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smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

Volume 24 Issue 202 | THURSDAY 9/4/25 | smdp.com

Samohi Football looks to bounce back



Photo Credit - Santa Monica High School via Instagram

FOOTBALL: Freshman Josh Fernandez runs with the football in Santa Monica High School football's opening game victory against Kaimuki High School.

The Santa Monica High School football team is looking to bounce back after a disappointing 2024 campaign that ended with the Vikings missing the playoffs.

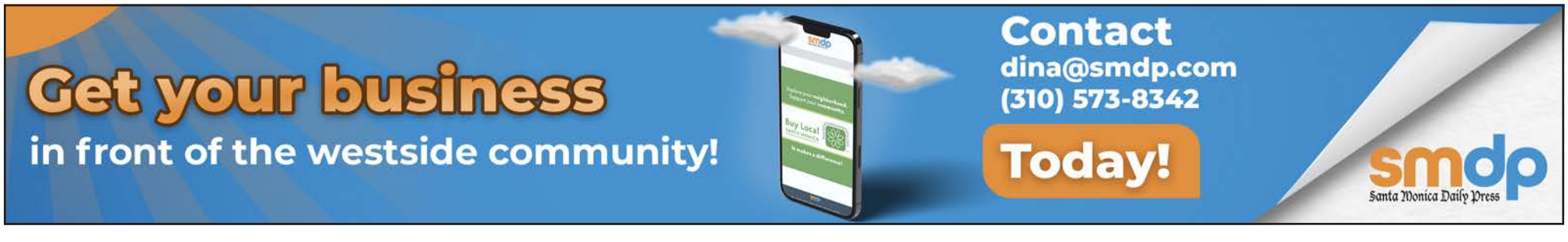
Coming off a season-opening 35-0 win against Kaimuki High School in Hawaii, the Samohi Vikings hope to continue the momentum after a combination of injuries and getting physically outmatched resulted in a disappointing 4-6 record in 2024. Coach Carter Paysinger said the team has shown him they're willing to work hard enough to improve on where they fell short last season.

"Our offseason starts really in January and you can get a good idea of what kind of team you have by their work habits and the things that they're doing in the off season," Paysinger said. "We're a lot stronger than we were last year. Again, the work that the kids put into the off season is really showing. The other thing is, unfortunately, in all sports, you have seasons where injuries play a part, and that was our case last year. So, being stronger physically, we're hoping that that will help us in that area."

The team faces the challenge of losing star quarterback Wyatt Brown, who helped lead the Vikings to the California Interscholastic Federation finals in 2023 as a sophomore and transferred to Sherman Oaks Notre Dame last spring. However, Payinger said the team is more than capable of adjusting and expects his current seniors to lead the team in Brown's absence.

"We've got a senior dominated team," he said. "We've got a good group of seniors and a really good group of young guys that are playing for us this year, and it goes back to January. We came together as a team in January, and the guys developed that chemistry, teamwork, discipline and playing for each other back in January."

SEE **FOOTBALL** PAGE 11



2 more GOP House members must join all Democrats to force Epstein files vote

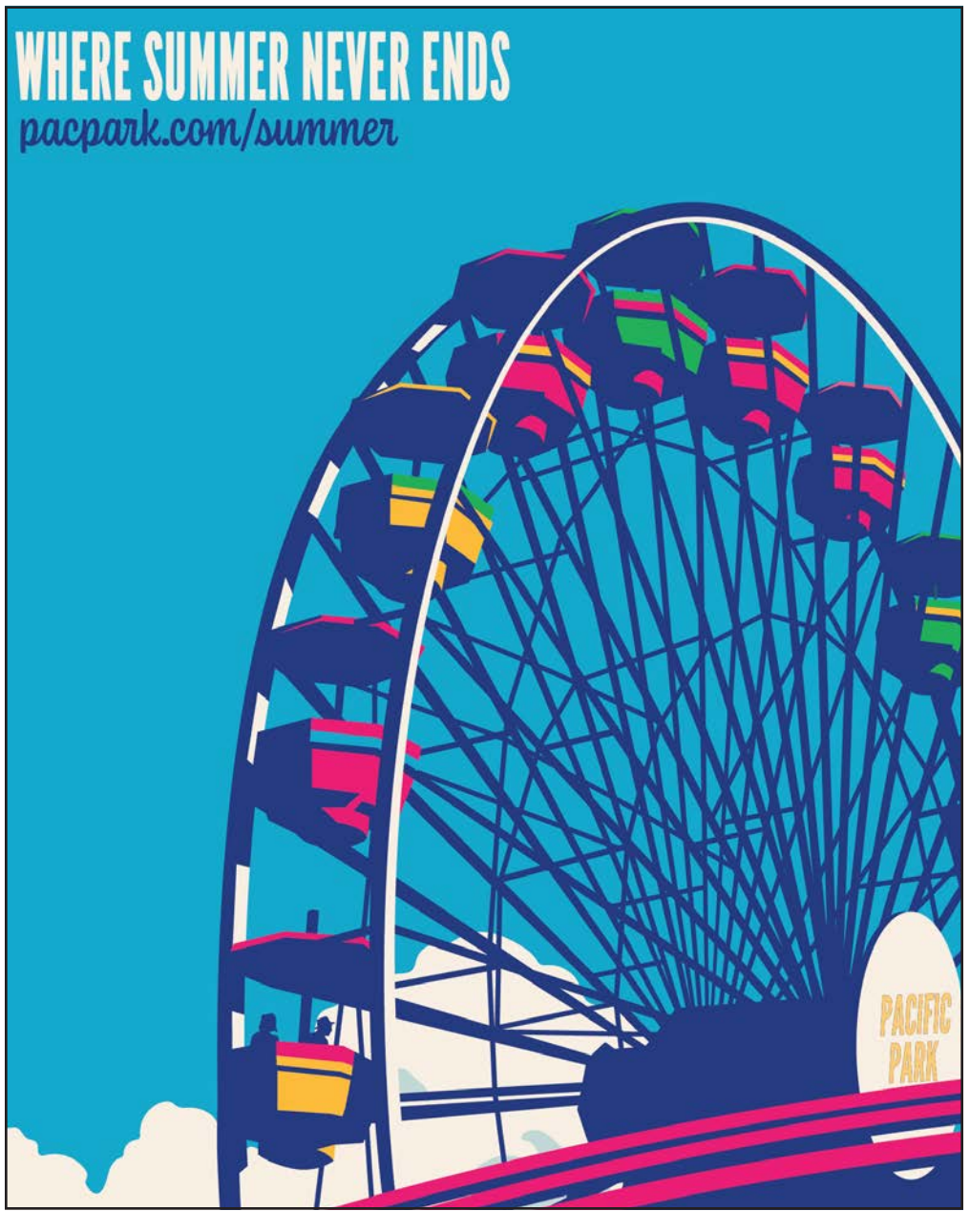
Four Republicans — three of them women — have defied House GOP leadership and the White House in an effort to force a vote on a bill that would require the Justice Department to release all the information in the so-called Epstein files, with the exception of the victims' personal information. Two more Republicans will need to defect from party leadership and join every House Democrat to force the vote.

Survivors and accusers of Jeffrey Epstein and his former girlfriend, Ghislaine Maxwell, gathered on the Capitol lawn along with hundreds of supporters to demand the Trump administration provide transparency and accountability for what they endured as teenagers.

Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson is trying to quash the effort by putting forward his own resolution and arguing that a concurrent investigation by the House Oversight Committee is the best way for Congress to deliver transparency. Trump has repeatedly dismissed the matter as a "Democrat hoax."

By The Associated Press.

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'Ketamine Queen' pleads guilty to selling fatal dose to Matthew Perry

A woman branded as the "Ketamine Queen" pleaded guilty Wednesday to selling Matthew Perry the drug that killed him, becoming the fifth and final defendant charged in Perry's overdose death to admit guilt.

Jasveen Sangha pleaded guilty to five federal charges, including providing the ketamine that led to Perry's death. Her trial had been planned to start later this month.

Perry's mother, Suzanne Perry, and his stepfather, "Dateline" reporter Keith Morrison, sat in the audience. It was their first time attending court proceedings since the announcement of the indictments one year ago.

Wearing tan jail garb, Sangha stood in court Wednesday next to her attorney Mark Geragos as she repeated "guilty" five times when U.S. District Court Judge Sherilyn Peace Garnett asked for her pleas.

Before that, she answered "yes, your honor" to dozens of procedural questions, hedging slightly when the judge asked if she knew the drugs she was giving to co-defendant and middleman Erik Fleming were going to Perry.

"There was no way I could tell 100%," she said. She later added, to a similar question on vials of ketamine she gave to Fleming, that "I didn't know if all of them or some of them" were bound for Perry. The comments didn't affect her plea agreement.

Prosecutors had cast Sangha, a 42-year-old citizen of the U.S. and the U.K., as a prolific drug dealer who was known to her customers as the "Ketamine Queen," using the term often in press releases and court documents.

Making good on a deal she signed on Aug. 18, Sangha pleaded guilty to one count of maintaining a drug-involved premises, three counts of distribution of ketamine, and one count of distribution of ketamine resulting in death.

"She feels horrible about all of this. Nobody wants to be in the chain of causation for lack of a better term," Geragos said outside the federal courthouse in downtown Los Angeles. "She feels horrible and she's felt horrible since day one."

Sangha admitted to selling drugs directly to 33-year-old Cody McLaury, who died from an overdose in 2019. McLaury had no connection to Perry.

Prosecutors agreed to drop three other counts.

Geragos, whose other clients have included Michael Jackson, Chris Brown and the Menendez brothers, told the judge that the deal was reached "after a robust back-and-forth with the government."

The final plea deal came a year after federal prosecutors announced the indictments in Perry's Oct. 28, 2023 death after a sweeping investigation.

Sangha is scheduled to be sentenced on Dec. 10. She could get up to 65 years in prison. The judge is not required to give her a shorter term because of the plea agreement, but prosecutors said they will ask for less than the maximum. None of the co-defendants have been sentenced. Sangha has been in custody for about a year, while her co-defendants have been released on bond.

"I thought the government was turning the responsibility in this case on its head," Geragos said outside court. "I think that most people, if you talk to them about this case, their biggest problem with it is, 'why is she in custody and the people, whether it's medical professionals or the people who are actually ingesting the drug, or the people who were administering the drug are out?'"

Geragos suggested that he would provide mitigating evidence before sentencing.

Sangha and Dr. Salvador Plasencia, who pleaded guilty in July, had been the primary targets of the investigation. Three others — Dr. Mark Chavez, Kenneth Iwamasa and Fleming — pleaded guilty in exchange for their cooperation.

Perry was found dead in his Los Angeles home by Iwamasa, his assistant. The medical examiner ruled that ketamine, typically used as a surgical anesthetic, was the primary cause of death.

Sangha presented a posh lifestyle on Instagram, with photos of herself with the rich and famous in cities around the globe. Prosecutors said she privately presented herself as a dealer who sold to the same kind of high-class customers.

> "I thought the government was turning the responsibility in this case on its head"
> - Mark Geragos

Perry had been using ketamine through his regular doctor as a legal, but off-label, treatment for depression, which has become increasingly common. Perry, 54, sought more ketamine than his doctor would give him, and his search for more led him to Sangha through his friend Fleming about two weeks before his death, prosecutors said.

Fleming messaged Perry's assistant saying her ketamine was "amazing" and that she deals only "with high end and celebs."

Perry bought large amounts of ketamine from Sangha, including 25 vials for $6,000 in cash four days before his death, prosecutors said.

Perry struggled with addiction for many years, dating back to his time on "Friends," when he became one of the biggest stars of his generation as Chandler Bing. He starred alongside Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Lisa Kudrow, Matt LeBlanc and David Schwimmer for 10 seasons from 1994 to 2004 on NBC's megahit series.

By ANDREW DALTON and ITZEL LUNA Associated Press.

They were convicted of gang crimes. New California Supreme Court rulings trim their sentences

The California Supreme Court handed down two decisions last week that could impact decades of sentencing for gang-related offenses and allow thousands of people to petition courts to reexamine their cases.

Both rulings turned on a 2021 law that raised the standard of evidence for proving that someone broke a law as part of "criminal street gang activity." In different ways, the Supreme Court chose to apply the new standard to past convictions.

One decision took an incarcerated person off Death Row; the other sided with two incarcerated people who contested past "strikes" on their records that set them on course for lengthy sentences.

It's uncertain how far-reaching the two rulings will be. Both of them came in split decisions, reflecting disagreements about how to apply the 2021 law retroactively.

In one case, a 4-3 majority determined that prior gang-related charges did not hold up under new legal standards and thus could not be used as strikes.

Larry Fletcher and Eric Anthony Taylor Jr. argued that 2015 gang enhancement convictions could not be applied as "strikes" toward a three-strikes sentence for a 2020 attempted murder, as their convictions were still under appeal when the 2021 law went into effect.

The California Supreme Court ultimately agreed and vacated the 2015 prior convictions as gang-related and therefore offenses that no longer counted as a "strike" — remanding the trial court to potentially retry them under the new law's redefined elements of gang offenses and enhancements.

It remains unclear exactly how far the Fletcher and Taylor decision will set precedent for other individuals looking to reverse life sentences under the "three strikes" law.

Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero dissented from the decision. She warned that applying the gang enhancement law to past strikes would set a legal standard that would be "virtually impossible to meet".

She admonished her fellow justices for invoking "the authority to change the Three Strikes law under the guise of interpreting it."

OVERTURNING A DEATH SENTENCE

A second case, ruled on Thursday, upended a defendant's death sentence and remanded his case back to trial court.

The case was decided 5-2, upholding Jason Aguirre's 2009 murder and attempted murder convictions, but sending it back to trial court in Orange County for what the court described as "further proceedings." Both the majority and dissenting opinions said they would have reversed the defendant's gang enhancements.

Aguirre was a late-20s white man who prosecutors allege hung out with a Vietnamese youth gang called the Dragon Family Junior in Orange County.

One night in 2003, he and a few younger accomplices chased a group of people from a restaurant to a cul-de-sac where members of the group crashed their car. Aguirre shot three of them, and one, 13-year-old Minh Tran, died.

At trial, a detective testified that Aguirre shot three people for the reputational benefit of the gang. At the time, that was a valid reason for a prosecutor to pursue gang enhancements to a defendant's sentence.

But the 2021 law changed that. Now, the law says that gang enhancements have to show that any benefit the gang received from criminal activity has to be "'more than reputational."

"Understandably, given when the trial below took place, defendant's jury was not given instructions that track the revised language of (the 2021 law)," Guerrero wrote in the majority opinion.

"With the relevant aspects of Assembly Bill 333 (the 2021 law) applying retroactively, this disconnect with the law as it has since been amended constitutes error affecting defendant's conviction for active participation in a criminal street gang."

GANG ENHANCEMENTS IN TOUGH-ON-CRIME ERA

Gang enhancements and so-called three-strike sentences date back decades, to when California's crime numbers were peaking in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

State legislators in 1988 enacted the Street Terrorism Enforcement and Prevention (STEP) Act in response to rising gang crime and violence, notably most visible in Los Angeles neighborhoods.

Participation or association with an alleged gang or gang members became highly subjective criminal acts that added sentencing enhancements for felonies committed "to benefit a criminal street gang."

Then, during the era of the so-called "super predator," voters in 2000 approved Proposition 21, which expanded the provisions of the STEP Act and increased mandatory sentencing for gang-related crimes.

Over the next two decades, local prosecutors in California pursued allegations of criminal street gang activity for both violent and nonviolent felony charges.

Critics, activists and reform advocates argued that gang allegations and gang enhancements disproportionately and unfairly targeted defendants from minority and low-income communities — and that low thresholds of evidence led to prejudiced juries, resulting in disproportionately severe sentences, primarily for people of color.

In 2021, the STEP Forward Act — legislation authored by then-Assembly member Sydney Kamlager-Dove of Los Angeles — attempted to address the inequities and excessive punitive impact of the original STEP Act and its amendments. The STEP Forward Act is the law at the center of the two new California Supreme Court rulings.

It substantially changed the criteria by which convicted felonies could be

SEE **CONVICTED** PAGE 8



Weather

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 78. West southwest wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
Thursday Night: Increasing clouds, with a low around 65. West southwest wind 5 to 15 mph.
Friday: Patchy fog before 11am. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high near 75.
Friday Night: Patchy fog after 11pm. Otherwise, mostly cloudy, with a low around 64.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted	(ft)High/Low
2025/09/04	Thu	02:21 AM	-0.11	L
2025/09/04	Thu	08:55 AM	4.11	H
2025/09/04	Thu	1:37 PM	2.48	L
2025/09/04	Thu	7:45 PM	5.98	H
2025/09/05	Fri	02:49 AM	-0.34	L
2025/09/05	Fri	09:12 AM	4.40	H
2025/09/05	Fri	2:16 PM	2.01	L
2025/09/05	Fri	8:24 PM	6.24	H
2025/09/06	Sat	03:17 AM	-0.43	L
2025/09/06	Sat	09:32 AM	4.74	H
2025/09/06	Sat	2:55 PM	1.53	L
2025/09/06	Sat	9:03 PM	6.30	H
2025/09/07	Sun	03:44 AM	-0.36	L
2025/09/07	Sun	09:56 AM	5.12	H
2025/09/07	Sun	3:36 PM	1.09	L
2025/09/07	Sun	9:42 PM	6.14	H
2025/09/08	Mon	04:13 AM	-0.12	L
2025/09/08	Mon	10:24 AM	5.48	H
2025/09/08	Mon	4:21 PM	0.73	L
2025/09/08	Mon	10:25 PM	5.74	H
2025/09/09	Tue	04:41 AM	0.30	L
2025/09/09	Tue	10:54 AM	5.78	H
2025/09/09	Tue	5:09 PM	0.48	L
2025/09/09	Tue	11:13 PM	5.14	H
2025/09/10	Wed	05:11 AM	0.84	L
2025/09/10	Wed	11:28 AM	5.97	H
2025/09/10	Wed	6:03 PM	0.38	L
2025/09/11	Thu	12:08 AM	4.41	H
2025/09/11	Thu	05:41 AM	1.45	L
2025/09/11	Thu	12:07 PM	6.01	H
2025/09/11	Thu	7:05 PM	0.42	L
2025/09/12	Fri	01:17 AM	3.68	H
2025/09/12	Fri	06:12 AM	2.08	L
2025/09/12	Fri	12:53 PM	5.90	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: 9/1
8 23 25 40 53
Power#: 5
Jackpot: 1.4 M

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 9/2
7 17 35 40 64
Mega#: 23
Jackpot: 336 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 8/30
3 9 20 23 38
Mega#: 1
Jackpot: 39 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 9/2
2 7 18 19 30

Daily 3
Draw Date: 9/2
EVENING: 2 3 1
Draw Date: 9/2
MIDDAY: 8 5 2

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 9/2
1st: 12 - Lucky Charms
2nd: 09 - Winning Spirit
3rd: 10 - Solid Gold
Race Time: 1:46.83

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PARTNER
Todd James
todd@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Charles Andrews,
Devan Sipher,
Miles Warner.

CIRCULATION
Guadalupe Navarro
ross@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Maaz Alin
maaz@smdp.com

LEGAL ADVERTISING
Cindy Moreno
cindy@smdp.com

MARKETING & ADVERTISING MANAGER
Dina Araniva
dina@smdp.com

PRODUCTION
Esteban Inchaustegui
production@smdp.com

Julio Davalos
julio@smdp.com

2219A Main St Santa Monica, CA 90405
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

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Santa Monica Daily Press

AROUND TOWN

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Bergamot Station Open House, Red Bull Origin Venice Beach Open, & More

SMDP's Weekly Guide to Food & Entertainment Goings-On In & Around Town includes Bergamot Station Open House, Red Bull Origin Venice Beach Open, New Orleans popup and Rustic Canyon, Ina Bakes Pop-Up Bake Sale, and much more!

Red Bull Origin Venice Beach Open: The event will feature top skateboarders from around the world competing on recreations of iconic Southern California skate spots honoring skateboarding's roots and future. Friday - Sunday, Sept. 5 - 7 https://www.redbull.com/us-en/events/red-bull-origin

Bergamot Station Fall Open House & Guided Art Tours: Expect a variety of gallery exhibitions, artist talks & exhibitions, food & entertainment (including standup comedy), and kids' activities. Curator Hannah Sloan will lead walkthroughs for those who RSVP to hannah@hannahsloan.com. Saturday, Sept 6, 2525 Michigan Ave. https://bergamotstation.com/bergamot-open-25

Gather & Grow: The Stage Speaks: This biweekly series at Christine Emerson Reed Park invites families to enjoy hands-on artmaking, live music and interactive performances. Saturday, Sept. 6, 4p.m., 1130 Lincoln Blvd. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-stage-speaks-tickets-1475293666069

A PIERfect Benefit: Celebrate the Pier's 116th birthday sipping cocktails, savoring tasty bites, and enjoying great entertainment by the sea. Saturday, Sept. 6, 3:30 - 7:30p.m. https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/a-pierfect-benefit

Cinema Sundays at Sunset on the Promenade: Lady & the Tramp: This summer, Third Street Promenade transforms into Santa Monica's most charming outdoor movie theater every weekend. Sunday, Sept. 7, 6 p.m., in front of the Apple Store, 1415 3rd Street Promenade https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cinema-sundays-at-sunset-tickets-1588204385069

Santa Monica Classic: With a 5K, 10K, and Kids Run Presented by Circle K, the Santa Monica Classic is the perfect end of summer race for runners, joggers, and walkers of all ages and abilities. Sunday, Sept. 7 https://www.mccourtfoundation.org/event/santa-monica-classic/

Creative Recess: Come for the drinks, stay for the clay, leave with something made by your own two hands. Make a mini clay creation, like a set of dice or a matchbox when Cera Sera Studio will be joined by Le Chill Wines and Culture Pop Soda at Union in Venice. Sunday, September 7 5p.m., 300 Westminster Ave, Venice https://luma.com/h4ql7lbx

Live Talks: Debbie Gibson with Wil Wheaton: Debbie Gibson reflects on the lessons she learned in her years as a young pop pioneer and on her hard-earned journey to embrace her authentic self, allowing her to lead the healthy, engaged—and electric!—life she does today. Thursday, Sept. 11, 8p.m., New Roads School 3131 Olympic Blvd. https://livetalksla.org/events/debbie-gibson/

ONGOING: "Two Bit Circus" Pop-Up; LiteBrite Experience; Wellness & Waves (through 10/11); Weekly Western Wednesday Line Dancing (through 10/29); Penmar Sunset Sessions (through 10/31)

WHAT TO EAT & DRINK?

Rustic Canyon Welcomes Top New Orleans Chefs to LA: Rustic Canyon in Santa Monica is teaming up with top New Orleans talent for their dinner series spotlighting the Crescent City's bold flavors and warm hospitality. The series wraps this week with cocktails and dishes from Jewel of the South—named #24 on the World's 50 Best Bars list. Thursday, Sept. 4., 1219 Wilshire Blvd. https://resy.com/cities/los-angeles-ca/venues/rustic-canyon?seats=2&date=2025-08-25

Wicks & Wine at AJA Vineyards: Make a fabulous candle from soy and coconut wax & essential oils and recycled wine bottles. Enjoy a couple glasses of AJA wine too! A great night to hang with the gals or pals or loved ones! Thursday, Sept. 4, 6p.m., 1417 2nd St. https://ajavineyards.com/event/wicks-and-wine/

Papille Gustative Post Post Burning Main Party: Enjoy a night of deep beats and chill disco vibes with DJ GodGiven on the patio with designer tacos, Dubai choco pancakes, and beer-wine. Don't miss out on this epic event. Saturday, Sept. 6,6:30 - 11p.m. 2823 Main St. https://www.instagram.com/papillegustativela

Ina Bakes Pop-Up Bake Sale at the Studio: Two Santa Monica moms turned their passion for beautiful desserts into Ina Bakes—a bakery known for its custom cakes and treats. The pop-up will feature signature sweets and seasonal pastries. Pre-order available on the website. I personally LOVE their baking...even if my wasteline doesn't. 🤣 Sunday, Sept. 7, 8:30a.m. - 12p.m., 535 Rose Ave., Venice www.inabakes.com/store

Jade Rabbit Fast-Casual Launch Soft Open: Chef Bryant Ng (formerly of Cassia) is launching Jade Rabbit, a neon-lit, cafeteria-style Chinese American combo-plate spot. Expect playful takes on orange chicken with mango, steamed salmon, beef & broccoli, plus vegan options—priced between $12–$20. Opening week launch events may include special crowds or menus. 2301 Santa Monica Blvd. https://la.eater.com/restaurant-openings/291967/jade-rabbit-chinese-american-restaurant-opening-santa-monica

Mr. Charlie's Plant-Based Burgers Now Open: A cult-favorite "vegan McDonald's" brings its cheekily named Not a Hamburger, Not Cheeseburger, Not Chicken Nuggets, Frowny Fries, breakfast Mr. Muffins, and plant-based ice cream to the Westside. Their focus is on creating a fun, new dining destination for meat-free comfort food. 262 26th St. https://la.eater.com/restaurant-openings/291746/mr-charlies-vegan-hamburger-restaurant-opening-westside

Further Afield: Malibu Food & Wine Festival: The inaugural event unfolds over three days at the picturesque Saddlerock Ranch and invites guests to indulge in elevated tastings, immersive dining, and curated activations featuring celebrity chefs, acclaimed vintners, and local culinary talents along California's iconic coastline. A portion of the proceeds benefits the Boys & Girls Club of Malibu's ongoing recovery and enrichment programs. Friday - Sunday, Sept. 5-7, 32111 Mulholland Highway malibufoodandwine.com

Looking Ahead: Thai Fest by the Beach (9/20-21); The Other Art Fair (9/25-28); Oktoberfest on the Promenade (9/27); 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: Bergamot Station Open House, Red Bull Origin Venice Beach Open, & More

Santa Monica Daily Press
Classifieds
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For Sale	Wanted	Roommates	Massage	Yard Sales	Psychic
Furniture	Travel	Commercial Lease	Services	Health and Beauty	Obituaries
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DBA

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

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High School senior brings tennis program for children with autism to Santa Monica



Courtesy photo

COMMUNITY: Student-founded chapter of national nonprofit serves growing community need through adaptive sports programming.

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

When Russell Ma first volunteered with ACEing Autism at a location in Mountain Gate last spring, he thought it would be just another community service opportunity. Instead, it sparked an idea that would bring a specialized tennis program for children with autism directly to Santa Monica families.

Ma, a senior at Santa Monica High School and member of the Boys Tennis Team, has since founded and directs the Santa Monica chapter of the national nonprofit organization. The program uses tennis instruction to help children on the autism spectrum develop social skills and physical fitness in a supportive environment.

"I first got involved with ACEing Autism in April 2024 at the MountainGate location," Ma said. "At the time, I thought it would be another volunteer opportunity, but it quickly became much more meaningful. Seeing the joy it brought to the kids and the gratitude from parents really stuck with me."

The distance to MountainGate proved problematic for many families, Ma observed. Parents frequently mentioned the challenge of traveling to the program, and sessions were often at capacity with waiting lists. This gave Ma the motivation to establish a local chapter.

"That gave me the idea to start a chapter closer to home so more families could access the program without worrying about the distance," he said.

ACEing Autism was founded in 2008 in Boston and has grown to serve more than 6,000 children across 200 locations nationwide. The organization's mission focuses on helping children with autism grow and develop through affordable tennis programming that addresses individual needs while building social connections.

Launching the Santa Monica program presented logistical challenges, particularly in securing appropriate court facilities. Ma initially considered Reed Park but felt it wasn't the ideal environment for the specialized programming.

"Eventually, we settled on Santa Monica High School, which turned out to be the perfect fit," Ma said. The breakthrough came through Micah Akerson, Community Recreation Manager for Santa Monica, who recommended the location and helped secure court permits.

"Not only did he recommend the location, but he helped secure the courts and even advocated for us when there were conflicts over court use," Ma said.

The program's first session exceeded expectations, attracting approximately eight children and twelve volunteers. Ma has since run two successful six-week sessions, serving more than 30 participants and engaging over 45 volunteers total.

"The community support has been incredible," Ma said. "Families and volunteers have both been enthusiastic and engaged from the start. The families of the participants also loved to see their children's improvement week after week."

The program's impact extends beyond basic tennis instruction. Ma emphasized how the sport serves as both a physical outlet and a social bridge for children on the autism spectrum.

"Tennis provides both a physical outlet

SEE **AUTISM** PAGE 11

FINDING A NEW DENTIST IS TOUGH!!!
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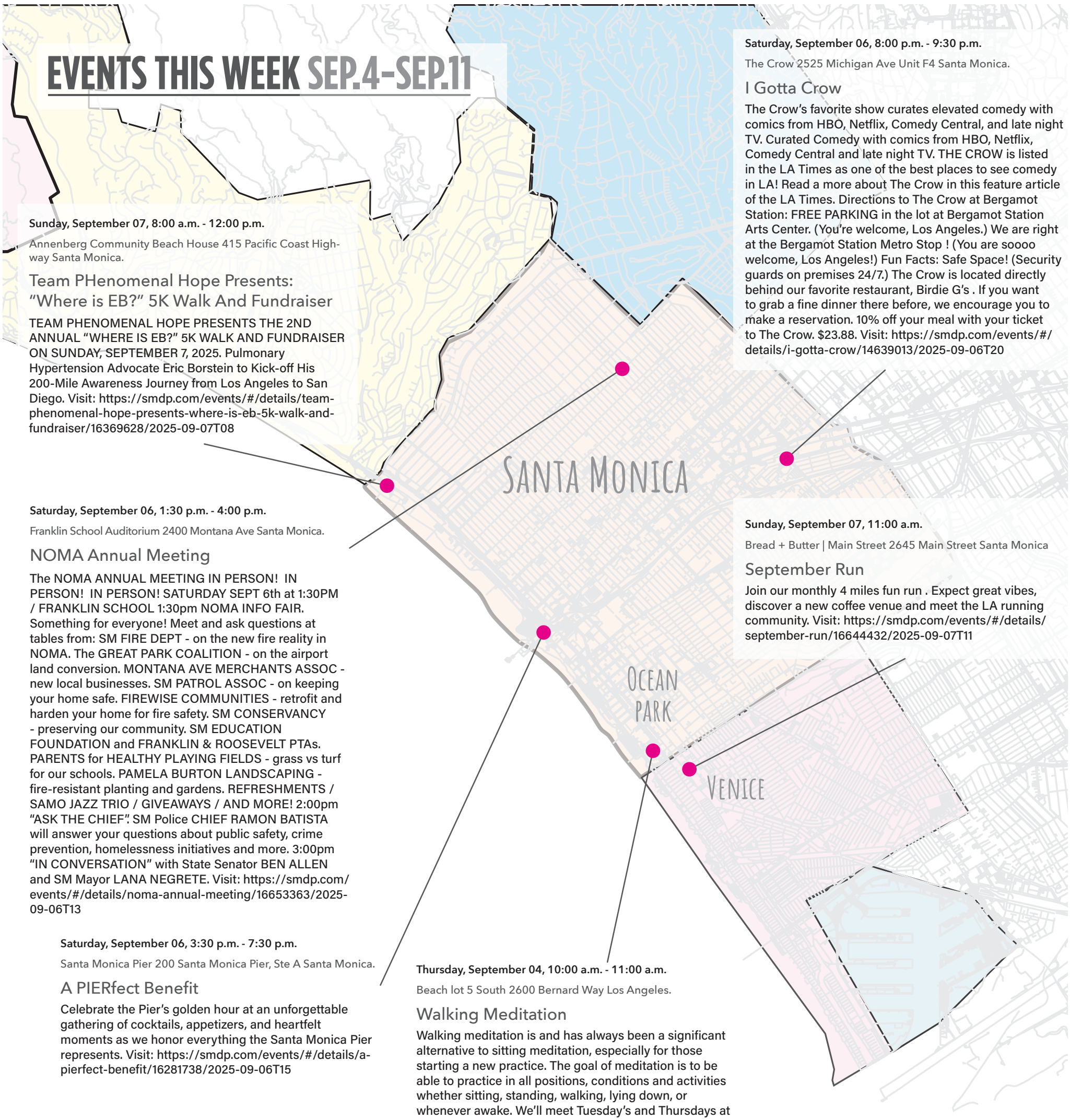
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Rosh Hashanah • Sept. 23-24
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EVENTS THIS WEEK SEP.4-SEP.11



Sunday, September 07, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Annenberg Community Beach House 415 Pacific Coast Highway Santa Monica.

Team PHenomenal Hope Presents: "Where is EB?" 5K Walk And Fundraiser

TEAM PHENOMENAL HOPE PRESENTS THE 2ND ANNUAL "WHERE IS EB?" 5K WALK AND FUNDRAISER ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025. Pulmonary Hypertension Advocate Eric Borstein to Kick-off His 200-Mile Awareness Journey from Los Angeles to San Diego. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/team-phenomenal-hope-presents-where-is-eb-5k-walk-and-fundraiser/16369628/2025-09-07T08

Saturday, September 06, 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Franklin School Auditorium 2400 Montana Ave Santa Monica.

NOMA Annual Meeting

The NOMA ANNUAL MEETING IN PERSON! IN PERSON! IN PERSON! SATURDAY SEPT 6th at 1:30PM / FRANKLIN SCHOOL 1:30pm NOMA INFO FAIR. Something for everyone! Meet and ask questions at tables from: SM FIRE DEPT - on the new fire reality in NOMA. The GREAT PARK COALITION - on the airport land conversion. MONTANA AVE MERCHANTS ASSOC - new local businesses. SM PATROL ASSOC - on keeping your home safe. FIREWISE COMMUNITIES - retrofit and harden your home for fire safety. SM CONSERVANCY - preserving our community. SM EDUCATION FOUNDATION and FRANKLIN & ROOSEVELT PTAs. PARENTS for HEALTHY PLAYING FIELDS - grass vs turf for our schools. PAMELA BURTON LANDSCAPING - fire-resistant planting and gardens. REFRESHMENTS / SAMO JAZZ TRIO / GIVEAWAYS / AND MORE! 2:00pm "ASK THE CHIEF". SM Police CHIEF RAMON BATISTA will answer your questions about public safety, crime prevention, homelessness initiatives and more. 3:00pm "IN CONVERSATION" with State Senator BEN ALLEN and SM Mayor LANA NEGRETE. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/noma-annual-meeting/16653363/2025-09-06T13

Saturday, September 06, 3:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

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

A PIERfect Benefit

Celebrate the Pier's golden hour at an unforgettable gathering of cocktails, appetizers, and heartfelt moments as we honor everything the Santa Monica Pier represents. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/a-pierfect-benefit/16281738/2025-09-06T15

Check out more events at: smdp.com/events

Saturday, September 06, 8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

The Crow 2525 Michigan Ave Unit F4 Santa Monica.

I Gotta Crow

The Crow's favorite show curates elevated comedy with comics from HBO, Netflix, Comedy Central, and late night TV. Curated Comedy with comics from HBO, Netflix, Comedy Central and late night TV. THE CROW is listed in the LA Times as one of the best places to see comedy in LA! Read a more about The Crow in this feature article of the LA Times. Directions to The Crow at Bergamot Station: FREE PARKING in the lot at Bergamot Station Arts Center. (You're welcome, Los Angeles.) We are right at the Bergamot Station Metro Stop ! (You are soooo welcome, Los Angeles!) Fun Facts: Safe Space! (Security guards on premises 24/7.) The Crow is located directly behind our favorite restaurant, Birdie G's . If you want to grab a fine dinner there before, we encourage you to make a reservation. 10% off your meal with your ticket to The Crow. $23.88. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/i-gotta-crow/14639013/2025-09-06T20

Sunday, September 07, 11:00 a.m.

Bread + Butter | Main Street 2645 Main Street Santa Monica

September Run

Join our monthly 4 miles fun run . Expect great vibes, discover a new coffee venue and meet the LA running community. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/september-run/16644432/2025-09-07T11

Thursday, September 04, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Beach lot 5 South 2600 Bernard Way Los Angeles.

Walking Meditation

Walking meditation is and has always been a significant alternative to sitting meditation, especially for those starting a new practice. The goal of meditation is to be able to practice in all positions, conditions and activities whether sitting, standing, walking, lying down, or whenever awake. We'll meet Tuesday's and Thursdays at 10 am by the Mobile Community Meditation and Retreat Center VAN parked in the Santa Monica Beach lot 5 South (by the grass on the east side of the parking lot and across the street from the basketball courts at Ocean View Park) We'll walk silently together for approximately 45 minutes on the shoreline. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/walking-meditation/16206460/2025-09-04T10

Malibu issues first Palisades Fire rebuild permit as recovery efforts advance



Courtesy photo

MALIBU: Permit comes as Malibu reaches another recovery benchmark: processing its 100th planning rebuild submittal.

MAAZ ALIN
SMDP Staff Writer

The City of Malibu issued its first building permit for reconstruction following the devastating Palisades Fire, marking a significant milestone in the community's recovery efforts seven months after the blaze destroyed hundreds of homes.

Mayor Marianne Riggins announced the permit approval during a city council meeting, emphasizing the personal nature of the rebuilding process for affected families.

"Each permit we issue represents a family's path home," Riggins said. "Rebuilding takes time, not only because of insurance and construction decisions, but also because families are moving through the grieving process."

The permit comes as Malibu reaches another recovery benchmark: processing its 100th planning rebuild submittal. City officials noted this timeline represents faster progress compared to the aftermath of the 2018 Woolsey Fire, when the 100th application wasn't reached until the eight-month mark.

The one-month improvement demonstrates meaningful advancement despite the complex challenges facing coastal reconstruction, according to Community Development Director Yolanda Bundy.

"Even with supportive policies adopted by the City Council and the Governor to expedite permitting and ease certain requirements, each property still demands careful, site-specific review," Bundy said.

The planning submittal represents the initial phase of development, addressing fundamental questions about building location and specifications. During this stage, city planners review applications to verify building pad locations and examine requirements for height restrictions, setbacks, bulk limitations and square footage allowances.

Malibu's rebuilding process faces unique geographical and regulatory hurdles that distinguish it from other fire recovery efforts. Many properties sit on steep, unstable terrain affected by landslides, erosion and active fault lines along the Pacific Coast.

Infrastructure limitations compound these challenges. Narrow, winding roads restrict construction vehicle access, while limited utility connections and ongoing impacts to Pacific Coast Highway create additional logistical obstacles for contractors and residents.

Current engineering standards and coastal development regulations further complicate the approval process. Permit reviews must account for long-term environmental concerns including sea-level rise and storm surge impacts, requiring enhanced precision in planning to ensure rebuilt structures meet safety and sustainability requirements.

"Every home presents its own unique design, safety, and environmental challenges, which require thoughtful coordination and thorough analysis," Bundy explained. "While it may feel slow and challenging, our process ensures each rebuild is safe, resilient, and reflective of Malibu's natural character."

The Palisades Fire burned through Malibu in January, destroying numerous homes and forcing thousands of residents to evacuate. The blaze was part of a series of wildfires that

SEE **PERMIT** PAGE 11



THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 4

BIKINI NIGHTS AT BAR XUNTOS
4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Xuntos 516 Santa Monica Blvd Santa Monica. BIKINI NIGHTS AT BAR XUNTOS are inspired by the iconic Bikini Club in Barcelona, birthplace of the famous Bikini Sandwich & the "it" club for live music & good times for generations of Barcelonians since its opening in the 1950's. Chef Sandra loves putting new spins on the Bikini Sandwich on the menu at Xuntos, & this night will showcase these itsy-bitsy melty toasties paired with the perfect accompaniment: premium Barcelona beer from Estrella Damm & live music! Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/bikini-nights-at-bar-xuntos/16453934/2025-09-04T16

COMMUNITY CORP. SUMMER SOCIAL
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. 1639 18th St 1639 18th Street 1639 18th St Santa Monica. Community Corp.'s Summer Social is back! Join leading changemakers, advocates, and partners from across L.A.'s affordable housing landscape for a night of live music, refreshments, and meaningful community connection. Tickets are $100 online ($108 with tax and fees) or $125 at the door, and include live music, appetizers, and drinks. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/community-corp-summer-social/16644360/2025-09-04T17

COMEDY SAMURAI: FORTY YEARS OF BLOOD, GUTS, AND LAUGHTER
6:30 p.m. Brentwood Country Mart 225 26th Street, Suite #33 Santa Monica. To tell Larry Charles's life story is to tell the story of modern American comedy. Over the last 40 years, few comedians have been a part of so many iconic, beloved projects. Larry was one of the original writers and producers on the first five seasons of Seinfeld, executive produced both Curb Your Enthusiasm and Entourage while directing 18 episodes of Curb and served as the showrunner for Mad About You. His film directing credits include Borat, Bruno, and The Dictator, the comic documentary Religulous (starring Bill Maher), and Masked and Anonymous (which he co-wrote with Bob Dylan who stars). In Comedy Samurai, Charles pulls back the curtain on the making of his successful projects, offering sharp, never- before-told anecdotes about Jerry Seinfeld, Sacha Baron Cohen, Bill Maher, Bob Dylan, Nic Cage, Mel Brooks, Julia Louis-Dreyfuss, and Larry David, among many others. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/comedy-samurai-forty-years-of-blood-guts-and-laughter/16582626/2025-09-04T18

FUNDRAISER FOR THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB
8:00 p.m. The Venice West 1717 Lincoln Blvd, Venice. $42.25. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/fundraiser-for-the-boys-and-girls-club/16443956/2025-09-04T20

FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 5

PUPPETS IN THE LIBRARY!
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Ocean Park Branch Library 2601 Main St. Santa Monica. Celebrate Library Card Sign-Up Month with a puppet show highlighting how great it is to have a library card. Then make a paper bag puppet to take home and create your own puppet shows! For ages 4 - 11. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/puppets-in-the-library-/16455886/2025-09-05T16

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/14385252/2025-09-05T18

TRIVIAL COMEDY
8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. The Crow 2525 Michigan Avenue #Unit F4 Santa Monica. Come flex your knowledge AND enjoy a fun showcase of some hilarious comics who also have some favorite trivia fun facts too. In between sets, our host will be asking the audience trivia questions which you can answer for your chance at winning a cool prize! Recommended for 18 + (material is mature and can be compared to content seen in rated R films). Bergamot Station Arts Center • @bergamotsantamonica. Doors open 30 minutes before. No-drink minimum. 10% off at Birdie G's • @birdiegsla. FREE PARKING in our lot. Located directly at the 26th Street/Bergamot Station Metro Stop. 24/7 security guard on site. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/trivial-comedy/16607353/2025-09-05T20

ELECTRIC LODGE PRESENTS: HIGH VOLTAGE
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Electric Lodge 1416 Electric Avenue Los Angeles. Electric Lodge presents: High Voltage. Join us for High Voltage, an electrifying evening of performance! First Friday of each month. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/electric-lodge-presents-high-voltage/15774947/2025-09-05T20

BRISK FESTIVAL LA 2025
8:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. Morgan-Wixson Theatre 2627 Pico Bvd Santa Monica. Brisk Festival LA Celebrates Its 5th Edition with 49 Plays, 33 in English and 16 in Spanish, Over 200 Artists, and a Fresh Take on Contemporary Theater. From August 16 to September 7, 2025, Brisk Festival LA returns to the Morgan-Wixson Theater with a bold new edition showcasing 49 short plays—33 in English and 16 in Spanish—written, directed, and performed by over 200 artists from across the globe. Following the successful launch of its first international edition in Buenos Aires, the festival is back in Los Angeles to celebrate five editions of storytelling that transcends language and geography. Produced by Full Emotions and founded by actor and filmmaker Christian Rodrigo, Brisk has become a vital platform for independent theater, amplifying new voices and fostering cultural exchange through the performing arts. $19.00 to $29.00. Visit: https://smdp.com/events/#/details/brisk-festival-la-2025/16402497/2025-09-05T20

SATURDAY | SEPTEMBER 6

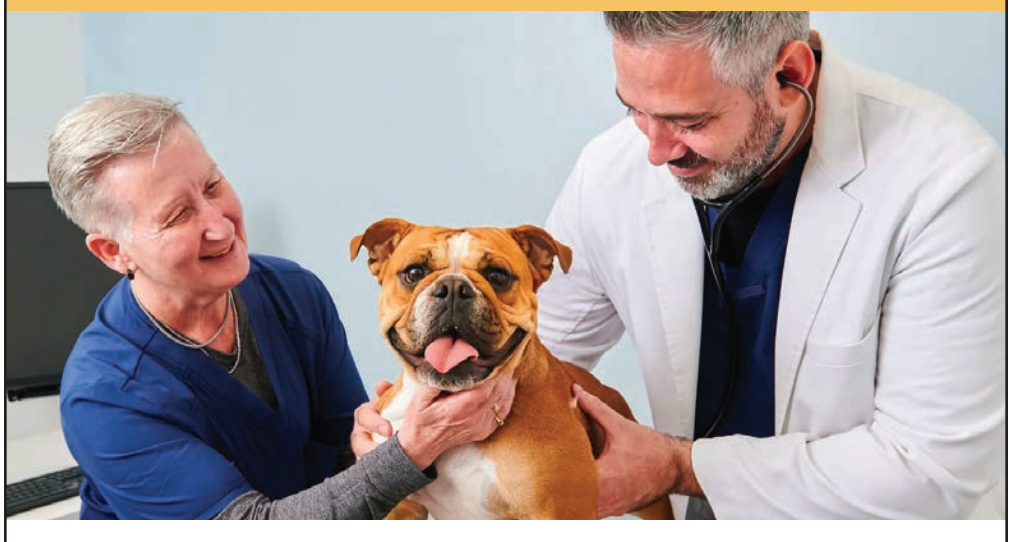
BEGINNER REFORMER PILATES AT GOOD BODY PILATES STUDIO
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Good Body Pilates Studio 3229 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica Good Body Pilates Studio Santa Monica. Start your Saturday feeling strong, centered, and energized with our Beginner Reformer Pilates Class at Good Body Pilates Studio, 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/16094481/2025-09-06T10

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Sunset Park

Americana in the Park returns Sept. 14 to celebrate Santa Monica's 150th anniversary

Americana in the Park will return for its fifth year with a special edition celebrating Santa Monica's 150th anniversary, featuring diverse musical acts reflecting the city's creative spirit on Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025, from 1:30-6:30 p.m. at Gandara Park.

The event was previously scheduled for Sept. 21 but has been moved to Sept. 14.

Presented by Santa Monica's McCabe's Guitar Shop with KCRW as media partner, the free concert showcases a broad spectrum of Americana music from traditional roots, blues, jazz and folk to modern forms.

The 2025 lineup includes El Rayo X, formed in 1981 by multi-instrumentalist David Lindley, which fused rock, blues, reggae and world music. The original spirit of El Rayo-X returns to pay tribute to Lindley's legacy while bringing the timeless sound to a new era.

Alice Howe & Freebo will perform, with rock bass legend Freebo weaving his fretless stylings into Howe's soulful vocals for a harmony-driven showcase of two compelling songwriters.

The Gumbo Brothers, formed in 2002, brings New Orleans and classic 70s funk that became a Los Angeles hit. The band has explored soul, upbeat R&B and hip-hop, adding vitality with vocalist and emcee Apollo Jai in 2019.

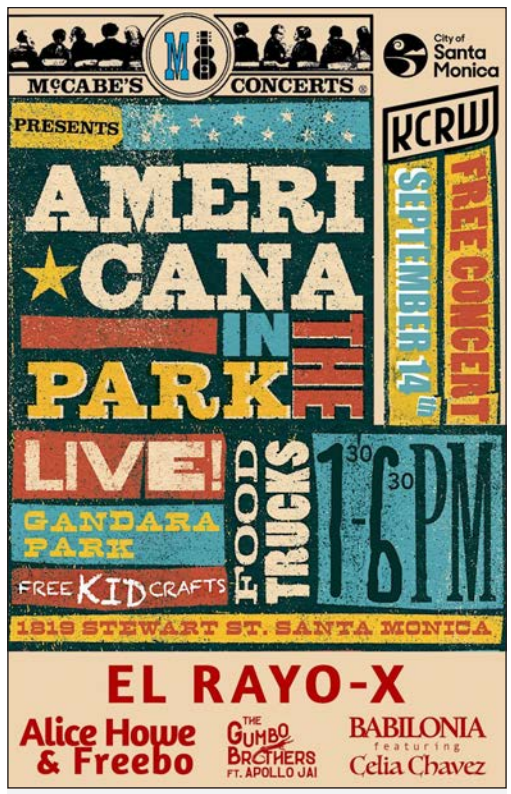
Babilonia featuring Celia Chavez rounds out the lineup. After years touring as a singer for major artists, Chavez emerges as Babilonia, reclaiming pieces of herself through soul, jazz and folk with a luminous new sound.

Attendees can pack picnics and bring blankets and lawn chairs for the family-friendly entertainment. Local food trucks will offer options from Messi Burger's classic burgers to Caribbean fusion at Tropic Truck and sweet treats from Creamy Boys ice cream truck.

Kid-friendly activities will be provided by Rediscover Center, and a McCabe's Guitar Shop pop-up will feature merchandise and musical accessories.

Altadena Musicians, supported by the city's Art of Recovery initiative and committed to helping individuals who lost musical instruments in recent fires, will share information about their efforts.

Public transportation is encouraged. Big Blue Bus Route 43 serves Gandara Park every 45 minutes. Metro Rail's E Line serves nearby 26th St./Bergamot Station every 10 minutes between East Los Angeles and Downtown Santa Monica.



X

EVENT FLYER: Free concert showcases a broad spectrum of Americana music from traditional roots, blues, jazz and folk to modern forms.

For more information about Americana in the Park, https://www.eventbrite.com/e/americana-in-the-park-tickets-1481827639359. For Santa Monica's 150th anniversary events, https://www.santamonica.gov/press/2025/07/10/discover-free-park-events-this-summer-and-fall-celebrating-santa-monica-s-150-years.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

Mid-City

City hosts annual Virginia Avenue Park Open House and Resource Fair

The city of Santa Monica will host its annual Virginia Avenue Park Open House and Resource Fair on Friday, Sept. 5, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

The free event connects residents with local service providers and showcases programs offered at Virginia Avenue Park and throughout the city.

Participants can learn about services supporting community well-being, including senior programs, financial services, mental health support, music education and hospitality employment training. City departments will provide information and resources.

Community partners and participating agencies include the American Red Cross, Chrysalis, CLARE | MATRIX, Family Service of Santa Monica, Haven Neighborhood Services, Hospitality Training Academy, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, NAMI Westside Los Angeles, Santa Monica College Noncredit Initiatives, Santa Monica Fire Department, Santa Monica Police Department, SMC Emeritus, Social & Emotional Wellness Initiative and Venice Family Clinic.

Free popcorn and lemonade will be available while supplies last.

For more information, visit santamonica.gov or call (310) 458-8688.

EDITED BY SMDP STAFF

CONVICTED

FROM PAGE 3

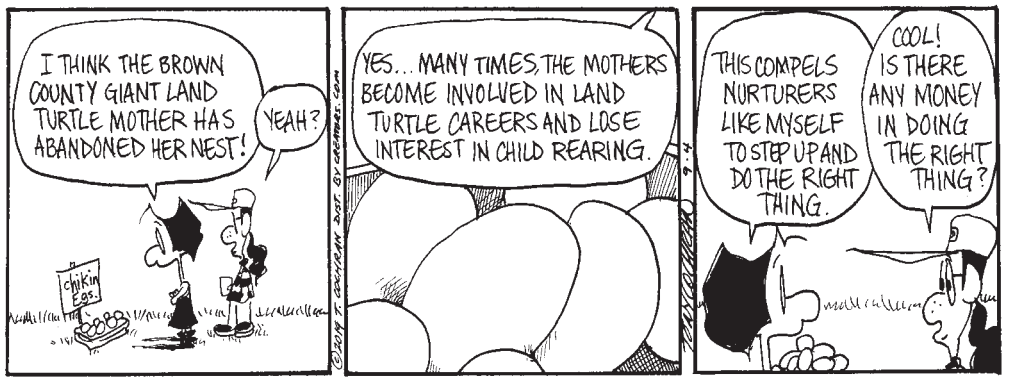
categorized as gang-related or established as a "pattern" of gang activity, and further required courts to honor a defense request for separate proceedings to determine such gang allegations.

"Current gang enhancement statutes criminalize entire neighborhoods historically impacted by poverty, racial inequality, and mass incarceration as they punish people based on their cultural identity, who they know, and where they live," the bill stated.

By Joe Garcia and Nigel Duara. This article was originally published by CalMatters.

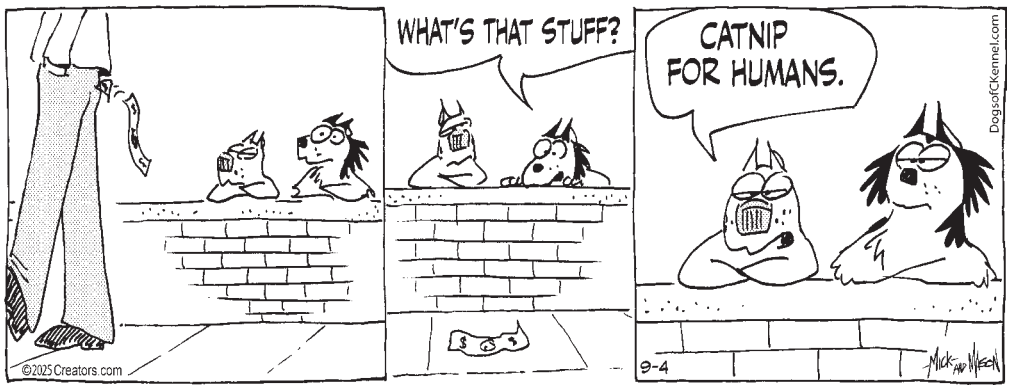
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



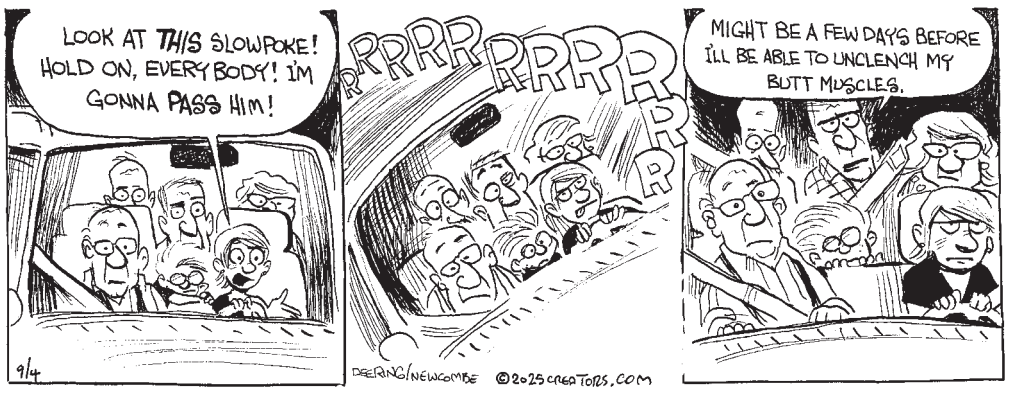
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



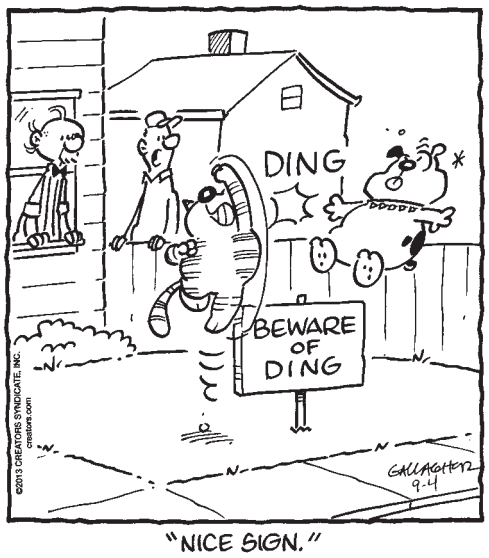
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

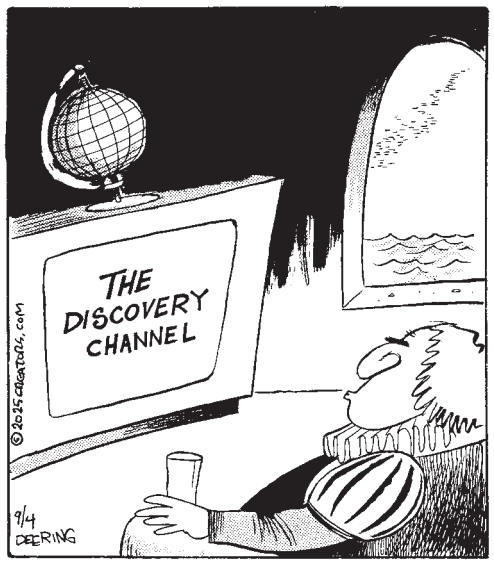
By PETER GALLAGHER



"NICE SIGN."

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 17 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

© australianwordgames.com.au 6688

Home spun industry

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

Ache	Ewes	Lifts	Tough
Blades	Fine	Pays	Travel
Border collie	Flock	Property	Wastage
	Gate	Rams	Wear
Brand	Gun	Sale	Wether
Click	Heat	Shed	Wool press
Comb	Horns	Slips	Work
Count	Hungry	Smoko	Yard
Dags	Jillaroo	Snagger	Yield
Dogs	Jumbuck	Table	
Drink	Lambs	Tails	
Effort	Layer	Tar boy	

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

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Sept. 4)

You'll approach this year like an artist with new tools that are more expressive, adventurous and precise than ever. Your pet projects find the audience that fuels you both emotionally and economically. More highlights: You'll use your magnetism with more finesse than ever. Your social life opens new doors and introductions that lead to upgrades. Social justice will be served. Cancer and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 15, 9, 5, 26 and 30.

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You don't fear the influence of others because it can only make your work better. You don't have to take every suggestion, but hearing them will either make you more certain of the choice you already made or show you directions you hadn't considered.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The emotional landscape may feel uneven today. You'll show up solid anyway. That's your gift: steadiness under pressure. Someone nearby is grateful for your presence, even if they don't say it. You'll feel it in how they relax around you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Money isn't the root of all evil; evil is. Money is neutral by design, just a sophisticated bartering system created to streamline exchange. Today's results vary depending on the intent of the transaction.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Focus on keeping your side of the street clean. Among the reasons not to judge others? It could drag on forever, as there are many faults to assess. But that would drain your energy. Think only about what you want.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The bothersome thing might be small today, but that doesn't make it inconsequential. Fixing small problems sends a message to the universe that you'd like everything to be in order and the universe will respond quickly to you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's like you're holding the remote control of life today, and it's no time to relinquish that clicker. Keep it in your hands. You'll make the best choices for the room because you're more in tune with the needs of all the people in it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're not silly with just anyone, only with the people who make you feel fully at ease. The ones who don't judge, who laugh with you, who let you be weird or playful without holding back. One connection lifts the whole mood.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Keen senses are your gift today, and you'll feel a strong tug of instinct when it's time to act, time to wait and - most importantly - time to walk away. Financially, your good judgment gets sharper with every move.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Anything might have been, but only one thing was. That's your foundation. Accept it, frame it wisely and let it fuel what's next. The future doesn't need alternate histories; it needs you, now, dreaming boldly and building forward.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When people ask for your opinion, they get more than advice; they get insight rooted in experience, strategy and care. Just be aware: not everyone is ready for this clarity. Offer it anyway. It's a gift.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You don't need everyone to get you. Just one! Here it comes. The snappy tete-a-tete is something that the rest of the world is not built to understand, but you know what it means - a true match with exciting potential.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're both a dreamer and realist. Don't worry about the full staircase; just take the next visible step. Movement embodies your acknowledgement of the necessity of work and your trust that your feet will be met on this journey.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

Newsday Crossword

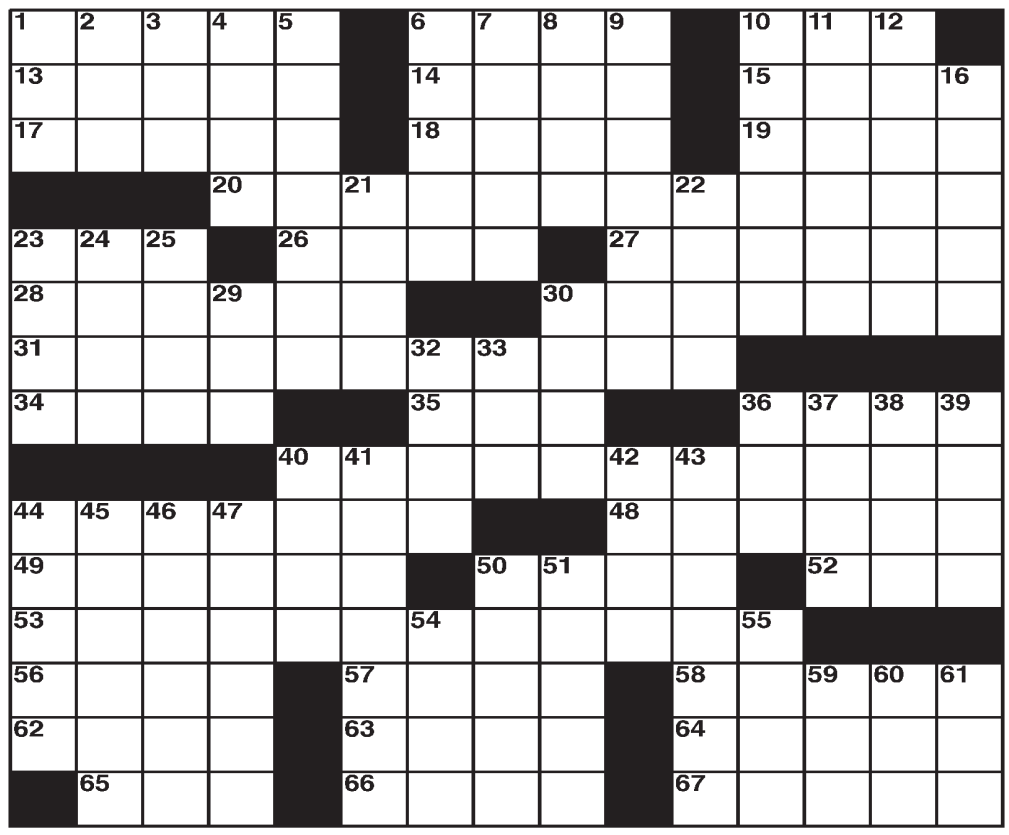
RISES AND FALLS by Lin Josephson
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Be insistent
6 Easy triumph
10 Empty talk
13 Sort of roll
14 USAF offense
15 Very mean
17 Sculpting medium
18 Liqueur flavoring
19 Spot for slots
20 Meteorological rise-and-fall
23 24-hr. cashier
26 Done with
27 Cone alternative
28 Recognition
30 Motion detectors
31 Despotic rise-and-fall
34 Checked out
35 Slick stuff
36 Night flier
40 Investors' rise-and-fall
44 Immersed
48 Phone bill extra
49 Bisects
50 Surprisingly nimble
52 Shrill bark
53 Hopeful rise-and-fall
56 Untrustworthy person
57 Heavy metal
58 Poet whose friends called him "Tom"
62 A smaller portion
63 Cause for alarms
64 Lass, later
65 Whoop-de-___
66 Won't shut up
67 Big spender

DOWN

1 Viewer-supported network
2 Chinese zodiac animal
3 Psychological study
4 Propelled
5 Rise late
6 Woodworking tools
7 Barn baby, maybe
8 Tie at anchor
9 Likable person
10 Additional airings
11 Carry too far
12 Karaoke liability
16 Doesn't find
21 Second glove
22 Number performed
23 Parcel measure
24 Gold's ___ weight
25 Trending sensation
29 Family nickname
30 Blouse fabric
32 Mindset
33 Something snapped
36 Designation in Clue
37 ___-doke
38 Mega- squared
39 URL intro
40 Risky business
41 Take a stand
42 Dalí contemporary
43 Request for an update
44 Unfilled pie crust
45 Prepared to take wing
46 West Texas city
47 Exceedingly
50 Heron cousin
51 Knotty botany
54 Oratorio song
55 Spill (over)
59 "If you ask me," initially
60 Blade for a boat
61 Stick with a kick



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09/04/25

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

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Courts keep striking down California laws infringing on free speech, gun rights

Gov. Gavin Newsom and his fellow Democrats in the Legislature incessantly denounce President Donald Trump for trampling on civil rights in his lust for power.

Their current drive to sanction a gerrymander of California's 52 congressional districts to add five Democratic seats is couched in assertions that it would help blunt Trump's authoritarian tendencies. One pro-Proposition 50 ad describes Trump's campaign for pro-Republican gerrymanders as a "blitzkrieg," using language associated with Hitler and World War II Germany.

However, as Newsom, et al, posture as saviors of democracy, they haven't hesitated to infringe on constitutional rights themselves.

For instance, California's restrictive laws governing gun ownership have drawn adverse decisions from federal judges in recent months who have applied U.S. Supreme Court interpretations of the constitutional right to bear arms. In the past, Newsom denounced judges who ruled against them as toadies of the firearms industry.

California's willingness to abridge constitutional rights extends beyond guns, however. Newsom and legislators also will challenge constitutionally protected free speech if it comes from those on the other side of the political divide.

Last year, in response to some political parodies that used images created by artificial intelligence, including one that pilloried Vice President Kamala Harris, the Legislature passed and Newsom signed two measures to outlaw such tomfoolery.

One, Assembly Bill 2655, dubbed the Defending Democracy from Deepfake Deception Act, ordered social media platforms to block or label fictional AI-generated material. Babylon Bee, which generates right-wing satire, and X, Elon Musk's social media site, filed suit to overturn the law. A month ago, federal Judge John Mendez struck it down for violating the federal Communications Decency Act, which provides immunity to platforms for posting by third parties.

Mendez bypassed the plaintiffs' contention that the measure unconstitutionally abridged free speech rights. However, he indicated that the second measure, Assembly Bill 2839, did violate the Constitution. Last week, Mendez took that a step further, declaring that by prohibiting deepfake material within 120 days of an election, AB 2839 restricted free speech.

"To be sure, deepfakes and artificially manipulated media arguably pose significant risks to electoral integrity, but the challenges launched by digital content on a global scale cannot be quashed through censorship or legislative fiat," Mendez wrote, adding, "Just as the government may not dictate the canon of comedy, California cannot preemptively sterilize political content."

The judge also noted that the state Constitution protects speech so "it follows that AB 2839 violates California's Constitution for all of the same reasons that it violates the First Amendment of the United States Constitution."

Despite having the two bills shot down by court, California's politicians seem bent on once again trying to influence what Californians can be told via social media and the Internet.

Senate Bill 771, which is awaiting action during the final days of the 2025 session, would increase civil penalties that can be imposed on media platforms for content that violates laws barring threats or intimidation.

It stems from the often bitter debate over Israel's invasion of Gaza in the wake of a deadly Hamas attack on Israel two years ago. The bill is mainly sponsored by pro-Israel groups who say it's needed to block antisemitic threats. However, groups such as the Council on American-Islamic Relations argue that opening up potential financial penalties would encourage platforms to reduce or eliminate criticism of the war.

An Assembly Judiciary Committee analysis suggested that if SB 771 is enacted it might run afoul of the federal law protecting media platforms from liability for third-party content — the same law cited by Mendez in his decision on the state deepfake law.

by CalMatters. This story was originally published by CalMatters.

GET IT DAILY...

FOOTBALL

FROM PAGE 1

In particular, Payinger said he expects senior receiver Payton Seals and senior inside linebacker/running back Isaiah Fernandez, both of whom also played an important role in the 2023 finals run, to make up the difference.

"He had a really good year last year, was all league first team, and he is obviously not satisfied," Payinger said of Seals, who received 415 yards in the 2024 campaign. "You can just see his leadership and his work, having done some things that he's done over the last several months, that he's ready to play this year."

But no matter the amount of preparation, Payinger knows from his long coaching career that luck is another significant factor in a team staying healthy and succeeding. Beyond success on the field, he said that football is a platform to teach the young men on his team skills for life.

"We focus on teaching life skills, time management, responsibility, respect, teamwork," he said. "We believe that if we are able to master the life skills that we talk about daily, then everything else will take care of itself – from the wins and losses on the field to our kids growing as young adults."

By SAM MULICK

AUTISM

FROM PAGE 5

and a social bridge for kids on the spectrum," he explained. "The activity itself helps them release energy in a healthy way, which can sometimes be difficult to express otherwise. The social outlet is even more important, as one of the main struggles of autism is social skills."

With volunteer assistance, children partner up or form small groups for games and rallies, creating natural opportunities for social engagement. By the end of the six-week sessions, Ma noted, participants knew each other's names and enjoyed playing games together.

The upcoming Fall 2025 session will continue at Santa Monica High School, running Sundays from 4-5 p.m. on September 21 and 28, and October 5, 12, 19, and 26. The location has proven beneficial not only for accessibility and parking but has also attracted additional volunteers from nearby youth tennis programs.

Akerson's support has extended beyond facility access. He helped arrange for Ma to present at a Santa Monica Parks and Recreation board meeting, providing a platform to reach a broader community audience about the program's mission and impact.

The Santa Monica chapter represents ACEing Autism's continued expansion of services for an underserved population. Families and volunteers interested in participating can register through the organization's website at aceingautism.org/programs/santa-monica-ca/.

maaz@smdp.com

PERMIT

FROM PAGE 7

swept through Los Angeles County, causing billions of dollars in damage and highlighting ongoing wildfire risks in Southern California's coastal communities.

City officials have implemented several measures to support residents navigating the rebuilding process. The Malibu Rebuild Center provides resources and guidance for homeowners, while regular public meetings offer updates on recovery progress and opportunities for community input.

All city meetings and workshops addressing rebuild efforts are broadcast on the city's YouTube channel, ensuring residents can access information regardless of their current housing situation.

"Every Malibu home is unique, and every family must make careful choices about how to rebuild," Riggins said. "The City Council and staff are working hard to streamline the process and provide support, but we know it is ultimately a personal journey."

The mayor emphasized the city's commitment to supporting residents throughout the recovery process.

"We stand with our community as friends and neighbors return home," Riggins said.

Additional information about rebuilding resources and city recovery efforts is available through the Malibu Rebuilds website. Officials expect permit approvals to increase in coming months as more families complete insurance settlements and finalize reconstruction plans.

The city continues encouraging residents to attend public meetings and utilize available resources during the complex rebuilding process.

maaz@smdp.com

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Their numbers over your needs.
But there's a place that cares for you like a person,
not just a patient.
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the better you'll get.
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Better ways to treat cancer.
Better maternity care that continues after birth.
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