOR PORTAL.** The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is OpenGov (https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/santa-monica-ca). There is no charge for the RFP package.



Surf report

WATER TEMP: **72.3**

TUESDAY
FAIR
SURF: 2-3ft+ Thigh to stomach

SSW swell nudges up a peg Tuesday with small scale NW windswell blending in. SSW swell mix continues to creep up - surf bumps up a peg from Monday. Surf for decent summer breaks across North LA runs waist-stomach high, slightly larger sets for good breaks to chest high on occasion. Select spots west of Dume do a tad better. OC standouts are larger and run head high to slightly overhead. There's not much NW windswell in the mix and that'll favor spots with some structure.

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

SSW swell peaks for the week. Morning tide push is the best window of the day. SSW swell mix is up just another peg for summer expo-sures. May also see a lift in SSE tropical swell for exposures. Surf for decent breaks across North LA will run waist-chest high, larger sets to head high for good breaks mainly west of Dume. OC standouts are better and run head high-overhead on sets. There's not much NW windswell in the mix and that'll favor spots with some structure, though the tropical energy could help select spots.

Weather

Tuesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, cloudy through mid morning, then gradual clearing, with a high near 74.
Tuesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, increasing clouds, with a low around 64.
Wednesday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 75.
Wednesday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 64.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2025/08/26	Tue	05:33 AM	0.85	L
2025/08/26	Tue	11:53 AM	5.01	H
2025/08/26	Tue	6:02 PM	1.43	L
2025/08/26	Tue	11:54 PM	4.43	H
2025/08/27	Wed	05:53 AM	1.39	L
2025/08/27	Wed	12:19 PM	4.98	H
2025/08/27	Wed	6:48 PM	1.52	L
2025/08/28	Thu	12:38 AM	3.79	H
2025/08/28	Thu	06:09 AM	1.92	L
2025/08/28	Thu	12:46 PM	4.89	H
2025/08/28	Thu	7:45 PM	1.64	L
2025/08/29	Fri	01:37 AM	3.18	H

Daily Lottery

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

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 8/23
11 14 34 47 51
Power#: 18
Jackpot: 750 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 8/22
18 30 44 48 50
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: 253 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 8/23
1 5 15 18 33
Mega#: 21
Jackpot: 37 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 8/24
5 14 20 37 39

Daily 3
Draw Date: 8/24
EVENING: 2 4 2
Draw Date: 8/24
MIDDAY: 9 4 5

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 8/24
1st: 04 - Big Ben
2nd: 02 - Lucky Star
3rd: 10 - Solid Gold
Race Time: 1:40.98

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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 COLLEGE

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS CALLING FOR BIDS
DISTRICT: SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named California Community College District, acting by and through its Board of Trustees, hereinafter "the District," will receive no later than the below-stated date and time, sealed BIDS from General Contractors. The Project encompasses the following overall scope:

SMC Bundy Campus Tennis / Pickleball Courts:
The project includes the following features: three (3) tennis courts, three (3) combination tennis/pickleball courts, and one (1) single tennis/pickleball court. A restroom building will also be included, with four (4) gender-neutral restrooms and one (1) utility/janitor's room. Additionally, two (2) storage buildings, named Storage 1 and Storage 2, will be part of the project. There will also be shade structures, consisting of full cantilever hip-joined tension sails with three points. The total area of the shade structures will be 1,400 GSF. The improvements to the site will include driveways, a parking lot, site lighting, landscaping, fencing, accessible paths, bleachers, and gathering areas. The project includes the removal and abatement of existing underground utilities containing hazardous materials.

Procedure
Tuesday, 8/26/25, bid packages will be available at ARC West LA Branch located at 1736 S Sepulveda Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90025. (e-arc.com) Plan Room.
Contact for all inquiries: **Kyle Whitley, Senior Project Manager, kyle.whitley@vanir.com; Mattew Denuccio, Project Manager, matt.denuccio@vanir.com.**

Contractor's License Classification: California Contractors License A or B.

Mandatory Pre-Bid Walk: **Thursday, September 4, 2025, at 1:00 PM.** (Job Site Parking Lot) 3400 Airport Ave. Santa Monica, California

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS: 1:00 PM, September 29, 2025; BID MUST BE HAND DELIVERED

LOCATION FOR SUBMISSION OF BID PROPOSALS: SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT, DISTRICT FACILITIES PLANNING OFFICE, 1510 PICO BLVD, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405, ATTENTION: CHARLIE YEN
Bid Opening: September 29, 2025.

1. Contractor's License Classification. In accordance with the provisions of California Public Contract Code §3300, the District requires that contractors possess the following classification(s) of California Contractors License A or B. Any General Contractor not so duly and properly licensed will result in the denial of pre-qualification.

2. Labor Compliance Program (AB 1506). The District has established a Labor Compliance Program (LCP") pursuant to Labor Code 1771.5. The Contractor qualifying to bid the work shall comply with the LCP and provisions of the Contract Documents relating to implementation, compliance with, and enforcement of the LCP.

3. No Withdrawal of Bid Proposals. Bid Proposals shall not be withdrawn by any Bidder for a period of **ninety (90)** days after the opening of Bid Proposals. During this time, all Bidders shall guarantee prices quoted in their respective Bid Proposals.

4. Award of Contract. The Contract for the Work, if awarded, will be by action of the Board of Trustees on **November 4, 2025**, to the responsible Bidder submitting the lowest responsible and responsive Bid Proposal.

Publication Date: August 26 & September 2, 2025

Last Day to Submit Bid RFI and Bid Product Substitution Request **September 19, 2025**

Post Bid Review: The week of September 29, 2025

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California bill would require restaurants to disclose food allergens on menus

Braxton Kimura dreads eating at restaurants. The California teenager is severely allergic to peanuts, shellfish and most tree nuts. Consuming even a tiny amount could send him to the emergency room.

"Eating out is definitely really dangerous. It's something that I try to avoid," Kimura, 17, said at his home in San Jose. "When dining out, obviously I always bring my EpiPens, and I'm really nervous all the time."

Restaurant dining in California could soon become a little less stressful for Braxton and the growing number of Americans with severe food allergies.

State lawmakers are set to vote on legislation that would make California the first U.S. state to require restaurants to disclose whether a menu item contains any of the nine most common food allergens: milk, eggs, fish, shellfish, tree nuts, peanuts, wheat, sesame and soybeans.

Restaurants could post the allergen information on physical menus, an allergen chart, allergen-specific menu or other printed materials. They can also post a QR code to access a digital menu that lists allergens. Food trucks and carts wouldn't be required to make changes.

In September, the Legislature is expected to vote on Senate Bill 68, known as the Allergen Disclosure for Dining Experiences Act (ADDE). If approved and signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom, the new law would take effect on July 1, 2026.

"It's really to protect the millions of people in California who have allergies like me," said Democratic state Sen. Caroline Menjivar of the San Fernando Valley, who introduced the bill earlier this year.

Menjivar, who is severely allergic to most nuts and fruits, said she's had to go to the hospital multiple times for anaphylaxis — a life-threatening allergic reaction — to something she accidentally consumed.

The Southern California lawmaker got the idea for the legislation last year while traveling in Europe, which has required restaurants to disclose food allergens since 2014.

Soon after Menjivar returned to the U.S., she was approached about sponsoring legislation by parents whose daughter has severe allergies.

Since then 9-year-old Addie Lao has become the bill's most visible advocate, appearing in social media videos, news interviews and legislative hearings.

"I want to be able to eat out with my friends and family like everyone else," the third grader told state senators in Sacramento in April. "I have to avoid the foods I'm allergic to since it's like poison to my body and can harm me."

The bill has the backing of numerous groups representing medical practitioners and people who suffer from asthma and allergies.

But the California Restaurant Association opposes the legislation. The group says the law would increase costs and burdens on restaurants that are already struggling with rising food prices, tariffs, labor shortages and cost-conscious consumers.

The restaurant industry wants more flexibility in how allergen information is posted as well as more liability protections.

"You get into a situation where the menu becomes unwieldy and it becomes incredibly impractical and expensive to be constantly converting menus out with each ingredient shift that may occur and the need to do a new allergy notification," said Matthew Sutton, senior vice president at the California Restaurant Association.

Some restaurant chains — such as Chipotle Mexican Grill, Red Robin Gourmet Burgers and Olive Garden — already post allergen information on their menus.

Brian Hom, who owns two Vitality Bowl restaurants in San Jose, is one of the bill's biggest backers. His oldest son died on his 18th birthday in 2008 after he accidentally ate peanuts at a resort in Mexico.

This legislation "is going to save lives," Hom said. "I don't want to see anybody suffer what my wife and I are suffering."

An estimated 33 million Americans, including nearly 4 million in California, have at least one food allergy, according to the nonprofit Food Allergy Research and Education (FARE). And the numbers are rising.

Among them is Kimura, who was diagnosed with food allergies at 14 months old when he was rushed to the hospital in anaphylactic shock after eating a peanut off the floor.

"I always have to be cautious," Kimura said.

Kimura, a high school senior and basketball player, launched an initiative called Beyond the Shell, which produced a documentary called "The Last Bite" that shows what it's like to live with life-threatening allergies.

Even if SB 68 becomes law, Kimura says he'd still need to talk to restaurant staff to make sure dishes are allergen-free and there's no cross-contamination, but allergen labels would reduce the stress of eating in restaurants.

"It would kind of give me more of a peace of mind and would overall just create a better environment and more awareness around food allergies as a whole," Kimura said. "It's definitely a step in the right direction."

By TERRY CHEA Associated Press

SEND YOUR NEWS TO THE EDITOR
Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

Elon Musk accuses Apple and OpenAI of stifling AI competition in antitrust lawsuit

Elon Musk on Monday targeted Apple and OpenAI in an antitrust lawsuit alleging that the iPhone maker and the ChatGPT maker are teaming up to thwart competition in artificial intelligence.

The 61-page complaint filed in Texas federal court follows through on a threat that Musk made two weeks ago when he accused Apple of unfairly favoring OpenAI and ChatGPT in the iPhone's app store rankings for top AI apps.

Musk's post insinuated that Apple had rigged the system against ChatGPT competitors such as the Grok chatbot made by his own xAI. Now, he is detailing a litany of grievances in the lawsuit — filed by xAI and another of his corporate entities, X Corp. — in an attempt to win monetary damages and a court order prohibiting the alleged illegal tactics.

The double-barreled legal attack weaves together several recently unfolding narratives to recast a year-old partnership between Apple and OpenAI as a veiled conspiracy to stifle competition during a technological shift that could prove as revolutionary as the 2007 release of the iPhone.

"This is a tale of two monopolists joining forces to ensure their continued dominance in a world rapidly driven by the most powerful technology humanity has ever created: artificial intelligence," the lawsuit asserts.

The complaint portrays Apple as a company that views AI as an "existential threat" to its future success, prompting it to collude with OpenAI in an attempt to protect the iPhone franchise that has long been its biggest moneymaker.

Some of the allegations accusing Apple of trying to shield the iPhone from do-everything "super apps," such as the one Musk has long been trying to create with X, echo an antitrust lawsuit filed against Apple last year by the U.S. Department of Justice.

The complaint casts OpenAI as a threat to humanity bent on putting profits before public safety as it tries to build on its phenomenal growth since the late 2022 release of ChatGPT. The depiction mirrors one already being drawn in another federal lawsuit that Musk filed last year, alleging OpenAI had betrayed its founding mission to serve as a nonprofit research lab for the public good.

OpenAI has countered with a lawsuit against Musk accusing him of harassment — an allegation that the company cited in its response to Monday's antitrust lawsuit. "This latest filing is consistent with Mr. Musk's ongoing pattern of harassment," OpenAI said in a statement.

Apple didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

The crux of the lawsuit revolves around Apple's decision to use ChatGPT as an AI-powered "answer engine" on the iPhone when the built-in technology on its device couldn't satisfy user needs. The partnership announced last year was part of Apple's late entry into the AI race that was supposed to be powered mostly by its own on-device technology, but the company still hasn't been able to deliver on all its promises.

Apple's own AI shortcomings may be helping drive more usage of ChatGPT on the iPhone, providing OpenAI with invaluable data that's unavailable to Grok and other would-be competitors because it's currently an exclusive partnership.

The alliance has provided Apple with an incentive to improperly elevate ChatGPT in the AI rankings of the iPhone's app store, the lawsuit alleges. Other AI apps from DeekSeek and Perplexity have periodically reached the top spot in the Apple app store's AI rankings in at least some parts of the world since Apple announced its deal with ChatGPT.

The lawsuit doesn't mention the potential threat that ChatGPT could also pose to Apple and the iPhone's future popularity. As part of its expansion efforts, OpenAI recruited former Apple designer Jony Ive to oversee a project aimed at building an AI-powered device that many analysts believe could eventually mount a challenge to the iPhone.

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE AP Technology Writer

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POLICE

FROM PAGE 1

Mayor Lana Negrete praised Batista's service in a statement.

"I am so thankful for Chief Batista's service to Santa Monica these past four years, and on behalf of the entire City, I want to commend him for his many contributions to making our community a safer place," Negrete said. "Among his many accomplishments, Chief Batista oversaw an expansion of Santa Monica's police department operation, positively positioned the City in regional efforts to combat retail theft, and facilitated the development of the Santa Monica Analytical Real-Time Center."

Batista began his law enforcement career in 1986 with the Tucson Police Department, working his way through operational ranks in patrol during his first decade. He served in various supervisory roles including traffic supervisor, public information office, detectives, patrol captain and SWAT commander before becoming chief of staff and investigations bureau chief.

Before coming to Santa Monica, Batista was appointed police chief in Mesa, Arizona, leading a department of over 1,200 members serving a population of 535,000. He was recognized for strengthening police-community bonds and promoting transparency and trust.

Batista holds a Bachelor of Science in Public Safety/Homeland Security and Master of Science in Leadership from Grand Canyon University. He attended the FBI National Academy and other prestigious law enforcement training programs.

He was sworn in as Santa Monica's police chief on Oct. 18, 2021, becoming the only appointed Latino police chief in the city's history.

Chi praised Jacob in his role as acting Chief.

"'DJ' has served the department with distinction for over 20 years and, most recently, his responsibilities as deputy chief of police have involved overseeing the day-to-day operations of the SMPD," he said. "With his knowledge of our department, combined with his leadership philosophy and approach, I am supremely confident that our staff, the Police Department, and the entire community will be well served by Acting Chief Jacob."

Negrete expressed confidence in the transition plan, noting that Jacob "has served Santa Monica with distinction since 2004" and recently oversaw day-to-day police operations.

According to city officials, Jacob has been with the Santa Monica Police Department since 2004, having previously served with the Northridge Police Department and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. He has been deputy chief since 2020, and is also a veteran of the United States Navy. Acting Chief Jacob holds a bachelor's degree in health science and a master's degree in public administration from California State University, Northridge.

Batista's resignation is the third departure of a senior staff member since Chi's hiring following Heather Averick departure as head of housing and human services and Doug Sloan's resignation from the City Attorney position.

editor@smdp.com

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AI

FROM PAGE 2

released last week. But the cost for the state's own agencies to comply is unknown, because the state doesn't know how many automated employment systems it uses. Earlier this year the California Department of Technology allowed state agencies to self report use of high-risk automated systems like those used in employment. Nearly 200 state agencies reported no use of such technology despite the fact that state agencies are currently using or have used high risk automated systems in the past.

COST BARRIER

The cost of compliance or enforcement has stalled AI employment regulation before. Last month, the California Privacy Protection Agency bowed to pressure by lawmakers, business groups, and Governor Newsom and voted to weaken its own automated decisionmaking technology rules.

In the other chamber of the California Legislature, the California Senate Appropriations Committee is preparing to decide the fate of another bill, Assembly Bill 1018, which would require testing before use of automated systems that make consequential decisions about employment, education, housing, health care, financial services, and parts of the criminal justice system. That bill would give people the right to appeal an automated decision within 30 days. An analysis by committee staff found that if the bill passes it could cost local agencies, state agencies, and the state judiciary branch hundreds of millions of dollars.

In a statement shared with CalMatters, Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan said she has no plan to make amendments to the draft bill but that she's committed to bringing down costs wherever it makes sense to do so.

"I will admit to being surprised by the Senate Appropriations estimates, considering CalMatters' prior reporting that automated decision-making systems use was not widespread at the state level. So I'm working to better understand the cost estimates so I can respond to them appropriately," she said.

Last year a similar version of the bill was pulled by Bauer-Kahan, a Democrat from San Ramon, after amendments limited its provisions to assessing employment. That bill attracted opposition from big tech companies but also a range of nearly 100 companies including Blue Shield of California, dating app company Bumble, biotech company Genentech, and pharmaceutical company Pfizer.

Nearly 80 businesses or groups oppose the bill, including the California Hospital Association and major health care providers like Kaiser Permanente. The advocacy group California Life Sciences argues that passage could lead providers to pass on higher costs to patients, while the California Credit Union League argues that compliance with the bill will slow innovation, an outcome that led Governor Newsom to veto a major piece of AI legislation last year.

Both bills were authored by California lawmakers with extensive histories of regulating AI. McNerney previously served as co-chair of an AI subcommittee in Congress. As chair of the assembly privacy and consumer protection committee, Bauer-Kahan is one of the most powerful regulators of AI in California, and was one of the first lawmakers nationwide who attempted to enshrine the Biden administration's AI Bill of Rights into state law.

Partly because of the price tag for businesses that deploy AI, the California Privacy Protection Agency acted against the wishes of unions, digital rights, and privacy groups and voted last month to weaken its own draft rules to regulate how businesses use automated decisionmaking technology. Conversely, the California Civil Rights Department finalized rules to protect workers from automated discrimination during recruitment, hiring, and promotion processes. Those rules go into effect in October. The principle that people deserve the right to know when AI makes an important decision about their lives and to appeal if they think AI got it wrong were popularized by Biden's AI Bill of Rights.

SURVEY REVEALS CONCERNS

A survey of 1,400 California adults released this week by TechEquity, a supporter of AB 1018, found that more people are concerned than excited about AI; that nearly six in 10 believe the benefits of AI will accrue to the wealthy instead of the middle class; and that 70 percent want the government to adopt laws to protect people from harm.

Peter Leroe-Muñoz, general counsel for the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, a business organization with members like Apple, Google, and Microsoft, said the group supports responsible AI innovation. Still, he added, the costs of audits, training, staffing, disclosures, data retention, and potential lawsuits may ultimately undermine a lot of the services that businesses provide today at a reasonable cost.

"That becomes an additional financial burden in this more uncertain time that really becomes a drag on innovation, a higher cost not only for businesses and consumers but counties and other local municipal governments," he said.

Passing bills that force employees to notify workers if they use AI to determine things like compensation is a critical first step, said Veena Dubal, a coauthor of the study released last week and an outspoken critic of AI that harms workers to enrich tech companies. Because people don't know this tech is in use today, she hopes that notifying people increases public knowledge, and that leads to a ban of algorithms that determine how much people get paid.

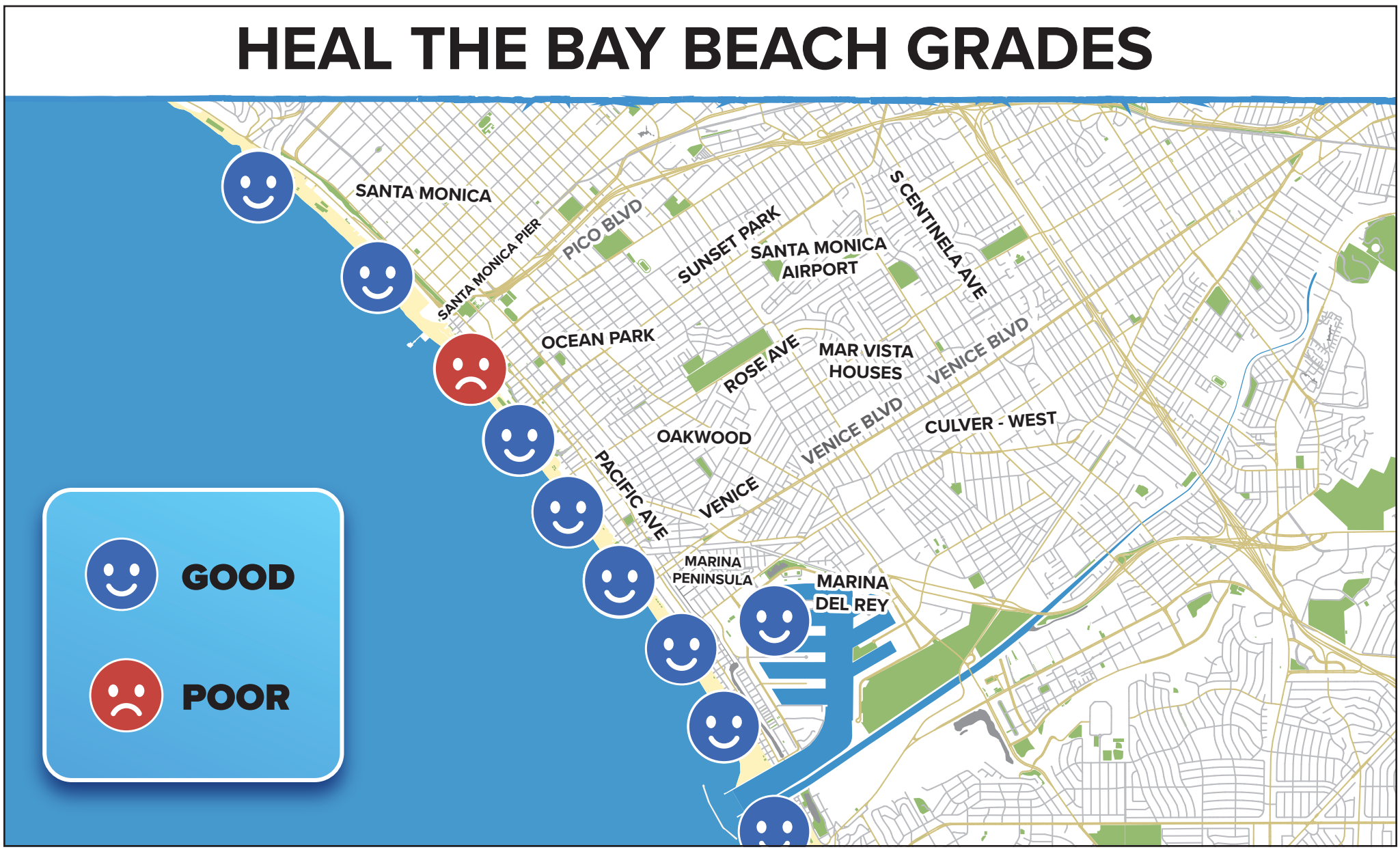
To those who say the cost of implementing these bills is too high, she warns that algorithms are already influencing how much money people make, and that cost gets passed down to taxpayers. Algorithms can also locate union organizers, automate discrimination, or terminate people who managers decide they don't like.

"These all have extraneous costs on society, extraordinary costs," she said. "Workers, voters, taxpayers, we should all have a say in the kind of world that these companies are creating with the disproportionate power that they hold."

If these bills don't pass, Dubal said, it's a signal that AI regulation has stalled in California.

"As much as Gov. Newsom wants to juxtapose himself against Donald Trump and California wants to be a sort of savior to the rest of the nation in this moment of extreme right authoritarian actions," Dubal said, "it's really important that the state not continue to concede to big tech companies who are very much in bed with the president."

By Khari Johnson. This article was originally published by CalMatters.



CURIOUS CITY

FROM PAGE 1

Trump, or Judy Abdo or Kevin McKeown? SMRR or the City Council or the Democratic Club? Was it that last column about your reluctance to celebrate the 4th of July in the midst of an authoritarian destruction of everything the founding fathers so brilliantly (if not perfectly) created, and what so many have fought and died for, for 250 years? No, as far as I know it was strictly financial. Small city newspapers are disappearing as fast as GOP backbones, and the SMDP owners decided they could not spend a penny for outside writers. I understand, and sympathize. They might have kept me on if I agreed to write for no pay, but in 55 years I have been paid for every piece I have ever written for publication, and I think that's an important standard. Serious, professional writers should be paid. Full stop.

NOTEWORTHY was my music-oriented arts column, published every Thursday for more than eight years. My mostly political bi-weekly CURIOUS CITY column began in 2011 but has been sporadic since the disastrous last elections, local and national. It also tackled local issues like the destruction of the redwood forest mural at Lincoln and Ocean Park by our School Board, the illegal shuttering of the outdoor basketball courts, Vidiots, Pete the Barber and Alex the Shoe Guy. Still waiting on Berkeley Blatz.

THE READERS, GOD BLESS 'EM

– have been really supportive. I want to thank all of you who gave me such encouragement over the years. So important. I tried very hard to answer every email, but if somehow I didn't, I apologize. I often felt I was laboring alone at home, beating my head against a wall, but with every column I heard from two or more people who had never contacted me, writing something like, I have been enjoying your columns for years but never wrote to tell you. We need your voice, please don't stop! Heck, just last month I was checking out at Vons and the checker stared at her screen a bit and finally said, do you write for the local newspaper? Well, yes, one of them, I said. Newspaper columns, with thoughtful, informed analysis and opinions, and information you may not be able to get anywhere else, do still matter, I think. In an age of disappearing facts and so much misinformation, we need die-hard journalists and columnists.

And that's why I feel sad to let down so many who have encouraged and counted on my voice. So – I won't. CURIOUS CITY and NOTEWORTHY will continue, on a Substack account I just started. Substack is a writer's newsletter platform. But of course you need subscribers, and that can be a slow process. Hard for me to lose the tens of thousands of Santa Monicans I could reach through SMDP. You can subscribe for free! And easy. Just go to: https://bit.ly/3UGkK1F and hit the subscribe button, and you will soon have both columns delivered to your inbox. I would really appreciate it if you would let your entire contact list know about this.

JACK NEWORTH, BILL BAUER

Long long time SMDP columnists, both deceased, both diminutive figures physically but not in any other way. I have certainly stood on their strong shoulders, with respect and gratitude.

Bauer's "MY WRITE" column tackled local politics and all the skullduggery and corruption involved, that few residents were aware of. I remember, at Bill's memorial on the Pier, a former City Council member admitted that he wouldn't think of going into a Council session without first reading Bauer's column. That's influence, that's the power of the press. And yet Bill told me three separate times, with conviction, that he was going to throw in the towel and quit his column. "All these years and nothing changes." But that's the nature of it. Without some dramatic event, public opinion changes as slowly (but inevitably) as a dripping stalactite, person by person. Bauer kept writing until the very end. And so I also will not throw in that towel.

Jack Neworth's "LAUGHING MATTERS" column, which began in the very earliest days of SMDP, was his irreverent take on… everything, and it was very popular and widely read. Everyone knew Jack. For years he couldn't get through a column without taking a swipe at Trump. He despised everything about the man. He also felt it was his sacred duty to tell the stories of some of our city's many characters, usually in their elder years, or just after they passed.

He became more and more reclusive and was rarely seen out. Jack and I spoke on the phone a lot, and I can tell you, he should have done stand up. He was a master storyteller, but always intending to get a laugh. So of course I tried to make him laugh as often as I could. It was usually met with cold silence, then finally, "... I'll do the jokes around here."

I loved both those guys and miss them a lot. It is often easier to herd cats than words, but they were both so accomplished, and for so many years. Every week. That's a rare feat in itself.

SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

Publisher Ross Furukawa opened the door for me in 2011, and I will be forever grateful. He and co-owner Todd James have afforded me this platform all this time, and reaching so many in the city I love has been a privilege. Thanks also to my first editor, Kevin Herrera, who kept the ball rolling.

But I reserve special gratitude for Editor-in-Chief (since 2014) Matt Hall. Operating at times with zero reporters, I don't understand how he gets it all done, for a daily paper. We have of course had our disagreements but he has always treated me fairly and with respect. Matt has always had my back (within reason) and has been especially understanding and helpful since my loss of vision. He's a stand up guy and I respect him tremendously as a human being and a journalist.

Charles Andrews has lived in Santa Monica for almost 40 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. Send love and/or rebuke to him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com Th- th- that's all, folks!

GET IT DAILY...

BERNARDS

NOTICE OF BID REQUEST

Bernards is requesting subcontractor bids for the following Project:

John Adams Middle School STEM Classroom Building-Increment #2, Interim Toilet Building, Gymnasium Locker Room Modernization
Owner: Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District

This is a phased Lease-leaseback project. The final phase will consist of three projects—STEM Classroom Building-Increment #2, Interim Toilet Building and Gymnasium Locker Room Modernization.
The STEM Classroom Building-Increment #2 includes finish grading, minimal soil import and recompaction, construction of new two-story classroom building, fully sprinklered, site work and landscaping.
The Interim Toilet includes minor grading of existing site, temporary site work-concrete or asphalt paving and walks at relocated PC ramps to connect to existing path of travel, relocation of one DSA pre-check restroom modular to serve as interim facilities during the gym restroom alteration, temporary foundations per DSA pre-check modular drawings and underground utilities to existing campus utilities.
Lastly, the Gymnasium Locker Room Modernization project includes removal and replacement of existing shower stalls, new shower stalls and plumbing fixtures, rough-in plumbing as required as well as fire alarm upgrades and other plumbing work at the Girl's and Boy's Shower and bathroom.
Bidders must submit (3) separate bids, one for each project set as described above.

Bids must be submitted on or before 2:00 PM on September 25, 2025

A **non-mandatory** pre-bid conference and site visit is scheduled for 7:00 AM on Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at John Adams Middle School, 2425 16th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405.

Project documents will be available on or around August 25, 2025

Requests for information are due on September 15, 2025 to jcruz@bernards.com

Project Requirements: Prevailing Wages / Skilled and Trained Workforce, Project Labor Agreement (PLA)

Pre-Qualification: In accordance with California Education Code 17250 and Public Contract Code 20111.6 all mechanical, electrical, plumbing ("MEP") and sheet metal subcontractors (contractors that hold a C-4, C-7, C-10, C-16, C-20, C-34, C-36, C-38, C-42, C-43 or C-46 license), must have submitted prequalification applications (link below) at least ten (10) business days prior to bid date and must be approved at least five (5) business days PRIOR to bid date. Be sure to check approval and expiration dates.

https://www.qualitybidders.com/pages/contractor

Bernards is an Equal Opportunity Employer, committed to; and encourages the participation of MBEs, WBEs, DBEs, SBEs, DVBEs, and OBEs and requires submittal with their bid the certification form from the authorizing agency. Participation in Bernards' Prequalification process improves our ability to collaborate with Subcontractors while providing them with the benefit of inclusion in potential select project lists. Please contact SubcontractorPrequalification@bernards.com for Prequalification documents or visit our website https://www.bernards.com/industry-partners/ for more information.

Subcontractors must comply with general prevailing wage rates (PCC 1720 et seq.). Under new California law, all subcontractors and sub-tier subcontractors wishing to conduct business with any public entity must be registered and maintain good standing with the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) prior to submitting a bid and during performance of the work (Labor Code 1725.5). Only registered contractors and subcontractors can be awarded public works projects. Please visit www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/PublicWorks.html for more information/and to register.

Subcontractors must also meet the minimum requirements for Skilled and Trained Workforce (PCC 2600 - 2603 et seq.). Also refer to California Education Code, Sections 81703(c)(2)(F) and 17407.5; Labor Code 1777.5; and CCR Title 8, Section 230.1. Please visit https://www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/Apprentices.html for more information.

Textura Construction Payment Management System: Subcontractors will be required to electronically sign and submit their pay applications - including invoices, sworn statements, conditional lien waivers, and unconditional lien waivers. Bernards pays for the majority of the cost for the Textura system. However, there is a small fee paid directly by each Subcontractor or Major Supplier to Textura which must be included in any bid to Bernards. For additional information and associated fees, please visit www.texturacorp.com.

The bidders will be selected using the "Best Value" competitive procurement process under California Education Code section 17400 et seq. "Best value" is a competitive procurement process whereby the selected bidder is selected on the basis of objective criteria for evaluating the qualifications of bidders with the resulting selection representing the best combination of price and qualifications.

Each bidder shall be a licensed contractor in the classification as required for the work to be performed at the time of bid submission and must maintain the licenses throughout the duration of the project.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact us at:

Bernards
555 First Street
San Fernando, CA 91340
(818) 898-1521
(818) 898-4909 Fax
Contacts: Jose Cruz, jcruz@bernards.com

*Please do not contact Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District regarding this project.

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Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



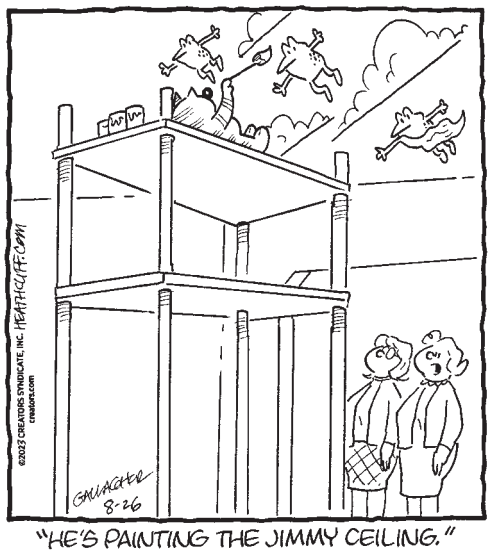
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

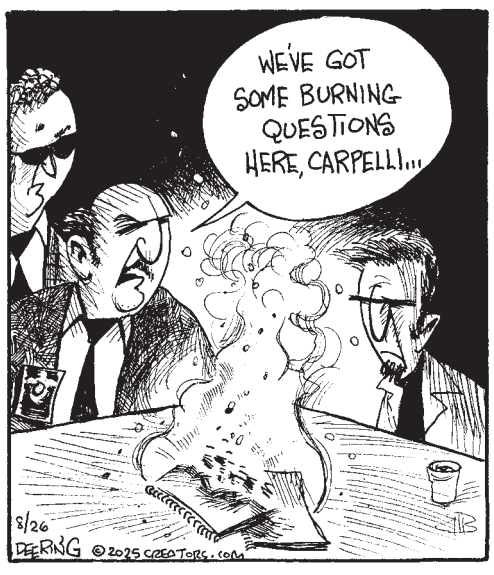
By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE'S PAINTING THE JIMMY CEILING."

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 22 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle. © australianwordgames.com.au 6679

Rodeo enthusiast

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

Amateur	Circus	Horse	Risky
Barrel	Clown	Hurt	Run
racing	Colt	Lasso	Saddle
Bloodstock	Cowgirl	Mare	Show
Brahmam	Cross breed	Money	Skilful
Broken	Equine	Open	Stall
Brumby	Fair	Pinto	Turf
Buckjumper	Faster	Plunge	Whinny
Bull	Fences	Pony	Whoa
Cattle	Filly	Rails	
Chase	Foal	Reins	

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Aug. 26)

In this year of abundant love, do not forget for a moment how the deepest, best relationship of your life is with you. Prioritize the commitment to yourself, as it will keep you making choices of vibrant vitality. More highlights: You'll say yes to love, no to obligation. You find fun instead of problems, freedom instead of friction. Your body becomes your companion. Your solitude is lush. Your friendships are delicious. No guilt, no drain - only glow. Libra and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 20, 1, 12 and 5.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There's been a lingering idea or goal quietly sitting in your mind, something you've considered but haven't acted on yet. Now, it's front and center. You can't ignore it anymore; it's demanding attention. Take the first step.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A dynamic is getting tense. Don't micromanage or fix the surface issues. Look past symptoms and go straight to the root. What was overlooked? Was there a lack of respect or clarity, or a crossed line? Once that's acknowledged, the tension will ease.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Liking yourself is one thing. But today, there's room for something deeper - something like admiration. What would change if you saw yourself as someone remarkable, someone worth fierce loyalty and daily praise? Try it.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The thrill of what's next will overtake the drag of what was. You'll get absorbed in the pace. Everything feels surprising and new. You won't have the bandwidth for anxiety. You'll be too busy living something real and vibrant.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You've already lived through chapters that forced emotional growth most never touch. Here come even more blossoms on your branches. Don't worry, you won't be tested again. You've already learned the lesson, and now you're just having fun with the growth process.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You've experienced inner conflict before - your logic pulling one way, your emotions another. That tension can slow a person down, but not you, not today. You use it like a divining rod, twitching toward the source, bypassing everything that's dry.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Yes, you prefer the low-key setting now because you value the company you seek there, even if it's the company of your own soul. So it's stillness over spectacle, presence over performance, a simple setting that allows for real attention and unfiltered thought.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Intimacy is the issue. Should you let them glimpse the beautiful world of you? Should you let them hear your real voice? Or should you continue your run and let them catch up if they can? That is the question.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You said yes to something thinking it would be temporary or simple. Nope! It's grown weighty, costly and layered. It requires more time and resources than you originally wanted to give. Still, now it has new surprising benefits, too.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Just like planets orbit a star and moths are drawn to the flame, people naturally gravitate toward the hot topic. Today's is juicy indeed. And it's your favorite flavor - dramatic and charged, but not so serious. No one gets hurt.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your gift in conversation doesn't dominate or dazzle. If it were to do either, it would mean that your side was out of balance with the other. Your way is the way of gentle curiosity. You nudge with curiosity; you connect in humor.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Peace lands in your circle. A friendship smooths out. Couples agree on next steps. Neighbors soften. No dramatic breakthrough - just soft adjustments that let things feel livable again.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

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

Newsday Crossword

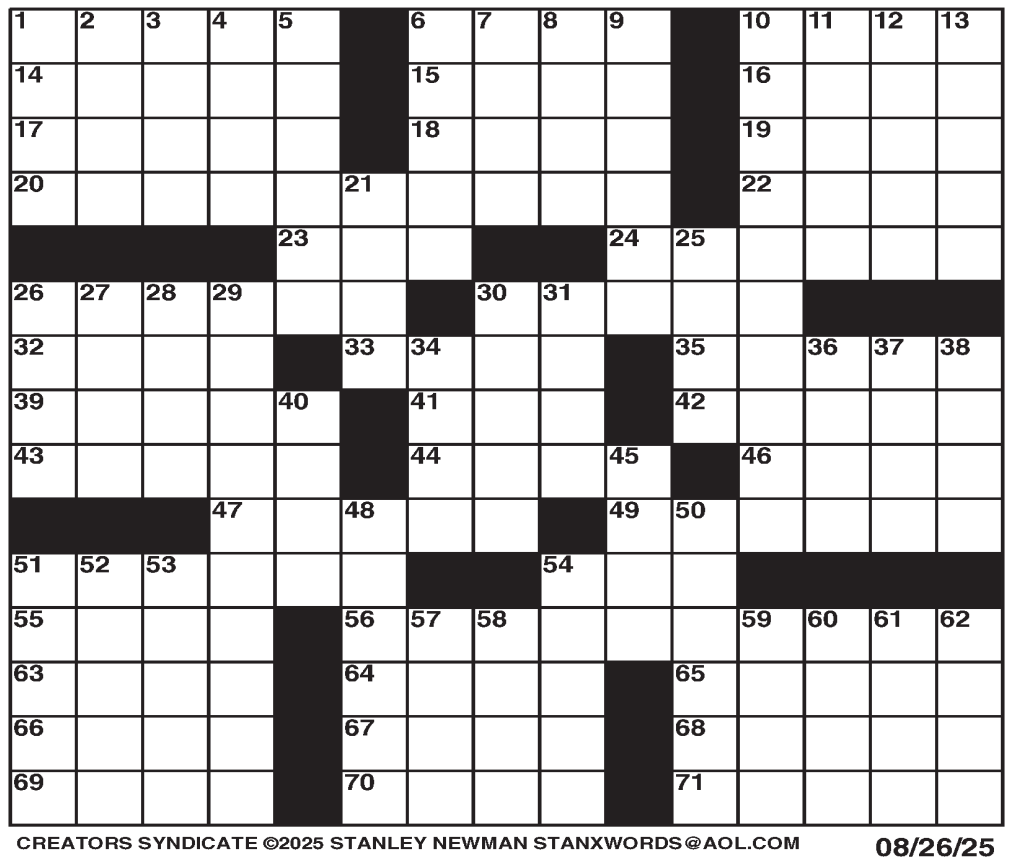
LEAK PREVENTION by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Lite, on food labels
6 Rung of a ladder
10 IRS form experts
14 Drama with sopranos
15 Wish earnestly
16 Sworn promise
17 Phone book listings
18 A Great Lake
19 __ Major (Big Dipper constellation)
20 Translucent building brick
22 Requirement
23 Snakelike fish
24 Off the right path
26 Farm building for horses
30 Acting like a feline
32 Daddy
33 High school dance
35 Bitter-tasting
39 Piece of fabric
41 Mineral from a mine
42 Foolish and silly
43 First Greek letter
44 Touch down on a runway
46 Thorny flower
47 Counting everything
49 Request, as advice
51 Current fashions
54 Historical period
55 Pressed a doorbell
56 Electrical adapter for France
63 Duel-power, as an appliance
64 Very seldom available
65 Spa's hot room
66 "Simple Simon __ pieman..."
67 Predictive sign
68 Book of photos
69 Theater stage accessory
70 Minor argument
71 Note from a teacher

DOWN

1 Time-consuming
2 Milk-colored gem
3 Disaster aid org.
4 Greek war god
5 Graduation hat dangler
6 Oyster exterior
7 Spanish bull
8 Grand-scale tale
9 View secretly
10 Emerald Isle region
11 Peeling utensil
12 On an ocean voyage
13 Shielded from the sun
21 Microwave sound
25 Male deer
26 Pet shelter org.
27 Skyscraping
28 Per item, informally
29 Swimmer's headgear
30 Marine reef material
31 Hymn's last word
34 Dice toss
36 Top of a house
37 "In that case..."
38 Salon colorist
40 Glove insert
45 Have the courage (to)
48 Houston baseballers
50 Tex-Mex dips
51 Vagabond or hobo
52 Indy 500 entrant
53 Put an __ (stop)
54 Major happening
57 Highway entrance
58 Region
59 Nearly colorless
60 Oil change, informally
61 E pluribus __
62 Chess or charades



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08/26/25

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SB79

FROM PAGE 1

will help lower housing costs, reduce traffic congestion, and boost public transit usage by encouraging more homes near trains and buses. However, the bill has sparked fierce debate, with nearly 100 municipalities formally opposing it while others have expressed support.

In Pacific Palisades, where residents are still rebuilding after January's devastating fire, the opposition was particularly pointed. "Unscrupulous developers and investors already tried taking advantage of existing laws to build multifamily in the Palisades where it is completely inappropriate," said Jessica Rogers, president of the Pacific Palisades Residents Association. "SB 79 would be 100 times worse — literally — allowing dozens of units on single-family parcels."

The municipal response to SB 79 has revealed divisions among local cities. Los Angeles voted against the bill when the City Council voted 8-5 in late August to formally oppose it, with Mayor Karen Bass signing the resolution.

Los Angeles officials argue that SB 79 would strip away local control over development by allowing apartment buildings up to six or seven stories near rail and bus corridors, regardless of existing zoning rules. Councilwoman Traci Park, who co-authored the opposition resolution, warned that the bill threatens community-driven planning, particularly in disaster-prone areas.

"We all know that we need new housing, and it needs to be affordable," Park said. "But this bill eliminates exemptions for irresponsible development in places that are not safe, that don't have the infrastructure, including evacuation capacity, to support it."

However, some on the council dissented, with members like Hugo Soto-Martínez arguing that the city should not block statewide solutions while falling short on its own housing commitments.

In contrast, Santa Monica has endorsed SB 79 as a tool to address housing and climate challenges. The Santa Monica City Council (minus Mayor Lana Negrete who opposed the measure) joined West Hollywood in passing a resolution supporting the bill, viewing it as aligned with the city's goals to add more affordable housing in transit-served areas.

Local leaders believe SB 79 could help build needed housing in areas that they say makes the most sense – near light rail stations and frequent bus routes. Santa Monica officials said they see state-driven zoning changes as complementing, rather than threatening, the city's housing strategies.

Malibu has been adamantly opposed to the legislation. The Malibu City Council authorized a letter to Senator Wiener strenuously objecting to the bill, arguing it disregards locally crafted housing plans and imposes density mandates ill-suited to their community.

Malibu officials warn that the bill could force approval of projects up to seven stories high near highway bus routes without normal public review, ignoring environmental constraints and wildfire risks acute in their area.

As of late August, SB 79 is still moving through the California Legislature. The bill passed the State Senate in June by a 21-13 vote and has since cleared key Assembly committees. It was scheduled for review by the Assembly Appropriations Committee in late August, with a potential Assembly floor vote in subsequent weeks. Governor Gavin Newsom would need to sign the bill by mid-October for it to become law.

The Westside Current contributed to this report.

Classifieds

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 08/15/25 2025168806The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Synergy HomeCare of Beverly Hills 9171 Wilshire Blvd Suote 500 Beverly Hills, CA 90210. . . Los Angeles Articles of Incorporation or Organization Number (if applicable): Ai #ON. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are J & C Wellness LLC 1541 Ocean Ave Suite 200 Santa Monica, CA 90401. If corporation or LLC- Print State of CAThis is Business is Conducted: A Limited Liability Company . The date registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 08/25. Registrant /Corp/LLC J & C Wellness LLC Title: President Joseph Williams . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 08/15/2025NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE County CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411 et seq. ,Business and Professions Code).

Name Change

Order Show to show cause for Name Change Case No. 25STCP02782 Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of GEUNSU LEE, HYE YOUNG CHO for Change of Name. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner or Attorney: GEUNSU LEE, HYE YOUNG CHO with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Eunsun Lee to Ella Choeunsun Lee . The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Notice of Hearing: Date 09/12/2025 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: _ The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA – COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Santa Monica Courthouse 1725 Main St, Santa Monica, CA 90401 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

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED HERE

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



TUESDAY | AUGUST 26

MEMORIES & MOVEMENT SENIOR CLUB

10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Come, learn, and have fun every Tuesday from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM in The Patio room. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/memories-movement-senior-club/14853634/2025-08-26T10

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

5:30 p.m. Santa Monica City Hall 1685 Main St. Santa Monica. The City Council is made up of seven members elected at-large for staggered four-year terms. Every two years, after each election, the City Council selects one of its members to serve as Mayor and another to serve as Mayor Pro Tempore. The City Council also sits as the following bodies for the City of Santa Monica. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/city-council-meeting/13799967/2025-08-26T17

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE REAL THING

6:30 p.m. Brentwood Country Mart 225 26th Street, Suite #33 Santa Monica. Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson delve into the world of art forgery in this new historical mystery from the author of Sherlock Holmes and the Telegram from Hell. London, 189–: The great city is brought to a standstill by a series of blizzards and Sherlock Holmes is bored to distraction. It would take a miracle to bring a case to the detective's door. What arrives is not promising: a landlady who complains her artist tenant is behind on rent. Not exactly the miracle for which Holmes was hoping. But, next thing you know, there are several corpses and Sherlock Holmes and his biographer, John H. Watson, MD, find themselves drawn into one of the most bizarre cases of the great detective's career. And into the cutthroat big business of Art, where chicanery and mendacity (and cut throats) proliferate. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/sherlock-holmes-and-the-real-thing/16543453/2025-08-26T18

TEEN BOOK DISCUSSION: PERSEPOLIS

6:45 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Santa Monica Public Library 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Santa Monica. Following our screening of the film Persepolis , join us for a discussion of Marjane Satrapi's graphic novel memoir about her life as a young girl during Iran's Islamic Revolution. Free copies are available to interested teens at the Youth Services desk, while supplies last. For ages 13 - 18. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/teen-book-discussion-persepolis/16220808/2025-08-26T18

THE NO CHASERS

9:30 p.m. Harvelle's Santa Monica 1432 4th St, Santa Monica. Doors open at 8 PM. Show starts at 9:30PM. Online ticket sales end at 7 PM, tics available at the door after 8 PM. 2 drink minimum. Please note, we are 21 and over only! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/the-no-chasers/15099083/2025-08-26T21

TUESDAY OPEN MIC

10:00 p.m. Westside Comedy Theater 1323-A 3rd St Santa Monica. The best open mic in Los Angeles! The Tuesday Open Mic is a weekly open mic. Hop onstage and perform your best 3 minutes! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/tuesday-open-mic/16004734/2025-08-26T22

WEDNESDAY | AUGUST 27

GUIDED MINDFULNESS MEDITATION

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Santa Monica Beach lot 5 South 2600 Bernard Way Los Angeles. Welcome.. pease join daily at 10 am for a 45 minute guided mindfulness meditation which will also include a short loving friendliness meditation at the end. Give yourself the love and attention you deserve by developing your mind, finding peace and creating community. Everyone is welcome. Please bring the appropriate attire for sun and wind along with a cushion or chair. We will meet by the Mobile Community Meditation and Retreat Center Van at the Santa Monica Beach lot 5 South lot across from the Ocean View Park tennis and basketball court. Use these coordinate 33.999050,-118.484385.. please arrive 5 minutes early to set up and check the schedule for any changes or cancellations Stacey has been meditating and studying Buddhism for over 25 years. She has studied under some of the most prominent Buddhist scholars and Meditation teachers in both the Ch'an (Zen) and Theravada tradition and has traveled and lived in Myanmar and Sri Lanka to further her knowledge and practice. Stacey has been teaching meditation since 2018 and started leading retreats in person and on line since 2021. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/guided-mindfulness-meditation/16169673/2025-08-27T10

FRIENDS OF VENICE LIBRARY: YOGA FOR EVERYONE!

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Venice Branch Library 501 S Venice Blvd. Venice. Through body awareness, movement, and breath, you will be guided on how to bring your body, mind, and spirit back into balance for overall well-being. All levels are welcome. Generously funded by the Friends of Venice Library. For ADA accommodations, call (213) 228-7430 at least 72 hours prior to the event. Para ajustes razonables según la ley de ADA, llama al (213) 228-7430 al menos 72 horas antes del evento. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/friends-of-venice-library-yoga-for-everyone-/14548476/2025-08-27T12

THURSDAY | AUGUST 28

CLUB LATINO PARA ADULTOS MAYORES

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Virginia Avenue Park 2200 Virginia Ave. Santa Monica. Venga, aprenda, y diviertase cada jueves de 11 AM a 1 PM el el salón 3 del parque Virginia. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/club-latino-para-adultos-mayores/13943928/2025-08-28T11

LUNCHTIME LINE DANCE

12:30 p.m. Venice - Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library 501 S. Venice Boulevard Venice. 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/12342961/2025-08-28T12



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